

## *Descendants of Alice Rose Kushmaul and Clyde E. Todd*

### *Generation No. 6.1*

**ALICE ROSE<sup>6</sup> KUSHMAUL** (*Virginia Adeline<sup>5</sup> Thomas Martin<sup>4</sup> Sesler, Jane<sup>3</sup> Hibben, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>*) was born March 18, 1893 in Camp Clarke, Cheyenne Co., NE, and died May 13, 1974 in Portland, Multnomah Co., OR. She married **CLYDE ESTELLE TODD** June 16, 1910 in Beverly, Hitchcock Co., NE, son of **WILLIAM TODD** and **LAURA BELLE CARNEY**. He was born April 09, 1888, Quincy, Hickory Co., MO.

Children of **ALICE KUSHMAUL** and **CLYDE TODD** are:

- i. **EMERY WALDEN TODD**, b. March 31, 1911, Morrill Co. NE; d. August 26, 1911, Morrill Co., NE.
- ii. **FREIDA<sup>7</sup> ROWENA TODD**, b. July 30, 1912, Morrill Co., NE; d. August 1, 2006, Hillsboro, Washington Co., WA. She m. (unknown) **STEENROD**.
- iii. **GEORGE TODD**, b. Abt. 1914.
- iv. **THAYNE TODD**, b. Abt. 1916.
- v. **LARUE TODD**, b. Abt. 1923.
- vi. **JOSEPH C. TODD**, b. March 1924, Northport, Morrill Co., NE; d. March 25, 1924, Northport, Morrill Co., NE.
- vii. **LAMOINE TODD**, b. March 27, 1925; d. August 1983, Waco, York Co., NE.
- viii. **CARROLL TODD**, b. Abt. 1932.

**ALICE ROSE KUSHMAUL 1893 - 1974**  
**and**  
**CLYDE ESTELLE TODD 1888 - 1984**

*On this Thanksgiving I will place my grandmother's plates  
before children who never met her, but know her stories.<sup>1</sup>*

Ellen Goodman

**Alice Elopes With The Son Of A Newly Arrived Homesteader**

Alice Rose Kushmaul was the second daughter of Jennie and George Kushmaul to be born in Nebraska. She was born March 18, 1893 at Camp Clarke, Cheyenne County.<sup>2</sup> Shortly after her seventeenth birthday, “*Alice Kushmaul and Clyde Todd eloped June 14th 1910, were married at Beverly [Hitchcock County], Nebr. June 16th and returned home June 28, 1910.*”<sup>3</sup> Clyde E. Todd was born on April 9, 1888, probably in Quincy, Hickory County, Missouri, near where the Census of 1880 recorded his family as residing.<sup>4</sup>

In 1902 Clyde's father, William Thomas Todd, moved his family to Beverly in south-central Nebraska.

*Upon reaching Nebraska Laura [Clyde's mother] looked out of the window of the train to see a raw, flat earth and ratty towns with a lonesome shack here and there and unstable looking wheels of windmills forever turning with the unceasing wind. . . . Upon reaching Beverly, like all brave souls of that vintage, the whole family involved themselves and things went reasonably well for a few years. However, like his ancestors, W. T. was “journey bound,” and the pioneer spirit of adventure was in his blood. He heard about free land in western Nebraska—just there for the taking—and the desire to go West was in his bones. It was said that under the Homestead Act men of 21 years and older could “squat” on 160 acres of barren land and get title thereto. The intrigue was too much for W. T. He must go and make an inspection trip. In 1908 he arrived in Bridgeport, in Morrill County, Nebraska. He filed on 160 acres of treeless land, and learned that his son [Clyde], by “fudging on his age” could file on the adjoining 160 acres.<sup>5</sup>*

Laura was afraid of wildfires and insisted that William build a cement house.

*The four-room house was completed that summer. Concrete is ever so cold and without insulation it was impossible to have a warm house. It was, however, a very cool house during the hot summers. Houses during those early days had no kitchen cupboards or pantries. In the case of the cement house, the second bedroom was used for storage; flour, sugar, lard, milk, cream, and eggs were kept there, plus whatever vegetables grown during the summer months. . . . The wood and coal range in the kitchen had a reservoir at one end in which water for the household cooking was kept. The fuel was buffalo and cow chips (nicely dried out on the prairie by the hot sun) supplemented with coal. The rest of the house was heated by a parlor stove with the same source of heat. In the wintertime if water were boiled on the stove the steam would form ice on the walls. A sod house was much warmer in the wintertime and cooler in the summer. This concrete house*

## THE JANE HIBBEN LINE

*was the only concrete house ever built in this part of the country, but did prove to be the house where the eldest daughter was married.*<sup>6</sup>

Thus, with the arrival of the Todd family, the stage was set for the meeting, courting and elopement of Alice and Clyde, and their settlement in Morrill County, Nebraska. A photo taken in 1917 captures Alice, Clyde in a military uniform, and their three children.<sup>7</sup> It is assumed that the children are Freida born July 30, 1912, George about 1914 and Thayne about 1916. It is believed that they had five more children; Emery Todd born March 31, 1911 and died August 31, 1911, LaRue born about 1923, Joseph C. born and died in 1924, LaMoine born in 1925 and Carroll about 1932.

While she was living in Morrill County, Caroline Elise Miller Seslar recorded the marriages, births and deaths of her relatives. Her journal entries about the Todds documented Alice and Clyde's first two children.

*Alice's and Clyde's baby Emery Walden was born Mar. 31, 1911. . . . Alice's baby took sick with Cholera Infantum Aug. 14th, 1911. . . . Alice's baby died at 11:00 o'clock in the morning Aug. 26th, 1911, was buried the 27th. . . . Alice's and Clyde's baby girl was born July 30, 1912. Named Freda [Freida] Rowena.*<sup>8</sup>

Little is known about the lives of Alice and Clyde. Alice died May 13, 1974 in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon and was buried at Columbia Memorial Gardens, Scappoose, Columbia County, Oregon.<sup>9</sup> Clyde passed on in February 1984 in Portland.

### Additional Information About The Todd Family

Clyde E. Todd's grandfather, William Wallace Todd, was born September 21, 1838 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He was a farmer. He married Martha Gamblin Cook in about 1861 and they had two sons, James Albert born about 1863 and William Thomas born in about 1865. After Martha died from complications of childbirth, William Wallace married Martha's sister, Samantha Marietta Cook on May 18, 1866 in St. Clair County, Missouri. Samantha and William had six children; Edmond, Emaline, Oliver, Levi, Mary and John Calvin.<sup>10</sup>

*W. T., the eldest son of William Wallace, was the father of eight children. He supported his family by bartering, trading, and selling livestock—cattle, horses, and hogs. . . . He was a man of imposing stature with a shock of tousled hair, steely blue eyes, and a deep resonant voice. He always carried a walking stick, which only added to his authoritative bearing and charisma. The walking stick went with him on buying trips. It enabled him to identify an animal in a herd. He was a good livestock person and was able to guess the weight of an animal thereby making his profit. If the animal purchased proved to be several pounds lighter than he had guessed it, he could "loose his shirt." With quick calculation he must determine how much wastage there would be in the by-products, such as hide, hooves, and entrails, leaving a remainder of salable pounds. This man was an expert in his business and a good mathematician—even without a formal education.*<sup>11</sup>

### Generation 6.1 End Notes:

<sup>1</sup> *Boston Globe*, Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, November 22, 2001, Editorial, page A27.

<sup>2</sup> US Census 1900, T9-919, enumeration 49, sheet 11, line 57, Camp Clarke Township, Cheyenne County,

## Chapter XII, Generation 6.1

Nebraska; Ancestor chart, Kathleen Laverne<sup>7</sup> Mount (Ruf) (*Berth Elizabeth*<sup>6</sup>, *John Baldwin*<sup>5</sup>, *Thomas Martin*<sup>4</sup> *Seslar, Jane*<sup>3</sup> *Hibben, Thomas*<sup>2</sup>, *John*<sup>1</sup>).

<sup>3</sup> Caroline Miller Seslar Journal, in possession of Kathleen Laverne Mount (Ruf) as of 2001.

<sup>4</sup> US Census 1880, T9-714, page 376A, Dallas, St. Clair County, Missouri.

<sup>5</sup> Freida M. Steenrod, *Blowouts, Blizzards and Bunk, Ghost Town, Northport, Nebraska*, 1989, Tigard, Oregon, (B&B Litho.), chapter 3, "The Great Plains," pages 18-19.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, pages 21-23.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, page 22.

<sup>8</sup> Caroline Elise Miller Seslar journal 1903 to 1914, pages 9-11, in possession of Kathleen Laverne Mount (Ruf) as of 2002.

<sup>9</sup> Kathleen Laverne Mount [Ruf] ancestor chart.

<sup>10</sup> Steenrod, *Blowouts, Blizzards and Bunk, Ghost Town, Northport, Nebraska*, [Note 5], chapter 1, The Tennessee Ancestors, page 2.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, [Note 5], chapter 3, The Great Plains, pages 15-16.