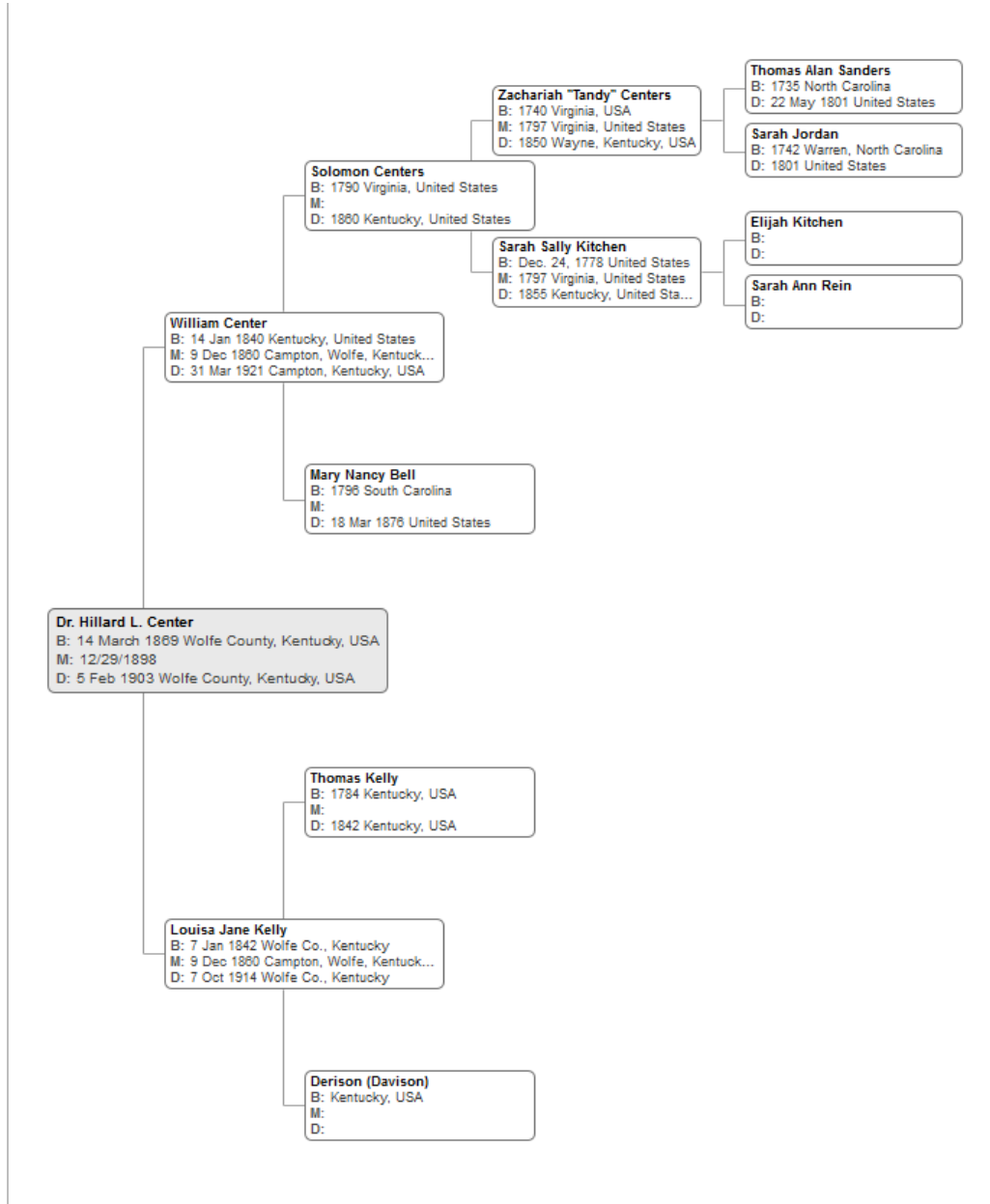
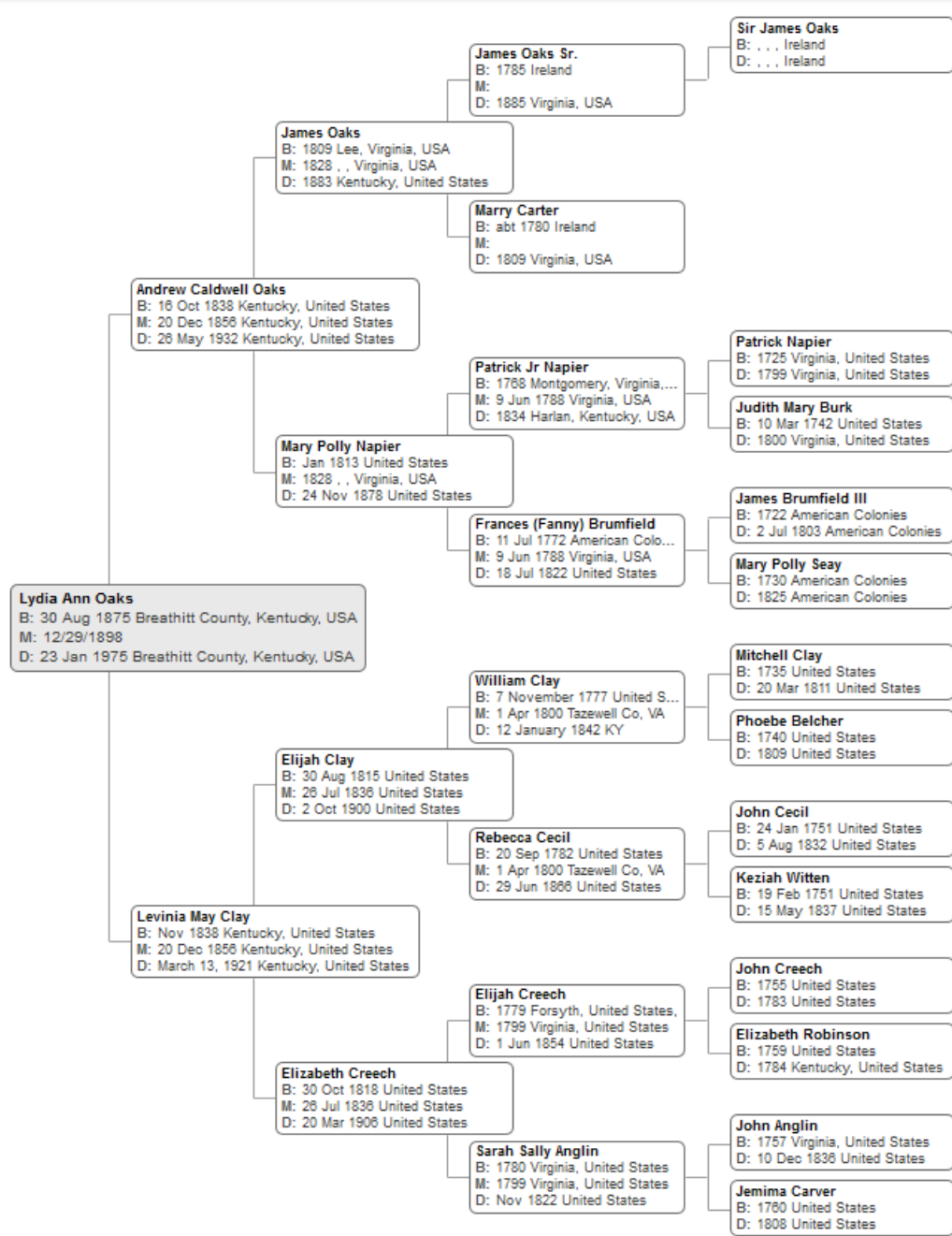


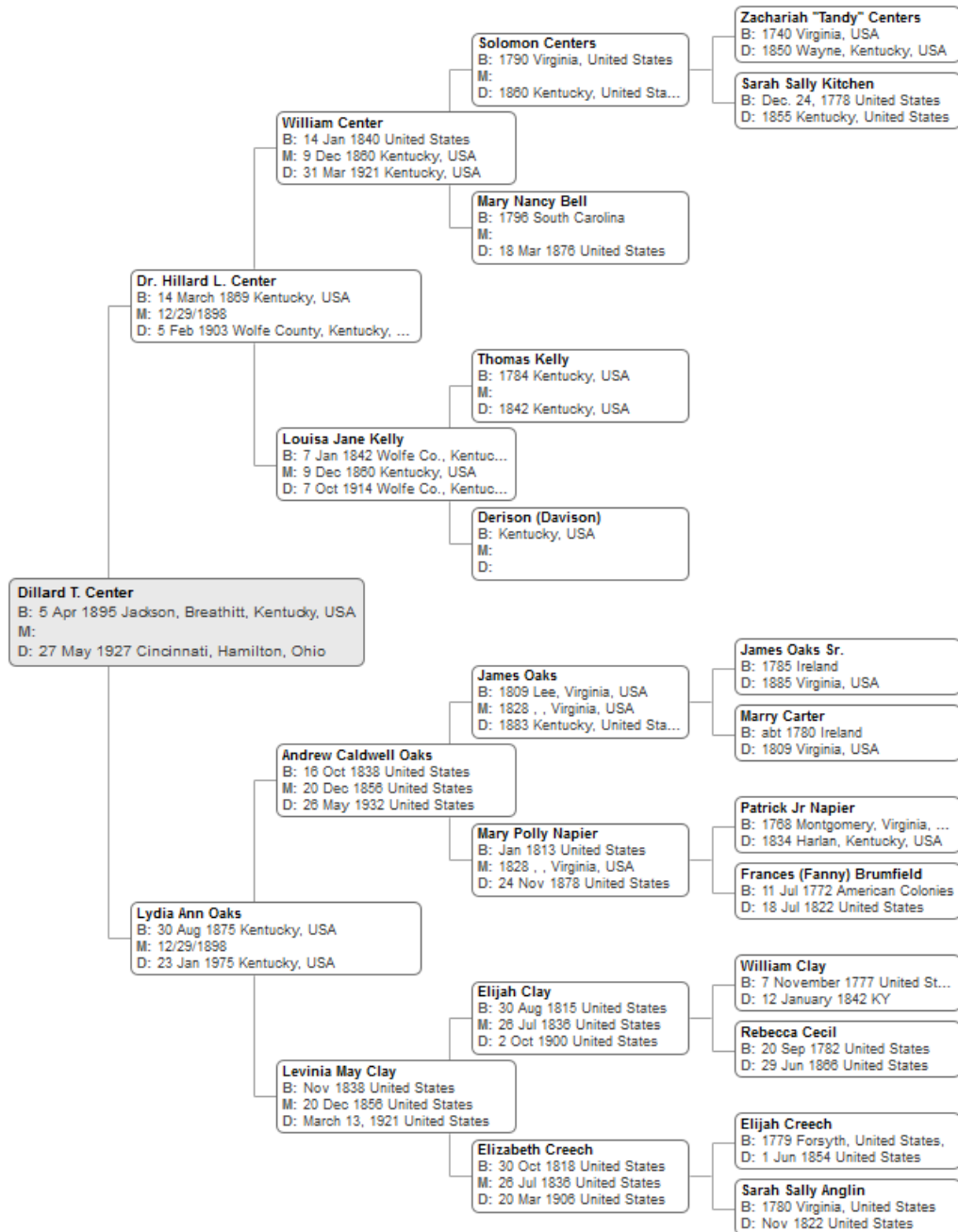
Center Family Tree

Summaries

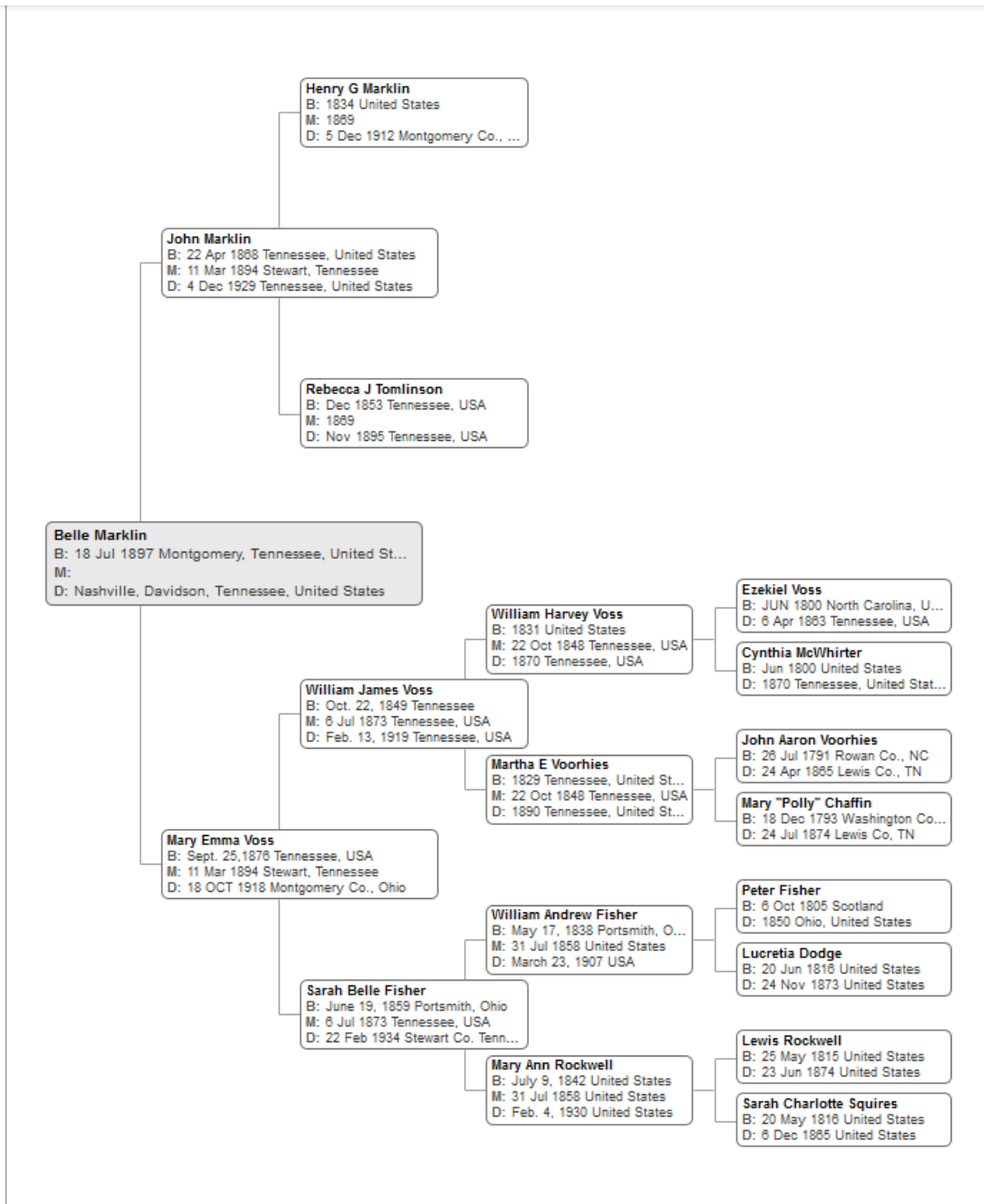


Wife of Hillard L. Center





Wife (?) of Dillard T. Center



Center Family Tree
Some Details

1. **Hillard L. CENTER, M.D.** (b.14 Mar 1869; d.5 Feb 1903)
sp: Lydia Ann OAKS (b.30 Aug 1875; d.23 Jan 1975)
 2. Morton J. CENTER (b. Aug 1887)
 2. George M. CENTER (b. Feb 1889)
 2. Florence CENTER (b. May 1892)
 2. Dillard T. CENTER (b.5 April 1895; d.27 May 1927)
sp: Belle MARKLIN (b.18 Jul 1897; m. unconfirmed; d.1 Oct 1973)
 3. William R. CENTER (b.17 Jan 1919; m.11 Aug 1939 ; d.20 Mar 1994)
sp: Nora Lucille CAREY (b.16 Feb 1900, m. 1921; d.5 Feb 1955)
 3. Jack Carey CENTER (b.4 May 1922; d.27 Apr 1984 in Carson, CA)
[half brother to William R. Center]
sp: Helen Elizabeth Evans (b.5 April 1925; m.31 Dec 1944; d. Nov 2011)
 4. William Dillard (Bill) CENTER (b.18 Dec 1945: m. 1968)
sp: Karla D. STOUP (b.1945)
 5. David CENTER (b.1971)
 5. Steven CENTER (b.1974)
 4. Mary Kathryn CENTER (b.1947)
sp: Kenneth R. GILCHRIST (b.1934; d.1984)
 5. Melissa K. GILCHRIST (b.1973)
sp: Jeffery B. UPSHAW (b.1973)
 5. Sarah M. GILCHRIST (b.1975)
sp: Christopher POCHYLA (b.1976)
 4. Margie R. CENTER (b.1949)
sp: Charles R. SMILEY (b.1946; divorced)
sp: Gary J. COLEMAN (b.1954)
 4. David M. CENTER (b.1950)
sp: Cindy S. HOPKINS (b. 1949)
 2. Minnie CENTER (b. Aug 1899)
 2. Bessie CENTER (b. 1901)
 2. Matt Hilliard CENTER (b. 19 Jan 1901; d.14 Jan 1982)
sp: Gypsy C. SPENCER
 3. Golden CENTER
 3. Grace CENTER
 3. Olaf CENTER (b.09 Feb 1926)
 3. Lawrence CENTER
 1. **John MARKLIN** (b.22 April 1868; d.04 Dec 1929)
sp: Mary Emma VOSS (b.25 Sept 1876; d.18 Oct 1918)
 2. Dossy MARKLIN (b. Nov 1894)

2. Belle MARKLIN (b.18 Jul 1897; d.1 Oct 1973)
sp: Dillard T. Center (b.5 April 1895; m. unconfirmed; d.27 May 1927)
3. William R. Center (b.17 Jan 1919; m.11 Aug 1939 ; d.20 Mar 1994)
sp: Freeman (Frank) E. Smith (b.22 Aug 1899; d.05 Aug 1970)
3. Charles Robert Smith (b.29 Sept 1930; d. Oct 2011)
sp: Len Hooper Watkins (b.17 Jan 1881; d.13 Dec 1941)
2. Buford MARKLIN (b. Jul 189?)
2. Lena MARKLIN (b.28 Oct 1899; d.9 Dec 1973)
2. Ruth MARKLIN (b. 1903?)
2. Lester MARKLIN (b. 1905)
2. Anne MARKLIN (b. 1911)

CENTER & MARKLIN

2. **Dillard T. CENTER** (b.5 April 1895; m. unconfirmed; d.27 May 1927)
[biological father of William Russell CENTER]
2. **Belle MARKLIN** (b.18 Jul 1897; m. unconfirmed; d.1 Oct 1973) [biological
mother of William Russell CENTER]
2. George T. SMITH (b.16 Aug 1881; d.05 Jan 1973): "foster" father of William
Russell CENTER
sp: Etta Jane (GRAHAM) SMITH (b.08 Nov 1879; d.09 Oct 1955): "foster"
mother of William Russell CENTER]
3. Freeman (Frank) E. SMITH (b.22 Aug 1899; d.05 Aug 1970): "foster"
brother of William Russell CENTER]
sp: Belle MARKLIN (b.18 Jul 1897; d.1 Oct 1973)
4. Charles Robert SMITH (b.29 Sept 1930; d. Oct 2011)
[half brother of William Russell CENTER]
sp: Orlando Guadalupe Rodriguez (b.12 Dec 1937; m.15 Feb
1955; d.8 Feb 2003)
5. George Peter Smith
3. Edna J. Smith (b.12 April 1904; d.17 Oct 2000): "foster" sister of
William Russell CENTER
sp: Edward Simmons
3. William Russell CENTER (b.17 Jan 1919; m.11 Aug 1939 ; d.20 Mar
1994)
sp: Dorothy Francis SPANN (b.12 Mar 1918; m.11 Aug 1939)
4. David Brian CENTER (b.15 Apr 1942)
sp: Shirley Anne WORTH (b.14 Dec 1945; m.22 Nov 1967)
5. Brian Charles CENTER (b.11 Apr 1972)
sp: Teri COOK (b.12 Mar 1971; m.14 Mar 19 2008)
6. Nicholas Alexander CENTER (b.24 Dec 2009)
6. Andrew Jacob CENTER (b.11 Feb 2012)

5. Daniel William CENTER (b.19 Aug 1979)
4. Thomas Willard "Tommy" CENTER (b.30 Nov 1946)
4. Elizabeth Ann CENTER (b.20 Sep 1952; m.29 Sept 1972; div.28 Aug 2007)
 sp: Donnie GARRETT (b.06 Aug 1949; div.28 Aug 2007)
5. William Chadwick (Chad) GARRETT (b.06 Jan 1975; m.19 Nov 1999)
 sp: Meredith Karen Johnson (b.29 Dec 1975)
6. Payton Lindsey GARRETT (b.25 Feb 2006)
6. Parker Owen GARRETT (b.11 Jun 2009)
5. Heather Alisha GARRETT (b.7 May 1979; m.15 Feb 2003)
 sp: Jason McHenry McCALL (28 Dec 1970)
6. Colby Dean GARRETT (b.29 Dec 1995)
6. Kiya Caden McCALL (b.7 May 2004)
6. Kinley Addison McCALL (b.25 Feb 2006)
4. John Russell CENTER (b.14 Jul 1956; m.17 Sept 1977)
 sp: Susan GONZALEZ (b.24 Feb 1958)
5. Kaleb Russell CENTER (b.31 Jan 1981; m.25 Jun 2005)
 sp: Virginia Anne TAFF [Ginny] (b.20 Oct 1978; m.25 Jun 2005)
6. Sofia Corinne CENTER (b.30 Jul 2007)
6. Phoebe Anne CENTER (b.09 April 2010)
6. Bree Alejandra CENTER (b.29 Aug 2012)
5. Kyle Nathan CENTER (b.16 Jul 1985)

Center Family

Addendum



The distinguished surname Center came to [England](#) in the wake of the [Norman Conquest](#) of 1066, and stems from two possible sources. Firstly, it is a [metonymic](#) for the surname "Century," which is derived from the Old French "centurier," meaning "belt maker or girdler"; in this instance, the name would have been originally borne by someone who made or sold belts. Alternatively, the name is derived from the Old French "seintier," meaning "bell founder"; thus, the name referred to someone who made bells.

Center Early Origins

Norman surnames are characterized by a multitude of [spelling variations](#). The frequent changes in surnames are largely due to the fact that the Old and Middle English languages lacked definite spelling rules. The introduction of Norman French to [England](#), as well as the official court languages of Latin and French, also had pronounced influences on the spelling of surnames. Since medieval scribes and church officials recorded names as they sounded, rather than adhering to any specific spelling rules, it was common to find the same individual referred to with different spellings. The name has been spelled Center, Centers, Senter, Senters, Sainter, Santer and others.

First found in the records of the Early London Personal Names, where Edmund Sein(e)tier was recorded between 1160 and 1168. Another early London bearer of the name was Benedict le Seintier, who was listed in the [Pipe Rolls](#) of London in 1197.

The Great Migration

Many English families emigrated to North American colonies in order to escape the political chaos in Britain at this time. Unfortunately, many English families made the trip to the New World under extremely harsh conditions. Overcrowding on the ships caused the majority of the immigrants to arrive diseased, famished, and destitute from the long journey across the stormy Atlantic. Despite these hardships, many of the families prospered and went on to make invaluable contributions to the development of the cultures of the United States and Canada. Early North American immigration records have revealed a number of people bearing the name Center or a variant listed above: William Senter, who immigrated to Virginia in 1652; John Center, who settled in Massachusetts in 1656; John Senter, who came to New [Hampshire](#) in 1722.

Some Background

The only marriage records found for Belle Marklin, (William R. (Bill) Center's mother) show Belle married to Freeman (Frank) E. Smith and Len Hooper Watkins. The former union produced a child (Charles Robert Smith) in 1930. Freeman shows up married to someone else at a later date, so he and Belle must have divorced. It is likely that William R. Center was illegitimate, which may be why Belle gave her maiden name in the 1920 census, indicates she is widowed and resides with her father. William is listed by her as William Center in that same census at which time he is less than one year of age. William's birth certificate (see below) lists his father as Dillard Center whose occupation was given as "tool maker".

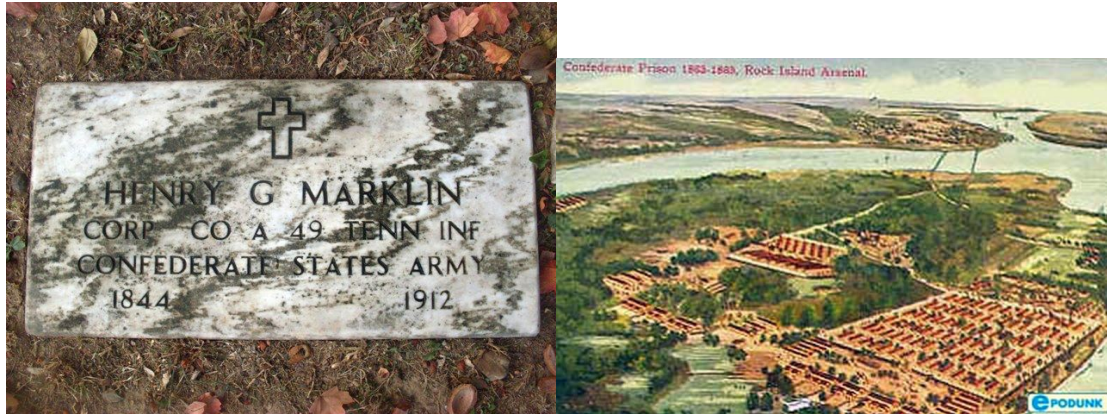
Bill appears to be the child of Belle and Dillard born out of wedlock. Dillard is listed on the birth certificate as the father of William and Belle always referred to Dillard as the father. There was at one time a photo, owned by one of Belle's sisters, showing Belle and Dillard sitting together looking at a book. Lydia Center, Dillard's mother and Bill's grandmother, is reported to have come to Tennessee when Bill was 6 or 7 years of age seeking to take Bill back to Ohio to be raised by her.

Belle is reported to have left Bill with her father, John Marklin, to care for. John became seriously ill and asked family friends George and Etta Smith to look after Bill. John died and the Smith family reared Bill to adulthood. Both the mother, Belle, and the grandmother, Lydia Center, are reported to have unsuccessfully attempted to take custody of Bill after he had been with the Smiths for several years.

A possible family connection found on an Internet site:

My grandfather (who raised me) was Wiley Edgar Mullins. He told me that his father, Jephtha Harry Mullins, was the illegitimate son of Arena Mullins. The father was supposedly a William Center according to my grandfather. Arena later married Ambrose Cox and had children with him. I have obtained Jephtha's death certificate and his son listed Jephtha's parents as William Mullins and Irena (Arena) Cox. My assumption is that he presented false info in order to protect the knowledge that Jephtha was born out of wedlock. William Center became William Mullins on the death certificate and Arena Mullins became Arena Cox, her married name. I have looked for Jephtha's birth records but the court house in Wolfe Co. KY was burned and many records were lost. I did find records from the time that there was a William Center who lived near the Mullins' in Wolfe Co. Eventually he also married and had another family. Census records show Arena living with her parents Joseph and Elizabeth along with her (Arena's) siblings and the small child Jephtha. Arena is buried next to Jephtha Mullins and his wife. Thank goodness my grandfather told me the story or I would never have been able to figure it out. My Granny would have probably had a fit if she knew he had told the family secret. [Posted by Wanda Burton Hunt]

Corporal Henry G. Marklin (1834-1912) Belle's grandfather and David Center's fourth grandfather was a member of Company A, 49th Tennessee Infantry Regiment, Confederate States of America. He was also a prisoner of war in the Rock Island Prison Barracks in Illinois.



William Andrew Fisher (1838-1907) David Center's fourth grandfather was a private during the Civil War in Company F, Ohio 72nd Infantry Regiment on 18 Feb 1862. Mustered out on 15 Aug 1863 at Oak Ridge, MS. They were engaged in several battles including Shiloh and Vicksburg. The regiment was at the front constantly in the battle of Shiloh and on the second day participated in the final charge which swept the enemy from the field, resting that night in the camp which it had abandoned the day before.



William Andrew Fisher (1838-1907)



Dr. William R. (Bill) Center

Time was his only enemy and it has slain him.

This page is in memory of my father, William Russell Center, who was a far better father than I was a son. Although I'm certain that I was often a disappointment to him and pushed his patience to the limit, he was always supportive. When I reached the point where I wanted to do something constructive with my life, he was ready and willing to help. I could not have had a father who was a better model.

Bill was born in Tennessee in 1919. He was abandoned by his father (Dillard) at or before birth and left in the care of John Marklin (grandfather), by his mother (Belle), probably when he was between one and two years old. His grandfather became seriously ill when he was around three years of age. He was taken in by friends of John Marklin, the Smith family, and lived with them until he married Dorothy Spann of Nashville. He served in the U.S. Army, in Europe, during World War II. Following the war, he returned to Nashville. He attempted to gain admittance to the University of Tennessee College of Medicine but was denied because he had no living family resident in the state of Tennessee. He subsequently was admitted to and enrolled at Vanderbilt University. He obtained undergraduate and graduate degrees in both English and chemistry.

For a short time, after completing his studies, he taught high school. He left high school teaching to take a position teaching English at Meridian Junior College in Meridian, MS. After deciding that he didn't want to make a career of teaching English, he moved back to Nashville. He enrolled in a graduate program in audio/speech pathology at Peabody College and also worked as a chemist for Avco manufacturing company. Upon completion of his degree, he accepted a position in Atlanta, GA as the director of the Fairhaven School. Fairhaven was a non-profit, private school for retarded children. While director of the Fairhaven School, he helped found and then directed the Bobby Dodd Workshop for developmentally disabled adults, which is still in operation.

The next step in his journey was to the University of Georgia, in Athens, where he completed a doctorate in mental retardation. After completing this degree, he took a position at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He subsequently taught at the University of South Alabama in Mobile

and the University of Western North Carolina in Cullowhee before returning to Tennessee to work for several years as the director of a psychological services cooperative. He later returned to teaching by taking a position at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro where he remained until he retired. After retiring from MTSU, he took a position as Special Education Director for a county school system. A few years later he retired for the second time due to health problems. Bill died March 20, 1994 at the age of seventy-five.

David B. Center

<http://www.davidcenter.com/Memorials.php>

Certified Copy Number
P 56456

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
NASHVILLE
UNIT 3

MRS. FERDINAND POWELL JOHNSON CITY
T. R. RAY, M.D., SHELBYVILLE
W. L. RUCKS, M.D., MEMPHIS

1. PLACE OF BIRTH
County of Montgomery
Civil Dist. 5
Ino. Town _____
City _____ (No. _____) St. _____ Ward _____

STATE OF TENNESSEE
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
34
CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

Registration District No. 447 File No. _____
Primary Registration Dist. No. 5 Registered No. 5

2. FULL NAME OF CHILD William Center
If child is not yet named, make supplemental report, as directed

3. Sex of Child Male 4. Twin, triplet, or other? _____ Number in order of birth? _____ 5. Legitimate? Yes Date of birth Jan 17, 1919
(Month) Day Year

FATHER MOTHER

6. FULL NAME Dillard Center 536 12. FULL MAIDEN NAME Belle Maxwell
7. RESIDENCE Daton Ohio 13. RESIDENCE Woodford Penn PA
8. COLOR White 10. AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY 23 14. COLOR White 16. AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY 24
Years Years
9. BIRTHPLACE Ky 15. BIRTHPLACE Penn
11. OCCUPATION Tool Maker 17. OCCUPATION House Keeping

18. Number of children born to this mother including present birth 1
Number of children of this mother now living 1 19. Born at full term 1

20. CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE*
I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was Alive at 3 P. M.
on the day above stated. None alive or stillborn
(Signature) H. B. Gray M.D.
Physician
Address Clarksville Penn
21. Filed 2, 4, 1919 TA 2
Postoffice Address REGISTRAR REGISTRAR

* When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father, householder, etc., should make this return. A stillborn child is one that neither breathes nor shows other evidence of life after birth.
Given name added from a supplemental report _____, 19____

William R. (Bill) Center's Tennessee birth certificate showing his father to be Dillard Center a 23 year old tool maker residing in Ohio and born in Kentucky.



Dillard T. Center (mid 1920s)

Father of William D. and Jack C. Center



William D. Center (late 1930s)

Son of Dillard T. Center & Belle Marklin (1-17-1919)

half-brother to Jack C. Center



Jack C. Center (early 1940s)

Son of Dillard T. Center and Nora Carey (5-4-1922)

half-brother of William R. Center



George T. Smith who was William R. Center's "foster" father.



CURLS A'COMING—Mrs. W. R. Center, left, and Lynn Davidson, right, discuss a new hair style with a patient at Eastern State Hospital. The

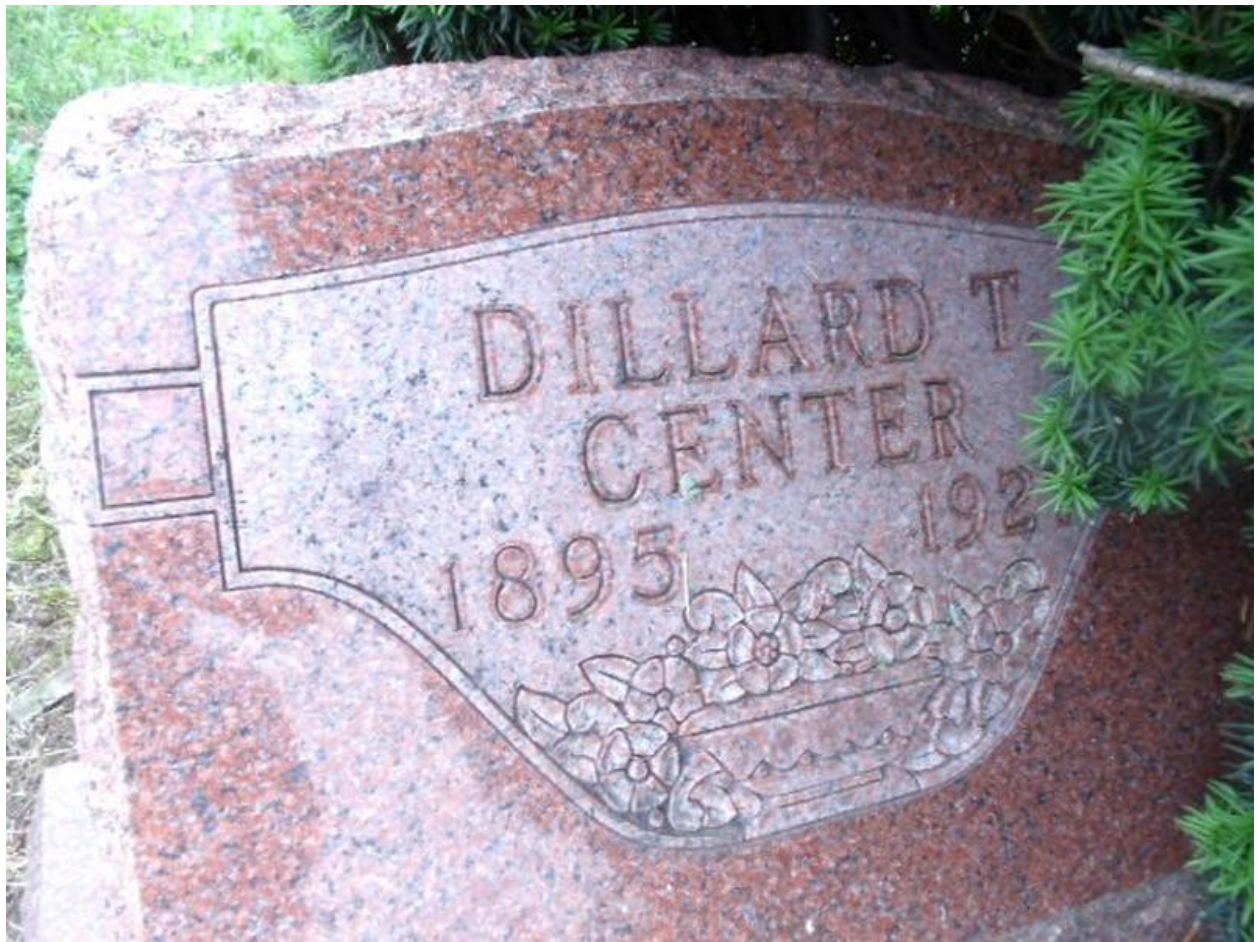
Red Cross volunteers give a grooming class each week at the hospital.

William R. (Bill) Center's wife Dorothy (Dot) Center sometime in the mid 1960s.

One of the most successful activities sponsored by the local chapter was the "Meet Our Legislators" day. April is the month of the League of Women Voters annual Finance Drive. Looking over material for the event are Dot Center, Myrtle Lord and Libby Aden, president.



William R. (Bill) Center's wife Dorothy (Dot) Center in April 1977.



Grave stone for Dillard T. Center (William R. Center's father)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		29402 3085
1 PLACE OF DEATH County <u>Hamilton</u> Registration District No. <u>227</u> File No. <u>3085</u> Township _____ Primary Registration District No. _____ Registered No. _____ or Village _____ No. _____ CHANNAN GENERAL HOSPITAL _____ St. S. B. Ward _____ or City of _____ (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its name instead of street and number)		
2 FULL NAME <u>J. T. Center</u> (a) Residence No. <u>1633 Pullman</u> St. _____ Ward _____ (If death occurred in a city or town where death occurred give its name instead of street and number)		
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
3 SEX <u>Male</u> 4 COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u> 5 Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced <u>Married</u>	6 DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) <u>May 25, 1897</u>	10 DATE OF DEATH (month, day and year) <u>May 27, 1927</u>
7 AGE <u>32</u> 8 OCCUPATION OF DECEASED <u>Tool Maker</u>	9 BIRTHPLACE (city or town, State or country) <u>St. Louis, Mo.</u>	11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (city or town, State or country) <u>St. Louis, Mo.</u>
12 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town, State or country) <u>St. Louis, Mo.</u>	13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town, State or country) <u>St. Louis, Mo.</u>	14 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town, State or country) <u>St. Louis, Mo.</u>
15 PLACE OF BIRTH, Occupation, or Hospital		16 DATE OF BURIAL
17 UNDERTAKER <u>Wm. A. Boxmann</u>		18 LICENSE NO. <u>2249</u>
19 SIGNATURE OF DECEASED <u>J. T. Center</u>		20 SIGNATURE OF WITNESSES <u>Wm. A. Boxmann</u>
21 SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR <u>H. Beckler</u>		22 SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR <u>H. Beckler</u>

Dillard T. Center's death certificate.

NOTE CAREFULLY
THIS IS A PERMANENT LEGAL RECORD
USE TYPEWRITER OR WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—CHECK ALL
STATEMENTS. ALTERATIONS WILL BE MADE ONLY ON ORDER OF
A COURT OF RECORD IN TENNESSEE

DELAYED CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DIV. OF VITAL STATISTICS

FILE NUMBER
D- 199397

NAME AT BIRTH Belle Marklin DATE OF BIRTH July 18, 1897
FIRST MIDDLE LAST MONTH DAY YEAR
BIRTHPLACE Montgomery Rural COLOR OR RACE White SEX Female
COUNTY CITY OR TOWN (IF OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS, WRITE RURAL)
FATHER: FULL NAME John Richard Marklin BIRTHPLACE Tennessee
MAIDEN NAME Emma Voss BIRTHPLACE Tennessee
MOTHER: NAME STATE OR COUNTRY
I HEREBY CERTIFY, ON OATH, THAT THE ABOVE STATEMENTS ARE TRUE. (TO BE SIGNED BY PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN IF REGISTRANT IS UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE.)
SIGNATURE OF REGISTRANT Belle Marklin Watkins PRESENT ADDRESS 1820 4th Ave. S.
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME ON November 24, 1943 NOTARY PUBLIC
REGISTRANT—DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

ABSTRACT OF SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

NAME AND KIND OF DOCUMENT (INCLUDING BY WHOM ISSUED AND SIGNED, AND DATE OF ISSUE)				DATE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT WAS MADE
1	Aff. of J. C. Davis	Reverse Side	12-28-42	12-28-42
2	Aff. of J. F. Damron	Reverse Side	12-28-42	12-28-42
3	Family Bible	Very Old Bible		Unknown
4	Death Notice of Father		12-4-29	12-4-29
5	Social Security Record		12-11-36	12-11-36
6				

INFORMATION CONCERNING REGISTRANT AS STATED IN DOCUMENT OF CORRESPONDING NUMBER ABOVE

BIRTH DATE OR AGE	BIRTHPLACE	NAME OF FATHER	FULL NAME OF MOTHER
1 July 18, 1897	Montgomery Co. Tenn.	John Richard Marklin	Emma Voss
2 July 18, 1897	Montgomery Co. Tenn.	John Richard Marklin	Emma Voss
3 July 18, 1897	not given	John Richard Marklin	Emma Marklin
4 not given	not given	John R. Marklin	Emma Voss
5 July 18, 1897	Montgomery Co. Tenn.	John Richard Marklin	Emma Voss
6			

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE EXAMINED THE 5 DOCUMENTS ABSTRACTED ABOVE, FIND THEM VALID, AND THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN IS AS NOTED ABOVE, AND RECOMMEND THAT THIS DELAYED CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH BE ACCEPTED FOR FILING BY THE DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS, TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

SIGNED Wm B. Cobb, Jr. & Co. ADDRESS Nashville DATE 1-15 19 43
(CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL, CLERK AND MASTER)

THIS DELAYED CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH IS APPROVED BY THE TENNESSEE STATE REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS OR HIS AUTHORIZED AGENT.

APPROVED: W. C. Williams DATE: JAN 16 1943 BY: J. J. J.

Belle Marklin's birth certificate

Belle Marklin, David Center's maternal grandmother is buried next to her sister in Montgomery County, Tennessee. She married Len Watkins after she left Freeman Smith.



Belle Marklin Watkins grave stone in Lone Oak Cemetery in Montgomery County, TN
Belle is buried along side of her sister Lena.

Belle's son, Charles, was a veteran of the Korean War

Charles Smith is said to have told a story of horrible things that happened while he was in Korea. One, was about a night that he and other troops were hunkered down in a foxhole and one of the North Korean troops slipped up on them and threw a burlap sack into the foxhole and then ran away. When they opened the sack, they found the heads of some of their comrades who had been killed by the Koreans.

After he returned to the US, he had memories that haunted him so badly that they contributed to his divorce from his first wife, Guadalupe Rodriguez and estrangement from their son, George Peter Smith. He never saw his son again after the divorce except in pictures that were sent to his aunt, Edna Simmons. The last picture of George Peter that he got from Aunt Edna was of George Peter graduating from High School.

Falls, inadvertently provides the source of the stone from which Grandpa's millstones were made. It underlies the sandstone composing the riverbed at the falls and is exposed below the falls where erosion has stripped the sandstone cover from over it. The newspaper article identifies the underlying type of stone as Rockcastle Conglomerate. So, it is safe to assume that my great-uncle, Joel Caddell, and Grandpa Daniel Boone Caddell quarried the material for their millstones from the Rockcastle Conglomerate seam downstream from Cumberland Falls and hauled it home in their horse-drawn sled to cut to size and shape.

The Stephens Mill is still standing near Pine Knot but is abandoned. Some of the wool carding machinery is still stored away in the loft of the mill house. In 1952 a new waterwheel, made entirely of steel, replaced the older, wooden one. The mill was used for a few years with its new 16-foot all steel waterwheel, but by 1968 the old mill had been shut-down for several years despite its modern waterwheel.

In June 1968, Joe Creason, writing for the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, published an article on old, waterwheel powered gristmills that were still standing in Kentucky. The Stephens Mill was among them. It was pictured and storied with the oldest and the biggest of them in the Commonwealth.

This story is based also on information provided by records or memories of the following people: Mildred Walker Troxel, George Harlan Caddell, Flossie Sexton Caddell, Joyce Gayle Caddell, Melba Manning Anderson, Frances Crabtree Stephens, James Stephens, and John L. Jones.

G. H. Caddell
12465 S. 1050 W.
Westport, TN 47283

Growing Up In Kentucky

As many have taken their time to write about growing up in Kentucky, I would like to put in my "two cents worth." I was born February 9, 1926, at Allock, Perry County, Kentucky, approximately one mile up Carr Creek from Vico where my father worked for the Carr Fork Coal Company. I was born to Matt Center and Gypsy C. Spencer Center as the third member of the family. The oldest was Golden, next was Grace, and then my youngest



Olaf Center of Floral City, Florida, shares this photo of his parents, Matt and Gypsy C. Center, taken in 1981, while visiting him in Florida. See "I Remember" at left.

brother, Lawrence. Both my parents were from Wolfe County where many Centers and Spencers still live.

My father's father was Dr. Hillard Center. Dr. Center died when my father was only three or four years old. Dr. Hillard's father was William Center of Campton. They are buried in the Tutt Cemetery in Campton.

After Dr. Hillard Center died, my father's mother, Lydia Oaks Center, moved back to Cane Creek, near Kikatawa, to her father's, Coldwell Oaks, place with her children. Some of the family still live there today.

In March of 1930, we moved to Oakdale in Breathitt County on my maternal grandfather's (Huey Spencer) land. Huey and Callie Childress Spencer had moved to Breathitt County when my mother, Gypsy, was very young. We all attended Oakdale Christian Academy.

After leaving Kentucky, I went to

Michigan where work was plentiful. Later, I worked for Ypsilanti State Hospital. The hospital sent me to school where I became a nurse.

In 1978 I moved to Florida where I continued being a nurse. My mother and father would come to visit me in the wintertime. I really enjoyed their visits.

I had been single for 19 years when I met and married a nice Christian nurse in 1981.

When Jean and I retired, we were able to join The Gideons International. This work of giving away Bibles to motels, institutions, and the military has been the most rewarding work in our lives.

My parents and two of their children, Grace and Lawrence, are all gone now. My sister, Golden, and I are the only ones left.

I hope to hear from my old school friends and others I have known. God bless all of you.

Olaf Center
P. O. Box 658
Floral City, FL 34436

Fun On The Black Star Sludge Ponds

I grew up in a coal mining camp called Black Star at Alva, Harlan County, Kentucky. One of the many fun things we kids did was play on the sludge ponds. Black Star Coal Corporation had a coal washer, which washed the coal to get all the slate and dirt out of it before loading it into the coal cars for shipment. In the mid-1950s, they changed the location of the sludge ponds to above the company store and below the coal washer, just across the railroad tracks right in front of my house.

The water from the coal washer was full of coal dust, and it was completely black. It was pumped into the sludge ponds, and the coal dust would settle to the bottom, then the water would drain off into Puckett Creek. Puckett Creek was known as The Black Creek, and it was really black. It ran from Black Star (Alva) to the Cumberland River, and then mixed with the river water and became clear again. Believe it or not fish and minnows could live in it.

As the water settled in the sludge ponds, the edges would get very hard and you could easily walk and ride a

The production of iron began in about 1810 in Estill County and became one of the earliest industries.

Article by Dillard's brother Matt's son Olaf Center and William R. Center's first cousin.



William D. (Bill) Center, Rear Admiral United States Navy

William R. (Bill) Center's nephew through his half brother (Jack)

Rear Admiral Center (retired) was a Surface Warfare Officer and a specialist in strategic planning. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1968 and earned a Masters Degree from the University of Washington in 1978. He has two sons (David and Steven) and currently resides in Seattle, Washington.



Left to right - David, Mary, Karla, Bill and Margie



Lydia Ann Oaks (Dillard's mother and William R. Center's grandmother) from sometime after the death of Hillard L. Center. She is pictured with her second husband.



Andrew Caldwell Oaks (1838-1932)
Lydia Ann Oak's father, Dillard's maternal grandfather and William R. Center's maternal great grandfather.



Lydia Ann Oak's maternal grandfather.

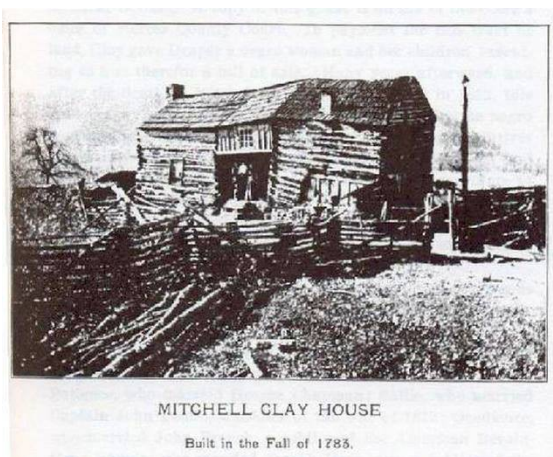
Mitchell Clay (1735-1811) was Elijah Clay's grandfather (Lydia Ann Oaks Center's grandfather) and was Andrew Caldwell Oaks' great grandfather (Lydia Ann Oaks Center's father).



In the middle, with beard



Statue of Mitchell Clay



Massacre of Clay children remains an infamous episode

By Paul Ray Blankenship [For The Wyoming County Report](#) May 31, 2010

PINEVILLE — **Editor's note:** *The following excerpt is reprinted with permission from "From Cabins To Coal Mines, 1799-1999, Volume I." This is the third part of "Indian Territory."*

One of the better-known and better-documented episodes between the Indian and the white man [in West Virginia] occurred in August of 1783 at Clover Bottom (now Shawnee Lake, located between Princeton and Matoaka), in present Mercer County. This was the killing by a band of Shawnee Indians of Bartley and Tabitha Clay, children of Mitchell and Phoebe Belcher Clay, and the capture and ultimate execution of their son Ezekial.

As related by historian Rev. Shirley Donnelly in this article, "The Massacre of Clay Children," Beckley Post-Herald, September 5, 1979, the incident unfolded as follows:

"In the month of August, Mitchell Clay had harvested his crop of small grain, and wanting to get the benefit of the pasture for his cattle, ... he asked two of his sons, Bartley and Ezekial, to build a fence around the stacks of grain...

"While Mitchell Clay was out hunting, the two sons were building fence pens around the grain stacks. The older daughter, with some of the younger girls, was down on the river bank putting out the family washing. While this was in progress, a marauding body of eleven Indians crept up to the edge of the field and shot young Bartley Clay dead.

"When the girls ... heard the shot that killed their brother, they lit out for the house for safety. Their path to the house was directly by where Bartley had fallen. An Indian attempted to scalp the youth and at the same time capture the older girl, Tabitha Clay. She was trying to defend the body of her brother...

"In the struggle the girl reached for the knife which hung on the Indian's belt. Missing the knife, the Indian literally cut her to pieces before killing her...Ezekial Clay, about 16, was captured by another Indian..."

"About the time of the Indian attack, a man named Lincoln Blankenship called at the Clay cabin. When Mrs. Clay saw her daughter Tabitha in her death struggle... she begged Blankenship to go and shoot the savage and save her daughter's life. But Blankenship ran away from the scene and reported to settlers on New River that the Clay family had been murdered by the Indians.

“When the savages got the scalps of Bartley and Tabitha Clay, they left the area with Ezekial Clay as their prisoner. Mrs. Clay took the bodies of Bartley and Tabitha to the house and laid them on the bed. She then took her small children and made her way through the woods to the home of James Bailey, six miles distance.

“Meanwhile Mitchell Clay... retraced his steps homeward and discovered the scene of horror... Thinking all his family had been killed or captured, Mitchell Clay left his cabin and headed for the settlements on New River.

“A party of men under the leadership of Captain Matthew Farley went to the Clay cabin and buried the two Clay children. They then pursued the Indian party. They caught up with the Indians in present day Boone County. Several of the Indians were killed.

“Charles Clay, brother of the two murdered Clay children, killed one of the Indians... Ezekial Clay, the captive lad, was hurried away by the Indians who escaped the Captain Matthew Farley party and was taken to their towns in Ohio. There he was burned at the stake, the third of Mitchell Clay’s family to meet an untimely death at the hands of savages.”

This episode has significant connection to the history of Oceana and Wyoming County since Mary Clay (1772-184?), daughter of Mitchell and Phoebe Clay, sister of Bartley, Tabitha, and Ezekial Clay, and wife of Capt. Ralph Stewart, lived most of her life in Wyoming County and lies buried at Crany, a short distance from Oceana. Mary Clay, eleven years old at the time, was no doubt a witness to the Indian attack at Lake Shawnee. Mary Stewart’s brother, Henry J. Clay (1782-1866), who lies buried in the Stewart Cemetery at Matheny, was a mere babe-in-arms when the attack on the Clay family occurred.

THE WITTENS AND CECILS

Witten and Cecil are two families in William R. CENTER's Genealogy that trace back through his grandmother Lydia Ann Oakes CENTER. These two families played a prominent role in the settlement of southwest Virginia.

Thomas Witten (1719-1794) is William R. CENTER's 5th great grandfather. There is a museum and pioneer park on the site of his homestead, Crab Orchard, in Virginia.

These two families were so intermingled by marriage for several generations after they came to the Clinch Valley that I will write of them in a single sketch. The Wittens were of Teutonic origin; but left Saxony and migrated to England as early as the ninth century. There they became identified with the Anglo-Saxons, who had conquered the Britons and gave the name England to ancient Britain. The Cecils were of purely Celtic blood, and natives of the British Isles. Tradition

and documentary evidence reveal that the progenitors of the Whitten and Cecils in America came from England with the Calverts, and settled in Maryland, then Lord Baltimore's colony.

In 1766, Thomas Witten and Samuel Cecil, men with large families, and neighbors and kinsmen, moved from Maryland to the region now called Southwest Virginia. Thomas Witten's wife was Elizabeth Cecil, a sister of Samuel Cecil.

Witten located temporarily at what is now known as the "William Allen Place", on Walkers Creek, in the present Giles County, Virginia, on the road between Poplar Hill and White Gate in said County. Cecil pitched his tent where the town of Dublin, in Pulaski County, is now located. He lived there until he died, in 1785, and there he and his wife are buried.

In the spring of 1767, Thomas Witten moved on from Walker's Creek with his family to the "Crabapple Orchard" tract on the Clinch River in what is now Tazewell County. Thomas Witten was the first white man to take up permanent residence with his family within the limits of the present Tazewell County.

John Witten, son of Thomas, first located near the Peaks of Otter, in Bedford County. He later came to the Clinch River and located at the place where John C. St. Clair now lives, four Miles west of the Tazewell county seat. Later he returned with his family to Bedford, and in 1820 conveyed his valuable farm at the foot of Paint Lick Mountain to his brother, Thomas Witten, Jr. John Witten has a number of descendants in Bedford and Amherst counties, but they spell the name "Whitten."

When trouble began with the Indians, about 1772 or 1773, Thomas Witten and his sons, assisted by their neighbors, built a stockade fort on the Clinch, near Pisgah. This was one of the first three forts built in the present bounds of Tazewell County, and was a place of refuge for all the inhabitants of the neighborhood when the Indians made hostile incursions to the Clinch settlements. Two of Thomas Witten's sons, Thomas, Jr., and James, gained much local distinction because of their performances as soldiers and scouts. Thomas, Jr. was not only conspicuous as an Indian fighter, but was also an ensign in the service of the United Colonies in the Revolutionary War. He also served in the Virginia General Assembly, during the sessions of 1801-02 and 1802-08.

John Cecil, son of Samuel Cecil, married his cousin Keziah Witten daughter of Thomas Witten and Elizabeth Cecil, about the year 1770. His brother, James Cecil, later, settled at the head of Baptist Valley, where he Built the house now owned and occupied as a residence by Fullen Thompson. This is, possibly, the oldest house in Tazewell County that is now used as a dwelling. The two brothers, each, reared a large family of children. They were not conspicuous as soldiers, but, no doubt, did their duty as frontiersmen when the Indians invaded the settlements.

John and Keziah Cecil had seven daughters and three sons. One of the daughters, Rebecca, married William Clay. One of their sons was Elijah Clay who married Elizabeth Creech. They

had a son Andrew Caldwell Oaks who was the father of Lydia Ann Oaks who married Dr. Hilliard Center.



Historic Crab Orchard Museum and Pioneer Park

The museum's name derives from the Big Crab Orchard archaeological site on which the Museum was built. Here, Native Americans lived and hunted over thousands of years. The site included the palisade of a late Woodland era settlement of what are believed to have been members of the Cherokee nation. The Museum protects the archaeological evidences of this site beneath the soil on a hayfield across a modern highway from the Museum site.

Thomas Witten and family were the first to set up farming in this region and found the place to be rich with wild crabapple trees -- hence the name. The archaeological site is on the Virginia and National Historical Site registers. Around it, the once thriving Pisgah community also grew up and then declined by World War II.



Maplewood Cemetery, Tazewell, Virginia. Witten's are buried all around this monument. The monument reads: Three miles west of this spot Thomas Witten built the first home in this section in 1767. Eleven years before the formation of Tazewell County. When Indian troubles began in 1772 he built Crabapple Fort which was used by early settlers as a refuge. A great grandson, Thomas Witten erected Witten Mills in 1872 it was in turn owned by his son Alex Witten, who used this millstone for a number of years.



In 1926, “the members of the chapter decided to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by building a duplicate of the original fort built on land bought from William Butler by Thomas Witten in 1771 at Crabapple Orchard.” This fort was erected about 1773.

The duplicate fort was built at Pisgah, Virginia, on land donated by A.J. and A.S. Higginbotham. The original fort stood near here. On July 4, 1927, Fort Witten was completed and dedicated. Colonel William C. Pendleton, oldest descendant of Thomas Witten, addressed the crowd which was estimated to be 25,000 people. Mr. A.G. Kiser, builder and contractor, supervised the construction. Mr. W.S. Mays, another Witten descendant, gave the stones for the chimney.



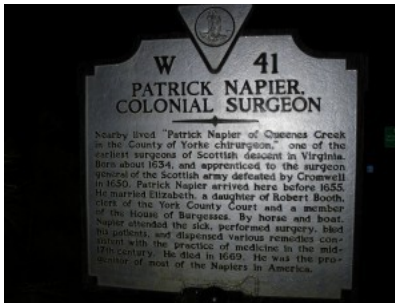


Capt. Robert Napier, Sr. (1660-1731)

Not shown on family tree summary but was the sixth grandfather of William R. CENTER and the fourth grandfather of Andrew C. Oaks (1838-1932), fifth grandfather of Lydia Ann Oaks CENTER and grandfather of Patrick Napier (1725-1799). Patrick is the last entry on the right hand side of the Oaks chart.

Patrick Napier, Colonial Surgeon W-41

Dr. Patrick Napier (1634-1688) was father of Captain Robert Napier who was Patrick Napier's (1725-1799) second grandfather. The fifth grandfather of Andrew Caldwell Oaks, seventh grandfather of William R. Center and the eighth grandfather of David B. Center. He was one of the earliest surgeons of Scottish descent in Virginia and apprenticed to the surgeon general of the Scottish army defeated by Cromwell in 1650.



Inscription:

Nearby lived "Patrick Napier of Queenes Creek in the County of Yorke Chirurgeon," one of the earliest surgeons of Scottish descent in Virginia. Born about 1634, and apprenticed to the surgeon general of the Scottish army defeated by Cromwell in 1650, Patrick Napier arrived here before 1655. He married Elizabeth, a daughter of Robert Booth, clerk of the York County Court and a member of the House of Burgesses. By horse and boat, Napier attended the sick, performed surgery, bled his patients, and dispensed various remedies consistent with the practice of medicine in the mid-seventeenth century. He died in 1669. He was the progenitor of most of the Napiers in America.

Further Research

Dr. Patrick Napier comes from a long lineage of Scottish Napiers, most likely a descendent of the clan of Kilmahew Napiers. Dr. Patrick Napier's father (also named Patrick) was also a "chirurgeon" who worked directly for King Charles I and directly apprenticed with the surgeon-general of the Scottish Army, Dr. Alexander Pennycuik. Dr. Patrick Napier was born sometime around 1634 in Scotland, and after arriving in Virginia sometime around 1650-1655, he married Elizabeth Booth.

For more history: See the Napier Addendum on this web page/