

YELLOWED PAGES
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THE BRECKENRIDGE, MOYER, AND SNIDER FAMILIES

Will and Rose Moyer spend much time remembering "the old days." They gradually began to realize that their children and other descendants knew very little about their forebears.

Their son and daughter-in-law, Raymond and Elizabeth, offered to write down any information that they wanted to give. They were delighted, and commented that they knew they are the only ones now living who can remember the people listed herein. They took great pleasure in recalling together their early years and the people they knew.

So here it is-a present from Will and Rose Moyer to you. It isn't a true genealogy, because there are few dates and place-names, but the names of people and their relationship are accurate. Maybe you know or have heard, other facts, names, and/or dates that should be included.

This covers a span of seven generations-from Cornelius Breckenridge and John Warren Snider as the first group, down to Jason, Jacob, and Joshua Ramirez.

You can find yourself in these pages and in the chart at the end. You can count backward, forward, or straight across, and figure your own relationship to any one or more.

Try it!

THE BRECKENRIDGE, MOYER, AND SNIDER FAMILIES

by

WILL AND ROSE MOYER

As told to Raymond and Elizabeth Moyer
September, 1980

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Many years ago, in the 18th. century or possibly earlier, there was a family named BRECK who lived on a RIDGE, or long hill, in Illinois. Neighbors in the valley visited "Breck-on the ridge," and so the name BRECKENRIDGE evolved. There is still a town named Breckenridge in Illinois.

The earliest members of this family that are known to us were three brothers: TOPE, ALEXANDER, and CORNELIUS BRECKENRIDGE. They evidently were born in the early 1800's. We don't know which was the oldest, but we do know a few things about them. This is how William Arthur Moyer remembers them:

1. TOPE BRECKENRIDGE lived in Breckenridge, Illinois, and the story is that he swindled his brothers out of a goodly piece of land in and near that town. The family cemetery was there, and Will Moyer remembers going to Aunt Martha's funeral in a bob-sled. Will's wife, Rose, did not go because it was too cold to take the baby, Raymond, in the sled. Raymond was born in 1913.

2. ALEXANDER BRECKENRIDGE married MARTHA BARNES. Alec's brother, married Katherine Barnes, who was Martha's sister. (more about Cornelius nad Katherine later.) Alec and Martha had two sons:

- (1) BOB BRECKENRIDGE married Jenny. Their daughters were named PINKY and FAY. The name Pinky may have been a nickname.
- (2) HARDER BRECKENRIDGE married "TINY". They had no children. They lived in St. Louis, and Tiny was "a wonderful person."

3. CORNELIUS BRECKENRIDGE married KATHERINE BARNES. These were the grandparents of Will Moyer and were known to him as POP BRECK and MOM BRECK. They lived on a farm near Breckenridge and Will spent much of his boyhood there.

Martha and Katherine Barnes had two other sisters, SARAH OLIPHANT and BET ABEL. Bet and Henry Abel lived in Taylorville, Illinois. Rose remembers taking Raymond to visit them when he was quite young. Aunt Bet was very uneasy because she was afraid the small boy would ruin her flower garden. She relaxed when he didn't bother anything.

POP and MOM BRECK had three children:

1. GEORGE BRECKENRIDGE married IDA. Four children:
 - (1) LESLIE married DEE. Son, GLENN
 - (2) GARRETT
 - (3) ELIZABETH
 - (4) ZELDA
2. WILL BRECKENRIDGE married MINNIE; no children.
3. FLORA ELIZABETH BRECKENRIDGE married HAROLD CHRISTOPHER MOYER; seven children:
 - (1) GERTIE-not married.
 - (2) GRACE married LEE CRUTCHER. Their daughter MARIE played the wedding march when Will and Rose were married.
 - (3) TED, whose real name was PRESTON BRECKENRIDGE MOYER. Ted married THELMA and they had four children: BILLY, JOHN, BETTY and FRED. Ted was a drummer and taught Will, who was eight years younger. Ted and Thelma lived in San Antonio near Will and Rose 1916-1925.
 - (4) MAY married WALTER WINTER. Their daughter MAY was ring-bearer at Will's and Rose's wedding.
 - (5) BESSIE-not married.
 - (6) WILLIAM ARTHUR, born in Cropsy, Illinois, Jan. 2, 1891; married Rose Snider, Dec. 25, 1912. (More about them later.)
 - (7) RUTH married HARVEY BALLEW, two children-each died a few days after birth. Ruth died a week after the youngest child.

All five of the girls had died before Will and Rose came to Texas in 1916. Ted moved to Arizona, to Hawaii (where Fred was born), and to California. He visited Beaumont once, with Fred, about 1952. Will was in the hospital then, so he didn't get to see much of Ted. Nothing has been heard about him or any of his family since then.

HAROLD CHRISTOPHER MOYER had a twin brother, JOHN, who lived in Peoria, Illinois, and another brother, ERASMUS (known as RAZ), who lived in California with his wife and daughter. Nothing more is known of their lives and families.

Harold and Flora were divorced in the 1890's. Harold married RACHEL later. Rachel was a widow with one daughter, JESSIE. No children were born to Harold and Rachel.

Flora and her children stayed in Springfield. Harold was making \$60.00 a month as a telegraph operator, so he paid Flora alimony, and had enough left to pay his own room and board. Flora did not go to work. Will, next to the youngest, was quite small at the time. He attended school in Springfield, and spent summers with Pop and Mom Breck. He finished the fourth grade, then his mother took him out of school because he got a job chipping mortar off old bricks and was earning ten cents per hundred. After Mom Breck died, Will and his sister May kept house and cooked for Pop Breck, and Will helped on the farm.

May had a phone put in, but Pop Breck thought she was spending too much time and money on it, so he made her take it out, and leave. From then on, Will was a self-educated man.

ROSA MARIE SNIDER was born in Morrisonville, Illinois, Mar. 23, 1894. Her grandfather, JOHN WARREN SNIDER, had been in the 185th. Battalion of the Union Army in the Civil War. John and his wife, LOU INA, had nine children:

1. JOSEPH ABRAHAM SNIDER married IRENE SIMS. Their child was ROSA MAE. Their second child was a boy who died at birth, and Irene died a few weeks later. Joseph vowed he would not put a step-mother over his daughter, so Rose was raised by her grandmother Snider and three aunts. Irene had a brother, HENRY SIMS, who lived in Morrisonville with his wife and 5 or 6 children, but Rose does not remember them well.
2. DELLA SNIDER, who had one son, HARRY ESTABROOK, who became a guard in a prison in Trenton, N.J., during the time the kidnapper of the Lindberg baby was incarcerated there. Aunt Del later married HENRY BARNES (no kin to Katherine Barnes Breckenridge-Mom Breck.)
3. TOM SNIDER lived in the state of Washington.
4. JIM SNIDER lived in Nebraska.
5. DICK SNIDER married MYRTLE PEDEN. They had three sons: STANLEY, JESS and CHARLES. Dick lost a leg in an accident at work for the phone company. The leg was buried in the cemetery at Morrisonville, and when Dick died in the 1850's he was buried there, too.
6. KATE SNIDER married GEORGE LOCHRIDGE-had three children: RUTH, HELEN and BOB. Kate and George were divorced when the children were small, and went to work at the Franklin Life Insurance Company in Springfield, Illinois. She married DAVE HOSTETLER, but continued to work. When she retired she received many commendations and honors. Raymond Moyer remembers many kindnesses from her-encouraging letters and notes, small gifts, and mainly an interest in him and his activities.
7. EVA SNIDER. Eva (pronounced with a short e, as in let and WILL PROSE went together in their youth-but drifted apart, and Will married someone else. He and his wife lived on a farm in Missouri. They had 5 children. His wife died; Will married someone else, but that didn't last long, and he returned to Morrisonville alone. Then Will and Eva married when they were both in their 50's. They lived on a farm at first, and Eva raised 100 ducks a year. "Will's first wife

had raised 50 ducks a year and I wanted to show him I could do better," she said. They had been married more than 20 years when Will died, and she followed him soon after.

8. DORA SNIDER, died young.

9. CHARLES SNIDER, died young.

WILL MOYER'S JOBS:

Chipped mortar from brick for 10¢ per hundred in his childhood.

Ted played in the drum corps for the Gold and Silver Convention in Springfield. He joined the orchestra. He had a graphophone and bought all the records that were made by the Capitol Band of Springfield. Will had been studying an instrument book for drum. He listened to the records and played along with them; and learned to read music. Later, Will played with the Capitol Band, and for the Springfield Watch Company band. He played in various dance orchestras and for many vaudeville theaters, also played at the Illinois State Fair 2 or 3 years.

Drove an electric truck for a laundry.

Worked at Barker's Art Store for \$4.00 a week. Once he restored a valuable gold frame that had been damaged—got his wages raised to \$5.00 a week.

He played in a theater orchestra for \$15.00 a week. One night, the lights went out—the orchestra began playing a piece that was different from their regular numbers. They were playing "Slippery Slide Trombone" when the owner, Mr. Loper, appeared. He didn't appreciate the number, and fired all the musicians except the pianist.

Will's brother-in-law, Lee Crutcher, got Will a job at Bressemer's Department Store as electrician, window trimmer, and elevator operator.

Ted called from San Antonio and offered Will a job with the government which would pay more than the \$4.00 a week he was making at Bressemer's, so he went to Texas in 1916. He worked as a time keeper at the Remount.

After World War 1, Will was laid off. He and Rose and their three children returned to Springfield; stayed one year and returned to San Antonio and worked in the Post Office for a while.

He joined the Magnolia Band at the Magnolia Refinery in Beaumont, Texas in 1925.

ROSE SNIDER worked at Bressemer's Department Store in Springfield in the gift wrapping department and at the cosmetics counter. She met Will Moyer when he was working there. They saw each other at work only. One night Will walked Rose home from a carnival that had been held for the store employees. They were standing at a corner near Rose's house, talking; Aunt Eva appeared, slapped Will hard and said, "Stay away from her!" Aunt Eva went back to the house. Will asked Rose to marry him, she said "yes"-and they were married on Christmas Day, 1912.

Many of the Moyers were musical, Harold Moyer, father of Will, played alto horn. He directed a small civic band in Cropsy, Illinois. He would play the alto with one hand and direct the band with the other. Flora, Will's mother, played their reed organ. Ted sold the organ and bought a piano. Gertie, May, and Bessie all became quite proficient on the piano. Gertie played regularly for the Macabee Lodge in Springfield. She could also fill in on the bass drum if necessary. May was a good singer, and was in demand for social occasions. Ted and Will were both good drummers.

Will came to Beaumont, Texas, in 1925 to play in the Magnolia Band. At that time, all the band members were given jobs in the Magnolia Refinery-but their band duties were paramount. The band played park concerts, parades, and for many civic affairs. Years passed and the band dissolved, but Will kept on working at the refinery. At the annual retirement dinner in 1956, most began their speeches with "When I started working here...", but Will said "I didn't come to the Magnolia to work-I came to play!" He got an ovation for that.

Will and Rose Moyer have many descendants living now. There are 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

- 1. RAYMOND LEE MOYER, born October 5, 1913, married ELIZABETH DEATON.
 Son JOHN RAYMOND MOYER, born March 15, 1942, married BETTY JO UHLIG;
 3 sons: NICHOLAS CLAY, born Sept. 12, 1969; SAMUEL ALEXANDER, born Feb. 26, 1974; CHRISTOPHER NOEL, born Dec. 16, 1976.
- 2. RUTH LOUISE MOYER, born June 24, 1917, married ELMER RAY; Daughter ROSE MARY RAY married PATRICK SCULLY-5 children:
 - (1) PATRICIA RUTH SCULLY married KEITH SAYERS
 - (2) DEBORAH KAY SCULLY married JESSE RAMIREZ, 3 children JASON, JACOB, and JOSHUA RAMIREZ.
 - (3) MATTHEW WAYNE SCULLY
 - (4) KAREN SUE SCULLY
 - (5) JOHN EDWARD SCULLY
 Daughter BETTY LOU RAY married HOWARD HOLLEY-2 children;

- (1) HOWARD LANCE HOLLEY
- (2) TERRY HOLLEY

RUTH LOUISE MOYER married (2) VAN EGGLESTON-1 son:
(1) DANIEL EGGLESTON married DEBBIE.

- 3. ROBERT EARL MOYER, born Aug.28, 1921, married GLORIA JONES
1 child: CHERYL MOYER, married TED SHARP-2 children:
 - (1) JOHN EDWARD SHARP
 - (2) ROBERT SHARP

- 4. ARTHUR LESLIE MOYER married MILDRED PARRISH-3 children:
 - (1) GLENN MOYER
 - (2) CAROLYN ANN MOYER Married GREG KING
 - (3) ALLEN MOYER

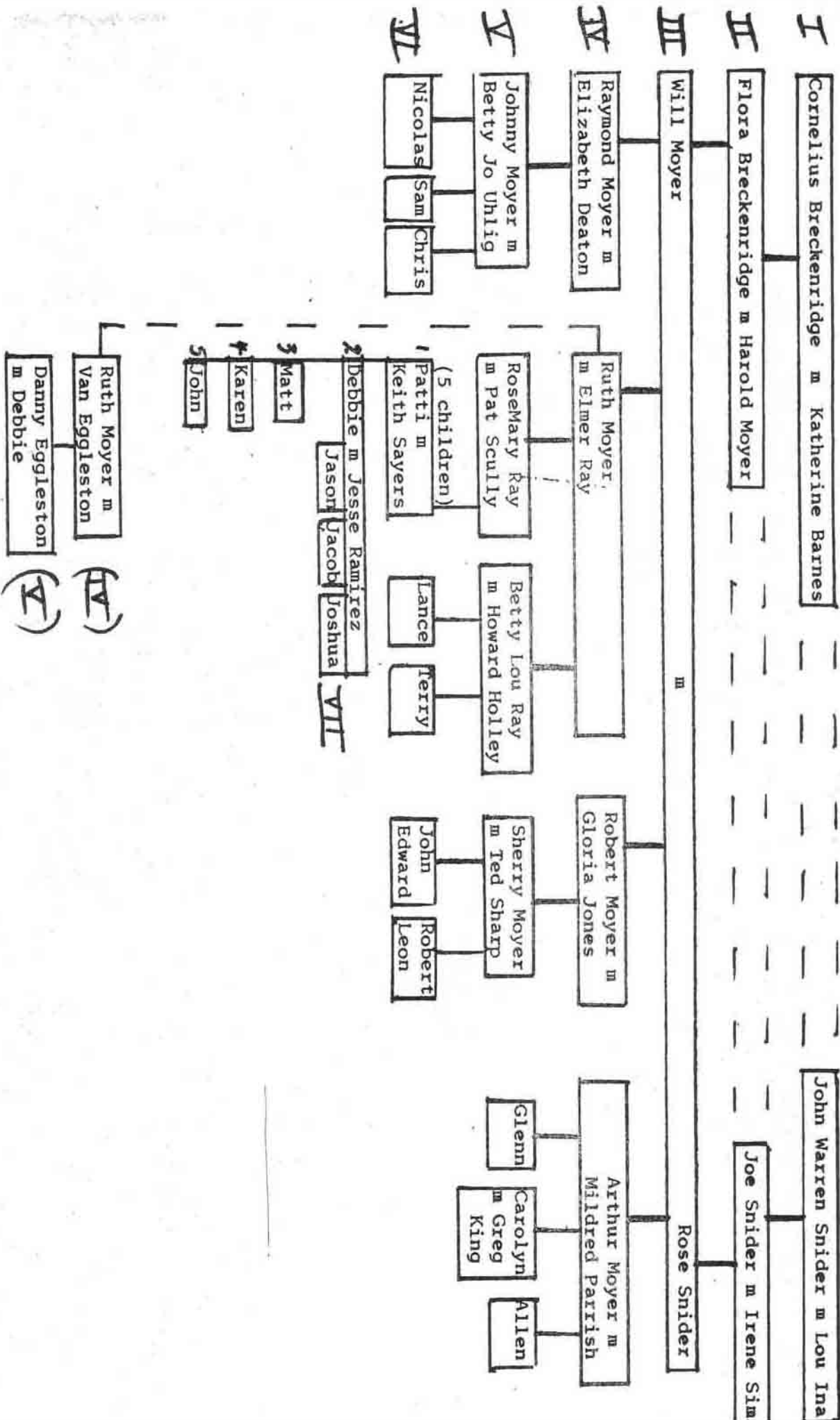
(Editor's note: ROSE SNIDER MOYER died in Beaumont, Texas,
May 16, 1981.

WILL MOYER, age 91, is in a nursing home in Vidor, Texas, recuperating from a fall from the roof of his home in Beaumont, Texas. He was trimming limbs from an overhanging tree when he slipped and fell to the ground, injuring his back.)

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LINE OF DIRECT DESCENT - 7 GENERATIONS



Errata

It's understood that Elizabeth and Raymond recorded as accurately as they could the memories of Rose and Will Moyer. But whether it be from mistaken thoughts or faulty memories, it would be remiss not to correct the record.

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"Tope" not a correct, but observation that it is not clear who "Tope" was. There is a mention of "Aunt Martha," but there is only one Breckenridge wife named Martha, and that's Martha Barnhill who was married Alexander, Since he is mentioned in the following paragraph, this "Tope" is somebody else.

Sisters Martha, Katherine and Sarah Barnes were Barnhill sisters. "Bet" (Barnes) who married Abel was Elizabeth "Bet" Breckenridge, (marriage record) a sister to Cornelius & Alexander Breckenridge

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Harold Christopher and John did not appear to be not twins. Harold was born in 1854 and John was born in 1858, according to the census records.

Harold's 2nd wife Rachel (Solomon Beaty) "had one daughter Jessee" – she also had a son, Richard Beaty who became a minister.

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Wife of John Warren Snider's wife Lou Ina is (Jane) Louina (Nichols)
Irene Sims was Irene Skinner (marriage record)
Irene Sims brother Henry Sims was Henry Skinner

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Daniel Eggleston was adopted.