

The Descendants

Of



J. Ward Thomas
&
Leona P. Davidson

Compiled By
Jack and Delores Thomas
January 30, 1998

LEONA P. THOMAS and her KAZOO BAND

Leona is the first "Sunbonnet Sue" on the right of the picture. She formed the band of retiree ladies, which later included husbands, in March 1969. They brightened many Nursing Home Resident's day in and around Anderson, IN, until after Christmas of 1977. They appeared on Jim Jerard's T.V. Show in Indianapolis and a Muncie radio station.

A more enthusiastic, fun loving group than these ladies would have been hard to find. Their husbands worked at Guide Lamp Division of General Motors in Anderson. They lived and raised their families on meager incomes during the depression years following the 1929 financial collapse of America. Now, at this time in their life, they had reason to rejoice. And Leona saw to it that they did.



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The Retiree women stole the show with their famous Kazoo Band. Look for this group on the Ed Sullivan Show in the near future. 474 retirees braved 8-below temperatures to attend this meeting.

Reading This Book

If, while reading the following pages of this book, the reader will keep these few facts in mind, a much clearer understanding of the contents will result. The format or style used in this book is known as the **Modified Register System**, which has been refined by the National Genealogical Society.

Three types of numbers are used: one to uniquely identify the individual, one to indicate the generation into which that person falls, and one to denote his or her birth-order within the nuclear family. The identification numbering system used in this book is called **By Generation**. The starting person is 1, his first child is 2. All the children are listed as generation number two, the grand-children are listed as generation number three and so on. Each person is assigned an ID number in sequential order by generation.

When an individual is introduced in his/her separate sketch, the name appears in boldface letters with the surnames in all capital letters. The name is preceded by the identification number. The last given name is followed immediately by a superscript number indicating the number of generations from the starting individual in this book. In parentheses following the name is a list of direct ancestors back to the starting individual. Only the given name is listed, followed by the generation number in superscript.

When the list of children is presented, **the plus (+)** sign indicates that more about this child will be presented in his/her separate sketch. The ID number is printed, followed by M/F indicating the sex. Next a small roman numeral in front of the name designates birth-order. Next the name is followed by the birth and death dates.

The index is arranged alphabetically by surname. Under each surname, the given names are alphabetically arranged. The name is followed by the year of birth and death in square brackets. The number to the right indicates the page where this name appears. The wife appears under her maiden name and under her married names with her maiden name in parentheses.

Acknowledgments

Most of the following information was supplied by Leona Thomas after she moved to Goshen, Indiana. If there are errors in name or dates it will be due to the persons who chose to record the data, Jack and Delores Thomas.

Thank you, Mom, for your willingness to answer our endless questions and to correct our writings. Without you we may never have connected names we had heard to the correct families. Forgive us for any remaining mistakes and promise to help us with your ancestors information and remember, this is the way we "thought" events took place.

Your loving kids,

Jack and Delores

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INTRODUCTION

It was Jack's and Delores's plan to record the following pages both for Leona's 100th birthday celebration and for all of us who have been touched by Dad's and her lives. After compiling this information we are interested in researching Mom's and Dad's ancestors. We have some of the data in the computer, but must now research birth, census records, etc. for early ancestors with the hopes of someday recording their history.

Genealogy is, basically, the science of getting and recording information about one's ancestors -- and includes such information as dates and places (of birth, baptism, marriage, children's births, death), geographical movements of a person or people, land ownership, etc.

The enjoyment of the Genealogist (the person who does the getting and recording) is in the art of finding out more than just factual information -- and in bringing to life the people studied.

Information should be objectively correct and factual. Bringing it to life involves using one's imagination in recording stories involving these people. These "stories" are almost always (first) based on fact and (second) enlivened by the passing of years. In those retellings -- over and over again -- what is told may not be totally factual but helps us see and "feel" our ancestors as living, breathing, working, loving, disagreeing, hurting, celebrating, fearful, self-assured people. In other words, in most ways they have been just like us!

As you read, if you have information which adds to or can correct this information, please let us know -- or at least make notes in your copy for your own family. If you have interpretations of "stories" which differ from ours . . . well, let us know that too. We will change dates/facts in our computer data. However, we may add a note about "story" differences but probably won't change the manuscript. Why? Because no recollection of a past event is ever completely accurate, and we have recorded what seems to us to be "the way it ought to have been". Happy reading.

Jack and Delores Thomas

Goshen, Indiana, January, 1998.

CHAPTER 1

The Descendants of J. Ward Thomas & Leona P. Davidson

Listing 24 descendants for 5 generations.

GENERATION NO. 1

1. **Joseph Ward¹ THOMAS, "Ward"** was born 23 Jan 1896 in Marion, Grant Co, Indiana. He was the son of Oliver THOMAS and Junie SIRK. Joseph, "Ward" died 19 Mar 1978 in Anderson, Madison Co., Indiana, and was buried in E Maplewood Cem, Madison Co, Anderson, IN. He married **Leona Pauline DAVIDSON Hutchison** 4 Dec 1922 in Marion, Grant Co, Indiana. She was born 31 Jan 1898 in Fairmount, Grant Co, Indiana, the daughter of Nathan DAVIDSON and Elizabeth Ellen KNIGHT.

They had 3 children:

- + 2. M i. William Edward HUTCHISON, "Bill", born 20 Nov 1918.
- + 3. M ii. Jack Knight THOMAS, 'Rev', born 14 May 1929.
- + 4. M iii. Joe Dean THOMAS, born 13 May 1934.

NOTES for Leona follow:

Leona was born to a Quaker (or Friends) family in Fairmount, Indiana. They lived near the Quaker associated high school, Fairmount Academy, which she and her sisters attended. She can still sing their school song, compose original poems, knows world geography and can work math problems faster and more accurately than most of her kids or grandkids mainly due to the excellent academics of that school.

In one of her son's house is a tool which Leona used while employed at the Mallable factory in Marion, Indiana to do "core - making" for the Apperson automobile*. **Added note: Bill and Jack each have a different tool which Mom used.*

She and J. Ward married in 1922 and America's Great Depression was soon upon them. To this day Leona still hesitates to spend money foolishly for fear of another such era bringing back national and personal impoverishment to America. She has often reminded her family that their

generation had "seen the end of the elephants tail" during those times.

Shortly after she and Ward moved to Anderson, IN they joined the Evangelical United Brethren church. That denomination joined with the Methodist to become the United Methodist Church of North Indiana. She is a member of the New Horizon U.M. Church in Anderson, Indiana.

She and Ward raised Leona's son Bill, (from her first marriage to Leroy Hutchison,) and their two sons, Jack and Joe. After the boys were gone from home Leona worked in a local elementary school lunch kitchen.

While they were never heard to argue politics, both Ward and Leona were avid republicans and for many years Leona worked on the election board on voting day. The small amount of pay for this job was a long standing family joke. As a great reward for some service rendered she would promise to leave all of her "Election Money" to this or that person. The funny part of the whole joke was that none of the family ever saw this money so its very existence was always in question. Well, now the joke is on the family for when Leona moved to Goshen and brought her large, black, tin security box it held an old long envelope labeled "ELECTION MONEY". It's still a mystery just how much money is actually in there.

Leona and Ward's home was always open to their son's friends. Thus they became surrogate parents to several young people. She has fond memories of those times and Pete Derring is one of them. He and his wife, Pattie, still keep in touch with Leona. They call frequently, send cards and have visited her in the Health Center several times.

Leona has many humorous sayings. One of them is as follows: "Ephrim Detemus Johnathan Holmes, Christopher Methedamus Quadwhalloper Jones". For some reason most of us taught her grandchildren to say this jingle by the time they could talk. Another is a quick paced vaudeville type advertisement for a real or mythical toilet soap: "It's a radical, tragical, incomprehensible double D-still of the Rooty Toot Toilet Soap. It's a sure cure for bald heads, scald heads, dirty feet and sore back. Also guaranteed to remove pitch, tar and paint from the clothing. Take one, why, I say I will. If you wouldn't buy a cake of this soap you wouldn't buy a ham of meat if the ham was on the hog and the hog weighed a thousand. SOLD! And received a tin

to put it in".

Around 1962 Leona and Ward moved to Ft. Myers, FL for a few years. When they became lonesome for Indiana they returned to Anderson. During this time they were able to enjoy the Quide Lamp Retirees Fellowship. It was a fun time in their life. It was also the era of Leona's Ladies Kazoo Band which played in many nursing homes and even appeared on a radio and television program. Later on husbands were allowed to be a part of the band.

The Retirees group made many fun bus trips together. On one such trip the bus driver told them the restroom door would stick if closed all the way. About halfway into the trip Leona made a visit to the little room and you guessed it, she pulled the door tight behind her. The driver was right, she could not get out. Leona's polite hammering brought another lady who went to Ward with the news that his wife was stuck in the restroom. Ward's immediate reply was, "She got herself in there, she can get her self out", and remained in his seat. The hammering got louder and louder until the driver pulled over to the side of the road, got outside, opened up the toolbox beneath the passenger's seats, got back inside with his long handled screwdriver and pried open the door. Out waltzed Leona to a rousing cheer and applause by her friends and loving husband. "Make sure you can get out before you go in", became one of their groups mottos.

Leona's struggles through the grief of losing her mate in 1978 were devastating but as in previous circumstances, she gave her children an example of how to believe in God and accept what you can not change in this world.

Fourteen years after Ward's death, Leona moved to Goshen in 1992 to again be near some of her family. She celebrated her 95th birthday while living in an assisted living apartment at Greencroft in Goshen. She managed her own check book and was very much in control of her affairs.

About this time Leona developed a septic infection of the right shoulder. Two surgeries, strong I.V. antibiotics, and a lot of pain later she was up and going but all of it had taken a serious toll on her strength. Asking for help in getting to stores and doctors galled her to no end. However, her mobility quickly diminished and walking became difficult even with a walker.

Never the less she could still beat us at domino chicken-foot or any other game as far as that goes. Keeping aware of her kids activities proves out the old saying, "Once a Mother, always a Mother". It's not as easy keeping up with her 6 grand children, 12 great, grand children and 1 great, great granchild's growth and school achievements but Leona gives it a valent effort.

In March 1994, following two surgeries on a septic right shoulder, Leona moved into the Health Care Center at Greencroft using a walker in her room and a wheelchair in the hall and dining room. She enjoys watching Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy game programs, on her Christmas T.V. She has had a ball correcting all of the errors Jack and Delores have made compiling the Davidson/Thomas family history.

Try as hard as she could, walking became too difficult for Leona. She now uses a wheel chair to get around. Since it is too painful for her right shoulder to be used she rolls her chair by using only her left arm and the many hand rails in the hall to move down the hall to the dining room.

Today, January 31, 1998, is Leona's 100th birthday celebration at Greencroft. The Gables Conference Room is beautifully decorated in light cream, forest green and burgundy colors. Mom's beautiful white hair sets it all off perfectly. Many staff personnel and part of her family were here to help her celebrate. Happy Birthday Mom.

NOTES for Joseph, "Ward" follow:

Ward was the oldest son in his family and when the father died at an early age Ward became the bread winner of the family. During this time Ward worked in a glass factory in or near Marion, Ind. His son, Jack, has a cut glass toothpick holder which Dad made during that time. Both handles are off now. Leona said one was missing when she first saw it and she supposed she had broken the other one off.

J. WARD THOMAS' WORLD WAR I INFORMATION:

ENLISTMENT RECORD (Part of record reprinted below.)

Name: Joseph W. Thomas

Grade: pvt. 1st. class

Enlisted, or inducted 10/5/1917, at Marion, Ind.

Serving in first enlistment period at date of discharge. Single
Character: Excellent

Remarks: No A.W.O.L. No absence under G.O. 45 W.D.

Entitled to travel pay to Marion, Ind. & \$60.00 Bonus.

Served in France 3/30/18 to 6/1/19.

Served in Co. M334th. Inf. 3/20/19, 51st Co. Trans. Corps to date of
discharge. Signature of soldier: Joseph W. Thomas;

Edison O Gibson 2nd. Lieut. Inf. U.S.A. Commanding Gr. 181

Camp Sherman Ohio Jun 14, 1919 Paid in full including Bonus \$114.82

Ernest A. Olson 1st Lieut Q.M.C. S. Young 1st. Lieutenant Q.M. Corps

Transportation issued: June 14 19 Camp Sherman 8984 Recorded

Aug. 27, 1919 at 3:25 o'clock P.M.

Shy Bireley Recorder Grant County STATE OF INDIANA GRANT

COUNTY SS: I, the undersigned, Recorder in and for said County and

State, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is full, true correct

and complete copy of Honorable Discharge From the United States

Army to Joseph W. Thomas as appears of record in my office in

Soldiers Discharge Record No. 3 page 195. Witness my hand and

official seal this 2nd. day of March 1925. Harry Linn, Recorder

Grant County, Indiana.

J. WARD THOMAS NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES

and of the STATE OF INDIANA enlisted: 1 Mar 1928 ; Honorably

Discharged: 2 Oct. 1931 as First Sergeant. George H. Healey Col.

152nd. Inf.

Ward and Leona were married December 4, 1922 in Marion. When work became scarce they moved to Anderson where he got a job by "out sitting" several other applicants. All the others got tired of waiting and left. Since Ward was the only one waiting, he got the job. Years later, he retired as foreman with Guide Lamp Division, General Motors in 1961.

Ward was a man of few words unless feeling strongly about something. Then he could become very determined. He was a mechanic and a foreman at Guide Lamp in Anderson for many years. He enjoyed fishing, and was a believer in God and country. He loved Leona, their sons and their families. Although he worked the night shift for many years, he spent time with his six

grandchildren at different stages of their lives. In his table grace, he always asked God to "protect the children who are away from us".

Ward loved to tease his sweetheart, Leona. They played many table games during their time. Their favorite was Scrabble. During the course of his reading, Ward would find words, write them down on a piece of paper and tuck them away in his wallet where he knew Leona would never find them. Then during their next game he'd whip out a word confident she would never guess it. They spent many gleeful hours trying to outwit each other, even to the point of getting out of bed on a sleepless night to compete in a challenge.

He loved telling others that his wife enjoyed housekeeping. And for some reason rearranging the living room furniture was always done while he worked the 'night trick' at Guide Lamp factory. "Course", he would quietly say with a wry grin and rubbing his hands together, "You gotta turn on the light when you step in the room cause you just might sit down on the floor instead of the couch or chair which was now across the room". Entering his dark house became an adventure for Ward and he liked telling about it .

He and Leona had a large group of friends in Anderson. Before retirement they enjoyed Sunday School parties in church, local parks and each others homes. Their fellowship at Guide Lamp Retirement Center gave them much happiness with more parties and bus tours.

As in all families there were unhappy situations, but usually Ward would grin and go along with another one of Leona's many plans during their time together. Apparently Leona once backed over a friend's trash can while leaving her drive. She called out to the friend, "Ward pays all my damages", and off she drove. Sure enough, that night when Ward got home from work he quickly drove to the friends house and repaired the damage. "Jack pays all my damages" has become one of Delores' favorite saying.

Ward died March 19, 1978 following a series of mini strokes with his loving and faithful wife, Leona, by his bed side.

CHAPTER 2

GENERATION NO. 2

2. **William Edward² HUTCHISON, "Bill"** (Leoná) was born 20 Nov 1918 in Marion, Grant Co, Indiana. He married **Bessie CROOKS** on 24 Feb 1939 She was born 27 Oct 1917.

They had 2 children:

- + 5. M i. James Edward HUTCHISON, "Jimmy", born 12 May 1941 in Marion, Grant Co. IN.
- + 6. M ii. Donald Edwin HUTCHISON, "Donnie", born 13 Dec 1943 in Marion, Grant Co, IN.

NOTES for Bessie follow:

Bessie's mother was Ruth Crooks of Marion, IN, Grant County. Bessie and Bill had two boys, Jim and Don. They moved to Ft. Myers, FL when the boys were small and Bessie soon became the Water Commissioner of Page Park. Later she developed an extensive custom-made drapery business. Arthritis has severely plagued her in later life.

NOTES for William, "Bill" follow:

Bill's father was Oscar Leroy Hutchison, Leona Davidson Thomas's first husband. Bill is about 6' 4" tall and looks a lot like Leona and her father, Nathan Davidson. Bill married Bessie Crooks from Marion, IN. Bill entered the Armed Srvce 12 Feb 1945 and was dischared 25 Oct 1946. When he returned from WW 2 the family moved to Ft. Myers, FL. in 1951. Their first home was an Air Force barracks in Page Park where the Air Force had trained piolets during WW II. It was solar heated with a huge water tank under the roof. Spacing showers was necessary. Later they built the beautiful home in which they now live. Bill was first a carpenter and then retired after 22 ½ yrs (1958-1981) from Lee County Sheriff's department.

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3. **Jack Knight² THOMAS, 'Rev'** ("Ward") was born 14 May 1929 in Marion, Grant, Indiana. He married **Delores Ardella HANDLEY, "Tessie"** 13 Jun 1954 in Veedersburg, Fountain, Indiana. She was born 22 Dec 1930 in Danville, Vermilion, Illinois, the daughter of Cleveland HANDLEY and Mary May MAINS, "Mamie".

They had 2 children:

- + 7. M i. Stanton Ray THOMAS, "Stan", born 12 Jan 1957 in Sierra Leone, West Africa.
- + 8. F ii. Tonda Lei THOMAS, born 2 Sep 1958 in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

NOTES for Delores, "Tessie" follow:

Delores is next to the last of thirteen children. She is about 5' 2" tall with hazel-green eyes, medium brown to rapidly graying hair and looks like her siblings with the added insatiable curiosity of how our marvelously designed bodies function. While childhood curiosity was not always in the best of taste, it certainly became an asset during Nurses training nineteen years later.

While making up a two week suspension Delores had incurred due to a skipped class at Danville Community College, a patient introduced her to his pastor, Jack Thomas, and she has been following him around ever since.

NOTES for Jack, 'Rev' follow:

Jack is six feet tall, fair skinned and has straight, very blonde hair, blue eyes and has worn glasses since the fourth grade. Jack and Delores married June 13, 1954 and began their life together in a small apartment in Veedersburg, Indiana. Delores worked in a small hospital in Williamsport, IN and Jack finished his last year at Evangelical Seminary in Naperville, IL. One year later they were appointed as missionaries by the EUB Church and sailed on the Queen Mary to England. They studied British government, which is somewhat different from our own, and tropical diseases and nutrition at the School of Oriental and African Studies. Both were tutored in the Mende dialect before sailing on to Sierra Leone, W. Africa.

While still in high school, Jack began his ministry in the Bill Wilson Boys Club in Anderson, IN. During college in Indianapolis, he was a youth worker in an EUB church. In Seminary he served the Cates, New Century and Centennial churches near Veedersburg, IN where Jack and Delores lived on weekends.

After thirteen years on the mission field and deputation in the States they returned to settle in America. Jack worked in the EUB Mission Board in Dayton, OH for 6 months before the EUB joined with the Methodist Church becoming the United Methodist Church. He served North Indiana churches the rest of his ministry; Riverside in Muncie for 8 yrs., New Haven for 2 yrs.,

Huntington District Superintendent 5 yrs., Waynedale 5 yrs. and finally Goshen First for 4 yrs. After forty plus dedicated years Jack retired from the active ministry. He is currently Financial Developer of Bashor Home for Emotionally Disturbed Children. Knowing most of the North Indiana Conference ministers and leaders has helped in this position since much of the support comes from the United Methodist churches.

Orthoscopic surgery on his right knee has slowed Jack's mean game of racket ball for a while. Usually he can be found hurrying to the next opportunity singing or humming a merry gospel tune. As of Mar 27, 1998 he plans to retire, again, and probably volunteer in community projects.

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4. **Joe Dean² THOMAS** (Joseph, "Ward"¹) was born 13 May 1934 in Marion, Grant Co, Indiana. He married **Deloras Sue CRAWFORD** 20 Aug 1955 in Muncie, Del Co, Indiana. She was born 4 Nov 1933 in New Castle, Henry Co, Indiana.

They had 2 children:

- + 9. M i. Phillip David THOMAS, "Phil", born 7 Nov 1960.
- 10. F ii. Janice Marie THOMAS, "Jan", born 30 Aug 1963 in Battle Creek, Calhoun, Michigan.

NOTES for Deloras Sue follow:

Sue graduated from Ball State University in Muncie, IN. She is an accountant and had a business of her own with many clients. After two total hip replacements, Sue finds golfing an excellant exercise and their beautiful new home in N. Carolina is built almost on a golf course.

NOTES for Joe follow:

Joe was an infant when his parents moved from Marion to Anderson, IN and he grew up there, graduating from Anderson High in 1952. He sang in the High School Choir and played saxaphone in the band. He graduated from the Management Program associated with General Motors Technical Institute, then obtained a Master Degree from Ball State University. Joe was in the U.S. Army for one enlistment period, and spent most of his time in Germany. He worked in Management with the Kellogg Company for many years. Later, he held positions in and retired from the ship building industry. He and Sue are avid golfers, and built their retirement home on a golf course in North Carolina, where they may enjoy the game year round.

CHAPTER 3

GENERATION NO. 3

5. **James Edward³ HUTCHISON, "Jimmy"** (Bill², Leona¹) was born 11 May 1941 in Marion, Grant Co, Indiana. He married (1) **Carol NARVERA**; they divorced.

They had 3 children:

- +11. M i. Richard Hutchison, born 18 Feb 1962 Ft. Myers, Lee Co. FL.
- 12. F ii. Theresa HUTCHISON, born 15 Mar 1966 Ft. Myers, FL.
- 13. M iii. Timothy HUTCHISON, born 5 Oct 1958, Atlanta, GA.
Tim lives in Ft. Myers, FL and works in a huge Home Depot Retail Store.

NOTES for Carol follow:

Carol was first wife of James Hutchison and mother of their three children. They divorced. Jimmy married **Georgia HAINES**.

NOTES for Georgia follow:

Georgia is employed in a bank. They lived in FL until 1997 when they moved to Shelbyville, TN. Georgia has family near by.

NOTES for Jimmy follow:

First son of Bill and Bessie Hutchison born in Marion, IN. Following Bill's army service the family moved to Ft. Myers, Florida where they have lived since. Jimmy had childhood asthma. While painting a radio station he backed into a transformer sustaining severe burns. About 1994 he fell from a ladder at Jarmar Shoes where he had worked for several years, injuring his back and knees badly. He is on crutches and hasn't worked since. He and Georgia moved to Shelbyville, TN in 1997.

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6. **Donald Edwin³ Hutchison, "Donnie"**(Bill², Leona¹). Born 13 Dec 1943 in Marion, Grant Co, IN. He married **Crytal**. They are divorced.

They had 2 children:

- 14. M I. William Westley Hutchison, born 25 June 1969 in Atlanta GA.
West married Polly _____ Hutchison in 1996. She is an

Interior Decorater and they live in Atlanta, GA. Wes is a Trucking Firm Dispatcher.

- 15 M. ii. Donald Brandon Hutchison, born 3 Jan 1972 in N. Carolina. Brandon married Kerri Paige, "Paige" Stogner in Orchard, Hill Georgia. Wes works with Nascar in the Atlanta, GA Race Track. Paige works with the Delta Air Line.

NOTES for Donnie follow:

Don is tall and has reddish colored hair and his sons have red hair. He lives in Key West, FL. where he manages Fiesta Key K.O.A. Campground. He visited his grandmother, Leona, when she lived in Anderson..

7. **Stanton Ray³ THOMAS, "Stan"** (Jack², Ward¹) was born 12 Jan 1957 in Bo, Sierra Leone, West Africa. He married **Judy Lynn BECKTEL** 20 Sep 1980 in Syracuse, Kosciusko, Indiana. She was born Oct 1958 in Indiana, the daughter of Homer Edwin BACHTEL and Mabel Leola RARIG.

They had 2 children:

16. M i. **COLE Ryan THOMAS**, born 16 Jan 1983 in Goshen, Elkhart, Indiana. Cole Ryan was born in Goshen, IN hospital. He looks very much like a baby picture of his grandfather, Jack Knight Thomas. He has straight blonde to brown hair, blue eyes and long legs similar to Grandpa. His has also inherited his mother's nose. Cole is quick to grasp concepts and implement them. He loves baseball, football and some soccer. He was accepted on his middle school's Scholastic Team. He has his own computer web page and loves to talk with friends.
17. F ii. **Cheryl Diane THOMAS**, born 1 May 1986 in Goshen, Elkhart, Indiana. Cheryl Diane was also born in Goshen Hospital. Cheryl has blonde hair and blue eyes, square shoulder and long straight legs. She is very athletic and

maintains high scholastic marks.

NOTES for Judy follow:

Judy married Stanton Ray Thomas. She is mother of Cole Ryan and Cheryl Thomas. She has lived in Syracuse, IN most of her life. Judy has one brother, Bob, and one sister, Donna. Her great grandmother was "Little Flower" a full Miami Indian. Judy is 5' 6" tall and has very dark brown to black curly hair. She is strong both physically and emotionally. She is special in many ways. She works in the Syracuse High School Counseling and Records Dept.

NOTES for Stanton, "Stan" follow:

Stan was born at the home of Lester and Dr. Winifred Bradford in Monjama, Sierra Leone, West Africa. Monjama was a small village outside of Bo where the family lived. He was dedicated to the Lord in the Bo Evangelical United Brethren open air chapel built of mud and stick with a tin roof. One of the church "grannies" was the godmother.

Bradford's built near the village of Monjama, a cluster of 25 or so round houses of mud walls and thatch roofs. Bradford's home was a rambling, mud and stick house with a tin roof. They had followed African tradition in building. The rooms were laid out on the ground, three inch diameter trees from the surrounding jungle were jammed down into the ground along that outline then smaller limbs were interwoven between these to form a grid. Women and children mixed mud and water by treading it to the right consistency then applied it to the grid in small handfuls. When dry they would add another layer of mud. Gradually the wall was built up to ten or twelve inches thick and left unpainted. In some locations white sand from nearby river beds were smeared on the outside walls. In towns and if the owner had enough money, store bought whitewash was applied with a large paintbrush. If maintained, these walls withstood three months of torrential rains during the tropical rainy season for several years. A large central room with doors at front and back and small bedrooms off from this main activity room completed the house. The rafters were left exposed for better ventilation.

True to their custom of naming little boys Jo until they reached puberty, the Mende people called him "Jo Bo" for Jo, the boy who lives in the town of Bo.

Stan did everything early in life. He walked at 10 months, scaled a chicken

wire fence playpen and proceeded to run off from home at one year and was pulled out of a swamp by a passing African man who carried him at arms length to a frantic Mom. Mud and slime up to his neck did not hinder Moms hugs and kisses. He climbed a ladder to the attic where electrical wires were haphazardly strewn about and had to be brought down by a students because Mom was 8 months pregnant and couldn't go after him. He climbed from his highchair tray to the top of the kerosene refrigerator and before Mom could catch him he fell striking his head on the cement floor. He was unconscious for three hours. Another time when at boarding school, he and some fellow students who were out on a short trek were followed by a band of chimpanzees until the boys retreated to their school compound. His boa constrictor snakes were returned to the jungle after the House Parent found them outside their cage roaming the bedroom shared by four boys.

In appearance and temperament, Stan is a mixture of all his ancestors. He has some of his fathers looks but not his long legs. His strong, compact, muscular body is similar to his maternal grandfather's whom he saw once when two years old. Curly hair came from Mom and Maternal grandmother. His sometimes crazy, sense of humor and the driving urge to work came from all of them.

He and Judy, currently (1998) live in Syracuse, IN. He works in Goshen at the Coating Division of Stellite Industries. He also works hard at being "Dad" to his two children, Cole and Cheryl, by coaching T ball, assisting with football, soccer, boy scouts, attending school activities and taking his turn at cooking suppers and getting them to the doctor and dentist offices. At age 41 his thick, wavy hair is rapidly turning silvery gray.

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8. **Tonda Lei³ THOMAS** (Jack², Ward¹) was born 2 Sep 1958 in Bo, Sierra Leone, Africa. She married **Jay Thomas SWINGLEY** 10 Jun 1979 in Riverside UM Church, Muncie, Indiana. He was born 23 Dec 1956 in Indiana, the son of Thomas R. SWINGLEY and Janet Belle GOLLIHER.

They had 3 children:

- 18. F i. Sarah Laine SWINGLEY, born 19 Jun 1981 in Muncie, Delaware, Indiana, in Ball Hospital. Jay and Tonda lived in a rented house near Winchester when she was born,

but soon purchased a mobile home and moved out east of town. Her Father worked at Overmyer Glass and her Mother was completing graduate studies at Ball State University.

Her parents later purchased a house north-east of Winchester in the country where she lived until her family moved to Goshen in 1991. She was in the 4th grade at that time. She is now taller than her mother, with black curly hair and bright, black eyes like Dad. She has an interest in sports, playing on volley ball teams through middle school and her Freshman High School year. She loves music and was invited to become part of the percussion "Pit Team" of the Goshen High School Marching Band while still in Middle School. She continues in that band. She is also in the High School Choir and St. Marks U. M. Church Praise Team. She is active in her Youth Group, occasionally is a worship leader, and has counseled children in summer camp. Sarah is a dedicated Christian and was baptized at St. Mark's U.M. Church on April 14, 1996, at the completion of her Confirmation Class. Her activities were recently slowed down following surgery on a trampoline injury of her right ankle.

19. F ii. Hannah Elizabeth SWINGLEY, "Hannah Beth", born 27 Dec 1983 in Muncie, Delaware, Indiana. She was born in Ball Hosp. in Muncie, on a cold wintery day. She and Mom were snowed in at the hospital. Dad, Sarah, who was 3 yrs. old, and Grandma Thomas were unable to travel on the ice covered Winchester country roads to get to Muncie. They had to wait an extra day to see new baby Hannah and take her home. Hannah lived on the farm until she was in second grade. When the family moved to Goshen, IN she entered second grade at Chandler Elementary school. She enjoyed piano lessons for a while then switched to clarinet and is first chair in her Jr.High Band. Hannah frequently works in the church nursery and has many friends in church and school.

20. F iii. Trisha Lynn SWINGLEY, "Trish", born 9 Feb 1988 in Indianapolis, Marion, Indiana. Before Trisha was born an amniotic cyst developed in the right lung. She was born at Riley Hospital in Indianapolis School of Medicine and the cyst and damaged lung tissue was removed. An ECMO machine supplied the oxygen until the remaining lung matured enough to take over. Several days later, Trisha was breathing on her own and with oxygen, heart and breathing monitor she went home to her family. For the next 18 months her family ran when the monitor would beep to shake/massage her to start the breathing again. She soon learned that if her crys didn't bring anyone all she had to do was tug on the wires and she got plenty of attention. Although she has frequent respiratory problems she is an alert, dark brown eyed little girl busy with fourth grade activities.

NOTES for Jay follow:

Husband of Tonda Lei Thomas and father of Sarah, Hannah & Trisha Swingley. He is 5' 6' tall with black curly hair and a mischievous smile and fun to be around. He is a blue grass music lover and plays drums, banjo, guitar and a little fiddle. He started as a child on drums and later played in a group called "Midnight Sun" in high school in Muncie, IN. Jay earned his Moldmaker journeyman's card at Overmeyer Co in Winchester. He moved to Goshen, IN in fall of 1993 to work at Stellite Industries in Quality Control of liquid metals. Jay was promoted to sales and currently travels widely to factories demonstrating Stellite's machines and metals.

He is a happy, loving man who set his own high standards for living when a young man. Tonda says she married him partly because he makes her laugh. Before Trisha was born, Jay decided he wanted to be a part of the loving church group that gave them so much support during a very difficult time. He became a Christian and continues to grow in his faith and enjoys working with the church youth.

NOTES for Tonda follow:

Tonda Lei was born in Monjama village outside of Bo, Sierra Leone, W. Africa. The house was made of mud and stick with a tin pan roof and no electricity. Her mother had malaria fever two months before she was born

which may have been the cause Tonda's arms and legs below the knees were blue in color for 3 days following birth. Her father, Jack, helped Dr. Bradford with the delivery. Long before birth Delores wanted her baby girl to be named Tonda Leigh after an old Bob Home, Bing Crosby "On the Road To" movie, where Dorothy Lamour steps through a Bambi curtain and said "My name is Tonda Leigho". Following months of discussion Jack persuaded Delores the name should be Gayle Rose. Upon learning the baby was a girl, Delores began to cry. Ignoring Jack's reassurance that everything was alright and no need to cry now, she only wailed louder finishing up with. "I can't name her anything but Tonda Lei". Needless to say Jack quickly agreed, anything to stop this howling, and thus she was named. There were many illness in Tonda's early life in Sierra Leone and Anderson, IN. Against many odds, she overcame any limitations she had from tropical diseases and has grown into a healthy, well adjusted, intelligent, loving daughter and wife and mother of her three girls.

Tonda earned a Bachelor and Master degree in Psychometry at Ball State University. She has worked with the Welfare Dept. of Winchester, IN, where they first lived, in the At Risk Babies program. She is currently working as a teachers assistant in the same school which Trisha attends. She works with children who can not keep up scholastically with the regular class work. Tonda and Jay want Mom home as much as possible and school hours are perfect for them. The family is very active in the St. Mark's United Methodist Church children's department. Tonda continues to enjoy her family, school room and church work.

9. Phillip David³ THOMAS, "Phil" (Joe², "Ward"¹) was born 7 Nov 1960 in Muncie, Del Co, Indiana. He married **Joannie LENTZ**.

They had 3 children:

- 21. M i. Kevin Joseph THOMAS, born 25 Jul 1990 in Newport News, VA.
- 22. M ii. David THOMAS, born 13 Nov 1991 in Newport News, VA.
- 23. M iii. Eric Phillip THOMAS, born 16 Jun 1995 in Bowling Green, KY.

NOTES for Phillip, "Phil" follow:

Phil lived in Newport News, VA and was employed in Ship Building before moving to Bowling Green, KY to the same company that owns Stellite Coatings in Goshen, IN where his cousin Stan Thomas and the husband of Stan's sister, Tonda Swingley, also works. Small world! The family now, 1997, lives in Bowling Green, KY and Phil is in the Corporate office. His company has recently sold Stellite in Goshen but Phil remained in his position. He is a computer whiz at work and at home.

10. **Janice Marie THOMAS, "Jan", (Joe³,) "Ward"¹)** was born 30 August 1963 in Battle Creek, Michigan.

NOTES for Janice "Jan" follow:

Jan graduated from Old Dominion University. She is an outgoing person, who enjoys children. She works for the City Parks Division of Newport News, Virginia, directing Children's programs. In her "spare" time she leads a girl scout troupe. Several times she made special trips to visit her Grandmother Thomas in Anderson and they always enjoyed hours talking together.

CHAPTER 4

GENERATION NO. 4

11. **Richard⁴ HUTCHISON**, (James³, Bill², Leona¹) was born 18 February, 1962, in Ft. Myers, Lee Co, Florida. He lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

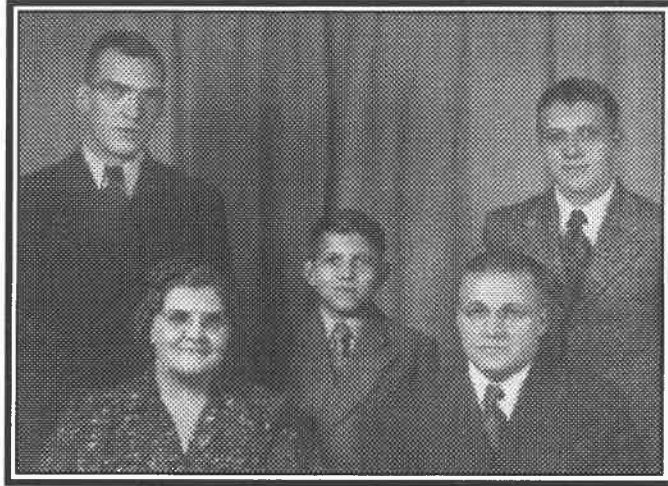
He married Becky _____; they have one child and are divorced:

24. F I. **Ashley Dawn⁵ HUTCHINSON**, (Richard⁴, Jim³, Bill², Leona¹)
Ashley lives with her mother, Becky, in Crawfordsville, IN.

Ashley is the 5th Generation, starting with Ward and Leona as the 1st Generation.

CHAPTER 5

This chapter contains copies of a variety of photographs. Some of them are quite old, while others are of a newer vintage.



Ward, Leona and boys, Bill, Joe and Jack

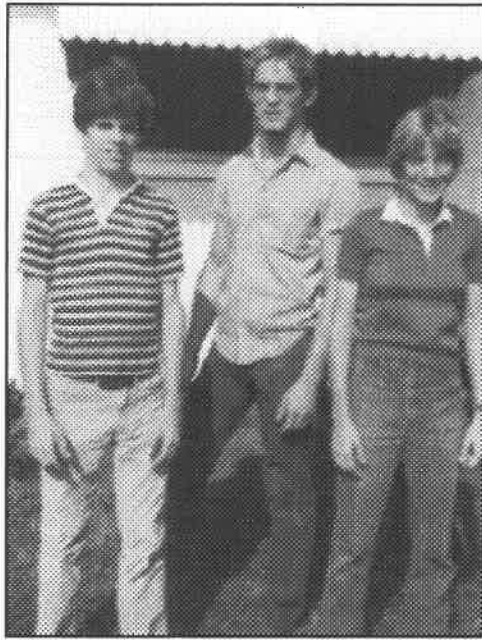


Bill and Bessie Hutchison



Nathan Davidson holding great grandson, Donnie. Leona, Bill and Jimmy. Four generations.

THE DESCENDANTS OF J. WARD THOMAS & LEONA P. DAVIDSON



Jim's children
Tim, Richard, Theresa



Mom and Bill in Florida



Four generations of Hutchisons: Great Grandfather Bill in the middle; Grandfather Jimmy on right; Wes holding daughter Ashley.



Jim and Georgia

THE DESCENDANTS OF J. WARD THOMAS & LEONA P. DAVIDSON



Big Daddy, Bill Hutchison and sons, Jim and Donnie.



Donnie Hutchison and sons, Wes and Brandon



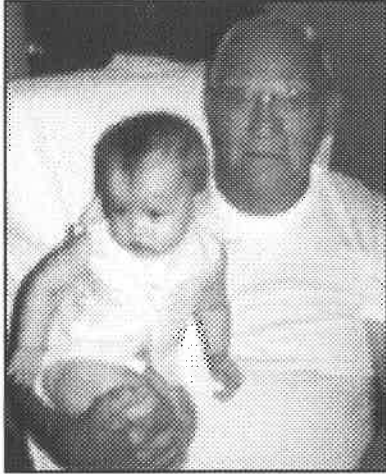
Wes and Brandon with Grandparents Bessie and Bill



Donnie, Bessie and Brandon, three generations.



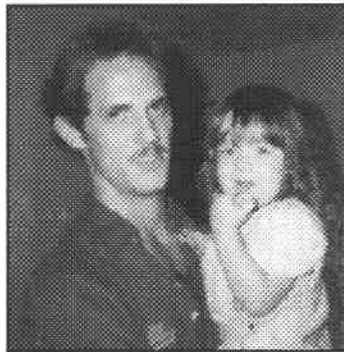
Bessie and Mom



Great granpa Bill and Ashley
Hutchison.



Mr. and Mrs. Clause at one of
the Guide Lamp parties.



Richard and Daughter,
Ashley



Jack and Mommy



Jack K. Thomas. Ride 'em cowboy.



Jack about 2 yrs. Old.



Leona and Cousins, Lemoyne Duncan and Bill Hutchison.

THE DESCENDANTS OF J. WARD THOMAS & LEONA P. DAVIDSON



Jack and Delores on Jack's Seminary graduation. 1955



Jack, Delores and Dad. Central Park, New York City, 1955.



Jack Giving Tamba Boama Communion, Sierra Leone 1966



Delores Holding Clinic, Sierra Leone.
"Tell me about this on your baby's head!"



Tonda, Delores & baby wearing gown made by Leona's sewing group.

THE DESCENDANTS OF J. WARD THOMAS & LEONA P. DAVIDSON



J.K.T.'s family. Back row: Jay Swingle, Delores, Jack and Stan Thomas. Front row: Sarah, Tonda holding Tricha and Hannah Swingle, Judy holding Cheryl and Cole Thomas. 1988.



Stan playing at his sister's wedding, June 10, 1979



Stanton Ray Thomas 1959



Stan, December 1995



Cole in Mom's arms, Judy. 1983



Cole Ryan Thomas 1995



Cheryl Diane Thomas 1995

THE DESCENDANTS OF J. WARD THOMAS & LEONA P. DAVIDSON



Tonda 1997



Tonda Thomas and Jay
Swingle's Wedding
June 10, 1979



Hannah
Elizabeth
Swingle. 1997



Sarah Laine
Swingle
1997



Trisha Lynn
Swingle
1995

THE DESCENDANTS OF J. WARD THOMAS & LEONA P. DAVIDSON



Ward & Leona's 50th Wedding Anniversary. Sue and Joe on the left and Jack and Delores on right.

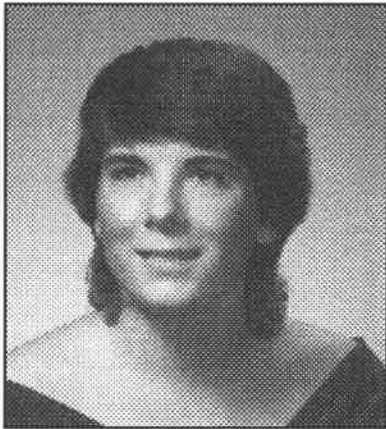


Joe Dean Thomas working in the yard.



Kevin and David leaning on the chair and Grandma Sue Thomas holding Eric.

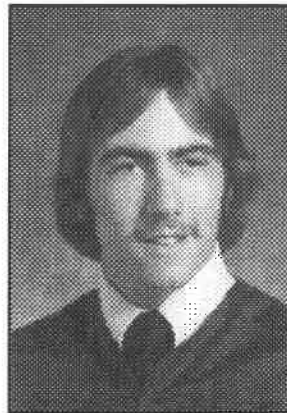
THE DESCENDANTS OF J. WARD THOMAS & LEONA P. DAVIDSON



Janice Marie Thomas



Phil, Joni and boys, Kevin, Eric and David



Phillip David
Thomas
Graduation



David and Kevin Thomas.
Christmas 1994



Three brothers on a couch,
Kevin holding Eric and David.

CREATIVE GENIUS AT WORK

Mom is fond of poetry (funny and serious), cute sayings and jokes. Here are some samples.

"MY CHRISTMAS GREETING TO YOU"

Tis Christmas again, so bright and mellow;
So give three cheers for the jolly old fellow
Who'll come to see each one of you I know;
Maybe in rain, hail, sleet or snow.

And he'll bring gifts, Maybe shirt, blouse or sox
All wrapped in tinsel or maybe in a box.
So put on a smile, And be merry and gay.
For it only comes once a year,
This Glorious Day -- Christmas!

THE POTATO

An Idaho Potato and an Ohio Potato met in college and finally fell in love and got married. After some time, they had a darling little Sweet Potato who they loved dearly. But she grew up and one day told her parents she had met a man and was going to marry him.

The father said, "we would like to know his name." She said, "his name is Dan Rather."

"Well," the father said, "no, you can't marry him, because he is just a commentator." (Common 'tater)

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DESCENDANCY CHART

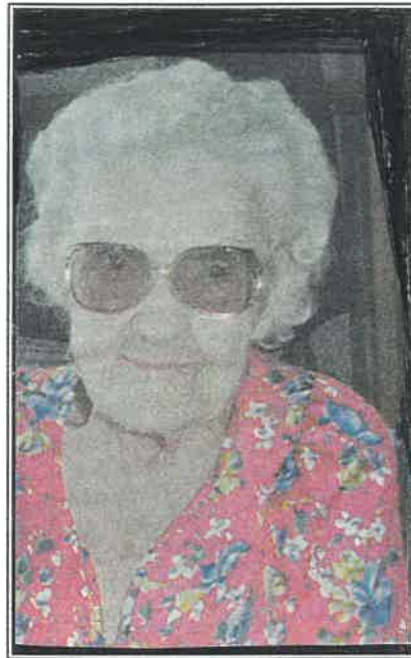
29 Jan 1998

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LEONA P. THOMAS



ON HER

100th BIRTHDAY

AT

GREENCROFT HEALTH CARE CENTER

JANUARY 31, 1998

GOSHEN, INDIANA