

Louis and Girtha Plumer



Noble County, Oklahoma

1895 - 1975

... *Their Biographies and Family History*

By Rory Van Tuyl

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Betty Plumer Van Tuyl

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Introduction



....A Home on the Prairie

A Home on the Prairie....

"It's cold out there, boy!" the conductor said at Oklahoma City. He advised me to stay in the train. Oklahoma City was really no different from Perry. The sheds, the stores, the warehouses were bigger, but the shapes were the same, and like Perry it had the temporary and unfinished look of a place that had been plunked down in the prairie.

...Paul Theroux, "The Old Patagonian Express"

Perry, Oklahoma, is a place in the dim memory for many of us... those who lived there for a time and then moved on, never really knowing how or why the place came into being one day in 1893. But for many thousands of farmers and townspeople who lived there starting in those days of insanity called the "Land Rush" and in the century since, up to the present day, Perry is the center of existence, a life raft "plunked down in the prairie", a place to call home.

Perry is the County Seat of Noble County, Oklahoma, as was pointed out to me by my grandfather, Louis Plumer, one day in the 1940s when I was young enough to be confused about how a town could be a "Seat". But he patiently pointed out, in his wonderful way, the County Courthouse in the town square, and explained how Perry was the center of many important activities. What he didn't tell me was that just over 50 years before, the place had been a wild west boomtown of 25,000 to 40,000, with nightly gunfights, gambling and drunkenness to such extremes that one of the most famous U.S. Marshals of the time, Bill Tilghman - the man who cleaned up Dodge City, Kansas - had to be called in to restore order.

But Perry's rough - and - tumble beginning, which was the result of greedy land speculators vying for property in what they hoped would be a new metropolis on the Santa Fe Railroad, soon abated, and the population dropped to one-tenth its peak - about 4000 souls - in just a few years. Perry went on to become one of those archetypical American small cities, with churches, schools, stores and banks gathered around a park-like central square, a town whose principal reason for being was to service the farms of Noble County.

In fact, the truly important story lies not in the hoopla of early Perry, but in those farms which were homesteaded by hardy families who took one of the last opportunities afforded poor Americans to cultivate and own their own quarter section of virgin soil which their government had recently taken from the Indians. In this case, the U.S. government had purchased most of the 57 mile-wide "Cherokee Outlet" from the reluctant tribe for about \$1.40 an acre in 1891, and in a series of "runs", threw the land open for settlement on a first-come, first-served basis. The most famous of these runs was on September 16, 1893, when an estimated 100,000 people braved the 109-degree temperatures to rush pell-mell for their piece of the prairie. Others followed within a year or two, among them the Fred Gfeller and Will Plumer families, who took up farming west of Perry near what was to become the little town of Mateer (after 1903, Lucien). They broke the virgin prairie sod, put in a crop of sorghum and watermelons, and somehow endured the merciless prairie winters to eke out a living as they built their houses and helped to build the town. In 1900, Charles B. Scrivner brought his family down from Missouri, and settled onto a farm near the Plumer's.

On these farms, which were soon producing wheat for market, lived Louis Plumer and Girtha Scrivner. Like most farm kids of the time, they learned what it would take to carry on the soil-bound life of their ancestors [Louis farmed successfully for several seasons], but they both reached

out for what educational opportunities they could, and by the time of their marriage in 1912, were Mr. Plumer, businessman, and Miss Scrivner, schoolteacher. They took up residence in the town of Lucien, and by 1928 moved their family of seven to Perry, where Louis joined the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank, Perry's oldest.

This book tells the story of Louis and Girtha, my beloved grandparents, based on family memories, the written recollections of Louis Plumer, and discussions with Perry residents who knew them. They were among those citizens of the world who were born in the horse and buggy days, and died in the space age... ordinary people who enjoyed some success in life and endured many hardships along the way. This book also includes genealogical and biographical sketches of some of their ancestors, one of whom was so poor he had to sell himself into slavery to pay his emigrant passage, and another who was rich enough to employ an entourage of servants for the voyage. Simple farm families moving west in search of new land, they finally converged on some of the last homestead land available, in Noble County, Oklahoma Territory, at the turn of the 20th century. It was there that Louis and Girtha raised their family in the first half of this century, and it was from there that the family dispersed at the time of World War II, leaving no descendants in Noble County.

Louis Plumer's lifelong interest in record keeping, and his particular interest in his own family's history, provided both inspiration and source material for this book, which is mainly intended for the far-flung descendants of Louis and Girtha... those living today and those yet to be born.



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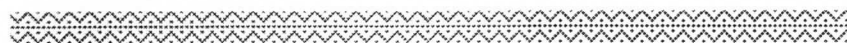
CHAPTER 1



....Louis Emil Plumer

Louis Emil Plumer

1887 - 1975



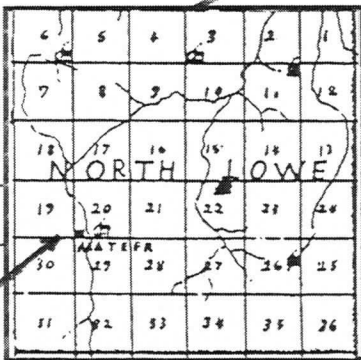
At about 17 years

At 87 years

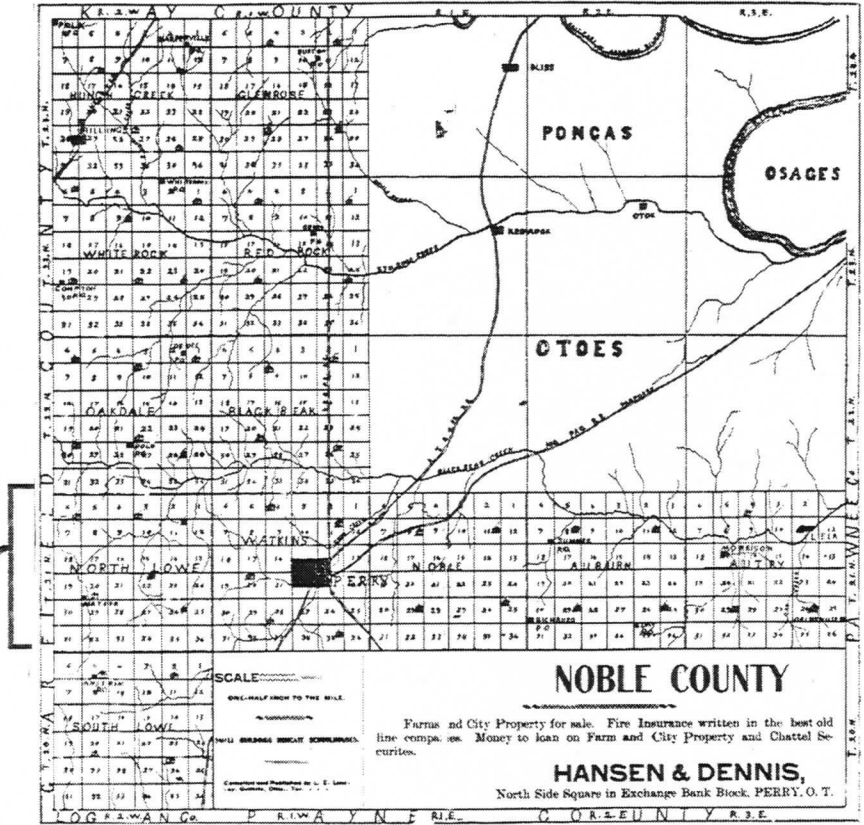


Noble County, Oklahoma Territory, was over one-third Indian Reservation, the rest homesteads. Perry, founded at the junction of the Santa Fe railway and a proposed Missouri Pacific line, became the principal city. But local farmers in each township needed a village and a school near by. At the turn of the century, farm families in the southwest of North Lowe Township had only the Mateer Post Office, Emerson's store and the Rock Spring School. Louis Plumer's family settled one mile west of Lucien, just outside Noble County, in about 1896. Louis attended Rock Spring School one winter.

Plumer Farm



Lucien Site



In 1903, the Arkansas Valley and Western [later Frisco] Railroad built its tracks right through the Plumer Farm, aided by Louis and his dad. A railway station was established west of the Mateer P.O., and the town of Lucien sprang into existence.



A promising future seemed in store for Lucien about the time of this photo [1906]. There was a bank, sawmill, lumberyards, druggist, blacksmith, railroad and telephone service (but no water, electricity, or sewage). However, the advent of the automobile and improved roads sounded the death knell for Lucien by the late 1920s, since residents could then travel to Perry for their business. Today, the "Downtown" of Lucien has largely disappeared, but oldtimers remember Louis Plumer, who ran their lumberyard, grain elevator and bank 1908-27.

Louis E. Plumer

When Louis E. Plumer died, the banks in Perry Oklahoma closed to honor him, because he was truly a man the people looked up to. Ask those who remember him even today...nearly 20 years after his death...and they all say the same thing: "He was a fine man". And they mean it, too!

He was a man you knew you could depend on. A man who would walk the upstairs every night to check the skies for signs of trouble...perhaps one of those terrible tornadoes. And if you were a little child worried about such terrors, you felt just that much safer for his vigilance, and then you could sleep.

"I don't believe he had an enemy in Perry Oklahoma" recalled his son, Paul. That's quite a statement to make about a depression-era Oklahoma banker...but it was certainly true. You could tell it from the greetings that came his way as he strolled the streets of Perry with his strange side-to-side gait, greeting and being greeted by most everyone, picking up a handful of wheat from the back of a pickup truck to chew like gum, then ambling on down to *The Bank*.

The Bank had been the making of Louis Plumer...and would nearly be his undoing, too.

EARLY LIFE IN LUCIEN

As a boy, Louis ["Lewis" to his wife, "Louie" to many of his business associates] had travelled overland by wagon to homestead the Oklahoma Territory. He broke the virgin sod on his family's farm, and even helped build the railroad across that particular bit of prairie [see Will Plumer biography]. But as hard as he must have worked to build that farm, and as limited as his early ambitions were, a farmer's life was not his destiny. Fate intervened... he learned to keep books!

"The town of Lucien was growing [in 1903] and a Methodist Church was built...The first preacher was a student from Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas, and he stayed at our home over the week-ends when he came to supervise the building and hold services. His name was Dave Hotton, and during his stay at our home he talked to me and my parents about sending me to college. I had finished the 8th grade and that was about as much education as any[one]...got at that time. I was 16 years old ... and I planned on being a farmer. Dave Hotton ... told us that if I would go to Winfield to college, I could stay with him and his brother ... [so] I could get by rather cheap. So after considerable thought and my parent's consent, I decided to go".

With a \$15 per month stipend from his parents and by working Saturdays at various jobs, Louis managed to make a go of it, graduating from the business department in 1905 [10th grade].

Louis' business career started in Perry, where he went after business school, living in a hotel while he worked at the Coyle Cotton Co. Seeing no future in the cotton business, the clearly ambitious young man moved to Enid, where he worked in a lawyer's office. However this didn't really interest him, and he didn't like the confines of that lawyer's windowless office, or the lack of a social life. So when his dad suggested that Louis might come home to run the family farm, and some additional rented acreage (on a profit-sharing basis), he jumped at the chance. [Years later, he proudly recounted how he had shown a profit in his farming endeavors, as evidenced by the accounts book he had kept. He still had that book more than 60 years after the fact].

It was Louis' skill at bookkeeping that landed him his next job:

"In the fall of 1908 my father and five other men of Lucien decided to put in another lumber yard. They wanted my father to manage the yard but this would take him away from his carpenter's work, and he did not know how to keep the books, so he suggested to the other partners that they hire me as I knew how to keep books".

So 21-year-old Louis Plumer took over as manager of the new Lucien Lumber Company. By 1912, and through a succession of ownership changes, Louis was doing just fine as an up-and-coming lumber yard manager. We have a photo of the derby-hatted, immaculately dressed young Mr. Plumer and two of his cronies posing somewhat incongruously atop a stack of lumber at the Fairview Lumber Yard about 1911 or 12. Clearly a man-about-town!

Now 25, successful in business, and surely one of the most eligible fellows in Lucien, it was time for Mr. Plumer to get married. Back in his "College" days, Louis had dated several girls [Della Cranston and Vessie Paul among them], but since about 1908, he'd been going out with his friend Martin Scrivner's sister, Girtha. They would pile into a buggy on a Friday night and go down to the Lucien schoolhouse for the meeting of the local "Literary Society".

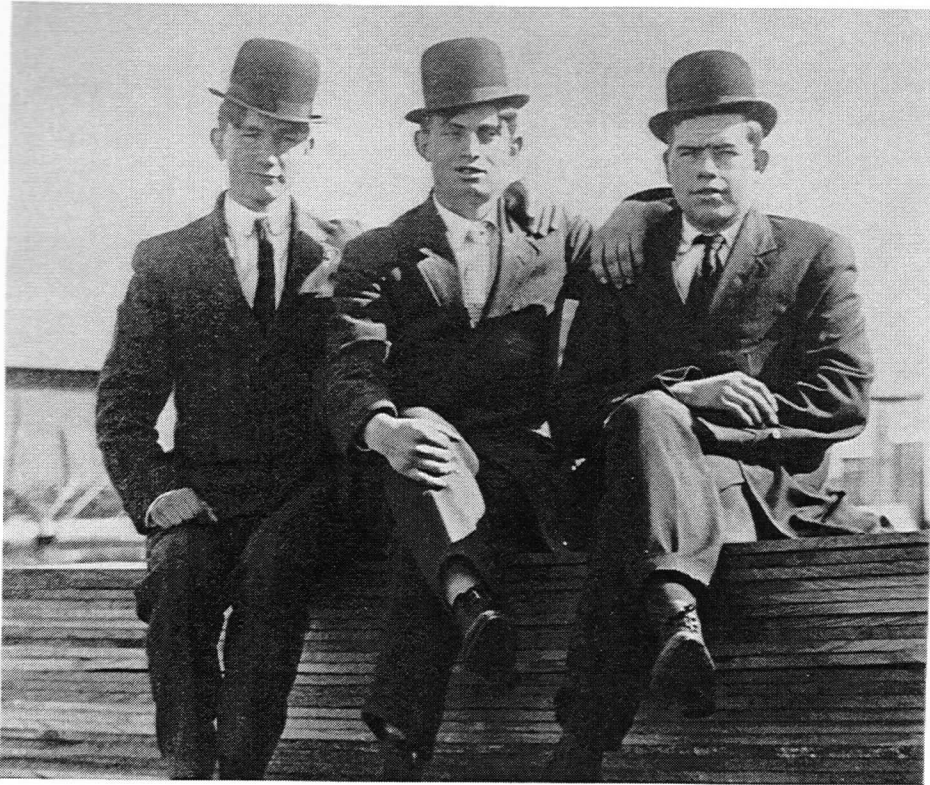
"...everybody would attend. The program was made up of local talent. The first part was usually some songs, recitations, a literary paper which I edited part of the time. The last part would be a debate on some prearranged subject by some of the older and more educated persons".

Louis' attention was not always 100% directed toward the solemn program or somber church service when he was with a girl. Once, he was whispering to his girlfriend of the time, Vessie Paul [an older girl who had actually been away to Central State Normal School in Edmond], during the Baptist church service. The girl's uncle was enraged, and humiliated Louis by complaining to Vessie's parents about Louis' and Vessie's misbehavior. Her parents put an end to the relationship then and there! Though he may have been more discreet in the future, Louis' mind was probably more on Girtha at those Literary Society meetings than on the learned debates.

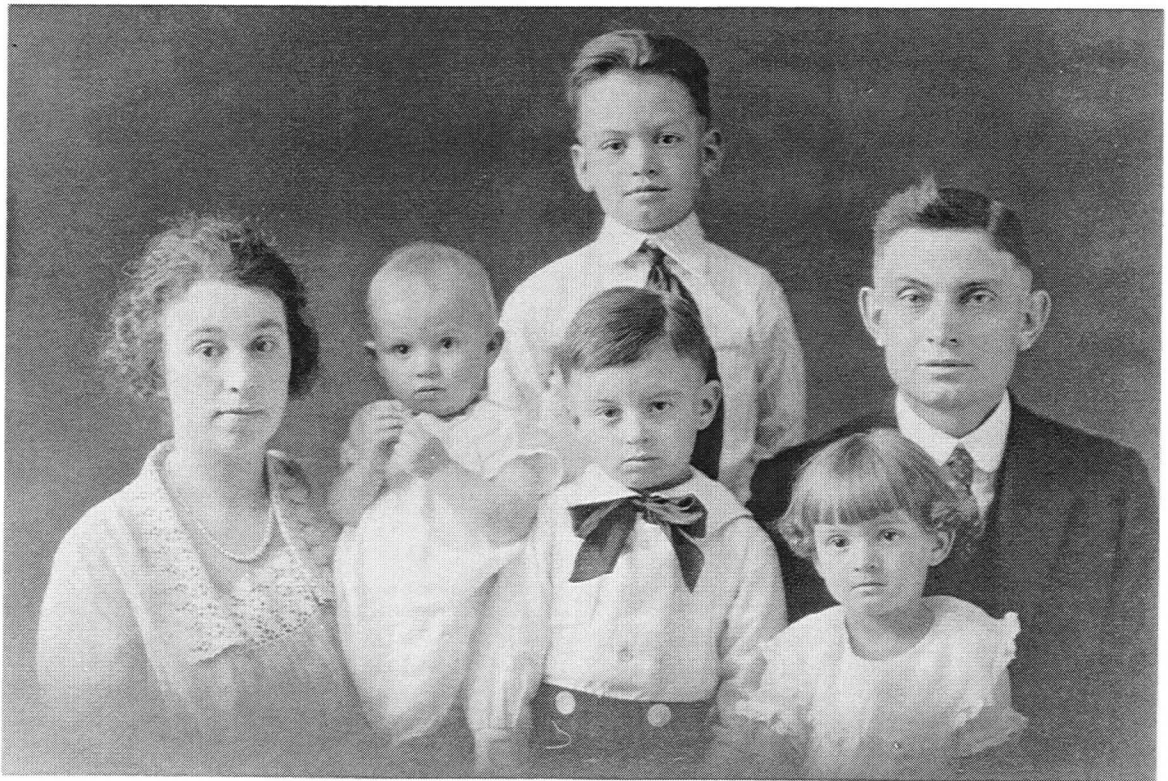
That Louis and Girtha were the educated elite of their little town was pretty evident. Girtha, like Vessie before her, had gone off to Central State Normal School in about 1909, and by 1911, she was finishing up her studies and writing postcards to her beau, Louis [*"...hey boy, how you was? Don't miss you too much (Ha, Ha!)"*]. Interesting too, was the fact that in both their families, for generation after generation, the boys had married the neighbor girl from the same ethnic group as themselves, and brought her to the family farm to start married life. The 20th century, along with increasing prosperity and mobility, brought new freedom of choice in the process of mate selection. Louis' family was 100% German and Swiss-German, and Girtha's was English and Scots. Just one generation earlier, such an intermarriage would have been as rare as a woman with an education! But that's what Girtha was, and now she was back in Lucien, teaching school.

MARRIED LIFE IN LUCIEN

Another key event was taking place about this time. Louis' parents, never able to really make it in Lucien [his father much preferred the carpentry trade to farming], decided to move on to Oregon, hoping for better opportunities. Louis was asked to join them, but in what he later described as "one of the hardest decisions I ever made", chose to stay in Lucien. Why this would have been such a difficult decision seems hard to understand. He was a very loyal, family-oriented person, but there in Lucien was the girl he loved, and his prospects seemed bright. Throughout his life, Louis was a cautious person who didn't take big risks. Prospects of a life in Oregon may have been irresistible to some other young man, but not to Louis. He stayed in Lucien.



Louis Plumer and
cronies at the
lumberyard in Lucien,
Oklahoma, about 1912



The Louis E. Plumer family, about 1921: L - R ; Girtha, Betty,
Harold (standing), Paul, Aleen, Louis.



Louis Plumer managed lumber yards in Lucien, OK from 1908 to 1917, through a succession of ownership changes. Here he is, seated at right, in front of the Fairview Lumber Yard about 1911.



L.E. Plumer was the banker, real estate sales agent and insurance broker in the tiny town of Lucien, OK, from 1917 through 1927. Here he stands, in front of his bank (the town's only stone building) with his sister-in-law, Maud Scrivner, who worked as his assistant for several years. Forty years old and the father of five, he moved the following year to Perry, where business was better and his kids could attend high school.

Louis determined that he and Girtha would need \$250 to set up housekeeping as a married couple, and he thought he had the necessary sum in hand by 1911. However, a bad business deal cost him his nest egg, so the couple was forced to postpone their marriage. [Finally, it was Girtha's savings from her job as Lucien schoolteacher that completed the nest egg]. After their marriage in September of 1912, Louis and Girtha used their combined savings of \$250 to set up housekeeping in a rented house in Lucien. Louis fixed up a livery rig, bought a horse for his wife to drive, and settled into married life.

"I bought a gentle mare from one of the Sams boys and fixed up a buggy with the aid of Mr. Correll, the blacksmith, who put new wheels on an old body and painted it up and made a nice outfit. In a year or two I acquired a motorcycle. Marion Barnes, my brother-in-law [married to Girtha's sister, Myrtle] was using one on his mail route, but it was not powerful enough to climb the hills with the mail so he bought a twin engine Harley Davidson. I bought his old one and sold our horse and buggy [Girtha was never fond of driving]. We made several trips together with our wives on the motor cycles. By 1915 automobiles were coming into general use, and I sold the motorcycle and Marion Barnes and I bought a used Ford auto from a Mr. Hayton of Billings".

By 1914, Louis had started a new business venture. With partner Jack Donahey, he bought the Lucien grain elevator. He kept the books, Jack ran the elevator, and in just one year, they paid off the purchase price out of profits! The Plumers lived in a succession of rented houses in Lucien, paying \$7.50 per month rent for the last one, before buying their first house from none other than... Marion Barnes! Marion, Louis' friend, brother-in-law and seemingly perpetual trading partner, was moving to a new job in Tulsa, taking Girtha's sister Myrtle with him to the "Big City".

Indeed, by 1917, with mounting family expenses due to the acquisition of two sons - Harold and Paul - and the purchase of a new 1916 Ford [\$400], his \$65 dollar per month salary at Antrim Lumber plus the small profit the elevator was now returning just didn't seem adequate. So Louis took a job in Tulsa, with the Public Service Company at \$95 per month, and Girtha started to pack in preparation for the move. But fate intervened once again. Before they could actually make the move to Tulsa, a vacancy came up at the Bank of Lucien. Louis was hired as cashier for "... \$100 per month plus what I could make on the side, writing insurance and clerking sales".

So it was that just as the U.S. entered the Great War, 28-year-old Louis E. Plumer entered the banking business. For the rest of his life, he would be proud of being a banker. Although Louis was now a banker living in town, his life still was but one step from the farm:

"Lucien had no electricity, water or sewer system. We used outdoor toilets and got our water from a well near the house. We would catch rainwater that came off the house into a barrel. This we used for washing as it was softer than the well water. We had a Jersey cow that furnished us all the milk we needed. I would raise about 100 chickens each year and would have plenty of fried chicken when they got big enough. I would also fatten a pig on the surplus milk and some grain. When winter came and the pig would weigh about 200 pounds, we would butcher it and have fresh pork for the winter."

By 1927, the Plumers had 5 kids [Harold, Paul, Aleen, Betty and Margaret]. Things were going all right, but Louis noticed something:

"In the fall of 1927 I noticed the business in Lucien was slipping as we now had paved roads to Perry and Enid. Our Saturday business was very slow. I would close the bank at four o'clock and drive to Perry. The town was full of people."

[Perry had perhaps four thousand residents vs Lucien's 100 or so, and outlying residents now found it easy to get into Perry by car]. [In addition] *the Lucien school taught two years of high school and we needed to get to a bigger town so the children could complete their high school education. I was acquainted with Jimmy Taylor, president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank in Perry. He needed another man so I made a deal with C. W. Burton, who owned the bank at Hayward, and he and Dr. Gaines bought the Lucien Bank and consolidated the Hayward Bank with the one in Lucien. In January, 1928, we moved to Perry, and I went into the Farmers & Merchants Bank as its vice-president".*

An so it was that Louis E. Plumer and family came to Perry, Oklahoma.

LIFE IN PERRY

With the 1927-28 school year in full swing, Harold and Paul decided to finish up their year in Lucien, so they moved onto the Scrivner family farm, now run by Aunt Maud, Girtha's younger sister, and her husband John Staples. Louis had purchased a house on a large lot at 711 10th St., Perry (corner of 10th and Holly), and while the house was being remodeled, the rest of the family moved into a rented home on Holly Street, next to their home-to-be. Whatever the difficulties of adjustment may have been, the indoor plumbing must have been a welcome development!

Perry, the County seat and major city of Noble County, was a "typical" midwestern town of the time...and quite a step up from little Lucien. Founded as a tent city amid a flurry of land speculation in 1893, Perry had been a rip-roarin' frontier town complete with saloons and gunfights until the arrival of the famous U. S. Marshall, Bill Tilghman, the man who had cleaned up Dodge City, Kansas. By 1928, just 35 years after its founding, Perry boasted a town square, a courthouse, a Carnegie Library, movie theaters, schools, churches, drugstore soda fountains and at least one bootlegger. The downtown brick buildings had an air of permanence, unlike the simple wood buildings of Lucien that Will Plumer had helped build. Foremost among these was the 1902 red brick edifice on the square... the First National Bank of Perry. Residential areas were laid out on a regular grid pattern, and just outside town was a truly wonderful amenity...the Perry Country Club! [Louis was able to join The Club through the generosity of friend and co-worker Harry DeLashmutt, who loaned him not only the requisite stock, but a set of golf clubs as well. So began his lifelong golfing hobby]. Few, if any, Indians lived in Perry (though many lived on nearby reservations or ranches), and like southern towns of the time, Perry strictly segregated its negroes, denying them access to whites-only public facilities and schools. Mexican laborers who worked for the railroads also lived in Perry, "on the other side of the tracks", and negroes had their own well-defined enclave.

For the Plumer family, Perry was a haven of opportunity. The kids could complete school through grade 12, participate in athletics and music programs, swim at the Country Club and still keep contact with their farm traditions. Louis could pursue his banking career and join civic groups, and Girtha could prepare her kids for a "better life" while making friends with more cultured people than she had known in Lucien. Things were really looking up!

THE FARMER'S and MERCHANT'S BANK

Louis joined the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank of Perry in January, 1928, as vice-president. In order to become a bank officer, it was necessary to be a partner in the business, the theory apparently being that a bank's owner would be more prudent with the bank's assets and deposits than a salaried employee might be. By extending the partner's liability to an amount limited to **twice** his investment, or so the theory went, depositors would gain some measure of protection since bank officers would be personally liable for the safety of the bank's deposits. Louis sold his interest in the Lucien bank to purchase his stock in the Perry Farmer's and Merchant's, where Jimmy Taylor, a "soft-hearted ol' boy" was the president.

With a bank vice-presidency came certain community obligations, and also certain privileges. For example, Louis was obligated to direct his family's personal business to local merchants, especially

those who banked with him...after all his clients *were* "farmers and merchants"...and local ones at that. It was vital to set an example by shopping locally, so that's what the Plumers did. Also, there must certainly have been a tremendous requirement for discretion on the part of a small-town banker. After all, he not only knew his clients personally, but knew all about their most sensitive personal matter...their finances. And some of the farmers, especially, were starting to experience trouble along about 1928, as drought and soil erosion started to take their toll on the prairie. Louis was naturally privy to personal information about his customers as well. Normally very tight-lipped, on one occasion he commented to his family about some townspeople's personal situation. Realizing what he had done, he addressed the family seated around the dining table. "Now then," he must have said while slowly looking around the table to each and every member of his family, "I want you all to know that what I just said doesn't leave this table!" His way of invoking moral authority was subtle but effective...he simply looked at you for a brief moment with clear determination, but without threat or anger...and you complied. This gift for interpersonal relations was what probably allowed him to do some of the less-pleasant duties of a banker (such as foreclosures) without making enemies. He was above all, a **trusted** man, and one who liked and cared about people, and could get their cooperation.

The agricultural depression which gripped Oklahoma in the 1920s was a precursor to this country's Great Depression of the 1930s. Wheat farming was at the heart of Perry's economy, and the farmers were having hard times, and after 1929, Louis was busy clerking many farm foreclosure sales. Jimmy Taylor, the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank president, was too accommodating of his customers' plight. He would accept items like pocket watches as collateral for a farmer's loan, hoping that "one good year" would set things straight. The good year never came. Taylor was not alone; banks across the country were having the same problem, and as their reserves dwindled, they became locked in a fiscal suicide pact with their customers.

"By 1932, business was bad with us as times kept getting harder and in Oct., 1932 the Banking Board thru the examiners closed the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank until we could get things in better shape... the State Banking Department allowed us to reopen... by getting the depositors to agree to accept about 70% of their deposits in full settlement... This was working out well until March of 1933 when Roosevelt closed all the banks... we did not have the [Federally - required] money to recapitalize so the bank went into liquidation."

Bank failures had become so pervasive by 1933, and confidence was so eroded in the system, that in the 8 days prior to Franklin Roosevelt's inauguration, a nationwide panic drained \$1.5 billion from the nation's banks. President Roosevelt closed *all* the nation's banks for a grand audit, dubbed the "bank holiday", two days after he was sworn in [March 6, 1933]. There was no federal insurance for deposits in those days, and depositors in many banks simply lost everything. Federal auditors swarmed over the banks, did a quick check, and pronounced some banks solvent, others not.

In fact, of the three banks in Perry, a town at the heart of one of the country's hardest-hit agricultural areas, two were in deep trouble. The First National Bank, for example, re-opened in Feb., 1934, nearly one full year after closing, with a complete re-organization, new management and stockholders. The Farmer's and Merchant's Bank, a smaller organization to begin with, was in even worse shape, due to the overextension of credit to customers by president Jimmy Taylor. To make matters worse, the Federal Bank Liquidator in charge of auditing the Farmer's and Merchants, one Mr. Baines, was "*...a politician of questionable reputation*", according to Louis. Baines allowed some people to settle their debt to The Bank for 10 cents on the dollar when they could have, in Louis' opinion, paid "*...75% or more*". To make matters worse, Louis suspected Baines of pilfering some of the bank's assets! Louis' resentment toward this mishandling of the bank liquidation was directed not only toward Mr. Baines, but to President Roosevelt and his Democratic administration.

Louis, from a Republican family, and believing himself that *"The Lord helps them that help themselves,"* was naturally upset about the situation, and spoke disparagingly of FDR and his "fiscal irresponsibility". But his controlled anger paled in comparison to that of Girtha, his wife. For the rest of her life, the mere mention of FDR would instantly ignite that flame behind her dark-brown eyes, she would squint just a bit, and without any words being spoken, you knew she had never forgiven "that man" in the White House.

Objectively viewed in the broadest sense, Franklin Roosevelt had done what had to be done. Public confidence in the nation's banks was gone, and some dramatic gesture was required to convince a frightened nation that it had "...nothing to fear but fear itself". However, the bungled handling of the Farmer's and Merchant's, coupled with the notion that, left to their own devices, the banks would have recovered, precipitated the Plumer's and others' indignation. And, to be fair, it must be said that one of the root causes for the Farmer's and Merchant's collapse was imprudent management, the blame for which lay mainly with Jimmy Taylor and his officers, including Louis Plumer. Banks in Perry at that time were operated very simply: *local* people deposited their money, and *local* farmers borrowed it to finance their crops. The banks were, in effect, *the* institution which enabled all those homesteaders to become self-sufficient farmers in the 20th century. As a banker, you had a personal relationship with each and every customer, and to turn a man down for a crop loan, which would evict him from the land he'd struggled to develop, and doom his family to the abject poverty of an "Okie", must have been an impossible task for many of Oklahoma's bank officers. It was much easier, though less prudent, to bet on "next year".

Jimmy Taylor and many other bankers soon found themselves out of work. Louis Plumer, with five kids at home and one in college, had to accept the humiliating role of managing the bank-in-liquidation for a salary of only \$50 per month, *exactly half of what he had been paid back in 1917 when he first became a banker*, and hardly enough to make ends meet in 1933! Besides the devastating psychological blow of being a 45-year-old man with a career in ruins and insufficient income to make ends meet, Louis faced bankruptcy. As a bank officer, he had not only lost his investment in the now-defunct institution, but was liable to the bank's creditors [mostly depositors] for perhaps thousands of dollars...an amount equal to his original investment in the Farmer's and Merchant's.

PLUMERS in the DEPRESSION

Times became really tough for the Plumers only after the bank closure. They had heard Louis lament the fate of farm families who lost their homes to foreclosure for several years before, but it never had really come home to them before 1933. Now, with Louis not earning enough to feed the family, they were surviving on credit extended by those local grocery stores they had long patronized. Also, Louis and Girtha were lucky to have two hard-working and enterprising teenage sons during the depression...Harold and Paul. Besides being stars of the Perry High School squad coached by Harold "Hump" Daniels [They both repeated 12th grade just so they could play football one more year], they held down part-time jobs from the time they moved to Perry. They had worked in the wheat fields in 1928 even before coming to Perry, and had tried trapping animals for profit [All they caught were skunks...not much profit there!]. During high school, Harold worked in a hardware store, and Paul at Watson's Drugstore soda fountain [\$7/week]. When the bank crisis hit in 1933, Harold was enrolled at Oklahoma A&M College, hoping to play football for the "Aggies", and had pledged a fraternity [ΣØE], the first of his family to attend an actual 4-year college. Louis told Harold he could continue school and somehow it would be paid for, but Harold, ever the realist, would have none of it. He dropped out of college and went to West Texas to work in the oil fields [Starting out as a "Roughneck" (drilling laborer), he was making more money in 1933 than his dad. Harold eventually worked his way up to vice-President of Noble Drilling Co. of Ft. Worth, TX, before retiring]. Paul saved his money from the drugstore job, and by 1935 was able to enter Hill's Business College in Oklahoma City. [After graduation, Paul was generous in helping his younger sisters afford college. On a salary of \$70 per month, he managed to loan Alcen \$150 and Betty \$100, enabling them to graduate].

By about 1936, with Louis now working again, things had improved enough to make family vacations possible. The whole family, less Harold and Paul, set off to Colorado by car in 1936, and to Oregon in 1937. Louis had budgeted the Oregon trip in advance, allowing for tire punctures [frequent... often repaired by tomboy Betty], gas, lodging, etc. He took the necessary cash he felt they needed, but on the return trip their battery failed and needed replacing. The only problem was that after buying the new battery they had just enough for gas to reach the home of Louis' brother, and not enough for food or lodging [no credit cards or out-of-town checks in those days]. They camped along the road one night, with no food, experiencing for one hard night what thousands of Americans were living on a regular basis... not an experience to be forgotten!

Both Louis and Girtha were loving, somewhat permissive, parents. Paul Plumer put it this way:

"[Dad] was a great father. He was no strict disciplinarian, however he kept enough of a reign on his boys to know what they were up to, and to guide them in the right direction.

Louis' parents had not prospered in Oregon, and he sent them a monthly stipend during the late 1930s. In 1937, he took his kids to Oregon...the one and only time they met their Plumer grandparents. The highlight of the trip, however, was the trip south to San Francisco, where they crossed the newly-completed Golden Gate Bridge into the famous city by the bay. The exotic Chinatown and Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park overwhelmed Betty for sure, and probably made quite an impression on Louis and Girtha, too. These two, who had emigrated by covered wagon to the just-settled Oklahoma Territory only 40 years or so earlier, and who had probably neither one seen the ocean before, now looked out on the Pacific together. They had weathered the worst that life was to throw their way. It must have been a happy moment.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

"Tomorrow's opening of the new First National Bank of Perry will mark the crowning of noble and untiring efforts...[of] the past eleven months by members of the stockholder's reorganization committee...

...to the average depositor of the closed institution, a year is a long time to wait...but with the announcement ... that eighty-five percent of the deposits of the bank would be available at the opening, and the remaining fifteen percent later, criticism is forgotten..."

... Perry Daily Journal, Jan 31, 1934

The newly-reorganized bank had 84 stockholders, with a board chaired by local lumber yard owner Harry Donaldson. The group's attorney, Paul W. Cress, called Louis into his office one day and offered him the position of cashier in the re-organized bank. There was just one catch: as before, all bank officers, including new president G.T. Weber, and vice-president Fred Mugler, as well as cashier L.E. Plumer would be required to purchase bank stock. Louis, unable to produce \$1800 cash for the required 15-share stock purchase, was forced to mortgage his home to the hilt in order to take the job. Now he was thousands of dollars in debt, but was at least earning some money [the princely sum of \$135 per month]... at least it was a start! He was a local man who had earned the respect of customers and the local farmers and business community, so having him in that red brick 1902 bank with the iron-bar teller's cages and brass spittoons [yes, they *were* used] probably helped restore confidence in the banking establishment.

The new president was G.T. Weber, a man with statewide banking experience who was brought in from Ada, OK, to launch the new bank. Weber was probably a good choice for the job. He had a hard-nosed, tobacco - chewing management style, ran a "one-man show", and would brook no insubordination. Within two years, under his leadership, the bank had repaid all its depositors, and

by 1942 its assets topped 1 million dollars for the first time since 1925. Weber's grave countenance peered down from his portrait on the wall of that old bank, reminding one and all who was in charge. The problem with the Weber regime was that it didn't move with the times. At the time of his retirement in 1957, the bank was still being run exactly as it had been in 1934, with antiquated accounting, and the daily cash ledger still being done in pen-and-ink. Weber kept all salaries low, including his own. He reckoned that this way he could justify paying employees less, and he would profit from the dividends paid on his stock [by 1957, he owned 36% of the bank's outstanding stock]. What he didn't realize was that everyone would have profited had he simply paid himself more and taken a lower dividend, since the bank would have paid lower taxes. [In 1957, the bank's income taxes were 50% of its net earnings!]

The work of actually running the day-to-day operations, reconciling the books each day, and trying to support staff morale fell to Louis Plumer. He was in absolutely no position to rock the boat, so his influence was probably limited. He ran the bank carefully. His daughter Aleen, working for him in the bank one summer, cashed a \$30 check for a local farmer who, unknown to her, hadn't the funds to cover it [\$30 probably represented the bank's typical yearly profit on a farm loan, and was not a sum it could absorb, with or without G.T. Weber at the helm]. Louis simply "took a trip out to see the ol' boy" and returned with the bank's \$30.

Throughout those years, the bank would open to the public a 9 AM and close at 3 PM. Then, the real work of the day would start. The tellers would reconcile their cash accounts, and workers in the basement would swelter away trying to get everything to come out even. They worked until it did. Louis would often have to call home to say he wouldn't be home on time...every nickel had to be accounted for! (One summer, Betty was working in the roach-infested basement filing checks. Failing to realize the significance of some financial instrument called a "Cream draft", she failed to include it in the daily total. Because of her error, the bank staff had to work well into the evening. She didn't know which was worse, the humiliation of it all, or missing out on a timely dinner!) Every teller's drawer had a burglar alarm activated by pulling the bottom bill from the stack, which was stapled to the drawer's bottom. When the staple was pulled out, an electrically-activated silent alarm sounded, and help was supposed to follow. This was still the era of desperate Oklahoma bank robbers, but the First National never had the bad luck to be robbed by armed bandits. However, starting in 1949 and continuing undetected for nearly 10 years, a trusted employee of the bank embezzled money on a regular basis. Besides the employee's dishonesty, the bank had its old-fashioned accounting methods and trust in people to blame. No daily audit trail to an original transaction was available, so the embezzlement went undetected until the employee missed work for some reason. He was from an old-line Oklahoma family, which repaid every cent of the bank's losses, and the man was not prosecuted.

Louis would come home at noon for the big meal of the day, and after the bank closed and the evening meal was finished, the family might gather out on the front porch where it was cool. Louis would often sit of an evening, reading his paper while listening to the radio...a Zenith console model with flywheel tuning and short-wave band. Quite often, he'd play a round of golf at the country club. Life was settling in to a predictable pattern, one that he clearly enjoyed.

When G.T. Weber retired in 1957 for health reasons, he had hired 32-year-old Carl Hamm to take over the bank. Hamm was a young man who wanted to make changes, and to run **his** own show. Technically, he could have done it in 1957, but it would have been customer-relations suicide to do so. The bank had just moved to its new, modern home diagonally opposite its old location on the town square. The public wanted the new, but was unwilling to relinquish the old too quickly. Louis Plumer was 70 years old at the time G.T. Weber retired in 1957. Naturally, he was asked to step up to the presidency of the bank. He planned to work another 3 years before retiring [he ended up working 11 more years], and it might have been a fitting end to his career to accept the presidency. He decided not to take the title of president while Carl Hamm actually ran the bank. To him, being president meant accepting full responsibility for the bank, something that his past



NOBLE COUNTY BANK, Perry, Oklahoma. Built in 1902 from the design of Belgian architect Joseph Foucart, this building housed the resurrected **First National Bank of Perry, Oklahoma** from 1934 until 1957. These years were the peak of Louis Plumer's career as the bank's cashier.



Banknote issued in the 1930s by the First National Bank of Perry, Oklahoma. It bears the signature of L.E. Plumer, the bank's cashier.

experiences and advancing age just wouldn't let him do. He continued to do what he liked best... make loans to Noble county's wheat farmers, all of whom knew Louis Plumer, and many of whom would do business with no one else. From 1966 through 1975, he served as board chairman. Even after his official retirement in 1968, he kept an office at the bank, and did so until his death in 1975 at age 88.

THE LAST YEARS

Louis' beloved wife, Girtha, died of cancer in 1964. He missed her deeply, but knew that prolonged grief would do him no good. He was a healthy and vigorous 77 when she died, and intended to live a bit longer, and to enjoy life. With time on his hands, he started writing his memoirs, and took a trip to California. But he was even then, like the Louis Plumer of 1912, thinking of marriage.

Lucile Warner Hirschman, a local widow 13 years his junior, became the second Mrs. Plumer in December of 1965, just over one year after Girtha's death. She was a good wife and companion for the last decade of his life. The marriage was good for both of them. Lucile was well accepted by most members of the family, but not every Perry resident found it easy to accept her as "Miz Plumer" after years of knowing Girtha.

Louis continued to golf, go to his office at the bank, and travel and enjoy life with Lucile into the 1970s. His longtime association with the Lion's Club even took him and the second Mrs. Plumer to a Las Vegas convention! He and Lucile toured eastern Canada by train in 1969, and in 1972, at age 84, he attended a bank director's convention in Palm Springs, California.

A 1974 *Perry Daily Journal* article was headlined:

FRIDAY IS BIRTHDAY L.E. Plumer Turns 87; Maintains Active Life

L.E. Plumer, one of the area's best known residents, will turn 87 Friday. He has retained vigorous health and maintains a schedule of interest and activity in community affairs and his golf, which he plays regularly....

Plumer's civic interests have always remained at a high level. He is a member of the First United Methodist church where he still serves as treasurer. He is a Mason and has a 50 year pin.

He is past president of the Perry Chamber of Commerce; has been a member of the Lion's Club since 1943; is active in the Perry Golf and Country Club and served for 25 years as Noble county U.S. bond chairman, including the World War II era...

In observance of his birthday, the staff of the First National plan to honor Plumer with a coffee and cake session before the bank opens Friday morning.

Louis Plumer died the following year, at age 88. He had truly led an "Active Life". He fathered 6 children who produced 14 grandchildren and over 30 great-grandchildren. He was proud of his life, and wanted to be remembered by them all. *We hope he will be.*



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CHAPTER 2



.... Girtha Ellen Scrivner Plumer

Girtha Ellen Scrivner Plumer

1891 - 1964



At 21 years



At 58 years



C.B. Scrivner brought his family to Lucien, OK, in 1900, where he built this successful wheat farm on mixed-grass prairie northeast of town. Girtha Scrivner grew up on this farm and continued to visit it frequently after her marriage, as did her kids, especially Harold and Paul. Nothing remains of the Scrivner Farm today.



Girtha Scrivner [back row, center, barely taller than the students], taught at the Lucien School in 1911-12. A former student in this same school, she attended Central State Teacher's College in Edmond, OK, where she obtained her teacher's certificate. She saved most of her salary, which formed a large part of the \$250 she and Louis Plumer used to start their married life. She raised 6 children of her own, and never returned to teaching.

GIRTHA SCRIVNER PLUMER

“Miz Plumer was one of the sweetest, kindest, gentlest ladies I ever met,” recalled one Perry, Oklahoma resident. True enough, but she also *“... had those black eyes that would burn a hole right through you,”* as remembered by her son-in-law, Bob Van Tuyl. *“That’s right,”* agreed her daughters Betty and Aleen, *“Whenever us kids were out somewhere and acting up, she’d give us the ‘evil eye’, and we’d straighten right up! (Of course, she never did anything about it, but that look said a thousand words...it was all she needed).”* Her son Paul Plumer summed up his mother this way: *“She was a fine mother and human being... She had many friends, and above all, she believed in her children”.*

Girtha Plumer was at once a shy “ladylike” person, permissive and supportive parent, and fiercely opinionated and determined lady. She could be sternly disapproving, as when her daughter Betty would bring home stray animals and need a flea bath before she could enter the house, or outrageously silly, as when she would drop all ladylike pretense, return to her childhood persona, and yell “Guy in the nude! Guy in the nude!” at her just-bathed grandkids. She had the soul of an artist [she became a quite good painter in her later years], coupled with the hard-working nature of a 19th-century farm wife [she did laundry every Monday on a washboard], and the fiercely expressed opinions [hated FDR] of a woman who, for her day, was fairly well educated [she had been, briefly, a schoolteacher]. She was embarrassed by, and distanced herself from, her Pentecostal-converted relatives, yet she deeply loved, admired and respected her parents, Charles and Mary Scrivner, for it was they who took her as a girl of nine into Indian country, and it was they who kept her from harm.

PIONEER GIRL

In 1900, when C.B. Scrivner sold his farm near Russellville, MO to make the move to the recently-settled Cherokee Strip, Oklahoma was not yet a state of the nation, and rumors of its wildness had traveled the land. “Don’t go down there, son, them Indians will scalp you for sure, and I’ll never see you again!” said his dad. This worried little Girtha. It worried her a lot. And with possibly good reason! When the family’s covered wagon encountered Indians after several weeks of travel, they were friendly, not savage... but too friendly for Girtha’s liking. She was a dark-skinned, dark-eyed girl, and with her bonnet on, she might have been mistaken for an Indian, or so she feared. She told the story of a group of Indians, wondering if she were a purloined Indian child [or maybe they were just curious] looking her over closely, while her heart was pounding in fear. All was well when she finally removed her bonnet..her hair, though black as an Indian’s, was, fortunately for her, curly like no Indian’s has ever been. The settlers went in peace, with their daughter still in tow!

YOUNG WOMANHOOD

The eldest daughter in a family of five kids, Girtha grew to young womanhood living on her family’s farm near Lucien, Oklahoma. Her father, Charles Bryan Scrivner, was a no-nonsense, hard-driving farmer who was also a carpenter when he could get work. Her mother, Mary Cole Scrivner, was a warm and loving person...the quintessential biscuit-baking, chicken-frying farm wife of the period. Girtha was probably the smartest kid in her little Lucien schoolhouse. She finished 8th grade, and by the time she was eighteen or so, she had gone off, as had her sister, to the Central State Normal School [teacher training college] in Edmond, OK. This academy was too daunting for her sister Myrtle and future sister-in-law Tillie Brown, but Girtha’s fierce determination saw her through. She finished up, took the exam, and came back home to teach school in Lucien, Oklahoma.

Girtha’s brother, Martin, was a good friend of Louis Plumer’s, so Girtha and Louis, Martin and Tillie Brown, and Myrtle and her date would often go out together socially in Lucien. Their courtship lasted through the 2 years Girtha was away in Edmond, and resumed in earnest upon her return to Lucien as a schoolteacher, about 1911. She taught school for a year or so, and by the time she and Louis had saved \$250 between them, they were able to marry and move to their own (rented) home.

MARRIED LIFE IN LUCIEN

"At the beautiful country house of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Scrivner, occurred the wedding of their oldest daughter, Miss Girtha, to Mr. Louis E. Plumer, Wednesday evening at five o'clock. [18 Sept., 1912]

These young people have grown to manhood and womanhood in the vicinity of Lucien, where Mr. Plumer for several years has been engaged in the lumber business and Miss Scrivner has been employed the past two years as a teacher in the Lucien schools. Mr. Plumer has indeed won a jewel - one of Oklahoma's fairest and best - one who will make a happy home for the man of her choice.

Mrs. Plumer has displayed equally good judgment in her choice of a life partner."

---*Newspaper Announcement, 1912*

Certainly, Girtha and Louis did make a good pair. They were both fun-loving, hard-working, and ambitious for a new and better life together in this 20th century. The young marrieds would initially travel about in their horse-and-buggy, but by a year or so into their marriage, they were to be seen riding out together on Louis' motorcycle...a modern couple, indeed!

Their marriage was like so many, in which the dreams, desires and ambitions of the wife have a determining effect on the family's success. Girtha wanted children, and she wanted those kids to have and to be the best. In this she was determined!

Life in Lucien must have seemed pretty good to young Girtha, who became a mother in March of 1914, at age 22. Her husband Louis was doing well in his lumber business, her parents lived just a short distance away, on their farm, and she had a nice house on the outskirts of Lucien, and friends in the general area. By 1916, the family had bought a house in Lucien, owned a 1916 Ford, had two sons, and according to Louis, "...we were very happy. Girtha would take the two boys and drive out to the farm where her parents lived and spend the day with Grandpa and Grandma Scrivner". Although they lived in town, many elements of life in Lucien at that time were very farm-like. The streets were dirt, there was no running water or indoor plumbing, and no electricity. Girtha would put on a pot of beans every Monday, and spend all day washing and drying the family's clothes. Ironing had to be done another day. Every day, the Jersey cow had to be milked, butter churned, bread baked, meals prepared, chickens fed, eggs gathered. Each year, 100 chickens had to be killed, prepared, and cooked! But at least she didn't have to feed a threshing crew like her mother did during wheat harvest.

To put life in 1910s and 20s Lucien into perspective:

Louis Plumer: "*Lucien had no electricity, water or sewer system. We used outdoor toilets and got our water from a well near the house [hand pumped]*".

Paul Plumer: "*We had no indoor plumbing; we all got a bath every Saturday night in a number two washtub. We would catch rainwater that came off the house into a barrel. This we would use for washing as it was softer than well water*".

Paul Plumer: "*Monday was always a washday, Mother washin' on a washboard until sometime before we left that town and she got her a washing machine which did nothing but wash the clothes...she had to wring 'em by hand*".

Aleen Plumer: "*I remember Daddy helping us put on our long handles in the morning, by the old pot-bellied stove*".

Betty Plumer: "*We had a glassed-in sun porch across the back of the house. We took our washtub baths in a "bathroom" in the house, where water was available from a hand pump. I once set the bathroom curtains on fire with a candle.*"

Louis Plumer: "*We had a Jersey cow that furnished us all the milk we needed. I would raise about 100 chickens each year and [we] would have plenty of fried chicken when they got big enough. I would also fatten a pig on the surplus milk and some grain. When winter came and the pig would weigh about 200 pounds, we would butcher it and have fresh pork during the winter*".

The family had grown to seven members by the time of Margaret's birth in 1924. Girtha's younger sister, Maud, moved in with the Plumers, worked for Louis at the Bank of Lucien, and helped Girtha with the chores. This gave her the respite needed to spend time with her girls, whom she taught to read before they entered school. She was determined that they would go to college (not a common or well-received notion in those days).

YOUNG MOTHER

Girtha was an indulgent mother, to say the least. No one ever remembers being spanked, or otherwise disciplined by her, even though they deserved it. The kids would come home to find the fresh-baked bread sitting there, ripe for the picking. They would plunge an arm deep into the loaf, pulling out the warm center, and devour it... all without a word of reproach from Mother. It's not that she didn't show disapproval. She was famous for her "evil eye" look when a kid stepped out of line in public, but at home, it was pretty much do-as-you-please for the children of Girtha Plumer. She was such an indulgent mother, that she could never bring herself to wean her oldest, Harold. The little guy was old enough, or so it's claimed, to hop up on his mother's lap, make an "open up" motion, and demand "dinner". [She finally solved this problem in the old wife's way... she smeared burnt cork on her breasts to show Harold they were just no good anymore, thus relieving herself of the unpleasant task of saying "no"!] However, she drew the line when it came to school. If one of the boys came running home from school [it was just next door], Girtha took him back in an instant. Education was too important.

Girtha was not highly educated herself, though she had taught school for a time. She loved to learn, though, and dreamed of travel and the wider world. Her ideas were progressive for her time and place. She was not, for example, a strict religionist. She switched from being a Baptist to the more liberal Methodist Church, and when her brothers Martin and Basil became Pentecostal Church members ["Holy Rollers" who "talked in tongues"], she was horrified. When daughter Betty visited these aunts and uncles, and was proselytized by them, her mother understood, and Betty didn't have to return. These old-fashioned religious ways had no place in the world of Mrs. Louis Plumer! Realize that Girtha Scrivner had been born in a very backward rural community in 19th century Missouri. It was now the 1920s, and the world was on the move. Women were voting. People were getting educated. Families were coming off the farms to fill all sorts of important niches in society, and Girtha wanted *her* kids to be in the forefront of that new world. The old country ways, religious or not, simply had no place in her plans.

THE MOVE TO PERRY

In 1928, the Plumer family moved to Perry, where Louis took up his position as vice-president of the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank. This move must have been exactly what Girtha would have wanted. A fully-mature mother of 36, she must have craved the broader horizons offered by the churches, women's clubs and other activities available in Perry, a town of about 4000. Attending the beautiful red-brick Methodist Church on Sunday must have by itself seemed wonderful. And for the kids...a real high school with sports, music and academic subjects taught by specialized teachers. With the death of her father at about the same time, Girtha must have finally felt the bonds of farm life slipping away at last, and the doors of opportunity opening wide.

But Perry seemed like the small town it was to Girtha's sister Myrtle and her daughters. They lived in **Tulsa** after all, and looked down their noses at Perry. The Tulsa girls liked to discuss fashionable clothes and such with their Perry cousins, all of whose clothes were made by their hard-working and talented mother - Girtha. [In fact, it is said that had she had the training, Girtha may have become a very good clothing designer. She loved nice clothes and had a wonderful sense of color...as later evidenced in her oil paintings. She would discuss clothes for hours with her sister, Myrtle, and spend even more hours sewing up special creations for her daughters to wear... sometimes working late into the night. Her most interesting creation, however, was a special cap she sewed up for the kids. They had to wear these caps at night to train their ears not to stick out!]

For the Plumers, Perry was probably a better home than Tulsa would have been. Louis could

become a leading citizen, Girtha could have ample opportunities for self-development [time permitting], and each of the kids could find activities in which to excel. The family had a comfortable, if hard-working life, good social position, and excellent prospects. This was small-town America at its best, and Girtha must have been very happy, indeed.

With Aleen and Betty now old enough to help with the Monday washing, Tuesday ironing, and Saturday housecleaning, and with groceries delivered to order daily from Huffman's store, all Girtha had to do was provide 3 meals a day, tend the garden and chickens, and keep some semblance of order at 711 10th St. She endured, and perhaps enjoyed, the laughing, tattling, singing and arguing around the family table, with the boys (Harold and Paul) teasing their younger sisters unmercifully. On a summer's evening, with the crickets and lightning bugs alive in the stifling heat, she would sweat over the dishes with one or more helpers, then retire to the porch for a little cool air. On nights like this, the kids might sleep out on the lawn or on the porch, and the stories Louis was telling about this or that unfortunate farmer losing his place to hard times, and the talk of bread lines and "Hoovervilles" in the big cities must have seemed to Girtha like the least important things in the world. Like her husband, she was a staunch Republican who believed the Lord would help those who helped themselves, and the Lord was being most kind at the moment to the Plumers of Perry.

THE BANK COLLAPSE

They say that, in many ways, Girtha's world collapsed with the fall of the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank. The joy and high spirits went right out of her as she saw her world slipping away. Harold had to quit college. With only \$50/mo coming in during 1933, the family survived on credit extended by the grocery stores and other merchants. The kids got small-time jobs, and Harold went to work in the oil field in the meanest, lowest status job imaginable...roughneck. With her eyes on fire, sweat dripping down her face over the dish sink, Girtha would fume about bank president Jimmy Taylor, whom she blamed for the bank's insolvency. And as for President Franklin Roosevelt...well, he, the one who actually closed the bank...he was "*one step above the devil*", if that high, in Girtha's opinion!

The fear of being blamed for the bank's collapse, or being shunned by small-town Perry's citizens...the ultimate humiliation... must certainly have plagued Girtha. But the worst horror was that Louis, with no other prospects before him in 1933, was actually talking of *returning to farming!* Girtha would simply have none of that, as she let Louis know in no uncertain terms! Well, the feared humiliation never really came. Everyone in Perry, from the poor farmers to the merchants to the business community, was in the same boat. They pulled together as much as possible, and tried to make the best of a very bad situation. But for Girtha, with her eyes on college for her kids, the thought of Harold sweating away in that oilfield must have brought unendurable pain each and every day.

Of all her children, none shared the college dream with Girtha so much as Aleen. And like Girtha, Aleen was not inclined to let a small item like lack of money stand in her way. By 1935, with both Harold and Paul away from home, and Aleen graduating from Perry High School, Louis was working at the First National Bank, but money was still tight. Aleen desperately wanted to go to college. In fact she "moped and carried on" so, and was supported by her mother to such a degree, that there was really no question of how this would turn out. Some high school teacher of Aleen's knew a Mr. Petrie of Enid, who was working in Perry. Girtha pressed, and Louis worked out a deal with Mr. Petrie whereby he would stay with the Plumers in Perry and Aleen would stay with Mr. Petrie's family in Enid during the week, while attending Phillips University there. With Aleen's earnings from her job at the bank, plus the free room and board, things just barely worked out. With encouragement and advice from the Harry Donaldson family of Perry, Aleen transferred to Oklahoma A&M her second year, where she enjoyed great success, becoming a sorority president in her senior year.



The Charles B. Scrivner Family, about 1910-11: Standing, L - R; Girtha, Basil, Myrtle, Martin; seated, L - R; Mary Cole Scrivner, Charles B. Scrivner, Maud.



Four generations of **Girtha's family** (about 1933): young kids, L - R; Margaret Plumer, Herbie Staples, Charles Plumer; L - R; Harold Plumer, John Staples, Aleen Plumer, Maud Scrivner Staples, Paul Plumer, Basil Scrivner, Betty Plumer, Girtha Scrivner Plumer, Louis Plumer, Rutha Rachel Proctor Cole, Mary Cole Scrivner

Girtha's and Aleen's single-minded determination had opened the door for all the remaining Plumer kids to attend college, which they did. Probably, things would have worked out just fine for the Plumer kids had they not attended college [all but Harold and Paul attended Oklahoma A&M, and after all, they led happy and successful lives]. But this was the beginning of the era in America where a college degree was the ticket to a better life, not so much for the content of the college studies, but for the attitude it imparted to the collegian. College also had a lot to do with whom you married (often you met your mate at college), and for both the young men and young women, this was certainly important. For Girtha Plumer, who could not have told you WHY she felt so strongly about college for her kids, it was sufficient that they were able to get their piece of her American Dream, Depression or no Depression.

RECOVERY

In the years after 1934, life returned to some semblance of normality for the Plumers. Money was tight, but available. All the kids were doing well in their jobs, college, or high school. Girtha and Louis could settle down by the old Zenith radio console on a Sunday night to listen to Jack Benny, and share a laugh or two, though it's said that Girtha's fun-loving spirit never really recovered from the humiliation of the bank closure.

But events were moving fast in the world during the late 1930s:

Oklahoma City Times

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 1939

LONDON Vote of censure against British government is asked in commons as result of Prime Minister Chamberlain's recognition of Franco's regime in Spain...

SPAIN The Spanish sauce pot bubbles furiously...[as] Insurgent General Franco prepare[s] 500,000 troops to attack anew unless the loyalist regime surrenders.

JERUSALEM British troops and planes kill 16 in North Palestine attempting to suppress Arab-Jew terrorism...

WARSAW Police disperse students to prevent new demonstrations against Germany as representatives of Poland and Germany meet in Berlin in attempt to solve minority [Jewish] problems.

STILLWATER Aleen Plumer, winsome brunet senior commerce student from Perry, was selected as First Lady of Commerce at Oklahoma A. and M. college."

THE POST - DEPRESSION YEARS

While the Plumers, along with millions of Americans, tried to lead normal lives, the world was rushing headlong into World War II, and the future of small - town America, as exemplified by Perry, Oklahoma, would be forever changed as a result. Consider Girtha's situation in the early 1940s, 50 years old with a largely empty nest: Harold off producing oil for the war, Paul god-knows-where in the Pacific with the Navy, Aleen's husband living a wartime nightmare in Southeast Asia while Aleen taught military women business skills in Stillwater, Betty off in California with her aircraft-worker husband, and Margaret working in the California aircraft factories as well. Only Charles was left at home to bridge the gap between the family life she'd known and her uncertain future. But Girtha did manage to visit her children and new grandchildren during this period, travelling as far as California during the war to do so.

By the end of WWII, just as Charles headed off to college, the first crop of Plumer grandchildren started making their pilgrimages to Perry. Sally and Jody were probably among the first to come to Girtha's house for a prolonged visit, followed by Rory, then Benny, Stevie, and Billy not long after. During the 1948-49 school year, Betty, Rory and Steve Van Tuyl lived with the Plumers at 711 10th St. while their dad was temporarily working in Ft. Worth. A favorite activity of many of the

visiting grandkids was turning grandma's pantry into a "Store". A kitchen bench would be placed across the pantry doorway, and various canned goods offered for sale to everyone who passed through the kitchen, including grandma [Payment was in "mils", an Oklahoma coinage of the time, used for paying sales tax]. Girtha's patience with her grandkids was as enduring as it had been with her own children... one of the things that made visiting her home such a joy for a small child.

THE 1950s

In the 1950s, with only Louis at home, Girtha's life started taking new directions. At long last, she had more time for her many activities, including church groups, the garden club, and bridge. She had many friends in Perry, and developed a well-deserved reputation for her sweet, ladylike persona. Now in her 60s, she could look on her life with some degree of satisfaction.

Girtha Plumer had always had an artistic bent, and she undertook to develop it during the last 15 years of her life. In the late 1940s or early 1950s, she took up oil painting as a very serious hobby. She took classes, and characteristically, she toiled for hours over her work. Through those years, as her technique improved, she developed quite a nice style for landscape painting. Many of her works are held by her children, and they show a subtle eye for color and shading. One wonders how good she might have been had she had a lifetime to pursue her art?

One event that apparently pleased Girtha was the 1957 retirement of Louis' longtime boss, G.T. Weber, from the First National Bank of Perry. Girtha went out of her way to show support for young Mr. Carl Hamm, the heir-apparent to the bank's presidency. She is remembered with great fondness by Mr. Hamm.

Throughout the 1950s, the number of Plumer grandchildren steadily increased until it reached the grand total of 14 in 1957, with the birth of Michael Louis Plumer [the only male grandson to bear the Plumer name]. Girtha was able to enjoy frequent visits from her nearby grandkids, Pam and Mike Plumer, but less-frequent visits from those farther away, especially those living on the west coast. Nonetheless, she held her grandkids close to her heart, entertaining frequent summertime visits from the California contingent. A revealing anecdote: In 1960, Girtha and Louis visited Oregon and California by train, to visit Margaret's and Betty's families. At the time, her oldest grandson, Rory, was at college in Berkeley. Since the north-south train ran through Berkeley, Girtha scheduled a one-night layover to see him. But the train was late, arriving after 10 PM. For fear of disturbing her grandson, Girtha did not call that night, but waited until the morning, just before the train was to depart! It was a typical gesture, her putting the needs of her children and grandchildren above her own...the legacy of a lifetime of mothering.

HER LAST YEARS

By 1960, Girtha's health started to decline. At first it was subtle, but by 1962 she was clearly gravely ill. Yet no doctor or clinic in Oklahoma, Kansas, or Texas [many were visited] could make a diagnosis. Finally, in November, 1963, exploratory surgery revealed the sad truth: ovarian cancer which had spread throughout her organs. There was no hope. She was hospitalized for the final time in 1964, dying on the 15th of August in Perry, where she was buried.

Girtha Scrivner was one of those key people who crop up in the history of a family. She was born into rural poverty in a world of ignorant and superstitious country folk. She travelled by covered wagon to a frightening and physically hostile land, the Indian Territory. She did what was expected of a farm girl of the time, but she hated the backwardness of farm life, and took every opportunity to acquire a cultural background which could elevate her status in life. She learned to play piano, to read and write, and to make attractive clothes for herself. A gifted student, she obtained a teaching credential before the age of twenty. Though no great beauty, she was vivacious and extremely feminine, enough so to snag the most eligible bachelor around, the ambitious, up-and-coming Louis Plumer. She was unrelenting in her pursuit of a still "better" life for her own children, probably unaware that the life she had created for them was perhaps the best any child could ever expect.

She endured the horrors of financial ruin during the Great Depression, but fought back as best she could, with ultimate success. She had a warm personal magnetism that welcomed her children and grandchildren into her home in later years. She was the center of her family's affections and attentions for many years, even after her death, and is fondly and affectionately remembered by all her children and grandchildren.

The world of the American Family has changed dramatically since Girtha Plumer's day. She lived to see her own children dispersed throughout the country in a way completely unthinkable in the world into which she was born... a world where you married the boy or girl next door and took up farming on or near your parents' place. But she was the unwitting bridge between those two worlds for her own family, and we can only hope that future generations will come to understand her role in giving them a running start in the modern world.



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CHAPTER 3



...Plumer Family Stories

PLUMER FAMILY STORIES

BANK ROBBERS SPEED THROUGH LUCIEN

The Kimes brothers ...K..I..M..E..S..[rhymes with "Times"] well-known Oklahoma outlaws, robbed a bank in Covington, a small town about 5 miles west of Lucien. Harold, (my brother) and I were on the main street when we saw the dust boiling from a speeding car coming from the west, then roared through town in an open touring car at full speed.

Some 5 minutes later, here come the self-appointed posse, 5 men riding in the bank president's open-air Buick or Cadillac. Each had a shotgun and a rifle pointed skyward. They slowed, and we pointed the way the Kimes boys went. They never caught the Kimes boys that time, but they were later apprehended and jailed.

For a lad of 10 years old, this was real excitement!

.....Paul Plumer

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

Things were not always as orderly and serene at the Plumer household as Girtha Plumer would have wished. But usually, nothing much bothered her. Not when the kids jumped from the dining table to the stairs. Not when they came charging in on baking day, drove their hands deep into the freshly-baked bread, tore out the center part and devoured it on the spot. Pretty much, she let it all roll on by...

As serious and intent as she could be, Girtha also had a silly streak a mile wide. "*Guy in the nude, guy in the nude*" she'd holler as her young grandson appeared wrapped in a bath towel, "*that's what we always said as kids...Guy in the nude, guy in the nude!*"

One evening when Betty was in high school, Girtha got hers. She was sitting around on the couch in her nightgown, ready to go to bed, but just relaxing for a moment or two before turning in. Suddenly, the clamor of a bunch of teenagers was heard on the porch, and before she knew what was happening, in they were coming, a bunch of teenage kids to see Betty. In a moment of panic, she dove behind the couch, got down on all fours and cowered as the kids poured into the living room. Some of the kids flopped down on the couch, some on chairs, and Betty, if she bothered to think about it at all, must have assumed her mom was in bed.

Girtha eyed the bedroom door, so near yet so far from her hiding place behind the couch. When the kids were busily occupied with one another, she decided to chance it! Slowly and cautiously, she crept on all fours toward the bedroom door in her nightgown. She almost made it, too, before Bruce Wilson spied this creature on the floor, did a double take and said, quite logically;

"Miz Plumer, what're you doing down there?"

...Betty Plumer Van Tuyl

TONSILS

As surgery became practical during the first part of the 20th century, it seemed that every doctor became a surgeon, and every surgeon practiced the art of tonsillectomy...as though God had somehow made a mistake when He installed these troublesome appendages in the throat of Man. So it was that Girtha and Louis Plumer, dutiful parents in the tiny rural town of Lucien, Oklahoma in the early 1920s, loaded their brood of four kids into the family Nash touring car, and drove them over washboard country roads all the way to Guthrie one day, to have their tonsils out. Harold, her oldest son remembered:

"They took the youngest first, with me last. Hell, I hadn't even come to when they loaded me in the back seat of that old Nash for the ride back to Lucien!"

Maybe the trauma of that day in Guthrie was what caused Girtha to procrastinate about having her younger kids' tonsils removed. By the time Charles and Margaret were ready for the knife, the family had moved to Perry, the surgical domain of Ol' Doc Coldiron.

Now, D. F. Coldiron [1877 - 1961] was a Perry institution dating back to the early days of the century. Today, you can inspect the tools of this Noble County pioneer's profession on display at the Cherokee Strip Museum. For years, Coldiron was the town doctor, and as you inspect those antique instruments of his, you are transported back in time, to when Perry was young, and doctors killed more people than they cured.

Ol' Doc Coldiron delivered Charles Plumer in 1928, but by the time the late 1930s rolled around, his practice wasn't what it used to be, and he increasingly concentrated on that "simple" procedure... the tonsillectomy. He would have the schoolteachers announce "Tonsil Day"... a day when one and all were invited to come on over to the office and have 'em out! He had such a flourishing tonsil mill going that, to hear Charles tell it, "...you just went on over there took a number, and sat right on his front porch. Pretty soon you'd go in and Ol' Coldiron would cut 'em right out for you." In fact, that's exactly what Charles and some friends did one day...had their tonsils out for fun! Girtha Plumer, it seems, had never gotten around to letting the old surgeon put Charlie under the knife. She was probably kicking herself for not having done so, as she stood there listening to him complain one day about his sore throat. You can imagine her reaction!

Well, Charles came out OK... It was Margaret who almost died of a Coldiron Tonsillectomy...

About 1947 or 48, Betty and Margaret, young mothers both, happened to be back home in Perry, and Margaret was having her persistent sore throat. Her problem was tonsils, and as luck would have it, Perry's tonsil specialist could take her any time! So Margaret, with Betty for moral support, went to the old doc's office to get the job done. By this time, Doc Coldiron really was getting just a bit long of tooth for a surgeon. Nonetheless, he put Margaret under the anesthesia and went to work. Things did not go well. The office was hot. The ether stank. Coldiron made a mis-cut or two, and dived in to apply sutures just about the time his nurse, unable to take it anymore, walked out! This left Betty (who was never shy about jumping into the breach) to learn surgical nursing and anesthesiology on the spot. Margaret was coming to. Ol' Coldiron, sweating up a storm, scared to death, shouted "Hold 'er down". So with Betty restraining her struggling sister, Coldiron did his best...or worst.. and Margaret, at least, survived.

Not long after this, D. F. Coldiron, Perry pioneer surgeon, took down his shingle.

...Harold, Betty, Charles and Margaret Plumer

ALL COOPED UP

[Overheard at a 1983 Plumer Family Reunion]

Betty..Aleen, you've got to tell them about the time the rooster kept us in the outhouse.

Aleen.. (Feigning ignorance) Well, I remember it... but what happened?

Anne...I thought Aleen had never been near an outhouse!

Margaret...I think she held out for something a little bit better!

Aleen... (Her memory suddenly refreshed) Wasn't it fenced around the house in Lucien? And we had to go outside the gate to get to the ol' outhouse. And then the chickens...the hens or roosters or whatever wouldn't let us out?

Harold... [Deep, somewhat disgusted voice] ...The Rooster!

Betty... [Pouncing on the punchline]... And we were afraid to go back in. Finally, the neighbor called and told mother...

"Miz Plumer, you better go out and see about the girls, I think the ol' rooster's got 'em pinned down in the outhouse!"

.....Aleen, Betty, Margaret, Harold, and Anne Hall Plumer

BOYS WILL BE BOYS

The Plumer family home in Lucien was right next to the schoolhouse, so the preschool Plumer kids would wander over to play with the schoolkids whenever they felt like it. On the schoolground was an old-fashioned hand-operated pump. The boys would gather 'round the pump and drink their fill with their heads under the pump spigot and one hand on the pump lever. Naturally, young Paul Plumer was anxious to learn this technique, which of course involved closing the eyes to keep the water out of them.

One day, the older boys decided to have some sport with young Paul...*"Hey, did you see that! A frog come right out of that pump and straight down your throat!"*

Paul ran home, screaming ..*"Mother, mother, I swallowed a frog!"*

....Anonymous

A NIGHT ON THE ROAD IN '37

By 1937, Plumer finances had recovered to the point where Louis could just barely afford to take the family [Minus Harold and Paul] on a family vacation to Oregon and California. Louis planned the finances with typical precision, allocating so much per day, and so much for tire repairs, etc. So while destitute Okies fled the dustbowl to California in overloaded Model "T" Fords, the Plumers of Perry travelled West in style, or what seemed style to them at the time.

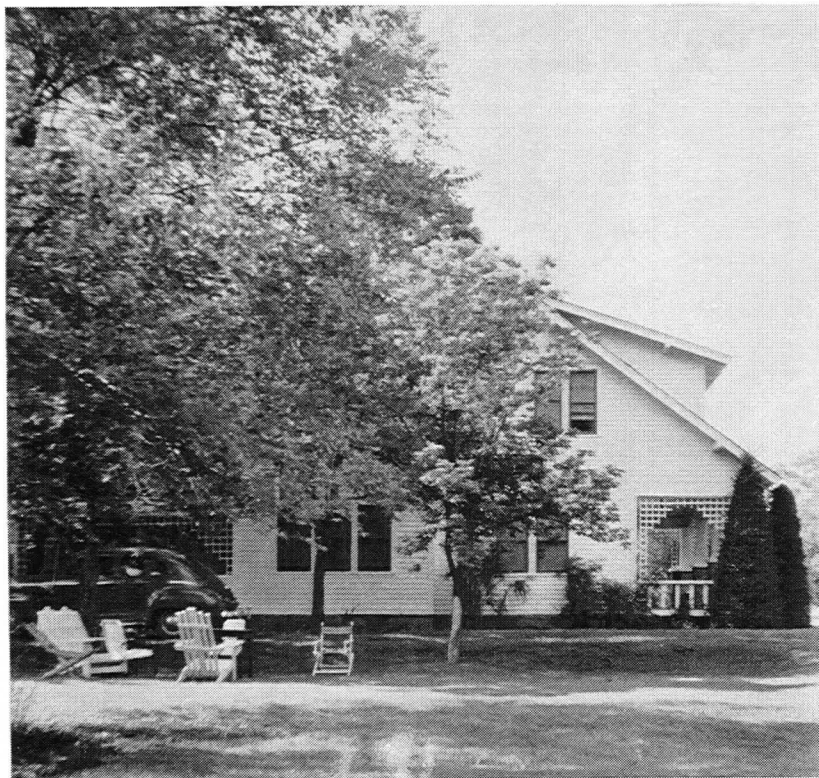
The vacation was wonderful, with San Francisco, the newly-opened Golden Gate Bridge, and Golden Gate Park being particular highlights. On the trip home, however, the car needed a new battery somewhere in Colorado. There were no credit cards in those days, and of course no one would take a check from out of state, so Louis' last cash went to pay for that battery!

So, on the last night before they hit Kansas, somewhere in Colorado, the penniless Plumers were reduced to the status of...might as well say it...Okies! They pulled the car into a place where the destitute framework of a half-finished tourist court [motel] stood. At least that gave some illusion of shelter. They shared the only food they had...one can of pork and beans...then slept fitfully on the prairie listening to the coyotes howl.

The next day, the family made it to the home of Louis' brother, Alvin, in Sedgwick, Kansas. "We descended on them like a plague of Locusts," remembers Margaret, "and we darn near ate them out of house and home!"

This little brush with depression-era reality is something the Plumers never forgot.

.... Betty, Margaret, Charles, and Louis Plumer



The Plumer home at 711 10th St., Perry, Oklahoma. Built in 1917, new upstairs bedrooms and a bathroom were added by the Plumers before they moved into it in 1928.



The "Plumer Girls" as young mothers [At the Plumer home in Perry, Oklahoma, about 1947].
L - R: Margie with Billy; Betty with Rory and Stevie; Aleen with Benny.



Louis Plumer with his children and their spouses [early 1970s]:
 Standing, L - R ; Bob Van Tuyl, Doris and Paul Plumer,
 Hazel and Harold Plumer, Anne and Charles Plumer,
 Aleen and Frank Harrison, Bill Black.
 Seated, L - R; Betty Van Tuyl, Louis Plumer, Margaret Black.

GRANDDAD'S HUMOR

"I heard a story the other day about a fellow at a large hotel who stepped on the elevator to go to his room and on the elevator was a nude woman, *not a stitch of clothes on!* As they were going up he kept looking at her and when he started to get off she wanted to know why he kept looking at her.

He says; "Do you know something? My wife has an outfit exactly like yours!"

....Louis E. Plumer, 1972

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN LUCIEN

Inspiring as the services must have been, it seems the preacher was not always capable of commanding undivided attention from the boys attending Sunday worship in Lucien.

One favorite pastime was watching the mothers nurse their babies...probably the closest thing to Playboy Magazine in 1920s Lucien! "You'd hear some baby squawk, and all of a sudden it'd shut up. All you had to do was look around..." recalled Harold and Paul.

But the best entertainment of all was **Ignatz Hassenfratz**, an ol' boy whose funny-sounding name has delighted several generations of Plumer descendants. The church windows would be open on a summer Sunday, and all sorts of flies would come in to hear the sermon. Ol' Ignatz would watch the circling *flies* as carefully as his fans, the boys in the congregation, would watch *him*. When the moment of truth arrived, Ignatz Hassenfratz' hand would shoot up from nowhere, arresting the fly in mid-flight with a lightning-quick clenching of the fist, and the boys would snort with laughter, no doubt to the consternation of their mothers.

In the words of admiring Hassenfratz fan Paul Plumer: "**That ol' boy was GOOD!**"

....Paul and Harold Plumer

THE BANK

The First National Bank of Perry seemed old-fashioned in the 1940s, as indeed it was. From the impressive 1902 red brick façade, you entered through a wood and glass front door to the bank's main floor, where you were greeted with a view of wooden iron-barred teller's cages, marble customer's tables, and brass spittoons! This was not too long after the heyday of the Oklahoma bank robbers, and my grandad showed me how the burglar alarm worked: at the bottom of each teller's cash drawer was a \$20 bill stapled to the drawer's bottom. When the teller pulled up this bill, which she did only during a robbery, a silent alarm was supposed to sound. Pretty clever, I thought!

Grandad had to explain the fundamentals of banking to me...how you had to put money IN before you could get money OUT... since I thought all you needed was one of those pieces of paper called a "check", and you could generate all the money you needed!

Grandad took me into the inner sanctum, the VAULT! It was smaller than I'd imagined it should be, but it held great treasures. Grandad showed me first his stash of *gold coins*. These were no longer legal, he explained to me with a conspiratorial tone, but he had saved some as souvenirs. I was amazed at how such a small coin could be worth \$20. That's when grandad explained to me that gold, the world's most valuable mineral was worth *\$35 an ounce!* I was stupefied. But the treasure of all treasures was the special bank note, which looked just like a ten dollar bill, except that it had *my grandad's name on it!* Seems the bank had issued some specie during the 1930s, which he had also preserved proudly.

I found out years later that the bank was either too cold or too hot all the time, and that the basement was infested with cockroaches. But at the time, I stood in awe of the First National Bank of Perry Oklahoma, and swelled with pride that it was *my grandad's bank*.

.....Rory Van Tuyl

GETTING HIGH IN A DRY STATE

Oklahoma was a *dry* state. That meant that even in the 1930s, after the federal prohibition had been rescinded, you couldn't get anything stronger to drink than three-point-two beer...at least not regularly. It hadn't always been that way. From the first hours of its founding, Perry was blessed with a drinking establishment, the *Buck Horn Saloon*, later known as the *Honk a Tonk Saloon*, *Dance Hall and Gambling House*, and boasted no fewer than 27 such establishments in its first year, during the infamous Land Rush of 1893.

But by the time the Plumer kids were teenagers, you pretty much had to pretend you were drunk after consuming as much three-point-two as your bladder could stand.

That is, unless you took a risk or two.

Outside of town somewhere, in locations probably known to one and all, were the *Bootleggers*. These ol' boys would brew up some ungodly concoction known as *Rotgut* (for the effect it had on your insides, presumably), and if you were brave enough, you could give it a shot. (It made Betty pretty sick the only time she tried it).

But the lengths some people would go to was truly amazing! Betty worked during high school at a five-and-dime store in Perry. She kept getting this one ol' boy who'd come in and buy a bottle of Bay Rum after-shave lotion. Never the most sophisticated of the Plumer crew, it wasn't until she told Harold and Paul about this that they roared with laughter and told her the truth... looked like she was Perry's latest, and youngest, bootlegger!

....Betty Plumer Van Tuyl

DIVING AT THE CLUB

When it comes to golf, some people have it, and some people don't. I know this because I'm one of the "Don'ts". My brother Steve, however, was a different matter. When I tried to hit a southbound drive, more likely than not the ball would head west. Steve, on the other hand, usually put the ball where he wanted it...right down the fairway! He definitely had the Plumer talent for sports, including golf. So when Grandad offered to take us out to play a round at the Perry Golf and Country Club, Steve jumped at the chance, and I decided to go along and maybe learn a thing or two.

Now the Perry Country Club was a pretty modest setup, definitely not a championship course, but it was plenty challenging for me. We went out in the early evening to play nine holes, and planned to get back before dark. We were moving right along, and even I wasn't doing too badly. Steve, however, was keeping score, and was doing quite well. We came to a particular tee, and Grandad said: "Well boys, as you can see that bluff there can be quite a problem," as he pointed to an escarpment perhaps 20 feet high beyond which lay the fairway. "We've got a rule here that you can carry the ball to the top of that cliff and play it from there. Costs you a 1-stroke penalty, but that's what I usually do," he said, probably just trying to be diplomatic. Well, I for one wasn't about to try a shot that Grandad usually passed up, but I'm afraid that Steve had other ideas. He saw that a well placed drive would put him well down the fairway, and there'd be no penalty, either.

So as Grandad and I picked up our balls, Steve teed up.

"Whap," went the sound of the driver wood against the ball, and there it went. A nice shot. A long shot. A shot *only 1 foot lower than it needed to be!* We watched the ball bounce off the red clay cliff and roll down toward us, right into a little drain ditch filled with water. "Oh well," thought Steve, "It was a good try. Can't win 'em all".

As Steve started to walk on across the bridge spanning the ditch, headed up to the fairway where he planned to place his penalty ball, Grandad very matter-of-factly said: "Well, I guess you better get on in there and find that ball". Steve looked at him with incredulity, thinking; "Get in that ditch? That slimy, mud-filled ditch? For a golf ball?"

Now, Grandad wasn't mad. He wasn't excited. He didn't say "I warned you". He just said: "Well, I guess you better get on in there and find that ball". It was plain that he meant it. A golf ball was not something he was willing to part with just because the sun was going down and it meant Steve would be getting a little wet!

So... Steve stripped down to his jockey shorts and waded in! Crouching down on his knees, he could barely keep his head above the muddy water as he groped in the mud for that golf ball. He had to work entirely by feel, and it wasn't easy. I have to admit, I felt a bit sorry for my little

brother - not too often I could say that - and I kept my mouth shut for once. Well, Steve was always a champ. He was a Little League baseball pitcher, and later lettered in tennis in high school. If diving for golf balls had been an official sport, he probably would have lettered in that, too. He came up not only with Grandad's golf ball, but two others as well! Not bad for a few minutes' work. At least it seemed that way from where I stood, high and dry! Now some grandads would have let this bit of bad golfing judgment pass, and put it down to youthful foolishness. Others would have turned the diving experience into a object lesson with a little grandfatherly lecture on the virtues of prudence. Our grandad did neither one. He just looked up at the horizon and said, "Well, it's getting kind of dark, we better head on in".

.....Rory Van Tuyl

GRANDAD'S HOTEL ROOM

In 1965, the year after Grandma died, Grandad took a trip to the West Coast, and I got to spend some time with him...the first I'd seen him in several years. Thinking that a man of 78 should surely be old and feeble, I offered him my hand in assistance as we climbed over a fallen log in the redwoods near Santa Cruz. He would have none of that! He may have moved a bit on the slow side, but no way was he going to accept a hand from me!

Now just about the next year, we got another visit from Grandad, this time travelling through with his brand-new wife, Lucile. They visited us at our apartment in Berkeley, held the great-grandkids, met the in-laws, and so forth.

Naturally, we couldn't put the newlyweds up in our little apartment. So I took Grandad over to the Durant Hotel in Berkeley to get a room. He walked up to the counter, pushed his hat back with a single finger as he rested one elbow on the counter and the other on his hip, midwest-style, and said to the clerk:

*"Well sir. S'pose you got a room for the night? With a **Double Bed?**"*

.....Rory Van Tuyl

"HOPE TWELVE", or *Charlie Learns Business Fundamentals*

Charlie Plumer, like his brothers before him, was always trying to earn a little money on the side. Somehow, during the 1930s in Perry, he acquired a pig, had her impregnated, and named her "Hope Twelve" in hopes of that many piglets. The only problem was, that he wasn't allowed to keep "Hope Twelve" at the house in Perry, but the lad was not deterred. He worked out a deal with an "ol' colored boy" who lived outside of Perry to keep his pig.

Well, she finally delivered, and though there weren't 12, there were still enough pigs to promise a profit to Charlie...that is, if they survived.

But the bad news came that one of the pigs had died. A while later, another, then another of his pigs "died", until all were gone. It took Charlie a while to realize where the pigs had actually ended up... in the mouths of his "partner's" hungry family!

.....Betty Plumer Van Tuyl

A KID'S LIST OF PERRY DELIGHTS

Lightnin' Bugs....Terrapins...Shetland ponies...Billy's nectar...First-run Movies for a dime [1950s]...The Porch Swing...Snow...Playing "Store" in Grandma's pantry...The Bank...Stereopticans at the library...Semi-pro baseball games at night...Playing "Annie over"...Grandma Scrivner's feather bed...The upstairs store room in the daytime.

A KID'S LIST OF PERRY HORRORS

The upstairs store room at night...The threat of tornadoes...The cellar!

...Rory Van Tuyl

NEGROES IN PERRY

Among the earliest settlers of Perry, Oklahoma, during the land rush of 1893, were Negroes from the southern states, seeking freedom and opportunity, just like the white settlers of the time. A group of them even hoped to establish an all-black community on the site of Perry, but did not succeed in establishing enough claims. So Perry took on the same pattern that so many towns of the time did... the blacks lived in "their" section of town, separate from the whites. Some Perry Negroes, such as C.T. Talliaferro, established successful businesses in Perry, and became leaders of "their" people. Some Negroes were itinerant laborers, like the Spiller family who worked for Will Plumer picking cotton. [Young Mrs. Spiller died while working for the Plumers, and Louis hauled her body to Perry in a wagon for burial].

Until the civil rights legislation of the 1950s and 60s, Perry, like all towns in Oklahoma, was strictly segregated. There were separate drinking fountains, separate public toilets, and probably, a lot of places where blacks knew they were just not welcome. Schools were segregated by race, too. Interestingly, Indians living in Perry attended the WHITE school, but negroes attended schools of their own. One bit of appalling insensitivity was to be found in Harold Plumer's nickname: "NIG"... of obvious etymology. Harold was jokingly called this because of his dark skin, and when he was running for a touchdown for Perry High School's football team, the cry from the crowd would raise up... "Go NIG, Go!" Harold's mother hated the nickname and would force Harold's friends to ask for "Harold" when they called on the phone for "NIG".

One of the saddest chapters in black/white race relations ever to happen in Perry, was the unfortunate death of Vester Wilhelm, Betty Plumer's high school boyfriend. In January, 1941, when Betty (then engaged to Bob Van Tuyl) was finishing college, and while Oklahomans, like many Americans, were preparing for war, the *Perry Daily Journal* ran the following story:

VESTER WILHELM DIES TODAY FROM EFFECTS OF NEGRO KNIFE INJURY

Vester Wilhelm, 22, corporal in the Noble county unit of the Oklahoma National Guard now in training at Fort Sill and a former Perry high school football player, died at 4 a. m. today in the Perry General Hospital from knife wounds inflicted in a fight Wednesday night by Bennie Vester, Perry negro. ..."

....Rory Van Tuyl, Betty Plumer, Louis Plumer, Ken Coldiron, Fred G. Beers

THE PROFESSOR

The Professor, one Leopold Radgowsky by name, was a Russian bandmaster who had fled his country at the time the Czar was overthrown, leaving his family behind. He had been a Czarist sympathizer, and claimed to have directed the Imperial Band of Russia. He had formed a band of expatriate Russian musicians in Paris during the 1920s, and while touring with them, was engaged by the Miller Brothers 101 Ranch Show. That show collapsed financially in 1928, and Radgowsky was left stranded in Marland, Oklahoma at the 101 Ranch, which was the show's headquarters. He spoke little English at the time, but was persuaded to move to Perry, where he was retained as the town's first full-time high school band director. He also formed a community orchestra, and through valiant efforts, formed a high school orchestra, as well.

Although he particularly despised the saxophone, he gave private music lessons on ALL instruments in his lodgings at the home of Mrs. Herman Eisenhauer in Perry. Aleen Plumer studied cello with him and Betty Plumer studied violin. Both girls were recruited to play in The Professor's high school orchestra, though their real interest lay in the band, which got to take all those fun, out-of-town trips.

Like many band directors, The Professor was quite emotional, and would rap on a student's music

stand whenever he was displeased, or cry "Ai-yi-yi! What you do me!" in response to their cacophony. Later, he would make amends by "loving up" the students he had berated. He was universally liked by the students at Perry High. When he died of cancer in 1938, at the age of 51, the Perry schools were dismissed for the day of his funeral, and the school superintendent and board members acted as pallbearers. Betty would visit him in his sickbed whenever she returned for a visit from college at Phillips U. He called her "Betty mine gal"... a genuine term of affection... and she remembers him fondly to this day.

...Aleen and Betty Plumer, and Fred G. Beers

THE GREAT MAN COMES TO TOWN

It's difficult to comprehend the magnitude of Will Rogers' celebrity unless you were there. This part-Cherokee Oklahoma Cowboy who got his first showbiz break in a wild west show in Ladysmith, South Africa doing rope-twirling tricks, had, by 1930, parlayed his fame to amazing heights through the media of the Ziegfield Follies, movies, radio, and a daily newspaper column.

Will Rogers was Betty's childhood idol. He came to Ponca City about 1930 to dedicate a statue of "The Pioneer Woman". Betty and lifelong pal Sidy Lindemann were in attendance, and got the thrill of their life when the great man offered them each a stick of gum... right from his own pack! [Rogers chewed gum constantly... it was one of his trademarks]. It was a measure of Rogers' humility that he would offer something to a couple of 10 year old kids who'd come to adore him. Can you imagine a modern-day celebrity who'd be so approachable and generous?

...Betty Plumer Van Tuyl

A TALE OF TWO PERRYS

One of Betty Plumer's three best friends in high school was Mary Alice Carmichael, whose father was Superintendent of Schools for Perry. The Carmichaels were different. Highly educated and of an intellectual nature, they had come to Perry not from a farm background, but in pursuit of career advancement. Perry Carmichael took the Superintendent's job during The Depression as a stepping stone, and he came with a reformer's attitude. Among other innovations was opening the high school auditorium for dances. As strange as it seems from a viewpoint 50+ years after the fact, this sent the local fundamentalist folks up the wall! Clearly, Perry's days in Perry were numbered.

Janet Matthews, a high school art teacher who roomed with the Plumers, was a close friend of the Carmichaels. Having no family of her own in town, and wanting friends of similar background, she spent most of her free time with the Carmichaels. True or not, she and Perry Carmichael were eventually accused by his enemies of having an affair, and both were fired from the Perry schools. Miss Matthews probably found another teaching job somewhere, but the Carmichaels left Perry for good. He went back to Yale University to obtain his Ph. D., after which Mr. and Mrs. Carmichael spent many years in Ethiopia, he running schools and she operating clinics.

.....Betty Plumer Van Tuyl

THE BAPTISTS

When the Plumers moved to Perry in 1928, Louis and Girtha chose to attend the Methodist Church, but let their kids go wherever they wished. Since Grandma Scrivner was still a Baptist, or just out of habit, the kids attended Sunday school in the Baptist Church just down the road from the Methodists. Apparently, Harold was the first to defect from the Baptist camp, followed soon thereafter by the rest of the kids, each of whom had his own reason for fleeing. Recalls Aleen... "When they brought out the diagram of Hell, with all the different levels, that just did it for me". Betty's reason was a little more practical... "I didn't want to have to be dunked in that big ol' swimming pool they had in the basement!" It seems that the Methodists, by offering a simple sprinkling procedure, had won Betty's allegiance!

...Aleen and Betty Plumer

THE CHAMPION COMELY PLUMER SPARKS MATES FOR 27-25 WIN

Record Crowd Turns Out to See Thriller

By Joe Mayfield, O'Collegian Sports Editor

Betty Plumer and company, abetted by a right hand that held magic in it, won the sorority basketball championship for the Pi Phis last night, beating the runner-up Chi Omegas 27 to 25 in an overtime game that had a record breaking crowd howling and shouting in frenzied glee.

Most thrilling moment of the set to last night was when Plumer, with less than a second to go before the end of the regular playing time, took a neat underhanded pass from Jane Gillett, her teammate, steadied herself for a moment, and arched the leather. There was not a sound while the melon was spiraling through the air-then be[d]lam broke loose in the crowded gymnasium as the ball swished through the net to tie the game 23 to 23.

In the extension period Nan McCamon of the Chi Omega team, whipped in a fast shot from the side to take the lead from the fighting Pi Phi aggregation. Comely Betty Plumer sank a free throw to bring the Pi Phi cause along but the Chios tightened down with two and a half of the three minutes of overtime ticked away the the Chi Omega Cardinal and Straw colors were in front 25 to 24. In a mad scramble for the ball Marian Evans, Pi Phi forward tossed in the winning goal from deep under the basket.

....Money-player Plumer was almost the whole show for the Pi Phi team, scoring a total of nineteen points and coming through for goals in the crucial spots of the game to keep the Pi Phis close on the heels of the fast passing Chi Omega sextet.

... they could not stop the terrific, uncanny shooting of Plumer, who racked in one-handed shots from fourteen feet out to add despair to hopelessness for the Chi Omega cause. ...

... The Daily O'Collegian, Stillwater, Oklahoma, March 24, 1939, pg. 3

FINANCIAL COUNSELING, PLUMER STYLE

"I got a teaching job in 1942... the first time I'd ever earned any money at all, and what money it was... \$100/month! This was more than I'd ever imagined having. You see, I'd grown up in Perry in the poor part of town, and was now living in a rooming house in Blackwell, where my teaching job was. But for all that money, there was only one safe place in my mind... the First National Bank of Perry. "

"Of course, I was buying lots and lots of things too, and paying with my First National checks. One day, my landlady came up to my room waving the rent check. She said the bank had returned it, marked "Insufficient Funds". Well, was I put out! I decided to high tail it up to Perry and give them a piece of my mind. How dare they not pay my bills!"

"When I got to the Bank, I opened the old glass door and walked in. There were the teller's cages on the right, and in the back were the desks. Mr. Plumer looked up from his desk when I walked in. He pointed straight at me. "You", he said, turning his pointing finger into a beckoning one. "Come here", he said, motioning to a chair by his desk. "Sit", he ordered. *I sat.* "

"Well, he proceeded to read me the riot act. I got the whole lecture about financial responsibility, and how bouncing a check was about the worst thing a person could possibly do. At the end, he made me promise I'd never, *ever* let this happen again. I never did get to say my piece. Oh, by the way... I've never bounced another check in the 50 years since Mr. Plumer set me straight."

.....Junette Williams



CHAPTER 4



... Family Histories

FAMILY HISTORIES

Louis Plumer's ancestors were fairly recent Swiss and German immigrants. Two of these families have been traced back to the time of their immigration to the United States. They are:

The descendants of JOHANN HEINRICH WILHELM PLUMER, a German peasant who immigrated in 1840, settling eventually in Glenwood, Iowa where he became a successful farmer.

The descendants of PETER GFELLER, a Swiss schoolmaster and farmer of fine education and comfortable means who brought his wife, eleven children, and an entourage of servants to America in 1853. Peter Gfeller farmed in Illinois, Iowa and Kansas.

Louis Plumer was of purely German and Swiss-German heritage.

Girtha Scrivner's people were much earlier immigrants from England and Scotland. Two of these families have been traced back to the time of their immigration to America. They are:

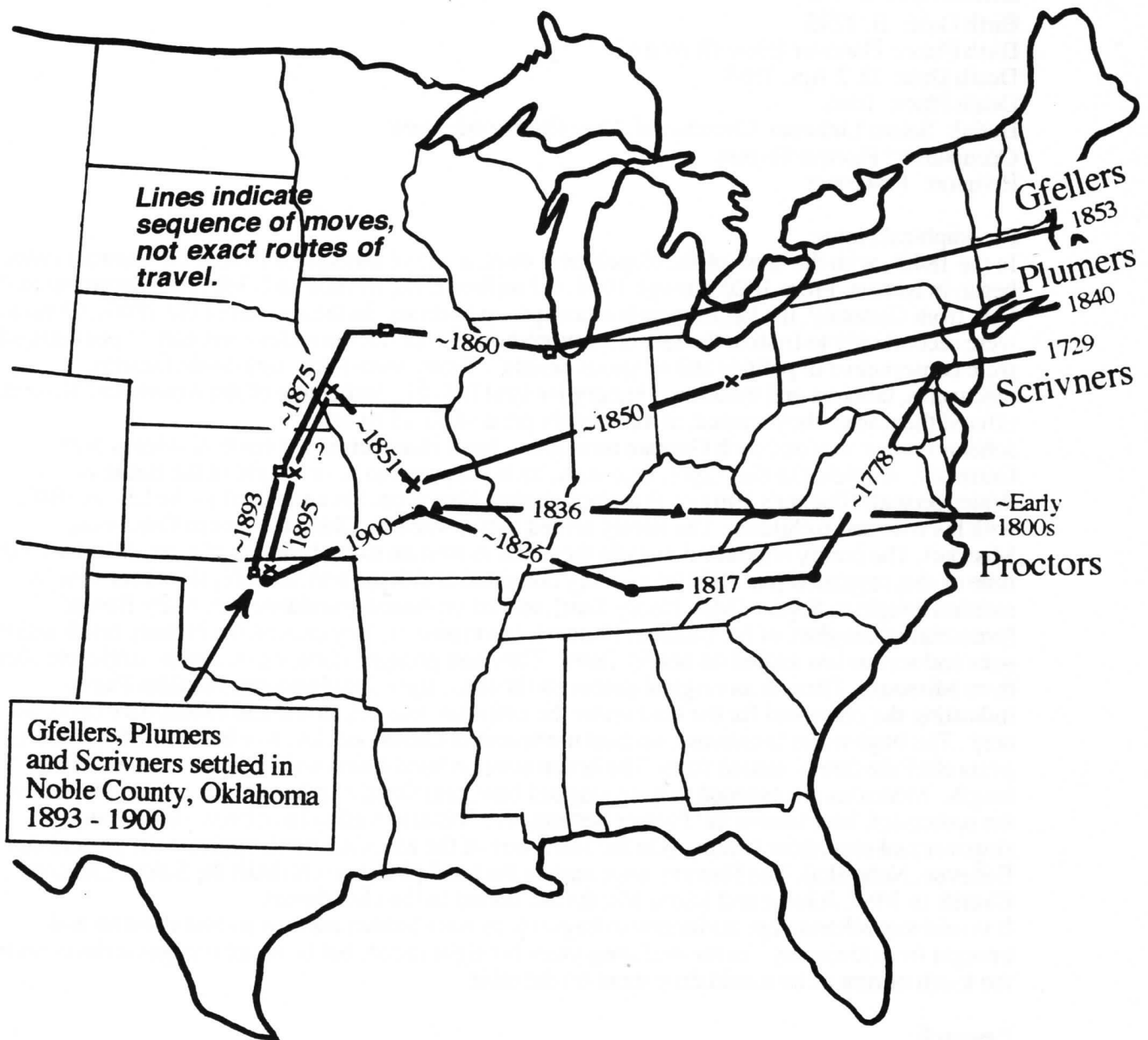
The descendants of BENJAMIN SCRIVNER, a poor English lad who, like many of his contemporaries, sold himself into that form of 18th - 19th century white slavery called "Indentured Servitude". He immigrated to Philadelphia, where he served out his indenture, and where he lived the rest of his life. His descendants worked their way west to Missouri via North Carolina and Tennessee.

The descendants of NATHAN PROCTOR. Nathan came from New Brunswick or Nova Scotia around 1800 to settle in Kentucky. His father-in-law, Benjamin Downing was apparently a slaveholding Maryland farmer from whom he inherited Tom, a negro slave who would be the family's property up until emancipation. The Proctors were poor country folk who, as a group, were southern sympathizers and soldiers during the War Between the States.

Through the random process of westward migration, these families met, married and moved on until the Scrivner, Plumer and Gfeller families found themselves near Lucien, Oklahoma at the turn of the 20th century, where Girtha Scrivner and Louis Plumer were married.

The map on the following page traces the westward migration of these four families.

The Plumers, Gfellers, Scrivners and Proctors Move West



Peter Gfeller emigrated from Switzerland in 1853, settled in Dunkel's Grove, IL, moved to Polk City, IA in ~1860, then to Alida, KS ~1875. His son, Fred Gfeller moved to Lucien, OK ~1893.

Johann Heinrich Plumer emigrated from Germany to Canton, OH in 1840, moving on to California, MO ~1850, then to Glenwood, IA in ~1851. F.H. Plumer moved to Alida, KS, and his son, Will Plumer moved to Lucien, OK in 1895.

Benjamin Scrivner emigrated from England to Philadelphia in 1729. Benjamin Scrivner [2] moved to Rowan Co., NC ~1778 and to Smith Co., TN in 1817. David Scrivner moved to Cole Co., MO ~1826. His grandson, Charles B. Scrivner moved to Lucien, OK in 1900.

Nathan Proctor emigrated from Canada to Barren Co., TN before 1814, settling eventually in Cole Co., MO in 1836, where his great-granddaughter married into the Scrivner family.

PLUMER FAMILY HISTORY

Johann Heinrich PLUMER

Birth Date: B. 1795

Birth Place: Hanover [Now Germany]

Death Date: D. 2 Apr, 1883

Death Place: Iowa

Burial: Salem Lutheran Churchyard, Near Glenwood, Iowa

Occupation: Pioneer Farmer

Religion: Protestant

Biographical Notes:

In the 1840s, with the close of the Napoleonic wars, a tide of immigration from the German states began in earnest. From 1820 through 1959, 6.7 million men, women and children immigrated to the U.S. from Germany, the largest single ethnic group to do so. In the decade of the 1840s, Germans were second only to Irish in the rate of immigration. From northern Germany came "peasants who were conservative in politics and religious beliefs". Many were fairly well-to-do farmers, mechanics, laborers and tradesmen hungry for land [ref. b]. Settlement of the American Midwest offered them what they wanted, at the bargain price of \$1.25 an acre!

Johann Plumer was one such German immigrant, from Hanover, in the north of what is now Germany. A soldier in the Napoleonic wars, he is supposed to have fought in the Battle of Waterloo with Blucher's army of Prussians against Napoleon. He emigrated to the US in 1840, with his wife and 6 children. The family settled first in Canton, Ohio and later in California, Missouri. The family contracted malaria there and moved on to the healthier climate of Iowa. At the time of this migration [ca. 1851] the family consisted of Johann and his wife, their four sons, a married daughter, Sophie (Mrs. Henry Saar), and an orphaned granddaughter, Mary Bower [presumably daughter of M. Caroline Plumer]. Upon arrival, they cleared the hickory brush and the sons and son-in-law settled on nearby farms. They had brought stock, oxen, mules, cattle and sheep from Missouri. There is an original patent on the land, signed by President Franklin Pierce, indicating the price paid for the land under the entry law was one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. The huge white farmhouse, on land northwest of Glenwood, IA, was built in 1864, some 13 years after the family settled there. The house rests on hand-hewn walnut beams some 40 ft. in length. Mormons are supposed to have stopped here, and Omaha Indians to have traded horses at the settlement, later known as "Plumer Settlement". It is also said to have been a stagecoach stopover and steamboat landing (On the Iowa side of the Missouri river, opposite the present-day Bellevue, Nebraska). The Plumers were among the local pioneers who built the Salem Lutheran Church in 1867. Johann and Maria Martha are buried in the churchyard.

It is said that Johann kept his money in bags which were hidden inside a walnut chest he had brought from Germany. In his declining years his sight failed, but he could recognize the coins by the touch or ring as he would drop them on the table.

Research:

- a. "The Yesteryears of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, by Maude Plumer Burgoin, written ca. 1958. "The farmhouse...was built in 1864 some 13 years after the family settled in Iowa." [This implies they came to Iowa ca. 1851]
- b. "The Dictionary of American History", v. IV, pg. 336.

Spouse: **Maria Martha GEITHANS**

Birth Date: B. 1798

Death Date: D. 16 Dec, 1859

Burial Place: Salem Lutheran Churchyard, Near Glenwood, Iowa

Religion: Protestant

Maria Martha GEITHANS Biographical Notes:

Maria Martha Geithans Plumer was 42 years old when she emigrated to America in 1840. All her children were born in Europe.

Research:

- a. "The Yesteryears of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, by Maude Plumer Burgoin, written ca. 1958.

Children: Margaretta Caroline, Margaretta Sophie Dorothea , Herman Henry Ferdinand, **Friederick Heinrich Wilhelm [Fred]**, Wilhelm, Frederick Christopher

Friederick Heinrich Wilhelm PLUMER [See Photo]

Birth Date: B. 4 Aug. , 1832

Birth Place: Germany

Death Date: D. 4 Aug. , 1899

Burial Place: Cemetery west of Orlando, OK

Occupation: Farmer

Biographical Notes:

Frederick Heinrich Wilhelm Plumer lived to the age of 67 years. He moved to Alida, Kansas, probably after the Civil War to take up farming. His death in Orlando, OK probably indicates he was visiting, or living with, his son Chris Plumer at the time.

Research:

- a. "The Yesteryears of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, by Maude Plumer Burgoin, written ca. 1958.

Spouse: **Caroline Rebecca MYERS [See Photo]**

Birth Date: B. 17 Aug. , 1836

Death Date: D. 6 Jan. , 1919

Death Place: Abilene, Kansas

Biographical Notes:

As of 1992, nothing is known about Caroline Rebecca Myers' background. She was 4 years younger than her husband, for whom she bore 9 children. The two youngest, Simon and Amel, died within days of each other in 1880, probably from a childhood epidemic like scarlet fever. She died at age 82, having been widowed for 20 years, probably living much of that time with one of her married daughters in Kansas.

Research:

- a. "The Yesteryears of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, by Maude Plumer Burgoin, written ca. 1958.
b. The Records of Louis E. Plumer
Children: Christopher G., Julia Jane, **John William [WILL]**, Sophia Louise, Phebe Ella, Alvinia Augusta, Minnie Elsa, Simon Aron, Amel Frederick Garon

Christopher G. PLUMER

Birth Date: B. 12 Jan, 1857

Death Date: D. Apr, 1936

Biographical Notes:

Chris Plumer moved to Orlando , OK, sometime before 1895. He was instrumental in encouraging his younger brother, Will Plumer, to move to Oklahoma.

Research:

- a. "The Yesteryears of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, by Maude Plumer Burgoin, written ca. 1958.
b. The records of Louis E. Plumer
c. "Recollections", by Louis E. Plumer.

John William [WILL] PLUMER [See Photo]

Birth Date: B. 16 Jul., 1861
 Death Date: D. 4 Dec. , 1941
 Death Place: Roseburg, Oregon

Biographical Notes:

Will Plumer, 34 years old, married and the father of three children, was living with or near his parents in the fall of 1895 near Alida, KS when, according to his oldest son, Louis:

"... my father decided we would move to Oklahoma and get a home of our own. The Cherokee Strip had been open for settlement September 16, 1893. My father had made a trip to Oklahoma and he liked the country. His brother Chris G. Plumer lived in the town of Orlando, Oklahoma, and my grandparents, the Gfellers, had moved to Oklahoma and they all wanted us to move, too."
"By the first part of November, 1895, we started for Oklahoma in a covered wagon along with my Uncle, John Lantz, and his family and several other covered wagons. We had our wagons loaded with household goods. We led two cows behind the wagon and had a plow tied on the side of one of the wagons. We were on the trail one week, arriving at my grandfather Gfeller's home on a quarter section of school land located one mile west and one mile south of where Lucien is now ["School Land" was land set aside in every Township per provisions of the Homestead Act. Revenue from rents on this land supported the public schools].

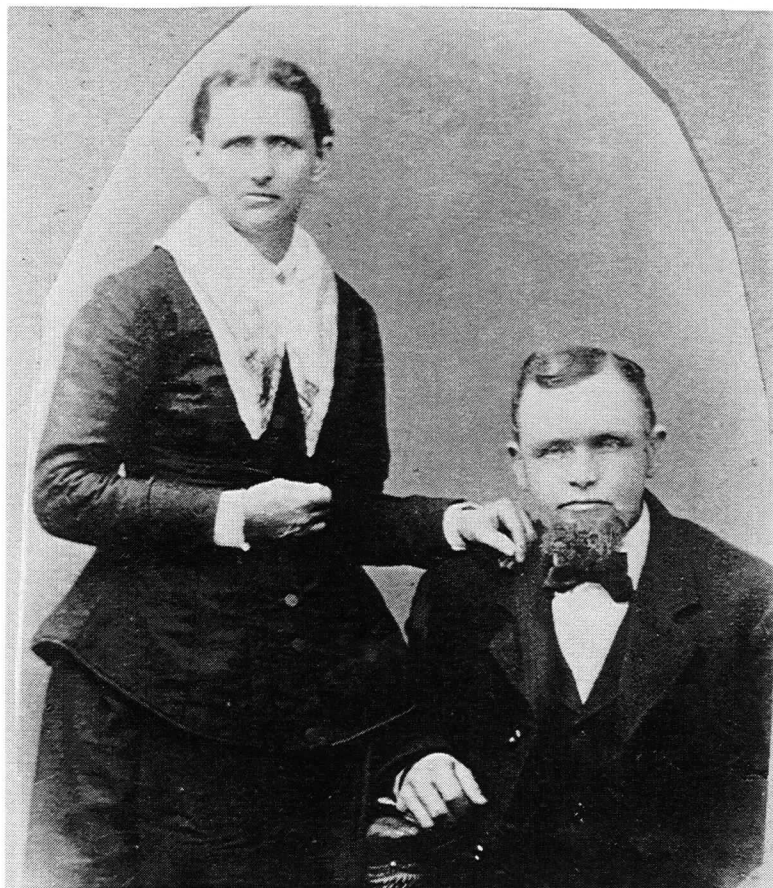
Will Plumer had intended to buy a farm in Oklahoma, and had sent the necessary money ahead by some trusted messenger, probably a relative. Louis Plumer, in recalling the incident years later made it clear that the suspicions engendered by what happened had an unfortunate effect on inter-family relations for some years. It seems that the money was supposed to be delivered to one of Will's relatives [probably his brother, Chris], but it never arrived, or at least that's what was claimed by the recipient. This left the Plumers in bad shape. Without the money, they couldn't really establish themselves, and were reduced to having to make do on the leased land.

Louis recalled;

"...My father built a small house on the school land, put down a well and dug a cave. We moved into this place about May of 1896, and I well remember the prairie chickens would light on the house early in the morning and wake us up. We had no fences and I had to herd the cows which was a rather lonesome job out on the prairie. My father was a carpenter and could plaster and lay brick and he got what work he could. My mother made butter and cheese from the milk we got from the cows. Butter was worth very little, but the cheese sold readily in Orlando, and this is how we lived at the time."

"The summer of 1896 was hot and dry, and my father got discouraged and made the statement that he believed we should leave and move to Iowa, but my grandparents and the other families that came to Oklahoma with us did not want to leave. My grandparents (the Gfellers) heard of a homestead on 160 acres a mile north of where they lived that was for sale...Mother and Father looked it over and found a dugout, the foundation for a house started, a good well of water, and about ten acres of prairie broke out for farming". [Will borrowed to get the purchase price of \$225, registered the deed in Enid, and settled onto the Southwest quarter section 24-21N-3W, Garfield County, Oklahoma Territory, about a mile west of what was to become Lucien].

"When we moved onto this place, we had two mares, a couple of cows and a small amount of farm tools. Father finished the house that was started, which consisted of two rooms downstairs 14' by 14' and two small rooms in the attic. We lived in the dugout until the house was finished. Most of the studding in the house was made from cottonwood which was sawed from trees that grew on the farm."



**Caroline Rebecca
Myers Plumer**
[1836 - 1919], and
**Friederick Heinrich
Wilhelm Plumer**
[1832 - 1899] of
Alida, Kansas.



The John William [Will] Plumer family, about 1903: front row,
L - R; Alvin, Will, Ralph, Mary Gfeller Plumer; back row L - R;
Louis, Oliver, Sadie.

The law which would have required the Plumers to pay \$480, which they did not have after 5 years of homesteading, was supplanted by the "Free Home Bill" by 1903. They stayed on their homestead, Louis "broke the sod" [i.e. plowed up the original native grasses which held the soil in place, preventing "dust bowl" conditions].

"The first crop we would plant in the sod that was broken was kafir corn [sorghum] and some water melons...In the years that followed up to about 1908, things went quite well for us. We raised two colts each year from the mares for several years, and the cattle began to increase."

Will Plumer let his boys do a lot of the farm work while he pursued his trade of carpentry in the fast-growing area, thus generating a cash income for the family. As Louis recalled:

"...we were beginning to get somewhere. We improved the farm, built a good barn with granary attached which would hold about 1000 bushel of oats for the horses, and built an addition to the house along with other small buildings."

By 1903, Will and Mary's oldest son, Louis, was 16 and anxious for a better life and more education. Despite Will's traditional no-nonsense view of life, he agreed to let his son go away to "college" [a Business High School] in Winfield, KS. He sent Louis \$15 a month for expenses, and Louis worked to pay the rest of his expenses. But Will Plumer was aghast when he learned that Louis was playing football in his spare time! Apparently, there was some talk of recalling the frivolous youth, but he stayed on 'til graduation in 1905.

Will Plumer persuaded Louis to return to Lucien a year or so after graduation to run the family farm on a profit-sharing basis, so that Will could pursue his trades by working "out". [Will] and five other men of Lucien decided to put in a lumber yard.

"They wanted my father to manage the yard," wrote Louis, "but this would take him away from his carpenter work, and he did not know how to keep the books, so he suggested to the other partners that they hire me as I knew how to keep books."

For reasons not completely clear, Will took his family to Roseburg, Oregon sometime around 1912, and we know little of his life out west. Louis took his family on a motoring journey to visit their Oregon grandparents [1937], the one and only time Louis' kids met them. The Plumers had not prospered materially in Oregon. In fact, for some time in the 1930s, Louis had been helping to support them [as financially difficult as he may have found it during The Depression, Louis Plumer was not one to shirk what he considered his responsibility]. Aleen and Betty Plumer were not particularly impressed by their "countrified" and none-too-prosperous grandparents. In 1941, on the eve of the Second World War, Will Plumer, who had entered life at the start of the Civil War, died in Roseburg Oregon.

Research:

- a. "The Yesteryears of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, by Maude Plumer Burgoin, written ca. 1958.
- b. The records of Louis E. Plumer
- c. "Recollections", by Louis E. Plumer
- d. The recollections of Aleen and Betty Plumer

Spouse: **Mary GFELLER**

Birth Date: B. 4 Dec. , 1866

Death Date: D. 17 Feb. , 1960

Death Place: Roseburg, Oregon

Biographical Notes: SEE GFELLER FAMILY HISTORY

Children: **Louis Emil**, Sadie, Oliver Oscar, Alvin Ray, Ralph William.



GFELLER FAMILY HISTORY

Peter GFELLER [See Photos]

Birth Date: B. 6 Apr. , 1809
Birth Place: Landiswil, Canton Bern, Switzerland
Death Date: D. 27 Aug. , 1893
Death Place: Alida, Kansas
Burial Place: St. John's Church Cemetery, Alida, Kansas
Occupation: Schoolteacher...Farmer
Education: By Swiss Tutors
Religion: Protestant
Politics: Democrat

Biographical Notes:

In the winter of 1852-53, Peter Gfeller, then 43 years old, father of 11 children, and the schoolteacher for Walkrigen Parish (where he also owned a farm), decided to emigrate to America. His family had apparently lived in this area for at least 500 years, since his presumed ancestor, one Burchard Geveller, owned a farm just 3 miles south of Walkrigen as early as 1301 [this was actually before the formation of the Swiss Federation]. He had 24 years' teaching experience, was a piano tuner and player of stringed instruments, had married into a wealthy farm family of the region, and was nothing if not well-established and prosperous, not to mention well-educated.

Why then, did he decide to emigrate?

For one thing, his family was growing older (his eldest daughter, Elizabeth, was already old enough to be married), and he probably wondered how they could possibly prosper in a country seemingly full of people already. For another, his wife's parents had both recently died, probably leaving her some money. Farmers of the region were not doing well in 1852. He had probably heard of the cheap farmland which was luring unprecedented numbers of German-speaking people to the American Midwest, and decided to follow a dream. He was not alone. Many other Swiss were emigrating from their over-populated country during this period...the all-time high for Swiss immigration into the U.S. was in 1854, just one year after the Gfellers came over.

The family party which left Switzerland March 12, 1853, included three servants and a cook. They probably travelled by boat down the Rhine to Antwerp, where they boarded the 425-passenger sailing ship, ROGER STEWART, bound for New York. They entered the U.S. in May, travelled (probably by train) to Chicago, and in the month of July purchased for \$1500 a 148-acre farm in Dunkel's Grove, just west of that city [near present-day O'Hare Airport].

Life was no bed of roses for the Gfellers in Illinois. For one thing, they suffered a devastating hail storm in 1854. By 1860 or sooner, they had sold out and moved on to Polk City, Iowa, just north of Des Moines. We have a picture of Peter Gfeller ca. 1860 in Des Moines, showing a serious-looking man of 50, with a very receded hairline and protruding lower lip. His once-black hair is graying, his 5' 5" frame still appears slim, with narrow, sloping shoulders and sturdy legs. We know his eyes were brown. In later years, Peter filled out to become a rotund graybearded figure, still staring somberly at the camera. We know of no record of Peter Gfeller's family being involved in the Civil War, but we do know that Peter was a staunch Democrat who probably had no particular love for Abraham Lincoln. Five more children were born to the Gfellers in Iowa, although two died in infancy.

By 1875, the Gfeller family moved on again, this time to Alida, Kansas. Their oldest son, Friedrich, probably settled there along with them, and several generations of Gfellers farmed in the area for years [Peter's great-grandson, Louis Plumer, was born at Alida in 1887].

Peter Gfeller died in Alida in 1893, 84 years old, and a long way from Switzerland.

Research:

a. Read, Gladwin A., "The Scions of Peter Gfeller", printed by the [Gfeller] Centennial Reunion Committee, Junction City, KS, 10 May, 1953.

The following information is cited;

"[Peter Gfeller]...was trained by Muhlheim - a famous teacher before 1831, and afterwards by Langhans - a National Church Minister and afterwards Director of the Normal School. Also by Wehrli - one of the best teachers of his time at Hafwil, near Berne. For the... four years [1829-33] Peter Gfeller had been a teacher at Obergoldbach, a parish of Biglen."

Peter Gfeller applied for the Landiswil teaching job in 1833, at the age of 23. His competition was one Chris Muller, 31, with 10 years' teaching experience. Here's what the School Commissioner, Rev. Kohler, had to say about the two candidates:

"Both are capable men, with just a little difference in knowledge. Muller has more capacity in asking the children questions. This is due to his longer practice. He is also better in arithmetic, on the blackboard. On the other side, Gfeller is better for methodical teaching, accurateness, and lifefulness in teaching. He wrote a better thesis, is more accurate and exact in singing. Finally, Gfeller has more modesty and more aptitude in learning. So I put Gfeller in first rank, and Muller in the second. The school board was present the whole day, with much attention. They agreed with me".

b. The records of Louis E. Plumer

Spouse: **Anna Maria MOSER [See Photo]**

Birth Date: March 25, 1819

Birth Place: Bigeln, Canton Bern, Switzerland

Death Date: Oct. 26, 1912

Death Place: Alida, Kansas Burial Place: St. John's Cemetery, Alida Kansas

Occupation: Mother Of 18

Religion: Protestant

Biographical Notes:

Anna Maria Moser Gfeller was "...a wealthy, clever, and handsome farmer's daughter" from Bigeln, Canton Bern, Switzerland. She had been married to Peter Gfeller for some 17 years (during which she had borne him 13 children) when, in 1852, both her parents and her brother died. She had apparently been in possession of sufficient dowry to allow her schoolteacher - musician husband to purchase a farm soon after their marriage. Perhaps the loss of her parents (and the possible inheritance it may have brought her), coupled with vexing concerns for the future of her maturing brood - not all of whom could inherit the family farm - led her to the decision to emigrate.

This stalwart lady married at age 16, bore eighteen children ultimately, fourteen of whom survived to adulthood in America. She lived to be 93 years old.

The Gfellers' 1853 voyage to America was not the one of hardship normally portrayed for the times. In fact, as members of the landed gentry, they brought along three servants and a cook! Nonetheless, 34-year-old Anna Maria, still nursing her baby Robert, must have had her hands full managing the family's ocean voyage and resettlement in Illinois.

Research:

a. Read, Gladwin A., "The Scions of Peter Gfeller", printed by the [Gfeller] Centennial Reunion Committee, Junction City, KS, 10 May, 1953

b. The records of Louis E. Plumer

c. Per ref. a; The Gfeller's servants were Anna Maria Reiser from Ursenbach, Magdalena Inabit from Grindelwald, and Friederich Schneider from their village, Bigeln. Their cook was a young schoolteacher from Worb, one Peter Lehman. Just 2 years later, in 1855, he married the Gfeller's daughter, Elizabeth.

Marriage Date: October, 1835

Marriage Place: Canton Bern, Switzerland

Children: 2 who died in Switzerland, Elizabeth, Lina, **Friedrich**, Anna Maria, Rosina,

Emilie, Gottfried, Gottlieb, Louisa, Adolphe, Robert, Wilhelm, Herman, Christina, 2 who died in Iowa

Friedrich GFELLER [See Photo]

 Birth Date: B. 1839
 Birth Place: Landiswil, near Bern, Switzerland
 Death Date: Unknown
 Death Place: Oklahoma

Notes:

Friedrich Gfeller and his wife, Sarah Lichte, moved from Alida, KS, to a farm near Lucien, Oklahoma sometime before 1895. They strongly encouraged their daughter and son-in-law, Will Plumer, to move down to Oklahoma. The Plumers lived for a year or two near Orlando, OK, but grew discouraged and wanted to move to Iowa. It was Friedrich and Sarah Gfeller who found the homestead for sale in 1897 just one mile from their farm, and persuaded the Plumers to stay.

Research:

a. "Recollections" by Louis E. Plumer.

Spouse: **Sarah LICHTE [See Photo]**

Research: Nothing is known about Sarah Lichte at this time.

Children: Son d. in infancy, **Mary**, Christina, Rose, Lena, Louisa, Fred [See family Photo]

Mary GFELLER [See Photos]

Birth Date: B. 4 Dec. , 1866
 Death Date: D. 17 Feb. , 1960
 Death Place: Roseburg, Oregon

Spouse Notes:

Mary Gfeller Plumer was the granddaughter of the immigrant Swiss schoolteacher, Peter Gfeller. She was 5 years her husband's junior. She bore him 5 children, was widowed for 18 years, spending her last years in a nursing home in Roseburg, OR.

Research:

a. The records of Louis E. Plumer

Spouse: **John William [Will] PLUMER....See Plumer Family History**

Children: **LOUIS** Emil, Sadie, Oliver Oscar, Alvin Ray, Ralph





PETER GFELLER AT DES MOINES
About 1860

Anna Maria Moser Gfeller
and
Peter Gfeller



The **Fred Gfeller Family**. L-R: Rose Gfeller Nieman, Lena Gfeller James, Sarah Lichte Gfeller, Fred Gfeller, Jr., Christina Gfeller Harris, Louisa Gfeller Murphy, Friederich (Fred) Gfeller, Mary Gfeller Plumer.

SCRIVNER FAMILY HISTORY

Benjamin SCRIVNER

Birth Date: B. ca. 1709-1714
Birth Place: England
Death Date: D. After 1767
Death Place: Northampton County, PA

Biographical Notes:

Benjamin Scrivner arrived in Philadelphia from London, England in 1729 as a voluntary indentured servant [i.e. not a transported criminal]. He lived in Byberry Township, Philadelphia County, PA; in the Abington Township area (now Montgomery County); in Plumstead Township, Bucks County, PA; and finally in Lower Saucon Township, Northampton county, PA.

Benjamin's first wife, Ruth Bradfield, was a Quaker, though Benjamin was not. His second wife's identity is not known.

We know that Benjamin was at least signature-literate, and Collier speculates that he was, in fact, a "Scrivener" by trade...a sort of clerk.

Research:

- a. "The Descendants of Benjamin Scrivner", by Doris Scrivner Collier, 2106 Retford Drive, Florissant, MO 63033
- b. Doris Scrivner Collier letter of 3 Sept., 1993. Cites: 1767 tax list of Lower Saucon Township, Northampton Co., PA.

Second Spouse: **Name Unknown**

Children: **Benjamin [2]**, David, Mary

Other Spouses: Ruth BRADFIELD

Benjamin[2] SCRIVNER

Birth Date: B. 20 June, 1757
Birth Place: Plumstead, Bucks County, PA
Death Date: D. 16 Mar, 1835
Death Place: Smith County, TN

Biographical Notes:

Benjamin [2] Scrivner was the eldest son of Benjamin, Sr. and his second wife.

Benjamin served extensively in the American Revolution. His first period of service was 8 months for General Woodford as a "cannon soldier" near Germantown, PA. He and his brothers each obtained 300 acres of land in Rowan County, North Carolina, where he moved in 1778. In NC, he volunteered for 6 month's duty under General Rutherford, during which time he fought in many skirmishes against the Tories, some of whom were hanged, and some of whom were put in jail. He volunteered for an additional 6 month's service, during which time his outfit "ran the Tories out of Deep River". He was drafted for a final campaign in South Carolina, but soon after arriving there in 1781, peace was declared, so he returned home.

He obtained an additional 300 acres of land from his brother, which he sold in 1807. In 1817, he sold his own 300 acres and moved on to the "greener pastures" of Smith County, Tennessee. In the fall of 1825, his home in Smith County was destroyed by fire, and he was reduced to poverty. In 1832, he was able to obtain a military pension of \$56/yr, which sustained him until his death, three years later.

Research:

- a. "The Descendants of Benjamin Scrivner", by Doris Scrivner Collier, 2106 Retford Drive, Florissant, MO 63033
- b. U.S. Pension Application W6000 [Revolutionary War], 5 Sept., 1832. Benjamin [2] Scrivner.

Benjamin [2] Scrivner, Continued:

Spouse: **Mary COX**

Birth Date: B. ~1762

Birth Place: Rowan County, NC

Death Date: D. 19 Feb, 1839

Death Place: Cannon County, TN

Biographical Notes:

Mary Cox, born in Rowan County, NC, met her husband-to-be, Benjamin Scrivner, when she was about 16 years old. At about age 17, she married Benjamin, whose 10 children she eventually bore. On 30 Sept., 1779, Benjamin Scrivner's sister, Mary, and brother, Thomas were both getting married in Salisbury, the county seat. Mary Cox Scrivner made the 16-mile wagon trip with the brides and grooms that day, and saw a group of 25 Tories in jail. "...they were beseeching the ladies to use their endeavors to get them out," she later recalled. Apparently, most were eventually released when they agreed to join the rebel cause. It would seem the the American Revolution in Rowan County, NC, was as much a civil political struggle as a war against foreign troops.

Spouse Research:

- a. "The Descendants of Benjamin Scrivner", by Doris Scrivner Collier, 2106 Retford Drive, Florissant, MO 63033
- b. Court Record of Smith County, 19 Feb, 1839. Death record of Mary Scrivner, naming her children

Marriage Date: 28 Dec, 1779

Marriage Place: Rowan Co., NC

Children: Moses, Sarah, Jane, Mary, Pheby, James, Benjamin, **William David**, Rebecca, John

Benjamin[3] SCRIVNER

Birth Date: B. ca. 1791

Birth Place: Rowan County, NC

Death Date: D. 19 Apr, 1867

Death Place: Dallas County, MO

Biographical Notes:

Benjamin fought in the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812. He was listed on the tax rolls of Boone County, MO in 1821, along with his brother, James. In 1834 he sold his land in Boone Co., and moved to Cole Co., MO to join his brother [Wm.] David, near Russellville. He later moved on to what was to become Dallas County, MO.

Research:

- a. "The Descendants of Benjamin Scrivner", by Doris Scrivner Collier, 2106 Retford Drive, Florissant, MO 63033

William DAVID SCRIVNER

Birth Date: B. 1795

Birth Place: Rowan County, NC

Death Date: D. 1854

Death Place: Cole County, MO

Biographical Notes:

"David and Mary were one of the 31 resident families living in Jefferson City, MO at the time of the building of the first capitol in 1826. He purchased land in 1832 near Russellville, MO and in 1835, he was a charter member of Cole Spring Baptist Church along with his brother, Benjamin. David also owned land in Moniteau Co., which part was taken from Cole Co."

We also know from the 1850 census that David and Elizabeth had 7 children, grandma and grandpa Payne, and newly-married Wm. J. Scrivner and his 16-year-old bride [Synthia Scott] living with them.

We know from the birth data of his first two daughters that Wm. David Scrivner moved from Smith Co., TN to Missouri between 1820 and 1822.

William David Scrivner Research:

- a. "The Descendants of Benjamin Scrivner", by Doris Scrivner Collier, 2106 Retford Drive, Florissant, MO 63033
 b. U. S. Census of 1850 for Cole County, Mo.

609 SCURVINER; David 55 M NC
 Elizabeth 47 F NC
 John 18 M Mo
 Rebecca 16 F Mo
 Hannah 13 F Mo
 Nehemiah 11 M Mo
 Nancy 9 F Mo
 Charles 7 M Mo
 Charity 5 F Mo
 Nenemiah PAYNE 68 M Md
 Hannah " 72 F NJ
 William SCURVINER 25 M Mo
 Cynthia " 16 F Mo

[The above couple must be Wm. J. Scrivner and Synthia Scott]

- c. Ford, J. E. , "A History of Jefferson City...and of Cole County" [LDS Library 977.355/J1 Mo J5aH2f].

pg. 24..."Most of the early settlers came from Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and the Carolinas. Most of them were of nearly pure English ancestry."

pg. 26 "Township 43, range 14, was entered in 1823 by Elisha Jobe and B. W. Russell. Howard Hayes, Dave Scrivner, ...Pierre Chouteau...Nathan Proctor, entered or bought land here..."

pg. 57 "A steady stream of immigration from Germany, beginning in volume about 1830 and continuing for several decades, exercised a marked influence on the young American nation. Jefferson City and Cole County received the full tide of this immigration"

pg. 60 "Few Germans became slave owners, no matter what their financial status. The idea of slavery was repugnant to them."

Spouse: Mary Elizabeth PAYNE

Birth Date: B. 1803

Birth Place: Rowan County, NC

Death Date: D. After 1850

Death Place: Cole County, MO

Biographical Notes:

We know that William David Scrivner married Mary Elizabeth Payne in Smith Co., TN, and that their first child, Mary, was born there in 1820 [the mother would have been 17 at the time].

Spouse Research:

- a. "The Descendants of Benjamin Scrivner", by Doris Scrivner Collier, 2106 Retford Drive, Florissant, MO 63033

Marriage Place: Smith Co., TN

Children: Mary, Sarah Ann, James Logan, **William J.**, Benjamin Payne, John Daley, Rebecca, Hannah, Nehemiah, Nancy, Charles, Charity

Other Spouses: Nancy Ann Jordan CRAIG

William J. SCRIVNER

Birth Date: B. 3 Mar, 1825
 Birth Place: Cole Co., MO
 Death Date: D. 24 Feb, 1895
 Occupation: Farmer
 Religion: Baptist
 Marriage Date: 1 Aug, 1850
 Marriage Place: Cole Co., MO

Children: Rebecca Ann, Eliza Jane, Mary Elizabeth, William H., Nancy Catherine, John Robert, Sarah Ellen, James Allen, **Charles Bryan**

Biographical Notes:

William J. Scrivner, a native of Cole County, MO who lived and farmed there all his life, served in the Missouri provisional militia during the Civil War. We know from his 1890 Soldier's Dependent Pension application that he was 5' 10" tall, slender, of light complexion with sandy hair and gray eyes. From the age of 69, or earlier, he was afflicted with deafness, partial blindness due to a growth on his eye, a crippled hand, and was unable to actually work on his farm or garden, even though he sometimes pretended to do so.

At the age of 37 or 38, he had enlisted in two Missouri Militia units, in service of the Union. Probably, these units were engaged in behind-the-lines logistical work, and did not see service outside the State of Missouri, or even outside Cole County; but by his membership, Scrivner evinced his loyalty to the Union cause. His younger brother, Benjamin Payne Scrivner, served in a fighting cavalry unit during the Civil War [his exploits are detailed in ref. b].

William J. Scrivner and his wife, Synthia, belonged to the United Missionary Baptist Church at Mt. Olive, MO. Their immediate neighbor families were the Scotts, Paynes, and Proctors. The Scrivner kids played with their counterparts in these early settler families, and later on, married them. Wm. and Synthia probably lived their adult lives on the Scrivner family farm, south of Russellville. We also know from the 1850 census that David and Elizabeth Scrivner, William's parents, had their 7 children, grandma and grandpa Payne, and newly-married Wm. J. Scrivner and his 16-year-old bride [Synthia Scott] living with them.

From about 1870 onward, Wm. J. Scrivner's next-door neighbor [about 1/2 mile away], was John M. Proctor, the grandfather of Mary Frances Cole, who later married William's son, Charles Bryan Scrivner.

Research:

- a. Family records of Louis Plumer
- b. "The Descendants of Benjamin Scrivner", by Doris Scrivner Collier, 2106 Retford Drive, Florissant, MO 63033
- c. Turpin, Tom, "Cole County Marriages 1850-1900, Mid-Missouri Genealogical Soc., Pub. no. 5. LDS Lib 977.855 V28t
pg. 94
Other Scott-Scrivner Marriages;
23 Feb, 1854 Hannah Scrivner m. James Scott
28 Feb, 1856 Nancy Scrivner m. John Scott [pg. 93]
12 Apr, 1850 Benj. Scrivner m. Katherine J. Scott
- d. "Cemeteries in Cole County, MO as Recorded in the 1930s", Capital City Family Research, Jefferson City, MO.
pg. 31 [Burying ground at Russelville] lists;
"Scrivner, W. J., b. Mar. 3, 1825; d. Feb. 24, 1895"
buried next to wife Scyntitha Scrivner
pg. 198 notes;
page 31--William SCRIVNER (son of William David SCRIVNER & Elizabeth PAYNE, m. 1 Aug 1850 Syntitha SCOTT (dau of Leonard SCOTT & Jane JOHNSON/ JOHNSTON).
page 8 --John SCOTT (Son of Leonard SCOTT and first wife Jane JOHNSON) m Nancy SCRIVNER (dau of William David SCRIVNER & Elizabeth Payne)
James L. SCOTT m. Hannah SCRIVNER (dau of William David SCRIVNER and Elizabeth PAYNE)

pg. 205;

Elisha DAWSON b KY, m Elizabeth SCRIVNER , 2 April 1846 (dau of William David SCRIVNER

PG. 196;

PAGE 10--William David SCRIVNER (Son of Benjamin Payne SCRIVNER and Catherine Jane SCOTT) m Sarah R. ROARK 13 Oct., 1878. Sarah was born 17 Aug 1855, d 31 Dec 1930, a dau of W. D. ROARK and Jane G. PROCTOR. William D. was born 1 May 1857, d 20 May 1931 .

pg. 192;

page 4; John E. SCRIVNER m 30 July 1874 to Nancy J. Roark

page 4--Nehemiah SCRIVNER (Son of William David SCRIVNER and Elizabeth PAYNE) m 21 Mar 1865 Jane DUNCAN

e. U. S. Census of 1850 for Cole County, Mo.

609 SCURVINER; David	55 M NC
Elizabeth	47 F NC
John	18 M Mo
Rebecca	16 F Mo
Hannah	13 F Mo
Nehemiah	11 M Mo
Nancy	9 F Mo
Charles	7 M Mo
Charity	5 F Mo
Nenemiah PAYNE	68 M Md
Hannah "	72 F NJ
William SCURVINER	25 M Mo
Cynthia "	16 F Mo

[The above couple must be Wm. J. Scrivner and Synthia Scott]

610 SCURVINER; James	27 M Mo
Margaret	24 F Tenn
Elizabeth BILES	27 F Tenn
William "	7 M Mo

611 SCRIVNER; Benjamin	21 M Mo
Catherine J.	18 F Mo

647 SCOTT; Leonard	50 M Va
Charlott	36 F Tenn
John	13 M Mo
Robert	11 M Mo
Sarah	9 F Mo
Nancy A.	7 F Mo
Wm. BASINGER	14 M Mo
Patterson "	12 M Mo
Martin "	10 M Mo
unk. "	8 F Mo

[Charlotte was the second wife of Leonard Scott...the Basinger kids must have been hers by a previous marriage]

[Synthia, age 16, had just married Wm. J. Scrivner and was living with her in-laws at the time of the census]

f. Mary Cole Scrivner's family bible. In the possession of June Barnes Rector, (918) 272-9883, 547 So. Quebec, Tulsa, OK 74112 [1993]. True copy provided via Betty Plumer Van Tuyl.

g. U.S. Pension Applications of Wm. J. Scrivner [Invalid, dependant's #866.767] and Synthia Scott Scrivner [widow's #612.130]. Affiants; John M. Proctor, T. J. Scott, James Payne, C. B. Scrivner, Nancy A. West, James C. Proctor.

Wm. J. Scrivner claimed service in Co. "B", 42nd Reg't, and Co. "F", 9th Reg't of the Provisional Missouri Militia. In this latter unit he claimed 141 day's service, enough to qualify for a pension.

Spouse: **Synthia SCOTT**
 Birth Date: B. 22 May, 1835
 Death Date: D. 19 Feb, 1912
 Death Place: Decatur, MO
 Burial Place: Russellville, MO

Biographical Notes:

Synthia married the neighbor boy, Wm. Scrivner, when she was 15 or 16 years old. This early marriage may have been a practical reaction to her father's remarriage to Mrs. Charlotte Basinger, a

widow with children of her own, who had moved in to the crowded home of Leonard Scott, Synthia's widowed father.

She was not the only Synthia Scott to have lived in Cole county, it turns out, but the unorthodox spelling of her name confused many scribes who often wrote it "Syntitha", perhaps because the illiterate Synthia pronounced it that way?

Given the light coloring of the Scrivner family, including her husband William, Synthia Scott Scrivner is the likely source of the dark complexion of her son Charles and his daughter Girtha. A devout Baptist, she lived her life on the Scrivner farm south of Russellville, Mo. After her husband's death in 1895, she lived with her two sons and their families, who had apparently inherited the family farm upon the death of her husband, William, in 1895. One of these sons, Charles B. Scrivner attested to his mother's ill health from palsy in 1896, when she was aged 61. This enabled her to receive a widow's pension, due to her husband's Civil War service, until her death in 1912, at age 76. Charles Scrivner went to Oklahoma in 1900, so little memory of great-grandmother Scrivner has passed down to us. In her last years, she was nursed by her daughter, Eliza Jane Henderson.

Spouse Research:

a. Family Records of Louis Plumer

b. "The Descendants of Benjamin Scrivner", by Doris Scrivner Collier, 2106 Retford Drive, Florissant, MO 63033

c. Turpin, Tom, "Cole county Marriages 1850-1900, Mid-Missouri Genealogical Soc., Pub. no. 5. LDS Lib 977.855 V28t

pg. 94

d. Sone, Guy M. and Ruth W., "Marriage Records of Cole County, MO, 1821-100", 1964

pg. 250 lists;

"SCRIVNER, William, and Syntitha SCOTT, married Aug. 1, 1850, Recorded Book A, page 297.

e. "Cemeteries in Cole co. MO as Recorded in the 1930s", Capital City Family Research, Jefferson City, MO

pg. 8, Pleasant Hill Cemetery, lists ;

"Scott, Synthia-w/o [wife of] Robert Scott, b. Dec. 17, 1816; d. Feb. 12, 1890

Were these relatives of Synthia Scott Scrivner?

pg. 31, Burying Ground at Russellville located about one half mile north of Russellville;

"Scrivner, Scyntitha b. 1835; d. 1912"

e. Mary Cole Scrivner's family bible. In the possession of June Barnes Rector, (918) 272-9883, 547 So. Quebec, Tulsa, OK 74112 [1993]. True copy provided via Betty Plumer Van Tuyl.

f. The records of Louis Plumer listed her as SYNTHIA Scott, but both the marriage record and tombstone list her as SYNTITHA or SCYNTITHA. The Census of 1850 lists her as CYNTHIA. The Scrivner family bible lists her as SYNTHIA. Her death notice listed "CYNTHIA".

Charles Bryan SCRIVNER [See Photo]

Birth Date: B. 29 Sept, 1866

Birth Place: Moreau Township, near Russellville, MO

Spouse: **Mary Francis COLE**

Marriage Date: 16 Dec, 1888

Marriage Place: Cole County, MO

Children: Martin, **Girtha Ellen**, Myrtle, Basil, Maud

Death Date: D. 1927

Death Place: Lucien, OK

Burial: Lucien, OK [Cemetery near his farm]

Biographical Notes:

C. B. Scrivner, concerned about the high degree of intermarriage among Cole County families [Scrivners, Scotts, Proctors, Roarks], moved on to Oklahoma in 1900, or so says family tradition. In fact, there may have been more complex motives, but the intermarriage story is certainly corroborated by the record.

C. B. and his wife Mary settled near Lucien, OK, where he farmed and did house carpentry. Like many "movers-on", he kept up with events in Cole County, MO by subscribing to the local paper, the Russellville Rustler.

"Pop" Scrivner was a devout Baptist, and apparently, a no-nonsense type, judging from this postcard to his daughter, Girtha, who was at a teacher's seminary at the time;

"Lucien OKLA JUN 14 1911 4PM

Miss Girtha Scrivner, Edmond OKLA

I[f] you cant get a State Certificate come home and go to Perry a[nd] take Examination while the institute is going on There is no use staying down there and spending your money for nothing Thats all write as soon as you get this
C. B. Scrivner"

The most direct remembrances of Charles B. Scrivner come from his grandson Paul Plumer:

"I do not remember much about my grandfather, except that he was a hard worker who raised mostly wheat on his 160-acre farm [about half planted in wheat. Also had a garden, peach orchard, and raised pigs].

He also was an accomplished carpenter, and worked in the general area building and adding to houses and barns... He had a big tool chest he would take along on jobs. He built a lot of things in Lucien, and was known for his good workmanship.

[For one thing, he built a porch on to his daughter Girtha's house in Lucien].

He had a good team to take care of the farm work...I remember their names were Barney and King...the team that pulled the plow and the wagons.

He was not large...about 5' 9", dark-skinned, no-nonsense type of guy, but not gruff or intimidating. He was always busy with something or other around the farm, and expected everyone to carry his fair share of the load. Busy as he was, he always found time to spend with Harold and me."

C.B. Scrivner's untimely death in 1927 was attributed to "locked bowels" by Doc Owens, who dosed him with laxatives. Generally, though, the family believes he died of appendicitis, though colon cancer or kidney stones are other possibilities.

Research:

a. [Postcard] "Lucien OKLA JUN 14 1911 4PM

Miss Girtha Scrivner, Edmond OKLA

I[f] you cant get a State Certificate come home and go to Perry a[nd] take Examination while the institute is going on There is no use staying down there and spending your money for nothing Thats all write as soon as you get this

C. B. Scrivner

b. "The Descendants of Benjamin Scrivner", by Doris Scrivner Collier, 2106 Retford Drive, Florissant, MO 63033

c. Family Records of Louis Plumer

d. Turpin, Tom, "Cole County Marriages 1850-1900, Mid-Missouri Genealogical Soc., Pub. no. 5. LDS Lib 977.855 V28t

pg. 94

e. Mary Cole Scrivner's family bible. In the possession of June Barnes Rector, (918) 272-9883, 547 So. Quebec, Tulsa, OK 74112 [1993]. True copy provided via Betty Plumer Van Tuyl.

f. From the Russellville, MO newspaper, 1950;

"(The following news notes were taken from the Russellville Rustler, August 31, 1900, M. L. Tremain, editor)...

C. B. Scrivner and sons, Martin and Basil gave the Rustler a call Monday. Mr. Scrivner has advertised his personal property for sale Sept. 8. He sold his farm to Charlie Scott last week and after the sale will move to Oklahoma."

[Note; Charlie Scott was apparently, C. B. Scrivner's cousin, the son of his aunt Hannah m. James Scott].

g. Russellville Rustler [date unknown, ca. 1920];

"LIKES TO READ RUSTLER FOR COLE COUNTY NEWS

C. B. Scrivner, a former Cole county man, in renewing his subscription to the Cole County Weekly Rustler, writes as follows;

"I always like to hear from old Cole County as I am a native of that county and was born in Moreau Township not far from Russellville, where I have many friends and relatives. Although a resident of Oklahoma for 20 years, I still have a warm place in my heart for the home of my birth."

Father: William J. SCRIVNER

Mother: Synthia SCOTT

Spouse Notes: See **Mary Francis Cole** in Downing/Proctor section

DOWNING/PROCTOR FAMILY HISTORY

Benjamin DOWNING

Birth Date: B. _____

Death Date: D. _____

Research:

a. Nathan Proctor/Proctor and his Descendants 1786-1981, by Margie Procter Fahmi, Russellville, MO, 65074

Spouse: Sarah GRAY

Birth Date: B. _____

Death Date: D. 1828

Death Place: Allen County, KY

Children: **Rachel**, Ann, Mary, Benjamin, Sarah G. [Sally], Sophia, Elizabeth

Biographical Notes:

The will of Sarah Downing April 10, 1826 probated June 16, 1828;
"To my beloved children, to wit, Elizabeth Kincaid, Ann Hall, Mary Prigmore, Benjamin Downing, **Rachel Proctor**, Sarah Carpenter and Sophia Campbell, all my real and personal property, except one horse and cow to Samuel Downing and choice of all my slaves. Son, Benjamin, Sarah Carpenter and Sophia Campbell to have any article of my personal property. My old black woman, Violet, have her choice of my children to live with. To Susannah Akins, late Downing, 5 shillings and no more. Son Benjamin, executor".

Spouse Research:

a. Nathan Proctor/Proctor and his Descendants 1786-1981, by Margie Procter Fahmi, Russellville, MO, 65074

References cited:

Allen County, KY "Wills and Settlements 1815-1902" by Robold and Price

History of Scottsville and Allen County by H. H. Hatton [Parts of Warren county and Barren county were formed into Allen county in 1815]

Rachel DOWNING [Proctor]

Birth Date: B. 1792

Birth Place: Frederick County, MD

Death Date: D. After 1858

Biographical Notes:

Rachel was born in Frederick county, MD, but moved with her family to Kentucky at an early age. In 1834, her cousin Samuel Downing willed her his "...negro boy Thomas provided she pay Samuel E. Carpenter \$100". How Rachel and her husband, Nathan Proctor, got the \$100 ready money to pay off Carpenter is not known. But it seems pretty clear that they did so, because some 24 years later Nathan's will bequeated "...unto my son Benjamin A. Proctor, my negro slave Tom, at the fixed, settled and liquidated price of nine hundred dollars...". [It seems that as a man, Tom was worth nine times what he was as a boy]. Rachel survived her husband, and was provided for in her widowhood "...from the farm...[and] also from the proceeds of said negro slaves labor and services during her natural life...". [There were 3 slaves in all; Tom, Willis, and Adeline]. As evidenced by the birthplaces of their children, Rachel and Nathan Proctor moved from their

Kentucky home to Tennessee [by 1819], to Alabama [by 1823], back to Kentucky [by 1828], and finally to Cole County, MO, about 3 miles south of Russellville, in 1836. [She would have been 44 at the time, and Nathan 50].

The Nathan Proctor farm consisted of 240 acres astride the main road running south from Russellville. Just south of them were the Mt. Olive Church and the Procter School. Their oldest son, Benjamin, bought 160 acres about 1 mile to the east, just across Scrivner road.

Research:

- a. Nathan Procter/Procter and his Descendants 1786-1981, by Margie Procter Fahrni, Russellville, MO, 65074
- b. Rachel is mentioned in the wives interrogation section of the 1814 Barren county land sale, but not in the indenture itself.

Spouse: Nathan PROCTOR

Birth Date: B. 1786

Death Date: D. 1858

Death Place: Cole County, MO

Children: Benjamin A., son #2, James G. Lewis B., **John M.**, Sarah C., Jane G. , Joseph D.

Biographical Notes:

Family tradition says that Nathan Proctor came to the United States from Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. The earliest record of him in the U.S. is a property sale in Barren County, KY [13 June, 1814], in which he, his in-laws Benjamin and Sarah Downing sold land to James Campbell. As evidenced by the birthplaces of their children, Rachel and Nathan Proctor moved from their Kentucky home to Tennessee [by 1819], to Alabama [by 1823], back to Kentucky [by 1828], and finally to Cole County, MO, about 3 miles south of Russellville, in 1836. [She would have been 44 at the time, and Nathan 50].

The Nathan Proctor farm consisted of 240 acres astride the main road running south from Russellville. Just south of them were the Mt. Olive Church and the Procter school. Their oldest son, Benjamin, bought 160 acres about 1 mile to the east, just across Scrivner road.

Nathan Proctor was a slaveowner who willed his property to his various children in 1857. Son Benjamin got "my Negro slave Tom, at the fixed, settled, and liquidated price of nine hundred dollars", son James got "Willis...nine hundred dollars", John M. got "Adeline...six hundred and fifty dollars", and daughter Jane [Roark] got "...the child or children (if any) that the said Adeline my negro slave may have". Family tradition says that the Proctor slaves cried when emancipated a few years later. They had become such an integral part of the Proctor family and its farms, that they did not know what to do as freedmen. Unable to pay for their services, the Proctors apparently had to turn them out.

Nathan's grandson, J. R. Proctor told this tale of how the family came to Missouri;

"My first known ancestor was Nathan Proctor who married Rachel Downing. They had six children- Benjamin, Jane, John M., another son, James G., and Joseph [he forgot the feebleminded son, Lewis].

My grandfather, Nathan, had a neighbor in Kentucky by the name of Lamem [actually Landmon] Short who moved to cowskin Prarie in McDonald County in Southwest Missouri. In 1832, Nathan decided to join Lamem short. He left with his large family and two lynch pin wagons. There were no highways and they had to follow Indian trails. Near Russellville, MO, the trail washed out and the spindles hit the banks. They would dig and move and dig again. Seeing they would not get out by night, two boys cut down a dead tree for a campfire. There was an opossum and a swarm of bees in the stump and a lot of honey in the top. There was also a spring of water nearby. My grandfather said, 'That's a good omen so we'll settle here.'"

Nathan Proctor Research:

- a. Nathan Procter/Procter and his Descendants 1786-1981, by Margie Procter Fahrni, Russellville, MO, 65074

John M. PROCTOR

Birth Date: B. 20 Aug, 1826
 Birth Place: Alabama

Spouse: **Isabella ROARK**

Marriage Date: 21 Sept, 1848

Marriage Place: Russellville, MO?

Children: Matilda Jane, **Rutha Rachel**, Sarah Frances, Mary Dee, William Nathan

Other Spouses: Mary Ann [Polly] TAYLOR

Death Date: Unknown

Biographical Notes:

"John M. Proctor, son of Nathan and Rachel (Downing) Proctor, was born in the state of Alabama. Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Tennessee, then back to their native state of Kentucky, and in 1836, to the state [sic] of Missouri. In 1848, he married Sarah [sic] Isabella Roark, who died in 1857. Five children were born to this union." [ref. a, pg. 84].

Where did John M. Proctor stand in the War Between the States? As a slaveowner and southerner, his sympathies might well have been with the Confederacy. In fact, public records show that some 22 Missouri Proctor men fought for the Rebels during the Civil War, but John M. Proctor was not among them. His friends and neighbors the Scrivners were Unionists, despite having come from North Carolina and Tennessee. In fact, John M. Proctor claimed in his 1890 U.S. Pension Application, that he had fought in exactly the same units of the Missouri Militia as William J. Scrivner had, but despite several appeals, his pension claim was ultimately denied, due to a technicality [note c]. John M. Proctor was among the 4000 defenders of Jefferson City, MO on 8 Oct, 1864, when that city was surrounded -but not attacked- by Confederate General Sterling Price's troops [or so swore Enoch E. Campbell and James C. Proctor, probably his relatives]. Why would a slaveowner from a pro-south family support the Union? For one thing, John M. Proctor had inherited only one slave [Adeline], and her offspring were willed to John's sister. It's not likely that a man in his circumstances could have acquired further slaves, so his economic interest was small. Also, he had married into a pro-North family, and there was undoubtedly pressure from them to support the Union. Also, the Southern cause in Missouri was essentially defeated in March of 1862, at the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, and Missouri remained part of the Union throughout the war. John M. Proctor probably cast his lot with the evident winners, whatever his personal sympathies may have been.

Research:

a. Nathan Procter/Proctor and his Descendants 1786-1981, by Margie Procter Fahrmi, Russellville, MO, 65074

References cited;

Enloe Cemetery Records

Russellville Rustler newspaper, 1901

Mrs. Mildred Stobel

Cole County Marriages by Sone

Harry Procter

b. "Index to Confederate Soldiers", microfilm collection of the National Archives, Washington, DC.

c. Apparently, Proctor's name did not appear on the rolls of "Company F, 9th Provisional Regiment, Enrolled Missouri Militia", a unit which was officially recognized as having served the Union cause. He was officially recognized as having served in another unit, "Company B, 42nd Regiment, Enrolled Missouri Militia", but this unit's affiliation with the U.S. Army was NOT officially recognized, so Proctor's pension was denied.

d. Encyclopaedia Britannica, 15th edition, v. 29, pg. 232.

Father: Nathan PROCTOR

Mother: Rachel DOWNING

John M. PROCTOR

(See Biographical Notes, above)

Second Spouse: **Mary Ann [Polly] TAYLOR**

Birth Date: B. 30 Aug, 1833

Death Date: D. 20 Mar, 1920

Marriage Date: 15 July, 1860

Marriage Place: Russellville, MO

Children: James Orr [J.R.]

Other Spouses: Isabella ROARK [First wife]

James Orr [J.R.] PROCTOR

Birth Date: 30 Aug, 1867

Birth Place: Russellville, MO

Death Date: 5 Nov, 1963

Death Place: California, MO

Biographical Notes:

J. R. Proctor, a son of his father's second marriage, lived a long and varied life. He grew up on his father's farm, helping with chores and attending school for only 3 months of the year. At age 22, he entered Cooper Institute at Clarksburg, graduated in 1891 to become a country school teacher and, by 1895, Commissioner of Schools for Cole County. He went into the lumber business in 1896, becoming very successful. He was elected a State Legislator in 1914 as a Democrat. He was a charter member of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, a Mason, and a member of I.O.O.F. He donated money for Proctor Park in California, MO, which was named in honor of his wife.

Most importantly, J. R. passed along this story about how the Proctors came to Missouri; "My first known ancestor was Nathan Proctor who married Rachel Downing. They had six children- Benjamin, Jane, John M., another son, James G., and Joseph [he forgot the feebleminded son, Lewis].

My grandfather, Nathan, had a neighbor in Kentucky by the name of Lamem [actually Landmon] Short who moved to Cowskin Prairie in McDonald County in Southwest Missouri. In 1832, Nathan decided to join Lamem Short. He left with his large family and two lynch pin wagons. There were no highways and they had to follow Indian trails. Near Russellville, MO, the trail washed out and the spindles hit the banks. They would dig and move and dig again. Seeing they would not get out by night, two boys cut down a dead tree for a campfire. There was an opossum and a swarm of bees in the stump and a lot of honey in the top. There was also a spring of water nearby. My grandfather said, "That's a good omen so we'll settle here."

Research:

a. Nathan Proctor/Proctor and his Descendants 1786-1981, by Margie Procter Fahrni, Russellville, MO, 65074

Rutha Rachel PROCTOR [See Photo]

Birth Date: B. 31 July, 1850
 Birth Place: Near Decatur, MO
 Death Date: D. 18 Feb, 1936
 Death Place: Eldon, MO
 Marriage Date: 6 Feb, 1870
 Marriage Place: Cole County, MO
 Children: **Mary Francis**, Ora, Bessie

Biographical Notes:

Great-great Grandma Cole, born Rutha Rachel Proctor, was a clay-pipe-smoking lady with some remembrances of her slave-owning family's past. She remembered when her father's slaves were emancipated by proclamation, and how the slaves themselves cried and pleaded not to be turned out from the family which had apparently treated them well.

As an old woman, Grandma Cole came to visit her daughter, Mary Scrivner, in Oklahoma. Betty Plumer remembers that slowly but surely, daughter Mary would "accidentally" knock Grandma Cole's clay pipes off the mantel, until they were all gone and her disapproving Baptist daughter was satisfied at having snuffed out her mother's immoral, nasty habit! Grandma Cole liked a nip of whiskey now and then, which also was something her teetotaling daughter could not abide. So Louis Plumer, her granddaughter Girtha's husband, would bring Grandma Cole a little "medicine" from time to time. Apparently, this solved both Grandma Cole's and Grandma Scrivner's problems! Since it was quite unusual for the time, it should be noted that Rutha Rachel Cole had only three children...all in the first six years of her marriage to Alfred Cole. Since Alfred lived until 1912, this is a bit of a puzzle.

Betty Plumer had vivid memories of her Grandma Cole, a little old backwoods lady who came to Perry, Oklahoma in the winters to visit her daughters. She was thin and tall, always wore black dresses, black stockings and high-button shoes. She told stories of HER father, "Grandpap" Proctor, and his slaves. She also specialized in Ghost Stories! The kids loved it when Grandma Cole would hold forth on a dark winter's night, scaring them to death!

Grandma Cole loved watermelon, but it didn't love her. She would always get a stomach ache when she indulged, and took to a chair propped up against the outdoor garage until she felt better.

Research:

- a. Data from the files of Louis E. Plumer, based on original family sources
 - b. Nathan Proctor/Proctor and his Descendants 1786-1981, by Margie Procter Fahrni, Russellville, MO, 65074
- References cited;
- Enloe Cemetery Records
 Russellville Rustler newspaper, 1901
 Mrs. Mildred Stobel
 Cole County Marriages by Sone
 Harry Proctor
- c. Rusellville was Platted in 1838
 - d. Turpin, Tom, "Cole county Marriages 1850-1900, Mid-Missouri Genealogical Soc., Pub. no. 5. LDS Lib 977.855 V28t pg. 19
 - e. Obituary of Rutha Rachel Cole, in California, MO newspaper, 1936;
 "Rutha Rachel Cole, 85 years old, half-sister of J. R. Proctor, died early Tuesday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Albert Haines, at Eldon with whom she had lived several years.
 A daughter of John M. and Isabelle Proctor, she was born July 31, 1850, near Decatur and spent the greater portion of her life in Miller county. Her mother died when she was 7 years old.
 Her husband, Alfred J. Cole, died August 29, 1913 [sic]. Surviving besides the half-brother and the daughter, Mrs. Haines, are two other daughters, Mrs. Mary Scrivner, Perry, Okla., and Mrs. Bessie Hoff, Red Rock Okla. There are eight grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren. She had been a member of the Baptist church since early in life. Funeral services were held at the Eldon Baptist church at 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, the Rev. B. F. Dinwiddie officiating. Burial was at Eldon."

Another Obituary;

"...died at her home in Eldon, Feb. 18, 1936. She united with the Baptist church at Mount Olive at the age of 18. In 1869 Miss Proctor was married to Alfred J. Cole and to this union were born [Mary, Ora, Bessie]... One brother, J. R. Proctor of California, MO and eight grandchildren are also surviving..."

Father: John M. PROCTOR
Mother: Isabella ROARK

Spouse: **Alfred J. COLE**

Birth Date: B. _____

Death Date: D. 29 Aug, 1912

Marriage Date: 6 Feb, 1870

Marriage Place: Cole County, MO

Biographical Notes:

Surprisingly, there were few Coles in Cole county MO! Nothing is known about Alfred Cole at this time.

Alfred Cole Research:

a. Turpin, Tom, "Cole County Marriages 1850-1900, Mid-Missouri Genealogical Soc., Pub. no. 5. LDS Lib 977.855 V28t

pg. 19

b. Telegram dated 8/29/12

"To C. B. Scrivner, Lucien, Okla.

Father died noon today answer immediately if coming or not. Albert Haynes"

Mary Francis COLE [See Photo]

Birth Date: B. 19 Mar, 1872

Death Date: D. 19 Aug., 1955

Death Place: Perry, OK

Burial: Lucien, OK, Cemetery [near the Scrivner Farm]

Religion: Baptist

Marriage Date: 16 Dec, 1888

Marriage Place: Cole County, MO

Children: Martin, **Girtha Ellen**, Myrtle, Basil, Maud

Biographical Notes:

Mary Scrivner was a warm and loving person, according to the memories of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was the quintessential farm wife, by all accounts...famous for her fried chicken and gravy, and her baked-fresh-every-day biscuits. When the migrant harvest crews came to the farm for the wheat harvest, she would cook from before dawn to after dark to satisfy their appetites! She raised the family's chickens, which she purchased as chicks each year through the mail-order catalog...Rhode Island Reds, they were. Aleen Plumer remembers playing in Grandma Scrivner's small peach orchard on the family farm, but being warned by Grandma to retreat to the house at the first sighting of any tramps or gypsies coming up the road. The Plumer family visited Grandma's farm often while they lived in Lucien, and Harold Plumer moved into their parlor while he had scarlet fever, in an attempt to prevent infection of his siblings [they all got it, anyway]. Sometime in the 1930s, after the death of her husband, and after her daughter Maud and her husband had taken over the family farm, Mary Scrivner moved into Perry, where she lived close to her daughter, Girtha Plumer. She maintained very close ties to the Plumer family in Perry. Charles Plumer spent most nights during his boyhood sleeping over at Grandma Scrivner's, helping to assuage her loneliness. Rory Van Tuyl, her great grandson, visited her often when he was in Perry, and remembers; "*She would hold me in her lap as she rocked in her rocking chair, cuddling me to her bosom while I contemplated the enormous mole beside her nose. She wore her hair in an old farm wife's bun, and wore print dresses of a very old-fashioned type. I loved to watch her*

*famous cuckoo clock, and to plop down on her feather bed, where I'd sink down until completely covered by the enveloping mattress.
Best of all was the treat she would always give me...a giant 12 ounce Pepsi Cola!'"*

Grandma Scrivner attended the Baptist Church in Perry, but her daughter Girtha and her husband Louis went to the Methodist Church down the street. Aleen and Betty Plumer remember starting out at the Baptist Sunday School when they moved to Perry, but switched to the Methodist Church down the street after being shown the diagram of Baptist Hell. By becoming Methodists, they realized, they wouldn't have to face the prospect of Baptism by immersion in that basement pool of their grandmother's church!

Though a strict moralist, teetotaler and regular churchgoer, Mary was not a rabid religious believer, but she did have her own ideas about how people should conduct themselves.

For example, Mary was somewhat embarrassed by her sister Bessie's lifestyle. Bessie was "none too sharp", and had married a backwoods type named Henry Hoff. Bessie's home was not too clean. It was decorated with shawls, beads, and Indian blankets. The proud Mary Scrivner would try not to admit that Bessie was her sister! Nor did she approve of her own mother's pipe-smoking ways. That pipe was "morally wrong", she thought. Every chance she got, Mary would "accidentally" break one of Grandma Cole's beloved clay pipes, forcing the poor old woman to sit out by the chimney of the farmhouse to smoke, where she'd confide in her great-granddaughter, "Mary keeps breaking my pipes..."

Nonetheless, Mary Cole Scrivner is remembered by all who knew her as a kind and giving woman, full of love for her grandkids. In the family tradition, when her daughter Myrtle and her daughters were cut adrift by divorce in the 1930s, Mary Scrivner, the Perry widow, took them in. She could have done no less!

Research:

a. Family Records of Louis Plumer

b. "The Descendants of Benjamin Scrivner", by Doris Scrivner Collier, 2106 Retford Drive, Florissant, MO 63033

c. Turpin, Tom, "Cole County Marriages 1850-1900, Mid-Missouri Genealogical Soc., Pub. no. 5. LDS Lib 977.855 V28t

pg. 94

d. Perry Daily Journal, 1942;

"41-Year-Old Clock Entertains Friends And Makes Nights Short For Mrs. Mary Scrivner

When Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Scrivner came to Noble County from Missouri in 1900 to set up housekeeping on a farm seven miles west of Perry, they sat down to the mail order catalog and decided on a well-recommended cuckoo clock. They purchased the clock for \$14.50, and 41 years later with only a two-month vacation the old-fashioned timepiece is still running accurately and keeping Mrs. Scrivner company at her home in Perry, 419 Eighth street.

Measuring 22 inches from the bottom of the clock to the head of the cuckoo at the top and 16 inches across, the decorative dark-wood box presents an imposing picture from its high position on the wall in the living room.

Intricately carved leaves and the cuckoo perched at the top decorate the clock, shaped as a bird house. Numbers for the hour are of ivory and are posted on the clock's face.

Two little doors just above the numbers hold the birdies-for this clock has two-one a quail to strike the divisions of the hour and another a cuckoo to strike the hour.

The high-voiced quail always sounds four times to show the end of the fourth quarter and the cuckoo numbers the hour.

Weights hang on long chains from the box and are pulled each evening for the next 24-hour period.

In spite of many offers through the years, Mrs. Scrivner still refuses to part with the clock. "I've had it too long, and it's too much company," she'll assure you.

"When I can't sleep at night it's very handy to tell me the time, and its frequent striking is good company," she explains. Even when she's out in the yard with her flowers or on the porch, she can keep up with the exact time.

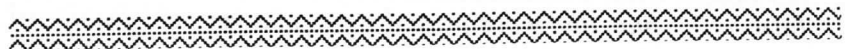
Mrs. Scrivner, and active member of the Perry Baptist Church and the Women's Missionary Union, celebrated her 70th birthday March 19th. She is the mother of Mrs. L. E. Plumer of Perry and has four other children, Basil Scrivner, now of Shawnee, Mrs. M. E. Barnes and Martin Scrivner of Tulsa, and Mrs. John Staples of north of Blackwell...."

e. The recollections of Paul Plumer, Aleen Plumer Caudill, Betty Plumer Van Tuyl and Rory Van Tuyl.

Father: Alfred J. COLE

Mother: Rutha Rachel PROCTOR

Spouse Notes: SEE SCRIVNER FAMILY HISTORY

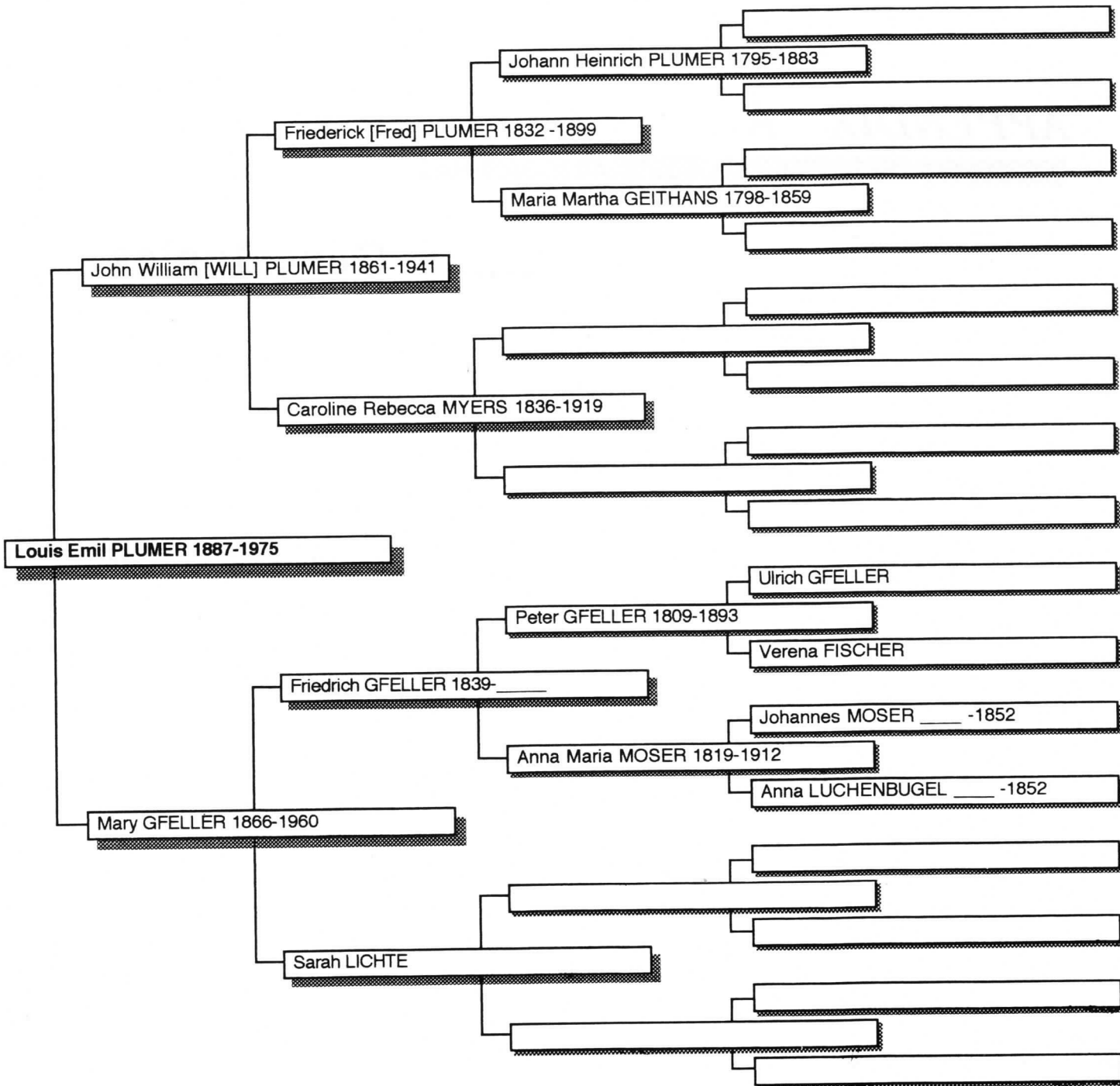


APPENDIX A



..... **Genealogies**

The Ancestors of Louis E. Plumer



Genealogical Descendant Charts

For names shown in **Bold**, more detailed information is available in Chapter 4, "Family Histories"

Numbering system example:

1.4.3a = "First marriage [x.x.xa] of third child in 3rd generation [x.x.3], who is the son or daughter of the fourth child in the second generation [x.4.x]"

Descendants of Johann and Maria PLUMER

1. **Johann Heinrich PLUMER** (B. 1795-D. 2 Apr, 1883)
& **Maria Martha GEITHANS** (B. 1798-D. 16 Dec, 1859)
 - 1.1 Margaretta Caroline PLUMER (B. 25 Jan, 1823-D. Bef. 1851) & _____ BOWER
 - 1.2 Margaretta Sophie Dorothea PLUMER (B. 28 Feb, 1825-D. _____) & Henry SAAR
 - 1.3 Herman Henry Ferdinand PLUMER (B. 5 Sept, 1827-D. 31 Dec, 1918)
 - 1.4 **Friederick Heinrich Wilhelm PLUMER** (B. 4 Aug. , 1832-D. 4 Aug. , 1899)
& **Caroline Rebecca MYERS** (B. 17 Aug. , 1836-D. 6 Jan , 1919)
 - 1.4.1 **Christopher G. PLUMER** (B. 12 Jan, 1857-D. Apr, 1936)
 - 1.4.2 Julia Jane PLUMER (B. July, 1859-) & _____ MESSMAN
 - 1.4.3 **John William [WILL] PLUMER** (B. 16 Jul., 1861-D. 4 Dec. , 1941)
& **Mary GFELLER** (B. 4 Dec. , 1866-D. 17 Feb. , 1960)
 - 1.4.3.1a **Louis Emil PLUMER*** (B. 27 Sep., 1887-D. 29 Sep., 1975)
& **Girtha Ellen SCRIVNER** (B. 1 Aug. , 1891-D. 15 Aug. , 1964)
 - 1.4.3.1b Louis Emil PLUMER* (B. 27 Sep., 1887-D. 29 Sep., 1975)
& Lucile Warner HIRSCHMAN (B. Oct, 1900-)
 - 1.4.3.2 Sadie PLUMER (B. 29 Dec, 1890-) & Ed BROWN
 - 1.4.3.3 Oliver Oscar PLUMER (B. 17 Sept, 1893-D. _____)
 - 1.4.3.4 Alvin Ray PLUMER (B. 13 Dec, 1896-D. 13 July, 1958) & Mabel MCGUIRE
 - 1.4.3.5 Ralph William PLUMER (B. 15 Oct, 1901-D. _____) & Iva ALDRIDGE
 - 1.4.4 Sophia Louise PLUMER & _____ SCHREIBER
 - 1.4.5 Phebe Ella PLUMER (B. 19 Jan, 1867-) & _____ STOWITZ
 - 1.4.6 Alvinia Augusta PLUMER (B. 20 Aug, 1869-D. 25 Oct, 1921) & _____ SCHAAL
 - 1.4.7 Minnie Elsa PLUMER (B. 28 Mar, 1872-D. _____) & John LANTZ
 - 1.4.8 Simon Aron PLUMER (B. 25 Nov, 1874-D. 19 Mar, 1880)
 - 1.4.9 Amel Frederick Garon PLUMER (B. 28 Nov, 1877-D. 8 Mar, 1880)
 - 1.5 Wilhelm PLUMER (B. 31 Dec, 1825-D. 23 June, 1921)
 - 1.6 Frederick Christopher PLUMER (B. 7 Oct, 1838-D. 27 Aug, 1910)

Sources:

- a. "The Yesteryears of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, by Maude Plumer Burgoin, written ca. 1958.
- b. Alida, KS was in Davis County [now Geary Co]. census microfilm T-9 378 (1880).
- c. The Records of Louis E. Plumer

Descendants of Peter and Anna Maria GFELLER

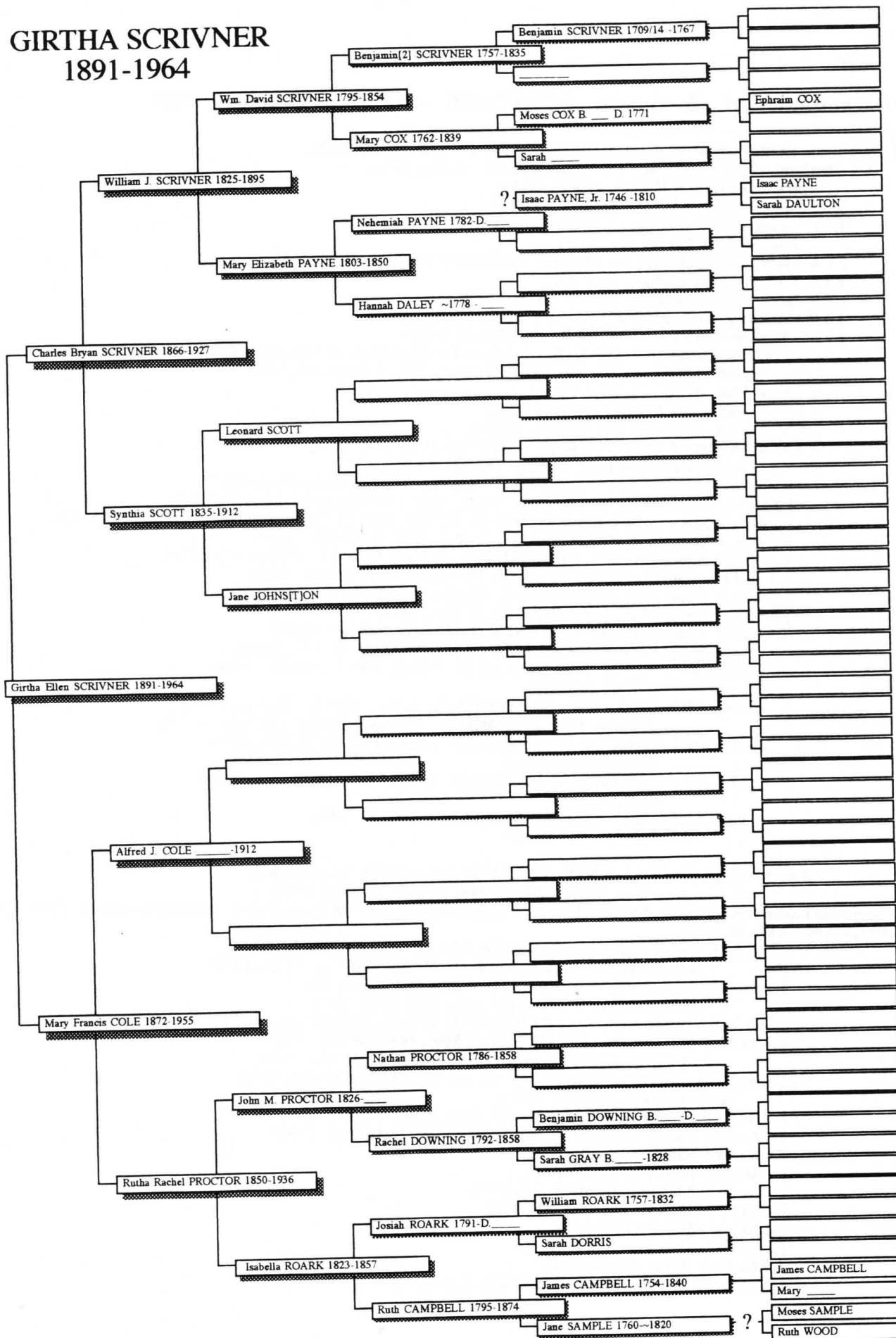
1. **Peter GFELLER** (B. 6 Apr. , 1809-D. 27 Aug. , 1893)
& **Anna Maria MOSER** (March 25, 1819-Oct. 26, 1912)
 - 1.1 2 children died in Switzerland
 - 1.2 Elizabeth GFELLER (B. Ca 1836-) & Peter LEHMAN
 - 1.3 Lina GFELLER (B. Ca 1838-) & _____ HABHEGGER
 - 1.4 **Friedrich GFELLER** (B. 1839-D. Oklahoma) & **Sarah LICHTER**
 - 1.4.1 Son died in infancy
 - 1.4.2 **Mary GFELLER** (B. 4 Dec. , 1866-D. 17 Feb. , 1960)
& **John William [WILL] PLUMER** (B. 16 Jul., 1861-D. 4 Dec. , 1941)
 - 1.4.2.1a **Louis Emil PLUMER*** (B. 27 Sep., 1887-D. 29 Sep., 1975)
& **Girtha Ellen SCRIVNER** (B. 1 Aug. , 1891-D. 15 Aug. , 1964)
 - 1.4.2.1b Louis Emil PLUMER* (B. 27 Sep., 1887-D. 29 Sep., 1975)
& Lucile Warner HIRSCHMAN (B. Oct, 1900-)
 - 1.4.2.2 Sadie PLUMER (B. 29 Dec, 1890-) & Ed BROWN
 - 1.4.2.3 Oliver Oscar PLUMER (B. 17 Sept, 1893-D. _____)
 - 1.4.2.4 Alvin Ray PLUMER (B. 13 Dec, 1896-D. 13 July, 1958) & Mabel MCGUIRE
 - 1.4.2.5 Ralph William PLUMER (B. 15 Oct, 1901-D. _____) & Iva ALDRIDGE
 - 1.4.3 Christina GFELLER & Will HARRIS
 - 1.4.4 Rose GFELLER & Fred NIEMAN
 - 1.4.5 Lena GFELLER & George JAMES
 - 1.4.6 Louisa GFELLER & Liles MURPHY
 - 1.4.7 Fred GFELLER & Allie MALOCK
 - 1.5 Anna Maria [Mary] GFELLER (B. Ca 1841-) & _____ MANZ
 - 1.6 Rosina GFELLER (B. Ca 1844-) & _____ NEUENSCHWANDER
 - 1.7 Emilie GFELLER (B. Ca 1845-) & _____ ZIEMAN
 - 1.8 Gottfried GFELLER (B. Ca 1846-)
 - 1.9 Gottlieb GFELLER (B. Ca 1847-)
 - 1.10 Louisa GFELLER (B. Ca 1848-) & _____ FUEGY
 - 1.11 Adolphe GFELLER (B. Ca 1851-)
 - 1.12 Robert GFELLER (B. 1852-)
 - 1.13 Wilhelm GFELLER
 - 1.14 Herman GFELLER
 - 1.15 Christina GFELLER & _____ BUHRER
 - 1.16 2 children died in Iowa

Sources:

- a. The records of Louis E. Plumer
- b. Seubert, Mrs. Lydia and Seubert, Miss Estelle, "Gfeller Family Tree", 1940, Chapman, KS



GIRTHA SCRIVNER 1891-1964



Descendants of Benjamin SCRIVNER and his Second Wife

1. **Benjamin SCRIVNER*** (B. Ca 1709-1714-D. After 1767) & **Second Wife**
- 1.1 **Benjamin[2] SCRIVNER** (B. 20 June, 1757-D. 16 Mar, 1835)
& **Mary COX** (B. Ca 1762-D. 19 Feb, 1839)
- 1.1.1 Moses SCRIVNER (B. ___ Jan, 1781-)
1.1.2 Sarah SCRIVNER (B. Ca 1782-)
1.1.3 Jane SCRIVNER (B. Ca 1785-)
1.1.4 Mary SCRIVNER (B. Ca 1787-) & Lawrence PAYNE
1.1.5 Pheby SCRIVNER (B. Ca 1788-)
1.1.6 James SCRIVNER (B. 1789-D. 1853)
- 1.1.7 **Benjamin[3] SCRIVNER** (B. Ca 1791-D. 19 Apr, 1867)
- 1.1.8a **William DAVID SCRIVNER*** (B. 1795-D. 1854)
& **Mary Elizabeth PAYNE** (B. 1803-D. After 1850) [dau. of Nehemiah Payne b. 1782, MD, and Hanah Daley b. ~1778, NJ. Ref. US census 1850 Cole county, MO]
- 1.1.8a.1 Mary SCRIVNER (B. 1820-)
1.1.8a.2 Sarah Ann SCRIVNER (B. 1822-)
1.1.8a.3 James Logan SCRIVNER (B. 1823-)
1.1.8a.4 **William J. SCRIVNER** (B. 3 Mar, 1825-D. 24 Feb, 1895)
& **Synthia SCOTT** (B. 22 May, 1835-D. 19 Feb, 1912)
- 1.1.8a.4.1 Rebecca Ann SCRIVNER (B. 27 June, 1851-) & John A. HODGES
1.1.8a.4.2 Eliza Jane SCRIVNER (B. 9 Dec, 1852-) & William M. HENDERSON
1.1.8a.4.3 Mary Elizabeth SCRIVNER (B. 22 Aug, 1854-D. 23 Jan 1880) & _____ NANCE
1.1.8a.4.4 William H. SCRIVNER (B. 15 July, 1856-D. 18 July, 1856)
1.1.8a.4.5 Nancy Catherine SCRIVNER (B. 16 June, 1857-) & William SULLENS
1.1.8a.4.6 John Robert SCRIVNER (B. 10 Apr, 1859-D. 10 Feb, 1863)
1.1.8a.4.7 Sarah Ellen SCRIVNER (B. 22 Apr, 1861-D. 15 Feb, 1863)
1.1.8a.4.8 James Allen SCRIVNER (B. 17 Nov, 1864-)
1.1.8a.4.9 **Charles Bryan SCRIVNER** (B. 29 Sept, 1866-D. 1927)
& **Mary Francis COLE** (B. 19 Mar, 1872 -D. 19 Aug., 1955)
- 1.1.8a.4.9.1 Martin A. SCRIVNER (B. 8 Dec, 1889-D. 31 July, 1946)
& Tillie BROWN
1.1.8a.4.9.2 **Girtha Ellen SCRIVNER** (B. 1 Aug., 1891-D. 15 Aug., 1964)
& **Louis Emil PLUMER** (B. 27 Sept., 1887-D. 29 Sept., 1975)
1.1.8a.4.9.3 Myrtle Ora SCRIVNER (B. 1 June, 1893-D. 21 Feb, 1978)
& Marion BARNES
1.1.8a.4.9.4 Basil Bryan SCRIVNER (B. 12 Mar, 1895-D. 21 Dec, 1959)
& Dec _____
1.1.8a.4.9.5 Maud M. SCRIVNER (8 July, 1902-D. 1984)
& JOHN STAPLES
- 1.1.8a.5a Benjamin Payne SCRIVNER* (B. 24 Apr, 1829-D. 10 Apr, 1892)
& Catherine Jane SCOTT (B. 17 Apr, 1833-D. 16 Sept, 1858)
- [Benjamin Payne Scrivner served in the Missouri Volunteer Cavalry during the civil war. A detailed account of his service is given in source a.]
- 1.1.8a.5a.1 James Laurie SCRIVNER (B. 12 Mar, 1851-D. 23 July, 1929)
& Sarah Isabelle CAMPBELL (B. 30 June 1853-D. 17 Jan 1892)
1.1.8a.5a.2 John Enoch SCRIVNER (B. 4 Jan, 1854-7 Feb, 1911)
& Nancy Jane ROARK (28 Nov, 1856/61-D. 1945)
1.1.8a.5a.3 George Anderson SCRIVNER (B. 27 Mar, 1855-10 Feb, 1912) & Nancy Jane JONES
1.1.8a.5a.4 William David SCRIVNER (1 May, 1857-20 May, 1921)
& Sarah Rachel ROARK (17 Aug, 1855-D. 31 Dec, 1930)
- 1.1.8a.5b Benjamin Payne SCRIVNER* (B. 24 Apr, 1829-D. 10 Apr, 1892)
& Nancy HOLDER (B. 1847-)
- 1.1.8a.5b.1 Charles R. SCRIVNER (B. Aug, 1868-D. 1941)
1.1.8a.5b.2 Nancy Catherine [Kate] SCRIVNER (B. 1870-D. 1941)
1.1.8a.5b.3 Eliza SCRIVNER
1.1.8a.5b.4 Benjamin SCRIVNER, T.
1.1.8a.5b.5 Maude Luthania SCRIVNER
1.1.8a.5b.6 Meyer Cordell SCRIVNER
1.1.8a.5b.7 Eddie SCRIVNER
1.1.8a.5b.8 Dora Lee SCRIVNER
1.1.8a.5b.9 Allen SCRIVNER
1.1.8a.5b.10 Martin Luther SCRIVNER & Birdie Jane SAPPENFIELD

- 1.1.8a.6 John Daley SCRIVNER (B. 1832-)
- 1.1.8a.7 Rebecca SCRIVNER (B. 1834-)
- 1.1.8a.8 Hannah SCRIVNER (B. 1837-) & James L. SCOTT
- 1.1.8a.8.1 Charlie SCOTT

[This is the cousin who apparently bought C. B. Scrivner's farm when C. B. moved to Oklahoma in 1900.]

- 1.1.8a.9 Nehemiah SCRIVNER (B. 25 Dec, 1838-)
- 1.1.8a.10 Nancy SCRIVNER (B. 25 Jan, 1841-) & John SCOTT (B. 12 Aug, 1836-)
- 1.1.8a.11 Charles SCRIVNER (B. 1843-)
- 1.1.8a.12 Charity SCRIVNER (B. 1845-)
- 1.1.8b William DAVID SCRIVNER* (B. 1795-D. 1854)
& Nancy Ann Jordan CRAIG (B. 29 Sep, 1820-D. 20 Aug, 1893)
- 1.1.8b.1 William David SCRIVNER (B. 1 June, 1855-D. 11 May, 1924)
- 1.1.9 Rebecca SCRIVNER (B. 1803-D. _____) & Isaiah PAYNE (B. 1799 -D. _____)
- 1.1.10 John SCRIVNER (B. Ca 1804-D. After 1850)
- 1.2 David SCRIVNER (B. Ca 1756-58-)
- 1.3 Mary SCRIVNER (B. Ca 1761-)

Sources:

- a. "The Descendants of Benjamin Scrivner", by Doris Scrivner Collier, 2106 Retford Drive, Florissant, MO 63033

Descendants of Ephraim Cox

- 1. Ephraim COX ["Moses Cox was the son of Ephraim Cox who was in Rowan Co., NC as early as 1753".]
1.1 Moses COX & Sarah _____
1.1.1 **Mary COX** (B. Ca 1762-D. 19 Feb, 1839)
& **Benjamin[2] SCRIVNER** (B. 20 June, 1757-D. 16 Mar, 1835)

Sources:

- a. Doris Scrivner Collier private correspondence, 3 Sept., 1993. Cites: Will of Moses Cox, marriage license of Benj. Scrivner and Mary Cox, records of Jersey Baptist Church, Davidson Co., NC, Cox family bible [at Davidson Co. Gen. Soc.], history of Watauga Co., NC.

Descendants of Isaac and Sarah Payne

- 1. Isaac PAYNE & Sarah DAULTON
["The progenitor of the family was Isaac Pain (Paine, Payne), who was in Queen Anne County, MD around 1733. His wife was Sarah Daulton, dau of James Daulton, Planter. James Daulton deeded land caled "New Londen" to Isaac and Sarah "for the consideration of the love, good will and affection which he did bear towards the said Isaac Payne by the name and description of his loving friend Isaac Payne."
1.1 Isaac PAYNE, Jr. (B. 1746-D. 10 Oct., 1810)
[There is no documentary proof that this Isaac Payne is the father of Nehemiah Payne, but Collier has inferred that he is by "Process of elimination".]
1.1.1 Nehemiah PAYNE (B. ca 1782-D. _____) & Hannah DALEY (B. ca. 1778 - D. _____)
[Nehemiah and Hannah Payne brought their family from Smith Co., TN, by ox train to Cole Co., MO. Nehemiah Payne was listed on the 1802 Rowan Co., NC tax list next to Wm. Daley. There were a number of Paynes in Rowan Co. and they were from Caroline and Dorchester Cos., MD.]
[We know that William David Scrivner married Mary Elizabeth Payne in Smith Co., TN, and that their first child, Mary, was born there in 1820 [the mother would have been 17 at the time]. Also, the Scrivner's 17-year-old daughter, Rebecca, married into the Payne family in Smith County, TN. Thus, the Payne's "lost" their own daughter, but gained a replacement in Rebecca Scrivner, who accompanied the Payne family to her new life in Missouri, settling eventually on a 600 acre farm in Chariton County, near Shannandale. Collier gives the spelling as "Daley or Dale". I have here inferred "Daley" from the spelling of her grandson's name. Most likely, the spelling was various.]
1.1.1.1 Isaiah PAYNE (B. 1799 -D. _____) & Rebecca SCRIVNER (B. 1803-D. _____)
1.1.1.2 **Mary Elizabeth PAYNE** (B. 1803-D. After 1850)
& **William DAVID SCRIVNER** (B. 1795-D. 1854)

Sources:

- a. "The Descendants of Benjamin Scrivner", by Doris Scrivner Collier, 2106 Retford Drive, Florissant, MO 63033, pg. 297.
- b. Doris Scrivner Collier private correspondence, 12 Apr., 1993. References not cited.

Descendants of Leonard and Jane SCOTT

1. Leonard SCOTT* & Jane JOHNS[T]ON

1.1 Catherine Jane SCOTT (B. 17 Apr, 1833-D. 16 Sept, 1858) & Benjamin Payne SCRIVNER (B. 24 Apr, 1829-D. 10 Apr, 1892)

1.2 **Synthia SCOTT** (B. 22 May, 1835-D. 19 Feb, 1912) & **William J. SCRIVNER** (B. 3 Mar, 1825-D. 24 Feb, 1895)

1.3 John SCOTT (B. 12 Aug, 1836-) & Nancy SCRIVNER (B. 25 Jan, 1841-)

1.4 Robert SCOTT (B. Ca 1838-)

1.5 Sarah SCOTT (B. Ca 1840-)

1.6 Nancy A. SCOTT (B. Ca 1842-)

Sources:

a. U.S. census of 1850 for Cole County, MO;

647 SCOTT; Leonard	50 M Va
Charlott	36 F Tenn
John	13 M Mo
Robert	11 M Mo
Sarah	9 F Mo
Nancy A.	7 F Mo
Wm. BASINGER	14 M Mo
Patterson "	12 M Mo
Martin "	10 M Mo
unk. "	8 F Mo

[Charlotte was the second wife of Leonard Scott...the Bassinger kids must have been hers by a previous marriage]
 [Synthia, age 16, had just married Wm. J. Scrivner and was living with her in-laws at the time of the census]

Descendants of Sarah and Benjamin DOWNING and Rachel and Nathan PROCTOR

1. Benjamin DOWNING (B. ____-D. ____)

& Sarah GRAY (B. ____-D. 1828)

1.1 **Rachel DOWNING** (B. 1792-D. After 1858)

& **Nathan PROCTOR** (B. 1786-D. 1858)

1.1.1 Benjamin A. PROCTOR (B. 21 July, 1812-D. 18 Mar, 1879)
& Zereviah TOMLINSON (19 Jan, 1823-28 Feb, 1908)

1.1.2 Son #2 PROCTOR (Ca 1815 Or 1816-)

1.1.3 James G. PROCTOR (B. 30 July, 1819-D. 25 Aug, 1896)
& Jane ENLOE (B. 10 Sept, 1827-D. Ca 1898)

1.1.4 Lewis B. PROCTOR (B. Ca 1823-D. ____)

1.1.5a **John M. PROCTOR*** (B. 20 Aug, 1826 -D. ____)
& **Isabella ROARK** (B. 1823-D. 1857)

1.1.5a.1 Matilda Jane PROCTOR (B. 28 June, 1849-D. 26 Feb., 1863)
& ____ HOSKINS

1.1.5a.2 **Rutha Rachel PROCTOR** (B. 31 July, 1850-D. 18 Feb, 1936)
& **Alfred J. COLE** (B. ____-D. 29 Aug, 1912)

1.1.5a.2.1 **Mary Francis COLE** (B. 19 Mar, 1872 -D. 19 Aug., 1955)
& **Charles Bryan SCRIVNER** (B. 29 Sept, 1866-D. 1927)

1.1.5a.2.1.1 Martin A. SCRIVNER (B. 8 Dec, 1889-D. 31 July, 1946)
& Tillie BROWN

1.1.5a.2.1.2 **Girtha Ellen SCRIVNER** (B. 1 Aug., 1891-D. 15 Aug., 1964)
& **Louis Emil PLUMER** (B. 27 Sept., 1887-D. 29 Sept., 1975)

1.1.5a.2.1.3 Myrtle Ora SCRIVNER (B. 1 June, 1893-D. 21 Feb, 1978)
& Marion BARNES

1.1.5a.2.1.4 Basil Bryan SCRIVNER (B. 12 Mar, 1895-D. 21 Dec, 1959)
& Dec ____

1.1.5a.2.1.5 Maud M. SCRIVNER (8 July, 1902-D. 1984)
& JOHN STAPLES

1.1.5a.2.2 Ora COLE
& Alfred HAYNES

1.1.5a.2.3 Bessie COLE (15 Mar, 1876-D. After 1940)
& Henry HOFF

- 1.1.5a.3 Sarah Frances PROCTOR (B. 20 Feb., 1854-D. 29 Sept, 1932)
& Charles Richard BACON (B. 29 Sept, 1850-D. 25 Dec, 1931)
- 1.1.5a.4 Mary Dee PROCTOR (B. 17 Aug, 1855-D. 20 July, 1912)
& W. D. STONEY (B. _____-D. _____)
- 1.1.5a.5a William Nathan PROCTOR* (B. 23 Jan, 1857-D. 16 Apr, 1903)
& Eliza RUSSELL
- 1.1.5a.5b William Nathan PROCTOR* (B. 23 Jan, 1857-D. 16 Apr, 1903)
& Mary Frances STEENBERGEN
- 1.1.5a.5c William Nathan PROCTOR* (B. 23 Jan, 1857-D. 16 Apr, 1903)
& Sophia C. CAMPBELL
- 1.1.5b John M. PROCTOR* (B. 20 Aug, 1826 -D. _____)
& Mary Ann [Polly] TAYLOR (B. 30 Aug, 1833-D. 20 Mar, 1920)
 - 1.1.5b.1 James Orr [J.R.] PROCTOR (30 Aug, 1867-5 Nov, 1963)
- 1.1.6 Sarah C. PROCTOR (4 Sept, 1828-D. 13 Mar, 1863)
& Joseph ROARK (B. 20 Apr, 1828-D. 1912)
- 1.1.7 Jane G. PROCTOR (B. 5 Apr., 1831-18 May, 189-)
& William ROARK (B. 6 Oct, 1824-D. 24 Nov, 1884)
- 1.1.8 Joseph D. PROCTOR (B. 1835-D. 1866)
& Lucy PHILLIPS (B. 28 Sept, 1840-11 Sept, 190-)
- 1.2 Ann DOWNING & Sylvester HALL
- 1.3 Mary DOWNING & Benjamin PRIGMORE
- 1.4 Benjamin DOWNING & Isabell CAMPBELL
- 1.5 Sarah G. [Sally] DOWNING & Samuel CARPENTER
- 1.6 Sophia DOWNING & James CAMPBELL
- 1.7 Elizabeth DOWNING & Joseph KINCAID

Sources:

a. Nathan Procter/Proctor and his Descendants 1786-1981, by Margie Procter Fahrmi, Russelville, MO, 65074

References cited:

Allen County, KY "Wills and Settlements 1815-1902" by Robold and Price
 Enloe Cemetery Records, Russellville Rustler newspaper, 1901

Descendants of William and Sarah ROARK

-
1. William ROARK (B. Ca 1757-D. 1832) & Sarah DORRIS
 [Wm. Roark was a Baptist Minister and soldier in the American Revolution. He served as a musician in Rolston's company, 1st North Carolina Regiment. Founded the Puncheon Camp Creek Church, where he was Pastor until his death.]
- 1.1 William ROARK
 - 1.2 Reuben ROARK
 - 1.3 Levi ROARK (B. Ca. 1794-D. Ca 1855) & Clemency PIPKIN
 - 1.3.1 Sena ROARK & Abraham CAMPBELL
 - 1.3.1.1 Sarah Isabelle CAMPBELL (B. 30 June 1853-D. 17 Jan 1892)
& James Laurie SCRIVNER (B. 12 Mar, 1851-D. 23 July, 1929)
 - 1.4 Asa ROARK
 - 1.5 Sarah ROARK & _____ POE
 - 1.6 Josiah ROARK (B. 1791-D. _____) & Ruth CAMPBELL (B. Ca 1795-D. 16 Mar, 1874)
 - 1.6.1 Sarah ROARK (B. Ca 1819-D. After 1842) & John HOWARD
 - 1.6.2 Isabella ROARK (B. 1823-D. 1857) & John M. PROCTOR (B. 20 Aug, 1826 -D. _____)
 - 1.6.2.1 Matilda Jane PROCTOR (B. 28 June, 1849-D. 26 Feb., 1863) & _____ HOSKINS
 - 1.6.2.2 Rutha Rachel PROCTOR (B. 31 July, 1850-D. 18 Feb, 1936)
& Alfred J. COLE (B. _____-D. 29 Aug, 1912)
 - 1.6.2.3 Sarah Frances PROCTOR (B. 20 Feb., 1854-D. 29 Sept, 1932)
& Charles Richard BACON (B. 29 Sept, 1850-D. 25 Dec, 1931)
 - 1.6.2.4 Mary Dee PROCTOR (B. 17 Aug, 1855-D. 20 July, 1912) & W. D. STONEY (B. _____-D. _____)
 - 1.6.2.5a William Nathan PROCTOR* (B. 23 Jan, 1857-D. 16 Apr, 1903) & Eliza RUSSELL
 - 1.6.2.5b William Nathan PROCTOR* (B. 23 Jan, 1857-D. 16 Apr, 1903) & Mary Frances STEENBERGEN
 - 1.6.2.5c William Nathan PROCTOR* (B. 23 Jan, 1857-D. 16 Apr, 1903) & Sophia C. CAMPBELL
 - 1.6.3 Enoch E. ROARK & Jane SIMPSON
 - 1.7 John ROARK
 - 1.8 Joel ROARK
 - 1.9 Mariah ROARK & _____ DRIVER
 - 1.10 Elijah ROARK
 - 1.11 Elizabeth ROARK & _____ DYSON
 - 1.12 Peggy ROARK & _____ PIPKIN

Sources:

- a. Doris Scrivner Collier private correspondence, 12 Apr., 1993. References not cited.
- b. "The Descendants of Benjamin Scrivner", by Doris Scrivner Collier, 2106 Retford Drive, Florissant, MO 63033
- c. James Campbell and Sophia Downing of Cole county, Missouri, by Alma Enloe Wheeler [Pub. 1988, in LDS Library]
- d. Doris Scrivner Collier private correspondence, 3 Sept., 1993. Cites: Allen Co., KY will of Wm. Roark, 11 Feb. 1832, marriage license of Josiah Roark, DAR History of Monroe Co., KY, records of Daniel E. Downing [son of Benj. and Isabella Downing] of Monroe Co., KY, pension application of James Campbell [S30310]

Descendants of Moses and Ruth SAMPLE

1. Moses SAMPLE & Ruth WOOD (B. ~1735-D. bet. 1779 and 1787)
[Moses Sample Served in American Revolution.]
 - 1.1 Jane SAMPLE (B. 1760-D. ~1820) & James CAMPBELL (25 Dec, 1754-D. 1840)
[Definite evidence of Jane Sample's parentage is lacking. Doris Collier cites only the name repetition (Ruth Wood -vs- Ruth Campbell, her granddaughter) as evidence.]
 - 1.1.1 Ruth CAMPBELL (B. Ca 1795-D. 16 Mar, 1874) & Josiah ROARK (B. 1791-D. ____)
 - 1.1.1.1 Sarah ROARK (B. Ca 1819-D. After 1842) & John HOWARD
 - 1.1.1.2 **Isabella ROARK** (B. 1823-D. 1857) & **John M. PROCTOR** (B. 20 Aug, 1826 -D. ____)
 - 1.1.1.3 Enoch E. ROARK & Jane SIMPSON

Sources:

- a. Doris Scrivner Collier private correspondence, 12 Apr., 1993. References not cited.
- b. Doris Scrivner Collier correspondence of 3 Sept., 1993. Cites: Records of Daniel E. Downing of Monroe Co. KY [he was son of Benj. and Isabella (Campbell) Downing] which states Jane Sample was wife of James Campbell.
DAR History of Monroe Co., KY listing all children of James Campbell and Jane Sample [except Ruth]

Descendants of James and Mary CAMPBELL

1. James CAMPBELL & Mary ____
[The Campbells came to America ca 1726, settling in Lancaster, PA and later in Virginia. James Campbell is mentioned in the NC deed records of 1785, where he bought 100 acres on Big Limestone.]
 - 1.1 James CAMPBELL (25 Dec, 1754-D. 1840) & Jane SAMPLE (B. 1760-D. ~1820)
 - 1.1.1 Ruth CAMPBELL (B. Ca 1795-D. 16 Mar, 1874) & Josiah ROARK (B. 1791-D. ____)
 - 1.1.1.1 Sarah ROARK (B. Ca 1819-D. After 1842) & John HOWARD
 - 1.1.1.2 **Isabella ROARK** (B. 1823-D. 1857) & **John M. PROCTOR** (B. 20 Aug, 1826 -D. ____)
 - 1.1.1.3 Enoch E. ROARK & Jane SIMPSON

Sources:

- a. Doris Scrivner Collier private correspondence, 12 Apr., 1993. References not cited.
- b. Doris Scrivner Collier correspondence of 3 Sept., 1993. Cites: Deed records of Washington Co., NC, 1785.



Descendants of Louis and Girtha PLUMER

1. **Louis Emil PLUMER*** (B. 27 Sep., 1887-D. 29 Sep., 1975)
& **Girtha Ellen SCRIVNER** (B. 1 Aug. , 1891-D. 15 Aug. , 1964)
- 1.1 HAROLD Victor PLUMER (B. 24 Mar, 1914-D. 17 July, 1992)
& Hazel POWERS (B. 29 Nov, 1915-)
- 1.1.1 Sally Sue PLUMER (B, 9 July, 1938-)
& Rodney Hudson MOORE (B. 28 Dec, 1937-)
- 1.1.1.1 Rodney Hudson [2] MOORE (28 Apr, 1960-)
- 1.1.1.2 Harold Guy MOORE (B. 6 Sept, 1961-) & Jo Anne JACKSON
1.1.1.2.1 Cody Jackson MOORE (B. 24 Jan, 1992-)
- 1.1.1.3 Melissa Jane MOORE (B. 21 Aug, 1963-) & John R. WATTS
1.1.1.3.1 Wade Patrick WATTS (B. 25 Feb., 1991-)
1.1.1.3.2 Joel Thomas WATTS (B. 26 April, 1993-)
- 1.1.2 Jo Ellen [Jody] PLUMER (B. 15 Nov, 1941-)
& Michael Bevan BLAZI (B. 21 Jan, 1941-)
- 1.1.2.1 Deborah Jo BLAZI (B. 11 Oct, 1962-) & Paul HODDER
- 1.1.2.2 Steven Michael BLAZI (B. 4 Nov, 1966-)
- 1.1.2.3 David Joseph BLAZI (24 June, 1968-)
- 1.1.2.4 Richard Harold BLAZI (B. 17 Jan, 1970-)
- 1.1.3 Vickie Marguerite PLUMER (B. 22 Oct, 1947-)
& Dwight Lee KLINGENBERG (B. 12 Dec, 1945-)
- 1.1.3.1 Christopher Lee KLINGENBERG (B. 24 Sept, 1965-)
- 1.1.3.2 Paul William KLINGENBERG (B. 17 Aug, 1968-)
- 1.2 PAUL Lester PLUMER (B. 7 Sept, 1916-) & Doris MARTIN (B. 15 Sept, 1919-)
- 1.2.1 Sondra Ann PLUMER (B. 12 Nov, 1969-) & Brian JONES (B. 17 Aug, 1947-)
- 1.2.1.1 Jennifer Rebecca JONES (B. 12 Nov, 1969-)
- 1.2.1.2 Shelley Beth JONES (B. 11 Nov, 1974-)
- 1.2.1.3 Paula Christian JONES (B. 29 Jan, 1980-)
- 1.2.2 Paula Jean PLUMER (B. 21 Nov, 1951-D. 18 Jan, 1977)
- 1.3a Mary ALEEN PLUMER* (B. 23 Nov, 1918-)
& Benjamin Franklin HARRISON (B. 15 Oct, 1917-D. 8 Apr, 1973)
- 1.3a.1a Benjamin Franklin [2] HARRISON* (B. 8 Sept, 1945-) & Pamela LENEAX
- 1.3a.1b Benjamin Franklin [2] HARRISON* (B. 8 Sept, 1945-)
& Helen ANDRAE (B. 1 Jan, 1951-)
- 1.3a.1b.1 Benjamin Andrae HARRISON (B. 18 Sept, 1981-)
- 1.3a.1b.2 William Cole HARRISON (B. 22 Oct, 1990-)
- 1.3a.2a Julie Gayle HARRISON* (B. 13 Jan, 1951-) & John LLOYD
- 1.3a.2b Julie Gayle HARRISON* (B. 13 Jan, 1951-)
& Kenneth CASON (B. 26 Feb, 1950-)
- 1.3a.2b.1 Schuyler Harrison CASON (B. 29 Dec, 1989-)
- 1.3b Mary ALEEN PLUMER* (B. 23 Nov, 1918-) & William W. CAUDILL

Continued...

- 1.4 Elizabeth Ellen [BETTY] PLUMER (B. 23 AUG. , 1920-)
 & Bob Lynn VAN TUYL (B. 3 Sept., 1916-D. 12 Aug., 1985)
- 1.4.1a Rory Lynn VAN TUYL* (B. 3 Jan. , 1943-)
 & Patricia Anne POUCHER (B. 14 Nov., 1943-)
- 1.4.1a.1 Jocelyn Christine VAN TUYL (B. 15 May, 1964-)
- 1.4.1a.2 Ian Matthew VAN TUYL (B. 24 Jan., 1967-)
- 1.4.1b Rory Lynn VAN TUYL* (B. 3 Jan. , 1943-)
 & Caroline Ann BRAWNER (B. 16 Mar, 1957-)
- 1.4.2 Stephen Alan [Elia] VAN TUYL (B. 3 May , 1946-)
 & Sara [Halimah] WOLFE (B. Sept. 29, 1948-)
- 1.4.2.1 Rosalind Elizabeth VAN TUYL (B. 8 Jan., 1973-)
- 1.4.2.2 Rosana VAN TUYL (B. 10 Aug. , 1974-)
- 1.4.2.3 Nerissa VAN TUYL (B. 6 May , 1976-)
- 1.4.2.4 Penelope VAN TUYL (B. 24 Jan. , 1981-)
- 1.5 MARGARET Ruth PLUMER (B. 22 Apr, 1924-)
 & Willis J. BLACK (B. 17 June, 1921-)
- 1.5.1a William Michael BLACK* (B. 2 Apr, 1946-) & Sandra INGALLS
- 1.5.1a.1 Victor Michael BLACK (B. 13 June, 1966-)
- 1.5.1b William Michael BLACK* (B. 2 Apr, 1946-)
 & Cynthia Grace CARRIZALES (B. 11 Jan, 1947-)
- 1.5.1b.1 Sarah Hortensia BLACK (B. 8 Oct, 1974-)
- 1.5.1b.2 William Julian BLACK (B. 20 Oct, 1976-)
- 1.5.1b.3 Michelle Grace BLACK (B. 15 Oct, 1980-)
- 1.5.2a Susan Ellen BLACK* (B. 15 Mar, 1948-) & Robert G. HALE
- 1.5.2a.1 Gina Christine {HALE} PRICE (B. 18 Jan, 1971-)
- 1.5.2a.2 Jacob Christian {HALE} PRICE (B. 7 Oct, 1974-)
- 1.5.2b Susan Ellen BLACK* (B. 15 Mar, 1948-)
 & Warren Clifford PRICE (B. 6 Sept, 1950-)
- 1.5.2b.1 Gina Christine {HALE} PRICE (B. 18 Jan, 1971-) [Adopted by W. C. Price]
- 1.5.2b.2 Jacob Christian {HALE} PRICE (B. 7 Oct, 1974-) [Adopted by W. C. Price]
- 1.5.3 Robert Louis BLACK (B. 12 June, 1952-) & Drusila Ann DIETZ (B. 3 May, 1956-)
- 1.6 CHARLES Louis PLUMER (B. 15 July, 1928-)
 & Anne HALL (B. 22 May, 1930-D. Oct., 1984)
- 1.6.1 Pamela Jo PLUMER (B. 5 Apr, 1954-) & Verne HOLLAND (B. 1 Oct, 1948-)
- 1.6.1.1 Megan Anne HOLLAND (B. 5 Mar, 1979-)
- 1.6.1.2 Ashley Nichole HOLLAND (B. 4 Jun, 1981-)
- 1.6.1.3 Nicholas Blake HOLLAND (8 Aug, 1986-)
- 1.6.2 Michael Louis PLUMER (B. 28 June, 1957-) & Tammy Lou MYERS
- 1.6.2.1 Patrick Michael PLUMER (22 May, 1990-)
- 1.6.2.2 Charles Andrew PLUMER (B. 31 Aug. 1993-)



APPENDIX B



....“Recollections” by L. E. Plumer

From Recollections by Louis E. Plumer

(Louis Plumer was born September 27, 1887, on a farm about one mile south of Alida, Kansas, which is about twelve miles northwest of Junction City, Kansas. The family lived in this general area until he was eight years old).

In the fall of 1895 my father decided we would move to Oklahoma and get a home of our own. The Cherokee Strip had been opened for settlement September 16, 1893. My father had made a trip to Oklahoma and he liked the country. His brother Chris J. Plumer lived in the town of Orlando, Oklahoma, and my grandparents, the Gfellers, had moved to Oklahoma and they all wanted us to move, too.

By the first part of November, 1895, we started for Oklahoma in a covered wagon along with my Uncle John Lantz and his family and several other covered wagons. We had our wagons loaded with household goods; we led two cows behind the wagon and had a plow tied on the side of one of the wagons.

We were on the trip one week, arriving at my grandfather Gfeller's home on a quarter section of school land which is located one mile west and one south of where Lucien is now. After a few days we located for the winter of 1895 on a place west of Orlando on the banks of Beaver Creek.

My father secured a lease on a quarter section of school land which was the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 16, 20N Range 2W in Noble County. This farm is now owned by Charles F. Jerome. There being no buildings on the school land we rented a house on the farm that cornered this land to the southwest. Our nearest neighbors were the Joe Bolay family who lived just south of the school land. My father built a small house on the school land, put down a well and dug a cave. We moved to this place about May of 1896, and I well remember the prairie chickens would light on the house early in the morning and wake us up. We had no fences and I had to herd the cows which was a rather lonesome job out in the prairie. My father was a carpenter and could plaster and lay brick, and he got what work he could. My mother made butter and cheese from the milk we got from the cows. Butter was worth very little, but the cheese sold readily in Orlando, and this the way lived at the time.

The first school I went to in Oklahoma was a sod school house located along the south line of Sec. 20-20N, 2W in Noble County, Oklahoma. I went to school with Herman, Charley and George Bolay who lived just south of the school land where we lived. I do not remember the teacher's name, but it was a man as very few women were teaching in Oklahoma at that time.

The summer of 1896 was hot and dry, and my father got discouraged and made the statement that he believed we should leave and move to Iowa, but my grandparents and the other families that came to Oklahoma with us did not want to leave. My grandparents (the Gfellers) heard of a homestead right on 160 acres a mile north of where they lived that was for sale as the party had to give it up because his wife was sick and in the hospital in Oklahoma City. Mother and Father looked it over and found a dugout, the foundation for a house started, a good well of water, and about ten acres of prairie broke out for farming. We purchased this party's homestead right and improvements for \$225.00, but we did not have the full \$225.00 so Dad borrowed what we did not have. This party, my father, and two neighbors for witnesses went to Enid, the county seat, where this party relinquished his right to my father and we took possession. This was the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 24-21N-3W, Garfield County, which is about a mile west of where Lucien is now. They drove to Enid as there was no railroad then and it took them three days; one day over, one day to transact their business and one day to come home. As near as I can recall, we moved onto this place in the early part of 1898.

The school I went to after we moved on this farm was about a mile west of where we lived. It was built of stone and the teacher was Mr. Grant Goe, the father of Frank Goe of Lucien.

When we moved on this place, we had two mares, a couple of cows and a small amount of farm tools. Father finished the house that was started, which consisted of two rooms downstairs 14' by 14' and two small rooms in the attic. We lived in the dug-out until the house was finished. Most of the studding in the house was made from cottonwood which was sawed from trees that grew on the farm.

The law provided that a person must live on the land for five years and at the end of that time by paying \$3.00 per acre he could get a deed to it. Each person was limited to 160 acres. The five years was drawing ~~was drawing~~ near and we did not have the \$480.00.

In the meantime, Dennis T. Flynn, who was a delegate from the Territory of Oklahoma in Congress in Washington, was instrumental in getting the "Free Home Bill" passed and the settlers were relieved of paying the \$3.00 per acre. All they had to do was to prove they had lived on the land for five years and they could get a patent from the government, which was equivalent to a warranty deed.

In the years that followed up to about 1908 things went quite well for us. We raised two colts each year from the mares for several years, and the cattle began to increase. As we boys grew up and were old enough to work in the field, each of us had a team of horses to work. My father worked out most of the time as people were building new homes, and we were beginning to get somewhere. We improved the farm, built a good barn with a granary attached which would hold about 1000 bushel of oats for the horses and built an addition to the house along with other small buildings.

Our neighbor to the north was the S. B. Moore family, to the west was the Osborn family, to the east was Al Sanders, and to the south was Perry Duval. Justus (Jut) Osborn was about one year older than I and we both had ponies to ride which made it easy for us to get around. There was a large elm tree on our place about equal distance from our house and the Osborn house and the young people of the neighborhood would gather there to play, tease and swing the girls in a large swing which my father put up in the tree. The old tree is gone now and most of the young people that played under the tree.

A new school was built one mile north and three-fourths mile west of our place and was named the Paul's Valley School after a family by the name of Paul that lived near. The Paul's Valley School was a one room school building with home made desks and a big wood stove near the center of the building. The students that sat next to the stove got too hot and the ones farther back were cold most of the time. We all took our lunch at noon and at noon and recess we played such games as black-man, whip cracker, and ante over. We also played king's base and shinny with a tin can for a puck and a crooked stick. The teacher made us quit the shinny game as one of the boys got hit with the tin can and cut his face. There were about forty students and when it was time for a class to recite, they would sit on the front benches near the teacher.

The first crop we would plant in the sod that was broken was kafir corn and some water melons. One day while Mother and Dad were gone and we kids were at home alone, a tribe of Indians from the Otoe Reservation near Red Rock came by with their wagons and lots of ponies going to Anadarko to a pow-wow. They stopped for some water and we had a nice patch of watermelons near the house. When they saw the melons they wanted us to give them some. They were not ripe and my sister Sadie and I had a hard time convincing them that they were green and they could not have any.

After the land had been plowed the second time we would then plant oats, wheat, cotton and castor beans, and this all took lots of work. The cotton was considered a family crop as we would all work in the cotton and when it was picked and taken to the gin and sold the money would be used to buy the family clothes for the winter. We were all very proud of the new clothes. One year we put out more cotton than we could pick and we got a Negro family from Perry by the name of Spiller to pick cotton for us. Father built a small house near the creek for them to live in while they picked cotton. One night it came a heavy rain and the water in the creek got in their house and we had a time rescuing them. Mrs. Spiller died while they worked for us and I remember hauling her corpse to Perry in the back of a spring wagon. I think she was buried in Grace Hill Cemetery. Several years later I saw one of her sons and he was then a porter on the Santa Fe that runs through Perry.

In 1903 the Frisco Railroad was built from Tulsa to Enid and on to Avard. It crossed our farm, and the towns of Lucien, Hayward and Covington came into existence. While the railroad was being built across our farm, one of the contractors had a contract to build the grade for about a quarter of a mile on the east side of our farm. Their camp was on our farm and Dad and I got a job with two of our teams pulling slips. We got \$3.00 a day for each of the teams. One evening while I was working on the railroad, Mother noticed I was doing lots of scratching. She examined the underwear I had on and discovered I had picked up some body lice from the railroaders. She immediately stripped me from head to foot, boiled all my clothes and gave me a good scrubbing. This took care of the lice before any of the rest of the family got them.

There was a man to fill the slips, but I had to dump it.

The town of Lucien was growing and a Methodist Church was built, mostly with donated labor, and my father was one of the carpenters. The first preacher was a student from Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas, and he stayed at our home over the week-ends when he came to supervise the building and hold services. His name was Dave Hotton and during his stay at our home he talked to me and my parents about sending me to college. I had finished the 8th grade and that was about as much education as any of the scholars got at that time. I was 16 years old at that time and I planned on being a farmer. Dave Hotton had a younger brother and they were batching and going to school. He told us if I would go to Winfield to college, I could stay with him and his brother, Lou Hotton, and all it would cost me was to pay for one third of the room rent and groceries. The tuition fee was not much and I could get by rather cheap. So after considerable thought and my parents' consent I decided to go.

I left in September, 1903, and one of the things I remember well was that as I was waiting for the Santa Fe at Perry to go to Winfield, the Frisco railroad was laying steel on the new railroad that was being built from Tulsa to Avard, Oklahoma. I arrived at Winfield with my trunk (which I still have) filled with clothes and bedding. The school taught four years of what they called academic work and was about the same as high school work with four years of college work following that. I took the first year which was about the same as the 9th grade in the schools then. The first month I was very homesick but I stayed with it until Christmas when I got to come home. After I went back I was not homesick any more and things went very well. My parents sent me \$15.00 a month and I worked at anything I could get to do on Saturday, and I got along on this but did not have much for pleasure. I still have a small account book of my expenditures.

One summer while I was home from school I dated a girl by the name of Vessie Paul who had been going to school at Central State at Edmond, Oklahoma. She was some older than I but we had something in common as we were the only young people in the neighborhood that had been away from home attending college. This caused considerable comment from everyone including my parents. The last time I dated Vessie we attended church in the school house at Lucien and her uncle Ford Moore threatened to have us arrested because we whispered to each other during services and he said we were disturbing the peace. He drove two miles out of his way to report this to Vessie's parents and when we arrived at her home they cut loose on us. I left the next morning for Winfield. I think this was the last time I saw Vessie until she was married to Terrill Dysart and living at Guthrie, Oklahoma.

After I finished the 9th grade work, I enrolled in the business department. I graduated from the business department in June 1905, and returned home. I got a job with the Coyle Cotton Co, of Perry, which was owned and operated by Ed J. Coyle. I worked in the office and when I had no work in the office, I would help around the gin and sell and weigh coal which he handled as a sideline. I got \$4.00 per week to start and my hotel board and room was \$3.50 per week leaving me the sum of 50¢ per week for other expenses. One of my duties was to take the deposits to the Farmers & Merchants Bank where I met Hiram Boyes who was president of the bank and a gruff old codger. I didn't like him on the start, but as I got better acquainted with him I found him to be a nice old gentleman.

During this time I stayed for a while at the Whistler Hotel and later at the Honolulu Hotel which was operated by Mr. and Mrs. Charley Brant. I didn't see much future in the cotton business so I next went to Enid and got a job in an attorney's office. The office had no outside windows and all the light came from a skylight. The work was not interesting to me and being a farm boy closed up in such an office did not appeal to me.

My father suggested that if I would come home and run the farm so he could work out more, we both could make more money and be better satisfied. This rather appealed to me as my social life was being neglected on account of not having the money to get out with the young people and get acquainted so I accepted his offer and home I came and started to farm. Father told me we could rent some extra land for which we would give one-third of the crop as rent and give him one-third for the use of his horses and machinery and the other third would be mine.

My old record book shows the result of my farming operations on the Zochart farm in 1907 which showed a profit. The next year we rented 200 acres from Mr. E.J. Miller which was about three-fourths of a mile south of our home. This was handled on the same basis as the year before. I had a fair crop that year and made some money, but I did not keep books on it as I was too busy farming and having a good time.

While I was farming I had a team and buggy at my disposal. My sister Sadie had a girl friend by the name of Della Cranston and I dated her for several years. Her parents moved from the farm to Lucien where Mr. Cranston put in a butcher shop and they lived in the back of the building. Mr. Cranston's health failed him and the family moved to Perry and I began dating other girls. Martin Scrivner was a good friend of mine and I began dating his sister Girtha. At about this time Martin Scrivner was dating Tillie Brown, Don Maxwell was dating Nell Brown and Myrtle Scrivner was dating different boys. We had a very good time together and would attend lots of the Saturday night dances which were held at different farm homes. About every Friday night during the winter months we would attend the Literary Society held at the school house and every body would attend. The program was made up of local talent. The first part was usually some songs, recitations, a literary paper which I edited part of the time. The last part would be a debate on some prearranged subject by some of the older and more educated persons.

Lucien
1908
1908
In the fall of 1908 my father and five other men of Lucien decided to put in another lumber yard. They wanted my father to manage the yard but this would take him away from his carpenter work, and he did not know how to keep the books so he suggested to the other partners that they hire me as I knew how to keep books. I was given the job to start with \$40.00 per month. This was in September of 1908. I slept in the back of the lumber yard office and ate two meals a day at the hotel which was run by a family by the name of Detwiler.

Lucien
1912
1912
The new lumber company was named the Lucien Lumber Co. I worked for them two years when the Fairview Lumber Co. came to Lucien and bought both yards and retained me as their manager at a salary of \$60.00 per month, and both the Cabler Lumber and the Lucien Lumber Co. went out of existence. All the lumber was moved to the Cabler location as he had more shed room. This was just south of where the grain elevator is now located at Lucien. I worked for the Fairview Lumber Co. for two years when they sold to the Antrim Lumber Co. This was in September of 1912.

During the year of 1911 while I was working for the Fairview Lumber Co., I roomed with a young man by the name of E.T. Robinson who worked in the Bank of Lucien. We took our meals at the home of Dr. Gaines who lived in the back of the building which is now used for the Post Office, which I owned at the time. E.T. Robinson was dating Myrtle Scrivner and I, Girtha Scrivner, and we had some good times together. E.T., as we called him, had contracted tuberculosis and had to quit his job in the bank. He died about a year later.

In September of 1912 I started to work for the Antrim Lumber Co., and on September 18, 1912, I married Girtha Scrivner at 4 P.M. at her home in the country. We were married by Rev. George Dennis, a Christian minister, and just a few friends were present. We started our home in a rented house in Lucien and the rent was \$5.00 per month. We both had some money saved (she had taught the lower grades in the Lucien school the winter before we were married) and we bought new furniture and rugs. The total cost was \$250.00. Our grocery bill ran from \$15.00 to \$18.00 per month.

During the time I was dating Girtha I hired a livery rig, but as soon as we were married and had a place to keep a horse we got a horse and buggy of our own as she wanted some way to get around. I bought a gentle mare from one of the Sams boys and fixed up a buggy with the aid of Mr. Correll, the blacksmith, who put new wheels on an old body and painted it up and it made a nice outfit. In a year or two I acquired a motorcycle. Marion Barnes, my brother-in-law, was using one on his mail route, but it was not powerful enough to climb the hills with the mail so he bought a twin engine Harley Davidson. I bought his old one and sold our horse and buggy. We made several trips together with our wives on the motor cycles. By 1915 automobiles were coming into general use, and I sold the motorcycle and Marion Barnes and I bought a used Ford auto from a Mr. Hayton of Billings.

Harold

On March 24, 1914, our first child was born. Our family doctor was Dr. Owen of Perry. All of our children were born at home, and Dr. Owen would drive to Lucien. Charles, the youngest, was born in Perry after we moved there. (Dr. Coldiron)

Lucien
1914
1914
In August of 1914, Jack Donahey and I bought the grain elevator at Lucien which was located just north of the lumber yard. I kept my job as manager of the lumber yard, and did the book work at the elevator. Jack Donahey operated the elevator with the aid of a hired man. This was about the time World War I was declared, and the price of wheat began to advance. We made a good profit on every bushel of grain we handled that year and made enough profit to pay for the elevator the first year. We operated the elevator two more seasons but did not make much profit as the price of grain stabilized at a high level, and it took lots of money to operate.

About a year after Harold was born, we moved from the house where he was born, which is located two blocks south and one block east of the bank building, to a house one block

south of the post office in Lucien. The rent for this house was \$7.50 per month. We did not live there long as Marion and Myrtle (Girtha's sister) moved to Tulsa, and we bought the house they lived in which is about three-fourths of a block east of the Methodist Church at Lucien.

It was in the fall of 1916 that I bought my first new car. I sold my interest in the old Ford and bought a new 1916 Ford which cost me just a little less than \$400.00.

On September 7, 1916, Paul, our second son, was born. We now had a family of two boys and we were very happy. Girtha would take the two boys and drive out to the farm where her parents lived and spend the day with Grandpa and Grandma Scrivner.

In 1917, I became rather discouraged with my job as manager of the Antrim Lumber Co. yard at Lucien as I was getting \$65.00 per month. We decided to move to Tulsa as Martin Scrivner was in the mail service there, and Marion and Myrtle lived in Tulsa. Marion was in the postal service and making good money. I took a vacation and went to Tulsa and got a job with the Public Service Co. at \$95.00 per month. The second day I worked I got a call from Lucien stating that Mr. Alloway, who was cashier of the Bank of Lucien, had been offered a job with the Prairie Oil and Gas Co. and was leaving. They wanted me to take his job at the bank and offered me \$100.00 per month plus what I could make on the side writing insurance and clerking sales. We had not moved to Tulsa but Girtha was packing to move so I took the job at the bank, and have been in the banking business to this date.

About this time they were calling men for military service. Before I was called, I was classified in class #4 because I had two children. The war ended before any of class #4 was called. On November 11, 1918, the armistice was signed, World War I came to an end, and things began to get back to normal. The soldier boys were returning home, and it was hard for them to get jobs until things got adjusted to peace time ways.

As our family grew, it was necessary that we have more room. We first built a bed room to the east of the house with windows on three sides which made a good place to sleep. We had two beds in this room. Later we built a room to the south of the house which was used for a kitchen and dining room. A bath room was included in this addition and it was needed very badly.

During the years of 1925, 1926 & 1927, business was fair and I was very busy at the bank. Girtha's sister Maude came to work for me at the bank. She stayed at our place during the week days and helped with the children. Over the week end she would go to her parents' home out on the farm. Lucien had no electricity, water or sewer system. We used outdoor toilets and got our water from a well near the house. We would catch rainwater that came off the house into a barrel. This we used for washing as it was softer than the well water. We had a jersey cow that furnished us all the milk we needed. I would raise about 100 chickens each year and would have plenty of fried chicken when they were big enough. I would also fatten a pig on the surplus milk and some grain. When winter came and the pig would weigh about 200 lbs., we would butcher it and have fresh pork during the winter.

In the fall of 1927 I noticed the business in Lucien was slipping as we now had paved roads to Perry and Enid. Our Saturday business was very slow. I would close the bank at four o'clock and drive to Perry. The town was full of people. The Lucien school taught two years of high school and we needed to get to a bigger town so the children could complete their high school education. I was acquainted with Jimmy Taylor, president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank in Perry. He needed another man so I made a deal with C.W. Burton, who owned the bank at Hayward, and he and Dr. Gaines bought the Lucien Bank and consolidated the Hayward Bank with the one in Lucien. In January 1928, we moved to Perry, and I went into the Farmers & Merchants Bank as its vice-president.

Note:

The following pages of "Recollections" are in an unfinished state, having been typed in rough draft form only. They are presented here without alteration.

Charles was a rather ~~nerveless~~ nervous and restless child. I often wondered if it was due to the fact that his mother was over worked and under a strain during pregnancy as we moved to Perry during this time and as soon as we got moved we started on the remodeling job at 711 10th St. which took several months and she was under a constant strain watching things along with her other work and as soon as it was completed we moved again. *at least over*

During the next few years we both worked very hard. The children we^{re} in school and we were improving the place and I had a heavy load at the bank as lots of the customers were new to me and I had lots of sales to clerk as times were hard after the crash of 1929. By 1932 business was bad with us as times kept getting harder and in Oct. 1932 the Banking Board thru the Examiners closed the Farmers & Merchants Bank until we could get things in better shape. This was hard to do as we felt sorry for lots of people that owed us and some were downright crooked and beat us out of lots of money. The State Banking Dept. allowed us to reopen the bank by getting the depositors to agree to accept 70% of their deposits in full settlement of their claim against the bank. They called this a Moratorium Agreement. Under this we could make no new loans but could take deposits and work on collectin the old loans. This was working out very well until March of 1933 when Roosevelt closed all the banks. The Banks then reopened as they could qualify under the new regulations, but for us to reopen it was necessary for us to put in new capital as the old capital was wiped out in the old bank and we did not have the money to recapitalize so the bank went into liquidation.

(over)

About a year after we moved to Perry I joined the Perry Golf & Country Club. Harry DeLashmutt asked me to join and he had a used set of golf clubs that I could use and I decided to give it a try. Geo. Newton had stock in the club that he was not getting much benefit from but did not want to sell it. He made me a proposition to take his stock and pay the annual dues on it so I could use the club with the agreement that when he wanted the stock back I would transfer it to him. I did this and after a few years he wanted the stock back. In the mean time Jimmy Taylor had died and Mrs. Taylor sold me his stock in the Club for \$50.00. We got lots of good out of the membership in the club as my membership entitled the entire family to use it. The boys all learned to play golf and got lots of enjoyment out of it along with the fact the club was the only place they could swim and the girls got lots of enjoyment out of ~~it~~ swimming as Perry had no swimming pool at that time.

The State Banking Dept. sent a man here to liquidate the bank and Harry DeLashmut and I worked for him for about a year at \$50.00 per month. During the liquidation I lost about all I had except our home/ ^{and a one third interest in a poor farm.} I lost all the money I had paid for the bank stock; in addition, the stockholders were at that time liable for double the amount of their stock and in addition the directors of the bank had signed a bond to the City of Perry for the \$35,000.00 the City had on deposit with us and we had to make up what the bank failed to pay out. I had no other job or prospects of any at this time and the \$50.00 per month looked good to me. This Liquidating Agent was a politician with a questionable reputation and lots of the people that owed the bank compromised ^{the debt} ~~their claims~~ they owed the bank for 10% when they could have paid 75% or more. OVER

The First National Bank of Perry was not able to open immediately after the bank holiday, but the stockholders and lots of the depositors working together succeeded in getting a new charter and liquidate the old bank. The New Bank was chartered under the name of First National Bank in Perry. O.S. Aldoway was liquidating the assets of the old bank and P.W. Cress was Atty for the parties organizing the new bank along with Dol Wolleson, Ira Stout, Harry Donaldson and a few other parties I knew quite well. To my surprise one day P.W. Cress called me to his office and asked me if I would go into the new First National Bank as cashier. To do this I would have to own 15 shares of stock which would cost me \$1800.00. This sounded good but I didn't have the \$1800.00. I talked this over with Girtha and we mortgaged our home to get the money and on Feb. 24, 1934 the new bank opened for business with G.T. Webber as Pres. and myself as cashier.

X

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

This however was not the first set back I received. About a year before I got married I ^{owned} ~~owned~~ a property in Lucien located where the P.O. is now located and some money in the bank.

A man from Enid had a first mortgage on some land in Atoka County Okla. for \$650.00 which would be due in about a year. I valued the property at \$400.00 and I made a trade with him by deeding the property to him and giving him \$250.00 which looked like a good deal at the time as I was disposing of the building at a small profit, but when the mortgage on the Atoka Property came due I attempted to collect and found out this was Indian Land and that a case was pending in the Supreme Court to determine whether the Indians had a right to deed or mortgage their land before 1908. (My mortgage was given in 1907) The Court ruled that the Indians did not have the right to deed or mortgage their land prior to 1908 so my mortgage was nul and void and I lost the property and \$250.00 in cash which I needed to get married.

I started on a salary of \$135.00 per month and the business keep increasing and I soon got \$150.00 per month and was later put on the Board or Directors. By this time Harold and Paul were ready for College but I did not have the money to send them so Harold had a chance to go to work in the oil field at Hobbs, New Mexico, which he did and worked up from rough neck, to driller and on up to district Supt. for the Noble Drilling Co. Paul went to Hills Business College and when he graduated went to work for the Magnolia Pet. Co. He spent four years in the Navy and when he returned he went back to work for the Magnolia Pet. Co. and is still with them. The company is now called Mobil Oil Co.

(OVER)

1937
OK. tops

Business at the First National Bank gradually increased and each year I got a increase in salary and in 1942 the Lucien Oil field was getting some good wells and the oil company decided to drill a well on the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ farm I owned ^{one} a/third interest in. This farm was taken over by Mr. Alloway, Wolleson and myself in 1923 to satisfy a debt the owner owed the Bank of Lucien and we paid more than it was worth at the time. The land is the NE 1/4 Sec. 5-20N-2W Noble County Okla. We had already got some good lease money and when the well was drilled which was a small producer I had sold considerable royalty or mineral interests and this put me on my feet again. I paid the mortgage off on our home and sent the three girls and Charles to OSU where they graduated.

We held the land several years before anything happened.

Picture over

In 1937 we bought a new Plymouth car and in July of that year we made our first trip to Oregon to visit my mother, father and my two brothers and one sister. It took us four days to drive to Portland, Ore. We had a very enjoyable trip. We had the three girls and Charles with us. Harold and Paul were working and did not go.

46
19
06

Mr. Milo Watson:

I was much interested in the article in the Perry Daily Journal by Mrs Stella Campbell of Enid with regard to the early day Post Offices in Noble County. and She mentioned the post office of Antrim which I remember and it was located one mile east and three south of the O.G. & E Substation east of Lucien.

She overlooked one post office that I know of which was the post office of Mateer which was named after the family of Mateer who lived on the farm just east of the O.G.& E. station east of Lucien and was located east of this station on the north side of the road near the creek. The mail was delivered to this P.O. by star route and the carrier was Cal Hamblin.

The Rock Spring school was located on the corner N.E of the O.G.& E. station and it was thought the town of Lucien would be located here. A family by the name of Emerson built a store here and their son was the first Doctor. The Frisco railroad was being built about now and was then called the Arkansas Valley and Western, but they decided to build their depot where the town of Lucien is now. The steel was laid on the R.R. thru Lucien in the fall of 1903 and ~~was called Woolsey~~ the town was called Woolsey. The first bank in Lucien was called the Bank of Woolsey. When the Post Office Dept. put in a P.O. they found there was another Woolsey in Okla so the name was changed to Lucien.

I have a street scene of Lucien taken about 1906. At the time the R.R. and Lucien was being built I was living with my parents on a farm about a mile west of Lucien in Garfield County and attended school at the Rock Spring school one winter. We located on this farm about 1896.

P.S. When the above R.R. was being built my father and I worked for a contractor building a fill on our farm. We each had a team hitched to a slip. There was a man to fill the slip but I had to dump it.

L. E. Plumer