

JOSEPH G. RIDLEN

Joseph Gibson Ridlen
Project Consultant – Greeley County

JOSEPH GIBSON RIDLEN, son of William Henry Ridlen (1854-1926) and Margaret Gibson (1855-1926). Joseph was born on 24 Jul 1875 in Marion County, Iowa. In 1887, the family moved to Greeley County, Kansas. He married **GERTRUDE EVELYN “GERTIE” WEVER**, daughter of Henry Wever (1849-1930) and Lovina Jane Brown (1856-1913), on 4 April 1900 in Horace, Greeley County, Kansas. Gertrude was born on 15 Jan 1878 in Henderson County, Illinois. Her parents moved the family from Illinois to the state of Kansas in 1886.

In April of 1900, Joseph was living in Harrison, Greeley County, Kansas and he was working as a Steel Worker. Soon after they married, Joseph and Gertrude moved to Florence, Fremont County, Colorado. By 1904, they had moved back to Kansas, where Joseph began working as a Foreman for the Missouri Pacific Railroad. He worked there for 20 years and he worked the land on their farm. In 1910, he was also the area’s Probate Judge and elected again in the early 1930s.

After Joseph retired, they started to make trips to California during the winter months, to visit their daughter, Verna, who was living there at that time. Joseph passed away on 18 Mar 1948, in Glendale, Los Angeles County, California. Gertie died on 29 Feb 1960 in Tribune, Greeley County, Kansas. Burial for both was at the Greeley County Cemetery in Tribune, Greeley County, Kansas.

Joseph and Gertrude had 10 children...

WILLIAM HENRY RIDLEN was born on 4 Jan 1901, in Florence, Colorado. He married Dorothy Lavelle Pyles on 16 Aug 1923. She was the daughter of John L. Pyles and Emma Elizabeth Boettner. (*See Mrs. John L. Pyles, Project Consultant – Greeley County.*) Dorothy was born on 7 Oct 1904, in Eads, Colorado. In 1930, William and Dorothy were living in Greeley County, Kansas. They had three daughters: Emma Lou Ridlen, Linda Kathleen Ridlen, and Harriet Lee Ridlen. William retired from the Missouri Pacific Railroad, working as a Railroad Car Foreman. He passed away on 28 Dec 1975 in Alamogordo, New Mexico. William and Dorothy had just moved there four months earlier. Dorothy died on 16 Jun 1994. Burial for both was at the Monte Vista Cemetery in Alamogordo.

VERNA LOIS RIDLEN was born on 14 Jan 1904 in Greeley County, Kansas. She married Joseph Virgil Kuttler and they began their marriage in Ashton, Idaho. There Joseph worked as a machinist. By 1930, they had moved to Lima, Beaverhead County, Montana. In about 1935, they moved back to Greeley County, Kansas and ran their local Tribune grocery store for a few years.

By 1948, Verna had moved to California. Eventually she moved back to Tribune, Kansas. There she passed away on 25 Dec 1989. Joseph and Verna had a son, Joseph Virgil Kuttler, Jr., who was born on 24 Aug 1922 in Ashton, Idaho. He passed away on 22 Feb 2000 in Greeley County, Kansas.

KATHERINE EVELYN RIDLEN was born on 21 Nov 1905 in Horace, Greeley County, Kansas. About 1925, she married Charles Albert Kline, son of Albert Harmon Kline and Harriett Johnston. He was born on 4 Mar 1901 in Pueblo, Pueblo County, Colorado. They had four children and later divorced. Charles died on 20 Jul 1970 in Glendale, Los Angeles County, California.

On 9 Oct 1955, Katherine married Philip Leon Rauch in Pasadena, California. He was born on 18 Jun 1915 in Indiana and was the son of Willard Rauch and Gertrude Newby. Philip worked as a carpenter. In 1988, they were living in Chelan County, Washington. Phillip died on 2 Mar 1997 in Apple Valley, San Bernardino County, California. Katherine passed away on 22 Jun 1998 in Chelan County.

ELEANOR ELIZABETH RIDLEN was born on 5 Jun 1907 in Tribune, Greeley County, Kansas. She married John Francis Strickland, son of Joseph Allen Strickland and Maggie Teten, on 5 Jun 1925. He was born on 13 Sep 1901 in Oklahoma. He was a carpenter and known for building excellent cabinets. John and Eleanor had three children: Norma Jean Ridlen, Joe Francis Ridlen, and Marilyn Ruth Ridlen. John died on 19 Jul 1969 in Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, California. Eleanor passed away on 5 Apr 1999 in Tucson, Pima County, Arizona. Burial was at the Short Spring Cemetery in Alfalfa County, Oklahoma.

MURRY LEIGHTON RIDLEN was born on 15 Jun 1910 in Greeley County, Kansas. He married Elizabeth "Betty" Maude Smith, daughter of Shirley Zachariah Smith and Elizabeth Kirkwood. Elizabeth was born on 22 Jun 1917 in Crawford County, Kansas. Murry and Elizabeth lived in Kansas until about 1950 (*the exact date is not known*), when Farmington, San Juan, New Mexico became their home. There Murry worked for the Post Office. Murry and Elizabeth had three children. Elizabeth died on 28 Feb 1973 in Orange County, California and buried at the Westminster Memorial Park Cemetery in Westminster, Orange County, California. Murry died on 1 Jan 1974 in El Paso, El Paso County, Texas.

RUTH LOUISE RIDLEN was born on 21 Feb 1912. She married Steven Michael Sprunk, son of Joseph Sprunk and Maria Lujan. Steven was born on 28 Feb 1910 in Shafter, Presidio County, Texas. In 1940, Steven and Ruth were living in Glendale, Los Angeles County, California. They had two children, James Keith Sprunk and Kaye Adel Sprunk. Steven died on 15 Sep 1966 in Los Angeles County, California and Ruth passed away on 29 Sep 1975.

ALMA JOSEPHINE RIDLEN was born on 15 Jul 1915 in Horace, Greeley County, Kansas. She married Harlan Edward Lebow on 23 Oct 1935 in Tribune, Greeley County, Kansas. By 1942, they had divorced. Harlan died on 1 Sep 1985 in Seattle, King County, Washington. They had one child, a son, Warren B. Lebow.

Alma's second marriage was to Kenneth Clarence Clark. They lived in California and their daughter, Linda Suzanne Clark, was born in 1943 in the Los Angeles area. They left California for Horace, Kansas. There they owned and worked their town café. They divorced on 7 Jul 1981 in Colorado. Alma passed away on 29 Apr 2008 in Santa Clara, Los Angeles County, California.

VALENTINE RIDLEN (1916-1916)

DOROTHY ALICE RIDLEN was born on 14 Mar 1918 in Horace, Greeley County, Kansas. She married Cecil "Cy" K. Higgins, son of Aaron Leroy Higgins (1877-1937) and Leticia Jane Cooper (1880-1966), on 18 Aug 1935 in Syracuse, Hamilton County, Kansas. Cy was born on 7 Feb 1914 in Penalosa, Kingman County, Kansas. They made their home in Harrison, Greeley County, Kansas where Cy hauled gas and oil for the State Line Oil Company. They had two daughters, Margaret Higgins and Elizabeth Higgins. Cy passed away on 17 Mar 1983 in Tribune, Kansas. Dorothy died on 21 Jun 1988 at the Arkansas Valley Medical Center Nursing Home in La Junta, Otero County, Colorado. Their burial was at the Greeley County Cemetery in Tribune.

JOSEPH GIBSON RIDLEN, JR. was born on 25 Mar 1922 in Tribune, Greeley County, Kansas. When he was eighteen years old, he moved to Glendale, Los Angeles County, California, first staying with his sister, Ruth and her husband, Steven Sprunk. He never married. He passed away on 13 Sep 1985 in Los Angeles, California.