

The following history of Winnie Lackore is the combination of oral histories by Kelly Rabun (her great-granddaughter) in 1978, Todd Metters (her great-grandson) and LaVonne Todd (her daughter) in 1993. It was compiled by Joanne Todd Rabun (her granddaughter) and was presented as a labor of love for Winnie's 90th Birthday Celebration & Lackore Family Reunion which was held June 20, 1993 in San Luis Obispo, California.

Family History & Childhood

WHAT IS YOUR FULL NAME AND WHY WERE YOU NAMED IT? WERE YOU NAMED AFTER SOMEBODY ELSE?

My mom named me Winnie Belle Whiton after a friend of hers.

What were your parents names, BIRTHDATES AND BIRTHPLACES?

My mother's name was Amanda Viola Parr Whiton and I don't know exactly where she was born. I know that they lived somewhere in Illinois. My Dad's name was Charles Leaman Whiton and he was the son of Rufus Whiton.

Where were you born and when?

I was born near Mineral Ridge, Iowa (in Boones County near Des Moines) on June 20, 1903, the year that the Wright Brothers flew the first airplane. A lot of important things happened at that time.

How many sisters and brothers did you have?

I had five sisters and three brothers. I was next to the youngest, so most of them were away from home when I was a child. Julia was 10 years older than I was and Jennie (half sister) was about 17 years older and she left home when she was 15. Julia was a little older, but I can't remember them being at home.

This was written on the back of the photo below: The children of Charles and Viola Whiton — In back: Julia, Eddie and Lee. In Front: Winnie, Arthur, Mabel and Ethel. Taken about 1906 at Woodward, Iowa

WHAT WERE THEIR NAMES AND BIRTHDATES?

- Eva Jane (Jennie) Frost, 1886 (half sister)
- Edward Rufus, Nov. 14, 1891 (died Apr. 18, 1915)
- Julia May, Jan 25, 1893 (died in 1952)
- Ethel Grace, Aug. 14, 1894 (disappeared)
- Leaman (Lee) Charles, Mar. 21, 1894 (died Dec. 6, 1966)
- · Bessie Mable (Mable), May 6, 1900
- Arthur Parr, Sept. 28, 1901 (died Nov. 15, 1908)
- Winnie Belle, June 20, 1903
- Altha Violet, Apr. 3, 1907





Dan
Lackore
holding
Kim
Lackore
and Joanne
Todd
holding
Mike
Lackore

would go home in the evenings or else on Saturdays I would go down and work in a store. I enjoyed that a lot. It got me out and away from home a little bit.

WERE YOU PAID FAIRLY?

I think so. The price things were at that time... of course, I did work cheaper than some of the others, but I made three dollars a day off of each child, and I had six of them, so that was plenty.

WHAT WAS YOUR MONEY NEEDED FOR?

It was just used for our regular living expenses, because at that



441 Kentucky Blvd., San Luis Obispo, Calif.

time my husband and I were alone and we were putting money in the bank so we would have something later on, and we were paying for our house, and things like that.

DID YOU AGREE WITH HAVING THE WORLD WARS, KOREAN AND VIETNAM WARS?

I don't agree with war unless it is absolutely necessary. But if you have to protect yourself, why than it has to be.

What was your reaction to the Kennedy assassination?

I was sorry to hear of his being assassinated. It's too bad when people kill other people.

DID YOU FEEL THAT KENNEDY WAS A GOOD PRESIDENT DURING THE TIME THAT HE SERVED? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Well, I think that he was probably about average. Some of the things that he did turned out really good. It's easier now to look back at that time. But some of the things turned out good and some that weren't so good.

WHAT HISTORICAL EVENTS HAD A STRONG INFLUENCE ON YOUR LIFE?

I think the thing I remember is, first, the ending of World War I, which was when I was about fifteen. I remember when the war ended, they had a big parade in our town and they let us out of school and we all got out and paraded up and down the streets celebrating the end of World War I.

Although it didn't hit us, it kept us from having some of the things that we would have had. I remember some of the town, one little town in Iowa named Germania... they changed their name to Lacota because they didn't want anything to do with Germans during the war. When

Clifford Lackore with his first two greatgrandchildren (Todd Metters and Kelly Rabun) in 1969



World War II... my husband was ready for the draft at the beginning, he was just to be drafted during World War I, that was before we were married. He was all ready to go. He had his examination and then it ended, so he didn't have to go. So then in World War II he still had to register for the draft. But, at that time he was married and had a family and was farming: He was not quite forty five. They made him register, but he was never called. He was always left off because of his farming and producing food, so he was excused from the service for that. My oldest son, Donald, just barely got into the draft in World War II, but he didn't have to go overseas or anything. Because he was from the farm and knew about livestock and everything, he and an officer stayed in a hotel in Boston, Massachusetts, and he would inspect the meat. That's what he did after he had been trained.

WHAT WOMAN HAD THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR LIFE?

I guess my mother. I can't remember any teachers especially that had a great influence on me. I remember my younger sister and I went to Sunday School where a couple of, we called 'em old maids or spinsters, they had a Sunday



How did you feel when you first learned you were going to be a grandma?

I was pleased, of course, because I always loved children.

What advice would you give to a grandchild on their wedding day?

I'd tell them to always think of the other person first.

SOME FAVORITES...

What is your favorite song?

— Hymns

What is your favorite season?

—Summer

What is your favorite flower?

— Rose

What is your favorite holiday?

— Christmas

What is your favorite color?

— Bright colors

What is your favorite hobby?

— Knitting & Crocheting What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?

— Vanilla

We're finished with the questions. Is there anything else that you'd like to say?

It's nice to be living in such a different age now from what it was when I was growing up. It's just hard to imagine the difference in the age now. The things you can do and see from what it was like when I was growing up. You would have never imagined a show being put on in New York or even now in other countries and sitting



in our living room and being able to see it. I remember the first time I saw a clothes dryer at a state fair. That was after we had a large family. I thought how wonderful that would be to have on the farm. When I would dry clothes I would have to hang them out on the line and before I'd get the line full they would be frozen solid. Then I'd have to take them down frozen and take them in the house to dry them. So I would have really appreciated having an electric dryer back then. But I didn't have any electricity.



1973 — Clifford and Winnie Lackore's 50th Wedding Anniversary held in San Luis Obispo, California