

NOA *News*

Amarillo by morning, Amarillo I'll be there

VOL XXXVII ISSUE 1,2&3 NATIONAL ODOM ASSEMBLY MAY/AUG/NOV 2020

2021

JULY 15-18

HOSTED BY:

THE POWELL FAMILY



from your errant editor

Talk about living in my own little world. I had no inkling that I had let my editing job fly out the window in my enforced staycation. This seems to be a theme that I am seeing during this pandemic. Life is definitely different, not all bad and not all good. The good involves the effort we are putting into staying connected within our own circle. Frequent calls, zooming, FaceTime and thoughtful tasks. The bad, the effort that has gotten lost in staying connected to our outer circles with newsletters, meetings, concerts, theaters, dinners and volunteering.

That being said, I am dedicating this issue to all things pandemic.

Greetings from your Treasurer!

Although we didn't have a reunion this year, your dues are still due. Just print the last page and

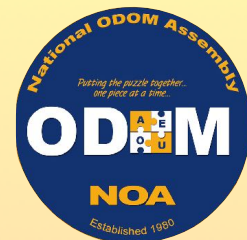
include it with your check for \$25, and mail it to me:

Pam Odom
72 Hubbard Street
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from the President



Greetings NOA Members,

My article for this time of year usually begins with a reference to the great time everyone had at this year's reunion. However, as we all know, 2020 is no ordinary year. The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to disrupt our daily lives and making plans for July 2021 has been challenging. I am confident that we will keep our itinerary from 2020 and carry it over to 2021. Fingers crossed, the virus will be over soon, and our lives can get back to normal.

I do have good news to report on my genealogy. I was going through my Odom data and came across an obituary for Elizabeth Melinda Sherman

Odom. In the article printed in the Corsicana Daily Sun newspaper on 2 Feb 1921, I discovered an interesting detail. It said that Mrs. E. M. Odom was buried in the Mount Comfort Cemetery at Maydelle, Cherokee County, Texas next to her children. Arch Odom and Melinda Sherman Odom had seven children that I can prove. I have accounted for five of the children but the oldest two seemed to vanish and I could not find any information other than their names. Augusta Ann Odom was born circa 1858 in Cherokee County, Texas and her sister, Susan Tobitha Odom was born circa 1860 in Cherokee County, Texas. Both girls appear on the 1870 Census living in Cherokee County, Texas but then they disappear. For years I have searched for them and had concluded they died young, but I did not know the place of death, date or location of their graves. Melinda Odom's obituary revealed an especially important clue, "buried next to her children." These children are Augusta Ann and Susan Tobitha Odom. The girls must have died between 1870 and 1880 in Cherokee County, Texas and were buried in the Mount Comfort Cemetery near Maydelle, Texas. I find comfort in the fact that Elizabeth Melinda Sherman Odom was laid to rest next to her two daughters who died at a young age. Unfortunately, their graves are hidden at this cemetery. If there were markers or tombstones, they are no longer visible. Shoot me an email at dwpowell64@aol.com if you have any suggestions on how to solve this problem.

I highly recommend that once a year you analyze all your research and inspect all the information a second time. You never know what you might find.

Be well and stay safe Odom Family,

Danny Powell

Again from Danny in December

I have also been discussing the Spanish Flu outbreak from 1918 to 1920. I had a 3rd great-grandmother die of the flu epidemic in February 1920. A great-grandfather who was a soldier in World War I contracted the flu while in the service and was medically discharged. He developed encephalitis from the flu and never fully recovered. I think it should be called the hundred year plague. I live in Borger, Texas and for months we considered ourselves lucky because we had very few cases and only one death. That all changed in November. We currently have 700 cases and 28 deaths. The hospital and the funeral homes are at full capacity and a refrigerated truck has arrived to store the bodies. So many dear friends and neighbors have perished but by the grace of God everyone in my family is safe for now. I pray that all my NOA family remain safe and healthy.

Danny

On May 4, 2020, at 10:32 AM,
bulldogdave83 wrote:
Hi Cheryl,

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. 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 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 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!

I have complete 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. Thank you!

Warm regards, Dave Odom, California, MD

MAY News from South Carolina

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.

Ray Odom
South Carolina

Great Aunt Nolley

When I was young around six or seven five years old my dad would take all of us kids , seven at the time, to see one of his great aunts called Great Aunt Nolley who lived down in the river bottoms near the borders of Union and Henderson Counties in Western Kentucky. and the confluence of the Ohio River and Stump Creek. You got to her house by gravel road and then down a dirt road for about a mile and a half to an old shack set on concrete piers. She would come out to greet us in an old dress with apron and walking with a cane and .no shoes in the summertime and I thought cackled when she said hello. She scared us younger kids because she was old, had a growth on her nose and was bent over from age and we kids thought she was a **witch**. The house needed painting badly and some of the shingles were loose on the side of the house and the floors creaked when you walked on them. You could also see the chickens pecking and scratching under the house through the openings between the planks on

the floor, She sometimes chewed tobacco and had snuff in her jaw and the tobacco juice at times would run down her chin. She at other times would smoke a briar pipe when sitting on the porch.

Now the good side of Great Aunt Nolley. She was always friendly to us kids and made a mean pecan pie that she made on a wood burning stove. She could play a dulcimer, autoharp, and a piece of wood with a hole in with gut strings strung across the hole and sing old songs from her youth.. Anyway, we all survived visiting witches, and never suffered any ill effects from traveling to the river bottoms of western Kentucky.

Raymond L Odom

BLESSINGS X2

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

from my brother John Franklin Odom who passed May 28, 2019.

Betty Odom Haskett

ANCESTRY D GROUP

I've been taking a fresh look at the Y-DNA study the National Odom Assembly sponsored about 20 years ago...in particular, the D group which my father is in.

I found information today for one of his exact Y-DNA matches...John Eldon Odom born 1922...as a child of 4 and 14 on the 1930 and 1940 Pearl River County, Mississippi censuses. John Eldon is deceased so I haven't been able to speak to him. His parents were John Riley Odom and Laura *Odom*, and he has several siblings.

John Eldon Odom married Nadine Lavern Fisher on 29 May 1943 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Because the 1950 census has yet to be released, that's all I have been able to find.

Does anyone else have information re:

John Eldon Odom
John Riley Odom, or
Nadine Lavern Fisher Odom?

Thanks in advance!!!

JoAnna Odom

historydiva57@gmail.com

PANDEMIC NEWS & STORIES

JoAnna Elizabeth Odom

My dad, Edgar Allen Odom, celebrated his 94th birthday on May 1st. We got the family together via a Zoom teleconference meeting. It was fun, although somewhat technically challenging for some. We weren't taking chances on perhaps infecting he or my mom (who turns 89 on May 7th) with COVID-19.

Sherry ODOM, of Melbourne FL, made a hundred masks for the local hospitals. Plus she had her gallbladder removed and got to experience the isolation of ER admittance twice and two hospital stays.

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 inventred and patented by none other than Alexander Gramh 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 sities they were no longer around.

Hope this gives you enough for publication.

Ray Odom .

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 hospitilizations, 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 "2nd 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 "2nd 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 Hemmingway, 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



Ray Odom family reunion during the COVID-19 Pandemic
2019 - 106 attendees 2020 - 44 attendees



September News from South Carolina

Wow, another summer has past and as autumn approaches we have a pandemic to deal with in the holiday season. It is a great disappointment that we all could not get together this summer in Texas , but it will only make the meeting next year better. Joan and I have done some traveling to see relatives and attend funerals but fortunately there is still family out there to visit. I had my Odom family reunion in Indiana and in spite of Covid – 19 we had 44 people show up for a fantastic day from ages 78 to six weeks. I mentioned the NOA to most of them and very few of them showed an interest in joining because they say, “ we have you there to represent us and such” , now I just have to let them know there are other reasons to be a member of such a great organization.

I have been doing some dna research into Odoms in Ky, Tenn, Ind, and Ill where most of my family came from and have hit a lot of unknowns the more and deeper I dig and also come across a lot of deadends and unknowns.

I will continue to send in family stories to

the newsletter and encourage others to do the both true and hearsay as entertainment is also part of our group.

We must always keep genealogy and DNA research as the number one goal of our organization.

FAITHFUL RAY

News from South Carolina – November 2020

Wow, another summer has past and as autumn approaches we have a pandemic to deal with in the holiday season. It is a great disappointment that we all could not get together this summer in Texas , but it will only make the meeting next year better. Joan and I have done some traveling to see relatives and attend funerals but fortunately there is still family out there to visit. I had my Odom family reunion in Indiana and in spite of Covid – 19 we had 44 people show up for a fantastic day from ages 78 to six weeks. I mentioned the NOA to most of them and very few of them showed an interest in joining because they say, “ we have you there to represent us and such” , now I just have to let them know there are other reasons to be a member of such a great organization.

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I will continue to send in family stories to the newsletter and encourage others to do the both true and hearsay as entertainment is also part of our group.

I want to wish all members a safe and happy holiday season and condolences to all who have lost family members this year.

We must always keep genealogy and DNA research as the number one goal of our organization.

Your humble and gracious member of a great organization

Raymond Odom

HIGH on the HOG

Pig pageant attracts swine from across midwest

Escape 2020 was the theme of a double-feature open pig show at Gibson County Fairgrounds Sunday—a show attracting entries from all over Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois.

But while the event attracted exhibitors from all over, Gibson County residents had a few extra perks, including \$10 off their entry fees, premium penning locations inside the barn and a local category at the end of each grand drive to award Gibson County exhibitors specifically.

Will Taylor judged Show A, and Jackson Johnson judged Show B, where they talked about bone structure, how the hogs walked and how the purebreds best fit their breed. Among crossbreeds, they discussed weight and how they carried it.

"Some people may disagree with me on this one, but they gave me the mic today, and that's what I think," Taylor said after picking a slightly lower weight pig that he said walked and carried better than a heavier pig in the same class.

Kymberly Reeder competed in the Escape 2020 open competitive pig show Sunday at the Gibson County Fairgrounds.

See more photos
on page A-6



We're celebrating Thanksgiving amid a pandemic. Here's how we did it in 1918 – and what happened next

Grace Hauck, USA TODAY

Tue, November 24, 2020,

“More than 200,000 dead since March. Cities in lockdown. Vaccine trials underway. And a holiday message, of sorts: “See that Thanksgiving celebrations are restricted as much as possible so as to prevent another flare-up.” It isn't the message of Thanksgiving 2020. It's the Thanksgiving Day notice that ran in the Omaha World Herald on Nov. 28, 1918, when Americans found themselves in a similar predicament to the millions now grappling with how to celebrate the holiday season amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"Every time I hear someone say these are unprecedented times, I say no, no, they're not," said Brittany Hutchinson, assistant curator at the Chicago History Museum. "They did this in 1918." On Thanksgiving more than a century ago, many Americans, like today, lived under various phases of quarantines and face mask orders. Millions mourned loved ones. And health officials in many cities issued the same holiday warning: Stay home and stay safe.

Giving thanks for WWI victory, beating pandemic

By late November 1918, the USA – in the midst of the suffrage movement, Jim Crow and the tail end of WWI – battled the ebbing second wave of the H1N1 influenza epidemic, also known as the Spanish flu. The first cases were detected in the USA in March of that year, growing exponentially by the fall. In October, the virus burned through the nation. Dozens of cities implemented face mask orders and curfews and locked down for two to three weeks, temporarily closing schools, libraries, theaters, movie houses, dance halls, churches, ice cream parlors and soda shops. The virus killed about 195,000 Americans during October alone.

As Thanksgiving rolled around, some cities celebrated the relaxation of flu-related

restrictions – partly due to opposition campaigns by retailers, theater owners, unions, mass transportation companies and other economically stressed stakeholders. Washington, Indianapolis and Oakland, California, had lifted restrictions days before, and San Francisco was on the brink of lifting its mask mandate. San Francisco had one of the nation's largest anti-masking campaigns, spearheaded by the Anti-Mask League of San Francisco, according to Howard Markel, a professor of the history of medicine at the University of Michigan and co-editor-in chief of *The American Influenza Epidemic of 1918-1919*. Many people refused to wear masks and were arrested, and when the "line into the courtroom was so long, they laid off arresting people because the system couldn't enforce it," Markel said. On Nov. 13, the San Francisco Examiner reported that "Thanksgiving Day will be celebrated in San Francisco by the discarding of gauze masks, if the present rate of decrease in influenza continues."

A week later, San Franciscans ceremoniously removed their masks as a whistle sounded across the city at noon. "San Francisco Joyously Discards Masks In Twinkling; Faces Beam As Gauze Covers Come Off At Time Fixed," the San Francisco Chronicle wrote on its front page Nov. 22.

Resistance to public health measures was not as "vociferous or widespread as today," but it was there, Markel said. "A lot of these rules and regulations were wrapped up in the patriotism of World War I, and most people followed them. But we don't have that unifying situation right now. You would think the pandemic would be unifying." In some cities, Thanksgiving rituals brought a welcome sense of normalcy. Many Americans returned to religious services, performed charity work and went through with planned football games, parties and performances. In Portland, a "grand reunion service" was planned for the Sunday after Thanksgiving, "in honor of the reassembling after being debarred from worship on account of the epidemic for the last five weeks." Members of various congregations were "ready to greet each other after the long absence," according to the Oregon Daily Journal on Nov. 16.

"The chimes of church bells will once more be heard on Sunday morning throughout the city, beckoning one and all to attend their chosen place of worship, where a double celebration will be held, first over the suppression of autocracy and, second, over the eradication of a frightful plague," the paper wrote. Rabbis, priests, pastors and more conveyed a unified message, Hutchinson said – one of "forgiveness and compassion." "People are urging to be considerate of one another, to care for one another," Hutchinson said. "There are messages of putting the smallness of the individual into perspective with the vastness of humanity." Other cities were still trending in the opposite direction.

Lockdowns, quarantines on Thanksgiving

By the end of November, cases were rising in cities such as Atlanta, Denver, Louisville, Kentucky, Milwaukee, Omaha, Nebraska, Portland, Oregon, and Richmond, Virginia. Many health experts attributed the "renewal of the grip epidemic" to festivities Nov. 11 – later designated as Armistice Day – when thousands flooded the streets to celebrate the end of WWI. "It is not the lifting of the closure ban that is the cause of spreading of the epidemic but the putting aside of all precautions and restrictions by the people of Denver when they celebrated on Victory Day," City Manager of Health and Charity William H. Sharpley told the Denver Post in a story Nov. 21.

On Nov. 27, the day before Thanksgiving, St. Louis reported its highest new daily case count since the epidemic began, and Buffalo, New York, reported its largest jump in daily cases since the lifting of its pandemic ban weeks earlier. Both cities subsequently cracked down on public gatherings, limited the number of passengers on streetcars and ordered those cars to be ventilated and cleaned. In Salt Lake City, residents were under "quarantine" on Thanksgiving, shops were prohibited from holding sales and celebrations were postponed until Christmas Day. Placards indicating households infected with influenza were placed on the front and rear entrances of 2,000 homes. "Owing to the influenza quarantine, the day's festivities ... had to be postponed till Christmas

day. But Thanksgiving services of some sort are being held in nearly every home," an article on the front page of the Deseret Evening News said. "Because the influenza quarantine prevents public gatherings, the day in Utah is being observed quietly and without any spectacular features." Officials in Los Angeles promoted a "Stay at Home Week" over Thanksgiving. The Los Angeles Times issued a call on its front page to "REMEMBER AFFLICTED THANKSGIVING DAY; Influenza Ban Is Felt," saying, "Thanksgiving Day held many attractions, although in a modified sense."

"The salvation Army served fifty pounds of turkeys to fifty old men, but dispensed with its usual big dinner to the outcasts at the headquarters, because of the influenza ban," the Times wrote. Denver, which was under a face mask order, had just opened three emergency hospitals and issued an urgent call for nurses. Churches were expected to hold Thanksgiving services, but "extra precautions will be taken to guard against spread of epidemic," the Rocky Mountain News reported the day before. "Special pains have been taken to provide all the ventilation necessary and to make attendance at the services safe in spite of the influenza epidemic. In a number of churches electric fans have been placed in the auditoriums so as to change the air every few minutes," the article said. In many cities, traditional Thanksgiving Day pageants were held outside. In Cincinnati, which saw a surge in cases among children and firemen, Thanksgiving "exercises" at school were held in auditoriums instead of classrooms to "avoid crowding," the Cincinnati Enquirer wrote Nov. 28. A handful of cities began to see a surge in cases on Thanksgiving.

Cities see cases rise on Thanksgiving

Cincinnati health officials "requested parents to forego children's parties and gatherings during the Thanksgiving vacation," but the number of hospitalized patients rose on the holiday. Schools added an extra day of vacation to the Thanksgiving holiday break to promote "a beneficial result in the influenza situation." "We are not in a happy frame of mind tonight," Dr. Walter List, superintendent of the city's

General Hospital, told the Cincinnati Enquirer on Thanksgiving. "An institution such as this can stand the strain of an epidemic for five or six weeks, but when it continues for such a long period the situation is complicated." Kansas City saw a similar trend. The week of Thanksgiving, the number of flu cases at the city's General Hospital doubled, and on Thanksgiving Day, city health officials reinstituted home quarantine for influenza victims and their families. Schools on break for Thanksgiving were closed until further notice. Public dance halls and restaurants were closed on Thanksgiving in Spokane, Washington, and private parties were prohibited. The next day, the city's emergency hospital received more applications for admission than on any other day during the entire epidemic. On Thanksgiving, "the hospital was filled and death a frequent visitor," the Spokesman-Review wrote.

Jefferson, Iowa, physician C.W. Blake spent much of his Thanksgiving evening making house calls on people ill from influenza, author Thomas Morain wrote in his 1998 book, "Prairie Grass Roots." Blake was attending a Thanksgiving dinner at a farm outside town and let the local phone operator know he would be available later in the day. When he received the call about patients in the early evening, the operator had a list of 54 patients who had come down with the flu that day. "At one farm north of Jefferson a family of four was too sick even to make themselves the most simple meal," Morain wrote. "While Blake checked each one, (his assistant) made a soup from ingredients on hand and left it for the family."

Hopes of a vaccine on Thanksgiving

By the fall of 1918, scientists were working on an influenza vaccine, and many were developed and used over the course of the pandemic. Researchers in New York, Boston, Pittsburgh, New Orleans and Seattle developed vaccines, and thousands of people in those cities and many others were inoculated. Days before Thanksgiving, health officers in Rochester, New York, encouraged people to obtain the vaccine available at a health bureau. In Salt Lake City, the emergency hospital gave more than 100 vaccinations Nov. 30. By early December, free inoculation clinics were established across the

city, and thousands of residents lined up for their vaccinations.

The problem? Researchers didn't know influenza was a virus. "The vaccine that was made was a vaccine against (a bacteria), which they thought was the cause of influenza," Markel said. "So not only were vaccines of this era crude and not all that effective, the vaccine that they did produce was for the wrong organism." Vaccine science was nowhere near the scientifically advanced level of 2020, said Markel, whose mother died from COVID-19 this year. The study of virology was in its infancy, and researchers didn't have the tools to see viruses. Though bacteria are much larger and can be viewed under a light microscope, viruses require an electron microscope, which had not been invented in 1918, Markel said. The vaccines that researchers developed did not stop an impending third wave of the flu.

Third wave of influenza surges after the holidays

Just as cases rose after Armistice Day celebrations, they rose again after Thanksgiving. Dallas, Minneapolis, San Antonio, San Francisco and Seattle saw surges. Omaha relaunched a public health campaign. Parts of Cleveland and its suburbs closed schools and enacted influenza bans in early December. On Dec. 6, the St. Paul Daily News announced that more than 40 Minneapolis schools were closed because of the flu, below the headline "SANTA CLAUS IS DOWN WITH THE FLU." Health officials asked "moving picture show" managers to exclude children, closed Sunday schools and ordered department stores to dispense with "Santa Claus programs."

On Christmas Eve, health officials in Nebraska made influenza a mandatory quarantine disease, and fines ranged from \$15 to \$100 for violations. Approximately 1,000 homes in Omaha were placarded, meaning their occupants were unable to leave for at least four days after the fever had subsided. In Denver, the Salvation Army canceled its annual Christmas parties for children, and the Women's Press Club canceled its New Year's Eve ball. School Christmas assemblies were canceled in Fall

River, Massachusetts, and families with an influenza patient in their homes were warned not to entertain guests and barred from borrowing books from the library. By January, the USA was fully engulfed in its third wave of influenza. The virus spread throughout the winter and spring, killing thousands more. It infected one-third of the world's population and killed approximately 675,000 Americans before subsiding in the summer of 1919. "What did they do wrong? That's hard to say, but all of these measures are like Swiss cheese. They have holes, so you try to use as many layers as possible," Markel said. "To me, those surges just represented whether there was social distancing or not. Flu didn't stop circulating, the question was when did people go out and get exposed to it? And that's what's going on now."

A warning for 2020: 'Stay home and stay safe'

A century later, the nation has recorded more than 12 million cases of COVID-19, and more than 255,000 people in the USA have died. Dozens of states reimplemented coronavirus-related restrictions, and health officials echo the stay-at-home guidance issued decades ago. "The risk of not traveling is less than the risk of traveling," Anthony Fauci, the nation's leading infectious disease expert, told USA TODAY Wednesday. "During this interesting period of a lot of infection going on, colder weather, indoors: Do you want to travel and go to a Thanksgiving meal where there may be 12, 15, 20 people?" Fauci said his three adult daughters won't come home for Thanksgiving this year. Hutchinson, the Chicago-based curator who had COVID-19 in April, said she plans to celebrate Thanksgiving at home with

her dog and Facetime family members. Markel, in Ann Arbor, said he plans to eat Thanksgiving dinner alone, downsize from a full turkey to a sliced turkey breast and Zoom with family. If history tells us anything, Markel said, it's that "the risk of contracting the virus or spreading the virus by congregating in groups or even traditional holiday parties is right now too great."

But I can't seem to turn it otherwise.

Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 28.
Mama didn't feel good to
 day but between us we managed to get dinner. To be sure, we did not have turkey - we are not millionaires yet - but we

SANTA CLAUS IS DOWN WITH THE FLU

Appearances in Minneapolis Stores Banned—10 More St. Paul Deaths.

Seventeen more Minneapolis schools were closed today because of flu. This makes 44 schools closed there. At a meeting of the Mill City board of health today it was decided to ask moving picture show managers to exclude children, to close Sunday schools and to discontinue with Santa Claus programs in department stores.

IN ST. PAUL.

Ten deaths from flu, 43 new cases and 13 releases from quarantine were reported to the St. Paul health depart-

HEALTH ORDER DOOMS LODGE HALL COBWEBS
 Grip Ban on All Meetings Until Places Are Renovated; 21 Theaters Reopen.

GRIP VIGILANCE STILL NEEDED
 Dr. Robertson Warns Against Relaxing Precaution, Despite Wane of Epidemic

'OPEN-FACE' SNEEZERS TO BE ARRESTED
 Orders to arrest any person sneezing in the street must be given to police.

POLICE RAID SALOONS IN WAR ON INFLUENZA; KEEP CHURCH WINDOWS OPEN
 Stringent New Orders Are Issued for Preventing Spread of Epidemic; Police Ambulances Are Drafted; 100,000 Doses of Vaccine on Way.

'NONESSENTIAL' CROWDS BARRED IN EPIDEMIC WAR
 Churches and Saloons Exempt; Conventions, Athletics, Parties Hit.

1,613 NEW CASES SHOW DECREASE IN CITY; DOWNSTATE HIT WORST

FLU CURFEW TO SOUND FOR CITY SATURDAY NIGHT
 Persons Not on Business Expected to Quit the Streets at 9 o'clock.

DRAFT MEN TO BE FIRST INOCULATED FOR "FLU"
 The curfew will ring an earlier, blow in Chicago tomorrow night. Promptly at 8 o'clock the whistles of the police will sound.

FREE DOCTOR
 Influenza victims entitled to pay for a doctor can obtain one by calling Main 417, Room 108, day or night.

CHURCH WINDOWS MUST STAY OPEN, SAYS ROBERTSON
 Health Department Gives Out New Rules in Fight on Influenza.

CHICAGO DEPT. OF HEALTH - CUT 406

CHART XXI
 Headlines in Chicago Newspapers.

OUR FINAL MESSAGE FROM OUR FAITHFUL CHAPLIN

Hello all from Smokey Northern California. Fires are all around us and I know the smoke is traveling as far as Utah. Prayers for all those who are having to leave their properties and prayers for all who have been injured or had family members that were caught in the fires and unable to get out. NOA family, I am grateful for the last several years of being the Chaplain of NOA. It is a President assigned position and I remember when Tom Odom from Alabama suggested we create a position of Chaplain... so as to have prayer at meetings and also when the group went together for gatherings where we ate together at restaurants. I am no longer able to be Chaplain of our NOA group. I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last November, 2019. I most likely will not be at anymore of our gatherings and will hope to have someone step up to be the new person for our group. It is a President Appointed position. I'm sure there are people who would be interested and if so, let Danny Powell know. You can be creative in doing the memorial services, which have taken us on many different adventures. From Bridges and Lakeshores to old Historic villages, always going by the rules of the city you are visiting. i.e: no Mylar balloons I will try to write down what and when the times are you will need to fulfill. Again I shall miss NOA.

I spoke to Glenn Blackburn on the 22nd of Sept. and Thelma has been hospitalized or in Rehab since May. Sometimes her mind is clear and other times it is not. Prayers for both of them.

FROM CALIFORNIA

I HAVE A GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER DUE IN DECEMBER AND SHE WILL BE AN ODOM DECENDENT. SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF MY GRANDSON – ERIC BRETT TUCKER... CECIL TUCKER'S LINE. CECIL IS DALE'S FATHER AND CECIL'S MOTHER WAS EUGENIA, GRAND DAUGHTER OF PLEASANT ODOM. LUGENIA MARRIED PLEASANT ODOM'S STEP SON – WHO WAS THE TUCKER. NATALIE AND I DID SOME TRAVEL LAST YEAR, AFTER MARION ILLINOIS. WE STAYED A DAY AT THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL AND THE OLD CAPITAL IN SPRINGFIELD. SUCH A GRAND AREA TO VISIT. THEN ONTO ST. LOUIS FOR A NIGHT BEFORE RETURNIG TO DUBLIN, CALIFORNIA. We have so enjoyed our extra vacations each time we go to NOA.

Blessings to all. Paula Tucker member since 1991. **DIED 25 SEPTEMBER 2020**

WE NEED SOMEONE TO FOLLOW IN THE GLORIOUS AND FAITHFUL STEPS OF THIS GENTLE WOMAN.



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.

Published on April 7, 2020

Paula Ann Merrill Tucker

1940 - September 25, 2020

Resident of Dublin, CA

Paula was born in Battle Mountain NV to Raymond L. & Wilda F. Merrill, graduated from Ogden High School & Weber State University in Utah. She moved to California 1969. Retired from Pleasanton

Convalescent Hospital after 19 years. Her

gift was her connection with people, as

shown by her many Memberships & Associations around Dublin, the National Odom Assembly (genealogy) and St. Clare's Episcopal Church. She touched the lives of everyone she met (she never met a stranger). She loved flowers & plants & could make any garden grow. She loved spending time with family & friends as well as traveling & exploring new places in the US and abroad.

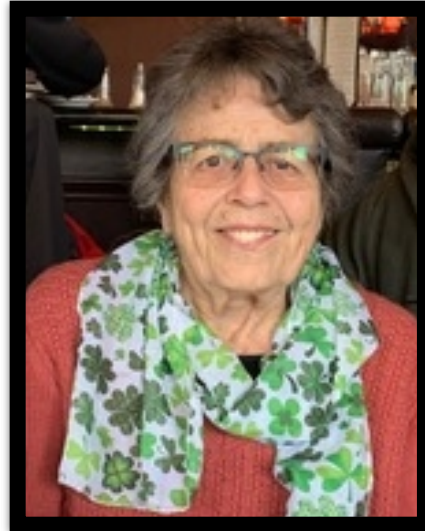
Beloved Mother to Brett D. Tucker, Elk Grove & Natalie Tucker, Dublin.

Nana to Eric B. (Elizabeth) Tucker, Reno. Sisters: Joan Bowman, UT & Gail (Michael) Wise, CO. In-Laws, Jeannine, AZ & LuRue (Brent), LuAnn (David) & Sherrie, UT. Many cherished nieces & nephews. Extended Family: Denay, Dave, Lynn, Culvers & Huffs.

Predeceased by her loving husband, Dale E. Tucker (49 years) & brother, Kenneth Merrill.

Service Online: St. Clare's Episcopal Church Facebook page or YouTube, October 18th, 2pm PDT.

In lieu of Flowers donations to: St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Hope Hospice in Dublin or [charity of your choice](#).



in

Thelma Pope Blackburn

Bartlesville - Mrs. Thelma Pope Blackburn, 81, of Bartlesville, died at 4 A.M. on Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

Graveside funeral services will be held at 11 A.M. on Friday, December 4, 2020 at the Memorial Park Cemetery with Rev. Dr. T. Lee Stephens officiating. Funeral services and interment are under the direction of the Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory.

Visitation will be at the Stumpff Funeral Home Thursday from 9 AM until 8 PM and the family will receive guests for visitation Thursday from 6 PM until 8 PM.

Mrs. Blackburn was born at Clinton, North Carolina on December 20, 1938 the daughter of Fulton and Kathleen (Waters) Pope. She grew up and received her education in North Carolina. She was married to Richard Glenn Blackburn at Clinton, North Carolina on October 16, 1960. Mr. Blackburn became affiliated with Phillips Petroleum Company in Raleigh, North Carolina and his career took them to Boston, Massachusetts in 1965, Hackettstown, New Jersey in 1968, Atlanta, Georgia in 1971 and then to Bartlesville in 1976. They have remained in Bartlesville since that time and Mrs. Blackburn was active as a homemaker. She also was a teacher for special needs children in Bartlesville, the Kid's Crisis Line, the Samaritan Homeless Council, did volunteer work for Veterans in the area, was active as a volunteer for the Washington County Election Board for 35 years, and was an active member and volunteer at the St. Luke's Episcopal Church since 1976. She was also a member and President for 20 years of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, member of the Daughters of American Revolution and a member of the Red Hat Society. Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn celebrated their 25th Anniversary in 1985 with a three week trip to Europe.



Mrs. Blackburn is survived by her husband, Richard Glenn Blackburn of the home in Bartlesville, one daughter, Tina Cooper of Princeton, Texas, one son, Christopher Glenn Blackburn of Pryor, Okla., three grandchildren, Austin Fisher, Dylan Fisher and wife Kensey and Gavin Pierce and one great grandchild, Elliott Fisher. Mrs. Blackburn was preceded by death by her parents.

In lieu of flowers friends who wish may send their memorial donations to: Claremore Veteran Center, 3001 W. Blue Starr Drive, Claremore, Oklahoma 74017.

Friends who wish may sign the online guest book and leave condolences at www.stumpff.org

My father and I met the Blackburns for the first time at the gathering in Indiana. My mom had just passed and dad so wanted to attend and especially meet the infamous Jimmy Ray. We met in Indianapolis and drove on over.

It was like attending the first day of high school as a freshman. Everyone squealing and recounting stories since the last time and here we were standing around, with not a clue how this worked in an ocean of excited people.

It was members like Thelma that helped get us sorted out and started the integration process. Now I can't imagine not seeing her shining face at every gathering. Always with a purpose and a passion for genealogy, she will surely be missed by us all.

Cheri



Bill "Stand up Thelma!"
Stand up.

Thelma "I am standing up!"



William Edward Odom, Jr

April 12, 1960 ~ October 16, 2020 (age 60)

William Edward "Eddie" Odom, Jr., 60 of Panama City, passed away October 16, 2020, at his home surrounded by his family. Eddie was born in Panama City into an Army family. He lived in numerous cities in the US and overseas, graduating from high school in Germany. Eddie lived most of his adult life in Panama City, and worked as a driver and service tech for Lincare Medical Equipment Company. He was a member of the St.

Andrew Baptist Church and Mike Reed's Sunday School Class. Eddie enjoyed watching the Dallas Cowboys and Atlanta Braves, and was an avid card and board game player. He was preceded in death by his father, William E. Odom, Sr.



Survivors include his wife of 19 years, Robin Odom; his children, Justin Flint (Kala) and Danielle Odom, all of Panama City; his mother, Carol Ann Odom of Panama City; 4 brothers, Jimmy Odom (Cindy Lou) of Ohio, Robert Odom (Leslie) of Tennessee, and Johnny and Marty Odom, both of Panama City; 2 sisters, Gale DeLeon and Cindy Tennyson (Ken), all of Panama City; and numerous nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Celebration of Life service for Eddie will be held at 2:00 PM Saturday, October 24, 2020, at the Kent-Forest Lawn Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Morris Denman and Dr. Mike Claunch officiating. Inurnment will follow at Forest Lawn Memorial Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the Chapel from 1:00 pm until service time at 2:00. Please observe social distancing and face covers at the Chapel. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Center of Hope at St. Andrew Baptist Church.

Note: This is the nephew of Bill Odom of Melbourne FL., son of his brother William Edward Odom Sr.



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 32nd 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.

<p style="text-align: center;">In Memoriam.</p> <p>Mrs. E. M. Odom, a well known lady of Corsicana, passed away the 8th of January at the home of her sister Mrs. J. W. Moore, who lived at Dialville, Texas. She was the wife of A. E. Odom who has lived in Corsicana for twenty years or more. Both belong to the Eleventh Avenue Methodist church. A better christian woman never lived. To know her was to love her. She has lived a life that we can all remember. She loved her church although she was afflicted and could not attend for many years. If she had lived to see March 15th she would have been 81 years old. That is a long time to live in this old world of trouble but now she is at rest in the sweet by and by. She was laid to</p>	<p>rest by her children in the Mt. Comfort cemetery. She leaves one son, W. F. Odom of Corsicana, and two daughters, Mrs. Sue Odom of Palatone, and Mrs. Mary Powell of Haskell, Texas, many grandchildren and other relatives to mourn her loss.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Written by a true friend.</p>
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Farewell and Goodbye

You were sent to us to replace one
 who. was
 taken away way to young
 and now you too have been chosen to
 leave
 us and be among
 the ones who have been waiting there
 for so long
 to come join them in prayer and song
 so now dear brother we say farewell
 and goodbye
 and wait our turn to come join you in
 the sky
 we love you and end our prayer
 with we can't wait to see you over
 there

Raymond

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Chaplin - PLEASE APPLY

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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

**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

THANK YOU!

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