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chapter 6.10

BARBARA LYNN HARTLEY

Lawrence & Mina’s ninth-born (b. 1962)

*Written by Barbara (Hartley)
Wilbert*

Memories I have from when I was a little was being the youngest of nine children born to William Lawrence and Mina Pauline Hartley. I have seven older brothers and one sister who is 10 years older than me.



I grew up in rural Mulvane, KS, in a farm house with lots of space for running, exploring and growing a BIG garden. Lots of summers were spent shucking corn and picking all the other vegetables for Mom to can. My mom was a great cook and canned lots of the garden items.

My dad for most of my childhood that I remember worked second shift at Cessna Aircraft in Wichita. He would sleep until noon then get up, eat and be out the door to work not long after.

I really do not have much of a memory of the older siblings living at home; just Stephen, Richard and me. My sister Susan got married when I was 10 so I remember her living with us for a little while.

I was too young to understand when my brothers Edward and Johnny left for the Vietnam War and why they were not around. I do remember my Mom crying. I had my usual sibling fights with Steve and Richard although Richard would play with me more than Steve. We rode a bus to school, and Richard and I were the lucky ones who got to attend Mulvane Schools all 12 years.

We grew up playing with our cousin Gary Hartley who was right between Richard and me in age. Gary is the youngest son of my Uncle Eldon and Aunt Verda Hartley. Eldon was the younger brother of my dad, Lawrence. There were lots of times when we spent the night back between our house and theirs.

My Aunt Verda was a big part of my Mom’s life for many years; you would say they were not only sister-in-laws but best

friends. They talked every-day on the phone. Along with those cousins we also had second cousins, Larry, Terry and Tameria who came over a lot and played on the farm. They were the three children of Sue and Larry Masters.

I am still very close to my second cousin Tammy and we talk almost every day. Sue is the daughter of my Aunt Dochia, youngest sister of my Dad (Lawrence). I might note here for whatever reason in Missouri a lot of people go by their middle names. So my Aunt Dochia was really named Dochia Levon later to be called Levon. My aunt Kiree was really named Mildred Kiree but we always knew her as Aunt Kiree, and my dad was Uncle Lawrence to all his nieces and nephews. At his job and around Mulvane he was known as Bill Hartley so it was all very confusing.

I remember lots of weekend trips to Ava MO, to see my Grandma Hartley when I was growing up. We would leave early or in the middle of the night after Dad got off work, and stay all weekend. Grandma Hartley lived on the main street of Ava in a house right across the street from the Ava High School and just a short walk to the town square. My Aunt Kiree lived a block behind Ava High School, and I can remember walking to her house, too.

The Ava town square always seemed so unique to me and small town like, not that I lived in a big town; we lived in the country. I remember being taken one time out to see the farmstead where my Grandma used to live, but I have no idea where that is now.

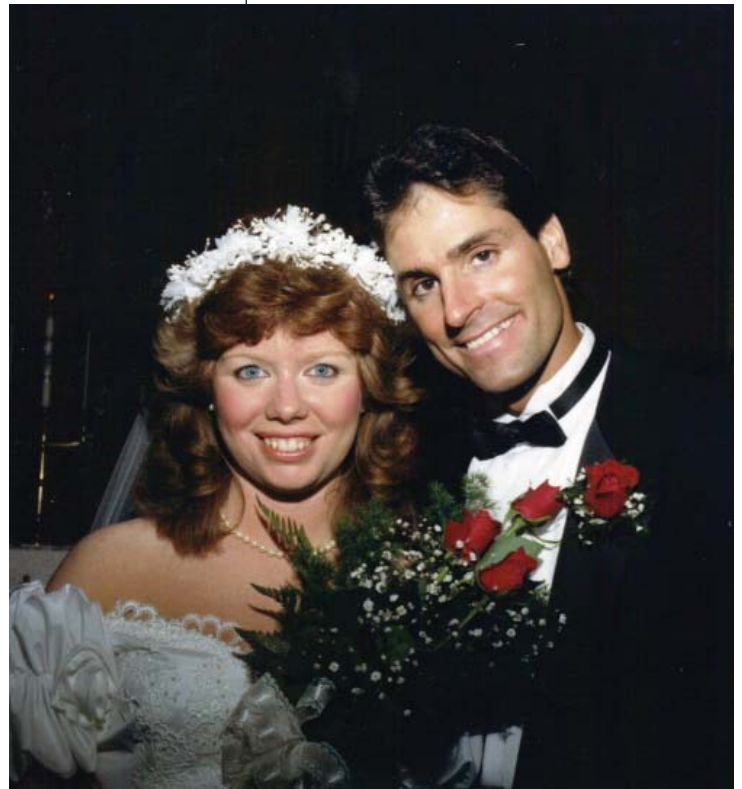
Grandma Hartley was always nice to us kids and seemed like the normal grandma. I remember her front “parlor” room had a lot of breakables, and we always had to be careful in that room because there was a lot of glass.



1980—Barbara's high school graduation

Barbara's Life in a Nutshell

- Born Wichita KS in 1962
- Grew up in Mulvane KS south of Wichita
- Graduated Mulvane KS High School in 1980
- Married David Wilbert in 1986
- Children:
 - Nicole - b. 1989
 - Jordan - b. 1991
 - Dillon - b. 1991
d. 1991
 - Marisa - b. 1994
- Lives in Derby KS south of Wichita



Barbara & David on their wedding day, May 3, 1986



1990—Barbara, her Mother, and baby Nicole



Above, 2006—the Hearst Castle in California—(l-r) Jordan, Barbara, Marisa, David and Nicole



At left, 2004—Nicole, David & Marisa in front Barbara & Jordan in back

People always said Dad would give strangers “the shirt off his back” and that “he never met a stranger”. To the embarrassment of my children I am the same way; I will talk to anyone, anytime. Something that I always remember with my Dad is he would always want my Mom to make a big Sunday dinner and expected all the “kids” to come for dinner. My brothers would tinker in the garage with cars or play basketball at a dirt court with an old basketball hoop. My brothers still play basketball to this day when we get together.

I think my dad knew a lot about cars and how to fix things, because my brothers all are great at that kind of thing. Now that I am a mom I can't imagine

Below, 2007—
Nicole, Jordan & Marisa in front;
David & Barbara in back



2012-Barbara & David seated, Marisa, Jordan & Nicole standing



Above, 2011—Nicole, Marisa & Jordan

Below, 2011—Nicole with her Fiancé, Ryan Gleason



how difficult it was to raise nine children. I know my Dad loved my mother very much in his own way. My dad died when I was 19 years old, 18 months after I graduated from high school so he never saw me all grown up or as a wife or mother.

I know that some of the traditions he made still carry on today with family dinners and giving someone the shirt off your back because I see the best of my dad in all my fine brothers!!

My Marriage to David

I was blessed to marry my best friend and the love of my life, David Joseph Wilbert, on May 3, 1986, after six years of dating. I was 23 and David was 27. We quickly found a house in Derby, KS and started our new life in there.

We are very involved in our church, St. Mary's Catholic Church, and we were very blessed to be able to send all of our children to the Catholic School there.

Below, 2013—Breckenridge, CO. Our children, Marisa, Nicole and Jordan



Our Children

Nicole Ellen Wilbert. We were happy to start our family in Derby. Our beautiful first-born daughter, Nicole, was born on June 3, 1989; she is now in the final year of her Master's program at Kansas State University, and we couldn't be prouder. Nicole recently got engaged to a fine young man named Ryan Gleason whom she met at K-state; they will be married May 30, 2015.

Twins—Jordan David & Dillon Joseph Wilbert. Next in our family came our twin sons, Jordan and Dillon, on April 29, 1991. Unfortunately, Dillon was born with a hole in his heart and died at six months old on November 15, 1991. That was a very difficult time in our lives, but we still had two children to raise and they kept us going, (little did we know we would be blessed with one more child).

Our son, Jordan, works full time and is a kind and loving man who hasn't met the love of his life yet, but we know he will make some young lady very happy.

Marisa Paige Wilbert. On November 2, 1994, our beautiful youngest daughter came into this world to brighten our family even more—her name is Marisa. Marisa is a sophomore at Kansas State University and is enjoying dating and being in a sorority.

Life is Good in Derby for David and Me

I work for the local school district with special needs preschoolers and enjoy it immensely, and David works for Frito Lay Chips. We love getting together with our families and taking trips. The last few years we have spent a lot of time in Manhattan, KS where K-state is located because our two daughters have been there. Life is good!

Below, 2013—Breckenridge, CO. in back, David & Barbara (Hartley) Wilbert with Jordan Wilbert. In front, are Nicole and Marisa

