

Elizabeth Rubley (Jr.)
and
Charles Rubley (Jr.)

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Charles and Elizabeth Keller Rubley's eldest child, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Rubley,¹ Jr.'s, was born August 7, 1868² in Switzerland. Her first appearances on the historical landscape, which place her in the family group, are in an entry on an 1880 ship's passenger list, and in an entry on the 1880 U. S. Federal Census. A clue to her whereabouts as an adult appeared in a brief mention of her, as an unnamed survivor, in her father's July 1919 obituary.³ The search for details of Elizabeth's life began with this meager store of information.

Her younger brother, Charles Rubley, Jr.,⁴ the direct ancestor of the Grundy County, Tennessee branch of the Rubley family, appears in the same records. Documentation of events in his life was limited to one contemporary entry in his former wife's Bible, two Grundy County public records, a brief society note in the local newspaper, and a mention as a survivor in his father's 1919 obituary. A few anecdotal stories about him survived through the years, most of which ended with the statement: "he went to Arkansas and was never heard from again."

The Rubley family history prior to their immigration is not known, so Elizabeth and Charles' stories start with that event and, in order to give a sense of time and place, are told in context with events in the lives of their parents and siblings.

Elizabeth was just twelve years old, and Charles was only six when their parents, Charles and Elizabeth Keller Rubley, and their five children left Switzerland. The family, which included eight-year old William, four-year old Emil, and one-year old Adolph, began their journey at Le Havre, a busy French port frequently used by Swiss immigrating to America. They boarded the steamer *France* for the long voyage to the port of New York where they arrived on March 26, 1880,⁵ completing the first leg of their journey.

A common practice among immigrating Swiss was to stop over with relatives or acquaintances in the new country to get their bearings before moving on to a permanent settling place. Charles and Elizabeth Keller Rubley were no exception and settled their young family in the community of Warwasing in Ulster County, New York in time to be counted on the U. S. Federal Census taken on

¹ Swiss-German: Rubli

² Lawton (Oklahoma) Constitution, May 1, 1940, p. 4

³ Obituary of Charles Rubley, July 1919, *Mrs. Grundy*, Tracy City, TN

⁴ Swiss-German, Karl Rubli, per entry in Anna von Rohr Rubley's German-language Bible; Jr. is used to distinguish Charles from his father of the same name

⁵ New York Passenger Lists; Year: 1880; Arrival: New York, United States; Microfilm serial M237, Microfilm roll: 423; Line: 39, List number: 311

June 15 and 16, 1880⁶. We do not know why they chose to settle in Warwasing; however, their closest neighbor on the census was a Swiss immigrant named Henry *Ruble* and this may have had some bearing on their decision. Charles, Sr. was listed on the census as a farmer. Whatever their reason for settling in New York, they did not remain there long. According to family tradition, – which is consistent in branches of the family in Tennessee and California who did not know each other existed until 2007 - the Rubleys migrated to Pennsylvania where Charles, Sr. found work in the mines.

Their Pennsylvania sojourn was also short. By February 24, 1882,⁷ the Rubleys were in Tennessee where their first American-born child and fifth son, Albert, was born. The family settled on Cumberland Mountain in the southeast Tennessee town of Tracy City in Grundy County where they quickly assimilated into the community, and where Charles, Sr. found employment as a blacksmith in the mining industry that was its economic mainstay.

There was already a strong Swiss presence in the county when the Rubleys arrived. Gruetli, a Swiss colony founded in 1869 about ten miles northeast of Tracy City, was home to approximately thirty-six German-speaking Swiss families in the 1880s. The Rubleys would have felt at home with the colonists who kept their native habits and customs and style of architecture in the building of their cottages.⁸ The industrious colonists, who were well known throughout the county, took great pride in their agricultural success. They grew fruit and vegetables that they sold in neighboring towns and their vineyards produced excellent wines. At least two of the colonists had thriving businesses in Tracy City: Leonhard Rudolf von Rohr had a branch of his wagon making business there, and Martin Marugg founded the still thriving Marugg Company in Tracy City.

Gruetli's accomplishments were publicized throughout the Swiss-American community through articles in publications such as the *Amerikanische Schweizer Zeitung* in Pennsylvania. Such articles prompted the move of some Swiss families from Pennsylvania to Grundy County in the mid 1880s. Was this the case with the Rubley family? Or perhaps a more likely scenario is that Charles, Sr. followed his occupation in the mining industry.

The Swiss colonists worked hard on their farms and in their businesses but they also enjoyed society with each other and frequently held dances and parties which were well attended by young and old alike. It is easy to imagine the Rubley family participating in these events with their fellow Swiss.

⁶ 1880 U.S. Federal Census for Warwasing township, Ulster Co., New York, p. 8, dwelling 81, family 83 "Charles Ruble"

⁷ Albert Rubley, WWI Draft Registration Cards; Registration Location: Walker County, Alabama; Roll 1473283; Draft Board: O

⁸ *The Swiss Colony at Gruetli*, Frances Helen Jackson, edited by Clopper Almon, Grundy County Swiss Historical Society, 2003, pp. 6-7

Charles, Sr. soon became a taxpayer, appearing on county tax rolls for the first time on January 5, 1885 when he paid his 1884 poll and school taxes totaling \$1.50.⁹ The Rubley surname was spelled at least five different ways in Grundy County tax records, illustrating the problem record keepers had with the foreign sounding surname.

With a growing family to house, on October 5, 1887, Charles, Sr. purchased part of Lot 61 in Tracy City from Sally F. Eoff for \$200.00 cash.¹⁰ It was here young Elizabeth and Charles and their siblings would grow up. Among their first neighbors were Mrs. Eoff, John Hall, Eller Travis, and J. L. Kennedy.

The Rubleys were communicants at Christ Church (Episcopal) in Tracy City along with several other Swiss families. The church, founded in the early 1870s, was a mission served by students from the School of Theology at the University of the South at Sewanee and was housed in the first church building erected in Tracy City. Christ Church's first permanent clergyman, H. Easter, who was assigned in September 1891,¹¹ ministered to the Rubley family, baptized their children, performed marriage ceremonies and conducted their funerals and burials in the coming years.

Nineteen-year old Elizabeth, nicknamed "Lizzie," was the first of the Rubley children to marry. She and William Graf were married on March 8, 1887 in Tracy City.¹² William, a shoemaker by trade, also emigrated from Switzerland in 1880.¹³ He first appeared in Grundy County records in 1883¹⁴ when he was assessed with poll and school taxes.

The newlywed William and Elizabeth Rubley Graf made their home in Tracy City near her parents on a parcel of land William bought from F. M. C. and Clara A. White on December 7, 1887.¹⁵ The couple's first child, William H., was born in Tracy City on December 20, 1887.¹⁶

Following the normal course of life, the senior Rubleys and the Grafs continued to celebrate births and additions to their extended family in 1889. Lena Rubley

⁹ Grundy County, TN Tax Book 1884(Ruby, Charles); 1886 (Rubly, Charles): 1887 (Rubly, Charles); 1889 (Rubley, Charles); 1893 (Ruble, Charles); 1896 (Rubley, Charles); 1899 (Rubely, Charles.); 1900 (Rubely, Charley)

¹⁰ Grundy County, TN Deed Books, Vol. P, pp. 277-278

¹¹ Christ Church Register, Tracy City, TN

¹² Obituary of Elizabeth Howard, Elgin, OK, 1 May 1940

¹³ Ancestry.com, New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957, Year: 1880, Arrival: New York, United States, 18 Nov 1880

¹⁴ Tennessee State Library and Archives, Microfilm Roll 113, Grundy County, TN Trustee's Office, Tax Books 1883-1887

¹⁵ Grundy County, TN Deed Books, Vol. H, p. 634

¹⁶ *Guide – Ladies Memorial Association, City Cemetery, Tracy City, TN*, p. 11

was born at Tracy City on June 20, 1889,¹⁷ followed just days later, on July 6, by the birth of Elizabeth and William Graf's second child and first daughter, Eda.¹⁸

Son and brother, Emil Rubley, married Martha Goldston in 1889.¹⁹

On April 2, 1890,²⁰ just nine months after Eda's birth, William and Elizabeth Rubley Graf's firstborn child, three year old William H. Graf, died. There are no details of William's death – just a tombstone inscribed with his birth and death dates in City Cemetery at Tracy City.

The year 1891 brought two more additions to the Rubley and Graf families. Charles and Elizabeth Keller Rubley's sixth son and last child, Edward, was born on April 2, 1891.²¹ And Elizabeth and William Graf welcomed their third child and second daughter, Lillie Sutton, on December 18, 1891.²²

May 31, 1892²³ marked a milestone in Rubley family history. It was the date Charles, Sr. received his American citizenship. According to the court record, it was the second time Charles, Sr. applied for citizenship. He applied for citizenship two years earlier and the court clerk failed to issue his papers "through negligence or oversight."

On December 20, 1893,²⁴ William and Elizabeth Rubley Graf welcomed another addition to their family – second son and fourth child, Robert K.

If there were births, deaths and marriages in the extended Rubley family during 1894 and the first eleven months 1895, the records have not been uncovered. The next event of import in the family was the marriage on December 21, 1895²⁵ of twenty-one year old Charles "Charlie" Rubley and Anna von Rohr. Christ Church clergyman, H. Easter, performed the couple's marriage ceremony in Grundy County. Twenty-two year old Anna was the orphaned daughter of Swiss immigrants and Gruetli founders, Leonard Rudolf von Rohr (1846-1888) from Kestenholz in canton Solothurn, and Elizabeth Schönemann (1845-1890) from Neiderbipp in canton Bern. Anna, who was orphaned at age seventeen, was the second oldest of eleven Rudolf von Rohr children. After her parents' death, Anna worked at various jobs to help support the family, most recently prior to her marriage, at a hotel in Nashville. Anna's health suffered because of the hard work she had to do in her youth and she was always physically frail.

¹⁷ Lena Harrison, Death Certificate, Saline Co., Harrisburg, IL, 21 Nov 1923

¹⁸ Christ Church Register, Tracy City, TN, Baptisms, No. 66, at the church, April 5, 1896

¹⁹ 1900 U. S. Federal Census, Alabama, Walker County, Prospect, Dist. 42, Family 206, Residence 207

²⁰ *Guide – Ladies Memorial Association, City Cemetery, Tracy City, TN, p. 11*

²¹ 1900 U. S. Federal Census, Tennessee, Grundy Co., 13th CD, Vol. 23, ED 39, Sheet 14

²² Christ Church Register, Tracy City, TN, Baptisms, No. 67, at the church, April 5, 1896

²³ Grundy County, TN Circuit Court Clerk's Office Minute Books, Vols. 2, 1, 1888-1893, p. 284

²⁴ *Guide – Ladies Memorial Association, City Cemetery, Tracy City, TN, p. 11*

²⁵ Grundy County, TN Marriage Book C, p. 367

The young Graf family was to endure yet another tragedy in 1896. On March 14,²⁶ they lost their second son, Robert K. Robert K. died at age three, as his older brother, William H., had and was buried beside him in City Cemetery at Tracy City.

Just a few weeks after Robert K.'s death, on Easter Sunday, April 5, 1896, nine-year old Eda Graf, her five-year old sister, Lillie Sutton Graf, and their five-year old uncle, Edward "Eddie" Rubley, were baptized at Christ Church²⁷ in Tracy City. Once again, clergyman H. Easter officiated for the family. William Rubley, Julia Holland and Eda von Bergen were Eda's sponsors. Emil Rubley, Bertha von Rohr and Emillie Nathurst sponsored Lillie, and Eddie's sponsors were Adolph Rubley and Rosa von Rohr.

Charles and Anna von Rohr Rubley welcomed their first child, Carlana Emmalene, on August 11, 1896. A few weeks later, in September 1896, William and Elizabeth Rubley Graf's fifth child and third daughter, Mary Emily, was born. Mary Emily was baptized at Christ Church in Tracy City on May 4, 1897²⁸ with maternal grandmother, Lizzie Rubley, H. Worthington Stark, and Emily Mabee serving as her sponsors.

Sometime between May 1897 and October 1898, Elizabeth Rubley Graf and Charles Rubley, Jr., their spouses and children moved from Tracy City to Pratt City, Alabama. Pratt City, near Birmingham, was Alabama's earliest and largest boomtown. Started in 1886 by industrialist Daniel Pratt,²⁹ Pratt City was home to hundreds of miners and their families by the late 1890s. Three railroads served the mines and company houses were built nearby. By 1887 Pratt City had streetcar service from Birmingham and neighborhood stores, shops and businesses quickly grew up along the carline.

Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company (TCI), owner of the mines at Tracy City and the Rubleys' employer, purchased Pratt Coal and Iron Company at Pratt City in 1886. By 1900, several Tennessee miners had moved to Alabama to work in TCI's new operation. Among them were four of Elizabeth and Charles' brothers, William, Emil, Adolph and Albert, who were to live the rest of their lives in Alabama.

While they lived in Pratt City,³⁰ Elizabeth Rubley Graf and her brother, Charles Rubley, celebrated the birth of sons just days apart. Charles and Anna von Rohr Rubley's second and last child, Ernest Rubley, was born on October 18, 1898.³¹

²⁶ *Guide – Ladies Memorial Association, City Cemetery, Tracy City, TN, p. 11*

²⁷ Christ Church Register, Tracy City, TN, Baptisms, No. 66, 67 and 6, at the church, April 5, 1896

²⁸ Christ Church Register, Tracy City, TN, Baptisms, No. 84

²⁹ *The Heritage of Jefferson County, Alabama, pps. 62-63*

³⁰ Arizona Certificate of Birth, Cochise, Warren, Bisbee, June 13 1925, Ralph Carl Graf (Birthplace of father: Pratt City, Alabama)

³¹ SSDI, Ernest Rubley, Born: 18 Oct 1898, Died: 22 Sep 1989

And Elizabeth and William Graf's sixth child and only surviving son to date, Ralph Lewis Graf, was born four days later on October 22.³²

On February 7, 1899, "William Graf and his wife, Lizzie Graf" sold their Tracy City house and lot to William Pettey,³³ leading one to believe they were happy in Pratt City and intended to make their permanent home there.

Charles and Anna von Rohr Rubley's life in Pratt City was far from a happy one. As Anna told her daughter many years later,³⁴ the couple had a very difficult time while they lived in Pratt City. Charles, perhaps because of a mining-related hand injury, had a hard time providing for his young family and was frequently away from home for extended periods of time. During this time Anna had to sell her wedding rings to buy milk for her two young children. Charles' absences and the financial strain were more than Anna, a wife of less than four years, could endure and led to the couple's separation. Anna's brothers came from Tennessee and took Anna, her two-year old daughter, Carlena, and her infant son, Ernest, back home with them. When the 1900 U. S. Federal Census was taken, Anna, Carlena and Ernest were living with Anna's brothers, Leonard, Fred and Jacob von Rohr, in the Swiss colony at Gruetli.³⁵ Charles' whereabouts in 1900 is unknown; he does not appear on the 1900 U. S. Census.

William and Elizabeth Rubley Graf and their four children, Eda, Lillie, Emily and Ralph, lived in a rented house on East Railroad Street in Pratt City when the 1900 U. S. Federal Census for Alabama was taken.³⁶ The Swiss born, forty-one year old William was a shoemaker, and his thirty-one year old Swiss born wife of thirteen years, Elizabeth, was keeping house. The census taker recorded 1880 as the immigration year for both.³⁷

By 1900 their six older children had moved away, leaving Charles and Elizabeth Keller Rubley and their two youngest children, thirteen-year old Lena and nine year old Edward, in Tracy City.³⁸ Fifty-six year old Charles, Sr. continued to work as a shop blacksmith at the mines, while Elizabeth kept house.

William and Elizabeth Rubley Graf's tenure in Alabama was short and they were back in Tracy City when their son, Herman Francis, was born on July 24, 1902. By 1904 the family had moved again – to Coalmont – where Herman Francis was

³² SSDI, Ralph Louis Graf, Birth Date: 22 Oct 1898, Death Date: 19 Feb 1952

³³ TSLA Microfilm Roll 60, Grundy County, TN, Register's Office, Deed Books Vol. N, p. 335

³⁴ Anna Rudolf von Rohr Rubley Scruggs to Esther Scruggs Sigmon

³⁵ 1900 U. S. Federal Census, Tennessee, Grundy County, p. 176b, Dwelling: 31, Family: 31

³⁶ 1900 U. S. Federal Census, Alabama, Jefferson County, Pratt, Roll: T623 21; Page: 15A; ED 114

³⁷ Passenger Lists, Year: 1880; Arrival: New York, U. S., Microfilm serial: M237, Microfilm roll: M237-432, Line: 29, List number: 1506 (Mr. Graf, born about 1854, arrival date: 18 Nov 1880; Nationality: Swiss)

³⁸ 1900 U. S. Federal Census, Tennessee, Grundy County, p. 243A, Dwelling: 262, Family: 270 (Charley Rubley)

baptized on May 7, 1905 at St. Alban's Chapel.³⁹ Lena Rubley and George Schlagater were Herman's sponsors.

On October 27, 1902⁴⁰, Anna Rudolf von Rohr Rubley, former wife of Charles Rubley, married for the second time to prominent landowner and farmer, James Edward Scruggs, in Grundy County. The couple made their home on Mr. Scruggs' farm in the Tarlton community in Collins River valley. Mr. Scruggs became the stepfather of Anna and Charles Rubley's two children: six-year old Carlana Emmalene and four-year old Ernest Rubley. Anna Rudolf von Rohr Rubley and James E. Scruggs had three children: Grady Paul (1904), Esther (1905) and Isabel (1912).

Mining operations began in a new coalfield at Coal Dale, later Coalmont, about eight miles northwest of Tracy City ca. 1902 and miners and mine workers from Tracy City began to move there to work. Blacksmith Charles Rubley, Sr. was one of the mine company employees who moved to the camp at Coalmont. His wife, Elizabeth, and their two children, Lena and Edward "Eddie," remained at the Rubley home in Tracy City. As late as July 14, 1904,⁴¹ an item in the *Coalmont* column of *Mrs. Grundy* reported: "Miss Lillie Graf spent a few days with her grandma, Mrs. Rubley, at Tracy last week." Mining companies generally provided houses for the miners which were rented at a monthly rate of \$2.00 per room. Elizabeth and the children eventually joined Charles, Sr. in Coalmont where they lived in a company house, except for a brief time in Alabama, until Charles, Sr.'s death in 1919.

One of the very few published accounts mentioning Charles, Jr. notes a 1904 visit to his father in Coalmont. His visit was reported in the *Coalmont* column in the February 18, 1904 issue of *Mrs. Grundy*: "Mr. Charlie Rubley, of Alabama, was visiting his father here Friday."⁴² Was Charles indeed living in Alabama at the time of his visit, or was this simply a reporter's error? An error is certainly understandable given four of Charles' brothers were living in Alabama at the time.

On June 25, 1906⁴³ Lena Rubley and Frank Sartain were married in Grundy County. Frank Sartain was a coal miner who was born in Alabama. The couple had one child in 1909, a son named Charles, who died in infancy. The Sartains' marriage ended in divorce and both remarried.

³⁹ Christ Church Register, Tracy City, TN, Baptisms, No. 126, at the church, May 7, 1905, St. Alban's, Coalmont

⁴⁰ Grundy County, TN Marriage Book: C, p. 367

⁴¹ *Mrs. Grundy, Tracy City, TN*, July 14, 1904, Vol. XIX, No. 16

⁴² *Mrs. Grundy, Tracy City, Tennessee, February 18, 1904, Vol. XVIII, No. 44*

⁴³ Grundy County, Tennessee Marriages, Vol. D, p. 179

By 1906 William and Elizabeth Rubley Graf and their children were living in Nashville. The *1906 Nashville City Directory*⁴⁴ lists William Graf, carpenter, living in a house at 912 Ewing Avenue. Lillie S. Graf, a clerk at 41 Bridge Avenue, and Eda Graf, a cook, are listed as boarders at their father's address.

The Graf family group was shattered forever when William Graf died suddenly on September 13, 1906 at home at 1831 Jo Johnston Avenue in Nashville. According to William's death certificate,⁴⁵ the cause of his death is unknown; however, Dr. S. E. Cox, who treated William once on September 4 and 5, 1906, and who signed the death certificate, noted: "I wish to state he had a very bad heart at the time I saw him." According to other information on the death certificate, William, a shoemaker, was born in Switzerland on March 27, 1857. Elizabeth, who is listed as the informant on the death certificate, stated William's parents were also born in Switzerland, however, she did not know their names.

William Graf's body was returned to Tracy City. His death and burial in City Cemetery on September 15, 1906 were recorded in Christ Church Register by clergyman William E. DuBose.⁴⁶ Mr. Graf's grave marker in City Cemetery bears the following inscription: "William Graf, born March 27, 1857 and died September 13, 1906."⁴⁷

William's death and burial are also mentioned under events occurring in September 1906 in a pamphlet compiled by I. B. Woodward entitled, *Tracy City from 1893 to 1910 – Important events, deaths, marriages, etc. that have occurred here in the past 18 years.*

After William's death, Elizabeth and her children spent some time with her mother in Coalmont. The *Coalmont* column in the September 20, 1906 issue of *Mrs. Grundy* carried the following item: "Elizabeth Graff and children, of Nashville, are spending a few days here with her mother, Mrs. Chas. Rubley."⁴⁸

Less than three months after William Graf's death, the widowed thirty-eight year old Elizabeth, with four children under the age of eleven to support, married for the second time. She and W. M. "Will" Thomas were married on December 9, 1906 in Grundy County.⁴⁹ Little is known about Mr. Thomas. The couple had one daughter, Helen E., who was born in Tennessee on October 12, 1907.⁵⁰

⁴⁴ *Nashville City Directory 1906, p.582, Marshall-Bruce-Polk Co. Publishers, Tennessee State Library and Archives*

⁴⁵ Standard Certificate of Death, No. 1206, City of Nashville, County of Davidson, State of Tennessee, Date of death: Sept. 13, 1906

⁴⁶ Christ Church Register, Tracy City, TN, Burials No. 32, September 15, 1906

⁴⁷ Photograph of marker in possession of S. T. Hereford, Chattanooga, TN (March 18, 2007)

⁴⁸ *Mrs. Grundy, "Coalmont," September 20, 1906, Vol. 21, No. 24*

⁴⁹ Grundy County, TN Marriages, Vol. D, P. 232

⁵⁰ SSDI, Helen E. Boyles, Born: 12 Oct 1907, Died: 16 Jan 1998, Santa Ana, Orange, CA

On May 9, 1907, Charles and Elizabeth Keller Rubley sold their house and lot in Tracy City to Cynthia Caldwell.⁵¹

Eda and Lillie Graf remained at 1831 Jo Johnston Avenue in Nashville after their father's death and their mother's remarriage. The *1907 Nashville City Directory*⁵² lists Edna (sic) and Lillie as operators at 19 Bridge Avenue. The *Directory* also includes the following information about their father: "William Graf, died Sept 13 '06, age 49."

The Graf sisters remained in Nashville long enough to be listed in the *1908 Nashville City Directory*.⁵³ Edna (sic) Graf and Lily Graf, laundresses at 17 Bridge Avenue, are listed as boarders at 707 Jefferson.

By April 5, 1908, at least one member of the Graf family was in Arkansas. On that date, William and Elizabeth Rubley Graf's second daughter, eighteen-year old Lillie Graf, married twenty-one year old William Francis "Will" Miller in Greenwood, Sebastian County, Arkansas.⁵⁴ William Francis Miller, who was born in Tennessee, was the son of Dr. George E. and Fanney Miller.⁵⁵ The Millers lived in or around Tracy City on Cumberland Mountain before moving to Sebastian County prior to 1900. Lillie and Will Miller enjoyed a long, happy forty-nine year marriage until his death in 1957. They raised five daughters and left numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren to cherish their memories. Lillie Graf Miller became the custodian of her mother's family records and photograph album which were eventually passed down to a great granddaughter who graciously shared this invaluable resource during our research on this family.

Twenty-one days after Lillie wed, her sister, Eda Graf, also became a bride when she married Emmett E. Rackley on April 26, 1908⁵⁶ in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee. Mr. Rackley was listed in the *1906 Nashville City Directory* as an apprentice working at 216 3rd Avenue North and boarding at 713 3rd Avenue South. Emmett Rackley and the couple's only child died before 1910. After their deaths, the young widow, Eda Graf Rackley, joined her mother, stepfather and siblings in Arkansas.⁵⁷

W. M. "Will" and Elizabeth Rubley Graf Thomas moved from Tennessee to Arkansas after their daughter's 1907 birth. They were probably in the state as

⁵¹ Grundy County, TN, Deed Books, Vol. T, pps. 105-106 (May 9, 1907)

⁵² *Nashville City Directory 1907*; Marshall-Bruce-Polk Co. Publishers, Tennessee State Library and Archives

⁵³ *1908 Nashville City Directory*, Marshall-Bruce-Polk Co. Publishers, Tennessee State Library and Archives

⁵⁴ Sebastian County, AK Marriages, Book: E, p. 38502

⁵⁵ 1900 U. S. Federal Census, Arkansas, Sebastian, Diamond, Roll: T623 76, Page: 19A, ED: 113, George E. Miller

⁵⁶ Davidson County Marriages, Vol. 24, 1907-1908, p. 601, TSLA microfilm roll 488

⁵⁷ 1910 U. S. Federal Census, Arkansas, Sebastian County, Jim Fork, Roll: T624-65, Page: 15A, ED: 140, (Elisabeth Thomas)

early as April 1908 when Elizabeth's daughter, Lillie Graf, married Will Miller. The Thomas' short marriage ended in May 1909 when Will Thomas died in Ft. Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas, leaving Elizabeth a widow for the second time.⁵⁸ No details of his death are available.

Twice-married, forty-two year old Swiss born Elizabeth appeared on the 1910 Arkansas census⁵⁹ as head of a household in Burma mining camp in Jim Fork Township. Elizabeth was a boarding house keeper. "At camps away from towns mining companies provided a boarding house for visitors, new miners, and unmarried miners. This boarding house was rented to some woman. By agreement with the miners, the companies usually collected the board-bills for all the landlords."⁶⁰ Elizabeth undoubtedly earned a living for herself and her family by operating one of these boarding houses.

According to other data recorded by the 1910 census taker, Elizabeth had given birth to ten children, eight of whom survived. Nine of Elizabeth's children had been documented in 1910. The two deceased children are Elizabeth and William Graf's sons, William H. and Robert K. who died in 1890 and 1896, respectively, in Tracy City. Six of Elizabeth's eight surviving children were listed in Elizabeth's 1910 household: Helen E. Thomas (age two), Edith Graf Rackley (age twenty), Emily Graf⁶¹ (age thirteen), Ralph Graf (age eleven), Herman Graf (age seven) and Ernestine Graf (age five). A seventh child, Lillie Sutton Graf Miller was married and living away from home – accounting for a total of nine children. Who was the tenth child and where was that child in 1910? Or was this simply a census taker error?

Two boarders were listed in the Thomas household in 1910: divorced, forty-year old Georgia-born Walter R. Taylor (who will become significant in Elizabeth's life), and Charley Ashweld.

Charles Rubley, Jr. reappeared in Arkansas in 1910 under the name Charley Ruby. Five households away from Elizabeth Thomas' household in Burma mining camp, on the Sebastian County, Arkansas census, is a household headed by thirty-six year old white male, Charley Ruby.⁶² (*Ruby*, a common misspelling of *Rubley*, is frequently found in nineteenth and twentieth century public records.) Several facts recorded by the census taker are consistent with known facts about Charles, Jr. at this point in his life: his age; the number of times he has been married; the year of his immigration; and his occupation as a coal miner.

⁵⁸ Ft. Smith Deaths, Sebastian County, AK, Book: 2, Page: 195, Year: 1909

⁵⁹ 1910 U. S. Federal Census, Arkansas, Sebastian County, Jim Fork, Roll: T624-65, Page:15 A, ED: 140, (Elisabett Thomas)

⁶⁰ Alvin Arthur Steel, *The Geological Survey of Arkansas, Coal Mining in Arkansas, Part I* (Little Rock, 1910), p. 105

⁶¹ Ancestry.com incorrectly indexed Graf as "May"

⁶² 1910 U. S. Census, Arkansas, Sebastian County, Jim Fork, Roll: T624-65, Page: 15B, ED: 140

The 1910 census taker listed Germany as the birth place of Charles and of both his parents, when, in fact, they were Swiss born German-speakers. The Swiss tended to blend in with larger ethnic groups whose language they shared, and it was not uncommon for German-speaking Swiss to be misidentified as German by census takers and other statisticians of the era. This misclassification was so common in the Arkansas mining community of 1910 that A. A. Steel felt it necessary to mention the practice in his 1910 survey, *Coal Mining in Arkansas*. Steel noted in particular the common practice by mining company record keepers of combining “German-speaking Austrians and Germans into one classification as Germans” when reporting the nationalities of miners. It is reasonable to assume this practice was also used by census takers in the camps, who most likely were employees of the mining company. Another explanation for the ethnic misidentification on the census is that the probable informant for the census taker, Charles’ wife, simply thought he was German.

Charley Rubley’s 1910 household includes his twenty-three year old Arkansas-born wife of six years, Sue (Susan Loudermilk whom he married in Sebastian County on November 24, 1903.⁶³), and two Arkansas-born daughters: four-year old Amy and fifteen-month old Laura. Charles, who was thirty-six in 1910, reported his age on his 1903 marriage license as twenty-two, when, in fact, he was twenty-nine. And sixteen-year old Susan gave her age on the license as eighteen. This marriage apparently did not survive and efforts to locate Susan Loudermilk Rubley and the two daughters have been unsuccessful. Charles’ sister, Elizabeth, and her family did keep in touch with a Loudermilk family in Texas throughout the years and had a photo in the family album of a young Loudermilk boy.

The youngest of Charles and Elizabeth Keller Rubley’s children, Edward “Eddie,” and Rebecka “Becky” Layne were married in Grundy County, Tennessee on February 19, 1911. Eddie Rubley was a miner like his brothers and he and Becky made their home in Coalmont. The young couple appears to have been particularly close to Eddie’s parents.

Elizabeth and William Graf’s fifteen-year old daughter, Mary Emily, also married in 1911. On August 16, she and Thomas Rodden were married in Greenwood, Sebastian County, Arkansas.⁶⁴ Mary Emily died before 1920. Thomas Rodden remarried and was listed on the 1920 U. S. Federal Census of Arkansas⁶⁵ with his second wife.

The twice widowed, forty-three year old Elizabeth Rubley Graf Thomas remarried for the third time on July 9, 1912 in Sebastian County, Arkansas⁶⁶. Her third

⁶³ Sebastian County Marriages, 1903, Greenwood, Arkansas, Book: D-2, Page: 52102, November 24, 1903

⁶⁴ Ft. Smith, Arkansas Marriages, 1911, Greenwood, Book 5, p. 7402, 26 August 1911

⁶⁵ 1920 U. S. Federal Census, Arkansas, Sebastian, ED: 136, Dwelling: 31, Family: 32

⁶⁶ Sebastian County, Ft. Smith, Arkansas Marriages, Book: M, Page: 18201

husband was forty-two year old Walter Robert Taylor, who was a boarder in Elizabeth's household when the census was taken in 1910. The couple had two daughters: Louise Eva Taylor⁶⁷ and Virginia Ellen Taylor.

Some time during 1912 Charles Rubley, Jr. returned to Grundy County, Tennessee and visited his sixteen-year old daughter, Carlena Emmalene Rubley. At the time, Carlena was living in Tarlton with her mother and stepfather, Anna von Rohr Rubley Scruggs and James E. Scruggs. The visit, which took place at Morton's store, was a highlight of Carlena's young life. As she told her daughter⁶⁸ many years later, her father was well dressed and was driving a new car - quite a novelty in Tarlton in 1912. Charles, who was accompanied by his sister, Lena Rubley Sartain, also bought Carlena a gift from Morton's store during the visit - fabric to make a new dress. This was the last time Carlena saw her father and, to the best of our knowledge, the last contact of any kind that she had with him.

Charles Rubley reappeared in public records in 1913 when he married for the third time, on December 31, 1913,⁶⁹ in Sebastian County, Arkansas. Charles, (Charles Ruby on the record.) who gave his correct age (thirty-nine) on this marriage license, married nineteen-year old Lula Fish. No details of this marriage survive and Lula Fish Rubley was not located in later records. See Pg 24

Elizabeth and Charles' youngest brother, twenty-five year old Edward "Eddie" Rubley died in Coalmont on March 23, 1916⁷⁰ after an illness of several months' duration. Edward was buried in City Cemetery in Tracy City. His young widow, Becky, continued to be close to her in-laws and lived near them in Coalmont until her death on July 1, 1917 at age twenty-five.

On November 27, 1913, Elizabeth's oldest daughter, Eda Graf Rackley, was married for the second time at age twenty-four. She married twenty-six year old Dora Lawson in Sebastian County, Arkansas.⁷¹ The couple moved to Oklahoma where Mr. Lawson farmed and where they raised two daughters and one son. Eda and Dora Lawson were married fifty-nine years and nine months when Mr. Lawson died in 1973 in Fletcher, Oklahoma.

In the meantime, Elizabeth and her family continued to live in Sebastian County, Arkansas. Elizabeth's marriage to Walter R. Taylor ended sometime before 1916. It's unclear whether Mr. Taylor died or whether the couple divorced.

⁶⁷ U.S. Social Security Act, Application For Account Number, 572 18, Louise Taylor Jones, Born: March 30, 1919, Midland, Arkansas, to Walter R. Taylor and Elizabeth Rubly, June 28, 1937

⁶⁸ Dorothy Hobbs Irvin

⁶⁹ Sebastian County, Ft. Smith, Arkansas Marriages, Book: N, Page: 17302

⁷⁰ *Mrs. Grundy*, Tracy City, Tennessee, March 30, 1916, Vol. 30, No. 17, p. 1

⁷¹ Sebastian County, Ft. Smith, Arkansas Marriages, Book: N, Page: 12601

Elizabeth remarried for the fourth time – to Fred Raymond –and was widowed (for the third time) when Mr. Raymond died in Sebastian County on August 2, 1916.⁷²

On June 16, 1918,⁷³ Elizabeth and Charles' sister, Lena Rubley Sartain, married for the second time to Harvie Lee Harrison in Grundy County. Harvie was born in Sewanee and worked as a time keeper for Sewanee Fuel and Iron Company when he registered for the WWI draft in 1917.⁷⁴ Harvie and Lena Rubley Sartain Harrison had twins, Earl and Pearl, on April 30, 1919. The couple moved to Harrisburg, Illinois where thirty-six year old Lena died on November 21, 1923 with her mother, Elizabeth Rubley, at her bedside.⁷⁵ The twins were four years old when their mother died, and were raised by Harvie and his daughter and son from his first marriage.

Elizabeth's son, Ralph Lewis Graf, registered for the World War I Draft⁷⁶ on September 12, 1918 in Sebastian County. Ralph, a coal miner working for Central Coal and Coke Company, listed October 22, 1898 as his birth date and his current address as #1 Midland, Sebastian County, Arkansas. Ralph's nearest relative was his mother, Lizzie Ramond (sic), of #1 Midland, in Sebastian County. Grey-eyed, brown-haired Ralph was apparently physically fit to serve in the armed forces.

According to information in a "Family Tree Book" in possession of Lillie S. Graf Miller's descendants, Elizabeth's fifth husband was a French immigrant named Leon Napoleon Deplanque. We cannot date this marriage with a public record, and in spite of records and dates that appear to contradict the information, we have placed the Deplanque marriage in order based on that information. One Leo Napoleon Deplanque, who arrived in New York from France on September 25, 1904,⁷⁷ lived in Hartshorne, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma with his wife (not Elizabeth) when he registered for the WWI Draft on September 12, 1918.⁷⁸ Leon N. Deplanque died in 1958 and is buried in Oak Hill Memorial Park in McAlester, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma.

On May 25, 1919,⁷⁹ in Sebastian County, fifty-year old Elizabeth (Elizabeth Raymond on the marriage record) married for the sixth time. Her new husband was forty-year old A. S. "Vester" Howard. This marriage apparently lasted only

⁷² Arkansas Death Index, 1914-1950, Fred Raymond, Death Date: 2 Aug 1916, County: Sebastian, Vol. 39, Roll No. 19141923, Certificate No. 613

⁷³ Grundy County, Tennessee Marriages, Vol. F, p. 263

⁷⁴ WWI Draft Registration, Grundy County, Tennessee, June 15, 1917, Harvie Lee Harrison

⁷⁵ Illinois Certificate of Death No. 42606, Saline County, Harrisburg, Lena Harrison, Date of death: Nov. 21, 1923

⁷⁶ WWI Draft Registration, Ralph Lewis Graf, Sebastian County, Arkansas

⁷⁷ New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957, Ancestry.com

⁷⁸ WWI Draft Registration, Leo Napoleon Deplanque, Hartshorne, Pittsburg, Oklahoma, September 12, 1918

⁷⁹ Sebastian County, Ft. Smith, Arkansas Marriage Book Q, Page: 8902

seven months, because Elizabeth was divorced when the 1920 Census was taken on January 27, 1920. Elizabeth raised her two stepsons from this marriage, Frank and Clarence Howard. The Howards remained close to Elizabeth and her children throughout their lifetimes.

Just a few weeks later, on June 29, 1919, Elizabeth and Charles' father, Charles Rubley, Sr., died in Coalmont, Grundy County, Tennessee at age seventy-five. Charles, Sr. was survived by his wife of fifty-two years, Elizabeth; two daughters: Elizabeth Rubley Graf Thomas Taylor Raymond Deplanque Howard of Arkansas (identified in the obituary as "a married daughter in Arkansas") and Lena Rubley Sartain Harrison of Coalmont; and five sons: Charles of Arkansas, and William, Emil, Adolph and Albert of Alabama. After Charles, Sr.'s death, his widow lived with her sons in Alabama and briefly with her daughter, Lena, in Illinois, before entering Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Aged in Nashville on October 3, 1925.

According to Charles Rubley, Sr.'s July 1919 obituary, Charles, Jr. was alive and living in Arkansas. No further record of Charles, Jr.'s whereabouts has been located, with the exception of undated photographs of him in his sister, Elizabeth's, photo album. One of the photos, a candid shot of Charles wearing a chef's apron and standing on the steps of a railroad dining car, is intriguing and may offer a clue to his occupation. Did he work for the railroad in that dining car? There is no mention in Elizabeth's family records of Charles' death. At this point in our research, it seems, just as our grandparents told us, Charles "went to Arkansas and was never heard from again."

Fifty-one year old divorcee Elizabeth Howard was listed on the 1920 Sebastian County, Arkansas census.⁸⁰ Elizabeth was head of a household that included six of her children: twenty-one year old Ralph Graf; eighteen-year old Herman Graf; fifteen-year old Earnestine Graf; twelve-year old, Helen Thomas; nine-year old Louise Taylor and seven-year old Virginia Taylor. The census taker spelled Elizabeth's surname on the census *Horrid*, and compounded his/her error by listing all the children under that surname. (According to her grandson,⁸¹ Elizabeth spoke English with a strong German accent throughout her lifetime - apparently her pronunciation of Howard sounded like Horrid to the census taker.) Elizabeth's occupation was not listed on the census; Ralph and Herman Graf were coal miners, and the girls were in school.

Before June 1925 Elizabeth, her two sons, Ralph and Herman Graf, and other family members moved from Arkansas to the boomtown of Bisbee in Cochise County, Arizona where the men found work in the copper mines. By this time both Ralph and Herman were suffering from the effects of years of mining coal in

⁸⁰ 1920 U. S. Federal Census, Arkansas, Sebastian County, Bill Johnson, Roll: T625-81, Page: 16B, ED: 141 (Elizabeth Horrid)

⁸¹ 2008 Interview with Frank McMahan

underground mines and the open air copper mining offered them a healthier work environment.

Elizabeth and Robert H. Taylor's eighteen-year old daughter, Louise Eva Taylor, and her husband, Raymond Jones, were living at Brooks Apartments in Bisbee when their daughter, Gloria Louise Jones, was born at Calumet and Arizona Hospital on January 28, 1929.⁸²

According to the 1930 census,⁸³ sixty-one year old Lizzie Howard, who worked as a cook in a hotel, was head of a household on Brewery Avenue that included her twenty-seven year old son, Herman Graf. Herman was incorrectly identified as Herman Howard on the census.

Elizabeth's son, Ralph Lewis Graf⁸⁴, and his wife Bonnie Mae Long Graf lived at 25 Temby Avenue in Bisbee, Arizona when their second child, Ralph Carl Graf, as born on June 13, 1925.⁸⁵ Bonnie Mae Long Graf, daughter of Robert M. and Emma F. Long,⁸⁶ was born in Cameron, LeFlore County, Oklahoma on October 7, 1902,⁸⁷ and she was twenty when she and Ralph were married. When the 1930 Arizona census⁸⁸ was taken, thirty-one year old Ralph and twenty-seven year old Bonnie had three children: six-year old Oklahoma-born Herman, and Arkansas-born four-year old Ralph, Jr., and three-year old Margie Eileen. Their fourth child, Bonnie Jean Graf, was born in Cochise County on December 22, 1930⁸⁹.

The matriarch of the Rubley clan, eighty-six year old Elizabeth Keller Rubley, died at Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Aged in Nashville, Tennessee on September 18, 1935. Elizabeth, who entered the home on October 3, 1925, was buried in the Little Sisters plot in Calvary Cemetery in Nashville.

⁸² Arizona Birth Certificate, Cochise, Bisbee, Gloria Louise Jones, January 28, 1929

⁸³ 1930 U. S. Federal Census, Arizona, Cochise County, Bisbee, Roll: 55, Page: 4A, ED: 5, Image: 671.0

⁸⁴ State of California, California Death Index 1940-1997, Sacramento, CA, State of California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Ancestry.com

⁸⁵ Arizona Birth Certificate, Bisbee, Cochise County, Ralph Carl Graf, June 13, 1925

⁸⁶ 1910 U S Federal Census, Bokoshe, LeFlore, Oklahoma, Roll: T624-1258, Page: 4A, ED: 146, Image: 143

⁸⁷ SSDI, Bonnie Parker, Death: August 1987

⁸⁸ 1930 U. S. Census, Arizona, Cochise County, Bisbee, Roll: 55, Page: 11B, ED: 5, Image 686.0

⁸⁹ Arizona Birth Certificate, Bisbee, Cochise County, Bonnie Jean Graf, December 22, 1930

In the late 1930s, Elizabeth, Jr.'s health began to fail and she moved to Fletcher, Oklahoma to live with her daughter and son-in-law, Dora and Eda Graf Lawson. During this time, Elizabeth visited her daughter and son-in-law, Ernestine "Sis" Graf and Granville Louis "Pete" Mahan, in Panama, Oklahoma. Elizabeth's grandson, Dr. Frank Mahan,⁹⁰ who was about twelve when Elizabeth visited, vividly recalled seeing her. Frank said Elizabeth spoke German and he tried to get her to teach him some German during her visit. Seventy-one year old Elizabeth died on April 26, 1940 at her daughter Eda Graf Lawson's residence south of Fletcher, Oklahoma. Her obituary⁹¹ in the May 1, 1940 edition of the Lawton (OK) Constitution stated she was born Elizabeth Ribly (sic) in Zurich, Switzerland on August 7, 1868 and that she came to the United States at age eleven. It listed among her survivors from her marriage to William Graf: Mrs. Eda Lawson, Elgin, Oklahoma; Mrs. Lillie Miller, Hartshorne, Oklahoma; Ralph Graf, Long Beach, California; Herman Graf, Fallow, Oklahoma; and Mrs. Ernestine Mahan of Panama, Oklahoma. The obituary also lists three surviving daughters from her marriage to Walter Taylor: Mrs. Louise Dupree, Pacific Beach, California; Mrs. Virginia Harris, Long Beach, California; and Mrs. Helen Crismonds,⁹² Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii. Elizabeth's obituary also stated she was married to Vester Howard in 1919. She was survived by fifteen grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

To say that Elizabeth Rubley, Jr. lived an extraordinary life is an understatement. Her life as we know it was filled with challenges from the beginning - ranging from those associated with being an immigrant in a new country to the challenges inherent in being the oldest child in a family of eight. Not only did she overcome these challenges, she thrived and met life head-on. As a child and young adult she enjoyed an above average standard of living for the time and place in which she grew up. Her father was privileged to practice a craft that ensured his continued, well compensated employment at a time when a living wage was hard to achieve in the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee, and the family enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle. While Elizabeth's education was probably rudimentary, she could read and write in both her native Swiss-German and in English. Photographs of Elizabeth in her early adulthood are the image of a beautiful, confident, well-dressed young woman. Evidence of that beauty and confidence, bolstered by strength and determination, are still visible in photos taken toward the end of her life.

Elizabeth's adult life was not a fairy tale where everyone lived happily ever after. In fact she endured far more than her share of tragedy and hardship. From the time of her first marriage, at age nineteen, in 1887, to her death in 1940, Elizabeth was married six times; gave birth to eleven children; endured the premature deaths of two three-year old sons and a young adult daughter;

⁹⁰ May 27, 2007 S. T. Hereford telephone interview with Frank L. Mahan

⁹¹ Lawton (Oklahoma) Constitution, May 1, 1940, p. 4

⁹² Helen Crismonds was the daughter of Elizabeth and Will Thomas

mourned the loss of three husbands; went through two, possibly three, divorces; and endured the loss of her younger brother and sister and both parents.

After her second husband died, Elizabeth became the breadwinner for herself and her children and, despite her several marriages, she was the breadwinner for the majority of her life. Her life was hard – the work she did to make a living for her family - running boarding houses in mining camps and cooking in a hotel - was not easy work. But despite difficult circumstances and hardship, she managed to raise six beautiful daughters and two handsome, hard-working sons. Elizabeth's children loved and cherished her - she kept many of the Mother's Day cards and Valentines they sent her which attest to this - and they grew up to be successful, productive adults who made good marriages and had beautiful children of their own. Elizabeth's children, her grandchildren and great grandchildren are her enduring legacy.

Elizabeth Rubley Genealogical Summary: Three Generations

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Rubley was born August 7, 1868 in Switzerland (her obituary identifies her birthplace as Zurich) to Charles and Elizabeth Keller Rubli (Rubley), and died April 26, 1940 in Fletcher, Oklahoma. She is buried in Elgin Cemetery. Elizabeth arrived in New York with her parents and four younger siblings on March 26, 1880. After brief stays in New York and Pennsylvania, the family settled in Tennessee. On March 8, 1887 Elizabeth married **William “Will” Graf**, who was born in Switzerland on March 27, 1857 and immigrated to America in 1880, in Tracy City, Tennessee. William died in Nashville, Tennessee on September 13, 1906.

William and Elizabeth Rubley Graf had eight known children:

1. **William H. Graf** was born December 20, 1887, at Tracy City, Tennessee, and died there on April 2, 1890.
2. **Eda Graf** was born July 6, 1889, at Tracy City, Tennessee, and died August 13, 1973, at Fletcher, Oklahoma. She married Emmett E. Rackley April 26, 1908, in Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. Rackley died before 1910.

Eda and Emmett E. Rackley had one child:

- Unknown child was born after 1908 in Nashville, Tennessee and died before 1910.

On November 27, 1913 the widowed Eda married Dora W. Lawson in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Dora W. Lawson, Sr. was born April 4, 1887 at Hackett, Arkansas and died June 11, 1954 in Fletcher, Oklahoma. Dora and Eda Graf Rackley Lawson are buried in Elgin Cemetery at Elgin, Oklahoma.

Eda and Dora Lawson had three known children:

- Dorothy Delores Lawson who was born in 1916

- Mildred Faye Lawson who was born ca. 1925
- Dora W. Lawson who was born October 2, 1927, in Fletcher, Oklahoma and died June 28, 1935 in Fletcher. Dora, Jr. is buried in Elgin Cemetery at Elgin, Oklahoma.

3. **Lillie Sutton Graf** was born December 18, 1891 at Tracy City, Tennessee and died on March 3, 1978 in Hartshorne, Oklahoma. She is buried in McAllester, Oklahoma. Lillie married William Francis “Will” Miller on April 5, 1908 in Greenwood, Arkansas. Will Miller, who was born in Tennessee in 1887, was the son of Dr. George E. and Fanny Miller. He died on May 5, 1957 in McAllester, Oklahoma.

William Francis “Will” Miller and Lillie Sutton Graf had five known children:

- Leona Augusta Miller was born March 7, 1909 at Hackett, Arkansas, and died August 20, 1990 in Oklahoma. Leona married Mike Wansick and Joe Bullett.
- Marguerite Miller was born on June 4, 1911 at Hackett, Arkansas and died November 13, 1918.
- Gertrude Agnes “Ike” Miller was born June 22, 1913 and died November 5, 1997 in Oklahoma.
- Willie Sutton “Bill” Miller was born August 31, 1915 at Hackett, Arkansas and died November 21, 2005 at Hartshorne, Oklahoma. “Bill” married Ernest Harold Strange.
- Kristina Edlyn Miller was born November 26, 1917 in Arkansas and died December 31, 1984 in Crescent City, California. Kristina married Peter Renatti in 1938 in Oatman, Arizona; Myrle Statler in Los Gatos, California; Lee Wilcox (common law marriage); and Louis Lemon.

Lillie Sutton Graf Miller’s second marriage, in McAllester, Oklahoma, was to John Lester Painter, who was born on July 4, 1894, and died in April 1964 in Oklahoma.

4. **Robert K. Graf** was born on December 20, 1893 at Tracy City, Tennessee. He died there on March 14, 1896 and is buried in City Cemetery.

5. **Mary Emily Graf** was born in October 1896 at Tracy City, Tennessee and died before 1920. She married Thomas Rodden on August 26, 1911 in Greenwood, Arkansas.

6. **Ralph Lewis “Bud” Graf** was born October 22, 1898 in Pratt City, Alabama and died February 19, 1952 in Los Angeles, California. He married Bonnie Mae Long ca. 1923 in Oklahoma. Bonnie Mae was born August 7, 1902 in Cameron, Oklahoma to Robert M. and Emma F. Long. Ralph Lewis Graf was a coal miner in the Fort Smith, Arkansas area and a copper miner in Bisbee, Arizona. He contracted an occupational-related lung disease and moved to California with his family in the 1930s. Ralph worked on oil rigs in California. After his death, Bonnie Mae Long Graf married R. L. Parker. She died in August 1987 in Long Beach, California.

Ralph Lewis “Bud” and Bonnie Mae Long Graf had five known

children:

- Herman Otto Graf was born November 27, 1923 in Oklahoma and died in March 1980.
- Ralph Carl Graf was born June 13, 1925 in Bisbee, Arizona and died on June 1, 1986 in Long Beach, California. Ralph Carl married Marilyn Joan Lowen on June 25, 1950 in Long Beach, California. Ralph Carl and Marilyn Joan Lowen Graf had two children: Donna Jean Graf and Dan L. Graf.
- Marjorie Eileen Graf was born on January 25, 1927 in Bisbee, Arizona.
- Bonnie Jean Graf was born on December 22, 1930 in Bisbee, Arizona.
- Steven.

7. **Herman Francis Graf** was born on July 24, 1902 in Tracy City, Tennessee and died April 28, 1906 in Orange County, California. Herman was married, however, no details of that marriage have been found. Herman was a coal miner in the Ft. Smith, Arkansas area and a copper miner in Bisbee, Arizona. When his mother, Elizabeth, died in 1940 he lived in Fallow, Oklahoma. Herman contracted an occupational-related lung disease and moved to California to live with his half-sister, Louise Taylor Jones Dupree. He was living with Lousie when he died.

8. **Ernestine Wilhelmina “Sis” Graf** was born on February 13, 1904 (baptismal record: February 13, 1905) in Coalmont, Tennessee and died in Muskogee, Oklahoma on April 21, 1984. Ernestine married Granville Louis “Pete” Mahan, in the early 1920s, in Indian Territory, Oklahoma. Louis who was born in Arkansas on October 3, 1898, was the son of Albert T. and Florence Mahan. Louis was a lead miner and a farmer. The couple lived in Panama, Oklahoma for over fifty years before moving to Muskogee to be near their son in their later years.

Louis and Ernestine “Sis” Graf Mahan had one known child:

- Frank L. Mahan who was born in 1924.

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Rubley Graf married second, **Will M. Thomas**, who was born in West Virginia, on December 9, 1906, in Grundy County, Tennessee. Few details are known of this marriage. The couple was living in the Ft. Smith, Arkansas area when Will Thomas died in May 1909.

Will M. “John” and Elizabeth Rubley Graf Thomas had one known child :

1. **Helen Elizabeth Thomas** was born on October 12, 1907 in Coalmont, Tennessee and died on January 16, 1998 in Santa Ana, California. Helen married an unknown Boyles. Details of their marriage are not known. It is not known if they had children.

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Rubley Graf Thomas married third, **Walter Robert Taylor**, who was born in 1870 in Georgia, on July 9, 1912, in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Mr. Taylor, a coal miner, died after 1913.

Walter Robert Taylor and Elizabeth Rubley Graf Thomas Taylor had two known children:

1. **Louise Eva Taylor** was born March 30, 1910 in Midland, Arkansas and died August 2, 1982 in Buena Park, California. Louise married Raymond Jones, an electrician, ca. 1928. Raymond and Louise Taylor Jones lived in Bisbee, Arizona and Long Beach, California.

Raymond and Louise Eva Taylor Jones had one child:

- Gloria Louise Jones was born January 28, 1929 in Bisbee, Arizona. Gloria married George Thies.

Louise Eva Taylor Jones married the second time to Herbert Arlie Dupree after June 28, 1937. Details of this marriage are not known. It is not known if Louise and Herbert Dupree had children.

2. **Virginia Ellen “Toots” Taylor** was born March 7, 1912 in Arkansas and died in November 1979 in Huntington Beach, California. Virginia married Leslie Neil Harris in 1928. Neil was born June 23, 1911 in Oklahoma and died December 7, 1991 in Orange County, California.

Leslie Neil and Virginia Ellen “Toots” Taylor Harris had one child:

- Shirley Neil Harris was born May 22, 1929 in Los Angeles County, California.

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Rubley Graf Thomas Taylor married fourth, **Fred Raymond**, before 1916 in Arkansas. Fred Raymond died August 2, 1916 in Sebastian County, Arkansas. Details of this marriage are not known. Fred and Elizabeth “Lizzie” Rubley Graf Thomas Taylor Raymond had no known children.

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Rubley Graf Thomas Taylor Raymond married fifth, **Leon Napoleon Deplanque**, probably before 1917. Leon Deplanque was born April 1879 in Paris, France and immigrated to America on September, 25, 1904. Lillie Sutton Miller family records are the authority for this marriage and its sequencing in this chart. Leon and Elizabeth Rubley Graf Thomas Taylor Raymond Deplanque had no known children.

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Rubley Graf Thomas Taylor Raymond Deplanque married sixth, **A. S. “Vester” Howard** on May 25, 1919 in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. (The marriage record is in the name of Elizabeth Raymond.) A. S. Howard was born ca. 1879 in Arkansas. The couple was apparently divorced before 1920. (Elizabeth Howard is listed as a divorced person on the 1920 U. S. Federal Census of Arkansas.)

A. S. “Vester” Howard and Elizabeth Rubley Graf Thomas Taylor Deplanque Howard had no known children, however, Elizabeth raised Mr. Howard’s two sons from a previous marriage.

- Clarence Howard was born July 6, 1899 and died after 1918.
- Frank Howard, whose birth date is not known, died after 1940 near McAllester, Oklahoma in a train accident.

Charles Rubley, Jr.'s life has always been an enigma. His oral history is extremely limited and very few contemporary records have survived to document his presence as the progenitor of the Grundy County branch of the Rubley family. Charles was a tall, good-looking man, as attested by his photographs, who worked in and around coalfields and mines, as did his father and brothers. He was in Tennessee for approximately sixteen years - growing to adulthood in Tracy City. Married to Anna von Rohr when he was only twenty-one, and the father of two children by the time he was twenty-three, Charles did not take well to the yoke of responsibility imposed by marriage and family. The marriage soon broke up and Charles went on his way. Except for one brief, documented visit to his father in Coalmont in 1904, Charles virtually disappeared. He re-appeared for a brief visit with his daughter in 1912 - the last contact he had with the children from his first marriage. Research placed Charles in the Ft. Smith, Arkansas area as early as 1903 when he re-married for the second time to Susan Loudermilk. The marriage record is under the surname Ruby – perhaps an alias, or an alternate variation of his surname, or a simple clerical error. Two children, Amy and Laura, were born during this second marriage, which also failed. Charles' second wife and his children disappeared from the records

Charles married for the third time in 1913 in the Ft. Smith area to Lula Fish, a woman twenty years his junior. No details of this marriage survive.

In a photograph from his sister, Elizabeth's, collection, Charles appears to have switched occupations and left his work as a miner to work as a chef, baker, or waiter on the railroad. The photo shows Charles, wearing a chef's apron, standing on the steps of a dining car. One anecdote indicates Charles worked as a baker after injuring his hand in a mining accident. This photo, of an older, somewhat stouter man, and a mention of Charles as a survivor in his father's 1919 obituary, are the last glimpses of him. No details of his life after 1919 survived.

Charles Rubley Genealogical Summary Three Generations

Charles Rubley, Jr. was born about 1874 in Switzerland - the village and canton of his origin have not been identified. His death date is not know. Charles arrived in New York with his parents and four siblings on March 26, 1880. After brief stays in New York and Pennsylvania, the family settled in Tennessee. On December 23, 1895 Charles, Jr. married Anna Nancy Rudolf von Rohr, in Grundy County, Tennessee. Anna was born in the Swiss Colony of Gruetli in Grundy County on January 13, 1873 to Leonhard Rudolf von Rohr and Elizabeth Schonemann and died May 3, 1932 in Tarlton. Charles and Anna von Rohr Rubley were divorced before 1902.

Charles and Anna von Rohr Rubley had two children:

1. **Carlana Emmalene Rubley** was born August 11, 1896 in Grundy County, Tennessee. She died January 25, 1993 at Monteagle, Tennessee. Carlana married John Herman Morgan Hobbs, son of James and Sarah Dykes Hobbs, on November 21, 1915 in Gross' Cove near Tarlton in Grundy County. Herman Hobbs was born May 24, 1888 at Tarlton and died September 11, 1966 in at Cumberland Heights, Tennessee. Herman and Carlana Rubley Hobbs are buried in the cemetery at Morton Memorial Methodist Church at Tarlton.

Herman and Carlana Rubley Hobbs had six children:

- Wilsie Emmalene Hobbs was born September 1, 1916 at Tarlton, and died June 10, 2003 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She married Jasper Joe Tate on December 20, 1941 at Rossville, Georgia. Jasper, the son of Albert Franklin and Elizabeth Pearl King Tate, was born at Tatesville, Tennessee on November 9, 1915 and died at Chattanooga, Tennessee on September 23, 2001. Jasper and Wilsie Hobbs Tate are buried in Hunerwadel Cemetery at Beersheba Springs, Tennessee. Jasper and Wilsie Hobbs Tate had three children.
- James Garnet Hobbs was born July 9, 1918 at Tarlton and died October 23, 1995 at McMinnville, Tennessee. He married Georgia Marie "June" Smartt on January 5, 1952 in Rossville, Georgia. June, the daughter of Lawrence Smartt and Barbara Meeks, was born May 31, 1928 at Tracy City and died June 4, 1992 at Beersheba Springs, Tennessee. James and June Smartt Hobbs are buried at Hunerwadel Cemetery in Beersheba Springs. James and June Smartt Hobbs had five children.
- Charles Frederick Hobbs was born August 26, 1920 at Tarlton and died August 31, 1920 at Tarlton. He is buried at Morton Memorial Methodist Church cemetery in Tarlton.
- Sarah Ann Hobbs was born July 16, 1924 in Tarlton. She married Leonard Parker Walker on September 21, 1946 in Rossville, Georgia. Parker, the son of Thomas J. and Elnora McCarver Walker, was born on February 7, 1921 in Beersheba Springs, Tennessee and died August 22, 2002 in McMinnville, Tennessee. He is buried in Hunerwadel Cemetery in Beersheba Springs. Parker and Sara Ann Hobbs Walker had two children.
- Dorothy Jewell Hobbs was born on October 15, 1928 in Tarlton. She married Freeman Silas Irvin on June 8, 1951 in Rossville, Georgia. Freeman, the son of Robert C. and Susie Nunley Irvin, was born on August 16, 1924 at Coalmont, Tennessee and died October 16, 1999 at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He is buried in Coalmont Cemetery at Coalmont, Tennessee. Freeman and Dorothy Hobbs Irvin had one child.
- Carlana Joyce Hobbs was born September 11, 1934 at Tarlton. She married Joseph Harvin Knowles, Sr. on February 26, 1954 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Joe, the son of Claude P. and Rose

Cambell Knowles, was born on September 13, 1932 at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

- Joe and Joyce Hobbs Knowles had one child.

2. **Ernest Rubley** was born October 18, 1898 in Pratt City, Alabama and died September 22, 1989 at McMinnville, Tennessee. He married Lena Pearl Thompson on May 4, 1928 in Grundy County, Tennessee. Lena Pearl, the daughter of John and Christine Daniel Thompson, was born October 3, 1905 in Grundy County and died November 8, 1988 in McMinnville, Tennessee. Ernest and Lena Pearl Thompson Rubley are buried in King Cemetery at Tarlton.

Ernest and Lena Pearl Thompson had eight children.

- Charles Rubley was born on November 26, 1929 in Tarlton. He married Marilyn Ball.

Charles and Marilyn Ball Rubley had two children.

- Carl Winfred "Bill" Rubley was born April 30, 1932 in Tarlton and died November 2, 2003 in Sterling Heights, Michigan. Bill married Arlene Patricia Wolst on November 23, 1957 in Detroit, Michigan.

Bill and Pat Wolst Rubley had two children.

- Ernest Cline Rubley was born on August 21, 1935 in Tarlton. He married Jewel Dean Smith on July 31, 1957. Dean, the child of Cecil and Unknown Williamson Smith, was born on October 25, 1938 in Warren County, Tennessee.

Ernest Cline and Dean Smith Rubley had one child.

- Johnny Eugene Rubley was born on October 27, 1937 in Tarlton and died on January 25, 2008 in McMinnville, Tennessee and was buried in King Cemetery at Tarlton. He married Bertha Davis
Johnny and Bertha Davis Rubley had three children.
Johnny Eugene Rubley married second Debra Kay Black who was born July 26, 1952.

Johnny Eugene Rubley and Debra Black had no children.

- Jack Alvin Rubley was born June 29, 1941 in McMinnville, Tennessee. Jack married Mary Charles Knowles on June 26, 1971 in McMinnville, Tennessee.

Jack and Mary Charles Knowles Rubley had one child.

- James Earl Rubley was born on February 10, 1944 in McMinnville, Tennessee. James Earl married Patty Sue Fairbanks on October 4, 1969. Patty, child of Stewart Douglas and Unknown Fults, was born on February 5, 1945 in McMinnville, Tennessee and died on May 26, 2001 in McMinnville.

James Earl and Patty Fairbanks Rubley had two children.

James Earl Rubley married second Gina.

- Anna Christine Rubley was born August 24, 1946 in McMinnville, Tennessee. Anna married Gary Wane Painter on

February 12, 1966 in McMinnville, Tennessee. Gary Wane Painter was born on December 25, 1945 in McMinnville, Tennessee.

Gary Wane and Anna Christine Painter had one child.

- David Edwin Rubley was born February 17, 1949 in McMinnville, Tennessee. David married Sylvia Pedigo. David and Sylvia Pedigo Rubley had two children. David Edwin Rubley married second Charlotte Elizabeth Maxwell who was born February 25, 1951. David and Charlotte Maxwell Rubley had no children.

Charles Rubley, Jr. married second Susan Loudermilk, on November 24, 1903, in Greenwood, Arkansas. The marriage record and the 1910 U. S. Federal Census for Arkansas entry are in the name of Charles Ruby Susan was born ca. 1887 in Arkansas.

Charles and Susan Loudermilk Rubley had two known children:

1. Amy Rubley was born ca. 1906 in Arkansas. The 1910 U. S. Federal Census for Arkansas entry is recorded in the name Amy Ruby. Nothing further is known about Amy Ruby(ley).
2. Laura Rubley was born ca. 1908 in Arkansas. The 1910 U. S. Federal Census for Arkansas entry is recorded in the name Laura Ruby. Nothing further is known about Laura Ruby(ley).

Charles Rubley, Jr. married third Lula Fish, on December 13, 1913, in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Lula Fish was born ca. 1894. The marriage record is in the name of Charles Ruby.

Charles and Lula Fish Rubley had no known children.

2012 Additional Information Concerning Charles Rubley, Jr.

Sometime after 1920, Charles married for the fourth time. He married Stella (Last Name Unknowing).

Charles passed away December 27, 1952 and was buried in Granby, MO. Stella lived until 1961 and was also buried in Granby, MO.

This information provided by Sandra Hereford, the original author of this paper.