

My mother's parents, John and Elizabeth Robinson, lived in Northeast Texas in Marshall, about forty-five miles south of the Texas/Louisiana state line, where Grandfather Robinson worked in a sawmill.

Grandmother Robinson was one quarter Indian, with long black hair; her grandmother had walked all the way from Cherokee, Tennessee, to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears. The Robinsons had two sons and three daughters. One of their sons, Jesse, was a logger. The other son, John "Brown" Robinson, drove a Greyhound bus for his entire career without an accident, quite an accomplishment for those days. Their daughters were Kate, Tempe, and my mother, Willie. Tempe and her husband ran a tailor shop and cleaned clothes in Carthage Texas, which is probably about an hour north from Marshall, and had one son, Tommy.

There was kind of a family secret: My grandfather Robinson would go into the bar as soon as he got his paycheck, and my grandmother would send Willie to the bar to get him before he spent all the grocery money. This was really hard on my mother, who grew up with a great dislike of alcohol.

William "Bill" Henry Pickron: Father to William Henry Pickron Jr., he was born April 16, 1888, near Pine Hill, Texas. He died August 17, 1971 in Hamlin, Texas at age 83 and was buried there. He had six siblings and was second to the oldest. Bill's sisters were Lena, Ada, Bessie Lucille and Millard, and his brother was Ben. Bill was a farmer, a carpenter, and a cotton gin operator and supervisor. He married Willie Ellen Robinson in Pine Hill, Texas, on December 12, 1916.

Willie Ellen Robinson Pickron: Mother to William Henry Pickron Jr., she was born July 13, 1893, in Panola, Texas, and died in Murfreesboro January 6, 1974, at the age of 80. She was buried in Hamlin East Cemetery in Hamlin, Texas, next to her husband, Bill. She had moved to Tennessee to live with her son and daughter-in-law (my parents, Bill and Bess Pickron) soon after her husband died in 1971. I lived at home finishing college the last year of her life and she told me stories of her life in Texas. Unfortunately, I did not record them, but know that she was very happily married and proud of her only child and his family. She had two brothers, John and Jesse, and two sisters, Kate and Tempie.

John Edd Robinson: Father to Willie, he was born in Mobile, Alabama on August 17, 1856, and died December 25, 1928, in Marshall, Texas, at the age of 72. John Robinson and Lue Branham: They were the parents of John Edd Robinson. No other records were found on this side of the family.

Elizabeth "Lizzie" S. Hillan Robinson: She was mother to Willie and married John Edd Robinson. Lizzie was born August 14, 1869, in Jackson County, Alabama, and died June 7, 1952, in Panola, Texas, at the age of 96. Jim B. Hillan and Ann Hillan: They were parents to Elizabeth Hillan Robinson.

Extracts from book: "FROM STEARMANS TO STARFIGHTERS, A *Pilot's Memoir*" by WILLIAM H. PICKRON JR. with Patricia West