

# NOA *News*

*Amarillo by morning, Amarillo I'll be there*

VOL XXXVII ISSUE 4 NATIONAL ODOM ASSEMBLY MAY 2020

**2021**

**JULY 15-18**

**HOSTED BY:**

**THE POWELL FAMILY**



from the



My fellow NOA Members,

These days are the best of times and the worst of times.

It is the age of wisdom and the age of foolishness. We are living in arduous days for sure. The Coronavirus or COVID-19 Pandemic has forced us to cancel this year's 2020 NOA Meeting in Amarillo. But I am happy to announce that it has been rescheduled for the third weekend in July of 2021 in Amarillo. It is hard to believe that it has come to this. For the first time in our 41-year history, we will not have a reunion. And although we will not get to see each other and

## SHARE YOUR STORIES

Since we are historians as well as genealogist and this is a unique time in our history, I asked you, our family to share stories or comments about your experience with 'Sheltering in Place'. Share what you,

your family, a group you belong to or the church you love, been doing during this time and help to document Covid-19 for future generations. Don't we wish we had stories from the Spanish Flu pandemic, the civil war or

other historic moments of the past.

See the stories that were shared, but you haven't missed out. They are anticipating most of a year for this event, so share your stories next time.

your editor, Cheryl

visit with one another this year, our organization will survive this setback and we will be together again. There is a bond that we share of family, fellowship and friendship that transcends our present circumstances. It was John Fawcett that wrote,

*Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.*

There is more to this hymn, but this verse is the epitome of our assembly. The NOA will survive and we will persevere as will this great nation that we call home.

I want to remind everyone that although there is no meeting this year, dues are still required and need to be paid. Keep those auction items that you were going to bring this year and get some more so that we can have twice the fun at next year's auction. Send me your ideas for games, show and tell, dining, entertainment, genealogy workshops and anything else you think we will enjoy in Amarillo next year. In the meantime, check on one another and keep in touch with your fellow NOA members.

I would like to offer my condolences to Ray Odom on the loss of his brother, to Peggy Hartsell on the loss of her husband and the Jimmy Ray Odom Family on the loss of their beloved Kathy. These people did not get a proper funeral to say goodbye and my heart goes out to the families

in your prayers along with Helen Harrell, Paula Tucker, Bob Bell and Frances Odom. My apologies if I have left anyone out.

Stay safe and be well, Danny Powell

#### **DNA PROJECT:**

I hope this email finds everyone healthy and safe! I just wanted to put in a plug for the Odom Y-DNA Project on [Familytreedna.com](http://Familytreedna.com). I recently took over the administration of the project and would like to encourage all male Odoms (and all variations of the surname) to have their Y-dna tested, if not already done. [Familytreedna.com](http://Familytreedna.com) offers a couple different Y-dna tests. The Y111 test allows us to compare Short Tandem Repeat (STR) markers to further differentiate the various Odom genetic lines and estimate at what generation they may have split. This is one of the best Y-DNA tests for paternal genealogical research.

For those who wish to dive further back in their paternal ancestry (hundreds to thousands of years), they offer the BigY700 test. It provides you with your parent haplogroup (ex. I1a / R1a / R1b, etc) and your terminal subclade or branch for comparison with other Odoms. This test can be helpful in identifying your paternal cousins further back in your ancestry who may not share our same surname since surnames were not in common usage until a few hundred years ago. It also proves that regardless of haplogroup, we all descend from Adam and Eve and are all family!

Over the past few years, I completed both the Y111 and BigY tests and was able to connect with a handful of other Odoms who share my earliest confirmed ancestor (John Odum, b. 1776 in Marlboro, SC and d. 1861 in Columbus, GA). Through the BigY test, I learned that my paternal haplogroup is I1-M253 with a current terminal branch of I-FGC3458. From the matching function and membership in various projects on FTDNA, I learned that my Odom line has a strong connection to a line of the Young, Wheeler, Herring, and Lane families and appears to have Norman ties. I also learned that my branch can be found more commonly in Wales and the surrounding English shires. I found that very interesting! If interested, I encourage you to test and if you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [bulldogdave83@yahoo.com](mailto:bulldogdave83@yahoo.com). Thank you!

Warm regards, Dave Odom, California, MD



## Homer Eugene “Gene” Hartsell,

Feb 16, 1935 - Apr 10th, 2020

Birth Date: Feb 16, 1935

Death Date: Apr 10, 2020

Funeral Date: Unknown

Location:

[Print this Obituary](#)

**Biography:** Homer Eugene Hartsell, “Gene” transitioned to his final duty position on Friday, April 10, 2020 after a long fought battle with complications from heart and kidney disease. Many did not know he was struggling, as in the time of Covid-19, he was not allowed visitors. His wife, Peggy, would get to visit with him alone at rehab and would have to relay his condition to their daughter, Gina. Always one to keep on pushing forward, Gene knew that this was a long struggle at the end of his life, but he never seemed to let it get to him. He had a smile on his face and would say, “Hey, Darling, how’s it going?” even in the worst of it. Gene was a chameleon of sorts, always blending in and performing well. He joined the Army at age 16, and was shipped out to Korea. Upon finding out his age, they returned him home. At 17 he joined the Air Force, and retired after having spent 21 years in active duty, retiring as a Master Sargent. He was shot down during one of his tours of Vietnam. He was stationed in many different areas. His last three years in the Air Force he served on the Inspector General’s Team inspecting Air Force hospitals, which led him to his next career as an investigator for Medicare/Medicaid fraud with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. He then became the Executive Secretary of the Arkansas Medical Foundation. He became a utilization review consultant with the American Board of Quality of Review Physicians. He retired from that career and then did various other things, working until this year. He could last be seen working at Walgreens. He was happy to serve his America in any capacity he could. Gene was a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Free Mason and also a Shriner. Always a patriot, Gene kept up with all things political. He was a gentleman to the end, and never was there a door that had to be opened when you were with him. He was a voracious reader and could give you the preview to just about any current book you might want to read.

Gene was born February 16, 1935, at Brinkley, Arkansas to Ora Lee Gilliam and Elbert Bernard Hartsell. He had one sister who preceded him in death, Laura Lee Von Kanel. Left to mourn his loss are his wife Peggy Odum Hartsell and

their daughter Gina Hartsell, and two aunts, Mary and Louise. His Welsh Corgis, Dawson, Millie, and Adele, will miss him dearly. Other survivors include sister in law and brother in law Dr. Linda and Dr. Robert Bell of Russellville, nieces and nephews Jerra Lee, Darrell Odum, Audrey Aikman, Ashley Bell, Allynson Dale, Jim Von Kanel, Jr., and Kay Strickland, and their spouses.

He was a member of St. Andrews Anglican Church. Memorials can be made to the Gary Sinise Foundation and to Wreaths Across America. A private graveside service at the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery will be held at a later date.

## Kathy Odom

Kathy Odom, 84, peacefully passed away April 4, 2020 in Palestine, Texas. She was born March 30, 1936 to Clara Bell and Alfred Moore. Kathy was an avid Christian and loved our Lord with all of her heart. She was a member of Antioch Baptist Church. Kathy had a love of people and could talk to anyone. She never met a stranger. Kathy worked as a hairdresser for most of her adult life. She also worked at Grimes Fabric Store in Palestine before finally retiring. Kathy was an excellent seamstress with a passion for quilting and knitting and enjoyed learning of her heritage studying genealogy. One of Kathy's greatest accomplishments was being a grandmother to her two grandsons, Jake and Malachi Odom. Jake fondly called her "Muffin Mawmaw" because she would bake muffins for his students before big test in school. He proclaims, not one of his students in the past five years had failed a test after eating one of her muffins. Left behind to cherish her memory is her loving husband, Jimmy Ray Odom of Palestine, two sons Jimmy Earl and wife Marlene of Aurora, Colorado, Randy and his wife Robbin Odom of Lake Charles, Louisiana, grandsons Jake Odom and wife Jessica of Palestine, and Malachi Odom of Lake Charles. Kathy had an extended family with several grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her loving mother and father. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

To view online leave condolences or sign the guest book go to [www.baileyandfosterfuneralhome.com](http://www.baileyandfosterfuneralhome.com).





**William Edward Odom, Sr.**, (Lovingly known as Papaw all) age 84, of Lynn Haven, entered into the arms of his Saviour on Wednesday, December 18, 2019, following a period of declining health.

b y

Born April 16, 1935, in Level Plains, Alabama, he was the son of William Jesse and Dollie Mae Odom. He married his childhood sweetheart, Carol Ann, in 1955. He retired from the United States Army in 1979 following 21 years of service. He was a longtime faithful deacon of Lighthouse Baptist Church and was very active in his church and influenced the lives of many people.



He will be sadly missed for the wonderful example he set for his wife and seven kids: Gale DeLeon of Panama City; Jimmy (Cindy) of Warren, OH; William Edward, Jr. (Robin) of Panama City; Robert (Leslie) of Hendersonville, TN; Cindy (Ken) of Lynn Haven; Johnny Odom of Panama City Beach; and Marty Odom of Lynn Haven; along with 15 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren, and 1 soon-to-be great, great grandchild. He is survived by one brother, Bill (Sherry) Odom of Melbourne, FL.

Family and friends are invited to call at Kent Forest Lawn Funeral Home on Sunday, December 22, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. A funeral service will follow on Monday the 23rd at 10:00AM, officiated by Pastor Bob Daley and Jimmy Odom. Burial will be in Callaway Cemetery with full military rites.

### **News from South Carolina Ray Odom**

The challenge for us all now is becoming tolerant of the circumstances beyond our control. I hope all the rest of the Odom's are doing the same. I am disappointed that we all can't get together in Amarillo this year but 2021 is not that far away.

I have been doing a lot of research through Find A Grave and Ancestry and have been successful finding some relatives that I never knew existed. The records are out there but they are very hard to find and in files you never would think to look in. I have tied some of my Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, together but can't seem to tie to the roots in Tenn. .

On personal news, my wife, Joan motored West to Arizona to tend to an ill brother of mine who was fighting cancer, unfortunately, while we were there he passed away of pneumonia while fighting lung cancer. He was the youngest of ten and only 63. We are going to put his ashes in the ground with a lot of family members and are still planning our large family reunion in August. So if any of you are coming through or near Southern Indiana drop by and see us. It is Aug 8, 2020.

**We must always keep family and the search for more family as the number one goal of our organization. Family is a precious asset.**



## from JoAnna Odom

My dad, Edgar Allen Odom, celebrated his 94th birthday on May 1st. We got the family together via a Z o o m teleconference meeting. It was fun, although s o m e w h a t t e c h n i c a l l y



challenging for some. We weren't taking chances on perhaps infecting he or my mom (who turns 89 on May 7th) with COVID-19.



## from Jeanne Odom

Since we are able to play Golf safely, I have been doing just that three x a week. We maintain our social distancing and

ride one to a cart. The flag stays in and there inserts in the hole that make shallow. We meet at the assigned hole and proceed from there.

I've been struggling go thru things but no avail. Closets and junk drawers, clothes and garage are their constant chaos. Certainly I've been reading good deal. I have learned to download books and read them on the Amazon Fire.

## Ray Odom

Cheryl, here are a few things that I remember with my families maladies when growing up in the late 40's and 50's. We had family members who contracted scarlet fever, diptheria, and a few young boys with leukemia who passed away while very young. I also had family members pass away from emphysema in the 1936 flu epidemic. One young man was 19 and his brother 18 .My home town of only 1060 people had over thirty cases of polio ( infantile paralysis) in the early to mid 50's. I had in 1948 a classmate who came to the first grade class in an iron lung but the next year was moved to the state treatment center. For you historians the iron lung was invented and patented by none other than Alexander Graham Bell, the telephone inventor. He had a younger

sister who could not breathe on her own because of medical and physical problems so he made it for her. After the Sabin and Salk vaccines came out in the late 50's and early sixties they were no longer around.

## **from Peggy Odum Hartsell**

I have been working from home during this time.

When Gene passed away, he was retired from the USAF, we had our plots at a VA Cemetery all arranged. We had arranged for the funeral, a traditional military send off. Now, of course, no Church service so that meant grave side only. The cemetery said they would escort us so I was expecting Military

personnel, but no, the military personnel weren't working either. It was the grave diggers on their four wheeler with their red, white, and blue hard hats. One of the four wheelers was equipped to carry the casket.

We were unable to have a pavilion service and had to stand on the street in front of the hearse. They unloaded the casket, put it on the back of the four wheeler and down the hill they went to his final resting place. This was Gene's first time on a four wheeler.

Now back to rules during this virus, the service could only be twenty minutes long start to finish and only 10 people could attend (out of their cars). Most people have more than ten family member and friends.

One of our friends from church called several people to come and sit in their cars

with flags since there was to be no military honors. So as Gene went down on the four wheeler they all got out their cars and waved their flags, big ones and small ones. My thought was you spend almost 21 years in the military and you get twenty minutes, doesn't seem right. Not even taps.

The worse part also was that the government offices were closed, the VA and Social Security office anything you needed to do you are unable to.

Hope you don't think I'm making light of this but I found it to be funny in so many ways. One of the weirdest experience I have ever been thru. People couldn't even come to your house or give you a hug.

## **from Bill and Sherry Odom**

We got to celebrate Sherry's birthday, March 12, with a large group of friends at her favorite restaurant as we do each year. Everything was 'normal' then.

A couple of days later, March 16, we went for breakfast for our 41st anniversary, and then later to Outback for dinner.





At both places there were less than six tables occupied. These places are normally packed. Definitely not the norm. Within a day or so all the restaurants had closed.

Because we have lived in Florida for the past 30+ years, we tend to be prepared for most anything. Each year we go through the Hurricane prep drill. We have a good supply of food on hand always, plenty of propane for the grill, several gas cans full of gas for the generator, a couple cases of water, batteries for the flashlights and shutters for the windows.

When there is a hurricane approaching there is panic buying of the above list supplies. But toilet paper is never an issue or is hand sanitizer. Never felt the need to stockpile TP. I must admit we tend to have a lot on hand as Sherry catches the large bundles on sale at Sam's and gets one "because they were on sale".

Early into the quarantine the Women's Club that Sherry belongs to receive a call for face masks from the local hospitals. Trying to find items to make the masks with the stores almost shut down and everyone else buying to make their own



m a s k s proved to be a challenge. Sherry finally got what was needed to make 100 masks. Along with her daughters, Denise's, assistance t h e y completed the task.

Then the ac went on the blink and we had to have it replaced. Just happen to have an old friend that is in the ac business.

About this time Sherry started having medical issues. A visit to the doctor, a rush to get a CT scan and sent directly to the ER. Then emotional side of the quarantine struck home on a personal level. Imagine taking your love one to the ER and being stopped at the door by an armed guard and told you could not enter. Sherry and I have always been together in everything. I asked well what am I supposed to do? "You can wait out here in your car or go home". Never felt so useless! Four days later I picked her up, at the door, and brought her home. She was still in a lot of pain and I thought in too much to be coming home. Long story short, two days later she is back in the ER, alone. But all ends well as she is home now!

It will be interesting to see what the new 'normal' will be. I just hope that the freedoms that we have enjoyed will return.

### **from Cheryl Odom Thompson**

Our small Presbyterian congregation in Seeley Lake has a huge heart for mission. Amongst other things, we have what we call 5th Sunday giving. There is a 5th Sunday every quarter and on that day the church matches the offering and that is donated to a local or denomination group; food bank, camp, parenting, library etc.

With this pandemic and no 'in person' services, the mission committee was getting a bit antsy. Then the palms came and the discussion around what to do will them became a plan of action. Using materials on hand, we created 31 crosses, added phrases in the spirit of the old Burma Shave signs, attached the palms and on the night before Palm Sunday we hung the crosses on the light poles





t h r o u g h  
town.  
*How do you  
make Holy  
Water?  
Boil the Hell  
out of it.  
With Holy  
Week still in*

full swing and  
Sheltering at  
home in place,  
we hung a  
modern day  
version of the  
stations of the  
cross with a  
scripture  
reading, a piece  
of art and a  
prayer for Good



Friday. Again something  
that people could drive to  
like Christmas lights.



Our last event was to  
make May Day basket  
kits (with real flowers)  
for all 175 kids 6th grade  
and down through pre-  
school, in our  
community. We  
distributed them through  
the school lunch  
program on Thursday so

they would be ready to hang, ring and run  
on Friday May 1.



Dear Grandchildren,

When your 4 year old Granddaughters ask  
“Grandma when are you coming home”?  
This is a heartbreak for any loving  
Grandmother. The answer: when this  
Pandemic is over, just doesn’t make sense  
to their young minds. Sure life has  
changed for them, they aren’t going to  
school, and outside activities are not a  
possibility. Life has changed and the  
words of the day are be safe, stay home...  
Children want to know when they get to  
hug Grandma and Grandpa again.

Everyone’s journey is different. Some  
Children visit with their elderly parents  
through outside windows of nursing  
homes. People in apartment building visit  
from balconies. Every country is different  
depending on the criteria demanded by  
the governments.

Here is my story of this time. April 9th  
2020, living with my children in Arizona.  
My winter refuge from the harsh snows  
and chilly days in British Columbia,  
Canada. I am a US citizen, but a resident  
of Canada, and like usual when winter is  
over I head back to Canada. My sister and  
I had planned our sister-time trip. She  
would fly to Phoenix and together we  
would drive and talk our way North. We  
planned to explore and visit family along  
the way. Like everyone at this time trips  
were canceled and plans changed.

Normally I would drive the 3 days alone  
with my dog Grace for company. This year  
was different. The Media had given mixed  
information of what was happening across  
the US. People were out of work, frighten  
and unhappy. Thinking it was better to be  
safe than sorry I made different plans.

A Canadian friend, was leaving the Ranch

hauling his horses home. We decided the smart plan was to travel in a convoy together. We were camping. We packed food and would only stop for fuel. The two nights we spent where we could stable the horses.

Crossing the border was different this year. Question “ Do you have a fever, cough”? “No”. No mention of alcohol, tobacco, or value of Goods returning to Canada. We were told the Government required a 14 day quarantine in our home. Penalty one million dollars and up to three years in prison. Then handed paper instructions. No unnecessary stopping, food at a drive-thru, gas at the pump. It takes 3 hours from the border to home. My traveling partner lives just South of me, so we parted there.

The drive had been uneventful. We shared the road with Truckers bring supplies to home bound citizens across the nation. Occasionally we would see others, but those were few. It had been a lonely highway...

My wonderful husband, had stocked the fridge so lots to eat and drink. I looked forward to the 14 days of rest and relaxation. WRONG. The winter had been a fierce one with lots of snow. Trees had fallen from the weight on their branches. So lots to do to tidy up the property. As per instructions I was not to leave home, no visitors. Since we live on acreage I could go outside and Work. Bonus, the weather was beautiful. The RCMP checked on me twice as promised through phone calls and emails. I hauled, cut, raked, dug and planted my way through the 14 days. My husband was my only contact at 6 feet apart.

Laurel Odom Johnston

From the Canadian Government:

**From:** "Info COVID 19 (PHAC/ASPC)" <[phac.info-COVID-19.aspc@canada.ca](mailto:phac.info-COVID-19.aspc@canada.ca)>

**Subject:** COVID-19: Emergency Order to isolate/ Décret d'urgence obligatoire d'isolement.

**Date:** April 11, 2020 at 1:28:11 PM PDT

**To:** Undisclosed recipients;;

You are receiving this email from the Government of Canada because you recently returned from travelling outside Canada.

An Emergency Order that applies to all travellers arriving in Canada is now in place and you were informed of this Order when you entered Canada.

Since you recently returned to Canada and have no symptoms of COVID-19, you must QUARANTINE (self-isolate) yourself. This is mandatory as you are at risk of developing symptoms and infecting others.

This means you MUST:

- stay at your place of quarantine for 14 days
- not go to school, work, other public areas and community settings
- monitor your health for symptoms of COVID-19
- arrange to have someone pick up essentials like groceries or medication for you
- not have visitors
- stay in a private place like your yard or balcony if you go outside for fresh air
- keep a distance of at least two metres from others

If you start having symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, shortness of breath, or fever equal to or greater than 38°C, or signs of fever e.g. shivering, flushed skin, excessive sweating):

- Isolate yourself from others.

- Immediately call a health care professional or public health authority and describe your symptoms and travel history, and follow their instructions.

Violating any instructions provided to you when you entered Canada as part of this Emergency Order is an offence under the Quarantine Act and could lead to up to:

- six months in prison and/or
- \$750,000 in fines

Further, a person who causes a risk of imminent death or serious bodily harm to another person while wilfully or recklessly contravening this Act or the regulations could be liable for:

- a fine of up to \$1,000,000 or
- up to three years in prison or
- both

Every Canadian must do their part to limit the spread of COVID-19. Delaying the spread of COVID-19 will protect ourselves, our frontline healthcare providers, our essential services and our vulnerable populations.

Thank you.

**From:** "Info COVID 19 (PHAC/ASPC)" <[phac.info-COVID-19.aspc@canada.ca](mailto:phac.info-COVID-19.aspc@canada.ca)>

**Subject:** COVID-19: Emergency Order to isolate/ Décret d'urgence obligatoire d'isolement

**Date:** April 21, 2020 at 1:03:06 PM PDT

**To:** Undisclosed recipients;;

*Le français suit*

You are receiving this email from the Government of Canada because you recently travelled from outside Canada.

You have reached the end of your mandatory isolation period as required under an order to the *Quarantine Act*. Please note that you may still be subject to additional requirements at the federal level as well as requirements from other levels of government. Furthermore, please continue to practice physical distancing and follow the federal, provincial/territorial and local public health measures that are in place.

Continue to monitor your symptoms. If you develop symptoms, immediately contact your health care provider or public health authority and follow their instructions.

Thank you.

***From Helen Odom Harrell: This was in my Retired Teachers newsletter:***

No dictionary has been able to adequately explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED. However, in a linguistic conference held in London, and attended by some of the best linguistics in the world, Samsundar Balgobin, a Guyanese was the clear winner.

His final challenge was this: Some say there is no difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED. Please explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED in a way that is easily understood

Here is his astute answer: "When you marry the right woman, you are COMPLETE. But when you marry the wrong woman, you are FINISHED.

And when the right woman catches you with the wrong woman, you are COMPLETELY FINISHED!"

## INDIANA

We are adjusting to the new normal.....always leaving the house armed with mask and gloves, and making only necessary trips. Calling by phone or skype, friends, relatives....to .....“check on the quarantined”. By national comparison in this county, we have had 4 deaths, and a number of hospitalizations, presently. In thinking of things which could happen in my life, I never thought I would see this. Nor, would I see it for our children. I wonder what relatives, and especially my parents would think, having survived their own quarantines for childhood diseases, the Depression, food lines, the dust bowl (my father rode the railroad boxcars during that time, and in pictures of his work on a TX ranch, one picture looks like the sun is blocked out by dust. Then came WW II, rations, the McCarthy era. (Now that I think about it, maybe all of that gave them the courage to raise the children of the 60's and 70's who upset everything in society's thinking)

During this time I have thought especially about relatives who died of the Spanish flu....my maternal grandmother's eldest sister and her baby son, interestingly dying in the “2<sup>nd</sup> wave “ .....we are warned about today. There are many more death certificates available now, compounding the sorrow of seeing the home address where they died. Two other relatives of my father's side of the family passed in that “2<sup>nd</sup> wave”. My maternal grandmother's brother came home from WW I, wounded at the terrible Meuse-Argonne offensive , receiving the French Cross and Bronze Star.

How are we faring in this present crisis which I never thought I would go through, and which will appear to be changing life as we know it, for a long time ??

For the past 2 or 3 winters, I have planned to finish my family history writing and then retire it.....that hasn't happened. So here is my chance..... sequestered, and I guess I could channel Earnest Hemingway, who would imprison himself, eating and sleeping only, to bring his creation to completion.

One positive..... Mike is captive, and a good assistant for some spring cleaning projects. He's taken an interest in landscaping. It gets him into the yard, on what few really nice days we've had. It also makes an excuse for a trip to Menards, Lowes, or wherever to assess whether the population is following the guidelines and report on anything new. He tinkers with the new boat waiting for the go-ahead. I am grateful to be able to do 2 miles of walking in the neighborhood most days, and we've had even more walkers than we had. Some people whom we might only see as “drive by neighbors” are now recognizable. We are grateful that Dan and Jessica are “essential workers”. Kathleen is not teaching for the rest of the year in Georgia. Her twin Danielle finished her PHD (from home ! ), and accepted a fall teaching position at South Dakota U. She is concerned about the teaching level of face-to-face; her husband can work from home. The eldest Kristine, has stayed mostly hunkered down in her New Orleans apartment, working from home for Tulane. And for those who might remember : Little Dan (first NOA, 1985 ).....we just celebrated his big 40 birthday, quietly here at home, just us..... with social distancing.

Mike has had ups and downs with health, hospital stays, but we are so looking forward to a Texas NOA.

We pray for the health and safety for everyone.

Elizabeth A. Odom Szlizewski/Haskett



## **What a JOYOUS AND SPECIAL 2017 FATHER'S DAY** this will be.

I was born out of wedlock and my mother attended high school in a small rural town in lower Alabama. She married my stepfather when I was 5 years old. She passed away in 2008 after 55 years of marriage to my stepfather. I have two half sisters that I consider and treat as whole sisters based on our positive interaction with each other.

Being unmarried and pregnant and knowing my grandmother frowned on pregnancy out of wedlock must have kept her from discussing the father with her parents. I assume that the embarrassment she felt as a result, may have contributed to her never telling me or anyone else in the family anything about my father. I never asked my mother anything about my real father with the thinking she would one day talk to me about him. She never did. The story about my father and her pregnancy went to the grave with her.

I lived with my grandmother and attended school in the rural community. I was adopted by my maternal grandmother to enable me to attend college. I graduated from a local University and worked for 50 years in 4 different fields, retiring then starting back to work, retiring, etc., retiring for good in the fall of 2015.

I had learned to be independent, had love from my grandparents and other family members, along with a fatherly mentor in an uncle that lived next door. I went on to marry in 1978 and had 2 boys. About a month before my first grand baby was born I began thinking that it was not fair for my kids and grand son to live without knowing the other side of their lineage.

So, In May 2016 I started a family tree and took my first DNA test (23andMe after seeing TV ads) to seek out my father. I received the data in mid June and began looking at the results. I had two 2nd

cousins and a 3rd cousin as my closest matches'. I really did not know what I was seeing, how to utilize or interpret the data, or how to proceed. After viewing the data for a couple of months I decided to do a strictly paternal test and chose the FTDna Y-111 test. I received the results in October, but because of the way the data was presented I once again did not REALLY understand how to put it all together but continued to learn about DNA, genealogy, and how it all works.

Along about this time I was contacted by Kim A. Brown (my DNA angel) who saw a match between me and her husband as a fourth or so cousin. She was hoping we could find a connection in order to back into her husband's bio father. As we began to talk and she heard my story she got interested in helping me and really taught me a lot. She encouraged me to upload my data to GED Match (which I had never heard ) and see if that would lead to any clues. I was also encouraged to take the Ancestry DNA test due to the large size of the database.

In the meantime we determined the before mentioned 2nd and 3rd cousins all had a common set of great grandparents and were linked by sisters. This is when Kim started looking at another sister that had three boys by 2 separate husbands whose ages and location fit with my mother's age and location. This was on March 22nd. On April 29th I received my Ancestry results showing a male match of 1775 CM's across 55 sectors. This was the son of one of the three we had identified as a potential for my father. Also on June 2nd my Ancestry DNA results updated showing a female match at 1966 CM's across 55 sectors. This was the sister of the previous match. Also included was a ½ first cousin to me and the other 2 close relative matches. On June 4th I sent a message to my half brother explaining my story and our

DNA match. He called me the next day welcoming me into his family. I have since met my half sister and my half first cousin all welcoming me into their family. I am overwhelmed that after 70 years I have found my father and so very thankful and relieved that I have been received so positively into their family. What a JOYOUS AND SPECIAL 2017 FATHER'S DAY this will be.



My father



Brother, First Cousin, and Sister.

Me

### **from the Hasketts**

At last newsletter, with much prayer for their progress, we had welcomed the twin sons of Shaun Odom & Morgan Vetter. They were supposed to arrive May 3, but entered the world in March. Lennox is now 8 lbs. 4 oz and Barron is 7 lbs. 1 oz. They are still in NICU, and Barron has just had some eye surgery, but the journey of their progress has labeled them "miracle babies". The faith of their parents has been a testimony from God. The little "Odom Fighters" have been a blessing to all.

Dad Shaun is the youngest of 4 sons of my brother John Franklin Odom who passed May 28, 2019.

Betty Odom Haskett

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The NOA News is published quarterly by the National Odom Assembly, August, November, February, May. Information in this publication is of interest to those people doing genealogical research on the names Odom, Odum, Odam, Oldham, etc. Assistance is offered and research as well as fellowship is shared.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/DUES RENEWAL

(Membership Year is August 1 to July 31)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter preference: ☐ Electronic Download ☐ US Postal Service

Earliest ODOM ancestor: \_\_\_\_\_

(Include birth/death dates; locations; attach ancestor chart if you have one.)

Will you share your GEDCOM file?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you been DNA tested?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, request assistance from/submit GEDCOM file to Durl Odom - [dodom@panhandle.rr.com](mailto:dodom@panhandle.rr.com)

**Please make your check in the amount of \$25.00 payable to National Odom Assembly and mail to:  
Pam Odom, NOA Treasurer, 72 Hubbard Street, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435-2626.**

Your payment of dues entitles you to receive the NOA Newsletter, publication of queries, and entry of your family line into the Members Only Section of the website.

**Direct membership inquiries to:**

**NOA website:** <http://odomassembly.us/>

**Treasurer's email:** [sfgoldhip@panhandle.rr.com](mailto:sfgoldhip@panhandle.rr.com)

**THANK YOU!**

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