

Alpha May Kershaw

Prepared by Vivienne (Richards) Jones - Retyped by Jim McKinney

Alpha May was the eldest daughter of Joseph Watson Bloomer and Nancy Jermima Sloan Bloomer. She was born May 22, 1880.

She lived on the family farm near New Point, Missouri until she married except for a short time when her parents homesteaded in Chadron, Nebraska. Her third sister, Maude Elizabeth was born at Chadron.

Alpha May married Fred Kershaw on December 22, 1895. She was sixteen years old.

They moved around New Point and its environs quite a lot on rented farms.

Their first child Bernice Marie was born September 14, 1896 while they lived on a farm owned by Alpha's grandfather, Allan Trimble Bloomer.

Later they moved to the Barnard, Missouri area and then on to Guilford, Missouri area where their children went to school.

Alpha May and Fred were the parents of seven children. Bernice, , Inez Glee, Iva Mable, Don W. F. , Robert E. W. and Bessie Winifred and I forgot to mention Dale.

Alpha May and Fred were divorced in Grain Valley, Missouri where she moved after separating from him. Their divorce was final on October 10, 1918.

While she lived at Grain Valley she was employed as a teletype operator at the railroad depot. She also was housekeeper for a family by the name of Wells. Mrs. Wells was a bedfast invalid.

Alpha May moved to Des Moines, Iowa where her eldest daughter lived when she left Grain Valley. She worked as a housekeeper for a Mr. Petty. Mr. Petty lived in the second floor apartment next door to her daughter's home. She and Mr. Petty made plans to get married but for some reason didn't. Perhaps it was because he was a lot older than she. Next she worked at a large store called Harris Emery's in downtown Des Moines. She bought a home on Bluff Street. Here her second daughter, Iva moved to Des Moines and bought a home a block away from her mother on Bluff Street.

Bernice and Leland sold their first home in Des Moines and moved to Bluff Street next door to Iva. They lived there about a year and then sold and moved to Conception Jct. , Missouri. While Alpha May lived on Bluff Street she took in roomers to help make payments on the house. She became engaged to and married a Mr. John Quigley. They had a short marriage and she divorced him. She never remarried again although she was still young. She always said she couldn't trust herself to make a good choice.

Alpha May made her home with her youngest daughter Bess e most of her life.

Bessie Winifred married Lloyd Hersal Jones of Winfield Kansas on January 18, 1936. He was a soldier at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. Lloyd was also the brother of Lyle Jones who had married Bessie Winifred's niece, Vivienne. Lloyd had several jobs in Des Moines, Iowa and they continued to live there until he got a job in the Immigration Service and they moved to a home in Maryland which was close to Washington, D. C. Later he went to work for Brown's Shipyard during the war and they moved to a small town near Houston, Texas.

Alpha May worked for a Mrs. Ballou in or near Houston. and she stayed with her daughter, Bessie, on her off days. Lloyd finally moved to Sacramento, California working for a dairy and later for Mc Clellan A. F. B. Alpha May worked for other people in the Sacramento area but mostly she stayed with her daughter Bessie.

She died May 5, 1955 of a stroke and jaundice of the liver. She was preceded in death by the father of her children. Fred Kershaw died September, 20, 1933 in Kansas City, Missouri.