

Our family

Family Lineage, traced backward from Thomas Mitchell Wilhite

*Wilhite &
Snodgrass*

Wilhite Wilhoit / Willheit

All of the thousands of Wilhoites/Wilhites (Willits, Wilheits, etc.) in the United States appear to be descendants of Michael Willheit, an Evangelical Lutheran from Schwaigern (in Baden-Wurtemmburg, Germany) who was part of the Germanna colony in Virginia. This group came to the United States in 1717.

The name may come from the German “Wildness”, in which case it would have referred to a perceived character trait in a family member. However, while in Germany, one Wilhite was told, variously, that it meant ‘Wild Meadow’, ‘Keeper of the Wild’ (gamekeeper), and that it was the union of two families, the Will’s and Heid’s.

Although the family seems to have been successful in whatever passed for business at the time (blacksmithing, inn-keeping, farming, etc.), a surprising number have made their mark in the arts: Donald MacRae Wilhoite, Sr., wrote the sentimental hit “Mother,” and “M is for the many things...”. His son, writing as Don Raye, wrote a string of hits, including “Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B” and “I Remember April”. Fans of the hit medical television series “ER” will be familiar with Kathleen Wilhoite, who played ‘Chloe’ for several seasons. She is a distinguished actress who has also appeared on numerous other TV shows including “Twin Peaks” and “L.A. Law”. She is also a singer and has released a CD. Lisa Wilhoit, an actress in her teens, co-starred on “The Tom Arnold Show”, but also has a number of fans from “My So-CalledLife”.

The destroyer escort, USS Wilhoite (DER 397), was named for Thomas Mack Wilhoite, who received a Silver Star posthumously for his combat in Operation Torch (the World War II invasion of French North Africa).



Schwaigern, the Wilhoite’s ancestral town, is on the outskirts of Heilbronn (Baden-Wuerttemberg). Heilbronn was largely bombed out during the war, but a Baroque castle still remains near Schwaigern itself. It also has a thriving wine industry.

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traced backward from
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Thomas Mitchell Wilhite.....p. 7
Thomas Lafayette Wilhitep. 12
Ancient Germany.....p. 14



Forrest Milton (Mickey) Cost
Postal Mail Carrier
b. 2-26-1919 Fletcher, Oklahoma
d. 1-6-1989 Anadarko, Oklahoma

James Steven Cost
Graphic Designer
College Professor
b. 5-16-1949

Christopher James Cost
Film Maker, Videographer
Computer Animator, Teacher
b. 9-26-1979

Mary Ellen Wilhite
b. 10-12-1923 Apache, Oklahoma
d. 12-15-1999 Anadarko, Oklahoma
m. 1-5-1945

Celes Anne Cost
b. 6-22-2001

Collin James Cost
b. 6-24-2004

Sharon Kay Blagowsky
Dancing Instructor
b. 3-16-1948
m. 6-5-1970

Anya Michelle Dawson
b. 10-10-1981
m. 1-10-2001

to Benjamin
Wilhite

Daniel (Dick) Wilhite
b. 4-12-1840 Plum Creek,
White Co. Tenn.
d. 2-5-1909 Sparta,
White Co. Tenn.
buried Plum Creek
cemetery, Sparta,
White Co. Tenn.

Thomas Lafayette Wilhite
b. 5-25-1869 Sparta, White Co. Tenn.
d. 9-18-1939

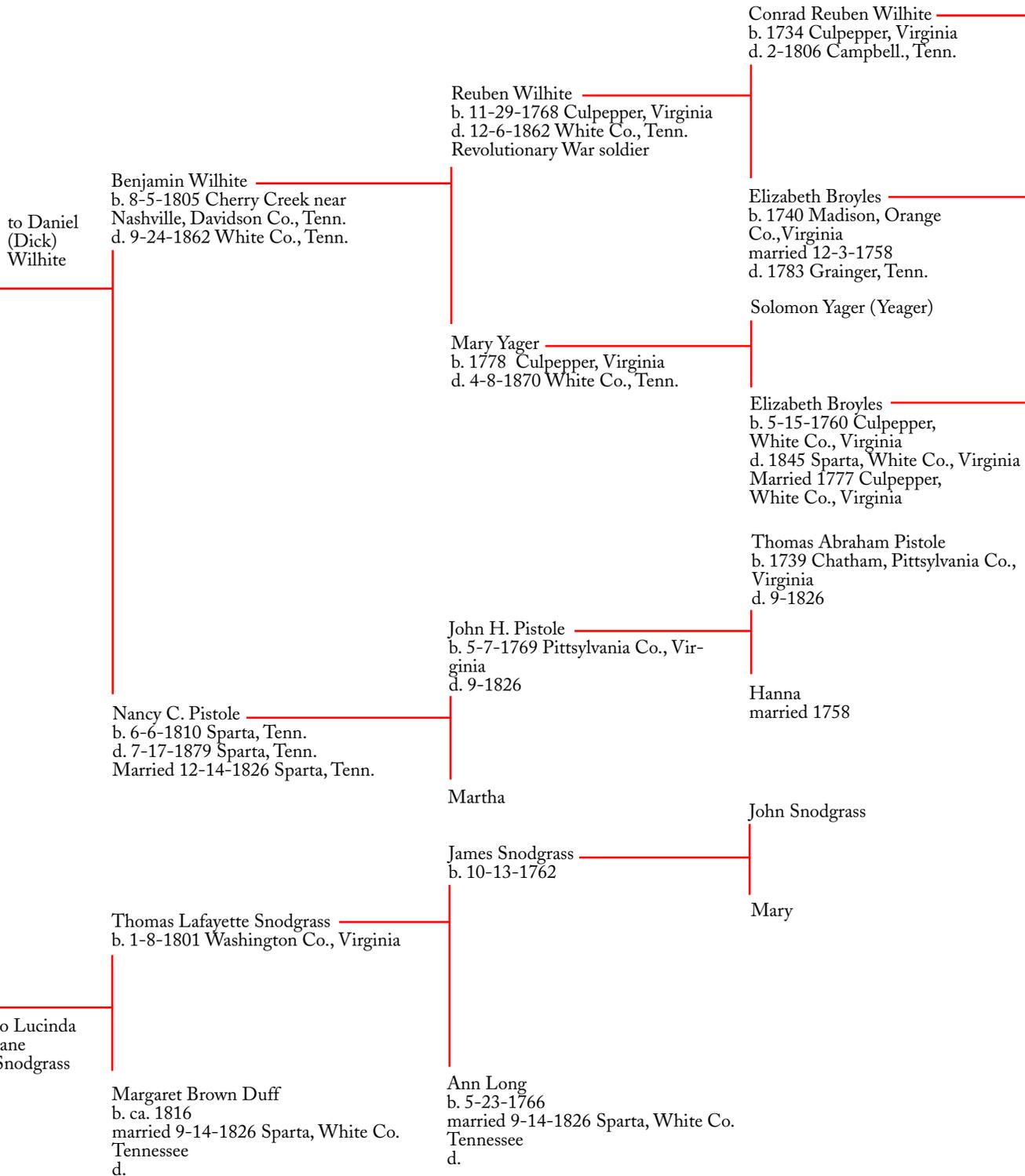
Thomas Mitchell Wilhite
Small Trucking Operator, Farmer,
Ford sales and finance.
Lived in Apache, Okla.
b. 8-16-1899 Leonard, Fannin
County, Texas
m. 9-15-1918
d. 1-22-1987 in nursing home at
Cyrill, Okla.
Divorced and remarried Geneva
Carpenter on 5-22-1937

to Thomas
Lafayette
Snodgrass

Lucinda Jane Snodgrass
b. 12-1-1838 Plum Creek district,
Sparta, White Co. Tenn.
m. 4-24-1861
d. 11-19-1877 Sparta, Tenn.

Elsie Mae Stevens
b. 9-28-1900
d. 1987 Anadarko, Okla.

Katie Jane Osborn
b. 8-12-1877 Sparta, White Co. Tenn.
(Thomas Mitchell Wilhite's birth
certificate states her state of birth was
Arkansas)
m. 7-8-1892 Leonard, Texas
d. 6-22-1930



Johann (Hans) Michael Wilhite
 b. 1-25-1671 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg, Germany
 d. 11-26-1738 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg, Germany

to Hans
 Michael
 Wilhite

Tobias Wilhite
 b. 7-15-1708 Maintz, Wuerttemberg,
 Germany
 m. 1734
 d. 5-20-1762 Culpepper, Virginia

to Hans Thom-
 as Blakenuehler

#3 our ancestor: Mary Margaret Blankenbuehler
 b. 1690 Alcase, Germany d. 1746 Madison, Virginia
 married 1710 Schwaigern
 #1 Anna Dorthea Boger Mueller, married 1-29-1696
 Schwaigern
 #2 Anna Maria Hengsteler, married 2-16-1706 Schwaigern

Catherine Walke

to Elizabeth
 Broyles, wife
 of Solomon
 Yager

Nicholas Broyles

Johannes Broyles (Breuel)
 b. 5-1-1679 Oteisheim, Wurtemberg,
 Baden-Wurtemberg, Germany
 Christening: Lutheran Church,
 Dusslingen, Wurttemberg
 d. 2-5-1733 Spottsylvania, Virginia

to Conrad
 Broyles

Dorothea Christler

Hans Jacob Broyles
 b. 3-26-1705 Oteisheim, Wurtem-
 burg, Baden-Wurtemberg, Germany
 d. 5-18-1763 Culpepper, Virginia

#1 our ancestor: Ursula Ruop
 married 11-6-1703 Otisheim, Wurttem-
 burg, Germany
 #2 Catharine Wayland
 married 1748

from Eliza-
 beth Broyles,
 wife of Con-
 rad Reuben
 Wilhite

#1 our ancestor: Mary Catharine Fleishman
 married 1727 Spottsylvania, Virginia
 #2 Catharine Wayland
 married 1748

to Johann
Michael
Wilhite

Hans Michael Wilhite
b. 9-9-1645 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg, Germany
d. 9-23-1711 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg, Germany

Johann George Wilhite
b. 4-25-1610 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg, Germany
d. 11-13-1685 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg, Germany

#1 our ancestor: Barbara Lutz
b. ca. 12-4-1615 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg,
Germany
d. 7-31-1674 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg,
Germany
married 7-12-1640 Schwaigern, Neckarkreis,
Wuerttemberg, Germany
#2 Anna Maria Ehrens
b. Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg, Germany
d. Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg, Germany
married 10-7-1675

Martin Ruffin
b. 9-8-1623 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg,
Germany
d. after 10-26-1686 Schwaigern, Wuerttem-
berg, Germany

#1 our ancestor: Anna Maria Ruffin
b. 1647 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg, Germany
d. 12-27-1689 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg,
Germany
married 11-3-1668

#2 Anna Barbara Nellinger (Boger)
married 11-18-1690

#1 our ancestor: Barbara Barten-Schlag
b. 1617 Hafnerhaslach, Baden, Germany
d. 8-16-1660 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg,
Germany
married 7-4-1647
#2 Susanna Rosel
married 5-13-1661

to Mary Mar-
garet Blanken-
buehler

Johann (Hans) Thomas Blankenuehler
(Blankenbaker), Germany

Martin Breuel (Broyles) (Broyel) (Breils)
b. 1622 Dusslingen, Wuerttemberg, Germany
d. 3-29-1691 Dusslingen, Wuerttemberg, Germany

Anna barbara Schone

to
Johannes
Broyles

Conrad Broyles (Broyel) (Breils)
b. 12-12-1652 Dusslingen, Wuerttemberg,
Germany
christened Lutheran Church, Dusslingen
d. 10-8-1703 Dusslingen, Wuerttemberg, Ger-
many

Anna Durr
b. 1617 Dusslingen, Wuerttemberg, Germany
d. 4-27-1682 Dusslingen, Wuerttemberg,
Germany

Margaretha Schelling
b. 1-18-1658
d. 11-17-1651
married 8-16-1678

Georg Willheit
 b. ca. 1580 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg, Germany
 d. 8-19-1623 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg, Germany

Georg Willheit
 b. ca. 1550 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg, Germany
 d. ca. 1617 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg, Germany

Rosina Anna Kneer Bickel
 b. Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg, Germany
 d. ca. 1637 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg, Germany
 married 4-3-1605

Georg Ruffin
 b. 1530 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg, Germany
 d. 2-5-1627 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg,
 Germany

Johannes (Hans) Ruffin
 b. 1580 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg, Germany
 burrial 9-10-1629 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg,
 Germany

Barbara
 b. 1558 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg, Germany
 d. 7-18-1635 Schwaigern, Wuerttemberg,
 Germany
 married 1579

#2 our ancestor: Barbara Kneer
 married 1610
 #1 Anna Ebermann
 married 7-6-1602
 #3 Catharina Muller
 married 1-18-1626

Matthias Bartenschlag

Catharina

Johannes (Hans) Breuel (Broyles) (Broyel) (Breils)
 b. 1596
 d. ca. 1639 Dusslingen, Wuerttemberg, Germany

Anna
 b. 1600 Dusslingen, Wuerttemberg, Germany
 married 1620

Conrad Durr

Thomas Mitchell Wilhite

b. 8-16-1899 Lexington, Oklahoma Territory
 m. 9-15-1918 to Elsie Stevens
 d. 1-22-1987 in nursing home at Cyrill, Okla.
 Divorced and remarried Geneva Carpenter on 5-22-1937

Children of Mitchell and Elsie Stevens Wilhite:

Malva Jo (short for Josephine after great-grandmother on her mother's side—Tamus Cornelia Josephine Holcum Massey)

b. 1919 Apache, Okla.
 m. to Ernest Gilbert Wilson
 remarried to George Malon
 d.

Mary Ellen
 b. 10-12-1923 Apache, Okla.
 m. 1-5-1945 to Forrest Milton "Micky" Cost Fort Sill, OK
 d. 12-14-1999 Chickasha in Grady Memorial Hospital while living in Anadarko, Okla.



*Mitchell Wilhite's
pocket watch*



Left to right back: (front porch of Wilhite home in Apache, Oklahoma) Mary Ellen Wilhite Cost, Geneva Wilhite, Thomas Mitchell Wilhite. Front: Sharon Blagowsky Cost with Christopher Cost, F.M. "Micky" Cost. Steve Cost took the photo in 1983.



Left to right: Geneva Wilhite, Steve Cost, Mitchell Wilhite, infant Christopher Cost, Mary Ellen Wilhite Cost taken when Micky worked at Fort Cobb Dam in 1979.



Mitchell, Buelah and Elizabeth Wilhite

My Granddad, Mitch Wilhite favored my mother and she adored him and called him “Daddy.” When I was seven or eight he had me out to his little farm west of Apache, with lots of hills and streams nearby, where I remember having trouble sleeping in the living room because his grandfather clock chimed on the hour all night. During the day he let me ride around on his tractor and steer, and play with his big shaggy dog, Taffy. His wife, Geneva, taught elementary school in town.

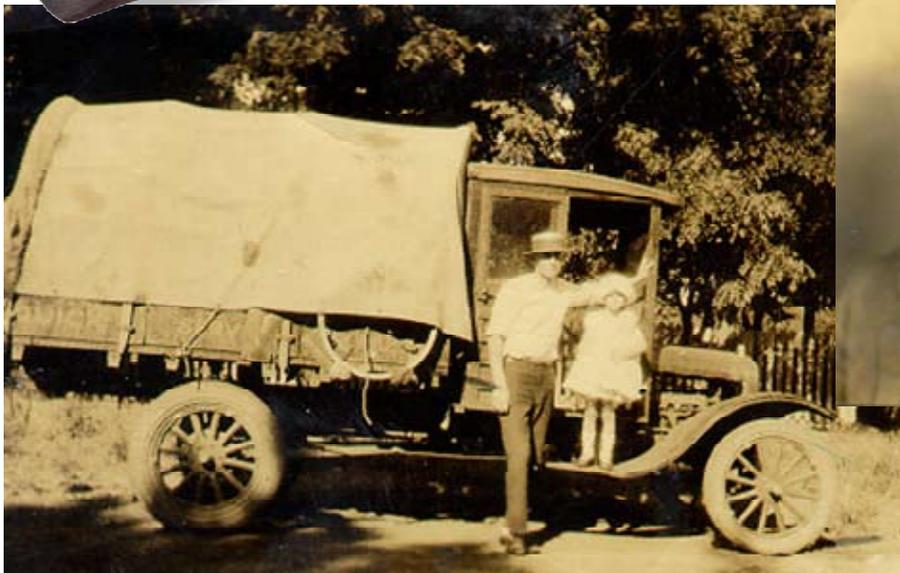
He worked at the Malone Ford dealership in Apache, and I loved visiting there and checking out all the new cars. My dad bought one from Granddad in 1964 when I was 15, and I talked Dad into getting a yellow Fairlane 500 with black racing stripes on the sides.

When Granddad moved to town, I remember visiting with my parents. They would always have a little bit of whiskey to drink and I remember Granddad letting me have a taste. He bought me a .22 cal. rifle and taught me how to hunt squirrels. I still have that single shot rifle and also his .22 semi-automatic we hunted with. He taught me how to fly fish and to fish casting lures into the streams. I like that kind of fishing much more than just baiting and sitting and watching. He also showed me how to fillet the fish to fry up when we got back to his home. He love to fish and actively fished around Caddo County up into his nineties.

Granddad also had a garden in his backyard in town, ploughed it with a hand-plow I now have. He grew lots of turnips, tomatoes, and pears. He never smoked and didn't like for my mother to smoke. He was very thrifty, but paid for me to go to Italy to study art with Louisiana Tech University in the summer of 1969. I inherited many of his antique tools, some jewelry and and his bedroom furniture on which I sleep today. —Steve Cost



Mitchell Wilhite's wood plane



Four-year-old Malva Jo with her father Mitchell Wilhite in the 1920s when he had a trucking business in Apache and Fletcher.

Thomas Lafayette Wilhite

b. 5-25-1869 Sparta, White Co. Tennessee
m. 7-8-1892
9-18-1938

Left Sparta, Tennessee to farm in Leonard, Texas—where he married when he was 30 years old and she 22—and later settled in Lexington, Oklahoma. The United States government purchased 12,000 square miles of land from the Cherokee Indians in 1890 and paid \$8,500,000 for the land on September 16, 1893, with the government offering the Cherokee Strip to settlers for homestead. Thomas Wilhite was one of the later settlers at Lexington, Oklahoma Territory.

Children of Thomas Lafayette and Katie Jane Wilhite:

Ollie Myrtle
b. 8-21-1893 m. 4-30-1911 to Roy Burkett d. 1-23-1962

Ova Mae
b. 5-20-1895 m. 8-24-1913 to Tom Luvis d. 1-25-1956

Gracie Gladys
b. 4-4-1897 m. 5-31-1916 to Mal Jarboe d.

Thomas Mitchell
b. 8-16-1899, Leonard, Texas m. 9-15-1918 to Elsie Stevens remarried 5-22-1937 to Geneva Carpenter d. 1-22-1987 in nursing home at Cyrill, Okla.

Lizzie Jane
b. 9-18-1901
m. 12-2-1919 to Larain “Tobby” Center d.

Beulah Bell
b. 9-18-1901 m. 9-2-1921 to Chas Schrameck d.

Daniel “Red” Clifton
b. 4-3-1906 m. 12-31-1927 to Lillis Moody d.

James Haskell
b. 9-7-1907 (twin) 12-31-1931 to Mildred Kees
d. 12-24-1960

Charles Herman
b. 9-7-1907 (twin) d. 2-13-1908 in infancy

Hazle Mattie
b. 1-30-1912 m. 8-24-1929 to Loyd Watkins d.

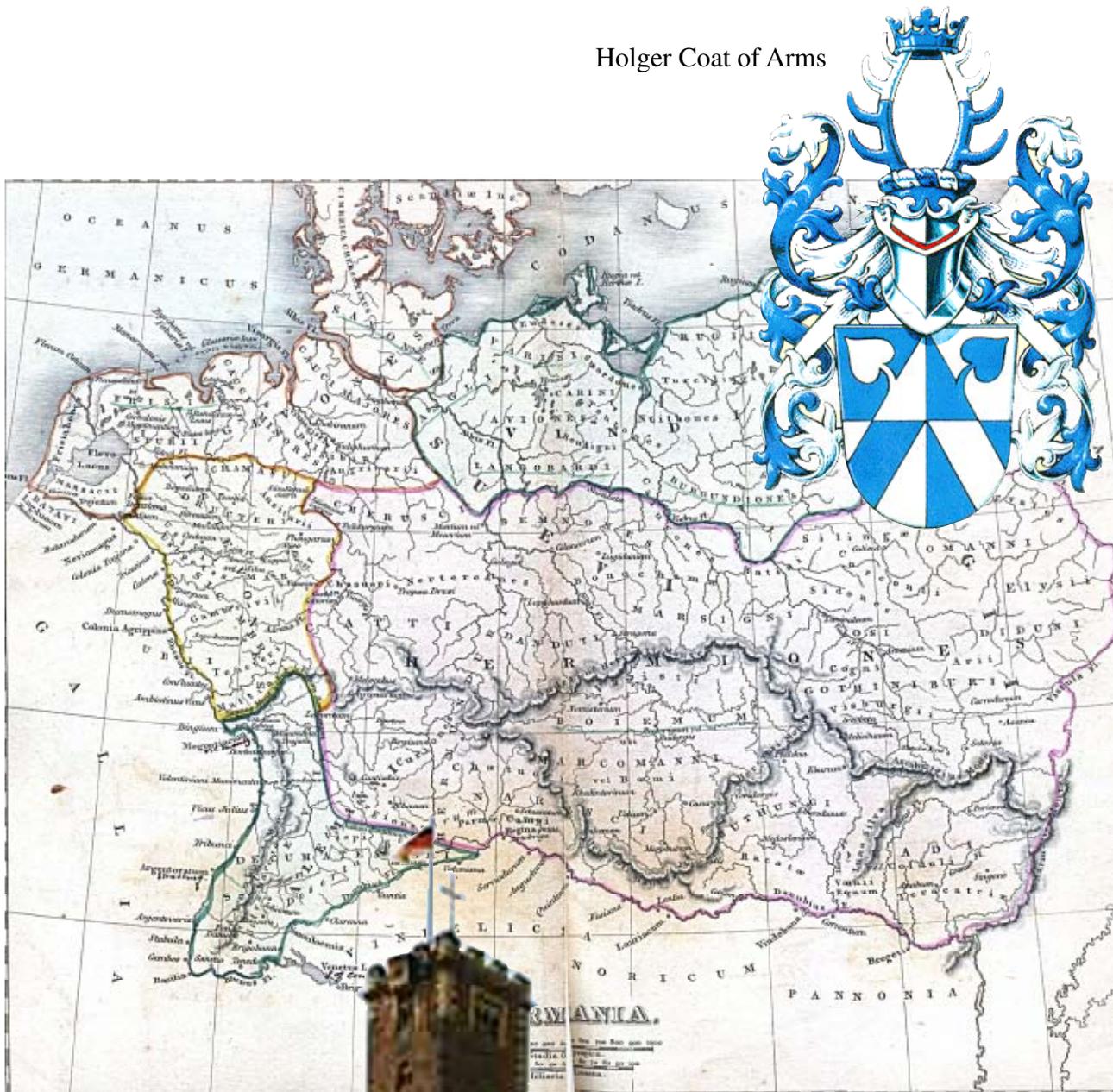
Thomas Lafayette, Jr.
b. 7-10-1918 m. 3-4-1939 to Fannie Mae McNutt d.



Katie Jane Osborn

b. 8-12-1877 Sparta, White Co. Tennessee
m. 7-8-1892 Leonard, Texas
d. 6-22-1930 Lexington, Oklahoma

Holger Coat of Arms



Wartburg_Castle Germany



