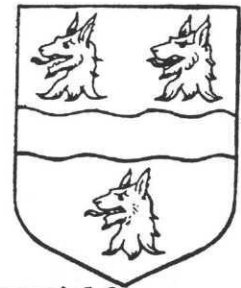


# WOLVERTONS UNLIMITED

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Covers all Wolvertons/Woolvertons in the U.S., Canada, and England. With special focus on descendants of Charles Woolverton (c1660-c1746), Andrew Woolverton (c1750-c1812), Moses Hanks (1746-1831) and allied families (Dodson, Neville, Littlefield, Harris, etc.).

Vol. 3, Number 4

July/August 1995

Charles  
 Woolverton  
 (c1660-c1746)

US/CAN  
 929.27305  
 W839  
 v.3, no.4 Jul/Aug 1995

Thomas  
 Woolverton  
 (1717-c1759)

Roger  
 Woolverton  
 (1700-1748)

John  
 Wolverton  
 (c1740-?)

Isaac  
 Wolverton  
 (c1730-?)

John  
 Wolverton  
 (c1763-1806)

Isaac  
 Wolverton  
 (bef. 1758-?)

Cyrus  
 Wolverton  
 (1804-1871)

Isaac  
 Wolverton  
 (c1793-aft. 1870)

Samuel  
 Wolverton  
 (1828-1880)

Reason  
 Wolverton  
 (1850-1905)

Joseph  
 Snapp  
 Wolverton  
 (1830-1889)

Cyrus  
 Bennett  
 Wolverton  
 (1855-1926)

Ariadne  
 Autencia  
 Faires  
 (1880-1949)

Albert  
 May  
 Wolverton  
 (1859-1917)

William  
 Arthur  
 Wolverton  
 (1863-1936)

Claude  
 Otis  
 Wolverton  
 (1874-1944)

Dorothea  
 Eugenia  
 Stoner  
 (1907-1973)

Charles  
 Frederick  
 Wolverton  
 (1887-1960)

Aubrey  
 Earl  
 Wolverton  
 (1893-1968)

Earl  
 Bennett  
 Wolverton  
 (1908-1973)

56 Kilburn  
 Duane  
 Stoner  
 (1928- )

Charles  
 Edward  
 Wolverton  
 (1927- )

58 Robert  
 Lee  
 Wolverton  
 (1930- )

59 Darlyn  
 Audrey  
 Mehrt  
 (1943- )

29 John  
 Earl  
 Wolverton  
 (1930- )

57 Randall  
 Blaine  
 Wolverton  
 (1952- )

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY  
 35 NORTH WEST TEMPLE  
 SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84150

29. John E. Wolverton, 2815 N. Maplewood Ave., Chicago, IL  
60618-7911; Ph. 312-276-2261
56. Kilburn D. Stoner, 1313 Sharon Way, Sacramento, CA  
95831-4050; Ph. 916-421-4872
57. Randy B. Wolverton, 1409 Ivy Street, Alexander, AR  
72002-9428; Ph. 510-847-8112
58. Robert L. Wolverton, 686 N. Lowview Drive, Fenton, MO  
63026-6245; Ph. 314-343-9744
59. Mrs. Darlyn Nehrt, 1108 Birch Lane, Sparta, IL  
62286-1002; Ph. 618-443-4114

We have a correction on the lineage of John E. Wolverton. John's lineage appeared on p. 76 of the newsletter. The original lineage had been used by Nora Wolverton of Waynetown, Indiana, but several questions have existed for years. David Macdonald was able to sort out the records and now lists this family as descended from Thomas Woolverton, youngest son of Charles Woolverton, rather than from Joel. I had a nice visit with John in May when I attended an archives conference in Chicago. John is currently working as a janitor in a local museum there. He has never married, and his mother, Theresa Wolverton, age 88, lives with him.

Kilburn D. Stoner retired in 1989 after 27 years with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. He was supervisor of the Commercial/Industrial Division of the Conservation Department. Since his retirement, he has done a lot of traveling, and he has been researching his Wolverton and other related lines. Within the last year, he wrote numerous letters around the country to people named Wolverton/Woolverton to see if he could find a connection to his Cyrus Wolverton who married Jane Frazee. He got little results until he received word about the newsletter from Thomas Woolverton of Sunset Beach, North Carolina (lineage #35, p. 85). I put Kilburn in touch with John E. Wolverton of Chicago, who also descends from Cyrus and Jane. Also, David Macdonald was able to give Kilburn considerable information on his family line back to Charles Woolverton. Needless to say, Kilburn has been elated to get all this new information and has called me several times in the last few months. He has provided me with some obituaries and cemetery records on his family, and IGI records which may be useful in the future. We have also exchanged information on the Flinn/Flynn and Faires families.

Kilburn Stoner was born in Los Angeles and moved to Sacramento in 1939. He graduated there from high school and junior college and from Sacramento State College. He married Lillen Norine Flynn on June 17, 1928 at Sacramento, California. After almost 41 years of marriage together, she passed away on May 25, 1992. Kilburn has two children, David Scott Stoner (b. April 24, 1959) who is married to Christina (Juede) Stoner; and Katherine Ann Stoner (b. June 21, 1961) who is married to Patrick R. Burke. David and Christina have a 2-year-old son, Logan Stoner, making Kilburn a proud grandpa.

Randy Wolverton is our newest subscriber. I made contact with him through David Macdonald. Randy has sent me a listing of most of the descendants of Joseph Snapp Wolverton who immigrated from Hampshire County, Virginia, to Randolph County, Missouri, in 1857. This branch of the family has a yearly reunion and hopes to compile a good family history of their branch.

Darlyn Nehrt has been interested in the Wolverton lineage for about the last ten years and has recently located documents on her immediate line to take her lineage back to Joseph Snapp Wolverton and further. With David Macdonald's help, we have her completed lineage and that of her brother, Bob Wolverton, who is now on the mission field in the Dominican Republic. A story about Bob appeared on page 88 of the newsletter.

Darlyn Nehrt was born at home, April 16, 1943 in Lemay, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. She attended Hancock School system through the 12th grade, graduating in 1961. Since that time she has always worked and has continued to further her education by attending night classes. On February 11, 1978 she married William H. Nehrt. She was 34, and he was 38. It was a first marriage for both. They now live in Sparta, Illinois, which is William's home town. Both are currently employed by Diamond Comic Distributors located in Sparta. They enjoy pinochle and get together with two other couples almost every Friday night. Their hobbies include gardening, reading, old movies, and friends.

\* \* \* \* \*

Aug. 5, 1995--Wolverton Family Reunion at Moberly, Missouri.

Descendants of Joseph Snapp Wolverton (1830-1889). He immigrated from Hampshire County, West Virginia, to Randolph County, Missouri in 1857, along with his aged father, Isaac Wolverton<sup>5</sup> (Isaac<sup>4</sup>, Isaac<sup>3</sup>, Roger<sup>2</sup>, Charles<sup>1</sup>), settling at College Mound, Randolph County (now Macon County), Missouri. He married Sarah Carter, and they were parents of 13 children: Albert May (1859-1917), Mary Cornelia (1860-1933), Virginia D. (1862-died young), William Arthur (1863-1936), Amelia Beatrice (1865-1951), Olive Olee (1868-1937), Anna Elizabeth (1870-1953), Joseph Francis (1871-1950), Ruth Cordelia (1873-1952), Austin Crismon (1874-1931), Nellie Dean (1876-1954), Frederick Ernest (1879-1947), and Margaret Urton (1881-1940). Many of the descendants live near Moberly, Missouri. Take Holman Road south from U.S. Hwy #24 about 4/10 mile to Park Drive; then take Park Drive west to the Tennis Courts Shelter House in Rothwell Park. A potluck dinner starts at 12:00 noon. After dinner there will be a program of introductions, remembrances, visiting, and entertainment. Contact Marion Harlan, 2401 W. Rollins Rd., Columbia, MO 65203-1437; Ph. (314) 445-2073..

Aug. 12-13, 1995--61st Annual Harris Reunion at Adamsville, Tennessee, at Adamsville Community Center. For all

Descendants of Gideon Harris (1772-1860) of Maury and Marshall Counties in Tennessee. (Several of these Harris descendants intermarried with Hanks, Dodson, Woolverton, and Littlefield descendants.) Contact: Lewis D. Harris, 108 Rogers Dr., Box 1912, Nettleton, MS 38858

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#### REPORT OF WOOLVERTON MOUNTAIN REUNION

Gene Woolverton of West Plains, Missouri, writes that only 26 people attended the reunion on May 14th this year (compared to 52 last year). All were descendants of Elijah Aaron Woolverton (1851-1938)<sup>6</sup>, son of William Louis Woolverton<sup>5</sup> (James Matthew Woolverton<sup>4</sup>, Andrew<sup>3</sup>, Joel<sup>2</sup>, Charles<sup>1</sup>). Only two were from outside the area. Christine (Holloway) Florence and husband Dan came from Missouri City, Texas. The other one was Gene's son, Michael Wayne Woolverton, of Athens Greece who attended his first reunion.

Work still needs to be done to verify grave markers at the Woolverton Mountain Cemetery. Gene found out that two graves are mislabeled. New monuments will be set in place before next year's reunion.

Earlier Gene reported that his brother-in-law, Roy Link Breedlove of Arnold, Missouri, age 61, had a fatal heart attack on May 9, 1994. This was the next day after the reunion last year. He was buried at Memorial Park Cemetery, Malden, Missouri. Roy was married to Gene's sister, Glenna Jewel (Woolverton) Breedlove, and they had two children, Kimberleigh and Stephen.

#### ATTENDANCE AT 1995 WOOLVERTON MOUNTAIN REUNION:

Ovid and Betty Jo Hopkins, Memphis, TN  
Ed, Joan, and Laura Freeman, Memphis, TN  
Verda Mae Woolverton, Conway, AR  
Patti, Dan, and Claire Summers, Conway, AR  
Glen and Geraldine Farmer, Conway, AR  
Bobby and Charlene Martin, Little Rock, AR  
Mark Miller, Little Rock, AR  
Dan and Christine Florence, Missouri City, TX  
Yvonne and Ashley Taylor, Piggott, AR  
Keith, Sabrina, Lindsay, and Drew Woolverton, Pollard, AR  
Mae Holloway, Center Ridge, AR  
Michael Wayne Woolverton, Athens, Greece  
Michael Wayne Woolverton II, West Plains, MO  
Gene Woolverton, West Plains, MO

\* \* \* \* \*

#### REPORT OF LITTLEFIELD FAMILY REUNION

Having spoken with Katherine Littlefield Smith and Gladys Sellers by phone, I understand that about 50 of the cousins

attended the reunion May 28 at Elgin, Oklahoma. All but 3 were descendants of John Monroe Littlefield<sup>6</sup> (Nancy A. Littlefield<sup>5</sup>, James Matthew Woolverton<sup>4</sup>, Andrew<sup>3</sup>, Joel<sup>2</sup>, Charles<sup>1</sup>). The "visitors" were cousins Peggy Williams of Verden, Oklahoma, and Ann and Merle Smith of Guthrie, Oklahoma. Peggy is the granddaughter of my Uncle Willie Harris<sup>7</sup> (Sarah Agatha Harris<sup>6</sup>, Nancy A. Littlefield<sup>5</sup>-see above).

Ann Smith has done much research on the John Bird Woolverton descendants, which is her husband's family. Ann has a printout of 140+ pages of selected Woolverton descendants from Charles Woolverton down to the present. The manuscript has over 400 footnotes to document the information she has compiled and is fully indexed. And she is adding to it as time allows. Most of the descendants given are from the Andrew Woolverton line. In addition to other records, she has used Royal Wolverton's book and Bonnie Woolverton's book in her sources. She has generously made copies of her manuscript for others who have asked. You may wish to contact her for a copy: Anna V. Smith, P.O. Box 399, Guthrie, OK 73044-0399; Ph. 405-282-3450.

Other news is that in August 1994 Foy and Gladys Sellers and her sister Retha and L. D. Willis took a trip to Virginia to visit Retha's son, Dr. Larry Willis, who lives in the oldest log cabin to still be occupied on its original site. The house was built in 1776 and is on the National Register of Historical Sites. On their return trip, they stopped in Adamsville, Tennessee and had a long visit with cousin Kittye Littlefield who is now 90 years old. They visited the Adamsville Cemetery and Mars Hill Cemetery where so many of our relatives are buried. And they also met Max Carothers and located some Carothers graves at Mars Hill.

It was also reported that George Harley Littlefield passed away in November or December of 1994. He was a son of George W. Littlefield, and brother of subscribers Betty Yeager and Cheryl Grossman.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### REPORT OF JAMES DAVID HARRIS FAMILY REUNION

170 people met at Marlow, Oklahoma for 3 days of fun and fellowship, June 1-3. My Uncle Bill & Aunt Norma Harris and their son Phillip traveled the farthest, coming from Novato and Richmond, California in the Bay area. Representatives of all 10 children of James David Harris (1871-1938) were present. The oldest attending was Uncle James Pinson, who is 87 years old. Three new babies were present: Trella J'Anne Waight (b. Dec. 19, 1994 to John and Debra (Dorrell) Waight); Hunter James Harris (b. Feb. 26, 1995 to Jamie and Shannon Harris); and Laura Ellen Blowey (b. March 13, 1995 to Eddy and Diana Blowey).

It was reported that two family members had passed away since last year--Tillman Williams (*see WU pp. 79 & 114*) and Jack Semadeni (*WU pp. 121-124*). The quilt was pieced by Aunt

Theola (Harris) Williams and was won by Josephine Elam (long-time friend of the Harris family) in a drawing. Aunt Theola also had gifts for each and every person present.

One of the unique food items was a roasted pig complete with an apple in its mouth. My 3-year-old son, Jared, thought that was something else! There was a talent show on Friday evening where several sang, played the piano, told jokes, read poetry, etc. A special highlight was hearing Rebekah (Hix) Bevins sing "His Eye Is On the Sparrow" and a couple other selections.

Among the visitors was L. B. English, grandson of my Aunt Callie (Garvin) English. He now lives in Duncan, Oklahoma and used to live in Wichita Falls, Texas, where I was raised. He told me of other Garvin relatives at Pernell and Elmore City. I visited with Margie (Garvin) Walters, my Granny Harris's first cousin, and was able to see for the first time where my Garvin great-great grandparents are buried at Katie, Oklahoma. I also discovered a Garvin family Bible with records going back to 1798. The Garvins live not far from Marlow, where the Harris Reunion was held.

I missed getting to see cousins Peggy Williams and Shirley Crawford. Peggy did attend the Littlefield Reunion, though.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### INDEX TO CHARLES EVANS WOLVERTON'S BOOK (2nd ed.)

For the last several months, David Guilliom has been working to complete an index to Charles Evans Wolverton's book, History, Origin and Heritage of the Wolverton & Woolverton Families in Part. 2nd ed. (Clarksburg, WV: Privately published, 1963). 139 p. In time he hopes also to index the earlier edition done in 1960.

David reports that Charles Evans Wolverton is still living at Clarksburg, West Virginia, and is 78 years old. However, he is no longer doing family research.

The index is now complete, and David says he would be glad to send a copy of the index at no charge. It is 20 typed pages, so I suggest sending at least a couple dollars to cover postage. Write to: David Guilliom, 817 Adams Street, Wausau, WI 54403.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### FOUR WENT TO THE CIVIL WAR

This book, Four Went to the Civil War, by Lois E. Darroch (Kitchener, Ontario: McBain Publications, Inc., 1985; 317 p.) is a historical novel based on letters of four Wolverton brothers who served in the Civil War. They were Alfred, Alonzo, Jasper, and Newton Wolverton, sons of Enos Wolverton (1810-1893)<sup>5</sup> (Robert<sup>4</sup>, Charles<sup>3</sup>, Joel<sup>2</sup>, Charles<sup>1</sup>), and all from Wolverton, Oxford County, Ontario, Canada. The original letters are in the possession of Goble and Wolverton descendants.

Lois Darroch is the daughter of William Franklin Darroch and Leonora (Wolverton) Darroch. She holds an M.A. degree and also is the author of two biographies, Robert Gourlay, Gadfly and Bright Land and A Warm Look at Arthur Lismer.

The book tells the saga of this Wolverton family of central Ontario during the years 1855-1865. The hundred or so letters which have provided the springboard for the novel is the longest and possibly the only series of this type from out of more than 40,000 Canadians who took part in the American Civil War.

The letters were written to and from the family of the four Wolverton brothers, three of whom were at school in Cleveland, Ohio, when the war broke out. It is a touching narrative as the Wolvertons (along with all other Canadians who served in the war) were violating the British Foreign Enlistment Act by participating. In general, the Canadians serving in this war had motives of money, adventure, and preservation of the union in mind, but these thoughts were overshadowed by the desire to end slavery.

The book contains facsimiles of some of the original letters and includes a photo of the original family home, built by Enos around 1855, which is still standing in Wolverton, Ontario. It is a 3-story structure which includes a beautiful spiral staircase.

Near the end of the war, Enos, the father, went to Washington to meet with son Newton to obtain back pay due for Alfred and Jasper, who had died. They spoke personally with President Lincoln, and the pay was given. When past 75, Enos experimented with electricity in what he called his laboratory. His hearing aid was run by batteries that required sulphuric acid. Over the objections of the family he kept a bottle of acid on his bedside table. After catching a cold, he put a bottle of cough medicine there as well and one night in 1893 drank from the wrong bottle. That caused his death at age 83.

Alfred, the oldest son, enlisted at age 21, but died in 1863 from the smallpox epidemic in Washington, D.C.

Alonzo had remained behind to help his father operate a steam sawmill, but in 1864 he enlisted as a soldier with the 20th Ohio Light Artillery at age 22. He was taken prisoner once at Dalton, Georgia. After the war he ran a sawmill which later was a grist mill and then a flour mill. He also exported butter and eggs to England. When his mill burned, he and his son built a larger mill of 500 barrels a day capacity, exporting after World War I to Cuba and Germany. Alonzo died in 1925. His wife received a widow's pension from the American government until her death at the age of ninety.

Jasper, enlisted in the war in 1861 at age 17. He served at Camp Crossman in Maryland, but after only a few months, he died from typhoid fever which swept Washington because of the unsanitary conditions in the army camps around it.

Newton enlisted at age 15 and served as a teamster near Washington, D.C. in the Civil War. Then in 1863 he joined

the 22nd Oxford Rifles, a militia unit sent to guard Canada's borders south of Montreal. He graduated in mathematics from the University of Toronto in 1877 and also became an ordained Baptist minister. He became principal of Woodstock College and also set up a meteorological observatory there. In 1891 he became principal of Bishop's College at Marshall, Texas, a college for blacks. Later he served as treasurer of Brandon College in Manitoba. In 1907 he received an honorary LLD from McMaster University. He died in Vancouver, B.C. in 1932.

First names of the persons in the central family have been retained, but since the events in the letters are bound together by fiction, for the purpose of this novel, the family name Wolverton in the narrative has been changed to Harding.

A factual and shortened version of the Wolverton brothers' activities in the Civil War may be found in an article which Lois wrote called, "A Note: Canadians in the American Civil War," Ontario History, March 1991, pp. 55-62.

The book appears to be out of print and the publisher is no longer located in Kitchener, Ontario. But it is available through interlibrary loan or may be viewed at the following libraries:

Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540  
 Michigan City Public Library, Michigan City, IN 46360  
 University of Michigan Library, Ann Arbor, MI 48109  
 University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
 North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7111  
 New York Public Library Research Library, New York, NY 10018  
 St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY 13617  
 Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA 17325  
 University of Houston, Houston, TX 77004  
 State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706  
 McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8S 4L6  
 National Library of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0N4

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**ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS**

We send anniversary congratulations to three sets of cousins who have reached another milestone. First we honor my great-aunt and uncle, James and Leta (Harris) Pinson of Lyford, Texas on their 66th wedding anniversary which they celebrated on February 3, 1995. They were married February 3, 1929 at Duncan, Oklahoma. Leta is the daughter of James David Harris<sup>7</sup> (Agatha Harris<sup>6</sup>, Nancy A. Littlefield<sup>5</sup>, James M. Woolverton<sup>4</sup>, Andrew<sup>3</sup>, Joel<sup>2</sup>, Charles<sup>1</sup>. *(See tributes from two of their grandchildren which follow.)*

Also we honor my aunt and uncle, Tunney and Betty Lou (Harris) Waterman of Cortez, Colorado on their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married April 28, 1945 at Cortez, Colorado, by Elder J. C. Smart. They have lived in a number



of places, but now make their home in Cortez again. Their anniversary party was held on April 30th with all 6 of their children present, most of their grandchildren, and 1 great-granddaughter. Betty Lou is the daughter of William Earl Harris<sup>8</sup>, James David Harris<sup>7</sup> (see lineage above).

And we honor Helen and Kenneth Wolf of Lawton, Oklahoma on their 60th wedding anniversary. A reception was held at their church on May 27th, the day before the Littlefield Reunion. Helen is the daughter of Fred Littlefield<sup>7</sup> and granddaughter of John Monroe Littlefield<sup>6</sup>.

\* \* \* \* \*

**MY SWEET GRANDMOTHER** [Leta (Harris) Pinson]  
by Joshua Gilliam  
March 7, 1990

(written for English 501 class when he was age 10)

My grandmother is not your ordinary gray-haired little lady, she's a whole lot more! She's a friend, a playmate, and sometimes my date when Granddaddy is out of town. What I mean by a playmate is we play Down and Out, Zilch, and Kings in the Corner, and she doesn't mind when I beat the socks off of her--that's the fun part of my grandmother.

My grandmother was my favorite Christmas present this past Christmas because in October the doctors told us that Grandmother would not live 'til Christmas without open heart surgery. It was a hard time for me because I couldn't see her for three weeks. When she was taken out of C.I.C.U. eight days after open heart surgery, I went to see my grandmother, but she didn't look like my Grandmother. She had staples holding her chest together and staples in both legs, and an I.V. in her arm. Also, she didn't have her teeth and her hair wasn't brushed. When I saw my grandmother, I was so thrilled to see that she was going to be O.K. Life without Grandmother would not be fun. She makes me laugh. She fixes my favorite foods. She tells me when I do things wrong and shows me how to do them right. She lets me pull out her chair and shows me how to act on our dates. She wants me to grow up into a fine, responsible adult.

I'm proud to be Grandmother's Joshua, and I'm proud to call her Grandmother.

\* \* \* \* \*

**THROUGH THE YEARS** [Leta and James Pinson]  
by Stacey (Davenport) Zamora  
(written about 1990)

This paper is about two of the greatest people on earth--my grandparents. It covers from how they met to why they came to the Rio Grande Valley. It talks about their hardships and triumphs and their many contributions to both

the community and to their family.

My grandparents first met in 1923, with the help of my maternal great-grandfather, James David Harris. Mr. Harris owned a hay baling machine and did custom work. While doing a baling job for Samuel Jackson Pinson, my granddaddy's father, he needed an additional worker so he hired my granddaddy James Benjamin Pinson. Granddaddy sat on one end of the hay baler and fed in the hay, while grandmother, Leta Mae Harris, sat at the other side feeding in the wire that was used to wrap the bales of hay. After the job for Samuel Pinson was completed, Granddaddy worked and traveled with Mr. Harris throughout the summer. This brought Grandmother and Granddaddy closer together and on February 3, 1929, they were married.

For ten years, grandmother and granddaddy lived in Oklahoma. They made their living by planting crops and selling eggs and cream. During 1929, the economy hit "rock bottom" and the depression was all around. In 1939, after severe dry spells and crop failures, Grandmother and Granddaddy came to the Valley to visit her three sisters and two brothers, who had already moved here from Oklahoma. When they got here, my grandmother got work in the cotton fields picking cotton and granddaddy got a job at the gin in Lyford. After a little over a week, my grandmother went back to Oklahoma to check on things and when she came back, they decided to stay in the Valley.

During their first years, they lived on some rented land of grandmother's sister and brother-in-law, Avie and Tillman Williams. After awhile granddaddy applied for and received a government loan. With the loan, he bought 120 acres of land east of Lyford, Texas, in a place called "Stillman Tract." But, in order for him to keep the loan he had to build a chicken house and prove that he was going to use his new found land for raising crops.

He proved his intentions, and with this loan he not only bought 120 acres of land, he also built a house, garage, barn, and chicken house, all for \$11,000. Although this almost seems wonderful, there were a lot of problems and interferences. One problem was most of the land was covered with brush and trees. Clearing the land and getting it ready for planting was a difficult job. Another problem was there was no water system, and granddaddy had to dig his own water wells. After a while one well would go salty and then he had to find another place for a new well. Also, there was no electricity.

The war was the only major interference. My grandparents were only able to build a barn and garage prior to our involvement. They couldn't build their house for a few years, because all of the wood was being used for the war. Also, granddaddy, along with everyone else who farmed, had a hard time buying farm equipment and tractor tires because all of the metal and rubber was also being used for the war. The only way they could buy a piece of equipment or a tire, was to prove that the tire or piece of equipment couldn't

possibly be fixed or repaired.

However, the war was of help, too. During the war money was needed, so even though granddaddy's loan made it impossible for him to rent any land, he was allowed to. It was during this period of time that he started to accumulate his land, and to this day he still has 392 acres of farm land, including the original 120, in Stillman Tract.

Since the economy was so bad, granddaddy and grandmother were kept busy raising almost all of their food. Vegetables were grown and canned; eggs were collected; cows were milked; and beef, pork, and chickens were raised for meat. Also, my grandmother sold eggs, cream, and butter for extra money.

This wasn't all that had to be done each day. Water had to be carried to the animals, the ground had to be worked, and crops had to be cared for. There was also a lot to be done around the house. My grandmother made almost all of hers and granddaddy's clothes, mostly from flour and chicken or cattle feed bags. If special clothes were needed, grandmother would buy material for thirty or fifty cents a yard.

Their transportation wasn't the best either. Granddaddy bought a second-hand bobbed-tail truck from Tillman Williams' brother, Zack, who was about to take the truck to the dump. This was my grandparents' only transportation for several years.

When the war ended in 1945, normal life began again and electricity was also installed in their home.

Throughout their marriage my grandparents tried to have a child. No matter how hard they tried, it was virtually impossible. So like most people who wanted children, but were unable to have them, granddaddy and grandmother signed up to adopt. On January 21, 1947, Grandmother and Granddaddy received the call they had been waiting for. They went to San Antonio, Texas, and brought home their new baby girl. This little girl is my mother, Rita Sharron Pinson Gilliam, born December 30, 1946. With a child now, grandmother and granddaddy's family was complete and they could now focus on other things. Basically family was, is and always will be number one in my grandparents' eyes.

In 1950, Granddaddy heard about a loan that would enable a rural phone system to be installed in Stillman Tract. Granddaddy went all around to different friends and farmers trying to get them to all get together to have a rural phone system put in. All of this work paid off and a few months later in 1950, the first contract for the rural phone system was signed at the Lyford Gin Association.

It took several years to get the money and supplies, but in 1957, the rural phone system was installed. My grandfather was the very first person to place a call on the new phone system. The newspaper press and radio people were all gathered in my grandparents' living room to watch him make the call. Who did he call? Well, his mother had been very ill, so the first phone call was a long distance call to Duncan, Oklahoma, to my great-grandmother.

Every year since my grandparents moved to their new home and land, they had to dig their own rural water system. Granddaddy had to dig his own wells and haul water back and forth. A few years later, after the rural phone system was installed, granddaddy heard of another loan. This loan was to be used to have a rural water system installed out in Stillman Tract. Granddaddy once again went around gathering supporters as he did for the phone system. This took a little longer to install, but in 1967 all of the subscribers were now blessed with fresh running water.

Granddaddy was a key person in several other ventures, too. He was a major contributor and President of the Valley Telephone Co-Op for several years. His picture is still on the wall there.

He was one of the founding fathers of the Willacy County Livestock Show. He and several other farms and ranchers wanted to hold an event where the young people could show their animals they worked so hard to raise. The Willacy County Livestock Show is still held annually in January, but the location is now between Raymondville and Lyford, rather than Lyford.

In connection with the livestock show, it was decided to hold a queens contest and add several other events to the show. A rodeo was held, exhibits such as art were put on display, and in addition to the animal competition, a bake show and clothing show also became a part of the once a year event. The same rules that granddaddy and the other board members set several years ago have to this day been carried out; all that is except one. For the past couple of years, a fee has been charged as people entered the show grounds. The rule in the beginning was that the show was for the children of the community and for the community itself. Charging an entry fee defeats the original intent.

Around the fall of 1958, Granddaddy and Mrs. Doris Cooley wanted to have a local 4-H program for the kids in Stillman Tract. Up until then, the 4-H meetings were held in the various schools, or not at all. So, the Stillman 4-H Club was made official. Its first adult leaders were my granddaddy and Mrs. Doris Cooley. Some of its former members now have children who are active.

Not only was granddaddy a founder of several worthwhile organizations, he was and is both a wonderful farmer and an upstanding citizen. In 1956, he was awarded a plaque by the National Bank of Dallas for Soil Conservation. He was voted best dryland farmer for several years, too. He was awarded two plaques in 1959 and in 1972 by the Soil and Water Conservation District. He was also involved in several clubs--the Farmers Association, the Beef Syndicate, and Lions Club. In 1969-70 he was even voted Lion of the Year.

I am very proud of my heritage and my family background. My grandparents started out with nothing and have ended up with land that is paid for and well-deserved recognition for all of their hard work, but most of all they have a family who loves and respects them with all of their hearts.