

Lula Lee Wooten

CHEROKEE GIRL



Her Legacy to her Posterity

**From Lula Lee's grandson's with
our love:**

Charles E. Taylor
Keith W. Underwood
Ronald A. Underwood
Roy E. Underwood

Cherokee Girl
By Ronald Underwood

First Edition

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1st Printing

FORWARD

Lula Lee Wooten, 1890 - 1953



Charles Eugene Taylor lived with Lula Lee our grandmother during the early years of his life. Charles grew up and married the love of his life Sharon in 1958. Charles and Sharon have one son, Christopher Charles Taylor and one daughter, Tina Renee Taylor. Charles and Sharon have two granddaughters by Christopher Charles, Samantha Jo, and Sarah Ann and one grandson, Cody and twin granddaughters, Jessica Renee and Rose by Tina Renee.

Charles was a talented and successful Carpenter and Cabinet Maker, for 52 years in the Reno Nevada area before he retired in August of 2001. Charles's last 10 years prior to retirement, he successfully owned and operated Taylor Bilt Construction Co. Charles Eugene Taylor was Cloie (Billie) Ruth's only son and Lula Lee's first grandson.



While talking with my cousin and childhood friend, Charles Eugene Taylor recently, it occurred to me that our mutual grandmother had lived an exceptional life and had a story to tell that our posterity really needed to know about. Each of us have information about our grandmother, Lula Lee that we will be sharing so this will basically be a collaboration between Charles, my brothers Keith, Roy and I that, I believe we will enjoy sharing with our mutual families. I pulled the information together and wrote this. All information is mutually agreed upon by Lula Lee's grandsons. Our sincere hope is that our families, the Taylors, the Underwoods, and others will enjoy the story/testimony of a part Cherokee Indian Girls success in her life between 1890 and 1953 when there was much animosity toward Indian's.

Over the years, as a soldier and within my professional field of endeavor, I've seen how a story can become embellished with things that are not exactly as they happened. I will admit to some speculation on some things but all of what I've written here is to the best of my recollection of what did happen to Lula Lee our grandmother as she and others told it to me. I remember how, when John F. Kennedy was shot, people were telling all sorts of stories, well, I was there when it happened, only a few blocks away on my lunch hour, I saw the Kennedys and heard the shots when they were fired at Dealy Plaza in Dallas that day on Friday, November 22nd, 1963. Later, someone asked me how many shots were fired, and without hesitating, I said 4. Later on the news I was informed that there were only 2 shots. Well, what I remembered was 4. I will accept 2 as the number although I still do not agree, the bottom line here is that Kennedy is just as dead one way or the other. With Lula Lee's story, I've tried not to embellish to make anything different than it was, and tell only what happened exactly, in some cases, I am repeating what I was told by others and with some, I did a little speculation but I will tell you that

throughout, it was in an honest effort to be totally truthful about what and how things actually happened to Lula Lee Wooten, Underwood.

I was the second of Lula Lee's four grandsons, as a small child I remember sitting on her lap and listening to all of the things that she would relate to me in her Cherokee, instructional way with her mother's and great grandfather's Indian story-telling method. Grandmother and my father always told me that, she was $\frac{1}{2}$ Cherokee Indian and she may have been. So, before I wrote this autobiography, I investigated it carefully but I could not prove it to my satisfaction. Her grandfather Mr. Humphreys, in my mind, is of questionable birth because for her to be $\frac{1}{2}$ Cherokee, he would have to have been full-blood Cherokee and I believe from my research that he was at least a $\frac{1}{8}$ white Anglo Saxon man, no reason other than he was listed in some Federal Censuses as white and in others as having a mulatto family. Laura Allie, his daughter, was $\frac{1}{2}$ Cherokee by her mother Sarah Jane, who was full blooded. Mr. Humphreys may have been hiding the fact that he was Indian, we simply do not know. I couldn't prove this so, in our autobiography, we have accepted this and written that, she (Lula Lee) was $\frac{1}{4}$ Cherokee because that is provable from our records. At any rate, Lula Lee loved her Cherokee heritage but she needed to be careful in those early days, about how she related it to others as there was a lot of animosity toward Indians. Lula Lee's methods of instructing those she loved, manifested themselves in loving, nurturing, and teaching that always had its meaningful lessons of understanding with each conversation we had during those wonderful lap-talk times. She told stories with morals, philosophy, and purpose both with Biblical and with Cherokee moral. She taught me ethics, about life, work, and child-rearing that I probably would have never learned without her. She taught me that the white Anglo-Saxon people had only the buildings and cities that they had built on the lives of others, but the Cherokee had family and people, unity, integrity, faith, and love. At the time, I was too young to know what a precious time in my life that was. Now, after growing up, and having a distinguished military career for my country, working and being honored in my profession, and raising my wonderful family, as an older man, retired with a lifetime of experiences that relate with all that she taught me, I can only say that I am grateful to her for what she shared with me in those early years, it helped to make my life what it is today and it truly is a story that must be told to all of the Taylor and Underwood families and others as they may want to read, as they will probably appreciate all of what she was and is to us all.

Ronald A. Underwood



Keith William Underwood, Lula Lee's third grandson is a fisherman, outdoors sportsman, accomplished chief, an artist, an avid grandfather and a confirmed bachelor, and all of this, not necessarily in that same order. He has been a great brother and I respect him more than I can say here in this small space because he is so able to keep all the things that he is juggling throughout his lifetime successfully in the air at one time. He owned an art studio and outlet shop in Niles, California before studying art glass etching in Dallas, Texas. Before Keith moved to Florida he was an accomplished enough chief to open restaurants in the Dallas area for Cambell-

Taggart Corporation, Biff's restaurant and another of which was Cafe Brisas, my personal favorite, here in Dallas where I personally enjoyed Keith's fine Yucatan Mexican cuisine cooking as often as I could. Sorry I didn't tip the cook more as he might have stayed longer. Keith then moved to Florida to follow his first great love and life-long mistress, his art. Keith, like Lula Lee our grandmother is a great business manager with what I describe as a delayed gratification ethic, or "only expand as your business grows and never ever get greedy" and has a successful business experience in southern Florida creating custom glass and other artwork for businesses and homes throughout the southern Florida area. He has a website at: <http://www.glassartists.org/ArtGlassDecor>

Knowing that he is Lula Lee's 3rd grandson gives him a special place in the Underwood family's lives. He has a very special relationship with his son Donovan and Donovan's wife Nicole, and his three grandsons adore him as Keith did Lula Lee. Keith has always marched to the tune of his own drum beat. Like Lula Lee, Keith thinks outside of the box on complex problems and is pretty good at making things happen. We all love him and hope he will be remembered by all Underwood's and other branches of the family fondly.

Donovan Alwyn Underwood: Keith's son, Born July 2nd, 1966 and Married Nicole Dietrich, May 3rd, 2003. Donovan and Nicole have three sons, Ethan Alwyn Underwood, born April 22, 2004, Luke Joseph Underwood, born February 20, 2006, and Nicholas Dietrich Underwood, born November 1st, 2008.

Nicole Dietrich Underwood, Keith's daughter-in-law, is a successful Insurance Adjuster.



This is Lula Lee Wooten's fourth grandson, Roy Earl Underwood. I call him my "Goat Roper Brother", he was always good natured, and loved people, and the people that know him, love him. Always a kidder, a teaser, a joker, and everyone that knows him loves this about him. Our dad, Buddy loved this boy and nurtured him with the love that Lula had nurtured in him.

Roy is employed by Plains Marketing of Houston, he is a diesel mechanic, he works out of the Tye, Texas office and is a dedicated husband and father of two wonderful healthy boys, Tanner born, August 26, 1997, and Toby Landon born, February 6, 2000. Roy keeps his family busy on week-ends and on vacations, fishing, hunting and dearly loves working with his two boys on their automobiles and wow!, do they ever adore their mom and dad and each other. Roy and wife Hayley see to it that they have a good wholesome family life.

Roy Earl Underwood studied two years at Texas State Technical Institute in Waco, Texas, studying diesel mechanics. Roy married a wonderful girl, Hayley Dawn Champion, May 20, 1995. Hayley and her brother worked together for several years running their father's business, Barrett's Collision Center in Abilene, Texas. Being a loving, nurturing mom herself, she recently, stopped work to become a "Stay-at-home" wife and mom. Hayley says that, her two teenage boys and teasing/mischievous husband need some mom-management so as of this writing (2013), she's dedicating the next few years to that endeavor.

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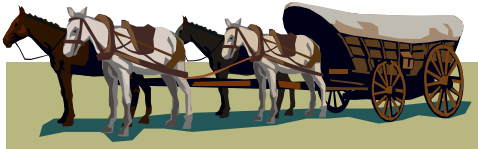
Chapter 1

Getting Acquainted with the times Lula Lee Lived In



Lula Lee Wooten was born September 12, 1890, into a life where ways and customs were already shaped for her by the society of her day. In ignorance people felt that, if someone were a black, a Jew, a foreigner of some kind, or maybe just of another faith, they were people of suspicion and anyone that knew anything, felt that, you needed to watch those that were different, as their motives were always suspect. Lula had to overcome all of these cultural obstacles and mores to arrive where she ended up. She trusted and obeyed God, held to the truth of His Word, loved and nurtured others and succeeded in securing a good life for her and her children in a world of a much different time and a very different way of thinking.

Lula was born into an Irish-American family with roots deep in our American culture that dated back to before the American Revolution of 1776, the family had come to Bowie, County, Texas in a covered wagon from the east in 1841, just 6 years after the Texas War of Independence from Mexico. The Cherokee "Trail of Tears", and the massacre in Texas of the great Cherokee Chief Bowles and over 800 of his people by the Republic of Texas's, President Lamar near what is known today as Tyler in East Texas. People called this, the "Battle/Massacre of Neches", dependent upon who you talk with. At that time, throughout the civilized world, if you were an Indian of any kind, you were on someone's list to be killed or be done away with, to most white men of that day, there were no good Indians.



Now, in 1890, some 50+ years had passed since several brothers' of the Wooten family had come to Texas from Tennessee and Georgia. A strong presence of the old Ku Klux Klan in 1890 and even to this present day, made sure that in East Texas and throughout the rest of the South the white people are considered elite. The war with Mexico and the War between the States had come and gone without very many changes in attitude with the white, Anglo-Saxon people. White was white, black was black, and red was red and unless for some reason you had, had an opportunity to become acquainted with and befriend some of those black or red skinned people and see them for what they really were then, hate and discrimination were the misgivings of the day.



The war between the North and South had provided a unique opportunity for Lula Lee Wooten's family and others of Bowie and Red River Counties in East Texas, to know that some of the Indians were basically a good people. Because the Wooten family had survived it all, they were now living a good life especially since the Civil War Reconstruction era was mostly over in Texas, the Carpet Baggers were gone now, crops were in the field and plentiful. Life was filled with good things and plenty after the war but with a skeleton or two in their closet. Charlie John Wooten, Lula Lee's father was a kind, strong man, a good farmer, and livestock man, providing well for his family, he had married Laura Allie in 1886 and started their family. The skeleton in the Wooten family closet was that, Laura Allie's mother, Sarah Jane was a Cherokee Indian girl born in Indian Territory in 1850, this made Laura Allie Humphreys at least (maybe more), ½ Cherokee Indian. In her physical appearance, Laura appeared as most dark haired white women appear so, she never brought the subject up and if it came up, they would laughingly refer to themselves as having a black-Irish heritage. It seldom came up with anyone except family members, and thus family members got away with seeming to be white with everyone except for with Laura Allie's children who were, in spite of all the prejudices around, proud of their Cherokee heritage and of their people in Indian Territory to the north. Sarah Jane was distinctively Cherokee, shown in her marriage with Mr. Humphreys (part Indian but at least 1/8 white) in the 1880 Federal Census as being in a "Mulatto" (mixed breed, part Indian, part white) family.



During the Civil War, on Lula Lee's mother's side, her grandfather, an Anglo Saxon man that was part Indian, Mr. Humphreys and her great grandfather a Cherokee Indian man, Mr. John William Jordan, had ridden with and fought for the Confederacy together. On her father's side of her family, her grandfather, James Alexander Wooten who, at age 33, enlisted with the Confederacy into Company "B", 21st Texas Cavalry, 1st Texas Lancers under the Command of Colonel George W. Carter. The Unit was stationed in Northwest Louisiana. Her great uncle, Lieutenant Colonel Dr. George Wooten had ridden and fought with the Texas 23rd Cavalry and later the 34th Texas (Alexander's) 2nd Parisian Cavalry along with Mr. Humphreys and Mr. John W. Jordan. Late in the war, Humphreys, Wooten, and others from Bowie & Red River Counties, Texas had been assigned with the Cherokee troops stationed in the northeastern Indian territory (Oklahoma) under Brigadier General Stand Watie. During that time, these men of the South were stationed near Tahlequah, Oklahoma, the Private, Mounted Infantryman named Mr. Thomas Humphreys of the Texas 34th, and the Cherokee Indian man named John W. Jordan (Sara Jane's father) befriended each other. They had fought side by side each other, as comrades in arms, and their military units had won numerous campaigns and skirmishes against the Union troops and while doing so, they had formed a life-long (brotherhood) friendship. *Here, I need to add that, if you've ever fought in combat side-by-side with other men, then, you can understand as I do, why race and the color of someone's skin disappears in combat and a life-long brotherhood that only combat and/or difficult times can forge, remains. Prior to going into the military, many men may be suspicious of others different from them. While fighting in Viet Nam in 1970, having a black*

man save me from being wounded and maybe even saving my life, it made me to always love that black man as a brother. Only God can do that for someone and in my life, God used combat as a tool to change my heart and forge me into what I am today, a non-racist, looking only at what a man is or is not. After combat together, watching each other's back, you judge every man you meet for the rest of your life with a different measuring stick. This is what happened to this Cherokee Indian of Oklahoma and the whites of the Confederacies, Texas 34th as they fought side-by-side as comrades. Private Thomas Humphreys (part Indian, part white) of Bowie County, Texas, Private James Patterson, and Lieutenant Colonel, Dr. George H. Wooten, of Clarksville, Red River County Texas, had all been a part of this friendship that was forged during the Civil War. After the war, during the Reconstruction era, in 1870, after building their "home to be", Thomas Humphreys went back to Indian Territory from Texas and married 20 year old, Sara Jane Jordan, the daughter of the Cherokee Indian Mr. John W. Jordan, and they moved their family to Bowie County, Texas where their friends were and began their family having Laura Allie Humphreys, their first and only child on, December 15th, 1871.

Sadly, Mr. Humphreys passed away seven years later in 1878 leaving 28 year old Sarah Jane a widowed mother for the first time. Later, in 1880 at age 30, Sarah Jane married a Mr. Daugherty. Her daughter, Laura Allie was 9 years old now, living with her mother, Sara Jane. Not much is known about this marriage other than that, they had one son, Solomon Daugherty. Mr. Daugherty, passed away nine years later in 1889. Later, both Solomon and Laura Allie are shown later, in the Patterson family tree as being a step son and step daughter to James Patterson. 40 year old, Sarah Jane married Mr. James Patterson on October 20th, 1890. Patterson, as you will remember, was a part of the old disbanded, 34th Texas Calvary (Alexander's 2nd Texas partisan Calvary) during the Civil War that we talked about above. 15 year old, Laura Allie, Humphreys meanwhile, had married Charlie John Wooten in 1886, three years before the passing of Mr. Daugherty. Mr. Daugherty's passing left the 39 year old Sara Jane Jordan, Humphreys, Daugherty as a widow for the 2nd time.

This third marriage for Mr. Patterson, lasted until he passed away 34 years later on, March 13, 1925 leaving Sara Jane a widow for the 3rd and last time. This was also Mr. Patterson's 3rd marriage. Sarah Jane passed away in Thacker Ville, Oklahoma, June 22nd, 1930, she was 79 years old. Although married, before Sarah Jane and Mr. Patterson were married, Laura Allie Wooten had always loved and appreciated Charles Patterson, because of his loving and kind treatment of her mother, Sarah Jane and also because he was an old friend to her grandfather Mr. John W. Jordan in Oklahoma. Laura Allie always felt like a daughter and member of the family of James Patterson and always lovingly referred to herself as his step daughter, and he felt the same way. Both Sarah Jane and Laura Allie, always kept their father/grandfather, Mr. John W. Jordan, in Indian Territory, alive to themselves, and special to their children. Laura Allie's children visited him often when they were young, Mr. Jordan and his Klan taught his grandchildren about the Cherokee culture and they considered themselves proud Cherokees.

Back tracking a little, James Patterson, in his lifetime had three marriages, he was married to his first wife, Eudora D. Fogleman, December of 1871, just 6 years after coming home from the Civil War. They had two children that died at birth. Eudora died a few months

after losing their 2nd child. Later, June 20th, 1875, James Patterson married Margaret Sereptia Harrison. Margaret passed away 15 years later, on August 27, 1889, they had three children. James Patterson, married Sarah Jane, Jordan, Humphreys Daugherty October 20th, 1890.

The difficult period of reconstruction lasted around nine years for most states of the Confederacy but in other states, it lasted well into the late 1880's for there were radical Republican elements of the United States government that wanted to root out their old enemies



in the South who had been in power and opposed the North for so many years after the Revolutionary War with England. For the Cherokee, when the government of the North came back after the Civil War and reoccupied those five forts within the Oklahoma Indian Territory, life was little more than a hell on earth. Between 1865 and 1906 (42 years) when the Indian Territory became the state of Oklahoma, the United States chose to dishonor old treaties that had caused the Cherokee Indian Territory to be ceded to them originally. The Union dishonored the old and wrote new treaties that caused the Cherokee to lose 3,000,000 additional acres of Indian territory then, until 1924 (59 years after the Civil War). So, technically, the Reconstruction era after the Civil War, for the Cherokee, lasted well into the 20th Century, for a total of 59 years, and no one suffered like the American Indian after the Civil War.

To back track a little and explain some things better, this reconstruction period effected Lula Lee's family in Bowie County, Texas in several ways:

- Sara Jane's father, Mr. John W. Jordan, being a Christian man of good and moral character, just after the Civil War, saw the handwriting on the wall and knew that the next few years of reconstruction in Indian Territory would not be a good environment in which to raise his children, especially, his beautiful, now 20 year old daughter, Sara Jane. Life around a military post for a young Indian woman was not always the best place to live due to lonely soldiers living far from their homes. Thomas Humphreys and Sarah Jane had fallen in love during the war. After the war, he had gone to Texas to build a home for Sarah Jane so that they could be married later. As Sara Jane got older and more beautiful, Mr. Humphreys came back and took her to their newly built home in Bowie County, Texas and his old comrades in arms who watched over them with loving care, like the good friends they had become.
- Laura Allie, Sara Jane's daughter, married Mr. Charlie John Wooten, of Bowie County, Texas in 1886 about three years before Mr. James Patterson married Sara Jane, Laura Allie's mother. Charles Wooten was a relative of Lieutenant Colonel Dr. George H. Wooten of the fighting 34th Texas Calvary. Laura Allie had known about the deep friendship of her grandfather, Mr. John Jordan, her grandfather, Mr. Humphreys, her father, and Mr. Patterson during the war and considered Patterson as one of her guardians anyhow so, she always lovingly referred to herself as Patterson's stepdaughter. Laura Allie had been born in 1871, 6 years into reconstruction after the war and married Mr. Wooten at 15 years of age.
- Lula Lee Wooten was the 2nd of the 10 children of Charlie John Wooten and Laura Allie, 5 girls, 4 boys and one child that died at birth. Lula had one older brother, Willie, who shared most of the duties of raising this large family with her and her mother

Laura Allie. Lula and her sisters looked like her father's anglo-saxon, side of the family, they appeared to be white, and this made life a little easier for them in a white ku klux clan oriented society. Lula's brother's, however, were definitely Cherokee in



their appearance, see their photo on the right above here, left to right are Willie, Ollie and Robert. Horace, the youngest brother is not shown here. All of the children, boys and girls alike, did what they needed to do to survive as mixed-breeds (Mulatto) in a white society.

- Other relatives of mine (Tennie Fowler) in Bowie County, Texas always told me, "What a good Christian family the Wooten's were and that they were hard working and well respected in the community." Lula was an especially enterprising child, as she was older than the rest, always saving and striving to get things accomplished for the family, she loved spending her money, dressing them up. Lula always wanted to understand why certain things were important and why others were not, this attitude later made her a pretty good business lady.
- Lula's mother, Laura Allie, when she could, would allow Lula and her brothers and sisters to visit their great grandfather, Mr. John Jordan, in Indian Territory. Lula loved those times as this was when she learned most about her Cherokee heritage and culture. Here she learned from her mother's Klan, about herbal medicine, healing ointments, soap making, and she learned many wonderful Indian stories, sayings, and customs of her grandmother's and mother's people. By Cherokee law, both then and now, Lula was considered a part of her mother's and grandfather's Cherokee tribe and family Klan and as the Cherokee inheritance comes through the mother and not the father under Cherokee law. Women within a Cherokee family are always considered to be of the same Klan and the men are supposed to marry into one of the other 4 Klans that are different from the mothers Klan. It is considered as a disgusting thing for a man to marry into the same Klan that his mother is from. Cherokee custom is that they must marry into another Klan within their Cherokee tribe to still be considered as a Cherokee tribal member. For this reason many Cherokee men that later married into other cultures and tribes and were no longer considered as Cherokee. Lula Lee, her mother, and her sisters although 1/4 white were still considered Cherokee Indian. Discussions with people outside the family about this were taboo at the time, but today we talk about these things with pride.
- Lula Lee had privileges' within the Cherokee tribe that she had learned about from her mother and her grandfather, as well as her other Cherokee relatives in Indian Territory. These privileges were denied to her by her Father Mr. Charles John Wooten. I am sure that this was not a malicious thing as I remember her often talking

lovingly about her father, Charlie Wooten. Lula and her father were always very close as was the rest of the Wooten family. We do not know what Mr. Wooten's problems were with Cherokee land in Indian Territory, but I have to assume that because he was her father, he felt that he knew what was best for her. Lula did not dispute him as she loved him and wanted to

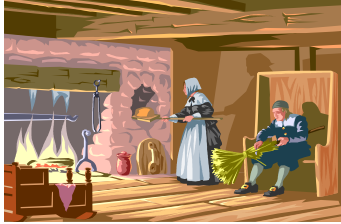


be a good daughter and she always was. One thing to remember is that, Cherokee Law required that someone live in Oklahoma to exercise their tribal claims within the tribe and I personally believe that Mr. Wooten, simply could not let that happen as Lula would be too far away from him and her mother, Laura Allie. I am sure that this was a disappointment to her grandfather and her family in Oklahoma. Lola always spoke lovingly about her Cherokee grandfather. Interestingly, Lula never talked about Mr. Patterson when I was a boy, only her Cherokee Indian great grandfather, Mr. John Jordan and his people who had taught her so very much. This further verifies my thinking that Lula thought a lot of Mr. Patterson but, never developed a close family relationship with him like her mother, Laura Allie had. The photo above was taken when Lula's father, Mr. Wooten visited Lula in Dallas in around 1924 just before he passed away in 1925. From left to right is my 6 year old, aunt Cloie (Billy) Ruth Underwood, 64 year old, Charlie J. Wooten, 34 year old, Lula Lee Underwood, and Keiths, Roy Earl's, and my father, 8 year old Jewett Alwyn (Buddy) Underwood.

Chapter 1 contains a few of the things that shaped the beginnings of the life of Lula Wooten. Early in life she had become a nourisher, a security to, and problem solver for her family and to those that she loved. She loved dolling (dressing up) up as she would call it, her sisters and others. She had learned to think outside the box to solve special problems and situations within her family's lives, and all of these things would be a great asset to her and her children later. On her lap, she taught me that, God gave us our minds to think with and that, you could think your way into or out of any problem that ever came up. Although she was all of these good things, she was still just a naïve country girl that felt you could believe in people, trust them, and expect them to practice the same values as you simply because they are the right thing to do so, you should always respect and believe in those others and they'll do the same for you. "Wrong", it is a shame that life is not really like that!

Chapter 2

The People that influenced Lula Lee's Childhood into Womanhood



Lula Lee's Paternal Grandfather James A. Wooten:

James Alexander Wooten was extremely successful as a soldier, a teamster and part time farmer he was a good livestock manager and taught each of his sons and daughters about management giving them a good foundational knowledge of farming and ranching, he was born in Virginia in 1827, he married

Lydia "Betsey" Edwards of Tennessee in 1859 and they had seven children, 3 boys and 4 girls:
Father: James Alexander Wooten, Born, June 6th, 1827, in Virginia, died, July 21, 1875, Bowie Cnty, Texas

Mother: Lydia "Betsey" Edwards, Born, 1841, in Tennessee died, June 2nd, 1927, Bowie County, Texas

Son: Charlie Wooten, **(Lula Lee Wooten's Father)** Born: June 2nd, 1860, died Feb 14, 1925 in Bowie Cnty, Tex.

Daughter: Sara Dora, Born 1863, in Bowie County, Texas

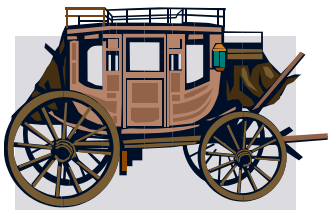
Daughter: Cornilia Wooten, Born 1868, in Bowie County, Texas

Daughter: Ida Ella Jane Wooten, Born 1868, in Bowie County, Texas

Son: James Wooten, Born 1872, in Bowie County, Texas

Son: Richard Wooten, Born 1874, in Bowie County, Texas

Daughter: Mary Alice Wooten, Born 1875-1954, in Bowie County, Texas



The enterprising, James Alexander Wooten, a teamster for hire and a part time farmer, traveled from the Tennessee area to Bowie County, Texas (they called it, the promise land) in about 1841 at age 14 with his older brothers and their families. Lula Lee Wooten was more like this man than any other in her family, she

loved and followed her father's instructions but like her grandfather James, she was a very enterprising girl. Lula took advantage of every tool God gave her, turning every opportunity into something useful and successful. At 19 years old, James had been part of the Red River County militia in the war with Mexico, from spring of 1846 through the fall of 1847. When the War between the States came in 1860, he was 33 years old. He enlisted with the Confederacy into Company "B", 21st Texas Calvary, 1st Texas Lancers under the Command of Colonel George W. Carter. The Unit was stationed in Northwest Louisiana.

As a young man of 19, he had already learned the horrors of warfare so, he had purposely avoided enlisting in the nearby unit from Clarksville, Red River County, Texas, the 23rd Texas Calvary because he already knew that, the war would possibly bring death and pain to some of his family, and most of them were already in the 23rd Texas Calvary and he simply, didn't like the idea of seeing those that were so close to him and that he loved be harmed so, he became a 1st Texas Lancer under Colonel Carter where they were stationed and fought in northwest Louisiana. He entered military service in the Confederacy as a Private and was discharged as a non-commissioned officer, a Corporal at the end of the war in 1865.

He was a good and kind man of principle that was loved and adored by all who knew him. However, his family lost him as he passed away at the early age of 48, in 1875. This was probably because of Cholera (not sure) as there was an epidemic in the area at that time in northeast Texas. James A. Wooten's death left his oldest son, 14 year old Charlie John Wooten as the oldest male in the family. Charlie John was also Lydia B. Wooten's most reliable helper during those difficult times. Charlie John, like his father, was a kind hearted, compassionate person, his father had been his hero, Charlie John, his mother, and family, missed him greatly.

Charlie John felt duty-bound to finish the job of raising his sibling brothers and sisters with his mother. As she got older, his oldest sister, Sara Dora Wooten helped with the house as Charlie John and his mother worked the crops in the field and raised the livestock. They always had plenty as Charlie's father had taught him a good work ethic and he became a good farmer and livestock man, raising horses, cattle and crops in the rich fertile sandy fields of Bowie County, Texas.

Lula Lee's Maternal Great Grandfather Mr. John William Jordan, Cherokee Indian:



Lula loved her mother, Laura Allie, her grandmother, Sara Jane, and great grandfather, Mr. John W. Jordan, and his Cherokee people. Both Mr. Jordan and Charlie John, were kind and affectionate men. Their word was their bond, both were honest men and each had a good name within their own societies and cultures and Lula looked for these qualities in a man as she got older into womanhood, and as we will find out a little later, these traits are difficult to find in people. Her great grandfather, Mr. Jordan, was a dedicated Christian man but he had been dealt a hard life as a young man. His whole family had been Christian since the early 1750's when Moravian missionaries, financed by none other than Thomas Jefferson personally, had visited and preached the good news of the gospel to them.

Under the terms of the Echota Treaty, as a child, born around 1837, in the Smokey Mountains of eastern Tennessee, he and his Cherokee family had been rounded up by the U. S. Army in 1838 with around 17,000 other Cherokee Indians of Tennessee, North Carolina, & Georgia and were forced to walk in what history calls the "Trail of Tears" walk from eastern Tennessee to the Indian Territory, to what is now known as northeast Oklahoma. There were many hardships along their journey and while still an infant in 1838, his father, Levi Jordan, had died, from exposure to the elements and was buried in a shallow grave along the way. His



mother Malinda Jayne Jordan died in the Indian Territory in 1843 when he was 5 years old and his mother's Klan within the Cherokee Nation raised him to manhood. Later, some Federal Indian Censuses show him as having forgotten his Indian name and remembering only his Christian name. He married an Indian girl, Sarah Bean Thompson within the tribe in late 1849 and his first child, Sarah Jane Jordan was born, September 5th, 1850 in Indian Territory.

When the Civil War period came along, men representing both the North and the South wanted the Cherokee Nation to side with their side in

the conflict that was to come. The Cherokee warriors, in spite of the numerous wars they had fought on the side of the Union previously, remembered the many treaties (40 of them at the time, more since then), that the Union had made and broken with them, and the hardships that had happened to their Indian people during the Trail of Tears march, all of this was still fresh in their minds. They were wary of any promises made by the Union so, when the Confederacy offered them a representative spot in the, government of the South, then being formed, in Richmond, Virginia, most of the Cherokee Nation (80%+) chose to fight with the South in the coming war. This decision of the Cherokee, of trusting the white man, (or any white man), again, had, turned out to be a sad tragedy for them. When the North won the war, the Union had come back with vengeance in their hearts for all who had been Confederate, especially, the Cherokee people. Even those Cherokee that had sided with and fought with the North (less than 20%) suffered, because in those days, there were no good Indians as far as most white men were concerned and this was a tragic thing for these good Indian people.

Combat in warfare makes strange bedfellows, Mr. John William Jordan, during the war had formed several life-long friendships. Among those friends were, Confederate Calvary-men, Private Thomas Humphreys (a part Indian man), Private James A. Patterson, and Lieutenant Colonel Dr. George H. Wooten of the 23rd Texas Calvary of Red River County, Texas. They had been reassigned to the area near Fort Gibson, Tahlequah, Oklahoma area. * (*See the records of the Confederate, Texas 23rd Calvary & the Texas 34th Calvary records listed on the internet <http://www.twsgraphics.com/genealogy/TX23Calvary.htm>*). Fort Gibson had been lost to the Union and the northeast Indian Territory was considered as under Union control. The men of Alexander's 2nd Partisan Calvary had been gathered from units all over Texas from Galveston, to Bowie County, to El Paso. In the Indian Territory, they fought under the command of the great Cherokee, Confederate Brigadier General Stand Watie, also a Cherokee War Chief whose military specialty was guerrilla warfare. General Watie was the "Green Barrett" of the Confederacy of that day with nothing but victory in all of his battles. The Union hated him but were forced to deal with him as he was a continual winner of all his battles. * (*See the story of the great Brigadiere General Stand Watie on UTube at the following internet link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4xXVvY7M2w>*) He did finally, at the orders of General Robert E. Lee, surrender his colors, 2 months after the rest of the Confederacy surrendered, but on his own terms as he had never lost a fight with anyone. The 34th Texas (Alexander's) Partisan Calvary was present to represent the South at the surrender of the Confederacy to the Union on June 2nd, 1865 in the Oklahoma Indian Territory, 2 months after Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Virginia. Among the Field Grade Officers of Alexander's Partisan Calvary, included by rank are, Lieutenant Colonel, Dr. George H. Wooten, of Clarksville, Red River County Texas (Lula Lee Wooten's Great Uncle), Major Thomas J. Dove, Major M. W. Davenport, and Major Sevier Tackett. This can be verified in the records of Alexander's 34th Partisan Calvary, see the link above. The events of the Civil War had formed a brotherhood between a Cherokee man and three Confederate soldiers and both they and their families would face the future as life-long friends together.

Laura Allie, Lula Lee's mother would often allow her children to visit with her great grandfather, Mr. John W. Jordan and his people in Indian Territory. Lula loved these times so, Lula eagerly, learned of her mother's and great grandfather's Indian culture, their stories, about their Indian

Trail Trees and their herbal medicines, and how the Cherokee women took care of themselves and their families. This turned out to be more than just a little important in the lives of Lula and her little family when she grew into womanhood.

Lula Lee's Father, Charlie John Wooten:



As I said above, dedicated, hard-working, Charlie John Wooten was a very compassionate boy that loved his family, his greatest hero and had been his father, James Alexander Wooten who had died when Charlie was 14 years old. As a dedicated son to James and Lydia, Charlie as the oldest boy in the family, had taken over and helped his mother, Lydia B. Wooten to raise his brothers and sisters. His younger sister, Sara Dora, as she got older, had helped Charlie and his mother with the house and Charlie did the farming and livestock work. Charlie's father had strong values, to him, Christianity was a good thing but the Christian life was better lived than talked about, show me, don't tell me had been their way of life.

James Alexander, not only taught Charlie (see photo at left of Charlie in later years) a strong work ethic but he had taught farming and livestock ranching to him as well, Charlie had become good at both and he had embraced the same values of his father. Charlie, as an older teenage boy would often travel to Thacker Ville, Oklahoma and trade for horses with the Choctaw Indians as they had a good horse-trading market there and many good deals could be found but, you had to know livestock to make things like that happen. Charlie knew good horses and his friends, the Choctaw Indians, knew and respected that about him as his dad James had prepared him well. It was unusual that such a young boy knew as much as he did about farming and animals. He had friends there that would sell horses to the U. S. Calvary but they would save some of their best buys for Charlie. While Charlie raised and sold horses, cattle and crops for Lydia B., his siblings helped with the other chores until they were old enough to leave the farm to make a life for themselves.

Charlie's youngest sister, Mary Alice Wooten was 16 years when Charlie John was finally married in 1886 to the half (maybe more) Cherokee Indian girl named, Laura Allie and they did love each other passionately, they were inseparable. Charlie John had taken over the old farm that the family had homesteaded in the 1840's when they had come to Texas. Charlie had big ideas regarding expanding his farm acreage. In 1908 he made a deal to purchase an additional 85 acres from the Bush family of Bowie County. This additional purchase added to his already 640 acres would give him 725 acres to cultivate and raise livestock with. In 1911, after 25 happily married years, Charlie lost the love of his life. His Cherokee love, Laura Allie, when she was only 40 years old, passed away. Between 1911 and 1913 there had been an influenza epidemic that took many lives in the United States, especially in this part of Texas. Broken hearted Charlie John lost all of his desire to, continue and this took all of his will to be productive out of him, so he just quit and retired from his work that he had loved so much.

After all, he and Laura Allie had already raised their wonderful family and Charlie felt that he could never go on without his beloved Laura Allie so, to save his reputation as a good, reliable man and the cost of foreclosure, he deeded the property back to the Bush family before

making a single payment. As long as he had Laura Allie and their family, he had a heart to work and make things happen but without her, life was just not worth the effort. Charlie passed away 14 years later on, February 14th, 1925. For the next 14 years he spent his time visiting each child he and Laura had given birth to and enjoyed the fruits of being a good and loving father and grandfather in his retirement years. Charlie's mother, Lydia B. Wooten outlived even Charlie her oldest boy, she passed away 2-1/2 years later in Thacker Ville, Oklahoma.

Back tracking again, at 26 years of age, Charlie J. Wooten had married, his beautiful ½ Cherokee Indian Princess, Laura Allie Humphreys (no photos available), she was not much more than a child when she married Charlie J. Wooten in 1886 at 15 years of age. She had been the first of two children of her mother, Sarah Jane, Jordan, Humphreys and Thomas P. Humphreys.



Sarah Jane had married a Confederate friend of her fathers, Thomas Humphreys, and moved to Texas in 1870. Mr. Humphrey's had fallen in love with Sarah Jane, Laura Allie's mother, when he was stationed with the Confederacy in the Telequah, Oklahoma area with the Cherokee warriors of the Northeastern Indian Territory. Thomas's birth is questionable, he may have been as much as 7/8 Cherokee himself, I simply do not know. Grandmother always claimed to be ½ Cherokee and Mr. Humphries would have to have been full-blood Cherokee for this to have been so.

Thomas Humphreys had gone to Bowie County, Texas after the war and made a home for his family and gone back to the Oklahoma Indian Territory in 1870 to marry his bride to be. After Thomas and Sarah Jane were married, he had taken her home with him to Bowie County, Texas to make a life for themselves among their life-long friends. Laura Allie had been born December 15, 1871. Life was good for Sarah Jane as she and her husband raised their family together until Mr. Humphreys passed away in 1878 then, it was just Sarah Jane and Laura Allie.

By 1886, 15 year old, Laura Allie had become a woman in Charlie John Wooten's mind and they fell in love and were married that same year. They became very close and loved each other dearly. They had their 1st child, Willie Wooten a year later. Lula Lee Wooten, was the 2nd child and oldest girl in the Wooten Family of 7 girls and 3 boys:

Father:	Charlie John Wooten, Born June 2 nd , 1860
Mother:	Laura Allie, Humphreys, Born December 15, 1871
Son:	Willie May Wooten, Born May 8 th , 1886, Died Jan 10 th , 1914
Daughter:	Lillie Etter Wooten, Born June 9, 1888, Died June 14, 1888
Daughter:	Lula Lee Wooten, Born September 16 th , 1890, Died July 22, 1952
Son:	Ollie D. Wooten, Born Aug 22, 1894 Died April 10 th , 1963
Daughter:	Maggie Jane Wooten, Born Feb 15, 1896 Died ?
Daughter:	Myrtle E. Wooten, Born 1898, Died ?
Daughter:	Ida Mae Wooten, Born May 15, 1900 Died Dec 2 nd , 1928
Daughter:	Ethie Clara Wooten, Born Nov 4 th , 1903 Died Jan 21, 1952
Son:	Horace Wooten, Born Aug 21, 1908 Died ?
Daughter:	Aletha Venice Wooten, Born Sept 23, 1910 died Jan 3, 1965



As Charlie's and Laura's eldest girl, Lula Lee quickly became a nourisher and a problem solver for everyone in the family. She was a right arm to both Laura Allie and Charlie John and a solid mainstay for her siblings. Charlie was a good farmer and hard worker, and the farm kept him busy providing a good living for his family. As a healthy young man, he kept Laura Allie busy having babies and Lula busy taking care of them. There was lots of love within the family. Lula and her



brothers and sisters always admired her mother's and father's marriage and had always hoped to have one like that for themselves one day.

Lula Lee's Brother's and Sisters:

Willie May Wooten – Married Lige Byes, was born May 8, 1886, lived and died in Bowie and Red River County's, Texas he passed away January 10, 1914. He is buried in New Hope Cemetery, in Red River County, Tex.

Lillie Etter Wooten – June 9, 1888 Lived 5 days and died June 14, 1888 Buried in Paris, Texas.

Annie Pearl Wooten Born Aug 3rd, 1892 and died Aug 4th, 1892

Ollie D. Wooten - Born August 22, 1894 in New Boston, Texas and died April 10, 1963 and is buried in Amarillo, Texas. This was Lula Lee's favorite brother, they were very close.

Maggie Jane Wooten Stone Born Feb 15, 1896 Died

? Maggie and Lula Lee were very close as they shared much in common with each other.

Annie Pearl Wooten - Born Aug 3, 1892 died Aug 4, 1892 Buried in Paris, Texas.

Myrtle E. Wooten Hayley – Born September 21, 1898 Died ?

Ida Mae Wooten Christian – Born May 15, 1900 Died December 2nd, 1928 is buried in Dallas, Texas

Ethie Clara Wooten Stone – Born Nov 4th, 1903 Died Jan 21st, 1952 is buried in Dallas, Texas

Horace Estes Wooten - Born Aug 21, 1907 Died ?

Aletha Venice Wooten Cope – Born Sept 23rd, 1910 Died Jan 3rd, 1965 buried in Keller, Texas



Lula Lee:



As you probably remember, this is Lula Lee Wooten's story about how a girl, part Cherokee and part Irish had, made the best out of her difficult life in a man's world in the late 1890's and early 1900's, how she trusted and obeyed God through it all and helped and nurtured others, raised her two children, and victoriously finished the race of life without much help from anyone else. Lula did not go to school in her early years, she learned to read and write by watching her father, Mr. Wooten, teach Willie and his brothers in the evenings after working on the farm all day. The 1900 Federal Census shows Lula at 9 years of age as knowing how to read and write, but never having gone to school. Lula taught her sisters how to read and write after she learned how, knowledge was important to

her. Her sister Maggie was the first Wooten girl to go to public school in New Hope schools near New Boston, Texas, then the rest of the family, boys and girls followed as they could afford.



After all, Charlie Wooten and most of the males of Bowie County and the world at that time felt that, the women of the world could make out just fine without schooling as long as they could do housekeeping, be mid-wives, and have babies. Laura Allie, the mother was shown to not be able to read or write in the 1900 and 1910 Federal Census's. By virtue of the necessities of life, Lula was a little more ambitious. With her



knowledge of food preparation and her knack for management, she could probably have run any restaurant with a profitable bottom line, but her forte was in dolling people up as she would call it. She always had a flare for style, fixing hair, and dressing up her little brothers and sisters to show them off to her friends. She knew how to do a shampoo and a set as a very young girl and often took care of her sisters and some of the neighbors too on special occasions. Lula's education sometimes involved getting knowledge through an alternative to traditional education. Lula would get a job, learn the math and procedures then, do the bosses business. This was her pattern, there were long hours of sacrifice, studying, and learning from within an already established system and she did a good job, because in those days, the world belonged to men and the knowledge that Lula got, had to come in, usually through a back door method of some kind. She used to tell me that, "Life isn't fair, you'll need to learn to take the punches, roll with the blows that come, take what you get then, pray and ask God to help you finish the race with a positive attitude, and be happy with what you get because you know that you've done your best to do it right."

Yes, Lula had many attributes but she still had a lot to learn about people, especially men. Not all men were like her father Charlie John, grandfather James Alexander, her great grandfather, Cherokee Indian, John William Jordan, and those she had been raised around. Lula remained one thing through it all, however, "Someone That Loved and Nourished Others".



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Chapter 3

The People That Were Closest in Lula Lee's Adult Life



We all enter into adulthood with ideas and goals of our own that is why it is so important that a parent live the values in front of their family that they want their children to embrace and live out in life. An old uneducated but street-wise friend of mine once told me that, I should live my life daily in front of my children in the way that I want them to live and that, "I should tease my children often so that, they'll know when they're being teased, love and show love to them enough so that, they'll know what love is, show kindness so that, they'll know how to be kind to others, and teach them that, if you spit into the wind, it'll blow back on you then, point them into life, and let them sail away." As we said earlier Lula Lee had a father, Charlie John Wooten that had a tremendous work ethic

because his father James had lived and mentored Charlie with much fatherly loving care while he was alive. All her life Lula had been the nurturer and care giver for her family. Laura Allie, her mother, had been a role model of that to Lula also. Charlie John and Laura Allie, however, left some things undone in Lula's life.

In their little quiet sheltered area of New Boston, Texas, people were simple, unassuming, hardworking and friendly. As children, we're the sum of all we have been taught, as adults were the sum of those teachings plus our life experiences. If we're wise we learn that early-on in life. If it is not learned by us as children then, as adults we suffer many cruel lessons. When Lula, as a young woman, began to think of getting a life partner she assumed some things about men that simply were not true, about most men. Not every man is the man that daddy, grandpa and great grandpa were but somehow, most young naive girls seem to not be able to connect with this. We do not know much regarding the men in Lula's life but shown below is what we do know about Lula's men with comments following:



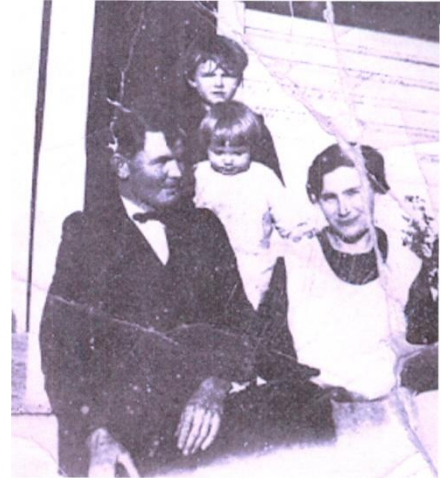
John Earl Underwood, - Born: April 26, 1890, in Howard County, Kentucky, died: March 7, 1965 in Oakland, California. Married Lula Wooten: Feb 14, 1912 in Bowie County, Texas, divorced: 1920 \pm . They had three children, Annie Laura, born Feb. 23, 1913 in Bowie County, Texas, died March 30, 1913 in Bowie County, Texas. Jewett (Buddy) Alwyn Underwood, born November 15, 1915, in Royce City, Texas, died January 24, 1987 in Abilene, Texas, and Cloie (Billy) Ruth Underwood born, April 11, 1918 in Royce City, Texas, died September 4, 1985 in Reno, Nevada and is buried at Mountain View Cemetery there.

Lula and John lived at first in New Boston, Texas. When he was a boy, John was his sister Lenney's pet and she along with their mother spoiled him as sometime women will a younger child. John was a carpenter and a laborer; he had a seventh grade education and could read and write according to the 1910 Federal Census. We assume that, when he married Lula in 1912, not much had changed and

he was carpentering and doing odd jobs. Lula worked to supplement their income in Texarkana, Texas at the, Superior Beauty Shop, 2601 Boulevard Street, in Texarkana, Texas. The Superior

Beauty Shop was where Lula's practical work knowledge began. Lula had a lot of practical knowledge about Cherokee Indian herbal medicines, salves, ointments, soaps and creams. Coupled with her practical knowledge of hair care at the Superior Beauty Shop, she excelled in her work there. We do not know her employer's name, only that they were good to Lula and they taught her much of the practical side of a beauty parlor business.

John could not find much steady carpenter work around the New Boston/Texarkana area and Lula had lost their first child Annie Laura Underwood in 1913, after she was a little over a month old so, they moved to the Royce City/Terrell, Texas area to get away from hurtful memories, make a fresh start, and find steady work there. John had some of his family in this area also that helped him get started there. It was here that Jewett (Buddy) Underwood was born in 1915 then, later Cloie (Billie) Ruth Underwood was born in 1918. After a while, work played out in the Royce City/Terrell area and John wanted to move on to more fruitful grounds. In spite of it all, he could not seem to stay steadily employed as a carpenter and the other work that he found was just odd jobs and not a living wage. Lula had family, a younger brother, Ollie living nearby and she wasn't ready to be separated from him yet. Lula again, began working in the Beauty Parlor business again to supplement hers and John's income. This time, she found work in Terrell, Texas and she was glad to be back into the business world, she loved people and her family being nearby, once again the nurturing Lula was making things happen for her and her little family. For a while, she kept things together with John doing some carpentering and odd jobs as he could find them.



Things worked good for a little while. Above, are John, Buddy, Billie Ruth, and Lula in their home near Terrell, she was even able to save a little money. However, not being the main bread-winner was demeaning to John's way of thinking and in 1920, divorcing Lula, he left his family and moved by himself to Plainview, Texas where he lived and worked as a single man, for the next 20+ years, never to returning to east Texas or his little family again. The exact circumstances of what happened in Terrell are not known, John had gotten to a point where he was abusive to his family and because of that, the marriage with the nurturing Lula was no longer tolerable for her and the children. After years of living in Plainview, Texas, John seemingly got things together, Buddy visited him in his late teenage years and he mentioned in a letter that I saw to his mother, Lula that his dad had good credit everywhere in town and was highly respected by police, judges and other important people around town.



In Lula's early naive adult life, to her, John was a well-dressed, handsome man and a good catch for any woman, but in the long run he had not been the man that her father, grandfather and great grandfather had been, his work ethic was different and he was not well prepared to make a good life for a family and Lula was not used to that. Charlie John, Lula's father, had a few harsh words about John Earl but they didn't matter to Lula. In reality, John Earl had to live the lessons that life would teach him before he became that man. He moved later in the 1940's, to Oakland, California and started another family. He had another daughter, Cathryn Mary Underwood, I wish I had known her. Buddy, told me that his Dad had begun going to church in a Salvation Army mission and had become a wonderfully, different man. I never met him and that's too bad as I would have liked to have known him, so would his son and daughter Buddy and Billie Ruth, they would

have like to have known him as Dad, the same as Keith, Roy Earl, and I knew and were nurtured by our wonderful dad, Buddy.

Mr. Harding, - Married to Lula Lee in the early 1930's. Divorced in the early 1930's. Born:Unknown Died:Unknown. There is not much to say other than I have a copy of some paper work with Lula Lee shown to be Lula Harding, nothing more. Sorry that we do not know more about this man.

J. Ward. Passmore - Married to Lula Lee: Feb 14, 1937 @ 4:45 p.m Died: Summer of 1938 at 35 years old 1-1/2 years later.



Born: In Oklahoma in 1903 – I think, from all that we can tell from what she and others have told me is that, this was the great love of Lula Lee's life, he was what Lula was looking for in a man, he was everything that daddy Charlie John, grandpa James Alexander, and great grandpa John William Jordan were. Lula later married Sid Fortenberry after Mr. Passmore passed away but after the demise of the Fortenberry union, she resumed using Mr. Passmore's name again, she was going by Passmore when she passed away, June 16th, 1953. Everyone in our family that I've talked with loved J. Ward Passmore, my father, my mother, my grandmother, her brothers and sisters too. Mr. Passmore was shown to be a Farmer with his family in Oklahoma in the 1930 Federal Census living with some of his brothers and sisters, a wife and a son. It is not known what happened in his first marriage but it was probably like so many other



marriages during the great depression of the 1930's, his wife died, or left and dissolved the marriage, the reason(s) are simply not known. Mr. Passmore had a sad, heart breaking death. After his marriage to Lula, Mr. Passmore had wanted to make a good life for himself and his new bride so, he had gone on the road looking for work. After their marriage in 1937, he couldn't find work in or around Ysleta or the El Paso, Texas area. After talking it over with Lula,

he literally jumped a freight train and traveled west to California. He looked for work for several weeks then on a Sunday night in June of 1938, he called Lula and told her that he had found a good job in the Calexico, California area. Lula had already established herself in a business enterprise in the El Paso area that she called "The El Paso Beauty Clinic" so, they agreed that she would sell out in Texas and meet him in Calexico and they could begin their lives together. By Monday evening the coroner's office in Calexico had called her telling her that, Mr. Passmore had been found dead of heart problems in his motel room. Evidently, the heat and the hard work had aggravated an already sick heart condition. The funeral was that same Wednesday. When the article above was clipped out, someone forgot to date the article, Mr. Passmore passed away in the early summer of 1938.

Henry Fortenberry – Born:Unknown, Died:Unknown Married to Lula sometime in late 1938, Divorced:Unknown. From all that I can tell, Henry Fortenberry was a good man, we just never knew the man nor knew what Lula's differences may have been with him. The marriage was not a long one, once again, I believe that he simply did not measure up to what her father, grandfather, or J. Ward Passmore had been. I remember seeing him once as a child, to me and to my father, he seemed nice enough but I really never knew him and for that, I am sorry.

Above listed were the men, the loves of Lula Lee's life, in my mind its too bad that her father and mother taught her so much about work ethic but never what to expect from a man that she would marry one day, but then, what parent does. Lula, like most of us in America, made her own decisions about those things. Lula built businesses and families well, but her personal life did hurt.

As a young woman, through necessity, Lula began to exercise practical lessons she had learned in life, especially with regard to God and how He applied to her life. Like her father, while growing up, she had always felt like a good christian life was something to be lived and not talked too much about, she later learned that, the Bible had many promises and lessons for us all to learn, it is a very personal thing but we should teach these things to those we love and mentor. Lula taught me many things about life and what she taught me that has been most important to me is about the sovereignty and irony of God and His promises to us, we'll talk about it in the next chapter.

Below listed were those individuals that Lula nurtured or would love to have nurtured, if she could have. Her boy, Buddy, she spoiled as a boy and a young man, her daughter Cloie (Billie) Ruth, she tried to spoil and Billie Ruth simply would not take to being spoiled. She was a lot like Lula, independent some, like her father John Earl, straight to the point, and she would let you know very quickly, what she expected. The grandchildren well, we'll take those one at a time too.



Jewett (Buddy) Underwood – Born November 15, 1915, this was Lula's first great love, her boy. She did a fairly good job of raising him and teaching him about loving people. To my brothers Keith William, Roy Earl, and me, Ronald Alwyn, he was a loving and kind father. He taught his sons a great work ethic as our grandmother, Lula had taught him, and her father, Charlie John had taught her. "Get up, put on your clothes and get started early

in the day because the work won't go away but the sunlight will." He drove a Greyhound Bus through rain, sleet, snow or shine for 38 years and was consistant everyday, never slacking or missing work, he had the teamster attitude of his great grandfather, James Alexander. Buddy was a good and



deeply dedicated Marine. He served in World War II in the Pacific theatre in the 4th Marine Division and loved his country. See him in the last photo on the right on sheet 18, 2nd marine from the right acting as "Chief Gunnie" for Marine Artillery. When he would speak of his service, he did so with great honor and respect for others who had served with him. Serving in the Marine Corps gave him a seriousness that he never quite lost, somehow, I picked up on that

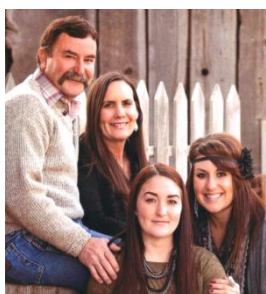


and I admired that about him. Buddy was basically a serious individual, unlike his father, John Earl, Buddy would not tease and cut up very much. He loved his children, and fostered a serious but loving nature toward them, he loved like Lula had, with a nurturing heartfelt love, we always felt and loved that about him.

Cloie (Billie) Ruth Underwood - Born April 11, 1918, this was Lula's second, first great love, she adored this little girl and was very protective of her however. Billie Ruth was a mischeiveous, fun loving little girl. She wasn't one to let things that she did not like pass without letting you know how she felt. She was honest, practical, contemplating, and what you saw was what you get. Although we were not ever very close because of the distance between us, I loved and respected her. I find that I am much like her in my approach with people and believe me, it keeps them off balance but me in trouble as most people don't like it when you're totally honest with them.



Charles Eugene Taylor (left photo) - Born July 1, 1936, this was Lula Lee's first grandchild, her mischievious, always grinning little grandson. He was able to live with her in some of his early and very formative years (1942 thr 1946). Lula loved this boy as he was Cloie (Billie) Ruth's only child. Charles grew up and married his wife Sharon (photo on right) in 1958. Charles and Sharon have one son & one daughter,



Christopher Charles Taylor & Family (photo on left) and one daughter, Tina Renee Taylor (photo on right). Charles and Sharron have two granddaughters by Christopher Charles and his wife Nita, Samantha Jo on bottom left, and Sarah Ann on the right and one grandson, Cody and twin granddaughters, Jessica Renee and Janna Rose by their daughter **Tina Renee**



(family photo on the right w/Jessica Renee on the left, Cody, upper middle, Janna Rose on the right and Tina Renee in the bottom foreground).

Christopher is one of America's finest. A fireman for 25 years for the City of Reno, he will soon (June of 2014) be retiring. He was a journeyman butcher and worked his way through the University of Nevada earning a Fire Science Degree, what a guy!

Tina works full-time for the University of Nevada and is a Senior Shuttle Driver and works part time for the Washoe County School District. Her children are all grown and pursuing careers of their own. What a beautiful family and look at the work ethic, this must have been inherited from Lula Lee, I am so proud of these wonderful people.

Charles was a successful Carpenter and Cabinet Maker in the Reno, Nevada area for 52 years then, opened and operated his own company, Taylor Bilt Construction Company, for the

last 10 years, prior to his retirement in August of 2001. Charles Eugene Taylor was Cloie (Billie) Ruth's only child and Lula Lee's first grandson. Charles and his family are a credit to, and a good example of Cherokee Girl, Lula Lee's work ethic.



Ronald Alwyn Underwood - Born August 9, 1941, this was Lula's second grandchild (me). Ronnie grew up to become a Landscape Architect, building many parks and park facilities all over North Texas and in the Dallas metroplex area. Ronnie proudly served as an Artillery Battery Commander, as a Captain in the military in Germany, and in Viet Nam. He adopted two children, Kristiana and Ronald Jordan while in Germany, these two children were adopted because Ronald fell in love with them but as a result of one of grandmother Lula's lap conversations when he was 5 years old. Lula Lee was in one of her teaching moments with Ronnie. She had taken Ronnie to a movie about

children in an orphanage ("Father Flannigan's Boys Town" with Pat O'Brien starring) and what she said, Ronnie claimed he had always remembered, ***"If everyone that could, would take just one orphaned child, there would be no orphans in the world and everyone would have a family and love."*** Ronnie did remember this all of his life, and he did adopt two children, he tried for three, two in Germany and one in Viet Nam but the U.S. Government would only allow Ronnie, two adopted children, that was his quota at the time. The children that I did get to take home with me have truly been the joy of my life. My mischievous little girl, Krissy was born March 31, 1965 and passed away June 19, 1987 and she was my fun loving, joking, mischievous child and I'll love her memory always. Ronald Jordan, my serious little why? child, my boy grew up to marry a precious girl, named Shanie Taylor Underwood who has given me three beautiful grandchildren that I will always love her for, Jordan Taylor, Savannah Glee, and Cayden Dayne. All I can say is "Grandmother, if you can hear me is, Thanks for the good advice, it sure made the rest of my life a wonderful one. I will love you and your lap-top stories and conversations always, see you in heaven as we'll have a lot to talk about, you prolific wonderful, loving, nurturing lady."

June Marie and I have three living children, Ron, our son and his wife Shanie Underwood living in Houston, Texas photo on right above. Ron with a degree in Business Management from the University of Texas, manages the sales of communications equipment for a company called Shared Technology. Shanie, Ron's wife is an Insurance Broker for AMWINS Company of America, a nationally known Insurance company.



Cindy our daughter and her husband, Ron Smith Live in Hernando, Mississippi. Cindy with her degree in elementary education from Baylor University is a retired school teacher and principal for a school system and teaches part time. Ron is a retired printer for a printing company out of Memphis, Tennessee. If you've seen a National Geographic Magazine, you've seen Ron's work. Ron and Cindy both teach part time and visit their kids, Kelli, Kim, Brian, Carla, Jennifer and their grandkids the rest of the time, what a wonderful life.



Our son, Don and his wife Mary Alice Tennison, live in San Diego, California. Don like his mother, June Marie is an entertainer and singer in the southern California area, he owns his own business, Port-A-Cool. Port-A-Cool provides cooling systems for NFL Football teams, the U.S. Government and others. Mary Alice is a retired,



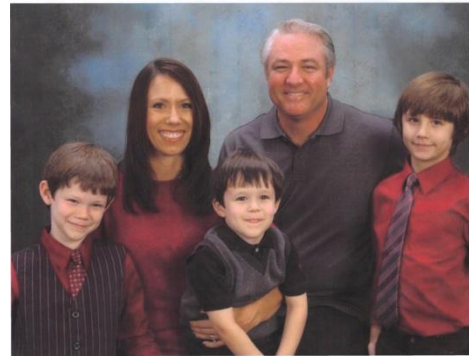
medical administrator that retired to help Don run their business in San Diego, she is a real treasure and asset to Don and our family. Don and Mary Alice have two sons, Ken is married to Dena and Ron is getting married, and as of now we have, five grandchildren, Rachel, Hannah, Lauren, Matthew, and Cholie. I wish I had room to show photos of all, kids and grandkids but we do not so, I'll just say we have a great life with our three children, their spouses, our five children, 7 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren, as of this time.



Keith William Underwood– Born October 6, 1947, this is Lula's third grandson. She loved Keith and I remember her holding him on her lap talking with him and later playing checkers with him, just as she had done Charles Eugene and me. Keith may or may not remember much but he can tell you about Lula Lee's influence in his life:

Keith W. Underwood was born October 6th 1947 he grew up in Texas then after his studies in art, owned and operated a successful art glass etching business for 25 years in southern Florida. He has one son

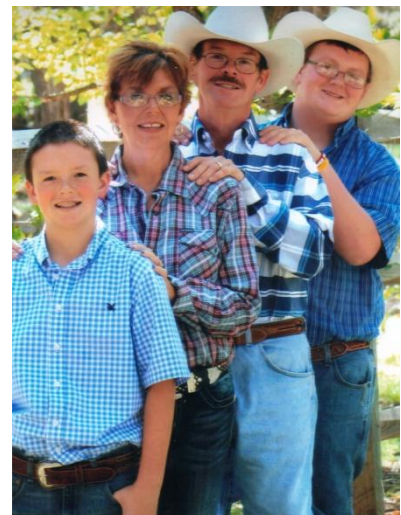
Donovan Alwyn Underwood (see photo on the right), born July 2nd 1966 with his small family. Donovan and his lovely wife Nicole have three sons Ethan Alwyn Underwood born April 22nd 2004, Luke Joseph Underwood born Feb.20th 2006 and Nicholas Dietrich Underwood born Nov. 1st 2008. Keith says, "I was only 6 when grandmother passed. But I do remember she always let me win at checkers. And was sweet and soft spoken. Love Keith"



This is Lula's fourth and last grandson Roy Earl Underwood Born, February 15, 1959. Lula Lee never knew Roy Earl as he was born about 5-1/2 years after her passing but this doesn't mean that he wasn't influenced by her. The same lap-top stories that she told to Buddy, Billie Ruth, Charles Eugene, Ronnie, and Keith, her son Buddy probably sat with Roy Earl on his lap and told him. Buddy was a good father, he like all of us had his strengths

and weaknesses but he was always a sensitive man and wonderful father to us three boys.

Roy Earl Underwood married Hayley Champion and they have two handsome boys, Tanner and Toby that adore their mother and father. Roy Earl works for Plains Marketing of Houston, Texas, as a diesel mechanic and truck driver in west Texas near Abilene and has a good life there nurturing his family like Lula did hers. Hayley, a stay-at-home mom, keeps her three men in line. Tanner Layne, plays highschool football and enjoys soccer. He is on the varsity powerlifting team, he is a "Life Scout" in the Scouting program and he loves all they've taught him and is about to receive his Eagle Scout decorations as of this writing. When I talked with Tanner I sensed his pride in his scouting achievements and for that, I am proud of him. Tanner, has Lula Lee's grandfather's, James Alexander Wooten's, and her father's Charlie John Wooten's genes and loves managing



and raising livestock. He is in the Future Farmer's of America and is learning about raising farm animals, he is currently studying and showing sheep. James Alexander, Charlie John, and Lula Lee would be proud of this boy as he typifies what Lula Lee's people worked hard to become in our early Texas history. Tanner is a junior where he goes to school at Jim Ned High School. Nothing lazy about these two boys. Toby Landon (photo on right) is a happy, jovial, yet, serious young man still in the process of growing up and deciding what journey he will take in life. He loves his mom, dad, and big brother, always teasing and joking sort of like his dad. He is in the ninth grade and enjoys riding four wheelers, dirt bikes, mom's Kawasaki mule and driving remote controlled cars. Toby like his great grandmother Lula Lee enjoys fashion and being well dressed. Toby like his big brother, his uncle Keith, and dad, he is an outdoorsman and enjoys camping. 4-H is one of Toby's activities and everywhere he goes, Toby enjoys life, this boy will go far, Lula Lee would be proud, he is bright and does not accept mediocracy, he will be a winner at whatever he does.



Great Work! Roy and Hayley, keep it up, you've got a lot to be proud of. Be happy and know that, we're all proud of you and the "Spirit of Lula Lee that you represent so well.



Chapter 4

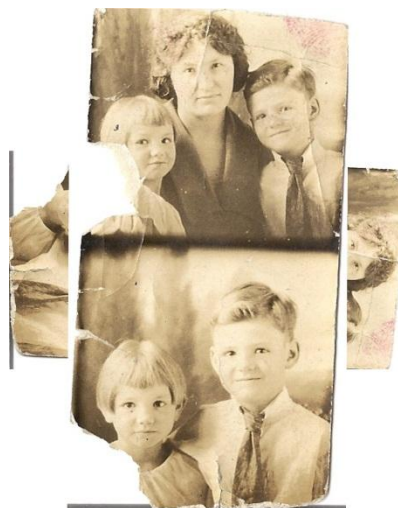
How It All Unfolded For Lula Lee



Lula Lee Wooten had been praying for guidance a lot lately, she had been given a rough beginning in her marriage with John Earl Underwood. She had made some poor choices with regard to people and was now paying the price that comes with things like that, remember young people, **“You make choices then, those choices will make the rest of your lives for you.”** This was one of Lula’s sayings that she often used, I wonder why? Like many young people today in life, Lula had married too young, too unprepared, and with too many expectations of her mate and to some extent this was unfair to him too. She had needed a “White Knight” and her white knight turned out to be an immature young boy. John Earl was one of the two younger of 5 boys and one girl in his family, he’d had some expectations of Lula too, he’d expected a life partner to carry more of a load for him than Lula had, like his big sister and mama at home had always done for him, while he was growing up. Many times men don’t understand that having babies and working at the same time are difficult for a woman, and this was Lula’s and John’s situation. As a young naive country girl, Lula had not been much of a student of people outside of her family and her growth in this area of life was stunted. Why had this happened to her? Her life had really become in a mess after her divorce with John. He was gone now with other fish to fry and lessons of life to learn of his own. John hadn’t meant to hurt anyone but he had, so he just walked away because at the time, he didn’t know how to make things right, it was just easier to leave. In some peoples mind, they would call him a “heel” or a “cop out”. My dad Buddy, Lula’s and John’s son told me that, John had become abusive to the family. What that meant, no one ever told me and I didn’t ask. After all, verbal, physical, who cares abuse is abuse? It had been unacceptable and Lula would not put up with it so John left. Lula needed help, and at this point, only God could help Lula, it was the early 1920’s and what would a young part Cherokee Indian girl that couldn’t even legally vote yet, in a white society that still misunderstood the American Indian, do to support her two young children and herself? Lula’s dad, Charlie John had seen this immaturity in John and had tried to tell Lula, calling John Earl, **“A Drug Store Cowboy That Needed His Cowboy Boots Shined.”** John had known and tried to tell her but Lula just wouldn’t listen and now she was paying the price of her bad choices. This was typical of young folks then and now, it seems that, some things never change.

In early summer of 1913, Lula and John had moved to the Royce City/Terrell, Texas area to be near her younger brother, Ollie, Lula’s younger brother and his new family. John also had a brother living nearby in Rockwall County too and this was helpful. Lula and John had lost their first child, Annie Laura in March of 1913, Annie Laura was a little over a month old when she died. Lula never told me how Annie died, but there was a worldwide influenza epidemic at the time, it is recorded as being particularly bad in this area of the U.S.A. and this was probably (speculation here) the cause of Annie Laura’s death. It had hit Lula and John hard, leaving a big hole in their hearts and to Lula, moving to be near little brother Ollie and his new bride was

comforting and seemed to be a good thing to do at the time. John Earl's and Lula's two children, Jewett Alwyn (Buddy) and Cloie (Billie) Ruth were born here.



Lula, with her knowledge of Cherokee Indian herbal medicines, ointments, creams, and soap making, had been able to get a job at a Beauty Parlor in Terrell and being as thrifty as she was, even save a little money. Ollie, Lula's younger brother, and his wife helped Lula with her two children and in making practical everyday ends meet. Ollie, like his sister and being Charlie John's son, had learned prudence and good management skills and was a big help to his sister who had a lot of love, respect, and was influenced greatly by her younger brother, Ollie. Ollie knew that the Beauty Parlor business had been a fair living for Lula and her children in Texarkana, Maud, and in Terrell, Texas but that, it would be even better for her in a larger town like nearby Dallas, Texas, 40 miles to the west. Ollie encouraged Lula to go to Dallas and maybe even live with

her little sister Maggie Wooten Stone who already lived in northwest Dallas. See Lula, little Billie Ruth, and Buddy above and on the left, these photos were taken of Lula's little family while living in the Terrell area in around 1921.

The move to Dallas:

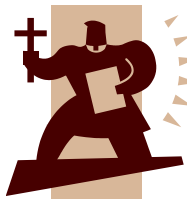
With a little checking around in Dallas and a few references from Terrell, Lula found a job in a beauty parlor in east Dallas near the Fair Park (State Fair of Texas Grounds) area of town. Photo on the right, this was in approximately 1924 while Charlie John, Lula's dad, was still alive. Charlie John, in particular loved the Fair Park area of town near where Lula and the children lived and he loved to visit the Fair Grounds, he had enjoyed the stock show there when he was younger and had traveled to Dallas to show his award winning livestock previously. Charlie's favorite place to eat a hot dog and drink a soda was in front of Smith Fountain across from the Music Hall within the Fair Grounds. Charlie loved Lula and her children, he would visit them when he wanted to see them and play the grandfather role in their lives, they loved Charlie John. I worked as a landscape architect for Dallas Parks and Recreation and retired from there after 31 ½ years. I renovated Charlie's old Smith Fountain a couple of times and often thought of Charlie, grandmother Lula Lee, Buddy, and aunt Billie enjoying it in earlier years.



Lula was, as you might expect, hard-working and dedicated, she worked, saved her money and was well respected by those she worked with. Her special knowledge of creams, ointments, soaps, and herbal medicines from her childhood schooling by her Cherokee mother's tribal Klan gave her an edge among those that she worked around in the Beauty Parlor business. As people will, they would tap her for knowledge and information about their clientele's beauty

problems then, take the credit for the advice that Lula would give them for their customers. Lula was still struggling, looking for her first break, she had been asking God for in the business world. She needed a break and had asked for God to help her. Lula told me that, it turns out that, what Lula needed was some teaching about how God works in people's lives. Lula not only needed this teaching but she also needed to make some personal dedications to God in her own everyday life, up to now Lula had played with the idea of a God but she had never really understood that He needed a total commitment from her personally, then he would personally deal with her and resolving her problems. Through her prayers and an old fashioned revival she began to realize this and take some positive moves toward God and his will for her life.

Lula's Decision at the Revival:



March 25th, 26th, and 27th of 1927, a nationally popular evangelist, Amiee Semple McPherson came to Dallas for a three night, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday revival meeting. Lula heard the advertisements about the revival on the radio and saw the news-paper advertisements.

Now, Lula had been raised by Charlie and Laura Allie, and by nature of her country upbringing, was a little suspicious of money raising, offering taking preachers, but she was still curious and wanted to see what this meeting was all about. Lula had heard about things like this but had never seen anything like it. Lula's sister, Maggie had heard and was also curious about the meeting and called Lula and asked if they could go together. Lula had been praying to God for some answers so, maybe this would bring some. Long story made short, that Friday night, Lula, both of her children, and Maggie made a deal with God and dedicated their lives to Him. This made some great changes in all of their lives. I never really knew Aunt Maggie that well, I understand that she was a good, godly woman, but I can speak for Lula, our grandmother as I talked with her often with many questions, you know how children can be. Chuck Taylor was her grinning, joking, mischievous, playful, care-free little boy and I was her curious "Why? kid" always asking why, and believe me, I did ask a lot. Lula had what Christians call, a true conversion and became a dedicated, solid, true believer. Lula, with some good teaching principles with regard to tithing, had made God her business partner and had begun to have faith that, God had everything for her and her little family in the palm of His big wonderful hand and all she needed to do now was to pray, trust, and obey Him and He would do the rest. Some people might argue that all of what follows here is coincidental but it really happened, I heard about from Lula and then, lived these things myself most of my life. From the time of her conversion and making God her business partner, things really did began to change for the better for Lula and the children.



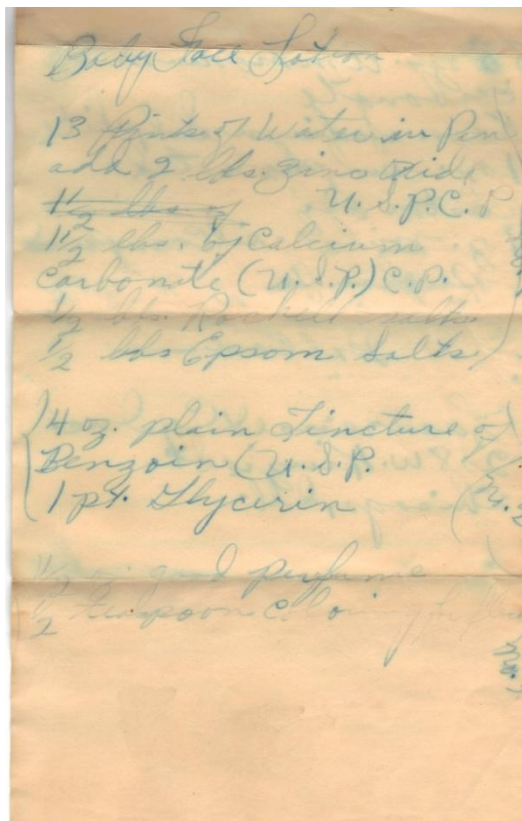
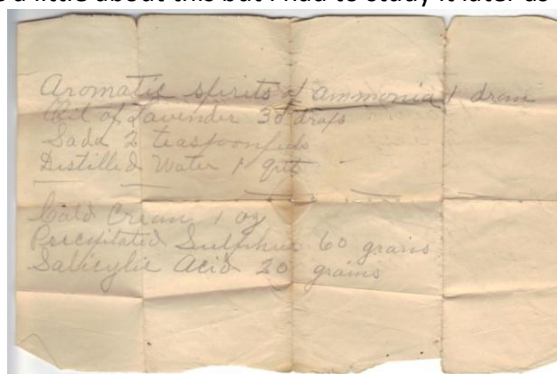
Cherokee herbal medicines, creams, ointments, and soaps make good for Lula:

For some time now, Lula had worked in beauty parlors from Texarkana, to Maud, to Terrell, to Dallas making her living and she knew the business well by now. Lula or one of her associates that she worked with, at the time, would have a customer/client that would have some kind of

skin or beauty problem and Lula, with her childhood Cherokee education and upbringing would remember something that her mother's Klan from her great grandfather, Mr. John Jordan's tribe, had taught her as a remedy for that particular kind of problem and Lula would give them the herbal medicine cure. People today, would accuse Lula of practicing medicine without a license but in those days, Cherokee herbal cures were legal in America, more importantly, Lula's Cherokee cures were working and making good customers better paying customers.

Cherokee herbal medicines are an ancient practice with many tried and proven cures. These ancient cures are still often used today within the tribe. See the website for the Cherokee Nation; <http://www.cherokee.org/Home.aspx> . My grandmother Lula told me once that, if you can read the forest trees you can find natural cures for many of today's ailments. She told me that her grandfather's people, the Cherokee were an agricultural and livestock raising people that planted crops, and marked their trails, herbal areas, council areas, hunting, and game playing areas by planting and shaping trees in certain areas in certain ways. My grandmother taught me a little about this but I had to study it later as an adult after becoming a landscape architect to understand its significance to society and to culture. It is true, the Cherokee and other Indian nations marked trails and special areas for their posterity to read and use when they need them. They never shared this information about their culture much with the white man. Think about it, why should they share anything at all with the anglo culture? See http://mountainstewards.org/project/internal_index.html on the internet, this is a good place to begin the study of Indian Trail Marker Trees and what they were.

For a long time Lula simply gave these herbal secrets away to customers as part of her services just to be helpful. After Lula had prayed one day and ask for God's help in making ends meet, one of her working associates told Lula about a statewide competition in Texas that several cosmetic companies would join together and sponsor on an annual basis. The associate suggested that, Lula enter some of her herbal formulas into this competition to be judged. So, in 1927/28 (don't know an exact date, sorry!), Lula entered some of her product formulas in the competition and ended up winning a silver cup and a nice cash award. Shortly afterward, a company called "Chesebrough-Ponds" purchased one of Lula's formulas for one of Lula's home-made products. Now days, when I see the Ponds Companies advertisements, I wonder if Lula's cleansing cream is the one that Ponds sells to their customers around the world. Ponds did start selling their cleansing cream shortly after they bought Lula's Cherokee skin



cleansing formula, who knows what the truth really is? All grandmother Lula would say when I ask was that, "she thought it probably was her formula but she really couldn't comment any further, she didn't know for sure what all they used to make their cleansing cream." On the right of the previous sheet are a couple of the formulas she wrote down that she used in her business. There are more but this is a couple of the more legible that I found in her papers.

Lula truly felt that, she had taken God at His Word, as her business partner, and it had paid great dividends to her and her family. The scripture that Lula used as God's promise to her is found in *Malachi 3:10, 11, and 12*. She felt that although this scripture promise, held in its proper context, is to the nation of Israel, that this was also a promise to those that belonged to God today, in this time, because we live under a better covenant than the old testament gave mankind. No argument here, as Lula took this money and with what she had already saved, bought beauty supplies, beauty parlor equipment, and rented a small building and moved in on the northwest corner of Langdon Avenue and Denton Road, on the same block near where her sister Maggie lived across from Love Field Airport and the old Army Air Corps. Barracks in the in North Dallas area. She knew that, at last, God had given her the break she'd asked Him for and that, all she needed to do was obey his instructions. She obeyed God and lived with this business relationship with God for the rest of her life, in every business she owned and it was successful every time. She taught this principle to me although I didn't understand it until years later and I am living it now myself, successfully, I might add.

Business Success was Sweet for Lula and Her Children:



Maggie, lived north of downtown Dallas just outside of town across the road from and just to the west of Love Field Airport. In 1927, The airport had been, and for the time being, still was a World War I, Army Air Corps pilot training center. The Airport had been named by the U. S. Army after a Lieutenant Moss Lee Love of the 11th Calvary, who was the first pilot to die from the Dallas area after World War I had begun. His memorial is still there near the entrance

of the airport building today. I had the privilege to do some work on the memorial when I renovated the outside landscaped area of Dallas Love Field Airport once for the City of Dallas.

Our Aunt Maggie's home, was out in the country. Have you heard that, "Eggs are Cheaper in the Country?" Well that's where they were, just across from an old Army airfield barracks, out in the country where you could hear the rooster crow in the morning. You even

had to walk several blocks to get a bus to take you into downtown Dallas. The busses only ran at certain times of the day and never conveniently. My how things are different now.

Lula's Challenge to People:

When Lula would tell people what God had done for her, and people would argue with Lula that, this was just a coincidence and that, God really doesn't work in that way in people's lives. They would say things like, you just have to have faith and do the best you can with what God gives you, or, God didn't promise that we'd be rich and have everything we want so we shouldn't burden Him with our selfish desires. Lula would argue that, the things that God promises us in the Bible were either the truth or, they were bald face lies and there is no in between. Lula declared that, she would believe it all or nothing at all. At this point, no one could argue with Lula's success, money and results talk and when it does, people listen. Lula felt that, she had taken God as her business partner with regard to her tithing and there was no turning back. So far, she was way ahead in her business deal with God. She had prayed, obeyed God's instruction, and the answer had come, as I said earlier, "Who can argue with success". Lula reasoned that, He had led her to this point in helping her to win the statewide contest, and in getting the money for her formulas and now she was in business for herself and God, so, He could tell her what to do next. People that were skeptics would just have to be skeptic.

Lula always told me that, if you prayed to God, listened for his leading, and then obeyed that, you can think and pray your way into or out of any situation. She felt that He (Our Lord) could lead you in your daily work and the decisions that you make. Lula had felt that He'd led her to rent this small building out in the country and she had obeyed His leading and she was now reaping a successful business, thanks be to God. Lula practiced tithing, and she felt that it was the answer to every possible financial problem that any Christian person could possibly ever have. Her challenge to me and anyone else that was interested was to, "Try it if you don't believe it works, just try it, God will do His part if you'll do yours." She always told me that, "If you'll take one step toward God, He'll take two toward you. If you'll keep your end of a deal with God, God will keep His." Years of living have shown me that this is true and not simply coincidence.

What people didn't know:

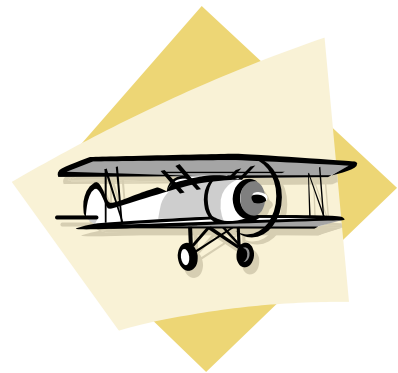
At first, things were a little slow for Lula's business but Lula's reputation had begun to grow. More customers were coming in and getting things beautified but the location was still in the country and most people had to inconveniently drive to get there. Lula had a talk with God and He told her to be patient, good things were in the works. What only God knew was that, in 1927/28, the City of Dallas had recently acquired Love Field Airport from the U. S. Government and had plans to commercialize the airport, Delta Airlines already had contracted to move in and was doing so at that time, and Braniff Airways would come a little later. Lula claimed that God had spoken to her heart and told her to, advertise that, regular business hours were 9:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. but that she took appointments for 24 hours a day for those travelers leaving on an early morning flight, train, or bus, from Dallas. Once again, Lula was leading the competition, taking appointments for 2:00 or 3:00 a.m. so that a lady could leave on an airplane flight at 6:00 or 7:00 a.m. wearing a fresh hairdo. Believe it or not, this was cutting edge profits

for Lula and she never stopped working and had to hire extra help. Lula was, “Making Hay While the Sun Shown”, like Charlie John, her father had taught her, and now, even in the middle of the night. The family, because of Lula’s following God’s leadings, did well during these days. God had known what would happen all along, all Lula had to do was follow the leadings that God would give her. Like she had said, “If you’ll keep your end of the deal, God will keep His”, and He was doing His part. Lula used **Deuteronomy 8:18**, to believe for this particular promise from God. *“But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for [it is] he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as [it is] this day.”* And, once again, like an old Jewish friend of mine once told me, “I may or may not agree but, Who am I to argue with success?”

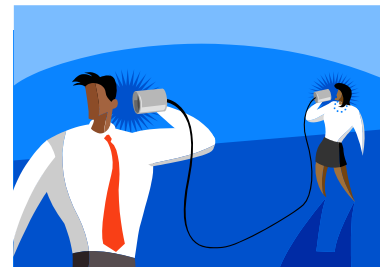
Lula and her Children:

Lula had success in raising her children with God’s help also. Buddy and Billie Ruth developed a healthy respect for their mother’s prayerful revelations; they learned that when Lula insisted on something and would not relent, she meant it so, stop making problems. Both Buddy, and Billie were a little rebellious as most children are. Because Lula wanted to make up for the children not having their father with them, Lula did what some mothers often do and had spoiled her children. She easily gave into their childhood wishes more often than not, if the children wanted something or wanted to do something and she said “no”, they would usually argue until they got their way. Lula would usually give in until one particular situation occurred, let me explain:

Buddy was now living near the airport and like any boy would, he was learning to love airplanes. He was making friends with and hanging out with the pilots and business men now moving into Love Field Airport as it was beginning to commercialize as both it, and Dallas grew together. There was a man named “Biff” that Buddy had made friends with, he liked Buddy and would often take Buddy on short airplane rides around the airport and the city, and Buddy quickly became an errand boy for his friend Biff. Buddy loved flying in the old world war I Bi-plane that Biff owned and even made a little money for helping Biff out from time to time. Biff and a partner were the owners of a company that repaired airplanes and airplane engines, the company was called Mustang Aviation and later became what is known today as Southwest Airmotive. Today the company is all over the world but at that time in its beginnings, it was located in Dallas only. Biff and his business partner worked repairing airplanes and airplane engines and delivering the parts after the work was done.



Biff asked Buddy one Friday evening if on Saturday morning, Buddy wanted to earn a few extra dollars to fly about a 100 mile trip south to Waco, Texas and help him deliver some parts, he promised that they would be back by Saturday evening and Buddy would be able to go to church with Lula, Billie and Aunt Maggie on Sunday morning with no problem. Buddy walked across the airfield and asked Lula if it would be OK to go to Waco. Lula abruptly said no! As usual, Buddy had an argument for Lula but she held firm and said, No Way! Buddy was a pouter and he tromped out of the Beauty Parlor and tearfully went back to Biff and told him that he couldn't go. Biff was in a hurry and said, "Do what your mom tells you we'll see you when we get back." What Buddy didn't know but found out later was that, Lula had prayed the night before, God had given Lula a warning in a dream and told her what Buddy would want to do but that, she should not let him do it. Buddy, still feeling cheated by his mom, later that week, went to see his friend Biff and see if he could do anything for him. Biff's partner told Buddy that, Biff had crashed and gotten killed on that last Saturday evening coming back to Dallas from Waco, Texas. Shocked at this, both Buddy and Billie Ruth now had new respect for Lula's prayerful decisions. Buddy and Billie Ruth as teen agers still gave Lula trouble over some of her decisions for them but they would only take it so far. Billie Ruth probably tested Lula more than Buddy because after that, when Lula would say no to Buddy, in his sheepish way he might argue a little as I remember, but when Lula insisted, he would shut up. He was 15 years old at that time, but this attitude would continue well into Buddy's manhood. He respected and honored his mother's decisions now whatever they were. Billie Ruth did too but she would argue a little more. When Mama spoke, Buddie & Billie listened for the rest of their lives.



Lula, Maggie, and the Children and Sunday Services:



It was around 1932 in the beginnings of the great depression now, Lula, Maggie, Buddy and Billie Ruth were in church services a couple of times a week. After the McPherson Revival, Lula and Maggie had been intrigued by the teachings of a radio preacher that Lula's and Maggie's brother, Ollie had suggested that they go to hear. His name was Reverend J. C. Hibbard, he had a tricky little radio

motto, that said, "Hibbard's my name, and preaching's my game, and we have a living gospel for a dying world", his ministry was headquartered in the southwest Dallas area of Oak Cliff and from there, when he was not preaching in his Oak Cliff church, he had the world-wide radio

ministry on XERF radio that Ollie and his family listened to along with the rest of America and the world. His family would sing, preach, pray for the people, and teach life's lessons to them, it was this man that eventually taught me to understand the principle of my grandmother's tithing principal because he had originally taught it to her. Some of Ollie's family would often drive from Terrell to Dallas for Sunday services. This was always a good time for Lula, Maggie, Buddy, and Billie Ruth to visit the family so they would all meet in Dallas at the Oak Cliff Assembly of God Church, on Morrell Street, have church, eat a Sunday picnic dinner, have evening services and then, go home until next week. See Buddy on the far left of the bottom photo on the previous page 28 and Lula Lee is the 2nd woman from the left wearing the hat, I couldn't find Billie Ruth here.

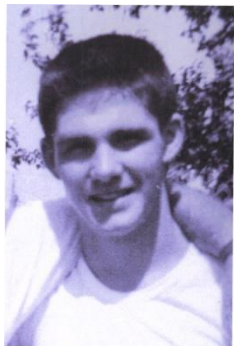
Reverend Hibbard's entire family was very active in church services, they sang songs, read scripture, and were all active in their ministry. There was one particular little girl, 3 or 4 years old, at the time, June Marie Hibbard that was Pastor Hibbard's oldest child. Lula and Maggie loved this child and had always encouraged her to sing and would praise her efforts when she did so. Then once, after several services, they noticed that little June hadn't been singing and they asked her why. June Marie answered, "My shoes have holes in them and daddy won't let me sing until he can buy me some new shoes." The women of the church took up a small offering and purchased little June Marie some new shoes. My grandmother, and Aunt Maggie helped with that offering, I am sure, and little June Marie began to sing her little heart out in services once again. The photo on the right is a photo taken years later of the Hibbard Family singing as I couldn't find one of young 3 or 4 year old, June Marie, in this photo, she is the older girl on the left of the photo with the guitar in this photo on the right side of this page. I only mention this because years later, after I had gone through a bad marriage, I married this little June Marie. June Marie told me this story, she remembers Buddy too. He was an older teenage boy at the time that used to come to church with his mother and sister and he would sometimes swing little June Marie in the playground swings in the church playground after their lunches on Sunday. June Marie would sometimes go on Sundays after church to the Wooten home in north Dallas, across from the airport and have lunch, grandmother would do June a Shirley Temple hairdo (see hairdo in photo above) on June Marie in her beauty parlor then, return to church in the evening to sing with her dad and the family in ministry to their congregation. Lula Lee, Buddy, and Billie Ruth all relocated during the war, the two photos above came from some old church records that June Marie happened to have in her photo album.



All three, Lula Lee, Buddy, and Billie Ruth left Dallas and relocated in various parts of the country. Dad, Jewett (Buddy) Alwyn Underwood, after World War II and his time in the Marine Corps ended up in Abilene, Texas where he retired from Greyhound Bus Lines as a driver in 1978. Cloie (Billie) Ruth ended up after several moves raising her small family in Reno, Nevada. Grandmother, Lula after going to California, during World War II, finally ended up in El

Paso running the El Paso Beauty Clinic, her last business venture with God. Lula was still making appointments around the clock with customers and doing fairly well in her business. In trying to build her clientele in her El Paso shop, she prayed and asked God to lead her business venture once again. After praying, Lula's telephone rang and it was an old friend and customer calling to cancel an appointment, when Lula asked why, her friend said that she was in the hospital. How long, Lula asked? Her friend said I'll be here for a couple of weeks and I certainly would like to have my hair done but I guess that's impossible until I get out of the hospital. Lula said without hesitating, "I'll be out Sunday afternoon after church and I'll do your hair there in your room." Her friend was surprised but said OK. Lula went to Southwestern General Hospital in El Paso, Texas that Sunday and did the first hairdo of many to be done over the years by Lula Lee in that hospital. The Hospital Administrator got word of what had happened and offered Lula Lee an opportunity to do all of their patients when they need beautifying or cosmetics of any kind. Lula designed and had special portable equipment for built hospital use and then, put it to use. Once again, Lula and her God were first. Her El Paso Beauty Clinic was the first in the nation to offer services in hospitals, now every hospital in the world of any size does this kind of service. Once again, Lula had to hire new people to do her work and run her main business in downtown El Paso. Wherever Lula went, she made God her business partner and wherever she went, she and God were always successful. Pretty good for a little Cherokee girl.

I Got It All Sorted Out:



I was a troubled, just married, teen age boy of 18 years old in 1958 going through growing up, graduating from high school and starting married life. With all of the good training that grandmother, Lula Lee had given me, I was still trying to make sense out of this God-thing. My grandmother had put the hook in my jaw and I couldn't ignore what she had taught and proved to me already about God, yet, it still, really didn't make sense to me as an older teen age boy, that had done a lot of thinking, as I said earlier, I was grandmother's "Why? Kid" and I needed some questions answered before I could continue with this God trip that grandmother had got started in my life while I was a very young boy. I had thought about it and had been through several life-experiences but still simply couldn't put it all together in my mind.

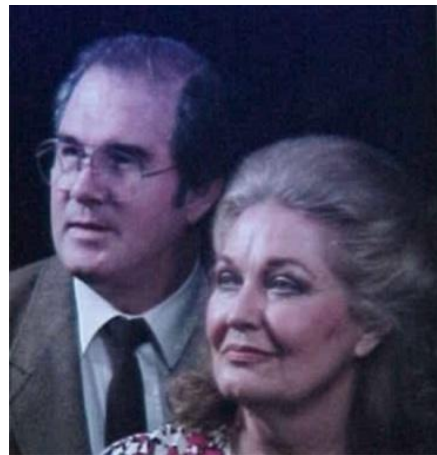
Then, I remembered one day that, grandmother had told me what to do when this time came in my life so, all I really had to do was do what she had told me, "Take one step toward God then, he would take two steps toward me." If this worked for her I asked myself, why not for me? If it really was as simple as grandmother had said, why not? I prayed a simple prayer that went something like this: *"God, I really do not know if you exist or not but before going any further in this life, I simply want to get the existence of God settled in my mind. Please show yourself to me in a way that I will know is real. If I know you exist, I will want serve you every day of my life for the rest of my life but if you do not, I will quite simply get this question answered in my mind then, live the rest of my life as a good man to the best of my ability helping mankind wherever I can."*

After praying and going through several long and drawn out experiences, that I don't have the time to relate here, I went into one of the 400+ churches in Dallas one evening and turned it all over to God. No particular church, just into a church where I found and turned things

over to God. This was in early 1958. There was a tall, greying old pastor there that would get up preach and sing gospel songs about a “Living Gospel for a Dying World” and I couldn’t resist his teaching and preaching because it was the very same things that Lula Lee had taught me as a small boy. What Lula Lee had taught me, is what he was teaching.

Ironically, at that time, I had never known Pastor Hibbard or anything about what his church and ministry had meant to grandmother, dad, and aunt Billie in their lives. I had, simply on my own been led by God into this building and accidentally (?) found the old pastor whose teachings had meant so much to my grandmother, and her family. Maybe I use the term accidentally too loosely, the word used should really be divinely. I went to that church between 10 and 12 years before I knew that he had been my grandmother’s first family pastor 30+ years previously. My dad told the whole story to me once when he was in town for the weekend visiting after attending a service with me. “Coincidence?” I don’t think so. He asked me how I had known about Pastor Hibbard’s church and ministry, I told him that I didn’t know but I had been led there, dad cried.

In 1980, I married grandmother’s and dad’s little June Marie and she has been singing to me about Jesus ever since. Dad cried again when I told him we were getting married, he remembered her as a child and he told me that he had always loved the memory of that precious child and the story about the shoes, the Sunday afternoon hairdo’s in grandmother’s closed beauty shop, etc., isn’t God wonderful, he brings all things around in the course of time and for me, it all began with Lula Lee Wooten. Whatever Lula didn’t know about men, she certainly knew about nurturing us. Thanks again, Grandmother!



Ron & June Marie

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CHAPTER 5 – Lula Lee's Stories For Children

Our part Cherokee grandmother Lula Lee, although raised in an Anglo Saxon society in an Irish-American family, cherished her Cherokee Roots, loved nourishing & teaching children, and the people she loved in the Cherokee way. As a young girl, she would visit her mother's Cherokee tribe in Indian Territory (Oklahoma) to visit her grandfather Jordan and his people. Mr. Jordan and his people would always make it a very special time for her and her siblings. The Cherokee would gather together in a large room, sit around the room and tell stories, life experiences, and teach each other in an oral tradition from their own personal life experiences, this had always been their way. To learn life's lessons from life's experiences can be difficult at best, but to learn from another's successes and mistakes is considered as a wise thing to do. They taught her many stories both Cherokee and Christian biblical stories. Mr. Jordan's family had become a Christian family in the 1750's when Christian Missionaries paid and supported by none other than Thomas Jefferson himself, had come to their tribe to teach the Christian gospel to them.

Mr. Jordan's people, the Cherokee were and still are, nourishers of each other and telling stories is part of that way of life. In the Cherokee language, there is no word for "Story Teller." The word used for lie or liar is the word that the Cherokee use for the word for a story teller. To a Cherokee, a good lie is acceptable and usually will have a moral or life lesson that it teaches us something useful in life. A bad lie is an attempt to deceive and is considered a really bad and a really disgusting thing to do. The moral of this is that we all should always be truthful and try to help others. The Cherokee have a saying, "If you see somebody that needs something, help them." This is a way of life to the Cherokee.

Grandmother told me many stories and we played many games together, and all with an instructive life-lesson and moral in each of those stories and games. I will always remember those stories and the time that she gave me. Perhaps the time she gave us was the most important thing of all as it was her time for nourishing us. Below are listed in no particular order, a few of those stories both Cherokee and Christian so you can better know how to love and nourish like Lula did her own. Perhaps you can use some of those stories to nourish your own, Lula Lee would have loved that and she would have wished you her best.

Thanks Grandmother

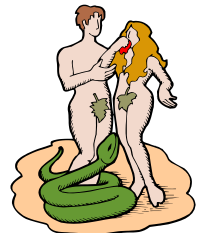
THE STRAWBERRY STORY LULA LEE TOLD ME

SITUATION: When I was a child of three or four years old, Lula Lee my grandmother knew that I loved strawberries topped with a light coating of sugar and she would treat me with them often when I had done something good or she wanted me to do something for her. I used to have a girlfriend that I called Peanut, actually, I think that she may have been a distant cousin or relative of some kind. We loved being together and would play for long hours at a time. Peanut was a little older and always wanted to take charge of things and I didn't like the way she bossed me and I would fight back when I got tired of it. The fussing between Peanut and I bothered Lula as she loved us both and wanted us to treat each other with kindness always so, one day, Lula sat us down and told us a story about how we should try and never fuss and always say thanks to our great God for creating a way for us to not fuss anymore. This was



obviously one of the Cherokee stories that Lula adapted to have a Christian flavor: **THE STORY:** When God created the heavens and earth, trees and plants, then the animals, He created a young man to help Him in his great garden on our world. The first thing that God did was have the young man to name the animals, the plants, and to help with a lot of His other things that He had created. There was much to do. At the end of each day, the young man would always rest but he was always very lonely. God saw the young man's loneliness and decided to make the young man a friend to share his life. This pleased the young man a lot. Well, God put the young man to sleep and took one of the young man's ribs and made him a pretty young woman to be his friend and partner in their lives together.

When God had everything ready, He woke the young man up and showed him his new friend and told the young man that he was a man and this new friend of his was a woman, and that





they were always to take good care of and love each other. They, both man and woman, were very pleased with each other. They worked and played together every day and rested without being lonely every night. The woman would fix the man's clothes and meals for him, she would also help plant and harvest the crops and the man would do work with the animals then, always hurry home so that they could play and have a happy time together everyday.



After awhile, sometimes they became bored with each other and they would fuss and argue with each other. In fact, they argued so much that the young woman got tired of fussing and she decided that, when he was not looking she would run away and live

by herself in the mountains, she knew that it was easy to get lost in the mountains but she didn't care. The young man was bored too but he didn't like the fussing either, but he didn't know what to do besides just to leave and go into the woods and talk with the animals, this was when the animals of the forest could talk. One day when the young man had gone into the woods, she decided to leave and go to the mountains so that they wouldn't fuss anymore. She had to hurry so the young man wouldn't find her so she walked toward the mountains very fast. In her heart, she really wanted the young man to follow her and ask her not to go because she knew that if she ever got to the mountains that, she would never go back home.

When the young man came home from the woods, the house was empty and very lonely. He missed her and their playing together and doing things for each other. When he realized that she had gone, it was then that, he told God that he was sorry he had argued with her so much and that he wished that she were home with him. God told him that he should go after her and tell her what he had just told God. The young man knew that the woman had gone toward the mountains because God had told him and he also knew that, if she ever got to the mountains, she would never return home and this worried him very much. Then, God told the young man to follow her towards the mountains and that He (God) would try to slow her down so the young man could catch her and talk with her.

Now, there was a large open field between them and the mountains and God filled that field with strawberry plants and made them very big and beautiful for the woman to pick and eat. She said to herself, "I sure miss my young man and I wish that he was here to

share these strawberries with me." The woman stopped walking so fast toward the mountains and began slowly picking pockets full of strawberries for them to eat. This was what the young man needed to catch up with the young woman who had been moving very fast. When the young man came close to her, he told her that he was sorry and that he missed her and that he wished she would come back home with him. She said she would and they went home together and lived happily ever after never fussing very much anymore.

LESSON: Be thankful for the things that God gives us and try to not fuss with each other and every time we see a strawberry, we should remember why and how God made the strawberry and thank Him for it.



* Needless to say, every time I see a strawberry, I remember Lula's lesson to Peanut and to me. Thanks Grandmother.

DANIEL'S FRIENDS AND THE FIREY FURNACE

Daniel and his Hebrew friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego served the one true god and would not bow to or serve another god. Because of this, there were some evil priests of false gods that wanted Daniel and his friends killed so they thought they would trick King Nebuchadnezzar into killing Daniel and his friends. They had tried several times before but Nebuchadnezzar had always liked Daniel and his friends and didn't want to hurt them but he did demand their loyalty. King Nebuchadnezzar had a large ego, and loved for people to give him lots of honor and praises and now, he was at it again.

This time on the advice of some of his evil priests, he had a giant statue set up in the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. It was made of gold, and taller than a nine story building, that's around 100 feet tall by the way that we measure things today.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar called all his royal officials - the satraps, the prefects, the magistrates, the treasurers, judges and counselors, and all the officials of the provinces - to come to the dedication of the golden statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up in Dura.

A herald announced in a loud voice, "People of all nations, races, and languages! "When you hear the



sound of the horn, the pipe, the lyre, the trigon and drum and all the musical instruments, you are commanded to bow down and worship the golden statue King Nebuchadnezzar has set up in the plain of Dura. Whoever hears the sound of the horn, the pipe, the lyre, the trigon and drum and all the musical instruments, and does not fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up in the plain of Dura - they shall be thrown into the furnace."

And so, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, the pipe, the lyre, the trigon and drum and all the musical instruments the people of all nations, races and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up in Dura.

All except Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego They worshipped God alone. Daniel was away on a trip but Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had decided to not obey the order because they trusted God to help them.

One day under the hot sun, the king's evil magicians, sorcerers and wise men saw that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not fall down and worship the golden statue (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were the Babylonian names King Nebuchadnezzar had given Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah).

They were jealous and hated Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego because they knew that God was with them. This was a perfect chance to get rid of them.

And so the evil servants, magicians, sorcerers and wise men reported to the King that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not bow down and worship.

They said, "O Great and Mighty King, may you live forever! You have made a decree that whenever people of all nations, races, and languages hear the sound of the horn, the pipe, the lyre, the trigon and drum and all the musical instruments they are to fall down and worship the golden statue you have set up in the plain of Dura. And whoever hears the sound of the horn, the pipe, the lyre, the trigon and drum and all the musical instruments, and does NOT fall down and worship the golden statue you have set up in the plain of Dura shall be thrown into the fiery furnace."

"Yes, this is so," said king Nebuchadnezzar.

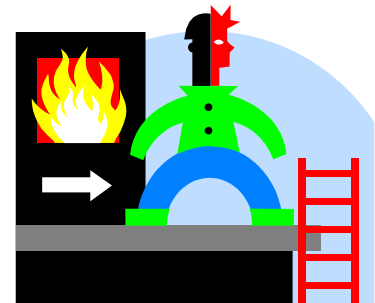
"Your Majesty," said the evil magicians, sorcerers and wise men, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego do not worship the golden statue you have set up in Dura."

Then, King Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage.

He ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego should be brought to him.

The King bellowed, "Is this true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that when you heard the sound of the horn, the pipe, the lyre, the trigon and drum and all the musical instruments, you did not fall down and worship the golden statue I have set up in the plain of Dura? Listen to me! When you hear the sound of the horn, the pipe, the lyre, the trigon and drum and all the musical instruments, if you do not fall down and worship the golden statue I have set up in the plain of Dura, you shall be thrown into the fiery furnace! Who will save you?"

"The God of heaven can save us," answered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. "His power is greater than yours, and he can save us from your fiery furnace. But even if he chooses not



to save us, we will not worship your god, or bow down before the golden statue you have set up in the plain of Dura." This must have really been a hard thing to do but they did it anyhow, trusting in their Lord God to save them. The king became very angry.

He ordered his men to heat the furnace seven times hotter than ever before. And then he ordered his strongest men to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

When the fiery furnace was blazing seven times hotter than ever before, the king's men tied up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego - in their shirts, their robes, and caps and all - and threw them into the fire.

The fire was so hot, it killed and burned up the mighty men who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into it.

Suddenly, King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet.

"Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the blazing fire?" he asked his evil servants.



"Yes we did," said the king's evil servants.

"Then why do I see FOUR men - walking around in the fire!" The king said, "They are not tied up, and they are not hurt - and one of them looks like a god!" (Well, it WAS God, as a matter of fact, the one true God!)

So King Nebuchadnezzar went to the door of the fiery furnace and called out, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the One True God! Come out!"

They stepped out of the fiery furnace.

All the evil magicians, sorcerers and wise men gathered around them in complete amazement. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not hurt by the fire in any way! Their hair was not singed, and their clothes were not burned. There wasn't even the smell of smoke on them.

King Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He has sent his angel and rescued the men who serve him so faithfully! They disobeyed my orders and did not fall down and worship the golden statue I have set up in the plain of Dura. They risked their lives. They would not worship any other god except their God, and their God has saved them."

And then King Nebuchadnezzar commanded, "Listen people of all nations, races and languages! Whoever speaks disrespectfully of the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses will be made a pile of ruins!" (You didn't want to mess with King Nebuchadnezzar!)

"There is no God who can save like the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!!"

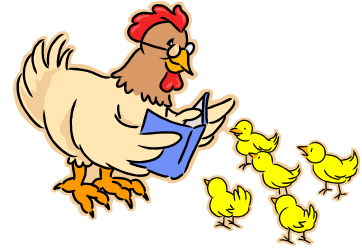
LESSON: Always trust and obey God. Never compromise and He will always take care of you.

SITUATION: Lula wanted me to understand that not everyone had my best interest at heart. Many people will use you, then throw you away with the garbage. She wanted me to treat everyone with kindness but understand that some people will take all you'll give then, ask for more. She wanted me to give everyone a chance to do good but know and understand who will not and develop only good relationships, so this is one of the stories she told me.

STORY OF THE LITTLE RED HEN THAT LULA TOLD:

Once upon a time, there was a little red hen and her

baby chicks, who lived on a farm. She was friends with a lazy dog, a sleepy cat, and a noisy yellow duck.



One day the little red hen found some seeds on the ground. The little red hen had an idea. She would plant the seeds. Friends, "Who will help me and my little chicks plant the seeds?"

"Not I," barked the lazy dog.

"Not I," purred the sleepy cat.

"Not I," quacked the noisy yellow duck.

"Then I will," said the little red hen. So the little red hen and her baby chicks planted the seeds all by themselves.

When the seeds had grown, the little red hen asked her friends, "Who will help me and my little chicks cut the wheat?"

"Not I," barked the lazy dog.

"Not I," purred the sleepy cat.

"Not I," quacked the noisy yellow duck.

"Then I will," said the little red hen. So the little red hen cut the wheat all by herself.

When all the wheat was cut, the little red hen asked her friends, "Who will help me and my chicks grind the wheat into flour?"

"Not I," barked the lazy dog.

"Not I," purred the sleepy cat.

"Not I," quacked the noisy yellow duck.

"Then the little red hen and her little chicks ground the wheat into flour all by themselves, and carried the heavy sack of flour back to the farm.

The tired little red hen asked her friends, "Who will help me and my little chicks bake the bread?"

"Not I," barked the lazy dog.

"Not I," purred the sleepy cat.

"Not I," quacked the noisy yellow duck.

"Then I will," said the little red hen. So the little red hen baked the bread all by herself.

When the bread was finished, the tired little red hen asked her friends, "Who will help me eat the bread?"

"I will," barked the lazy dog.

"I will," purred the sleepy cat.

"I will," quacked the noisy yellow duck.

"No!" said the little red hen, "My little chicks and I will." And the little red hen and her baby chicks ate the



bread all by themselves.

LESSON: Know who your true friends are, and know those who will use you and develop your relationships accordingly. Be kind to everyone but don't let people use you.

JOSEPH AND HIS COAT OF MANY COLORS

For many years Jacob had worked and lived in a foreign land. Now he had come back home to the land of Canaan with his eleven sons then, another son was born to him, the second child of his wife Rachel, whom Jacob loved so well. But soon after the baby came, his mother Rachel died, and Jacob was filled with sorrow. Even to this day you can see the place where Rachel was buried, on the road between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Jacob named the child whom Rachel left, Benjamin; and now Jacob had twelve sons. Most of them were grown-up men; but Joseph was a boy seventeen years old, and his brother Benjamin was a small very young boy.

Of all his children, Jacob loved Joseph the best, because he was Rachel's child; because he was so much younger than most of his brothers; and because he was good, and faithful, and thoughtful. Jacob gave to Joseph a robe or coat of bright colors, made somewhat like a long cloak with wide sleeves. This was a special mark of Jacob's favor to Joseph, and it made his older brothers envious and jealous of him.

Then, too, Joseph did what was right in God's eyes, while his older brothers often did very wrong acts, of which Joseph sometimes told their father; and this made them very angry at Joseph. But they hated him still more because of two strange dreams he had, and of which he told them. He said one day: "Listen to this dream that I have dreamed. I dreamed that we were out in the field binding sheaves, when suddenly my sheaf stood up, and all your sheaves came around it and bowed down to my sheaf!"

And they said scornfully, "Do you suppose that the dream means that you will some time rule over us, and that we shall bow down to you?" In their hearts this made his brothers very angry and they began to hate him.

Then, a few days after, Joseph said, "I have dreamed again. This time, I saw in my dream the sun, and the moon, and eleven stars, all come and bow to me!"



And his father said to him, "I do not like you to dream such dreams. Shall I, and your mother, and your brothers, come and bow down before you as if you were a king?"

His brothers hated Joseph even more, and would not speak kindly to him; but his father thought much of what Joseph had said. To the Hebrew (Jewish) people dreams were important and often told the meaning of what would happen in the future so Jacob wondered what the dreams really meant. Little did they know that this really was a plan for Joseph from God.

At one time, Joseph's ten brothers were taking care of the flock in the fields near Shechem, which was nearly fifty miles from Hebron, his home where Jacob's tents were spread. And Jacob wished to send a message to his sons, and he called Joseph, and said to him:

"Your brothers are near Shechem with the flock. I wish that you would go to them, and take a message, and find if they are well, and if the flocks are doing well; and bring me word from them."

That was quite an errand, for a boy to go alone over the country, and find his way, for fifty miles, and then walk home again. But Joseph was a boy who could take care of himself, and could be trusted; so he went forth on his journey, walking northward over the mountains, past Bethlehem, and Jerusalem, and Bethel--though we are not sure those cities were then built, except Jerusalem, which was already a strong city.

When Joseph reached Shechem, he could not find his brothers, for they had taken their flocks to another place. A man met Joseph wandering in the field, and asked him, "Whom are you seeking?"

Joseph said, "I am looking for my brothers; the sons of Jacob. Can you tell me where I will find them?"

And the man said, "They are at Dothan; for I heard them say that they were going there."

Then Joseph walked over the hills to Dothan, which was fifteen miles further. And his brothers saw him afar off coming toward them. They knew him by his bright garment; and one said to another: "Look, that dreamer is coming! Come, let us kill him, and throw his body into a pit, and tell his father that some wild beast has eaten him; and then we will see what becomes of his dreams."

One of his brothers, whose name was Reuben, felt more kindly toward Joseph than the others. He said:



"Let us not kill him, but let us throw him into this pit, in the wilderness, and leave him there to die."

But Reuben intended, after they had gone away, to lift Joseph out of the pit, and take him home to his father. The brothers did as Reuben told them; they threw Joseph into the pit, which was empty. He cried, and begged them to save him; but they would not. They calmly sat down to eat their dinner on the grass, while their brother was calling to them from the pit.

After the dinner, Reuben chanced to go to another part of the field; so that he was not at hand when a company of men passed by with their camels, going from Gilead, on the east of the river Jordan, to Egypt, to sell spices and fragrant gum from trees to the Egyptians.

Then Judah, another of Joseph's brothers, said, "What good will it do us to kill our brother? Would it not be better for us to sell him to these men, and let them carry him away? After all, he is our brother, and we would do better not to kill him."

His brothers agreed with him; so they stopped the men who were passing, and drew up Joseph from the pit, and for twenty pieces of silver they sold Joseph to these men; and they took him away with them down to Egypt.

After a while, Reuben came to the pit, where they had left Joseph, and looked into it; but Joseph was not there. Then Reuben was greatly troubled; and he came back to his brothers, saying: "The boy is not there! What shall I do!"

Then his brothers told Reuben what they had done; and they all agreed together to deceive their father. They killed one of the goats, and dipped Joseph's coat in its blood; and they brought it to their father, and they said to him: "We found this coat out in the wilderness. Look at it, father, and tell us if you think it was the coat of your son."

And Jacob knew it at once. He said: "It is my son's coat. Some wild beast has eaten him. There seemed to be no doubt that Joseph has been torn in pieces!"

And Jacob's heart was broken over the loss of Joseph, all the more because he had sent Joseph alone on the journey through the wilderness. They tried to comfort him, but he would not be comforted. He said: "I will go down to the grave mourning for my poor lost son."

So the old man sorrowed for his son Joseph; and all the time his wicked brothers knew that Joseph was not dead; but they would not tell their father the dreadful

deed they had done to their brother, in selling him as a slave.

JOSEPH AND THE MYSTERY OF THE LOST BROTHER

SITUATION: The story above is incomplete, what happened to Joseph? Why was this good and righteous boy going through all of these troubles? There had to be a reason, why God would do these things to this boy?

STORY: Jacob had grieved for many years for his son Joseph and he had prayed that somehow Joseph would have spared. What no one knew was that this was all a part of God's plan and in the end, everyone would benefit because Joseph had not let his faith in God fail and he continued to believe that God had everything under control.

There was a terrible drought in the land and everyone that got food had to get it from Egypt because for some reason, rich Egypt had all of the food that it needed for everyone but everyone that wanted it had to travel to Egypt then, buy the food and return.

Joseph's brothers had already been to Egypt once and purchased food, but the ruler had acted strangely. He had kept one of the brothers, Simeon in Egypt with him and told them when they came back that they should bring their younger brother, Benjamin back with them and when they got home, all of the money they had paid the Egyptians had been found in their bags. Needless to say, they were afraid and feared what would happen when they returned because the man that sold them the grain was their brother Joseph whom they had sold as a slave in Egypt many years before.



When they got home, the food which Jacob's sons had brought from Egypt did not last long, for Jacob's family was large. Most of his sons were married and had children of their own; so that the children and grandchildren were sixty-six, besides the servants who waited on them, and the men who cared for Jacob's flocks. So around the tent of Jacob was quite a camp of other tents and an army of people.

When the food that had come from Egypt was nearly eaten up, Jacob said to his sons:

"Go down to Egypt again, and buy some food for us."



And Judah, Jacob's son, the man who years before had urged his brothers to sell Joseph to the Ishmaelites, said to his father: "It is of no use for us to go to Egypt, unless we take Benjamin with us. The man who rules in that land said to us, 'You shall not see my face, unless your youngest brother be with you'."

And Israel said, "Why did you tell the man that you had a brother? You did me great harm when you told him."

"Why," said Jacob's sons, "we could not help telling him. The man asked us all about our family, 'Is your father yet living? Have you any more brothers?' And we had to tell him, his questions were so very close to how our family is, he seemed to know about us already. How should we know that he would say, 'Bring your brother here, for me to see him'?"

And Judah said, "Send Benjamin with me, and I will take care of him. I promise you that I will bring him safely home. If he does not come back, let me bear the blame forever. He must go, or we shall die for want of food; and we might have gone down to Egypt and come home again, if we had not been kept back."

And Jacob said, "If he must go, then he must. But take a present to the man, some of the choicest fruits of the land, some spices, and perfumes, and nuts, and almonds. And take twice as much money, besides the money that was in your sacks. Perhaps that was a mistake, when the money was given back to you. And take your brother Benjamin, and may the Lord God make the man be kind to you, so that he will set Simeon free, and let you bring Benjamin back. But if it is God's will that I lose my children, I cannot help it."

So ten brothers of Joseph went down a second time to Egypt, Benjamin going in place of Simeon. They came to Joseph's office, the place where he sold grain to the people; and they stood before their brother, and bowed as before. Joseph saw that Benjamin was with them, and he said to his steward, the man who was over his house:

"Make ready a dinner, for all these men shall dine with me today."

When Joseph's brothers found that they were taken into Joseph's house, they were filled with fear. They said to each other:

"We have been taken here on account of the money in our sacks. They will say that we have stolen it, and then they will sell us all for slaves."

But Joseph's steward, the man who was over his house, treated the men kindly; and when they spoke of the money in their sacks, he would not take it again, saying:

"Never fear; your God must have sent you this as a gift. I had your money."

The stewards received the men into Joseph's house, and washed their feet, according to the custom of the land. And at noon, Joseph came in to meet them. They brought him the present from their father, and again they bowed before him, with their faces on the ground.

And Joseph asked them if they were well, and said: "Is your father still living, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he well?"

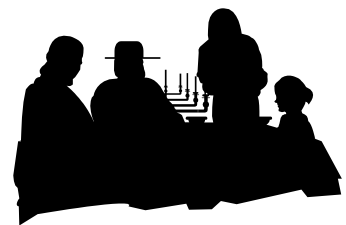
And they said, "Our father is well and he is living." And again they bowed to Joseph.

And Joseph looked at his younger brother Benjamin, the child of his own mother Rachel, and said:

"Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me? God be gracious unto you, my son."

And Joseph's heart was so full that he could not keep back the tears. He went in haste to his own room, and wept there. Then he washed his face, and came out again, and ordered the table to be set for dinner. They set Joseph's table for himself, as the ruler, and another table for his Egyptian officers, and another for the eleven men from Canaan; for Joseph had brought Simeon out of the prison, and had given him a place with his brothers.

Joseph himself arranged the order of the seats for his brothers, the oldest at the head, and all in order of age down to the youngest. The men wondered at this,



and could not see how the ruler of Egypt could know the order of their ages. And Joseph sent dishes from his table to his brothers, and he gave to Benjamin five times as much as to the others. Perhaps he wished to see whether they were as jealous of Benjamin as in other days they had been toward him.

After dinner, Joseph said to his steward: "Fill the men's sacks with grain, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in his sack. And put my



silver cup in the sack of the youngest, with his money."

The steward did as Joseph had said; and early in the morning the brothers started to go home. A little while afterward, Joseph said to his steward:



"Hasten, follow after the men from Canaan, and say, 'Why have you wronged me, after I had treated you kindly? You have stolen my master's silver cup, out of which he drinks'."

The steward followed the men, and overtook them, and charged them with stealing. And they said to him:

"Why should you talk to us in this manner? We have stolen nothing. Why, we brought back to you the money that we found in our sacks; and is it likely that we would steal from your lord his silver or gold? You may search us, and if you find your master's cup on any of us, let him die, and the rest of us may be sold as slaves."

Then they took down the sacks from the asses, and opened them; and in each man's sack was his money, for the second time. And when they came to Benjamin's sack, there was the ruler's silver cup! Then, in the greatest sorrow, they tied up their bags again, and laid them on the asses, and came back to Joseph's palace.

And Joseph said to them:

"What wicked thing is this that you have done? Did you not know that I would surely find out your deeds?"



Then Judah said, "O, my lord, what can we say? God has punished us for our sins; and now we must all be slaves, both we that are older, and the younger in whose sack the cup was found.

"No," said Joseph. "Only one of you is guilty; the one who has taken away my cup. I will hold him as a slave, and the rest of you can go home to your father." Joseph wished to see whether his brothers were still selfish, and were willing to let Benjamin suffer, if they could escape. Joseph wished to see whether his brothers were still selfish, and were willing to let Benjamin suffer, if they could escape.

Then Judah, the very man who had urged his brothers

to sell Joseph as a slave, came forward, and fell at Joseph's feet, and pleaded with him to let Benjamin go. He told again the whole story, how Benjamin was the one whom his father loved the most of all his children, now that his brother was lost. He said:

"I promised to bear the blame, if this boy was not brought home in safety. If he does not go back it will kill my poor old father, who has seen much trouble. Now let my youngest brother go home to his father, and I will stay here as a slave in his place!"

Joseph knew now, what he had longed to know, that his brothers were no longer cruel or selfish, but one of them was willing to suffer, so that his brother might be spared. And Joseph could not any longer keep his secret, for his heart longed after his brothers; and he was ready to weep again, with tears of love and joy. He sent all of his Egyptian servants out of the room, so that he might be alone with his brothers, and then he said:

"Come near to me; I wish to speak with you." And they came near, wondering. Then Joseph said:

"I am Joseph; is my father really alive?"

How frightened his brothers were, as they heard these words spoken in their own language by the ruler of Egypt and for the first time knew that this stern man, who had their lives in his hand, was their own brother whom they had wronged! Then Joseph said again:

"I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But do not feel troubled because of what you did. For God sent me before you to save your lives. There have been already two years of need and famine, and there are to be five years more, when there shall neither be plowing of the fields nor harvest. It was not you who sent me here, but God; and he sent me to save your lives. God has made me like a father to Pharaoh and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Now I wish you to go home, and to bring down to me my father and all his family."

Then Joseph placed his arms around Benjamin's neck, and kissed him, and wept upon him. And Benjamin wept on his neck. And Joseph kissed all his brothers, to show them that he had fully forgiven them; and after that his brothers began to lose their fear of Joseph and talked with him more freely.

Afterward Joseph sent his brothers home with good news, and rich gifts, and abundant food. He sent also wagons in which Jacob and his sons' wives and the little ones of their families might ride from Canaan back to Egypt so that they could all live together and be



safe and have plenty of everything. Joseph took care of his family and was rewarded richly by God because of his faithfulness and the prophecies of his dreams had all come true and they lived happy lives together

LESSON: We need to realize that God always has a plan for us. Our lives are like a giant puzzle and if we let Him, God will help us put it together, sometimes we must go through



hard times for God to prepare us for the good things He has for us later in life. Joseph had suffer and to go down to Egypt to fulfill God's plan for him and his family. And because Joseph didn't fail God, Joseph's brothers went home happier than they had been for many years. We need to do our part and let God do his because all things work together in God's plan for our betterment and we'll always be better off in the long run. If we can realize that and keep our attitudes right like Joseph did, God will do the rest. If we'll do our part God will always do His. Lula used to say that if you'll take one step toward God, He'll take two steps toward you and with Him, you'll always be better off. Satan may have meant it for evil but God meant it for good, always trust God's plan.

Thanks again, Grandmother

Lula Lee Wooten and Her Legacy to Her Posterity

Cherokee Girl is the true story of a young and naïve but productive, American girl. Lula Lee Wooten, born in 1890. Being the oldest girl of 10 children, she grew up during the late 19th and early 20th centuries when women were beginning to come out of the dark ages and into modern times doing things like voting, and making careers for themselves, etc. Up until now, a woman's roll and value in life was measured by her ability to be supportive to a man's goals in life by cooking, sewing, having babies, raising and taking care of them and being totally submissive to men in a man's world. Lula learned quickly that she could not always depend on her man to do his part in all of this and be supportive to a wife and their family. To complicate things, Lula had a heritage problem that most Anglo Americans would hold against her. She was proudly part Cherokee Indian, respecting, learning from, and admiring her Cherokee heritage and people, She used what she learned from those people and her obedience to God to become a successful American business woman.



As a young girl, her father had taught her a strong work ethic that lasted all of her life, however, she quickly found that a good work ethic sometimes isn't enough in a cruel and difficult world. She needed help, Her faith being tested by her being divorced and abandoned by a young, irresponsible husband, and having two small children to support with no outside help, Lula Lee prayed about it and made a good decision to make God her business



partner. Lula Lee took God up on his biblical challenge in Malachi 3: 10 & 11, to obey His Word and be successful financially. You will only be able to appreciate the things that God did for her and her small family as He led her through her obedience to Him. Dear family and others, we hope you will read, enjoy and learn –



Ronald A. Chiswood

Lula Lee's 2nd Grandson