

# Chapter ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### to the Hartley Family Book



The purpose of this chapter is to explain the book's organization and to provide maps and directions to places in western Douglas County, MO, where the Hartley family story unfolded during the period 1850 through the mid 1950s.

#### **The Book's Organization**

Chapter 2 of the book provides a summary of Ira's Hartley family, Mintia's Gunnels family, and lists all of their brothers and sisters. Chapter 3 tells Ira and Mintia's life together up until Ira's death in 1929. Chapter 4 tells of Mintia's story from 1929 until her death in 1981.

Ira and Mintia had four children: Kiree, Lawrence, Eldon and Levon. Chapters 5 through 8 include a chapter written for each of the four children. At the close of each child's chapter, sub-chapters are provided for each of their children (Grandma and Grandpa Hartley's grandchildren).

#### **Places in Western Douglas County, MO**

To follow the Hartley family history in this book, readers will have a better understanding if they know where the event occurred. The Hartley and Gunnels family stories occurred primarily in the western part of Douglas County, MO.

A little over 100 years ago, Ira Hartley and Mintia Gunnels were married at Goodhope in western Douglas County MO. Ira was the son of William "Bill" and Sarah (Lakey) Hartley. Mintia was the daughter of William N. "Nick" and Sarah (Johnston) Gunnels. Ira's grandfather, Andrew J. Hartley came to Missouri from Tennessee in 1839 (over 170 years ago). Initially, he settled on land that is now the western part of a town called Seymour, MO, just across the line north of Douglas County. His children were born there, but the land turned out to be on

the right-of-way of the new Springfield—Memphis railroad. Thus, the family moved south into Douglas County.

Andrew's first born was the father of our Grandpa Ira Hartley, William Levi "Uncle Bill" Hartley. After his service in the Civil War, Uncle Bill Hartley homesteaded next to his father and brothers just north and a little west of a village by the name of Arno, in western Douglas County.

One cannot tell the stories of Grandpa Ira, Grandma Mintia, or their four children—Kiree, Lawrence, Eldon, and Levon, without mentioning different places in Douglas County. Those stories mention old post offices/stores, schools or churches such as Arden, Arno, Dogwood, Goodhope and Tigris. Without some general idea of their location, the reader could have trouble following the history..

Page 8 contains a road map of the western Douglas County area showing the villages and places where family events happened. The county major city, Ava, is shown on the right side of the map to help orient one to the locations today. Places and locations where key family events occurred are marked with a red letter on the map, and a legend of these markers is provided on the opposite page (page 9).

The map includes the names of many of old post offices/stores from the past although little can be see there today. All these post offices have been closed for at least 60 years. Take a moment and locate these villages plus the ghost towns of Arno and Goodhope.

### **Pronunciations by Locals in the 1950s and Earlier**

Below the legend on page 9 is a listing of placenames and people's names accompanied with the pronunciation used by Grandma Hartley and others of her time. The reader might find this interesting, and Grandma's daughter, Levon, who is still living, pronounces many of these words in the way shown on the table.

### **Family Trees for Grandpa Ira and Grandma Mintia**

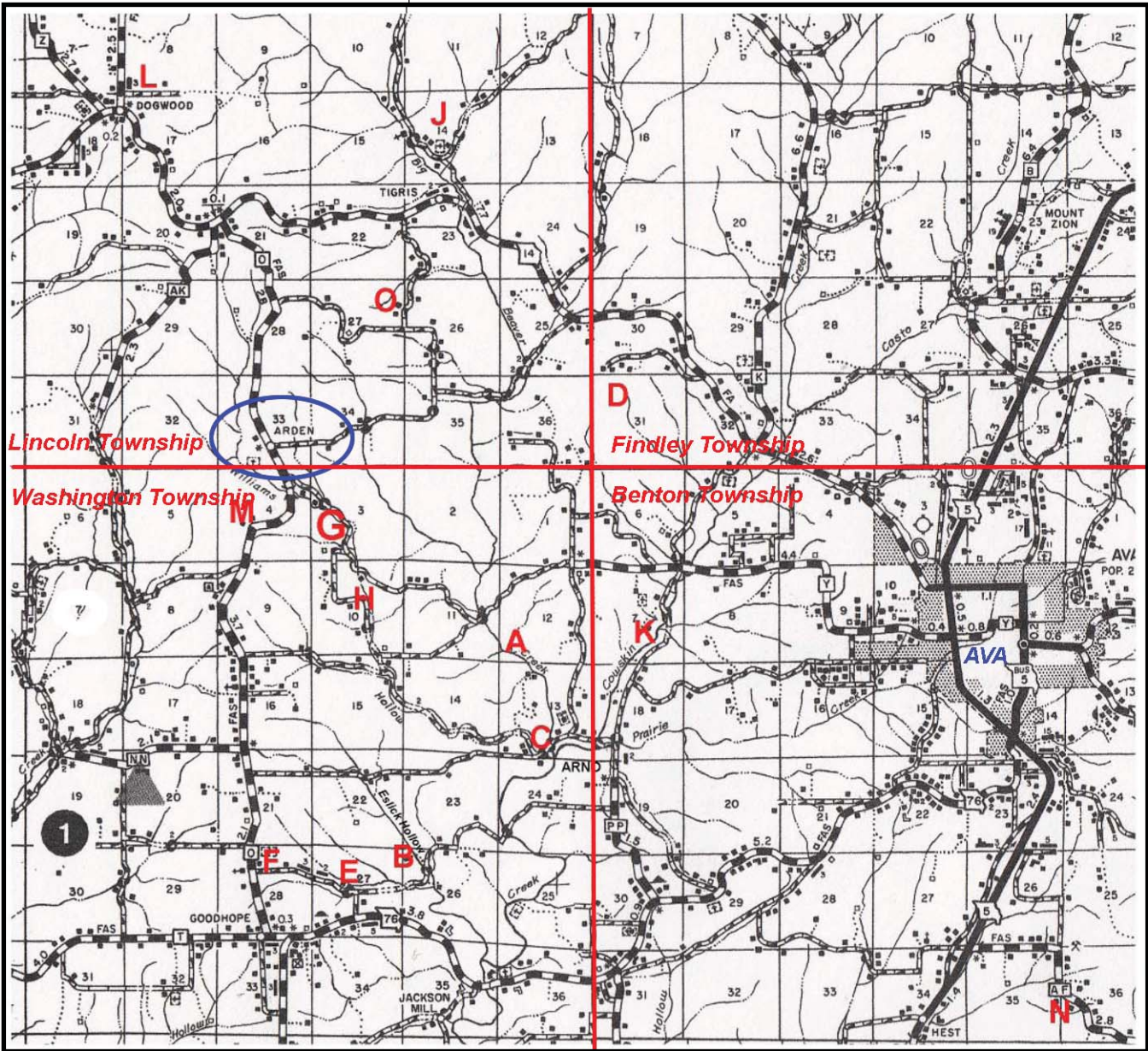
Page 10 contains a family tree for Grandpa Ira Hartley that shows his parents, grandparents and all his siblings. The facing page (11) contains a similar tree for Grandma Mintia (Gunnels) Hartley. The two trees are connected and the couple's four children are shown at the bottom of the two pages. These charts should help the reader follow the family history throughout the book.



Above, the remaining lower story of the old Arno MO store that still stands today. Legend has that the stones in front of the store were placed there by some of the few slaves that were ever held in the county.

# Western Douglas County, Mo Current Road Map

(Legend on opposite page identifies each of the places marked with a red letter)



## Legend for the road map on the facing page

- A William L. Hartley's place—Grandpa Ira was born at this place in 1889 and grew up there.
- B William "Nick" Gunnels' place—Grandma Mintia grew up at this place.
- C Upson Place near Arno where Kiree Hartley was born in 1911 one year after Ira and Mintia married.
- D Pilot Knob—This is where Ira and Mintia rented the "Calvin Place" for one crop year.
- E Humphreys Place—Lawrence Hartley was born here in 1915.
- F Goodhope Cemetery where Ira and Mintia were buried plus many members of the Gunnels family.
- G Ira and Mintia's Williams Hollow farm they purchased in 1919
- H (West) Flat Rock School where Kiree, Lawrence, Eldon, and Levon attended.
- J The Burleson home place on Little Beaver Creek where Eldon's wife, Verda was raised.
- K Ritter Cemetery where Ira's parents and several family members were buried.
- L Dogwood Church and community
- M Ira & Mintia's "Upper Forty"—hired hand, Grant Hampton died here in 1961.
- N James L. Brown Farm (childhood home of Orville Brown, Kiree Hartley's husband).
- O Charles B. Jones Farm (home of Leora Jones, Lawrence's first wife).

## How Grandma Hartley and the locals pronounced certain names

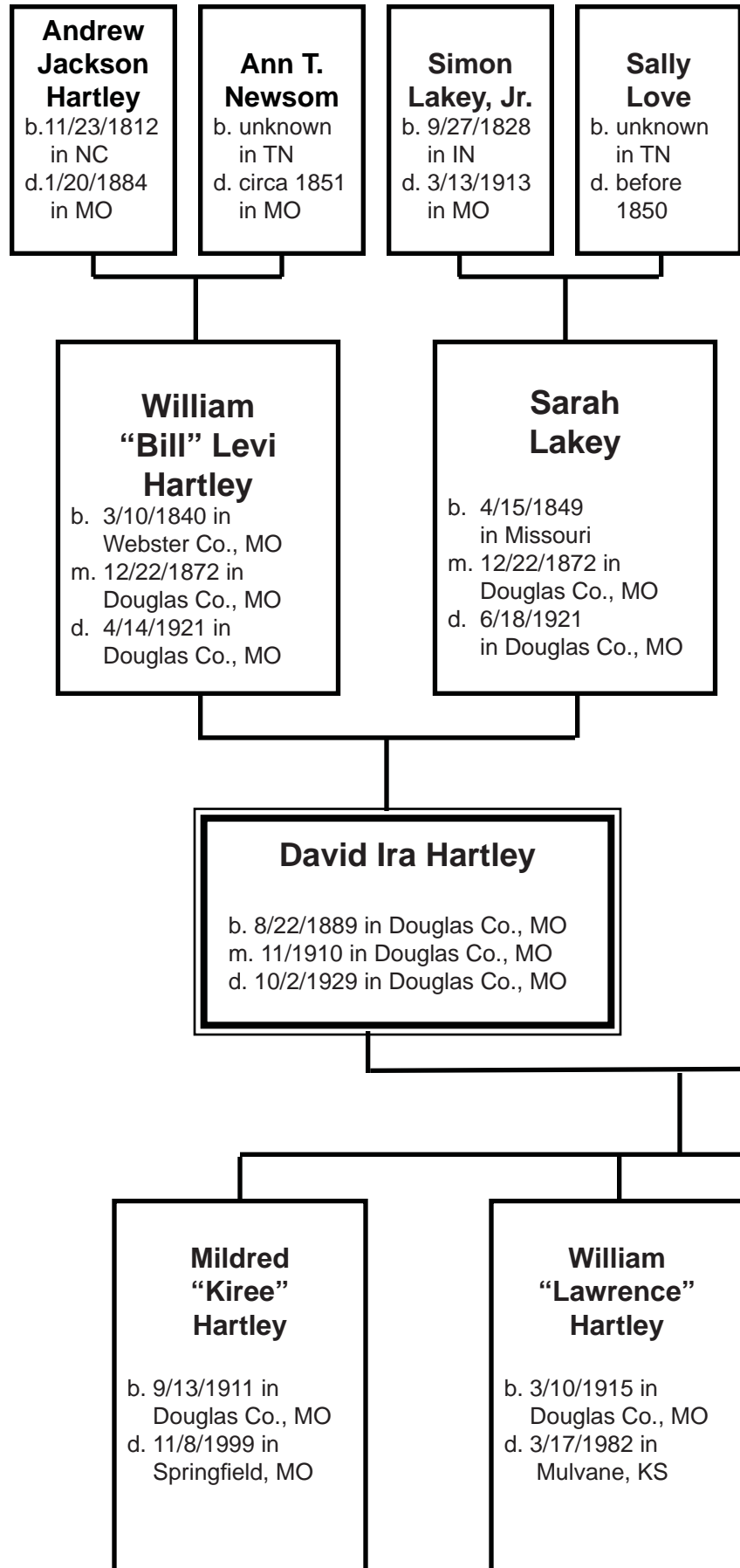
Note: an "a" at the end of a name was always pronounced "ee" in Douglas County

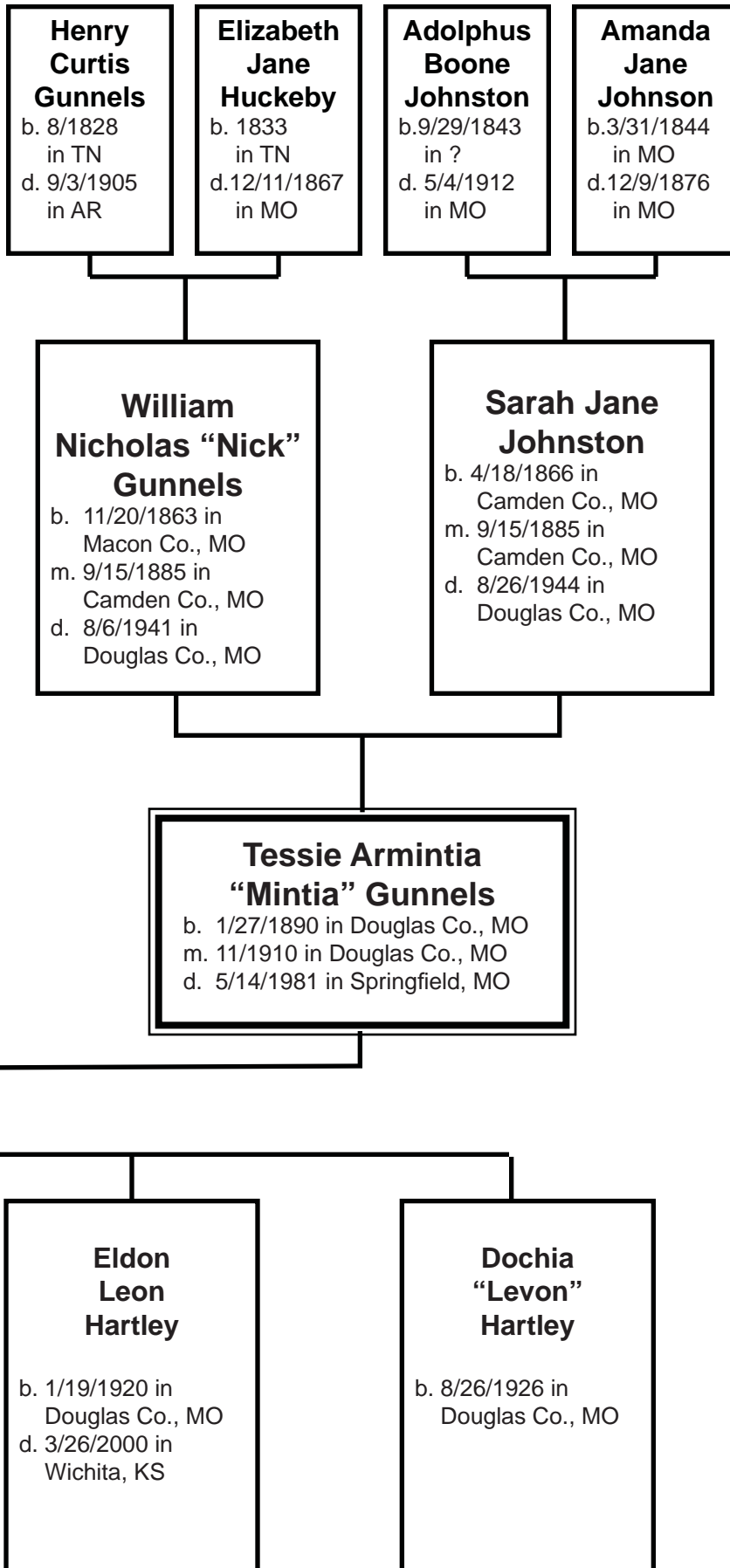
Anna (ann-ee)  
Ava (av-ee)  
Dochia (doe-she)  
Enola / Nola (no-lee)  
Ezra (es-ree)  
Goodhope (good-ope)  
Hollow (holler)  
Ira (ar-ee)  
Iris Ann (ar-see or ar-san)  
Kiree (cree)  
Mina (mean-ee)  
Mintia (mint-ee)  
Ola (ol-ee)  
Rosa (rose-ee)  
Tigris (tie-gurse)

Grandpa Ira's  
**HARTLEY**  
**FAMILY**  
**TREE**

**Children of William and Sarah (Lakey) Hartley**

1. Frances "Marion"  
 b. 9/19/1873 - d. 2/4/1958
2. William L. "Billy"  
 b. 3/5/1875 - d. 5/31/1922
3. Infant 1  
 b. 4/28/1876 - d. 4/28/1876
4. Rubin A.  
 b. 5/6/1877 - d. 11/18/189?
5. Infant 2  
 b. 10/2/1878 - d. 10/2/1878
6. Simon L.  
 b. 10/24/1879 - d. 4/1900
7. Infant 3  
 b. 4/24/1880 - d. 4/24/1880
8. Infant 4  
 b. 4/1882 - d. 4/1882
9. Ada C.  
 b. 9/11/1883 - d. 1/6/1904
10. Albert Lee  
 b. 3/22/1885 - d. 11/16/1961
11. Vina Lu "Effie"  
 b. 6/10/1886 - d. 4/15/1910
12. John M.  
 b. 1887 d. after 1912
13. David "Ira"  
 b. 8/22/1889 - d. 10/2/1929
14. Sarah Viola "Ola"  
 b. 10/18/1891 - d. 8/3/1985
15. Joel Edward "Ed"  
 b. 5/7/1893 - d. 4/14/1979





Grandma Mintia's  
**GUNNELS  
FAMILY  
TREE**

**Children of Nick and Sarah  
(Johnston) Gunnels**

1. Myrtie Mae  
b. 11/20/1886 - d. 4/18/1933
2. John E.  
b. 9/9/1888 - d. 11/17/1918
3. Tessie Armintia "Mintia"  
b. 1/27/1890 - d. 5/14/1981
4. Avery Curtis  
b. 12/29/1892 - d. 12/12/1947
5. Charles Boon "Charley"  
b. 3/21/1898 - d. 6/12/1959
6. Laura Annie  
b. 4/24/1903 - d. 10/24/2002