

William Henry Pipes 1858 - 1894
Joseph Edgar Pipes 1882 - 1964

Joseph Edgar Pipes was born in Tyler County, West Virginia, November 12, 1882. His parents, born in Tyler County were William Henry Pipes, b. 1858 and Susannah Snodgrass, b. ca 1864. Their marriage ceremony took place in Wright Co., Minnesota on September 15, 1881. This was the first marriage for the young couple and Joseph, their first-born, came into the world about 14 months later. About a year after that, a daughter named Ellen was born and less than two years later the marriage was over. The marriage did not last but this article is about Joseph, his life and his extended family, so before we go on we should tell briefly about the ancestry of his parents.

Susannah Snodgrass 1864 - ?

Susan Snodgrass' parents were Silas V. and Samantha Hays Snodgrass. In the 1850 and 1860 Census they are in Marion Co., West Virginia and they were married there in 1861. In the 1870, 1880 and 1900 Census they were in Franklin, Wright Co., Minnesota. In the 1910 Census records they were in Cottage Grove, Lane Co., Oregon, living with their son and his family. Samantha died in 1910 and Silas in 1922 both were buried back in Minnesota. Silas and Samantha were born in W. Virginia, as were their parents. William Henry Pipes must have known Susannah's family in W. Virginia, but he married her in Minnesota in 1881 and the newly weds quickly returned to W. Virginia. We have not been able to determine the fate of Susan Snodgrass after the divorce, which must have occurred about 1885. I have never found Susan in the Census records after 1880. She may have remarried.

It was reported in a letter from a son of William Pipes from his 2nd marriage, that Susan did not want a divorce and fought William over it. Their marriage did end however, as William married again in 1886.

William Henry Pipes 1858 - 1894

William's ancestry can be found on the Pipes family web site at www.pipesfamily.com but here briefly is his lineage, going back to the earliest known Pipes in America, John Pipes Senior, in Massachusetts.

Parents: John B. Pipes 1833 – 1896 and Delilah Hawkins 1844 - ?

G Parents: Abner Pipes 1796 – 1863 and Ann Brown Boreman 1796 – 1890

GG Parents: John Pipes 1767 – 1838 and Eleanor "Nellie" Slater 1775 – 1831

GGG Parents John Pipes Jr. 1739 – 1821 and Jemima Harriman 1740 – ca 1770

GGGG Parents John Pipes Sr. 1710 – 1804 and Susannah Hathaway 1712 – ca 1765

John Pipes Jr. was an enlisted man and an Officer in the 4th New Jersey during the revolution and also served in the New Jersey Militia and in N. Carolina in the Militia. He was in many battles and spent the winter of 1777 – 1778 at Valley Forge. His wife filed a pension application many years after his death and described some of the events.

Notes on the death of William Henry Pipes are in the sources listed at the end of th article.

Moving West then East

On the 13th of July, 1886, William Henry (who seems to have always gone by "W.H.") married Lovina Jane Wright in Tyler County. She was born in 1862 in Tyler County to David T. Wright and Sarah DeNoon. They set out almost right away and headed west to Pike County, Missouri where their first son, Samuel Ray Pipes, was born in February of 1887. We do not know for certain what happened to Joseph's mother Susan, so we are assuming that Joseph and his sister Ellen stayed with their father and step mother for this trip west. No reason has been found for the trip to Pike County or why they did not stay there, but we do know that Lovina's Denoon and Wright families had taken up residence in Boone Co. Indiana starting right after the Civil War and so by February of 1889 William and Lovina had come back east and were in Boone Co., Indiana, in Eagle Township near Zionsville, where their next son is born, Cleveland Granville Pipes. In March of 1891 another son, John Washington Pipes is born and in January of 1893 Clarence Austin, their last son, but not their last child is born.

Lovina Jane Wright 1862-1957

Lovina Jane was born in Tyler Co., West Virginia in 1862, the daughter of David T. Wright and Sarah Jane DeNoon. Lovina had 4 brothers and all of them were in Boone Co., Indiana along with her parents. Her father and mother both died in 1896. Her father in February and her mother in October while back in W. Virginia. Her mother was brought back to Indiana for burial. They are both in Eagle Creek Cemetery in Hamilton Co., Indiana.

Tragedy Strikes

Then in late October of 1894 tragedy strikes the family. Family history handed down by word of mouth says that William drank some water and was poisoned, fell ill, and died. A death certificate has never been found but he left a wife pregnant with a daughter who would be born in 3 months, 5 sons from 2 to 12 years old and another daughter who was about 11. William Henry was buried in the Cemetery in Zionsville, Indiana and difficult times lay ahead for the family he left behind. See sources for information on his death.

Because the 1890 census was destroyed we can only imagine the details of how difficult it must have been for a young woman, newly widowed and with 7 children to provide for. We do know that she had some family in the area and it appears from Newspaper articles and the 1900 census that it was family and neighbors who provided assistance. In the 1900 census the 4 boys who are Lovina's sons are in an orphanage being supervised by Alice Whitehead and her husband. Her daughter, Blanche Marie, now 5 years old, is living with her mother on a place in Eagle Township. I cannot find Joseph and Ellen Pipes in the 1900 census. In 1900 they would have been 18 and 17 years old and may or may not have remained in the area. The Newspaper accounts for what happens next indicate where they were located. Note that the order book says that Joseph is in Tyler County and all the others are in Indiana. Did he return to Tyler County after his father's death? Or had he been there all along?

Tyler County, West Virginia Clerks Order Book #4, page 1

Dated March 8, 1897, Benjamin Pipes named Guardian of Joseph Pipes of Tyler Co., Ellen Pipes, Samuel Pipes, Cleveland Pipes, John Pipes, Oster [Clarence Austin] Pipes, and Blanche Pipes, all of Indiana; minor, orphan children all under the age of 14 of Wm. H. Pipes, deceased. Simeon E. Pipes was Surety.

[Benjamin F. and Simeon Edgar are brothers of William Henry Pipes and had remained in Tyler Co.]

Some Exciting News

Sometimes fortune smiles on those who deserve a good turn of events. The good news came wrapped in word of yet another death in the Pipes family. John B. Pipes of Tyler Co., W, Virginia had been a successful farmer there for many years and was the father of William Henry and grandfather to all these children. John B. had invested wisely and purchased property in Virginia, which turned out to be sitting on Oil and Gas reserves of considerable value. In November of 1896 word was received that John B. Pipes had gone to his rest. As his estate was settled in the next few years it became apparent that these 7 grandchildren would receive some value from that property. I do not have a copy of John B's will yet but will see if I can obtain one. In the meantime these 3 articles that appeared in the local Newspaper in Boone Co. tell the story very well.

Lebanon Pioneer - June 6, 1901

PIPES, SAMUEL AND JOHNNIE

Aged 14 and 10, who for two months past have been living at the Boone County Orphans Home, have, together with their four brothers and sister fallen heir to a good sized fortune consisting of a farm in Virginia, on which are located several oil and gas wells, besides the sum of \$3,000 each. The property was left to these children by their grandfather Pipes some time ago. A guardian was appointed to manage their estate, but he appropriated a large share to his own use. Lately an uncle of the children took the matter into his own hands, ascertained the doings of the guardian, who was soon afterwards discharged and was himself appointed guardian of the property. The father of the children is dead, and their mother is now Mrs. Charley Hoskins and resides at Zionsville. One of the children lives with her and the remaining three live with other relatives in the vicinity of Zionsville. Samuel and Johnnie will remain at the orphanage until the first of August, when they will go to their mother's home.

Lebanon Pioneer - August 28, 1902

PIPES

About a year ago it was reported through these columns that the five Pipes children brought to the county orphan's home from Eagle township has a prospect of realizing upon some supposedly West Virginia land, under which oil had been discovered. The matter has gone through the courts, and Supt. Whitehead received word Monday that a decision had been given in favor of the children, who have been placed in private homes, four in this county and one in Franklin County. There is now about \$4,500 on hand for the children, and they will receive further royalties from the oil taken from the land.

Lebanon Pioneer - March 12, 1903

PIPES

Mrs. Charles Hoskins of Jennings County, mother of the Pipes children, who were recently inmates of the Boone County orphan's home, and who received word that they were heirs to a small fortune from West Virginia oil lands, from the estate of their grandfather, John B. Pipes, was in this city Monday inquiring into the matter. She was of the opinion that she was entitled to one third of the estate which would have been left to her first husband, had he lived. But in this she was mistaken, for her first husband passed away before the death of his father, John B. Pipes, and the 5 children are the sole heirs. Had the elder Pipes died before his son Mrs. Hoskins would get her one third. Two of the children are with their mother, and the other three are in private homes. Cleveland, aged 13 and Blanche, aged 7 are living with their mother and stepfather in Jennings County. Samuel, aged 15 is with Walter St. Clair, near Zionsville. Johnnie, aged 11 is with William E. Walker near Advance and Austin, aged 9 is with James Walker near Advance.

The Pipes Grandchildren would continue to receive royalty checks from the South Penn Oil Company for many years. Their descendants have copies of the royalty checks and the one copy that I have seen was dated 1949. Of further interest is that this good fortune influenced our man Joseph Edgar Pipes for the rest of his life, as he became an "Oil Man".

Joseph's Life Unfolds

In 1900, Joseph would have been 18 and it appears he is living back in W. Virginia. In January 1904 when he is 22 years old, he married Hattie Mary Ireland, in West Virginia. Joseph is in the Oil business for the rest of his life.

In the 1910 census Joseph and Hattie are in Duval, Lincoln Co., W. Virginia and he is Teamster on an Oil Team.

Between 1911 and 1917 he has a daughter, Georgia Ellen b. 1911, and two sons, Purcie Edgar b. 1917, and Joseph Bradie Pipes b. 1914, all born in West Virginia. Georgia is named for her maternal grandmother.

When Joseph registered for the draft in 1917, he was working for the "South Penn Oil Company" as a teamster in Charleston, Kanawha Co., W. Virginia. His home address was also Charleston.

In the 1920 census he is in Stephens Co., Texas with Hattie and his 3 Children and is in the Oil Business as a teamster and Oil Well Supplier.

In the 1930 census he and Hattie are listed in Bristow, Creek Co. Oklahoma and he is a Truck Contractor in the Oil Fields, but the children are not listed (maybe a mistake by the census taker, I cannot find them anywhere).

In 1933 Joseph has apparently divorced Hattie and is married to Essie Gotcher in Longview, Gregg Co. Texas. He and Essie have a son named Joseph Edgar Pipes Jr. born Oct 20, 1934. I have not obtained records of this marriage or any divorce from Hattie Ireland. The birth of Joseph Jr. is recorded in Gregg County Texas records. Hattie's son and a grandson assured me they were divorced in Oklahoma but I am not sure of the date yet.

The children of Joseph Edgar Pipes and Hattie are aging fast. Joseph Bradie died in 2002, Georgia about 1995 and Purcie is still living at age 93.

Hattie Mary Ireland

One of Hattie's grandsons remembers Hattie as being a "strong willed woman". After her divorce from Joseph senior, she remained in Oklahoma, raised her children and upon her death in 1952 she was taken back to West Virginia for burial. This grandson also recounts that at least part of the reason for the divorce of Joseph and Hattie was her desire to stay in one place and possibly farm for a living. Joseph apparently loved and lived the Oil Business, which required moving around to where the work in the Oil Fields called him. The grandson says that his grandparents had a farm for a time near the town of Alliance, Ohio, which is about 75 miles NNW of Wheeling, after they were first married, but Joseph was in no way a farmer and soon returned to the Oil Business. Apparently the issue came up again after they moved to Bristow, Oklahoma where Hattie said she was not moving again. Joseph was a Teamster in his early days and that meant moving large oil drilling equipment with teams of large horses and later with trucks and heavy equipment. His grandson recounts how Joseph and his company could move anything, but they had to go where the work was, and that meant new oil fields being set up and old ones being moved.

Hattie's parents were James Ireland 1843 – 1903 and Georgia Parker 1850 – 1952 both born and died in West Virginia. James' parents were John Ireland 1800 – 1861 and Amy Joseph 1806 – 1871 both again

from West Virginia or Virginia. Georgia Parker's father was Robert T. Parker 1819 – 1891 from West Virginia.

Joseph Edgar Pipes Sr. and Hattie Ireland's Children

Georgia E. Pipes b, 1911 d. ca 1995 Did not have any children. Her nephew told me that Georgia was outspoken and strong willed like her mother and had a good sense of humor.

Joseph Bradie Pipes 1914 – 2002 Lived in Oklahoma and married Goldie Pearl O'Brien in 1939 They had two children, Paul Bradie Pipes b. 1945 and daughter Patti Ellen in 1941. Son Paul told me that Joseph Bradie always went by his middle name 'Bradie' and was the consummate salesman; always working, always glad to meet people, he was a likeable guy and above all he was a good man.

Purcie Edgar Pipes b. 1917. Purcie is the youngest son of Joseph Edgar Pipes and Hattie M. Ireland. In June of 2010, I spoke with Purcie Pipes on the phone from his home near Columbus, Ohio. He is 93 years old and still working in the oil business. All his life, like his father, he has worked moving rigs, hauling pipe, drilling and supplying the oil industry. He has always had his own company and at one time he had 9 drill rigs and many trucks and pieces of heavy equipment. He enjoys life and golf and has a place in Florida and in Dublin, Ohio. Purcie did not remember talking with his dad about the royalty checks from South Penn Oil Company. He did relate the fact that his mother and father split up because of the constant moving that was required in the oil business. He said he had never had contact with any of the family from Boone Co., Indiana, but was interested in knowing more about them. Purcie talked about growing up during the depression and how he and his family worked together to get on with life. He said he and his brother started at a young age caddying at a local golf club for 25 cents a round to help their mother feed the family and all of the children worked at whatever they could find. Purcie and his brother Bradie are both noted by their families as being the kind of guys who were always working.

Essie Gotcher 1900 - 1963

Essie Gotcher was born in May, Brown County Texas in 1900, the youngest child of John Harvey Gotcher and Ida Texas Kelley. John Harvey and Ida had 9 children between 1880 and 1900, all of them born in Brown or Coryell Counties. They lived in Upton County in 1930 in the home of Essie and her husband William R. Proffitt. William Proffitt and Essie had three children and then there was a divorce or a death and Essie, her children and her parents all are in Greggton, a suburban area of Longview, Gregg Co., Texas. I believe that some other of Harvey's sons had relocated to the Gregg Co. area and may be the reason for their move from Upton Co. John Harvey Gotcher was the son of William Riley Gotcher 1832 – 1897 and Rohda Margaret Hancock 1838 – 1908. William Riley was born in Alabama and Rohda in Mississippi and they both died in Williams, Brown County, Texas. Essie's Grandson Charles, told me she married again later in life to a man named Solan Tutt and she died Dec 20, 1963 in Gregg Co., Texas.

Joseph and Nellie Collie

The next record of Joseph occurs in 1942 when he registers for the draft again at age 59. Registering for the draft was required of all males born in or after 1877. He is living in Mt, Vernon Jefferson Co., Illinois, is working for "Standard Oil Well Cementing Company" and is married to Nellie Jane Pipes. I later discovered that this is Nellie Jane Collie from Jack County, Texas who was born in 1891. I have no marriage records for this union either. But we will continue to work on that.

Joseph for years owned an Oil Well related business in My Vernon, Illinois and his son Purcie still operates a business in Mt Vernon.

Joseph died in 1964 in Illinois and is buried in Cundiff, Jack Co., Texas. Nellie died in 1988 in Illinois and is buried next to him. Cundiff is a home place for the Collie family and many persons named Collie are buried in the Cundiff Cemetery.

Joseph Edgar Pipes Jr.

Joseph Jr. was born in 1934 in Gregg Co., Texas. I have recently spoken with a son of Joseph Edgar Pipes Jr. from Longview, Texas. This son knew his grandmother, Essie Gotcher and her family and the family has some memories of Joseph Edgar Pipes Sr. and they remembered that he was an "oil man" and that he had invented some Oil Well Cementing equipment and processes and had sold them to Halliburton. Joseph Senior's son and grandson confirm the connection between Joseph Senior and Halliburton but add a different twist to the Halliburton story. So I am sure this is the same Joseph Edgar

Pipes senior and the connection is accurate. Joseph apparently left Essie Gotcher in Texas sometime in the late 1930s. I don't know if there was a marriage and/or divorce or not.

Joseph Edgar Pipes Jr. married Helen Merlene Jones in April of 1952 in Gregg Co., Texas. They had five children: Charles, Glenda, Joseph Edgar III, James, and William.

The eldest son, Charles Sterling Pipes has supplied information and details about the family of Joseph Jr. and Essie Gotcher. He also sent a picture of Joseph Jr. from about 1948, there is a strong family resemblance.

The Children of William Henry Pipes and Lovina Jane Wright

William and Lovina had 4 sons and a daughter. Here is a little detail about each one of them.

Samuel Ray Pipes 1887 – 1971 In 1910 Samuel was living with his uncle, Sidney Wright (brother to Lovina) and aunt, Eliza Belle (Pipes) Wright, (a sister to William) working on the family farm in Boone County, Indiana. Sam then moved to Muncie, Indiana and was living next door to his brother, John Washington Pipes. He worked for The Warner Company in the maintenance Dept. as a welder. He married about 1928 to Louisa Ellen Long. They had no children. He had his own welding shops in Whitestown, Muncie and Matthews, Indiana; Pipes' Welding Shop. He was a WWI Navy Veteran. Sam was also married to a lady named Iona Bolden in 1913 to 1914. She passed away in 1914,

Cleveland Granville Pipes 1889 – 1971 Cleveland spent most of his life as a wanderer. He was in the Navy Coast Artillery and in the Army During WWI and in the 1920s. Most of his adult years were spent as a Free Spirit, riding the trains all over the United States. He married once to a girl named Helen, but it wasn't long before he wandered off! He never had any children. He spent the last few years of his life living with relatives and brothers in Indiana and he died within a few days of his brother Samuel.

John Washington Pipes 1891 – 1984 John W. in 1910 was living with his cousin Jesse Wright in Indianapolis, Indiana and was a laborer. He married Meda Powell in 1913 in Boone County, Indiana and they moved to Muncie. He lived in Muncie for 62 years and retired from Warner Machine Company. He served in the Navy before WWI. They had two sons, Wilton and Donald.

Clarence Austin Pipes 1893 – 1966 Clarence married Cyrena Paugh in Boone County, Indiana in 1912. He is listed as being a farmer, plumber and then retired from Pitman Moore Company in Zionsville, Indiana. They had seven children. William Henry, Bryan, Fay, Rose, Lorena, Isaac and Millard. Clarence's granddaughter, Velma Marilyn Rogers and her husband Buster Rogers have supplied a great amount of family detail used in this document.

Blanche Marie Pipes 1895 – 1986 Blanche was born 3 months after her father passed away and was Lovina's only daughter. She married John Harrison Neese in 1915 and they had 8 children, all in Boone Co.: Kenneth, Chester, Loren, Charles, Mary, John, Dalton, and Billy. Blanche's granddaughter, Connie (Maxwell) Taylor has supplied much of the family details for this article from Boone Co., Indiana.

The daughter of William Henry Pipes and Susan Snodgrass named Ellen has been a mystery, She married someone named Vessey (last name) and supposedly died in 1954 in Portland Oregon. Her name appears on the royalty checks issued to the grandchildren, little else is known about her.

Sources for this document:

- Census Records from 1880 to 1930 for West Virginia, Texas, Oklahoma and Indiana as viewed on Ancestry.com
- The restored [Birth record of Joseph Edgar Pipes](#) (restored in 1957 by Joseph and his step mother Lovina) in Tyler Co., WV Gives his birth as Nov 12, 1882. On line at WV County Web Site. I believe the original courthouse records had burned. Note that his middle name is mistakenly entered as Edward.
- [Marriage certificate](#) of William Henry Pipes and Lovina Jane Wright. 1886 Tyler Co., WV. Found at WV Clerks Web Site for Tyler County.

- Family trees for the Gotcher families of [William Riley](#) and [John Harvey Gotcher](#) on Ancestry.com
- WWI Draft records for [Joseph Edgar Pipes](#) – 1918 – W. Virginia. Found on line at Ancestry.com
- WWII Draft records for [Joseph Edgar Pipes](#) – 1942 – Illinois. Found on line at Ancestry.com
- [Articles](#) from the Lebanon Pioneer Newspaper 1901 – 1903 concerning the family of Widow Lovina Pipes and items from the Tyler County Court Order Books. Sent by Connie Taylor, June 2010
- Birth Records of Texas – online at Ancestry.com for 1934, Gregg Co., Texas for [Joseph Edgar Pipes Jr.](#) declares Essie Gotcher and Joseph Edgar Pipes as the parents
- Emails from Connie Taylor, Lebanon, Indiana concerning the family of William Henry Pipes and Lovina Wright. Received from 2000 - 2010
- Emails from Buster C. Rogers and wife Marilyn Pipes concerning the family of William Henry Pipes
- Picture of [Joseph Edgar Pipes Sr. and his wife Nellie Jane Collie](#) from about late 1940s. Sent by Connie Taylor.
- [www.pipesfamily.com](#) database files on the ancestry of [William Henry Pipes](#) 1858 – 1894
- Newspaper articles about the [death of William Henry Pipes](#).
- Emails from Charles Sterling Pipes in June of 2010 about Joseph Edgar Pipes Jr. and Essie Gotcher.
- Letter written in 1980 by [John Washington Pipes](#), a son of William Henry Pipes concerning his family and Susan Snodgrass, William Henry's first wife and Joseph Edgar Pipes Senior's mother. Sent by Buster Rogers.
- A typed out copy of an [Oil Royalty Check](#) issued in 1949 by the South Penn Oil Co. to 7 children of William Henry Pipes. Sent by Connie Taylor & Buster Rogers
- Tyler County W. V. [Clerks Order Book](#) #4 page 1 Entry of March 8, 1897 Benjamin Pipes appointed Guardian of orphan children of his brother William Henry Pipes. Copies sent by Connie Taylor.
- Interstate City Directories for 1936, Greggton, Gregg Co., Texas as found on Ancestry.com, Show Essie Pipes and the Gotcher family and some of Essie's Proffitt Children.
- Phone Conversations with Paul Bradie Pipes of Edmonds, Oklahoma, a grandson of Joseph Edgar Pipes Senior.
- Photos of Lovina Jane (Wright) Pipes and her children from 1901 and 1955 Sent by Connie Taylor and Buster Rogers. [Photo from 1901](#) [Photo from 1955](#) (The photo from 1901 shows her 5 children by William Henry. The 1955 picture shows her 5 children and a son by Charles Hoskins named Landis Hoskins and a son born to her before her marriage to William Henry, his name is George Furbee.) (George is on her left, Landis on her right. Back Row, Left to right: Clarence, Sam, Blanche, Cleveland and John.)
- Photo of [Grave stone of Hattie M. \(Ireland\) Pipes](#)
- Photo of [Joseph Edgar Pipes Jr.](#) – ca 1948, Gregg Co., Texas. Sent by Charles S. Pipes, 2010
- Photo of [Grave stone](#) for William Henry Pipes 1858 – 1894. Sent by Connie Taylor.
- Mary Morris Pipes, [Pension application in Kentucky](#) in 1837 based on the service of her late husband, John Pipes Jr. in the revolution.
- Death certificate for [Essie Odell Gotcher](#). Dec 20, 1963, Gregg Co., Texas. She was married to a man named Solan Tutt at the time of her death.