

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

**By her granddaughter, Linda R. Horton, 12 October 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 the photo of Ethel on the next page, 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. The census of 8 June 1900 had listed her parents, Robert, age 39 and “Sarha” (Syrene), age 30, and their five children alive at that time: Glenn, age eight; Hettie, seven; Ethel, four; Samuel C., two; and Effie W., five 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!

McCorquodale, John	58-45	May	1861	31	27	9
— John	Wife	W F	May 1870	30	24	15
— Glenn	Son	W m	Nov 1891	2	0	
— Hettie	Daughter	W F	Dec 1892	7	0	
— Ethel	Daughter	W F	Sept 1893	4	0	
— Samuel C.	Son	W m	Apr 1897	2	0	
— Effie W.	Daughter	W F	Jan 1899	2	0	
Dailes, Mahala	Daughter	W F	Mar 1883	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.<sup>1</sup> 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 the baby Mahala. Following

Ethel, three more children were born: Samuel Caesar in 1898 (named for his great grandfather Samuel Pepper) and two sisters, Effie Wayland and Nancy Mayo, 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.<sup>2</sup>

In my husband Carl Nelson's family, there are two instances in which 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, eight. 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.

McCoan, R.P.	Hector	m w 44 m 19	Kentucky	Oriskany	Kentucky	English	Former
Suzanne	wife of	m w 44 m 19 7 b	Kentucky	Burkeville	Kentucky	English	Former
— Ethel	Son	m w 18 5	Kentucky	Burkeville	Kentucky	English	Former
— Ethel	Daughter	m w 14 5	Kentucky	Burkeville	Kentucky	English	Former
— Ceasar	Son	m w 12 5	Kentucky	Burkeville	Kentucky	English	Former
— Effie	Daughter	m w 10 5	Kentucky	Burkeville	Kentucky	English	Former
— Marion	Daughter	m w 8 5	Kentucky	Burkeville	Kentucky	English	Former

### 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.<sup>3</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday—perhaps it was being celebrated the day the photo was taken. And Herbert would have had his 26<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.



## Mary with the Child and Singing Angels

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



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!

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, 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. *From left to right: Ethel, dressed very stylishly; Herbert holding Leona; Raymond, Glenn, and Wilson.*



By the time of the 1930 census, completed in Campton on 22 April, two more sons had joined the family, Herbert Hilary Horton, Jr, born 8 January 1925, and Samuel Hayward Horton, born 1 July 1927.

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!

Line	Column	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000
------	--------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Ethel and Herbert's seventh and last child, Virginia Lee Horton, was born 16 December 1930. Family historian Inez Congleton Dulaney said the baby was named for Inez's sister, Virginia Lee Congleton, MD (1911-1972), a physician who never married and had no children of her own. Inez and Virginia Congleton were daughters of Cora Horton Congleton, Herbert's sister.

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

The following year brought tragedy to the family of Herbert Horton when he contracted typhoid fever and died on 20 July 1931. To say that Ethel was unprepared for a catastrophe such as this is an understatement. She was a 34-year-old widow with seven children ranging in age from seven months to 16 years. She lived in an era in which there were no programs such as the ones we have today that establish a minimal social safety net. There was no workman's compensation program; no social security; no unemployment or welfare benefit; and no programs to provide food or shelter to widowed women and their children. Herbert had no life insurance.

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 certificate<sup>4</sup> 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 Sanitorium 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 Company<sup>5</sup> 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 five Horton siblings to live at the Masonic Home for Widows and Orphans on Frankfort Avenue in Louisville.<sup>6</sup> 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 Company.
4. Leona: The fourth oldest, Leona, lived at the Masonic Home for two years. According to her daughter, Donna Terry, Leona's early years in Wolfe County were miserable. Nothing she

did pleased her mother, and when her father returned home from work-related travel to oil fields, he would beat Leona whenever Ethel said the girl needed it. At times when Herbert was away, Ethel directed one of Leona's brothers to beat her. When the girl began to develop a womanly figure, Ethel's reaction was to swaddle the girl's chest in strips of cloth to flatten her bosom.

In comparison to her unhappy early childhood, Leona enjoyed her years at the Masonic Home, shown at right in 1929.<sup>7</sup> She was treated kindly and attended classes right there at the Home. It was discovered there that Leona had a health condition, and she was treated for it. It was a condition that, if untreated, could have taken her life. That might have happened if she hadn't been living at the Masonic Home. The food there wasn't so great, Leona told Donna. She and other girls would volunteer to clear the tables after faculty and staff finished eating and would eat some food left on the plates. But Leona remembered her time at the Home with such fondness that she regularly attended its reunions, taking the bus from Detroit to Louisville if an adult child was unable to drive her.



At some point, Leona moved in with her mother and stepfather, but she was made to feel unwelcome. Her mother said, "This is not your house; it is Charlie's house." Ethel sent Leona out to work cleaning other people's houses. Before 1940, Leona moved out. On 13 January 1940, at age 19, Leona's married James Bernard Schumacher. I was unable to find Leona or James in the 1940 census. The letters from Ethel to Raymond made clear that Ethel was not only unaware of Leona's whereabouts during the early 1940s but also of her marriage. Leona and James' child, Beverly, was born in Louisville on 8 May 1944. The girl was raised by Ethel, as is discussed on page 20.

5. Herb, Sam, and Virginia: Herb, Sam, and Virginia were at the Masonic Home longer than Glenn and Leona. It should be understood that, when Ethel placed five of her seven children in the Masonic Home, she was one of many Kentucky parents to do so.<sup>8</sup>



"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.

## 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 responsibilites 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 Lousivlle, 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 responsibilites 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 Lousivlle, Jefferson Co., KY census!

Comments

**Linda Horton** I am uncertain why this scurrilous comment about my grandmother continues to be posted on a public tree on Ancestry.com. 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 protect their privacy.] ...who knows what any of us would have done as a not quite 35-year-old woman in the 1930s whose husband died unexpectedly of typhoid fever, leaving behind seven children and no insurance—just when the great Depression was hobbling America. If you study who was living at the Louisville Masonic Home at the time of the 1940 census, you will see many more children than adults... In those days, the USA and the state lacked social safety nets for people like my grandmother. Like a lot of other families at that time, she and her brood of seven moved from Appalachia to Louisville. [end of 1st posting]

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 protect their privacy.] ...who knows what any of us would have done as a not quite 35-year-old woman in the 1930s whose husband died unexpectedly of typhoid fever, leaving behind seven children and no insurance—just when the great Depression was hobbling America. If you study who was living at the Louisville Masonic Home at the time of the 1940 census, you will see many more children than adults... In those days, the USA and the state lacked social safety nets for people like my grandmother. Like a lot of other families at that time, she and her brood of seven moved from Appalachia to Louisville. [end of 1st posting]

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.

**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 it 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 protect their privacy.] ...who knows what any of us would have done as a not quite 35-year-old woman in the 1930s whose husband died unexpectedly of typhoid fever, leaving behind seven children and no insurance—just when the great Depression was hobbling America. If you study who was living at the Louisville Masonic Home at the time of the 1940 census, you will see many more children than adults... In those days, the USA and the state lacked social safety nets for people like my grandmother. Like a lot of other families at that time, she and her brood of seven moved from Appalachia to Louisville. [end of 1st posting]

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 12 October 2021, her story is still attached to her tree's page for 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;<sup>9</sup> 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 8).

Shuck, Charles	Shuck	2 m	W	65	2 m	83	Alabama	1	Shuck
—, Ethel	Wife	1 f	W	44	m	no	8	Kentucky	1
—, Glenn H.	Son	2 m	W	20	1	Shuck	19	Kentucky	1

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.

Shuck, Ruby	servant	F	W	19	3	70	8	Kentucky	R
Horton, Raymond	Guest	M	W	25	5	70	4	Kentucky	North
—, Anna	Guest	M	W	42	14	70	12	Stenographer	North

Waitress	Waitress	Per	1	37	120	3
Garage manager master	Garage	Per	1	32	120	3

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. 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:

Virginia, age 9:

County <u>Jefferson</u>		TOWNSHIP or other division of county <u>Fifth Magisterial District</u>		Block No. <u>1</u>		Institution <u>Masonic Widows and Orphans Home</u>		POP	
LINE	NUMBER	LOCATION	REFERENCE DATA	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	AGE
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
NAME OF EACH PERSON WHOM AGED 10 YEARS OR OVER LIVED IN THIS HOUSE AS OF APRIL 1, 1860, WITH OR WITHOUT HIS OR HER FATHER AND MOTHER.									
1		Brownfield, Ruth <u>o</u>	female	F. V. 15 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	Same place	7
2		Grandma Fannie <u>o</u>	female	F. V. 14 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	Same place	7
3		Protest. Mother <u>o</u>	female	F. V. 14 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	Same place	7
4		Cost. Wilson <u>o</u>	female	F. V. 14 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	Same place	7
5		Winkins. Norwell <u>o</u>	female	F. V. 13 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	Same place	7
6		Patrick, Culver <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 15 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	Same place	7
7		Leadburn, Anna <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 17 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	Same place	7
8		Crabtree, Hobie <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 15 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	Same place	7
9		Slepp, Anna <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 15 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	Same place	7
10		Southland, Nellie <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 12 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. Lee Kentucky	7
11		Sander, Tom <u>o</u>	male	F. W. 12 5	son	Kentucky	poor	R. Weston Kentucky	7
12		Boo, Mary <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 12 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. Morgan Kentucky	7
13		Greenleaf, Anna <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 12 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. F. Lee Kentucky	7
14		Sander, Ruth <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 12 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. P. Lee Kentucky	7
15		Greenleaf, Ruth <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 12 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. P. Lee Kentucky	7
16		Roe, Barbara <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 12 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. Lee Kentucky	7
17		Davis, Madeline <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 12 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. Johnson Kentucky	7
18		Dolph, Nellie <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 12 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McDaniel Kentucky	7
19		Dancer, Baby <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 12 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McElroy Kentucky	7
20		Fugate, Anna <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 12 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. Rivers Kentucky	7
21		Wortley, Margaret <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 12 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. Rivers Kentucky	7
22		Wortley, Virginia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 12 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. Rivers Kentucky	7
23		Selkingham, Maria <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 12 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. Carter Kentucky	7
24		Roe, Margaret <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 12 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. Powell Kentucky	7
25		Roe, Anna <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 12 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. Morgan Kentucky	7
26		Stanley, William <u>o</u>	male	F. W. 9 5	son	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
27		Stibbings, John <u>o</u>	male	F. W. 9 5	son	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
28		Starkland, Dorothy <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 9 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
29		Homer, Estelle <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 9 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
30		Wise, Bettie <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 7 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
31		— Neddelot <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 7 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
32		Seville, Lotte <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 7 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
33		Elmer, Anna <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 11 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
34		Blodsworth, Jessie <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 11 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
35		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
36		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
37		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
38		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
39		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
40		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
41		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
42		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
43		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
44		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
45		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
46		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
47		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
48		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
49		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
50		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
51		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
52		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
53		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
54		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
55		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
56		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
57		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
58		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
59		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
60		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
61		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
62		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
63		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
64		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
65		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
66		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
67		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
68		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
69		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
70		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
71		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
72		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
73		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
74		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
75		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
76		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
77		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
78		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
79		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
80		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
81		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
82		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
83		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
84		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
85		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
86		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
87		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
88		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
89		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
90		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
91		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
92		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
93		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
94		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
95		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
96		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
97		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
98		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
99		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
100		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
101		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
102		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
103		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
104		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
105		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
106		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
107		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
108		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
109		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
110		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
111		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
112		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
113		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
114		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
115		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
116		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
117		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
118		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
119		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
120		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
121		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
122		Bratfield, Lydia <u>o</u>	female	F. W. 10 5	daughter	Kentucky	poor	R. McShan Kentucky	7
123									

## 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 holier-than-thou attitude 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!" ("Well," begins many sentences of eastern Kentuckians. It is pronounced "Way-uhl" followed by a pause.)

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 going through 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  
2539 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 second of next month. He will half to go. If he passes his Examination.

He says if he passes he ~~wouldnt~~ was going to complain till they wouldnt keep him.

Well Raymond. I Called this morning for Leona. where she been living & phone was disconnected. Operator said. So I then Called the Restaurant & 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 since 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 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. Try & take care  
of your self  
are you in trouble. I'm in  
trouble all I have  
ever seen. You don't  
having to be pulled off to  
war, and a daughter gone.  
I don't know what he says  
all the consolation I have  
is in the Lord. as I don't  
trust him. I don't bear my  
trouble.  
Well I close. I love you.  
Regards, from  
Mother

HERBERT H. HORTON  
2532 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 Ray's girl  
friend. 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 be hind +

you didn't need any  
girl friend. So she  
hung up.

Raymond I can't under-  
stand. I don't 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 ans. on this. I'm not saying  
any thing to Marcia about it.

I want you to be a good  
boy, & have a good  
atti. that mother be pleased  
& love the Lord.

HERBERT H. HORTON  
9532 Garland Avenue  
Louisville, Kentucky

May 31, 1943

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 ~~went~~  
went Friday ~~He~~ & his

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. The predecessor to Memorial Day, which today celebrated the last Monday in May. From 1868 to 1970, the holiday was observed each year on May 30, and

it was called Decoration Day. Families would visit cemeteries, tidy up family members' graves by pulling weeds and cleaning leaves, and add fresh flowers.

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.<sup>10</sup>

Vacation now.

Well old Samy boy passed on first year High School. & we are glad. & He is too

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

Well I guess mother was disappointed. me not coming up for Decoration. I wanted to go. & look I couldnt hardly Children home & Cost so much. Charlie wanted me to go.

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

day. But Harrodsburg bound of course. & afraid of Car Cassens. Said later he take us.

Well I half to close run out of any thing to write.

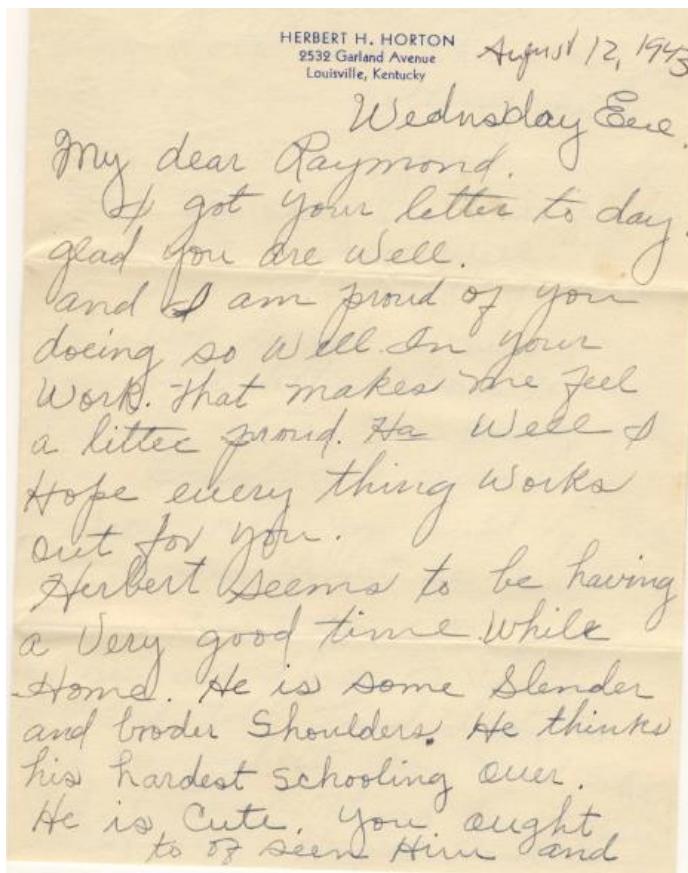
Be good & write when you can.

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 drawed one pay.

Where Ethel wrote to Raymond that Marcia's "working said she drawed 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.



Sam. going out last nite they both had them a girl apiece. 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 sense.

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

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.

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

~~X~~ ~~X~~ ~~X~~

with her husband, not with a girl named Violet, when Ethel tried to locate her.

Beverly once asked me, through our cousin Carol Jean Horton, for any information I could provide about her father. I found no photographs, which Beverly really wanted, but was able to tell her that, from a “paper genealogy” standpoint, her paternal ancestors seemed to be 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. He would neither get a job nor care for Beverly as a baby. Leona would buy things for their apartment, then discover the next day that her husband had sold the items for cash. It sounds like he may have had an addiction to alcohol, cigarettes, or gambling. Churchill Downs in central Louisville has hundreds of horseraces year round, not simply on Derby Day, and there are Louisvillians who develop a serious addiction to betting on races.

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 for 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 leave 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

Cousin Robert Coldiron McCoun (1928-2019), Glenn McCoun’s son, said that Ethel would come down from Louisville to visit her mother and sisters in Wolfe County. 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 her extreme views of what was proper behavior, 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 the lack of reference Leona’s January 1940 marriage to James Bernard Schumaker. Their child, Beverly Sue Schumaker, was born on 8 May 1944, meaning that she probably was conceived in early September 1943, not long after the last of the above letters. Leona was probably living

Leona unfit to raise Beverly. Leona ultimately left without her daughter. Beverly lived with Ethel the rest of her childhood and teenage years. While still in high school, Beverly married a soldier named David Wilburn. That marriage did not last. Later she married a man named Lee Roy Capps. Her third marriage to Douglas Esters was a happy one and produced a son, Brian, who is a successful pharmacist.

Two photos on this page show Beverly in 1947 at Syrene Cockerham McCoun's home. She was adorable.

Above, from left: Sam Horton, Nannie McCoun Strong, Hettie McCoun Horton, Ethel McCoun Horton Shuck, Wayland McCoun, Charles Shuck, Virginia Horton, Eugene Horton. Front: Beverly Schumaker and Carl. B. Strong.



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 Effie Shuck's skills with detergent, bleach, and starch. The shirts were immaculate, had a distinctive chlorine smell, and were so stiff they stood on their own. They did not, however, appear to be comfortable clothing, even if they had fit me.



At left: Ethel and Charlie Shuck.

Below: Sam, Hettie, Nannie, Beverly, Wayland, Ethel



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 stayed at our house for several days 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: her son 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.

### **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 Carvey<sup>11</sup> 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 Effie 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 that she believed herself a better person than other people. Her parents were not at all like this. They were Methodists, and that was our grandmother's religion 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.



**Bud and Effie Shuck**



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 move evidence of his mother's self-centeredness, putting her own preferences ahead of what her husband and children liked best, 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.<sup>12</sup> Ethel was not among the crowd, as she was living in Louisville at the time, but the photo may provide an approximation of what the open-air version of revival meetings might have looked like a few years earlier 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).”<sup>13</sup> 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," Ethel's name for 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 Effie Shuck 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." Then she would eat in the kitchen. Donna remembered that our grandmother would drink tea out of a Pyrex measuring cup, which seemed odd behavior. My parents tried to persuade Ethel to join us at the table. The food must have been good, as I have no memories to the contrary. The 1956 photo below right 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 his and Marcia's one son at the time, Bud (a nickname for Ray), was also at the table. He was probably in front of Marcia.

Donna remembers an unhappy visit to our grandmother's house. Leona needed to run an errand, and Ethel took advantage of her daughter's absence to try to brainwash Donna and her brothers Mike and Dennis. Ethel shocked them by disclosing that Beverly was not her child but was Leona's: Beverly was their sister. Ethel claimed Leona was a bad mother and had abandoned Beverly.

Donna told our grandmother to stop saying bad things about their mother. Ethel and Leona had a huge argument that night. Donna said her mom was a great mother, despite several troubled marriages and years of financial difficulties.

**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.



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



The photo at right 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.



Mary R.  
ch and  
children;  
n. Tues-  
Catholic  
with bur-  
Funeral  
will be  
day.  
leNulty,  
& Eliza-  
f Brown  
ughters,  
Shaaron  
ns and  
s. Irene  
and 10  
30 a.m.  
Home.

**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.

Visitation  
be after 10

**Mrs. Da**  
3413 Susa  
Jewish Ho

She was  
native of C

Survivo

Frank We

G. Wortha

Stephen G

Marcelia I

Bonnie S

and a grea

The fur

Wednesda

Church in

tombment

soleum.

Visitatio

Home, 27

from 4 to

to 2 p.m.

at the c

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.

This biography of my paternal grandmother was difficult to write. 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. She came from hearty stock, as is seen from the biographies of her parents, four grandparents, and eight great grandparents that form the McCoun branch of this family history writing project.

I welcome comments.

Linda R. Horton, 12 October 2021, [lrhorton@comcast.net](mailto: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 yarn  
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 Corrine 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 on the

next page).

- 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 in 2003, and Margaret Jean Sidebottom, born in 2006.
- 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.





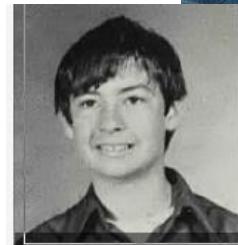
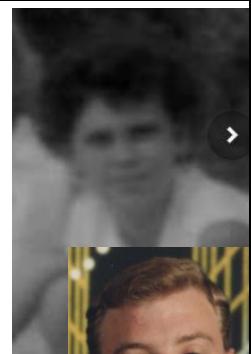
Leona Anerine Horton

- 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 was next married to Roy Terry. They moved to the Detroit area. Three

children: Michael, born 21 April 1946; Donna, born 19 December 1948 (photo below); Dennis, 1951-2010.



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



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.



- 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

**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.

### 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.
- Below: Sons Mike and Sammy with Lorraine in the late 1950s.



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: 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 HAYWELL**, 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 (Deborah and Diane are pictured on the preceding page):

- 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.

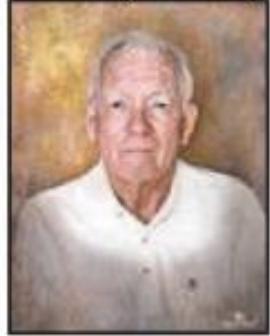
Jack died 22 December 2107.

At right: Jack and Virginia attended a family event at the Jeffersontown Museum in 2004.

Jack’s obituary is on the next page.



## 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 peace-time 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.



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

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

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

<sup>6</sup> Wikipedia, Masonic Widows and Orphans Home.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/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.

<sup>7</sup> University of Louisville Libraries, <http://digital.library.louisville.edu/cdm/ref/collection/cs/id/5124> The grounds of the Masonic Home laid out by the famous landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted.

<sup>8</sup> Provider, Long Term & Post-Acute Care, August 2017 <https://www.providermagazine.com/Monthly-Issue/2017/August/Pages/Celebrating-150-Years-of-Care.aspx>

<sup>9</sup> Inez Congleton Dulaney, Horton Genealogy, 1979.

<sup>10</sup> 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](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)

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

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

<sup>13</sup> Wikipedia, Church of the Nazarene, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church\\_of\\_the\\_Nazarene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_the_Nazarene)