

Children of John and Lillie Penix

Jesse Leon Penix

Jessie Leon Penix was born in Bath County Kentucky on February 3, 1913. She was the first child of John Monroe and Lillie Smith Penix. She attended grade school in Bath County, High School in Owingsville and college at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky where she

earned her BA degree in 1938 and MA degree in 1943.

Jessie taught school at Lafayette High School for five years. She worked in Washington D.C. during World War II with the Office of War Information then was transferred to the Federal Housing Administration in Louisville, Kentucky from which she retired in 1966.

She was married to Glenn G. Underwood on September 16, 1944 in the Little Church Around The Corner in New York. Glenn was Born on May 20, 1906 to Samuel B. Underwood and Maude Bowling in Carter County near Olive Hill, Kentucky. He attended



Jesse Penix



Jesse Penix in the early 1940's



Glenn Underwood

grade school in Carter County and college at Eastern State

Children of John and Lillie Penix
Jesse Leon Penix

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



LEXINGTON

May 17, 1943

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Miss Jessie Leon Penix
338 Linden Walk
Lexington, Kentucky

My dear Miss Penix:

I am glad to note that you have passed your oral examination for your Master's degree. Permit me to congratulate you.

All candidates are required to be present at commencement to receive their degrees in person unless they are officially excused. Commencement is Friday, June 4 at 7:30 p.m.

The occasion calls for academic dress. You may secure your cap, gown and hood from the Campus Bookstore any time after May 24. A cash deposit of \$3.00 is required which will be refunded to you upon the return of the cap and gown. The hood is presented to you by the University.

Wear cap, gown and hood in the academic procession.

If you are in doubt as to any of the formalities of the occasion, please call at this office for instructions.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. D. Funkhouser".

W. D. Funkhouser
Dean, Graduate School

Letter Jesse Penix received about graduation for her masters degree.

Children of John and Lillie Penix

Jesse Leon Penix

College, Richmond, Kentucky and the University of Kentucky at Lexington, Kentucky. During World War II he also attended Georgetown Law School. After the war ended he got his law degree from the University of Louisville School of Law. Glenn worked for the Veterans Administration for five years then transferred to the Internal Revenue Department from which he retired in 1968.

The first housing for Glenn and Jessie was an apartment in Washington D.C. on the grounds of the Old Army War College where Glenn was stationed. He was in the Intelligence Department and later was transferred to the Pentagon during the war. They moved to Louisville in 1945 to a rented house. Later they moved to Greentree Manor now owned by the Baptist College. In 1950 they built their own home on Winchester Road in Louisville, Kentucky. They also at one time owned a home on Kentucky Lake and in Florida.

There is a book on the Underwood family which details the relationship of Glenn to Cecil Underwood, former governor of West Virginia. It also details the relationship between Glenn and horse thieves that moved to Missouri.

Glenn's grandmother was a Shearer. She had a sister Kate that married James Walter Flougher. They had a daughter Irene who got pregnant while in California and did not want the family to know so, she adopted the boy out to the Regans. She went on with her life and acted under the name of Betty Arnold. The boy that she had is Michael



Glenn and Jesse Underwood in later years.

Regan.

Glenn and Jessie never had children. Glenn died on January 29, 1989. Jessie as of this date is still living in Louisville.

Children of John and Lillie Penix

Willie (William)
(Willie) William
Washington Penix (Willie had
his name legally changed from
Willie to William but, was
called Bill or Willie almost all
of the time) was born July 17,

Washington Penix



William (then Willie) Penix in his
school days



William with young son John Penix



Evelyn Paff in her early years



Evelyn (Paff) Penix

Children of John and Lillie Penix

Willie (William)

1915 in Menifee County, Kentucky. He was the second child of John Monroe and Lillie Smith Penix. William attended grade school and some high school in Bath County after which he decided to travel the United States looking for "greener pastures". After traveling through most of the states (mostly by boxcar) he ended up in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

He married Evelyn Paff in South Bend, Indiana on April 11, 1936. Evelyn was the Daughter of **Edward Paff** and **Belva L. Austin**. William and Evelyn had four children with the fourth, **James Penix**, being born prematurely and surviving only a day or two. See the following sections for the other children. In his retired years he managed to travel the states

Washington Penix



Edward Paff father of Evelyn



Belva Austin (mother of Evelyn) with her second husband Jacob Vandenberg

that he missed when he traveled as a young man.

William as a young man worked many different jobs including WPA (during the depression), gas station attendant and plumber assistant before starting work at Fuller Manufacturing as a machinist just before the end of WWII. He later became an electrician at Fuller Manufacturing (now a division of Eaton, Yale and Town) and eventually got an electrician license. During the early years at Fuller Manufacturing there were many times when there were strikes. During those periods William would supplement his income by working in construction.

William built three different homes on different lakes and one home in Kalamazoo. He also always seemed to find a spot to put a garden. He loved corn and home grown tomatoes. I can remember him always

Children of John and Lillie Penix

Willie (William)



Evelyn and William in the back with children John, Elizabeth and Donald Penix in the front.

remarking after he ate his sixth ear of sweet corn that he would only feed the cows three ears of corn when he was a little boy. His gardens were always vegetables with a few fruit trees but, Evelyn always managed to find a spot for her flower garden also.

William was very active in the Masons, Scottish Rite and Eastern Star. He was a past master of lodge #22 and a past patron of the Eastern Star in Kalamazoo. He was a life member of the Masons.

William also loved to go fishing as you can tell from the fact that he built three different homes on lakes. He never did catch many fish (he never had much time to go) so he had to rely on his oldest son to provide almost all the fish for the family. One time he came home from work as his two sons were catching a lot of fish from the dock and decided he should

Washington Penix

show his two sons how to play a fish once it is hooked. He proceeded to walk backwards off the dock with the flyrod still in hand. All we could see was his straw hat that he always wore floating on the water. When he finally came up for air, the only thing he could think to say was that he still had the fish on the line. The two sons told him that if that was the only way he could play a fish, he should give up fishing.

After retiring, William eventually sold all the property in Kalamazoo and moved to Malabar, Florida. William continued his gardening, walking and managed to use some of his



William Washington Penix

Children of John and Lillie Penix

Willie (William) Washington Penix



Bill and Evelyn shown with all their children and grandchildren in 1972. Front row: Donald Jr., Michael, James, Kathleen, Charles, Edward, Robert, Lisa. Between is Elizabeth, Anthony, Judy holding William and back is Donald, Ann, Raymond, John, Evelyn and Bill. The six to the left are the Donald Penix family, The next six are the Bartholomew family then John Penix family is mixed with Evelyn and Bill Penix.

electrical experience after his retirement. He made one last trip north to see his three children and grandchildren in 1978.

Evelyn told us that he made sure that he had everything that he needed for burial when he headed north except his Masonic apron (which he forgot). He wanted to go back to get it but she said he was silly and wouldn't let him return since they were so far away from home

when he realized he had forgotten the apron. He died shortly after he saw all his children and grandchildren on July 25, 1978 in Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Evelyn returned to Florida and spent her remaining years there. After a couple years of illness, Evelyn died in Malabar, Florida on April 17, 1992.

Evelyn was a loving mother and housewife. She spent much time working in the garden,

Children of John and Lillie Penix

Willie (William) Washington Penix

**PENIX,
Mr. William W.,
8 Century Dr.,
Malibar, Fla.
Formerly Kalamazoo—**

Passed away at a local hospital July 25, 1978. Mr. Penix was born July 17, 1915, in Pews Branch, Ky., son of John and Lillie Penix. He married Evelyn Paff, April 11, 1936, in South Bend, Ind. He was Past Master of Kalamazoo Lodge No. 22 F&AM, a member of Saladin Temple of Grand Rapids, Peninsular Commandery No. 8, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Kalamazoo Chapter No. 13 RAM, Past Patron of Loyalty Chapter No. 497 OES. Surviving are his wife, Evelyn; 2 sons, Donald and John of Kalamazoo; one daughter, Mrs. Ray (Elizabeth) Bartholomew of Galion, Ohio;

Funeral notice for William Penix

12 grandchildren; his mother, Mrs. Lillie Powers of Owingsville, Ky.; 3 brothers, Alvie and Frederick of Louisville, Ky., Archie of Wheeling, Ill.; 2 sisters, Mrs. Glen Underwood of Louisville, Ky. and Mrs. Sam McCarty of Olympia, Ky.; many nieces and nephews. Services will be held 3 p.m. Friday at the

TRUESDALE

Chapels of the Pines Westnedge at Milham, Portage, Dr. Kenneth Seeley officiating. Interment in Mt. Ever-Rest Cemetery. The family will receive friends Thursday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9. Memorials may be made to the Shrine Crippled Childrens Fund.

Funeral notice for William Penix
continued.

Children of John and Lillie Penix

Willie (William)

Washington Penix

**PENIX, Mrs. Evelyn
Malabar, Florida
Formerly of Kalamazoo**

Passed away Friday, April 17, 1992, in Melbourne, FL. Mrs. Penix was born December 14, 1917, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the daughter of Edward and Belva (Austin) Paff, and had been a life-long Kalamazoo resident until moving to Florida in 1975. She was a member of the First Congregational Church of Kalamazoo, Loyalty Chapter No. 497, O.E.S. of Kalamazoo, and had been a volunteer worker for the American Cancer Society. Surviving are 2 sons, John Penix, of Kalamazoo, and Donald Penix, of Wayland, and 1 daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Ketcham, of Galion, Ohio; 10 grandchildren; and 6 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, William W. Penix, in 1978. Funeral services will be held 3pm Wednesday at the

**TRUESDALE-ANSELL
FUNERAL HOME
Westnedge at Milham**

Interment with Eastern Star Rites
in Mt. Ever-Rest Cemetery, Masonic

Funeral notice for Evelyn Penix

cooking, sewing, knitting and still managed to find time to help William with the building projects. I still remember when my mother would complain when my father would want her to do some heavy work, he would just tell her that she had it made because his father hitched his mother up to the plow when the mule died and he hadn't asked her to plow yet.

Along with all the home chores and helping my father, my mother still found time to do other things. She sent a lot of time helping the church choir, working for the church, canning and doing charity work. The last several years before William retired she spent at least one day a week working for the cancer center in Kalamazoo (I guess she was bored with us kids gone.).

Evelyn also enjoyed fishing and caught many more fish than my dad (If it weren't for my mother and I, my dad would never have had any fish to eat!). She also enjoyed playing cards, especially cribbage. Probably her best liked hobby was working in the flower garden.