

FAMILY HISTORY OF THE FERRIN'S

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Augustine Wayland Ferrin was born in Pittsfield, New Hampshire on March 6, 1856. They lived on a small dairy farm. His father, Stephen Goodhue Ferrin was born in Hebron, New Hampshire on April 11, 1826. He married Sally P. Foss in June__at Pittsfield, New Hampshire and to this union was born four children: -Clarence E., Augustine W., Mary Lizzie, and Nellie. Stephen Ferrin worked in a saw mill and while there was hurt in an Thereafter he always walked on accident. He made furniture and made a crutches. dining room table for the "Gus" Ferrin family. The mother (Sally) died in Minneapolis, Minnesota on November 5, 1864 when Gus was eight years old. After struggling along for a while, the grandparents in New Hampshire wrote to him to send the oldest boy and girl (Clarence and Lizzie) to them to raise and educate. It almost broke Grandfather's heart to break up the family but he could see no other way, so the two went back to New Hampshire and became the heirs of the grandparents.

Grandfather Ferrin finally got a housekeeper to care for the two remaining children. Her name was Mrs. Mary Jane Pettijohn and on August 13, 1865 they were married. To this union two children were born, Mary Jane, lived two months and Oscar M. When the children were grown and wife died Grandfather Ferrin stayed on living with Oscar M. who had married Nina E. Wood of Springfield, Missouri and they were farming the Minnesota farm. Grandmother Ferrin died in February 1895. Three children were born to Oscar and Nina, -Mary Cornelia on June 13, 1895; LeRoy Truman on October 31,1896. In 1900 Nina's health was so bad the Doctor told Oscar he would have to change climate for her health. They had a sale in the Fall and moved to Sioux City, Iowa. When Oscar and Nina were leaving the farm, Grandfather Ferrin went to live with Uncle Gus Ferrin. Aunt Nellie had married Rob Shore. They lived in Ransom Township, Nobles County where the Ferrin Farm had been in the same area. Grandfather Ferrin went one day to Rushmore,

Minnesota where the Gus Ferrin family lived and asked to come live with them. Alvah was "on the way" but room was made for him and he lived with them most of the time until he died, September 6, 1911 in Roswell, New Mexico where he is buried.

Stephen and Mary Jane Ferrin moved from Minneapolis to Ransom Township, Nobles County Minnesota when Oscar was eight years old and brought their family of three children. Gus and Nellie were pretty well grown. Oscar's parents thought it would be a better place on a farm to raise their family.

Oscar Ferrin grew up in the southwest corner of Minnesota and Nina E. Wood's farm home was only six miles away from Oscar's Minnesota farm home in the northwest corner of Iowa. The parents of both Nina and Oscar knew each other. Nina's folks would go to Sibley. Iowa in the winter months, when Nina and her sister Grace C. Wood were needing more education than they could get in the district school. Later they moved to Springfield. Missouri so Nina and Grace could go to Drury College. Nina and Grace became school teachers. Nina taught in the home district school of the Stephen Ferrin's. She stayed with the Ferrin family while teaching there. Oscar and Nina became interested in each other. They were married February 25, 1894. To this union were born three children. in Minnesota, Mary Cornelia and LeRoy Truman. Roy did not like the name of LeRoy so he was always called Roy. The third child was Esther, born in Watonga, Oklamoma in August 1909. She only lived eight hours. Her circulation was not right.

Nina and Grace Wood had a brother, Charles Herman Wood, born August 18th 1882; died at age of five years, November 24 1887. His sickness was camped membrainous croup.

Oscar Ferrin had an agreement with his parents, when he was going to be married. His brother Gus had gone to Rushmore to work and his sister, Nellie had married Rob Shore.

The agreement was that Oscar and Nina were to live on the Ferrin farm to help farm it, but they built on an addition to the farmhouse, making more room for two families. Everything was going along nicely, but Grandmother Ferrin died suddenly in February 1895. Oscar's were expecting Mary C. in June. Grandfather stayed on until Oscar's had to have their sale

and move out of Minnescta in the Fall of 1900.

Grandfather and Grandmother Ferrin took a girl that needed care and a home, by the name of Bertha. I forget her family name. I remember hearing her called Bertha Ferrin that married Henry Shore, a brother of Nellie Shore's husband, Rob. Nellie and Bertha were congenial. They enjoyed each other. I remember so well Aunt Bertha, as we always called her. There were six born to this union, five girls and one boy-Leatha, Edith, Hazel Delbert, Lois and Augustine.

Augustine Ferrin went to work in Rushmore, Minnesota in Bedford Mercantile Store. There he met Carrie Helena Hovey who had come to Rushmore earlier to attend school and lived with the Bedford family working for her board and room. After graduation from High School, Carrie went to work at the Bedford Store. They were married on September 1, 1892 at Worthington, Minnesota.

Carrie Hovey was born in Belvedere, Illinois on August 17, 1871. Her father, Austin Hovey (whose father and mother may have been Azel Hovey and Mary E. Hovey?) was born May 16, 1833 and served in the Civil War. After his service to his country, he married Aurelia Clementine Liferd Whitney, whose nickname was "Ril", on September 10, 1857 at Rockford, Illinois. To this union were born five children in Illinois- Frances (Frankie); Melvin Whitney; Ida; Carrie; Helena and Addie. This family moved to Minnesota in 1879 because the government gave them 160 acres of land for service to the country. They settled about twelve mile from Worthington, Minnesota where they farmed. Here

another child, Florence Ethel, was born on August 7, 1880.

Frankie tried teaching school in Illinois and didn't like it, so before the family moved to Minnesota, she went to Dexter, Maine to live with Aunt Minn and Uncle Willie. After Florence was born, Frankie had named the new baby, she planned to come home to live, but in the Spring took sick suddenly and died in three weeks. It was a month before her family heard of her death. She had been engaged to be married soon.

Melvin was a farmer and had the most beautiful horses in the country. Marjorie remembers at Christmas Uncle Melvin would put runners on his wagon, sleigh bells on the horses and come to town to take them all for a ride over the heavy snow.

Ida and Addie were exposed to smallpox, took it and died in childhood within a week of each other.

Aunt Florence remembers hearing about the terrible winter of 1880-1881. The snow wind and sleet continued so long the stock could not get out of the shed. Grandfather Hovey cut a hole in the roof and put Carrie and Melvin down inside to feed the cattle. They used slough grass, wound together and tied in bundles for fuel and finally resorted to burning a bedstead and some of the flooring to keep warm. They moved the horses into the room where they burned the flooring. Aunt Florence's bassinet was an apple box which they kept near the stove to keep her warm.

Before Gus and Carrie were married, he bought into a hardware store with John James. After the marriage they moved into a small two-story house next to the store which had a flat store front. Mr. Bedford had given Carrie a new White Sewing Machine for a wedding gift. As soon as they were settled

the school year. She lived with them during five years. To this union were born five children:

Clifford Raymond -- August 3, 1893 Clayton Hovey ---- February 18, 1895 Marjorie ----- December 27, 1896 Mildred ----- February 19, 1899 Alvah Melvin ---- November 2, 1901

Clifford was born in the home next to the store. The family needed a larger home so they moved to Grandma Gernsey's home. Here Clayton, Marjorie and Mildred were born. Now a larger home was needed again so they moved to the Lum Place where Alvah was born. In Rushmore they all attended the Methodist Church regularly and were active in the life of the Church.

After Aunt Florence finished school she began teaching, at 18 years of age, at the Jack Green School. After one term she began teaching in Wilmont, Minnesota, a small town close by, in a one-room classroom, teaching all grades up to High School. Children were kept out of school by their parents to help gather the crops in the Fall. By Christmas the enrollment had increased and the class was divided with Aunt Florence teaching the lower grades. She boarded in town the first year until her folks moved into the town of Wilmont. Grandfather Hovey died here, September, 1903 but was buried at Rushmore, Minnesota. He died from Diabetes.

Gus Ferrin developed Asthma and suffered so much they decided he should go visit his half-brother, Oscar, who now lived at Watonga Oklahoma. He took Clayton with him on this first visit. While there he saw his first ice machine at the local Ice Plant. When he told his friends about it, they wouldn't believe him and said. "Only nature could make ice." While in Oklahoma he felt so well and liked the climate so the family decided to move, leaving Rushmore in December, 1904. They went by train, taking all their belongings. In Watonga Gus bought

into a Hardware store with Cassius King. whose father (Leander) was a cousin to Grandfather Hovey. Uncle Oscar owned a furniture They lived in a small place at first, but before Spring moved to a larger place where Grandfather Ferrin could have a garden. Aunt Florence and Grandmother Hovey also moved to Watonga where she taught a 4th grade class and received \$45.00 a month as salary. She played the pump organ at the Methodist Church where they all attended. This was a frontier town and a large Indian population. It wasn't unusual to have Indians look in at the windows but they never molested anyone. Once a year they had a big Pow-Wow and have related many incidents which occurred during this time.

After about two years here, the asthma attacks began again. Through advertisements about lands for settling and improvements in new territories, Gus, Grandpa Ferrin, and Uncle Oscar left on an excursion train in the Fall of 1906 to investigate the possibilities. They each filed on a quarter section of land about 22 miles from Portales, New Mexico. Grandpa's land and Papa's were side by side. When they returned, preparations were made for the move. Papa. Clifford and Clayton took the furniture and livestock by train in November. Near Shamrock. Texas the train became snowbound. They lost only one horse in the move. Marjorie stayed in Oklahoma in school with Aunt Florence and Grandma Hovev. When Christmas vacation arrived, Aunt Florence and Marjorie went to Portales. When they arrived there was a big tent encampment where immigrants were living. All the family were there to meet them and Marjorie had a good reunion with her family-and her pet rooster, Cock Lock. The Ferrin tent was close to the Bingham tent but Uncle Oscar built a shanty on his claim and lived there.

Grandoa's land bordered Uncle Gus on the west. Uncle Oscar's bordered Uncle Gus on the South.

Uncle Gus and the boys left about two weeks before any of the rest. Oscar, Nina

Grandfather Ferrin, Roy and Mary, Mr. Smith left Watonga the week of Thanksgiving. We spent Thanksgiving on the train. Near Amirilla, Texas our passenger train had some trouble in the night. The wheels and the base they were fastened to became cross-wise of the track, digging up the road bed. The engine to the train was separated from the train, the source of heat for the train. Everyone that was on the train had to put on their warmest wraps. About daylight the train was repaired enough the train pulled into the railroad station at Amarillo where we unloaded There was lots of water on the ground from the melting snow they had around there. We proceeded from there later, arriving in Portales on Saturday afternoon. Uncle Gus had arrived Saturday morning. Aunt Carrie, Mildred and Alvah had gotten uneasy. Aunt Carrie hadn't heard a word from Uncle Gus. She started after Oscar and family did but their train had no hold up. They got to Portales Sunday morning. Oscar's group had located Uncle Gus and boys. We were in the Hotel Sunday morning and Aunt Carrie had her group came in and found us. There was a real reunion. We all were so thankful to be together again.

Monday the freight car was started to be unloaded, except for the livestock. They were taken out on Saturday. Uncle Gus had to buy another horse. Uncle Gus and father, Oscar, each had a large tent they were to put up. one behind the other. The front one was for cooking, eating etc. The back one was for sleeping quarters. As soon as the car was unloaded, Oscar, (father) got the lumber and supplies he and Mr. Smith would need to build a shanty 12x18. When that was built father came back for his family and the furniture that was shipped by freight out to Portales, to be left there when the claim had to be settled up and we went back to Watonga. The furniture was a necessary supply. Because we were 22 miles from a source of supplies, Portales, Mother took

groceries. Mother thought to have Christmas presents for Roy and I. As soon as Father got Roy, Mother and I located on the claim, he had to go back to Portales by team and wagon and then by train to Watonga to be at his Furniture and Undertaking business. He came back a number of times for short visits. Then came back when we had lived on the claim long enough, nine months, to prove up. We got back just two days before school started in Watonga. There were requirements besides living on the claim to prove up, also a sum of money.

Uncle Gus and family went out to Uncle Oscar's shanty in February. There were all their belongings and family, the four children grandfather as well as Uncle Gus and Aunt Carrie. It was a very bad day, drizzling rain. It was about dark when they got there. Uncle Gus was very sick with Erysipelas, but he was able to drive the horses. My mother (Nina) had supper for the bunch. They put Uncle Gus to bed and grandfather with him. Nina thought they deserved the best bed. There was only a cot besides the one double bed. The rest of us were bedded on the floor. Uncle Gus had had Erysipelas before when Uncle Gus's were living in Minnesota, so Aunt Carrie recognized his trouble. Aunt Carrie and Clayton went back the 22 miles to get medicine. It took all day to go by team and wagon so it must have taken them until the second midnight to get back with the medicine. Uncle Gus became un-conscious. Aunt Carrie was doctoring him very faithfully. Mother (Fina) wrote her husband, Oscar, in Oklahoma, that Uncle Gus was so sick. Oscar came by train to Portales, hired a livery team, got a Doctor to go with him. They came about dark. The Doctor examined Uncle Gus and said he had Erysipelas and the medicine that was being used, was just right. He left some more. Then he took the livery team back to Portales. Father stayed a while. Uncle Gus heard Father talking. He said. "Is that you Oscar?" He said it was. Uncle Gus had been unconscious for two weeks.

Hearing Oscar's voice he became conscious and that was the truning point of his sick-ness. He gradually got better.

The women folks in the meantime after that first night's sleep, put up the two tents for sleeping quarters, one for boys and men and the other for women. Grandfather rated the cot and Aunt Carrie slept with Uncle Gus. Grandfather helped with setting up things, too, as much as he could. They stayed at our shanty until Uncle Gus got well enough to work.

The school house was an important part of the community, for here was held a Literary Society where programs were held in which most of the children of the claim holders participated. Church was held on Sundays for everyone from the claims around. Uncle Ed was on the school board for the township school at Macy. He talked Aunt Florence into taking the school there. It was a problem school, but after she began teaching there was no trouble at all. She taught there for one term and then married E.P. Williams on June 15, 1910. She was married in the Ferrin home with Marjorie playing the wedding march. The home was decorated with mesquite and it was pretty.

In August 1910 when the children needed better schooling, hearing that Roswell, New Mexico had good schools, they decided on the move. They went the 125 miles by covered wagon, the cows tied to the wagon. It took them a week to go, stopping at night to make a camp-fire and cooking over the open flame. The animals had lush grass to sustain them. They usually stopped at night by a waterhole. They found a place in the soutwest part of Roswell near a gravel pit. It was an adequate house with water piped into the house which was quite a luxury. With Alvah in the first grade, Mildred in the third and Marjorie in the fifth, they went to the old Pauley School; Clifford and Clayton had to go farther to Central School. They bought a lot about a block away and built a place on this lot.

Grandpa Ferrin was in bed most-of the time and Mamma did nursing out in the town. Papa and the boys picked apples and did such work as was available to bring in some income for the family.

In the summer of 1911 they all went back to the claim. In August they again made the return to Roswell for school. This time they lived in a big house by the rail-road on East 19th Street. Grandpa Ferrin got worse with kidney trouble and died in September 1911. Papa's eyes were failing and this limited his capacity to work, but he did some census work for the City.

In 1915 Mamma went to California to visit Aunt Florence and Grandma Hovey. Aunt Florence, Uncle Ed and Grandma Hovey had moved to California in January, 1913, stopping at Pasadena, California to visit a brother of Grandma Hover-Uncle Scott Whitney. They had intended going to Oregon to settle but liked California and stayed there. Grandma Hovey died in Pasadena on October 13, 1915 from double pneumonia. Mamma had planned to go with Aunt Florence to take her mother's body back to Rushmore, Minnesota to be buried by Grandpa Hovey, but the telegram was never received and she didn't hear from Aunt Florence until after the service.

Clifford, after graduating from Roswell High School in May, 1916, was called into the service of his country on September 27, 1917, going first to Ft. Dix, New Jersey and then overseas as an engineer. After his service in World War I, serving in France for 17½ months (Company "B" of 26th Engineers) he went to work for Roswell Hardware & Plumbing Shop. In 1923 things were dull in Roswell so he went to a Technical College in Chicago, studying drafting for three years. For a time he worked for Sears Roebuck in Chicago making house plans. Upon his return to Roswell-as the depression began therehe worked for a time at t'e Gross-Miller Grocery Store until he was able to get an

appointment on the Post Office staff where he worked for 24 years before he retired. He married Madelaine Barnett on September 30, 1926. They had no children and still reside in Roswell, New Mexico.

Clayton, after graduating from Roswell High School in May, 1917, joined the U. S. Navy and was stationed in San Diego, California until the war ended. He visited Aunt Florence and Uncle Ed while in the service. He returned to Roswell in the fall of 1919 and became a teller at the First State Bank and Trust Company. He and Clifford lived at the American Legion Hall at this time. Soon he got a better job at Hall-Poorbaugh Printing Company setting type by hand for a number of years until they pruchased a Linotype machine which he operated. On June 6, 1923 he was marriid to Dorothy Barnett. For a time he worked at Joyce Pruit Company as a bookkeeper and then for Purdy Furniture Store in the same capacity. Since the depression was very bad, this family with two boys, Clayton Herber born September 8, 1928 and Jay Robert, born September 30, 1929, decided to move. They left for Garden Grove, California on May 16, 1931 where Clayton got work in the orange groves through help from Uncle Ed. Here another son, Franklin Arthur, was born October 5, 1934. Clayton passed away from a brain tumor at the Veterans Hospital in Long Beach on March 26, 1951 and is buried at Loma Vista Cemetery in Fullerton, California.

Marjorie went to work after her graduation in May, 1918 at Woolworths in Roswell for the summer and her sister, Mildred, kept the house for her. The folks had moved back to the claim near Portales. That fall Marjorie got a school teaching job at "Kentucky Valley" near Elida, New Mexico, getting \$70.00 a month as salary. She taught there the year, went to summer school and returned to teach at the Upton School where Aunt Florence had taught. Returning each summer for schooling, she taught in and around the claim during the rest of the year for many years at different schools. Ween she had

chough credits, she would teach in Roswell at the Washington School during the winters and attended Las Vegas Normal School in summers until in August, 1931 she graduated with a B.A. degree. Upon graduation, she went to California where she got a school and began teaching at Hoover School, a Mexican school on the edge of Garden Grove, California. She met Joe T. Ralston at the Methodist Church and they were married August 3, 1936. They had no children and still reside at 13191 Kerry Street, Garden Grove. California.

Mildred graduated from Roswell High School in May, 1920 and on August 3rd of that year was married at Floyd, New Mexico to Glen Mc-Coy. She had a small family wedding. She and Glen lived in Roswell where Glen worked at the Huff Jewelry Store. They had one son, Howard Ferrin McCoy, born July 6, 1921 and in 1927 moved to Carlsbad, New Mexico where they opened a jewelry store. Mildred passed away from cancer on December 2, 1962. Glen married Miss Josephine Williams in September, 1965 and still resides in Carlsbad. Howard married Pat Ramsey, they had one daughter, Marsha, and they reside also in Carlsbad where he manages the McCoy Jewelry Store.

Alvah came to California sometime after he graduated from High School and worked for the Press-Telegram newspaper in Long Beach for many years. He was married on November 3, 1933 to Miss Gretchen Twinem. They have two daughters, Gretchen Lenore and Bonnie Mae. Both are married at this writing.

After the children left home it was no longer feasible for the folks to stay on the claim and try to work it, so in the summer of 1922 they moved to Las Vegas, New Mexico where Marjorie went to Normal School during the summers to work on her degree. During this time they spent two winters keeping house for the Barker men, the father, son Elliott, a forest ranger, and Omar, a poet. Aunt Florence and Uncle Ed visited them one time

and Alvah decided to go home with them. On the way they were in a car accident, were hospitalized and when strong enough, went home by train. Alvah took their car to a garage to be fixed and when it was done, he drove the car to California for them.

The folks moved to Garden Grove, California in ..., 1927 Mamma driving all the way as Papa's eyes were very bad by this time. They got a place on Stanford Avenue and Mamma did housework for several people. Papa did what he could, shelling walnuts, etc. and Alvah worked and supported them all he could. On May 7, 1932 Papa had a sudden heart attack and died. He is buried at Loma Vista Cemetery in Full orton, California. Mamma lived with Marjorie until she married and then lived alone for six years until she died June 4, 1943 and is buried beside her husband in Loma Vista Cemetery in Fullerton.

Oscar's family lived in Watonga, Oklahoma until the Fall of 1912, when Mary went to Oberlin, Ohio to spend the school year with Aunt Grace Hill. It was before their third daughter came. They, Uncle Harry, Aunt Grace and two daughters, that were born in Brazil, South America, while Uncle Harry was a Y.M.C.A. Secretary down there for five years. Mary was in her second year in High School. Uncle Harry had to spend a year in the United States, telling about his experienc while they lived in Brazil. He did not want Aunt Grace left alone with their two little girls while he was gone. Mary did a lot of visiting with relatives after school was out. The next summer the folks moved to Kinsman Ohio. to live with Uncle Charles Wood. He was alone and needed help in his farm house and on the farm.

Roy and Mary finished High School at Kinsman. Ohio-Mary finished High School in 1915 and Roy in 1917. Father and Mother bought a farm in Pennsylvania and moved on it in late winter of 1917. Mary attended Kent State Normal College in summers and taught

school for five years. October 19, 1920 Kary and Leonard A. Hood were married. No children were born to this union. Leonard was a very good, kind husband. He was hit by a car October 16, 1948, that was the cause of his death on October 22nd and was bried at Rocky Glenn Cemetery at Adamsville, Pennsylvania on October 25, 1948. Mary was a widow for over twenty years. She married Elmer C. Stein February 22nd 1969. She feels she has been very lucky she has had two such good husbands.

After Leonard passed away Mary worked at different places, mostly stores. In 1950 she drove to Florida taking two lady friends. She kept going back to Pennsylvania most of the summers. She did spend three summers in Florida before she married Elmer. They bought a new Mobile Home and live in a nice Mobile Home Court. They spend six months in Florida and six months in their home in Pennsylvania. Elmer was from that state and Elmer and Leonard knew each other a good many years before he passed away.

Oscar was the first one in his family to pass away. He had a bad heart. His heart was so bad they had a sale and sold their farm equipment and personal belongings and moved to Saegertown, Pennsylvania where Leonard and Mary were living, to make their home with them. Oscar's heart kept getting worse. He passed away April 1939.

After Roy finished High School, he worked at public works in Warren, Ohio and Akron, Ohio also on the Ferrin farm in Pennsylvania. He married a Pennsylvania girl by the name of Dorothy E. McNillen April 4, 1925. After a honeymoon trip to Wachington D.C. they lived in Cincinnati, later at Uhrichsville, Ohio, where he was working for the Holland Furnace Company. Dorothy's father was living on a farm. His heart was very bad. Too much hard work for him. So Roy and Dorothy moved home with her father and mother. The farm house was

divided for the two families. Barbara Ann was born to them October 4, 1935, ten years and a half half after Roy and Dorothy were married. This was a great event for she was the first and only grandchild of the Oscar Ferrin family.

Leonard and Mary went to a traditional "honeymoon area, Niagara Falls" Elmer and Mary made a trip from St. Petersburg, Florida to Meadville, Pennsylvania where they were well received by friends and relatives. Mary's only close relative was her niece, Barbara Ann Ferrin Rader. She was married to H. Ronald Rader on July 24, 1954. By marrying Elmer, she acquired three sons, three daughters-in-law, twelve granchildren and one great-grandson. She is enjoying them. They are very good to her.

Roy T. Ferrin's mother-in-law, Myrna McMillen passed away June 1940. There was lots of work done on that McMillen Farm. Roy went ahead with it. On March 31 st, 1942 Roy had a cerebral hemorrhage. They celebrated their seventeenth wedding anniversary on his death bed, in three days he was gone. He passed away at Atlantic, Pennsylvania, buried at Rocky Glenn Cemetery April 7,1942.

Leonard and Mary had the same thing happen to them. Their twenty-eighth anniversary was celebrated on his death bed and in three days he too was gone. Leonard was hit by the car on Mother's birthday, that caused his death on October sixteenth.

Mother lived until February 1951. Her death was caused by hardening of the arteries and complications. This left Mary Hood the only survivor of the Oscar Ferrin Family (other than Barbara Ann Rader-her neice). So it was a pleasure to have some new relatives when she and Elmer were married twenty-one years later.

Barbara Ann and Ronald Rader have not

They were not relation to their foster parents or to each other. Fonnie was born July 30th 1961 and Tony's birth was June 16th 1962. Both boys came in 1965. Tony came April 1st 1965, Ronnie came October 22nd 1965. Ronnie was adopted September 1967 and Tony was adopted June 1969.