

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.¹ 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.

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.

Given	Surname	Sex	Age	Year	Month	Day	Birthplace	Marriage	Death	Burial	Notes
Horton	Thomas	son	20	May	1840	28	Virginia	Virginia	Alabama		Yarrow
	Wife	W	9	Sept	1841	29	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia		
	Catharine	Daughter	W	5	Dec	1842	22	Kentucky	Virginia	Virginia	At School
	Isabel	Daughter	W	5	June	1850	19	Kentucky	Virginia	Virginia	At School
	Expense	son	W	7	Aug	1852	17	Kentucky	Virginia	Virginia	At School
	Craig	son	W	7	Aug	1854	15	Kentucky	Virginia	Virginia	At School
	Clara	son	W	7	Jan	1857	13	Kentucky	Virginia	Virginia	At School
	Richmond	son	W	7	Apr	1858	10	Kentucky	Virginia	Virginia	At School
	Harriet	son	W	7	Jan	1859	7	Kentucky	Virginia	Virginia	At School
	Marion	son	W	7	Feb	1860	4	Kentucky	Virginia	Virginia	
	Lucien E	Daughter	W	9	Dec	1868	1	Kentucky	Virginia	Virginia	

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 21st birthday. His 17-year-old bride, Ethel McCoun, was the younger sister of Hettie, the wife of his older brother, Eugene.

Form 1		REGISTRATION CARD		No. 68	
1	Name in full	Herbert Horton		Age in yrs. 24	
2	Home address	Campton, Kentucky			
3	Date of birth	Jan. 11 1893			
4	Are you (1) a natural born citizen? (2) a naturalized citizen? (3) an alien? (4) or have you declared your intention to become a citizen?	2 a natural born citizen			
5	Where were you born?	Campton, Ky. U.S.			
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?	None			
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office?	Farming			
8	By whom employed?	None			
9	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, totally dependent on you for support? (Specify which?)	A wife two children			
10	Married or single? (Specify which?)	Married			
11	What military service have you had? Rank	None			
12	Do you claim exemption from draft? (Specify grounds)	Yes To support my wife & children			
I affirm that I have verified the foregoing and that they are true.					
Herbert Horton					

REGISTRAR'S REPORT		J. B. Wolfe "A"	
1	Tell, medium, or short? (Specify which?)	Medium	
2	Color of eyes? Color of hair? Build?	Brown Black No	
3	Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled? (Specify?)	No	
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:			
J. B. Wolfe			
(Signature of registrar)			
Present +			
City or County +			
State +			
June 5 1917			
(Date of registration)			

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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....”.² 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.



1	X	31	Horton	Hubert	Head	R	3m	26	26	3m		3m	3m	Kentucky		Virginia
2			-	Ethel	Wife		f	26	24	3m		3m	3m	Kentucky		Kentucky
3			-	Raymond	Son		3m	80	5	S				Kentucky		Kentucky
4			-	Wilson	Son		3m	80	3 1/2	S				Kentucky		Kentucky
5			-	Glenn	Son		3m	80	1 1/2	S				Kentucky		Kentucky

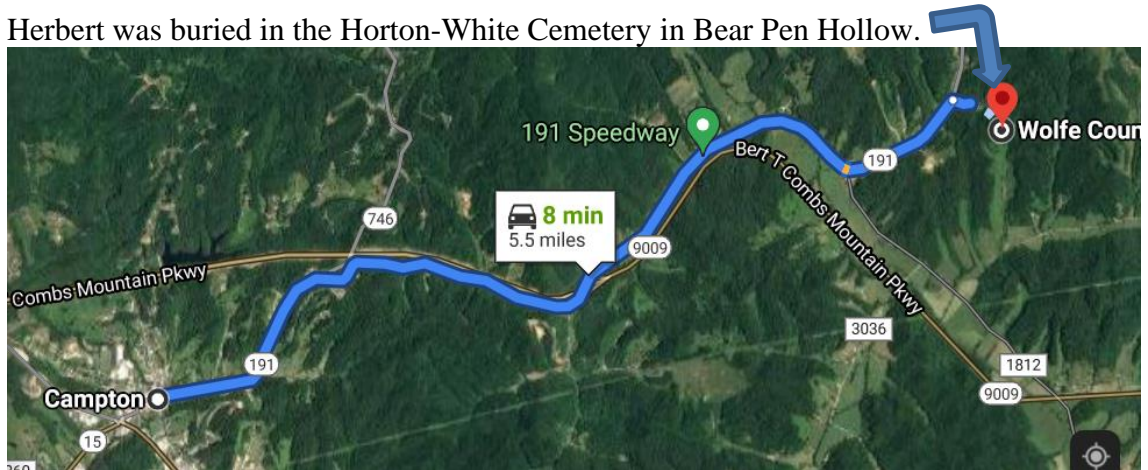
A black and white photograph of a family of six standing next to a vintage open-top car. The family consists of a mother in a long dark coat and hat, a father in a suit and hat, and four children of various ages. The car is a dark-colored sedan with large spoked wheels and a folded-down top. They are standing on a grassy field with a building visible in the background.

A black and white photograph of three men in work clothes and hats standing in front of a corrugated metal structure. The man in the center is holding a long tool, possibly a shovel or pole. The man on the left is also holding a tool. The man on the right is standing with his hands on his hips. The image is grainy and has a historical feel.

travel.⁷ 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.⁸ The treatment for typhoid fever is antibiotics, especially ciprofloxacin, a treatment that was unavailable at the time of Herbert Horton's illness.⁹

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.

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

² 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>

³ Image was found at:
https://www.google.com/search?q=1921+model+t+f+ford&rlz=1C1CHBD_enUS884US941&sxsrf=ALeKk02Q8Sj5CbJqIFnAtLvWSPxtCwF5Q:1620698752551&tbm=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=jANsOeeKWW9f3M%252CGSwii8Udp7IYAM%252C_&vet=1&usg=AI4_-kTFsNNhCD9oNzskYRbqSMnEpItVig&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiFwrurxcDwAhWCFIkFHRonCusQ9QF6BAgGEAE&biw=1600&bih=789#imgsrc=jANsOeeKWW9f3M

⁴ Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ford_Model_T

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

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

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

⁸ 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.>

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