

The Mobley and Arnold Families of Terre Haute, Indiana

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John Samuel "Sam" Mobley Sr. was the former husband of my wife, Martha Dennis Christiansen, and the father of my two stepsons. Sam's parents, Archie Scofield Mobley Sr. and Pauline Arnold, married in Terre Haute in 1939 and remained in Terre Haute until their deaths. Their children are listed below.

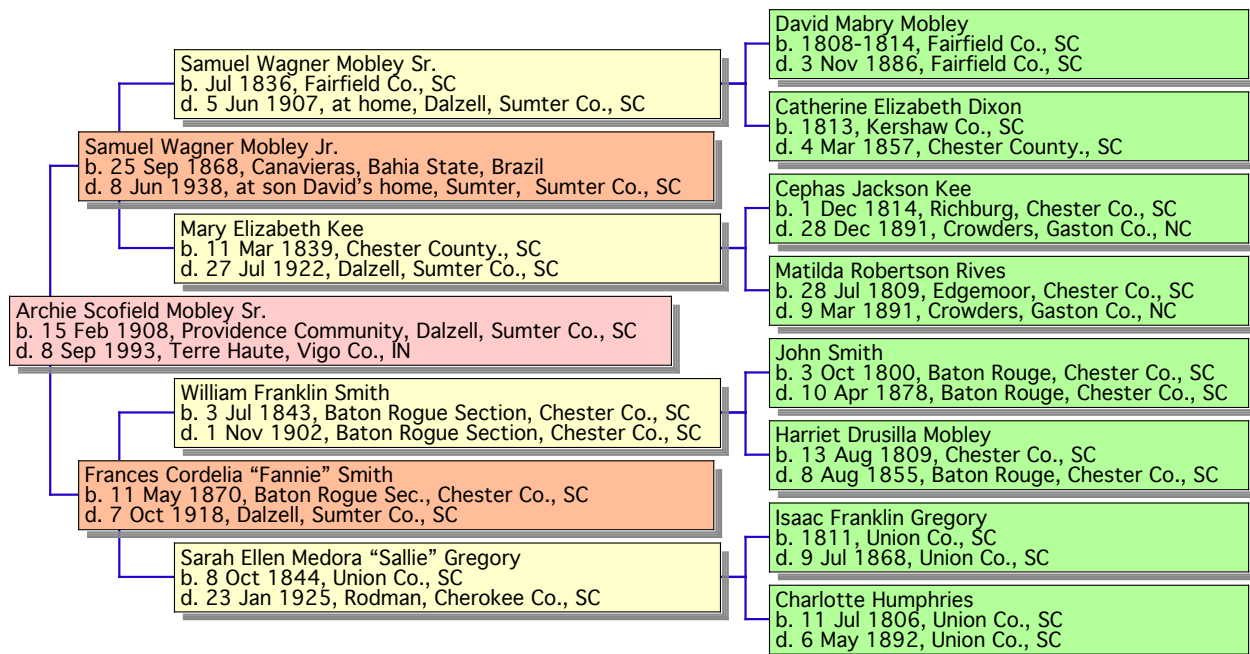


Children of Archie Mobley and Pauline Arnold
(from *MarthaChristiansen* Reunion for Mac database)

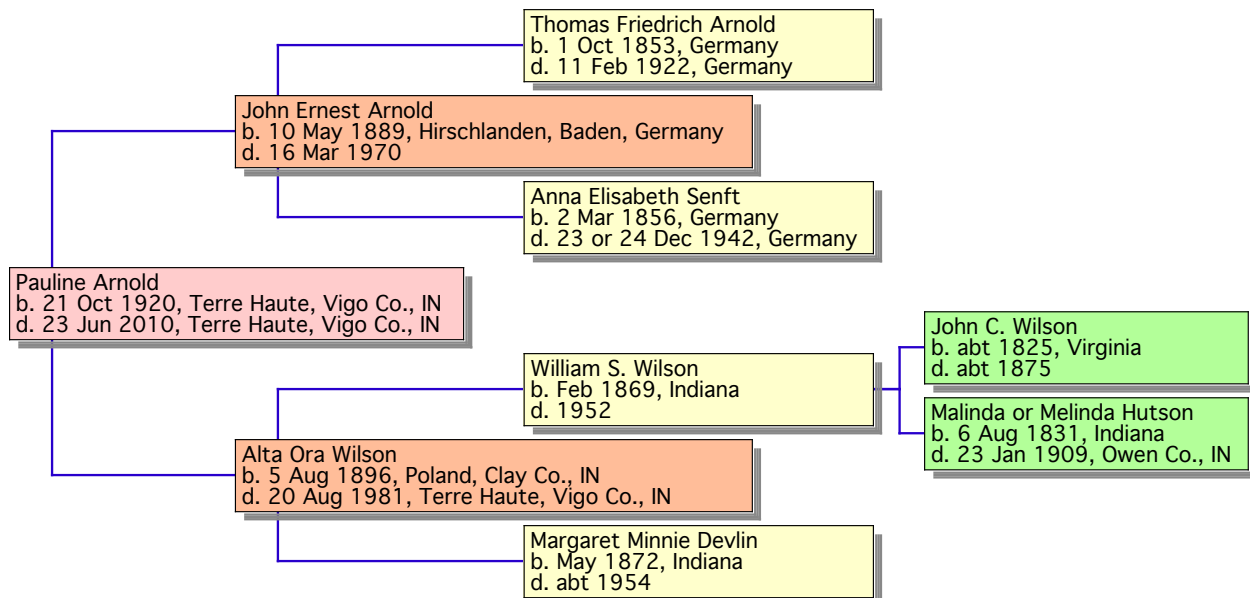
Contents

Ancestor Charts for Archie Mobley and Pauline Arnold	2
The Older Relatives of Archie Scofield Mobley Sr.	3
Some Younger Relatives of Archie Scofield Mobley Sr.	9
The Family of John Ernest Arnold and Alta Ora Wilson	10
John Ernest Arnold's German Relatives	16
The Family of Denton Snyder and Alta Ora Wilson	17
Some Older Relatives of Alta Ora Wilson	18
Acknowledgments and Sources	20

Ancestor Charts for Archie Mobley and Pauline Arnold



Ancestors of Archie Scofield Mobley Sr. (from Martha D. Christiansen database)

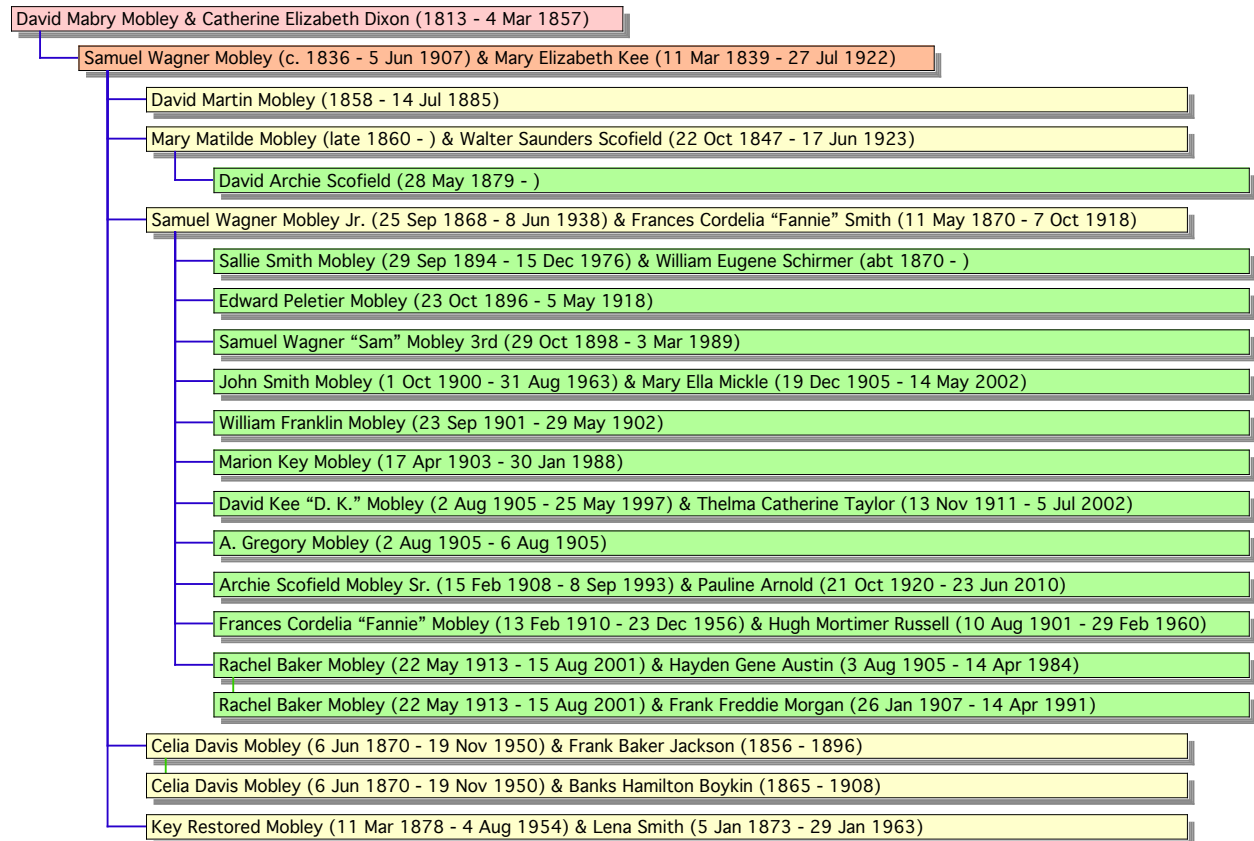


Ancestors of Pauline (Arnold) Mobley (from Martha D. Christiansen database)

The Older Relatives of Archie Scofield Mobley Sr.

Families with the Mobley surname settled in Fairfield County in north central South Carolina before the Revolutionary War. Historical records suggest that Fairfield County Mobleys fought on both sides, patriot and loyalist, during the Carolina campaign of 1780 and 1781.

Evidently Archie Mobley's great grandfather, David Mabry Mobley, who appears at the beginning of the following chart, was born and died in Fairfield County.



Selected Older Relatives of Archie Scofield Mobley (taken from my *Martha D. Christiansen* Reunion database)

Samuel Wagner Mobley, Sr.

Archie Mobley's grandfather, Samuel Wagner Mobley Sr., was born in Fairfield County and Archie's grandmother Mary Elizabeth Kee, in Chester County. Samuel Mobley and Mary Kee married in York County on August 11, 1857.

Mary Elizabeth Kee's parents were Cephas Jackson Kee and Matilda Robertson Rives, natives of Chester County, who eventually settled in the Gastonville area just west of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Fairfield, Chester and York counties all lie between Columbia, South Carolina and Charlotte, North Carolina.

In the 1860 Fairfield County census, Samuel Mobley is enumerated as a planter with address of Winnsboro.

A historical aside: Before our 1861-1865 Civil War devastated the south, the eleven future Confederacy states contained less than one third of the thirty million then living in the United States. However, these eleven states enjoyed disproportionate political and economic power. For instance, nine of our twelve first presidents were born in these eleven states. In 1860 these eleven states produced 75% of the world's supply of cotton.

Samuel Mobley served in the Civil War in Colonel Haskell's South Carolina regiment. Unfortunately Colonel Haskell was associated with more than one regiment, so I don't have a regimental identification.

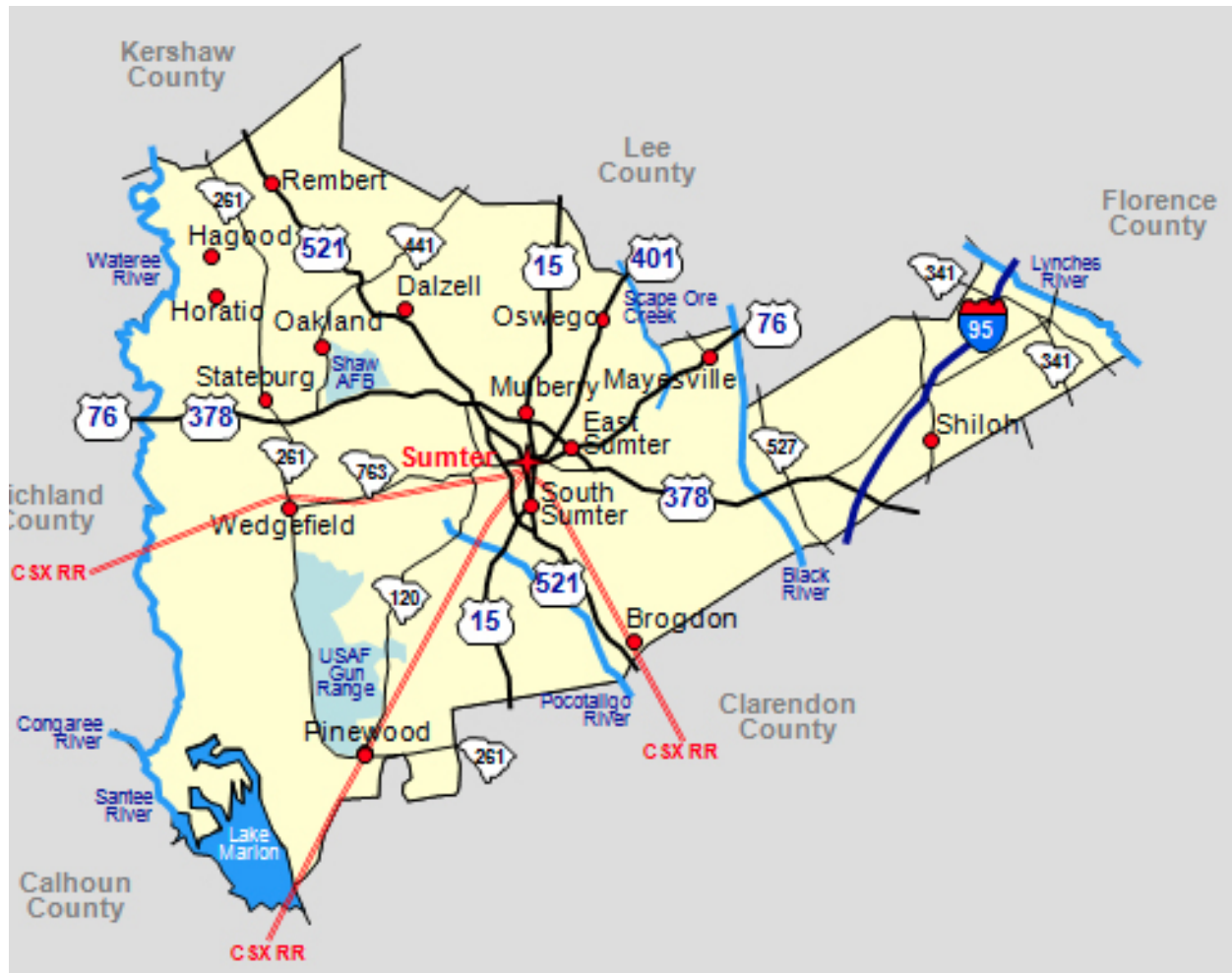
The Civil War left the south a shattered region. Some residents, both white and black, moved to other areas. In May 1867 the Samuel and Mary Mobley family immigrated to Brazil. They traveled on the *SS South America* to Rio de Janeiro where they joined a Brazilian expatriate community that at its height numbered 5,000 or more. The Mobley family settled on the east coast of Brazil in the province of Bahia in Cidade de Cannavieras. Canavieras, as it is currently spelled, is on the Atlantic about 200 miles south of Bahai's capital, Salvador.

There appear to have been only a small number of Americans who settled in Bahia. One of the leaders of the Bahia Americans was George O. Leitner, and perhaps there is biographical information about his life in Bahia that would help us understand the Mobley family's Brazilian experience.

In 1884 the Samuel Mobley family returned to South Carolina but their daughter, Mary remained in Brazil. Instead of returning to Fairfield County north of Columbia the Mobleys settled in Sumter County in central South Carolina, east of Columbia. They lived in Providence Township about ten miles northwest of the town of Sumter, the latter being the Sumter County seat.

In the 1900 census Samuel and Mary Mobley are living on a farm in Providence Township, along with their son, Key, who has not yet married. This census indicates that Mary had borne nine children but only four are living.

In 1901 a railroad was built from the town of Sumter northwest to Camden, South Carolina. A town named Dalzell was established in Providence Township on the railroad about ten miles northwest of Sumter and near a resort named Providence Springs.



Sumter County, South Carolina in 2008

Courtesy of carolana.com/SC/Counties

Around 1905 the S. W. Mobley house burned. Most possessions were lost and the family had no insurance. However, I don't know if this was the house of S. W. Mobley Sr. or of S. W. Mobley Jr.

Samuel Wagner Mobley Sr. died at home near Dalgzell in 1907. His widow, Mary Elizabeth, then lived in the Samuel Mobley Wagner Jr. household until her death in 1922.

Samuel Wagner Mobley Jr. and his brother, Key Restored Mobley.

Samuel and Key Mobley married Smith sisters from Chester County, the daughters of William Franklin Smith and Sarah Ellen Medora "Sallie" Gregory. Samuel married Fannie in 1893 and Key married Lena in 1900.

After marrying, Samuel and Key remained in Providence Township. Around 1904 Key has a Catchall address, Catchall being a settlement several miles to the west of Dalgzell.

In the 1910 census the Samuel W. Mobley and Key R. Mobley households were enumerated consecutively, with both Samuel and Key listed as farmers. Their widowed mother was living in Samuel's household.

In October 1918 Samuel Wagner Mobley Jr.'s wife, Mary Elizabeth, died in the influenza epidemic.

In the January 1920 census the Samuel W. Mobley and Key R. Mobley households both had addresses in Providence Township given as Dalzell and Providence Road. All children were still at home, with eight children in Samuel's household and seven in Key's, and Samuel was a widower. In addition, Samuel and Key's widowed mother was living in Samuel's household.

In the 1930 census the Providence Township household of Samuel W. Mobley Jr. consisted only of the widower Samuel W. and his single son, David K. The address was given as the Sumter – Dalzell hard-surfaced road. By now Key, his wife, and some of their children as well as five of Samuel's children had moved to Washita County, Oklahoma, west of Oklahoma City.

Dalzell boomed in 1941 when Shaw Air Force Base was constructed about five miles to the southwest. I believe that Shaw Air Force Base is still active as of 2014.

As shown on the above chart and expanded on below, Samuel and Mary Mobley had five known children, although the 1900 census states there were four more, deceased before 1900. Of the five known children, the three younger were born in Brazil.

The children of Samuel Wagner Mobley Sr. and Mary Elizabeth Kee:

- **David Martin Mobley** never married. He returned from Brazil and is buried in Sumter County.
- **Mary Matilde Mobley** married an American expatriate, Walter Saunders Scofield, and remained in Brazil. Walter was a widower with two young daughters, his deceased wife, Celia Davis Leitner, being the daughter of George O. Leitner who was mentioned earlier. Mary was only fifteen when she married. Walter and Mary had nine children and today have numerous descendants in Brazil. I have included in the above chart only Mary's oldest child, as this is presumably how Archie Scofield Mobley got his name.
- **Samuel Wagner Mobley Jr.** and his wife, Frances Cordelia "Fannie" Smith had eleven children. Two died as babies and Edward died at 21 early in 1918.

In October 1918 during the influenza pandemic of 1918-19, Fannie (Smith) Mobley died of pneumonia, a complication of influenza. In the 1920 census Samuel and his remaining children were still living together.

- **Celia Davis Mobley** was married twice. She had four children by each of her marriages.
- **Key Restored Mobley** was presumably named for an older brother named Kee or Key who had died in childhood in Brazil. Key and Lena had seven children. In 1908 Key was living on a farm with a Catchall post office address. I believe Catchall was several miles west of Dalzell.

Sometime between 1925 and 1930 Key and Lena and some of their children moved from Sumter County to Washita County, Oklahoma, west of Oklahoma City. In 1930 the Key Mobley family was living near New Cordell, aka Cordell, Oklahoma and in 1942 near Cloud Chief, a ghost town southeast of Cordell.

Key and Lena eventually moved to Texas, where Key died in Montgomery County just north of the Houston metropolitan area.

The children of Samuel Wagner Mobley Jr. and Frances Cordelia "Fannie" Smith.

Samuel and Fannie Mobley's eleven children appear on the previous chart. Two children died as babies and Edward died at 21 early in 1918.

Below I note the eight surviving children, with much of my information given me by the late Pauline (Arnold) Mobley or found recently on the findagrave web site.

Five of Samuel and Fannie Mobley's eight living children went to Washita County in the late 1920s or 1930s, but only Rachel remained permanently in Oklahoma.

- **Sallie Smith Mobley** was living with the William and Annie Schirmer family in the Charleston, South Carolina area in 1930 and 1940. She evidently married William after Annie died. Sallie had one child.
- **Samuel Wagner Mobley III** worked at the navy yard in Norfolk, Virginia during World War I and then returned to the family home in Dalzell. In the late 1920s Sam and his siblings Marion, Archie, Fannie and Rachel moved to the Cordell area in Washita County, Oklahoma. Sam and his sister, **Marion Key Mobley**, lived in Washita County for 20 years, and subsequently ran a garden store in Houston. Neither Sam nor Marion married. At one point they moved to Terre Haute to help in their brother's garden store. In their old age, they returned to Washita County where they are buried.
- The **John Smith Mobley** family lived in Kershaw County, South Carolina until after 1940. Then they settled in Roane County, Tennessee west of Knoxville, where John worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority starting in 1944. John and Mary had four children. (So far I have been unable to find John Smith Mobley in the 1930 census records.)
- **David Kee "D. K." Mobley** remained in Sumter County. His father, Samuel Mobley Jr., lived with David and died at David's home in the town of Sumter.

David married Thelma Taylor of Sumter in Sumter on December 20, 1931 and around that time moved from Dalzell to Sumter where he remained for the remainder of his life. David and Thelma had three children.

- **Archie Scofield Mobley** moved to the Cordell area in Washita County, Oklahoma with four of his siblings, Sam, Marion, Fannie and Rachel, in the late 1920s. Archie subsequently lived in Atlanta, Georgia before moving to Terre Haute, Indiana in the late 1930s.

Archie and his wife, Pauline Arnold, ran the Mobley Garden Center at 2327 Lafayette in Terre Haute for 47 years.

In 1958 Archie and Pauline co-founded radio station WMFT in Terre Haute – Pauline once told me that the "M" in WMFT stood for Mobley. They sold this station around 1962.

The three children of Archie and Pauline Mobley are listed on page 1 of this report.

- **Frances Cordelia "Fannie" Mobley** was the second wife of Hugh M. Russell, who was an Oklahoma native and a former resident of the Bessemer, Alabama area.

In 1930 Hugh, his first wife, Liona, and their two children were living near Birmingham in Jefferson County, Alabama and Hugh was working as a landscaper.

Fannie and Hugh married in Sebastian County, Arkansas on March 13, 1934 and moved to the Houston, Texas area around 1937. Apparently Fannie raised Hugh's two children from his first marriage along with their five children.

After World War II Hugh Russell became the world's largest breeder of day lilies at the Russell Gardens Nursery in Spring, just north of Houston.

Fannie died at age 46 of an aneurysm and Hugh died four years later of a coronary occlusion.

- **Rachel Baker Mobley** remained in Oklahoma after moving from Dalzell to Washita County in the late 1920s. Rachel married Hayden Gene Austin in Sulfur, Oklahoma, which is between Oklahoma City and Dallas, on November 20, 1937. In 1940 Hayden and Rachel were living in East Turkey Creek Township of Washita County, south of Foss.

The marriage of Rachel Mobley and Hayden Austin ended in divorce and Rachel married Frank Freddie Morgan in Clinton, Oklahoma, on the north edge of Washita County, on February 11, 1955.

Both of Rachel's husbands had previous marriages. Rachel had two sons from her first marriage and a daughter from her second marriage. I believe Rachel's daughter, Roberta, still lives in Washita County as of 2014.

Burial information for the above members of the Mobley family follows:

- Samuel Mobley Sr., his wife, Mary, and their son, David, are buried at the Tirzah Presbyterian Church in Dalzell.
- Samuel Mobley Jr., his wife, Fannie, and their children Sallie, Edward, William, David, and A. Gregory, are buried at the Horeb Baptist Church Cemetery near the Mobley's Providence Community home place three miles from Dalzell. Also buried in this cemetery is David's wife, Thelma, and Samuel's sister, Celia.
- The siblings Sam and Marion Mobley are buried in the Lawnview Cemetery near Cordell, Oklahoma.
- John Mobley and his wife, Mary, are buried in Mt. Lebanon Cemetery in Marysville, Tennessee.
- Archie and Pauline Mobley are buried in Section 3 of the Highland Lawn Cemetery on the east edge of Terre Haute, Indiana.
- Fannie (Mobley) Russell and her husband, Hugh are buried in the Earthman Resthaven Cemetery in Houston. Also buried in the cemetery are Fannie's uncle, Key Restored Mobley, and Key's wife, Lena.
- Rachel Mobley and her second husband, Frank Freddie Morgan, are buried in the Parkersburg Cemetery in Custer County, Oklahoma.

Some Younger Relatives of Archie Scofield Mobley

| Samuel Wagner Mobley Jr. (1868 - 1938) & Frances Cordelia "Fannie" Smith (1870 - 1918)
 | | Sallie Smith Mobley (1894 - 1976) & William Eugene Schirmer
 | | | William Eugene Schirmer Jr.
 | | Edward Peletier Mobley (1896 - 1918)
 | | Samuel Wagner "Sam" Mobley 3rd (1898 - 1989)
 | | John Smith Mobley (1900 - 1963) & Mary Ella Mickle (1905 - 2002)
 | | | Edward Pelitier Mobley (1922 - 1930)
 | | | John Smith "Jack" Mobley Jr. (1924 -) & Marjorie Anita "Peggy" Robinson (1929 -)
 | | | Marjorie Ella Mobley (1926 -) & Ralph Houston Effler (1925 - 1997)
 | | | Sallie Cordelia Mobley (1929 - 2011) & Luke Calloway Bradley Jr. (1928 -)
 | | William Franklin Mobley (1901 - 1902)
 | | Marion Key Mobley (1903 - 1988)
 | | David Kee "D. K." Mobley (1905 - 1997) & Thelma Catherine Taylor (1911 - 2002)
 | | | David Kent "Kent" Mobley* (1937 -) & Jenny Lee Thompson
 | | | David Kent "Kent" Mobley* (1937 -) & Julia Mixon Austin
 | | | Carl Kee Mobley (1940 -) & Jo Ann Posten (1941 -)
 | | | Jane Claire Mobley (1946 -) & Larry Allen Brazwell (1946 -)
 | | A. Gregory Mobley (1905 - 1905)
 | | **Archie Scofield Mobley Sr. (1908 - 1993) & Pauline Arnold (1920 - 2010)**
 | | | **Archie Scofield "Sonny" Mobley Jr.* (1941 -) & Shelley Kraft Stevens**
 | | | **Archie Scofield "Sonny" Mobley Jr.* (1941 -) & Susan Merrill**
 | | | **John Samuel Mobley Sr.* (1945 -) & Martha Lynn Dennis (1948 -)**
 | | | **John Samuel Mobley Sr.* (1945 -) & Jane Grossman (1948 -)**
 | | | **David Russell Mobley (1951 -) & Margene "Genie" Duley (1953 -)**
 | | Frances Cordelia "Fannie" Mobley (1910 - 1956) & Hugh Mortimer Russell (1901 - 1960)
 | | | Annis Faye Russell* (1935 -) & unknown Rutherford
 | | | Annis Faye Russell* (1935 -) & Lyman Cox
 | | | Hugh Mortimer Russell Jr. (1938 -) & Susie Holsapple
 | | | Patricia Russell (1940 -) & George Holsapple
 | | | Samuel Mobley Russell (1942 -) & Frankie Fort
 | | | Frances Russell* (1945 -) & Edward Kalliel
 | | | Frances Russell* (1945 -) & Paul Hyde
 | | Rachel Baker Mobley* (1913 - 2001) & Hayden Gene Austin (1905 - 1984)
 | | | Hayden Gene Austin Jr. (1938 -)
 | | | John Randall Austin (1941 - 2003)
 | | Rachel Baker Mobley* (1913 - 2001) & Frank Freddie Morgan (1907 - 1991)
 | | | Roberta Ann Morgan* (1955 -) & Ted unknown
 | | | Roberta Ann Morgan* (1955 -) & Billy H. Diggs (1949 -)

(taken from my Martha D. Christiansen Reunion database)

The Family of John Ernest Arnold and Alta Ora Wilson

John Ernest Arnold, the father of Pauline (Arnold) Mobley, was born in Hirschlanden, Baden, Germany to Thomas Friedrich Arnold and Anna Elisabeth Senft. He is thought to have apprenticed as a bookkeeper in Mannheim and later worked for a farmer.

Johan immigrated in 1908, arriving at Ellis Island on September 1. He spent most of his remaining life in the Terre Haute, Indiana area.

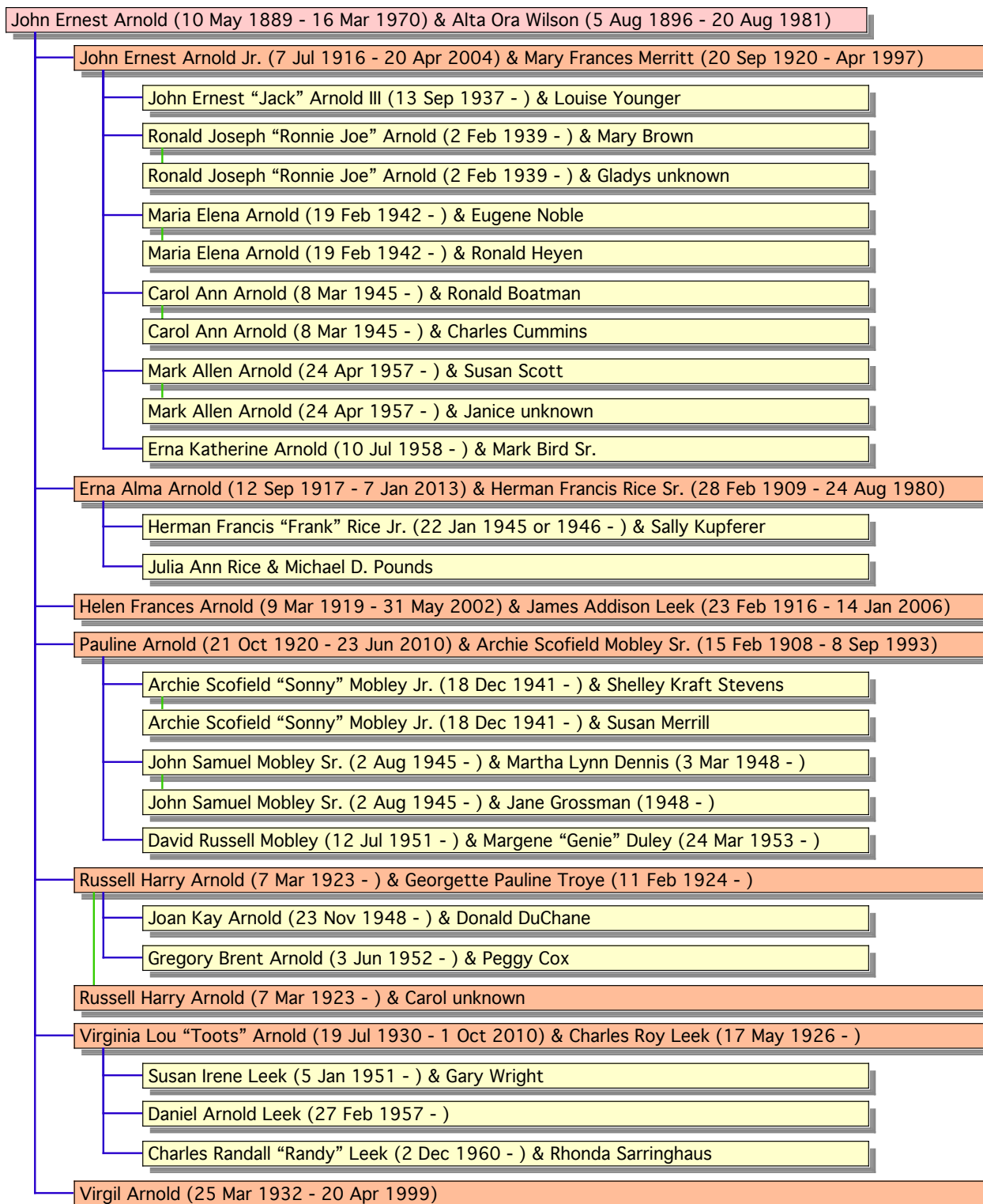
Johan/John Arnold married Alta Ora Wilson on February 15, 1915. Alta, the daughter of William Henry Wilson and Margaret Devlon, was born in Poland, a settlement in Clay County east of Terre Haute and southeast of Brazil, Indiana.



John and Alta Ora (Wilson) Arnold
courtesy of findagrave.com

When John Arnold registered for the World War I draft on June 5, 1917, he was working for a farmer with a name something like Briscoe Dieters in Westfield, Illinois. Westfield is located between Marshall and Mattoon, Illinois, about thirty miles west of Terre Haute, Indiana.

By early 1920 John and Alta and their family were living in Terre Haute in Vigo County and John was working as a coal miner. In the 1929 Terre Haute directory the John and Alta Arnold family is living at 2933 South 13 ½ Street and John is still listed as a miner.



Older Descendants of John Ernest Arnold and Alta Ora Wilson
(taken from my Martha D. Christiansen Reunion database)

About Terre Haute:

The National Road was built between 1811 and 1839 with federal assistance. It ran westward from Cumberland, Maryland on the Potomac River to Vandalia in central Illinois. Due to the Panic of 1837, the National Road was never completed to the Mississippi as planned.

The National Road passes through Terre Haute, located in western Indiana on the east bank of the Wabash River. There had been an early French presence in the area and the name *Terre Haute* refers to the high ground on the east bank of the Wabash.

In the early 20th century Terre Haute was an industrial city and a railroad center surrounded by a coal-mining region. Today the factories, the railroads and the coal mining have all declined in importance but Terre Haute remains a regional trading center.

Back to the John Arnold family:

At the time of the April 1930 census, the John Arnold family was living on Bolton Road in Fayette Township, a rural township north of Terre Haute and west of the Wabash River, and John was still working as a coal miner.

Historical Footnote: Probably the best-known residents of Fayette Township have been Birch Byah, former United States senator and his son, Evan Byah, former Indiana governor and United States senator. Birch Byah lived on his maternal grandparents' farm near Shirkieville for some years as a child and young adult, and Evan Byah lived on this farm as a young child.

During the 1930s, as the Great Depression gripped the United States, two traumatic events shattered the John Arnold family:

- John Arnold lost his eyesight and thus his livelihood as a coal miner.
- Alta left John and her older children and in August 1932 John and Alta divorced. Alta then married Denton Snyder, and although she was in her late 30s Alta and Denton started a new family.

By 1940 both the John Arnold family and the Denton Snyder family were living in the general vicinity of St. Mary's Village five to ten miles northwest of Terre Haute.

About St. Mary's Village:

In 1840 Mother Theodore Guerin, a Roman Catholic nun from France, established a religious site subsequently called Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods west of the Wabash River and about five miles northwest of Terre Haute. This site developed into the Mother House of a religious order, the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, and into a school for young women, Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods College. Today the St. Mary's complex still fulfills both roles of Mother House and college, with the focal point of the lovely campus being an impressive church where the remains of the Holy Mother Theodore lie.

Incidentally, Mother Theodore was canonized in 2006, one of only twelve American saints.

One hundred years ago a major midwestern railroad with an unusual name, the **Big Four**, with a hub of Indianapolis connected the four cities of Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis. The Big Four line from Indianapolis to the St. Louis area passed through Terre Haute, and then northwest to Paris, Illinois passing near the St. Mary's campus. An electrified interurban rail line paralleled the Big Four tracks between Terre Haute and Paris.

A settlement called St. Mary's Village grew up between the St. Mary's campus and the rail station. Although the commercial buildings in St. Mary's Village now are gone or stand empty, the St. Mary's parish church and cemetery, the rectory, and the parish hall, formerly a three-room school, still are in use. Also still active is the St. Mary of the Woods post office, with zip code of 47876. Of course the electric interurban line is long gone but the railroad, now part of the CSX system, still runs through St. Mary's Village.



St. Mary-of-the-Woods Area

Courtesy of yellowpages.com

The St. Mary's area lies in the middle of Sugar Creek Township. Several miles south of St. Mary's is the small town of West Terre Haute.

Back to the John Arnold family:

By the time of the 1940 census, two of John and Alta's children, John Jr. and Pauline, were married.

- John and the remaining three oldest children were living near St. Mary's Village, probably near the Maher family. (Mr. Maher was the grandfather of our friend, Mike Maher.) John was listed as a self-employed soap salesman. He sold soap for use by coal miners.

- Denton and Alta Snyder and Alta's six youngest children were also living in Sugar Creek Township, probably on Tiffin Road several miles west of St. Mary's Village. Denton was a laborer doing roadwork for the WPA (Works Progress Administration), a New Deal program that employed millions.

Sam Mobley, John Arnold's grandson, first remembered seeing his grandfather in a nursing home. Later John Arnold lived with his daughter and son-in-law, Toots and Roy Leek, in St. Mary's Village, with John's other children contributing financially.

John and Alta Arnold's children are listed below. (See the *Older Descendants* list on page 2 for grandchildren.) John and Alta's children generally remained in Vigo County, and I believe that John Jr., Erna, Helen and Toots lived in the general vicinity of St. Mary's Village.

- **John Ernest Arnold Jr.** married Mary Frances Merritt on July 30, 1936 in either Vincennes, Indiana or in St. Mary's Village. Mary Frances was the daughter of Raymond Merritt and Elizabeth Fulmer who lived in the St. Mary's area.

John Arnold worked as a long-haul truck driver.

- **Erna Alma Arnold** married Herman Rice on July 19, 1943 in Tacoma, Washington. Herman Rice was the son of Bernard Rice and Irene Estella Bodine who lived in various locations near Terre Haute. Herman Rice was probably serving in the United States Army when he married and may have subsequently been a factory worker.

- **Helen Arnold** married James Leek on July 7, 1943. James Leek was the son of Sam and Lula Leek who in 1930 were living near the Arnold family in Fayette Township.

Uncle Jim Leek fought in France with the United States Army during World War II. Uncle Jim was a coal miner. He also was a gifted woodworker and in 1974 built a cradle for my stepson, Jeff. The children of Jeff and Sam later used this cradle. Jim and Helen did not have children.

- **Pauline Arnold** married Archie Mobley Sr. in Terre Haute on December 22, 1939. Archie was born in Sumter County, South Carolina to Samuel Wagoner Mobley Jr. and Frances Cordelia "Fannie" Smith. Archie and a sister had lived in Washita County, Oklahoma, west of Oklahoma City, before Archie came to Terre Haute in the late 1930s.

Pauline and Archie Mobley owned a nursery in North Terre Haute for 47 years.

Archie Mobley came from an old South Carolina family. After the Civil War, Archie's grandfather's family moved to Bahia province in eastern Brazil for a time. Archie's father was born in Brazil, and some Mobleys remained in Brazil.

I was once told that Archie Mobley was the second cousin of Mary Ann Mobley, Miss America of 1959. Mary Ann Mobley was a delightful person. Unfortunately I have not been able to find evidence to support this claim.

- **Russell Arnold** married Georgette Pauline Troye, daughter of Charles and Lucy Troye who probably lived in West Terre Haute. Russell and Georgette divorced after around 50 years of marriage. Russell then married Carol and moved to Texas.

Russell worked as the chief engineer for WTHI, the Terre Haute television station owned by the Hulman family. The Hulman family bought the Indianapolis Motor Speedway from Eddie Rickenbacker in 1945, and Uncle Russ's duties included working with the television media each year during the running of the Indianapolis 500.

- **Virginia Lou "Toots" Arnold** married Charles Roy "Roy" Leek in Terre Haute on January 11, 1948. Roy Leek was the son of George and Lucille Leek, who in 1930 were living on Leek Road in Fayette Township.

Roy Leek was a diesel mechanic who worked at coal mine sites near Terre Haute.

James and Roy Leek married daughters of John Arnold Sr. but were not brothers. James and Roy both lived in Fayette Township as children, along with a sizeable number of others with the surname Leek. Perhaps they were cousins or cousins once removed.

- **Virgil Arnold** never married. He joined the United States Army at the age of 17 and served for over 22 years, reaching the rank of platoon sergeant and retired to Terre Haute in 1971. Here is a summary of Virgil's overseas service:.

- In Korea from July 1950 for 45 days and from Nov 1951 through Oct 1952.
Wounded and awarded the Bronze Star.

- In Germany for a total of 10 years from 1953 through 1968.

- In Vietnam for 13 months in 1965 and 1966.

While in Germany after World War II, Virgil established contact with his father's family, leading to a number of trips across the Atlantic by both German and American members of the Arnold family.

Burial information for members of the Arnold family follows:

- John Ernest Arnold, Alta (Wilson) Arnold Snyder, and their youngest son, Virgil, are all buried in the Bethesda Cemetery near West Terre Haute.
- Denton Snyder, Alta's second husband is buried in a different section of the Bethesda Cemetery.
- John Arnold Jr. and his wife, Mary, are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery near the St. Mary's religious complex.
- Helen and James Leek and Virginia Leek are buried in the New Vermillion Cemetery near Stanford a few miles to the north.
- Archie and Pauline Mobley are buried in the Highland Lawn Cemetery on the east edge of Terre Haute.

As of 2014 Russell Arnold, his two wives, and Roy Leek are still living.

John Ernest Arnold's German Relatives

Thomas Friedrich Arnold (1853 - 1922) & Anna Elisabeth Senft (1856 - 1942)

| **Luise Karoline Arnold (1880 - 1955) & Albert Hardt**

| | **Erna Hardt (1906 -)**

| | **Ernst Hardt (1909 -)**

| **Karl Friedrich Arnold (1883 - 1953) & Sophie Rosa Herrmann (1884 - 1933)**

| | **Karl Arnold (1908 - 1950) & Hilde de Bortoli (1919 -)**

| | | **Dieter Arnold (1941 -)**

| | | **Bernd Arnold (1946 -)**

| | | **Kurt Arnold (1947 -)**

| | **August Arnold (1912 - 1986) & Liesel Baumann (1913 -)**

| | | **Horst Arnold (1935 -)**

| | | **Charlotte Arnold (1939 -)**

| | | **Heidi Arnold (1940 -)**

| | | **Hannelore Arnold (1946 -)**

| | **Lina Arnold (1916 - 1999) & Gustav de Bortoli (1913 - 2005)**

| | | **Gerd de Bortoli (1941 -) & Hertha Vogt (1947 -)**

| | | | **Jurgen de Bortoli (1967 -)**

| | | | **Petra de Bortoli (1968 -)**

| | | | **Alexandra de Bortoli (1976 -)**

| | | **Irene de Bortoli (1942 -) & Dieter Zoller (1941 -)**

| | | | **Jochen Zoller (1969 -) & Steffi Diehl**

| | | | **Sabine Zoller (1978 -)**

| **Thomas Friederich Arnold (1885 - 1976)**

| John Ernest Arnold (1889 - 1970) & Alta Ora Wilson (1896 - 1981)

| | John Ernest Arnold Jr. (1916 - 2004) & Mary Frances Merritt (1920 - 1997)

| | Erna Alma Arnold (1917 - 2013) & Herman Francis Rice Sr. (1909 - 1980)

| | Helen Frances Arnold (1919 - 2002) & James Addison Leek (1916 - 2006)

| | Pauline Arnold (1920 - 2010) & Archie Scofield Mobley Sr. (1908 - 1993)

| | Russell Harry Arnold* (1923 -) & Georgette Pauline Troye (1924 -)

| | Russell Harry Arnold* (1923 -) & Carol unknown

| | Virginia Lou "Toots" Arnold (1930 - 2010) & Charles Roy Leek (1926 -)

| | Virgil Arnold (1932 - 1999)

| **Anna Arnold (1892 - 1892)**

| **Anna Else "Else" Arnold (1896 - 1977) & Hermann Unseld (- 1952)**

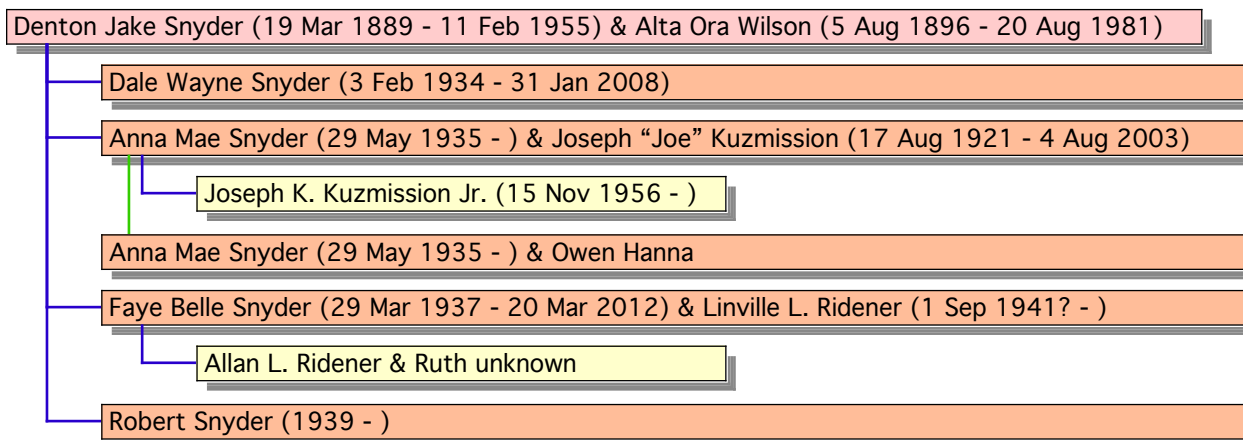
| | **Anneliese Unseld (- 1983) & Wilhelm Behrend**

| | **Hermann Werner (Werner) Unseld (1922 - 1993) & Gerda Kistner**

John Ernest Arnold's German Relatives

(taken from my Martha D. Christiansen Reunion database)

The Family of Denton Snyder and Alta Ora Wilson



Family of Denton Snyder and Alta Ora (Wilson) Arnold Snyder (taken from my Martha D. Christiansen Reunion database)

- Dale Snyder never married.
- Anna Mae Snyder may have had additional children.
- Faye Snyder had only one child listed in her obituary.
- I have no information about the family of Robert Snyder.

Some Older Relatives of Alta Ora Wilson

Alta Ora Wilson's paternal grandparents, John C. Wilson and Malinda/Melinda Hutson, married in Owen County, Indiana on September 28, 1848. They were living in Jackson Township in northwestern Owen County in 1850, but I can't find them in the 1860 or 1870 censuses.

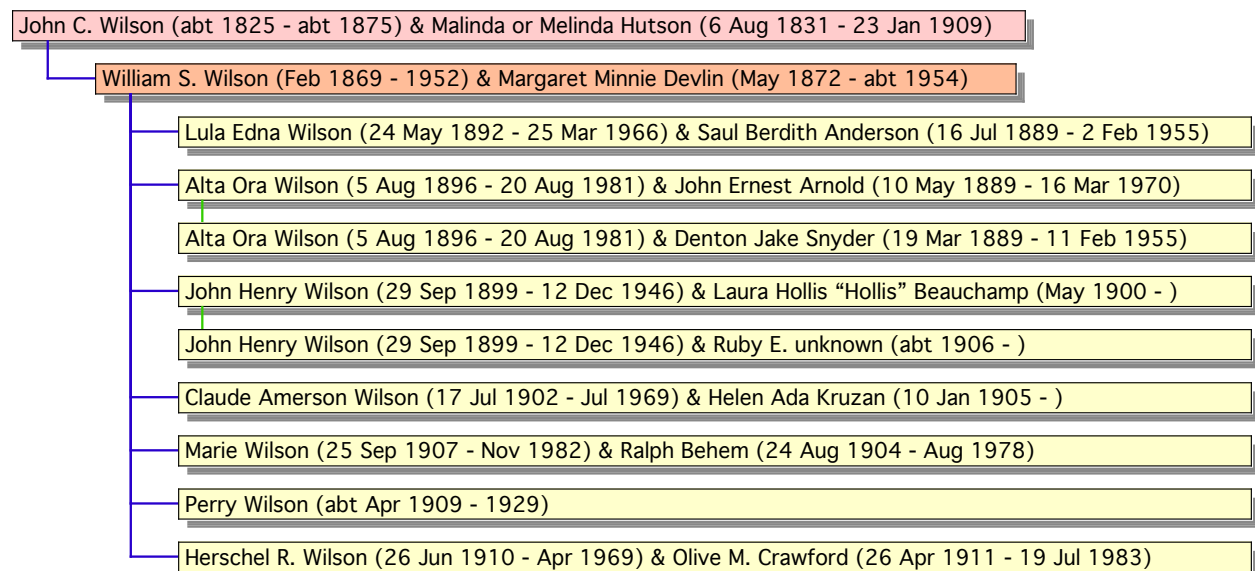
Owen County, with county seat Spencer, is east and a bit south of Terre Haute. Jackson Township is near the unincorporated community of Poland, which even today has a post office serving a corner of Clay, Owen, and Putnam counties.

Unconfirmed Internet data says that John C. Wilson died in 1875. In any event in 1879 Malinda became the 5th wife of a Jackson Township farmer, Daniel Neier, a Pennsylvania native who was 74 at the time. In the 1880 census Malinda and her three younger children, including William S., are living in the Daniel Neier household.

Alta Ora Wilson's parents, William S. Wilson and Margaret Minnie Devlin, married in Owen County on March 4, 1890. Although Margaret was born in Indiana, I have no information on her parents or siblings. In fact, her children sometimes used different spellings of her maiden name, e.g., Devellon or Devellen, so I doubt that her maiden name was actually Devlin.

In the 1900 and 1910 censuses the William Wilson family was farming in Jackson Township. In the 1900 census his widowed mother, Malinda Neier, was living in the household.

The seven children of William and Margaret Wilson who survived to adulthood appear on the following chart.



By the 1920 census William and Margaret Wilson had moved to Terre Haute, where William was a laborer at the coke plant. Their three youngest children were still at home.

I am told that William and Margaret divorced.

I can't find either William or Margaret in the 1930 census, and I can't find Margaret in the 1940 census. In the 1940 census William is living with his son-in-law and daughter, Saul and Lula Anderson.

Here is a bit more information on the seven known children of William and Margaret Wilson:

- **Lula Edna Wilson** and Saul Berdith Anderson married in Owen County on April 20, 1909. Saul and Lula Anderson had ten known children, Cecil, Anna Belle, Opal, Saul Bernard, Leo, Kenneth, Martha, Jackie and Mary Lou.

Like his father-in-law, Saul worked at the Terre Haute coke plant. However, by 1942 Saul was unemployed and wheelchair-bound.

- As mentioned earlier in this report, **Alta Ora Wilson** had seven children with John Ernest Arnold and four children with Denton Snyder.
- **John Henry Wilson** moved to the Toledo, Ohio area where he worked in the dairy industry. In the 1940s he moved to Glendale, California where he died.

I know of two children, John J. Jr. and Lois L., from John Henry's first marriage. His second wife brought two stepchildren into the marriage.

- **Claude Amerson Wilson** and Helen Ada Kruzan married in Terre Haute on July 17, 1923. They had two known children, Helen J. and Claude C.
- **Marie Wilson** married Ralph Behem in Vigo County on March 11, 1926. Ralph and Marie Behem had three children, Ralph Jr., James E. and Joan.
- **Perry N. Wilson** died at age 19 in an automobile accident near Marshall in Clark County, Illinois.
- **Herschel R. Wilson** married Olive M. Crawford. Herschel and Olive Wilson had at least three children, Patricia, Herschel Rex and Robert Lee.

Burial Information for the older relatives follows:

- In the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery just south of Terre Haute (on South Fagin Street just south of Davis Drive): William S. Wilson; Saul and Lula (Wilson) Anderson; Claude Wilson.
- In the Bethesda Cemetery west of West Terre Haute: Alta Ora Wilson and her husbands John Ernest Arnold and Denton Snyder; Herschel and Olive Wilson
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Acknowledgments and Sources

The following individuals provided information that I used herein:

- The late Pauline (Arnold) Mobley provided large amounts of detailed information on the Arnold and Mobley families.
- Pauline's son, David Mobley.
- Our friend, Mike Maher, whose family has lived in the St. Mary's Village area for over 100 years.

Much of my information came from general Internet sources, especially the following:

- The *Google* search engine.
- *ancestry.com*, which I find especially useful for census records, city directories and family histories. Ancestry.com use requires a subscription, but is usually available without charge at public libraries.
- *findagrave.com*, which often includes photographs of gravestones and sometimes includes obituaries.

I acquired information about the John Arnold family from some on-line sources specific to the Terre Haute area:

- *geocities.com/maplegrove.geo/BethesdaNew* lists the burials in the Bethesda Cemetery west of West Terre Haute.
- *tribstar.com/obituaries* contains Terre Haute area obituaries for recent years.

I acquired information specific to the Mobley family from some on-line sites:

- *J Furman/D Anderson Tree* in trees.ancestry.com contains a list of Mary Matilde (Mobley) Saunders's Brazilian children.
- The book, *Blessings from China*, by Archie Mobley's niece, Roberta (Morgan) Diggs and found on books.google.com in Jun 2014, contains some Mobley family history.

Please contact me if you have questions or find errors. --- Robert A. "Bob" Christiansen, RACristia@gmail.com, 480.861.8404, Jul 2014.