

"Lest We Forget"

By Mabel Hill Mortimer

1958

I have tried to trace six generations of our family with pictures and dates. Ronald Mortimer, being our only grandson, I have decided this scrapbook shall be passed on to him, and I hope he will continue to fill the book.

My great grandfather, Enion Williams, was born in Indianola, Iowa in 1803. He died in Greeley, Colorado at the age of 76, in 1880. He was the first generation to be buried in the Williams plot in Linn Grove Cemetery. His wife, Cynthia Jane, was born in 1808, died in 1890. They were both of English descent. Their children, Dave, Sethe, Rile, Doc, Martha, Clark, (and two unknown others) were born in Iowa. The older of the eight children, with their families, wished to go West to Homestead land. So their parents came with them in 1860, to Greeley Colorado. They came in covered wagons, driving oxen.

Enion Williams bought a cattle ranch thirty-five miles East of Greeley, at Green City, not long after Green City was first settled by an Eastern man named Green. Mr. Green and others dug a ditch for irrigating, but the sand wouldn't hold and the ditch was a failure. Many settlers gave up and left, but great grandfather and his family lived many years at Green City, although he had many hardships. His daughter, Martha, married Andy Lemons, and they filed on a homestead of 160 acres in the North part of Greeley, where the Kuner Empson factory now stands. It also included part of Island Grove Park. They built a sod house, and had dairy cows. In the spring of 1869, as Andy Lemons sat rocking a cradle, the roof of the sod house fell in on him, breaking his neck. His wife and their three children barely escaped death. Andy was buried in the cemetery just East of the Platte River Bridge on what is now Highway 34. The cemetery was then on the Barber place, and not far from Ft. Latham. When Highway 34 was constructed, it passed right thru this cemetery, where 22 bodies lay. The remains were moved by the county to a common grave close to the highway. This plot is fenced, and the one remaining grave stone placed in the plot. This stone was on the grave of a 22-year-old girl. One other stone was found, serving as a doorstep on a neighboring farm. My mother, Lena Evelyn Williams-Hill, was in Ohio at the time the bodies were removed, and was very much disturbed because she had not been here to claim her uncle's body. She later talked with the officials who had superintended the removal of the bodies, they said some of the bodies were well preserved and could have been identified. They told of one

man with a long black beard, who was no doubt her uncle, Andy Lemons. And his head was loose from the body. One body was wearing a lace cap, Mother was sure this was Grandma Plowhead, she had attended her funeral, and remembered the lace cap. The Plowheads were living near Hardin. One body was buried in a leather coat and boots, he was a cattle thief who had been hung. Mother also remembered a baby who was buried there. Mrs. Lemons had re-married to a man named Bottoms, and was then living in Oregon.

My grandfather Clarke Williams, filed on a homestead in East Greeley, including the land where the sugar factory now stands. He, being one of the younger brothers, and being at the time unmarried, sold his relinquishment to an older brother. I can't seem to trace where the other boys homesteaded, but one was in the West part of Greeley, Clarke freighted on a wagon train from a small town on the river West of Morrill, Nebraska to Cheyenne, Wyoming. Some years ago, we visited my uncle, Clarke Claude Williams in Morrill. He took us to this town, which had a few buildings still standing. We went into some of them, one being a sod jail with a windowless room for solitary confinement. I remember there was one two story building, which had been an old Hotel, also a frame store. The government had taken this site over and was to preserve the remaining buildings; this was during the war. I never heard any more about it, and I don't remember the name of the town.

Cheyenne was the only town of any size and the nearest market. The first settlement in Denver was composed of tents. There were many Ute and Sioux Indians. The wagon trains would leave Nebraska loaded with cargoes of butter, eggs, chickens or anything the settlers had to sell. Men on horses drove the horses and cattle they had for sale. On the return trips from Cheyenne, the wagons brought medicine, groceries, clothing and even furniture the ranchers needed. The train often had skirmishes with the Indians. The white men would gather all the loose stock in a corral made by forming a circle with the wagons. The wagons were used to protect the men from the arrows as they fought. When a settler left home with the wagon train, he never knew if he would find his family alive on returning, or if he would return himself. The women and children would stay at the Fort or would stay in groups for protection. I have heard my grandfather say they often had 500 pounds of butter for sale in Cheyenne. This was packed in stone jars, each churning packed in with a large amount of salt, which had to be washed out and the butter molded just before it was sent to market.

Clarke Williams was born in Iowa, October 17, 1830. He died in Greeley in 1902. His wife, Mary Hodgens was born May 11, 1839. Died in 1886. Both are buried in Linn Grove. My cousin, Colonel Ivan Clark Williams, has some letters written by our grandfather to Mary Hodgens in Iowa, urging her to come to Greeley and be married, and describing the country around Greeley

and the early settlers there. Mary was of German parentage. They were married May 11 1854 and first lived in a sod house in the east part of Greeley. Later they moved to La Porte, Colorado where my mother, Lena Evelyn was born September 18, 1866. About 1875 Clarke Williams filed on a homestead about six miles East of Greeley, and built a frame house on it, the house is still standing, being used for a granary. The place is now the Adams farm. At this time the Indians were more peaceful, and not on the warpath so often. Many had moved farther West. To Clarke and Mary Williams were born seven children. My mother, Lena Evelyn, who died at the age of 71, in June 1937. Clarence Edgar, born in Greeley July 2, 1868. He died in Nebraska in 1943. Emma, born December 15, 1869. She died at the age of one year, on August 31, 1870. Minnie Adeline, born December 6 1873, she died April 1945. Chas Ivan born April 1, 1871 died in Greeley in 1944. Mary Maude and Clark Claude born April 19, 1887. Mary Maude, who was married to Al Raymond, died in Idaho on September 1, 1953. Claude died in Morrill Nebraska in 1950. There's was a very happy family, altho they had many hard times. I have visited the old homestead many times after I was in my teens.

There were very few families living east of the Poudre River. One family was named Hiles. The River Bridge on the old Kersey road was named the Hiles Bridge. In 1870 Ovid Plum came from New York and acquired 1200 acres of land along the river North and East of the Williams homestead. This farm is still owned and farmed by three of Ovid Plumbs grand children.

I have heard my grandfather tell about how the Indians came to steal grain for their horses. The squaws came to the house to keep the families occupied while the men stole the grain. Grandfather knew what they were up to, and his wife would stay inside and try to keep the squaws from stealing things from the house, while he tried to protect his grain. Mother was then a baby, lying on some pillows in a rocking chair. A squaw picked her up, replacing her with her baby, saying, "me trade Papooses". Grandmother was badly frightened and begged her to give her back her own baby. But the squaw only laughed. ..., the chief, came into the house and told the squaws to move along, then he stayed for dinner. He and grandfather had become friends and often exchanged meals. After their second child was born, a neighbor with three small children came to spend the night with the Williams' family. After the children had been put to bed, a man on a horse came and told them to hurry to the Fort, for the Indians were on the warpath. They picked up the sleepy children and ran to the river. By this time the Indians saw them. They crawled on their hands and knees among the tall grass and trees. Grandmother would rise up and look back to see how close the Indians were, and arrows would fall all around her. Grandfather told her to take off her white apron and keep down. A buck came to the apron, waved it around his head, and yelled for the others to follow. But they reached the Fort without anyone being wounded.

Several relatives of my grandparents came from Iowa and joined them. Mother's first school was in old Fort Latham on the old Barber place east of the River Bridge, on the south side of the present Highway 34. Ft. Latham was a long sod building built with very thick walls with portholes all around to shoot from. This building was later used for a hen house. My mother's first teacher was her mother's sister, Miss Hodgens, who came from Iowa. She was the first teacher to teach in the district. Very few children attended this school. They walked or rode horses and were afraid of the wild cattle. Later they attended school just West of the Hiles [?] Bridge on the south side of the road, called Skillet Bend School. I have heard Mother tell of a flood in the river, and her brothers walking on the banisters of the bridge to frighten the girls. Their teacher was a very strict man named Weber, who taught to the tune of a hickory stick. Grandmother died when I was eight years old. She had been an invalid in a wheel chair for seven years and my happiest moments were when I could do something for her. I took her for rides in her wheel chair, and never missed a chance to do something to make her happy. I always spent my summers by her side. Grandma was a very tall lady with black eyes and hair. I was an only grandchild then, among two grandparents, two aunts and three uncles. Clarke Williams died in 1902 and was laid by the side of his wife and parents in Linn Grove Cemetery, where now lies part of six generations. I have a tax receipt dated 1884 for taxes on the old farm now known as the Chas Adams place. It was for \$20.89. B. D. Harper was the County Treasurer. Also a letter from Sethe Williams, his brother, dated 1900, who lived in New Castle, Colorado.

Descendents of the Whitneys And Robert Mortimer

Francis R. Whitney was born March 12, 1816. His wife, Mary Ann, was born October 12, 1826. Both were of English descent. They lived in Gloversville, New York at the foot of a tall mountain in the Adirondacs, with their 13 children in Mayfield, New York. I don't know much of their history, but became acquainted with most of their children after I was married years later. They built a large two story house of stone.

In 1874 five of their children, John, Halsey, Jacob, Oscar, and their sister, Martha Jane, with her husband, Robert Mortimer, (my husband's parents) decided to go West and Homestead land. They came with their families in covered wagons and horses and first settled at Holdrege, Nebraska. Later in 1885, they took up 160 acre homesteads, all cornering, at Stoneham,

Colorado. They lived in their wagons till they built houses of stone, sod, and lumber. The lumber they hauled from Nebraska. Halsey brought with him a bride, Lura [Lara?] Hollenbeck, from Nebraska, a young girl just 16 years old. Some of the men returned to Nebraska for cattle and horses, which they grazed on the plains in the summer. They cut wild hay from the creek bottoms also raised some feed for the winters. The plains were covered with wild cattle, grey wolves, bobcats, and coyotes; also deer, antelope, and prairie chickens for meat. The older boys would ride horses for the cattle; sometimes as far as five miles before finding them.

To Martha Jane and Robert Mortimer were born ten children:

Minnie, born February 14, 1875	Arthur, born October 25, 1883
Cora, born April 19, 1877	Charles, born March 13, 1885
William, born August 5, 1879	Herbert, born November 29, 1887
Bert, born April 29, 1880	Eddie, born July 6, 1891
George, born January 7, 1881	Joseph, born August 3, 1897

The three older children were born in New York State, six at Stoneham and one at Hardin. They had some very dry years and it was hard to feed the stock. Part of the men and older children would go to Greeley to work during harvest, a distance of seventy-five miles. Greeley was their nearest town. There were no roads, they drove across the prairies. Not all of the ranches had wells, as there was no water. So they had to haul it in barrels, sometimes several miles. There were very few families and the children rode horses to school or walked. There was no doctor, and Robert Mortimer played the part of Doctor. He was called for everything in the neighborhood. One day as George and Bert went after the cattle, George was kicked in the face by a horse. Bert left him lay unconscious till he went after his father. His father took seven stitches in his face before he came to.

In 1898 the three Whitney boys returned to New York, Halsey to Holdrege, Nebraska and Robert bought 160 acres of land about five miles East of Kersey. In 1901 they moved to Kersey. His two sons, George and Bert, farmed the place two years, then sold it. Robert built a home in Kersey on Second St. and a blacksmith shop beside it. Some years later he sold the shop and was Janitor of the Kersey school and drove a school bus for five years until he died in the spring of 1924. He had served on the town board, policeman, fireman, also as Mayor. He was called "Dad" Mortimer by all the towns people and school children and greatly loved by all. Years later, when the Whitneys came from Nebraska for a visit, around 1931, we drove out to the old homesteads at Stoneham. One house was still standing, and had been papered with newspapers brought by them from New York. We still could read them. Later the house was torn down or moved. Ten

years later, we visited the old places again, but nothing was left but the holes where they had their basements and well, and some stone.

In 1921 and 1926, my husband and I and our two sons drove to New York, Vermont, and Maine to visit our relatives and see the country. We visited many places of interest and one was the old homestead of Bert's grandfather in the Adirondacs. It had been remodeled into a T.B. hospital for children. The house had been built on to, but the big old stone house still stood. The yard was equipped with all kinds of playthings, such as slides, swings, and other things. Little children not able to walk lay in hammocks or on cots. The old schoolhouse where Grandfather Mortimer had gone to school was still used and just as it was when he was a boy. A small one-room school with a square stove with an oven and a hearth stood in the center of the room, close to the teacher's desk. All the children's desks faced the teacher. The same carving of names were plainly seen on the desks. A High School house had been built at Mayfield, but the one room schoolhouse was still in use.

Deerings

Six generations of the Deerings, my great grandparents, came from England and homesteaded the land where Portland, Maine, now stands. I don't know how many children they had, but I have often heard my father speak of the Deering sisters. One, Betsy Jane, was my father's mother. The city of Portland later tried to buy enough land from the Deerings in the heart of Portland, for a City Park. But they refused to sell. Later, the next generations donated enough land for a park, where the old three story white house stood. In 1920 and again in 1926 we visited this park, a very beautiful park, covered with green grass, flowers and many oak trees. This park has three entrances, at one of them was a tall metal gate, with "Deering Oaks" engraved over it. In the center of the park was a pond, covered with ducks, geese, and swans. In the center of the pond was a small knoll, where a small white bungalow was built for feed. Twice a day the caretaker rowed to the bungalow for feed for the fowls.

The old three-story white framed house still stands at one entrance, as in years back, with the same furniture the Deerings used, on display.

There is a High School called Deering High. Deering was written on a streetcar. There was a Deering Street and a Deering Cemetery, where the Deerings are buried. All of this was of great interest to me. Each family has it's own cemetery built on their own farms. We also visited the Hill Cemetery.

Betsy Jane Deering, my father's mother, married Isaiah Hill, son of Valentine Hill, who also homesteaded near Portland, Maine. The pictures of my grandparents and their home are all I have of this generation.

The far Eastern part of the USA is not a floating population, as in the West, but is handed down and lived in for generations. Portland is the home of great forests and lumber mills, also many paper mills. This is their greatest industry.

Father had a cousin, C. F. Clark, who owned many acres of forest and a number of saw mills, He gave each of his five children a number of acres and a saw mill for wedding presents. We visited them, also. One of the sons built a Boy Scout Camp on his farm, by a lake, and on the other side of the lake lay his brother's land, and he built a Girl Scout Camp on the lake.

To Isaiah Hill and Betty Jane were born eight children: Frank Almon Hill, Eliza, Herbert Phoebe, Ella, Leander, Viola, Roscoe and Lena. Grandfather Hill spent several summers in Colorado with his sons; also Mr. Clark. I never saw my grandmother, both grandparents were dead when we visited in Maine. Every year the Deerings and Hills held a family reunion. They have a book published containing the family tree of both the Deerings and the Hills.

**Herbert Phoebe Hill and his wife, Lean Evelyn Williams
and the History of "Poverty Flat", which they Loved so well.**

Herbert P. Hill was born at Goodwin Mills, Maine, on June 9, 1852. He died June 28, 1910, at the age of 52.

Lena Evelyn Williams was born at La Porte, Colorado on September 18, 1866. She died in Greeley, June 3, 1937 at the age of 71.

Herbert came to Colorado in 1879, to care for his brother, Leander, who had come here for his health. Herbert, my father, never returned to Maine but once, that was when I was 13.

He first farmed with Herbert Russel, east of Eaton, for several years.

On October 5, 1886, he was married to Lena Williams. They rented a farm east of the Williams homestead, known as the Dunn place and lived there a year. They bought 240 acres east of that in 1887. He and his brother, Leander, built a house on the east 80, where I was born on February 17, 1888. They lived there five years, then built a house on the center 80 in 1892. Mother always

referred to this house as the "Old Nest". Both houses stand today, almost the same today as when built. He sold the West 80, and his brother lived in the three-room house and farmed the East 80 until he died.

At this time the flat was pretty well settled, and the need of a schoolhouse was felt, as the children had to cross the river to Skillet Bend School. A meeting was called to decide on a location. Mr. Hill donated an acre of ground on the south side of his center 80, about a half mile south of his home, this site was centrally located. A one room school was built in 1888, also a horse shed. Mr. Hill, Gus Irons, and John James were nominated and later elected to serve as the first school board. Mr. Hill held this office for 22 years, until his death in 1910. I don't know how many children attended this school, but when I started, six years later, there were 13 pupils. Emily white was the first teacher. She married Gus Plumb in 1893. Three of their children still farm this farm. Mr. Hill was Justice of the Peace and Notary Public.

In 1887, the country was producing enough produce to ship out by car load lots. In 1887 the railroad built a spur at Orr, but had no depot or agent there. H. P. Hill, Gus Irons, Doc Reinks, and the James brothers put in a Fairbanks scale to weigh their produce. After loading hours, these pioneers had to ride or drive to Hardin to bill cars going east, and to Evans to bill cars going West, which made a hardship, so they put for the efforts to have a depot and agent. In 1891, Mr. Irons, Mr. Hill and Mr. Reinks entered into a contract with the Union Pacific, in which they guaranteed the railroad company 50 cars of produce a season; they shipped 100 cars of their own and neighbor's produce the first year.

Until this time, they had to drive to Greeley for their mail, and it couldn't be had every day, so the next object of the settlers was for a Post Office. D. E. Gray had the first store at Orr. The building was moved from Nebraska in sections. In 1884, the Post Office was put in the front of his store and Gray became the first postmaster. This store was near the depot on the east side of the street. As there was another town in Colorado called "Orr", the railroad asked their Master, John Kersey Painter, to re-name the town. He called it "Kersey", which was his Mother's maiden name. Mr. Painter lived south of the depot. The first depot was a boxcar, later the present depot was built. In 1895, Mr. Hill built a warehouse and grain elevator for storage and loading. He drove to his home nights and hired a man to farm. He put in a telephone from his home to the office, on the tops of fence posts. He also installed a phone in the house on his east farm, which grandfather Williams and his sons were farming, selling his own farm to Chas. Adams. Leander Hill had died. The James brothers also installed a phone. They told me I could send my dolls in a basket on the wires. Imagine my embarrassment when some of the girls came in to watch me send my dolls by telephone.

The people of Poverty Flat felt the need of a church. In 1895 a Methodist Minister, Mr. Crook and his wife and two girls and one son, became the first Pastor of Poverty Flat, holding meetings in the schoolhouse. They lived a short time in our two south rooms, while the house on the East 80 was being painted. They had rented Father's east place. In 1897 Kent White and his wife, Alma, with their two sons, Ray and Arthur, from the Pillar of Fire Church, held revival meetings in the schoolhouse, and stayed in the two south rooms of our house. Many of the people were converted, and the need of a new Church was felt. On May 14, 1898, a meeting was held to decide on a church at Orr, and the following were selected to serve trustees: H. P. Hill, chairman, Wesley Sergeant, A. M. Plumb, I. Moore, (who was the present Pastor) and S. P. Brant. The incorporated name was "Methodist Episcopal Church". The following members were previously appointed to serve as Stewards: Mrs. A. M. Munson, Mrs. A. M. Plumb, Mrs. Jules Zupke, Mrs. H. P. Hill, and Mrs. Moore, the minister's wife. I have the original minutes of these meetings, written by my father. On March 31, 1898, H. P. Hill, Chas. Adams, Wesley Sergeant, A. M. Plumb, C. Clark, Ingersol, and S. P. Bryant were selected to serve as committeemen. They selected a site near the depot, in Kersey. Then Mrs. Maurie Loustalet donated land from her farm on First Street for the Church. Wesley Sergeant was building a new home on his farm, and donated the old house for a parsonage, and it was moved beside the church. Reverend Brace was the first minister in this new church. This church was sold and moved to Evans in 1956.

In the year 1899, Mr. Hill moved his family to Kersey in Mr. Painter's house. Mr. Hill was working as ardently as ever for the town. He bought 80 acres from the Platt Land Company and 16 more blocks were laid out in the North part of town, which is called the Clark and Hill Addition. Mr. Clark, a cousin from Maine, had visited us several summers and bought in with Mr. Hill. Mr. Hill built a new home in 1901 on this new addition, now known as the McKinney place. Later three more blocks had been added from the Loustalet farm, now owned by Mr. Ewing, on the west side of first street.

Until this time, the children attended the country school on and a half miles West of Kersey. In 1901 my sister, Gertrude, started in the first grade, and it being so far for her to walk, my father thought that I, being 13 years old, was old enough to drive our family horse to school. Everything went well until cold weather, when the horse became unmanageable, and ran away on the way home from school. There were six of us in the buggy, and we were all thrown out and hurt. Then the people of Kersey began working for a new school in town. The schoolhouse on Dad's farm was moved one half mile West. There was somewhat of a squabble, and the district was divided and each district had its own school board. This was in 1902. Kersey built a one-room school on Third Street. Miss Bertha Van Cleave was the first teacher. She taught three years, then married

James James. She taught all 8 grades; there were two of us in eighth grade. The school district in Kersey was District 98.

In 1901 and 1902, Kersey boasted of two grocery stores, depot, section house, restaurant, blacksmith shop, pool hall, warehouse, hardware store, and implement store, barber shop, post office, bank, warehouse and church on first street. There was livery stable, second had store, reading room, blacksmith shop, and Oliver Well Co. on second street. We had two doctors, Dr. Jones and Dr. Lonergan. Mr. Hill owned the hardware store, and had a hall above for different entertainment and also Seven Day Advent Church.

In the year 1908, on November 10, election was held for incorporation of the town, passing 63 for and 26 against. Fred James was elected Mayor, Dr. Spaulding, C. F. Gardner, J. H. Howell, Linn Flint, B. P. Brooks, and R. W. Mortimer as trustees. H. P. Hill was appointed as town clerk, which he held till his death in 1910. There were 323 people in Kersey at this time. The Kersey school was overcrowded at this time and a four-room brick school was built in 1906, where the Park now stands. Father bought the old school house, raised the roof and built on to it for a Hotel, and named it the Oxford Hotel. This was on 3rd Street.

In March 1909 the Bell Telephone was installed. In 1814 the Baptist Church was built on 2nd Street. The West Kersey schoolhouse was moved into Kersey, south of the Church, and remodeled into a home. June 17, 1914, electricity was brought into Kersey.

Kersey had outgrown its schoolhouse for the second time. In 1913, Kersey consolidated with West Kersey, and the S. L. W. School North of the river, then the first addition of the present school was built, an eight room brick building. Three horse drawn busses were put on; Mr. Foote, Robert Mortimer and Mr. Gowings were the first drivers.

In 1920, Kersey water works and sewer were installed. A second addition to the Kersey schoolhouse was built in 1839. I believe the horse drawn busses were used three years, then the motor busses were put on.

In 1955, election was held to consolidate Kersey, Valley View, Sky View, and Auburn schools. Valley View was the only one who came in. Then next year it was voted on but beaten. In 1956 more ground was added to the Kersey school. Kersey now has 16 teachers and several part time teachers. Four generations of our family has attended school in District 98 a total of 24 children. Many new houses and improvements have been built.

Herbert P. Hill died June 28, 1910. Lena Evelyn died June 3, 1937. They were laid to rest in Linn Grove Cemetery by the side of her parents and grandparents, a grandchild, and a great grandchild, also a brother and his wife, part of six generations. Mrs. Hill was blind for seven years, and bedfast five before her death. She was always devoted to her church work.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hill were born six children: Mabel Ethel, Gertrude Evelyn, Elsie Ida, Grace Deering, Frank Herbert, and Mary Abigail.

Mabel Ethel was born February 17, 1888. She was married to Bert Mortimer December 22, 1904. Bert was born April 29, 1880. Two sons were born, Clifford Herbert, December 14, 1907 and Harold P. Born February 4, 1911. Harold was married to Elvera Bodeen September 24, 1936. Elvera was born November 4, 1915. To them was born one son, Ronald Lee Mortimer, on June 5, 1938.

Gertrude Evelyn Hill was born February 22, 1894. Was united in marriage with Walter Huth, born August 18 1890. This marriage was on June 10, 1915. One son was born April 28, 1915, Dale Clark, who was united in marriage with Sarah Lucille Fee on September 4, 1943. Sarah was born July 18, 1923. Four children were born to this couple: Howard Wendell, March 25, 1947, Glen Russel, April 14, 1950, Marcia Lynn, September 20, 1954 and Debra Ann, April 6, 1956.

Elsie Ida Hill was born August 7 1896. Married Ralph Victor Nessler July 3, 1912. Ralph was born August 30, 1892. Two daughters were born Alice Lorraine, on May 8, 1913 and Lorena Jean, July 26, 1919.

Alice was married to John Hudson on August 27, 1933. John was born March 29, 1908. They had one daughter, Swonee Jean, born May 2, 1942

Lorena Jean was born July 26, 1919. Married Dennis Arnold Gustafson January 7, 1938. He was born November 7, 1920. Three sons were born to them. Donald Dennis, May 24, 1939, Dana Ralph, April 29, 1954, and Jace Albert born November 29, 1956.

Grace Deering Hill, born July 23, 1899. Married William Arthur Sears on April 7 1923. Mr. Sears was born August 20, 1897. To this union was born one son, William Arthur, on January 19, 1924. He married Ruth Fox August 23, 1947. Ruth was born January 7, 1927. Two sons were born Steven Arthur, on April 9, 1949, and Kent Fox, born June 11, 1952.

Frank Herbert Hill was born () He married Madelyn Blanchard on () Madelyn's birthday was (). Two daughters were born, Betty June and ().

Mary Abigail Hill was born May 8, 1907. She married Leonard Ziegler October 20, 1934. Jacky Ziegler, their only son, was born March 11, 1938.

Bert and Mabel Mortimer, 5th Generation

Bert Mortimer was born at Holdrege, Nebraska on April 29, 1880. Mabel Ethel Hill was born at Kersey, Colorado February 17, 1888. They were united in marriage December 22, 1904, in Evans, Colorado by Reverend Crook, who was the first preacher to preach in the Kersey Flat.

We rented a farm of 280 acres one mile north of Kersey, from Pitts Smith, with Bert's brother William. My uncle, Al Raymond, had rented the place the five previous years. The three men had farmed the place for twenty-five years. We farmed with Will two years, then farmed alone from then on. We also went into Hereford cattle, raising calves.

Two sons were born to this union, Clifford Herbert, born December 14, 1907, and Harold P. born February 4, 1911. We were very happy indeed on this farm, but in 1919, Bert's health failed, so we had a farm sale. We had built up our herd of cattle to over 200, and 25 horses and colts. We moved into Kersey, into Stella Nessler's house.

The next spring, we, with our two sons, decided to take a trip to New York, Vermont, and Maine, for Bert's health, and to visit relatives and to see the country and the Ocean. My father's people living in Maine, and both Bert's mothers and fathers people being in New York and Vermont, we spend three months there, never staying over two nights in one place.

We visited with sister Gertrude in Ohio, Niagara Falls, Washington, D. C. and in Canada. We returned the day before school started, with Bert's health much improved. Bert worked for a road overseer for four years. On his father's death, Bert took over his father's school bus at Kersey, which he drove for twenty-seven years.

We then bought a house in Kersey on Second Street, built by Pete Olsen, who owned a blacksmith shop when I was 11 years old.

Bert was substitute mail carrier for 27 years. We then owned and farmed a 90-acre place one-mile south of Kersey and again went into cattle. Our two sons farmed and batched one year, then we took over again, with the help of our oldest son, and farmed for 17 more years.

Harold was married the first fall to Elvera Bodeen, on September 24, 1936. Elvera was born November 2, 1915 and was a Greeley girl. Harold drove the Rocky Mountain Transportation Bus from Denver to Estes Park, to Grand Lake and back into Denver during the tourist season. He was brakeman for the Great Western Sugar Company during beet campaign, living in Loveland, and then back to the farm until spring, for two years. They moved to Denver June 5, 1938, where he drove a Union Pacific and Greyhound Bus from Denver to Ellis, Kansas, which he still drives, for 19 years.

One son was born, Ronald L. Mortimer, on June 5, 1938. We kept Ronald on the farm with us and he spent the first three years in the Kersey School. This was during the war, and Harold expected to be called any day. Elvera had work at the Medical Depot. Harold was called three times, but the Bus Company had his deferred twice, as they had lost so many of their drivers and had had several busses wrecked by the new drivers. But the last call, he was to have left the next week, when the Armistice was signed. Elvera quit work and took Ronald home. We were so happy to have Ronald with us, but thought our hearts would break when we gave him up.

The next year, Harold built a house in Wheat Ridge in his spare moments. They moved into part of the house that he had finished, and it was about two more years before it was completed.

Ronald attended the Wheat Ridge school five years in grade school and four in High School. This year he is 18, and attending Teacher's College in Greeley.

We sold our farm the last part of December, and had a farm sale on January 8, 1948, selling everything but the furniture. We bought a house in Greeley, 1315 11th Avenue, where we now live.

Farming had become much easier and interesting this time as everyone had replaced horses for tractors and had all tractor machinery. Ronald had become very much in love with farm life and drove the tractor during haying.

But we had to bid farm life goodbye, as old age had crept up on us. Clifford farmed with us for 17 years and now makes his home with us and works for the Kuner Empson Canning Factory and the Great Western Sugar Company.

Now, I leave this to Ronald for the next generation.

Ronald L. Mortimer passed away September 7, 1995 after a 2-month battle with cancer. He was 57 years old.

Written in 1958 by my Great Grandmother Mabel Mortimer. Her niece, Lorena Jean Gustafson typed the first copy and I, Pamela Marie Mortimer-Denham (Ron Mortimer's daughter), retyped using Microsoft Office Word in June 2000. Edited in October 2011.