

Lay Family History

This family history was written by
Lucy Ann Graham from information
given by family members at the Lay
Family Reunion held on September 30,
1938 at the home of George Lay,
Gypsum, Kansas

Lucy Ann Graham
Wife of
Thomas Henry Lay Jr.
Son of
Thomas Henry Lay Sr.
Cromwall, England

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Aunt Lucy

“Thomas Henry Lay”, was born at “Cornwall England”, October 24, 1836, he was a family of 3 brothers and 3 sisters. “Thomas”, worked in the “Iron Ore Mines” in “England”, he came to “America” in the “year of 1856”, residing in New York at the home of his parents who had established their home in “New York”. It was here in “New York” that he met and courted “Elizabeth Daw”, his future wife.

“Elizabeth Daw” was born at “Kent England”, February 7, 1833, she was a family of six children, 3 brothers and 3 sisters, she united with the church of “England” at an early age, received her education in the schools of “England”, after receiving her education she spent her young life in a capacity as “Governess” to the children of “Lord Woods”, at the “Lord Woods” Castle and also at the “Castle”, known as the “Hastings” in “London England”, being in contact with these people, gave her a very inspiring young life, during this time in her life, she attended the “Coronation of Queen Victoria” and also the celebration of “Queen Victoria” marriage to “Prince Albert”.

At the age of 24 “Elizabeth”, with her two brothers, “James” and “Charles”, accompanied their father to “America” in the year of 1857, it took six weeks to make this trip as they came in a sailing vessel, they encountered a very severe storm on their way across, this was the Seventh time “Father” crossed the ocean, and this was his last crossing as the children laid “Father” to rest here in “America”.

After staying and working in “New York” for about 1½ years, “Elizabeth” decided to have a home of her own and she was wedded to;

“Thomas Henry Lay” and

“Elizabeth Daw” were married “December 31, 1858” at “Ripley, New York”,

To this union eight children were born;

“Thomas Henry Lay” born “November 29, 1859”, “Ripley New York”.

“William James Lay” born “December 21, 1860”, “Ashtubala, Ohio”.

“John Lay” born “April 6, 1862”, “Ashtubala, Ohio”.

“Berton Lay” born “April 6, 1863”, “Ashtubala, Ohio”.

“Rosa Belle Lay” born “October 1, 1865”, “Ashtubala, Ohio”.

“Lillian Adelle” Lay born “August 17, 1867”, “Ashtubala, Ohio”.

“George V. Lay” born “February 14, 1871”, “Ashtubala, Ohio”.

“Gertrude Lay” born “August 14, 1874”, “Fulton, Illinois”.

“John Lay” died in infancy 3 months old when “Thomas Henry Lay Jr.” was a baby we moved from “Ripley, New York” to “Ashtubala, Ohio” in the “Spring of 1860”, they resided in “Ohio” until the “Spring of 1871”, then they moved to “Fulton, Illinois”, residing on a farm, the children were all born in “Ashtubala, Ohio”, but “Thomas Henry” and “Gertrude”. “Thomas” was born in “Ripley, New York” and “Gertrude” was born in “Fulton, Illinois”.

After “Thomas Henry Jr.” and “Rosa Belle” were married and came to “Kansas” to live, we visited them two times.

“Berton” and “William” also came to “Kansas” to make their home before they were married, then in the “Spring of 1886”, we moved to “Kansas” to make our home 4 miles north and 2½ miles west of “Hope, Kansas”. We came to “Abilene, Kansas” on the train then came with a wagon and team over the prairies to “Hope, Kansas”, We lived at this home until the year of 1892, then we moved ½ mile west to our home on the corner, where we resided for 46 years farming and stock raising, our home was very cozy, as we had a beautiful yard with flowers, Grape, Arbor and large fruit orchard, we had our own vegetables and fruits to can. “Mother” and “Grandmother” took sick and passed away at the home, April 6, 1918 at the age of 85 years, her funeral was held at the home and she was laid to rest in the “Pilgrim’s Home Cemetery”, then “Father” and “Grandfather” was left alone, he made his home with the childrens here and there, he was

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visiting his "Grand-daughter", "Mrs. Elmer Hoffman", when he took sick and passed away September 22, 1922 at the age of 85 years, his funeral was held at the home of "Elmer Hoffman", "Hope, Kansas" and he was laid to rest beside "Grandma Lay" in "Pilgrim's Home Cemetery", "Hope, Kansas".

"Thomas Henry Lay Jr." and "Lucy Ann Graham" were married "February 3, 1881", at the "Graham home", "Clinton Center, Illinois". They came to "Kansas" and resided on their farm three miles north of "Hope, Kansas", where they still reside,
to this union four children were born:

"Harry Monroe Lay", born "January 5, 1882", "Hope, Kans"

"Minnie Belle Lay", born "March 23, 1884", " " .

"Harvey Thomas Lay", born "June 9, 1886", " " .

"Melvin Graham Lay", born "October 19, 1898", " " .

Melvin contracted "Scarlet Fever" and died "February 25, 1902 and was laid to rest in the "Pilgrim's Home Cemetery", "Hope, Kansas".

"Minnie Belle Lay" and

"Jesse Almon Sheets" were married April 4, 1906,

to this union one son was born

"Winston Lay Sheets" and died the same day, "September 24, 1913. "Ruth Margaret Kinzie" came from the "Church Home" in "McPherson, Kansas" to live with us, she was born "January 2, 1914", she was nine years old when she came to our home she grew to young womanhood receiving her education at the country School at "Maple Grove" and "Hope High School", "Hope, Kans".
She taught school in, "Morris Co".

"Ruth Margaret Kinzie" and

"Milton Timm" were married "January 2, 1935",

to this union one daughter was born,

Yvonne Lorene Timm born November 6, 1935

Ruth lives in "Abilene, Kansas", we still reside on own farm 5 miles north of "Hope, Kansas".

"Harry Monroe Lay" and

"Grace Abridal Smith" were married "January 20, 1909",

to this union five children were born:

"Harriet Louise Lay", born "November 13, 1910", "Hope, Ks".

"Vern Henry Lay", born, "March 15, 1913", " " .

"Velma Ann Rachel Lay", born "April 31, 1915", " " .

"Staurt Cilfton Lay", born "April 22, 1918", " " .

"Norma Maxine Lay", born "March 27, 1924", " " .

The children have went to "Maple Grove Grade School" and "Hope High School", "Hope Kansas", we live on our farm five miles north of "Hope, Kansas", farming and raising stock.

"Harriet Louise Lay" and

"Howard Wingert" were married "October 2, 1936", they live in "Kansas City, Kans".

"Velma Ann Rachel Lay" and

"Chester Wingert" were married "September 6, 1936",

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to this union one daughter was born

“Katherine Louise Wingert” and died the same day “December 27, 1937”, she was laid to rest in the “Pilgrim’s Home Cemetery”, “Hope, Kansas”, they live on a farm 4 miles north and 2 miles west of “Hope, Kans”.

“Harvey Thomas Lay” and

“Anna Davida Londeen” were married “February 3, 1909”,
to this union five children were born;

“Austin Londeen Lay”, born “July 31, 1910”, “Hope, Kans”

“Lovena” and “Luella Lay”, twins born “February 5, 1912”, “Hope, Ks” and died the same day they were laid to rest in the “Pilgrim’s Home Cemetery”, “Hope, Kansas”.

“Winston Jay Lay” born “December 5, 1917”, “Hope, Ks”

“Eldon Harvey Lay”, born “July 26, 1920”, “Hope, Ks”

We live on a farm 4 miles north and 2 miles west of “Hope, Kansas”, farming and stock raising.

“Austin Lay” and

“Velma Abei” were married “August 12, 1935”, they reside in “Salina, Kansas”, on “February 3, 1931” mother and father celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with open house to friends and relatives, on “June 19, 1936” passed away after a lingering illness his funeral was held at the home and from the “Methodist Church”, “Hope, Kansas”, he was laid to rest in “Pilgrim’s Home Cemetery”, “Hope, Kansas”.

“William James Lay” and

“Bessie Mortimer” were married “November 24, 1887” at the home of “Mr & Mrs T.H. Lay Sr.” seven miles northwest of “Hope, Kansas”, “Rev G. M. Glick” performed the ceremony.

To this union five children were born:

“George Lay” born” November 3, 1888”

“May Lay” born “May 22, 1890”

“Eva Lay” born “July 24, 1894”

“Knox Lay” born “January 28, 1896”

“Roy Lay” born “November 18, 1900”

We farmed for many years, we lived in Western Kansas then moving back we lived on a farm near Abilene, then moving to a farm north of “Hope, Kansas”, then in the “Spring of 1918” we quit farming , moved to “Hope, Kansas” where we were in the Grocery store, then we retired selling our stock to Knox and we live in our home “Hope, Kansas”, raising a few chickens and gardening, on “November 24, 1937” we celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary.

“May Lay” and

“Jake Maloney” were married July 23, 1910”,
to this union eight children were born:

“Clarence”, “Orville”, “Harold”, “Eldon”, “John”, “Edwin”, “Beryl” and “Dean”.

“Beryl” passed away at the age of 3 years and was laid to rest in “Pilgrim’s Home Cemetery”, “May” and the family live in “Herington, Kansas”.

“Clarence Maloney” and

“Orvetta Smith” were married “February 28, 1934”,
to this union one son was born,

“Robert Lee”

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“Clarence” lives in “Hope, Kansas” and works in the grocery store.

“Harold Maloney” and
“Ruth Marie Johnson” were married “July 15, 1939”, they reside at “Marion Kansas”.

“George Lay” and
“Cora Krause” were married “June 3rd, 1917”,
to this union five children were born,
“Earl”, “Lucille”, “Leslie”, “Wayne” and “Donald Dean”.
“George” and his family live in “Hope, Kansas”, operating the Creamery and Poultry business.

“Eva Lay” and
“Milton Rohrer” were married at the parents home “July 24, 1917”, “Hope, Kansas”,
to this union three children were born,
“Elaine”, “Lyle”, and “Joyce”,
we live on our farm 4½ miles west and ½ mile south of “Navarre, Kansas”, we farm and raise stock.

“Knox Lay” and
“Mildred Rubin” were married “July 15, 1917”
to this union four children were born,
“John Knox”, “Calvin”, “Billie” and “Bobbie Knox”
and family live in “Hope, Kansas” running the Lay Grocery Store.

“Roy Lay” and
“Vivian Shelton” were married “July 28, 1926”
to this union three children were born;
“Betty Jean”, “Jack” and “Mary Joan”,
“Roy” lives in “Gypsum, Kansas” driving the “Standard Oil Truck” for the “Standard Filling Station”.

“Berton Lay” and
“Jennie Susan Shastid” were married at the brides home in “Gypsum, Kansas”, “April 14, 1897”,
they resided in “Gypsum, Kansas”, where “Bert” was employed by the “Belle Spring Creamery Co.”, after
seven years, “Berton” resigned this position and accepted a position as manager of the “Farmer’s Co.
Operative”, store at “Gypsum, KS.”, from there we moved to the farm in “Dickinson Co.”, then we
exchanged the farm for a “Hardware Store” in “Waverly, Kansas”, then we exchanged that stock for our
present farm nearly “Colony, Kans.”, where we still reside,
to this union three children were born:
“Leole Lay” born “August 4, 1898”
“Wallace Lay” born “July 17, 1901”.
“Clarence Lay” born “March 5 1907”.
“Wallace” died “March 27, 1921” and was laid to rest in the “Colony Cemetery”, “Colony, Kansas”.

“Leola Lay” and
“Raymond Nausen” were married at the bride’s home “August 10, 1921”, they reside in “Kansas City Mo.”,
where they have a cleaning establishment.

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“Clarence Lay” and

“Flossie Cox” were married “June 5, 1929”, they reside on a farm near “Colony, Kansas”, to this union two children were born:

“De Lores Arlene Lay” born “October 17, 1930”.

“Marilyn Yvonne Lay” born “February 13, 1935”.

“Jennie”, “Wife” and “Mother” left our circle on “Monday, June 26, 1939”, her funeral was from the “Farris Funeral Home”, “Colony, Kansas”, “Wednesday, June 28, 1939”, the services were very impressive and the floral offering was beautiful, showing the love and friendship she held among her relatives a friends, there was a large congregation of relatives and friends that went with her to her last resting place, she was laid to rest in the “Colony Cemetery”, “Colony, Kansas” by the side of her son, “Wallace”, who had preceded her in death in the year of 1921.

“Rosa Belle Lay” and

“William Paskell Eddy” were married “April 2, 1884”, at the home of the bride’s “Fulton, Illinois” they left for the “State of Kansas” the same day, locating in “Hope, Kansas”, where “William” was engaged in the freighting industry, he drove wagons and teams as there were no railroads between “Hope” and “Abilene, Kansas”. In the “Spring of 1886” we moved from “Hope” to a farm north of “Dillon, Kansas”, in 1893 we moved 3 miles South and 1 mile west of “Navarre, Kansas”, then in 1899 we moved again 1¾ miles West and 1 mile South of “Navarre, Kansas” where we still reside, we have been engaged in farming and stock raising.

To this union four children were born:

William Berton Eddy born November 5, 1885.

Gertrude Della Eddy born December 25, 1887.

Lena Belle Eddy born February 8, 1890.

Pearle Delilah Eddy born July 19, 1892.

“William Berton Eddy” and

“Lola May Kauffman” were married “April 14, 1905”, they reside on a farm one mile south and 2 mile west of “Navarre, Kansas” farming and stock raising, to this union three children were born;

“Gerald Wayne Eddy” born “August 31, 1906”.

“Twila Fern Eddy” born “February 20, 1910”.

“Arbutus Rosella Eddy” born “December 26, 1911”.

“Twila Fern Eddy” and

“Kermit Pepper” were married “July 8, 1934”, to this union two sons were born;

“Ronald Ray Pepper” born “March 31, 1937”.

“Donald Dee Pepper” born “November 8, 1938”, they reside in “New Cambria, Kansas”.

“Gerald Wayne Eddy” and

“Ester Kohls” were married at the church in “Herington, Kansas”, “August 30, 1936”, the reside at “Los Angeles, California”,

“Arbutus Rosella Eddy” and

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“Walter Kohls” were married at the “Brethern Church”, “Navarre, Kansas”, “August 22, 1937”, they reside in “Los Angeles, California”.

“Gertrude Della Eddy” and

“Charles Issitt” were married at the bride’s home “Hope, Kansas”, “November 14, 1907”, they reside on their farm at “Navarre, Kansas”, farming and stock raising.

“Lena Belle Eddy” and

“William Claude Bowden” were married “December 19, 1918” at the “Parsonage, Enterprise, Kansas”,

to this union two daughters were born;

“Wanda Fae” born “April 15, 1922”

“Lola Mae” born “April 7, 1927”,

They reside on a farm 1 mile West and 1 mile South of “Navarre, Kansas”, farming and stock raising.

“Pearle Delilah Eddy” and

“Elmer Hoffman” were married at the bride’s home “Hope, Kansas”, “October 18, 1912”, to this union one daughter was born;

“Bernadean Pearle Hoffman” born “January 7, 1914”.

We resided at “Dayton, Kansas” where “Elmer” operated a cream station in 1915 we moved to “Hope, Kansas” where we were in the poultry and moving picture business in 1914 we moved to a farm in “Chalk, Kansas”, in 1928 we moved to “Topeka, Kansas”, where we still reside, “Elmer” is a contractor for Interior and Exterior Decorating.

“Bernadean Pearle Hoffman” and

“Elmer Lignitz” were married at “Topeka, Kansas”, “January 25, 1937” they reside in “Los Angeles, California”, on “April 2, 1934”, “Rosa” and “William” celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with open house to the relatives and friends and supper for the children in the evening with a short program.

“Lillian Adelle Lay” and

“Robert R. Drury” were married “January 31, 1887” at the home of the brides parents 7 miles northwest of “Hope, Kansas”, we located in “Monument, Kansas”,

to this union 2 children were born;

“Myrtle Adelle” born “November 4, 1888” at “Monument, Kansas”

“Lydon Robert Drury” born “March 1, 1891” at “Hope, Kansas”, “Dickinson Co”,

“Father” passed away “October 5, 1891” at “Monument, Kansas”, we laid him to rest there, then in later years we came to “Albany, Illinois” to make our home, we brought “Father” here and laid him to rest in “Minta Cemetery”, “Garden (Plains Township) Illinois”, we continued to live in “Albany”. Mother took in sewing and different work to help keep us until we were able to help, mother married again.

“Lillian Adelle Lay Drury” and

“John R. Beeken” were married “September 13, 1899”, “Myrtle” came home from school in the “Spring of 1912”, sick and was in bed all “Summer”, then in “August 21, 1912”, she passed away at our home in “Albany”, she was laid to rest in “Oakridge Cemetery”, “Albany, Illinois”, “John” died in “January 23, 1917” at the home we laid him to rest in “Minta Cemetery”, “Garden (Plains Township) Ill.”, beside his father and mother.

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“Lydon R. Drury” and

“Edna M. Rowlands” were married “January 10, 1917”, they resided on a farm southeast of “Albany”, but now they reside in “Chiton, Iowa”, to this union three children were born;

“Robert Clyde Drury” born “February 1st, 1919”.

“Lydon Rowland Drury” born “April 12, 1924”

“Edna Belle Myrtle” born “October 31, 1929”,

“Mother” passed away, “June 28 1923” at the home in “Albany, Illinois”, we laid her to rest in “Oakridge Cemetery”, “Albany Ill.”, by the side of “Sister Myrtle”.

“George V. Lay” and

“Nora Bohannon” were married at the bride’s home on “November 12, 1896”, at “Hope, Kansas”. We located in the “Dillon”, neighborhood, later we moved to our farm 2½ miles west and 2 miles north of “Navarre, Kansas”, then in later years we sold our farm and bought a home in “Abilene, Kansas”, we lived there for a while, then sold our town property and moved on a farm near, “Gypsum, Kansas”, where we still reside farming and stock raising,

to this union seven children were born:

Mildred Lucille Lay born August 25, 1897.

Robert George Lay born March 13, 1901.

Walter Daw Lay born November 11, 1903.

Elmer B. Lay born October 19, 1906.

Frances Edna Lay born January 12, 1906.

Howard Pau Lay born August 30, 1910.

Helen Katherine Lay born March 25, 1912.

“Mildred Lucille Lay” and

“David Wallace Pryor” were married “January 22, 1919” at the bride’s home, “Navarre Kansas”, they reside on a farm in the “Eureka School” district where they still reside farming and stock raising, to this union two children were born,

“Evelyn Lucille”,

“Wayne Mitchell Pryor”.

“Robert George Lay” is single and is in the army stationed at “Ft. Monroe, Virginia”.

“Walter Daw Lay” and

“Lottie Eleanor Kauffman” were married “May 14, 1925” at the bride’s home, “Navarre Kansas”, to this union six children were born:

“Donald Walter Lay”

“Gilbert Le Roy Lay”

“Virginia Kathryn Lay”

“Rolland George Lay”

“Eleanor May Lay”

“Clinton Lyle Lay”

“Walter” and his family live on a farm, northwest of “Navarre, Kansas” farming and raising stock.

“Elmer B. Lay” is single and working in “Wisconsin”.

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“Frances Edna Lay” and

“Austin Verne Hodges” were married “June 28, 1936” at the home of the bride’s “Gypsum, Kansas”, they reside in “Wichita, Kansas”, to this union one son was born, “Robert Verne Hodges”.

“Howard Paul Lay” and

“Mildred J. Everhart” were married “May 29, 1937”, they reside on a farm in the “Eureka School” district, farming and stock raising, to this union one son was born, “James Howard Lay”.

“Helen Kathryn Lay” and

“Louis Ethan Schultz” were married “November 12, 1935” at the bride’s home at “Gypsum, Kansas”, they reside on a farm west of “Gypsum, Kansas”, farming and stock raising, to this union one son was born, “William George Schultz”.

“Gertrude Lay” and

“John Clifford Hatfield” were married at the home of the bride’s on “November 28, 1895”, at “Hope, Kansas.” They reside at “Pearl, Kansas” where “John” was employed by the “Pearl Town Mercantile Co.” for about 31 years, during these years they seen the town of “Pearl” grow, the school consolidated in 1901, bringing 3 districts together, then the “Grocery Store”, “Blacksmith Shop”, “Creamery”, “Post Office” and “Implement House” were established, having a “Depot”, where with the “Rock Island”, trains coming in daily, passenger and freight trains, at one time this was a busy town, to this union five children were born,

“Florence Alma” were born twins, “October 31, 1897”.

“Floyd Allen” were born twins, “October 31, 1897”.

“Harold Stanley”, born “November 23, 1899”.

“Velva Lucille” born “April 4, 1904”.

“Verlin Le Roy” born “May 13, 1908”,

“Velva Lucille” at the age of 3 yrs., died on “Tuesday, February 5, 1907”, at the home, after a weeks illness of “Pneumonia”, she was laid to rest on “Wednesday, February 6, 1907” at “Pilgrim’s Home Cemetery”, “Hope, Kansas”, the rest of the children lived with their parents, receiving their education at the “Grade School”, “Pearl, Kansas”, “John” and “Gertrude” still reside at the same place they located when they were married 44 yrs, to the years of 1939.

“Florence” was married at the same place she was born,

“Florence Alma Hatfield” and

“Glen Frank Schrader” were married at the bride’s home “October 22nd, 1919” at “Pearl, Kansas”, we reside on the “Hatfield Homestead” 2 miles North and 1 mile West of “Hope, Kansas”, farming and raising stock.

“Floyd Allen Hatfield” and

“Mary Helen Fahrback” were married “September 16, 1926” at “Ogna, Kansas”, they live in their home at “Navarre, Kansas”, “Floyd” drives the bus for “D.C.H.S. High School” in winter and various work in summer.

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“Harold Stanley Hatfield” and

“Mildred Grace Mourer” were married “October 6, 1927” at “Topeka, Kansas”, they live on their farm 4½ mile West and 1 mile South of “Navarre, Kansas”, farming and stock raising, to this union one daughter was born,

“Charlene Ruth Hatfield”, “February 15, 1931”.

“Verlin Le Roy Hatfield” lives at home with the folks, he has not stepped into matrimony yet, he does the farming, chores and as he pleases, helping to keep the wolf from the door.

Well this is the family history up until “September 30, 1938” when we all gathered at the home of “George Lay”, “Gypsum, Kansas” for the “Lay Family Reunion”, we had a bountiful dinner at noon, ice cream and cake in the afternoon and our business meeting, where the group was organized in was voted to hold the reunion last “Sunday in September”, this year it is “September 24, 1939”.

“Harry Lay” was elected President, “Vivian Lay” as elected “Vice President”, “Helen Schultz” “Sec, & Treasurer” and “Florence Schrader” “Historian”, which I have tried to fill the place the best of my ability, the History may be to long for some and some it may be just right but I hope each and every one will be satisfied I have written it the best I could with the materials I had to work with.