
Chapter 5

Children of Edward and Mary Higginson

John, James, Carrie, Edward, Ida Emily, Isabelle

1. John W. Higginson (1855–1881)

John Higginson, the first child of Edward and Mary Higginson, was born in Illinois.

John reportedly suffered a leg injury, while riding one day, which resulted in him suffering from a running sore called *white swelling* or *white leg*. White Leg usually results from an obstructed vein, and the leg then becomes abscessed.—*Cal Bivens*

If his mother would have signed with John, the doctor would have amputated his leg, but apparently, Mary, refused to sign.

—Mary Crabtree, his niece

The odor was terrible. Fortunately, Great Grandma Ida, his sister, couldn't smell. So around the time when Ida was 11, they taught her to dress the running sore each day, which she continued to do until his death about four years later.

Family sources indicate that John died April 6, 1881. If that is the case, it must have been a cold snowy spring.—*Cal Bivens*

In that day, when one died, the body must be buried right away. There were German people living near, and that morning two German men came each with a yoke of oxen on their sleds. They couldn't talk English and Grandma couldn't speak German.



Friends John L. Crabtree (left) and John W. Higginson (right).

But they knew about John's death and made her know that they would go on over to the cemetery, thus breaking a road through the snow, probably to get the grave ready.—Mary Crabtree ❀



Jim Higginson with his wife Fannie Blake.

2. James L. Higginson (1857–1932)

Jim was born May 28, 1857, in Illinois. Jim was a somewhat stern, take charge kind of guy I (Cal) was told, and took charge of the farm after the death of his father at the age of 16. This begs the question was John not up to the task?

Jim went to Nebraska when the others did and established himself well. He managed to acquire 320 acres of land. In 1885, 60 acres of that was tilled, 40 acres were woodlands and forest, and 220 acres were unimproved. He had houses and buildings worth \$1650; farm equipment worth \$50, livestock worth \$400 and two horses. Jim had put out \$100 for building and repair in 1884 and sold \$250 worth of farm products. He was doing well.—*Cal Bivens*

Jim married Fannie Blake, a Nebraska native, in March of 1891. Three months earlier, Jim and Fannie had been witnesses for his sister Ida's marriage to John Crabtree.

Jim and Fannie settled at Springview where he was a livery man and ran his own livery stable. Jim died in December 1932.

Children of Jim and Fannie:

Earl L. Higginson was born in 1891. He married Mary Jane Strain and remained in Keya Paha County. Earl died in Nebraska, June 1963. Earl and Mary's daughter, Vivian, married Howard Bain and they had four children.

Mabel Iva Higginson, born in 1898, married Theodore Harris Sherman. They had a son, Howard. Mabel died in February 1989, and was

buried in the Ainsworth Cemetery.

Wilber Lee Higginson was born in 1908, and married Rose May Lewis Greenough. Wilber enjoyed square dancing and reading in his spare time. He died in 1983. Wilber and Rose had two daughters, Savilla and Ella. ❀

Relatives of Jim and Fannie Higginson



Vivian Bain, (left) (Daughter of Earl and Mary Higginson and Granddaughter of Jim and Fannie Higginson), Catherine Billings, wife of Virgil Billings, (grandson of Isabelle Higginson Reynolds), and Louise Billings Koech, (daughter of Virgil and Catherine Billings).
Photo: Courtesy of Ron Horton.



Left, in back: Unknown woman and child, Isabelle Higginson Reynolds, Jim Higginson. Right, in back: John and Ida Higginson Crabtree. Front right: John and Ida's daughter, Mary Crabtree. They must have had a family get together in 1925, about two years before Great Grandpa John Crabtree died.—Cal Bivens



Right: Vivian Bain, Virgil Billings and his wife Catherine.
Left: Verna Billings Foster.
Virgil and Verna are Vivian's cousins; children of Jay and Myrtle Mary Reynolds Billings; and grandchildren of Isabelle Higginson Reynolds.
Photo: Courtesy of Ron Horton.



1925: Jim with his sisters Isabelle Higginson Reynolds on the left; and Ida Emily Higginson Crabtree on the right.



3. Caroline Lucy “Carrie” Higginson (1859–1911)

Carrie was about six feet tall and had blue eyes. She married Charlie Williams, who was born in Batvia, Illinois. Charley’s parents were Allen Williams and Betsy Remington.

In 1880, Charley worked for the railroad in Union township, Hardin County, Iowa, just across the county line. He stayed with the George Alsup family.

Carrie Higginson, Charley’s future wife, worked as a housemaid for the M.S. West family in Iowa Falls. Mr. West was a well driller. Charlie and Carrie

may have met at about this time. They were married February 1882, in Hardin County, Iowa.

Charley and Carrie moved to Keya Paha County, Nebraska, in 1884, where he took a tree claim about one and a half miles north of the old S curve on Highway 12 northwest of Springview.

Since Carrie’s first baby was due, Mary Higginson sent her daughter, Ida, to help Carrie. Charley, Carrie, and Ida tried to cross at the old Bridge across the Niobrara River, but it was out so they had to go back to Ainsworth.

Baby Mae Williams was born there in Ainsworth, March 30, in a tent. When a heavy snow broke the tent in, the marshal, Wendt Conway, went to Mrs. Bird Earley’s place at Ainsworth and asked if she had room for a mother and new baby.

She said, “No.”

He said, “Get ready. They’re coming.”

Charley and Carrie were back in Iowa in 1886, and sometime later were photographed at Klemme, Iowa.

In November of 1886, Jennie Belle Williams was born. Jennie’s brother Harry Williams was born two years later.

In 1890, Charley and Carrie lived at Darnall, in Keya Paha County. Allen, or Allie, as he was called, was born in Springview, Nebraska in 1891.

In the spring of 1893 or 1894, a bad lightning storm killed all of Charlie’s cattle, so he loaded his family and went to Klemme, Iowa, where Vernor, known as Vernie Williams, was born June 27, 1895.

In 1904, they moved back to Cub Creek, east of the Union Church. Charlie and Carrie, who wanted a Sunday school for her family, were instrumental in getting the Union Church organized along with Will Sprague and Ezra Tisue.



Charley and Carrie Higginson Williams, Mae, Jennie, Harrison, Allen, and Vernie.



Charley Williams. When Mildred Amick Horton saw this photo, she said she almost didn't recognize her grandpa without his mustache.

In 1904, the Williams family built a house and resided there several years. Charley bought a farm in Garfield precinct, Keya Paha County, where they were living in 1910.

Carrie died of cancer in June of 1911. The following comes from Carrie William's obituary: *On Friday, June 31st, at the Union Church Cemetery on Cub Creek a very large crowd of people gathered to pay their last respects to the remains of Mrs. Charles Williams. This marked the end of nine years of patient suffering, so patient that only those most intimately acquainted knew of it.*

Vernor Williams married Edith Remaly in 1912. Charley Williams lived with them and went with Vernor and his family when they moved to Ocheydan, Iowa.

In December 1927, Allie married Mary Sherman. Their son, Robert, was born in May 1928.

Charles Williams passed away October of 1942, in his son Vernor's home in Iowa. He was survived at his death by his children, brother Albert, thirteen



Four generations: Mary Higginson Shattuck, Mae Williams Amick holding Mildred Amick Horton, and Carrie Higginson Williams.

grandchildren, and thirteen great grandchildren.

When I (Louise) talked to Mildred Amick Horton, (Mae's daughter), about Charley Williams (Mildred's grandfather), Mildred said, "Oh, how I loved that man!"

Note: Information from Cal Bivens, Mildred Amick Horton, Louise Smith, Robert Williams.

Children of Charley and Carrie:

Mae Williams was the baby born in the blizzard. In 1906, Mae married Andrew Wesley Amick in Nebraska. Wesley was born in Iowa. They owned a farm in Holt precinct. Mae and Wesley had four children, the oldest, Mildred Amick Horton turned 99 in 2006.

I had the pleasure of talking to Mildred Amick Horton and I was quite excited to talk to the 'baby' in the four generation picture (above) with Mary Higginson, her great grandmother. When I talked to her in 2005, Mildred lived in Springview, Nebraska, and kept in touch by phone, with her friend, also in her 90s.

Jennie Williams married Charles Amick the brother of Wes and Walt. They lived in Holt precinct.

Harrison Thayre Williams Harry married Erna Bethke.

Allen G. Williams married Inez Woodruff and they had four children. They divorced and Allen married Mary E. Sherman in 1927, in Brown County, Nebraska. Their son Robert was born in May 1928. Allen died in May 1981, in Springview, Nebraska.

Vernor Alvin Williams was born in Klemme, Iowa. He married Edith I. Remaley in Brown County, Nebraska. Vernie and Edith had three children. ❀



Charley Williams. Photo: from Ron Horton.

Children and Relatives of Charley and Carrie Higginson Williams



Jennie Williams Amick, Mae Williams Amick, Harry Williams, Allen Williams, Vernie Williams. Sitting: Charley Williams, Angeline von Coten (Charley's half-sister).



Charles and Jennie Williams Amick stand in front of their home.



Myrtle Crabtree Briggs (my grandma), Mae Williams Amick, Ida Reynolds Amick and Andrew Wesley Amick (Mae's husband).



Myrtle Crabtree Briggs, Ida Reynolds Amick, wife of Allie, and Allie Williams.



Mildred Amick, Wes Amick, Mae Amick, Inez Woodruff, Earl Higginson, Charlie Williams, Carrie Williams, Allie Williams, Vernie Williams, John Reynolds, Susie Shattuck, L. Shattuck, Mrs. Mary Shattuck (1), Donald Shattuck, Vinna Bechtel, Edith Reynolds, Mrs. Van Kotter, Mrs. Lib Williams, Mrs. Sindlinger.



50th wedding anniversary of Allie (Allen) and Mary Williams, 1977. Left: Allie's son, James Williams, daughter, Bertha Williams Anderson, Allie and Mary Williams and son Robert. Photo: from Ron Horton.

4. Edward David Higginson (1862–1935)

Edward David, the fourth child of Edward and Mary Higginson, was also born in Lodi, Illinois.

In 1880, Ed was with the family in Hardin County, Iowa, working as a herder. He set out on his own after 1880, but soon joined up with the rest of the family in Nebraska.

In 1885, he had a homestead at Darnall, next to Charley and Carrie who were next to their mother, Mary, and sister, Emily. Ed tilled five acres of the place that year. He also had a house, etc. worth \$600 and \$160 worth of livestock. Ed was still there in 1890.

In November 1888, Ed married Sophie Larsen who was born in Denmark. Ed was a jolly, joking Irishman and Sophie was very proper and rather staid.

Ed told his niece, Mary, that they moved so regularly that every spring—the most desirable time to move in those days—the chickens would all lie down on their backs, feet in the air, and wait to be tied.

Ed left his Nebraska homestead and returned to Danville, Illinois, where they lived in 1895 and before.

In 1910, Ed and Sophie lived in Long Pine, Nebraska, according to the census. By 1920, they had moved nearby to Johnstown, Nebraska.

Clara and Mary, their two eldest daughters, were married in Belmond, Iowa. Ed and Sophie spent their final years in Colorado. Ed died September 1935, in Denver, Colorado.—*Cal Bivens* ❀



Edward David and Sophie Larsen Higginson, Clara and Mary in Danville, Illinois.



Edward and Sophie with their children. (from left) Edward Jr., Signe, Clara, and Mary. Daughter Clara (standing) cracks a smile at her father's joke.

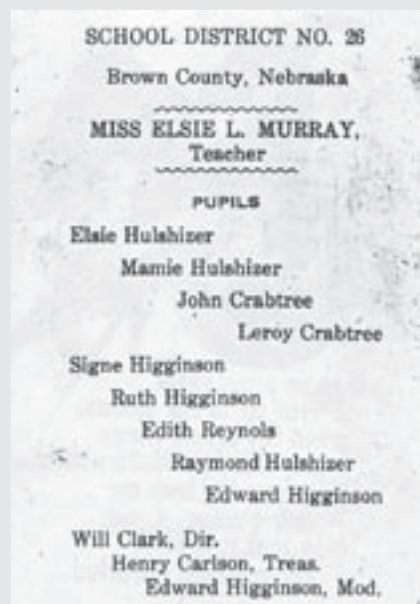
Edward D. Higginson Husband, Brother, and School Moderator



Ed and Sophie Higginson in later years.



Edward Higginson with his sister, Isabelle Higginson Reynolds.



This is the inside of the 1910 Greeting Card from Teacher, Miss Elsie L. Murray. Edward Higginson is noted as the Moderator. Signe, Ruth, Edith, John and LeRoy are all cousins. You can see a copy of the original card in Part II, Chapter 4. Card courtesy of Cal Bivens.

The Edward David Higginson Family



*Back row: Mr. Fuller, Guy Higginson, John Schilling, Edward James Higginson Sr., Ira Baker, Henry William Higginson.
2nd row: Clara Higginson Fuller, Gladys Young Higginson, Signe Higginson Schilling, Arvilla Baker Higginson, Ruth Higginson Baker, Herman Machmuller, Maizy Reece Higginson, Art Metherd.
Sitting: Violet Higginson Metherd, Sophie Higginson, Edward David Higginson, Mary Higginson Machmuller.*

Children of Edward and Sophie Higginson:

- Clara Higginson married Henry Fuller in Belmond, Iowa.
- Ethel Higginson died when she was young.
- Mary Johanna Higginson: Mary first married Clarence Fuller, in Brown County, Nebraska. Herman Machmuller was Mary's second husband.
- Edward James Higginson was a rancher and farmer. He married Fern Hedrick and they had four children; Gale, Helen, Lorraine and Clay. They divorced. Edward married Clara Arvilla Baker in 1925, in Golden, Colorado. Clara was the daughter of Ira Baker. Children of Edward J. and Arvie Higginson: Edward Jr., Kathleen, LaRetta, Darrell, Zee, and Delbert.
- Ida Higginson died when she was young.
- Signe Margaret Higginson married John Schilling.
- Ruth M. Higginson married Ira Franklin Baker, the father of Arvilla, second wife of Edward James Higginson. Ruth and Ira had 9 children. Ira died and Ruth married Gus Luebkin.
- Violet Higginson married Arthur Metherd.
- Henry William Higginson married Maezelle Reece. Henry died in Denver, Colorado.
- Guy Higginson married Gladys Young. Guy died in California. ❀



Sophie, Ed Higginson, and daughter, Signe.

Edward James Higginson Sr., and his Children



Clay and Mina Higginson.



Edward and Arvie with their young family. Back left to front: Kathleen, Edward Jr., Zee, Delbert, Darrell, and LaRetta.



Edward James Higginson Sr. and his wife Arvie.



Darrell and Betty Higginson.



Delbert and Pam Higginson.



Edward Higginson Jr. and his wife Dorlene Tolle Higginson. I have enjoyed corresponding with Dorlene and appreciate the information and documents she shared with me.



Monte and Kathleen Higginson McCallister.



Right to left: Zee, Louise Smith, LaRetta. I was delighted to find out that cousin Zee Higginson Spanicek lived about an hour away. Zee and her sister, LaRetta Higginson Beard, visited me in Cave Creek. What an enjoyable afternoon.—Louise Smith



Ida Higginson Crabtree with her adult children: Myrtle Crabtree Briggs, Johnie, LeRoy, and Mary Crabtree.

5. Ida Emily Higginson (1866–1948)

Ida Emily was born June 1866, in Lodi, Kane County, Illinois, and married John L. Crabtree on December 25, 1890, at Sanford, Nebraska. Ida died May 21, 1948, in Springfield, Oregon. There is more about Great Grandma Ida and her family in Part II. ❀



6. Isabelle Laura Higginson (1869–1932)

Isabelle, the youngest child of Edward and Mary Higginson, was born in Iowa. She was almost four years old when her father, Edward, died of Civil War wounds.

Belle and her mother, Mary Higginson, moved to Keya Paha



The William and Isabelle Reynolds' Family. From left: Ethel, Edith, Della, Ida, William, Isabelle, John, and Myrtle. Children in front, from left: Ada Mae, Jessie and Rozelle.

County, Nebraska, in 1885. That November, Isabelle married William E. Reynolds in Keya Paha County. William was from New York, and 13 years older than Belle.

William and Belle settled in Nebraska on a farm they bought in Holt precinct, and raised seven girls: Ida, Ethel, Edith, Myrtle, Della, Mae and Jessie; and two boys: John and Rozelle.

John Leroy, the oldest, was born March 1887, in their dugout home, a short distance from the town of Marlbank, (which no longer exists), and about thirteen miles northwest of Springview, Nebraska.

In 1921, Isabelle and William separated and he signed a 'Life Lease' to her, for the land where they lived, which entitled her to own the land as long as she lived. She did outlive William by one year. The way I (Ron) understand it, Isabelle took a homestead for a quarter section which they called a Tree Claim (not the same homestead William signed over to her). This land Isabelle proved up by planting 6 or 7 quarter-mile long rows of trees on it.

About 1922, William moved to Missouri with his daughter Ethel and family. William died at the home of another daughter, Ida

Amick, in Manville, Wyoming, in June of 1931.

Isabelle, was a good and faithful mother as she took sole responsibility for the family after William moved to Missouri. The older children helped do what they could to make a go of the farm.

Isabelle passed away at Stuart, Nebraska, July 1932. She is buried in Union Church Cemetery in Springview, Nebraska. She had joined the M.E. Church of Long Pine, Nebraska, two years earlier and was ready and willing to meet her Savior, per her obituary.

Note: Taken from Ron Horton's information about his Grandma Isabelle Higginson Reynolds.



William Elbert Reynolds and his wife, Isabelle Laura Higginson Reynolds.

Isabelle Higginson Reynolds, Pioneer Woman



Isabelle Higginson Reynolds.

Isabelle Higginson Reynolds was a super pioneer woman. It would seem she might have been the main strength for the family. With nine children she must have worked many long hours.

Her home was always open to friends and strangers. Sunday seemed to be always open-house for all the neighbors. They came from all over, and there was always plenty of food.

The Reynolds' garden was always a topic of conversation in the neighborhood. Cabbages, 24 to 30 inches across, were chopped with a clean shovel in a wooden barrel. The right amount of salt was added, and in a month or two, sauerkraut was ready for a tempting dish. A favorite way was to put a generous amount of real butter in a frying pan, add drained sauerkraut, cover and cook for 15 to 20 minutes, stirring occasionally; slightly browned was even better.

Isabelle gathered all available wild fruit. Carrots, turnips, parsnips, and other root vegetables were buried in sand for winter feasting. Pits were dug in the yard and lined with straw. The potato crop, over the amount already in the cellar, was placed in the pit and covered

with dirt to keep from freezing. In winter or early spring, the pit was opened. Potatoes always seemed even better for having been buried.

An abundance of deer and antelope supplied their meat, in the early years. Prairie chicken and quail were always available. John and his dad would find coveys of them in the winter. They would shoot the birds, freeze them, pack them in wooden barrels, and ship the Prairie chickens to Chicago where it was a special delicacy. The condition when it arrived there is questionable. The barrels were taken to Ainsworth by wagon, put in a railroad car without refrigeration and then a 1000 miles to Chicago. This was only done during the extreme cold weather. Later great flocks of domestic chickens and turkeys would be raised and sent to Chicago in the same manner.

Isabelle made her home very attractive. The parlor floor was covered with rag carpet made from old clothing that was torn into thin strips. A neighbor woman, Della Millard, had a loom on which she wove these strips into carpeting about 24 inches wide, that was later sewn together to make carpet of desired size. Using carpet tacks, it was securely fastened to outer edges of floor.

Many chickens were raised, and eggs were sold. Along with butter, Grandma paid for all necessary sugar, etc., in food she couldn't grow; she also paid for clothing and shoes.

The milk from their milk cows was placed in shallow pans, cream was skimmed off and then churned. The butter was packed into firkins in the earliest years. Firkins are large



Isabelle Higginson Reynolds.

wooden containers holding about six gallons. These were hauled to the railroad town of Ainsworth and shipped to Eastern cities.

In later years the butter was sold locally. Some was pressed into butter molds that put a distinctive pattern on top of each pound. Some women's "butter-pattern" became a trade mark or brand of distinction for her.

Isabelle's hard work was typical of all frontier women.

—*Alice Reynolds Dougall,*
granddaughter ❀



Isabelle Higginson Reynolds.

Children of William and Isabelle Higginson Reynolds



*Children of William and Isabelle:
Starting in the back: Ada Mae, John,
Rozelle, Della, Ethel, Myrtle, Jessie, Edith.*



*The Reynolds sisters: Jessie, Ida,
Mae, Ethel, Della, Edith, Myrtle.*



*The Reynolds brothers:
Rozelle and John.*

1. John and Susie Shattuck Reynolds

John, grandson of Mary Higginson Shattuck, married Susie Shattuck, granddaughter of George Shattuck. ❀



John and Susie Shattuck Reynolds.



*John and Susie Reynolds and their
three daughters, Alice, Ortha, and Inez.*



*Raleigh Emry is the grandson of John
and Susie Reynolds and son of Ortha
Reynolds Emry. At one time, Raleigh's
family lived in the former home of John
and Ida Crabtree in Nebraska.*



*Alice Reynolds Dougall, daughter of
John and Susie Reynolds. Alice is with
my grandma, Myrtle Crabtree Briggs.*



*Ortha Loretta Reynolds Emry and Inez
Reynolds Haun Nesbett, daughters of
John and Susie Reynolds.*

Children of William and Isabelle Higginson Reynolds

2. Walter and Ida Lucy Reynolds Amick



Walter and Ida Reynolds Amick's home.



My grandma, Myrtle Crabtree Briggs, with Ida and her husband, Walter Amick.

3. Charles L. and Ethel Cora Reynolds Tracy

Ethel and Charles Linn Tracy had eight children, three of whom are pictured here.



Ethel Reynolds Tracy.



Wilma Tracy, age 15.



Beulah Tracy Yuelkenbech, age 17.



James Tracy, age 19.



Ethel Reynolds Tracy, Dorothy Tracy McCracken and daughter, and Jim Tracy (Dorothy's father).
Photo: Courtesy of Jim Tracy.

The photos of the Tracy children are courtesy of Cal Bivens and were taken 1935–1936. I (Louise) enjoyed talking to Jim Tracy (now 90 years old) on the phone. A special thank you to Jim and his wife for sending me family photos and Reynolds' cousin information. ❀

Children of William and Isabelle Higginson Reynolds

4. Leonard and Edith Reynolds Seastrom



5. Jay and Myrtle Mary Reynolds Billings and Family



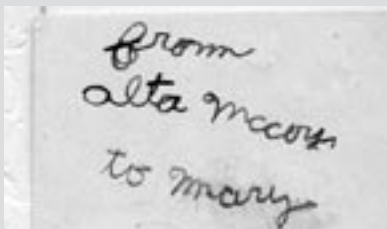
6. Earl and Della Mavis Reynolds McCoy



The McCoy family.

Lois, Ron, and Alta McCoy.

This is my grandma, Myrtle Crabtree Briggs, with Ida Reynolds Amick, and Myrtle Mary Reynolds Billings.



Christmas card

From Alta McCoy to Mary Crabtree, my great aunt, daughter of John and Ida Higginson Crabtree. *Courtesy of Cal Bivens.*

7. Rozelle Reynolds

Rozelle never married. He moved to Washington from Nebraska in 1937, where he was employed in a tourist park, a general store, and for 15 years at the state hospital. ❁



Rozelle with his sister Jessie.

Daughter of William and Isabelle Higginson Reynolds

8. Curtis and Ada Mae Reynolds Horton

Curtis and Ada Mae Reynolds Horton had eight children.

I met their son Ron Horton through email and have enjoyed our correspondence. Ron has shared family information and many photos, as well as researched answers for my many questions. So, I was excited to find a photo of Ron's mother, Mae, with my grandma, Myrtle, her sister, Mary Crabtree, and brother, LeRoy Crabtree. ❀



Mae Horton with LeRoy Crabtree, Cal's Grandfather, and Myrtle, my grandmother.



Ron's mother, Mae, and my Grandma.



Mae Horton and Mary Crabtree.



Curtis and Mae Reynolds Horton and daughters Loretta and Lena.



Sisters: Ethel Reynolds Tracy and Mae Reynolds Horton.



Ron Horton and his lovely wife Sharon.



Mae Reynolds Horton with daughters Lenna and Loretta.



Five of the eight children of Curtis and Ada Mae Reynolds Horton: Loretta (1925–1981), Lenna, Raymond, Ronald, and Ervin.

Daughter of William and Isabelle Higginson Reynolds; Reynolds Cousin Reunion 2002 & 2006

9. Jessie Reynolds



Jessie Reynolds Sorbon Hart Lux.

Reynolds Cousins 2002

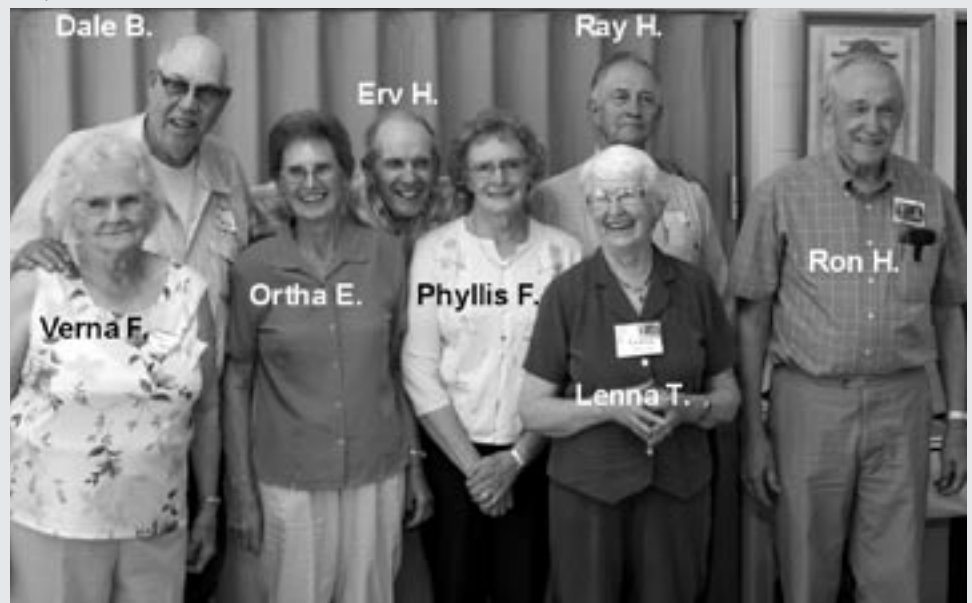


Back from Left: Dale Billings, Ron McCoy, Ray Horton, Erv Horton and Ron Horton. Front: Phyllis Sorbon Falkenburg, Verna Billings Foster, Beulah Tracy Yuelkenbeck (1918–2002), and Lenna Horton Thompson. Photo: Courtesy of Ron Horton.



Jessie and her sister Ada Mae.

Reynolds Cousins 2006



Reynolds Cousins 2006: Daughter of John Reynolds: Ortha Emry. Children of Ada Mae Reynolds Horton: Ray, Erv, and Ron Horton, Lenna Thompson. Children of Myrtle Mary Reynolds Billings: Dale Billings and Verna Foster. Daughter of Jessie Reynolds Sorbon Lux: Phyllis Sorbon Falkenburg. Photo: Courtesy of Ron Horton.



Jessie (right), daughter Phyllis.