

Chapter SIX

WILLIAM LAWRENCE HARTLEY

Ira & Mintia's second-born (b. 1915 - d. 1982)



Written by Barbara (Hartley) Wilbert

William Lawrence Hartley was born to Ira and Mintia on March 10, 1915. Through the years, William Lawrence was always known as “Lawrence.” Still, later on in life, some of his co-workers called him just “Bill Hartley.”

Lawrence was born in a little two-room house that his Dad and his Uncle John Gunnels had just finished. The house was located on Ira and Mintia's first purchased place. It was next to Grandpa Nick Gunnels' place on Eslick Hollow.

In her 1985 taped interview, Lawrence's older sister, Kiree, recalled the night he was born. According to Kiree a neighbor lady, Mrs. Hutchison, stayed the night with them and “...the next day, Grandma Gunnels came, and Aunt Annie (Gunnels), and Aunt Myrtie (Sanders) and her two girls—Elsie and Stella. Oh, and Mrs. Posey.” Lawrence's birth was a popular event and well-attended.

Probably Lawrence's earliest memories might have been at the Williams Hollow farm that his parents purchased in 1919 when Lawrence was about four years old. He may well have remembered the cabin that the Hartley family used until the new house was built there in the early 1920s. Although everyone had to work hard, no doubt Lawrence enjoyed that farm with the spring-fed branch between the barn and the road that always had tadpoles and frogs to play with. There were places to hunt and explore the woods.

Kiree remembers that she and Lawrence played very well together as children. One time, their Dad, Ira, had set up a press to squeeze the syrup out of sorghum cane. Kiree and Lawrence would take turns playing -- one would feed in a stalk of cane, and the other would be the “horse” that turned the press.



Lawrence, age 5.

Once Kiree was feeding the press and got her hand to close to the press, and she got a finger mashed. She remembered her Mom scolding Lawrence and saying, “Lawrence you ought to know better than that,” as she led Kiree to the house for first aid. Kiree felt bad because it was her own fault, and it could have been the other way around.

Lawrence was school age when his little brother, Eldon, was born in the Williams Hollow cabin, and he was 11 when his little sister, Dochia Levon, was born in 1926. Besides the changes within himself, everything was changing around him. His Dad, Ira, died in 1929 at the age of forty and Lawrence only 14. About that time, his older sister, Kiree, started living in Ava to attend Ava High School. While living in Ava, Kiree made the acquaintance of her future husband, Orville Brown.

The arrival of his mom’s new husband, Charley Breedlove, in May 1931, was one that Lawrence and all the family would remember with fondness.

Lawrence went to (West) Flat Rock and Arden Schools. He also attended Ava High School for a time. In 1937, Lawrence married a local girl, Leora Jones. They had a child, Marion Leon, in 1938, but divorced in November 1940.

Lawrence Leaves Williams Hollow in 1940

Before the divorce was even final between Lawrence and Leora, Lawrence was looking for a change and was told about a job working on a farm in Idaho. So 25-year-old Lawrence headed off to Idaho. The 1940 Idaho census shows he was “lodging” with the Otto Schnitker family in Twin Falls, Idaho. The story goes that Lawrence learned a lot while working in Idaho and even learned to break horses during his time there. One can only imagine that he worked very hard during his time there.

Lawrence returned to his mother’s Williams Hollow farm west of Ava, MO, sometime before his sister, Levon, married Bill Luttrell in September 1942. It was Lawrence who took the newlyweds off to California shortly after they were married to find work. Lawrence found work at the shipyards in San Pedro, California. It was here that he met a sweet young Texas girl named Mina Pauline Bindseil. She was from the Fredericksburg, TX area, and was of German descent. Mina had followed her newly married sister, Louise Heiner, out to California to also find work. She found work cleaning a boarding house, and it was there that 18-year-old Mina would meet 28-year-old Lawrence.

Lawrence and Mina married on August 19, 1944. That was the beginning of a marriage that would last 38 years. They came back to Fredericksburg, TX, and were married in Trin-



Above, ca 1931
Lawrence Hartley.



Above, early 1950s—Lawrence Hartley in California.



At left, Lawrence and Mina (Bindseil) Hartley on their wedding day, August 19, 1944, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stonewall, Texas.

ity Lutheran Church right across the street from the LBJ ranch in Stonewall, TX. The ceremony was performed by a cousin minister of Mina's, and her family was in attendance as well as several of Lawrence's.

After the wedding, the couple returned to San Pedro and went on to have four sons over the next four years. During that time Lawrence continued working at the shipyards. Before the arrival of their fifth child, the couple left California for good and came to the Hartley farm in western Douglas County, MO. They moved into a little cabin on the "upper forty" of the Hartley farm. In June of 1950, the fifth son, John, was born there.

How long Lawrence intended to stay, we can only guess. He missed Missouri and his mother very much but employment would once again dictate where he moved later that year. His brother, Eldon, had told Lawrence about employment opportunities in Wichita, KS, with the aircraft industry; so Lawrence, Mina, and their family of five sons took off for Wichita, KS. Wichita is the place where the rest of Lawrence's children were born over the next 12 years, and where Lawrence and Mina would make their home until their deaths.

When Lawrence first arrived in Wichita, his brother Eldon was working for Boeing aircraft and got Lawrence a factory job working there; eventually Lawrence would end up working for Cessna aircraft as a punch press operator. Lawrence and Mina moved several times in the Wichita area over the next several years, and even had a fire (in 1965) at one of the rental houses that would consume the whole house and all the family's possessions. Luckily no was hurt.

The next house for the Lawrence Hartley family would become their long-term house. This is the house the youngest two children Richard and Barbara



At left, historic Trinity Lutheran Church in Stonewall, TX, where Lawrence and Mina were married in 1944.

At right, newly-weds, Mina (Bindseil) and Lawrence Hartley in Mexico.

remember the most. This two-story farm house was located just south of Mulvane, KS, and had enough land with it to have animals and a big garden. There were lots of memories made here with the family, and lots of family dinners and family Christmases were spent here. It had a garage for the older sons to work on cars, a basketball court for a game of basketball, and there were even horses here. It was not far from the rest of Lawrence's family who had all relocated from Ava to Wichita. This included his oldest sister, Kiree and her two sons, James and Kenneth. Also in Wichita was his only brother, Eldon, wife Verda, and their three sons, Raymond, Jerry and Gary; and Lawrence's baby sister, Levon, with her two children, Sue and Joe. There was always lots of time spent with cousins and family potluck dinners. The cousins liked to come to the Hartley home to play and explore because there was plenty of places to have fun.

Times were not always easy with a wife and nine children, and Lawrence and Mina faced difficult times as most married couples do. There were the usual bumps, bruises, and broken bones with seven sons and two daughters, but one time that stands out that must have been a very difficult time in their marriage was with their son Dayton. Dayton was around eight years old when he decided to "help" out and siphon gas from one vehicle to another. This was a common practice on a farm when you needed gas from a car to a tractor or vice versa using a garden hose to suck up the gas but not swallow it. Well Dayton swallowed the gas and ended up in the hospital in critical condition, and it was touch and go for several weeks. It was a very rough time. Thankfully Dayton made a full recovery.

Around this time (1955) Mina also suffered a miscarriage of a child. But Mina would go on to have three more children in 1957, 1960 and 1962. In the 1960's there was a lot of unrest in the world, and they would have to endure two of their children joining the service. Edward joined the U.S. Air Force, and Johnny joined the U.S. Navy during the



At right, Lawrence & Mina (Bindseil) Hartley in California in the 1940s.



At left, 1949—Mina (Bindseil) Hartley (holding Virgil) at the family home in California. Standing, left to right, were Dayton, Edward, and Michael.

Vietnam conflict. That was a time of unrest and was very difficult for the entire nation. Luckily both of Lawrence and Mina's sons returned back to them safe.

Sometime in the early 1970's, Lawrence and Mina's oldest son, Michael, was diagnosed as a severe diabetic and ended up in a coma in the hospital. His mother, Mina, was by his side for that whole process and after that she altered her cooking style for him. Michael would eventually die from complications of diabetes at the age of 52. He is buried next to his parents in Mulvane, KS.

Lawrence and Mina also had a lot of wonderful times traveling to their home states of Missouri and Texas. Vacations were spent going to California, and back to the east coast to visit Susan and her family. They enjoyed having grandchildren, and there were a lot of fun times with the extended family. We enjoyed several family reunions at area parks in Wichita where all the cousins would play softball and just enjoy catching up with each other.

Lawrence and Mina were both very hard workers and enjoyed having a big garden and sharing that garden with family and friends. They had good neighbors out in Mulvane that thought highly of them and that they enjoyed visiting with them. Lawrence was well liked at his job at Cessna and knew so many people. He loved to visit with people and would help them anyway he could. Lawrence had a way about him that made people feel comfortable and they enjoyed talking to him. He was very proud of his family and would brag on occasion about them.

Sadly Lawrence died way too young at the age of 67 on March 17, 1982. He died in Wichita surrounded by his family and his loving wife, Mina. Mina moved from the farm outside of Mulvane the following year into the town of Derby, KS. She would develop Leukemia over the next few years and would die in October of 1990 eight years after her husband.

At the time of his death in 1982, Lawrence had nine



At left, 1951—Lawrence & Mina (Bindseil) Hartley (holding Johnny). In the middle were Edward and Michael. In front were Virgil and Dayton.

At right, small house on Grandma Hartley's "Upper Forty" where Lawrence Hartley's wife, Mina, gave birth to the couple's fifth son, Johnny Hartley, in June 1950.



children and eight grandchildren--that number is now 21 grandchildren, and so far 17 great grandchildren with more on the way this coming year (2015). Both Lawrence and Mina loved family and being surrounded by family; they would be so proud to know some of the traditions they started with family dinners, holiday get-togethers, and being there for each other no matter what happened, continue to this day. The Lawrence Hartley family is alive and well and growing!

Lawrence's Child with Leora (Jones) Hartley

- **Marion Leon Allen** was the first born child of Lawrence Hartley. He was born on August 9, 1938, to Lawrence and his first wife, Leora Jones. After Marion's mother divorced Lawrence in 1940, she married Clyde Allen. Clyde adopted Marion and raised him as his son. Marion died on December 1, 2006, in Twin Falls, ID, at the age of 68.

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Lawrence & Mina's Children:

- **Michael Leon Hartley** was born April 28, 1945, in San Pedro, California. After the age of five, Michael lived the rest of his life in the Wichita, KS, area. He graduated from Andover High School in 1963 and attended Wichita State University. He married Barbara Jean Cowan in 1985. Michael worked for many years at the Coleman Company and was working at Boeing in Wichita at the time of his death. He died in March 1998 of diabetes and was buried in the Mulvane, KS, Cemetery next to his parents.
- **Edward Alwin Hartley** was born April 28, 1946, in San Pedro, California. He graduated from Andover, KS, High School in 1964 before serving four years in the U.S. Air Force. Edward married Vicki Darlene Gilliland in 1971. Edward and Vicki have spent their married life in the Wichita area, where Edward retired from his factory job at Cessna Aircraft. They have three sons, David, Marvin, and Matthew.

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- **Dayton Lawrence Hartley** was born June 17, 1947, in Los Angeles, CA. His parents moved to the Wichita, KS, area when he was young. Dayton graduated from Andover, KS, High School and from Wichita State University with a degree in aeronautical engineering. Dayton continues to work as an engineer for Textron Aviation (formerly Beechcraft) in Wichita. In 1993, Dayton married Vana Wisner. They have one daughter, Dayna, who is a student at Kansas State University.
- **Virgil Wayne Hartley** was born on October 8, 1948, in San Pedro, CA. Shortly after his birth, Virgil's parents moved first to Missouri and then on to the Wichita, KS, area where he grew up. Virgil graduated from Mulvane, KS, High School, and in 1971, Virgil moved to Los Angeles, CA, where he worked for and retired from the Pacific Telephone Company. He married Jacqueline "Jacki" Anne Fauntleroy in 1982. Virgil and Jacki had two children—Logan and Lisa. Jacki died in 2005 of cancer.
- **Johnny Carl Hartley** was born on June 26, 1950, in western Douglas County, MO, near the old Hartley farm place. Almost immediately, Johnny's parents moved to Wichita, KS, where Johnny grew up. Johnny graduated from Mulvane, KS, High School, attended Wichita State University, and served in the U.S. Navy. He married Marilyn May in 1978, and they have four children—Katie, Jacob, Laura, and Amelia.
- **Susan Laura Hartley** was born March 17, 1952, in Wichita, KS. She graduated from Mulvane, KS, High School. Susan met her spouse, Roger Leo Malo, on McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, where he was serving in the Air Force. They were married in 1972, and lived in several states and countries where Roger was stationed during his Air Force career. They have two sons, Scott and Randy.
- **Stephen William Hartley** was born August 10, 1957, in Wichita, KS. He grew up in Mulvane, KS, south of Wichita, and graduated from Mulvane High School. Stephen married his high school sweetheart, Sandra Rogers, in 1978. They have three children—Cindy Jo, Cheryl Kay, and Christy Marie.
- **Richard David Hartley** was born September 18, 1960, in Wichita, KS. He grew up in Mulvane, KS, south of Wichita and graduated from Mulvane High School in 1978. After serving four years in the U.S. Air Force, Richard married Roxanne Sherman in 1986. They have two children—Andrew and Allison.
- **Barbara Lynn Hartley** was born July 2, 1962, in Wichita, KS. Barbara grew up in Mulvane, KS, south of Wichita, KS, and graduated from Mulvane High School in 1980. She married David Joseph Wilbert in 1986, and they had four children—Nicole Ellen, Jordan David, Dillon Joseph (who died in 1991), and Marisa Paige.



Above, Lawrence and Mina (Bindseil) Hartley's 30th Wedding anniversary in 1974
Standing: Barbara, Dayton, Virgil, Michael, Edward, Johnny, and Susan;
Seated: Stephen, Mina, Lawrence, and Richard



Above, an aerial view of the house that Lawrence Hartley and family moved into after a 1965 fire destroyed their previous home and all of their possessions. This beautiful old home was west of Mulvane, KS, a couple of miles. Unfortunately, during the last ten years, the house and structures have been razed and the trees have been cleared. Now, it is wheat field.



June, 2012—Lawrence & Mina (Bindseil) Hartley’s descendants at the Bindseil Reunion in Flagstaff, Arizona

Back (L-R) Jordan Kirk- Amelia Kirk- Josh Maki holding Caden Maki- Jordan Wilbert holding Collin Maki- Matt Corpstein- David Hartley- Andrew Hartley- Brandon Hampton- Richard Hartley- Allison Hartley- Katie Hartley

Middle (L-R) Matthew Hartley- Stephen Hartley- Edward Hartley- Dayton Hartley- Vana Hartley- Cheryl Maki- Cindy Corpstein- Christy Price- Zachory Price- David Wilbert- Logan Hartley- Virgil Hartley- Roxanne Hartley- Meme Hampton- Amy (David’s) Hartley holding Ruby Hartley- in front of Ruby Hartley is Jacob Hartley- Amy (Matthew’s) Hartley

Bottom (L-R) Johnny Hartley- Marilyn Hartley holding Lucy Hartley- Dayna Hartley- Marisa Wilbert- Sandra Hartley- Nicole Wilbert- Laura Hartley- Lisa Hartley- Hampton holding Bishop Hampton- Barbara Wilbert- Megan Hartley holding McEwan Hartley- Katelyn Hartley- Vicki Hartley

On floor (L-R) Megan (David’s) Hartley- Paige Hartley- Payton Hartley- Shane Hartley- Braxton Hartley- Bryson Ellis- Brandon Ellis- Baron Ellis- Bralen Hampton (behind the chair)



Above, ca 1967—dinner time at the Lawrence Hartley house.



At right, Lawrence Hartley with one of his horses.
Looks like the back of Michael's
Corvair in front of them.