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The Family History of
Austin D. Garcia
2 September 2022

Dr. Kelly Alicia Woestman authored this family history as part of the course requirements for HIST 550/700 Your Family in History offered online in Fall 2022 and was submitted to the Pittsburg State University Digital Commons. Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments:
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GENERATION ONE

A1: Austin Dewayne Garcia

A2: Serafina Marie Garcia

Austin DeWayne Garcia (1998 -) was born in Mount Pleasant Texas to one **Julie Gay Fields (1974 -)**, it was thought that Austin was conceived early at the time, although later this would be retracted, however, there had been minor complications at birth that possibly led to the development of Verbal Apprexia, a neuro-based speech sound disorder that affects the nerve connection between the cranial and oral regions. At the time of his birth, His mother had decided to separate herself from her abusive husband at the time for the betterment of her child. She Single Handedly raised Austin for the first two years of his life before she met **Anthony David Garcia (1968 -)** (Pronounced Gar-Sha) who she dated for some time to "make sure he was good with Austin." before she was eventually married. After their marriage, Anthony legally adopted Austin and became his legal father.

Austin lived in St. Louis Missouri for a good portion of his life with his mother, father, and Sister **Serafina Marie Garcia (2002 -)**. For those first years, he attended a catholic school known as "The Immaculate Heart Of Mary" which has since gone out of business and become a dinner theater. Austin was raised alongside the rest of the Garcia family. During his early years, however, Austin found it difficult to verbally converse due to his Verbal Apraxia. He attended professional speech therapy but was also assisted by his Grandmother on his paternal side, Rita Warren who would have him read little

rhyming booklets. This would instill a love of the written language within the Young Austin, which would lead to him eventually participating in multiple theatrical performances, Writing Festivals, and book conventions, something he would thank his grandmother for every day. In the fourth grade, Austin and his family would move to Neodesha Ks for two primary reasons, one was that Anthony and Julie feared how dangerous the city had become after a man broke into their house to simply get to the alleyway, and two, to be closer to Julie's parents Alice Fay Austin Fields and Sammie Dewayne Fields.

Austin DeWayne Garcia attended High School at Neodesha High School, and would discover his love of education through his grandfather Sammie, or as he called him his "Pop-ey". Sammie Fields pushed for his two grandchildren to have an education and instilled in his grandson a love of history. It was also in high school that Austin discovered a love of theater as well, supported not only by his parents, but also by his theater and English teacher, Cindy Henry, who helped him not only learn theatrical design and stage directions, but also helped him become confident in himself, and his abilities to succeed. Supported by his parents and his grandparents, after graduating high school, Austin decided to attend college to become a history educator, he wanted to share the love of history and knowledge that his family had shared with him, with others. He managed to get a full-time scholarship to Neosho County Community College for Theater from one Dustin Shaffer, where he performed in multiple medium and large-scale performances such as "The Pirates of Penzance", "The Thirty Nine Steps", and Stephen Sondheim's "The Thirty Nine Steps."

After graduating with his associates, he would attend Pittsburg State University to become a History Educator.

Serafina Marie Garcia (2002 -) was born in St. Louis Missouri to **Julie Gay Garcia (1974 -)** and **Anthony David Garcia (1968 -)** and had become the sister of **Austin DeWayne Garcia (1998 -)**. Due to the proximity of the hospital in which she was born, and the location of the story in the movie "The Exorcist" is based, she would hear endless jokes and tirades from her older brother. Serafina and her brother became very close in their sibling bondage, and although we're opposites and would often squabble, they were still at the end of the day family. At a young age, she attended the Notre Dame catholic school in St. Louis, and would often go on picnics with her family to Velmier Lake. The Picnics would consist of bread from the St. Louis bread company, and a selection of Italian meats from a butchery called "Volpi's" which was located on the Hill. She would eventually move to Neodesha Kansas, where she would graduate from Neodesha High School, and attend MSSU for college. Her first year of college however was a difficult one, as it was during the start of the Covid Pandemic in the united states, and took a heavy hit from the massively disruptive event. Despite covid and the college's ill attempts at handling the situation, she persevered and survived.

When she and her family had first moved down to Neodesha, they moved into a house on Seward Street within proximity of her and her brother's grandparents, Alice fey Fields, and Sammie DeWayne Fields. Both she and her brother became close with their grandparents, and would often visit. She and her family would also frequent return trips

to ST. Louis visits with the rest of the Garcia family, including their father's mother, Rita Warren, who Serafina would describe as "A Beautiful Snow White." While living in Neodesha, Serafina managed to get the nickname "Smiley" from several residents due to her friendly and heartwarming smile, which many have stated would make their day upon seeing her.

GENERATION TWO

Ala. Anthony David Garcia

Alb. Julie Gay Austin Garcia

Anthony David Garcia was born on October 6th, 1968 to Rita Warren, who was then Rita Garcia, and Richard Garcia. He was the third son within Richard and Rita's branch of the Garcia family and was siblings to Rick, Steven, David, Tina, Dani, and Kerry Garcia, the latter of which would be born to Richard's Second wife, Rosemarie Garcia. Anthony was born with Neural Fibromatosis, and multiple physical deformities, including the bones in his arms, his skull, and his left eye, the latter of which would eventually be replaced with a glass eye. During that process, upon seeing the eyepatch, his son, Austin DeWayne Garcia, would comment on it, calling him a "Pirate."

In Anthony's youth, he lived with his siblings, parents, and grandparents, Angel Garcia, Rogelia Garcia, and Rogelia's sister, Anita "Tita" Alveraz in Dogtown St. Louis. He was raised catholic and became childhood friends with Jimmy Hagedorn and Paul Boulware, the

latter of which became a beloved uncle figure to his Austin and Serafina. Both in and out of School, Anthony was not the sort of individual to take other children picking on him or those around him, and neither were his siblings. A common childhood bully was a kid known as the "Bubble Gum Kid" who would often pick and bully kids to and from school. The kid was known as "The Bubble Gum Kid" due to his disgust at the sound of people "chewing gum" which Anthony and his siblings would often mimic when he was around. At a young age, Anthony's father Richard cheated on his wife Rita for another woman, he left Rita, and his children, and moved to California where he married Rosemarie. This conflict caused some resentment in the children towards their father, especially in the eldest boys who remembered the situation and what it did to their mother. Richard would not be completely absent from their lives, however, and they would sometimes be able to visit him, however, they would never fully get along with Rosemarie. During this time, Richard's brother, Eugene Delano Garcia, and his wife Muriel would assist Rita, who had taken the situation rather difficult, in raising the young Garcias. Things improved between Anthony and his father, especially after Richard became the grandfather of his two children which he was a better grandfather than a father.

Anthony and his siblings were raised in a section of St. Louis known as Dogtown. DogTown St. Louis was a small Irish Catholic Neighborhood that surrounds the "St James The Greater" catholic church. It is marked by Oakland Avenue on the north, Macklind Avenue on the east, and McCausland Avenue on the west. Although strongly

considered a neighborhood by the populace of St. Louis, it was not recognized by the city as such and was instead a collection of four separate neighborhoods.¹ It, combined with the Spanish East Side Neighborhood, and The Hill, was most of where Anthony spent his life. It was the place he called home, and was filled with individuals that were like family to him and his siblings that helped them after his father left them. The location has a strong attachment to him and his siblings and is still seen as their "Home" despite all of them having moved away. It was the place where they were all raised, it was where they lived, went to school, got in fights with other kids, went to church, festivals, parades, and where they worked.

In his early adult years, Anthony never attended college, an action he would desperately negate his children from repeating, as he wished for them to work non-labor-based jobs. Anthony worked at multiple restaurants in Dogtown and on The Hill and was a rather difficult person to hate. Many people found him charming, truthful, and comedic, and even in strong disputes, found it difficult to stay angry at him due to his kind yet carefree nature. He would eventually work as an Ironworker for the city of St. Louis with his buddy Paul. During his time as an Ironworker, he was a strong supporter of the unions, a loyal coworker, and a hard worker. He would often defend his fellow workers from brash and difficult employers and managers, who would often attempt to scam them. He had little tolerance for people

¹ "Dogtown, St. Louis," *Wikipedia* (Wikimedia Foundation, August 20, 2022), last modified August 20, 2022, accessed September 28, 2022, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dogtown,_St._Louis.

who were ignorant of the trade, business, people's health, care, and race, the latter of which would lead him to often defend non-white and anglo coworkers from employers of a more prejudiced and bias mindset. Part of this was due to Anthony being raised in a Spanish Italian ethnic family, and living in an Irish-Catholic Ethnic Neighborhood, both of which had strong ties in protecting those you care about, and those you work and live with.

In his adult life, Anthony would own and live in the house of his grandparents and his beloved great-aunt Tita. This would be the house that later his wife and son, Julie and Austin, would move into, and would not only be their home, but also the home to his eventual daughter Serafina Marie Garcia. This house was a two-story split building, that had a beautiful backyard, and was where he had two dogs, "Zack" and "Cookie" the former of which died of old age when Austin and Serafina were very young, and the latter of which was given to an old friend of Anthony's when he moved to Neodesha. This same house however would experience a break-in incident, which, combined with a workplace injury causing an early retirement, would lead Anthony and his family to the realization that the city and locals had become rather dangerous and difficult to live in. The idea to move was originally his, and he talked his wife into moving back to where she had come from, and where her parents currently lived. It was there that the Garcia's moved into a small single-story, 4 room house next

to Julie's parents, and would later move to an old brick, two-story home.²

Julie Gay Fields Garcia (1974 -) was born on October 8th, 1974 in Olsen Texas to one Alice Fey Fields and Sammie DeWayne Fields. Julie would have a complicated relationship with her mother and father, the latter of which would often be in and out of her life. Their relationship wasn't one based on resentment, but on distrust, as Julie heavily distrusted her father, who at times could be unfaithful and selfish in his way of acting and thinking, this would later lead to a divorce between her father and mother, but the two would eventually get back together. Even after moving to Kansas, Julie would often spend entire summers with her grandparents Billy Gene and Mary Austin, who she loved and heavily admired, especially her Grandfather Billy Gene. Billy Gene was her biggest role model, and she would spend entire summers with him on his ranch, and grabbing Dr. Pepper's from a roadside fast food McDonald's before he would leave for work. Billy Gene would often sing to her and his other grandchildren Charlie Mitchells and Jamie Davis's "You Are My Sunshine" which would become a fond memory.

While living in Neodesha, Julie would attend Neodesha High School, where she would become good friends with Melanie Martin and Kelly Mitchell, the latter of whose father was the school principal at the time. Julie would remain distant friends with the two even after

² "United States Public Records, 1970-2009", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:2M3T-RRR> : 3 March 2020), Angel Garcia, 1974-2007.

moving to St. Louis with Anthony and her son. Before that, however, Julie, along with her parents, would move back to Texas to be closer to the Austins.

In May 1997 however, Julie would lose her beloved grandfather Billy Gene to cancer. It would be a death that heavily afflicted both her and the rest of the Austin Family. There are many fond memories between Julie and her grandfather, and she would never truly be over his passing. However, a year later, on the anniversary of her grandfather's death, she would give birth to a baby boy, which she would name Austin, after Billy Gene Austin. She would then leave her abusive husband, and after meeting Anthony, would marry him and move to St. Louis with her son Austin. She would then later move with Anthony, Austin, and her daughter Serafina, back to her Kansas hometown of Neodesha, where her parents had also returned to several years earlier. ³

³ "United States Public Records, 1970-2009", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QJG7-1NGT> : 7 July 2020), Julie G Garcia, 2006-2007.

GENERATION THREE

Ala1. Richard Garcia

Ala2. Rita Warren

Alb1. Sammie DeWayne Fields

Alb2. Alice Fey Garcia fields

Austin's Paternal Grandfather, Richard Garcia, was born in 1933 in St. Louis Missouri, to Angel and Rogelia Garcia. He was the middle child of three sons, the eldest being Bob, and the youngest being Eugene. Richard and his three brothers lived in the Spanish Ethnic neighborhood, and all three would become members of the St. Louis Spanish Man's Society. He was raised by his loving parents, and his aunt Anita Iglesias. The small neighborhood he grew up in was practically one massive family.

In Richard's adult years, he participated in Stage Comedy, singing, and Vaudevillian performances within several clubs. He eventually married Rita Garcia⁴, and became father to Rick, Steven, Anthony, David, and Tina Garcia. He would then, several years later, cheat on his wife for another woman, who he would eventually move to California with.⁵ While in California he would marry Rosemarie and would have two children, Dani and Kerry Garcia. Due to the manner of which he left

⁴ "Missouri, County Marriage, Naturalization, and Court Records, 1800-1991," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:669M-T4KM> : 25 February 2022), Richard Edward Garcia, 21 Nov 1955; citing Marriage, St. Louis, Missouri, United States, Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City; FHL microfilm 007513806.

⁵ "United States Public Records, 1970-2009", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:2M3T-T4F> : 3 March 2020), Richard Edward Garcia, 2000-2006.

them, and Rosemarie's cruelty to them, Richard and his elder sons never really got along, having a rather negative connection. Richard would also resent his brother Eugene for stepping in and becoming a father figure for his sons. Despite cheating on Rita, Richard admitted that his greatest mistake was leaving her, and had on multiple occasions, openly admitted that she was his true love, while under the influence of alcohol.

Richard and his sons Steven, Anthony, and David, would eventually come to terms with the past and would improve their relationship with one another, especially Anthony and David due to Richard becoming the grandfather of their children. In his son Anthony's own words, he was a much better grandfather than father and was almost like a different person in his older years. Richard became the grandfather of Austin and Serafina Garcia, Dominique Arres, and Anna and Emma Garcia, all of which he loved and cared for dearly.

Richard died in 2021 during the Covid epidemic. He was recovering from a botched hip surgery when he caught covid from a nurse who had refused to quarantine herself from work and wear a mask voluntarily with the knowledge that she had the virus. After catching the virus, Richard died, and he was buried alongside his ancestors at Mt. Hope Cemetery in St. Louis. ⁶

Around the time that Richard was born, the Missouri newspaper "The Richmond Democrat" had been actively releasing news articles.

⁶ SouthCounty Admin and Name *, "Garcia, Richard," *Kutis Funeral Home*, last modified November 4, 2021, accessed September 28, 2022, https://www.kutisfuneralhomes.com/garcia-richard-2/?fbclid=IwAR3YxRZRutD_65TanG_3MpkA7L-dS8j1OkF0mJqsnf3DSyndPlZ6pVFx63Q.

This was during a crucial shift in Missouri's politics within the more urban cities and regions such as the St. Louis area. Richard was a devout democrat, and a strongly political individual, and would often read the Richmond Democrat, during his time alive, he had probably read one such article which talked about "Mysterious Meetings" of republican's within a church. The article stated that no such individuals understood the reasoning for the meeting, however, it was believed to be about possible political pushes for certain programs, the article feared that some of these programs could be racially biased, and cause even further legal segregation.⁷

At the time, this would have been a huge deal for Richard Garcia, who although was laden and often fell folly to his own personal racial biases, was a staunch supporter of equal rights of all men, and found the possible disrespect and dehumanization that the republican party and it's Mysterious meetings could have brought upon certain racial and ethnic groups. A large part of this was due to Richard's own background as a young Spanish kid in the poor part of St. Louis being raised in the Spanish neighborhoods with his three brothers, his parents, and the Iglesias family.

Rita Warren was born in Lemay, St. Louis, Missouri, 1928⁸ where she eventually became an educator and married Richard Garcia. With

⁷ "Church Goers ," *Richmond Democrat* (Richmond Missouri, October 8, 1940), Volume edition.

⁸ "United States, GenealogyBank Obituaries, Births, and Marriages 1980-2014," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKTZ-FD5J> : accessed 29 September 2022), Rita Warren in entry for James B Ward Jr, Byrnes Mill, Missouri, United States, 22 Apr 2007; from "Recent Newspaper Obituaries (1977 - Today)," database, *GenealogyBank.com* (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : 2014); citing *Meramec Journal*, born-digital text.

Richard, she had four sons, Rick, Steven, Anthony, and David Garcia, and one daughter, Tina Garcia. After being abandoned by her former husband Richard, Rita was helped by his brother Eugene and Eugene's wife Muriel in raising her children.

Later in life, Rita became an advocate for gay rights within St. Louis and Chicago and supported her son Rick Garcia, who would eventually become a politician fighting for gay rights as well.

Later, after spending a lifetime of caring for her children, working as an educator, supporting and fighting for gay, women, and ethnic rights within the city of St. Louis and the state of Missouri, and being a devout catholic, Rita Warren would return to her birthplace of Lemay St. Louis with her second Husband Bill Warren

During her time married to Bill Warren, Rita would become a grandmother to Austin and Serafina Garcia, the former of which she would support in his verbal therapy by giving him rhyming books to read, which she would assist him in doing so. She would also become a grandmother to Domonique Arres, Anna, and Emma Garcia.

Sammie Fields was born to Jack and Frida Fields in Texas in 1948. He was born into the family of the field, which at the time was a heavily impoverished and abusive family, his brother Billyjack, had joined the military, and had attempted to support his brother's education, however, Jack and Frida used the money for their addictions and agendas, which left Sammie without an education.

This was something Sammie Resented for his entire life, and was the primary reason why he pushed an educated lifestyle onto his grandchildren. Sammie's relationship with his wife and daughter is a

complicated one, filled with his abusive behavior, and learned behavior from his experiences with his mother and father.

Although Sammie's relationship was complicated with his wife and daughter, things changed when he became the grandfather / Pop-ee of Austin and Serafina Garcia, and his relationship with his daughter improved as he relaxed and became more reliable and supportive with age, although no less stubborn.

Alice Fay Austin Fields was born in 1953 to Billy Gene and Mary Austin, she was sister to Keith, Randy, and Sherry Austin, and would become the wife of Sammie Fields, and the mother of Julie Gay Garcia. In her youth, she assisted her mother Mary in raising her younger sister Sherry, due to the heavy age gap between the two, this gave them a more mother-daughter relationship than a sister relationship. This caused heavy jealousy in Sherry when Julie was born, jealousy that would eventually turn into another Mother daughter relationship, as Sherry would assist Alice in raising Julie, especially when Julie was sent to live with the Texas family during the summers.

Alice didn't have a strong relationship with her mother Mary Fields but had a strong relationship with her father, who was often seen as an easy-going individual compared to his much more strict and easy-to-anger wife. Alice would eventually move away from her family with her husband Sammie Fields and would come to live in Neodesha Kansas.

Alice became grandmother / MawMaw to Austin and Serafina Garcia, who she cherished and loved. She supported Austin And Serafina at every turn and used every chance she had to give them the assistance

and love they needed. She also heavily supported them during their college years, often sending them money and funds to assist in putting them through, especially during the rather difficult covid pandemic.

Alice was also the very prideful owner of three dogs, Sugar, Belle, and Albert. Belle was the dog of her niece Kelsey who had died due to a car accident, she took in belle as her brother-in-law, Chris was unable to cope with the loss of his daughter, and the dog reminded him of her every time he saw it. Alice's prized pet however was Albert, whom her daughter and grandchildren would often joke about how well treated the dog was. Albert was originally the dog of Alice's grandson Austin, but after seeing how much she loved Albert, (and how much she missed Doc, a previous pet that had passed.) he had given her the young puppy as a gift. This dog became like a second child to Alice and was treated better than most people could even dream of. Alice loved animals and took good care of them, often showing anxiety if she thought her pets would suffer in any way when she wasn't home.

GENERATION FOUR

Ala1a. Angel Garcia (1904 - 1992)

Ala1b. Rogelia Garcia (1912 - 1993)

Ala2a. Billy Jean Austin (1930 - 1997)

Ala2b. Mary Carson Austin (1936 -)

Angel Garcia (pronounced Gar-Sha, but was originally Garthia before coming to the Americas), the paternal grandfather of Anthony D. Garcia, and the paternal Great Grandfather of Austin D. Garcia and Serafina D. Garcia. Angel Garcia was born in Spain in 1904 to Benito and Serafina Garcia and witnessed the Spanish civil war.⁹ The Garcia's witnessed the economic depression that Spain was experiencing during the early and mid-1900s.

Due to this economic depression, a civil war started in Spain, one between the republic loyalists and the nationalistic FET. The leader of the loyalists was the second Spanish republic, and the leader of FET was Francisco Franco. The Civil war lasted for three full years before it eventually led to the overthrowing of the second Spanish republic, and the coming of Francisco Franco and the "Falange Española Tradicionalista Y De Ofensiva Nacional Sindicalista" political party. Franco and the FET didn't solve any of the financial issues that had led to the civil war, instead, it had worsened it. The Spanish government had become a strongly corrupted foundation, and

⁹ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98868881/angel-garcia>: accessed 28 November 2022), memorial page for Angel Garcia (1904-1992), Find a Grave Memorial ID 98868881, citing Mount Hope Cemetery Mausoleum and Crematory, Lemay, St. Louis County, Missouri, USA; Maintained by Carol Beck (contributor 47592652) .

relied upon the social and economic classes, creating a strong schism between the wealthy and the poor. The Depression worsened, and despite on the outside appearing as a better society, the country didn't fully make up for the financial loss of the civil war till after WWII.¹⁰

Angel and his family left Spain during the civil war for two primary reasons, the first was that Angel and his father were a supporter of the second Spanish republic and the idea of a non-nationalistic democracy. The Second was that the civil war had made living within Spain incredibly difficult for the lower economic classes.¹¹ Angel and his parents moved to the United States, first arriving in New York, and later, along with several other immigrant families (such as the Iglesias) made their way westward to CherryVale Kansas.

During the early and mid-1900's CherryVale served as a gateway for many Spanish immigrant families heading westward. Although long since out of operation, the Cherryvale Train Station was a common stop for families like the Garcia's and became the final destination for what they would call home. It was in Cherryvale that the Garcia family met the Iglesias, and the two families became incredibly close. Eventually, Angel would marry one of the Iglesias Daughters, Rogelia, and would become the father of Bob, Eugene, and Richard, and would later move to St. Louis Missouri along with his parents and the Iglesias. It would be here in St. Louis that Angel would pass away at

¹⁰ "Second Spanish Republic," Wikipedia (Wikimedia Foundation, November 14, 2022), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Spanish_Republic.

¹¹ "Francisco Franco," Wikipedia (Wikimedia Foundation, November 18, 2022), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francisco_Franco.

the age of eighty-eight, and would be buried in Mount Hope Cemetery with the Garcias and the Iglesias.¹²

Due to Angel's dislike of nationalistic and fascist ideologies, he was a strong advocator for worker rights, and an ideology that would be strongly shared by his children, and their children. In ``Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last..'' on page 113, figure/graph 5.8, the writer Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, explore the union membership rates between 1952 and 2000 for what was deemed "Skilled Workers." The skilled workers primarily were labor-based workers that specified within a specific form of labor, such as manufacturing, welding, ironworking, and factory staff. This graph neither names which unions nor what type of skilled workers it is directly looking at, thus it is to be assumed that the graph is taking a more broad and less defined approach. The Garcias as a family held strongly the core ideas of freedom and liberties, the workplace was no exception, and each of the Garcias has been a long-time union supporter. This chart starts in the 1950s when Angel and his sons would have been working. The chart carries on throughout the years until the 2000s and covers three generations of the Garcia family. Anthony, the great-grandson of Angel, was born in 1958 and started working at an incredibly young age to help support his family, especially when his own father, Richard, left him and his brothers. The paternal failures of Richard were something that Angel was deeply

¹² "United States Public Records, 1970-2009", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:2M3T-RRR> : 3 March 2020), Angel Garcia, 1974-2007.

disappointed in, believing his son to have lost his way as a parent. Despite Richard's failure as a father, Angel remained present for his grandchildren, supporting them and their mother Rita. Angel joined his first worker's union in Spain at a young age, and his grandson Anthony joined his first at the young age of 15 in St. Louis Missouri. In Anthony's young adult years, he started work as an ironworker and had been an ironworker from 1970 to the early 2000s, having been a part of the St. Louis Iron Workers Union the entire time, remaining so to this very day. The graph shows the loss of membership as there had been a decrease in worker representation within legal and corporate spheres, making it harder and harder for unions to operate in favor of their members. This graph strongly shows that there had been a steady decrease in the mid-1900s, really speeding up between the 1980s and 2000s.¹³

Rogelia is the daughter of the Iglesias family and the sister of Anita Alveraz. Rogelia was born in Spain in 1912, and would later move to the United States with her family.¹⁴ They would find themselves in Cherryvale Kansas, where her family would become close friends with the Garcias. Eventually, she would marry Angel Garcia and would have three children, Bob, Eugene, and Richard. Later she and her family, along with her parents and in-laws, would move to St. Louis, where she

¹³ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 113.

¹⁴ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98868882/rogelia-garcia>: accessed 28 November 2022), memorial page for Rogelia Garcia (1912-1993), Find a Grave Memorial ID 98868882, citing Mount Hope Cemetery Mausoleum and Crematory, Lemay, St. Louis County, Missouri, USA; Maintained by Carol Beck (contributor 47592652) .

would live out the rest of her life with her beloved children, grandchildren, and sister Tita Alvarez. Rogelia passed away in 1933, a year after the death of her beloved husband Angel. She was buried next to him and her sister at Mount Hope Cemetery in St. Louis Missouri.

Both Angel and Rogelia experienced what was known as "The Spanish Wave", a massive migration of four million families that had left Spain during the Spanish civil war and the reign of Francisco Franco. There were primarily two strong pushes that brought about this migration wave. The first was the economic depression that the vast majority of Europe was still suffering from WWI. The second is the rise in nationalistic fascism within the political atmosphere. This immigration was primarily to the western hemisphere, and although not completely to the United States, as many found refuge in central and south American countries such as Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina. The Primary pull of the western hemisphere for this migration was the appeal of the liberal republic. Many families believed they could escape both the economic downpour and the nationalistic fascist ideologies and military actions that their homelands were experiencing.¹⁵ This migration is known as "The Forgotten Wave." According to R.A. Gomez in his article "Spanish Immigration to The United States," the migration is near impossible to trace, and the four million number is something of an assumption. He speculates that the migration to the western hemisphere might be even larger than the

¹⁵ "FamilySearch," FamilySearch Catalog: Genealogical research in Spain : emigration records - FamilySearch.org, accessed November 28, 2022, <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/30557?availability=Family+History+Library>.

estimated number, making both the Garcia and Iglesias family amount millions of families to have made the transition between hemispheres.¹⁶

According to the MPI and their immigration graph measuring the levels from 1850 to 2020, there was a large climb during the early 1900s. This climb was mostly due to the economic depression in Europe, but also the political and military turmoil brought about due to the remaining WWI aggression and the rising of fascist and nationalistic political ideologies. This climb of immigration eventually equals out though, around the end of WWII, a good amount of immigration begins to teeter off, and starts to shrink. It started to climb again in the late 1970s and continues to climb up into 2022.¹⁷

Quite a few of the immigrating families had made their way westward after entering the United States. As many families headed westward, midwestern states like Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma saw a strong increase in immigration, although primarily German and Irish within this region, the town of Cherryvale saw a strong filtering of Spanish immigration. Cherryvale itself lies within the county of Montgomery in southeastern Kansas, according to the 2020 census, its population was barely reaching over two thousand. Despite its placement and size, the town has a fairly decent history and background, having attachments to the little house on the prairie, the bloody benders, and Western Immigration. Cherryvale was home to a

¹⁶ Gomez, R. A, "Spanish Immigration to the United states," *The Americas* 19, no. 1 (1962): 59-78.

¹⁷ "U.S. Immigrant Population and Share over Time, 1850-Present," migrationpolicy.org, October 6, 2022, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/charts/immigrant-population-over-time>.

primary train station that many immigrating families found as a gateway further west or a stopping point to a new home. For the Garcias and Iglesias, this station was the latter.¹⁸

When coming over to Kansas during the 1920s and '30s, the Garcia and Iglesias families found themselves with a bit of culture shock. The U.S. was a fairly different country from Spain, with language differences, religion, and culture. In the latter, differences came about on the subject of holidays. A massive holiday within the U.S. is Thanksgiving, although not an entirely strange concept to other countries, as a feast-based holiday is fairly common, the reasoning was strange. Many immigrants couldn't understand the reasoning for celebrating, nor why so many Americans were adamant about forcing immigrants to also celebrate. The holiday's meaning has attachments to the very country itself, instead of its people, which was something that the Iglesias and Garcias found difficult to understand. Around this same time, in 1921, the Topeka state newspaper was showing an article that was selling the "Perfect Thanksgiving Dining Set" showing the desired perfection of what it was to celebrate the holiday. This set, although common to us, was strange to Angel and Rogelia, as its cost was massive, and made celebrating the holiday itself rather difficult. They couldn't understand a holiday where everyone was expected to spend massive amounts of money on simple things instead of just eating food with their family. They had come from one country that was already experiencing turmoil and economic

¹⁸"Cherryvale, Kansas," Wikipedia (Wikimedia Foundation, October 17, 2022), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherryvale,_Kansas.

downpour, and although the newspaper was published several years before their arrival in the states, it's a good example of what they would later see and experience when it came to thanksgiving and the celebration thereof.¹⁹

Billy Gene Austin, son of Samuel Houston Austin and Cora Mae Austin and brother to Kenneth Austin, was born in 1930. Billy Gene was born in Texas and lived in Olsen, Lamb county.²⁰ It was here where he would marry Mary Carson and had four children Kieth, Randy, Alice, and Sheri.²¹ Billy Gene Austin worked as a trucker, often shipping large shipments for gas companies from one state to another. Despite his job often taking up much of his time, Billy Gene also owned ranchland where he had his own animals, and was a strong advocate for family time. Billy Gene was loved by his children and his grandchildren, and for his granddaughter Julie, he was like a second father. She would often visit him in the summers and would stay for multiple months. A memory many of the children and grandchildren often share fondly of Billy Gene is his singing, especially the song "You are my sunshine" which he would often sing to his grandchildren as a lullaby of sorts. Billy Gene Austin died in 1997 on May 29th from cancer, a year to the day that his Grandson, Austin Garcia was born. His life though has

¹⁹ "Advanced Dining set sale for thanksgiving," *The Topeka Daily Journal*, nov 4, 1921.

²⁰ "United States Public Records, 1970-2009", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QJ6W-3VFR> : 31 May 2020), Billy Gene Austin, 2002.

²¹ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/72050042/billy-g-austin>: accessed 28 November 2022), memorial page for Billy G Austin (16 July 1930-29 May 1997), Find a Grave Memorial ID 72050042, citing Fairview Cemetery, Clarksville, Red River County, Texas, USA; Maintained by William/Bridget Domengeaux, Genealogical Research (contributor 47064401) .

left fond memories for his children and grandchildren. He was buried in Fairview Cemetery in Clarksville texas.²²

Mary Carson, the daughter of the Carson Clan, was born in 1936 in Texas. She would eventually meet Billy Gene Austin and would marry him in 1945. She would have four children with him, Kieth, Randy, Alice, and Sheri, and would have multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who would call her Nana. Mary would outlive her husband, losing him to cancer, and would take his death hard. In 2008 Mary would leave Texas and go to live with her daughter Alice in Kansas. While living with Alice, she also lived next door to her granddaughter Julie, her in-law Anthony, and her great-grandchildren Austin and Serafina. She would later move back to texas and live with her son Randy as a means of being closer to Billy Gene and her own personal origins in texas. After a fire burned down her house, she moved around between the care of randy and sherry and was eventually placed in an assisted living facility.

²² "Texas Death Index, 1964-1998," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JVPT-G3T> : 5 December 2014), Billy Gene Austin, Lamb, Texas, United States; citing Department of State Health Services, Austin.