

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY YEARS

OF THE

SHIELDS AND COURT FAMILIES

CONNECTION TO RAYMOND

ALBERTA CANADA

1900 - 2020

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED

TO OUR SHIELDS AND COURT ANCESTERS

AND TO THE POSTERITY OF

JO ANNE PITTMAN AND THOMAS WILLIAM SHIELDS



IN ANTICIPATION OF MY 80TH BIRTHDAY IN OCTOBER OF THE YEAR 2020, I HAVE FOR A LONG TIME DESIRED TO LEAVE TO MY POSTERITY A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF MY, AND THEIR ANCESTORS. THIS RECORD SPEAKS OF, AND WILL LEAD YOU TO READ ABOUT PEOPLE WHO WERE INVOLVED WITH THE FOUNDING OF THIS NATION, THE EARLY DAYS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, AND THE SPIRIT OF GATHERING THAT INSPIRED NEW CONVERTS TO LEAVE THE BRITISH ISLES AND GATHER TO ZION. THIS RECORD ALSO TALKS ABOUT THE WESTWARD EXPANSION OF THE AMERICAN STATES, AND THE HUMBLE ROLE THE SHIELDS AND THE COURT FAMILIES PLAYED IN THOSE EVENTS. THEY WERE PIONEERS WHO SETTLED THE VALLEYS OF UTAH, AND WHO WERE CALLED BY CHURCH LEADERS TO EMIGRATE TO CANADA AND INTRODUCE IRRIGATION FARMING TO THE FERTILE PRAIRIES OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA. ESPECIALLY, THIS IS ABOUT MEMBERS OF THOSE TWO FAMILIES WHO INTERMARRIED, MOVED TO OR WERE BORN IN, THE TOWN OF RAYMOND, ALBERTA, CANADA.

MY MATERNAL GREAT - GREAT - GRANDPARENTS

Thomas Edward Court (b. 1805) in Doddington, Kent, England: 10th child of Edward and Elizabeth Court.

Amelia Owen (b. 1814) in Chilham, Kent, England: 9th child of James and Ann Harris Owen

Thomas and Amelia were married in July of 1834 at Cliffe, Kent, England. Between 1835 and 1850 they had 10 children, of which only 3 survived to adulthood: Jane (1837), Francis (1839), and **Owen** (1846 at Faversham, Kent, England). In 1852 the parents and the two oldest children were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Owen was baptized in 1855, when he was 9 years old.



1805-1892



1814-1878

MY PATERNAL GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS

George Shields (b. 1828) in Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland,
the 5th child of James and Elizabeth Shields



Jane Cardy (b. 1828) in Johnstone, Renfrewshire, Scotland,
the only child of Albert and Margaret Cardy



George and Jane were married in May of 1846,
at Paisley, Scotland.

Between 1847 and 1867 they had 11 children, of which only 8 survived
to adulthood: James (1847), Elizabeth (1854), Margaret (1859), William
(1859), Sarah (1862), David (1863), George (1865) and Isabella (1867).



George Shields
1828 - 1908



Jane Carday
1828 - 1911

George and Jane's Stories

George Shields was a weaver. His family's skills were such that they had developed their own special dyes and patterns that were distinctly recognized and uniquely theirs. They maintained their looms in their home that shared a large garden plot with other similar houses that bordered a canal. The town drinking water came from a well in the village common. This well was a favorite rest stop for travelers passing through town.

One chilly, rainy day, George went to the village well to draw water. Sitting on the wall of the well were two strangers eating plain bread. They requested of George a drink of water. But George suspected a greater need. Bread without cheese was a sign of frugality. He immediately invited the strangers to his home. There his mother suggested they sit by the fire to dry and warm themselves while she fixed a warm meal. They introduced themselves as missionaries from the Utah Territory of the Western United States, traveling without purse or scrip as part of their free will assignment. On January 4th, 1845, George accepted their invitation to be baptized. Eventually, his parents and seven siblings also accepted baptism.



George and Jane as they appear in the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Museum in Salt Lake City

Jane Cardy went to work in the cotton mills at the age of eight years, attending night school for three months each year during the winter. She was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on January 4, 1845 at the same services as George Shields. In order to attend the services, she walked ten miles from Johnston to Paisley as this was the nearest missionary branch. Here she met and associated with George Shields until May 17, 1846, when they were married.

George and Jane served as active members of the church branch at Paisley, Scotland for six years. We can well imagine their anxiety as they methodically put aside a small bit of money whenever they could spare it, hoping someday that they could cross the ocean to the Great Salt Lake Valley. Then one day, their long awaited and hoped for dream became a reality. With two small sons, James, age six, and George, age six months, this pioneer couple left behind their families, home, and three infants buried in Scottish soil, to start life anew in the Great Salt Lake Valley.

For a very interesting “rest of their story” go to Jane Cardy’s “person page”
< <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/KWJY-67H>>



MY MATERNAL GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Owen Thomas Court (b. 1846) Faversham, Kent,
England: eighth child of Thomas and Amelia Court



Louisa Sarah Swinyard (b. 1851) Milton, Kent,
England: first child of Samuel and Maria Swinyard



Owen Thomas Court and Louisa Sarah Swinyard

were married in 1868. Their first child, George Edward Owen was born in April, 1869. In October of that year the three of them, Owen, Louisa, and baby George set sail for America, accompanied by Owen's parents, Thomas and Amelia, and by Amelia's parents, Samuel and Maria, with the intention of settling in Salt Lake City; which they did after crossing America on the sixth immigrant train to pass thru Ogden on the new Transcontinental Railway. In the next three and a half years, two more children were added to the family, **Thomas Samuel** (my grandfather) in 1871, and Florence Jane in 1873.

Louisa Sarah Swinyard



1851 - 1936

Owen Thomas Court



1846 - 1916



THE PARENTS

Owen Thomas and Louisa Sarah Court

THE CHILDREN

Florence Jane, Thomas Samuel,
George Edward Owen

This is the family who combined the Shields and the Court Families.

Florence Jane, age 19, married George Livingston Shields, age 24, who is the first child of.....James and Elizabeth Shields
Thomas's daughter Florence, age 19, married Leland Shields, age 26, who is a grandson of.....James and Elizabeth Shields
George E.O., age 20, married Margaret Geneva Shields, age 17, who is the fourth child of.....James and Elizabeth Shields
(My mother, Florence Court Shields was always proud of the fact that she was.....
Florence Court Shields, the 2nd.)



*Tom Court
George Court
* Elizabeth Jane Court*



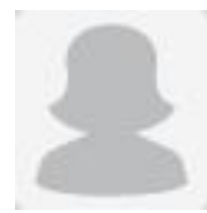
Owen T Court, his wife Louisa, their daughter-in-law Margaret and three of her children: George, Myrtle and Clifford

MY PATERNAL GREAT GRANDPARENTS

James Craig Shields (b. 1847) Johnstone, Renfrewshire, Scotland, first child of George and Jane Shields



Elizabeth Dow Livingston (b. 1846) Johnstone, Renfrewshire, Scotland, the only child of John and Isabella Dow. (There are three versions as to why John Dow disappeared from the family: the parents divorced, or John died, or he went to England to find work and was never heard from again..)



James and Elizabeth were married in December 1865. Between 1866 and 1884 they had twelve children, six girls and six boys. Jane was born in 1866, **in West Jordan, Utah. The rest of the children were born in South Jordan, Utah.** George Livingston, 1868; Isabella Verena, 1870; Elizabeth Burnette, 1872; Margaret Geneva, 1873, Annie Jeannette, 1875; Violet Elizabeth, 1877; James Wallace, 1877; Wilford Lafayette, 1881; David Royal, 1882 and died 1882; John Bruce, 1882; and **William Clyde**, (my grandfather), 1884. *(In 1873 James married Martha Soffe as a plural wife. See footnote #1 at the end of this book.)*

James Craig Shields



1847 - 1884

Elizabeth Dow Livingston



1846 - 1928

James and Elizabeth's Stories

James Shields; Determined to emigrate to America, George and Jane Shields and their two sons **James** and baby George left Scotland and sailed from Liverpool, England, with a large company of LDS Church converts on the 28th of March, 1853. The sea voyage consumed six weeks. Their days were taken up with four hours of school for the children and constant labor by everyone to make tents for housing when the time came to cross the American prairie by covered wagon. Living quarters on the ship were washed and fumigated once each week.

On Tuesday, May 15th, 1853 they arrived at the mouth of the Mississippi River. On Wednesday, May 18th their sailing ship arrived at New Orleans. On Friday, May 20th, they left New Orleans on the steamer "Saint Nicholas". On May 28th, they arrived at Keokuk, Iowa, where they and many others, totaling 294 people, were divided into four companies. Each company received four tents and were provisioned with bacon, flour, sugar, baking powder, and soap. In the wagon train of 22 covered wagons, every two wagons shared a washtub, bucket, baking dish, oven, whip and hatchet. Known as the Appleton M. Harmon Company, they left Council Bluffs, Iowa on the 15th and 16th of June, 1853. Exactly four months later they arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on the 16th of October, 1853. Total travel time from England, 6 and 1/2 months.

Most of the people in the wagon train had been city folks, therefore they were inexperienced at driving oxen, herding cows, shoeing horses, and hunting buffalo, but they learned how. Three times they were raided by Indians. From trees, they had to repair axles, wagon wheels and spokes. They encountered hail storms and a lot of rain. They buried their dead 6 feet in the ground so as not to be bothered by wolves. Finally they arrived in the Salt Lake Valley, where they camped at the Public Square and put the cattle in the churchyard. Ultimately, the family settled in West Jordan, and later bought a farm in South Jordan, right on the river: Salt Lake, Utah Territory, where they had eight more children between 1854-1867.

James was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on 25 October 1863, at the age of 16. At age 18, he married his 19 year old cousin, Elizabeth Dow Livingston, on December 2nd, 1865.

Elizabeth Dow was born on December 4, 1846, in Johnstone, Refrewshire, Scotland, to John and Isabella Shields Dow. Starting at age 7 y/o she went with her mother to work at the thread mill. One of her first jobs was to gather up the wasted thread that fell on the floor around where her mother worked.

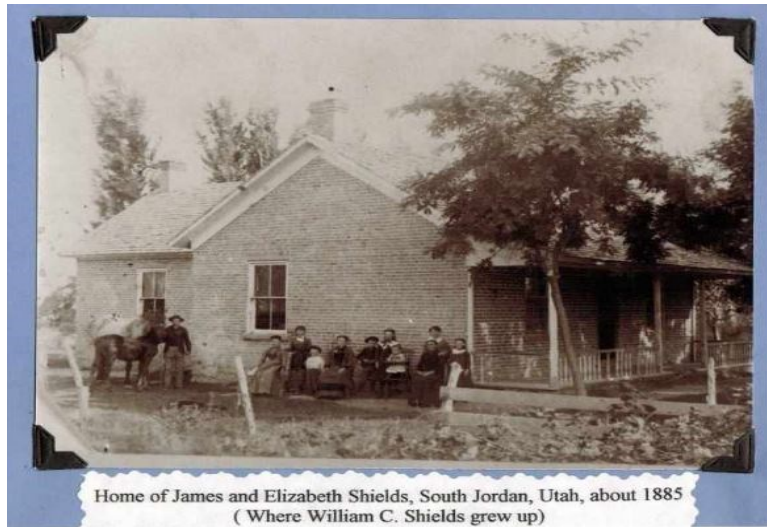
When she was 8 years old, she was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in December 1854, but her mother wasn't baptized until October 1857. They were members of the Paisley Branch. Sometime in 1855, when she was 9 years old her birth father became "no longer" a part of her life. Later that same year her mother, at age 31, was married to one Alexander Livingston. When he adopted Elizabeth, he gave her a new last name.

Records show that in 1863, the Livingstons sailed for America on the ship "Sunny Shore" and were eight weeks on the ocean. In the story of her life, they crossed the plains with the John Wooley Company. It is very likely that this was the company she was in because she tells how the chaplain of the company was Joseph F.

Smith, age 24, who was returning from a mission in Britain. In the Wooley Company there were about 200 individuals who departed from the outfitting post at Florence, Nebraska (now Omaha) on August 9th, 1863. It was a PEF (Perpetual Emigration Fund) Church Train, which meant that they had teamsters who would drive the wagons. Four or five families would be assigned to one wagon. The teamsters were young men age 19-24 years who had been called as missionaries to bring the PEF families to the valley. Averaging over twenty miles a day, they arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on October 4th, 1863. Elizabeth had walked by the side of the wagons for the entire one thousand miles. She especially liked it at night when they would sing and dance to the music of a violin.



After her family was established in the valley, Elizabeth enjoyed gathering with her friends at Temple Square during its construction. Usually they had a large bonfire with a kettle over it. In the kettle, they would boil molasses, water, and flavoring, which when thickened and partially cooled, they would “pull “ and make taffy. They would dance jigs and square dances and reels. They would sit on the large granite blocks that were scattered around the grounds. She said, “*We made our own fun!*” And that was how and where she met James Shields.



James had a 250 acre farm in South Jordan. It went from the South Jordan River up to a large irrigation canal higher on the bench. James built a good home and was a very successful farmer and had livestock. In freight wagons, he would haul ore from the copper mines at Bingham to the smelters at Sandy and Midvale. His teams also helped haul granite blocks from the quarries to the construction site of the Temple. During this time, James also helped other family members emigrate from Scotland to America.

James died on 3 March 1884 in South Jordan at the age of 36. (ruptured appendix)
He was buried in South Jordan.

George, the oldest son took over the farm at age 16, and Elizabeth worked hard to keep the bees they had with the two orchards James had set up. She also had mutton, hogs, and beef. She spent the evening knitting stockings and mittens for her family. She made all their clothes.

In 1900, when she was fifty-four years old she moved to Alberta, Canada and settled in Raymond with two of her children, George and Margaret, and their families.

She died on 13 July 1928 in Raymond, Alberta, at the age of 81. She was buried on 21 July 1928 in South Jordan, Utah.

MY MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS

Thomas Samuel Court (b. 1871) Jordan, Salt Lake, Utah Territory: second child of Owen and Louisa Court



Florence Ella Pratt (b. 1881) Provo, Utah, Utah Territory: third child of John and Anna Bell Pratt



Thomas Samuel Court, age 27, and **Florence Ella Pratt**, age 17, were married in November 1898. Between then and 1926, they had 12 children of which 11 survived to adulthood. Otis (1899), Ralph (1901), Byron (1903), Lowell (1905), Ward (1909), Delos (1912), Lamar (1914), Florence (1916), Elmo (1919), Ruth (1922), Robert (1926)



Thomas and Florence's Stories

Thomas Samuel Court was born in a house on the west bank of the Jordan River, about 13 miles south of Salt Lake City (SLC). From his personal history we read:

"When I was born my father worked on the Salt Lake and the South Jordan canal, but his real skill was building fireplaces and chimneys. For generations the Court men had been first class bricklayers.

"Our family moved several times, in and between South Bountiful and West Jordan, until finally dad bought a small farm of 18 acres. It was in this Ward that I grew up with my brother George, who was two years older than me, and my sister who was two years younger than me. Also, it was in West Jordan that I obtained my primary education. These were schools of one teacher, who taught all classes. During this time, my parents always set me a good example in their own lives, and I liked to attend Primary, Sunday School and Mutual, as well as Sacrament Meetings. I was ordained a deacon in 1884, a teacher in 1887 and a seventy, December 16, 1891. On March 4, 1893. During those boyhood days, I worked with my father and learned his trade as a bricklayer. I also worked for the Utah Mattress Factory, and many other jobs incident to a country boy living on a farm.

"My travels had been confined to Utah and a part of Wyoming, herding sheep and cattle. Consequently, I was out at Hams Fork of the Green River, Wyoming, when my mission call came on my birthday. President Wilford Woodruff had called me to go on a mission to the Samoan Islands. There is an incident in connection with the call to Samoa that impressed me very much, for I believe that it is one of the strongest testimonies I ever had, that the Lord knows our thoughts and desires.

"I had always been interested, in what missionaries actually do. Especially I was interested in what President Joseph H. Dean had written about Samoa, and I wanted with all my soul to go there. I had said nothing to anyone about it. There was only one chance in twenty-five that I would have been called to Samoa, but now I was to leave home early enough to be in, and to set sail from, San Francisco on May 25, 1893.

“The Salt Lake Temple was to be dedicated on April 6th, so after two more weeks in Wyoming, I returned home. About the first thing my Bishop asked me to do was to assist in baptizing 30 or 40 people in the canal near West Jordan meetinghouse. As I and another Elder did the baptizing, ice was flowing in large chunks.

‘Having seen Brigham Young many times, I was excited to attend the dedication of the Salt Lake Temple. The day that our Ward was to go to the dedication of the Temple, I was asked to be one of the ushers.’”

Thomas was able to keep his appointment with the boat in San Francisco and arrived in Samoa in June of 1893, and immediately immersed himself in the work and the language. Unfortunately, because of some sort of struggle between the US, the UK, and Germany, huge quantities of food and material were siphoned away from the native population. For Thomas, the net result of that was after about 18 months his health had deteriorated to the point that he was released and sent home in late 1894.

“Before I arrived home, I resolved to go to the Brigham Young Academy in Provo, and get at least \$10.00 worth of education. As I left home for Provo, my Bishop and the YM-MIA officers of the Ward suggested I take the MIA class which was a 20 weeks program to prepare young men for MIA work in the Wards and Stakes of the church. At first I did not expect to be able to stay the full 20 weeks, but by borrowing an additional \$10.00 from another student, and by great frugality, and by using every daylight hour, and every electric light hour (it went out by 1 a.m.) I was able to stay in school and felt good about my progress. By the end of the school year I had become the Class President to about 75 young men. I was very inspired by the association of the great men of the school and church: Dr. Karl G. Maeser, Principal B. Cluff Jr., Prof. G. H. Brimhall, Dr. Milton H. Hardy, and many others, including general authorities of the church. I had not thought about returning after summer break because I had received the certificate I had worked for. Still, I seemed not to be in a hurry, but as I turned to go I came face to face with Dr. Maeser. He shook my hand he said, ‘I hope you will come back again’.

“Work that summer of 1895 was very hard to obtain; but I managed to earn room and board, plus about \$60.00, out of which I returned the ten dollars I had borrowed from my classmate.

“I was about 3 weeks late in getting back in school. I entered as a normal student and belonged to what became the class of 1899. I rented a small room and lived alone to cut my expenses and helped in the library to pay for my tuition. At the end of the school year, I had passed all my studies and felt very much satisfied.

“From my summer employment I did not do very well financially, but I did return to school the latter part of August 1896, in time for the opening of the B.Y.A. I expected to again help in the library, but instead President Cluff gave to me the position of Registrar. With this work, I was able to take only about two-thirds of the usual study courses.

“At the beginning of the school year, 1897-98, besides being Registrar, I was appointed Deputy Treasurer to W. H. Dusenberry. He was treasurer of the B.Y.A. Board of Trustees and President Joseph F. Smith was president of that Board. In addition to this work, I taught Theology and some mathematics classes every day, as well as taking studies in the various classes with the hope of graduating some time. I did take out a special certificate in plain surveying, and a high school diploma. I also had about two years of collegiate work done by the end of the school year 1903-04.

For a very interesting “Rest of the Story” see the memories page of: Thomas Samuel Court’s Personal Record and History. <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/KWCZ-Y3T> starting on page 10 and read about their disastrous adventure in Mexico, their six years in Trenton Utah, the ever increasing size of the family, their reluctant return to Canada, escape back to Utah, and much more.

Florence Pratt's beginning was very different from all the previous ancestors you've read about so far. Her father John Orson Pratt was born in Provo, in 1853. Her mother Anna Belle Jacques was born in Springville, in 1859. The family lived on a few acres near the Provo River, north of Center Street, and near 9th Street West. Her chores involved chickens, pigs, cows and the garden, but she had five siblings to help. Her father was a very kind and patient person as displayed by his admonition: "Well that was pretty good for a youngster, but do try to do better next time." Her mother was very quiet but definite; showing the girls exactly how their work should be done. She attended school at Franklin, Timpanogos and the Brigham Young Academy (B.Y.A.) It was there that she was pursued by one Thomas Court who was also a student and the school's enrollment registrar. From Florence's personal history we read:

"On November 23rd, 1898, Tom and I were married in the Salt Lake City Temple. After a reception and overnight stay we returned to Provo, he to his studies and I became a homemaker."

In June of 1899, Tom graduated from the B.Y.A. Engineering Department. During that summer he worked as a deputy to the Provo City engineer, and then in the fall, he returned to the Academy as Registrar and part-time instructor, and this arrangement continued for several years, during which time he built a fine brick house, and she built four children; Otis, Ralph, Byron and Lowell.



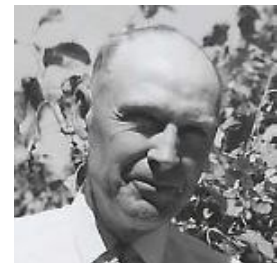
Otis 1899-1963



Ralph 1901-1980



Byron 1903-1996



Lowell 1905-1987

*"As a young man, Tom had been called to, and did serve about 18 months as a missionary in the Samoan Islands, but deteriorating health cut his time short. **Despite that history**, in the spring of 1904, Tom was called by President Joseph F. Smith to, '...return again to Samoa as the Mission President'.*

It was to be more of a 'labor mission' and less of a proselyting mission."

At that time the Church was buying land from German Samoa. Tom was a civil engineer. He was fully qualified to survey and plot the land, and he had power of attorney to do the purchasing. Also, there was a mission home, a chapel, and a schoolhouse to build.

“Eventually, during the 1908 General Conference in SLC, it was announced that Tom was being released and he would come home. In those days, that trip by boat required three weeks, so we knew it would be sometime in July before our daddy would arrive home”.

Thus, began a comedy of errors that would create life changing consequences for the Court and Shields families. For that story, we read from the self-histories of Florence Pratt Court and Louisa Swinyard Court.

“In 1900, Tom’s brother George, his wife Margaret and their children, moved to Canada; originally into Stirling, Alberta, but in 1901 they moved to the newly founded town of Raymond. George’s father, Owen moved to Raymond in 1902 and his mother Louisa moved there in 1903.

“In 1906 the city of San Francisco and its harbor were destroyed by an earthquake and all inbound ships were diverted to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The (California) harbor still hadn’t been repaired by the time Tom was released from his mission in 1908. That being the case, WE ASSUMED that he would disembark at Vancouver. But, because his parents and siblings had moved to Canada while he was in Samoa, we planned to surprise Tom by us going to Canada; which we did. Unknown to us, the California harbor reconstruction had just been completed, and Tom’s ship did land in San Francisco. He went straight to Salt Lake City, where my sister told him we were in Canada. I received a telegram saying that Tom was there, so I immediately prepared to return home. BUT, due to a railroad washout at Helena, Montana, we had to travel down the West Coast to get home. Without sending me word, Tom decided to leave Salt Lake and travel to Alberta. In route he ran into that same washout in Montana that we had avoided. Somehow, he got passed it and arrived in Canada. So he was there, and we were in Salt Lake City. HAHHAHA

While in Canada, on the strength of the bumper crops Canada experienced that year, Tom's family persuaded him to buy a farm for his growing family of boys. He returned home. The house was sold and its contents loaded into a freight car for shipment to Canada. They arrived in Raymond in 1908 and settled in to harvest the crop of wheat that was on the farm Tom had bought. By the end of harvest, winter also had settled in. After four years in the tropics Tom was in no shape to fight the winter cold temperatures and wind. He was hired by the Knight Sugar Co. to work in the warm office as bookkeeper.



In April of 1909, baby number five was born. They named him **Ward**. Crops that year were disappointing, so they were anxious to return to a more moderate climate. Everything was sold, and they moved back to Salt Lake City.

1909-1983

For a very interesting "Rest of the Story" see the "Memories" page of Florence Ella Pratt Court's Personal Record and History and read (starting on page 9) about their disastrous adventures in Mexico, their six years in Trenton, Utah, their reluctant return to Canada, and then their escape back to Utah; plus 6 additions to the family. <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/KWCZ-Y3B>



Delos 1912-1936



Lamar 1914-1997



Florence 1916-2001



Elmo 1919-1991



Ruth 1922-2010



Robert 1926-2013

MY PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS

William (Will) Clyde Shields (b. 1884) South Jordan, Salt Lake, Utah Territory: twelfth child of James Craig and Elizabeth Shields



Emma Lulu (Lu) Brown (b. 1886) Draper, Salt Lake, Utah: first child of David and Hanna Louisa Shields



Will and Lulu were married 8 January 1908. Between 1909 and 1931 they had 10 children, nine of which survived into adulthood: Leland (1909), Clyde (1910), Ned (1914), Morris (1916), Eldon (1918), Barbara (1921), Daisy (1922-1923), Grant (1926), Kenneth (1929), Russel (1931).

Will and Lulu's Stories

Six months before Will was born in 1884, his father James died from a ruptured appendix. Thus, Will began life in a home without a father, but with two mothers. (Footnote #1 at end of book) Following their father's death, the oldest son George, age 16, took over the running of the farm. There were two uncles living nearby who helped as needed. After several years, everything changed. Circa 1900, the now married George moved his family to Alberta, Canada, along with numerous other men and families who were called by the Church to move to Canada and build an irrigation system, paid for by the Provincial Government. Will, was only 13 years old, when he took over George's job of running the farm with the help of the same two uncles, even though he was still in school. But that didn't last past seventh grade. One day, to escape his tyrannical teacher's wrath, Will fled the school through an open window, and never returned.

South Jordan home

Will Shields



In 1902, Will's mother decided to follow her oldest son George and one older daughter Margaret who had settled in Canada. After that decision, Elizabeth, and all the kids sold out, loaded their household belongings, livestock and machinery into train boxcars and arrived in Raymond, Alberta, in October 1902. Getting into a house before winter was the first priority. Once they were settled in, Will worked at various jobs in the growing community. Eventually he was hired to work at the Knight Sugar Refining Co. and stayed in their employ for three years. Wages at that time were something like \$35.00 per month. (Pay your own room and board, no paid holidays). Nevertheless, they survived well using their garden and livestock, and with cash received from crops they paid for land, equipment, machinery, and horses. Thus they found joy in living.

Emma Lulu Brown was born in Draper, Utah, in 1886. At that time the Salt Lake Valley had been inhabited by Latter Day Saints for almost 40 years. By the standards of those days, she was well-born and lived comfortably.



The Brown's home in Draper

**David and Hanna L > R
Chloe, Lulu, Dahlia**



Draper is 20 miles south of downtown SLC. Trips into town, or anywhere else in the valley, were via horse and buggy. As a youngster and as a young adult, Lulu had many friends and was included in many activities. Scholastically, she graduated from grade eight in 1902 but continued on for two more years and was awarded a University scholarship in 1904. She graduated with a Teacher Certificate in 1906. Her first teaching position was for grades 3, 4, and 5 in Crescent, Utah, five miles from home. The next school year 1907-08, she had a 2nd grade class in the new 8 classroom school building in the center of Draper, next to the cemetery. This job was short-lived, her life was about to turn upside down.

A few years earlier, sometime in 1901, she had met a young farmer from South Jordan, by the name of Will Shields. They dated regularly until Will moved to Canada with his mother and siblings in 1902. Lulu finished her education and was into her second year of teaching when Will showed up in late 1907, back in town for a mid-winter break. Originally they had corresponded back and forth, but that eventually tapered off and now she hadn't heard from him for about 2 years. But the reunion was so relaxed, it seemed like he had never left. They were married on January 8th, 1908, and two weeks later they moved to Raymond. Will proceeded to build a small house on a lot he had purchased next to his mother's home.

In her own words, Lulu tells what the next ten years were like.



**Emma Lulu Brown On
Her Wedding Day**

"Life here is so different from the one I lived in Utah. This flat, treeless country, where one can see so far and yet see so little, still is interesting. Utah's winter are sometimes cold and snowy, though I had seen winters when ice on ponds and canals hardly got thick enough to skate on. My introduction to Alberta's 40 degree below zero, and Hudson Bay Chinooks, and deep penetrating frost, still make my teeth chatter. Miserable homesickness and longing for friends and folks I had left behind were demons I had to struggle with and overcome. In the years that followed I don't think I missed anything more than the variety and abundance of fruit I had always been used to. Having been raised in the shade of an old apple tree, the desire for fruit, especially apples, has always been with me. It doesn't decrease with age either.

My first impressions of Raymond, Alberta, Canada are rather vague at this present time but the wide expanse of the prairie was something entirely new to me. Being used to the Wasatch Mountains of my Salt Lake Valley home, the wide open spaces have always seemed flat and somewhat uninteresting. For the first few years of my residence in Alberta, whenever I went outside I never failed to look for those majestic mountains, expecting to see them east of our home.

The ability to look so far and see so little was hard to get used to. We lived two years in Raymond. Our son Leland was born there. The winter he was a year old we went to Salt Lake and went through the temple for our endowments, an ordinance that should have been attended to when we were married, but for some reason it just didn't seem too important at the time.

Leland 1909-1990



“My husband was a farmer, but the farm was four miles distance from the town. Such an arrangement didn't prove very satisfactory for either man or horses in getting farm work done, so in 1910 when an opportunity came along to sell what land we had at Raymond, we disposed of it and declared a homestead on 160 acres located in an area named Masinasin, about 20 miles east of the town of Milk River and about the same distance north of the Canada/US border. It was new country and just being settled by people from many different parts of the U.S. and Canada. The lure to move there was the promise of an irrigation canal to bring water from the Milk River. Construction of the canal was started but never completed. We were fortunate to have house and garden water from a deep water well equipped with a gas powered engine.



The Masinasin Homestead

Lumber and supplies had to be hauled 20 miles by horses, but we had the courage of the young, coupled with the hope and faith of the pioneer, so we set-to with the determination to make a home and a living on the grass covered plains of Southern Alberta.

“During those ten years, we harvested three very good crops, three others paid expenses and the other four were complete failures due to drought.”



Clyde Lulu Leland

What a ‘bumper- crop’ looks like

What a ‘so-so’ crop looks like



During that time our family increased by four + 1.



**L-R Ned 1914-1989
Leland 1909-1990
Eldon 1918-2008
Clyde 1910-2001
Morris 1916-2007
Dog ?????-?????**

Five rowdy boys and a dog look-a-like

The driving force behind the move from Masinasin was the bank. Back-to-back years of poor and failed crops meant they had to live on borrowed money from the nearest bank, which ultimately foreclosed on their and others' properties.

The move from Masinasin in 1920 was to a rented, irrigated farm just south east of the city of Lethbridge, known as the McNally and the White School District. The reality of irrigation water in spring and summer, and going to Church with all of it's activities was a whole new world. They lived there for 8 years, on 3 different acreages, and added 3 more children to the family, two girls and a boy, but the second girl passed away about 10 months later.



Barbara 1921-2018

Grant 1925-2017



We do not have much more information about those years other than the older boys attended school in Lethbridge, associating with kids their same age. In 1928 the rented farm was sold out

from under them, and they had to move again. Their move was onto a newly opened irrigation project known as the Lethbridge Northern, about 20 miles further north. Here they bought 320 acres, beside a road that passed through the dying coal mining town of Diamond City, and up tight against the coal mining town of Shaughnessy. Will and the boys built a new two story house, with an attic. Lulu, bless her heart, was at long last able to garden and preserve produce against the bleak days of winter. Two more boys were added to the family.

Forever Known As "THE HOME PLACE"



Russel 1931-2019

Wallace 1929-2013



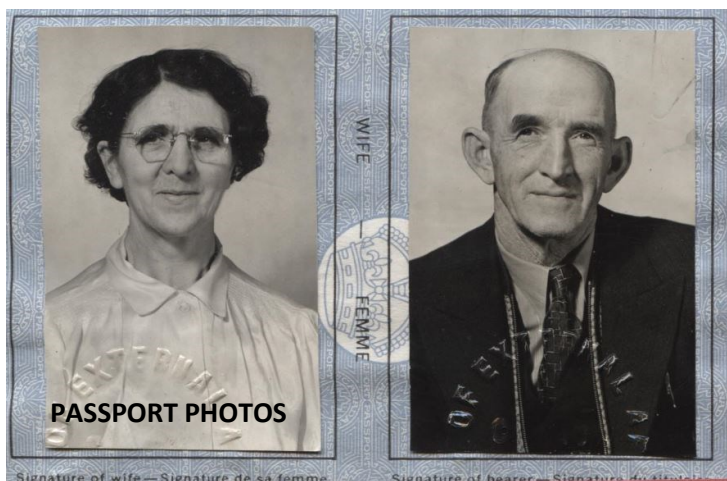
They continued to live on this farm until 1946. From there they retired and moved to White Rock, British Columbia.

During all of their years together, they were very involved in community affairs; helping to establish schools, organizing social gatherings and cultural activities, forming a Farmers' Co-Op. and even being the County Impound Yard for lost or stray livestock. Will was also an acknowledged appreciator of fine horses.



Spring 1941: Last photo-op before Leland left for Europe with Canadian Forces

F-L >R Grant Will Lulu Barbara
 R-L >R Wallace Leland Clyde Ned Morris Eldon Russel



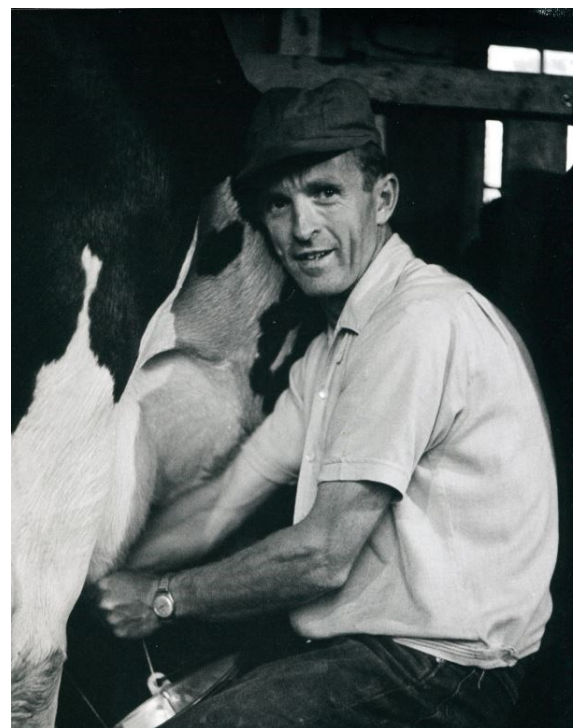
Taken June 1953 - Commerce



Karen	Carol	<i>Burton</i>	David	Ed	Tom	Shirley	Earl	Carol
Wayne	Laure	<i>Marilyn</i>	Byron	Bob	Jim	Ethel	Sevelin	Carol
Wayne	Laure	<i>Marilyn</i>	Marlin		Jim	Sevelin	Sevelin	Ronald
			Marlin		Jim	Sevelin	Sevelin	Ronald

Our cousins were everything to us, but this may have been the biggest group of them we ever photographed together, from the days of Shaughnessy and Diamond City. Missing are the yet unborn siblings of these kids. Missing completely are the children of Eldon, Barbara, Wallace and Russel. **Lu's 1974 obituary mentions: 41 grandchildren and 45 great-grandchildren.**

Wallace: "You can take the boy off the farm, but you can never take the farm out of the boy."



My Parents

Leland Brown Shields (b. 1909) Raymond, Alberta, Canada: first child of Will and Lulu Shields.



Florence Court (b. 1916) Trenton, Cache, Utah: eighth child of Thomas and Florence Court.



Leland and Florence were married 3 July 1935 in the Cardston Alberta Temple. Between 1936 and 1957 they put together a family of seven children, of whom only 5 reached adulthood: Earl (1936), Shirley (1936, adopted at age 16), David (1939), Thomas (1940), Lamona (1947-1947), Mary Ellen (born and adopted 1947, deceased 1949), Coleen (1952 born and adopted)



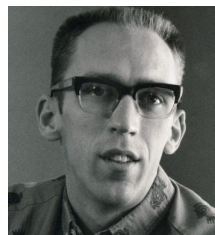
Earl



Shirley



David



Tom



Lamona

**Mary
Ellen**



Coleen

Leland and Florence's Stories

Leland Shields was born in Raymond, Alberta, Canada, in January of 1909, but the following year the family moved to a new homestead near the US border, in an area called Masinasin. He wasn't much help on the farm as a kid but by the time the family moved 10 years later, four more boys had been born, so at least the four oldest of them were "helpers". The house was too small for seven people, so a bunk house was built close by and the boys took turns sharing it with the unmarried school teacher named Gus, who boarded with them and was a delightful diversion for everyone; helping around the farm and reading adventure novels to the boys in the evening.

There was not a lot to say about being a farm boy. Life was simple, not much variety until they moved off the homestead and close to an actual city. When the older boys hit High School, they were boarded-out in town (Lethbridge) during the week and went home for the weekend.

After graduation, Leland went away to Normal School in Calgary, where he earned his Teacher's Certificate, and came back home to teach school. His first class was in a small school of rowdy farm kids and his teaching career lasted about three days. So he hunkered down and became a farmer like his dad.

Eventually there were distractions. It seems that a certain family named Court, had a certain daughter named Florence. In 1926, Tom Court purchased a farm in the Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District, half way between the coal mining towns of Diamond City and Shaughnessy.

Will Shields and family moved into the neighborhood in 1928. The Court and Shields farms were now less than 3 miles apart via dirt roads. At that time Florence was 11 years old, and Leland was age 19. They were typically indifferent to each other until Florence hit puberty and blossomed. After that, she was the only indifferent one.

Whatever Leland lacked in height, he made up for in ambition, which ultimately won him the prize of his life when he and Florence became engaged.

Florence Court was born in Trenton, Cache County, Utah, in April of 1916. She was the first sister to 7 brothers. The only thing that impressed those guys was the realization that eventually she would be old enough and big enough to wash the dishes. They spoiled her rotten.

The following year, after much pleading and many exhortations from his mother, who lived in Canada, Tom Court packed-up the family and returned to Raymond, Alberta, from whence they had move in 1909, and they stayed there until 1926. During that time four more children were born; two girls and two boys. The first girl died at birth.

Although they lived in Raymond, their farm was dry land and located outside of town, which required that the older boys took turns living there during the winter and tend to the livestock. In 1926 they heard about a new irrigation district being opened up, about 30 miles north of Raymond. The family decided to take the opportunity and buy some land. In 1927, they bought 240 acres and divided it, to create two farms; one of 160 acres and one of 80 acres, with only a county dirt road between them.

In 1928, Will and Lulu Shields and their many kids moved into the same area and bought 320 acres about three miles away from the Courts. Thus, the final dominos were in place for the third convergence of the Shields and Court families.

The Florence and Leland Shields Family

When the Shields family moved to Shaughnessy in 1928, the stage was set, because the Court family had moved onto their new farm, half-way between Diamond City and Shaughnessy. Leland and Florence now resided a mere three miles apart. From then and until for-ever-more, the Court and Shields family names are engraved in the history books of Raymond, Diamond City, Shaughnessy, Lethbridge, and Cardston, Alberta, Canada.

During the first seven years there probably wasn't much reason for social connections between Florence and Leland because of the age difference, but for sure they knew each other because of church and community social events.

When the Diamond City Branch was organized into a Ward, in 1929, Florence's dad was called to be the first Bishop, which position he held for the next 6 years.

By then, Florence had turned into whistle-bait, and her teenage social life had kicked into gear. There had developed somewhat of an 'understanding' in the community that she and one, Stan Johnson, were destined for each other. But in early 1935, Florence and Leland had their first encounter of a romantic kind, which was an unexpected, impromptu night at the movies with other young adults. Over the next few weeks there were dances and other activities that threw them together, and Dad had admitted he was willing to go head-to-head with Stan to win Florence's affection. To be sure, Mom was conflicted about this. As much as she was secretly hoping that Stan would sweep her off her feet, he lived thirty miles away, and by nature he was more of an observer than a competitor.

Mom and Dad were married in the Cardston Temple on a beautiful summer day, the 3rd of July, 1935.

Back Row

Lulu Shields

Tom Court

Will Shields

Florence

Court

Front Row

Leland

Shields

Delos and

Beth Court

Florence

Court Shields



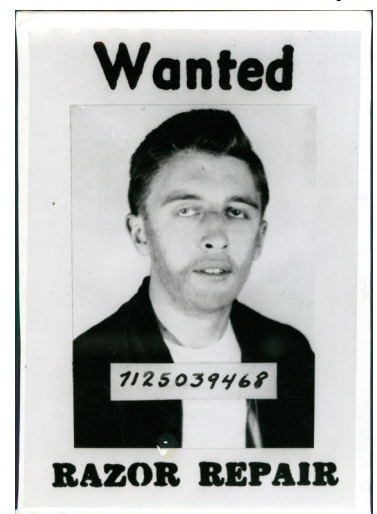
Three days later Dad was told he would be out of a job as soon as he was able to dispose of the inventory and assets of the bulk fuel operation he managed at Coutts, Alberta, butt-up against the Canada and US/ Montana border. Mom never wrote any assessment of those instructions, but the facts are that the bulk station was owned by a guy named John Johnson. Whether or not this guy was related to Stan Johnson I don't know. In my mind though the question remains: "Was ending dad's job merely a coincidence, or was it a convenient time for the Johnson family to take a shot at Dad for stealing Florence away from them?"

Never one to turn down any kind of job in time of need, Dad hired out as a farm hand for the rest of the summer, and then as the weigh station operator during the sugar beet harvest. By then Mom's parents had moved off their farm and into Cardston in time for the three youngest kids to get into school. Mom and Dad replaced her parents by moving into the family farm house near Diamond City. This house was already occupied by her brother Delos and his wife Beth. Dad started working at the Shaughnessy coal mine. Shortly thereafter, Mom's brother Lamar and his wife Pearl moved in also. Now there were three Court siblings living in the Court "Home Place".

Not surprisingly, siblings will be siblings. In a huff over some act of assumed indifference by Lamar, Mom insisted she and Dad move out. In a short time, they were comfortably settled into the one room shack in Lulu's garden, a couple of hundred feet from Dad's parents' house. They spent the rest of the winter in busy expectation of baby #1.

In the spring, Dad got out of the mine and back to the fields. This time it was to his own farm; 160 acres of land he had purchased a couple of years earlier. The tiny shack they had been living in on Lulu's garden was chained to a three horse team and pulled down the road.

(In his high school senior year, Earl was working for the Lethbridge Herald and was able to exhibit some of his creative skills in the photo darkroom.)



Earl Delos born July 13, 1936

After a cistern for was dug and lined with cement it was connected to a hand pump inside the relocated shack and they moved into, "...a place of our own".

The next winter passed like the first, back in the coal mine. In the Spring of 1937, farmers were able to get government backed financing to build a two-room house for sugar beet workers, hence 'beet shacks' sprouted up on many farms. Just like Dad's farm, numerous families had only a few acres of sugar beets that didn't justify hiring full time workers; therefore, a family contracting out as beet workers would live on one farm and take care of several other farms. Still, Dad and Mom built one of these new beet shacks and moved into it themselves. It was bigger and more comfortable than the original one room cabin built on skids.

By the spring of 1938, Dad could see that borrowing equipment from brothers and neighbors was a good way to fail at farming. He needed to get more cash faster, and buy his own equipment. It just so happened that the Federal Government planned to install irrigation to re-habilitate some dry-land farms in Saskatchewan. Because of his irrigation experience, Dad was hired immediately and moved himself, and then eventually his family, to Val Marie, at the end of the earth, in the middle of no-where, Saskatchewan. Surrounded by French Canadian Catholics, there was not a Mormon in sight. Mother was content being a mom and a housewife until the harvest was over and winter chill was in the air. The irrigation projects shut down until spring, so they returned to the "Home Place" in Alberta. I don't know for sure, but I suspect that Dad's farm and beet shack had been leased to a neighbor for the foreseeable future, because they moved the cabin on skids, back to Lulu's garden. Again, they hunkered down for the winter with Dad back in the mine, and Mom getting bigger in the belly. Child #2 was in the oven.



David Leland was born April 5, 1939

His lifetime spent up-a-tree, out-on-a-limb, his head in the clouds; career as USAF flight instructor and pilot

Mother's parents were in the process of moving from Cardston, back to Provo. Grandma Florence and the kids were there already and in school. Dad helped Lamar finish the harvest near Diamond City while Grandpa Tom packed up and sold the Cardston house. It would be several years before Mom saw her parents and younger siblings again.

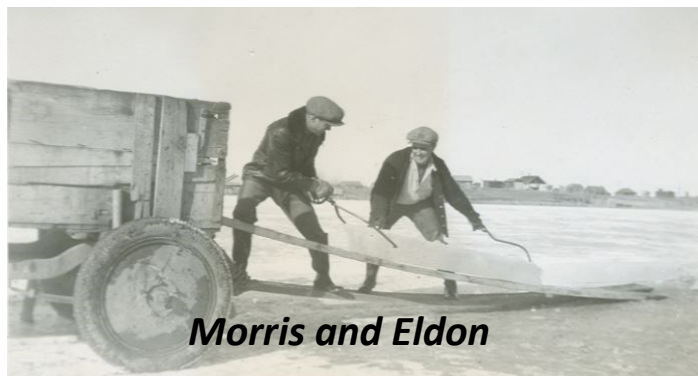
Just to give you a sense of what winter farm life was like in the late 30's, here is an excerpt from Mom's history:

"I helped Mother Shields with the house work which consisted mostly of preparing meals, washing dishes, milk bottles and laundry. There always was ten to thirteen people to cook for. Most of the food had been grown in the huge garden they had every year. Hundreds of quarts of fruit and vegetables had been canned during the summer and fall, but as long as there were tomatoes ripening in the attic, plus cabbage, squash and root vegetables in the cellar, we didn't use the canned produce until the fresh produce was gone.

"Preparing meals took a lot of time. It was the way of life we were used to, so it was done as a matter of course. We also baked all our own bread. Store bought bread was very rare indeed. It seemed strange to hear NEWS reports about soup kitchens and bread lines.

"Even though there was no 'field work' in winter, the men were busy all day with a large herd of milk cows and other animals to take care of; plus hauling water from

the pond to the barn; plus cutting ice blocks from the pond to pack them in sawdust in the ice barn. From there the ice was used to refrigerate the kitchen ice box."



Dad was called back to work in Saskatchewan at the first of March, 1939. This time his camp was much closer to the Alberta border, so Mom didn't go with him because she was about due to deliver, which she did on April 5th. When Dad heard the news, he made a trip home for the week-end to meet the newly minted, David Leland.

Mother and sons continued to stay in Alberta for another month until Dad borrowed a large government truck, drove to Shaughnessy to pick-up the family and moved them to Maple Creek, in the SW corner of Saskatchewan, about 60 miles north of the US border. Again, quoting from her journal:

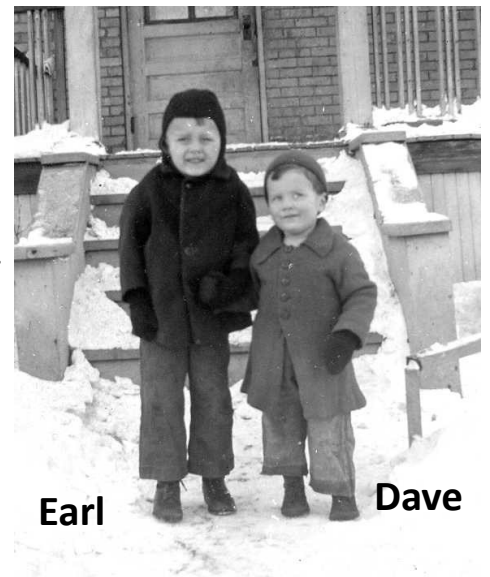
"Maple Creek is a small town surrounded by large farms and cattle ranches. Most of the homes are made of brick with large verandahs, fenced yards and huge shade trees. There were several blocks of businesses that made up the downtown and a hospital with one or two doctors. It was a friendly little town actually, but again, no other LDS Church members. In talking to one woman, when I told her we are members of the Mormon Church she said she had never met one before, nor had she even heard the name."

The lady across the street became a friendly and helpful neighbor that eased the empty moments during the week because Dad was seldom at home between week-ends. Summer and fall passed in peace and comfort, without the stresses of weather and harvest. Winter settled in, and the only break they took was a trip to Shaughnessy for Christmas.

The spring and summer of 1940 passed quietly, but autumn arrived with a vengeance as two events turned their domestic bliss upside down. Event #1 was: On October 8th, I, Thomas William was born.

(For me this was address #1.)

I have been on the move ever since



Earl

Dave



Event #2 was: Britain and Germany declared war. That conflict put an end to Dad's employment because all the heavy earth-moving equipment they were using was diverted to military base construction. Like thousands of other patriotic young men, Dad joined the Army to help our Commonwealth Allies defend themselves against the Nazi hords.

Dad was shipped off to Regina, Saskatchewan, for Boot Camp, and we followed by renting a place in town where Dad could retreat to for the week-ends (my address #2). This arrangement lasted until Dad was sent to Brandon, Manitoba, for training in communications. We stayed in Regina until April of '41 then Mother rented and moved us into a small house back in Shaughnessy, about ½ mile from the farm (my address #3). Before Dad was shipped overseas, he came home for Mother's Day, so we had a day of family photographs.

As you can see in the photo, Mom was not a happy camper

(I have no recollection of my dad until he came home from the war in September of 1945, just a few days before my 5th birthday.)

For the next 8 months after dad left, we were close to the farm, but not on it. Mom began to feel that she and we boys were becoming a bit of a burden to everybody on the farm so, with her parents encouragement, in May of '42 she moved us to Provo. We were there for the next three years, and lived in two houses, first on Fourth North and Third East (my 4th address), and then in a two story brick house on Second North and First East (my 5th address).



Those three years in Provo were very good for Mom, and by extension, for us boys as well. We were allowed to be children in the most positive use of the term, with lots of neighborhood friends and loving adults. What Mom enjoyed most was finally being able to be in the town, and see the places she had only heard about all of her life. She got a job at the local phone company switchboard, which was very exciting at times because of the famous places and the famous people she was able to connect together.



Mom in Provo



We three guys

The War ended in the spring of 1945. When school was out for the summer, we left Provo by train (I remember it) and returned to the farm at Shaughnessy (back to address #3). The two-room beet shack that had been sitting empty on Dad's farm was moved to "The Home Place" and planted in the south end of Lulu's garden, to replace the one-room shack we had lived in before.



The two-room shack

Dad returned from overseas in September. The first memory I have of my dad is wondering, "Who is that man in Mom's bed?" Being a family took some effort, but not nearly as much effort as what came next. By the end of '46, Grandma and Grandpa Shields retired. They auctioned off a lot of stuff and moved west to White Rock, British Columbia. The farm was turned over to Dad. I have no idea what the financial arrangements were, I just know it didn't end well.

Among the many things Morris talks about in his personal history is that the original 'one-room beet shack' that was move several times was also the first residence for him and his new bride Bessie. It eventually ended up on his own farm, and over the years it was a safe haven for numerous people as they passed thru, and/or were in the process of becoming part of the family as farm workers or as brides-to-be, etc.

Because a five year old kid is not a person who is consulted about major changes in the family, I was really surprised one day to see that most everything on the farm was for sale and many people were arriving to participate in the auction. The next thing I knew, grandma and grandpa had moved to White Rock, British Columbia, and we five people moved into the big house. I was 6 years old, and mother was pregnant again.

In 1947, a baby girl was born on January 23rd. We boys never got to meet nor even see her. I remember Dad, dressed in his Sunday clothes, getting ready to go into Lethbridge to be with mom. And that was it. Lamona Norene was stillborn and buried that day.



My 8th birthday gift



Sunday Best



Sunday at Uncle Clyde's

Clothes and Transportation

Fortunately, grief does not last forever. On December 7, 1947, a baby girl was born in Calgary. Within days she was warmly welcomed into the family as

Mary Ellen



Alas, after living only one year, two months and seven days, she too returned home. She died from something akin to lung cancer. Mom and Dad were with her at the hospital. She had had a raspy cough for only a short time. Nobody suspected anything terminal. After school, I remember going to Ruth and Nephi's home in Shaughnessy.



Mary Ellen in her funeral casket

In the summer of 1949, a few months after Mary Ellen's funeral, we boys were dropped off for the day at the Lethbridge and District Fair and Exhibition (now known as Whoop-up Days). Mom and Dad spent that day on some sort of wedding anniversary outing. I don't know who was supposed to pick us up, but somebody did, and we found out there had been an accident when Mom was driving and Dad was snoozing. She was in the hospital but not in serious condition. As far as I know, from that day until she passed away, Mother never did drive another car with stick shift. I do not know if that was the straw that broke the camel's back, but by the end of summer Dad had a job in Lethbridge, and we moved off the farm. I would not live there again until the mid-1970's.

School was ready to start, but Mom and Dad weren't ready to have us kids move into town with them, so we spent a few weeks living with Ned's family, and going to school in Diamond City. I was in grade three, but I do not remember much about the kids nor the school except that, there too, we played cowboys and Indians non-stop. Some kid knocked his gun down the hole of the outhouse. We had to use a flashlight and some sort of hook to fish it out.

I am eternally grateful for all those years of life on the farm, and for the two summers of farm labor in Utah, between grades 8 and 10. That influence, that work ethic is still a daily presence in my life. That is what I am. A farm boy.

In October of 1949, we boys finally caught up with Mom and Dad living in two bedrooms and a hallway, with a shared bathroom on the second floor of a house in Lethbridge, across from the Jr High School. I have no idea where we sat as a family, or where food and dishes were stored, or who the other person was who lived upstairs in the bedroom next to us. We were waiting to be approved for a small two-story house near the southwest edge of town, known as War Time Housing. This approval was granted in December, and we moved-in immediately, at 1037 South 12th Street. Our house was one of many such houses on several streets in that part of town, built between bigger and older houses that had been on these streets for years. There was grass in front and back, but no trees. The back yards were all fenced and there was a car parking space accessed from the back alley. The best thing about it was that there were many neighborhood kids our own ages, and I was in third grade.



By the time I got to fourth grade my two brothers were either selling or delivering morning newspapers (The Calgary Albertan) on the streets in the downtown area, or they were doing 'home delivery' of prescriptions for Draffin's Drug Store. When an opening became available to sell papers, I got it. For the next four years I was a 'money making' machine.

Over the months and years since the death of our two baby girls, Mom and Dad had not given up the hope of having a girl in the family. Somewhere around the end of '51 or early '52 there was talk of extending foster care to a young girl who had been bounced from home to home because of excessive attention paid to her by foster brothers and dads. She ended up next door to us, but history repeated itself there also. **Shirley Vogel Shields**, age 15, was moved in with us. Ultimately, she was adopted and sealed into the family, but the good



times didn't last too long. She had been born into a large family in Medicine Hat, Alberta, but the parents were not able to hold it together. Being one of the youngest, Shirley first went to a Convent, and then into many foster homes. By the time she got to us she was well versed in the ways of the world and older men and boyfriends. This upset our folks, but she was the mother-



lode of information for me.

The next significant event in our lives was Coleen; born in Calgary in October 1952 and adopted by us in February of 1953. Coleen's growing up years were spent more with me than with the other guys, as I was youngest of us three, so she feels



more attached to me. The thing I remember most about her as a toddler and small child is that she was very cute and loved to play. My nickname for her was "pants" because her diapered butt seemed so big. Mother wasn't amused by this and chewed me out a good one asking, "How would you like it if I called you socks or shirt?" **Coleen and Tom on the front steps 1954. HS Grad in 1969, Los Angeles, CA, USA**



For details of life on the farm and in Lethbridge go to "MY LIFE" in Family Search

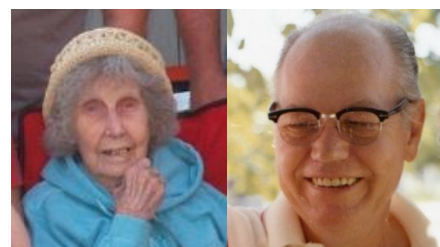
<<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/KWHM-9DT>>

Our Family

Thomas William Shields (Oct 8, 1940) Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, Canada; third child of Leland and Florence Shields



Jo Anne Pittman (Mar 28, 1942) Maywood, Los Angeles, California; first child of Joe and Anne Pittman



Tom and Jo Anne were married the 17th of November 1973, in the St. George, Utah, Temple. Between that day and St. Patrick's day in 1981 they put together a family of nine children. The first four came from previous marriages:

Craig Christopher (1962)



Tiffany Therese
(1966)



Troy Ray
(1968)



Shanda Lynn
(1969)



After the wedding, they added five more. Kearby Thomas (1974), Phoenix Amber (1976), Piper Pratt (1977), Parry Jerome (1979), Brendan McKay (1981)



Tom and Jo Anne's Stories

Tom Shields was born October 8, 1940, in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. Because you have read his parents' story, you know what his first 14 years were like: born just in time to have Dad go to war in Europe; bounced around between Saskatchewan, Shaughnessy, Provo, and finally into Lethbridge. All the fun and interesting details of those years can be found in Chapters 1 & 2 of "MY LIFE" at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/stories/KWHM-9DT>

The next part of Tom's life is not told here. It starts in January 1955 and ends the Spring of 1973. During those years there were many changes of address; three years and two houses in Provo and a summer in Canada, moving to Los Angeles, and bouncing back and forth between LA and Marin County. Travels to Canada via Vespa and return to LA, then a summer in Canada in kayaks, then going home to LA, and onto a mission to Finland. After that, living again in LA and Marin County, a winter in NYC at a photography school, getting married in LA and honeymooning in Canada, settling a few years in Marin County before moving to Baker, Oregon, and adopting a baby girl from Portland, then moving to Las Vegas, where the marriage ended after seven years. All of that is a whole separate story, and it would be a distraction if inserted here. Here we intend to complete the connection of Tom's family to the four previous generations in this book.

Details of the years 1955-1973 are in Chapters 3 through 8 of "MY LIFE" at:
<<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/stories/KWHM-9DT>>

Scenes from the bachelor years



Tom married Jo Anne Pittman Leavitt on November 17, 1973 in the Saint George, Utah Temple. This was the second marriage for him and the third for her; but she came with impressive recommendations. The first recommendation came from Tom's boss Ken Jones. When Tom asked him, "Why?" Ken said, "She is good with kids." The second recommendation came from Sonia, the wife who was divorcing him. She said, "If you ever remarry, marry Jo Anne." Tom asked her, "Why?" Sonia said, "She is good with kids." For the past eight years, Tom had been pursuing a career in photography. For the past three years, it was under the tutelage of Homer and Ken Jones, where he had received a priceless education in classical and casual photographic portraiture, working at "Portraits by Homer", the Jones's studio in Las Vegas. In the summer of 1974, Tom and his new family took a vacation to Canada to meet the many relatives. As they traveled from place to place, they came to the realization that this would be a good place to start a portrait business, catering to the farm communities; and to raise a family. At that time they were expecting their first child.

When they returned to Las Vegas, in early August, Tom met with Ken and Homer and told them of his family's decision. They asked him, "How soon?" and Tom told them, "Not until you are comfortable with whoever we can find to replace me." Almost immediately, a new BYU graduate walked in the door with a brand new MBA and the desire to be a photographer. By the end of Summer and the start of the new school and Fall wedding season, things got busy. The new guy learned fast and had a lot of natural talent, so it went smoothly. In October, baby #1 was born. He was Jo Anne's fourth child. Their first. **Kearby Thomas October 6, 1974**



A target departure date was set and they put the house on the market. It sold easily. Tom sent his brother Earl a plane ticket to come down and drive the U-Haul. They left Vegas in caravan style, headed for Alberta, Canada. The first town they settled into was Monarch, 11 miles NE of Lethbridge. A full-time job was found immediately, installing elevators in an office building in Lethbridge. That job lasted only four months because the Plumbers Union went on strike and shut down the entire job site.

**Some visitors arrived in interesting ways.
Morris and Bessie landed in the front yard.**



In anticipation of the strike, Tom had already lined up a new job as janitor for the Catholic school in Picture Butte, but that was a 30 minute drive each way, 2 or 4 times per day. Therefore, to be more centrally located they bought a mobile home and moved it onto the original Shields



“Home Place” at Shaughnessy, where Tom had been raised. When Tom’s dad had moved the family off the farm 26 years earlier, he had turned it over to his brother Ned, who then bought it from Will Shields, their dad. When Ned retired, he sold it to his son Byron, who was now the current owner. Byron and Leny were happy to have Tom and family move onto the open acre of land just south of the main house. That winter a lot of snow and a strong Chi-

nook, created a lake and they had a skating rink right outside the front door.



Tom and family moved onto the farm in the Summer of 1975. Work and school kept everybody busy and baby #2 was on it’s way; due in early March. That baby was born into an entirely different world.





February 25th, 1976 disaster about mid-morning



Phoenix Amber

March 2, 1976

The community and charitable organizations' responses were overwhelming with food and clothing in abundance. A completely furnished house was made available for up to six months; and an older car in great condition was given. The first priority was to get busy and clean the mess.



Before the fire, a commitment had been made to build a photography business. Now, finding a new place to live was top priority. It is amazing what can be found simply by asking. This place was clean and comfortable, only 2 miles away. With most of the modern conveniences, it was plenty adequate for the next 18 months. At the end of that time baby #3 was on it's way, and a complete change was needed. So it was, the next move was to Raymond; home of much Shields' family history.



The move from Shaughnessy to Raymond happened in two trips on Saturday, September 24th, 1977, using a 3-ton dump truck borrowed from the landlord. The last trip contained the cow and the piano, both of which were unloaded in the dark.

The family had visited church in Raymond on the previous Sunday, so when they went to Church the next day they were warmly welcomed because numerous people were either related to them, had heard they were coming, or knew well the family name.

Jo Anne went to the hospital with full blown labor-pains and baby #3, a girl, was born on Monday morning. Bishop Paxman and his wife took over and got the kids out of bed and into school. Tom was able to go to the school the next day and get them registered.

It took a few days to discover the name of this “Baby Shields”, but she was such a little pixie it became obvious her name should be, Piper Pratt (taking the maiden name of her maternal great-grandmother, whose presence and influence had been felt before, during and after her birth.)



Piper Pratt
September 26, 1977



“Red House” in the Winter



“Red House” in the Summer

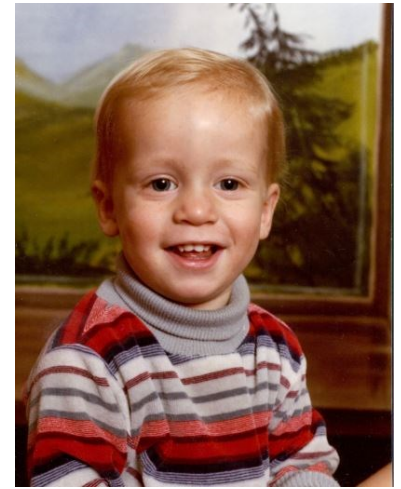
“Red House” Apartment



The family lived in the “Red House” for a bit more than a year and a half. Business was growing tremendously. The property was sub-divided, and Tom designed and built a new house with many unique features. The most popular room was the gym with a basketball net and Tarzan rope; it was used as a dance school and a photo studio, and for floor hockey, etc. The move-in process took six months. The two houses were less than one hundred feet apart but most things were not moved from one house to the other until they were needed. Baby #4 was born while still in the red house. Baby #5 was born two years later.



Parry Jerome
February 6, 1979

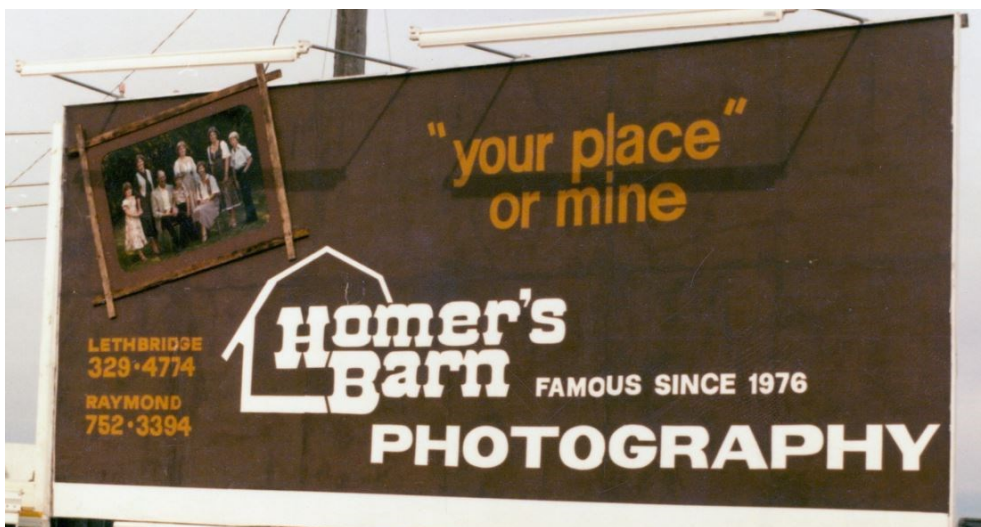


Brendan McKay
March 17, 1981

The “SHIELDS ELEVEN” L > R by age: Tom, Jo Anne, Craig, Tiffany, Jimmy, Shanda, Kearby, Phoenix, Piper, Parry, Brendan



Here is a recap of life in Canada. At the time when Brendan was born, Tom and Jo Anne Shields family had lived in Canada for five years and one month. They had lived in six different houses, in or near three different communities, and Tom had been employed at four different jobs: Otis Elevator in Lethbridge; as “the janitor” for the Catholic school and the Royal Bank in Picture Butte; and the LDS Seminary building in Raymond. After Brendan was born, they lived in Raymond for another eight years, for a total of 14 years and a few months in Canada. During all of those years, Tom built a photographic portrait business sufficient enough to fulfill his dream of designing and building his own home. In so doing, his family connected well and forever with family roots that lay deep in the history of Raymond; roots that were started by a great-grandmother, all four of Tom’s grandparents, and both of his parents. The golden spikes, that secure those roots, are Tom and Jo Anne’s last three children, and one granddaughter who were all born in Raymond.



“SOME EXAMPLES ”







If what you have read to this point is just “NOT ENOUGH”, Go To:
<<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/KWHM-9DT>>

for more details and excitement than you could ever imagine!

Just so you know, I will explain why I have referred to the locations where I lived as: “my address # such-and-such”. On my 40th birthday, Mom and Dad traveled up to Canada for a visit with our family, my brother Earl, and any other relative within 100 miles. One evening mom and I sat down and listed sequentially all the addresses / houses I had lived in, up-to that day. That number was a staggering 48 addresses, in 56 houses, which averages out to be 8.6 months per house. There have been only three more addresses and houses added in the second 40 years of my life, for a 16.3 month average per house.

When you go online and into Family Search to read the “MY LIFE” story, you will find mentioned some of the jobs and places I worked for pay before I retired at age 65. When written down that list is also 50 some-odd jobs long. I have tried hard to make this story entertaining, because it sure has been interesting.

(*1) THE PLURAL WIFE OF JAMES CRAIG SHIELDS

When he was 26 years old my paternal great-grandfather James Shields married a second wife, Martha Soffe, on the 22nd of December 1873. Thus, they entered plural marriage. They were married in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. James wanted to have more sons. He and Elizabeth already had 1 son and 4 daughters, but he told Elizabeth that, "Since you have not given us more sons, I have decided to marry Martha Soffe"; age 17, who already was a good friend of the family. Elizabeth gave him permission to marry Martha. However, in the end, his first wife Elizabeth gave him 6 sons (two died) and 6 daughters. His new wife Martha gave him zero sons and 5 daughters. Martha's five daughters were: Mary Ann, Phoebe Delilah, Alice L., Martha Elnora, and Rosella Mae. All were born in South Jordan, Utah.

After James's death, I don't know how long Martha and her five daughters continued to reside in South Jordan, but in the 1900 census she and one daughter were working in the State School for the Deaf and Dumb in Ogden, Utah. In the 1920 census she lived in Lehi, Utah, listed as a mother-in-law. She died in 1941 in Ogden, Utah. She was buried in South Jordan, side-by-side with James and Elizabeth.

