

# PRESIDENT OBAMA'S KANSAS HERITAGE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

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## *PART ONE: BACK STORY/FINDING AID*

President Obama's Kansas Heritage Project

In partnership with

BCTV  
Butler Community College  
102 S. Haverhill Road  
El Dorado, KS 67042

### DEDICATION

We dedicate this collection to our oral history narrators and to grandparents everywhere. It is they who hold fast the bonds of community from one generation to the next, and the next, through time.

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*This project is supported by the Kansas  
Humanities Council, a non-profit cultural  
organization dedicated to promoting  
humanities programs across Kansas.  
More information is available at  
[kansashumanities.org](http://kansashumanities.org).*



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## FOREWORD

Most commentary about President Barack Obama's origins looks at his father's African heritage. Obama, himself, dedicates most of the book *Dreams from My Father*, to reconnecting to his African roots. The world of his mother, Stanley Ann Dunham, and his grandparents, Stanley Dunham and Madelyn Payne, receives only a brief mention:

That was the world in which my grandparents had been raised, the dab-smack, landlocked center of the country, a place where decency and endurance and the pioneer spirit were joined at the hip with conformity and suspicion and the potential for unblinking cruelty. They had grown up less than twenty miles away from each other--my grandmother in Augusta, my grandfather in El Dorado, towns too small to warrant boldface on a road map--at the childhoods they like to recall for my benefit portrayed small-town, Depression-era America in all its innocent glory: Fourth of July parades and the picture shows on the side of a barn; fireflies in a jar and the taste of vine-ripe tomatoes, sweet as apples; dust storms and hailstorms and classrooms filled with farm boys who got sewn into their woolen underwear at the beginning of winter and stank like pigs as the months wore on.<sup>1</sup>

Although candidate and President Obama often drew upon his Midwestern roots in speeches, describing the Midwest as providing him "values" that helped to inform him as a person, his earlier discussion of the Midwest, and Kansas in particular was much less positive. In *Dreams from My Father* (1995), Obama describes the grandparents who raised him as being naïve and sentimental about their Kansas memories. He further asserts that his great grandmother, Leona Payne was embarrassed by her Cherokee ancestry. According to Obama, his Kansas grandparents did not become aware of issues surrounding race until they moved to Texas after the Second World War.<sup>2</sup>

Yet, those grandparents also had a strong role in raising the young Barack. When still a presidential candidate in 2008, Obama made a point to visit Butler Community College in El Dorado, reminding the audience about how his roots were as much Kansan as Kenyan.

Out of this connection came this project, an attempt to look into this world of small town Kansas. The goal was to interview those who had memories of Stanley and Madelyn, either as relatives or as friends. What emerged was a picture of life in two Kansas communities in the 1930s, communities shaped by the oil industry, and the challenges of making a living during the Great Depression.

In the process, the team looked into the stories of the Dunham and Payne families. What emerged was a rich set of insights into a set of families who were both remarkable and ordinary. Their struggles and challenges hinted that their lives were more than the "Norman Rockwell" image of small town Kansas. There were farmers who rented their farms rather than owned them. There were small business owners who operated drug stores. There were those who left the farm for better opportunities on the oil patch. Some had roots in the Ozarks, others, in

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<sup>1</sup> Barack Obama, *Dreams From My Father*, (New York: Three Rivers Press, 1995), 13.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 18.

Missouri, and some relatives played a role in the newly-created territory of Oklahoma. Some moved several times in their lives. Most died in a different community than the one in which they were raised. There were hope-filled chances to start anew. There were many painful losses and tragedies.

Both sides of his mother's family migrated to Kansas in the nineteenth century during early days of Kansas statehood. Because of the oil boom and other employment opportunities in south central Kansas, the various family lines came to the cities of Augusta, El Dorado, and Wichita, where much of Obama's Kansas story is rooted. It was these towns that provided the homes and formative experiences for Obama's maternal grandparents, Madelyn Payne and Stanley Dunham, and also where his mother, Stanley Ann, was born and lived out her early life.

Obama's grandparents left Kansas when Obama's mother was a young girl, so while Stanley Ann was born in Kansas and was raised by Kansans, the Kansas influence that found its way to the President was filtered through many moves. Today, Obama makes use of his Kansas heritage rhetorically, both in speeches and in his autobiography *Dreams from My Father*. Whether the stories and priorities here contributed to a "Kansas character" in the thoughts and actions of President Barack Obama is left for you to decide.

Barack Obama is not "from" Kansas in that he never lived in the state. However, his mother's family not only hailed from Kansas, the stories of Obama's maternal line are quintessentially Kansan in many respects. One can read Kansas history in the Payne and Dunham story, and many of President Obama's relations still live in the state, a fact the president has referenced on and off throughout his political career. In *Dreams from My Father*, Obama showed that his family was an important influence on his development. Barack Obama Sr. has a relatively short presence during Obama's life, having left the family when Obama was two years old. Yet, the title and theme of Obama's autobiography clearly indicate that his father was a powerful influence on his self-identity. His mother, Stanley Ann, as well as his grandparents, Stanley Dunham and Madelyn Payne Dunham had much more time with Obama during his formative years, and were therefore much more likely to be influential in the future president's socialization. In a speech in Osawatomie, Kansas in December, 2011, Obama seems to have made this point himself when he said, "I got my name from my father, but I got my accent—and my values—from my mother."

In some ways, the Payne and Dunham families represent typical Kansas stories. There were farmers, laborers, and white collar tradesmen as well as a salesman and a pharmacist/physician. Yet while the Paynes and the Dunhams were typical Kansas families in some ways, they were atypical in others. Obama's Kansas story is one that includes parental absence caused either by death or abandonment, and in some cases both. For example, Obama's grandfather, Stanley Dunham and his older brother moved to El Dorado to live with his maternal grandparents when Stanley's mother, Ruth Dunham, committed suicide in 1926. Stanley's father was still alive, and in fact lived in the nearby city of Wichita, but he did not raise his sons after his wife's suicide. Thus Stanley's early childhood experiences in some ways mirror Obama's own with absentee parents and grandparents who stepped up to raise him.

A central aspect of Kansas's identity was spelled out in the state motto proposed by John Ingalls and eventually added to the official seal and flag: *Ad astra per aspera*. The concept of success

through difficulty suits Kansas, once on the western frontier of a new nation, and certainly Obama's story through generations of Kansas families to his own challenges in his presidency have illustrated the state motto. If Obama is a "Democrat from Kansas," it is the challenging Kansas that teaches people how to persevere and overcome that informs him most noticeably.

What began as an attempt to document the Kansas ties of a president has become a window into a slice of Kansas history.

Jay Price<sup>3</sup>

Carolyn Schmidt<sup>4</sup>

Paul Leeker<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Professor Jay Price is chair of the History Department and director of the Local and Community History Program at Wichita State University. He served as a consultant for work on this project completed through a Kansas Humanities Council Grant, "An Oral History Project: Stories Told by Kansans Who Knew Barack Obama's Maternal Grandparents." In addition to directing the research of his graduate students for the Back Story, he has provided assistance and advice to the oral history project staff and to the President Obama's Kansas Heritage Group.

<sup>4</sup> Carolyn Speer Schmidt holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Kansas, a master's degree in political science from the University of Iowa, and a Ph.D. in Adult and Continuing Education from Kansas State University. At the time of this project, she was working on a Master's degree in Public History at Wichita State University with anticipated graduation in 2015.

<sup>5</sup> Paul Leeker completed his undergraduate degree at Wichita State University in the spring of 2012. His primary research interests include Colonial America, with an emphasis on Southern history. To aid in this project, Paul analyzed the censuses of Kansas and the United States, and also conducted thorough searches of newspapers published in Kansas to track down obituaries and articles chronicling the Payne family.

## PREFACE

### *About the President Obama's Kansas Heritage Group*

The President Obama's Kansas Heritage Project (2009-present) is the work of a group of citizens from the greater Butler County area. Recognizing our civic duty to preserve a Presidential heritage, and honoring the role of Midwestern values in the strength of a nation, the group's efforts have been focused on collecting oral histories and artifacts, developing educational tools, and providing a website in order to make these resources available to the larger community.

A group of citizens led by Dr. Sarah Johnston met on January 29, 2009 at the Kansas Oil Museum and Butler County History Center to discuss how, as citizens of the county in which a President's grandparents spent their formative years, we ought to handle that history, extant artifacts, and living witnesses in order to preserve them as part of our local, state, and national historical record.

On May 21, 2009, the President Obama's Kansas Heritage steering committee held a planning retreat at Butler Community College to adopt its official mission statement and goals, and to begin developing an action plan. The committee meets regularly at the Butler Community College L.W. Nixon Library in El Dorado, Kansas.

The mission of the [President Obama's Kansas Heritage Group](#) is to capture, preserve, and celebrate President Obama Kansas heritage, sense of family, and Midwestern values; to educate and inspire all children by using his ancestry as a model; and to share his family's local history with people across Kansas, the nation, and the world.

### *About the Oral History Project*

In 2012, the group received a Kansas Heritage Grant from the Kansas Humanities Council for "An Oral History Project: Stories Told by Kansans Who Knew Barack Obama's Maternal Grandparents." Seven of 16 oral histories were obtained during the grant period, 4/1/2012 to 4/30/2013. A public event (From the Flint Hills of Kansas to the White House: Oral Histories) showcasing the committee's work was held on August 25, 2013 at Garfield Elementary School in Augusta, Kansas.

The collection comprises sixteen oral histories by seventeen oral history narrators. Video recordings of the oral histories, transcripts, the back story narratives, and a finder's aid may be viewed on the website, [obamakansasheritage.org](http://obamakansasheritage.org). As well, the collection includes the event documentary, "From the Flint Hills to the White House," and two short documentaries taken from oral history material. The permanent collection is housed at the Augusta Historical Museum in Augusta, Kansas.

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 Sonja Milbourn, Teresa Baumgartner, Steve Cless, Susie Patterson, Kym Dickey:  
     Interviewers  
 Steve Cless: Digital video and editing  
 Marie Gillespie: Video selection, descriptions and transcripts, historical research  
 Micaela Ayers: Oral history preservation  
 Jessica Soto Howell: Transcriptions  
 Julie and Doug Jensen: Educational tools  
 Lisa Cooley: Virtual Museum artifacts  
 Kym Dickey: Event planner  
 Dr. Gene George: Risk management, research protocol  
 Paul Leeker: Author of back story narratives  
 Carolyn Speer-Schmidt: Author of back story narratives  
 Dr. Jay Price: Consultant for the Kansas Humanities Council grant  
 Teresa Baumgartner: Editor of Back Story/Finders Aid, Project director for the Kansas  
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## PARTNERS

Augusta Historical Society  
 Augusta Public Schools  
 Butler Community College  
 Butler County History Center  
 Central Kansas Community Foundation  
 El Dorado Public Schools  
 Kansas Humanities Council  
 Wichita State University History Department  
 Kansas Historical Society  
 The Kansas African American Museum

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 Humanities Council, a non-profit cultural  
 organization dedicated to promoting humanities  
 programs across Kansas. More information is  
 available at [kansashumanities.org](http://kansashumanities.org).*





## Back Story: Introduction

### *1. Reconciling History*

The Obama Kansas Heritage Project has as its stated goal “to capture, preserve, and celebrate President Obama’s Kansas heritage...” and to that end, the Project has conducted several oral history interviews and worked directly with the History Department at Wichita State University ([www.wichita.edu/history](http://www.wichita.edu/history)).

For example, in his autobiography, President Obama reports several small facts that seem to be contradicted by the written record. According to the President, his grandfather, Stanley Dunham, was expelled from school at the age of 15 and did not return. But the 1936 El Dorado yearbook lists Stanley Dunham as a member of the senior class, and by his picture, he is referred to as “a loyal member of the class of 1936.” This piece of evidence calls the President’s story into question, but new information is still needed because a yearbook picture does not confirm graduation.

In the same book the President says that when he was a young boy, Stanley found the body of his deceased mother after her suicide. Yet newspaper accounts of Ruth’s death indicate that her body was found in Ralph Dunham’s place of business, a mile from the Dunham family home. This seemed to call into doubt Stanley’s claim that he found the body. To confirm our suspicions that the claim was false, we have submitted an open records request for the police report and any autopsy records filed after Ruth’s death. When the police report becomes available it may provide sufficient evidence to confirm the story one way or the other.

Finally, in *Dreams from My Father*, the President states that his grandparents were somewhat of an odd couple because Madelyn Payne came from a “respectable” family whereas Stanley Dunham did not. Although Stanley’s childhood was unusual in some respects, both his mother and his father came from respectable families. His mother’s parents, the Armours of El Dorado, had enough money to own a car in 1926 and enough social status that their other daughter won the Miss El Dorado contest that same year. Harry Armour was a roustabout on the oil fields in El Dorado, but it appears he remained gainfully employed even through the depression and was able to retire with a pension. The Dunhams of Wichita owned and operated their own pharmacies, first in Wichita and then in Delano, and Jacob Dunham apparently practiced pharmacy and or medicine in Wichita for 40 years until his death in 1930.

It is equally important to recognize the importance of family lore and other forms of human memory. When Mary Frances Lawrence, née Kennedy says in her interview, for example, that Madelyn Payne was an honor student for her entire academic career until she met Stanley her senior year in high school, it might well be less important to track down if that statement is literally true than it is to listen for the underlying observation that Mrs. Lawrence did not appear to like Stanley all that much. These kinds of more human observations coupled with the clearest picture we can get from the written record work together to tell the story of these people and this place.

## 2. City Histories

### *Augusta in the 1920s into the 1940s*

In *Dreams from My Father*, Barack Obama implies that Madelyn and Stanley Dunham, his maternal grandparents who raised him for much of his childhood, “never really [gave] black people much thought,” especially when they lived in Kansas.<sup>6</sup> Yet, the white hoods of the Ku Klux Klan were frequently seen in Augusta, Madelyn’s hometown, in the 1920s. The Klan presence in the region was described as, “a hurricane that swept over Mid-America in the twenties.”

At the crest of this wave, in 1922, there were over 40,000 Klan members living in Kansas. Six thousand of these Klansmen lived in the Wichita area.<sup>7</sup> A twelve year old resident of Augusta vividly recounts the details of a Konclave--a Klan meeting:

Marching in good order, several lines of men went by. There was a space for a few seconds, then her came the women, stepping briskly. Another gap and the Junior Klansmen were striding by. Following them came the mounted Klansmen. I don’t know how long the parade was. When the leaders had topped the hill at High Street and people were still crossing Seventh. Having arrived at this place the Klansmen performed a ceremony that involved a burning cross.

This large Klan parade is not indicative of the mindset of all the citizens of Augusta, and in fact the issue of race was complex even in this small Kansas town. For example, a farmer living on the outskirts heard a knock at his door and opened it to discover group of Klansmen. These Klan members asked the man to come take a ride with them; at this point the farmer reached for his shotgun and fired at the Klan members. His shots hit one of them “in the rear.” The rides that the Klan offered frightened many people in the region and caused the Klan to fall out of favor in the area around Augusta.

The history of the Klan in Augusta highlights the reality of racism in rural Kansas during the first half of the twentieth century. That was just one portion of a complex picture. Herman Reed, Jr. provides another portion of that picture. Reed was an outstanding athlete who had played on the Augusta High School football team since his freshman year and was elected team captain in 1941. This story is remarkable because Herman Reed, Jr. was an African American. In fact, he was the only black on the Augusta football team that year. The white players voted for him, and were willing to sit-out the season if the school administration refused to recognize Reed as the captain.

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<sup>6</sup> Barack Obama, *Dreams from My Father*, (New York: Random House, 1995), 8.

<sup>7</sup> Craig Miner, *Kanas: The History of the Sunflower State, 1854-2000*, (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 2002).

### *El Dorado in the 1920s and 30s*

After Ruth Dunham's death in 1926, her two children Ralph and Stanley moved to El Dorado to live with Harry and Gabrielle Armour, Ruth's parents. Stanley lived with his grandparents until his high school graduation in 1936. During this time, El Dorado was an oil boom town (see [www.kansasoilmuseum.org](http://www.kansasoilmuseum.org)), and because Harry Armour worked in the oil fields, the industry was part of Stanley's day-to-day life.

Starting in 1915 with the discovery of oil at Stapleton Number One, the El Dorado Oil Field was a major producer. According to Kansas historian Craig Miner, El Dorado was the leading field in the U.S. the year it opened, and even after many years of production, by the 1930s, El Dorado's field helped keep Kansas the fourth biggest oil producer in the nation. Even during the 1930s, when the Depression was well underway, oil-field workers could expect a good wage and long workdays. It was not until the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act of 1939 limited the workday to eight hours and the work week to 40 hours that oil-field workers saw their hours cut. Initially, this move was met with threats of strikes in El Dorado, but within a few days of the policy changes, oil field workers went back to work.

## *Wichita*

In contrast to Augusta and El Dorado, Wichita was and remains a much more industrial place. In the 1920s, when Ralph Dunham made the decision to send his sons Ralph Jr. and Stanley to El Dorado to be cared for by their maternal grandparents, Ralph remained with his own parents in Wichita, the second largest city in the state. For a time, the Dunham family lived in downtown Wichita, in the back of their pharmacy on Market Street. From there, the Dunhams moved to Delano, an industrial area of the greater Wichita metropolitan area. The Armours, Ruth's parents, also lived for a time in Wichita, also in the Delano district. Historically, the Delano district was a less desirable area for a home, and their living in this neighborhood indicates that both families may have faced financial troubles in the 1920s. The city of Wichita was urban with relatively high automobile ownership, a regional center for oil, meatpacking, and farm products, as well as a developing aircraft industry. By 1927, Wichita began billing itself as the "Air Capital," hosting a busy airport and several aircraft companies, including those started by Walter Beech, Lloyd Stearman, and Clyde Cessna.

The aircraft industry did a lot to build the city of Wichita, especially in the mid twentieth century, when local aircraft companies won huge defense contracts. During the Second World War, for example, Boeing-Wichita won a contract to construct B-29 bombers, and Obama's grandmother Madelyn Payne Dunham was an original "Rosie the Riveter" (link to a Rosie poster) working at Boeing. The B-29 contract was so massive that Boeing saw a nearly 4,000% increase in employment from 766 workers in 1940 to almost 30,000 by 1945. Boeing and other aircraft companies had to run non-stop to meet the war demands, and as a consequence, "[t]he city ran twenty-four hours, with all-night groceries and child care, emergency bus service to the plants, and all the other changes that had to be made with a workforce that included women."

Anna Margaret McCurry Wolf (see interview) speaks of wartime rationing, air raids, and Boeing employment, including Madelyn's employment, in Wichita during World War Two.

## Resources

Craig Miner, *Kansas: The History of the Sunflower State, 1854-2000*, (Lawrence, University of Kansas Press, 2002), 266-67.

### ***3. Family Homes and Gravesites: Payne – Dunham Ancestors***

This resource was researched and compiled by Marie Gillespie for the President Obama's Kansas Heritage Group.

#### **Childhood Homes**

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Home of Harry and Gabriella Armour, grandparents who raised Stanley and his brother after their mother's death	321 N. Emporia St. El Dorado, Kansas
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Home of Rolla and Leona Payne, Madelyn's childhood home	135 E. 12th Ave. Augusta, Kansas
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Home of Madelyn and Stanley Dunham Honolulu home	1617 Beretania Honolulu, Hawaii
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#### **Gravesites**

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Stanley Ann Dunham, Obama's mother	Born: Wichita, Kansas Died: Hawaii	Cremated, ashes in ocean
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Madelyn Payne Dunham, Stanley Ann's mother, Obama's maternal grandmother	Born: Peru, Kansas Died: Hawaii	Cremated, ashes in ocean
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Stanley Armour Dunham, Stanley Ann's father, Obama's maternal grandfather	Born: Wichita, Kansas Died: Hawaii	Buried, Punchbowl Cemetery, Hawaii
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Ruth Armour Dunham, Stanley A. Dunham's mother, Obama's great-grandmother		Buried, Sunset Cemetery 705 E. 6th Ave. El Dorado, Kansas
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Ralph Waldo Emerson Dunham, Stanley A. Dunham's father, Obama's great-grandfather	Born: Argonia, Kansas	Buried: Resthaven Cemetery 11800 W. Kellogg Wichita, Kansas Garden of Good Shepherd 2nd section 3-C-2
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Leona McCurry Payne, Madelyn Payne Dunham's mother, Obama's great-grandmother	Born: Peru, Kansas	Buried: Highland Cemetery Winfield, Kansas
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Rolla Charles Payne, Madelyn Payne Dunham's father, Obama's great-grandfather	Born: Olathe, Kansas	Buried: Highland Cemetery Winfield, Kansas
Jacob William Dunham Mary Ann Kearney Dunham		Buried (both): Wichita Park Cemetery 3424 E. 21st St. N. Wichita, Kansas Acacia C Section #188, next to son, Frank V.
Ralph W.E. Dunham's parents, Obama's great-great grandparents		
Harry Ellington Armour Gabriella Clark Armour		Buried (both): Wichita Park Cemetery 3424 E. 21st St. N. Wichita, Kansas Lakeview Section #289
Ruth Armour Dunham's parents Obama's great-great grandparents		
Charles Thomas Payne Della Wolfley Payne		Buried (both): Lenexa Cemetery Johnson County, Kansas
Thomas Creekmore McCurry Margaret Belle Wright McCurry		Buried (both): Peru, KS
Jacob Mackey Dunham Louise Eliza Stroup Dunham	1880 Census Mount Pleasant, Labette County, KS	Buried: Okmulgee Cemetery, OK Buried: Wellston Cemetery, OK
Falmouth/Fulmoth Kearney Charlotte Holloway Kearney		Buried: Fairview Cemetery, Labette Co., KS ?
George W. Armour Nancy Ann Childress Armour		Buried: Wyaconda Cemetery, Canton, MO St. Mary's Cemetery Hancock, Illinois Buried: Canton, MO Forest Grove Cemetery, Canton, MO
Christopher Columbus Clark Susan Catherine Overall Clark	Died: El Dorado, Kansas	Buried (both):

Benjamin F. Payne  
Eliza Black Payne

Baker Cemetery  
Kansas City, MO

Robert Wolfley  
Rachel Abbott Wolfley

Died: 1895  
Died: Everett, WA (1900  
Census-Hof H in Olathe,  
KS)

Buried: Olathe Memorial  
Cemetery, KS

Harbin Wilburn McCurry  
Elizabeth EdnaCreekmore  
McCurry

1860 census in Granby,  
MO, moved to Longton,  
KS, then OK

Buried in Center Cemetery,  
Pontotoc County, OK  
Buried in Rosedale  
Cemetery, Ada, OK

Joseph Samuel Wright  
Frances Allred Wright

Both:  
Hardrock Cemetery, Hale,  
KS

Jonathan Abbott, Rachel's father  
Ada Wright Abbott, Rachel's  
mother

Died: Licking Co. Ohio

Buried in Olathe Memorial  
Cemetery, Johnson Co., KS

Samuel Thompson & Anna  
Bunch Allred,  
Frances Wright's parents

Liberty Cemetery,  
Dinsmore, AR

John & Phoebe Allred,  
Samuel Thompson Allred's  
parents

Buried in Dinsmore, AR

Obadiah Wright,  
Joseph Samuel's father

Buried in Cookeville, TN

Note from committee member, Marie Gillespie:

According to "Making History in Labette" (Parsons Sun,

[http://www.parsonssun.com/news/article\\_4303a726-84e0-11e4-97ac-97d6efeecc351.html](http://www.parsonssun.com/news/article_4303a726-84e0-11e4-97ac-97d6efeecc351.html)), Norm Peters and Dean Dillard have confirmed through their research that both Charlotte and Fulmouth Kearney are buried in Fairview Cemetery, Labette County. It seems Obama's ancestors were extremely interesting people. They moved from Ohio to Indiana when the Miami Indian lands became open for settlement. Then they moved to SE Kansas in the 1870's when the Osage Indian lands came open. There were so many folks in SE Kansas from Indiana, they had a "Hoosier" organization. There was a lot going on in SE Kansas such as the coal mining, the railroad, cattle drives, etc. which drew, not only Americans but folks from other countries. An interesting book about Obama's ancestry is the one by Stephen McDonogh, Barack Obama: The Road from Moneygall.

#### 4. Christopher Columbus Clark



After the war, he relocated to Kentucky for a time, marrying Susan Overall in 1870. The Clarks did not stay in Kentucky long, however. They moved to Missouri with their children, Joseph, Lois, Gabriella. Ida was later born in Missouri. In 1880, they lived on a farm in Audrain County, Missouri, just north of the Missouri River in the heart of what some call the “Little Dixie” region of that state.

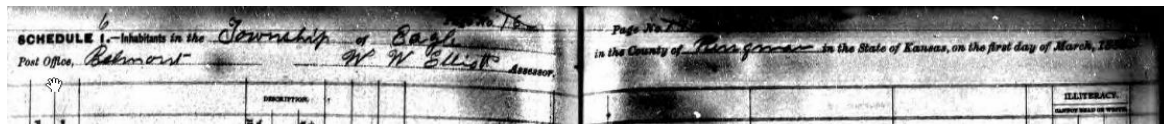
The time in Missouri did not last long. By the time of the 1885 Kansas state census, Clark was listed as a farmer in Eagle Township of Kingman County. By 1915, he was living with his daughter, Gabriella and son-in-law, Harry Armour, and their daughter Doris in El Dorado. By that time, both Stanley and his older brother Ralph were living in the Armour home as well, so four generations were sharing the space in El Dorado. Clark died on January 11, 1937 in El Dorado and was buried in Missouri.

1930 Census Entry for CC Clark. This is taken from the digitized record in the ancestry.com collection:

<u>Clark, Christopher G.</u>	<u>W 78 16 S</u>	<u>N 70 E</u>	<u>Randall</u>	<u>Kansas</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>See Note</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>Miles, Glen A.</u>	<u>W 78 84 Wd</u>	<u>N 70 E</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Kentucky</u>	<u>Kentucky</u>	<u>See Note</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>Head @ 2.800</u>	<u>W 78 70 N 20 W</u>	<u>N 70 E</u>	<u>Oklahoma</u>	<u>Iowa</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>See Note - Blue Bank</u>	<u>7x83 20 1/2</u>



March 1, 1885 entry from the Kansas State Census Collection 1855-1925, Kingman County, Kansas, Christopher Columbus Clark. Digitized Kansas State Census Collection records accessed through [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com):



## Resources

Alice Huitt Preston, "Christopher Columbus Clark," [Findagrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com), February 14, 2009, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=33831875>, May 11, 2013. NOTE: The image of Clark's headstone also came from this site.

### *5. Harry Ellington Armour and Gabriella Armour née Clark*



Harry and Gabriella (ne'e Clark) Armour played an important role in the life of Barack Obama's grandfather, Stanley Dunham. They took in Stanley and his older brother Ralph after their mother's death in 1926 and raised them in their home in El Dorado at 321 N. Emporia. Stanley lived there until his high school graduation in 1936, and according to an interview with Mary Frances Kennedy Lawrence (see interview), he continued to live in El Dorado until Madelyn Payne graduated from Augusta High School.

Originally from Illinois, Harry finished the second year of high school in Wichita, but never graduated. He married Gabriella Clark in Missouri in 1899, but did not stay long in that area as their two daughters, Ruth and Doris, were both born in Illinois. By 1910, the family relocated back to Wichita, where Harry worked as a traveling salesman for a coal company. Harry when filled out a draft card for World War I on September 8, 1918, he was listed as a roustabout for the Magnolia Petroleum Company in El Dorado. There is no evidence of his having served, and the war ended two months after he was drafted.

In 1920, the Armours were living at 226 Walnut in the Delano area of Wichita. The house was a crowded one with Gabriella's father Christopher Clark, daughter Doris and the household of Ruth, now Ruth Dunham, with husband Ralph and sons Ralph, Jr. and Stanley. Harry Armour was listed as an oiler in the oil fields while Ralph Dunham was an automobile mechanic.

Energy seems to have been central to Harry Armour's life: The 1925 Kansas State Census has his employer listed as the "power plant," and in the 1930 Census, he is listed as a pumper on an oil lease. By now, the family lived in El Dorado, where they raised Ruth's younger sister Doris. Doris was named Miss El Dorado in the Kaffir Corn Celebration in 1926. During this time, El Dorado was an oil boomtown (see [www.kansasoilmuseum.org](http://www.kansasoilmuseum.org)), and because Harry Armour worked in the oil fields, the industry was part of Stanley's day-to-day life.

Even during the 1930s, when the Depression was well underway, oil-field workers could expect a good wage... and long workdays. It was not until the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act of 1939 limited the workday to eight hours and the workweek to 40 hours that oil-field workers saw their workdays cut short. Initially, this move was met with threats of strikes in El Dorado, but

1918 Draft Card for Harry Ellington Armour, 1925 Kansas State Census, 1930 Federal Census, 1940 Federal Census.

REGISTRATION CARD									
NAME <i>Harry E. Armour</i>		RESIDENCE <i>223 N. Charles Wichita, Ks.</i>		DATE OF BIRTH <i>Jan 10 1874</i>		RACE <i>Caucasian</i>		U. S. CITIZEN <i>Yes</i>	
EMPLOYER'S NAME <i>Roussabont M. Magnolia P. Co.</i>		LOCAL BOARD NO. 1. <i>Wichita, Kansas</i>		CITY HALL <i>Wichita, Kansas</i>		COUNTY CLERK <i>J. A. Stratford</i>		LOCAL BOARD NO. 1. <i>Wichita, Kansas</i>	
LOCAL BOARD NO. 1. <i>Wichita, Kansas</i>		CITY HALL <i>Wichita, Kansas</i>		COUNTY CLERK <i>J. A. Stratford</i>		LOCAL BOARD NO. 1. <i>Wichita, Kansas</i>		CITY HALL <i>Wichita, Kansas</i>	

I certify that I have read above notices and THAT THEY ARE TRUE

*Harry E. Armour*

---

REGISTRAR'S REPORT									
DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT									
HEIGHT		BUILD		COLOR OF EYES		COLOR OF HAIR			
Tall	Medium	Short	Slim	Stout	Blue	Brown	Black	Red	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has been read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark; and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:									
<i>No</i>									

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of cases in which the registrant has no previous name shall be placed in this box.)

[illegible]

Photo Credit: Larry Barnes, "Harry Ellington Armour," Findagrave.com,  
<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=32269227>.

The figures from the 1930s come from Peter Fearon, *Kansas in the Great Depression: Work Relief, the Dole, and Rehabilitation*, (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2007), 6.

## ***6. Jacob William Dunham and Mary Ann Dunham née Kearney***



Jacob William Dunham was born in Kempton, Indiana in 1863, the son of farmers Jacob Mackey Dunham and Eliza Stroup. Jacob William married Mary Ann Kearney, the daughter of Irish immigrant Falmouth Kearney and Ohio-born Charlotte Holloway. Soon after their marriage, Jacob William and Mary Ann migrated to Kansas along with the rest of the Dunham family, and they settled in the Mount Pleasant Township in Labette County.

The Oklahoma Land Rush of April 1889 marked a major change for the Dunham family. Within weeks of the run, Jacob Mackey Dunham and two sons were in the newly-created town of Oklahoma City, with Jacob William following a few months later. By 1890, the family was busy operating a restaurant and confectionary in Oklahoma City. In 1895, Jacob Mackey relocated the family once again, first to Wellston, Oklahoma, and then, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Jacob William and Mary Ann Dunham initially operated a lunch counter in Oklahoma City near that of their father, but soon relocated to Wichita, Kansas. All seven of their children, Hattie, Mable, Frank, Ralph, Christabel, Pearl, and Earl, were born in Kansas. Jacob William Dunham's obituary mentions being "physician ... [who had] practiced medicine in southern Kansas for the last 40 years." More accurately, however, Jacob William Dunham might be called a pharmacist, and during his life, he had two pharmacies in Wichita: the first on north Market, and the second, called Gem Pharmacy, in Delano. Dunham died at his home in Wichita on August 13, 1930 as a result of an illness, and he was buried in Wichita Park Cemetery in C section 188, without a marker (see table, Family Homes and Gravesites)

At the time of his death, Jacob Dunham was a member of the First Spiritualist church in Wichita. The Spiritualist church is no longer in existence in Wichita, Kansas, so no additional information has been available about Jacob's religious beliefs or church activity. According to historian Paul Conkin, "spiritualism ... was usually non-Christian and by claim scientific ... [and was focused on] communion with the spirits of the dead, usually through a medium."

*Mary Ann Dunham née Kearney*



Very little is known about Obama's great, great grandmother, Mary Ann Dunham née Kearney. She had seven children and was survived by all of them. She died in Wichita of unspecified causes on August 9, 1936. She died in the hospital and her services were held the day after her death, perhaps indicating that her death was not unexpected. In addition, it has previously been reported that Mary Ann died on the same day as her husband in 1930, but that is now known to be false.

She attended the First Spiritualist Church while her husband Jacob lived, but was listed in her obituary as a member of the First Nazarene Church. At least one living member of the church, Dwight Flowers, remembers her.

1930 Census entry, Jacob William Dunham, Wichita, Kansas. Resource taken from the digitized images at [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com).

[illegible]

## Resources

Photo credit for Jacob William Dunham: The Dunham House: The Ancestral Home of President Barack Obama, [www.thedunhamhouse.com](http://www.thedunhamhouse.com).

“Pioneer Doctor Dies,” The Wichita Eagle, August 14, 1930.

Susan Peters, “President Obama: From Kansas to the Capital, Part 1,” n.d., [www.kake.com](http://www.kake.com), March 12, 2013. Watch on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMpYTh8iicA>

Marie Gillespie, "Family Homes and Gravesites: Payne – Dunham Ancestors."



Paul Conkin, *American Originals: Homemade Varieties of Christianity*, (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1997), 130.

Photo credit for Mary Ann Dunham: The Dunham House: The Ancestral Home of President Barack Obama, [www.thedunhamhouse.com](http://www.thedunhamhouse.com).

## ***7. Ralph Waldo Emerson Dunham and Ruth Dunham née Armour***

### **A Family Facing Tragedy**

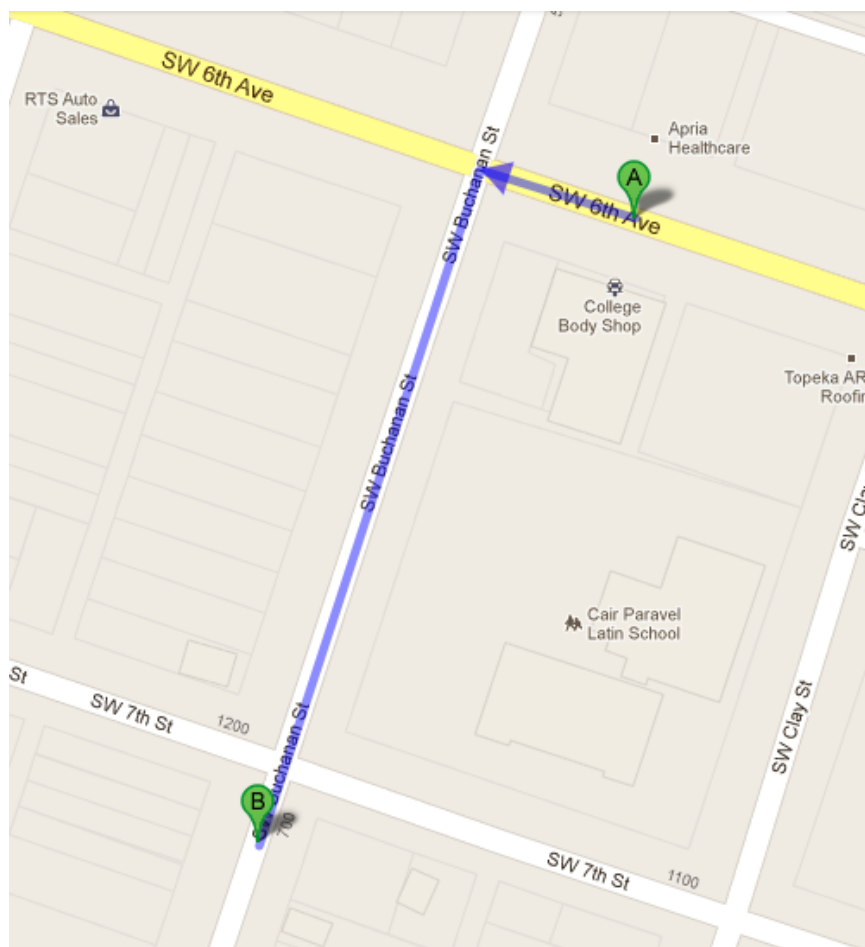


Ralph Dunham was born on Christmas day, 1894 in Wichita, and Ruth Armour was born six years later on September 1, 1900 in Illinois. Ralph was the son of Jacob William and Mary Ann Dunham. Ruth was the daughter of Harry and Gabriella Armour. They were married on October 3, 1915 in Wichita, Ralph a 21 year old restaurant employee and Ruth being only 15 years old. They soon had two children, Ralph Waldo Emerson Dunham Jr., born August 29, 1916, and Stanley Armour Dunham, born March 23, 1918. The 1920 census listed Ralph, then an auto mechanic, and Ruth along with Ralph Jr, and Stanley all together in the same house on Locust Street in the Wichita neighborhood of Delano with Ruth's parents Harry and Gabriella, a household that also included Christopher Columbus Clark, Gabriella's father.

Only a few years later, the family would be separated through the loss of Ruth, who committed suicide on Thanksgiving Day, 1926. Although a suicide note did not seem to survive, the Topeka Daily Capital obituary on November 27, 1926 reported that she and Ralph had argued at the home of his sister in Melvern, Kansas, about 40 miles south of Topeka where Ralph and Ruth had been living for approximately two years. Ruth then left Melvern by car, travelled to Topeka, and took strychnine in her husband's auto mechanic shop at 1117 W. 6th Avenue. The same obituary reported that a suicide note was found with the body and that Ruth had felt that Ralph did not love her anymore. Obituaries are difficult sources, however, particularly when dealing with an issue like suicide. For example, the El Dorado Times' obituary reported that Ruth died of ptomaine poisoning.

After Ruth's death, Ralph appears to have preferred his two sons live with his wife's parents, Harry and Gabriella, at their home in El Dorado at 321 N. Emporia, while he went to live with his own parents in Wichita. Why he chose to send the children to Harry and Gabriella is unclear.

Ralph Waldo Emerson Dunham married a second time, this time to Martha Mae Stonehouse. By 1940, he was an automobile mechanic living in Wichita on Hillside Avenue. He remained in Wichita for the rest of his life, eventually working for the tooling department of Boeing. He died in Wichita in 1974.

[illegible]



[illegible]

REGISTRATION CARD											
<p>NAME: <u>Harry E. Armour</u></p> <p>RESIDENCE: <u>223 N. Charles Wichita, Kas.</u></p>								<p>DATE: <u>Jan 10 1874</u></p>			
<p>RACE: <u>White</u></p> <p>SEX: <u>Male</u></p> <p>AGE: <u>44</u></p> <p>HEIGHT: <u>5' 10"</u></p> <p>WEIGHT: <u>160</u></p> <p>COMPLEXION: <u>Fair</u></p> <p>HAIR: <u>Dark</u></p> <p>EYES: <u>Blue</u></p> <p>TEETH: <u>Good</u></p> <p>SCARS: <u>None</u></p> <p>MARKS: <u>None</u></p> <p>U. S. CITIZEN: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>ALLIED: <u>None</u></p> <p>EMPLOYER'S NAME: <u>Roostabont M. M. Co.</u></p> <p>PRESENT OCCUPATION: <u>El. Road, Butler, Kas.</u></p> <p>WIFE: <u>Gabriella Armour</u></p> <p>RESIDENCE: <u>223 N. Charles Wichita, Kas.</u></p> <p>DATE: <u>Jan 10 1874</u></p> <p>U. S. CITIZEN: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>ALLIED: <u>None</u></p>											

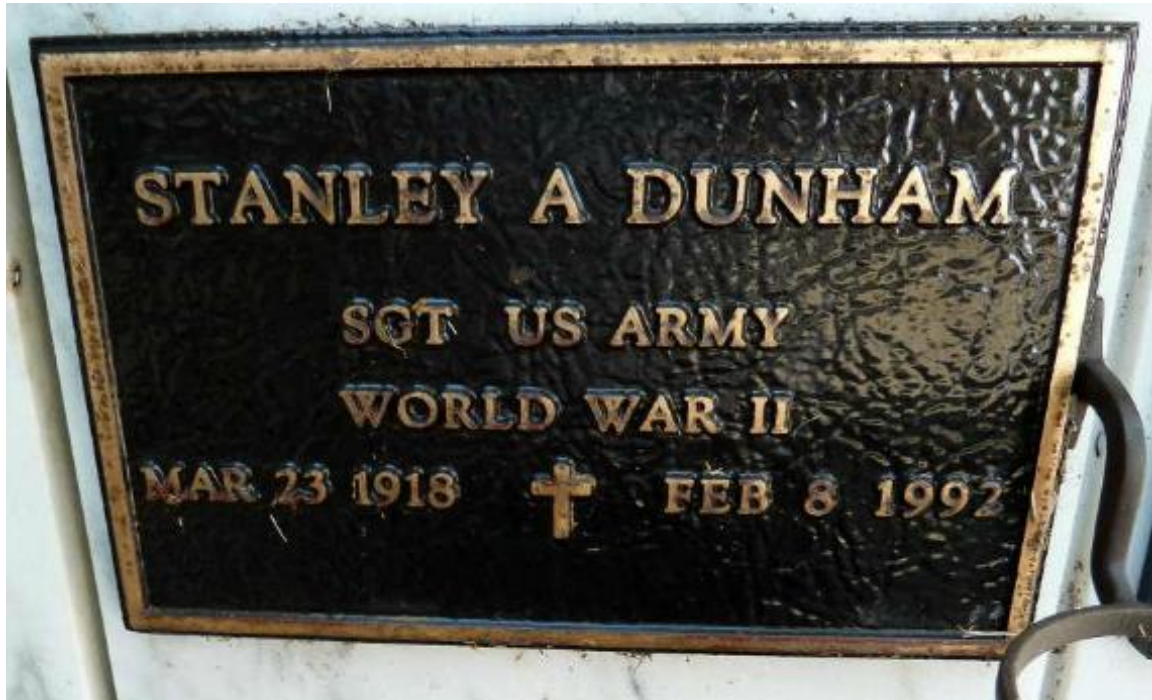
  

REGISTRAR'S REPORT											
<p>DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT</p>											
HEIGHT				BUILD				COLOR OF EYES		COLOR OF HAIR	
Tall	Medium	Short		Slender	Medium	Stout		Blue	Black		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<p>Is the person last seen, ing, band, etc., or is he obviously physically disqualified? (Specify.)</p> <p><u>No</u></p>											
<p>I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark; and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:</p> <p><u>J. A. Stratford</u></p> <p>Noted Registration <u>SEP 4 1874</u></p> <p>Local Board for the County of Butler, State of Kansas.</p> <p>Recorder, Kansas.</p> <p>LOCAL BOARD NO. 1.</p> <p>CITY HALL.</p> <p>WICHITA, KANSAS.</p> <p>(SEAL OF LOCAL BOARD)</p> <p>(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of cases in which the registered has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)</p>											

[illegible]

Digitized Census records accessed through [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

## 8. Stanley Armour Dunham



In many ways the Dunham story culminates in Stanley Armour Dunham, the grandfather who helped to raise Obama during his childhood. Nevertheless, as the Dunham story gets closer to the present, in many ways it becomes more difficult. Obama has several recollections of Stanley, whom he calls “Gramps” in *Dreams from My Father*. According to Obama’s own recollection, Stanley frequently spun stories to entertain himself and others. Second, Obama’s book is not an unimpeachable source. As David Maraniss points out in his book *Barack Obama: The Story*, there are many factual inaccuracies in *Dreams*, and by Obama’s own admission, some characters and events are composites used in the narrative to make a point.<sup>9</sup> The Dunham story is an interesting one in large part because it is the story of a president’s family, but the fact that presidential politics are involved in the story makes the facts subject to manipulation.

It is clear from available records that Stanley Armour Dunham was born on March 23, 1918 to Ralph and Ruth. His mother did commit suicide, but whether Stanley found the body, saw the body, or simply lost his mother at a young age, it is now impossible to know. In *Dreams from My Father*, Obama reports that his grandfather, Stanley, recalled finding his mother’s body. However, Stanley was only eight years old at the time of his mother’s suicide and the body was not found in the family home, 703 Buchanan Street. The shop and the home were close, but not

<sup>8</sup> Photo Credit: Military Burial Records from [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). Stanley is buried in Honolulu Hawaii National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl).

<sup>9</sup> David Maraniss, *Barack Obama: The Story*, (2012, New York: Simon and Schuster).

adjacent. The Daily Capital obituary reported that Ralph found the body. Nevertheless, it is clear that Stanley moved with his brother from Topeka to El Dorado, Kansas where the two boys were raised by an oil worker and his wife and attended school.

In *Dreams from My Father*, Obama reports that Stanley was wild in high school and was expelled for punching his principal, but no other sources corroborate that tale. Nevertheless, he does not appear in his high school yearbook in 1935 in any form (including being listed in any clubs or sports teams). He did however sign at least one yearbook that year, and the small note and signature do hint at an ornery character. In addition, Stanley did attend the 50th class reunion for the 1935 El Dorado High School graduating class.<sup>10</sup> He does appear as a member of the senior class in the 1936 yearbook.

Stanley married Madelyn Payne in 1940, and according to the reporting done by Susan Peters, they eloped to Wichita instead of attending Madelyn's formal senior dance at the high school.<sup>11</sup> A year and a half later, on January 18, 1942, Stanley enlisted in the Army, and he served in World War II, achieving the rank of Sergeant.<sup>12</sup> Stanley Ann, Obama's mother, was born to the couple on November 29, 1942 in Wichita, Kansas. The couple lived for a time in Wichita (at 917 Faulkner) and El Dorado (a 1955 El Dorado city directory lists their address as 434 W. Olive). Although Stanley Ann was born a Kansan, her father, Stanley Armour, was the last of the Dunhams to be raised to adulthood in the state.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Susan Peters reported in Part II of her series "President Obama: From Kansas to the Capital" that Stanley graduated in 1936, and this is also reported in other sources. His enlistment documents indicate that he finished four years of high school.

<sup>11</sup> Susan Peters, Part III.

<sup>12</sup> See Appendix G.

<sup>13</sup> In *Dreams from My Father*, Obama refers to the family moving around a lot when Stanley Ann was a child including living in California, Kansas, Texas, and finally moving to Seattle, where Stanley Ann graduated from high school. Other reports, such as that by Toby Harnden, "Barack Obama in Kansas on Family Roots Quest," *Daily Telegraph*, January 20, 2008, say that the family lived in Kansas until Stanley Ann was 13. According to committee member, Marie Gillespie, The Dunhams moved several times when Stanley Ann was in grade school, living in California and Texas, etc. But they lived in Kansas 1954-55. Stanley Ann was in Wichita's Riverside Elementary in 1954, then El Dorado in 1955. The family's name appears in the El Dorado city directory for 1955. At some point, the family moved to the Seattle area where Stanley Ann is recorded as having attended Eckstein Middle School in 1955.

The first two images came from Mindy Tallent at the Kansas Oil Museum in El Dorado, Kansas and help make the case that Stanley Dunham was originally a member of the class of 1935 rather than the class of 1936, although 1936 was his eventual graduation year.

reunion  
program

EL DORADO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1935

55 YEAR REUNION

MAY 11, 1990

Stanley A. Dunham--Madelyn

My wife and I have one daughter, Ann. We have two grandchildren, Barack and Mays. After leaving Kansas we lived in Seattle for five years. Then we moved to Hawaii where we have lived for 30 years. I'm retired after 20 years in furniture business and 20 years in insurance. Madelyn retired as vice-president of Bank of Hawaii. Sorry I can't be there. It would be a long way to go for a golf game.



John Vernon Eskin--Marcia

My wife Marcia and I have four daughters, one son and 11 grandchildren. I retired in 1974 as Group vice-president, Eaton Corp., Cleveland, Ohio. Moved to Hilton Head in 1975. Our time is filled pursuing woodworking, gardening, needlepoint and rugmaking. We travel, usually out of U.S. once a year, and to visit our children. Enjoy good health and wish you the same!



Dorothy Faunce Fowler

I have two sons, Sam and Greg, and one grandson, Ryan. My husband is deceased. I have been retired almost eight years. I keep busy doing all kinds of odd jobs, church work and helping second graders with reading at a grade school nearby.



Adena Fleming Morrison--James

My husband graduated from EHS in 1932. He is retired. We have two daughters, Barbara and Mary, and three sons, James, Greg, and Craig. They gave us nine grandchildren and one great grandchild.

## EHS' Class of 1935 assembles here for 50th reunion receptions, banquet

The El Dorado Times, Monday, July 1, 1985

Climaxing a round of activities, a dinner company of 141 persons — 79 of whom were classmates of 1935 — shared a banquet Saturday evening, June 28, at the El Dorado Moose Lodge.

The event — marking the 50th anniversary of graduation — was the 50th and final organized reunion for the class. Hereafter, as members of the "All School Reunion Group" they will meet the second Saturday in May of even numbered years. However, several members expressed a desire to meet again in five years.

Master of Ceremonies Bill Rice kept events moving in a capable manner. The Rev. F. Robert Steiger of Marysville, Calif., offered the invocation. Clifford Stone explained the details of the Myrri Houck Reunion Scholarship Fund and the group approved contributing the remaining funds of the class reunion to the scholarship fund.

Special decorations of three hand-made replicas of hot air balloons — each with a unique design — made by Martha Caldwell of Burlington, Vt., were donated to the class and auctioned off with proceeds going to the Myrri Houck Reunion Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Stone reported the scholarships — from 1981 to 1985 — totaling \$40,000 has been awarded to graduates of EHS.

Since 1975, each cum laude graduate has received a scholarship. This money goes directly to the school of their choice and is not given as cash. This year's graduating class had 33 students who received this award. They have four years to use this grant. Primary source of funds for the scholarship program comes from the class reunions of the various classes. Donations are always welcome and anyone can donate at any time.

The evening program was concluded by an eloquent benediction by the Rev. Letha Wood.

Theme of the banquet was "Around the World in 50 Years — Class of '35 Still Flying High," with hand-made balloons and labels.

Danielson, Ann Ida Davis, William Diddon Davis, Lucretia Edmonds.

Also, Robert Gifford, Norman Huie, Karrol Harris, Eugene Hart, Dale Johnson, Dorothy Karnahan, Edward Valdeen Kruger, Joe Lyons, Mary Frances McKay, Bernice Morgan, Geneva G. Morgan, Robert Leon Mulvaney, Gene Arthur Paul, Jerome Sevier, Fricella "Peggy" Smith, Joyce Snyder, Raymond Targent, Raymond Tate, Juanita Thompson, Olive Wacey, E. Howard Young.

An impressive poster in memory of deceased graduates was made by Ella Larine (Walt) Biggs and was on display at the receptions and banquet.

A special highlight of the banquet was a surprise prepared by Martha Caldwell for the graduate class of 1935. The procession of 50 years ago was re-enacted and class members were presented with a handsome replica of their original diploma. Cheryl (Strait) Estill, valedictorian of the class assisted with the presentation.

The planning committee for this year's reunion composed of Clarence Kerne, chairman; Leatrice (Pardon) Fillmore, secretary; Rhelene (Robertson) Phillips, treasurer; Mac Burnham, manager; Irene (VanHorn) Perry and Mary Jane (Mason) Lewis, reception co-managers; Martha Caldwell and Ella Larine (Walt) Biggs, banquet decorations co-managers; and Bill Rice, program.

A number of 1935 graduates came to a reunion for the first time and said they found the event most rewarding and worthwhile. Others sent letters of regret to the secretary with bits of interesting information.

Only one couple in attendance were both members of the graduating class — James and Spencer (Harper) Denny of Stamford.

Class member traveling "most miles to attend the reception" was Stanley Dunham of Honolulu, Hawaii. He had as his guest his brother, Ralph of Alexandria, Va., who was in the EHS Class of 1934.

Collectively the 1935 class members are the parents of basically the same amount of children as reported at the last reunion; however, their grandchildren have grown in numbers substantially from 252 to 416 and 41 great-grandchildren.

Reunion festivities began Friday evening June 21 with a reception in the El Dorado High School cafeteria. Classmates of 1934 and 1936 were invited and a number of those attended.

Punch and homemade cookies made by members of the class were served on a beautifully decorated table with a memorial floral centerpiece and white napkins engraved with a gold "1935." Special name tags were prepared from the graduation class photographs and presented to each class member as they registered at the reception. These name tags were worn at both receptions and the banquet.

The second planned reception was held for the same groups and guests Saturday afternoon in the cafeteria. Two additional class members attended this reception but were not at the banquet.

At the reunion, the class was honored by the presence of three former teachers: Miss Gladys Beuchat, Roy Cole and Lester Nixon. Mr. and Mrs. Nixon also attended the banquet.

The reunion company was an enthusiastic group and the guests assisted to the success of the occasion.

A coffee and breakfast roll was served at an informal get-together at the Walnut Room of the El Dorado Club Saturday morning for all who wished to attend.

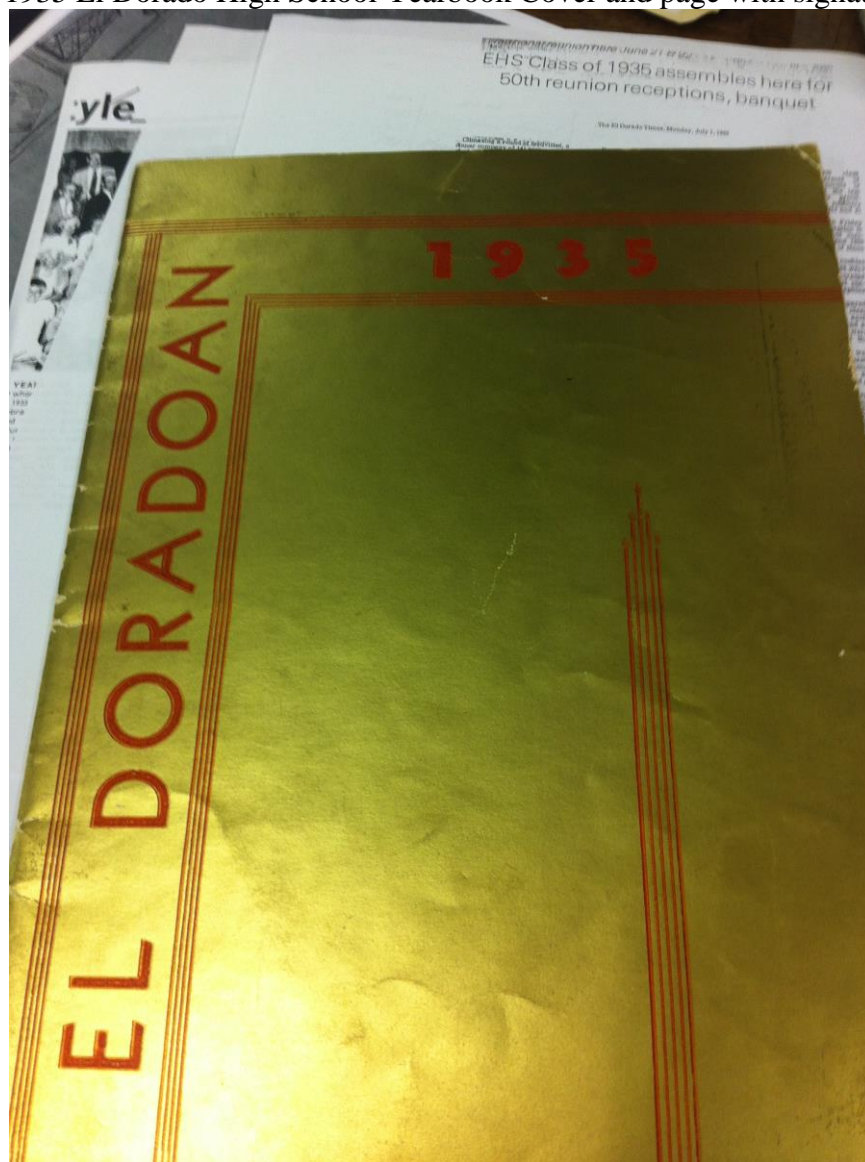
Other festivities were held around town in the homes of El Dorado classmates.

Special out-of-town guests for various functions were: Merle and Helen Britting of Wichita, Sallis Grammett Branch of Lawrence, sister of Thomas Grammett Peterson; Al Breamble, Bill and Eve Scott of Oroville, Calif., brother of

O B BOOK



1935 El Dorado High School Yearbook Cover and page with signature.



14

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<sup>14</sup> El Doradoan (High School Yearbook), 1935. Copy held by the Butler County History Center: <http://www.kansasoilmuseum.org/oil-gas-legacy-gallery>.

many, reach good again.  
 Sincerely, Frances Whitman

Here Billie - You should go for  
 with your talent - R. Davis

→ Ditto. But not what you think.  
 Stanley Dunham  
 (If you know my name)

Luck to you + Bill but it seems to me it would  
 be better if you and Bill would go inside  
 instead of sitting out in front in the car.  
 "Judge" Benson


Here to a mighty, sweet girl.  
 Lots of luck to you Billie.

The El Dorado Times, Monday, July 1, 1965  
 Climaxing a round of festivities, a  
 dinner company of 141 persons - 78  
 of whom were...



Military records from Ancestry.com

### U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946 [about Stanley A Dunham](#)

Name:	<b>Stanley A Dunham</b> <b>[Stanley Armour Dunham]</b> 
Birth Year:	1918
Race:	White, citizen (White)
Nativity State or Country:	Kansas
State of Residence:	Kansas
County or City:	Sedgwick
Enlistment Date:	18 Jan 1942
Enlistment State:	Kansas
Enlistment City:	Fort Levenworth
Branch:	Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers, USA
Branch Code:	Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers, USA
Grade:	Private
Grade Code:	Private
Term of Enlistment:	Enlistment for the duration of the War or other emergency, plus six months, subject to the discretion of the President or otherwise according to law
Component:	Army of the United States - includes the following: Voluntary enlistments effective December 8, 1941 and thereafter; One year enlistments of National Guardsman whose State enlistment expires while in the Federal Service; Officers appointed in the Army of
Source:	Civil Life
Education:	4 years of high school
Civil Occupation:	Salespersons
Marital Status:	Married
Height:	71
Weight:	165

## **Ancestors of Maternal Grandmother, Madelyn Payne**

### ***9. Charles T. Payne***

Charles T. Payne was born in Knox County, Missouri in June of 1861 to Benjamin Payne and Eliza Black Payne Benjamin Payne died in 1878, leaving Charles as the main support for his mother and younger brother, Alexander, in the northeastern Missouri town of Edina. By 1880, the 18-year old Charles supported the family as a cattle buyer. In the 1880s, Charles moved to the Kansas City area, settling in Johnson County.

In 1889, Payne married Della Wolfley. The oldest child of Robert Wolfley and Rachel Abbott, Della was born in Ohio in 1863. By the 1874, the family had relocated to Johnson County, setting on a farm in near Edgerton along the tracks of the Lawrence, Leavenworth and Galveston Railroad.

Charles and Della remained in Johnson County, where they raised their children, Lillie, Rolla, Estelle, Frank, Elva, Virgil (who died as a child in 1909) and Ora. Della died in the spring of 1906 at the age of 47, perhaps the result of complications while giving birth to her eighth child. Her obituary mentions that she died at home after a surgery performed the week earlier and one of her surviving children was only a few days old. This child, Anna, died soon after.

Charles lived and worked in Johnson County for the rest of his life. His work as a cattle buyer as a young man in Missouri gave way to being an auctioneer in Lenexa by 1900. By 1910, the family lived on a rented a farm in Aubry Township. In the years that followed, Rolla, for example, went to Peru, Kansas, as part of that region's oil boom. By 1920, Charles lived in the working class community of Rosedale, where he repaired tires in a tire shop. With him lived Frank, a store clerk, Lillian, a school teacher, and Ora. In 1930, Charles was again a livestock dealer living on Adams Street in Kansas City, Kansas. When Charles died in Kansas City, Kansas in 1940 at the home of daughter Stella Lowmiller, his living children (daughter Ora Payne Moritz had died in 1924) included Rolla in Augusta, Kansas; Frank in Kansas City; and Lillian in Rantoul, Kansas.

### ***10. Thomas Creekmore McCurry***

Thomas Creekmore and Margaret Isabelle McCurry were President Obama's great-great-grandparents on his mother's side. Thomas McCurry was born on January 19, 1850 in Missouri, the son of blacksmith Harbin McCurry. Family tradition says that a three year old Thomas McCurry even shook the hand of Abraham Lincoln when the future president visited the area. The McCurry family lived in southwestern Missouri. The year Thomas was born, the family was in Ozark County, Missouri, in the border with Arkansas, and in 1860, they were in Newton County located on the border of Kansas. Some family stories suggest the family was the target of pro-Confederate Bushwhackers during the Civil War. In the early 1870s, the family moved from Missouri to the Salt Creek Township of Howard County in southern Kansas. In 1875, quarrels in rival communities over where the county seat should be located resulted in Howard County being split between Elk County to the north and Chautauqua County to the south. Thomas would eventually settle in the vicinity of Peru in Chautauqua while his brother, Samuel, was in Longton in Elk County. In the years that followed, most of the McCurry family relocated to what became Pontotoc County, Oklahoma.

Thomas' wife, Margaret Isabelle Wright was born in Arkansas on July 22, 1869. She was one of Joseph Wright and Frances Allred's thirteen, and the family farmed Carroll County, Arkansas. After the Civil War, Joseph was a representative from Carroll County to the reconstruction era constitutional convention of Arkansas in 1868. In the early 1880s, however, the family moved to Chautauqua County, Kansas. Margaret and Thomas McCurry married in 1885, when he was thirty five and she was just fifteen.

Thomas and Margaret rented a farm in Belleville Township near Peru, Kansas. The couple had five sons: Jacob, Thomas, Joseph, Franklin, and John. Initially starting out in farming, the children pursued various paths: Joseph went to work in the developing oil fields, while Franklin became a pharmacist for the local drug store. In addition, the couple had two daughters: Leona, who would become Obama's great grandmother, and Ruth. Margaret died on November 28, 1935 in Peru. Her death came four years before the death of Thomas in 1939, her markedly older husband.

### ***11. Rolla Charles Payne and Leona Belle McCurry***

Rolla Charles Payne was born on August 23, 1892 in Johnson County, Kansas, to Charles T. Payne and Della Wolfey. Rolla Payne attended one year of high school before relocating to Chautauqua County, Kansas. The 1920 census lists him as Head of Household and living with his partner, William O'Hara. This census also lists Rolla Payne as being a bookkeeper for the Prairie Oil and Gas Company. The job as a bookkeeper would have been a better position than working in the oil fields, both in terms of salary and social prestige.

Rolla's wife, Leona Belle McCurry was born on May 7, 1897, in Chautauqua County, Kansas to Thomas and Margaret McCurry. The 1920 census lists Leona Belle McCurry as being a schoolteacher and living in a boarding house. Soon after his marriage to Leona McCurry, in 1921, he and his family moved to Augusta, Kansas, a larger and more prosperous town than Peru. The 1940 census lists Rolla Payne as renting his home at 1136 State Street. In the year 1939 he worked 42 hours a week and earned an income of \$2,100 annually.

Leona and Rolla Payne had four children: Madelyn was born in 1922, Charles was born in 1925 and a second daughter, Arlene, was born in 1926. Another son, Jon Virle, was born in 1938. Later in life, the Paynes relocated again, this time, to Winfield, Kansas, where some residents still remember them. Rolla and Leona died several months apart in 1968.

## ***12. Madelyn Dunham née Payne***

Madelyn Payne was born on the November 29, 1922 in Peru, Kansas. She was the oldest of four children of Rolla Payne and Leona Payne née McCurry. Brother Charles was born in 1925, sister, Arlene, was born in 1926, and brother Jon was born in 1937.

The family moved from Peru to Augusta in the 1920s, when Madelyn was still a young girl. Her education took place in Augusta, starting with Garfield Elementary School and concluding with her graduation from Augusta High School in 1940. Friends described Madelyn as being a kind and warm-hearted person who had high personal standards. Mary Frances Kennedy Lawrence recounts that Madelyn made the honor roll every term until she met her future husband, Stanley Dunham.

On the night of her senior prom, Madelyn Payne married Stanley Dunham in a secret ceremony in Wichita, Kansas. Madelyn and Stanley had one child, a daughter named Stanley Ann. Even though she was already married by this time, during the Second World War, Madelyn worked at Boeing building B-29 bombers. After the war, the couple continued to live for a time in Kansas but then began making a series of moves across the country. They spent some time working in Texas, lived for a few years in Kansas in the mid-1950s, and then moved to the Pacific Northwest. Their daughter, Stanley Ann, graduated from Mercer Island High School in 1960. The Dunham family eventually moved to Hawaii. This was to be their final move and the couple lived there until their deaths. Madelyn and Stanley raised President Barack Obama from the time he was a young man until he went to college. Obama described Madelyn, known as “Toot,” as being the cornerstone of the family. Madelyn Payne Dunham died on the eve of the election of 2008, never seeing the man she helped raise become President.

## Images

### *13. Family Photos and Family Tree*

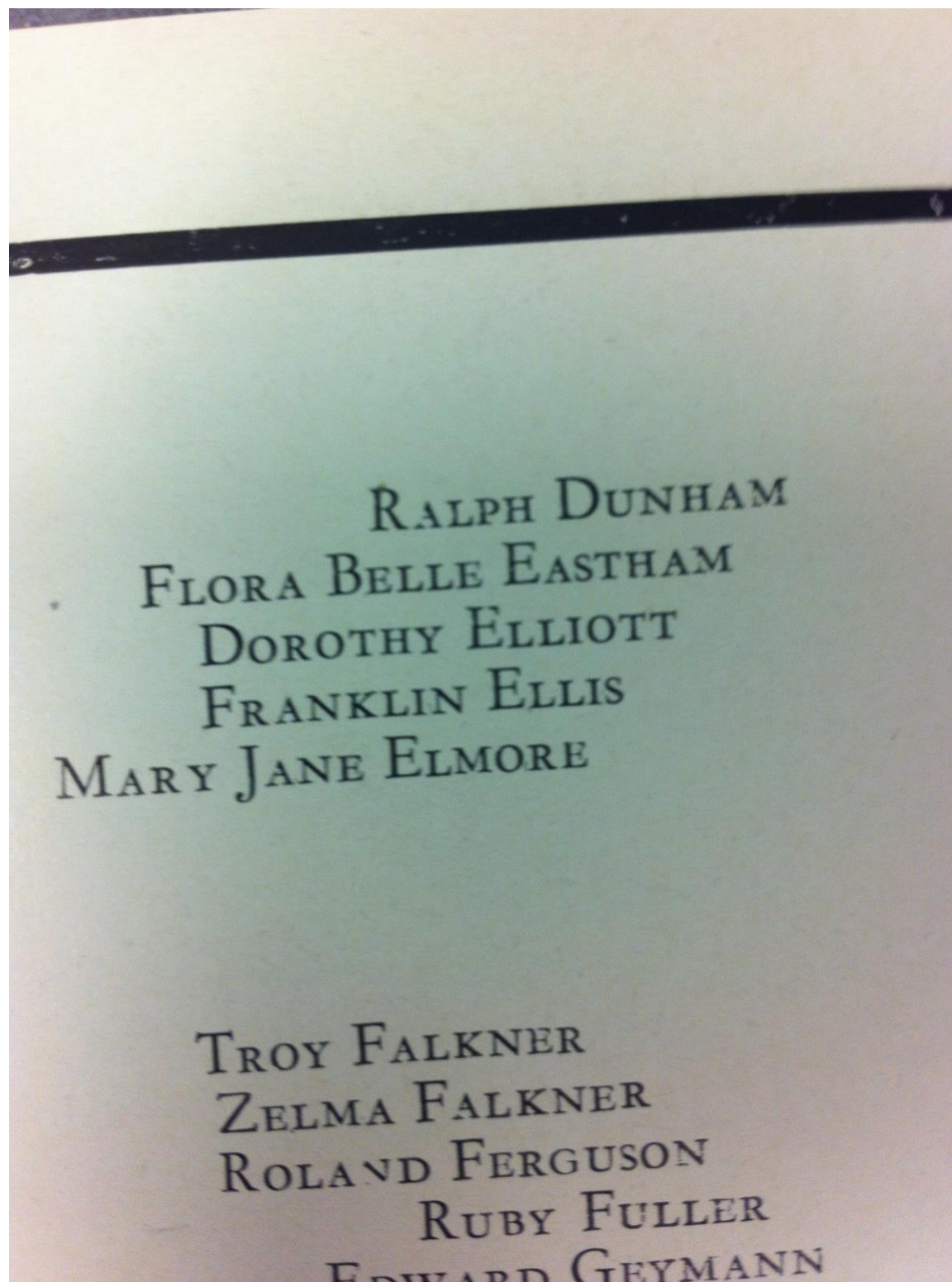




Madelyn, Stanley, and Stanley Ann Dunham.



Ralph Emerson, Stanley's Brother, 1935 El Dorado Yearbook.



1935 Yearbook





Photo provided by Marie Gillespie.



Photo provided by Marie Gillespie.





Photo provided by Marie Gillespie.



Doris Evelyn Armour



Thomas McCurry and Margaret Wright



Thomas McCurry and Margaret Wright, Far Right. Peru, Kansas.



From left, Michelle Obama, Jennifer Williams, Margaret McCurry Wolf and Barack Obama. Wolf is a first cousin of Obama's maternal grandmother.

## Kansas roots show in Obama, say relatives



Courtesy photo

Margaret McCurry Wolf and her husband, Gene Colle. Wolf is a relative of presidential candidate Barack Obama, whose mother's family is from Kansas. "I know his roots are from Kansas," she said. "I know that."

■ Friends and family recall the stories of the presidential candidate's Kansas grandparents.

BY FRED MANN  
The Wichita Eagle

Lance Kerns sees a high school friend in Barack Obama's first, maternal grandfather. Wolf remembers the family's commitment to education in the eloquence of Obama's speech.

Ties between the Democratic presidential candidate and Kansas may be distant and tenuous, but they are powerful to those who knew his grandparents.

"You know, I think he's going to make it," Wolf, a first cousin of his grandmother, said after Obama's speech this week at Seton Community College in El Dorado. "I just think there's enough people that are going to know that he stands for the truth and comes from nice people."

Obama never lived in Kansas. His grandfather, Stanley Dunham, was raised in El Dorado, and his grandmother, Madelyn Payne, grew up in Augusta.

They met in Wichita as war broke out in Europe, then El Dorado, according to the lady

2/2/08

Photo provided by Marie Gillespie.



Ralph Waldo Emerson and Wife Ruth Armour with Stanley Dunham (left) and older brother, Ralph Emerson (right).







Gabriella Clark (Armour)





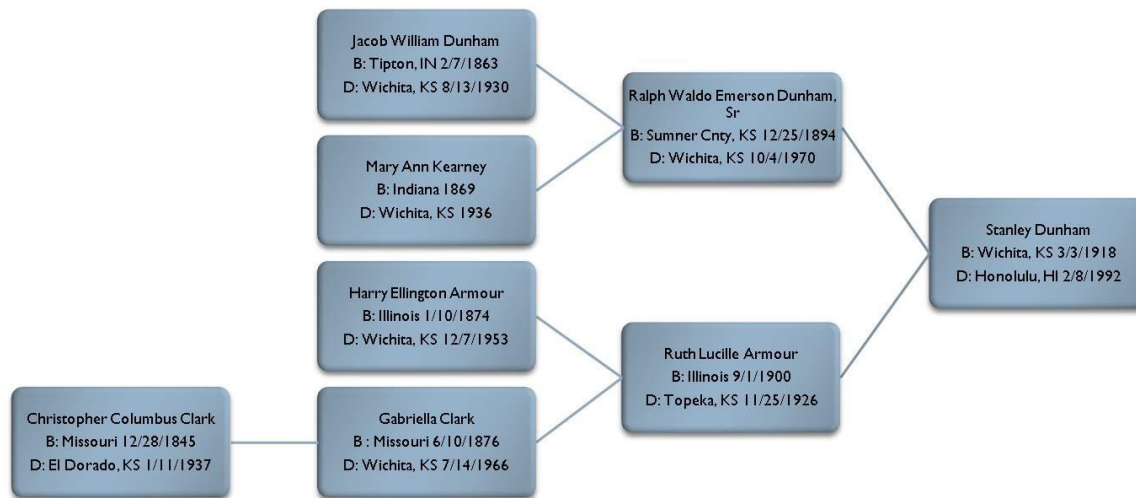
Mary Ann Kearney (Dunham)



Jacob William Dunham



## Obama Family Tree



## Back Story: Images

## 14. Views of Madelyn and Stanley Dunham's apartment building in Honolulu

photos by Jay Price







## Finding Aid

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### *16 Oral History Notes, Deeds of Gift, Transcripts for 17 Oral History Narrators*

1. [Clarence Kerns \(03/03/2009\)](#)
2. [Caroline E. \(née Lewis\) Short \(03/03/2009\)](#)
3. [Margaret \(née McCurry\) Wolf \(05/21/2009\)](#)
4. [Clifford Stone \(Sept. 2008\) \(4A and 4B, 2 DVDs\)](#)
5. [Forrest Robinson \(06/09/2010\)](#)
6. [Margaret \(née Haines\) Doornbos \(05/23/2011\)](#)
7. [Virginia \(née Dashner\) Ewalt \(06/21/2011\)](#)
8. [Mary Frances \(née Kennedy\) Lawrence \(06/21/2011\)](#)
9. [Bill Dennett \(07/09/2012\)](#)
10. [Nina June \(née Swan\) Parry and Nelva \(née Seaburn\) Wentz \(10/01/2012\) \(10A and 10B, 2 DVDs\)](#)
11. [Lois Olsen-Cox, née Olsen \(10/04/2012\)](#)
12. [Raymond Teegarden \(04/03/2013\)](#)
13. [Margaret \(née Lewis\) Shirk \(04/24/2013\)](#)
14. [Christina \(née Henry\) Snyder \(10/28/2013\)](#)
15. [Esther \(née Gonzales\) Mayes \(11/05/2013\)](#)
16. [Berry Harris \(09/02/2015\)](#)



**Clarence H. Kerns (03/03/2009)****Classmate of Stanley Dunham***Oral history recorded March 3, 2009 (Run time 58:15)*

Clarence Kerns (1917-2014) was the first to be interviewed in this project, on March 3, 2009, in the BCTV studio at Butler Community College, El Dorado, Kansas. The interview was conducted by Sonja Milbourn, with Steve Cless as the videographer.

Clarence H. Kerns (May 1, 1917-January 2, 2014) went to school with Stanley Dunham. He served as the class historian for his graduation class at El Dorado High School, the class of 1935. Stanley was in that class but did not graduate that year.

00.00-00.35:	Camera, sound adjustments
00.35-00.50	Personal information: Clarence explains how he got his name, Clarence H. Kerns.
00.51-09.30.	Family coming to El Dorado, first oil well: Clarence shares memories of El Dorado in the twenties and thirties: His father moved to El Dorado in 1915, when the first oil well came in.
09.31-13.30	Some unusual characters, El Dorado growth: Clarence describes some interesting characters in El Dorado that he remembers from the 20s and 30s, the vote to open a new junior college in 1927 and building the stadium in the 1930s.
13.31-19.30	Entertainment, housing, transportation: Clarence describes movie theaters, 1929 (banks closing and hard times), the town of Oil Hill, housing projects and box car houses, his 1914 truck (donated to Butler County History Center and Oil Museum) and 1921 Model T.
19.31-28.13	Local gatherings and events, the KKK, interracial friendship: Clarence reminisces about the Kaffir Corn Carnival, an annual event he thinks may have ended around the Depression, about KKK activity in the area (float in a parade, a rally south of town, discovery of a robe in a friend's home), and about an interracial friendship with a classmate.
28.14-31.48	Race: Clarence discusses his growing awareness of segregation and unequal treatment.
31.49-35.32	School days: Clarence shares memories about school, friendship with the family of a prominent local citizen, L.W. Nixon, and his favorite subjects

	in school.
35.33-40.47	High school memories and classmates, David Shirk: Clarence tells the “rags to riches” story of classmate, David Shirk, and talks about high school. (See Margaret Shirk interview.)
40.48-43.28	Class reunion, Stanley Dunham, Madelyn and Stanley Ann: Clarence talks about the class’s 20th high school reunion in 1955 and reads the last letter he received from Stanley in 1990 about the 55 year reunion, in which were mentioned grandchildren, Barack and Maya.
43.29-46.57	Influences on grandson because of heritage: Clarence discusses his grandparents’ influence, Kansas influences, sacrifices made by Madelyn, influences on Stanley and brother Ralph from losing their mother and being raised by their maternal grandparents.
46.58-50.05	Major historical events: Clarence remembers hearing a speech by President Hoover (after he left office), hearing Billy Sunday at the Methodist Church, seeing FDR when he was in Wichita. He discusses his conversation with candidate, Barack Obama, in 2008 and shares ending thoughts.
50.06-58.15	More ending thoughts: After the interview, Clarence shares photos and memorabilia (not visible on camera) and notes people from elsewhere who have contacted him about Obama’s grandparents.

[\(back to Narrator List\)](#)

2 DVDs, letter, copy of release form  
 mailed 10/4/12 → return mailed  
 hand delivered to Mary Spoon, daughter 10/23/12

## INTERVIEW RELEASE FORM

Project name: Batter County Barack Obama Heritage Project  
 Date: 3/3/09  
 Interviewer: Trina Milburn  
 Tape number: 1 (DVD - location MRC at Batter Community College)  
 Name of person(s) interviewed: Clarence Kerns  
 Address: 205 N. Orchard St Dorado KS 67042  
 Telephone number: 321-1724 now living @ Vintage Place  
 Date of birth: May 1, 1917 1650 E. 12th Ave.  
St. Dorado 67042  
321-7777 (Vintage  
Pl. main  
87)

By signing the form below, you give your permission for any tapes and/or photographs made during this project to be used by researchers and the public for educational purposes including publications, exhibitions, World Wide Web, and presentations. By giving your permission, you do not give up any copyright or performance rights that you may hold.

I agree to the uses of these materials described above, except for any restrictions, noted below.

Name (please print): Clarence H. Kerns  
 Signature: CLARENCE H. KERNS  
 Date: March 3, 2009  
 Researcher's signature: Trina Milburn  
 Date: March 3, 2009  
 Restriction description: \_\_\_\_\_

## Carolyn (née Ewing) Short (03/03/2009)

### *Classmate of Stanley Dunham*

#### *Oral history recorded March 3, 2009 (Run time 1:02:18)*

Caroline Short was the second to be interviewed in this project, on March 3, 2009, in her home, El Dorado, Kansas. The interview was conducted by Sonja Milbourn, with Steve Cless as the videographer.

Carolyn E. Short (August 17, 1918-October 19, 2010) went to school with Stanley Dunham. She claimed not to remember him well, but the details she did remember are not found elsewhere in these interviews.

00.00-00.19	Camera, sound adjustments
00.35-03.55	Personal information: Carolyn gives her name and describes the old family home purchased by her grandfather, a stone home that was once used as a way station.
03.56-05.24	Memories of El Dorado in the 20s and 30s: Carolyn describes dust storms from her childhood.
05.25-16.02	Livelihood, unusual characters: Carolyn remembers her father. She recollects the spirit of cooperation during WWII (saving grease, giving up pots and pans). She remembers having a horse, walking everywhere, her horse, some town characters, where she worked, and some businesses in the town.
16.03-16.59	Community, hard times, how El Dorado has changed: Carolyn reflects that families took care of each other because there were no nursing homes and most women did not work outside the home.
17.00-23.19	Local gatherings and events: Carolyn remembers that the Kaffir Corn Carnival was a major event. One year she was on the little queen's float (for the younger girls) She remembers playing jacks and lists some of the activities available to girls (newspaper, pep club, girls' reserve). She notes her favorite teachers in high school.
23.20-30.38	Relations with African American community: Carolyn remembers the African-American cook they had when she was growing up, whom she called Aunt Cora. She shares more memories of the house in El Dorado (at Central and Emporia). She remembers where the African Americans lived, south, toward the refinery and the men's limited access to jobs. She could name the families. She notes that interracial relationships stopped beyond being classmates and teammates.

30.39-34.59	Major historical events: Carolyn shares memories of home efforts during WWII: saving, collecting items to send to factories; Victory Gardens. She notes the location of the family home south of the old cottonwood tree by the site of the current Farmer's Market (1 ½ miles south of the middle of El Dorado, now called SE 20th Street, first west past underpass and up the hill, Aikman Hill, and shares how mechanics would drive repaired cars up the hill for test drives).
35.00-36.09	Memories of Stanley and Ralph Dunham: Carolyn remembers seeing Stanley in hallways, hearing him speak in class, and that he wore glasses; she did not know Ralph.
36.10-43.59	Thoughts about President Obama and influences from grandfather's upbringing: Carolyn remembers the community's attitudes toward school, multigenerational families living together, roles of mother, church, friends, being in National Honor Society with friends, attending K-State (graduated in '40) after a year of junior college. After college she worked for Oklahoma Natural Gas Company as home service director (her job was to teach people how to cook).
44.00-48.59	Advice based on life experience: Carolyn says she didn't know there was a depression on, perhaps because of her youth, perhaps because girls were less involved in the community (couldn't work as paper boys for example), notes feeling some guilt in looking back over not being aware. She shares memories of siblings, again recollects that most girls' activities revolved around the home. She notes memories of boys she knew and their paper delivery jobs.
49.00-55.43	Memories of high school, junior college, school friends: Carolyn shares memories of high school. She notes that her grandmother was a DAR member who donated a picture of the Mayflower to Jefferson School. She describes teachers, classmates, and tells a story about being in a play. She explains how a former classmate insisted she add herself to an insurance policy she took out for her daughters—over her protests—and how grateful she was for it when she came down with polio.
55.44-1.01.42	Experience with polio: Carolyn describes her experiences with polio: how she was diagnosed with flu when six months pregnant, her symptoms, her girls being 6 and 4 at time, the awful headache, being diagnosed, leg paralysis, going to Wichita for treatment. She shares memories of doctors who were also friends and how the epidemic affected everyone personally.
1.01.43-1.02.18	After the interview ends, there is brief footage of a painting, an old clock, and some post interview conversation.

## INTERVIEW RELEASE FORM

Project name: Butler County Barack Obama Heritage Project  
 Date: 3/3/09  
 Interviewer: Senja Milburn  
 Tape number: 2 (DVD) Filmed at her home (address below)  
 Name of person(s) interviewed: Caroline Short  
 Address: 820 W. 1st St Dorado Kansas 67042  
 Telephone number: 321-4160  
 Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form below, you give your permission for any tapes and/or photographs made during this project to be used by researchers and the public for educational purposes including publications, exhibitions, World Wide Web, and presentations. By giving your permission, you do not give up any copyright or performance rights that you may hold.

I agree to the uses of these materials described above, except for any restrictions, noted below.

Name (please print): Caroline Short  
 Signature: Caroline E. Short  
 Date: March 3 2009  
 Researcher's signature: Senja Milburn  
 Date: March 3 2009  
 Restriction description: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Anna Margaret McCurry Wolf Colle, née McCurry (05/21/2009)**

*First cousin to Madelyn Payne, first cousin twice-removed to Barack Obama*

*Oral history recorded May 21, 2009 (Run time 29:06)*

Anna Margaret McCurry Wolf was interviewed on May 21, 2009, by Sonja Milbourn with Steve Cless as the videographer.

In this thirty minute interview, Margaret (November 21, 1935-March 3, 2013) talks about how she is related to Barack Obama, and her memories of his mother's family. She recalls playing with Obama's mother, Stanley (Ann) when they were both young girls. She spends a few minutes talking about going to Washington D.C. on a bus trip to see Senator Obama and how happy and proud she was to meet him and get to give him family pictures. Margaret also tells two stories about Thomas Creekmore McCurry who, family lore says, shook President Lincoln's hand when Thomas was a young boy. Thomas was also hidden in a feather bed when Missouri Bushwhackers raided the McCurry family home in eastern Kansas. See "Back Story, Thomas Creekmore McCurry" for more information on this ancestor. Finally, Margaret briefly discusses air raid alerts and food rationing during World War Two in Wichita, and she confirms that Obama's mother, Madelyn, worked as a "real Rosie the Riveter" at the Boeing plant.

00.00-00.	Camera, sound adjustments
00.05-04.02	Relationship between Margaret and Barack Obama: Margaret explains how she is related to Barack Obama. Margaret is first cousin to Madelyn Payne Dunham, Obama's maternal grandmother. Margaret is closer in age to Stanley Ann (Madelyn and Stanley's daughter). Margaret has a list of Madelyn's first cousins. Margaret was named after Barack's great-great grandmother. The families spent holidays together. At time of interview, Madelyn had 1 sister, 2 brothers, all living.
04.02-06.17	Learning about her relationship to Obama: Margaret describes how she learned about her relationship to Barack Obama. She describes meeting Barack Obama in Washington DC.
06.17-08.09	Memories of Stanley Ann: Margaret reports her memories of Stanley Ann. Stanley Ann was 4-5 years younger than Margaret. She describes Stanley Ann as "beautiful." They played dolls together.
08.09-09.22	Memories of Madelyn's mother, Lee: Margaret describes "Aunt Lee," Madelyn's mother, as kind to everyone, a person of high morals.
09.22-10.27	Family traits: Margaret describes family traits she sees in Barack Obama.
10.27-13:34	The family's devotion to education: Margaret describes family members' devotion to education and how that was instilled in Barack



	Obama by his mother and grandmother.
13:34-19:57	A family member shakes the hand of Abraham Lincoln: Margaret notes the McCurry family migrated from Scotland to Illinois. She tells the story about how Margaret's grandfather at age 3 shook hands with Abraham Lincoln. Margaret describes how Bushwhackers raided the family's house in Granby, Missouri, blinding a baby by placing coals on her eyes, and burning the house to the ground. Margaret's grandparents then moved to Peru, Kansas, where they raised 8 children.
19:57-20:49	Peru, Kansas: Margaret describes her recent visit to Peru, KS where she visited the graves of her grandparents, Margaret and Thomas.
20:49-22:12	Family traditions: Margaret describes family traditions, especially eating homemade ice cream at her Aunt Lee's (Madelyn's mother) home in Augusta Ks.
22:12-23:16	Childhood: Margaret describes events from her childhood, including trying to see President Truman at a KC baseball game.
23:16-27:12	The war years: Margaret describes her and her family's experiences during the war years, including air raids, rationing, purchasing savings bonds, and female family members working at the aircraft factories.
27:12-28:21	Wild Bill Hickok: Margaret reports that Wild Bill Hickok was her 5th cousin.
28:21-29:06	Sonja thanks Margaret for her interview.

## INTERVIEW RELEASE FORM

Project name: President Barack Obama Heritage  
 Date: 5/21/09  
 Interviewer: Sonya Wilbur  
 Tape number: 3 (DVD) - location MRC at Butler Community College  
 Name of person(s) interviewed: Margaret McCauley Wolf  
 Address: 315 W. 20th Ave. Hutchinson, KS 67502-2851  
 Telephone number: 620 644-2636 -- (620 474 6969)  
 Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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I agree to the uses of these materials described above, except for any exceptions noted below.

Name (please print): Anna Margaret Wolf  
 Signature: Anna Margaret Wolf  
 Date: May 21, 2009  
 Researcher's signature: Sonya Wilbur  
 Date: May  
 Restriction Description: May 21, 2009

Note: Margaret was also interviewed by  
 Don George (radio) on NPR  
 on Jan. 30, 2008 (archived online / Morning Edition)  
 In addition KUCC/12 has an archived clip  
 of an interview of Margaret Jan 17, 2008

## Clifford W Stone (September, 2008)

### *Schoolmate of Stanley Dunham*

#### *Oral history recorded in September, 2008 (Run time 1:35:30)*

Clifford Stone was interviewed by Steve Cless (also videographer) for a Butler Community College project. The college has shared this interview with the oral history collection, and permission has been granted by his family to use it for historical purposes, subject to the stipulation that it is given only in the context of “ ‘helping schoolchildren as well as people of all ages...honor the rich history and legacies of others associated with the development of Butler County and surrounding area,’ and for no other of the stated purposes” of this project. Exact date of the interview is unknown.

Clifford W. Stone (November 9, 1918-January 21, 2010) was interviewed around the occasion of receiving an entrepreneurship award. As a contemporary of Stanley Dunham, his memories are relevant to the time period covered by this oral history project. In this interview, he talks about the influence of oil, and the business climate in the community.

00.00-00.	Camera, sound adjustments
00.00-9.10	About name and connection to Clifford Township: Clifford explains how his family ended up in El Dorado, how they acquired their land and the family home. He notes the location of various local schools at the time. He was the only child of a middle class family.
9.11-16.59	About the Depression: Clifford remembers his parents helping poorer people, “particularly black people,” mostly with food. He and most of his friends were not affected (not poverty-stricken). The Discovery Well (west) was 1920. It yielded as much as twenty thousand barrels a day. The discovery changed everything. That pool of oil was one of the most prolific in the U.S. He discusses what people did with their fortunes and the dissonance between wealth and happiness.
17.00-40.50	About his father: Clifford recollects his father, touching on topics of banking, alcoholism, and the cattle business. He talks about attending college and about his first farm after college near Garden City, and how he learned to fly while he was in Garden City. He tells a compelling story about losing his B-24 during his last mission, spending 6 months as a prisoner of war, and how through access to books through a chaplain, he became an avid reader.
40.51-48.59	About his time at Butler Community College: When a senior in high school, Clifford took college classes at El Dorado Junior College in those days. He notes details about the junior college and the various school buildings. His mother’s service on the school board inspired him to be involved in helping Butler Community College. Clifford shares praise for

	the college and president, Jackie Vietti, and discusses what the college gives back to the community.
49.00-54.45	About being honored as an entrepreneur: Clifford recollects the history of the aircraft industry in Wichita, and connects a large portion of its success to one oilman who loved flying.
54.46-1.00.00	The banking and lending business: Clifford describes how, after leaving the Army Air Corps, he got out of the farming business and into the banking business, and how his observations and various events led him to form a small finance company with his brothers-in-law.
	End of first DVD
00.00-7.19	Clifford describes the small finance company referred to above, called Prairie Finance and how he and his partners found a niche in the lending business that wasn't being addressed by traditional banks. He explains how he acquired the controlling interest of the Walnut Valley State Bank.
7.20-12.40	Secret to success: Clifford attributes his success to having the ability to understand he didn't know it all, that he needed proper help, and to bringing in good staff management by hiring a consultant from Wichita. The consultant developed a good aptitude testing system the bank used to help with hiring and staffing. In summary, he emphasizes the importance of generating teamwork, and having people doing what they really enjoy.
12.41-33.48	Heroes: Clifford discusses businessmen he admires, shares some of his passions—travelling, family, the theater, but mainly books. He ends with some final thoughts on El Dorado, the community college, the Susan B. Allen Hospital, the arts, and the importance of leadership, vision, and entrepreneurship. He discusses the delicacy of getting things done in a small town, the importance of remaining in the background, the futility of trying to be too many things to too many people, and humility as a hallmark.
33.49-35.30	End of interview followed by some shots of Clifford at his desk working.

<http://tun4mail.butlercc.edu:6788/uwc/webmail/print.html>

**Subject** Fwd: Re: Permission to Share Cliff Stone Interview  
**From** Jacqueline A Vietti <jvietti@butlercc.edu>  
**Date** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 6:51 am  
**To** tbaumgar@butlercc.edu

One of two e-mails from Sam Stone. JV

---

----- Original Message -----

**From** Sam Stone <stone@stonejessup.com>  
**Date** Tue, 28 Sep 2010 11:14:15 -0500  
**To** Jacqueline A Vietti <jvietti@butlercc.edu>  
**Cc** "Hunter, Sue" <shunter1@kc.rr.com>  
**Subject** Re: Permission to Share Cliff Stone Interview

Jackie:

Thank you for your request.

I've copied Sue on this - with the message to you both that (a) you have my permission to go ahead (without any pre-viewing by me), and (b) the rest of the request for permission is up to Sue (howsoever she wishes to handle it).

As you might expect, we would love to have a copy of the CW interview CD.

Thanks again,

Sam

---

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Jacqueline A Vietti  
**To:** Sam Stone  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 28, 2010 9:22 AM  
**Subject:** Permission to Share Cliff Stone Interview

Sam, as part of a community-based initiative entitled the Kansas Obama Heritage Project, a group of individuals from several organizations has been working to acquire the oral histories of the older and strongly-rooted generation in Butler County.

The intent has been to capture the histories, edit them and then post them on the project's website to help school children as well as people of all ages develop an awareness of and appreciation for a President of the United States family ties to Butler County, as well as to honor the rich history and legacies of others associated with the development of the county and surrounding area.

One of the interviews conducted was with your father. Although he understood its intended use, he passed away before his written consent was acquired to post an edited version of his interview. The project team asked me to seek the permission of Cliff's family to do so and I agreed to contact you.

So you will have sufficient information to make the decision, noted below are the mission and goals of the project. Also, I would be happy to send you the set of DVD's (2) on which your dad's interview was captured.

**Mission** - *The Kansas Obama Heritage Project exists to capture, preserve, and celebrate President Obama's Kansas heritage, sense of family, and Midwestern values; to educate and inspire all children by using his ancestry as a model; and to share his family's local history with people across Kansas, the nation, and the world.*

**Goals**

1. *To capture, preserve, and celebrate President Obama's Kansas heritage, sense of family, and Midwestern values.*
2. *To educate and inspire all children by using his ancestry as a model.*
3. *To share his family's local history with people across Kansas, the nation, and the world.*

<http://tun4mail.butlercc.edu:6788/uwc/webmail/print.html>

**Subject** Fwd: Re: Permission to Share Cliff Stone Interview  
**From** Jacqueline A Vietti <jvietti@butlercc.edu>  
**Date** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 6:50 am  
**To** tbaumgar@butlercc.edu

One of two e-mails from Sam Stone

Also, Terri, when you visit with Steve about preparing the sets of Cliff's interview for his family, would you please ask him to make 6 copies rather than 5? That way I can send 3 to each of Cliff's children. Thanks. Jackie

---

----- Original Message -----

**From** Sam Stone <stone@stonejessup.com>  
**Date** Tue, 28 Sep 2010 11:55:29 -0500  
**To** Jacqueline A Vietti <jvietti@butlercc.edu>  
**Cc** "Hunter, Sue" <shunter1@kc.rr.com>  
**Subject** Re: Permission to Share Cliff Stone Interview

Jackie:

I visited with Sue (who read the entirety of your request).

The bottom line: Your request is granted, *subject to the stipulation* that it is given *only* in the context of helping "school children as well as people of all ages . . . honor the rich history and legacies of others associated with the development of (Butler County) and surrounding area", and for no other of the stated purposes.

If that stipulation is not acceptable, then that is fine with us (as we both know CW's consent would not otherwise have been given).

Thank you again for your request, and our very best wishes for the success of your project.

Sam

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** Jacqueline A Vietti  
**To:** Sam Stone  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 28, 2010 9:22 AM  
**Subject:** Permission to Share Cliff Stone Interview

Sam, as part of a community-based initiative entitled the Kansas Obama Heritage Project, a group of individuals from several organizations has been working to acquire the oral histories of the older and strongly-rooted generation in Butler County.

The intent has been to capture the histories, edit them and then post them on the project's website to help school children as well as people of all ages develop an awareness of and appreciation for a President of the United States family ties to Butler County, as well as to honor the rich history and legacies of others associated with the development of the county and surrounding area.

One of the interviews conducted was with your father. Although he understood its intended use, he passed away before his written consent was acquired to post an edited version of his interview. The project team asked me to seek the permission of Cliff's family to do so and I agreed to contact you.

So you will have sufficient information to make the decision, noted below are the mission and goals of the project. Also, I would be happy to send you the set of DVD's (2) on which your dad's interview was captured.

**Mission** - *The Kansas Obama Heritage Project exists to capture, preserve, and celebrate President Obama's Kansas heritage, sense of family, and Midwestern values; to educate and inspire all children by using his ancestry as a model; and to share his family's local history with people across Kansas, the nation, and the world.*

**Goals**

1. *To capture, preserve, and celebrate President Obama's Kansas heritage, sense of family, and*



## Forrest J. Robinson (06/09/2010)

### *Pastor to Madelyn (née Payne) Dunham's parents*

#### *Oral history recorded June 9, 2010 (Run time 1:24:25)*

Forrest Robinson was interviewed on June 9, 2010, in his home. Interviewer was Teresa Baumgartner and videographer was Steve Cless.

Forrest J. Robinson (September 7, 1922-March 1, 2012) was the pastor to Madelyn's parents later in their lives, after they had moved from Augusta to Winfield. Although this is a longer interview, Forrest's memories and thoughts on his war experiences, those stories and his thoughts are well worth the time. If short on time, a good place to start would be about 37 minutes into the interview. Following the interview, we ate lunch with Forrest in downtown Winfield, after which he went to the cemetery with us to see the Paynes' burial sites and headstones.

00.00-00.	Camera, sound adjustments
00.05-10.24	Personal information: Forrest talks about childhood in Winfield, his entrance into the army in 1943, and his family.
10.25-19.30	Various occupations through life: Forrest had a gift and jewelry store, worked for Boeing, in the ministry, and in state government. He served as interim president of Southwestern College, and retired to Winfield, where he was born.
19.31-27.29	Life philosophy, family and family history: Forrest has been surprised by the variety in his life. He remembers being inventive as a boy; he has enjoyed carpentry, writing, poetry, and music. He talks about children, grandchildren and their accomplishments, and about his mother's family and ancestry going back to founding of Maryland and the Mayflower.
27.30-37.49	About places: Forrest discusses Winfield attributing the success of the city to great leadership and its location. He describes notable landmarks and leaders in the community. He also talks a little about his church at Johnson, a tiny town in western Kansas.
37.50-45.44	About World War II experiences: Forrest served in the 104th infantry and fought at the Battle of the Bulge, crossed Remagen Bridge. He tells a compelling story his unit's first view of a Concentration Camp. After sixty plus years, he began to speak about his experiences because of a recent tendency among some to minimize the holocaust.
45.45-50.41	Story from presentation at Raleigh, North Carolina: Forrest tells about a speaking engagement, and a Japanese audience member who asked forgiveness for Pearl Harbor. He describes his response and how the experience led him to an idea for a forgiveness pact between Japan and

	United States. He says too many of us think “the solution to human problems is ‘bang-bang-bang-bang’.” No, he says, “The solution is forgiveness and love.”
50.42-57.19	Story about taking a prisoner and “trading weapons”: Forrest received the surrender of 12 German soldiers who came out of woods. In processing the prisoners, he took a Smith & Wesson from a German officer whose father had taken it from an American soldier in World War I. Says Forrest, “We don’t solve international problems with war. We just end up trading weapons.”
57.20-59.09	Question about quandary of coming to realization of futility of war while still in armed services: Slight break and end of thought missing (possibly end of recording and change).
59.13-1.05.48	About the Paynes, Madelyn’s parents: Rolla and Leona Payne, Madelyn’s parents, were already in Winfield when Forrest came to serve the church in 1964. He remembers where the Paynes sat in church. Both were in poor health and he visited them in their home. When Leona died, he was unable to conduct her funeral, and he had transferred to a church in Wichita in 1968 before Rolla died. He also remembers which house they lived in.
1.06.03-1.14.20	<p>One more war story and a moment of redemption: Forrest tells about the “mopping up” work after the war ended in Europe, and how amid the carillon music he happened to come weapon-to-weapon with a stray German soldier. He notes the outcome of their encounter as the moment he was healed/forgiven for the moment at the concentration camp when he cursed God.</p> <p>Forrest remembers coming home for training to invade Japan, and shares his thoughts on the destruction of the atomic bomb compared with the likelihood of the predicted 80 plus per cent mortality rate for invasion of Japan.</p>
1.14-1.21.45	How Forrest would like to be remembered: As Forrest shares his final thoughts, he says of the dangers of military service, “You don’t do it to be heroic. You do it to be of service.”
1.21.46-1.24.25	After the interview there is brief footage of Forrest in profile, and of his grand piano.

## Photograph Release Form

Oral History Project

June 9, 2010

Project/Event

Date

Butler Community College, Pres. Obama's KS Heritage Committee

Participating Groups

I, the undersigned, understand that I have been photographed, video-, or audio-recorded during a project or event sponsored by Butler Community College and the group(s) listed above – and that the resulting product may be used for advertising or promotion by the group(s) mentioned below, and without limitation as to time. For any subject under 18, the signature of parent or guardian is required. I fully grant Butler Community College and its partners permission for my photo or likeness to be published and reproduced. I realize this information may be publicized to further promote service learning and related purposes. Uses include (but are not limited to) news releases, publications, videos and web use.

Name: Dr. Forrest J. RobinsonAddress: 1910 DecCity: Winfield State: KS Zip: 67156Phone: 620-221-9436 forobinson3@cox.netSignature: Forrest J. Robinson Date: 6/9/10  
subject, or if under 18, parent or guardian

If the subject is under 18, the signature of parent or guardian is required.

Please complete this form and return it to:

Service-Learning Office  
Butler Community College  
901 S. Haverhill Road  
El Dorado, KS 67042

(316) 323-8877

servicelearning@butlercc.edu

## A. Margaret (née Haines) Doornbos (05/23/2011)

### *Classmate of Stanley Dunham*

#### *Oral history recorded May 23, 2011 (Run time 50:56)*

Margaret Doornbos was interviewed for this project, on May 23, 2011, in her home, El Dorado, Kansas. The interview was conducted by Susie Patterson, with Steve Cless as the videographer.

A. Margaret (née Haines) Doornbos (December 19, 1918- ) had vague recollections of Stanley Dunham, no specific memories. Toward the end of the interview, she shared her recollection that around the high school, maybe, he had a bit of a reputation as a “juvenile delinquent.”

00.00-00.09	Camera, sound adjustments
00.10-05.12	Personal information: Margaret was born on a farm near Pontiac, Kansas. She describes her childhood chores, some family history, and her schooling.
05.16-05.30	Stanley Dunham: She remembers little about Stanley Dunham except his name, says she was a year ahead of him in school.
05.31-07.00	The Dust Bowl: Margaret provides vivid details from her memories of living through the Dust Bowl years.
07.01-09.24	School activities, Stanley Dunham: Margaret remembers high school and notes a brief memory of Stanley Dunham.
09.25-13.15	El Dorado during that time (high school): Margaret describes the town, its stores, and Saturday as the busy shopping day; her family car, community and school events, including some details about the Kaffir Corn Carnivals.
13.16-16.38	How times influenced attitudes, values, perspective on life: She reminisces about sitting on a cellar door on a moonlit night and thinking there would be no more wars after World War I—so wrong; she remembers the church she went to in Rosalia and talks about family reunions.
16.39-21.38	Famous murder trial, oil, farming, and El Dorado Lake: She talks about her dad serving on the jury for the trial of Owen Oberst, who was accused of murdering 7 family members in 1928. She remembers how deeply it affected her father. She reflects how when was oil found on land near their farm, her dad hoped they might have oil on their place too, but it never happened. Her parents lost their farm because of the drought in the thirties. Some folks did have oil discovered on their land and became pretty well-to-do. Her dad worked for El Dorado Lake as caretaker. Margaret and her husband also farmed for about 20 years, leaving around 1974 because of the El Dorado Reservoir.

21.39-23.37	Changes in El Dorado, mom contributing to income during Depression: Margaret talks about how El Dorado has changed. She remembers how her mother delivered butter, eggs, and frying chickens to pay off a second mortgage on the farm during the Depression.
23.38-36.09	Memories of start of WWII: The war interrupted or delayed college for many. She describes the local war effort: saving bacon grease and turning it in, rationing of tires and sugar, how their baby boy “got a ration card,” putting up food. She notes the importance of self-reliance and not wasting anything.
36.10-40.21	<p>Perception around school of Stanley Dunham, more memories of the Depression and the war years: Asked about Stanley again, she says all she remembers is he was “kind of known as a juvenile delinquent.”</p> <p>She recollects more memories from the Depression time period: neighbors bartering services with each other, automobiles her family had, horses and buggies and farming with horses. She remembers how the war brought an end to the Depression, and what her family did during the war years. Her sisters worked for Boeing; her brother was in the Normandy Landing, the Battle of the Bulge, and his unit helped to liberate two death camps. She remembers life without electricity, root cellars, and food preservation.</p>
40.22-47.04	Memories of various schools and their locations, what’s there now: Margaret notes that people married locally because they didn’t travel around away from home. She remembers graduations in the Carnegie Library building (limestone)—now part of the Baptist Church (on corner by courthouse)
47.05-50.56	Video ends with shots of what appears to be a class list from class reunion materials, including the Dunhams’ Hawaii address and noting 2 grandchildren, and Margaret showing some yearbook photos.

2 DVDs, letter, copy of release form  
mailed 10/4/12  
postage \$2.80

## INTERVIEW RELEASE FORM

Project name: President Obama's Kansas Heritage Oral Histories  
 Date of interview: May 23, 2011  
 Interviewer: Susie Patterson  
 Videographer: Steve Cless  
 Location of interview: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Medium: Digital Video Recording  
 Record number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of person(s) interviewed: Margaret Doornbos  
 Address: 528-Prairie Rd. 545  
El Dorado, KS 67042  
 Telephone number: 316/320-1193  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth: 12/19/1918

By signing your name below, you give permission for any video-recordings or photographs made during this project to be used by researchers and the public for educational purposes including publications, the World Wide Web, and presentations. By giving your permission, you do not give up any copyright or performance rights that you may hold.

I agree to the uses of these materials for the uses described above, except for any restrictions, noted below.

Name (Please print): A. MARGARET DOORNBOS  
 Signature: A. Margaret Doornbos  
 Date: May 23, 2011  
 Researcher's Signature: Susie Patterson  
 Date: May 23/2011  
 Restriction Description: \_\_\_\_\_



## Virginia (née Dashner) Ewalt (06/21/2011)

### *Classmate of Madelyn Payne Dunham*

#### *Oral history recorded June 21, 2011 (Run time 56:42)*

Virginia Ewalt was interviewed at the clubhouse of her residence in Augusta, Kansas on June 21, 2011 by Teresa Baumgartner with Steve Cless as videographer. Also present for part of the interview was Nina Parry.

In this interview, Virginia (June 8, 1924- ) describes her childhood, life in Augusta Ks as an adult, and the Augusta High School Reunions. Virginia was a classmate of Madelyn Dunham, graduating from Augusta High School in 1940.

She talks about socializing in the 1940s and going to the Blue Moon in Wichita where young people would listen to “top bands” and dance. She was in a play with Madelyn their senior year in high school, but she recalls very little except that Stanley came to watch play practice once.

She describes downtown Augusta of the 1940s as a vibrant place with many shops, five drug stores all of which had soda fountains, and Lear’s Restaurant where many people went to eat. She also talks about going around to beautiful places in Augusta where the young women would take pictures of each other to send to their classmates and friends who were serving in the Second World War. Madelyn Dunham (this took place after her marriage) did come along once or twice.

She tells the story of how the only black student attending Augusta High School in the 1940’s was chosen by his football teammates to be team captain.

00.00-00.	Camera, sound adjustments
00:00-07:23	Childhood: Virginia describes growing up in Augusta, Kansas. She recalls taking the bus to Wichita to eat lunch at the Ellis hotel, attend the theater, and listen to live bands. She attended country school until the age of 12, when she attended high school in town. Country kids were not accepted by city kids.
07:23-10:26	Friendship with Madelyn Payne: Virginia knew Madelyn when they were in the senior play together, and they were in some classes together. On one occasion, Virginia met Madelyn’s husband Stanley Dunham when Stanley attended a play rehearsal. Couples were allowed to dance at the Augusta skating rink from midnight until 2:00am. Boys who worked at the aircraft factories in Wichita arrived home in Augusta at midnight.
10:26-11:06	Pearl Harbor: Virginia learned about the attack on Pearl Harbor.
11:06-13:01	Girlfriends in high school: Virginia names her closest girlfriend and

	Madelyn's close friends
13:01-18:00	Living in Augusta, KS: Virginia describes life in Augusta after high school graduation.
18:00-23:58	Augusta High School reunions: Virginia describes the Augusta High School reunions. She notes that Madelyn sent a note and some Macedamian nuts to the 50 year reunion.
23:58-30:45	Augusta after WW2: Virginia describes stores, restaurants, and activities in Augusta after the war.
30:45-33:17	The Depression: Virginia describes life during the Depression, and shares her thoughts about the lives of children today.
33:17-44:00	Father's career: Virginia describes her father's life working for Sinclair Oil company as a pumper, and playing on the company's baseball team. She describes her childhood living in the oil company town.
44:00-46:29	Married life: Virginia describes her courtship with her husband, and raising their 4 children.
46:20-50:29	Black student Herman Reed chosen as football team captain: Virginia notes that one black student, Herman Reed, attended Augusta High School during her high school years. The football team members chose Reed for their captain, but the administration refused. After the entire team threatened to quit, the administration agreed Reed was the captain. Reed went on to become a professional football player and to work for the city of Los Angeles. Reed and his black wife attended one high school reunion. He wore a white suit and she wore a white dress. The couple sat by themselves, until Davy Cohen (who was Jewish) asked Reed's wife to dance. Herman Reed died in 2010 from cancer. Virginia did not know Reed in high school, but developed a correspondence with him later.
50:29-56:42	Notable Augusta High School graduates: Virginia describes the career paths of notable graduates from the Augusta High School class of 1940. She describes workplace limitations for women. 56:42: group photo.

## INTERVIEW RELEASE FORM

Project name: Presidential Heritage  
 Date of interview: June 21, 2011, 1:00 p.m.  
 Interviewer: Teresa Baumgartner  
 Videographer: Steve Cless  
 Location of interview: Brookside Apartments Clubhouse  
 Medium: Digital video recording  
 Record number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of person(s) interviewed: Virginia Ewalt M. name - Dasher  
 Address: Brookside Apartments  
711 E Smiles Apt. 806  
 Telephone number: 316-775-2914  
 Email: Ewaltgini @ uia banner .com  
 Date of Birth: 6-8-1924

By signing your name below, you give permission for any video-recordings or photographs made during this project to be used by researchers and the public for educational purposes including publications, the World Wide Web, and presentations. By giving your permission, you do not give up any copyright or performance rights that you may hold.

I agree to the uses of these materials as described above, except for any restrictions, noted below.

Name (Please print): Virginia Ewalt  
 Signature: Virginia Ewalt  
 Date: 6-21-11  
 Researcher's Signature: Teresa Baumgartner  
 Date: 6/21/2011  
 Restriction Description: \_\_\_\_\_

## INTERVIEW RELEASE FORM

Project name: Stories Told by Kansans . . .  
Date of interview: 08/05/2013  
Interviewer: Teresa Baumgartner  
Photographer: Jack Baumgartner  
Location of interview: 711 E Smiles, Brookside Apartments Clubhouse  
Medium: Digital still photography  
Record number: Virtual Museum  
Name of person(s) interviewed: Virginia Ewalt  
Address: 711 E Smiles, Apt 806  
Augusta, KS 67010  
Telephone number: 316-775-2914  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing your name below, you give permission for any video-recordings or photographs made during this project to be used by researchers and the public for educational purposes including publications, the Internet, and presentations. By giving your permission, you do not give up any copyright or performance rights that you may hold. As well, the photographer, the President Obama's Kansas Heritage Committee and its partners, and the Kansas Humanities Council maintain the non-exclusive right to use any material covered by this agreement.

I agree to the uses of these materials as described above, except for any restrictions, noted below.

Name (Please print): Virginia Ewalt

Signature: Virginia Ewalt

Date: 8-5-13

Interviewer's Signature: Teresa Baumgartner

Date: 8/5/2013

Photographer's Signature: Jack Baumgartner

Date: 8/5/13

Restriction Description: None

## Mary Frances (née Kennedy) Lawrence (06/21/2011)

### *Friend of Madelyn Payne*

#### *Oral history recorded June 21, 2011 (Run time 41:33)*

Frances Lawrence was interviewed on June 21, 2011, in her home, in Augusta, Kansas. The interview was conducted by Teresa Baumgartner, with Steve Cless as the videographer.

Mary Frances (née Kennedy) Lawrence (August 9, 1922-April 14, 2012) was a friend of Madelyn Payne. They were close friends, but according to Frances they had a falling out when Madelyn's mother discouraged the relationship. Frances was in poor health we were told having trouble with her memory at the time of the interview. She did not seem to have any problems remembering, but there were some long pauses, as occasionally she became emotional and not sure she wanted to continue. It seemed to bother her that she did not approve Stanley Dunham, and that some of her memories were, in her perception, negative. In accordance with her wishes, the original interview was edited for public viewing on the website.

00.00-00.14	Camera, sound adjustments
00.15-1.05	Personal information: Frances Lawrence, nee Mary Frances Kennedy, 88, August 9, 1922 at 1700 Fairway in Augusta.
1.06-6.02	Friendship with Madelyn, skipping school and the end of a friendship: Frances started school with Madelyn at Garfield, and they went clear through school together. Frances lived on Clark Street, Madelyn on State, so didn't spend a lot of time together outside of school, but became "great good friends" in high school. Frances describes a rock wall that extended from State Street up around high school where students met at noon. She tells the story about the day when Darlene Scott (who lived south of town), Madelyn, and Frances decided to skip school, went to Cooper Drug Store, and smoked in the drug store. According to Frances, Madelyn's mother told the school authority who called that Madelyn had been home, while the other two mothers did not defend their daughters. Frances was suspended for a day. According to Frances, it ruined the friendship because Madelyn's mother blamed Frances for leading them all astray. This incident occurred toward the end of their senior year.
6.03-8.47	About Madelyn's siblings, sister and Charles: Frances remembers that Madelyn's little brother spent a lot of time tagging along with Madelyn and her friends during high school. She notes that Madelyn was very smart and on the honor roll all the way through school, until their last semester in high school. Frances connected this change with the fact she started going with Stanley that semester. Frances and Darlene did not like Stanley.
8.48-11.11	Teenage hangout, working at aircraft plants: During high school, Frances went to work for Peterson Drug, where all the kids hung out. Booths and jukebox in back. Occasionally, Stanley met Madelyn there after school. After high school, Frances

	worked at Cessna, while Madelyn worked at Boeing. From that point saw very little of each other. Frances met her husband, Raymond Lawrence (“Dutch”) at Cessna. Both he and Stanley were attending Butler (Junior College) at the time, so Stanley would “always” catch a ride with him. *They didn’t double-date, and Frances does not know where he met with Madelyn (see below).
11.12-11.37	<p>Marriage of Stanley and Madelyn and Stanley’s job: Stanley worked at a furniture store in El Dorado. After they were married (or after their marriage became public knowledge?) he worked at a furniture store in Wichita.</p> <p>(There is a gap in recording in this section. Frances received a phone call and needed a few moments break from the interview during this time.)</p>
11.38-17.29	Other friends, high school play, ride-sharing: Frances remembers that “Ginny” (Virginia Ewalt), was in a play with Madelyn. She remembers mutual sharing with Madelyn of wishes and dreams (before the cigarette incident) *She recollects that the ride-sharing (see above) occurred during the first summer after high school. She and many of Madelyn’s friends did not approve of Stanley and there was negative talk about him. She remembers when the two met at Peterson’s Drugstore, they arrived separately. She also reflects that although her friends (including Frances) made fun of Stanley and Madelyn knew it, she never showed anger at their mocking or that it bothered her. Frances notes that both Stanley and Madelyn were tall as she contemplates what the couple had in common.
17.30-21.21	About Madelyn’s personality: Frances says that Madelyn had a wonderful personality, laughed and joked all through high school, and (although she was a topnotch student) she had a lighter side. She partook in group encouragement of boys who rolled marbles on floor during study hall. They also teased the teacher and Madelyn was part of that.
21.22-26.56	Madelyn’s friends and youthful play: Frances reflects that Madelyn was an important part of her life through their school years. Also in that circle of friends were Darlene and Mary. Frances remembers that Madelyn lived “on the corner, and most of behind and clear down to next street was the city service pipeyard.” As children they played with a group of friends in the pipeyard, inventing contests using pipes as an obstacle course. These were oil pipes and this may have occurred during junior high.
26.57-32.22	Future plans and romance: Frances thinks Madelyn may at one time have wanted to be a teacher and had the traits that would have made her a good teacher. She thinks Madelyn would have liked to go on to school and blames Stanley for this too. She notes that prom night was when they eloped. They may not have shown up at the prom. No one knew they were married at first.
32.23-36.49	Rivalry between El Dorado and Augusta youth: Frances remembers a fight between the El Dorado boys and the Augusta boys out on the [railroad] tracks. They put bars of soap in the ends of hose contributed by girls, wet them down,



	and used them as slingshots. She remembers Madelyn being a part of that. Augusta won. When the Augusta boys took the fight to El Dorado using rotten eggs as weapons, they were caught by police. Frances's brother was the only lefty, so when they got caught, he was the only one police knew for sure had participated in the fight, but the whole truckload of boys ended up in jail.
36.50-41.33	Ending thoughts: There is a gap in the recording at this point. Frances worried aloud that she hadn't shared anything positive in her narrative. She muses on the weight of being the story teller for someone beyond her own family. She reflects at the end that Madelyn had planned on going on to school (wasn't sure earlier in interview). Frances also reflects on Stanley Ann and her out-of-the-ordinary choices in life, ending with the thought that Madelyn always went after more.

## INTERVIEW RELEASE FORM

Project name: Presidential Heritage  
Date of interview: June 21, 2011, 3:00 p.m.  
Interviewer: Teresa Baumgartner  
Videographer: Sieve Cless  
Location of interview: Interviewee's home  
Medium: Digital video recording  
Record number: Frances  
Name of person(s) interviewed: Francis Lawrence  
Address: 1700 Fairway Drive  
Augusta, KS 67010  
Telephone number: 316-775-0303  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: Aug. 9, 1922

By signing your name below, you give permission for any video-recordings or photographs made during this project to be used by researchers and the public for educational purposes including publications, the World Wide Web, and presentations. By giving your permission, you do not give up any copyright or performance rights that you may hold.

I agree to the uses of these materials as described above, except for any restrictions, noted below.

Name (Please print): Mary F. Lawrence  
Signature: [Signature]  
Date: 6-21-2011  
Researcher's Signature: [Signature]  
Date: 6/21/2011  
Restriction Description: \_\_\_\_\_

## Bill Dennett (07/29/2012)

### *Schoolmate to Madelyn (née Payne) Dunham*

#### *Oral history recorded July 29, 2012 (Run time 43:47)*

Bill Dennett was interviewed on July 29, 2012, at the Augusta Historical Museum. The interviewer was Teresa Baumgartner, and the videographer was Steve Cless. The first part of the interview was lost, due to technical difficulties, so the recording begins mid-interview.

Bill Dennett (September 2, 1921- ) did not have any more of a connection with Madelyn Payne than “knowing of her,” as he put it. His memories shed light on the war and how it influenced the way many young adults got married, rural schools, and what it was like to work on the railroad from 1946 to his retirement.

00.00-00.	Camera, sound adjustments
	The missing segment: In the first part of the interview, the portion that was lost, Bill talked about places, land in the local area, his family history and where they lived. Bill was born in Salter, Kansas (then a small Butler County town around what is now Santa Fe Lake Road, between SW 140th and 150th, south of Augusta and north of Rose Hill and Douglass).
00.00-00.4.30	Military service and wedding: Bill came home (on leave from military service) in December of 1942. Bill tells the story of how he got married March 9, 1943. He was discharged from service in October of 1945.
4.31-19.24	Schooling: Bill attended elementary school in a two-room schoolhouse in Gordon through eighth grade. Bill shares memories of his school years, successes and failures. Went to 8th and 9th grade in Douglass, then Augusta High School 1936-1939, and part of 1940, but never received a diploma. He knew “of” Madelyn Payne (class of 1939), but did not know her. He talked about transportation to and from school for rural students and his affinity for art: drawing, carving, and wood-burning.
19.25-22.45	Variety in his vocations and avocations: Bill talks about the many things he has done, from grinding rocks to prospecting for the tiny amounts of gold that rolled to Kansas in the Arkansas River.
22.46-43.47	Working on the railroad: Bill recalls his career working on the railroad, starting on January 2, 1946 in the area, and the many different jobs, equipment, and machinery he worked with, as well as how the railroad industry has changed. He shares some of his personal experiences on the job. He talks about how the railroad influenced settlement, and the cattle business in Kansas, as well as disputes over land rights and the railroad right-of-ways.

INTERVIEW RELEASE FORM  
for "An Oral History Project:  
Stories Told by Kansans Who Knew Barack Obama's Maternal Grandparents"

Project name: An Oral History: Butler County & SC KS  
Date of interview: July 9, 2012  
Interviewer: Teresa Baumgartner  
Videographer: Steve Cless  
Location of interview: Augusta Historical Museum, 803 State St.  
Medium: Digital video Augusta KS  
Record number: #9 67010  
Name of person(s) interviewed: Bill Dennett (wife, Evelyn)  
Address: 118 Harrington Ave.  
Augusta, KS 67010-1404  
Telephone number: 316-775-7290  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: Sept. 2, 1921

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Name (Please print): X Bill Dennett  
Signature: X Bill Dennett  
Date: X 7/9/2012  
Researcher's Signature: Teresa Baumgartner  
Date: 7/9/2012  
Restriction Description: None

Solder Post Office 41-LA  
Sept. 2 1921 22 or 23  
moved to Gordon  
Billy Dee Dennett  
Where settlers picked up mail Pleasant Township  
40 80 acres - -

## **Nina June (née Swan) Parry (10/01/2012) Nelva (née Seaburn) Wentz (10/01/2012)**

### *Schoolmates to Madelyn Payne*

#### *Oral history recorded October 1, 2012 (Run time about 1:10:50)*

Nina Parry and Nelva Wentz were interviewed together in Nelva's home on October 1, 2012, with Teresa Baumgartner as interviewer and Steve Cless as videographer.

Nina June (née Swan) Parry (June 23, 1923-October 30, 2012) and Nelva (née Seaburn) Wentz (February 24, 1923- ) both knew Madelyn from school, though they were a year behind her class. Although Nina was closer to Madelyn Payne, both women are able to share some recollections of Madelyn along with quite a bit of contextual information about Augusta in the Depression and during World War Two.

Nina reminisced about a group of local women, including Madelyn Payne, who spent time together during the war years. She and her daughter Stanley Ann would have been living with her parents while Stanley was overseas. Both Nina and Nelva were raised for at least part of their childhoods by single mothers, and both talked about those hardships and how their mothers coped.

00.00-00.03	Camera, sound adjustments
00.04-4.24	Nelva Seaburn Wentz was born February 24, 1923 in Sycamore OK, is 89 at time of interview. Nina June Swan Parry was born June 23, 1923 in Augusta KS, is also 89 at time of interview. Her dad was a ballplayer for White Eagle. They asked him to come to work so he could be the catcher for their ball team.
4.25-12.15	Early memories Nelva: Nelva's dad died in 1929. She lived on Walnut, close to uptown and remembers the grocery, bakery, library, a town curfew, and the park by Main Street. Later they moved to Gregg Street. She remembers walking to school with friends, including Madelyn Payne. She worked at McCaslin's (dimestore) her senior year and remembers crying on graduation as she couldn't go to college. The children were 7, 5, 3, and 13 months when her father died. Her mother took in laundry and did housecleaning. She remembers her mother's parenting and discipline style.
12.16-31.35	Early memories Nina: Nina lived in Texas and Indiana for a time growing up. Her father was badly injured when she was in 2nd grade. Her parents were separated. Her mother worked for \$5 a week at a little dimstore. She remembers being terrified of school because of a humiliating and undeserved punishment in the 3rd grade. She also remembers an influential high school teacher. She worked at Draft Board for 25 cents an hour. Students were allowed to work senior year. She

	<p>shares how she learned about the war beginning and how people pulled their children out of the all-girls school she was attending for fear of invasion.</p> <p>How Nelva met her husband: She and her husband met in the summer and were married in January. He was drafted in July. She shares memories of the announcement about Pearl Harbor. She reminisces about living with two friends who had husbands also in training, as they all followed their husbands. She moved back home when he was sent overseas. He went with Patton's third army across Europe. She shares memories of life in a small town after the war. She recalls how, after the war ended in Europe, some men in his outfit were shipped out Japan, and their ship was sunk.</p>
31.36-35.34	Nina's memories of her war experiences: She finished out year of school. Then went to work for Socony-Vacuum (White Eagle, Socony-Vacuum, then Mobil). Her mother started a store in 1935 and the family lived above the store.
35.35-44.44	Entertainment in town; Madelyn, taking photographs to send to the local boys: Nina and Nelva describe the skating rink, movie house, slumber parties, many working at Boeing during war years. They reflect on losing many friends during war, and about the lack of men in town and how this affected the feel of the town, how the women passed the time, married and single women together, all ages, all friends. The classes of 40-42 began to mix together in high school and continued after. This included Madelyn. They took photographs on Sunday afternoons to send to the local boys overseas. Many were taken in Garvin Park which at time had a swinging bridge.
44.45-57.30	About how times have changed for each generation; about Madelyn's friendships and her family: Nina and Nelva reflect on how their generation influenced the next, emphasizing obedience, work, a desire to please their parents. When asked what traits Madelyn may have passed along to her daughter and grandchildren, they note her intelligence valuing education as a high priority, as well as a sense of community and loyalty to classmates. Madelyn was a private person. Her best friend (Francine) moved away when she was a junior. Madelyn really missed her. It was after that she became closer to Nina and other schoolmates. While she was still in school, and later while living at home when Stanley was overseas, though she was married and with a child, Madelyn participated in the women's outings and picture taking, doing fun things together. Nelva's sister went to school with Madelyn's sister, Arlene. Madelyn's parents were fairly strict.
57.31-	Memories about the end of the war: The whole town celebrated. They remembered where they were and what they were doing when they heard



1.00.29	the news. Nelva's husband told lots of stories about General Patton.
	End of first DVD. Last 7 minutes of interview on second disk.
00.06-5.20	<p>About class reunions: Madelyn called Nina after receiving an invitation one year, to say she would not be coming back for reunions. She continued to keep in touch.</p> <p>About walking to school with Madelyn (Nelva): Nelva walked to school with Madelyn during Nelva's 7th grade and part of 8th grade years (Madelyn was a year ahead). She talks a little about Madelyn's siblings.</p>
5.21-10.50	Class photographs from 1940 (Madelyn) and 1941 (Nelva and Nina)

## INTERVIEW RELEASE FORM

Project name: Stories Told by Kansans  
Date of interview: 10/01/2012  
Interviewer: Teresa Baumgartner  
Videographer: Steve Cless  
Location of interview: Home of Nina Parry  
Medium: Digital video  
Record number: # 11 (10-11)  
Name of person(s) interviewed: Nina Parry  
Address: 1003 State St  
Augusta, KS 67010  
Telephone number: 316-775-6905  
Email: NA  
Date of Birth: June 23, 1923

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Name (Please print): ☒ Nina J. Parry nee Swan  
Signature: ☒ Nina J. Parry  
Date: Sept. Oct. 1, 2012  
Interviewer's Signature: Teresa Baumgartner  
Date: 10/1/2012  
Videographer's Signature: Steve Cless  
Date: 10-1-12

Restriction Description: NA

## INTERVIEW RELEASE FORM

Project name: Stories Told by Kansans . . .  
 Date of interview: 10/01/2012  
 Interviewer: Teresa Baumgartner  
 Videographer: Steve Cless  
 Location of interview: Home of Nina Parry, 1003 State St, Augusta, KS 67010  
 Medium: Digital video  
 Record number: #10 (10-11)  
 Name of person(s) interviewed: Nelva Wentz  
 Address: 1105 N Bobbie St  
Augusta, KS 67010  
 Telephone number: 316-775-7454  
 Email: NA  
 Date of Birth: Feb 24 1923

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Name (Please print): NELVA SEABURN WENTZ  
 Signature: Nelva Seaburn Wentz  
 Date: Oct 1 2012  
 Interviewer's Signature: Teresa Baumgartner  
 Date: 10/1/2012  
 Videographer's Signature: Steve Cless  
 Date: 10-1-12

Restriction Description: NA

## Lois Olsen Cox, née Olsen (10/04/2012)

### *Schoolmate to Madelyn Payne*

#### *Oral history recorded October 4, 2012 (Run time 47:42)*

Lois Olsen Cox was interviewed on October 4, 2012, in the BCTV Studio on the Butler Community College El Dorado campus. Interviewer was Teresa Baumgartner and videographer was Steve Cless.

As a younger schoolmate, Lois (born March 16, 1924) admired Madelyn Payne when they attended Augusta High School. Lois recalls Madelyn as a very proper, well-respected, and “upright” young woman. She sees similar qualities in the president, especially in his determination and his willingness to work hard. She describes Madelyn as being dignified and acting older than she was while still being happy as a high school student. She makes a point to describe Madelyn as inclusive and being willing to befriend the “country” kids when she herself was a “city” kid, and this was a time and place when there were fewer friendships of this type.

Lois also had a small comment and signature from Madelyn in her autograph book. It says that while they never “palled” around, Madelyn considered Lois to be a “true” friend who is sincere.

This interview has many stories of Lois’ early life, including one story about a week-long dust storm during the Dust Bowl, although her memories of the Depression are not of hardship. Her guardians were able to buy up mortgages from those people in town whose banks failed, indicating that her family had more money than some others in Augusta during the Depression.

She also has some memories of World War Two and finding out that war had been declared. Her most vivid story, though, is about the impact of the war in the years that followed when classmates would gather for class reunions and they would read out the list of their fallen friends.

00.00-00.	Camera, sound adjustments
00.15-13:05	Childhood: Lois describes her childhood and high school experiences. At the time of the interview, she was 88 years old. She describes growing up on a farm and how she got to school. When she was a freshman in high school, she attended Banner School, which was a rural school. She describes her experience taking Algebra from a manual arts teacher, having previously learned only arithmetic. She describes how she loved farming and wanted to be in the agriculture class, though girls were not allowed to take agriculture. She describes how after three years, she was allowed to take agriculture, and how she met her future husband in that class. She and her husband had been married for 71 years at the time of the interview.
13:05-20:00	Madelyn Payne: Lois attended Augusta High School with Madelyn Payne. Lois describes Madelyn as well respected, well dressed, with a good reputation. Madelyn was dignified and mature; she did not party as did other classmates. Because Lois was a country girl, some city girls

	would not talk to her. However, Madelyn was friendly to Lois.
47:29-51:00	Relationship with Madelyn: Madelyn signed Lois' autograph book, even though Lois was an underclassman. The April 24, 1939 inscription reads: "Although you and I have never paled [sic] together, I regard you as one of my truest friends. So many are friends for just what you can do for them but I believe you are sincere. Love, Madelyn Payne". Lois sent a copy of this entry to the White House. President Obama replied: "Dear Lois, Thank you for the wonderful note. It's good to know that my grandmother was sensible even in her early years! Best Wishes, Barack Obama"
20:00-23:09 28:34-29:41	The Dust Bowl years: Lois describes her life on a farm during the Dust Bowl years. She describes attending a one room school. The teacher spent her time teaching the 6th, 7th, and 8 graders. The upperclassman spent time helping the younger students. This is when Lois first thought about becoming a teacher.
23:09-28:34	Adulthood: Lois describes her teaching career, her education, and raising 5 children.
29:41-32:16	The Depression: Lois describes her family's and the city's experiences during the Depression.
32:16-37:19	Entertainment: Lois describes her family's entertainment during her childhood years.
37:19-42:23	Courtship: Lois describes her husband's and her courtship.
42:23-47:42	Pearl Harbor: Lois describes hearing about the attack on Pearl Harbor, and her and her Augusta High School classmates' experiences during WW2.

## INTERVIEW RELEASE FORM

Project name: Stories Told by Kansans  
Date of interview: 10/04/2012  
Interviewer: Teresa Baumgartner  
Videographer: Steve Cless  
Location of interview: BCTV Studio  
Medium: Digital video  
Record number: #  
Name of person(s) interviewed: Lois Olsen Cox  
Address: 12357 SW Tawakoni Rd  
Augusta, KS 67010  
Telephone number: 316-733-2068  
Email: NA  
Date of Birth: X 3-16-24

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Name (Please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: X Lois Cox

Date: X 3-16-24

Interviewer's Signature: Teresa Baumgartner

Date: 10-4-2012

Videographer's Signature: Steve Cless

Date: 10-4-12

Restriction Description: NA



## Raymond Teegarden (04/03/2013)

### *Schoolmate to Madelyn Payne*

#### *Oral history recorded April 3, 2013 (Run time 50:40)*

Raymond Teegarden was interviewed on April 3, 2013 at his residence in Lakepoint, Augusta, Kansas by Teresa Baumgartner, with Steve Cless as videographer. Also present was Rachelle Meinecke of the Augusta Historical Museum.

Raymond James Teegarden (October 9, 1922-February 20, 2014) walked to school with Madelyn (née Payne) Dunham, who also sometimes informally tutored him. He was also on the Augusta High School football team, and in this oral history, he tells a compelling story about the team's spontaneous protest against a cafe that refused to serve their fellow teammate, who happened to be the only African American on the team.

0-00.53	Camera, sound adjustments
00.54-13.02	Family and early memories: Raymond James Teegarden's family moved to Augusta to work for the oil company before he was born, October 9, 1922. His dad was a labor foreman. Raymond worked about 5 months on the Mobil Pipeline before he got drafted. He had one brother. He had a pony, and his family had some chickens and cows, and a shepherd dog. He started school at Washington School "out in the country." His family moved to town after living in country 3-4 years. Raymond was in second grade, and went to Garfield. He talks a little about how the country kids were treated differently by their classmates. His grandfather lived in the country until he sold his property, then built a house on top of the hill on State Street.
13.03-17.30 28.14-35.03	Memories of Madelyn: He met Madelyn walking to school. There was a group of kids who walked together. He remembers her helping him in school. He never asked her for a date in high school. There was a hamburger shop where the kids would all gather. That included Madelyn. It was not downtown.  They also hung out at a drug store downtown, but Madelyn didn't go there as often. He remembers Madelyn's mom complementing him on his acting ability after the junior play. He remembers that Madelyn's father was a supervisor and they lived in a company house.
17.31-24.40	Football and a protest against racism: From junior high on, he spent a lot of time playing football. He and Herman Reed were on the football team together for at least one year, and Raymond tells a story about the team walking out on a restaurant that refused to serve Herman. He does not remember the other story, about the team standing up for Herman when they were told he couldn't be captain. Since they were not in the same

	graduating class, it is possible Raymond was not on the team when this occurred.
24.41-28.13	Work and the importance of oil to Augusta: Raymond graduated from high school in 1940. He worked for Mobil for a couple of months before his military service. They kept his job and his retirement for him. He worked for them for 42 years. He talked about Mobil's closing their Augusta refinery and how that affected the community.
38.45-50.40	Military service in the Pacific theatre: He joined and was a weapons manager. He was in the Battle of Okinawa. He talks about some alterations he helped make in the tanks. The end result was some barrels filled with Napalm. They used oxygen and a spark plug to make those barrels into flame throwers. They went to Hawaii, where they practiced using the weapons at the top of the volcano. He didn't meet his wife until after the war, and talked about how they met and his daughters at the end of the interview.

## INTERVIEW RELEASE FORM

Project name: Stories Told by Kansans . . .  
 Date of interview: 04/03/2013  
 Interviewer: Teresa Baumgartner  
 Videographer: Steve Cless  
 Location of interview: Lakepoint Augusta, 67010 (775-6333)  
 Medium: Digital video  
 Record number: #13  
 Name of person(s) interviewed: Raymond Teegarden  
 Address: Lakepoint Augusta, 901 Lakepoint Drive  
Augusta, KS 67010  
 Telephone number: 316-775-7523 (2319 Crest residence)  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth: October 9, 1922

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Name (Please print): Raymond Teegarden  
 Signature: Raymond Teegarden  
 Date: 4/3/20  
 Interviewer's Signature: Teresa Baumgartner  
 Date: 4/3/2013  
 Videographer's Signature: Steve Cless  
 Date: 4-3-13

Restriction Description: \_\_\_\_\_

## Margaret (née Lewis) Shirk (04/24/2013)

*Wife of David Shirk (1915-2009), Stanley Dunham's classmate*

*Oral history recorded April 24, 2013 (Run time 36.09)*

Margaret Shirk was interviewed at Butler Community College on April 24, 2013, by Teresa Baumgartner, with Steve Cless as videographer. Margaret's daughter, Nancy, was also present for the interview. Margaret was recognized at the college by the El Dorado Rotary Club for a scholarship she established in her husband's name.

Margaret (née Lewis) Shirk (August 18, 1917- ) tells the story of her husband, David Lee Shirk (1915-2009) who lived with his family in a boxcar during the Depression. The El Dorado Rotary Club loaned him \$60 to attend the University of Kansas. He saved the receipt for repayment of the interest-free loan all his life, and his wife established a scholarship fund in his memory. The couple spent a day with David's high school classmate, Stanley Dunham, in Hawaii. Margaret remembers Stanley bragging on his grandson, who he predicted would go far in life.

Note: More information about David Shirk can be found in the Clarence Kerns interview.

00.00-00.	Camera, sound adjustments
00.00-3.52	Names, families, and how she met her late husband: Margaret Shirk was born August 18, 1917. She was interviewed to share memories and information about her husband, David Lee Shirk, born November 14, 1915, class of 1935 from El Dorado High School. Margaret was born in Lawrence. Her grandfather moved there from Missouri during the Civil War, after a near miss from a bullet. He settled the land on which Margaret still lives. David was born in Salina, Kansas, but his family moved a great deal while he was growing up. She thinks his family moved to El Dorado when he was in the second grade. They met while they were both students at the University of Kansas. He worked at the filling station (one of three jobs he held concurrently while attending college) and her family were customers.
3.53-16.30	College and a Rotary Club loan, coaching in Augusta, Kansas: Margaret tells the story about how the Rotary Club came to loan him \$60, interest free, to be repaid in 5 years, so that he could go to the University of Kansas and play football. Instead of scholarships at the time, the football program agreed to help him secure a job. His major was first entomology, and then education. Margaret shares memories of Dr. Naismith and Fog Allen, both of whom were mentors and friends to David. Interestingly, David taught P.E. and coached three years in Augusta High School during the time Madelyn was in high school. He did not have her as a student, but he knew the family. The couple was married in 1940, he taught in Augusta from 1940-1943, and then was drafted in 1943. He served in the Army for four and ½ years, and was discharged as a

	<p>Captain. Margaret said David never talked about his past much, and she didn't ask him. She recollects that he grew distant from his family after he left home for college, and thinks that other members of the family drifted apart. He was the only one among his siblings who went to college.</p>
16.31-23.40	<p>David Shirk's connection to Stanley Dunham: Margaret talks about how Stanley Dunham should have graduated from high school in 1935 with the rest of his class. Some of Stanley's classmates have shared memories of an altercation between Stanley and the principal of the high school. Margaret's recollection was that the incident was reported in the newspaper, that Stanley had slapped the principal and that (perhaps as a result) Stanley did not graduate with his class, but did graduate later.</p> <p>Margaret remembers that she and David spent a day with Stanley when they went to Hawaii. Although she doesn't remember what Stanley and David talked about that day, she does remember him talking about the grandson who lived with them, who was in high school at the time. He also told them he was a "very smart kid," and predicted that he would go far in life. The two did not stay in touch after that visit. David died in November 2, 2009 at 93. David's career was an administrator, coach, and teacher during his career, and loved K.U. basketball later in life.</p>
23.41-36.09	<p>About growing up during the Depression: His family was very poor, lived in a boxcar, and went without food, except for free buttermilk, one day a week. She remembers a story about how the kids would make faces at the engineers on the trains, to goad them into throwing coal, which they would then take home and use for heat. It was this poverty that led Margaret to set up the scholarship in her husband's name, and she talks a little about that, and about the importance of paying back. David kept the receipt, which Margaret gave back to the Rotary Club when she established the scholarship. In her closing thoughts, Margaret shares a story about how she did not pick up her college diploma, and only received it recently.</p>

## INTERVIEW RELEASE FORM

Project name: Stories Told by Kansans ...  
 Date of interview: 04/24/2013  
 Interviewer: Teresa Baumgartner  
 Videographer: Steve Cless  
 Location of interview: Welcome Center (20006-20007), Butler CC  
 Medium: Digital video  
 Record number: #14  
 Name of person(s) interviewed: Margaret Shirk Nancy Yonally (daughter)  
 Address: 1359 N 1900 Rd 100039 Mastin Dr  
Lawrence, KS 66044 Overland Park, KS 66212  
 Telephone number: 185-8430994 913-888-2235  
 Email: Margaret: David:  
 Date of Birth: 8-18-17 11-14-15

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Name (Please print): Mrs. David L Shirk  
 Signature: Mrs. David L Shirk  
 Date: 4/24/13  
 Interviewer's Signature: Teresa Baumgartner  
 Date: 4/24/2013  
 Videographer's Signature: Steve Cless  
 Date: 4-24-13

Restriction Description: NA

Lee  
 David L Shirk  
 Nov. 14, 1915 - Nov. 2, 2009

Margaret Shirk

40-43 covered @ August 2013



## Christina (née Henry) Snyder (10/28/2013)

### *Schoolmate of Madelyn Payne*

#### *Oral history recorded October 28, 2013 (Run time 1:02:30)*

Christine Snyder was interviewed on October 28, 2013 in her home, Wichita, Kansas. The interview was conducted by Kym Dickey, with Steve Cless as the videographer.

Christine (née Henry) Snyder (June 1, 1923- ) was a year behind Madelyn in school, and being from the country south of Augusta, did not attend school in Augusta until high school, so she does not recall having personally known Madelyn, though she remembers knowing who she was when they were in high school. Christine's recollections include growing up in oil country south of Augusta, going to a country school, beginning nurse's training, then working at Boeing during the war years.

00.00-00.	Camera, sound adjustments
00.00-2.23	Personal information: Christine was born June 1, 1923 to parents Ed and Gladys Henry from Illinois. Her father worked first in Atlanta in oil fields, then Augusta, and ran the pump station. The family lived in Miller Corner, south of Augusta, in what they called a shotgun house. She went to Browntown school through 8th grade, and had to go to El Dorado to take a test to qualify for high school.
2.24-6.40	About Browntown: Christine's mother other drove her to high school. She graduated in 1941. She didn't know Madelyn personally, who was a year ahead of her. Those from country schools didn't mix much with those from city. They had to go home and do chores. Christine had one sister, Donna, 9 years younger, who was allowed to go to Augusta schools.
6.41-8.05	About Girl Reserves: Christine belonged to a Christian group, kind of like High Y, a group for boys. She entered nurses training after high school at El Dorado hospital. She lived in a home for nursing students. She went to junior college and trained at the hospital.
8.06-10:15	About husband and nurses training: Christine's future husband was in the Navy, in Chicago for training. She had to get permission from her supervisor to get married. She married Gilbert Dean Snyder in 1943. They met at Cumberland Church, south of Augusta. When she reported back after the wedding, she was told she could not even say goodbye to her husband, she refused to comply.
10.16-15.06	Marriage and letters during the war years: They were married at First Baptist Church in Wichita. The couple lived in a garage apartment in California after he came back from overseas. He served in the South Pacific, repairing planes on several islands. She remembers the "code" he

	used to let his parents know where he was, involving family members' names coinciding with the names of the islands.
15.07-17.56	After the war, family and work: After his service, they moved to Wichita, and he went back to work at Beech, where he had worked previously. She not graduate from nursing; she left training after the incident recounted above and she never went back. She worked at Boeing while Gilbert was overseas, built small parts. After the war, they lived in Wichita, where their sons were born.
17.55-22.16	About depression: She thinks of her family as lucky, for her dad had a steady job, running pump stations. They came from farm life so they always had a big garden, plenty of chickens. They had gas heat and lights in the house. They also had running water, only cold. Added room for kitchen. She remembers bathing in big round tub in the kitchen. Her dad was always inventive, made a makeshift washing machine out of an oil barrel. Her mother made most of her clothes, though they shopped some at Calvert's.
22.17-27.40	Back to childhood home: The family used a cave (manmade) as a storm shelter. She loved to roller skate. and remembers the roller rink on 7th Street. She had perfect attendance all four years of high school, except for one day and large snowstorm.
27.41-30.27	About living on the Wallace Lease (in high school): She describes the lease where they lived, including a buffalo wallow, a depression, different grass and lots of flowers. Her dad hunted rabbits on the snow.
30.28-36.29	End of war: When news of the war's end came, she and her husband were living in CA. Everyone left the plant, the base and celebrated. He was released in November. During war, tires, shoes, and sugar were hard to get.
36.30-44.40	Pearl Harbor: Christine was in training when she heard about Pearl Harbor. She tries to reconstruct chronology of war years with her personal life.
44.41-46.49	Children and retirement: Christine talks about her sons' educations. Her husband retired from Beech after 45 years, in about 1986.
46.50-51.07	Recollection on the Dust Bowl: The dust didn't seem so bad to her, but she remembers the invasion of the grasshoppers.
51.08-1.02.30	Final Thoughts: Interruption from son's phone call. She shares her thoughts about how the world has changed, including some changes in Augusta.

*to capture, preserve, and celebrate*

## PRESIDENT OBAMA'S KANSAS HERITAGE COMMITTEE

### INTERVIEW RELEASE FORM

Project name: Stories Told by Kansans . . .  
 Date of interview: 10/28/2013  
 Interviewer: Teresa Baumgartner  
 Videographer: Steve Cless  
 Location of interview: Home of interviewee  
 Medium: Digital video  
 Record number: #15  
 Name of person(s) interviewed: Christine Snyder  
 Address: 1715 W 30<sup>th</sup> St S  
Wichita, KS 67217  
 Telephone number: 316-522-6568  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth: June 1, 1923

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please include birth name) Christine Loraine Henry Snyder  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: 10/28/2013  
 Interviewer's Signature: Christine L. Snyder  
 Date: Kym Dicks  
 Videographer's Signature: 10/28/2013  
 Date: Steve Cless  
 Date: 10-28-13

Restriction Description: \_\_\_\_\_

## Esther (née Gonzales) Mayes (11/05/2013)

### *Schoolmate of Madelyn (nee Payne) Dunham*

#### *Oral history recorded November 5, 2013 (Run time 48:21)*

Esther Mayes was interviewed on November 5, 2013, in her home, Wichita, Kansas. The interview was conducted by Kym Dickey, with Steve Cless as the videographer.

Esther (née Gonzales) Mayes (March 8, 1924- ) was two years behind Madelyn Payne at Augusta High School, and remembers her, but knew Arlene and Charles, her younger siblings, better. Her parents emigrated from Mexico in 1914, and her family was one of the minority families living in Augusta when she grew up. She shares some memories from that perspective, and memories about two of her brothers who saw action and died during World War II, one of whom received the Silver Star.

00.00-00.	Camera, sound adjustments
00.00-7.27	Personal information: Esther Mayes's birth name was Gonzales, no middle name. She was born March 8, 1924, 89 at time of interview. She talks about her siblings, how her father worked on the Santa Fe railroad, and about how her parents immigrated in 1914 to escape the revolution in Mexico. Her dad transferred to Augusta in 1928. She remembers about the building of the levee, about her family home, and the flood of 1928, when two other Mexican families took refuge at their house. Dr. Garvin delivered a baby during the flood, then send food back by boat. Later they moved to Oak, and she attended Garfield Elementary
07.28-11.59	School memories: She remembers kindergarten, school and school activities. She graduated high school in 1942.
12.00-13.49	Memories of Madelyn, who graduated in 1940: She remembers Madelyn as a tall blonde. Regarding the well-known story of Madelyn eloping after the prom, she corrected one detail. It was not a prom; rather they were called Banquets. She remembers Arlene and Charles (closer to her age) as always smiling.
13.50-18.04	About Depression, war telegraphs: Esther remembers how her family made do with food from the garden, preserving (her mom learned from a "German woman" how to can). She remembers when her dad's got his paycheck from the railroad and how it went to pay the grocery bill. For two weeks work he earned \$12.00. Her father worked through the Depression as the railroads kept busy. She talks about her brother Frank who was killed in war and how one telegraph worker spread the news. She notes the importance of the newspaper and of reading to her family.
18.05-23.26	High school memories, marriage, early adult life: She remembers classes she took, being married right after she graduated, working at Boeing,

	sheet metal, and taking Ballenger's bus service back and forth from Augusta to Boeing. She talks about her husband and how they met when he was stationed at Fort Riley, at YMCA get-togethers on North Topeka (not dances). He was in Mechanized Cavalry in service. From Virginia. Went overseas in 1944. Was in England, went in after battles to clean up. Released in 1945, lived with parents on Oak Street. She talks about censorship, letters, and V-mails from her brother and husband.
23.27-33.24	Brothers, war service, awards, and sacrifice: She remembers her brothers Frank and Sus (sp?). Sus was older. She was especially close to Frank. Frank tried to join Marines but was color blind, so joined National Guard, activated in Dec. 1941. Sus went overseas right away (42, went through African Campaign, was a paratrooper, wrote letters home, was in Sicily, then England, and was being processed to come home when he was killed in the Battle of the Bulge, in Jan. 45. He made the jump into Holland, was wounded on the 29th and died in a field hospital on the 30th. Frank was decorated shortly after D-Day. He received the Purple Heart and Silver Star. He served in the 37th Infantry, Company I. She talks about the battle in which he was killed. Both brothers are now buried in the Elmwood Cemetery, Augusta.
33.25-41.25	About children, discrimination: Esther had two sons, lost one a few years ago. She relates the story of a cousin who in 1936 was hired, then fired from a teaching job when they found out he was of Mexican descent. Later he moved to Mexico and had very successful career. She relates a story about discrimination involving Herman Reed, and a parent interfering with the class seating arrangement. This memory was from the 9th grade, in 1939.
41.26-42.32	Questions about Stanley Dunham: Esther relates what she heard about Stanley Dunham. There seems to have been a general belief that Stanley was "a ne'er-do-well" and that was the reason Madelyn's folks wanted to discourage the relationship. Also, Esther notes, her parents were very protective of her.
42.33-47.01	Final thoughts: It was a great time to grow up. She remembers learning to swim in the old Walnut River when it was clear water, in particular how drowning boy was saved by a Manuel Cabralles. She relates memories of her mother making tortillas every day, and the day a friend of Franky's stole the tortillas for the day. The fellow (Louie) was later killed in war.
47.15-48.21	The video ends with some shots of Sus's and Frank's medals.

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## PRESIDENT OBAMA'S KANSAS HERITAGE COMMITTEE

### INTERVIEW RELEASE FORM

Project name: Stories Told by Kansans...  
 Date of interview: 11/05/2013  
 Interviewer: Teresa Baumgartner  
 Videographer: Steve Cless  
 Location of interview: Home of interviewee  
 Medium: Digital video  
 Record number: #16  
 Name of person(s) interviewed: Esther Mayes  
 Address: 1437 N. Athenian Ave.  
Wichita, KS 67203  
 Telephone number: 316-943-8090  
 Email: emayes@cox.net  
 Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please include birth name) Esther Mayes  
 Signature: Esther Mayes 11/5/13  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Interviewer's Signature: Kym Dicker  
11/5/13  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Videographer's Signature: Steve Cless  
 Date: 11-5-13

Restriction Description: \_\_\_\_\_



## Berry Harris (09/02/2015)

### *Musician*

#### *Oral history recorded September 2, 2015 (Run time 1:03:01)*

Berry Harris was interviewed on September 2, 2015, in his home, Wichita, Kansas. The interview was conducted by Teresa Baumgartner, with Steve Cless as the videographer, and his student assistant. Also present at the interview were Melody McCray-Miller and Carole Branda, representing the Kansas African American Museum, and Berry's wife, Loretta.

Born November 27, 1929 in Chockie, Oklahoma, musician Berry Harris has played the blues for over 70 years, in just about every club in Wichita. Berry recollects the many experiences his guitar has brought him. Among music fans he met were three white women from Augusta, who frequented his club and his neighborhood in the 1950s.

In his oral history, Berry identified one of those women as Madelyn Payne Dunham. However, Berry was never in Wichita until 1957. Although Madelyn and Stanley lived briefly in El Dorado after the war years, they moved permanently from the area shortly after Stanley's 20 year class reunion in 1955. In 1957, Madelyn was in her mid-thirties, living in Seattle with her husband and daughter. The factual record indicates that Madelyn Payne Dunham, President Obama's grandmother, could not have been the Madelyn that Berry remembers.

We have included his interview in the collection, as his memories are relevant to place and to themes that have emerged from the project, keeping in mind that an oral history is a subjective narrative. We do not always remember events exactly as they were, but as we perceive them to have been, in later reflection.

00.00-00.	Camera, sound adjustments
00.00-05.30	Personal information: Berry T. Harris was born 11/27/29 in Chockie, Oklahoma, Atoka County, between Highway 69 and the Acadia Railway tracks. He describes the places he lived in childhood, his parents and grandparents. His dad was a World War I veteran. Berry joined the army in 1948 and was stationed in Osaka, Japan, but struggles with addiction sent him home. He describes his love for guitar and music and how he came to be a musician playing in a band in Muskogee, OK.
05.31-08.47	How he came to Wichita, where he played in Wichita: He was playing at the Bomber Club when he says he met "Madelyn, Nancy, Suzanne," and also "Marilyn." He identifies the year as 1957. He also describes how these young women visited the neighborhood where he lived.
08.48-11.59	About inactive period when music tastes changed: Berry talks about wife, Loretta, and their two children. How they lost a daughter in January of 06. He talks about caring for, and his devotion to his wife.

12.00-14.55	Questions about Madelyn: Melody asks about Madelyn. He didn't know her last name, but knew who she was by the connection to Obama. He repeats that the time period was 1957-58 and estimated her to be about 18. Berry also confirmed that he was never in Wichita before 1957.
14.56-19.59	More about Madelyn and company: Berry talks about "this other girl," Suzanne Overchain (sp?): She lived at 805 State Street in Augusta. She liked Berry, who had not yet met Loretta. He even considered marriage with her, but made a point of saying there was no sexual interaction. Asked again about these girls visiting, he remembers daytime visits by them to his neighborhood, lot of music being played, emphasized "no smoking weed," but plenty of drinking. He notes it was a rooming house with a lot of people around. "Everybody was just friendly with each other." Reiterates that it was three girls and Madelyn was one. When he quit playing there, he didn't see them anymore. He estimates the time span to have been a year or more. Someone's mother's friend (Loretta mentioned here) worked at the courthouse and told them there was going to be a police raid. That seems to have ended the interactions. (This Bomber Club was over by McConnell—and Boeing.)
20.00-24.28	Places he's played: Berry started playing on Cleveland, then on 9th Street, where he met Loretta. He talks about how he met her, their courtship and marriage. Clarification: the Bomber Club was a white club. The three young women were the only ones who came to their neighborhood. He talks about some other places he played, other clubs and other towns in Kansas.
24.29-32.45	Travel and opportunities connected to music: (Doorbell interruption.) Berry talks about how he learned about prostitution and its connection to poverty, both in Japan, and in America. He described an experience of discrimination when he was playing at Junction City. This was in 1959. He reminisced about opportunities he's had to travel and play, including the Outer Banks of North Carolina, although he gave up an opportunity to go to Europe. He shares thoughts about going home to Stringtown, Oklahoma, the folks "on the hill," and death. He thinks his planned trip for a festival will be last trip home. He notes where he's playing now, "Pig-in Pig-out Barbecue" (over three years) and share some reflective thoughts about his mother and how she taught him discipline. He says, "I don't know nothin' about segregation. Everybody was poor; white people and black people, we was all eating out of the same bucket."
32.46-36.35	On segregation: He talks about going to segregated schools, and the one or two times he's been called the "N" word. He tells a story about an experience with segregation at a roadside diner, when he stood up to the owner and got his hamburger.

36.36-53.14	Importance of music in life and final thoughts: Berry talks about music as a passion and music to put food on the table (supplement income). He tells a story about playing at the Officer's Club, eating breakfast at work and how the cook made sure he took food home to his family. In his final reflections on life and faith and struggles, he says, "I ain't been perfect, but I've been good." He has played music for 70 years, plays guitar, keyboard, and harmonica—and tells jokes.
53.15-01.02.06	Berry plays music: Berry place some of his music on camera.
01.02.22-01.03.01	Conversation with Steve's student assistant. Ending conversation.

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## PRESIDENT OBAMA'S KANSAS HERITAGE COMMITTEE

### INTERVIEW RELEASE FORM

Project name: "An Oral History Project: Stories Told by Kansans  
Who Knew Barack Obama's Maternal Grandparents"  
Date of interview: September 2, 2015  
Interviewer: Teresa Baumgartner & Gretchen Eick  
Videographer: Steve Cless  
Location of interview: Home of interviewee  
Medium: Video  
Record number: #17  
Name of person(s) interviewed: Berry Harris  
Address: 813 N. Poplar  
Wichita, KS 67214  
Telephone number: 316-682-7609  
Email:  
Date of Birth:

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Name (Please print):  
Please include birth name. Berry T Harris  
Signature: x Berry T Harris  
Date: x Sept 2nd 2015  
Researcher's Signature: Teresa Baumgartner  
Date: 9-2-2015  
Restriction Description: none

*The mission of the President Obama's Kansas Heritage Committee is to capture, preserve, and celebrate President Obama's Kansas heritage, sense of family, and Midwestern values; to educate and inspire all children by using his ancestry as a model; and to share his family's local history with people across Kansas, the nation, and the world.*



This project is funded in part by the Kansas Humanities Council, a nonprofit cultural organization promoting understanding of the history, traditions, and ideas that shape our lives and build community.

President Obama's Kansas Heritage Committee  
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