

My Family

by Ava M. Nichols Armstrong

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My HEFLEY line.

The HEFLEYs are my dad's mother's family. I was able to find that the Hefley name could have been spelled Hafla. Some think that our family originated from one Yoseph Hefley, listed on a ship from Germany. There is a German Village with a group of large frame and big boned individuals similar to the Hefley men with the name of HAFLA. The 1870 census spelled the name Hefley as Heifley.

I fondly remember my great aunt Bonnie May HEFLEY TAYLOR, patting me on my hips and saying, "Ava Marie, you are just like the HEFLEYs." Bonnie was a sister to my grandmother Mary Jane HEFLEY NICHOLS.

Following is my HEFLEY family, starting with me.

1. Ava Marie (NICHOLS) FOSTER ARMSTRONG, born September 13, 1930, in Okmulgee County, OK, to William Selmer NICHOLS and Sarah Lavina (CRINER) NICHOLS.

2. William Selmer NICHOLS and his twin brother, Jep Elmer NICHOLS, were born 6 October 1898, in TX to Mary Jane HEFLEY and Harley Columbus NICHOLS. William was killed 7 May 1963, and is buried at Haskell Cemetery, in Haskell, OK. He married Sarah Lavina CRINER on 16 September 1923, in Newton County, AR. Their marriage is recorded in marriage book K page 292. Sarah Lavina CRINER was born 25 February 1904 in Newton County, AR to Robert Levi CRINER and Margaret Peggy RICKETTS CRINER. She died 31 December 1995, and is buried at Haskell Cemetery, at Haskell, OK. Besides Ava Marie they had a son named Elmer NICHOLS who was born 31 July 1925 and died in 1996 and is buried at Haskell Cemetery at Haskell, OK.

3. Mary Jane HEFLEY, was born 17 December 1878 in Newton County, AR to Jephtha "Jep" HEFLEY and Mary Jane HOLT HEFLEY. She died 8 December 1907, and is buried in the Sexton Cemetery, at Mt. Judea, AR. Her marriage to Harley Columbus NICHOLS on 11 June 1896, in Newton County, is recorded in marriage book E on page 328. See the Nichols section of this story for more on this family.

4. Jephtha "Jep" Daniel HEFLEY was born 13 June 1855, in Newton County, AR. He died in 1936, and is buried at Coalgate, OK. He was married to Mary Jane HOLT, on 17 February 1877, in Newton County, AR. Mary Jane was born 26 August 1858, in Mt. Judea, AR, the daughter of Charles Kendrell and Mary Barnett CAMPBELL HOLT. Mary Jane is buried at Haskell Cemetery at Haskell, OK. The children of Jep and Mary Jane HOLT HEFLEY were: Charles Kendrell HEFLEY who married Daisy GREENHAW; Bailey HEFLEY; Lum HEFLEY; Myrtle HEFLEY who married Will SPRAGUE 1st and Alfred PAYNE 2nd; Bonnie HEFLEY who married General TAYLOR; and Mary Jane HEFLEY who married Harley Columbus NICHOLS. Parents of Grandpa Jep HEFLEY was John Bailey HEFLEY and his first wife Martha BYRD.

5. John Bailey HEFLEY, was born in 1829. He was first married to Martha BYRD and had Jep HEFLEY, Johnny HEFLEY, Jobie HEFLEY, and Alice HEFLEY. After his 1st wife died John Bailey HEFLEY married Martha Jane SCHULER DAVIS. They had the following children: Big

Joe married Lizzie NICHOLS; Allison married Nerva Ann CRINER, George married Ellen GREENHAW, Cora married Mitch ANDREWS, Nora marriage a BOATMAN, Alice married Alvie HAMILTON. John Bailey came to Boone County, AR in 1850. In 1858 they moved to Texas and later returned to Arkansas.

My Nichols family

My Nichols side of the family is as follows: Harley Columbus NICHOLS was my grandfather on my dad's side of the family. Harley Columbus NICHOLS was born 28 March 1874, in Newton County, AR to William Martin NICHOLS and Mary ADAMS NICHOLS. He is buried in the Sexton Cemetery, at Mt. Judea, AR. He and my grandma Mary Jane HEFLEY had three sons, twins William Selmer and Jep Elmer and baby Lester Green NICHOLS. Harley C. died 23 April 1901 and is buried in the Sexton Cemetery near Mt. Judea, Arkansas along with his wife Mary Jane.

William Martin "Mart" NICHOLS (father of Harley C.) was born 20 September 1837 in Tennessee and died in 1913 in De Kalb, County, Alabama. William was married to Mary ADAMS.

Parents of William Martin "Mart" NICHOLS was William and Mary Ann NICHOLS. William was born in 1813 in Tennessee and married Mary Ann in 1829. Their children were David A., William Martin, Harvey, Eliza, Tibitha Ann, George W. and Russell R.

The Holts

Mary Jane HOLT was my great grandmother on my dad's side of the family. She was born 26 August 1858, in Mt. Judea, Newton County, AR, to Charles Kendrell HOLT and Mary Barnett CAMPBELL HOLT. She died June 1948 and is buried at Haskell Cemetery, in Haskell, Oklahoma. She married Daniel Jephtha "Jep" HEFLEY on 17 February 1877 in Newton County, AR.

Charles Kendrell HOLT, the 5th child of James Simpson HOLT and Elizabeth FORTNER HOLT, WAS BORN 29 February 1826, in Tennessee. He died on the 14 June 1897, in Mt. Judea, Ar and is buried in the Sexton Cemetery. He was married to Mary Barnett CAMPBELL, who was born 14 October 1836 in Arkansas, the daughter of George Washington and Julia Ann CAMPBELL. Julia Ann came from Switzerland. Mary B. CAMPBELL HOLT died 11 July 1912 and is buried in the Sexton Cemetery.

James Simpson HOLT, 4th child of Charles and Martha RATLIFF HOLT, was born 30 Cot, 1793 in Spartanburg, South Carolina and died in 1879 in Lipan, Hood County, Texas. He was married to Elizabeth FORTNER on 17 October 1871, in St. Clare County, AL. She was born 8 February 1801, in SC and died in 1860 in Lipan, TX. James S. HOLT married a second wife Letitia Lucretia SELF in 1860, probably in Hood County, TX. She was born 12 March 1833, in AR and died in December 1911 in Lipan TX. I am descended from James and his first wife Elizabeth.

Charles HOLT was born 30 March 1762 in Prince William County, Virginia. He died in

September 1847 in Blountsville, Blount County, Alabama. He married Martha RATLIFF on 15 February 1785 in Franklin county North Carolina. She died 11 May 1854 in Blount County, AL.

The family held a ceremony on 27 June 1976 at the Holt family reunion in Nectar Park, Blount County, Alabama, to dedicate a US Government marker dedicated to Charles HOLT Sr.'s memory as he served in the American Revolutionary War. (This information was taken from the book "The Family of Charles and Martha RATLIFF HOLT" by Carri Vance) Carri is the granddaughter of my cousin, Jr. NICHOLS. Jr. was the son of my dad's baby brother, Lester Green NICHOLS.

Many people in the family are interested in finding how we are on the Cherokee Rolls. The following information may be of help to some of those family members. I would appreciate any info that others may have. Contact me at Ava Armstrong, 1400 Colorado St. #C, Bolder City, Nevada 89005-2448 Cell phone 405-834-6173.

1. Charles and Martha RATLIFF HOLT were presumably on the Eastern Cherokee Rolls, but I have not been able to find anything about them.

2. James Simpson and Elizabeth FORTNER HOLT's roll number was : The Cherokee Roll Book, Henderson Rolls, page 50, beat #4, dated 4 August 1860, Household # 370-337

3. A brother of our grandpa Charles Kendrell HOLT is listed. He is William Carroll HOLT, Cherokee Roll Book, page 50, PO Stephenville, TX, 4 Aug 1860, Beat #4, Henderson Roll, Household #368-335

4. Another brother of grandpa Charles Kendrell HOLT, Asa Nathan HOLT and his second wife Billistein Elizabeth CAMPBELL HOLT, are listed under Cherokee Roll Book, Henderson Roll, page 50, PO Stephenville, TX, 4 August 1860, Beat #4, Household # 367-334, Billistein Elizabeth CAMPBELL HOLT is listed under another number later as Native American registration #254561. So her sister, Mary Barnett CAMPBELL who was married to our grandpa Charles Kindrell HOLT should be listed also, since her sister Billistein is.

5. No one seems to know what happened to Asa Nathan HOLT, Charles Kendrell HOLT's brother, but I found his son, Charles Holt, by his common law wife, Annie No-Fire listed at Tahlequah, OK. He is listed as Charles HOLT, Flint District, Indian Territory as 3/4 Indian, child of Annie No Fire, a full blood #956, Charles HOLT, blood of the Cherokee Nation card #7324, Roll #17409. His mother Annie No Fire was on the Trail of Tears.

Here are the address of the Cherokee Nation, PO Box 948, Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948 Principal Chief Chad "Cornassel" SMITH, phone 800-256-0671 ext 2364.

www.acessestgenealogy.com has Indian rolls, go to their quick links section, click Native American Nations, Cherokee, Final Rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes, insert surname and search.

The address for the Eastern Cherokees is: The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Qualla Boundary PO Box 455, Cherokee, NC 28719, Phone 828-497-2711 or 497-7000. Both Tahlequah and The Eastern Band of Cherokee have all the Indian Rolls in their Libraries.

The Old Timothy Sexton Story as told to me by my dad, William Selmer NICHOLS

Aunt Artlissa HOLT, who was a sister to my grandpa Charles Kindrell HOLT was married to Old Timothy Sexton. (They lived on the John FOSTER place.) She wanted to go to her brother Charles Kendrell's for a visit. Timothy did not want to go, because it was 1863 and bushwhackers were raiding and killing people, but he went to please her.

While they were at Grandpa's (Charles Kendrell Holt) place Quantrell's Raiders, they were called "The Red Legs" at that time, rode into the yard and killed Timothy SEXTON. Aunt Artlissa took him home and buried him on their farm.

Some say that their farm was back on a mountain above the Sexton Cemetery. It may have been on a mountain bench to the south of the left fork of Big Creek. between Vendor and Mt. Judea. It was likely not far from what was Tom GREENHAW's place. This farm was owned at that time by Grandpa Charles Kendrell Holt.

A few weeks later, when neighbors went to check on Aunt Artlissa, they found the children playing in the yard. Aunt Artlissa was inside, in child birth. She and the baby girl died and they were buried by Timothy on their farm. Their two sons, Allen and Levi were taken by Acee HOLT to raise. No one knows what happened to their daughter. Allen SEXTON married Ida HAMILTON, they had eight children. One became a doctor who practiced in Newton County.

Grandpa Jephtha "Jep" HEFLEY was a Justice of the Peace in Mt. Judea where he lived. He and my grandma Mary Jane moved to Texas. I am not sure where but I surmise around what is now Grandbury, TX, because the martin Cemetery there has been dedicated as our family Historical Cemetery.

Grandma and grandpa Hefley raised my dad, William Selmer and his two brothers Jep Elmer and Lester Green NICHOLS. Dad often told me that his mom, Mary Jane HEFLEY NICHOLS, died the night that she had ridden her mare to a neighbors one day. In later years they thought it could have been appendicitis. She was only twenty nine. My dad was nine years old at the time. They were in Texas when she died.

When dad was fifteen (about 1914), Grandpa Jep HEFLEY decided to move to Coalgate, OK. He sent dad on the freight train with the cattle to Oklahoma. Dad took his horse with him and when he got the cattle off loaded and taken care of he rode his horse back to TX to join the family on their trek to Oklahoma. They had a regular wagon train of the many relatives.

My Dad loved his Hefley Grandparents. I never heard him complain about any aspect of being raised by them. He and his two brothers were loved and taken care of. Dad became a farmer while his twin, Elmer became a school teacher. Elmer had Polio when he was a child and was crippled as a result, so grandpa Hefley saw that he had a college education. Uncle Lester Green NICHOLS moved to California. They kept in close touch with each other. My Hefley grandparents are both buried in Coalgate, OK as are two of their children. My beloved

great aunts Bonnie Mae HEFLEY TAYLOR and Myrtle HEFLEY PAYNE. My sweet aunt Myrt would have been 102 on 31 July 1996, but she died in the spring just before her birthday. Even though they were actually my dad's aunts they were more like sisters to him. Even as a child I could sense the love they had for him and his two brothers.

I don't remember great Uncle Charles Kendrell "Charley" HEFLEY. He married Daisy GREENHAW. They had one daughter Ardith HEFLEY. I believe she married a NORTON.

The CRINERS

They came with the HEFLEYs from Missouri to Arkansas. My mother was Sarah Lavina CRINER born 25 February 1904 in Mt. Judea, AR. She was married to my dad William Selmer NICHOLS whose family information was given earlier.

Mother's parents were Robert Levi CRINER born in 1875 and Margaret Peggy RICKETTS born in 1880. They married on 22 July 1896 in Newton County, Arkansas. Robert and Margaret had the following children: Nallen, who married Lee HARRISON; Mitchell, who married Mina ANDREWS; Lola, who married Orel MARPLE; Sarah, (my mother); Mae, who married Norman BAILEY; Chloe, who married Abner FOUTCH; Howard, who married Verda WEST; Oya, who married Bynum JONES; and Homer, who married Lucille BRASSFIELD. Robert and Margaret are buried at Haskell, OK.

Robert Levi was the son of Stephen (13 March 1846–29 August 1928) and Margaret "Tid" (1 February 1846– 24 May 1910) CHEATHAM CRINER. Robert's siblings were: Bell who died 24 January 1969, never married; William Barnett, married Peggy CAMPBELL; Frank, married Maggie HEFLEY; Nerva Ann, married Jim COOK; John, married Peggy COOPER; Joe, married Gracey CAMPBELL; Jeff, married Molly DUCK; Lucy, married James BURDINE; and Viney, married Kuh SAIN. Stephen and Margaret CRINER are buried in the Sexton Cemetery near Mt. Judea.

Stephen CRINER was the son of William Thomas "old Billy" CRINER (9 September 1814– 5 March 1853) and Mary Jane HEFLEY. (25 November 1814– 6 September 1873). William Thomas and Mary Jane CRINER are buried in the Criner Cemetery near Mt. Judea, AR. They were married 27 February 1834. They had: Peter, who died as a youth; Martha, born 7 February 1835, married Will CHAFFIN in 1852, he died in 1862; John A., born 2 April 1836, killed in the Civil War; James W. born 24 July 1837, died 1906, married Mary GAUCE; Susan born 11 January 1840, married William CHEATHAM then Manson QUERY; Elizabeth born 18 December 1841, married David Vinson RIDDLE; Joseph H., born 7 July 1842, died 24 October 1921, married Martha CHEATHAM on 12 July 1863; Adeline, born 17 January 1844, never married; Stephen; William Thomas Jr., born 30 August 1848, married Mary Alice HEFLEY; Polly A., born 14 March 1850, never married and Levi Harvey born 5 October 1852, who never married.

William Thomas CRINER, Sr.'s father was John CRINER who was born in 1768 in Lincoln County, TN. He served in the American Revolutionary War and was married to Elizabeth GALLOWAY who was born in 1786. John died on 6 October 1838 and Elizabeth died on 30 October 1826. John and Elizabeth's children were: Martha born 12 May 1804, married David

PARKER, Susanna, born 9 March 1809, married David NEWBERRY; James M., born 10 October 1812; William Thomas Sr.; John Anderson, born 23 February 1817, married Peggy Ann STANFIELD who was born 29 May 1817; Ibelene born 4 September 1819, married a HEFLEY; and Joseph H. born 26 July 1822 and died abt 1869.

More Criners

James W. (Jim) CRINER, son of William Thomas and Mary Jane HEFLEY CRINER, and Mary GAUCE had the following children: Clara, who married Bert CARROLL; Minnie, who married Bert TENNYSON; William Madison; Marcus, who married Ora HUDSON; Hobart, who married Ethel JONES; Arvil Lee, who married Lucy HEFLEY; and Joseph, who married Martha CHEATHAM.

Joseph CRINER, and Martha CHEATHAM, had the following children: Louisa, who married Will HOLT; Doctor who married Laura MCCUTCHEON; Lourina; Joseph H.; Bolen, who married Para Lee MARTIN; John, who married 1st Ann STRONG AND 2nd Carried GLOVER; Mary, who married Warren Lee HAMILTON; AND Nerva Ann, who married Allison HEFLEY; Donna; and Leona. Allison HEFLEY was half brother to my great grandfather, Daniel Jephtha “Jep” HEFLEY. They both had the same father John Bailey HEFLEY, but Allison’s mother was Martha Jane SCHULER, John Bailey’s second wife.

Joseph and Martha CRINER’s first child Louisa, married Will HOLT and had the following children: John; and Lum, who married Minnie NESBETT. Lum & Minnie had Loyd; Louisa; Nina Lou; Louvina who married Ira HUDSON; Joe, who married Rosa HEFLEY; Willie who married Tennie TENNYSON; Troy, who married Willie ROBISON; Myrtle, who married Silvie HEFLEY; and Dora who married Loyd HEFLEY and had James Carl, Louise and Harold Dean HEFLEY.

My Ricketts line.

My grandmother was Margaret Peggy RICKETTS, who was born in 1880 and married Robert Levi CRINER on 22 July 1896 in Newton County, Arkansas.

Grandmother Margaret was the daughter of William S. RICKETTS, (1849–1935,) and Sarah SMITH RICKETTS (1849–1929). Williams’s parents were Steve and Tibitha Ann NICHOLS RICKETTS. Sarah was the daughter of Jerry SMITH and Peggy BYRD, (1810–1877), daughter of James BYRD.) Other children of William and Sarah SMITH RICKETTS were: Jeremiah M. born 1875, married Ollie HARRIS on 11 January 1900, in Newton County, Arkansas; John A., born 1876, married Lucinda RIDDLE on 7 March 1895; Mary Laura, born 17 Nov 1877, married W. Tommy CHEATHAM 10 January 1892, in Newton County, Arkansas; grandmother Margaret, born 1880, Madeline, born 1888, married Dick STARR; Hester Hosannie, born 26 May 1885, married Simon David FLUD on 4 December 1902 in Newton County; Sarah Emmaline, born 12 October 1887, married U. S. Grant FLUD, on 31 August 1905, in Newton County; and Aulcie Mae born 28 February 1890, married Lafayette Franklin FLUD, on 7 December 1905 in Newton County, Arkansas.

Visitors

I remember when I was a child, that we had relatives and friends to come and visit us from Mt. Judea. Dad always enjoyed this so much. They would sit and reminisce about old days and the happenings, as well as the people who they had know in their lifetime.

Some of the people that I can recall were Penn MCCUTCHEON, he would stay several days,. Alfred and Effie SMITH, Guy WINSTEAD, Raymond and Alphonse NICHOLS,, they moved to Harrison, Arkansas and had a store there. Mom and Dad would go to Harrison to visit them. I believe he was Dad's cousin.

Nerva EDWARDS, Charley EDWARD's wife, with Elsie June and Jr. Nerva was a second cousin to my mom. Nerva was a CHEATHAM, I believe before she married Charley. Aunt Bell CRINER, a sister to my grandpa Robert L. CRINER, never married and sometimes would stay all summer. She always did the cooking, cleaning, etc. She was a precious person!

Hugh HEFLEY, I don't believe that he was from Mt. Judea, I think Eufaula, OK. I wish I could find someone that would remember him.

My beloved great aunt Bonnie Mae HEFLEY TAYLOR's daughter-in-law, kind of summed up our feelings for family, when aunt Bonnie died. In the dinning room of aunt Bonnie's home after her funeral, her daughter-in-law asked me "Ava, who are all those people in the living room?" I replied, "Nila, I don't know all of them. They are from Arkansas, and all of the GREENHAW relatives from Tahlequah, OK are here." Her reply was, "Well, if Bonnie Mae was here, she would be right in there, visiting with everyone having a good time. They are family and I am going in there to meet all of them." When I next looked in, there she was, perched on an arm of a chair, visiting with everyone. I have often thought of that time. She understood her mother-in-law and family importance. We draw together in sickness and death.

Ava Armstrong
1400 Colorado Street #C
Boulder City, Nevada 89005-2448
Cell Phone 405-834-6173
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