

## **Chapter 4 Genealogy**

### **FOWLER:**

**Grandfather Fowler passed away before I was born: William Lewis Fowler, born October 4, 1857, in Colfax Township, Harrison County, south of Andover, Missouri; about two miles from where I was born, and lived there his entire life. He married Sarah Ellen Jestes, born February 29, 1880. He died November 27, 1923 and is buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, where we attended Church. William Lewis Fowler's parents, William N. and Nancy Jane Bush Fowler, are buried there too. They came to Harrison County, Mo., from Hart County, Kentucky about 1856.**

**Grandmother Fowler, Sarah Marie Ellen Jestes was born April 12, 1860 in Indiana and died May 6, 1929 and is buried next to her husband. We have not researched the Jestes Family. About all we know is Sarah's father was Joseph Jestes and we think her mother was Nancy A. Keplinger. Nancy Jestes is buried at the Andover Cemetery. I don't remember much about my grandmother. I thought I remembered visiting her and sitting under a buffet playing with a china cat but my mother didn't remember my grandmother having a china cat, so I don't know. I do remember the sale they had after she died. I remember standing in the doorway and seeing lots of people being in the yard for the sale. I was only 3 years old then.**

**My Dad was told by his parents, that he would inherit their farm upon their death and that the papers were in the desk stating this, but no such papers were found. My Dad's oldest brother and his wife, Clyde and Eva Miller Fowler, bought the farm and lived there for several years. They had no children. Eva had two daughters, I think, from a previous marriage.**

**About 1950 or '60, Uncle Clyde sold the farm and they moved to Omaha, Nebraska to be near Aunt Eva's daughters. They lived there until their death and are buried in the Omaha, Nebraska area.**

**Clyde Lewis Fowler, born December 20, 1884, died October 6, 1966.**

**Arthur Durant Fowler, Clarence's other brother, born September 22, 1887, died November 20, 1966, buried at Mt. Pleasant near his parents. He lived most of his life in the Pawnee community west and north of Blythedale, near his sister, Bessie and Frank Hahn. Later he lived in Princeton, Mo.**

**Uncle Bud was a bachelor and lived life a little on the wild side! He always had a roll of bills in his pocket when he came to visit and gave us kids some money - coins.**

I remember one visit of Uncle Bud's. He and Dad got sick drinking "Home Brew". Dad got drunk and spent the night on a bench behind a shed. I went out to be with him and he told me to go back in the house. I would drink Home Brew with Dad if he would let me. I'm not sure why as I do not like beer. Mom was very much against any kind of drinking and it appeared she was not too pleased when Uncle Bud came to visit Dad. I think Mom thought he would lead Dad astray!

Della, Dad's oldest sister, born March 1880. Her first husband was Ira Ewings and her second husband was John Fetty. Della died in childbirth April 24, 1899. She is buried in the Andover Cemetery next to her first husband. When we were little kids I thought Dad told us Della died from a fish bone being caught in her throat. Because of this when we ate fish Dad would tell us to take a bite of fish and then a bite of bread and be very careful we did not swallow a fish bone. I found out later that Della died in childbirth. I don't know who had a fish bone caught in their throat. Another thing we were told about Della was that John Fetty, her second husband, tried to dig up her body that was buried next to her first husband. I don't blame him.

Leona Belle Fowler, Clarence's sister, born January 9, 1882, married Thomas Henry Currie, died June 17, 1976, buried in the Lamoni, Iowa Cemetery. Aunt Lonle and Uncle Tom Currie lived in Lamoni, Iowa about 8 miles north and west from our farm.

Aunt Lonle had a daughter, Hazel, born in 1901, out of wedlock, if you can imagine that in that day and age. We always called her "Big Hazel". She married David Snethen Jones and they moved to California. Hazel died in 1991.

Aunt Lonle and Uncle Tom had 5 daughters and 2 sons.

Violet, born in 1909, married Harold Waggoner, lived in Idaho, and died in 1965.

Mabel, born in 1912, married Clarence Levenson, lived in Van Nuys, California for years. I got to know her later in life when I lived in California. After Uncle Tom passed away, Aunt Lonle moved to Van Nuys, California, and lived with Mabel and Clarence until her death in 1976. Mabel now lives in Calabasas, California near her only son Richard.

Richard, born in 1914, and Harry, born 1911, both drowned in 1922.

Bonnie Leigh, born in 1917, married Lawrence Watt, lived in Iowa, died in 1973. (Her son, Eddie Watt, pitched for the Baltimore Orioles. When we lived in Maryland, Warren and I went to see him play).

**Augusta Marie, "Gustie", born in 1920, married Tom McCabe, and lives in California.**

**Elizabeth Ellen, "Betty Ellen", born in 1922. She married Don Hurst and they lived In Eagleville. Mo. They were divorced and she moved to California and married Sam Skinner. Betty Ellen died In 1983.**

**When I was little, Aunt Lonie's three oldest daughters were grown, married and had moved away. Bonnie was dating and got married while I was a teenager. Gustle and Betty Ellen thought they were too old to play with me so I never really got to know them before they moved away.**

**I visited Aunt Lonle and Uncle Tom often when I was young. Aunt Lonle taught me to sew and to embroider. I embroidered several tea towels made out of bleached floor sacks. More about visiting Aunt Lonie in my high school days.**

**Bessie Jane Fowler Hohn, Dad's youngest sister, born July 19, 1890, and married Benjamin Franklin Hohn, "Uncle Frank". Aunt Bessie passed away In May 1940 and is buried at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery near her parents. Uncle Frank worked on farms for other farmers. I think they lived in the Pawnee Community near Hatfield. Mo. Uncle Bud lived near them. Aunt Bessie and Uncle Frank had 8 children, 7 girls and 1 boy. Isn't that strange; Dad had 8 children, Aunt Lonle had 8 and, so did Aunt Bessie!**

**I know very little about Aunt Bessie's children even though they lived In Iowa and Missouri. They lived near us and we saw each other often when we all were little. Uncle Frank and Aunt Bessie and the younger children moved to California In the 1930's when so many went west. I remember being at their house and saying "Good-bye". They had their old car loaded with everything they could take. Pauline said later that she wishes she had kept more of the family things her mother left, gave away or threw away when her parents moved to California. The move did not prove to be such a good idea. They picked fruit and followed the farm workers. Uncle Frank died later and Aunt Bessie came back to Iowa and stayed with her daughter, Lols before she died so she could be buried in Missouri near her parents.**

**Pauline, born September 23, 1909, married Joe Cook and lived In Eagleville, Mo. Pauline ran a restaurant for years. They had five children: Bobby, Elaine, Jimmy, Gary and Dale Wayne. I usually see Pauline when I go to Missouri.**

**Ruth, born October 12, 1911, married Bill Swlgart. They lived near us on a farm when I was little. Later they moved to Princeton. Mo. Uncle Bud usually lived near them after Aunt Bessie moved to California. We would see them occasionally. They have a son Richard, a daughter Dorothy and other children but I don't know their names.**

Lois, born December 15, 1913, married Spencer Stephens and lived up in Iowa. They have a daughter Evelyn and other children. After Spencer passed away, Lois married Don Bennett. They live in Purdy, Mo., not far from Cassville where Carol lives.

Hazel, born February 14, 1915, married Nelson Patterson and lives in northern California. At one time they lived in Crescent City, California.

Doris, born September 18, 1918, married Charley Ramsey. They live in northern California.

William "Dean", born January 27, 1921, married "Toots" Gracie Stanley. They have some children and live in Iowa. We see them most summers when we are all in Missouri.

Margaret "Chub", born April 16, 1924, married a man named Marshall and lived in California. They had lots of children. The story goes that Chub had a bunch of kids and false teeth before she was 11 years old. I have only seen her once since we were kids.

Wanda Jean, born March 26, 1931, has been married several times. She lived in California and Alaska. According to Pauline, Wanda is "wild" and only comes around when she is down and out.

Doris, Dean and Chub came to spend the night several times when we were little. At one time they lived near us, to the west, across the creek. I don't remember ever spending the night with them. One time when Doris visited, Virginia and Doris were in on the boys bed with the door closed and would not let me join them. I got a hammer, opened the bedroom door, and threw it at them. Needless to say I spent a long time on a chair that day.

## **HILL:**

Grandmother Hill passed away before I was born: Caroline Shepherd Hill, born February 4, 1866, in Clay Township, Harrison County, Missouri, died January 8, 1918 and is buried in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. Caroline's father was John Shepherd, born in 1824 in Butler County, Ohio; married Sarah McCauley (McCally) in Carol County, Indiana. They lived in Bremer County, Iowa and Putman County, Mo. before moving to Harrison County, Mo. around 1857. Sarah was 4 years old when she came to America with her parents. John's father was Andrew Shepherd who was born in Ireland. The house John and Sarah Shepherd built is still standing in Clay Township, Harrison County, Missouri.

One of my earliest memories was visiting Caroline's sister and her husband, Louisa and Marlene Hensley. They lived across the creek from Grandpa Hill. While visiting there, I remember Uncle Marlene was sitting in a rocking chair with curved arms, and he drummed his fingers, finger nails, on the rocker's arms! Strange to remember this, but I still do. Marlene Hensley died in 1933. He was Rozella Stanley's great-grandfather. We went to High School with Rozella.

Grandfather Hill; John Colson Hill was born October 5, 1867 in Caldwell County, Mo., married Caroline Shepherd December 20, 1892, died October 8, 1950 and is buried in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery next to his wife Caroline and her parents, John and Sarah Ann McCally Shepherd. John Colson Hill was the son of Maurice Higginbotham Hill and Lucy Davis. Lucy died in 1881 and is buried in Caldwell County, Mo. I have been told that Maurice Higginbotham Hill weighed 300#. Lucy weighed 95# and was red headed. Maurice and his six small children moved to Harrison County, Mo. in 1883. We have traced the Hill family back to a John Hill that died in 1881 in Amherst County, Virginia.

Grandpa Hill was the only grandparent I had growing up. He came to visit us often in his car with a rumble seat. He was a big man. I thought of him as being 6' 8" tall and weighing 350#, but he really wasn't that big, more like 6' 2" and weighed 240#. He had brown hair and brown eyes. Grandpa married Lesty Hullinger on June 3, 1926. They lived in Davis City, Iowa and had three children. The oldest son, Jackle, died when a baby. James "Jim" was born in 1930 and Jean in 1933. We did not see Jim and Jean very often as our Mother did not approve of Grandpa's second marriage to a "younger woman". Lesty was Mom's age. Grandpa and Lesty were divorced in 1936 but they continued to live near each other and were friends, or so Mom told us.

Grandpa came to see us often and wanted "Clabbered Milk" to eat when he came. Mom always had some for him, regardless of when he might stop by. (Clabbered Milk is kinda like Yogurt). Sometimes we rode the train up to visit him. Grandpa walked to the train depot in Davis City every morning and evening when the train came through.

John Maurice Hill, Maude's oldest brother, born August 22, 1898. He lived in St. Joe, Mo. and was a painter. He had reddish hair and green eyes. I remember Uncle Maurice and his wife, Mabel, coming to our house one Christmas bringing us all lots of Christmas presents. We thought for sure he was Santa! Uncle Maurice became sick from the paint fumes and spent the last years of his life in the Missouri State Hospital in St. Joseph, Mo. He died March 19, 1953 and is buried at Mt. Pleasant.

Mildred Loudine Hill, Maude's sister, born December 5, 1900. We call her Aunt Dean. She is tall, 5' 8", and has black hair and brown eyes. She was a Country School Teacher for years. She taught at several country schools in northern Missouri in the 1920's and '30's. She would teach at a country school during the fall and winter and then attend Teachers College during the summer. She did this for years and years. She changed to teaching in Iowa in the 1940s. She was the Principal at the Lamoni Elementary School for 6 years. In 1953 she moved to Iowa Falls, Iowa, and later became a Doctor of Education at the College there. She kept close contact with Mom and us kids. She saw to it that we had clothes to wear to school, and Mom depended on her advice about - lots of things.

I stayed part of one summer with Aunt Dean at the Hill Farm which was north of the Mt Pleasant School one mile and then east another mile. Aunt Dean planted flowers. To water the flowers, we had to carry water from a well, up a steep hill. More about Aunt Dean later.

Harold Arther Hill, Maude's brother, was born April 26, 1904. I only remember him living in Kansas City, Mo. Uncle Harold was tall, had green eyes and red hair but not as red as our mother's hair. He would come and stay with us quite often especially in the spring. He would pick buckets and buckets of wild black berries and gooseberries which Mom would can. Uncle Harold was lots of fun and we kids loved for him to visit. He had a drinking problem and kept a bottle in his car. Mom would not let him bring anything to drink into the house. In 1940 he married Georgia Balley and they had one son, Roland Balley Hill, "R.B.". Uncle Harold and Aunt Georgia were divorced. She moved back to Moberly near her parents. I hear from her at Christmas each year. R.B. is married and lives in California. Uncle Harold died July 11, 1979 and is buried at Mt Pleasant.

Roland Andrew Hill, Mom's youngest brother, was born October 2, 1906. Uncle Roland was tall, about 6'3", had black hair and brown eyes. He married Mary Lyle in 1930 and they had one son, Roland Andrew Hill, Jr., "Jerry", born July 19, 1934. They lived in St. Joseph, Missouri where Uncle Roland was a Surveyor for the Missouri State Highway Department. When I was about 13 years old, Grandpa and Aunt Dean, drove me to visit them. I was to stay all summer but after about two weeks I would wake up hearing the roosters crowing! I was so homesick they sent me home on the train.

Uncle Roland smoked a pipe. He always wore a hat and was very dignified. He was always there for us even though he was a very busy man.

**On July 4th, Uncle Rolands would come to visit us br1nglng fire-crackers. Uncle Roland and Aunt Mary brought gifts at Christmas. In 1953 they moved to Trenton, Mo. where be was promoted to Resldent Engineer.**

**Jerry died In 1957, Aunt Mary In 1977 and Uncle Roland In 1995. They are burled In the Memorial Park Cemetety, St. Joseph, Missouri. More about Uncle Roland and Aunt Mary later.**