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Family History of Elizabeth R.K. Draper

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**The Family History of
Elizabeth R.K. Draper**

30 APRIL 2023

Elizabeth Rose Kaye Draper authored this family history as part of the course requirements for HIST 550 Your Family in History offered online in Fall 2022 and was submitted to the Pittsburgh State University **Digital Commons**. Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments:
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GENERATION ONE

A1. Elizabeth Rose Kaye Draper (2001-)

Elizabeth Rose Kaye Draper (2001-) was born in Pittsburg,Kansas, on a warm sunny day on July 7, 2001, to **Tricia Diane Bro (1979-)** and **Rudolph Allen Draper (1977-)**. Elizabeth came very fast into the world; So fast that the nurse had to hold her head until the doctor came into the room. The doctor did not have any time to scrub in and had to immediately put gloves on to catch Elizabeth.¹ She was welcomed home by two older brothers **Tyler Wayne Jiles (1997-)** and **Hunter Lee Jiles (1999-)**. She was baptized into the Catholic church, Sacred Heart Catholic church, in Frontenac,Kansas. A couple months after Elizabeth was born, she had to have emergency surgery for pyloric stenosis, this affected her ability to eat normally. Elizabeth was getting used to the idea of being the youngest child and only daughter to Tricia and Rudy when just three years later her life was turned around when her younger sister **Kaitlyn Grace Draper (2004-)** was born on August 1,2004. As soon as Kaitlyn was born, Elizabeth was officially the middle child.²

Elizabeth went to school in Frontenac,KS all throughout grade school to high school. As soon as Elizabeth entered Kindergarten, she was in love with learning new things. She absolutely fell in love with science, just the adventuring and exploring outdoors part, and math. These were the only two subjects that really interested her all

¹Tricia Bro,Interviewed by author, Elizabeth Draper, March 30 2023.

²Knowledge of author, Elizabeth Draper

throughout middle school and high school as well. Once Elizabeth entered the fourth grade, her parents were getting into a very messy divorce. This was very stressful for her because there would be nights where she would be awake all night due to her parents fighting and having to leave the house to go somewhere else. After Elizabeth, her mom, and her siblings moved out of her fathers home, they didn't see their father for two years, which might have been for the best. To get through these stressful times, Elizabeth realized she absolutely loved to run. She loved it so much she entered a track meet that was hosted by Hershey's track and field program. Elizabeth did so well at this meet that they even invited her to compete in Pennsylvania³. Unfortunately, Elizabeth was unable to attend because of family financial problems. But, this helped Tricia realize that her daughter had a really good talent.

Middle school was very rough for Elizabeth. To start off, in the sixth grade, she was really into climbing trees at her grandma's house. One day, as she was climbing a really old tree, Elizabeth was about thirty feet from the ground, a tree limb underneath her broke. As she was hanging from another branch, she started to scream for dear life until suddenly the branch that was keeping her from falling also broke. Elizabeth fell, hitting, and flipping over every single branch. Once Elizabeth hit the ground her mom came running over to pick her up, while her grandma was screaming at her mom to not touch Elizabeth just in case she had broken her back. Luckily, Elizabeth was able to walk away with just a couple bumps, bruises, and some

³ Knowledge of author, Elizabeth Draper

gnarly scars on her back.⁴ The fun doesn't stop there though, just a few months later Elizabeth went roller skating with one of her best friends. As she was skating, Elizabeth fell and broke her arm. Elizabeth ran to her dad in pain and for some reason her dad would not take Elizabeth to the ER. It took her grandma **Joyce Draper (1948-)** yelling at her father to take her. Once they arrived at the ER they confirmed that Elizabeth did indeed break her arm. Elizabeth had to wear a cast for six weeks.⁵

In the seventh and eighth grade, Elizabeth and her siblings didn't have the best living conditions. Tricia was dating a new guy, who we very suddenly moved in with. This guy was not very nice and would kick them out just about every night around two in the morning. He would also shut off the water in the house so nobody could shower. Since her mom's boyfriend would constantly turn off the water, they were unable to shower and wash clothes. Elizabeth and her siblings would often have to go days without showering and sometimes weeks without washing clothes. Since Elizabeth was in track and field she would come home sweating but obviously couldn't shower she would smell really bad the next day at school. This caused Elizabeth to be bullied all throughout middle school. This gave Elizabeth such bad self confidence she ended up just not going to school. She would lie to her mom and say she wasn't feeling good, but in reality she just didn't want to get made fun of. This guy would also steal all of Tricia's money so we would have our electricity shut off or no groceries in the house. There were numerous times that Elizabeth and

⁴ Knowledge of author, Elizabeth Draper

⁵ Ibid

her siblings had to skip multiple meals because of this. Elizabeth makes fun of the situation now, but they would have to force themselves to sleep so they wouldn't have to feel hungry.

On top of getting made fun of at school and having a bad home situation, she was also being neglected by her parents. She often felt like her mom catered to her siblings more than her and her dad didn't think of her as a priority. According to *Healthline*, middle child syndrome is the belief that middle children are neglected because of their birth order⁶. Some children may even have personality or relationship characteristics as a result of being the middle child. Elizabeth definitely had her personality and character affected, she was very quiet and had trouble fitting in and oftentimes would do things to try and get her mom to notice her. Elizabeth would see that her mom found a new hobby so she would try that hobby so that they could have something to bond over. For example, Tricia loved football so Elizabeth tried to get into football so they could bond more but it never really worked. Elizabeth would try all sorts of things to try and bond more with Tricia but nothing would ever seem to work. She eventually just gave up and stopped trying altogether.

High school was not any better than middle school. Freshman year, Elizabeth's mom decided to leave her toxic relationship. But by doing that Elizabeth and her siblings had to move in with their grandma **Rhonda Rippee (1956-)** who lived all the way in Sarcoxie, MO.

⁶Werner, Carly. "HealthLine."Birth Order and Personality: The Science Behind Middle Child Syndrome. HealthLine, Nov 10,2022.
<https://www.healthline.com/health/mental-health/middle-child-syndrome#is-it-real>
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Living with their grandma was alright in the beginning, anything was better than living in those previous conditions. A few months into living in Sarcoxie, Rhonda started to comment on Elizabeth's weight, which confused her because she was already underweight for a fourteen year old. This affected Elizabeth so much that she stopped eating and started to workout more. After a month of this Elizabeth weighed ninety eight pounds as a freshman in high school. Tricia eventually noticed this and soon moved out of her moms house bringing them back to Pittsburg. Being back in Pitt was nice since Elizabeth didn't have to wake up super early to go school, but they did not have a home. She was forced to sleep at her moms friends house or Elizabeth would have to ask her friends if she could stay with them. This went on for almost six months before Tricia was able to find a home for her children. As soon as they moved into their new home, Tricia's old boyfriend came back into the picture. This meant that there were more fights and more sleepless nights. Tricia also did not make enough money to pay rent and put food on the table so Elizabeth and her siblings found themselves going to bed hungry again.⁷ This was very hard since Elizabeth found stress relief in running, her body was struggling to keep up with the nutrients she was losing in cross country and track. Elizabeth often found herself too exhausted to even get out of bed some days. But, all of this finally came to an end and it was like there was no more suffering. Elizabeth's junior year of high school came quickly and everything was great. There was no more staying up late to listen to fighting and no more consistent

⁷Knowledge of author, Elizabeth Draper

hunger. This all lasted up until two months before Elizabeth was supposed to graduate high school. One day in March, Elizabeth came home from school to grab something when all of a sudden a cop came knocking on the door and handed her an eviction notice. Elizabeth was obviously very confused because she knew her mom was paying rent. When she told Tricia about the incident, Elizabeth was told not to worry about it and to just go back to school. Elizabeth ended up forgetting about the entire thing and continued on with her last few months of high school.

Elizabeth felt like she was on top of the world during these last few months. She was doing amazing in track and was getting ready to go to prom. But then one day, as Elizabeth was getting ready for a track meet she got a call from her mom saying they had just been evicted and had lost everything.⁸ The only things Elizabeth could think about was her prom dress that she had just gotten and will never be able to wear it. This was absolutely devastating since prom was just a week away. Elizabeth soon realized that she had lost a lot more than just a prom dress. She had lost every picture she had of her childhood, all of her clothes, and her home she finally got comfortable in. Tricia had no money in her pocket so Elizabeth and Kaitlyn had to go to school with the small amount of clothes they brought to school the day they were evicted. They had to re-wear these clothes everyday and were extremely embarrassed by it. Elizabeth lived across from her grandpa before they were evicted and her grandpa said that he would try and get their clothes and personal

⁸ Knowledge of author, Elizabeth Draper

belongings for them. After awhile Elizabeth and her mom realized that he would never give them their things back. Elizabeth's mom was told that he was going inside of our home and stealing our things to pawn them off. This enraged Elizabeth and her siblings so much that they stopped communicating with him and now don't claim him as family anymore. Elizabeth still doesn't understand why her grandpa would do that to them. Since they didn't have a home anymore they had to live with one of Tricia's friends for a few months. Elizabeth finally graduated high school and could not have been more relieved that she was finally done with all the embarrassment.

Over the summer, Elizabeth made the decision to join ROTC at Pittsburg State University. She spent the entire summer training so she could be in the best possible shape before entering the program. Summer ended quickly and Elizabeth found herself entering adulthood very fast when she moved into the dorms. She was nervous yet very excited to begin a new life. Elizabeth started off college and ROTC strong and even met her now best friend. Elizabeth was very surprised at how well she was doing since in high school she struggled a lot. After being in college for a couple of months, Elizabeth decided to make the very hard decision to enlist in the Kansas Army National Guard in October 2019.⁹ This had always been a dream of Elizabeth's as both of her parents were in the National Guard. Elizabeth was very excited to finally be a part of something that she loved. The fall semester was coming to an end when Elizabeth decided to go on a last minute date. Her now husband **Adam Block (1999-)** drove all the way

⁹ Knowledge of author, Elizabeth Draper

from Springfield, Missouri, to spend a couple of hours with Elizabeth. They immediately hit it off and instantly clicked. Elizabeth and Adam only knew each other for about two weeks before they were officially dating. Elizabeth was worried that Adam wouldn't want to be with her anymore since she would be leaving for Army Basic Combat Training over the summer of 2020. But she soon got over that fear once covid-19¹⁰ started.

Once Covid hit, Elizabeth and Adam were basically living together in Springfield, at Adam's apartment. They wanted to spend as much time together as possible before they couldn't talk or see each other for two and a half months. Basic Training came quickly and Elizabeth was very nervous to leave. She was so nervous that she even almost backed out of going. But she finally convinced herself and she went and graduated BCT at the end of the summer. Since Elizabeth wasn't able to talk to Adam while she was gone she came back home and realized that Adam bought a home in Pittsburg and even transferred to Pittsburg State University to be with her. Elizabeth was so shocked but so excited that she would be able to see her boyfriend everyday. Elizabeth immediately moved in with Adam and a couple months later they got two puppies, a Mastiff, Oakley, and a Border Collie, Cooper!

Since Elizabeth and Adam are both in the military, they had to spend a lot of time apart which made them realize they didn't want to be with anyone else. In July 2021 Elizabeth and Adam got engaged and by January 2022 they went to a courthouse and eloped.

¹⁰ "Covid-19." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, April 17, 2023. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19>.

Elizabeth will be graduating college from Pittsburg State University with a General Studies degree and will commission as a Engineering Officer on May 12, 2023.

GENERATION TWO

- A1a. Tricia Diane Bro (1979-)**
- A1b. Rudolph Allen Draper (1977-)**

Tricia Diane Bro (1979-) was born in Miami, Oklahoma, on October 12, 1979 to **Rhonda Kaye Cleveland (1956-)** and **David Wayne Bro (1957-)**. She has one older sister, three younger sisters, and a younger brother. Tricia went to school in Pittsburg, Kansas, until randomly one day her parents dropped her off at the high school in Girard, Kansas, without telling her why. Tricia found out she was pregnant her Junior year of high school when her mom **Rhonda Cleveland** took her to the community health center to get her birth control. They were both very shocked at this news and Rhonda was actually very supportive of Tricia. Rhonda told Tricia that everything was going to be okay and even apologized to Tricia and said she wished she would have taken her to community health sooner¹¹. Tricia gave birth to **Tyler Wayne Jiles** on September 5, 1997, in Pittsburg, Kansas. Tricia was just starting her senior year at Girard High School. While Tricia was in school, her mom would watch Tyler and then when Tricia would come back she would do her homework while holding Tyler. Tricia was able to graduate High School but was unable to attend college because she needed to make money to support her child. About a year and half

¹¹ Bro, Tricia. Interview 1 March 2023.

later, Tricia found out she was pregnant with her second child. She gave birth to **Hunter Lee Jiles** on August 27, 1999. She was nineteen taking care of two babies while going through a divorce with their father. Hunter and Tyler's father wasn't really in the picture so Tricia had to take care of her children by herself.

When Tricia was nineteen she was working at Jake's fireworks and met **Rudolph Draper**. They were just friends for a while as Tricia was five months pregnant with Hunter, But Rudy did not care and wanted to date Tricia and take care of her son that nobody wanted. Rudy and Tricia started dating in June of 1999. Tricia dated Rudy for a while and became loved by Rudy family members. A few years into dating, Tricia found out she was pregnant with her third child. Tricia gave birth on July 7, 2001 to **Elizabeth Rose Kaye Draper**. A year after giving birth to Elizabeth, Tricia and Rudy got married in February 2002. A couple of years later Tricia and Rudy welcomed their second daughter **Kaitlyn Draper** into the world on August 1, 2004. Tricia and Rudy were married for eight years before getting a divorce. This gave Tricia a lot of problems in the Catholic church because they saw her as unholy. Catholics who get divorced used to be excommunicated, which excludes them from participating in sacraments and services, up until the 1990s.¹² Some people still view the catholic church like this which is why Tricia stopped going to church overall because she thought they were judging her.

¹² Stepp, Laura Sessions. "Stallings and His Followers Excommunicated, Church Says." The Washington Post. WP Company, February 6, 1990. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1990/02/06/stallings-and-his-follo-wers-excommunicated-church-says/421e0451-7b1a-43e7-80ed-22fcfb7da304/>.

Growing up Tricia had always dreamed of joining the Air Force right after high school, but this obviously changed when she had Tyler. After having all of her kids and getting them into grade school Tricia decided to join the Kansas Army National Guard. Tricia enlisted in September 2007 and went to basic training the next month. She was away from home for a total of five months with little to no contact with her family. This was very hard on Tricia as she was used to spending everyday with her kids. Once Tricia came back home from training she went to the military unit. She became very respected very quickly since she wouldn't take any crap from the guys. Tricia was in the Army for fifteen years before retiring. She retired at the rank of Staff Sergeant and is very well known and a respected NCO by many.

Rudy Allen Draper (1977-) was born in Wichita, Kansas on November 21, 1977 to Julie Riedel. Just three days after Rudy was born, he was adopted by **Joyce Lynn Simoncic (1948-)** and **Barry Dean Draper (1946-)**. Rudy was put up for adoption because Julie was only sixteen when she had him. Rudy is the oldest child to Joyce and Barry, he has two younger sisters. Rudy went to school at St. Mary's in Pittsburg, Kansas. Right after Rudy graduated high school, he joined the United States Marine Corp. A month before shipping off to bootcamp, Rudy made the decision to meet his biological mother, Julie. He was very nervous as he didn't know if Julie wanted to meet him. Once he got to Wichita, KS, all of his nervousness went away and was very comfortable. He was immediately introduced to Julie and his

new four siblings. They all bonded amazingly and he decided to continue to grow their relationship from there. He was in the Marine Corp for eight years before he transferred to the United States Army National Guard. In 2004, Rudy went on his first deployment to Iraq. He was gone for a year and missed out on a lot of his daughter's early life. When he came back, about three years later he ran for city major. Rudy was elected as Pittsburgs major in 2009. Unfortunately, Rudy had to resign after a year because he was getting deployed again but to Africa. While he was in Africa, he delivered a baby. The mother of this baby named their baby "Draper" after his last name. While he was in Africa, he went white water rafting on the Nile River, which led to his intestines getting all messed up. The army had to fly him all the way to Germany to get emergency surgery. Once Rudy came home, he continued to be city commissioner until 2014 and then he resigned. Rudy moved to Coffeyville, Kansas, where he met his wife **Christy Ijams**. Rudy and Christy got married in June 2015 and had a daughter **Daisy Draper** in January 2016. In 2016, Rudy was offered a recruiting job for the Kansas Army National Guard. Rudy did so well in this job that he was awarded the National Recruitment award in 2018¹³. Rudy is still doing this job and has been in the military for over twenty five years.

¹³ Rudy Draper. Interviewed by author, Elizabeth Draper, March 20 2023.

GENERATION THREE

A1a1. Rhonda Kaye Cleveland (1956-)

A1a2. N/A

A1b1. Joyce Lynn Simoncic (1948-)

A1b2. Barry Dean Draper (1946-)

Rhonda Kaye Cleveland (1956-) was born on June 11, 1956 in Vinita, Oklahoma to **Arlene Allen (1935-)** and **Marvin Cleveland (1932-2007)**. Rhonda went to school in Quapaw, Oklahoma, where she was a baton twirler all of high school. After she graduated high school, Rhonda married her first husband at just 18 years old in 1975. A couple months after their wedding, Rhonda found out she was pregnant with her first daughter, Kimberly. While pregnant, Rhonda had to work full time as a Certified Nurses Assistant which put a lot of strain and stress on her body. Four years later, Rhonda found out she was pregnant with her second daughter, Tricia. After having both Kimberly and Tricia, Rhonda had to work as both a Certified Nurses Assistant and Certified Medical Assistant. Two years later, Rhonda had her third daughter, Jennifer. After she gave birth to Jennifer, Rhonda and her husband decided to move away from Oklahoma and go to Pittsburg, KS. Quawpaw, Oklahoma was a relatively small town, according to the 1980 Census Quawpaw only had a population of 1,097.¹⁴ They decided to move because her husband took a job as a manager and there were more opportunities for them in Pittsburg. According to the

¹⁴“Quapaw, Oklahoma.” Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, April 4, 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quapaw,_Oklahoma.

1980 Census, Pittsburg's population was 18,770¹⁵ which would give Rhonda and her husband a better job opportunity. After two years of living in Pittsburg, Rhonda had her fourth Daughter Stephanie. It was very hard for her to balance taking care of four children and working full time during the week. After another two years of trying to balance work and children Rhonda found out she was pregnant with her fifth and last daughter, Sarah. After Sarah was born, they all went down to New Mexico to visit family. While they were down there Sarah had gotten the chickenpox. She had gotten red bumps all over her head where the soft spots were located. Rhonda took Sarah to a doctor where they found out she now had autism because of the chickenpox. This was absolutely devastating news to Rhonda as she thought it was her fault that her daughter had autism. After having Sarah, Rhonda decided she didn't want to have anymore children so she could focus more on the diagnosis her daughter was given. Since autism was still a new word to some people in the 1980s Rhonda had to do more research about how she could help Sarah. Rhonda eventually decided that she would just let her daughter live the best life she could give her.

After about seven years, Rhonda unexpectedly found out she was pregnant with her sixth child. But, this time she would have her first son, Matthew. She was worried at first as they were already struggling with money at the time, but after finding out she was going to have a son she became very excited. After having Matthew, Rhonda and David moved to Jasper, MO, because one of their family

¹⁵ "Pittsburg, Kansas." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, April 9, 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pittsburg,_Kansas.

members had passed away and needed someone to watch their family farm.

In figure 4.3, "Observed and Projected Fertility of Women Who Reached Childbearing Age in the Twentieth Century by Year of Birth, Plus Thirty", in the book *Century of a Difference: How America changed in the last One Hundred years*, the author shows how birth rates of dropped and rose from 1900-2000. Women during The Great Depression era had little to no births because nobody could take care of more than one to two children at a time. Now, baby boomers are what grew the fertility rate by almost 80%. More women were at a higher fertility rate because it was rare for women to stop at one or two, most had around three or four. The birth rate then evened out around 1980 and stayed that way to early 2000's.¹⁶ This is an accurate example of Rhonda Rippee. Rhonda was a baby boomer and had three siblings which was the norm for mothers back then. Rhonda then had six children all within 1977-1994 which was a time during high fertility. Rhonda was in the 80th percentile of most fertile women during that time.¹⁷ This affected Rhonda's family because she wasn't making a lot of money to fully take care of six children by herself.¹⁸ Rhonda had to often rely on her oldest children, Kimberly and Tricia, to watch and take care of the younger ones. She obviously did not want to do this but she needed to make money to help support her family.

¹⁶ Claude S. Fisher and Michael Hout *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 66

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Knowledge of author, Elizabeth Draper

In 2001, Rhonda and David got a divorce and Rhonda moved back to Pittsburg, Kansas. Once she moved back she decided to go to school to get her Licensed Practical Nurse certificate. She eventually moved to Lamar, Missouri, for a better job opportunity. While living in Lamar she met her second husband Allen Rippee. Rhonda and Allen got married in 2007 and moved into their new home together. Rhonda and Allen were married for six years before Allen unexpectedly passed away one early Monday morning. Allen's death devastated everyone in the family but more importantly, Rhonda's. Rhonda refused to move on after his death for nine years before she met her third husband, Tim Carver. Rhonda and Tim now live in Arkansas with her daughter Sarah.

Joyce Lynn Simoncic (1948-) was born July 16, 1948 in Pittsburg, KS, to **Rudolph Simoncic (1914-2005)** and **Rose Senechal (1913-2000)**. Joyce went to St.Mary's Catholic school from 1st grade all throughout high school, while attending school she was in the band and played the flute. After high school, Joyce went to college at Pittsburg State university to get a degree in Education. While attending Pittsburg State University she met her husband, **Barry Dean Draper (1946-)**, at a sorority and fraternity event. Joyce and Barry got married November 10, 1968. After getting married Joyce had a teaching job in Altamont, Kansas.¹⁹

Joyce and Barry tried having children of their own for a couple of years before finding out that it would be almost impossible for Joyce to carry on her own. Their doctor recommended adoption through

¹⁹ Barry Draper, Interviewed by author, Elizabeth Draper, 27 April 2023

the Catholic Services if they wanted children. Joyce reached out and filled an application to be considered, days later they received a call saying that they had a baby for them. They immediately went to the store to buy everything you could possibly need for a baby because they didn't think the process would happen so fast. After they had adopted **Rudy Draper (1977-)**, about two years later they received another call from the Catholic Services. They were confused because they hadn't put in another application to adopt another baby. Joyce immediately thought that it was Rudy's sibling and they said they would absolutely adopt the child. After they had gotten their new daughter, **Serra Draper (1979-)** they soon realized that it wasn't Rudy's sibling but they still wanted her. Joyce was very content about two children and did not plan on having anymore until one day in late 1979, she felt the need to take a pregnancy test. As soon as she took the test it immediately said she was pregnant. Joyce was obviously very skeptical as her doctor said she would never be able to have children. Joyce gave birth to **Julie Draper (1980-)**. She went in to get a blood test and fair enough she was pregnant. Having three children all in diapers was obviously very stressful for Joyce and she was desperate for help. Joyce received a call from one of her fathers friends saying they know a girl down in Panama. This girl was in desperate need of education and was willing to help Joyce with the children if she could go to school in Kansas. Joyce immediately said yes and helped this young girl out.²⁰

²⁰ Barry Draper, Interviewed by author, Elizabeth Draper, 27 April 2023

Joyce is still living in Pittsburg, Kansas, and loves all of her grandchildren dearly. She absolutely loves being a grandma.

Barry Dean Draper (1946-) was born October 28, 1945 in Hillsdale, Michigan to **William Draper (1917-2021)** and **Ellen Serra (1924- 2012)**. Barry lived in Michigan up until he was 7 years old when his parents got a divorce. His mother, Ellen, moved Barry and his sister to Kansas after the divorce so that she could have support during this hard time. Barry grew up as a country boy, he would go hunting and fishing just about everyday with his cousins. He went to a very small school from 1st grade to 8th grade in South Radley; there were about 45 students in the entire school. Apparently the school is now a barn. Barry then transferred to Frontenac High School to finish off school before going to college.²¹

Barry attended college at Pittsburg State University to get a degree in business. After college, his first full time job was working for Joyce's parents at their school supplies business. Barry was the one that made sure everyone was getting paid the right amount of money. After working there for a while Barry decided to open up his own bank. Barry worked and owned these banks until he retired in 2018.²²

Barry was drafted into the vietnam war in 1969. He doesn't like to tell stories because he really did not want to be there. But one of his favorites is that his platoon was supposed to go out patrolling five different times. Right before they would go out Joyce

²¹ Barry Draper, interviewed by author, Elizabeth Draper, 27 April 2023

²² ibid

would call him because she had a feeling that something wasn't right. Come to find out that each time a new platoon went out nobody survived. Joyce quite literally saved his life multiple times.²³

²³ Personal Knowledge of author

GENERATION FOUR

A1a1a. Arlene Allen (1935-)

A1a1b. Marvin Cleveland (1932-2007)

A1a2a. N/A

A1a2b. N/A

A1b1a. Rose Senechal (1913-2000)

A1b1b. Rudolph Simoncic (1914-2005)

A1b2a. Ellen Serra (1924-2012)

A1b2b. William Dean Draper (1925-2021)

Arlene Allen (1935-) was born in Vinita, Oklahoma, Arlene does not know her birthdate and has also never told anyone so everyone believes she was born in the year 1935. In her middle ages, Arlene would often lie about her age so nobody knows how old she actually is or where she grew up.

Marvin Cleveland (1932-2007) was born in Welch, Oklahoma, on June 11th 1932 to **William Otto Cleveland** and **Cassie Elizabeth Blackford**. Marvin was a minister in Macedonia Baptist Church, West Carroll, Louisiana, United States. After he was a minister he moved to Peoria, Oklahoma with his wife, Arlene. Marvin passed away October 1, 2007.²⁴

Rose Senechal (1913-2000) was born December 24, 1913 in Crawford, Kansas, to **Henri Senechal** and **Anna Boso**. Rose married

²⁴Tricia Draper, Interview by author Elizabeth Draper, 17 April 2023

Rudolph Simoncic on January 24, 1936 in Benton, Arkansas, and they had two children together, Joyce Simoncic and Jon Simoncic. Rose passed away on August 23, 2000.²⁵

Rudolph Simoncic (1914-2005) was born July 1, 1914 in Edison, Kansas, to **John Simoncic** and **Margaret Polesnick**. Rudolph did not like being called by his full name as most people would associate him the 'Rudolph the rednosed reindeer', So he went by "Rudy".²⁶ Rudy married Margaret Polesnick on January 24, 1936 in Benton, Arkansas. From 1973 to 1974, Rudy was the Mayor of Pittsburg, Kansas²⁷. Rudy passed away on March 18, 2005 in Pittsburg, Kansas.²⁸

Ellen Serra (1924-2012) was born in 1924 in Frontenac, Kansas, to **Luigi Serra** and **Concetta Merenda**. While working at a factory to build planes for the Army in WWII she met her husband William. Ellen married **William Draper** on January 21, 1946 in Dearborn, Michigan. Ellen and William had two children Barry and Kaye. After divorcing William, Ellen moved to Pittsburg, Kansas, to be surrounded by family during the hard time.²⁹ Ellen passed away in 2012 in Hillsdale, Michigan.³⁰

William Draper (1925-2020) was born in Hillsdale, Michigan. He had to work at a gas station for most of his life because money was hard to come by. After the divorce, William decided to join the

²⁵ <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/KCMH-PJZ>

²⁶ Personal Knowledge of author, Elizabeth Draper

²⁷ Kestenbaum, Lawrence. "Alphabetical Name Index: D." The Political Graveyard. Accessed April 18, 2023. <https://politicalgraveyard.com/alpha/d.html>.

²⁸ "William Draper." FamilySearch.org. Accessed April 12, 2023.

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/about/GKX6-92Y>

²⁹ Barry Draper, Interviewed by author, Elizabeth Draper, 27 April 2023

³⁰ IBID

military, after about four years he realized that the military had a lot of great benefits and decided to make a career out of it. William passed away in 2020 at the age of 103.³¹

³¹ Barry Draper, Interviewed by author, Elizabeth Draper, 27 April 2023

GENERATION FIVE

A1a1a1. Roxy Hoodenpyle (1907- 2000)

A1a1a2. Cecil Allen (N/A)

A1a1b1. Cassie ELizabeth Blackford (1900-1940)

A1a1b2. William Otto Cleveland (1896- 1976)

A1a2a1. N/A

A1a2a2. N/A

A1a2b1. N/A

A1a2b2. N/A

A1b1a1. Anna Boso (1891-1964)

A1b1a2. Henri Senechal (1881-1967)

A1b1b1. Margaret Polesnick (1871-1958)

A1b1b2. John Simoncic (1870-1967)

A1b2a1. Concetta Merenda (1894-)

A1b2a2. Luigi Serra (1883-1960)

A1b2b1. Ruth Marie McFadden (1907-2012)

A1b2b2. Paul Herman Draper (1907-2000)

Roxy Hoodenpyle (1907-2000) was born in Salem, Missouri, December 12, 1907. In 1925, Roxy moved to Vinita, Oklahoma, where she enrolled in an education program. Roxy had two children, Arlene and Goodie Allen. Roxy passed away August 22, 2000. ³²

Cecil Allen (N/A)

Cassie Elizabeth Blackford (1900-1940) was born on June 10, 1900 in Butler, Kansas. Cassie married **William Otto Cleveland** December 13,

³² <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/GSTK-VQX>

1917. Cassie and William had nine children together, five boys and four girls. Cassie passed away December 7, 1940 in Welch, Oklahoma. ³³

William Otto Cleveland (1896-1976) was born July 23, 1896 in Galena, Kansas. After he married **Cassie Blackford**, William moved to Township 1, Craig, Oklahoma. In 1919, William registered for Military service. He also had to make moonshine to help support his family. William died April 1, 1976 in Welch, Oklahoma. ³⁴

Anna Boso (1891-1964) was born March 21, 1891 in Frontenac, Kansas to **Prospero Boso** and **Rosa Frank**. Anna married **Henri Senechal** August 31, 1907 in Girard, Kansas, where they had ten children, 7 daughters and 3 sons. Anna passed away on October 18, 1964 in Pittsburg, Kansas. ³⁵

Henri Senechal (1881-1967) was born June 18, 1881 in Denain, Nord, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. He immigrated to the United States in 1887 and lived in Baker Township, Kansas. Henri passed away September 16, 1967, in Pittsburg, Kansas. ³⁶

Margaret Polesnick (1871-1958) was born 1871 in Slovenia. She had five children with **John Simoncic**, four sons and one daughter. Margaret passed away 1958 in Pittsburg, Kansas. ³⁷

³³ <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LXQK-RXG>

³⁴ IBID

³⁵ IBID

³⁶ IBID

³⁷ IBID

John Simoncic (1870-1967) was born 1870 in Slovenia. He had five children with **Margaret Polesnick**. John passed away January 24, 1967 in Pittsburg, Kansas. ³⁸

Concetta Merenda (1892- 1965) was born on December 8, 1892 in Calabria, Italy. She had four sons and five daughters with **Luigi Serra**. Concetta passed away in 1956 in Capaldo, Kansas. ³⁹

Luigi Serra (1883-1960) was born May 22, 1883 in Calabria, Italy. He had nine children with **Concetta Merenda**. Luigi passed away on December 23, 1960. ⁴⁰

Ruth Marie McFadden (1907-2012) was born June 27, 1907 in Hillsdale, Michigan. Ruth married **Paul Draper** on March 8, 1923 and had three children together. Ruth Divorced Paul on November 17 1944 because Paul was having an affair. Ruth passed away February 22, 2012. ⁴¹

Paul Herman Draper (1907-2000) was born February 27, 1907 in Van Wert, Ohio. Paul had three children with **Ruth McFadden** before they got a divorce. Paul remarried in 1947 to Ruth Eloise DeCamp. He passed away October 12, 2000. ⁴²

³⁸ <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/GZ4R-Y5Z>

³⁹ IBID

⁴⁰ IBID

⁴¹ IBID

⁴² IBID

Emigrating from Europe to the United States was very popular from 1901-2000. We can tell in Figure 3.6, "Immigration by Continent-of-Origin, by Decade" in the book, *Century of a difference: How America changed in the last One Hundred years*. They go on to explain that immigration during this time is the reason for half the population growth in the United States. Europeans immigrated the most to the United States from 1901-1970, they were about 75-90% of the immigration population during this time.⁴³The Drapers and Simoncics were a part of this population growth as both sides immigrated from either Italy or Slovenia.

⁴³ Claude S. Fisher and Michael Hout *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 37-38