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Research Objective

To document the Harold and Elsidel (May) Hurst family of Ohio and Indiana, the paternal great-grandparents of Thomas Michael White.

Background

Harold Leon Hurst (1895-1951) and his wife Elsidel “Midge” May (1896-1966) were the paternal great-grandparents, through their son William Hurst and grandson Thomas Harold Hurst, of Thomas Michael White, born in La Mirada, Los Angeles County, California in 1973, the son of Janice Ruth White. Basic biographical information was given to the author by cousin David Gary.

Research or Findings

It was first necessary to verify the information given to the author by cousin David Gary. The marriage of Harold Hurst and Elsidel May took place in Marion County, Indiana on 4 March 1916. The database listing also gave the parents of the bride and groom. Harold’s parents are Ayers Hurst and Myrtle Landers and Elsidel’s are Wm May and Louise Monroe.¹ Next, a search was conducted for the couple in the first U.S. Census after their marriage, 1920.² The family was found living in Indianapolis, Marion Co., Indiana. Harold listed his occupation as a Fence Builder for the Fire Works. They owned the home they lived in.

Next searched was the 1930 U.S. Census.³ This census showed Harold (Harry) and Elsidel, (Elsie), still living in Indianapolis, and living with them were Elsidel’s sister Alice and her husband, Harold Meyers. The way the census read, however, was a bit confusing, (Figure 1).

¹ Marion County, Indiana; Index to Marriage Record 1916 - 1920 Inclusive Vol, Original Record Located: County Clerk’s Office Ind; Book: 84; Page: 624 : Indiana, Select Marriages, 1780-1992, FHL Film Number: 499407, p 624.

² 1920 U.S. Census, Indiana, Marion Co., Indianapolis, Ward 10, e.d. 196, p 21B, Roll: T625_454; Family of Harold Hurst, Images online, Ancestry.com.

³ 1930 U.S. Census, Indiana, Marion Co., Indianapolis, e.d. 0404 Roll: 614; Page: 18A; Image: 147.0; FHL microfilm: 2340349, Family of Harold Hurst, Image on Ancestry.com.

957	234	739	Hurst, Harry L.	Head
			Elsie L.	Wife-H
			Meyers, Harold P.	Brother-in-law
			Alice I.	Sister-in-law
			William B.	son
			Betty J.	daughter
			Evelyn	daughter
			Charles	son

(Figure 1) 1930 U.S. Census, Indiana, Marion Co., Indianapolis, e.d. 0404 Roll: 614; Page: 18A; Image: 147.0; FHL microfilm: 2340349, Family of Harold Hurst, Image on Ancestry.com.

It appears that the census taker listed the adults first, then the children. It looks as though Harry and Elsie had four children: William B., aged nine; Betty J., aged eight; Evelyn, aged seven; and Charles, aged five. Further research was conducted and it was discovered that Evelyn and Charles were actually the children of Harold and Alice (May) Meyers.⁴ In the 1930 Census, Harold, listed as "Harry" owned the home, valued at \$4500 and listed his occupation as a Salesman for a Filling Station. He also indicated he was a veteran of World War I. Their children, William B. and Betty J. both listed their places of birth as Indiana.

The search of the 1940 U.S. Census⁵ found the family still in Indianapolis. Harold, aged forty-four, was a postal clerk, with an annual income of \$2,200. Elsie was aged forty-three. Son William B., aged nineteen, was a delivery clerk for a retail grocery store, with an annual salary of \$180.00 over thirty-six weeks of work. Daughter Betty J. was eighteen and worked as a clerk in a department store, with a salary of \$90.00 over 10 weeks of work. Both children indicated they completed four years of high school.

Next, using the names of the parents for both Harold and Elsidel listed on the marriage record, the 1910 and 1900 U.S. Censuses were searched. In 1910⁶, Harold lived with his mother, Myrtle L., aged thirty-two, in Indianapolis. Myrtle is listed as a widow, which indicates her husband Ayers died sometime before 1910. Myrtle lists her birthplace and that of her parents as Ohio. She listed that she was the mother of one child, with one child living. This would indicate

⁴ Ancestry.com Public Tree "Rowntree Family Tree", Ancestry.com user: JaniceRowntreeJohnCooper, record of Evelyn Meyers, daughter of Harold Meyers and Alice May, Ancestry.com. : Michigan, Marriage Records, 1867-1952, Marriage record of Evelyn Meyers and Douglas A. Peers, 9 Nov 1940, database with images on Ancestry.com, citing Michigan Marriages, County File Number 556925, State File Number 238553.

⁵ 1940 U.S. Census, Indiana, Marion Co., Indianapolis, e.d. 96-295, p 1B, Roll: T627_1129; Family of Harold Hurst, images on Ancestry.com

⁶ 1910 U.S. Census, Indiana, Marion Co., Indianapolis Ward 5, e.d. 0096, p 8A, Roll: T624_367; FHL microfilm: 1374380, household of Myrtle Hurst, image on Ancestry.com.

that Harold was an only child. Myrtle was a bookkeeper for a laundry service. Harold, aged fourteen, was a newsboy. In the 1900 Census⁷, Myrtle and Harold were living with her parents, John D. and Mary E. Sanders (not Landers, as indicated in the marriage record) in Lima, Allen Co., Ohio. Myrtle was listed as married, but her spouse was not living in the same household. She indicated she had been married five years. Her occupation was a laundress. Harold was aged four. Further research as to the circumstances and whereabouts of Myrtle's husband Ayers could be conducted.

Moving back to Elsidel, the 1910 census⁸ found her, aged thirteen living with her widowed father, William P. May and sisters Elouise, aged nine, and Alice V., aged six in Columbus, Bartholomew Co., Indiana. It would seem that Elsidel and her future husband Harold shared the misfortune of losing a parent early in life. We can infer the date of death of Elsidel's mother to be between 1904, when Elsidel's youngest sister was born and 1910 when she is not listed in the census. In 1900,⁹ Elsidel, aged three, lived with her parents, William and Louise in Columbus.

Next, a search for the exact date and place of birth for Harold and Elsidel was conducted. Several sources confirmed Harold's date of birth as 28 Oct 1895 in Lima, Ohio.¹⁰

Elsidel's birthdate and place was confirmed as 30 Oct 1896 in Columbus, Bartholomew Co., Indiana.¹¹ One source, the death certificate, listed Elsidel's surname as "Foley" and the informant's name as Oakley Foley. This would indicate Elsidel remarried sometime before her death. A search for a second marriage was conducted and a record of the marriage of Elsidel Hurst to Oakley Foley in Marion Co., Indiana on 15 Jan 1955 was found.¹²

⁷ 1900 U.S. Census, Ohio, Allen Co., Lima, Ward 4, e.d. 0015, p. 1A, Roll: 1236; FHL microfilm: 1241236, household of John D. Sanders, image on Ancestry.com.

⁸ 1910 U.S. Census, Indiana, Bartholomew Co., Columbus, Ward 4, e.d. 0012, p 13A, Roll: T624_34, FHL microfilm: 1374353, household of William P. May, image on Ancestry.com.

⁹ 1900 U.S. Census, Indiana, Bartholomew Co., Columbus, e.d. 0008, p 7A, Roll: 359; FHL microfilm: 1240359, household of William May, image on Ancestry.com.

¹⁰ World War I Draft Registration Cards, Indiana; Marion Co.; Draft Board: 06, Harold Hurst, Roll: 1504021, image on Ancestry.com. : World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942, Indiana; Marion Co.; Draft Board: 06, Harold Leon Hurst, image on Ancestry.com. : Indiana, Death Certificates, Indiana Archives and Records Administration; Indianapolis, IN, USA; Death Certificates; Year: 1951; Death Certificate of Harold Hurst, Roll: 02, image on Ancestry.com.

¹¹ Bartholomew County, Indiana, Birth Records Index, 1882-1920, Volume 2, record of (no first name) May, database with images, Ancestry.com. : Indiana, Death Certificates, Indiana Archives and Records Administration; Indianapolis, IN, USA; Death Certificates; Year: 1966; Death Certificate of Elsidel M. Foley; Roll: 05, image on Ancestry.com.

¹² Marion County, Indiana, Marriage Index, 1925-2012, marriage record of Elsidel Hurst and Oakley Foley, 15 Jan 1955, database on Ancestry.com.

Having already obtained the death date and place for Elsidel, the next search was for the record of death of Harold Hurst. Harold died in Indianapolis on 4 Feb 1951.¹³ Both Harold and Elsidel are buried in Washington Park East Cemetery, in Indianapolis.¹⁴

Next, the search turned to the children of Harold and Elsidel. William B. Hurst was born in Indianapolis on 8 Oct 1920.¹⁵ Betty Jean Hurst was also born in Indianapolis, on 11 Feb 1922.¹⁶ A search of marriage records showed that William married Betty Jane Goebel, daughter of Ernest Goebel and Ethel Hutt in Detroit, Wayne Co., Michigan on 24 April 1942.¹⁷

Betty Jean Hurst married Jack Stowe in Marion Co., Indiana on 27 Jun 1941.¹⁸

William died in Fort Myers, Lee Co., Florida on 26 Dec 2012.¹⁹ He is buried in the same cemetery as his parents, Washington Park East Cemetery.²⁰ Betty died in Indianapolis on 23 Dec 1984.²¹ Her death certificate lists her surname as Kaptain, and her spouse as Ted Kaptain. This would indicate a second marriage for Betty. A search for a marriage record uncovered a marriage between Betty J. Stowe and Ted E. Kaptain in Crawfordsville, Montgomery Co., Indiana on 22

¹³ Harold L. Hurst," The Indianapolis Star, 5 Feb 1951, Page 1, Newspapers.com. : Indiana, Death Certificates, Indiana Archives and Records Administration; Indianapolis, IN, USA; Death Certificates; Year: 1951; Death Certificate of Harold Hurst, Roll: 02, image on Ancestry.com.

¹⁴ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 01 December 2019), memorial page for Harold L Hurst (28 Oct 1895–4 Feb 1951), Find A Grave Memorial no. 75493228, citing Washington Park East Cemetery, Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana, USA; Maintained by Find A Grave (contributor 8) . : Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 01 December 2019), memorial page for Elsidel L May Hurst (30 Oct 1896–15 Mar 1966), Find A Grave Memorial no. 75493227, citing Washington Park East Cemetery, Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana, USA ; Maintained by Find A Grave (contributor 8) .

¹⁵ Indiana Birth Certificates, 1907-1940, Birth record of William Bert Hurst, 8 Oct 1920, database with images on Ancestry.com, citing Indiana State Dept. of Health, Volume Range 109-114, Roll number 019, Certificate 54098.

¹⁶ Indiana Birth Certificates, 1907-1940, Birth record of Betty Jean Hurst, 11 Feb 1922, database with images on Ancestry.com, citing Indiana State Dept. of Health, Volume Range: 16-20, Roll number 004, Certificate 8839.

¹⁷ Michigan, Marriage Records, 1867-1952, Marriage record of William B. Hurst and Betty Jane Goebel, 24 Apr 1942, County File Number: 587492, State File Number: 267122, database with images on Ancestry.com.

¹⁸ Marion County, Indiana; Index to Marriage Record 1925 - 2012; marriage of Betty Hurst to Jack Stowe, 27 Jun 1941, Marion Co., IN; database on Ancestry.com.

¹⁹ Social Security Death Index, record of William B. Hurst, 26 Dec 2012, database on Ancestry.com.

²⁰ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 07 December 2019), memorial page for William Bert Hurst (8 Oct 1920–26 Dec 2012), Find A Grave Memorial no. [147571118](#), citing Washington Park East Cemetery, Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana, USA ; Maintained by Rachel White (contributor [47254825](#)) .

²¹ Indiana Archives and Records Administration; Indianapolis, IN, USA; Death Certificates; Year: 1984; Roll: 16, Death of Betty Jean Kaptain, 23 Dec 1984, database with images on Ancestry.com.

Aug 1964.²² Betty's burial was in the same cemetery as her parents and brother, Washington Park East Cemetery.²³

Conclusion

This was a very successful research session with most information easily found for all parties. Almost all the events took place in Indiana or the surrounding states of Ohio and Michigan.

Future Research

Future searches recommended would be for records of the reasons of the second marriages of Betty Hurst and her mother Elsidel May. Were they due to death of the first spouse or divorce? Research to determine the fate of Harold Hurst's father Ayers could also be conducted. Also, there is plenty of research to be done as to any children of William and Betty (Goebel) Hurst and Betty (Hurst) Stowe Kaptain.

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²² Indiana Archives and Records Administration; Indianapolis, IN, USA; Series Number: 89-204; Year: 1964 Aug; Certificate Range: 000001 - 003099, Marriage record of Betty J. Stowe to Ted E, Kaptain, 22 Aug 1964, database with images on Ancestry.com.

²³ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 07 December 2019), memorial page for Betty Jean Hurst Kaptain (11 Feb 1922–23 Dec 1984), Find A Grave Memorial no. 129181354, citing Washington Park East Cemetery, Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana, USA; Maintained by Rita Osborne (contributor 47817349) .