WITH LOVE,

By Laura Love Wiese

As I stand and look out over the land known as Georgia Ridge in the foothills of the Ozarks where my father was raised, I wonder if he has ever stood on this exact spot wondering about his forefathers as I do and why they chose to come to Arkansas from Georgia where they had lived for so many years.

My father was the second child of Thomas U. Love and Laura Elizabeth Johnson. Edna Irene Love was born June 4, 1904, in Godley, Johnson County, Texas. James Osbourn Love was born September 4, 1905, in Godley, Texas; John Frank Love was born July 15, 1908; and Laura Love was born November 20, 1909.

Their mother died of blood poisoning two weeks after Laura was born. Tom and Laura were living on a farm between Lawton and Marlow, Oklahoma, when she died. Friends and neighbors came in wagons to pay their respects. Even though Edna was only 5 years old, she was expected to remain inside and not play with the other children. A black hearse took Mrs. Love's remains away at the end of the day. Edna and her father named the baby shortly after Laura's death. Tom and the children stayed with James and Maggie Johnson (Laura's younger sister) for several weeks so Maggie could help care for the newborn. Shortly after this, Tom moved to Texas to work for a good friend, Charles C. Stringer, who, in 1908, had been appointed Superintendent of the County Farm located south of Cleburne, Johnson County, Texas.

Edna's father gave her a doll the first Christmas after her mother's death and a comb and brush set the second year.

Within a year Tom went to work for the Santa Fe Railroad on a section gang where a railroad tie dropped on his leg and broke it. Shortly afterwards he contracted smallpox from "gang" members (men he worked with on the RR) and died at the county farm, where he was living with the Stringer's. His dying request was that the Stringer's adopt all the children. The county would not permit the boys to stay because of the criminal influence of the people confined. The Stringer's had lost a daughter the year before who would have been about the same age as Laura, so at this time they adopted Laura Love.

When their mother died, Edna stayed with her Aunt Maggie and Uncle Carroll for a couple of weeks before she went to live with her maternal grandparents, James A. and Bettie Elizabeth Johnson, who were living in Oklahoma. During the years that Edna lived with her grandparents, she always went to Texas for a month or six weeks in the summer to stay with the Stringer's. They wanted to be sure that Edna and Laura would continue to know another as they grew up.

77

At the same time that Edna went to live in Oklahoma, Jim and Frank were taken to Dyer, Arkansas, to live with their paternal grandfather, James Osbourn Love and two great (maiden ) aunts, Ulema and Anna Mae Love. Mr. Love's wife, Samantha C. Adams had died March 14, 1905. After the boys grandfather died in 1914, these two aunts continued to watch after them along with their Uncle Frank and his wife Carrie Minyard Love who lived approximately ¼ mile East on Georgia Ridge, farming cotton and strawberries.

Jim and Frank went to the Chastin School located on Georgia Ridge with Mrs. Maude Meadow as their teacher. When the Chastin School closed in 1917, the boys went to school in Dyer with Jim only completing the 8th grade.

While growing up Frank had the nickname of "Little Barto." Leslie Morse was one of the boys who lived on Georgia Ridge and went to school with the boys. Leslie gave Odis Sullivan (a cousin to Frank and Jim) his first chew of tobacco. Odis was born February 6, 1907, the third child of Ora H. Love and Charlie Sullivan. Ora died 7 days after Odis was born, and he was also raised in Arkansas by his grandfather.

Bill Love (Frank and Carrie's son) tells of the time Ulema Love contracted pneumonia and the doctor arrived on horseback. When he was ready to leave, my father and \_\_\_\_ Chitwood had cut all the hair off the horses tail.

Around October 1922, Jim went to Elgin, Comanche County, Oklahoma, looking for his sister, Edna who had married Cecil Brooks on July 31, 1920. Cecil was a cotton share crop farmer. The mail carrier, Mr. Jones, told Edna on his morning delivery that he had had a young man asking about Cecil Brooks saying he was his brother-in-law. They went looking for Jim and found him at Mrs. Sanders house where he had stopped to ask directions. He stayed with them for several weeks then they sent for Frank. After the boys helped Cecil get his cotton crop, they all went to Texas around Thanksgiving to see Laura.

They stayed at the county farm with the Stringer's for a couple of weeks, then Jim went back to Oklahoma with Edna and Cecil. Jim worked for Cecil's uncle, Ed Schumann, who was a farmer for several months then in April 1923 Jim went to Marlow, Stephens County, Oklahoma, to visit his Aunt Maggie and Uncle Carroll. He stayed for about 2 months helping with small farm work. They had a tornado while he was there, and they all went to neighbor's cellar. Frank had stayed on the county farm with the Stringer's when Jim went back to Oklahoma.

78

He would fight and box with the prisoners and got where he could "win". Because of this he became very rough.

In 1923, Jim moved back to Texas and lived with the James William Thomas Booth family. He worked on Mr. Booth's farm which was located about 2½ miles south of Egan, Johnson County, Texas. Jim dated Ruby Booth and gave her an engagement ring when she was 17 years old. Two years later she eloped with \_\_\_ Wellmaker one day before she was to marry Jim. Later for a short period of time he worked for Wapples Grocery in Cleburne, Texas, hauling groceries. Then in 19?? he went to work for Clyde Hubbard hauling gasoline from East Texas to Cleburne. On July 16, 1928, he went to work for the Santa Fe Railroad where he worked for over 40 years, retiring on September 4, 1970, due to ill health. Because of his position as a signalman the Railroad obtained a military deferment for him.

While visiting at the Department of Agriculture, Farm Security Administration Office where Mr. Booth worked, Jim met his future wife, Nellie Grace Dunlop. Nellie Grace was born in Cleburne, Texas, on August 13, 1916, the oldest child of John Hiram Dunlop and Lula Nowlin Steele. She grew up in Cleburne, graduating from Cleburne High School.

On February 20, 1935, Jim and Nellie Grace eloped to Mineral Wells, Texas, and did not tell anyone for over a month. They then moved to a house on North Anglin Street and rented the top floor of a private home owned by Dr. & Mrs. W. E. Menefee. Dr. Menefee died in 1940.

In October 1939, Kenneth (Edna's oldest son) had lost his dog, so daddy and mother got him a registered fox terrier (with a big yellow bow). Kenneth had him until his oldest son was born in 1949. Pal (dog's name) was the first time Edna had let a dog stay in the house.

Nellie Grace had a son who was still born, approximately a year before I was born. I was born on November 24, 1942. To this day, I believe that my love of reading is because of the many hours Mrs. Menefee spent reading to me in her highback rocker which had come down the Mississippi on a flatboat when the Menefees had come to Texas. I now have that rocker and all of my children were rocked in it when they were babies. I had a storybook which had a page story for every day of the year. The Porter Smith's were the neighbors to the south of the Menefees. Mr. Smith worked for the post office for many, many years.

79

Thomas David Love was born July 26, 1946, in Cleburne, Texas, weighting only 4 lbs. 3 ozs. Dr. Knox did not believe that he would live. On **March 30, 1949, 1**  the third child James Robert was born. James married Linda Wilson on \_\_\_ and they had one son James Christopher Love. William Earl Love was born July 19, 1951. Mother didn't realize she was pregnant until she was in surgery. William joined the Army in -—-—-——. He married Mary ————— on ——————.

***1 ~ [Editor's note: According to Ancestry.com, James Robert Love was born 23 Mar 1949; parents were James Robert Love and Nellie Grace Dunlop.]***

When I was young I can remember living in North Cleburne -237 N. Huron - Daddy owned 2 lots which he purchased from Mr. F. L. Hunt in August, 1948. One was vacant and was the place for all neighborhood football and baseball games. Having 3 younger brothers and the neighborhood being full of boys, I grew up able to play these sports as well as most boys. I had to in self-defense. One of the boys, Ronnie Kirkpatrick, died our sophomore year in high school during a football game.

Mr. & Mrs. Owens lived next door on Huron. They bought the first T.V. in the neighborhood. We stood in their [yard] at night and sneaked looks at it. As I think about all the games and toys my children have had in their life, I think about ours. Amazing how things have changed in such a short period of time. I'll never forget we had a sidewalk which ran the full length of both lots. Very few of the other houses even had sidewalks, so when every one got roller skates, it was our house where they came to skate. I wish I had a nickel for every time I fell before I finally learned.

As I watch my sons preparing a small portion of our back yard for a garden, I think of the garden my father always had. Daddy raised and mother canned nearly all of the vegetables we had. Daddy also raised chickens.

I started piano lessons when I was in the second grade from a sweet little old lady named Mrs. Woods, I continued these until I was a sophomore in high school.

Mother and Daddy bought a new house at 1107 West Chambers in February when I was in the sixth grade.

On September 1, 1962, I married Riley Alvin Wiese. From September 1962 until August 1963, we lived in Austin, Texas, while Riley attended the University of Texas Law School. Because we were soon expecting a family, we moved back to Dallas, where Riley had graduated from Southern Methodist University with an Accounting Degree, and he went to work in the accounting department of the Dallas Times Herald.

80

Our daughter, Rebecca Lynn Wiese, was born on Thursday, November 1, 1963, at 07:29 p.m. She weighted 8 lbs 10 ozs and was 20" long. She was born at Baylor Hospital in Dallas, Texas. Rebecca was only 3 weeks old when President Kennedy was assassinated. Like millions of other people across the nation, I will never forget that day. My parents had come to Dallas for lunch, to play with their new granddaughter, and help me prepare for a trip to Eagle Lake, Texas to see Riley's brother Jim who had joined the Marines.

David Riley Wiese was born on Wednesday, September 23, 1964, at 08:05 p.m. He weighed 7 lbs 1¼ ozs and was 19" long. He was born at Baylor Hospital in Dallas, Texas. When David was 6 weeks old we discovered he had a **hydrocele** By the time he was 18 months old he had had three operations.

***[Editor's note: A hydrocele is a painless buildup of watery fluid around one or both*** [***testicles***](http://www.webmd.com/hw-popup/testicles) ***that causes the*** [***scrotum***](http://www.webmd.com/hw-popup/scrotum) ***or groin area to swell. This swelling may be unsightly and uncomfortable, but it usually is not painful and generally is not dangerous. Although hydroceles are common in newborns, they can also occur at any age in later life.]***

Richard Scott Wiese was born on Sunday, April 9, 1967, at Eagle Lake Community Hospital. He weighed —— and was ——" long. Around the first of November, 1966, while I was pregnant with Scott, I fell and broke my foot.

Riley and I were divorced on July 19, 1972. I sold our house in Grand Prairie, Dallas and Ellis and Tarrant Counties, Texas, and moved to Cleburne where the children and I lived until we moved to Arlington, Tarrant County, Texas, in May 1973. The children have all attended Duff Elementary, Bailey Junior High, and Arlington High School.

After years of heart trouble, daddy's heart finally played out on November 6, 1973.

November 27, 1976, was like any other Saturday morning. The children and I were visiting their grandparents for the Thanksgiving holidays. Mother Wiese, Becky, and I were going to Houston to have lunch. David, Scott, and Shawn (their cousin) were going quail hunting. While in the rice field hunting, David slipped on a levee and his 12 gauge shotgun discharged into the calf of his left leg. After being taken to the emergency room in Eagle Lake, Texas, he was transported by ambulance to St. Joseph Hospital in Houston, Texas where he underwent 3 hours of emergency surgery in hopes of saving his leg. It was determined at this time that to much damage had been done to the arteries, no artificial bypass could be used, and the leg would have to come off. Even at 12 years old David had always been such a good athlete, it seemed as if his whole life had gone down the drain. The three weeks David spent in the hospital and the many adjustments which he had to make were made much easier by the exceptional doctors, hospital staff, and therapists.

81

While in the hospital, David received a letter from Bryan Hall, who was a senior at Texas Tech and place kicker for the football team. Bryan had lost part of his foot when he was 14. David also received an autographed football from the Dallas Cowboys which Drew Pearson had taken to a football practice for them all to sign.

My Grandfather was the fourth child of John Osbourn Love and Samantha C. Adams. Samantha was the daughter of Andrew and Carolyn Adams who lived in Gordon County, Georgia. Samantha and John married in December of 1854 in Gordon County, Georgia. Of this union there were eleven children.

John O. Love was the son of John Love born in Cleveland County, North Carolina, and Rebecca Hardin. John Love was the son of Charlie Love, who lived in North Carolina. John Osbourn's early education was obtained in Gordon County, Georgia, with Edward Croney as teacher; he was a farmer by occupation.

In May, 1862, John O. Love and Thomas Roberts joined the Confederate Army. John was a Private in Company B, 8th Battalion, Georgia Infantry. He was captured and was a prisoner of war in the Military prison at Louisville, Kentucky. He pledged an "Oath of Allegiance" on July 27, 1864.

He joined the Sonora Lodge #221 Gordon County, Georgia, of the Masons in November 1871 but disappeared from their rolls in 1876. He was a member in good standing of Dyer Lodge #454, Dyer, Arkansas, at the time of his death.

Between June 1880 and February 1881, the John Osbourn Love family moved from Gordon County, Georgia to Arkansas.

The Dyer Baptist Church was set in order April 23, 1893. Four of the charter members were (1) Sallie Love; (2) Ulema Love; (3) John Love, Jr.; and (4) S. C. Love (Samantha Love).

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