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The Family History of Marta B. Cannon

Marta B. Cannon

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List of Direct Line Family Members

Generation One

A1. Marta Bess Francisco Cannon (1979-)
A2. Jeffrey Lorenzo Cannon (1969-)

Generation Two

A1a. Virginia Bell Johnson Francisco (1950-)
A1b. Marvin Dale Francisco (1951-)

Generation Three


Generation Four

A1a1a. Bessie Jenny Hunt (1894-1978)
A1a1b. Lester Hunt (1899-1967)

A1a2b. James Albert Johnson (1894-1985)

A1b1a. Mabel Audrey Pefley Troester (1899-1975)
A1b1b. William L. Troester (1890-1959)

A1b2a. Hulda Bell Norrick Francisco (1900-1984)
A1b2b. Edgar Francisco Sr. (1901-1999)
Generation Five

A1a1a1. Rebecca T McCormick Dempsey (1869-1947)
A1a1a2. George Washington Dempsey (1870-1944)

A1a1b1. Mary Nannie Hunt (1876-1943)
A1a1b2. Thomas H. Hunt (1873-1932)

A1a2a1. Lottie Forest Newman Babcock (1886-1959)
A1a2a2. Clarence Reynolds Babcock (1880-1955)

A1a2b1. unk
A1a2b2. unk

A1b1a1. Mariah Lueliena Lulu Barnett Pefley (1877-1948)
A1b1a2. Joseph Edwin Pefley (1871-1928)

A1b1b1. Anna M Hall Troester ()
A1b1b2. Frank Troester (1865-1897)

A1b2a1. Abbie M. Crawford (1871-1952)
A1b2a2. Hezekiah Norrick (1864-1926)

A1b2b1. Rosetta Ottilie Wadsack (1871-1960)
A1b2b2. Charles Francisco (1867-1918)
Marta Bess Francisco Cannon (1979-) was born in at Baxter Regional Medical Center in Mountain Home, Arkansas to Marvin Dale Francisco (1951-) and Virginia Bell Johnson Francisco (1950-). Marta’s parents were teaching in a small school in Yellville, Arkansas when they were blessed after seven years of marriage with a beautiful baby daughter Marta Bess Francisco. Before Marta was born her parents really struggled with coming up with a name for her. Since they taught school all the cute names they thought of belonged to horrible children that they didn’t like. So Marta’s mom thought of names and let Marta’s father Marvin pick the one he liked. The middle name Bess was taken from Marta’s great grandma Bessie Jenny Dempsey Hunt (1894-1978).

The closest hospital was in Mountain Home, Arkansas so that is where Marta was born. She lived in Yellville until June 1980 when her parents moved to Altamont, Kansas. Her dad got a job coaching and teaching. Altamont was only ten miles from Parsons, Kansas where her great grandparents Edgar Francisco (1901-1999) and Hulda Bell Norrick Francisco (1900-1984) lived.

Marta’s mom stayed home with her for a year then she had a baby sitter. Marta was the apple of Great Grandma Francisco’s eye. To her great grandparents she could do no wrong. Marta loved playing with her toy kitchen and Barbie dolls. Marta’s paternal and maternal grandparents lived far away in Iowa and Michigan so she did not get to see them very much.

When Marta was four she was so lucky to get a baby brother Anthony Wayne Francisco. But it was also a very sad time because her dear great grandmother Hulda passed away. The great grandparents had moved to Altamont a few months before grandma died so Marta got to see them more. Then when Marta started school Great Grandpa Edgar would babysit after school because he lived right across the street. Marta was so happy!
When Marta was in first grade, her dad decided that he wanted to spend more time with her so she rode with her dad to Edna, Kansas to school. Sometimes she got to ride on the back of her dad’s motorcycle. This is the same motorcycle that Marta burned her right leg on when she was two years old. Her dad would coach in Altamont after school (about 15 miles from Edna, KS), one day he forgot to take Marta along with him, he forgot and left her in Edna. One of the teachers brought her home. Then a few weeks later he forgot to take her again. Marta’s mother decided that the bonding time was over and Marta went back to school in Altamont, KS the following year.

Everything was going well for Marta until her parents got their Masters degrees and her dad became a principal in Moline, KS. Marta was starting third grade around 1988-1989, and started school there in Moline. This was a great time since the family lived in the country her mom and dad bought some quarter horses and Marta learned how to ride horses and clean barns. She also became an active member of 4-H. She didn’t raise animals but she sewed and did photography, and collected rocks. The first year she was selected as the outstanding 4-H student. She still has that plaque.

After being in Moline for three years her father decided to get a job in Thayer, Kansas as a principal and the family was off again. Marta was entering the sixth grade. Marta was starting to learn it was not easy being the principal’s daughter. She was always an excellent student so all the teachers loved her. The custodial staff and kitchen staff also like her because she was always so helpful. When Marta was in Moline she had learned to play the trumpet so she continued in band and choir when she moved to Thayer. The family lived outside of town but it wasn’t big enough for horses, so they had to be sold but they could keep their dog Trixie a black lab/chow mix.

Marta stayed active during her years growing up in Thayer, KS. Thayer is a small Kansas town with a population of approximately 500.¹ Marta’s father always tended to move the family to small towns.

From sixth grade through eleventh grade Marta attended Thayer Schools, the years flew by. Marta stayed very active in all activities to avoid severe boredom of small town living. Marta in 7th and 8th

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thayer,_Kansas
grade stayed active in volleyball, basketball, track, and continued to play her trumpet. By the time, Marta entered high school her activities increased. Marta was active in scholars’ bowl, speech meets, volleyball, track, band, choir, and even was in the Science club. Marta reigned as science club president from 9th grade through 11th grade. Marta even played softball. However, Thayer schools at the time didn’t have a softball team during Marta’s freshman year. Marta and two other classmates, Laura Fogleman and Amber Orton were granted permission to play for Erie High Schools girls softball team. Marta and her classmates were driven to Erie daily during the late winter months through the Sping and played for the Erie Red Devils in Erie, KS. As Marta’s high school years continued to zoom by, Marta was very focused in playing her trumpet, she practiced and practiced. Marta had excelled greatly at her horn playing that she even was asked to perform at different events. One event was during a Veterans Day in 1996 that she was asked to play taps for the town ceremony in Chanute, KS. Marta took pride in her trumpet playing abilities, that she tried to play for any band that was offered. Marta joined a jazz band that met after school during her high school years of 1995-1997. Marta also was asked to play the National Anthem at nearly every home basketball game from the years of 1995-1998. Marta took great enjoyment playing her trumpet for chamber band, jazz band, marching band, and her favorite pep band. Below is a discussion of how spending and consumer goods were consumed in average moderate income families.

In Figure 6.1 “Adjusted Family-of-Four Spending on Categories of goods, by PercentileRank, 1998,” the Authors Fischer and Hout discussed the percentiles of spending in the categories of food, and clothing, and recreation.

The chart discussed how consumption difference were smaller than the income or wealth differences. Ownership of consumer goods and spending came down to how when newer goods were on the market such as computers, predominantly well-off individuals acquired them. An example would be how Marta grew up in a family of four. Because Marta grew up in smaller communities, there wasn’t a lot of goods that were nearby. Marta’s father during her teen years worked

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very hard to allow his family to have goods and clothing that others in the small community didn’t have. The family tended to go to Kansas City and Joplin, MO monthly to shop for goods, clothing, and take on different recreational venues not offered in Southeastern Kansas. Seemingly it would seem that Marta’s father would be considered one of the higher percentage ranking when it came to food, clothing, and recreation when compared to the chart. With job advancement opportunities came increase in income, which lead to increase consumer spending and new opportunities for the family during the time frame of 1990s to 2000s. There was even a time in which Marta was able to go to Kansas City, MO to see the Phantom of the Opera. One instance where income spent was towards entertainment and recreational fun.

During Marta’s senior year of high school her father wanted to take a different principal job with less added stress. Marta’s father had been a K-12 grade principal from 1991-1997 and needed a break from attending every nightly school event. So, Marta’s father accepted a job in Chetopa, KS. However, Marta’s mother did not want to move and neither did Marta’s father. Marta’s father was informed by administration and the school board that he would need to be in district to be able to begin his position. Another opportunity arose for Marta. Marta’s father decided to rent a trailer in Chetopa, KS and stay in Chetopa during the week and go back to see Marta’s mother on the weekends. The catch was this, Marta’s father really wanted Marta to come stay with him in Chetopa, KS so he could at least see some his family during the week. Marta did not hesitate to accept the change. Even though Marta would be changing school’s her senior year of high school, Marta was excited for change and to meet new people. What Marta thought was thrilling was that Marta’s father would no longer be her school principal. Finally, Marta was about to break free from the stigma of being a principal’s daughter. Marta’s father was accepting an elementary principals job in Chetopa, KS not a K-12 position.

Many memories were made for Marta in the small town of Chetopa, KS. Chetopa being a town known for pecans, spoonbill catfish, Neosho river access, and kind folk. Chetopa was known for the Osage Indians and even had a larger population than Thayer, KS. Population of approximately 1,100 people.³

Marta’s senior year brought many lasting memories. She met so many new friends and cherished souls. One memory was from the year 1997, this was the year that Matt Nading asked Marta to join him and a few others for four wheelin’ fun. Marta did not have a clue what he meant by four wheelin’, for she had never done it. Upon Mata’s arrival to Matt’s home about 15 high school boys were all standing outside of Matt’s house, Marta had no idea that she would be the only girl. Nearly the entire Chetopa high school football team was there. Marta did feel awkward being present in front of so many young men. Matt went out of his way to make Marta feel welcomed and comfortable. As a moment passed by Matt shouted, “lets go”. So many of the boys wanted Marta to ride on the back of their four wheelers. Marta did take a few trips on Brian Souder’s and Travis Lauderback’s four wheelers. Such excitement racing down back gravel roads, the wind fierce and wild. Gravel dust spraying up in all the riders faces. Memories happen so quick in peoples’ lives is what Marta had thought. One accomplishment that Marta took on was being nominated for 1997 football homecoming queen. Marta never had thought in her wildest dreams that this would ever happen. Marta was always looked on by in Thayer. It had occurred to Marta a possible reason for not ever getting nominated before in Thayer had to have been linked again with the stigma of the “principal’s daughter”. Finally, Marta felt one with all, she felt accepted finally. Thought’s had run through Marta’s mind, why did it take so many years to get to this one point in her life, a point of being accepted. On a beautiful fall day in 1997, entire date unk. Marta amongst 3 other homecoming candidates, rode in a white convertible which had belonged to her principal Mr John Presnall. Marta felt a smidge anxious and even had a butterfly feeling in the pit of her stomach as the convertible drove onto the field. As Marta approached the other candidates, she carefully got out of the vehicle and was met by her escort, Nathan Blackledge, a Junior in high school also, the varsity football teams quarterback. As Marta took her place on the field with her escort and other candidates, the announcer began to speak about each of the candidates, and then out of nowhere the announcer announced, “I would like to announce our new Chetopa Hornets football homecoming Queen Marta Francisco” Marta felt as though she was paralyzed in place, numbness overtook her body. She was unsure how to react to the announcement. She thought, “did this just happen”? At a blink of an eye, Nathan picked up a beautiful jeweled tiara and placed it upon Marta’s blonde delicate head. Then,
Nathan gazed upon Marta’s bright blue eyes and then grinned. He seemed as though he had a well thought plan, he dipped her and proceeded to give her an intense kiss. Marta recalls that when Nathan was done with the kiss, she saw her mother drop the camcorder in shock. It certainly is amazing the memories that are made when one is a teen.

Marta did graduate from Chetopa High School in 1998 and proceeded onto college with a music scholarship. Marta attended Coffeyville Community College only for a year then proceeded onward to Pittsburg State University yet with another music and music director scholarship in 1999. It would have seemed that Marta would have gone to school for a music degree, that was not the case, Marta proceeded with biology.

During the 1990s and early 2000 a tech boom occurred. Marta did encounter this boom. Computers were from another world. The World Wide Web began to take off, Marta felt a smidge lost in the new technology rage. The internet began to take off, computers became more relevant. Automobiles and indoor toilets were very common by nearly everyone. It is like in the Figure 6.6 “Households with Key Domestic Goods, by Year,” Fischer and Hout discussed that luxuries of owning homes is still not universal for everyone to own during this time.4

During Marta’s college journey, she dated several men always looking for mister right. It was the summer of 1999 a hot July day that Marta met Jeffrey Lorenzo Cannon. Marta didn’t meet Jeffrey at Pittsburg State University campus, she met him at a gas station where she worked. Jeffrey would come into the gas station multiple times a day for a pop refill. He would come into the gas station in his EMT uniform and did seem quite interested in Marta, he seemed almost in lust with her. It wasn’t until the day Jeffrey came into the gas station one day and handed Marta his phone number. The evening that Marta called him they have been nearly inseparable since July 22, 1999. They did end up getting married on November 24, 2000 on a drizzly cold evening in Parsons, Kansas at the Parsons Church of Christ.

4 Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 156.
Marta did proceed on with more college and switched gears onto another degree, it wasn’t until 2005 that Marta became a Registered Nurse. Marta and Jeffrey Cannon did end up having 3 children and are both living contently in Leavenworth, KS with their children at 921 Park Ave.

**Generation Two**

*Ala. Virginia Bell Johnson Francisco (1950-)*

*Alb. Marvin Dale Francisco (1951-)*

Marta’s mom **Virginia Bell Johnson Francisco (1950-)** was born in a small cabin near Benton Harbor, Michigan. Her mom **Joie “Joy” Fay Hunt Johnson (1927-2000)** and dad **Grover Tom Johnson (1925-1983)** had moved from Arkansas to Michigan to find work. Marta’s grandparents had a job working for a farmer and later grandpa got a job working for a car parts manufacturer. They had moved to Michigan with Marta’s aunt Gereta Jane Johnson Consolino when she was 1 ½ years old. Then Virginia was born. Virginia was born on a snowy day 1 February, 1950. The doctor came to the house to deliver her and grandpa’s sister Hazel May Johnson Cullum came to help. Virginia was a tiny girl and she was born with a tooth.

Virginia and her family moved to several different cities as her dad worked in different jobs, always trying to improve the life of their growing family. By the time they arrived in South Haven, Michigan in 1955 the family had two more children. Boys Elbert Roy Johnson and Delbert Troy Johnson. Then in 1959 the last brother came along Jimmie Ray Johnson.

It was very difficult for the family of seven to survive. Marta’s grandparents were not very educated so they did not have good paying jobs but they did always stay employed and worked hard. During the summer months their children all had to work in order to have clothes for school in the Fall, Marta’s grandma would take the children to pick fruit. They would pick strawberries, black berries, red raspberries, and blueberries. Also during the months in the Fall they would pick apples and peaches.  

The children all worked in the fields until they were 16 and could get jobs in town. It was a very hard life for Virginia but she was still happy. She grew up with a love for books, television, and going to

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5 Virginia Francisco, email message to Marta Cannon, April 15, 2017
the beach. South Haven was right on Lake Michigan and she and her siblings spent many happy days on the beach. Her dad had a job at the city power plant and he could see the beach and always knew when the kids were down there.

Virginia worked hard in school and always knew that she would go to college. She ended up going to Harding College in Searcy, Arkansas during the early 1970s. Her family attended the Church of Christ a6nd this was a church school. She wasn’t sure exactly what she wanted to do but she loved reading about government so she was a political science major. During her sophomore year in her English class; she sat in front of her future husband (at the time she didn’t know) Marvin Dale Francisco (1951-). She used to wear a dress with polka dots and he would count them. They became friends. The next year Marvin left to go to another school and Virginia got busy working on her degree and socializing. When Virginia was a senior Marvin was back and they started going out. His idea of a great date was going to ball games and bowling. Anyway, after a short courtship (two months) they got married on a snowy day 7 January 1972 in South Haven, Michigan.

After they graduated they got jobs in Wynne, Arkansas. She taught 7th grade social studies and they lived in an apartment.

After living and teaching there for 5 years they moved to Yellville in 1978. That’s where their precious baby was born. It was about this time that Virginia really started to make quilts. She had learned from her grandma Bessie Dempsey Hunt. It is still an important part of her life. She continued to teach 7th grade social studies and began teaching 8th grade history. Then they moved to Altamont, Kansas. She couldn’t find a job teaching what she wanted so the superintendent in Altamont told her about a special education opening. So, she tried it out. Virginia found out she liked it. Virginia had to go back to school and she attended Pittsburg State University and got her master’s degree. She taught K-12 for 31 years.

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6 Virginia Francisco, email message to Marta Cannon, April 15, 2017
Virginia taught in 13 schools. She retired in 2005 then she and Marta’s dad moved to Leavenworth, Kansas where she taught until 2012. Finally retiring for good after 38 years of teaching. Since retiring she has been very active with reading, quilting, golfing, grandkids, and church. She really has not retired yet.

**Marvin Dale Francisco (1951-)**, Marta’s father, was born on 13 February 1951 (actually he was born on the 14th of February but it was so close to midnight his mother Rema Lee Troester Francisco (1931-1992) asked the doctor to write down the birthdate as the 13th of February 1951 because that was his uncle Earl Ross Francisco’s birthday). His dad Harold Lee Francisco (1929-1988) was teaching in Scammon, Kansas during this time.

When Marvin was two his father and mother moved to Pleasant Valley, Iowa where his parents got jobs at Alcoa (the company made aluminum). Marvin’s family added three more children Melvin Lee Francisco, Twila Marie Francisco Belk, and Garry Lynn Francisco.

Marvin’s dad was big into games and sports so Marvin’s entire youth centered around sports. He really excelled in baseball, football, and tennis in school. He wasn’t just a jock. He played the baritone and string bass in band and acted in many theatrical plays. One of Marvin’s favorite memories is when he played in the play “Guys and Dolls”. He was a member of the Thespian Society and won the John Philip Sousa award in band. When he was ready for college he and his dad shopped around for schools with good baseball teams. Marvin had several friends that attended Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. So, they contacted Harding. The Harding baseball coaches were very impressed with Marvin’s baseball abilities and academic record that they flew Marvin to Searcy, Arkansas to meet with the coach. He was all American Honorable Mention his freshman year as a pitcher. He then transferred to Centerville Iowa Junior College for his sophomore year to improve his baseball game. Then back to Harding where he graduated. On 7 January 1972 he married **Virginia Bell Francisco (1950-)**. On 17th November 1979 Marvin became a father to a beautiful baby girl **Marta Bess Francisco Cannon (1979).**

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7 Marvin Francisco, email message to Marta Cannon, April 18, 2017
Marvin’s life took a change in the 1970s, college, baseball accomplishments, marriage, and even a child. Changes also occurred in the world such as the US census and law changes. According to Anderson during the 1970s there were a lot of changes regarding race and the census bureau. The 1970s US census bureau didn’t complete an accurate census count in which they missed about 2.5 percent of the nations’ population. The bureau at the time knew that corrections needed to be met in order to correct the US census in order account for minority groups. However, Anderson mentioned the changes wouldn’t be able to take place until 1980.8

In 1973, he got a job as a coach/P.E. teacher at Wynne, Arkansas at the Junior High. He continued coaching and teaching in Yellville, Arkansas from 1978-1980 where he coached girls’ basketball, track, and football. Then in 1980 he moved to Altamont, KS with his family to coach high school football and high school girls’ basketball. He coached in Altamont from 1980-1988. Sometime during the late 1980s year unk Marvin obtained his Master’s Degree in Administration at Pittsburg State University. Then served as a principal in Moline, KS, Thayer, KS and Chetopa Kansas. Marvin wanted to take a change in pace, he felt as though he needed to go back to school and teach. Yet again in the late 1990s he went back to school at Pittsburg State University and received certification in Special Education and taught children with behavior disorders. He taught in Chanute, KS and Leavenworth, KS. He finally retired from teaching after 40 years in education. During retirement Marvin became involved in Pickleball and even qualified to play in the Senior Olympics in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Marvin loves pickleball and was staying very active playing a couple times a week and even bowled on two different bowling leagues. On the 21 November 2015 Marvin suffered from a stroke though he doesn’t play pickleball as often he still keeps on going. He still loves to fish and fishes with his son in law Jeffrey Lorenzo Cannon (1969-) quite often. Marvin still bowls and golfs. He does spend a lot of his time with his grandkids and stays very active at his church as an elder.9

Generation Three

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9 Personal knowledge of author Marta B Cannon
Joie “Joy” Fay Hunt Johnson (1927-2000) was born in Van Buren County, Arkansas, USA to the parents of Lester Hunt (1899-1967) and Bessie Jenny Dempsey Hunt (1894-1978). Joie was born in the Ozark Mountains. She was the third daughter to join Luicille Bradford (unk) and Evelene Klutz (unk). Her parents did farming to support the family. Years later Joie had mentioned that she didn’t like her name and changed her name to Joy. She changed her name to Joy because she thought Joie seemed like a boys name. She never changed her name legally. The Hunt family grew to include three more children, Martah Marie Hunt Asbury (unk year born still living) and Ben G Hunt (unk year born, still living). The third child was a little sister that died as an infant, the infant was never named. Joy was something of a tom boy growing up. She loved spending time with her cousins from Oklahoma, especially John Dick Dempsey. One time Joy (Pert was her nickname) had an axe to cut wood and cut off part of her little toe.¹⁰

Her parents opened a neighborhood store to supplement their income. Joy wanted an education so she lived with her grandmother in Clinton, Arkansas where she attended high school and was very active. She loved being with her family and even played the piano. Joy was very popular with the boys at one time she had three fiancé’. She had to quit school when she was 17 and go back home to care for her mother who had broken her leg. Her older sisters had already left home and her brother and sister were too young to take care of their mother, the store, and the farm. But Joy still enjoyed having time out with her friends. She met her husband Grover Tom Johnson at a barn dance. When Joy was 19 they decided to get married. They were married in the middle of the road where they met the Justice of the

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¹⁰ Martha Hunt, personal phone interview with Marta Cannon, April 20, 2017
Peace in 1947. Somewhere after Joy and Grover married they moved to Michigan for jobs. Jobs were scare in Arkansas during this time.  

Joy had her first child Gereta Jane on the 2 March (1948-). After Gereta was born Joy and her family then moved to Benton Harbor, Michigan because of a job she heard about. Grover, Joy’s husband’s older sister had already moved there. Joy stayed home with Gereta Jane, Virginia Bell, Elbert Roy, and Delbert Troy. Eventually around 1955 Joy and her family moved to South Haven, Michigan where Joy went to work at a cannery and found childcare for the young boys while the girls were in school. After the cannery closed Joy got another job at a rubber company that made pars for cars. During the summer she took her children to pick fruit so they could buy clothes and supplies for school. The family was very poor but they had a lot of family and friends. Many of the closest friends were also from Arkansas and had com north to work. The family were able to return to Arkansas on holidays to see family. When the Rubber company went on strike Joy had to find another job. She decided to get training and become a nurse’s aide in the hospital town. Joy finally found a job that she loved. She was very good at patient care. Instead of still working for other farmers in the summer, Joy and Grover rented a blueberry farm to keep their boys busy. After a number of years the family with the help of a friend (name unknown) got into tree removal and trimming. After Joys husband Grover died in 1983 she decided that she wanted to take care of elderly patients in their home. So, she helped the elderly in the field of hospice home care and even cared for others in their homes. When she started working with the elderly she saw that their houses had become over run with things (some of her patients were hoarders). This led to her next career of cleanin out basements and attics and as pay she would keep unwanted items. She would take her the unwanted items and have yard sales and she would even take the items to flea markets too. From time to time Joy would run into other ladies that shared her passion for junk sales. Joy went into business of having yard and estate sales for people and took a percentage of the sales. She  

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11 Virginia Francisco, email message to Marta Cannon, April 19, 2017
would take left over items and sell at a resale shop (shop name unknown). Joy spent the rest of her life doing this kind of work even while caring for a couple of elderly ladies.\textsuperscript{12}

Joy was Marta’s maternal grandmother, a grandmother that Marta loved dearly. Marta has many memories of going to her grandmother’s house as a child. Marta would stay with her grandmother two or three weeks at a time during the summer months. Marta first began staying with her grandmother at the mere age of 8. Marta had many memories of this grandmother. Joy would take Marta to rummage sales in the summer and to various flea markets. Again, Joy had kept a constant rummage sale of her own, it was year-round. Marta has memories of grandma Joie cooking a family recipe of chocolate gravy over biscuits for breakfast. Joy knew how to comfort each of her many grandchildren in many ways. Joy was the kindest soul, she had a heart to serve others and care for those in needs. During grandma Joys last few years she cared for a little elderly lady named Lena. Lena’s family was not able to care for her on a 24/7 basis (Lena moved into Joys home). Lena’s family gave Joy funds to care for Lena. On 15 January 2000 Joy passed away from a myocardial infarction while walking on a treadmill during a cardiac exercise stress test. Joy passed away at a hospital in Holland, MI and was buried three days later in Bangor, Michigan\textsuperscript{13} Joy will be remembered as loving servant to others. Joy is the one who insisted that Marta become a nurse. It was Joy’s dream that Marta fulfill the role of a nurse. Unfortunately, Joy did not live to see Marta graduate as a Registered Nurse.

\textbf{Grover Tom Johnson (1925-1983)} was born to Ruth Bell Babcock Johnson (1902-1971) and James Albert Johnson (1894-1985) in Van Buren County Arkansas. He joined his two sisters Hester and Hazel. His parents had 14 children with two dying as infants. After Grover there was Maxine, Bill, Jack, John, Addie, Bennie, Dale, Ruth, and Sue, year of birth and years passed are unk at present time. The family was very poor. The owned over 100 acres of land but it was on the side of a mountain so there

\textsuperscript{12} Personal knowledge of author Marta B Cannon
wasn’t much level land. They managed to grow cotton and tobacco to sell. Grover only attended school till he was seven. He wouldn’t go to school, he didn’t have much of a desire. Since Grover was the oldest son he was needed at home to take care of the farm and help his parents with the younger children. Grover loved to ride the mules and explore the hill sides looking for arrow heads. He was a hard worker. His family would often have barn dances for their neighbors on Saturday nights. After meeting Joie “Joy Fay Hunt, he wanted to marry her quickly. He was anxious to provide for his family. Because Grover had very little education he knew the only way to get ahead was to do factory work. After WWII (Grover couldn’t serve he had flat feet) a lot of industry was starting to boom in the North. His elder sisters had already moved up north so Grover, Joy and their baby Gereta went too. They were followed by Maxine, Addie, Bill, Jack, John, and Ruth. Only Dale and Sue remained in Arkansas.¹⁴

Hester, Bill, Addie, Jack, and Ruth moved to Pekin, Illinois. Hazel, John, Maxine, and Grover all settled around South Haven and neighboring towns. Grover worked different jobs connected with the automobile industry until 1955 when he got a job at the power plant in South Haven. Grover’s main job was to keep the boilers maintained and serviced. This involved working around many harmful chemicals and asbestos, which at the time Grover and the other workers had no idea that asbestos was harmful or dangerous. Grover had a good life even though he was poor. He had many friends and other relatives that lived in the area. Even though Grover was uneducated he had many talents. He had a perfect pitch and was able to sing and he even learned to play the piano and harmonica. He even had talent for cutting hair. Many of his family and friends would gather at his house on Saturday evenings for a meal and for Grover to cut hair. He couldn’t charge them money but they often would give him gifts which happened to be money. In 1966 South Haven decided to close the power plant and buy a nuclear power from a plant that had opened on the coast of Lake Michigan. So Grover struggled again. He found a job an another manufacturing plant. Since Grover was uneducated Joy wrote down measurements and words that Grover would need for a job. Luckily for Grover he didn’t have to have that job for long. His

¹⁴ Virginia Francisco, email message to Marta B Cannon, April 20, 2017
former boss from the power plant had taken a job as a supervisor for the city water department and hired all the men that had lost their jobs. So, from 1966-1983 Grover worked for the water department. He was a quick learner and was very good working with heavy equipment. He spent most of his time operating back hoes and digging up and fixing sewer lines. Again he and his friends were around very toxic chemicals. When Grover wasn’t working for the city he would help his sons with the Johnson Tree business. After he fell from a tree and broke his arm he didn’t do too much tree work anymore. Even though Grover moved north to provide for his family he never forgot his Ozark roots. The mountains and family his family were engrained in his being. Whenever he had time off (he would take 2 weeks off a year) he would always return to Arkansas to revive his spirit. Even though his wife and children would rather go on a real vacation they always went there. Grover wasn’t the only one, all of his brothers and sisters all returned to Arkansas for every vacation. While up north the brothers and sisters visited home often. All of the family had such a great time visiting with each other. The Johnson family still has a reunion every year during the weekend of the 4th of July in Eglantine, Arkansas. When the kids were little they roamed the hills just like their parents did, they were always cautious of snakes. Grover’s greatest disappointment with returning home was not being able to drink sweet tea. In his thirties, he developed an allergy to tea. Joy always knew when he would sneak a glass because he would break out in a rash. She always kept allergy medication nearby. Tea was Grover’s only guilty pleasure in Arkansas because it wasn’t ever served in Michigan.15

Grover really excelled in his job in the water department and eventually became the supervisor. He moved down the street in 1971 from the house he lived in since 1955 so he could have a big driveway for the city truck he drove.

Everything was going along well when all the children grew up, married or had jobs life was much easier for Joy and Grover until the late 1970s when one of his friends that he had worked with died of lung cancer. By 1981 Grover and two of his other friends that had worked at the power plant and water

15 Virginia Francisco, email message to Marta B Cannon, April 20, 2017
departments also developed lung cancer. It was very difficult for the family. Jimmie his youngest son got yearly release from the navy to come home to help his family. Grover started chemotherapy and radiation treatments. He lived until March 1983. A few weeks before he died he asked Joy to take him back to Arkansas for one last time. His brother Bennie and his wife drove up from Arkansas and picked up Joy and Grover and went to Arkansas. Grover got to stay with his dad and siblings until his death. He was buried at the family cemetery in the hills that he loved so dearly. Grover was buried in Van Buren County Arkansas at Davis Special Cemetery.¹⁶ He was a man that overcame great poverty and had a family that loved and respected him dying too young at age 57.

Grover was Marta’s maternal grandfather, Marta doesn’t have too many memories of her grandfather only pictures of her and him together when she was 5.

Rema Lee Troester Francisco (1931-1992) was born on 9 October 1931 in Altamont, Labette, Kansas to William L Troester (1890-1959) and Mabel Audrey Pefley Troester (1899-1975). Rema also had an older half-brother by the name of Robert Newell, an older sister Donna Troester and a younger brother by the name of Larry Troester whom is the only one living. The years of birth and deaths are unk at this time. Rema grew up on a farm in Labette county in Kansas, life was difficult from what Rema had mentioned to many. Not much information is available pertaining Rema’s younger years.

Rema did go to school at Labette County and did earn a high school education. After high school Rema went to Parsons, Kansas to work for Labette County College at the age of 17 or 18 as a secretary. This is where she met Harold Lee Francisco (1929-1988). They met in the 1940s. Harold was attending college at Labette County to earn his teaching certificate. Rema and Harold had a very short courting. Rema and Harold even eloped to get married on 22 December 1949, both of their parents were not even aware that they had been married. The day that Rema and Harold married, Harold had to coach a high

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school basketball game at Labette High School. Rema was sitting in the gym right beside Harold’s parents, it was then that it was discovered that Rema and Harold had wedded for Rema was wearing a wedding ring. Rema and Harold lived in Labette County until 1 year after their son Marvin Dale Francisco (1951) was born. In 1952 Rema and Harold moved to Eastern part of Iowa. Harold had heard about a job at a company called Alcoa. Alcoa manufactured aluminum. When Rema and Harold moved up to Iowa Rema they resided in a shared apartment. Rema at this time wouldn’t not allow their 1 year old down on the ground due to their roommate having a dog. Rema couldn’t stand the fact that dog hair was on the floor so she never allowed her son Marvin play on the floor. Marvin didn’t learn to walk until after age 2 because of this.17

Rema and Harold eventually bought a house in Pleasant Valley, Iowa and a few later had more children. Rema gave birth to Melvin Lee Francisco, Twila Marie Francisco Belk, and Gary Lynn Francisco, birth year’s unknown at this time. All the children that Rema gave birth to are still living.

Rema had a great passion for cake decorating and gardening. Rema was known for her delicious, beautiful cakes. Rema was also known for taking in boarders and feeding the homeless. Rema was a kind heart and soul. Rema in the 1980s to the 1990s up until her death worked at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church as a church secretary where she was well loved. This was in Pleasant Valley, Iowa where she was also a church member. Rema was very active in her church.

Unfortunately, Rema passed away at a young age not even 60. She passed away on the 3 October 1992. Rema was a passenger in a van. The van was stopped at a stop sign when a drunk driver hit the side of the van. Rema passed away upon arriving to the hospital.

Rema was Marta’s paternal grandmother whom Marta loved dearly. Marta has many memories of her grandmother including helping Rema pick up apples in the yard and assist with making homemade apple juice. Other memories include Rema having Marta help her in the garden and showing Marta how to can. Marta of course does not recall to this day how to can vegetables. Marta will always remember

17 Marvin Francisco, email message to Marta B Cannon, April 22, 2017
her grandmother’s cakes. Rema had loved baking and decorating cakes this was a great talent of hers. Marta also remembers her grandmother talking so proudly of her cousin Vernon Sandusky. Vernon was Roy Clarks back-up band and even inducted into the Kansas Hall of fame in 2010. Rema had a love for country music and even was able to meet Johnny Cash in the late 1970s.

**Harold Lee Francisco (1929-1988)** was born to **Hulda Bell Norrick Francisco (1900-1984)** and **Edgar Francisco (1901-1999)** on 19 November 1929. Harold was born in Oswego, Labette, Kansas, USA he was one of six brothers. Harold had grown up on a farm and worked hard on the farm taking care of chickens and cows. The Francisco boys all grew up loving and playing sports. Harold and his brothers were known to play basketball and baseball, all were quite skilled in sports. When Harold and his brothers were old enough to attend high school, his parents sent the boys to stay in Altamont, KS to attend Labette County High School. The boys stayed at a boarding house so they could be in district, for Oswego at the time had a very tiny school in which didn’t include trade education. Labette County offered trade education such as shop classes that prepared young students for jobs in the world. Harold continued to play sports in school such as basketball. He and his brothers were well known in sports primarily basketball. There was a man by the name of Slick Norris was Harold’s good friend back then. Harold had decided that he wanted to teach so he could also coach in the school system. Harold loved sports so much. In the 1940s Harold had attended Labette College in Parsons, Kansas where he earned a teaching certificate. It was during this time-frame that he met Rema Lee Troester. In 1949 Harold wedded Rema in an elopement, never told his folks he was getting married. His parents learned by accident that he had married. Harold and Rema had a total of four children and had moved to Pleasant Valley, Scott, Iowa in the early 1950s when their son Marvin was only a year old. Harold had heard about a good job opportunity at a plant called Alcoa. Harold knew that he needed to have a career that paid well to help care for his family. However, in the 1960s Harold decided to take on a new avenue of work, he joined his brother John William Francisco in the world of sales. Harold sold salad master cook ware. Like anything when Harold set his mind to something he excelled greatly in it. Harold was top in sales for several years, he traveled all over the nation and world with the Saladmaster Company and made
a great living. Over the 1960s through the 1970s Harold continued to work at Saladmaster, during this time Harold had invested money in a Ted Turner company Coscot which ended up being a pyramid scheme. Ted Turner filed for bankruptcy and all of the shareholders including Harold lost thousands upon thousands. Harold even called into court during Ted Turner’s trial for a witness for the prosecution. It was during the 1970s that Harold joined up with the tax revolution in where Harold believed that paying taxes was unconstitutional. Harold and the men he protested with were imprisoned for a short time, the time-frame is unknown. From the late 1970s up until the time of his death in 1988 Harold trained himself through research to market himself out to people trying to get patents for inventions. Harold would do the leg work but never stood in the court rooms he helped a great many with their court cases and patents.  

Harold passed away at a young age on 10 March 1988 of a brain aneurysm, passed away in a hospital in Davenport, Iowa. Harold was Marta’s paternal grandfather he passed away when Marta was 8 ½ years old. One memory that Marta has is when she was four years old her foot slipped in her Aunt Twila’s pool and she began to drown. Marta was under for a few minutes when Harold jumped into the pool to save her life. Harold even assisted with rescue breathing. Marta believes that she only survived because of the bravery of her grandfather and by the grace of God.

**Generation Four**

**A1a1a.** Bessie Jenny Hunt (1894-1978)
**A1a1b.** Lester Hunt (1899-1967)

**A1a2a.** Ruth Babcock Johnson (1902-1971)
**A1a2b.** James Albert Johnson (1894-1985)

**A1b1a.** Mabel Audrey Pefley Troester (1899-1975)
**A1b1b.** William L. Troester (1890-1959)

**A1b2a.** Hulda Bell Norrick Francisco (1900-1984)
**A1b2b.** Edgar Francisco Sr. (1901-1999)

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18 Marvin Francisco, email message to Marta Cannon, April 22, 2017
Bessie Jenny Dempsey Hunt (1894-1978) was born to Rebecca T McCormick Dempsey (1869-1947) and George W Dempsey (1870-1944) on 19 November 1894. Bessie grew up in the hills of the Ozarks in Van Buren County, Arkansas. She mainly resided in Eglantine, Arkansas. Bessie was born into a family with four other siblings (names and birth and death years unk). Bessie grew up in a farm family where they all resided along the Red River. Growing up her family berry picked and dealt in the timber business. Timber was a main career find in the part of Arkansas. Bessie did attend school as a child and made it through seventh grade. Not much is on record for Bessie except that she did marry Lester Hunt on 13 November 1920 in which they both resided in Van Buren County Arkansas for the remainder of both their lives. Bessie gave birth to four children Evelene, Joe, Ben G, Lucille, and Martha (full names, birth years, and death records are unk). Ben G, Lucille, and Martha are still living at the present time. Bessie passed away 29 March 1978. Bessie was Marta’s maternal great grandmother whom she never met. 20

Lester Clyde Hunt (1899-1967) was born to Mary Nannie Hunt (1876-1943) and Thomas H. Hunt (1873-1932) on 10 September 1899 in Van Buren County, Arkansas. Little is known about Lester except that he was one of four siblings. His sibling’s names were Mildred, John, and George Hunt. Lester would help on his family’s farm and as a teen he helped in the timber profession. Lester met Bessie and married 13 November 1920. Lester and Bessie had five children together and lived a good life together.

Ruth Bell Johnson (1902-1971) was born to Clarence Reynolds Babcock (1880-1955) and Lottie Forest Newman Babcock (1866-1959) on 6 February 1902. Ruth was born in Nortonville, KS which is near Topeka. Ruth’s childhood consisted of the farm life. Ruth did attend school and it was mentioned by Martha Hunt, Joy Fay Hunt Johnson’s sister that Ruth taught school at age 14 in Nortonville, KS. At one point when Ruth was only 16 she was sent to work in a boarding house in Louisiana, it is unk why she was sent to Louisiana. In Louisiana is where Ruth met James Albert Johnson (1894-1985). James was stationed in the US army at the time. Ruth after a very short time of

20 Martha Hunt, phone call interview with, Marta B Cannon, April 15, 2017
courting married James on 5 February 1919, James moved Ruth to Van Buren County, Arkansas where they proceeded to raise a family. Ruth and James had fourteen children, two died as infants. Ruth enjoyed raising her children. Ruth was Marta’s great grandmother. Marta was never able to meet her.

James Albert Johnson (1894-1985) was born on 28 August 1894 to Mary Elizabeth Scott Johnson (1858-1922) and William Andrew Johnson (1854-1947). James was born in Denard, Van Buren County, Arkansas. James grew up in the Ozark mountains and farmed and did timber with his father and family. He joined the US army and fought in WW1, he met his wife Ruth in Louisiana at Lake Pontchartrain. Per granddaughter Terri Boone, James mentioned that he had seen Ruth’s reflection in the lake water while getting a drink and just knew that he was to marry her immediately. James wedded Ruth 5 February 1919 in Van Buren County, Arkansas. James and Ruth lived the remainder of the years in Denard, Arkansas and raised fourteen children together. Marta did meet her great grandfather James when she was a young child, the only memory Marta has of James is grandpa James smoking a pipe and swatting flies while sitting on a rocker on the front porch. Marta was only 5 or 6 years old when James passed away. James passed away on 11 April 1985 in Van Buren County, Arkansas.2122

Mabel Audry Pefley (1899-1975) was born to Mariah Lucliena Lulu Barnett Pefley (1877-1948) and Joseph Edwin Pefley (1871-1928) on 10 November 1928. Audrey grew up on a farm with her siblings, (sibling’s names and year of birth and death unk at this time) each working with the livestock and working in the fields. Marvin Francisco, Mabel’s grandson remember that Mabel preferred to call herself Audrey. Audrey ended up marrying a very wealthy farmer with the last name of Newell, first name unk. Audrey had a son with the man with the name Newell their sons name was Robert. Time frame unk, but Mr Newell did pass away and Audrey ended up meeting a man by the name of William Laurence Troester (1890-1959) in which they married 10 Nov 1928. Together Audrey and William had

22 Terri Boone, email message to Marta B Cannon, April 25, 2017
3 children together, Donna, Rema, and Larry Troester. Grandson Marvin had mentioned that his
grandfather William was not a nice man, he was verbally abusive to Audrey and didn’t treat her kindly.
William was so unkind that he sent his step son Robert Newell with a bill. The bill was for all the years
that William had to spend on Robert for caring for Robert over all the years. William never treated
Robert kindly. Audrey is mentioned to be an artistic being. She was great at poetry and embroidery.
Marta never did get to meet her great grandmother, she passed in 1975 before Marta was born.

William L. Troester (1890-1959) was born to Frank Troester (1865-1897) and Anna M Hall
Troester (1857-1899) on 23 February 1890. It is unknown at this time where William was born at.
William married Mabel Audry Pefley Troester on 10 November 1928 in Labette County, KS. William
farmed and worked in sales. William had three children with Audrey. Not much is known about William
Troester.

Hulda Bell Norick Francisco (1900-1984) was born to Hezekiah Norick (1864-1926) and
Abbie M. Crawford Norick (1871-1952) on 23 April 1900. She was born somewhere in Oklahoma,
exact city unknown at the current time. Enid, Oklahoma was the possible birth place of Hulda. It is unk
how many brothers and sisters Hulda had. However, Hulda did gain an education and even attended
Kansas Normal School in Pittsburg, Kansas exact date unknown. Hulda had become a teacher with the
education she had obtained. After her role as a teacher she became a school cook. Meals during this time
were all homemade meals. Hulda as a child was mentioned to have loved plays and dressing up. It is
unclear when Hulda met Edgar Francisco. It is unk the exact date of marriage, it was mentioned to Marta
by Edgar that they were married in April of 1923, however during the time of the conversation had with
his great granddaughter Marta, Edgar’s memory was slipping. Hulda and Edgar were church going folk
and both attended a country Baptist church. They raised 6 strapping boys that were all very athletic.
William Francisco, and Earl Ross Francisco (all of the birth years and year of deaths not available at this
time). Hulda was a very hardworking woman that devoted her life to working the farm with Edgar and
raising their six sons. Hulda was very gifted at cooking and playing the piano. Marvin Francisco (1950-)

remembers how wonderful of a cook Hulda was. Marvin mentioned that she had the most phenomenal homemade rolls. Hulda passed away on 01 May 1984 in the Oswego, Kansas hospital from complications of diabetes. Marta, Hulda’s great granddaughter has fond memories of her grandmother. Hulda tended to favor Marta as from infancy until Hulda’s passing when Marta was only 6. Marta remembers rocking in the rocking chair with her great grandmother and how her grandma would bake her chocolate cakes. Hulda and Marta shared a special bond.23

Edgar Francisco (1901-1999) was born to Charles Francisco (1867-1918) of Indiana and Rosetta Ottilie Wadsack (1871-1960). Edgar grew up in Labette County, Kansas on a farm, it unknown how many siblings Edgar had at this time. Edgar met Hulda Bell Norrick Francisco around April 1923 and wedded, they had six athletic boys. Edgar spent his days on his farm in Parsons, Labette, Kansas. Later Edgar decided that he needed to preach to word of God and preached for a Baptist church until his late 80s. Edgar loved speaking about his faith. Marta has fond memories of her great grandfather Edgar. Edgar used to babysit Marta when Marta was in kindergarten and second grade. The school that Marta attended was across the street from Edgar’s home. Edgar and Marta would play dominoes every afternoon and Edgar would sometimes get to watch the Hee Haw show with Marta. Edgar always like to speak to Marta about the bible. Marta adored the time she got to spend with Edgar. Marta was almost twenty years old when Edgar passed. Edgar passed away in Altamont, Labette, Kansas 13 July 1999 he was 98 years old.24

Generation Five

Ala1a1. Rebecca T McCormick Dempsey (1869-1947)
Ala1a2. George Washington Dempsey (1870-1944)

Ala1b1. Mary Nannie Hunt (1876-1943)
Ala1b2. Thomas H. Hunt (1873-1932)

Ala2a1. Lottie Forest Newman Babcock (1886-1959)

23 Marvin Francisco, email message to Marta B Cannon, April 20 2017.
A1a2a2. Clarence Reynolds Babcock (1880-1955)

A1a2b1. unk
A1a2b2. unk

A1b1a1. Mariah Lueliena Lulu Barnett Pefley (1877-1948)
A1b1a2. Joseph Edwin Pefley (1871-1928)

A1b1b1. Anna M Hall Troester ()
A1b1b2. Frank Troester (1865-1897)

A1b2a1. Abbie M. Crawford (1871-1952)
A1b2a2. Hezekiah Norrick (1864-1926)

A1b2b1. Rosetta Ottile Wadsack (1871-1960)
A1b2b2. Charles Francisco (1867-1918)

Generation Five it is unknown whom each of the following above individual’s parents were. It is unclear of each of the above names who their siblings were. All the above ancestors were known to be farmers.

Anderson mentioned that the early Republic, the majority of the Americans had worked in agriculture. The reading mentions that the census during the 1880s had calculated the type of work each individual had done with the bulk majority working in agriculture.²⁵