

Undated handwritten recollections of Willie Mae Osborn - yellow legal pad, smooth longhand

The roots of the William and Loreen Dailey family started when the two of them met in the state of Texas in the late 1800s.

Loreen was the daughter of a self-styled preacher — Peter Wilson — and Harriett Wilson. Peter came along in the slavery years in Georgia. He had received the mark of a gunshot in his jaw. Although he had been wounded, he was fiery in speaking and was full of the spirit in singing. Peter had a high-pitched voice. He was quick to correct. All friends and acquaintances called him “Uncle Peter,” “Peter Wilson,” or even “Grandpa Peter.”

Grandpa Peter lived quite a few years. He and Grandma Harriet moved from Texas in the early 1900s. William and Loreen soon followed them to Oklahoma. Their family had already grown. William and Loreen had nine children — Roosevelt, Rebecca, Oscar, Red, Ethel, Otis, Mable, Herman, and Mae Willie. The youngest at that time was Mae Wille E.B. The family [was] located in an area in southeast Oklahoma, rural farming communities Nerotown, Brown’s Chapel, Fame. During their stay four more children were born, two of which were twin sons, Harry Allen, Joe Nathan. Nathaniel, and Jewel, the last to be born.

Grandpa Peter and Grandma Harriett lived close by until Grandma Harriett died just before the twins were born, but Grandad Peter soon became a part of the family. Rebecca studied to become a teacher for a short time. Both she and Roosevelt did some extra work in education, then they each followed early job interests and moved away from the family in the twenties. William, Loreen, Grandpa Peter and the family moved to Huttonville, a large community consisting of many African American families mixed with Africo-Indians [sic] and Native Oklahomans. Soon, Oscar left and went back to paints in Texas. Loreen became a very active person in [the] family and helped [with] school activities and church.

She served as PTA president for many years, helping parents come to school activities, 4-H Club, academics, quick weekly student contests, school family rallies, church/ pastor comforting services, baptism, early church training (William was a deacon), [in] some instances invited to into the natives’ funeral services.

Grandpa Peter died after a few years in Huttonville. The family was in search for a stable residence, so finally William and Loreen moved to sharecrop in Sulphur Spring.

[Notes on an early draft timeline with names of brothers, sisters, plus who had children]