

Lucy Ethel McCoun Horton Shuck (1896-1985), Ancestor 5

By her granddaughter, Linda R. Horton, 14 July 2021



Lucy Ethel McCoun was born in Wolfe County, Kentucky, on 15 September 1896. The fourth child of Syrene Cockerham (1868-1962) and Robert Pepper McCoun (1860-1940), she always went by “Ethel,” a popular girl’s name of that era. Her first given name was “Lucy;” another popular name then. Neither Ethel nor Lucy was a family name. Her parents gave family names to her three older siblings and one younger brother.

On 1 January 1914, 17-year-old Ethel married Herbert Hilary Horton. They had seven children, including the author’s father, Raymond Thomas Horton, the eldest. Herbert tragically died of typhoid fever on 20 July 1931, after consuming contaminated water at the oil field in western Kentucky where he had been working as a well

driller. After that great loss, Ethel moved to Louisville and took a job as housekeeper for an elderly gentleman, Charles Shuck, whom she later married. In the early 1930s, all of Ethel’s seven children also moved away from Campton, and all ended up in Louisville. After Charles’ death in 1954, Ethel continued to reside in Louisville the rest of her life, initially in the home at 2532 Garland Avenue that Charles Shuck and she had shared. Later Ethel moved first to a home in the Louisville suburbs closer to where her son Sam and other children lived, and then to a nursing home, when her health declined. Ethel died on 20 April 1985 at age 88 and was buried in the Resthaven Cemetery in the Buechel area of Louisville. The photo above shows her in 1940.

Both my grandmothers were named Ethel. As a small child trying to figure out how the world works, I thought Ethel must be the first name of everyone’s grandmothers. Being unable to pronounce “Ethel” properly, I dubbed my paternal grandmother “Effie Shuck” and my maternal grandmother “Effie Bryan.” The name Effie Shuck stuck, but I soon renamed my maternal grandmother “Grannan,” and that name stuck. The grandmothers seemed to like their unusual nicknames: they used them when signing letters and cards addressed to the children of Raymond and Marcia Horton.

Ethel’s Early Years

As may be seen from this photo of Ethel, she was an exceptionally beautiful child when, at about eight years



of age, she was photographed with her parents and siblings in the family photo on below, taken in about 1904. Ethel was the middle child of the seven children of Syrene and Rob McCoun. The census of 8 June 1900 listed Robert, age 39, and “Sarha” (Syrene), age 30, and their five children alive at that time: Glenn, age 8; Hettie, age 7; Ethel, age 4; Samuel C, 2; and Effie W, 5 months. It is sheer coincidence that Effie, the name I bestowed on my grandmother, happened to be the first name of her little sister, whom everyone called Wayland!

McCoun, Robert	59-48	M	Mar	1861	39	20	9		
— Syrene	Wife	F	May	1870	30	24	1	5	3
— Glenn	Son	M	Nov	1891	8	0			
— Hettie	Daughter	F	Dec	1892	7	0			
— Ethel	Daughter	F	Sept	1895	4	0			
— Samuel C.	Son	M	Apr	1898	2	0			
— Effie W.	Daughter	F	Jan	1900	0	0			
Wife	Daughter	F	Nov	1893	17	0			

Hettie was counted twice in the 1900 census. She was listed not only with her parents but also in the Campton household of her maternal grandparents, James and Manervia Cockerham, where she was staying to help them with their boarding house.



Clockwise: Caesar, Ethel, Rob, Glenn, Syrene, Hettie, Wayland, and Nannie.

Ethel was a “rainbow baby,” to use a term coined in recent years for a healthy baby born after the loss of a baby.¹ After the birth in 1891 of Glenn and in 1892 of Hettie, there was a stillborn baby girl, Mahala, born 28 August 1894. Syrene and Rob had her buried in the Evans Cemetery in Campton, under a headstone with her name. The baby was named for Rob’s grandmother, Mahalia Perry Pepper (1804-1865). Ethel was born two years after Mahala. After Ethel there were three more children, Samuel Caesar, born in 1898 (named for his great grandfather Samuel Pepper), and two sisters, Effie Wayland and Nancy Mayo, born in 1899 and 1901. The three

younger ones were called Caesar, Wayland, and Nannie. Wayland is an unusual name, especially for a female. Three female relatives named Wayland are in our family tree, two of them younger than Wayland McCoun.

According to every report, Rob and Syrene McCoun were lively and chirpy people, known for their cheerful dispositions, and not considered extremely religious. How then did their daughter Ethel become rigid, self-centered, holier-than-thou, and joyless? Without question, becoming a single mother at age 34, with seven children to raise alone and no visible means of support, would have been a depressing turn of events for anyone. But stories from Raymond's childhood, retold in this biography, indicate that, even when her husband was alive and well, Ethel was notably priggish and self-centered. I welcome challenge or input from anyone who saw in Ethel personal qualities different from what I describe.

One theory is that Ethel's infancy was clouded by parental grief due to the recent loss of baby Mahala. Syrene and Rob McCoun might still have been saddened by the stillborn baby when welcoming their new daughter Ethel. It cannot have been easy parenting a newborn so soon after the loss of an earlier baby. Is the parent overjoyed to have a new healthy infant to hold, after losing the previous one? But might joy in the new child's birth be shadowed at times by the earlier loss? Were baby Ethel's first smiles to her mother met, not with shining eyes and a smile, but a distracted face with eyes gazing into space, sad about the baby who didn't make it? In such cases, do the parents worry that harm might befall the new baby? Might there be over-protectiveness or over-indulgence of the newborn? Bereaved parents may experience any or all of these emotions.²

In my husband Carl Nelson's family, there are two instances where a baby was born soon after the death of an older infant sibling. In each case, the adult who had been the later born and surviving infant seemed to live under a gloomy cloud. A sample size of three does not an accurate amateur psychoanalysis make. But one might wonder.

Returning to Ethel's biography, in the 1910 census, enumerated on 25 April, she was 14 and appeared twice. She was listed with her parents on their farm in Vortex. Robert McCoun was 49, still a farmer, and Syrene was 41, with her occupation listed as housework. Siblings at home were brother, Glenn, 18 and working as a laborer; Caesar, 12; Effie, 10; and Nannie, 8. Everyone except Syrene could read and write. Ethel was also listed in Campton with her maternal grandparents, Manervia and James Kash Cockerham, who were running a livery stable. Ethel had taken Hettie's place living with, and assisting, the Cockerham grandparents.

Shortly before the 1910 census, 17-year-old Hettie had married 27-year-old Eugene Horton. They set up housekeeping elsewhere in Wolfe County. The census showed the young couple living next door to his widowed mother, Anna Tyler Horton, and her youngest three sons, Richmond, Herbert, and Marion. It is easy to figure out how Ethel met her future husband.

McCoun, R. P.	Helen	M	W	49	M/19			Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky		English	Parmer
—	Wife of	F	W	41	M/17	7	6	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky		English	Horton
—	Rob	M	W	18	S			Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky		English	Johnson
—	Ethel	S	W	14	S			Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky		English	None
—	Glenn	M	W	12	S			Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky		English	None
—	Effie	F	W	10	S			Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky		English	None
—	Nannie	F	W	8	S			Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky		English	None

Ethel and Herbert: Marriage and Family

On 1 January 1914, Ethel married Herbert Hilary Horton, the younger brother of her brother-in-law Eugene Horton.³ She was 17 and he a few days shy of 21. Raymond said that his mother wanted to marry young, because she was eager to get away from the chores her parents expected her to do at home. However, becoming a young wife and mother was certainly not any easier than helping parents and grandparents with chores. Ethel's firstborn came along just eleven and a half months after the wedding. Raymond Thomas Horton, born 15 November 1914, would be followed on 10 December 1916 by Charles Wilson Horton. He always went by Wilson. The photo below was taken in 1918 when Wilson was between one and two years old and Raymond was three. Based on the children's ages, the photo would have been taken at about the time of Ethel's 22nd birthday—perhaps it was being celebrated the day the photo was taken. And Herbert would have had his 26th birthday a few months later. To me, Ethel and Herbert looked older than their years. If Ethel's face appeared rather puffy, consider that, not long after the photo was taken, a third baby boy joined the family, Glenn Marvin Horton, born 2 October 1918.

In the half-century between Ethel's 22nd birthday and mine, opportunities opened up for women. When I was Ethel's age, I was a new college graduate and the first management intern of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. A month after my 22nd birthday, instead of giving birth to a third child, I was meeting my future husband. I might have married him right away, but I considered myself far too young to marry. For one thing, I wanted more education which for me was three years of law school, all at night. I married at 28 and bore my first child at 30. When I was widowed 10 years later, my legal education and FDA career eviscerated any worries I may have had about how to support myself and my children. No wonder my grandmother and I never understood each other. I inherited half my DNA from the couple in this photo, yet my life has been so different from Ethel's.



This 1919 photo was taken at the home of Ethel's parents. Standing were *Bill Elkins, the long-time beau of Wayland McCoun; Herbert, Glenn McCoun, Eugene Horton, and Caesar McCoun. In the middle row sat Wayland, **Ethel** (marked by the arrow) holding Glenn, Syrene McCoun, Hettie holding Geneva, and Nannie McCoun. Seated were Wilson, Raymond, and Hettie's children Eunice and Seldon.*



If Ethel looked as if she bore on her shoulders the weight of the world, that probably reflected how she felt most of the time. As a 22-year-old mother of three little boys, her days were filled with nursing one baby after another, laundry, cooking, cleaning, and keeping frisky little boys out of trouble. Ethel was still very pretty but no longer the innocent child in the 1904 photo. And Ethel was not even halfway through childbearing. She and Herbert would have two daughters and two more sons.

Ethel's portrait of disillusioned motherhood reminded me of my favorite painting, below. Botticelli's Mary could be any girl-next-door in *any* era, not ready for the responsibilities of motherhood. I don't want to be sacrilegious, especially writing about this grandmother, but to me Baby Jesus looks a bit scary and parasitic. And look at how Mary is sitting—not very ladylike—and her masculine left hand (“a man hand”). When in 1996 I first encountered this early Botticelli painting at an art museum in Berlin, I was stunned by its candor. The artist might have had to switch to the pious, China-doll Queen Mary (see an example in the lower left corner), to avoid ex-communication!

Mary with the Child and Singing Angels

- Sandro Botticelli
- 1477
- Gemälde-galerie, Berlin
- Realism
- “Help, I’m a mother!”
- Contrast it with:



A fourth child, and the older of the couple's two daughters, came along on 14 November 1920. She was named Leona Anerine Horton, an unusual name. I am guessing that Ethel and Herbert gave their first daughter this combination of names simply because they liked how the names sound. In the photo on the next page, we have a glimpse of baby Leona, held by Herbert, next to his new Model T Ford. The occasion was the funeral for Ethel's grandmother, Zerilda Manervia Puckett, who died 30 January 1921.

A vintage black and white photograph of a family of six posing with their early 20th-century automobile. The father, wearing a dark suit and a fedora-style hat, stands in the center, cradling a baby in his arms. To his left stands the mother, dressed in a long, dark, high-collared coat and a wide-brimmed hat. In front of the car are three children: a boy in a dark suit and bowler hat stands to the left of the father, a young girl in a light-colored dress stands in the center foreground, and another boy in a dark suit stands to the right of the car. The automobile is a dark-colored, open-top model with large spoked wheels and a prominent front grille. The background is a simple, light-colored wall or fence, and the ground appears to be grass or dirt. The photograph has a slightly aged, grainy quality.

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!

Death of Herbert Horton and the Family's Move to Louisville

6

In about 1934, Ethel moved to Louisville, as did her five youngest children. Ethel took a job as a housekeeper for an elderly man named Charles Shuck (1875-1954) and probably also for his wife, Cora Price Shuck (1876-1935). When Cora died of coronary occlusion on 10 June 1935, her death certificate⁴ indicated that she had been ill for an “indefinite” period. Coronary occlusion is the partial or total obstruction of a coronary artery, usually resulting in a heart attack. Charles would have hired Ethel as a housekeeper when Cora became unable to cook or maintain the house. Perhaps Ethel helped care for Cora. Charles was 60 but still worked as a motorman on streetcars. As of the 1930 census, only two of the seven Shuck sons were still living at the house at 2532 Garland Avenue: Cecil, born in 1910, and James, born in 1917. According to the 1940 census reports, in 1935 only Cecil was living with his parents and by 1940 he was living at the Pewee Valley Sanatorium and Hospital in Oldham County, where he had a job as resident fireman. James was 18 when his mother died, but by 1935 he already had moved to a place of his own and married soon after that.

Ethel’s Marriage to Charles Homer Shuck

Sometime in the mid-1930s, Ethel married Charles Shuck. I have not found a marriage record for them but have no doubt the marriage occurred. She inherited from him the house at 2532 Garland Avenue in Louisville. Charles, then 65, was 21 years older. They are shown at right in 1938, when he accompanied her to a McCoun family reunion at the home of her parents. In the photos taken at this reunion, Ethel, age 41, looked uncharacteristically happy. Maybe this was a good time in her life.



Whereabouts of Ethel’s Children in the 1930s and 1940s

When Ethel accepted the housekeeper position, she needed to figure out where her seven children would live since she could not have them all with her in the Shucks’ household. We can be certain that suggestions from her brothers Glenn and Caesar influenced her decisions. Certainly, her brothers were never bashful about giving advice. Luckily for several of her sons, the Viviani family who owned the Kentucky Macaroni Company⁵ were happy to hire young adults who had recently migrated from Appalachia to Louisville.



1. Raymond: Ethel accepted the advice of her brother, Caesar, and allowed Raymond to complete high school at an affordable but high-quality boarding school, Berea Academy. Raymond even had one year at Berea College before he dropped out to find work. He enlisted in the Civilian Conservation Corps and served in Indiana from 1935-1937. From September 1937 to April 1939, Raymond lived with his mother and stepfather at 2532 Garland Avenue. Like his brothers Wilson and Glenn, he worked at the Kentucky Macaroni Company. Raymond's job was machine operator, which paid \$20 per week. As discussed in Raymond's biography, while working at the Macaroni Company, he and a co-worker named Virginia Cundiff had a relationship that resulted in her giving birth on 6 November 1938 to a baby girl named Carol. In 1939, Raymond moved to Campton, where he managed Glenn McCoun's automobile business and where, in early 1940, he met Marcia Bryan Horton. They married on 21 September 1940. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps from 1943-1946.
2. Wilson: The second eldest, Wilson, remained in Campton long enough for Uncle Glenn to worry that he was going to get himself killed. As was discussed in the biography of James Kash Cockerham, Wolfe County was a rough place with more than its share of quick-tempered men ready to avenge even trivial slights with gunshots. Glenn's solution was arranging for Wilson to live with his great uncle Joseph Eccles McCoun III on his Mercer County farm. Uncle Joe and his wife Maddie had no children of their own. A neighbor by the name of Clyde Chapman told Joe that he would hire Wilson to work on his farm, but under no circumstances was he to go out with either of the Chapman daughters. Of course, that was all Wilson needed to hear, and on 4 March 1939, 22-year-old Wilson and 17-year-old Corrine Chapman got married in Jeffersonville, Indiana. By the 1940 census they were living in Louisville, and he also was employed at the Kentucky Macaroni Factory.
3. Glenn: In 1934, at age 15, he was the oldest of the four Horton siblings to live at the Masonic Home for Widows and Orphans on Frankfort Avenue in Louisville.⁶ By 16 April 1940 when the census was enumerated, he was living with Ethel and Charles Shuck and working as a laborer at the Macaroni Company. He and a co-worker, Dorothy Fischer, married on 17 June 1944 and both spent the rest of their working lives working for the Macaroni Company.
4. Leona: It is unclear where the fourth oldest, Leona, was living when my grandmother went to work for Mr. Shuck. Perhaps she, too, lived for a while at the Masonic Home but didn't like it. Certainly, she lived for a time in the Shuck home, based upon what Ethel wrote Raymond in a 1943 letter set forth below on page 15. I cannot find Leona in the census for 1940, but she was living in Louisville through 1944 at least. A marriage record dated 13 January 1940 recorded Leona's marriage, at age 19, to James Bernard Schumacher. I cannot find him in the census either. Their child, Beverly, was born in Louisville on 8 May 1944.
5. Herb, Sam, and Virginia: When Ethel placed four of her children—Glenn, Herb, Sam, and Virginia—in an orphanage, the Masonic Home, she was one of many Kentucky parents to do so. As was explained in a 2017 publication⁷



"That was a time when, if a woman was widowed, there really weren't many options available to provide for her family," says Nicole Candler, spokeswoman for Masonic Homes of Kentucky. "She might have been able to get a job as a housekeeper or maid or as a nanny, and then her children would come to the orphanage. She would visit her children and have relationships but overall it just wasn't a time when she could take care of them on her own."

Masonic Homes later served families affected by World War I, coal mining accidents, the flu epidemic in the 1920s, and other hardships.

Below is an aerial photograph taken in 1926 of the Masonic Home, the grounds of which were laid out by the famous landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted.⁸



Response to a Distant Cousin's Criticism of Ethel

On December 12, 2012, a fifth cousin named Ann Horton posted on her Horton Family Tree on Ancestry.com the following story. Entitled "Abandoned," Ann wrote that it:

Seems like Lucy Ethel McCoun, widow of Herbert Hilary Horton and remarried to Charles H. Shuck "shucked" her responsibilities and placed both younger children (Samuel Hayard Horton and Virginia L. Horton in the Masonic Orphans Home in Louisville- where they show up in the 1940 Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY census! [Misspellings appeared in Ann's original story, shown below.]

Abandoned

Posted 24 Dec 2012 by Ann633367350

Seems like Lucy Ethel McCoun, widow of Herbert Hilary Horton and remarried to Charles H. Shuck "shucked" her responsibilities and placed both younger children (Samuel Hayard Horton and Virginia L. Horton in the Masonic Orphans Home in Louisville- where they show up in the 1940 Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY census!

Linked To

Samuel Hayard Horton

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Comments

Linda Horton I am uncertain why this scurrilous comment about my grandmother continues to be posted on a public tree on Ancestry.com when I made a request to the tree owner (by email to her dated March 14, 2014) and later to Ancestry.com that this story be deleted. An excerpt from my email follows:

Ann, could you please consider if it is really necessary to post such a story about my grandmother, Lucy Ethel McCoun Horton Shuck, especially considering that living persons might be stung by it? I am omitting details I provided to Ann about these living persons, to maintain their privacy.

Although it will be clear to any reader of this biography that I was not a fan of my paternal grandmother, I thought Ann's story unfair and inappropriate. I wrote Ann an email and asked her

to remove it. She did not reply and did not delete the story. I next sent a message to Ancestry.com suggesting that the story was inconsistent with their policies, and I asked them to delete it. They did nothing, and I received no reply. Having failed to achieve retraction through these direct messages, I next posted the following comments on Ann's story on her tree. And I include them here, because my angry rebuttal explained why in the 1930s widows placed their children in orphanages. This was happening not only in Louisville but in other places. I suspect that, for some children in the Masonic Home, both parents still were alive but unable to support their families in the economic catastrophe that was the Great Depression.

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6 years ago

Linda Horton Ethel Horton probably was thrilled to get a job in Louisville as housekeeper for a widower, Mr. Shuck. Cooking and cleaning were things she knew how to do. Ethel Horton had an 8th grade education, and that was as much as any Wolfe County child could get in those days unless the family paid to send him or her to a church boarding school. Her own mother had never learned to read or write. Once Ethel married Herbert Horton at age 17, she never expected to work outside the home--and once the death of her husband forced her to do so, how was she supposed to support herself? Consider the workplace discrimination against women and the lack of daycare centers. What was Ethel supposed to do with the little ones while she went to work to support the family? It is unlikely she had many options at the time. I am not sure when she and Mr. Shuck got married but the decision to do so probably had an economic element for each of [them].... [end of 2nd posting]

6 years ago

Linda Horton I am sure [Ethel McCoun Horton] would have preferred to have the three youngest children living with her but Mr. Shuck probably knew that, if there were three young children in the house she would not get as much done housekeeping. Regarding Glenn living in the Shuck household in 1940, at the time of the census, Glenn was 21. He probably was too old to live at the Masonic Home. While my aunt and two uncles no doubt would have preferred to live with their mother, they received good care and an excellent education at the beautiful Masonic Home and saw their mom and other family members regularly. And they all did well in their lives [details provided Ann are omitted for privacy reasons] Lastly, Ann, please consider whether it is nice to make puns about people's names. Mr. Shuck did not choose his last name and he, too, has descendants alive today. I really would appreciate it if you would remove the "Abandoned" story from your tree. ... Thank you in advance for considering my request. [end of excerpt from March 14, 2014, email. I received no response from Ann and none from Ancestry.com.] [end of 3rd posting of 3.]

6 years ago

At some point, Ann detached her offensive story from Ethel's page on her tree. However, as of 10 July 2021, her story is still attached to her tree's page concerning Ethel's son, Sam.

Horton Family in the 1940 Census

When the 16 April 1940 census enumerator arrived at the Shuck home at 2532 Garland Avenue, three family members lived there: Charles, Ethel, and Glenn, all reporting that they had lived at the same address in 1935;⁹ actually, I believe that Glenn was at the Masonic Home in 1935. The census stated that Glenn was a laborer at the Kentucky Macaroni Company (see image, page 7).

Shuck, Charles D	Head	M	W	65	M	No	8	8	Indiana	66	Same Home
—, Ethel	Wife	F	W	44	M	No	8	8	Kentucky	60	Same Home
—, Glenn H.	Son	M	W	20	L	No	H-1	9	Kentucky	70	Same Home

On 8 April 1940 when the census worker visited the Holt Hotel on Main Street in Campton, Raymond Horton was living there as a boarder. He reported that he worked as a garage manager and was paid \$1200 per year.

Waitress, Ruby	Servant	F	W	19	S	No	8	8	Kentucky		
Horton, Raymond	Hotel Guest	M	W	25	S	No	H-1		Kentucky		March 1940
Room - Anna	Hotel Guest	F	W	44	M	No	H-2		Kentucky		March 1940

Waitress	Hotel	FW						37	120
Garage manager	My Garage	FW						32	1200.5

This was the highest salary reported on that page of the Campton census. Second highest was the high school principal, whose annual salary was \$900. On the preceding page of the census were three young women renting a house on the other end of Main Street. One of them was Marcia Bryan, making \$1018 a year as a home economist for the National Youth Administration. Raymond and Marcia had not met, but they would marry later that year, on 21 September.

Newlyweds Wilson and Corrine were living in an apartment on Broadway in Louisville.

Head	M	W	23	M	No	H-1	Kentucky	Jamesplace	No	XOX	No	No	No	No	No	Laborer	macaroni factory	9
Wife	F	W	18	M	No	H-1	Kentucky	same place	No	XOX	No	No	No	No	No			

Like Glenn, Wilson was reported as working at the Kentucky Macaroni Company.

As mentioned earlier, neither Leona nor her husband James Bernard Schumaker, whom she had married on 13 January 1940, appear in the 1940 census.

The 13 April 1940 census pages showing Herb, Sam, and Virginia in the Louisville Masonic Widows and Orphans Home are set forth below. The entire pages are shown, rather than simply the Horton children's entries, to convey a sense of the numbers of children in the Home. Each Horton child was on a different page, a metaphor for the family's disintegration after their father's untimely death. The U.S. census for 1940 asked where each individual had been living in 1935; for the Horton children, the answer was that they lived in the Masonic home in 1935.

Herb, age 15:

Sam, age 12:

County Jefferson Township or other division of county First Magistrate's Home Institution Marion's Widows and Orphan Home POPUL

MONTHLY, APRIL 1, 1940

LOCATOR	HOUSEHOLD DATA	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF DEATH	DATE OF BURIAL	DATE OF INTERMENT	DATE OF CREMATION	DATE OF OTHER
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1		Craig, Robert	son	M. W. 9. 5	yr 3	Kentucky	1927					
2		McCall, Peggy	daughter	M. W. 10. 5	yr 3	Kentucky	1928					
3		Rice, James	son	M. W. 9. 5	yr 2	Kentucky	1929					
4		Rice, James	son	M. W. 11. 5	yr 2	Kentucky	1928					
5		Williams, J. C.	son	M. W. 12. 5	yr 3	Kentucky	1927					
6		Neely, James	son	M. W. 10. 5	yr 3	Kentucky	1928					
7		Neely, Robert	son	M. W. 9. 5	yr 1	Kentucky	1929					
8		McIntosh, Donald	son	M. W. 10. 5	yr 3	Kentucky	1927					
9		Grimes, William	son	M. W. 9. 5	yr 1	Kentucky	1929					
10		Grimes, Martha	daughter	M. W. 12. 5	yr 3	Kentucky	1927					
11		Wilcox, Thomas	son	F. W. 10. 5	yr 3	Kentucky	1928					
12		Thomas, Mary	daughter	F. W. 7. 5	yr 1	Kentucky	1929					
13		Thomas, John	son	F. W. 5. 5	yr 0	Kentucky	1930					
14		Thomas, Thomas	son	F. W. 11. 5	yr 3	Kentucky	1928					
15		Rudd, Oral	son	M. W. 12. 5	yr 3	Kentucky	1927					
16		Sawyer, Helen	daughter	M. W. 10. 5	yr 2	Kentucky	1928					
17		Davis, William	son	M. W. 11. 5	yr 3	Kentucky	1927					
18		Robinson, James	son	M. W. 12. 5	yr 3	Kentucky	1927					
19		Marick, Ray	son	M. W. 12. 5	yr 3	West Virginia	1927					
20		Strickland, Gary	son	M. W. 12. 5	yr 3	Kentucky	1927					
21		Strickland, Gary	son	M. W. 10. 5	yr 3	Kentucky	1928					
22		Murray, Robert	son	M. W. 11. 5	yr 3	Kentucky	1927					
23		Sellers, Charles	son	M. W. 15. 5	yr 6	Kentucky	1924					
24		Stevens, Howard	son	M. W. 13. 5	yr 6	Kentucky	1926					
25		Butler, George	son	M. W. 13. 5	yr 6	Kentucky	1926					
26		Dunagan, William	son	M. W. 12. 5	yr 4	Kentucky	1927					
27		Rice, Thomas	son	M. W. 12. 5	yr 4	Kentucky	1927					
28		Wright, William	son	M. W. 12. 5	yr 3	Kentucky	1927					
29		Horton, Samuel	son	M. W. 12. 5	yr 3	Kentucky	1927					
30		Staten, Jay	son	M. W. 13. 5	yr 5	Kentucky	1926					
31		Keeney, Donald	son	M. W. 14. 5	yr 5	Kentucky	1925					
32		Samuels, Rome	son	M. W. 13. 5	yr 5	Kentucky	1926					
33		Anderson, Grace	daughter	M. W. 14. 5	yr 4	Kentucky	1926					
34		Fluty, William	son	M. W. 12. 5	yr 4	Kentucky	1927					
35		Goodman, A.	son	M. W. 13. 5	yr 7	Kentucky	1924					
36		Russell, Harold	son	M. W. 13. 5	yr 6	Kentucky	1925					
37		Harper, Jackson	son	M. W. 8. 5	yr 4	Kentucky	1929					
38		Smith, Clarence	son	M. W. 13. 5	yr 5	Kentucky	1926					
39		Bradshaw, Ballou	son	M. W. 12. 5	yr 5	Kentucky	1927					
40		Grant, Daniel	son	M. W. 13. 5	yr 6	Kentucky	1925					

Woman's Choices, 1940-Style

My father told me that, in 1940, his mother became pregnant for the eighth time. She was 43 and Charles was 65. Each had seven children from their first marriages.

Ethel dealt with this pregnancy, which was unwanted, by obtaining a hysterectomy (removal of her uterus). At some point, Raymond and Ethel, were having a heated discussion on some subject in which her position struck him as hypocritical. As will be discussed later in this biography, Ethel's holier-than-thou religiosity was a pronounced personal characteristic that was irritating to some of the people who interacted with her. My father had zero tolerance for her religiosity and was unafraid to call her out when he felt she was being a hypocrite.

Their discussion, probably over the phone, went something like this. She criticized some third person, and Raymond said, "Mother! You can't talk! You had an abortion! That is what a hysterectomy is when there is a baby there!" Ethel didn't answer right away. When she did, she said, "Well, I didn't want no Shuck baby!"

I was conflicted about whether to include this information in Ethel's biography. My sisters persuaded me that, this is history, and it should be told truthfully. I do sympathize with the poor choices available to Ethel. I did quick research on whether it was common for a woman in the 1940s experiencing an unwanted pregnancy to have a hysterectomy, which is major surgery. I found many online discussions of deaths and injuries as a result of botched illegal abortions, but I found no discussion of hysterectomy for abortive purposes. My bet is that it happened, but doctors did not talk about it, fearing criminal prosecution and loss of their medical licenses.

In Her Own Words

When he was away from home during World War II, Raymond Horton and his wife Marcia Bryan wrote each other hundreds of letters. Marcia saved all of Raymond's letters, and my daughter Colleen and I scanned them in 2011.

There were in Marcia's collection several letters from Ethel to Raymond, all sent while he was undergoing either U.S. Army Signal Corps training or basic training. When overseas, Raymond was unable to save any letters. Set forth below are photocopies of three of Ethel's letters to Raymond when he was in Army training. The first letter was undated and no longer in its envelope. It was written in about April 1943, the month in which Raymond had completed Signal Corps training near Lexington, Kentucky, and was awaiting orders to report to Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana and then to basic training in Camp Crowder, Missouri.

Ethel updated Raymond on what was happening with his siblings, expressed concern about Leona, obviously was not thrilled that her sons were in the military and likely to be sent off to war, and considered it her business to know what Marcia did with her earnings.

HERBERT H. HORTON
2532 Garland Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky

1943

Monday Eve.

Dear Raymond.

I got your Card, and letter to day. So Sorry you are Sick. I thought that the Way would turn out.

Raymond dont force your self to go. you know what you can stand. better than they. Wilson got his Call for Decord of next month. He will half to go. If He passes his Examination.

He says If He passes He ~~wasnt~~
was going to Complain till They
Wouldnt keep him.

Well Raymond. I Called this
morning for Leona. where She him
living & phone was distrested
operator said. So I Then Called the
Resturant & She talked a little
while said she moved. I ask where
said her & Violet at Hotel. till they
could get a place. I ask her to

Come Home. said no she didnt
Want to. We Couldnt get along
She didnt have time to talk
to me. Well you Can Imagine
How my heart ache. She gone
Raymond.

Well I not Saw any thing of
Marcia scince Friday after you
left. seem I dont know any
thing to write.

Did Marcia send you any money -
let me know. Do Hope you -

After signing off on the letter, Ethel added two pages about a mysterious phone call she had received the day before from a woman claiming to be Raymond's girlfriend. Ethel wondered if the woman could have been "the Cundiff trying to find out where you were." Clearly Ethel was familiar with Virginia Cundiff's claim that Raymond was her baby's father—since 2017 we have known that Virginia's claim was true, due to DNA matches between the other children of Raymond and Virginia's daughter, Carol, born 6 November 1938, and Carol's son, Terry Saunders. Perhaps Raymond told his mother that Virginia's claim had no merit, and she believed him. She shouldn't have believed him.

Say Raymond, I was shocked yesterday phone rang. I ans and some woman said Is Ray Horton there. I told her no, you was in service.

I asked her her name + she said, I am Ray's girlfriend. I said do you know He is married. She says now I didn't. I am sorry.

I told her you had a woman left behind + you didn't need any girlfriend. So, she hung up. Raymond I can't understand. I don't think you would have one. I wondered if it could of bin [Virginia] Cundiff trying to find out where you were. I would like for you to make me an answer on this. I'm not saying anything to Marcia about it.

I want you to be a good old boy + have a good character that mother be pleased with + Love the Lord.

3
are well. Say & take care of your self
are you in trouble. In mind look trouble all I have ever seen. You don't have to be pulled off to war. and a daughter gone. I don't know what he kept all the consolation I have is in the Lord. I have for him. I don't see my troubles.
Well I close. I love you.
Regard. From Mother

HERBERT H. HORTON
9532 Garland Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky

Say Raymond. I was shocked yesterday phone rang. I ans. and some woman said Is Ray Horton there. I told her no, you was in service.
I asked her. her name + she said, I am Rays girl friend. I said do you know He is married.
She says now I didnt. I am sorry.
I told her you had a woman left be hind &

you didnt need any
girl friend. So she
hung up.

Raymond I Caint Under
Stand. I dont think you
would have one. I Wondered
If It Could Of Bin the
Cundiff trying to find out
where you were. I would
like for you to make me
an ang. on this. Do not saying
any thing to Marcia about it.

I want you to be a good
old boy. & have a good
character. that mother be pleased
with. & Love the Lord.

The second letter was posted on 31 May 1943 when Raymond was at Camp Crowder, Missouri, doing basic training. Marcia visited him there starting 30 June 1943 and probably returned to Kentucky with letters Raymond had received from family members while there. Ethel expressed the view that her mother, Syrene, was probably disappointed that Ethel had not come up for Decoration. Decoration Day was the predecessor to today's Memorial Day, presently celebrated the last Monday in May. From 1868 to 1970, the holiday was observed on May 30 each year, and it was called Decoration Day.

May 31, 1943

HERBERT H. HORTON
9532 Garland Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky

Sunday Eve.

My dear Raymond,

I just got through
talking with Marcia she
telling me you had got
our letters. I was worried
about it. Hope you are
well. are you having it
very hard. I sure be so
glad when war over & you
dear boys all home.

Wilson takes his final
exam, Wednesday. They
are at Burger, fishing
this week end. They ~~was~~
went Friday ~~the~~ He & his

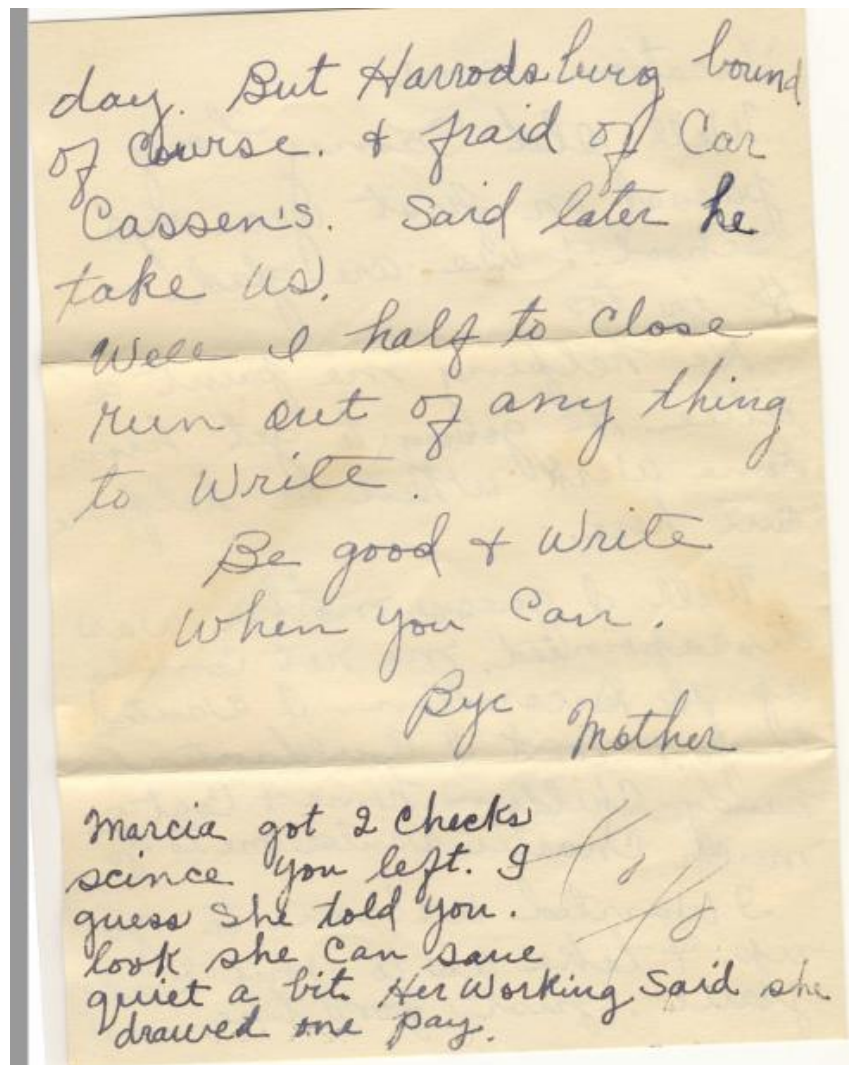
Vacation now.

Well old Sammy boy
passed on first year high
school. & we are glad. &
He is too.

He helping me paint a
litter. He going to get him
some work when he help me
out here.

Well I guess mother was
dissapointed. me not coming
up for Decoration. I wanted
to go. & look I Couldnt
hardy. Children home & Cost so
much. Charlie wanted me to go.

I wanted Wilson to go
up. & take us to your Dady
grave. just for the



day. But Harrodsburg bound
of course. & afraid of Car
Cassens's. Said later he
take us.
Well I half to close
run out of any thing
to write.
Be good & write
when you can.
Bye Mother

Marcia got 2 checks
since you left. I
guess she told you.
Look she can save
quiet a bit her working said she
drew one pay.

I am uncertain what Ethel meant when she said that Wilson was afraid of "Car Cassen's." Perhaps Cassens was Wilson's employer, and he had a company vehicle not intended for personal use. A report of a federal agency called the Interstate Commerce Commission included in its list of regulated companies a business called Cassens Transport Company that, as of 1977-1978, was doing business in three states, transporting cars to dealerships.¹⁰

Where Ethel wrote to Raymond that Marcia's "working said she drew one pay," I wonder whether this means that Ethel telephoned Marcia's place of employment (the Dupont Neoprene Company) to find out how many of her \$135 per month paychecks she had drawn? If so, this was outrageous behavior for a mother-in-law. But perhaps I am misreading the passage in question.

The next letter was postmarked 12 August 1943. At that time, Raymond was still in basic training at Camp Crowder, Missouri. On 30 August 1943, he reported to the Electronics Power School there, for the Diesel Mechanic course.

HERBERT H. HORTON
2532 Garland Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky

August 12, 1943

Wednesday Eve.

My dear Raymond,

I got your letter to day.
glad you are well.
and I am proud of you
doing so well in your
work. That makes me feel
a little proud. He well I
hope every thing works
out for you.

Herbert seems to be having
a very good time while
home. He is some slender
and broader shoulders. He thinks
his hardest schooling ever.
He is cute. you ought
to see him and

Sam. going out last nite
they both had them a girl
apeke. Sam rolling his
big brown eyes.

This Thursday Eve. Will finish
well we are all well.

I wish you could of seen
Herbert laugh when I
read your letter about him
taking after you. doing good
in school. and science.

Wee wish you could of bin
in with Herbert some.

Leona wont come on place
to see all three of children
I called told Land Lady to
tell her. Herbert In. Said she
did. + Leona thank her. + never
called me. Herbert went In

Cousin Robert Coldiron McCoun (1928-2019), Glenn McCoun's son, said that Ethel would come visit her mother and sisters in Campton and he would hear her gripe, gripe, gripe about Leona. Robert was convinced that Leona was simply a normal young person, wanting to have fun, but due to extreme religiosity, Ethel viewed her older daughter as a lost soul.

Ethel, Leona, and Beverly

What is odd in Ethel's letters fretting about Leona and her whereabouts is no reference to the fact that, in January 1940, Leona had married James Bernard Schumaker. Their child, Beverly Sue Schumaker, would be born on 8 May 1944, meaning that she probably was conceived in early September 1943, not long after the last letter pasted above. So perhaps Leona was living with her husband, rather than with a girl named Violet, when Ethel was desperate to locate her.

Beverly once asked me, through cousin Carol Jean Horton Sidebottom Graf, for any information I could provide about her father. I found no photographs, which Beverly really wanted, but I was able to tell her that, from a "paper genealogy" standpoint, her paternal ancestors seemed to be

Resturant Caint find her.
I reckon she clear gone.
Well I close. dont know
any more to write
Be good.
Dyc
Mother

normal American people. I did not research James Schumaker's ancestry thoroughly, but the family has deep roots not only in America—the immigrant ancestors were so far back that I did not find them—but also in Kentucky. Beverly said that her mother described her father as lazy. She would buy things for their apartment, then discover the next day that he had sold the items for cash. It sounds like he may have had an addiction to alcohol, cigarettes, or gambling.

Leona may have been apprehensive about introducing her husband to her mother because of his religion. The Schumaker family were Roman Catholic, and that would not have gone over well with a woman whose religious tenets included a view that anyone with religious views different from hers, including “papists,” as Catholics once were called, were bound for Hell.

Whatever Ethel thought of Leona and her choice of husband, she was crazy about their daughter, Beverly Sue Schumaker, a cute tyke whose head was covered with dark curls. Leona made a fateful choice when she asked Ethel to babysit her infant a few days so she could travel to Detroit, as she was considering relocating there. When Leona returned to pick up Beverly, Ethel refused to let the baby go with Leona. When we both were children, Beverly recounted to me that “my mother kissed me when she was wearing bright red lipstick, and I had these red kisses all over me.” This event seemed to be part of Ethel's bill of particulars as to why she thought Leona unfit to raise Beverly. Leona ultimately left without her daughter. Beverly lived with Ethel the rest of her childhood and teenage years, moving out only after either her first marriage (to a soldier named David Wilburn) when Beverly still was in high school or after her second marriage to a man named Lee Roy Capps. The two photos below show Beverly in 1947 at Syrene Cockerham McCoun's home. She was adorable.



In 1947 at the home of Syrene Cockerham McCoun: Sam Horton; Nannie McCoun Strong; Hettie McCoun Horton, Ethel McCoun Horton Shuck, Wayland McCoun, Charles Shuck, Virginia Horton, Eugene Horton. Front: Beverly Schumaker, born in 1944, Carl B. Strong.

On the next page, the same day: Sam Horton, Hettie McCoun Horton, Nannie McCoun Strong; Beverly Schumaker, Wayland McCoun, and Ethel McCoun Horton Shuck.



Ethel, whom Beverly called “Mother,” gave me all of Beverly’s hand-me-downs, even shoes. Nothing ever fit. Beverly was really skinny, and her feet were narrow. I was a different body type, and my feet were anything but narrow. But I was impressed with Ethel’s skills using detergent, bleach, and starch. The shirts were immaculate, had a distinctive chlorine smell, and were so stiff they stood on their own.

This seems the right time to mention several things that bothered me about my grandmother, both related to Beverly. One was her favoritism when it came to grandchildren. Effie Shuck and Beverly once stayed at our house during one of our parents’

rare, just-the-two-of-us trips. (And trips with kids included were rare, too...when you are self-employed, as my father was, if you don’t work you don’t get paid.) There was a bedtime spat between Beverly on the one hand, and my siblings and me on the other. Beverly went and complained to our grandmother, who reflexively took Beverly’s side and came storming down the stairs to our bedrooms with a broom, hollering about how we had better be nice to Beverly. We understood that Beverly, though a grandchild like the rest of us, had a special status with our grandmother. My siblings recall that Effie Shuck had a pronounced preference for boys. Her three letters pasted above are affectionate to Raymond and speak in glowing terms about Herb and Sam. The only discussion of Leona was to criticize her, and Virginia is not mentioned at all.

As a grandparent, Ethel was markedly fonder of our brother, Ray, then known as Bud, than of his sisters. This preference did not bother me, as I enjoyed a warm relationship with Grannan and our great grandmother, Syrene Cockerham McCoun.

The second concern I have about my maternal grandmother is how she raised Beverly. She was led to believe that a woman’s goal in life is to find a husband. Ethel’s views came to us through Beverly, who criticized me and our cousin Gary, son of Herbert Junior, for wasting our time taking college preparatory courses. I paid no attention to her viewpoint. Then Beverly married the first of three times while in high school. That early marriage was encouraged by Ethel: Raymond explained that his mother always wanted a man around who could drive her to church. She had had Raymond in mind for this role, an idea that he rejected when he married Marcia.



Bud and Effie Shuck



Religion and Bigotry

Ethel was, depending on your point of view, a Godly woman or a religious fanatic who was at her core a narrow-minded hypocrite. Those of us who watched the “church lady” sketches by Dana Carvey¹¹ when he appeared on Saturday Night Live laughed especially hard because he really nailed this genre of human being. Truly it seemed that the comedian had met Ethel Shuck, so on point were his depictions of a holier-than-thou yet fundamentally flawed older woman.

Ethel’s religiosity was of the type that make most other people uncomfortable. Her constant allusions to “the Lord” or “sweet Jesus” may have been motivated by an effort to convert others, but it came across to others as a holier-than-thou attitude. Her parents were Methodists, and that was the religion she belonged to until she moved to Louisville. In the Kentucky mountains in the early 1900s, itinerant Methodist ministers would periodically visit Campton and hold revival meetings for several days. According to Raymond, Ethel preferred living in Campton to living on the farm, in part because, when she lived in Campton, it was easier for her to get to visiting preachers’ revival meetings. It might not have mattered to their father, Herbert, whether the family lived in the country or in the town. As an oil driller, he would be driving elsewhere in either case. Raymond and his brothers preferred life in the country and resented it when their mother persuaded their father to move into Campton. Raymond considered the matter evidence of his mother’s self-centeredness, putting her own preferences ahead of what he considered the best thing for children, growing up in the country.

The photo below was taken in 1940 when an itinerant Methodist minister visited Campton on court day, when a lot of people came into town from the country.¹² Ethel was not among the crowd, as she was living in Louisville at the time, but the photo may provide an approximation of what these meetings might have looked like when Ethel was living in Campton.



Raymond recalled that his mother liked to invite the preacher over for Sunday dinners of fried chicken. The adults would sit around feasting and talking for more than an hour, while the kids hovered nearby hoping that something would be left when at last the adults arose from the table. The kids would be lucky if a couple of wings were left, or the chicken's back or neck. Raymond complained to Linda that his mother would stealthily slip a drumstick to Glenn, her favorite, with a whisper, "Don't tell the others I gave you this!"

Once she arrived in Louisville, Ethel found the Methodist Church there to be far too staid and chilly for her taste. She joined the Nazarene Church, an evangelical Protestant denomination that emerged from the nineteenth century Wesleyan-Holiness movement. From the criticism my father levied against his mother's church, I expected to characterize the Nazarene denomination as a Bible-thumping, hellfire-and-damnation, "holy roller" version of Protestantism. What I have found is quite different. The church is an offshoot of the Methodist Church. Its founder, Phineas Bresee, "sought to return to John Wesley's original goals of preaching the good news of the gospel to the poor and underprivileged." If this goal seems admirable, consider also that the denomination has since its beginnings sought "to respond to the Great Commission of Jesus to 'go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:19)."¹³ Although as of 2016 the United States is the country with the largest number of Nazarenes—its 626,811 members comprised 25.36% of the organization globally—the African division with 647,414 members and 27.29% of the global membership has become the largest of the regional divisions. The denomination is particularly strong in Mozambique, Benin, Ethiopia, and Cape Verde. These numbers demonstrate the priority the denomination has given to mission work in Africa.

This background puts into context a statement my father attributed to his mother and that demonstrated to him her hypocrisy. Ethel told Raymond that she believed she had missed her calling to go to Africa and be a missionary, but she couldn't do that because she "never could stand to be around all those n---s!" She said this to him with a completely straight face, not comprehending the irony of her unchristian bigotry! Ethel, like any of us who descends from her Puckett grandmother, is a cousin of Barack Obama on his mother's side, the nation's first president with African ancestry. Effie Shuck must be turning over in her grave.

In 1965, Ethel's church named her Queen for a Day. Ethel appreciated the recognition (right).

During the late 1960s and 1970s, the West End of Louisville became predominantly African American, and Ethel was uncomfortable with the demographic changes. The last straw was when the First Church of the Nazarene moved to the suburbs. She then agreed with family members' advice to move to the east end of



Louisville, close to the home of her youngest son Sam, his wife Lorraine, and their three children. So, Ethel sold the house on Garland Avenue and moved to a small tidy house, just south of the Watterson Expressway off Taylorsville Road. That home was much closer to Jeffersontown and my father was able to drop by and see his mother often.

Ethel as Grandmother

The sweet picture at right was taken in 1954 when Raymond brought his fifth child, Jean Lee, to visit her great grandmother Syrene Cockerham near Campton. For the record, Ethel's right hand did not resemble a baseball mitt: the photographer snapped the photo just when Ethel was moving her hand. Perhaps Jean was restless, and Ethel was trying simultaneously to smile into the camera and to ensure the baby wasn't about to fall off the lap of "Little Mother," as Ethel referred to Syrene.



Charles Shuck died on Christmas Day, 25 December 1954. The Louisville *Courier Journal* published this obituary two days later. Charles was buried next to his first wife in Brandenburg, Kentucky.

We regularly visited Ethel when she lived on Garland Avenue. She always produced a fine meal, urging us to eat a lot. Instead of sitting down to join us during the meal, she would say, "Oh, I'll just have some tea and a cookie." My parents tried to persuade her to join us at the table. Ethel's food must have been good food, as I have no memories to the contrary.

SHUCK, Mr. Charles H., passed away December 25, 1954, at Kentucky Baptist Hospital, in his 78th year; family residence, 2532 Garland Ave. Devoted husband of Mrs. Ethel Horton Shuck; beloved father of Mr. Albert and Mr. Kenneth Shuck, of Louisville, and Mr. Cecil Shuck, Gary, Ind.; Mr. Floyd Shuck of Malabar, Fla.; survived by stepsons Sam, Raymond, Herbert, Wilson, and Glenn Horton; stepdaughters, Mrs. Virginia Spraat, Louisville; Mrs. Leona Terry, Detroit, Mich.; brother of Mr. Mollie Beanblossom, Mauckport, Ind.; Miss Bessie Shuck, New Middletown, Ind.; Mr. Walter Shuck, Sullivan, Ind.; also 9 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and 12 step-grandchildren. Remains resting at Owen Funeral Home, 2611 Virginia Ave. Funeral services Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock from The First Church of The Nazarene, 24th and Howard Streets. Burial at Capt. Anderson Cemetery, Brandenburg, Ky.



The 1956 photo at left shows Raymond's family enjoying a meal at Ethel's house on Garland Avenue. Marcia and Ethel were standing. Seated from left were Laurel, Robin, Jean, Linda, and Raymond. Perhaps Raymond and Marcia's one son

at the time, Ray, known as Bud, was also at the table. He may have been sitting in front of where Marcia was standing.

Below: The photo memorializes a visit to Ethel's house on Easter, 1953. Raymond's children Robin, Laurel and Linda stood next to Beverly.



The photo above shows Ethel preparing to throw a snowball, while dressed in clothing that tells us that the picture was posed. She did not contemplate a full-out snowball fight with anyone. We have a good view of Ethel's home on Garland Avenue with its nice porch, including a swing. The picture was taken in 1963, so we know that her move to the house near the Watterson Expressway occurred after that year. The room at the right, with the window behind the swing, was where Ethel's son Glenn and his wife Dorothy lived. We never saw them when we visited Ethel, but occasionally we could hear muffled voices from the other side of the living room wall.

In her final years, Ethel lived in the Georgetown Manor Nursing Home, shown in this photo.



Ethel passed away there on 20 April 1985. The obituary on the next page was published in the *Louisville Courier Journal* on 22 April 1985. Ethel was buried in Resthaven Cemetery in the Buechel area of Louisville.

Mrs. Charles Shuck, 88, formerly of 3042 Hendon Road, died Saturday at Georgetown Manor Nursing Home.
 She was the former Ethel McCoun Horton, a native of Campton.
 Survivors include four sons, Raymond T., C. Wilson, Herbert H. and Samuel H. Horton; two daughters, Leona Dotson of Taylor, Mich., and Mrs. Virginia Spratt; two brothers, Glenn McCoun of Winchester and Cesar McCoun of Jackson; a sister, Hettie Horton of Carlisle, Ohio; 19 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.
 The funeral will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Highlands Funeral Home, 3331 Taylorsville Road, with burial in Resthaven Memorial Park.
 Visitation at the funeral home will be from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Monday and after 11 a.m. Tuesday.
 The family requests that expressions of sympathy take the form of contributions to the Arthritis Foundation.



As a postscript, I include a story, “Effie Shuck and the Heirloom,” that my sister, Ethel’s granddaughter Laurel Horton, wrote in 1978 and kindly provided. Laurel is an expert on folklore and especially quilts.

Lastly, an appendix sets forth brief biographical sketches of Ethel’s seven children and, where available, their grandchildren.

I have written longer biographies—the ones about my father, Raymond Horton, and my late husband, Henry Ho—but this biography of my paternal grandmother presented other challenges. It will be obvious to my readers that she was not one of my favorite people. I do nevertheless admire her tenacity in the face of adversity.

I welcome comments, particularly ones that add information about Ethel’s life or offer different perspectives about Ethel.

Linda R. Horton, 14 July 2021, lrhorton@comcast.net

Effie Shuck and the Heirloom

I can't give you the quilt.
That's promised to your Aunt Virginia.

Here's something you might like though,
but it won't hurt my feelings
if you don't want to take it.

It's sort of old-fashioned.
It's a pillow cover.
I forget what you call it,
this way you pull the yarn through.
It's made of linen, you see here.

Exie Cable made it and give it
to little Mother or your Great-uncle Glenn, one.
Exie had an eye for my brother Glenn.

Turfing, that's what you call it.
You see here, you push the varn
through from the back
and it puffs up out here on the front side.
Makes them flowers stick out like that.

Exie made it and give it to little Mother
as a present one time.
She done the words real nice,
here where it says "God Bless Our Home"
in the middle of all them flowers.

Tuffing, that's it. Not turfing, tufting.

Exie Cable really had it for Glenn.
Poor thing.
She was a little hunchback.

Now it won't hurt my feelings none
if you don't want to take it.

Laurel Horton
1/1/78

Appendix: Lucy Ethel McCoun Horton Shuck: Her Descendants



Raymond Thomas Horton; see *Raymond Thomas Horton* and *Raymond Thomas Horton (1914-1987): His Timeline and Descendants*, 31 May 2021.

- Born in Campton on 15 November 1914.
- Served in the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1935-1936.
- Married Marcia Bryan in Jeffersontown, 21 September 1940.
- Served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps in New Guinea, the Philippines and Japan, 1943-1946.
- Managed his own television sales and service business.
- Served on the Jeffersontown City Council.
- Died of congestive heart failure in Bethesda, Maryland, 4 July 1987. Body donated to Georgetown University Medical School.

- Seven children:
- 6 November 1938, Carol Lee Cundiff McClellan Saunders; mother Virginia Cundiff, a co-worker at the Kentucky Macaroni Factory.
 - Carol's husband: Thomas Edward Saunders, 1935-2012.
 - Carol's children: LeeAnn Saunders Elzy Frye, born 1958; Terry Wayne Saunders, born 1961; and LaDonna Saunders, born 1963.
 - Grandchildren, including Amber Saunders, Alicia Elzy Kinkaid, Megan Elzy; also at least one great grandchild.
- With Marcia Horton (photo on page 27):
- 1 December 1946, Linda Rae Horton.
 - Husbands: Henry Ninghan Ho, 1937-1987; Carl Vernon Nelson, Jr, born 1951.
 - Children: Jonathan Bryan Horton, born 1976; Colleen Elizabeth McKay Horton, born 1979. Stepchildren: Michael Ho, MD, born 1960; Cassandra Jolena Nelson, born 1979; Douglas Scott Nelson, born 1982.
 - Grandchildren: Craig James Swink, born 2001; Ryan Henry Horton, born 2009.
 - Step grandchildren: Nicholas Ho, born 1996; Lauren Ho, born 1999; Logan, Jocelyn, and Claudia McLemore, born in 2004, 2009, and 2012, respectively.
- 2 July 1948, Laurel McKay Horton. Husband: Wayne Richard, born 1948.
- 27 April 1950, Robin Liane Horton. Husband: James "Jake" Bauer, 1945-2006.
 - Children: Jamei Elizabeth Bauer, born 1985; Morgan Naomi Harper, born 1990.
- 31 October 1952, Raymond Bryan Horton. Wife: Theresa Moore, born 1952.
 - Children: Julianna Louise Charnigo, born 1976; Sarah Joyce Summers Blessing, born 1980; James Raymond Horton, born 1985.
 - Grandchildren: Micah Summers, born 2010; Adaline and Asher Blessing, born 2018.
- 27 April 1952, Jean Lee Horton. Husband: John Strother, born 1953.
 - Children: Daniel Leland Strother, born 1985; Thomas McKay Strother, born 1987.
- 27 June 1959, Robert Vance Horton; had Down Syndrome; died 1 April 2018.

Linda Rae, 1946
 Laurel McKay, 1948
 Robin Liane, 1950
 Raymond Bryan, 1952
 Jean Lee, 1954,
 Robert Vance, 1959



Charles Wilson "Wilson" Horton

- Born in Campton on 10 December 1916.
- Was probably named for President Woodrow Wilson.
- Married Corinne Chapman in Jeffersonville, Indiana, on 4 March 1939. Both worked for awhile at the Kentucky Macaroni Company.
- 1949 Louisville City Directory listed Wilson as working as a foreman for the Lamppin Transportation and Warehouse Company.
- Harry Lamppin's Will gave the option to five employees, including Wilson, to buy the business. Wilson was owner for 35 years.
- He also worked for the Transit Authority of River City (TARC).
- Died 28 March 1991.

One child, Carol Jean Horton, born 15 September 1943 (photos below).

- Married, first, Paul Sidebottom (1944-2009).



- One child, Abbey Chapman Sidebottom, born 30 August 1971. Husband: Warren Zacher. Two children, born in Minneapolis: Corinne Burke Sidebottom, born 2003, and Margaret Jean Sidebottom, born 2006 Family photo is on the next page.
- Carol married, second, Rudiger Graf, born 1935.



Glenn Marvin Horton

- Born in Campton on 2 October 1918.
- Married Dorothy K. Fisher. No children.
- Glenn and Dorothy lived in a one-room apartment in Ethel's Garland Avenue home until she sold the house.
- Both worked for many years at the Kentucky Macaroni Company.
- Glenn died 28 May 1984.
- Dorothy died on 22 December 2003.

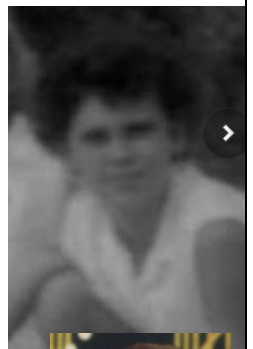


Leona Anerine Horton

- Born in Campton 14 November 1920.
- On 13 January 1940, married James Bernard Schumaker. One child with him, Beverly, born 8 May 1944, died 30 July 2019. At right, Beverly at age 11.
- Beverly had one child, Brian Esters, born 1978, from her marriage to Douglas Esters (1934-2015). Brian's photo is at right.
- Leona moved to the Detroit area and married Roy Terry. Three children: Michael, born 1946; Donna, born 19 December 1948

(photo below left); Dennis, 1951-2010.

- Leona married Raymond Beach. One child, Robert Beach, born 1 July 1961. Photo, below right.
- Leona married Harold Dotson.
- Leona died in Arizona, 5 May 2006.



Gary David Horton, 41, formerly of Louisville, died Sunday in Orange, Calif., from injuries he received in a fire.

He was a sales representative for Betz Chemical Co. in California and a member of the Methodist church.

Survivors: his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Horton; and a grandmother, Virginia Eddleman.

Funeral: 11:30 a.m. Friday, Pearson's, 149 Breckinridge Lane, with entombment in Evergreen Mausoleum. Visitation from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday.



1942: Corinne Chapman Horton,

Marcia Bryan Horton,

Ethel Horton Shuck,

Virginia Horton,

Leona Horton Schumaker

Herbert Hilary Horton, Jr.



- Born 8 January 1925.
- Served in the U.S. Navy.
- Married Eva Eddleman on 20 August 1946; later they divorced.
- One son, Gary, born 22 September 1947. At right, a Southern High School freshman in 1962. He definitely inherited Herb's great smile.



- On 25 December 1988, Gary tragically died in Orange County, California. He was single. See obituary, above.

- Herbert married, second, Phoebe [maiden name unknown]; she and Herb lived in Mount Sterling, Kentucky.

- Herbert died in Mount Sterling on 22 May 2006.
- Herbert was buried in Ezel, Morgan County, Kentucky

Samuel Hayward Horton

- Born 1 July 1927. Served in the U.S. Navy.
- Married Lorraine LeBarre in Lexington, Kentucky on 9 September 1949.
- Graduated from Berea Academy and the University of Kentucky College of Engineering.
- 33-year career as a mechanical engineer at Ford Motor Company.

Three children:

- 1 November 1952, Samuel Lebarre Horton, MD; married: Jeanne Baker; son Trevor Baker.
- 31 May 1956, Michael David Horton; married Gene McIntosh.
- 24 January 1962, Mary Margaret Horton; married Brad Hughes.
- Sam died 31 October 2004. His obituary is at right.
- Lorraine died in Oklahoma on 12 October 2014.
- Both were buried in St. Michael's Cemetery in Louisville.



Below: Mike, Sammy, and Lorraine in the late 1950s.



Below: wake following Lorraine's funeral in October 2014: Jack Spratt, Diane Spratt Bielefeld, Virginia Horton Spratt, Deborah Spratt Burdorf, Linda Horton, Mike Horton, Jeanne Horton, Sam Horton.



HORTON.
SAMUEL HAYWARD, 77,
of Louisville, died Sunday at his home.

He was a native of Wolfe County, KY, a graduate of Masonic Home, Berea College and University of Kentucky School of Engineering, a retired mechanical engineer from Ford Motor Co., with 33 years of service, a Navy veteran and a member of St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Lorraine L. Horton; a daughter, Mary Horton; sons, Michael Horton (Gene McIntosh) of Atlanta, GA, and Dr. Sam Horton (Jeanne) of Claremore, OK; brother, Herbert Horton of Mt. Sterling, KY; sister, Virginia Spratt; and a grandson, Trevor Baker of Claremore.

VIRGINIA LEE HORTON, BORN DECEMBER 16, 1930



1940s



1931 Herbert Horton
holding Virginia

1942
Ethel
Virginia
Leona



1947



- Graduated from Shawnee High School and Secretarial School.
 - Married John “Jack” Spratt on 21 July 1951.
 - Worked as a secretary for the Adelberg Real Estate Company.
- Three children:
- 21 April 1959, Deborah Lee Spratt. Husband: Karl Burdorf, born 1957.
 - Children: Kyle Andrew, born 7 July 1990, and Taylor Ryan, born 12 September 1995.
 - 28 September 1960, Diane Lynn Spratt. Husband: Dale Bielefeld, born 1958.
 - Children: Ashley Lauren, born 22 September 1988, and Adrienne Lynn, born 11 January 1992.
 - 5 January 1963, Stephen Carroll Spratt. Wife: Cindy Lou Corpier, MD, born 1960.

Jack died 22 December 2107. His obituary is on the next page, along with a photo of Jack and Virginia, taken at a family event in 2004.

SPRATT, JOHN THOMAS "JACK",



Jack loved to walk the sandy white beaches of Panama City Beach, Florida with his wife of 66 years, Virginia. Theirs is a love that will last forever. They shared a passion for vacation travel as well as many an afternoon driving to parks, museums and historic sites around

Kentucky. A native Louisvillian, Jack served in the Marine Corps for 3 years during peacetime and was a Master Mason—Masonic Home BOAZ Lodge 850. He spent his entire professional career at LG&E, 1948-1989, 41 years, retiring as the Chief Gas Dispatcher. Jack was conserving energy long before it was trendy. An avid bowler, he played on LG&E's team for many years, winning trophies and prize money he shared with the guys.

Jack was a gentle soul, always calm in the whirlwind of his active family. When he spoke we all listened. He came to our aid for everything from home repairs to grandchild care and anything that needed a Dad's touch.

Left to cherish his memories are his loving wife, Virginia and three children, Debbie Burdorf (Karl), Diane Bielefeld (Dale) and Stephen Spratt (Cindy); grandchildren, Ashley & Adrienne Bielefeld, Kyle & Taylor Burdorf. Jack was preceded in death by his mother, Almyra Spratt Daverin, father, Walter Spratt and brother, Walter Spratt.

In recent years, Jack overcame and lived with health challenges that took him from our family home to the Forum at Brookside. The staff at the Forum embraced him and supported us on the good days and a few tough days. They call him "Blue Eyes." We will be forever grateful. We will always remember our dad's beautiful blue eyes, his happy and easygoing personality and that he always took care of us.

After a short hospitalization at Baptist Health Louisville, Jack passed into heaven November 20, 2017. His final resting place is Resthaven Cemetery.



¹ “What is a Rainbow Baby” <https://www.healthline.com/health/pregnancy/rainbow-baby#The-symbolism-of-a-rainbow>

² What to expect when you are pregnant with a rainbow baby <https://www.mother.ly/life/rainbow-baby>

³ Ethel and Herbert had a total of seven children while Hettie and Eugene had eight. The relationship of these 15 cousins is referred to as “double first cousins.” Double cousins share more DNA, due to this endogamy, than do typical cousins of the same degree of kinship. Raymond said relatives commented on how much he and his double first cousin Seldon Horton resembled each other.

⁴ Kentucky. Kentucky Birth, Marriage and Death Records – Microfilm (1852-1910). Microfilm rolls #994027-994058. Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort, Kentucky.

⁵ <https://www.cardcow.com/847808/louisville-kentucky-home-macaroni-company/>

⁶ Wikipedia, Masonic Widows and Orphans Home.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masonic_Widows_and_Orphans_Home (accessed 4 May 2021). The home was formed in 1867 after the Civil War due to the large number of widows and orphans of Masons in Kentucky. Originally located in downtown Louisville, World War I and the Spanish influenza outbreak led to such overcrowding that the decision was made to construct a larger home at the present-day location on Frankfort Avenue in the St. Matthews neighborhood of Louisville. Construction began in 1925 on the 176-acre location, and residents moved in on 15 August 1927. The grounds were beautifully landscaped according to plans laid out by the Olmsted brothers. The largest concentration of orphans at the home was 632 in 1930, just four years before the four Horton children came to live there. The last orphan left in 1989, and since then the home has been used solely for senior care. Raymond’s widow, Marcia Bryan Horton, spent the last two months of her life, before her death at age 90, in the skilled nursing care unit at the Masonic Home.

⁷ Provider, Long Term & Post-Acute Care, August 2017 <https://www.providermagazine.com/Monthly-Issue/2017/August/Pages/Celebrating-150-Years-of-Care.aspx>

⁸ University of Louisville Libraries, <http://digital.library.louisville.edu/cdm/ref/collection/cs/id/5124>

⁹ Inez Congleton Dulaney, Horton Genealogy.

¹⁰ Interstate Commerce Commission Reports, Volume 130 Motor Carrier Cases, Decisions of the Interstate Commerce Commission, June 1977-November 1978.

https://www.google.com/books/edition/Interstate_Commerce_Commission_Reports/tmZATgpUTDQC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=cassens+car+sales+in+louisville,+ky&pg=PR7&printsec=frontcover

¹¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcWpmnXEouQ>

¹² Library of Congress collection, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/fsa.8a43499/>

¹³ Wikipedia, Church of the Nazarene, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_the_Nazarene