

**Herbert Hilary Horton (1893-1931), Ancestor 4**  
**By his granddaughter, Linda Rae Horton, 10 July 2021**



Herbert Hilary Horton was born on 11 January 1893, in Campton, Wolfe County, Kentucky, when his father, Thomas Richmond Horton (1845-1907), was 47 and his mother, Anna Barron Tyler Horton (1855-1924), was 37. He was the tenth of 12 children, all but two of whom lived to adulthood, married, and had children.

Herbert married Lucy Ethel McCoun on 1 January 1914, in their hometown. She always went by “Ethel.” They had seven children in 16 years. He died on 20 July 1931, in Campton, at age 38. For more than ten years, Herbert had worked as a laborer and driller in Kentucky oil fields. The cause of his death was typhoid fever due to his consuming contaminated water while working in oil fields in the western part of the state. After a long bus ride home, Herbert at last reached Campton and home, where he died. He was buried in the Horton-White Cemetery in Bear Pen Hollow.

My father, Raymond Thomas Horton, the eldest of the seven children, was just 16 when Herbert died. His siblings ranged in age from 14 to just seven months old. Herbert’s death was a tragedy that had far-reaching consequences for each family member. A biography of Raymond Thomas Horton told his story.<sup>1</sup> Brief biographical sketches of the other six children of Herbert Hilary Horton and Ethel McCoun Horton Shuck are appended to her biography.

### **Herbert’s Early Years**

I have no photographs of Herbert as a child. We know from the 1910 census report that he attended school and could read and write. His father died in 1907 when Herbert was just 14. For several years, Herbert worked for his widowed mother on her farm, as was reported in his 1917 military registration. Even after Thomas’s death, his versatility and likely intelligence may have made him a role model for Herbert and his siblings, and their mother likewise was wise and hard-working. Thomas farmed, like most of the neighbors, but he also taught school and was an itinerant Methodist minister. For several years he ran a general store. These were not high-paying occupations, but Thomas owned the farm on which he and his family lived. They had plenty to eat and did as well as most people then. Still, we should understand that the children of Thomas and Anna Horton grew up in circumstances that we today would regard as relatively modest.

Herbert’s siblings were James, 1872-1872 (who died at the age of two months); Cora Alice Horton, 1873-1932, who married Lee Congleton when Herbert was a baby; William Franklin Horton, 1876-1938, who married Lula Tutt; Catherine Horton, 1878-1958, who married a widower, Charles Burrows Hieronymus; Sarah Jane Horton, 1880-1943, who married Wilson Hammons; Eugene Alfred Horton, 1882-1953, who married Hettie McCoun; Corsa “Corrie” Barnes Horton, 1885-1953, who married Gertrude Crawford; Claude Clifford Horton, 1887-1960, who married Ethel Madole; Richmond Thomas Horton, 1891-1944, who married, first, Lillian Byrd, then Emogene Hines; Marion Levander Horton, 1896-1962, who married Luna Dell Barker; and Eunice Ethel Horton, 1898-1903. Sketches of Herbert’s siblings will be appended to the biography of his mother, Anna Barron Tyler Horton.

As the tenth of 12 children, Herbert and his one younger brother, Marion, would have been very aware of their status as the “little brothers” in a large group of siblings. He would have worn hand-me-down clothes and shared a room, and probably a bed, with several brothers.

When the 1900 census was enumerated in Campton on 7 June, Thomas reported that he owned his home and farm free and clear of any mortgage. The statement that his mother had been born in Alabama is puzzling: Martha Jane Richmond, like her husband, William Horton, had been born in Virginia. Thomas, Anna, and all of Herbert's older siblings could read and write and were "At school." Catherine, age 22, was a teacher; perhaps 19-year-old Sarah was a teacher, as well. The family appeared to take education seriously and Herbert, age seven, probably looked forward to attending school and learning to read and write.

First Name	Second Name	Gender	Age	Married	Year	Month	Day	Year	State	Virginia	Alabama	Gender
Hermon	Thomas	Male	42	Wid	73	May	1874	28	VA	Virginia	Virginia	Alabama
—	Aennie	Wife	40	Wid	4	Sept	1875	4	VA	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia
—	Catherine	Daughter	W	4	600	Oct	1876	22	VA	Kentucky	Virginia	Virginia
—	Joseph J.	Daughter	W	9	June	1880	19	5	VA	Kentucky	Virginia	Virginia
—	Eugene	Son	W	10	Aug	1882	17	5	VA	Kentucky	Virginia	At School
—	Coraie	Son	W	10	Aug	1884	15	8	VA	Kentucky	Virginia	At School
—	Clarence	Son	W	10	Jan	1887	13	6	VA	Kentucky	Virginia	At School
—	Richmonda	Son	W	10	Apr	1890	10	5	VA	Kentucky	Virginia	At School
—	Herbert	Son	W	10	Jan	1893	7	5	VA	Kentucky	Virginia	Virginia
—	Frederick	Son	W	10	Feb	1896	4	7	VA	Kentucky	Virginia	Virginia
—	Emmie E	Daughter	W	9	Dec	1898	1	5	VA	Kentucky	Virginia	Virginia

## **Herbert's Marriage to Ethel McCoun; Their Family**

After watching older siblings marry and leave home, it is unsurprising that Herbert married young—on New Year’s Day 1914—a few days before his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. His 17-year-old bride, Ethel McCoun, was the younger sister of Hettie, the wife of his older brother, Eugene.

159 OF 243<sup>rd</sup> REGISTRATION CARD No. 68

1 Name in full Herbert Horton 24  
 (Name exactly) (Age)  
 (Family name)

2 Name and address Campbell, Kentucky  
 (Name) (Address)

3 Date of birth January 11 1893  
 (Month) (Day) (Year)

4 Sex Male (Male) (Female) (Sex)  
 Are you (1) a naturalized citizen, (2) an alien, (3) or have you declared you  
 intention specifically which? a natural born citizen

5 Where were you born? Campbell, Ky. 2.0 (Address)

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? People of

7 What is your present  
 trade, occupation, or other? Farming.

8 By whom employed? Also known as father.  
On a farm.

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or a son or brother under 18, who is depending on you for  
 support, specifically which? a wife five children

10 Married or single which? Married (Specify which) Cancer

11 What military service have you had? None (Branch)  
 years \_\_\_\_\_ Nation or State \_\_\_\_\_

12 Do you claim exemption  
 from draft (Specify grounds) You to support my wife and  
children (Specify grounds)  
 I affirm that I have verified the foregoing and that they are true.  
Herbert Horton  
 (Signature or mark)

3-69 Wolfe <sup>A</sup>

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1	Tall, medium, or short (specify which?) <u>medium</u>	Slender, medium, or stout (which?) <u>medium</u>
2	Color of eyes? <u>Brown</u> Color of hair? <u>black w/ no</u>	
3	Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? <u>no</u>	

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

AGG Combs (Signature of registrant)

Product Wolfe

City or County Kentucky

Date June 5 1917 (Date of registration)

We know from Herbert's World War I selective service registration that his hair was black and his eyes brown. He would have had a brown-eyed gene from his father and a blue-eyed gene from his mother. The four youngest of Herbert's seven children would inherit his raven-haired, brown-eyed good looks. The three oldest boys were fair-haired when they were little: Raymond and Glenn were fair-completed, blue-eyed, and brown-haired like Ethel, while Wilson inherited Herbert's brown eyes and Ethel's reddish-brown hair.

In his draft registration, Herbert described his height as “medium,” but it seems from his photos that he was probably rather short, no more than five feet six inches tall. Note especially the photo on page five in which Herbert, standing near Ethel, definitely was the shorter of the two. Herbert was not drafted to serve in World War I. His draft board may have spared him, considering that he was supporting a wife and two children while working for his widowed mother on her farm.

The photo below is the earliest one we have of Herbert. It was taken in 1918 with Ethel and the two oldest of their children. Herbert would have been 25 and Ethel almost 22. Raymond was three and Wilson between one and two. Ethel’s face appears a bit puffy, probably because she would soon give birth to a third child, Glenn Marvin Horton, born 2 October 1918. In the 1919 photo on the next page, Glenn took Wilson’s place on Ethel’s lap, and no puffiness is detectable in Ethel’s lovely, but sad, face.



After computing Herbert’s and Ethel’s ages, I found the couple’s youthfulness shocking; this photo is a family icon that I see almost daily. It has for years been included in a collection of ancestral photos in a family tree poster, prepared many years ago by my daughter, Colleen, for a school project. The poster is framed and now hangs on the wall in front of my desk in my home study, as shown on the next page.

From our grandparents’ appearance, I would have thought them in their thirties or even forties.



When the family of Syrene and Rob McCoun gathered for a meal the day of the 1919 group photo below, the men surely discussed the opportunities provided by the Campton oil boom. At about the time of the family get-together at which this photo was taken, Herbert left farming and went to work in the oil fields. As one author explained, “In 1916 the World War demand for petroleum accompanied by a rapid heightening of prices of crude oil stimulated a new wave of development and ‘wildcatting’ in Kentucky which brought about the discovery of a number of new pools, chief of which have been the Big Sinking in Lee County....”.<sup>2</sup> The field was near a creek known as Big Sinking.

*Standing from left were (probably) William “Bill” Elkins (1900-85), the long-time beau of Wayland McCoun; 26-year-old **Herbert Horton** (marked by the arrow); Glenn McCoun; Eugene Horton; and Caesar McCoun. In the middle row sat Wayland, 22-year-old **Ethel** holding Glenn, Syrene Cockerham McCoun, Hettie McCoun Horton holding Geneva, and Nannie McCoun.*

*In front were Wilson and Raymond and Hettie’s children Eunice and Seldon.*



## Herbert as an Oil Driller

By the time of the April 1920 census, Herbert, Ethel, and their children were living near the Pyramid Oil Company's Big Sinking Oil Field, shown at right. The Lee County census that year recorded many families in which the man of the house was working in the oil business, usually as a laborer, a category that then included Herbert. Herbert's move from farming to work as an oil laborer and driller brought a decade of relative prosperity to his young family.

1	X	31	Horton	Herbert	Head	1	Bl	3m 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 26 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> m			Age 26	Kentucky	Virginia	Kentucky
2	-	-	Ethel		Wife			7m 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 24 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> m			Age 24	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky
3	-	-	Raymond	Son				3m 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> S			Age 5	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky
4	-	-	Wilson	Son				3m 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> S			Age 3	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky
5	-	-	Glenn	Son				3m 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> S			Age 1	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky



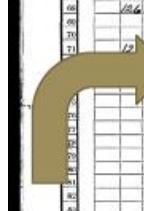
The photo at right was taken the day of the funeral of Ethel's maternal grandmother, Zerilda Manervia Puckett Cockerham, who died on 30 January 1921. The smartly dressed family has been joined by two babies: Leona Anerine Horton, born 14 November 1920, and Herbert's other "baby," a brand-new Model-T Ford. We know it was a 1921 model because it is identical to the one in the photo at right.<sup>3</sup> The 1921 Model-T cost \$325, a significant price reduction from earlier years, in line with Henry Ford's vision that his car be affordable by all American families.<sup>4</sup> Americans bought nearly 26 million cars and 3 million trucks in the 1920s. For most of the decade, Henry Ford's Model T dominated the sales charts. From 1920 through 1926, the Model T accounted for 47 percent of new-car sales. In 1921, an astounding 61% of the cars sold were Model-Ts.<sup>5</sup>



Thanks to the generosity of several Pepper cousins in Frankfort, by the early 1920s Glenn McCoun had enough money to start his own drilling business in the oil fields of Wolfe County. At left, in about 1920, were Herbert with his



brothers-in-law Glenn and Caesar McCoun. Herbert and his family were able to return to their home county, where they were living at the time of the April 1930 census, excerpted below. Herbert's occupation was listed as oil driller.



Line	First Name	Last Name	Relationship	Age	Sex	Color	State	County	Occupation	Years Employed	Years at Present
12	Raymond	McCoun	Child	0	M	White	Kentucky	Montgomery	Oil Driller	3	3
13	Wilson	McCoun	Child	0	M	White	Kentucky	Montgomery	Oil Driller	3	3
14	H.H.	Horton	Head	0	M	White	Kentucky	Montgomery	Oil Driller	3	3
15	Ethel	Horton	Wife	22	F	White	Kentucky	Montgomery	Oil Driller	3	3
16	Glenn	McCoun	Son	15	M	White	Kentucky	Montgomery	Oil Driller	3	3
17	Wayland	McCoun	Son	13	M	White	Kentucky	Montgomery	Oil Driller	3	3
18	Leona	McCoun	Son	11	M	White	Kentucky	Montgomery	Oil Driller	3	3
19	Samuel	McCoun	Son	5	M	White	Kentucky	Montgomery	Oil Driller	3	3
20	Virginia	McCoun	Son	2	M	White	Kentucky	Montgomery	Oil Driller	3	3
22nd of April 1930 22nd of April 1930											

The family was living next door to Ethel's parents and sister (Robert, Sirene, and Wayland McCoun.) H.H. Horton was working as an oil driller in the oil fields. Raymond was 15, Wilson 13, Glenn 11, Leona 8, H.H. Jr. 5, and Samuel 2. Did Ethel know she was expecting? The enumeration is dated April 22, and Virginia was born December 16!

In the last photo taken of Herbert, he again posed next to his Model-T, this time holding his younger daughter, Virginia, born on 16 December 1930.

Although Herbert's employment in the oil industry brought his family a level of affluence unimaginable if he had remained a farmer, the oil work also brought tragedy. In July 1931, Herbert Horton was working in oil fields in western Kentucky, more than 200 miles west of Campton. By then, the eastern Kentucky oil fields no longer yielded the quantities of oil they once had, and oil workers had to travel to where fields were active.<sup>6</sup> Herbert probably was working in the oil fields in Ohio County near Owensboro.

### Herbert's Illness and Death

On 20 July 1931, Herbert died of typhoid fever due to consumption of contaminated water at the workers' camp near that western Kentucky oil field. He became seriously ill, and his foreman put him on a Greyhound bus home. Herbert was so delirious from his illness that other passengers believed him drunk and treated him unkindly. He reached Campton, able to report his unpleasant experience on the bus, but soon he died.

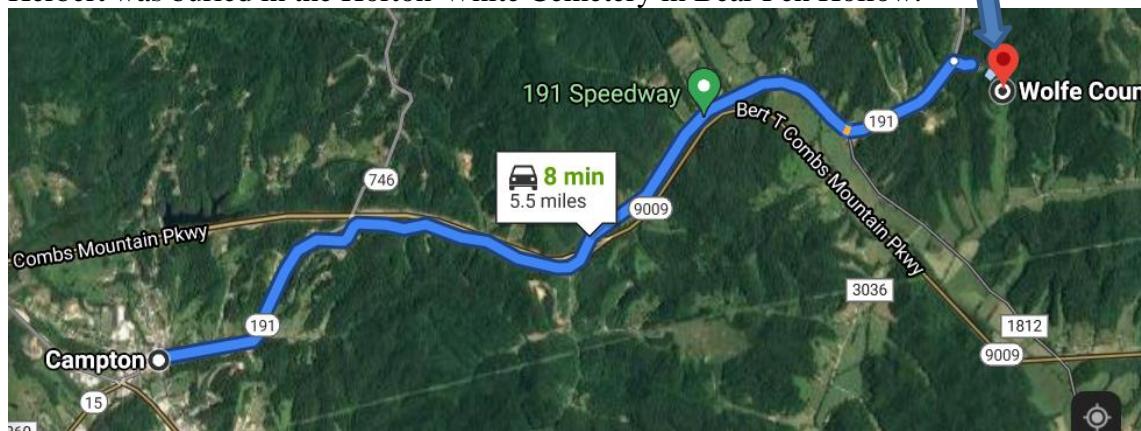


Typhoid fever results from consumption of food or water contaminated with *salmonella typhi*. It is uncommon today in the United States: most of the 400 U.S. annual cases involve international

travel.<sup>7</sup> Typhoid fever is endemic in those areas of Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Oceania where sanitary conditions are poor. Eighty percent of the approximately 22 million people per year who contract the infection live in Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, and Vietnam. Of those infected, about 200,000 per year die.<sup>8</sup> The treatment for typhoid fever is antibiotics, especially ciprofloxacin, a treatment that was unavailable at the time of Herbert Horton's illness.<sup>9</sup>

While the 1930 census recorded an intact family of eight, soon to become nine with Virginia's birth, the 1940 census depicted an entirely different situation. The paths taken by Herbert's survivors are described in the biography of Ethel McCoun Horton Shuck.

Herbert was buried in the Horton-White Cemetery in Bear Pen Hollow.



The following Horton family members were buried in the graveyard on Bear Pen Creek, also known as the Horton-White Cemetery. Ancestors' names are in bold. Source was the *Horton Genealogy* prepared in about 1979 by Inez Congleton Dulaney, daughter of Herbert's sister, Cora.

1. **William S. Horton**, born 8 June 1812, died 13 June 1895.
2. **Martha J. [Richmond] Horton**, born 11 January 1812, died 15 November 1865.
  3. Elizabeth [Stamper] Horton (William's second wife), born 30 July 1823, died 3 May 1916.
  4. William H. Horton, born 19 January 1868, died 14 July 1869 (child of William S. and Elizabeth Stamper Horton).
  5. Mary J. Horton, born 9 August 1834, died 20 October 1854.
  6. John W. Horton, born 10 June 1836.
  7. Mary E. Horton, born 11 November 1832, died 27 November 1912.
  8. H. N. (Harvey) Horton, born 18 April 1848, died 23 May 1914.
  9. Amelia White Horton, born 2 May 1849, died 3 May 1937.
  10. William Thomas Horton, born 22 July 1872, died 8 September 1888.
  11. J. N. Horton, born 22 September 1876, died 4 May 1919.
12. **Thomas R. Horton**, born 17 May 1845, died 25 February 1907.
13. **Annie B. [Tyler] Horton**, born 8 September 1855, died 20 May 1924.
  14. James A. Horton, born 14 September 1872, died 17 November 1872.
  15. Eunice Horton, born 22 December 1898, died 8 November 1903.
  16. **Herbert Horton**, born 11 January 1893, died 20 July 1931.
  17. Florence Horton, born 3 August 1906, died 2 November 1906 (infant daughter of Frank and Lula Horton).

After her death in 1985, Ethel, was buried in the Resthaven Cemetery in the Buechel area of Louisville. Ethel's second husband, Charles Homer Shuck (1975-1954) was buried in the Cap Anderson Cemetery in Brandenburg, Meade County, Kentucky next to his first wife, Cora Price (1876-1935), who was from there.

<sup>1</sup> By the author: *Raymond Thomas Horton*, 31 May 2021; *Raymond Thomas Horton (1914-1987: His Timeline and Descendants*, 31 May 2021.

<sup>2</sup> The 1919 photo of the Big Sinking Oil Field was taken by W.R. Jillson and is in a University of Kentucky collection of historic photos. <https://www.uky.edu/KGS/emsweb/history/modern.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Image was found at:

[https://www.google.com/search?q=1921+model+t+ford&rlz=1C1CHBD\\_enUS884US941&sxsrf=ALeKk02Q8Szj5CbJqlFnAtLvWSPxtCwF5Q:1620698752551&tbo=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=jANsOeeKWW9f3M%252CGSwii8Udp7IYAM%252C\\_&vet=1&usg=AI4\\_-kTFsNNhCD9oNzskYRbqSMnEpItVig&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiFwrurxcDwAhWCF1kFHRonCusQ9QF6BAgGEAE&biw=1600&bih=789#imgrc=jANsOeeKWW9f3M](https://www.google.com/search?q=1921+model+t+ford&rlz=1C1CHBD_enUS884US941&sxsrf=ALeKk02Q8Szj5CbJqlFnAtLvWSPxtCwF5Q:1620698752551&tbo=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=jANsOeeKWW9f3M%252CGSwii8Udp7IYAM%252C_&vet=1&usg=AI4_-kTFsNNhCD9oNzskYRbqSMnEpItVig&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiFwrurxcDwAhWCF1kFHRonCusQ9QF6BAgGEAE&biw=1600&bih=789#imgrc=jANsOeeKWW9f3M)

<sup>4</sup> Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ford\\_Model\\_T](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ford_Model_T)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.autonews.com/article/20000828/ANA/8280853/1920s>

<sup>6</sup> University of Kentucky, <http://www.uky.edu/OtherOrgs/KPS/goky/pages/gokych23.htm>

<sup>7</sup> Wisconsin Division of Public Health, <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p4/p42101.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Medscape, <https://www.medscape.com/answers/231135-10582/what-is-the-global-prevalence-of-typhoid-fever-enteric-fever#:~:text=Typhoid%20fever%20infects%20roughly%2021.6,fever%20arise%20in%20international%20travelers.>

<sup>9</sup> Mayo Clinic, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/typhoid-fever/diagnosis-treatment/drc-20378665>