

WADE, Talitha Wade

(Abstracted by courtesy of Cindy Taylor This is Talitha's obituary, Columbus Daily Enquirer Friday, October 14, 1892)
Death of Mrs. Wade in Lee County, - Mrs. Talitha Wade, aged sixty, died yesterday at 12 o'clock at her residence in Lee County, Ala., twelve miles north of the city. Mrs. Wade had been sick a long time and her death was not altogether unexpected. She was a member of the Missionary Baptist church, and leaves four children to mourn the loss of a devoted mother. The funeral will take place at 2 p.m. today, and the remains will be interred at the James Perry burying ground in Harris County, Ga.

WALDRON, Edwin Hugh Waldron Jr.

(Abstracted from info received from McCoy Anderson - a friend of Elmer's)
Edwin Hugh Waldron Jr. was born to Edwin Hugh Waldron and Grace Hunt July 6, 1919 in the Welch Emergency Hospital, Welch, WV; He was the first baby born in the hospital. He passed away quietly in Fresno, April 1, 2016. Ed grew up, raising himself in the woods of Welch and Browns Creek area being cared for by his Grandpa Rufus and his Grandma Polly until he joined the United States Navy in 1940. His first and only duty station was Pearl Harbor, and he is a Pearl Harbor Survivor. He was attached to the Litchfield, a destroyer, prior to being sent to NAS Moffitt Field for flight training. Ed spent the remainder of the war attached to a B-26 squadron on Ford Island. After the war, Ed was discharged from Vallejo, CA and went to Inglewood to visit his Grandma Polly who had moved out west during the war. Ed went to radio school near USC and sometime later got an apartment with a classmate by the name of Danny Kain. Through Danny he met and married Inez May Frazier who was also a Navy veteran. They moved to La Habra, in Orange County, and Ed worked as a lithographer, printer, and estimator until 1965 when he started his own business, Arrow Printing. In 1968 he merged the business with Anaheim Printing & Gazette. May & Ed retired in 1978 and moved to their desert home in Yucca Valley, and in 1990 moved to Madera where they spent the remainder of their beautiful years. Ed was a quiet, well loved and respected, wonderful man with many talents and over the years many interests. He was an excellent artist, oil painter, and furniture builder. He did antique clock repair, rock hounding, lapidary, gold panning, and gardening. He ground his own corn and wheat for their bread making, and was a great cook; Ed was a Master chess player, excellent at billiards, poker, and an avid reader. He was happiest flying and stream fishing. He got his private pilot's license and loved to fly off to London Bridge in Arizona and other southwestern spots just for lunch and a fun day. Ed's positive outlook oozed out of him and rubbed off on you every time you saw him. He had a lot to teach us about life and yet was a man of few words with a powerful impact. He was a blessing to all those who had the privilege to know him. His capacity to nurture and love was endless. His physical presence will be truly missed; his impact in our lives will live forever. Ed was a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association and the Sons of the American Revolution. He was a survivor many times over; He survived his childhood for starters, many close calls during the war, cancer, and a heart attack in 1964. He was a very happy and positive man and always lived by the belief that "tomorrow will be a better day." Ed leaves behind daughter Patricia (John) Cline and their sons Sean, Patrick & Ian; daughter Cindy (Don) Reimer and their daughters Jennifer and Olivia, and several great grandchildren, and his niece DiAnn Kutsch. Ed's wonderful wife, "Mayzie", of 54 years preceded him in death in 2004. A graveside service will be held at the San Joaquin National Cemetery in Santa Nella, CA Friday, April 8, 2016. A memorial celebration will be held at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Hall, Sunday April 17, 2016 at 808 4th Street, Clovis, CA. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to support your local V.F.W., The California Veterans Home or the Lung Cancer Society.

WALL, Larry J. Wall

(Abstracted from information from Cindy Veas)
Larry J. Wall 68 of Altamonte Springs, FL bravely surrendered in his battle with skin cancer on June 3, 2010. He was surrounded by his loving family. Larry was born on March 3, 1942 in Huntington, WV to Carmel and Geneva Wall (both deceased). Larry is survived by his wife of 45 years, Charlene; two daughters, Shannon Curtin (husband Michael) and Joy Spradley; two sisters, Carol Fey and Sheri Lazenby (husband Beal); granddaughters, Aniston Spradley; Caitlin, Ava and Trinity Curtin; four nieces, Brenda Clum, Shawna Fey, Grace Davis-Mars, Jordan Lazenby and nephew, Mark Parry. Funeral Services for Mr. Larry J. Wall will be held on Saturday, June 5 at Ascension Lutheran Church 351 Ascension Drive Casselberry, FL 32707. In lieu of flowers, the family suggest memorial contributions be made to Ascension Lutheran Church or The Skin Cancer Foundation. Thank you friends and family for your love and support during his courageous battle with cancer.

WALLI, Arne Walli

(Abstracted from http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2014/05/founder_of_wallis_restaurant_r.html)
FLINT, MI -- With his feet as transportation and two thumbs as fare, Arne Walli began a long trek from the western tip of Lake Superior that landed him in Flint more than seven decades ago. Hitchhiking with a friend to the Windy City to find work at 19, Walli didn't take a liking to Chicago's hustle and bustle -- hailing from Wright, Minnesota, with a population of just over 100 to this day -- and kept moving east towards the Vehicle City as his new final destination. "It's a story he loved to tell," said daughter-in-law Gloria Walli, seated inside a booth at Firkin and Fox, in the same building as the remaining Walli's East Restaurant on Center Road. "He bragged about it all the time. He said he traveled 1,000 miles." Arne Walli, age 93, who died Thursday, May 8, 2014 after a long bout with Parkinson's Disease, left a large footprint on the Genesee County business

community after migrating from Wright, where his parents Sophia and Jacob Walli had 12 children and owned a dairy farm, raising 50 head of cattle and various crops on the rich soil. "He also was proud of his five acres of strawberries he ended up having to plant, pick the strawberries, sell the strawberries and actually raise enough money to build a barn one summer," said his son, Ken Walli. "I think they were like five cents a quart at the time, so it took quite a few strawberries." A Cromwell High School graduate, Arne played basketball in his high school days, heading to the state finals one year with three of his cousins on the same roster from the postage-stamp sized town. Following graduation and the trek to Flint, Arne found work at a gas station in the area, found a job in the truck plant at Chevy in the Hole before moving onto AC Spark Plug where he operated automatic screw machines for a number of years. But it wasn't just work that Arne found in Flint. Gloria said Ken met Frances -- his wife of 61 years before her death in 2005 at 83 following a prolonged battle, including years of chemotherapy treatments, with ovarian cancer -- while at Beecher Gardens. "Her mom owned Beecher Gardens over on the North End," said Gloria. "It used to be the happening spot in Flint, and he would go in there and listen to the music and she worked there and her sister worked there and her brother worked there. They were the band." Ken said his mother played the violin, aunt played accordion and uncle on the drums, but they also both ended up working at AC. The couple married on Aug. 20, 1944 in Flint, during the final year of World War II. "He was in World War II right after they were first married," recalled Gloria, missing Ken's birth at Hurley by one day while trying to dash home for the special event. "He bragged about driving General (Dwight D.) Eisenhower, escorting him." After coming back home and finding work on the line at AC, Ken said there was a change in his father's mentality. "I think my dad kind of had it in his mind that he liked getting into business on his own and he really didn't like working in the shop," said Ken. The couple scratched together their savings in 1950 to open up Richardson Root Beer Stand on (5414) North Saginaw Street in Genesee Township. Ken said the drive-up stand with car hops and no inside seating was similar to an A&W restaurant of the era, and he would bring friends by for a bite and drink, but also began taking money as a child with his brother Bob, standing on a milk crate to reach the cash register. "They had some good root beer, good orange drink and we had the hot dogs and hamburgers to go with it," he smiled. With a business mind churning all the time, Gloria said Arne would sell Christmas trees outside the stand when it was closed during the winter months. Arne continued to work at AC for a few more years, until the business was able to gain enough traction to quit his job at the plant and focus all his energy into the restaurant. When it came time to renovate, Ken said the building wasn't torn down, but moved off the spot. "In 1958, he actually moved that building off the foundation and built the drive-in restaurant where actually you could come inside," he said, with the structure winding up in another community. "I think we had seating for about 80 to 90 people inside and also we had curb service on the outside with car hops." Arne and Frances further expanded in 1961, purchasing a garage to open a supper club featuring her recipes on the same property as the drive-in. "It was an old serving station that the guy did car repairs in," said Ken, with a remodel and addition coming six years later, but it eventually succumbed to a large fire in 1980. "They bought that, remodeled it and made that the supper club." Not only did the location serve as a place to grab some food, but it was in the heart of the cruising path for teenagers at the time. "That was the big thing back in the 60s," said Ken of cars streaming up and down Saginaw, with Gloria adding, "It was like Happy Days." "They drove from Colonel's to Walli's and to A&W downtown," she said. People would back in and line up for miles and miles down Saginaw Street." Ken recalled, "They would find a parking space so they could watch the girls drive by, to which Gloria laughed and said, "Girls and guys. Just about anyone over 50 would know about that, because that's where they'd hang out. Everything was safe. It was a fun time." Even years later, Ken said, "It's surprising how many people we've talked to that said something like oh, I met my wife at Walli's driving around." The business expanded in 1964, with the new Walli's West opening on West Pierson Road in Mt. Morris Township and Walli's Scandia Hall built in 1969, across from the supper club. When the original supper club was a victim of fire in 1980, Arne built a new version behind Walli's West. Not satisfied with just offering food, Walli had two laundromats and began to offer lodging for travelers to the area, building a hotel in 1976 to go along with the restaurants, along with a second location in 1972 at Walli's East, where the current restaurant stands on Center Road today next to the Super 8 motel still owned by the family. It was around the same time Arne became involved in forming the Flint Area Tourist and Convention Council, on which he served as an emeritus member until his death and a member of the Walli family has sat on since its inception. The Walli family continued to build and still operates the Wingate Hotel on I-475 near Hill Road in Grand Blanc Township, managed by Ron Walli, Ken's son -- which Gloria said Arne "was very involved in that too. He went there every day to inspect." After Frances became ill, Arne slowly began to step away from his involvement in the businesses. When the couple took time away from work, they would travel in their motor home, crisscrossing the country with family before eventually buying a second house in North Fort Myers, FL where they would spend a few months in the winter. The family would also gather at a cousin's home in the area, where Gloria said Arne's competitive juices were still flowing, willing to take on anyone in horseshoes, volleyball, softball, but also sitting down and playing cards of any kind he learned growing up during the bitter winter months as a child in Minnesota. "Any time he got around anybody that wanted to play cards, he was there," said Gloria, up to his final days at Cranberry Park, an assisted living facility in Clio. "In fact, right before he passed away, the Saturday before he died we were playing Shanghai rummy with him. He was still sharp." Even with all the good memories for the family, an empty spot remained at the stools entering Walli's Sunday where Arne would sit and chat with customers from any background, share a laugh and smile over a plate of food. "I think he had a great impact on the community. I think at 93, you're ready for them to let go, because they're suffering and they're in so much pain," said Gloria, holding back tears. "But it can't replace the loss you feel. He's in a better place, but we still feel the loss."

Arne Walli is survived by his sons, Ken (Gloria) of Grand Blanc, Bob (Sandy) of Grand Rapids; five grandchildren, Tim (Jacquie) Walli, Tami (Steve) Wolfram, Ron (Erin) Walli, Bob Walli and Vicki Walli; seven great-grandchildren, Makenzie, Lance, Payton, Reese, Sydney, Shea and Avery; two brothers, Sulo (Delores) and Ray (Donna). He was preceded in death by his wife Fran, sisters, Ida, Laura, Alma Bordwell and Jennie Waisanen, brothers, Eino, Arthur, Henry, Ernie and Carl. A funeral service will be Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at the Swartz Funeral Home, 1225 West Hill Road, followed by a private burial in Montrose Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation.

WEIKERT, Matthew W. Weikert

(Abstracted from <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sj-r/obituary.aspx?pid=144232829>)

JACKSONVILLE - Staff Sergeant Matthew W. Weikert, age 29, of Jacksonville was mortally wounded on Saturday, July 17, 2010, while serving with the U.S. Army near Orgun, Afghanistan. He was born May 15, 1981 in Sioux City, IA, the son of Richard W. and Susan B. Kiel Weikert. He is survived by his parents of Jacksonville; a son, Jayse Schaecher Weikert of South Jacksonville; two sisters, Meghan Weikert and Melissa Weikert, both of Jacksonville; the mother of his son, Megan Schaecher of South Jacksonville; his girlfriend, Danica Schild of Greenfield; his maternal grandparents, Wesley and Nell Kiel of Holland, MI; his paternal grandparents, Richard A. and Virginia Weikert of Sioux City, IA; five aunts and uncles, Cathy Dartman of Creighton, NE, Kim Weikert-Moner of Georgetown, MA, Steven (Sheryl) Kiel of Longview, WA, Sheryl (Dave) Mallehan of Holland, MI, and Scott (Cathy) Kiel of Bloomington; and numerous cousins. Matthew was a member of the Jacksonville High School Class of 2000, a former member of the JHS soccer team, and a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps in August of 2001 serving three tours in Iraq over four years. He later joined the U.S. Army serving with the 101st Airborne completing a tour in Iraq and was currently deployed in Afghanistan. As a military team leader, Matt was adamant that his personal mission was to properly prepare the soldiers under his command and keep them safe from harm. In his spare time, Matt enjoyed hunting pheasant with his grandfather, playing golf with his family and friends, and spending time with his son, Jayse. Funeral services will be Monday at the Buchanan and Cody Funeral Home in Jacksonville, with burial and military honors at Liberty Cemetery, west of Jacksonville. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts are suggested to the Weikert Education Fund at Jacksonville Savings Bank.

WELLS, John Keith Wells

(Abstracted from information from <http://www.reporternews.com/>)

Major John Keith Wells, USMC, (Ret.) age 94, of Wheat Ridge CO, formerly of Abilene, TX passed away Thursday, February 11, 2016. A Funeral Service will be Saturday, February 20, 2016 in the Radford Auditorium at McMurry University. Burial will follow in Elmwood Memorial Park with full military honors and military fly over. Service arrangements are being handled by North's Funeral Home, Orange Street, Abilene, TX. Mr. Wells was born February 5, 1922 in Lakeview, TX to Del E. and Eddy Marie (Dunn) Wells. He graduated from Lakeview High School. John attended Texas A&M University for two years before proudly serving his country in the United States Marine Corps during World War II, in the Pacific Theater where he received the Navy Cross for his extraordinary heroism as a Rifle Platoon Leader of Company E, Second Battalion, Twenty-eighth Marines, Fifth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Island, 21 February 1945. He received officer training in Quantico, Virginia and paratrooper training at Camp Pendleton which made him a part of the 1st Marine Parachute Regiment. After discharge from the Marine Corps, he completed his Geology degree at Texas Tech University in 1948. He was a Major in the U.S. Marine Reserve, an Eagle Scout, recipient of the 1985 Exchange Golden Club Deeds Awards, and recipient of the Boy Scouts highest honor, the Silver Beaver Award. He went into the oil business with two ranchers and one oil man. He taught fencing at Texas Tech University. He fought in Dallas for a week and a half where he won the Southwest, US and Mexico title in Saber Fencing. He married the love of his life Kathryn A. Buchanan on June 5, 1948 in Abilene, Texas. He is preceded in death by his parents and wife. He is survived by 1 daughter, Connie (Herman) Schultz of Denver, CO; 2 sons John Wells of Denver, CO, and Wes (Debi) Wells of Waco, TX, 1 brother Clayton Wells of Abilene; 11 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers please make donations to the American Cancer Society or Boy Scouts Texas Trails Counsel Buffalo Mountain District, 3811 North 1st, Abilene, TX 79603.

WEPLER, Creston Lewis Wepler

(Abstracted from the Legacy website)

Creston Lewis Wepler was born on July 12, 1979 and passed away on Saturday, April 2, 2016. Creston was a resident of Pickerington, Ohio at the time of his passing. Creston proudly served as a SGT in the United States Marine Corps and earned numerous citations and awards; such as Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal Kosovo Campaign Medal w1 Star Humanitarian Service Medal Macedonia Sea Service Deployment Ribbon NATO Medal Kosovo Meritorious Unit Commendation Navy Unit Commendation w1 Star Good Conduct Medal and Rifle Expert Marksmanship Badge. He was married to Nicole. Services will be held Friday at the Pfeifer Funeral Home in Reynoldsburg. Burial with honors in Violet Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Creston's memory to the Cleveland Clinic Brain Tumor Research.

WESTBROOK, Shelby Westbrook

(Abstracted from information sent to Elmer by one of his genealogy friends - Brenda Louise Hudson)

Shelby Westbrook passed away quietly (Aug 17, 2016) in Chicago, IL. Shelby Westbrook was born in Marked Tree, a small town in Arkansas. When his parents passed away, he moved in with his brother in Toledo, Ohio. In March 1943, shortly after he graduated from high school, Westbrook enrolled in aviation cadet training at Tuskegee Army Air Field. (He'd never been in an airplane, but he knew he didn't want to be in the infantry. Westbrook finished pilot training in February 1944, and was sent to Selfridge Air Field near Detroit, MI, for training in single-engine fighter planes like the P-39 Air Cobra. 2nd Lt. Westbrook graduated from pilot training at Tuskegee Army Airfield on February 8, 1944 (class 44-B) and was attached to the 99th Fighter Squadron, which had the distinction of being one of the first all Black units formed by the Army Air Corps. In July 1944, after further training in South Carolina, Westbrook was shipped to Italy with the 99th Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group. On R&R, Westbrook went to Naples, Rome, and Vatican City, where his group visited the Sistine Chapel and met the Pope. As a combat pilot, he was even more widely-traveled; he flew 60 missions over 12 countries in Europe. On his 31st mission, his P-51 Mustang developed engine trouble, forcing Westbrook and his wingman to crash-land in Yugoslavia. They were rescued by a group of Marshall Tito's Partisans and delivered to a group of British intelligence officers, led by Randolph Churchill and author Evelyn Waugh. About one month later, Westbrook was back on duty. On a strafing mission over southern France, targeting radar stations one day ahead of a planned invasion, Westbrook believed he saw a fellow pilot, Richard Macon, crash into a building near Montpelier. It happened quickly, though, and the U.S. had no detailed records of it. More than fifty years later, while doing research with French-language materials, Westbrook was able to confirm that Macon had indeed crashed into a building - a German command outpost with more than 40 officers inside. For his service in Europe, Westbrook earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 5 Clusters, the Presidential Unit Citation, the 15th Air Force Certificate of Valor and 5 Battle Stars, with an air-to-air victory over a German Me-109 fighter in October 1944. Promoted to 1st Lt., he served in the 332nd Fighter Group from July 1944 to May 1945. Total service: 4 years active, 6 years reserve. Westbrook returned to the United States in June 1945. His plan was to attend an engineering school, but he was turned down - the director wouldn't accept black students. Mr. Westbrook obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electronics and was employed as an Electrical Engineer at W.R. Grace & Co., a major manufacturing facility that made packaging machines. There, Mr. Westbrook designed various types of electronic control circuits and is listed as the co-inventor of a revolutionary patented processing system that utilized a controlled vacuum as the primary packaging system that is still in use today. Shelby Westbrook took a trip in 2007 to Washington, DC to accept a Congressional Medal from our Government. He frequently is asked to speak at colleges and corporate functions. He is active in his Tuskegee chapter and has co-authored two books regarding the Tuskegee Airmen. His message for youth is: "Turn off the television & video set, life is not a game. Learn to read and develop your abilities with a skill or a profession!"

WHITACRE, H. Lee Whitacre

(Abstracted from the May 16, 2014 Toledo Blade)

H. Lee Whitacre, a longtime farmer who founded a trucking company heralded for its growth in the 1990s, died May 5 in Heritage Corner Health Care Campus, Bowling Green. He was 90. He had pneumonia, his wife, Margaret Ann Whitacre, said. Mr. Whitacre grew corn, wheat, and soybeans on the farm where he grew up in Wood County's Milton Township. The trucking company initially was an offshoot. "He was born and bred a farmer," said his wife, who was an office manager for Whitacre Trucking Inc. in Portage, OH. "He retired from farming at 77, but he retired from the trucking company at 82. He enjoyed the people. We had so many. I worked there right along with him, and our sons. He didn't have a hobby, and he built it from scratch, and it went from nothing to a large company. "By 1993 when his son Gary was president, the trucking firm employed about 100 full-time, reported annual sales of \$6.4 million, and was on Inc. magazine's list of the 500 fastest growing companies. Mr. Whitacre was a founder of the intermodal firm, Roadlink USA, which later was sold. Whitacre Logistics, a company begun several years ago by son Gary - who had been president of Whitacre Trucking and a Roadlink executive - made the Inc. fastest-growing list in 2013. Mr. Whitacre "was immensely proud," his wife said. "He was a very humble man, and he didn't want much credit for anything, but he was proud of his sons and what they accomplished. "He was born Oct. 18, 1923, to Myrtle and Harry Whitacre in Weston, OH. He was a 1941 graduate of the former Milton Township High School. He enlisted in the Army during World War II and was a truck driver attached to the 82nd Airborne Division. "That's where it all started," his wife said. He landed in France weeks after the D-Day invasion and delivered gasoline and other supplies to troops. He resumed farming after the war and several years later bought a truck to haul grain. Eventually, he and his son Dan farmed together, the family bought more trucks, and started hauling freight. Under the oversight of son Gary, the firm in the late 1980s expanded into the burgeoning intermodal field - transporting goods that were shipped by rail, for instance, to a final destination. Sons Dan and Steve also were involved. "It was quite a family affair," his wife said. The couple took several trips to Europe and Hawaii. Surviving are his wife, Margaret Ann Whitacre, whom he married July 23, 1949; sons, Edward, Daniel, Steven, Gary, and Kenneth; 10 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. A celebration of life is set for Saturday in Nazareth Hall near Grand Rapids. Arrangements are by the Rodenberger Funeral Home, Deshler, OH. The family suggests tributes to St. Louis School in Custar, OH, or Cherry Street Mission in Toledo.

WICKHAM, Michael W. Wickham

(Abstracted from information from various internet sources)

Former Roadway CEO Michael W. Wickham, age 67, passed away last Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at his home in Palm Coast, FL. Wickham served as CEO of Roadway Corp. from 1996 to 2003 and was the chairman of the company from 1998 to 2003. He was Roadway's president from 1990 until 1998. He was with Roadway Express for 35 years. Wickham also founded and chaired the American Transportation Research Institute and was chairman of the board of the Board of Motor Freight Carriers Association. Upon retiring from Roadway, he served as a director on the boards of C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Republic Services, Inc. and as Chairman for Douglas Dynamics, Inc. In addition to his work in transportation, Wickham was also on the Board of Directors of Akron's Children's Hospital and served on its Foundation Board. Wickham was born on Sept. 9, 1946 in Elmira, NY to Ernestine (Rodabaugh) and the late Harold G. Wickham. Growing up he was an Eagle Scout and attended the University of Delaware where he played football for the Fighting Blue Hens. Wickham had a love of horseracing and founded the breeding farm, Pauleezanna Thoroughbreds, Inc. in Micanopy, FL. He enjoyed fishing, traveling with friends, and playing golf. Most of all he loved his family. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Barbara, mother Ernestine, brother Robert (Ronda) Wickham and his three children, Devon W. Strickland (Stuart), Michael P. Wickham, and Lindsay A. Wickham; and one grandson, Bryce W. Strickland. Services are entrusted to Lohman Funeral Home of Palm Coast, Florida. A memorial mass will be held at Santa Maria Del Mar in Flagler Beach on February 5, 2015. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation or the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation.

WILLENBERG, Samuel Willenberg

(Abstracted from Internet sources)

JERUSALEM - Samuel Willenberg, the last survivor of Treblinka, the Nazi death camp where 875,000 people were systematically murdered, has died in Israel at the age of 93. Only 67 people are known to have survived the camp, fleeing in a revolt shortly before it was destroyed. Treblinka holds a notorious place in history as perhaps the most vivid example of the "Final Solution," the Nazi plan to exterminate Europe's Jews. Unlike at other camps, where some Jews were assigned to forced labor before being killed, nearly all Jews brought to Treblinka were immediately gassed to death. Only a select few -- mostly young, strong men like Willenberg, who was 20 at the time-- were spared from immediate death and assigned to maintenance work instead. On Aug. 2, 1943, a group of Jews stole some weapons, set fire to the camp and headed to the woods. Hundreds fled, but most were shot and killed by Nazi troops in the surrounding mine fields or captured by Polish villagers who returned them to Treblinka. "The world cannot forget Treblinka," Willenberg told The Associated Press in a 2010 interview. He described how he was shot in the leg as he climbed over bodies piled at the barbed wire fence and catapulted over. He kept running, ignoring dead friends in his path. He said his blue eyes and "non-Jewish" look allowed him to survive in the countryside before arriving in Warsaw and joining the Polish underground. After the war Willenberg moved to Israel and became a surveyor for the Housing Ministry. Later in life, he took up sculpting to describe his experiences. His bronze statues depicted Jews standing on a train platform, a father removing his son's shoes before entering the gas chambers, a young girl having her head shaved, and prisoners removing bodies. "I live two lives, one is here and now and the other is what happened there," Willenberg said. "It never leaves me. It stays in my head. It goes with me always." His two sisters were killed at Treblinka. He described his survival as "chance, sheer chance." The Nazis and their collaborators killed about 6 million Jews during the Holocaust. The death toll at Treblinka was second only to Auschwitz -- a prison camp where more than a million people died in gas chambers or from starvation, disease and forced labor. His daughter said he died on Friday. He is survived by a daughter and grandchildren.

WILLFORD, Janice Kay Willford

(Abstracted from information that Elmer received. Janice was one of Elmer's shirttail relatives)

The Lord has welcomed home his good and faithful servant, Janice Kay Willford, who left her earthly home on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2014. She was a very loving wife, mother and "memaw." Janice was an awesome lady who loved her Lord. She was born in Tacoma, WA on March 31, 1966, the daughter of Raymond and Beverly (Krogman) Nichols. On Sept. 7, 1985, she married the love of her life, Gordon Willford in Alma. She had lived in Gladwin County for the last 29 years, previously residing in Alma. She was employed with Michigan Works. Janice was a member of the Clare Church of the Nazarene and also a volunteer at Skeels Christian School. She leaves her husband, Gordon Willford of Gladwin to cherish her memory; along with her three beautiful daughters, Amanda Willford, Kali (Jason) Partaka and Heather (Ryan) Owens, all of Gladwin. Her children blessed her with five beautiful grandchildren, Logan, Lauren, Brooklynn, Conley and Tanner. Also surviving her is her sister, Dea Ann (Jeff) Leonard of Dallas, TX; brother, Brian Nichols of Shepherd; along with lots of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brother, Raymond Nichols. Funeral services will be Thursday, Sept. 25, 2014, at the Clare Church of the Nazarene, 10160 S. Grant Ave., Clare. Hall-Kokotovich Funeral Home, Gladwin, MI is handling the arrangements. She will be laid to rest at Highland Cemetery in Gladwin. Those wishing to send a memorial in Janice's memory are asked to consider Grand Children's Christian Based Education c/o Gordon Willford.

WILLFORD, Gordon L. Willford

(Abstracted from information that Elmer received. - Gordon was one of Elmer's shirttail relatives)

Gordon L. Willford, age 87, of Gladwin died May 7, 2006 at home following a short illness. He was born May 7, 1919 in Gladwin to William Gordon and Helen (Walker) Willford. He married the former Geneva Thorington in Gladwin on Jan. 22, 1940. Mr. Willford was a lifetime resident of Gladwin County. He was a mechanic for Greer Brothers, a lifetime farmer, and a school bus driver for Gladwin Community Schools for 23 years. He was a member of the Gladwin Farm Bureau and Soil Conservation District. Surviving are his wife, Geneva Willford of Gladwin; his children, Louis (Deborah) Willford, Jim (Lana) Willford, and John E. (Linda) Willford, all of Gladwin, Clara Edgar of Escanaba, and Donald (Wanda) Willford of Bay City; his daughter- in-law, Ann Willford of Gladwin; 19 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren and one great-greatgrandchild, Logan; his sister, Florence Adams of Gladwin; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents; sisters, Eileen Baning and Dorothy Martin; and a brother, Thomas Willford. A funeral service will be Wednesday, May 10 at Hall Funeral Home in Gladwin. Burial will take place in Highland Cemetery in Gladwin. Memorial contributions may be used according to the wishes of the family.

WILLFORD, James W. Willford

(Abstracted from information that Elmer received. James was one of Elmer's shirttail relatives)

James W. Willford, age 74, of Gladwin, MI passed away at Mid-Michigan Health in Gladwin on Tuesday, December 13, 2016. He was born in Gladwin on January 12, 1942 the son of Gordon & Geneva (Thorington) Willford. On May 23, 1964 he was united in marriage to Lana Dicken in Gladwin. He was a lifetime resident and farmer in Gladwin County. He previously worked as a mechanic for Gladwin Oil Company and Davison Auto in Gladwin. He also was employed with Dow Chemical in Midland for a time, and then worked for Willford Excavating as a heavy equipment operator. He was a member of Farm Bureau and a very talented musician playing with several different bands since he was 16 years old. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Lana Willford of Gladwin; daughter: Rebecca Lynn (Dave) Damzyn of Gladwin; son: Martin (Joannie) Willford of Gladwin; daughter: Suzanne Evans of Gladwin; 8 grandchildren and 2 step great grandchildren. He is also survived by his brothers: Louis (Deb) Willford; John (Linda) Willford both of Gladwin; sister: Clara Edgar-Gascon (Jim) of Escanaba and several nieces & nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents and a brother: Donald Willford. Funeral Services will be conducted on Monday, December 19, 2016, at the Free Methodist Church, Gladwin, Michigan. Arrangements are in the care of Hall-Kokotovich Funeral Home, Gladwin, Michigan.

WILLIAMS, Marvin Leroy Williams

(Abstracted from information that Elmer received. - his daughter Sharon is a genealogy friend)

Marvin Leroy Williams, age 81, of Indiana, died Saturday, December 23, 2017 at Beacon Ridge. Son of the late Leason and Grace Gertrude Moorehouse Williams he was born March 18, 1936 in Ernest. A lifelong resident of Indiana, Mr. Williams was the parts manager for McGill Motors until it closed. He graduated from Indiana High School and was a member of Grace United Methodist Church in Indiana and served in the PA National Guard. He was a member of the Indiana Lodge F & AM #313 and the Coudersport Consistory. He owned apartment buildings and a laundromat in Blairsville and volunteered to help run the local Punt, Pass, and Kick program in the area which included a national champion in 1976. He is survived by his wife Patricia Ann Marshall Williams of Indiana, four children; Sandra Rumble and husband Charles of Pipersville, Daniel Williams and wife Kate of Pottstown, Deborah Powell and husband Steven of Alamo, CA, and Sheryl Jacobs of Moorpark, CA; grandchildren Kyra Lynn and Paige Nicole, Timothy Robert Williams, Thomas Michael Williams and Emily Williams, Mariah Jacobs, Travis, Tyler, Alexandra and Eva Powell; sisters Virginia Grace Horstkamp of Byron's RD, MD, Florence Mae Williams of Indiana and Phyllis Anne Pruner and husband Rodney of Coventing, GA; sister-in-law Delores Null of Curensville. Also survived by Pat's family Ken McAfoos and family and Clint McAfoos and family and numerous nieces and nephew. Preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Barbara C. Williams, son-in-law Ken Jacobs and brother-in-laws James Null and Nicholas Horstkamp. Funeral service will be at Robinson-Lytle Inc. Interment will be in Oakland Cemetery.

WILSON, Kenneth Wilson

(Abstracted from a share of Dennis Mulligan on Elmer's Genealogy Corner)

Kenneth Wilson - On Saturday, April 1, 2017, Ken Wilson passed away, with family by his side, at Victoria Hospital, London, at the age of 90. Beloved husband of the late Liz Wilson (nee Bailey). Loving father of Stephen Wilson, Deb Wilson-MacLeod and cherished grandfather of Kayla, Bryan, and Lauren. Predeceased by his siblings Bud Wilson and Faye Marquardt. A Millard George Funeral Home, 60 Ridout Street, South, London has been entrusted with the arrangements. A funeral service will be held Thursday, April 6, 2017 at the funeral home. Private interment at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

WINKELMANN, Richard Winkelmann

(Abstracted from the internet August 27, 2012)

Richard Winkelmann, a Mayo Clinic physician and researcher who helped meld the disciplines of dermatology and pathology, died of pancreatic cancer Aug. 16 at his home in Rochester, Minn. He was 88. "Dad was at the cusp of modernizing dermatology,

taking it to a real clinical science," said his son Rich Winkelmann, of Marine on St. Croix. Winkelmann was born in Akron, Ohio, where his father was a research chemist in the rubber industry. In 1943, during his second year at the University of Akron, he was drafted into the Army, which soon recognized his scientific acumen and pulled him out of basic training for medical training. He was sent to the University of Michigan for premed, then to Marquette University Medical School in Milwaukee. By the time he was finished, the war was over, so he spent his service time at public health centers in Knoxville, TN, and Birmingham, AL. In the early 1950s, he was working as a resident at the Mayo Clinic and toward his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota.

"Dermatology interested him greatly; he felt the skin was an underappreciated and understudied organ. Winkelmann became an early researcher in that area, "studying skin diseases under the microscope and creating the taxonomy of dermatology in English and three other languages." In 1956, his Ph.D. completed, he joined the Mayo staff and chaired its department of dermatology from 1970 to 1975. He wrote six books and more than 800 scholarly articles. Dr. Jennifer McNiff, president of the American Society of Dermatopathology, wrote that Winkelmann was "a leader and visionary ... [who] was instrumental in describing the diagnosis and treatment of innumerable unique conditions, including cutaneous extravascular necrotizing granuloma," a condition commonly called Winkelmann granuloma. He and Anne Robertson, an artist from South St. Paul whom he met in Rochester, were married in 1952 and raised four children. He was ever industrious, his son said. "Once I saw Dad mowing the lawn in a suit and tie" before a party or work, he said. "He said, 'I have a half an hour, might as well not waste it.'" In 1994, Winkelmann retired from the Mayo Clinic and began spending winters in Fountain Hills, Ariz., and summers on the St. Croix. He took up doing research at Mayo Clinic Scottsdale and teaching at Arizona State University. Four years ago, he and Anne moved to Charter House, an assisted-living facility in Rochester. In addition to his wife and Rich, he is survived by another son, John of Cincinnati; two daughters, Lisa Speltz of Guilford, Conn., and Susan Winkelmann of Minneapolis, and four grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 6 at Charter House in Rochester.

WINSHIP, Henry Dillon Winship Jr.

(Abstracted from the Atlanta (GA) Journal-Constitution Friday, December 15, 1989)

Mr. Dillon Winship Jr., chairman of the board and president of Transus Mr. H. Dillon Winship Jr. of Atlanta, chairman of the board and president of Transus Inc., died Wednesday at the emergency room of Piedmont Hospital after suffering a massive heart attack. He was 60. The funeral was today at Northwest Presbyterian Church with burial at Arlington Memorial Park. Mr. Winship joined Transus Inc. in 1952 as an executive trainee and rose through the ranks to vice president. He was president and chief executive officer from 1966 to 1984 and had been chairman of the board since 1972. He resumed the presidency of Transus Motor Carrier Division of Transus Inc. in 1987 and acquired full ownership of the trucking operations from his family in June 1988. Henry Dillon Winship Jr. was born July 27, 1929, in Macon, the son of H. Dillon Winship Sr. and Anne Chichester Winship. Mr. Winship attended Georgia Tech from 1948 to 1951 and graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1952 with a bachelor's degree in transportation. He was a past chairman of the American Trucking Associations Inc. and the Regular Common Carrier Conference of that organization. He was a past president of Georgia Motor Trucking Association. Mr. Winship was a member of the World Business Council Inc., the board of directors of the Business Council of Georgia, the Chief Executives Forum and Northwest Presbyterian Church. He also was a member of the Capital City Club and the Cherokee Town and Country Club. Surviving in addition to his mother, of Concord, are his wife, Patricia Cortelyou Winship; two sons, H. Dillon Winship III of Marietta and Blanton C. Winship of Atlanta; a daughter, Adrian W. Presley of Marietta; two brothers, Emory Winship of Fernandina Beach, FL, and Wadleigh C. Winship of Atlanta; a sister, Anne W. Kelleher of Atherton, CA; and six grandchildren.

WIRICK, John David Wirick

(Abstracted from information received from Bill Wittich, one of Elmer's friends)

Perhaps once in a lifetime, those who are fortunate will have the pleasure to cross paths with someone who will impact their life forever. John was one such soul. On October 20, 2015 John David Wirick was received into Christ's loving arms after beating cancer for seven years. Born in Toledo, Ohio on November 16, 1953 to William & Eileen Wirick, John grew up playing football and was elected All City while playing as center for the 1968 E. L. Bowsher High School city championship team. After traveling about the country, he settled down in Sacramento, CA in 1978. He had many talents and was a gifted musician who also had a knack for solving problems. John truly lived life to the fullest and had an uncanny ability to reach people in a deep, positive and spiritual way. John was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Bill. He is survived by his brothers Thomas and James (Dawn), son Jason (Hillary) and grandchildren John & Michaela. He will be missed but most certainly watching over us

WISE, Wayne Wise

(Abstracted from an article from the Aug 10, 2010 JOC.com)

Wayne Wise, who with his wife Donna founded Western Express, one of the nation's top 50 trucking companies, died July 31 at the age of 60. Wise died in his sleep, according to the Nashville Business Journal. The cause of his death was undetermined. Wise had heart surgery two years ago. The Nashville, TN-based truckload carrier the Wises launched in 1991 had nearly \$440 million in revenue last year, according to estimates from SJ Consulting. It ranked at 39 on the Journal of Commerce's list of

top 50 trucking companies ranked by revenue, and was the 18th largest truckload carrier in 2009. Paul L. Wieck, a long-time Western Express executive and American Freightways and Roadway Express veteran, was named interim president. When Wise started his career in 1971, trucking was still a highly regulated industry. He grasped opportunities offered by deregulation to launch trucking businesses. Not all of those opportunities worked out well -- one of his first attempts to launch a trucking business ended in bankruptcy. But Western Express prospered. Wise got his start in shipping, working as a traffic manager for Carrier Corp. From 1974 through 1980 he was a freight agent for Ryder Truck Lines and T.I.M.E.-DC. In 1981 he founded trucking company Expressco, serving as its president until 1991. Expressco declared bankruptcy in 1988. The case was closed in 1997. Western Express grew throughout the 1990s but shifted into higher gear in the last decade, with revenue rising from less than \$50 million in 2000 to \$594 million in 2008. Its sales fell about 26 percent last year as the recession pummeled trucking.

The company, which contemplated an initial public offering earlier in the decade, raised \$285 million in April by selling eight-year securities. It used the fund to pay off its debt and to upgrade its 2,500-tractor fleet with new trucks. Western Express ordered 900 Freightliner Cascadia tractors in May.

WITCHER, Charles R. Witcher

(Abstracted from information received from Curt Witcher, one of Charles's sons and a friend of Elmer)

Charles R. Witcher, 81, passed away Monday, February 10, 2014 at home in Fort Wayne. Born in Jasper, IN, Charles worked as a salesman with Western Union. He was a devout Catholic, a member of St Charles Borromeo Catholic Church and a US Air Force veteran. Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Doris Witcher of Fort Wayne, IN; children, Chad (Ann) Witcher of Dearborn Heights, MI, Curt (Becky) Witcher of Fort Wayne, IN, Ann (Jim) Schadler of Lansing, MI, Derrick (Kathryn) Witcher of Fishers, IN and Jane (Steve) Henschen of Fort Wayne; 15 grandchildren. Charles was preceded in death by his parents, Valentine and Eleonora Witcher, sisters, Mary Catherine Mercker and Cyrilla Mae Newman. Mass of Christian Resurrection is Saturday, February 15, 2014 at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church. Memorials may be made to the Masses.

WOLF, Harvey Jay Wolf

(Abstracted from the internet March 31, 2010)

Harvey Jay Wolf, 74, passed away on March 29, 2010, at home. He was born on May 5, 1935, to Nathan and Rosalind Schein Wolf in Detroit, MI. He attended 11 colleges and universities including West Point, and served in the U.S. Army. He earned his doctorate of public administration degree at the University of Southern California. Harvey had three distinct careers: physicist in the aerospace industry, professor of public administration at West Virginia University, and was co-owner of Wolf's Head Books in St. Augustine. He was pleased to be a member of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America and to be on the board of the Miami Book Fair International. He is survived by his wife, Barbara E. Nailler; son, David (Lori) Wolf,; granddaughters, Sara and Emily Wolf; brother, Jerrold (Linda Duarte) Wolf; sister-in-law, Luci (Joe) Satterelli; brother-in-law, Pete (Patti) Casteel; nephews, Russell, Steve and Andy Wolf, Michael, Patrick, Adam, and Arik Theeke, Tony Satterelli; and nieces, Alysha Calderon, Lorika Archibald, Dana Johnson and Jill Mason. He was preceded in death by his parents and his beloved dog, Wanda. Harvey donated his body for medical research. At his request, a party will be held at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, 2010, at the South Ponte Vedra Civic Center on A1A North, seven miles north of the Vilano Bridge. In lieu of flowers donations in his memory can be made to: H.A.W.K.E., P.O. Box 188, Elkton, FL 32033, Betty Griffin House, 1375 Arapaho Ave., St. Augustine, FL 32084, or to Community Hospice of N.E. Florida, 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257. St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

WOODS, Tyrone Snowden Woods

(Abstracted from http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2012/09/portland_native_former_navy_se.html)

It was about 10 a.m. Thursday when Cheryl Croft Bennett received the news every parent dreads: Her child was dead. Bennett's only son, Tyrone Snowden Woods, age 41, was among four people killed in an attack Tuesday night on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya. He died while working on a private security detail for the U.S. State Department. Woods, a Portland native and Oregon City High School graduate, retired from the Navy SEALs in 2010. The State Department identified the others killed as Ambassador Chris Stevens, security staffer Glen A. Doherty and information manager Sean Smith. Doherty also was a former Navy SEAL and paramedic who had protected Americans in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Bennett was visiting friends in Bend when she got the call from her former husband and Woods' father, Charles E. Woods. She returned home to Oregon City to catch a flight Thursday night to Washington DC, where she will receive her son's body. "I felt like a wounded animal, like someone severed a part of me," Bennett said when she heard the news. "Even though these guys are in a dangerous occupation, you never think you'll get that phone call," she later added. "But then it happens." Woods is survived by his wife, Dorothy; three sons, Tyrone Jr., Hunter and Kai; and other relatives. Woods' wife declined to comment Thursday when reached on the phone. He was born in Portland and spent his youth in locations around Oregon and Washington, Bennett said. The family included a younger sister, Tiffany Woods. Woods graduated from Oregon City High School in 1989. He competed on the high school wrestling team and placed third in the state as a senior in the 142-pound weight class, his mother said. In 1990,

Woods joined the U.S. Navy and moved to California. In doing so, he declined a partial wrestling scholarship at Clackamas Community College, Bennett said. "He was always looking for a challenge and always looking to push himself," she said. "He didn't feel like he would get that here." During the course of his career, Bennett said she knew he had assignments in Somalia and Southeast Asia. "He would never tell me straight out where he had been or what he was doing," she said. "But every once in a while, I would name a place, and he would smile or nod." Woods had been protecting American diplomatic personnel since 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in a statement Thursday. His posts have included the Middle East, Central America and other areas. Known as "Rone," to his friends and colleagues, Woods was also a registered nurse and a certified paramedic. "He had the hands of a healer as well as the arm of a soldier," the statement said of retired Navy SEAL. Woods' family described him as dedicated, tenacious, clever, focused and good-humored person, who took pride in serving his country. But he was also low-key and reserved, Bennett said, and would likely brush off notions that he was a hero. "He did what he loved to do and he did it well," she said. "There's not much more he wanted than that."