



# Knight Family Calendar 2013

Christmas, 2012

Our 2013 family calendar is about our maternal grandparents, Julius Byrd and Ida Mae Payton. On a Saturday in September, Jerry, Maureen, Jim, Kathi and Mick and I gathered by ourselves in my home for the better part of the morning and afternoon. We had nothing on the agenda except to look through a pile of old photos and summon our own memories of our beloved grandparents. I had the highest expectations for what we could come out with, and they were exceeded. It was an extraordinary day.

As I assembled the photos and memories, I didn't follow a particular pattern. I only tried to keep in mind that we are asking you to learn about and enjoy two wonderful people who you never met. But maybe you have, because I constantly see them in my brothers and sisters, my own offspring and all of our nephews and nieces. I know Grandma and Grandpa would both be so very proud of every one of you.

> Love, Denny



Early in their retirement, before they purchased the home we knew in Loveland, they rented a house across the street which they shared with Uncle John Payton. One day Grandpa and Uncle John had looked at a home in Berthoud, a big twostory job that appealed to them, and made an offer on the spot, paying the necessary earnest money to hold it. When they reported their purchase to Grandma, she told them, "Well, I hope you boys enjoy that house, because I am not moving there." They didn't get their money back. In later years, Mom would recount the story often, pointing to the big house when our family would drive through Berthoud. We chuckled over it but there was always a sense of awe that

our grandmother, staunchly dedicated in her life's role as the pastor's wife, had calmlv and firmlv put her foot down. - Jim Although we all remember Mom's craftsmanship with a sewing machine, Grandma was quite the seamstress herself. She made the fine dress shirts which Grandpa wore almost daily as a preacher and even after he retired. When I was a teenager visiting in Loveland, I would sneak one of his beautiful shirts from the closet and wear it with blue jeans in the popular style of the fifties. I loved how they felt and would even wear a grandpa shirt to bed. - Maureen

Grandma had a special set of dishes that I would use for my tea parties. I was quite the hostess, serving my honored imaginary guests in the highest fashion. - Kathi

I remember the boys sleeping together in the double bed in the Gold Room at our grandparents' house. It was a small room and the bed just fit. Jerry was so much older and wiser than the rest of us, and he would entertain us with interesting facts about sports and the world for a little while and then tell us to be very quiet and listen for the turtle doves. We would drift to sleep in no time. - Denny



This photo goes with the picture in the upper left. All but Grandpa are strangers to us.



The Jackson family lived next door to our grandparents in Loveland. Mr. Jackson was an abusive drunkard. His battered wife and Grandma worked out a system whereby, when there was trouble she would hang a handkerchief in a window. As soon as Grandma spotted the signal from her kitchen she would call the police. I don't know how many times this system was invoked, but I know it was too often. - Jerry

The Klu Klux Klan was active in Colorado in the early part of the twentieth century. Grandpa told us of his fury and how he burned himself while single handedly putting out the fire of a cross blazing on a neighbor's lawn. - Jim

The Payton family, when they lived at Kit Carson, Colorado stayed for several days at a nearby farm with a family who were all suffering from a bronchial ailment and were too ill to care for themselves. Grandma, Grandpa and the young Geraldine sewed cloth sacks and filled them with barley to heat as acifidity bags to treat the family. Mom often talked about the fun she had, with full run of the farm and plenty of time to ride the horses and feed the animals.

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Trout taken from the Colorado River below Hoover Dam (Uncle Harry was then running a restaurant in Las Vegas)

We took Grandpa fishing at Lake Marie, a beautiful, glacial lake in the Snowy Range west of Laramie on a day they just happened to have stocked the lake with trout. Grandpa caught his limit several times over, and we enjoyed a fabulous fish fry that evening. - Jerry

Grandpa took fishing seriously, and if he took you along, you'd better be fishing. - Jim

I wasn't more than four when I asked Grandpa what his job was. "I'm a fisherman," he declared. Various credentials hanging on his wall proclaimed him to be a fisherman and in others to be a liar. I figured he must have made a good living at his job to be able to live in so wonderful a place as their home in Loveland. - Denny Grandma had a favorite little wordplay she used to say to us:

A B C D Goldfish? L M N O Goldfish O S A R Goldfish C M P N ?

- Jerry

I remember looking up to see Grandpa and Grandpa standing, arm in arm, watching us at play. - Kathi



Great Grandfather James Payton





Julius Byrd Payton, the young man

Julius Byrd, Harry, and Ida Payton, circa 1907

#### LOVELAND, LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO WEDNESDAY, API



REV. AND MRS. J. B. PAYTON **OBSERVE GOLDEN WEDDING** The Rev. and Mrs. J. B. Payton celebrated their golden wedding on Sunday, April 18, by holding open house in their home from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Nearly 300 called from various places in Colorado, Kansas, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska and Wyoming, The Colorado communities included Denver, Colorado Springs, Keenesburg, Pierce, Lyons, Platteville, Boulder, Greeley, Longmont, Loveland and Brighton.

Friends of their youth. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Buttan of LaCrosse, Kan., Mr. and Mrs. William Heaton, formeriv of Larned, Kan., and Mr. and Mrs. David Smith of Pawnee Rock were here to help them celebrate.

Among the relatives of the Rev. and Mrs. Payton at the anniversary celebration were their daughter, Mrs. M. E. Knight, Mr. Knight, and their five children of Laramie, Wvo.: two brothers, John D. Payton of Loveland and L. W. Payton of Dodge City, Kan.; a sister, Mrs. Harriett Broadbook of Radium, Kan.; two sisters of Mrs. Payton, Mrs. Susan John-, son of Brighton and Denver, and Mrs. William Rose of Radium Kans. The son of the couple, Harry Payton and family of Las Vegas, Nevada, could not be present sisting of vocal numbers by Mrs.

but in the evening he called by to his parents and his sister.

Other relatives present included Dr. Charles Hershner of Esbon, dewick of Seward, Kan.; Mrs. Don Rice, Pickering, Mo., Mr. and Mrs. William Bechtold and family by the composer. Mr. and Mrs. O. of Brighton, and Mrs. Grace Hughes of Denver.

help in the celebration, indicates the high esteem in which the Rev. 100 gifts, as well as hundreds of cards of congratulation and many beautiful floral tributes.

During the reception, refreshments were served from a lovely yellow tapers, and flowers of golden hue. The four-tiered wedding and husband, Mr. and Mrs. William Bechtold of Brighton. Favors were presented to all the guests. A program was presented con-Arthur Armstrong, Mrs. Don

Moon, Glenn Jones, a quartet comlong distance telephone to talk posed of Mr. and Mrs. George Peters and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sullivan accompanied by Mrs. Ernest Hartwell. Mrs. Bertha Ra-Kan., Mr. and Mrs. Orville Bor- mey of Lyons composed a poem dedicated to the guests of honor, which was set to music and sung

L. Dever of Burden, Kan., and Mrs. Gordon of Longmont, also The many friends who called to sang many appropriate numbers. The Rev. and Mrs. Payton were married in Larned, Kan., April and Mrs. Payton are held, and 14, 1898, where, on a farm they they were the recipients of nearly started housekeeping. In 1903 the Rev. Payton entered the ministry of the Methodist church, and had several charges in Kansas until 1922, when when they came to Colorado. They had several paslace-covered table decorated with torates in this state until 1940. when they retired and moved to Loveland, where they purchased a cake was a gift from their niece home at 603 West Fifth street. The past year, the Rev. Payton supplied the Methodist church in Kemmerer, Wyo., where he succeeded in raising funds for the erection of a new church. \* \* \*

These clippings from the Loveland papers are on the occasions of the Paytons' fiftieth anniversary celebration in April of 1948 and the sixtieth in 1958. In the first piece, the newspaper staff made an error at the ends of the first two columns, interspersing two sentences. If you study on it you'll figure out what goes where. The clipping on the right was not very carefully done so you will need some creative deciphering.

There is a lot of interesting information here, and I was taken by breadth of the program that was presented for the fiftieth anniversary with singing and even a poem written for the honored guests, set to music and sung by the composer. To me it shows how admired and highly regarded our grandparents were. - Denny

## Paytons to Celebrate 60th Annive With Open House at Home Here Su

LOVELAND REPORTER-HERALD

The Rev. and Mrs. J. B. Payton will entered the Garrett Bil at iven hold open house to celebrate their on the campus of Nor Igar 60th wedding anniversary April 13, university. After gradu from 2-5 p.m. at their home, 603 1910, they returned to K W. Fifth. ally,

The Paytons were married at Southwest Kansas conferice Larned, Kan., April 14, 1898. Both



anston, Ill., where the Rev. Payton

were appointed to a chur

In 1922, they moved to C and became members of the rado conference. The Rev. was active in this conferen til 1940, at which time l tired. That same year to Loveland and have home on West Fifth stre Rev. Payton's ministry en in the rural place conference of which he ber. During this time, tions under his pastorat church buildings and age. In this area, he h torates at Keenesbu Platteville and Lyons. Rev. Payton is age, and his wife is 8 They have two chi Payton of Tampa, F Geraldine Knight of L The Rev. and Mrs. extended an invitat friends to call on the

Frank Irwin At Truscott

The April meeti cott junior high P Monday, April 1 n the school cafe Frank Irwin,



At the parsonage in Lyons, Colorado, circa 1939. Grandma is holding Maureen, and Jerry is with Grandpa. On the right are two recent pictures of Jerry and Maureen on the steps.

Grandma, Grandpa and Mom, coming through and out of the Great Depression would save for years to buy treasured things like their bedroom set. Mom was in her mid-teens when the stock market crashed, and they lived in different communities in or on the edge of the dust bowl, so the young family witnessed a great deal of suffering. As humble spiritual leaders in their farming communities we know they gave all they could in the aid and comfort of others. - Maureen

#### Grandpa's Prayer

(As remembered by Mom in the 2004 "Grandma Answers" Calendar)

Dear Father in Heaven,

We thank You for this day, for its sunshine and showers, for its breezes and its serenity. Our hopes go out to You for our continued well-being, but most of all, for the love You have given us so freely and so generously. May this love be just as free and as generously shared with our family, our neighbors, our friends and even our enemies so in the not too distant future we may all know a peaceful world. Amen.

## Rev. J. B. Payton Dies at Hospital

Rev. Julius B. Payton, 84, of 603 W. Fifth street, died Saturday evening at Loveland Memorial hospital.

Rev. Payton was born July 10. 1875, at Fort Branch, Ind, the son of James and Sarah Payton. As a small boy, he moved with his parents to Pawnee Rock, Kan. He married Ida May Nash April 14, 1898. The Rev. Payton attended Teacher's Normal college at Great Bend, Kan., and taught school several years before entering the ministry. He also was graduated from Garrett Bible Institute. He served as a Methodist minister for about 50 years, with pastorates in Kansas and numerous Colorado points. including Denver, Kit Carson, Eads, Springfield, Keenesburg, Pierce, Platteville and Lyons. The Rev. Payton retired in 1940.

For the past 20 years he and his wife had made their home in Loveland, but recently had been staying at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Geraldine Knight of Laramie. Mrs. Payton will be at the Pine motel in Loveland Tuesday through Thursday.

In addition to his wife and daughter, surviving are a son, Harry O. Payton of Tampa, Fla.; a brother, George Payton of San Jose, Calif., eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at the First Methodist church, with the Rev. Kenneth M. Smith officiating. Interment will be in Loveland burial park, with Hunter's in charge of arrangements.





In the backyard at Laramie

We remember our grandparents arriving at our house on the west side in Laramie and Grandpa carrying 50 or 60 pound sacks of potatoes to the house for our cellar. There were a number of potato farmers in the areas around Loveland and they often gave our grandparents sacks of potatoes. Sometimes when we were visiting in Loveland we would all go to farms and cull the potatoes that had been left behind by the harvesting equipment. Even the littlest of us would participate in the task. - Jim & Denny

Grandpa got me up early one morning to go fishing with him. After we got everything and ourselves loaded, Grandpa tried to start the car but the battery was dead. He said quite clearly, "Dammit!" I hadn't heard that from him before, and not ever again, but it kind of made him a regular guy in my book.

- Jerry



There was a fourteen year separation between Mom and Harry, her older brother and only sibling, so she was raised essentially as an only child and a little spoiled and defiant in her own way. Grandma and Grandpa really took Mom's marriage and conversion to the Catholic faith hard, not even attending the wedding. That chill vanished with the arrival of their first grandbaby, Jerry Mike, and the rest of us fully enjoyed the full hearth of our grandparents' love.

- Maureen and Jerry



With Jerry, 1938.

We were tots but I was old enough that it made quite an impression on me the day that Maureen bit me, pretty hard. Grandma saw it happen and with a combination of love, swift justice and a little fire in her eyes, bit her in return. She put a stop to that habit, for sure. - Jerry

Grandpa kept in the closet of the foyer a box of wooden blocks that were the remnants of the new garage he built in Loveland. They were square, rectangular and triangular in shape, and we would get the box out and build magnificent castles and skyscrapers taller than ourselves. - Jim



I think we all have different memories of Grandma entering her dementia, or as we called it in those days, her 'second childhood'. Maureen remembers coming back from her honeymoon noticing that Grandma was beginning to talk funny. Jerry said he remembers grandma making a lovely gooseberry pie with peas. She was also known to make rhubarb pies and hide them in the washing machine for safe keeping.

It was in the summer before my junior year in high school that I stayed with our grandparents in Loveland, ostensibly to help watch after Grandma who had progressed more deeply into her dementia. She was always very sweet and childlike, and would ask me to read children's story books to her. She would usually call me Geraldine. It didn't bother me a bit, and I know if any of my brothers and sisters were in my boat, they also would have accepted her idiosyncrasies without qualification. Our love for her was that deep.

The idea was I would watch after Grandma while Grandpa went fishing, but it always turned out he would take us both along and we spent many hours just driving and laughing through the countryside and up the canyon. - Denny



A Family of Four circa 1915

usies Husband

Sedans in the thirties often had rear doors that opened to the rear rather than forward. Upon the very moment of being unlatched while the vehicle was moving, the rear door would catch the air and fly open. One day when the family was driving with our grandparents up the Big Thompson Canyon, Maureen somehow popped the latch and grandma saved her life by grabbing her by the hair as she tumbled from the moving car. - Jerry and Maureen



When I was twelve, Grandpa took me downtown in Loveland and let me pick out a beautiful new school dress. - Kathi



At one of the Loveland picnics: from left, Dad holding Mickey Don, Grandpa, Mom, Aunt Ann, Denny, Maureen, Kathi, Cousin Judy, Jerry, and Grandma holding Jim. We had the picnics at Lake Loveland on or around July 4<sup>th</sup> to co-celebrate Dad's and Grandpa's birthdays. They began when Jerry was an infant and continued for some sixty years.

I think it was before Timmy was born. The four youngest of us were staying in overnight in Loveland while Mom and Dad, Jerry and Maureen were on an excursion. There had been storms up river on the Big Thompson and someone came to the door late one night to warn us to be prepared to evacuate immediately as there was danger of the dam breaking. Grandma and Grandpa got the four of us bundled and in the car while they gathered necessities and waited instructions to head for safety. It's the closest I've ever been to an evacuation, and I think of those moments whenever I hear about evacuations for wildfires, floods and other weather disasters around the world. - Denny

Grandpa had a nemesis in a man who was a preacher in the Pillar of Fire Church. They had run-ins at various places in Colorado, and I think particularly when Grandpa had one of his final charges in the town of Platteville. Later, the man was pastor of the POF church across from Lincoln School in Laramie where the Knight kids went before St Laurence School was opened. He was obviously familiar with who we were, because one day when I was in the second or third grade walking home from school, he called to me and told me as I approached that, "Your grandfather will be going to hell."

- Jerry



The Payton family, circa 1992. J.Byrd would have been about seventeen.

One thing I know I inherited from Grandpa was a short stature. His family physician, Dr. Tramp was a breeder of Arabian Horses, a breed that has one less vertebra than others. Dr. Tramp often speculated that Grandpa was similarly arrayed, and Grandpa granted him permission to actually check this out when he died. The missing vertebra was confirmed and I often wonder if I inherited that trait too. - Jerry

If something like the following were to happen in current times, it's likely our grandparents and parents all would have been hauled up on charges of neglect, but in the safe and sane fifties, children were commonly left to play without supervision and without the slightest worry.

On a summer afternoon in Loveland, Grandma and Grandpa had charge of Jim, Mickey Don and Kathi, and left them playing in the back yard for a short time while they visited an estate sale down the street. Mick would have been going on five, Kathi going on seven and Jim eight years of age.

Mick and Kathi had been tussling over rights a low hanging limb when Kathi clobbered him on the head with a two-by-four. Mick was in great pain but conscious. Where Jim and Mick differ in their recollection is that Jim says he gave Mick, and Mick's story is he took for himself, what looked like an aspirin (maybe more than one) from a place they were never supposed to be, the drawer of prescription medicines in the grandparents' bedroom.

It was Phenobarbital, and within minutes Mick was in a deep sleep. As soon as the grandparents returned to hear from Jim what had happened, they had the family doctor at the house within minutes. The doctor examined him carefully and, certain it was a sleep induced by the Phenobarbital, left him in the grandparents' bed with orders to keep him under close observation while he slept it off for however long it took, which happened to be about 48 hours. - As recalled by Mick and Jim

An important Payton family tradition was to always set a "place for the angel." The angel would be anyone who might stop by unexpectedly, but there was always a place for her (or him). It was in that same spirit that they would always manage to put an extra potato in the pot. - Maureen

As kids growing up in a Catholic family with politically liberal parents, we naturally see our grandparents as having being quite conservative. We think of their ministry in the Methodist church, Grandpa frequently speaking of voting Republican, and Grandma's active membership in the Women's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.). But reflecting back, they were really the ilk of that greatest of all Republicans, the Great Emancipator, Abraham Lincoln. And, although an Irish Catholic probably wouldn't have seen it that way, I'm sure the W.C.T.U. considered itself a socially progressive movement in its campaign to cast out the evils of alcohol. - Denny



With Grandma's sister, our beloved Aunt Susie



In the mountains with good friend Brother Kitchen, a fellow retired Methodist preacher



When we were little, a special treat Grandma would fix for us would be sandwiches of peanut butter, honey and butter on white bread cut into squares. She would also make sandwiches from graham crackers with a frosting filling. - Jerry

Grandma was really quite a liberal when it came to Mom's choice of school clothes with hem lines that fell definitely above the knees. Grandma dismissed the indignation of another preacher's wife in her familiar, sweet manner, "Well, the Indians painted themselves and went naked. I guess Geraldine can too!"

> - Maureen (See also the 2004 family calendar under the heading "Roaring Twenties")

There was a Coca Cola cooler on the back porch of our Grandparent's house in Loveland. - Jim

It was from Grandma that I first learned Coca Cola once actually contained cocaine. I have recently checked this out and it is true. There were at least trace amounts of the drug in Coca Cola until 1929, so it's understandable that this soldier of the temperance movement would disdain such a product. I never thought about the irony of a Coca Cola cooler on her back porch until Jim reminded me of it. - Denny

Grandpa kept in the closet of the foyer a box of wooden blocks that were the remnants of the new garage he built in Loveland. They were square, rectangular and triangular in shape, and we would get the box out and build magnificent castles and skyscrapers taller than ourselves. - Jim

When our grandparents would come to visit, Grandma would cheerfully help mom catch up on her piles of laundry and ironing and mending for the seven of us kids. - Kathi



Although Thanksgiving Day was always a special occasion, one was so extra special that I will never forget it. Because a severe blizzard had stranded people to the small town of Kit Carson, Colorado, my father, the Methodist minister, went to the small local hotel to check on travelers who might be finding shelter there. He generously invited them to Thanksgiving Dinner the following day. I can't remember at this time what sort of a panic attack my mother went through when she realized there would be 21 people for Thanksgiving dinner. However, that was the number and I recall that there was an abundance of food.

Bill Brown, a Negro man who was the husband of Blanche (our self appointed cook) and their daughter, Lucille, my friend, were three of the guests. Bill raised chickens, ducks, rabbits, turkeys and geese at the edge of town. I'm sure he supplied plenty of fowl for the dinner and Blanche was a great help in preparing the mountains of food. Everyone had a great time and offered their thanks for such a wonderful day and the hospitality of our family.

The guests included three musicians (young men), a newlywed couple, and an older couple. I don't remember the other six, but I believe they were all men and probably salesmen. Upon returning .to their home in New York, the three musicians sent me a packet of sheet music which contained the words and music to the current songs of the day. One of the songs from this packet that I remember was "Always", a song that has stayed one of my favorites. The newlywed couple returned to Denver but remained friends of my parents the rest of their lives. I remember that Thanksgiving as the best, ever! - Geraldine (taken from the 2004 "Grandma Answers" Calendar)

Our grandparents' house at 603 West Fifth in Loveland was a modest edifice but all of us Knight kids remember it as the castle of our dreams, the place we each hoped to one day have as our own. The younger of us felt like our grandparent had lived there forever as the king and queen of their domain, but Jerry and Maureen remember when they bought it. There were two entrances on the porch, one going into the parlor on the left, and the other leading into the large entry and dining area that filled the east side of the first floor. The west side of the main floor had the foyer, our grandparents' bedroom in the middle and the kitchen in the northwest corner. An enclosed staircase led to the second floor with the beautiful white bedroom at the southwest, the pink bedroom on the west and the gold bedroom to the east. The only full bathroom was in the northwest corner of the second floor. When the Knights came to visit, our parents got the white bedroom and the girls the pink. The boys stayed in the gold room which also served as an office with a large roll top desk and a wonderful unabridged dictionary on a stand. Grandma's special bell from her days as a school teacher was kept in the roll top desk. There was a full cellar with a dirt floor filled with jars of jams and pickles and whatever. The back yard was full of roses and several fruit trees that Grandpa carefully nurtured, grafting branches of various apple varieties on a mutual trunk.





Harry, Ann, Byrd, Ida, Geraldine and Mickey



John Payton - Emme?

When I was in high school, a gift from Grandpa and Grandma that I always took pleasure in was a subscription to Time magazine. I haven't always subscribed over the years but I have been recently, and I never receive an edition that I don't associate with our grandparents. - Denny

Grandpa gave me his beautiful old .22 rifle with an octagon barrel. I still treasure it as a direct and lasting memory of our grandparents. - Jerry

Grandpa and Grandpa lent me the money to buy my first portable typewriter. I'm not sure I ever repaid them completely, but it was a treasure for me and I know it helped my younger siblings through the years as well. - Maureen



Checking the cotton while visiting Harry in Texas



I loved to play with two similar instruments at our grandparents' house in Loveland, the Viewmaster, a 3-D picture viewer that was pretty new then but still made today. They also had a stereopticon, which also displayed images in 3-D, but they were very early photos without color.

They had a pretty good collection of pictures we could look at. - Mick



Front Koufrom left: alice Erway Gene) daughter of amande Thack Erway Genera Payton (Herried), daughter of George and Hera Ligten Lillian Dreher (Stevens) daughter of Bert and Lule Dreher Ikrey Payton, son of glo. and Slat Fry ton arthur Payton, son of George and Flora need Tay on Second Row : Lither Envoy (Walter) daughter of Oscar and anade Herd Encorp. Bert Dicher, Trustand of Jule, holding Edras (Hensber) his daughter \* Lylu Theher, holding daughter alma Dieker (Reduck) twin of Elaca Jackma amelia Broddeer (auf That Rolling Pearl Rea, dougter flilling + Dela Frankpa, Somuel Chauncy Noch, \* Lusie Mach Johnson, Raiding son Semmy Third Row \* Mandy Noch Enway & La Track Payton Julius Byrd Payter (Ide' husband) \* Flora Task Payton George Trytan (Hora's Tuestand and Kuther of J.B.) Edna Crevery Peterman, diraced) \* John nach \* Thellie Mach Payton Thenry Payton (Thelies Ruesband and neplew of gB) Clara Erway ( Houeden, twowed; King ? ) daughter of Oscars anonen Erre Melvin Erway (son of accurant amoula) Willie Pare (hustond of Delle Mark) \* Della Mark (Rese) to Fourth Row! for tails Harvey Erway, Son of Occar and amender teach Erway Edgar Erway, " " \* Simmy nach \* are all sons and daughters of Semuel Chauncy nechand Picture taken in 1910 (Tamily Reunion) Evidently taken after my father (Blayten) Graduated from Genett!

The photo below is a very important family archive as it includes relatives on both the Payton and Nash sides, and Mom recognized its importance by giving us this list.

