

**The John Hubbard Ham Family**  
**of**  
**Farmerville & Holmesville, Union Parish, Louisiana**  
**&**  
**Drew, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana**  
  
**by Timothy Dean Hudson**

John Hubbard Ham (14 Mar 1870–2 Jan 1913) was the youngest son of [Hillory Herbert Ham](#) [Sr.] (1828/1829–12 Apr 1889) and [Samantha Elvyann Scarborough](#) (15 Sep 1842–6 Apr 1922) to survive early childhood [1]. Between 1837 and 1847, both sets of John’s grandparents, William Ham and Clarendia Seale, and Noah Lewis Scarborough and Samantha Fowler, settled several miles east of Farmerville, in Union Parish, Louisiana along Bayou d’Loutre. Both families operated successful farms during the 1840s and 1850s, with the Hams primarily relying on slave labor while the Scarborougs operated their fields themselves.

John’s father, Hillory H. Ham, never adjusted to the changes wrought by the Civil War. During the latter 1860s and early 1870s, Hillory H. Ham became an alcoholic, abandoned his family and children, and slowly lost his farm. After the 1874 separation and 1876 divorce of his parents, John H. Ham grew up in a broken home. Cast out of their home, Elvyann moved her children in with her relatives. In 1880, ten-year-old John and his older sister, Anna, lived with their grandparents, Noah and Samantha Scarborough, and widowed aunt, Nancy Scarborough Ward, on the Scarborough farm about seven miles east of Farmerville. Their mother and other siblings lived nearby with other relatives [2].

We know only a very few details of the early life of John H. Ham, but he presumably lived with and helped to support his mother after the death of his grandfather in 1881 or 1882. Along with his older brothers, Dick, William, and Henry, John undoubtedly worked the 40-acre tract adjoining their grandparents’ farm that their mother began homesteading in 1883. The evidence indicates that they struggled to make ends meet between 1883 and 1894, living a meager existence only marginally little better than sharecropping. For unknown reasons, their mother cancelled her homestead application in 1894, and John appears to have worked as a sharecropper for the next decade [3].

During that difficult era of low cotton prices, John H. Ham frequently found himself unable to pay his debts. In November 1894, John's brother-in-law, Henry A. Roye, husband of his older half-sister, Isabella I. Ham Roye, filed several suits against Ham in the First Justice Court of Union Parish, and the Court ruled in Roye's favor. Ham did not have the funds to pay the judgements, so Deputy Sheriff Aylmer Flenniken seized several articles of property belonging to Ham, including 3,000 pounds of seed cotton, sixty-five bushels of cotton seed, one "*mouse colored mule*," and a brown mare. Deputy Flenniken advertised sheriff sales on Saturday, November 24 and December 15<sup>th</sup> to sell the property to raise funds to satisfy the judgments against Ham.

At the same First Justice Court term, Roye sued another of their brothers-in-law, William J. Roan, the husband of Nancy Alice Ham, and Roye also won a judgement against Roan. This suggests that rather than a family dispute, Roan and Ham owed money to creditors and could not pay, so Roye sued them to get their property in his name to keep it in the family. The extremely difficult times for farmers made such legal tactics common [4].

In February 1895, John H. Ham and his uncle, Matthew A. Scarborough, sued Union Parish Sheriff E. L. Daniel in the Union Parish District Court, with a similar suit filed by William J. Roan against the sheriff. The court ruled against the sheriff in both cases, although we do not know the details of the cases. This may have related to the seizures made against them the previous year [5].

On 19 December 1895, John H. Ham married in Union Parish to Lillie Saphronia Elkins (4 Mar 1876–2 Nov 1911), the daughter of John William Elkins and Josephine Freeman [6]. In 1900, John and Lillie worked as sharecroppers near Farmerville with their three young children [7]. He had trouble paying his debts after the 1900 harvest, leading J. D. Baughman to sue Ham in the Ward One Justice Court in November. Constable James Hall seized one bay horse belonging to John H. Ham and advertised a sale scheduled for Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at the front door of the courthouse in Farmerville [8]. Ham's financial troubles continued, and in 1903, Regina Stein Hartman obtained a judgement against him for \$258.35. A native of Bavaria, Hartman was the sister of well-known Farmerville merchant, Col. Daniel Stein [9].

About 1904, John H. and Lillie Ham left his birthplace in the Wards Chapel community, perhaps due to their continued financial difficulties. They moved south and settled in southern Union Parish near Holmesville, located near the Ouachita Parish line near Downs ville, and near the farm of Lillie's parents, John W. and Josephine Elkins. Ham planted his 1905 crops on his new farm near Holmesville, and that winter, he planted a field of turnips. In January 1906, he took specimens of his turnips to Farmerville as a present for Mr. L. H. Barnes, editor of Farmerville's "*The Gazette*." In the next issue of the paper, Barnes printed this notice:

*We wish to thank our friend J. H. Ham of Holmesville, La., for two fine specimen turnips which he brought us. One weighing 7 pounds and the other 7½.*

In March 1907, John H. Ham joined a group of Holmesville residents and petitioned the Union Parish Police Jury to allow them to hold an election to levy a tax to support their local schools. By 1910, John and Lillie had bought their own farm near Holmesville, and that November, he paid his annual subscription to *"The Gazette,"* an indication that his finances had stabilized [10].

Undoubtedly due to his school-age children, John H. Ham took an active interest in the affairs of the Holmesville schools. On Tuesday, 4 April 1911, he and several of his neighbors went to Farmerville to meet with the Union Parish School Board. That fall, the School Board authorized a special election to assess a tax to support the Holmesville School District. On 3 October 1911, the School Board appointed John H. Ham an election commissioner for Holmesville election, to serve without compensation [11].

After years of financial hardship, John and Lillie Ham's move to Holmesville appears to have finally set their family on a path of financial stability. Unfortunately, tragedy struck in 1911, soon after the birth of their ninth child, Hillory Hubbard Ham, in May. When her infant son was only five old, Lillie died of *"swamp fever."* One of her friends submitted the following tribute published in Farmerville's newspaper the following month:

*Mrs. Lillie Ham.*

*The subject of this sketch was born near Cherry Ridge, Union Parish, La., March 4, 1876, and died of swamp fever near Holmesville, La., Nov. 2, 1911. She leaves a husband and nine children and a lot of relatives and friends to mourn her taking away. The oldest child is 15 years and the youngest 5 months of age (4 girls and 5 boys).*

*Her maiden name was Elkins, the names of her parents the write does not know. When quite young she moved with her parents from Cherry Ridge vicinity to near Downsville where she grew to womanhood and married J. H. Ham, Dec., 19, 1895. She united with Primitive Baptist church at Liberty Hill Sept. 29, 1901, of which she remained a consistent member until her death. For the battle of life she was armed with a "meek and quiet spirit" as well as kindness, intelligence, and other graces which adorn the home, bless the neighborhood and country and glorify God.*

*[She] leaves a broken-hearted [husband] whose meek and hum-[ble spir]it so often coincided with [torn] and enabled them to bear [torn] others burdens in all their [torn] labors, and conflicts [throu]gh their married life of [torn] 16 years.*

*[torn]ving the care of the home [torn] so many children, she was seldom away from home at any great distance, but was contented with her lot and surrounding. Thus she was a "keeper at home" seemingly with the blessings of Heaven promised in this as well as for the other Heavenly graces she possessed. O! that all the homes of earth were steered with such kindness, gentleness, forbearance [sic], patience, intelligence and Godliness!*

*To living mother who are yet with their children and husbands, let such graces always adorn your homes so that when separations come the good example may be left to console, cheer, and "yet speak" to the living.*

*To the disconsolate and weeping husband, let me say, "weap [sic] not as those who have no hope," but rejoice in the thought that, although you are left in sorrow and to wander the balance of your days on earth without your darling Lillie, yet she is with her blessed Jesus where sin and sorrow shall never trouble her again. If peace, love, joy, etc., are so precious to His people here, what must they be when realized in Heaven, sweet Heaven!*

*Dear children, it must be hard indeed for you to call "Mamma! Mamma," in your troubles and necessities and get no reply or relief; but remember that many other children are living without dear "mamma's" voice and kindness. Try to be glad of your father, brothers, sisters and kind friends and the good example left you by your mother. Other mammas can love, instruct and assist you. O may it be done!*

*May God's people every where be enabled to pray for and actually assist all who are in distress either in body or mind.*

*A Friend.*

In the same newspaper issue in which his wife's obituary appeared, John H. Ham published a card of thanks [12]:

*It would be unkind indeed for me to fail thanking my neighbors and friends for their kindness, aid, and condolence during my dear, departed wife's sickness and death. So I hereby thank you, one and all; and especially the kind ladies of Farmerville for their actual deeds of charity to my now motherless children. O! tell me not that charity dwells alone with any so-called sect!*

*May the Lord bless you and us all, is the prayer of one who has lost his darling wife, but finds that sympathy, kindness, and assistance still live in the hearts of His people on earth.*

*J. H. Ham.*

It appears that John H. Ham decided to remain on his farm near Holmesville for the 1912 growing season, presumably with help of Lillie's mother and sisters in caring for his nine children. He remained active politically that year, serving as one of the election commissioners for the Ebenezer Precinct at the Democratic Primary held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. For the General Election held on April 16<sup>th</sup>, the Union Parish Supervisors of Elections also appointed him as one of the election commissioners for the Ebenezer Precinct. They again appointed Ham as an election commissioner for the general election held that fall on November 5<sup>th</sup> [13].

By the early fall of 1912, John H. Ham began making plans to sell his farm near Holmesville and move across the parish line into northwestern Ouachita Parish and settle near Lillie's parents in the Drew community near West Monroe. He probably needed their assistance to care for his children. In order to sell his farm, John's uncle, Matt A. Scarborough, his brothers, Matthew A. and Henry R. Ham, and his first cousins, William E. and John D. Roan, all served as family

representatives to recommend to the Union Parish District Court to approve John's request to sell his farm. Louisiana law required such formalities, as his minor children had half interest as their mother's heirs [14].

On 3 October 1912, Nicholas L. and Nancy Sessions Thurston gave John H. Ham and his nine minor children a 60-acre tract of land in Ouachita Parish [15]. After finalizing his harvest that fall, John Hubbard Ham sold his farm near Holmesville and moved to his new farm that lay near that of his wife's parents, John W. and Josephine Elkins.

John H. Ham settled his young children at Drew in November or December 1912, and their arrival in Ouachita Parish coincided with the outbreak of an epidemic of what physicians called "*cerebro-spinal meningitis*." The malady caused several deaths in December 1912, resulting in a few nearby communities putting a quarantine on anyone coming from the Monroe area. By Christmas Eve, the region had a total of fifteen cases with seven fatalities, and by January 16<sup>th</sup>, they had a total of thirty-five cases. Several cases occurred in the vicinity of West Monroe [16].

Tragically, John Hubbard Ham contracted cerebro-spinal meningitis in late December 1912, and by Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, his case had become serious. Word reached Farmerville of his condition, and "*The Gazette*" published this new item regarding the epidemic on New Year's Day, 1913:

*From all accounts the epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis that has raged in and about Monroe for the past several weeks shows no improvement, but, on the contrary, is steadily growing worse. News reached here Monday that Mr. John Ham, who recently moved from this section to the vicinity of West Monroe, was dying with the malady, and several other deaths were reported on that day. The disease is a very fatal one and little seems to be known of its cause and cure, even by the medical professionals.*

John Hubbard Ham died on Thursday, 2 January 1913. Probably due to the raging epidemic, his relatives buried him in the Drew Cemetery rather than take his body a few miles north to bury beside Lillie in the Mount Nebo Cemetery near their former farm at Holmesville [17].

Lillie Elkins Ham's father, John William Elkins, petitioned the Ouachita Parish District Court to be appointed as his grandchildren's guardian, and he handled legal affairs related to selling the father's farm. However, the children were divided up and went to live with various family members of John H. Ham's in Union Parish [18].





JOHN H. HAM & LILLIE S. ELKINS

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### Children of John Hubbard Ham & Lillie Saphronia Elkins

John H. Ham and Lillie S. Elkins had nine children to survive infancy [1]. For more details on their younger children, see the [Samantha Elvyann Scarborough Ham Biography](#).

1. **Minnie Josephine Ham** (9 Nov 1896–26 Feb 1987) married William Bennett Aulds [Willie] (10 Aug 1894–15 Sep 1971) and Gordon Monroe Ray (23 Nov 1902–4 Oct 1974). She later married Mr. Hughes and Mr. Duvall.
2. **John Ollie Ham** (5 Nov 1897–28 Aug 1923) married Ida Mae Wilson (27 Mar 1903–17 Dec 1979).
3. **Mattie Lou Ham** (1 Feb 1899–17 Apr 1993) married first to an unknown man and then to her double first cousin, Noah Jasper Ham [Jack] (3 Dec 1899–1 Jun 1976).
4. **Jessie Anna Ham** (26 Jan 1901–15 Jun 1989) married James G. Nelson [Jim] (29 Sep 1898–17 Oct 1972).
5. **Effie Ham** (20 Sep 1903–17 Dec 1997) married Jesse James Perdue (23 Dec 1890–31 Jul 1946).
6. **Jefferson Davis Ham** (9 May 1905–3 Jun 1982) married several times. After 1962, he married Lola Dee Darnell (5 May 1902–7 Mar 1984).
7. **Gordon Matthews Ham** (6 Jun 1908–1 Sep 1963) married Lorene Gage (14 Feb 1914–26 Feb 1995).
8. **George Washington Ham** (1909–1982/1989) married Edith Swan and Odell Patrick (7 Sep 1914–Mar 1985).
9. **Hillory Hubbard Ham** (May 1911–aft. 3 Oct 1912) reportedly died young.

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**Minnie Josephine Ham Aulds  
(1896–1987)**

Minnie Josephine Ham was born on 9 November 1896, making her the eldest child of John Hubbard and Lillie Elkins Ham [1]. Minnie married on 19 December 1914 in Union Parish, Louisiana to William Bennett Aulds [Willie] (10 Aug 1894–15 Sep 1971), the son of James Henry Auld (Jim) and Savannah McGough (Vanna) Auld of Farmerville. When Minnie's brother, John Ollie Ham, registered for the World War I draft on 12 September 1918, he listed her as his nearest relative and gave her address as "*R.F.D. #3 Farmerville, La.*" [2]. By 1920, Minnie and Willie Aulds had moved east to Ward 8, where he farmed rented land near the Ouachita River. They lived near Minnie's married siblings, Ollie Ham and Anna Ham Nelson [3].

After the 1920 harvest, while Minnie's married siblings moved north to Huttig, Arkansas to work in the sawmill there, she and Willie moved their family to Farmerville. He placed this advertisement in Farmerville's newspaper in February 1921:

*I have opened up a Restaurant in the old Union Hotel on the corner next to the jail. Will appreciate all patronage.*  
W. B. Aulds

It is not known how long Willie operated the restaurant in downtown Farmerville [4].

Between 1921 and early 1925, Minnie and Willie Aulds moved with their three young children from Farmerville to Monroe, and Willie soon took a job at the Southern Carbon Company plant near Swartz. On 2 June 1925, the Ouachita Parish sheriff and his deputy arrested Willie Aulds at work for selling whiskey, a violation of a new Louisiana law that prohibited the sale of alcohol. On June 5<sup>th</sup>, the District Court judge released him on a \$750 bond. The Court held Aulds' trial held at noon on June 11<sup>th</sup>, as part of his defense, Aulds got his friend, Guy Ray, to testify that he and Aulds went fishing on the day he supposedly "*sold a quantity of whiskey to a federal dry agent.*"

After a lunch recess, the District Attorney called the Southern Carbon Company timekeeper to the stand, and he testified that Aulds was at work at the plant the day that Ray claimed the pair went fishing. To corroborate his testimony, the timekeeper presented the company's time book. The plant's foreman was also called to testify, and he stated that Aulds was at work on May 30<sup>th</sup>, the day he sold the whiskey. Finally, Aulds' friend, Andrew Crawford, testified "*that he drove to Mer Rouge late in the afternoon of May 30 with Aulds and his wife.*" Despite these attempts to give him an alibi, the Court accepted the Southern Carbon Company's timekeeper and plant foreman's testimony as solid and reliable evidence, leading the District Attorney to charge Guy Ray and his father with perjury.



The jury convicted Willie B. Aulds of illegally selling whiskey, and the judge sentenced him to sixty days in jail and a \$500 fine, or the alternative of an additional four months' imprisonment. According to Monroe's newspaper, during the testimony, witnesses stated that

*Aulds is said to be one of the members of a large bootlegging ring in the carbon fields north of Monroe.*

It does not appear that Aulds appealed his conviction [5].

Minnie and Willie Aulds' six-year-old son, Bennett Aulds, died on 4 September 1925 at the St. Francis Sanitarium in Monroe of pneumonia that developed after he suffered fractured ribs. The cause of the fractured ribs is unknown [6]. Eleven days after his son's death, on September 15<sup>th</sup>, Willie B. Aulds published a notice in the Monroe newspaper:

*I, W. B. Aulds, do hereby give notice to the public and to everyone that I shall make application to meet the Board of Pardons of the State of Louisiana, for pardon...* *W. B. Aulds*

The Board heard evidence for Aulds' request in October, but they rejected his application for a pardon [7].

A few months later, on 8 December 1925, the sheriff again arrested Willie Aulds for selling whiskey. He pled not guilty and was released on \$200 bond. The outcome of his second case is unknown, but it appears that officials dropped the charges without bringing the case against Aulds to trial [8].

Willie Aulds presumably spent several months in the Monroe jail after his arrest and conviction for selling whiskey, which ended his employment at the Southern Carbon plant at Swartz. Afterwards, he and Minnie moved to West Monroe. On 25 February 1926, Minnie gave birth to fraternal twins, Joseph and Josephine Aulds. Tragically, the twins only lived one month, with Joseph dying in West Monroe on April 9<sup>th</sup> and Josephine perishing the following day [9]. A few days later, Minnie and Willie published this notice in the Monroe newspaper

*CARD OF THANKS – We take this method of thanking our many friends for their kindness during the illness and death of our darling babies, also we want to thank Dr. Hill.*

*Mr. & Mrs. W. B. Aulds*

The following month, several of Minnie's relatives made the trip from Farmerville to visit them, including her sister, Mattie Lou, who had married their first cousin, Noah Jasper (Jack) Ham, and her first cousin, Oliver Robert Roan [10].

This May 1926 visit of Minnie's sister and first cousin is the last indication that she remained with Willie Aulds. Perhaps the stress of his arrests for selling whiskey, the death of their son, and the deaths of their twins all contributed to the dissolution of their marriage. Very soon after her

sister's visit in May 1926, and probably before their visit, Minnie and Willie separated. Minnie had already entered into a relationship with Gordon Monroe Ray (23 Nov 1902–4 Oct 1974), son of Newton Jasper Ray (13 Aug 1874–4 Feb 1965) and Georgia Irene Martin (27 Sep 1878–16 Aug 1954) of Bastrop, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana. She was probably already pregnant with Ray's baby by April 1926, and she and Ray soon moved to Texas, leaving her two young daughters with Willie in Louisiana.

Minnie Ham Aulds gave birth to Ray's son on 27 January 1927 in Borger, Hutchinson County, Texas while still presumably legally married to Aulds [11]. Minnie and Gordon married on 19 December 1927 in Ector County, Texas, eleven months after their son's birth. Soon after their marriage, they settled in Iraan, Pecos County, Texas, the site of a gigantic oil field. They lived there in 1930 [12] and 1940 [13], with Ray working in the oil fields as a "*tong pusher*" and "*roustabout*" for the Ohio Oil Company [14].

Minnie and Gordon Ray divorced in the 1940s, and by 1950, Minnie had moved to Hobbs, Lea County, New Mexico, where she operated a retail grocery store. The 1950 federal census lists her as widowed, but she was actually divorced. Living with Minnie in Hobbs were her son, Talmage, and Frances Ham, a widowed woman born about 1910 in New York and identified as Minnie's sister. Frances Ham is not Minnie's biological sister, and her precise identity is uncertain [15].

Minnie J. Ham later married Mr. Hughes and Mr. Duvall, but details of her later husbands are unknown. She settled in Roseville, California in 1958 [16]. Minnie Ham is buried in the Roseville Public Cemetery Cemetery (also known as the Roseville Cemetery), in Roseville, Placer County, California [17].

Minnie's two daughters, Lorraine and Mildred, remained in Louisiana with their father. Minnie and Willie's divorce had been finalized by 23 October 1927, when he remarried in Union Parish, Louisiana to Lovie Vorhease Plair (10 Feb 1894–3 May 1971). In 1930, Willie and Lovie Aulds lived on a rented farm near Point with Minnie's two daughters, Lorraine and Mildred [18].

Willie B. Aulds returned to Farmerville after he and Minnie separated in 1926. In April 1927, he operated the Terral Dance Hall near Terral's Store about seven miles from Farmerville on the Monroe and Farmerville Highway. That month, he placed an advertisement inviting couples to dance every Friday night, stating, "*These dances are conducted very nicely, so everybody come and bring someone with you.*" He signed it as "*W. B. Aulds, Prop.*" [19]. In 1930, he and his second wife, Lovie, lived with his two daughters on a rented a farm near Point, but they later settled in the Enterprise community east of Farmerville. He joined the Antioch Baptist Church and spent his life farming.

Minnie Josephine Ham had children by her first two husbands, Willie B. Aulds and Gordon M. Ray:

1. **Lorraine Aulds** (19 Oct 1916–6 June 2008) married Broadus Ruffin Odom (25 Oct 1917–21 Dec 2005), son of Ruffin M. Odom (11 Feb 1886–Nov 1979) and Maude C. Turnage (1891–1963). Lorraine and Broadus Odom are buried in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery, Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana.
2. **Mildred Aulds** (4 Dec 1917–10 Oct 2000) married on 18 June 1936 in Union Parish, Louisiana to James Paul Bryan (10 Feb 1916–18 Jan 2001). In 1940, Mildred and Paul Bryan lived on Whites Ferry Road in West Monroe, where he worked as a "*Milker; Retail dairy.*" They later moved to Kermit, Texas, and their daughter, Patricia Ann Bryan, was born there. They lived in in Kermit in 1971 at her father's death, but Mildred Aulds Bryan later moved to Anacoco, Vernon Parish, Louisiana, but she died in Leesville. Mildred and Paul Bryan are buried in the Beulah Cemetery, Calhoun, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana.
3. **Bennett Aulds** (Dec 1919–4 Sep 1925) died at the St. Francis Sanitarium in Monroe, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana of pneumonia brought on by fractured ribs.
4. **Joseph Aulds** (25 Feb 1926–9 Apr 1926) died in West Monroe at the age of one month and twelve days.
5. **Josephine Aulds** (25 Feb 1926–10 Apr 1926) died in West Monroe at the age of one month and thirteen days.
6. **Talmage Gordon Ray** (27 Jan 1927–13 Apr 2005) gave his birthplace as Borger, Hutchinson County, Texas, when he registered for the draft on his eighteenth birthday in 1945. His birth occurred nearly a full year before his parents married in December 1927. He lived with his parents in west Texas in 1930 and 1940, and he moved with his mother to New Mexico by 1950 and later to Roseville, California. During the Korean War, he served as a corporal in the U. S. Army. Talmage G. Ray married Georgia Lee Shoults (12 Jan 1935–7 Sep 2019), daughter of Lloyd Wilson Shoults (2 Jun 1901–18 Jan 1971) and Alverda Marie Griem (7 Apr 1912–12 Jul 1983). Talmage and Georgia Ray are buried in the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, Dixon, Solano County, California, Section 20, Site 491.
7. **Dorothy Irene Ray** [Dottie] (1 Aug 1928–10 Nov 1990) was born in Iraan, Pecos County, Texas and lived there with her parents in 1930 and 1940. She married on 12 September 1946 in Gaines County, Texas to James Edward Peacock (c1930–aft. 1966), and in 1950, they lived in Hockley County, Texas with their three young children. In 1959, Dottie settled in Citrus Heights, California near her mother and brother. She worked for seventeen years as a secretary

at Mather Air Force Base. Dottie and James Peacock divorced in Sacramento, California in October 1966. Dottie later married a Mr. Elkins, but details of him are unknown. She married on 25 November 1972 in Sacramento, Sacramento County, California to Helmuth John Herrmann (21 Jun 1920–18 Nov 1992). She died of cancer at the Mercy San Juan Hospital in Carmichael. Dottie and Helmuth Herrmann are buried in the Sylvan Cemetery, Citrus Heights, Sacramento County, California, Section West, Map G, Row 4, Grave 2.

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### John Ollie Ham (1897–1923)

John Ollie Ham, the eldest son of John Hubbard and Lillie Elkins Ham, spent his youth growing up on his father's farms. As a boy of only twelve, Ollie Ham joined the Corn Club supported by the Union Parish School Board. He planted his own crop of corn on his father's farm for the 1910 season. That fall, he reported harvesting 98.5 bushels of his own corn, the third largest yield in the club [20].

John Ollie Ham was only fifteen in 1913 when father died. On 12 September 1918, at the age of twenty, he registered for the World War I draft in Farmerville. He listed his nearest relative as his older sister, Minnie Ham Aulds. At that time, Ollie lived in Monroe and worked as a railroad carpenter for T. J. Davis [21].

About 1919, Ollie married Ida Mae Wilson (27 Mar 1903–17 Dec 1979), daughter of Pleasant Sterling Wilson and Emma J. Heath of Linville in eastern Union Parish. In 1920, Ollie and Ida lived on Phillips Ferry Road near her parents, with the family of his sister, Anna Ham Nelson, living next door. Ollie worked as a house carpenter [22].

In 1920 or early 1921, Ollie and Ida Ham moved north to Huttig, Union County, Arkansas, where he began working at the Union Saw Mill Company as a "saw tender." Their first child, Helen Louise Ham, was born at Huttig in October 1921. By August 1923, Ida was eight months pregnant with their second child.

On Tuesday morning, 28 August 1923, soon after Ollie Ham arrived for work at the Union Saw Mill Company, tragedy struck:

#### *Caught in Belt, Saw Tender Has Dreadful Death*

*Caught in the belt of a buzz saw at the Union Saw Mill Company plant near Huttig Tuesday morning, Ollie Ham, 35 years old, employe[e] of the mill, was thrown against the saw, which cut off a leg and then by centrifugal force his body was dashed violently against the ceiling, from where he fell to the floor, dying instantly.*

*Other employes [sic] look on in horror, unable to help.*

Ida Wilson Ham took her husband's body home and buried him in the Liberty Cemetery near her parents' home in Linville. Three weeks after her husband's heart-rending death, Ida gave birth to their son, John Ollie Ham Jr. [23].

John Ollie Ham and Ida Mae Wison had two children to survive infancy:

1. **Helen Louise Ham** (5 Oct 1921–27 Jun 2002) married Calvin B. Popwell (5 Dec 1923–8 Mar 2001). Louise and Calvin Popwell are buried in the Mulhearn Memorial Park Cemetery, Monroe, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana.

2. **John Ollie Ham Jr.** (20 Sep 1923–2 Oct 1997) had one son, John Ollie Ham III (7 Jul 1970–28 May 1986), who tragically died in a car accident at the age of fifteen. John Ollie Ham Jr. and his son are both buried in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Calhoun, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana.

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## Notes

1. 1870 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Ward No. 1, P.O. Farmerville, p. 20b/47, Dwelling #312, lines:
  - #1: Hillory H. Ham (age: 41; Farmer).
  - #2: Elva Ann Ham (age: 27; House Keeper).
  - #8: Mary T. Ham (age: 3).
  - #9: Jonny Ham (age: 3/12; born: March).
2. 1880 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Ward One, ED #84, p. 400b/23, lines:
  - #3: Noah Scarborough (age: 72; Farmer).
  - #4: Symantha Scarborough (age: 61; wife; House Keeper).
  - #5: Nancy Ward (age: 35; daughter).
  - #6: John Ham (age: 11; "*Gr son*;" "*works in farm*").
  - #7: Anna Ham (age: 13; "*Gr daughter*;" "*works in farm*").

For more details on John's parents, see the [Samantha Elvyann Scarborough Ham Biography](#).
3. New Orleans Land Office, Homestead Application #7768, Semantha E. Scarborough, filed 10 December 1883, cancelled 24 September 1894 (SW¼ of NW¼ of Section 20, Township 21 North, Range 2 East, 40.11 acres). Union Parish LA Tax Assessment Rolls, 1884–1896, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, LA.
4. "*The Gazette*," November 14 (p. 3, column 2), 21 (p. 4, column 3), and 28 (p. 3, column 3), December 5 (p. 3, column 5) and 12 (p. 3, column 5), 1894.
5. "*The Gazette*," 20 February 1895, p. 3, column 3.
6. Union Parish LA Marriage Book 9 (1894–1900), p. 222 (John H. Ham to Lillie Elkins, 19 December 1895). 1880 Lincoln Parish LA Federal Census, Ward No. 5, ED #38, p. 6b/11, Household #93, line #26: John W. Elkins (age: 31; "*Farm Lab.*"); #27: Josaphine Elkins (age: 25; wife; "*Keeping house*"); #30: Lillie Elkins (age: 4; "*daught*"). Hasley Cemetery (West Monroe, Ouachita Parish, LA), tombstones of "*J. W. Elkins*" (19 Aug 1846–24 July 1925) and "*Josephine wife of J. W. Elkins, Died Dec. 16, 1933 Aged 85 Yrs.*"
7. 1900 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Ward 1 Precinct 1, ED #115, pp. 7b–8a, Household #128, line #100: Jno. H. Ham (Mar 1870; Farmer; farmland rented).
8. "*The Gazette*," November 7 (p. 3, column 3), 14 (p. 2, column 7), and 21 (p. 2, column 7), and December 5 (p. 4, column 3), 1900. It is unclear why the newspaper printed the notice in December. The December notice failed to state the date of the sale, and its publication after the advertized sale may have been a mistake.
9. "*The Gazette*," 1 July 1903, p. 3, column 5.
10. "*The Gazette*," 10 January 1906 (p. 3, column 1), 6 March 1907 (p. 4, column 7), and 9 November 1910 (p. 4, column 3). 1910 Union Parish LA Federal Census, P.J. Ward 9, ED #141, p. 237a/8a, Household #105: John H. Ham (age: 40; Farmer; farmland owned).
11. "*The Gazette*," April 5 (p. 5, column 2) and October 25 (p. 8, column 3), 1911.
12. "*The Gazette*," 27 December 1911, p. 1, column 3, p. 8, columns 1–2.
13. "*The Gazette*," January 10 (p. 5, columns 4–5), March 20 (p. 6, column 2), October 16 (p. 4, column 1), 1912.
14. Union Parish LA Succession Book 6, pp. 652–661 (Succession of Lillie Elkins Ham, Probate Docket #492).
15. Ouachita Parish LA Conveyance Record 67, p. 608 (Nicholas L. and Mrs. Nancy Sessions Thurston to John H. Ham and his minor children, 3 October 1912).
16. "*The Monroe News-Star*" (Monroe, LA), December 7 (p. 1, column 4), 24 (p. 1, column 2), and 28 (p. 1, column 3), 1912, 16 January 1913 (p. 1, column 2).
17. "*The Gazette*," 1 January 1913, p. 1, column 4. Drew Cemetery (Drew, Ouachita Parish LA), tombstone of "*J. H. Ham*" (14 Mar 1870–2 Jan 1913).
18. Ouachita Parish Probate Docket #1286 (Tutorship of minor children of John H. and Lillie Elkins Ham). "*The Monroe Bulletin*" (Monroe, LA), 31 July 1913, p. 3, columns 2–3.

### **Children of John Hubbard Ham & Lillie Saphronia Elkins**

1. Ouachita Parish Probate Docket #1286 (Tutorship of minor children of John H. and Lillie Elkins Ham). "*The Monroe Bulletin*" (Monroe, LA), 31 July 1913, p. 3, columns 2–3. 1900 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Ward 1 Precinct 1, ED #115, p. 7b, Household #128:
  - p. 7b, line: #100: Jno. H. Ham (born: Mar 1870; Farmer; farmland rented).
  - p. 8a, lines:
    - #1: Lillie Ham (born: Mar 1876; wife).
    - #2: Minnie J. Ham (born: Nov 1896; daughter).
- 1910 Union Parish LA Federal Census, P.J. Ward 9, ED #141, p. 237a/8a, Household #105, lines:
  - #1: John H. Ham (age: 40; Farmer).
  - #2: Lillie Ham (age: 34; wife).
  - #3: Minney J. Ham (age: 13; Daughter).

2. World War I Registration Card, John Ollie Ham, Farmerville, La., Serial #389, Order #A536.
3. 1920 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Ward 8, ED #134:
  - p. 152b/6b, Dark Corner Public Road, Household #114, lines:
    - #51: Willie Aulds (age: 25, Farmer).
    - #52: Minnie Aulds (age: 23; wife).
  - p. 154a/8a, Phillips Ferry Road, Households:
    - #152: Ollie Ham (age: 22; House Carpenter).
    - #153, line #31: Jim Nelson (age: 24; Rail Road Grader); line #32: Anna Nelson (age: 19; wife).
4. "The Gazette," 23 February 1921, p. 5, column 2:
5. "The Monroe News-Star" (Monroe, LA), June 2 (p. 1, column 5), 5 (p. 1, column 7), 11 (p. 1, column 5), and 12 (p. 12, column 4), 1926.
6. Louisiana Death Certificate #13250, Bennett Aulds, 1925, Ouachita Parish (age: 6 years; father: Wm. Aulds; mother: Minnie Hamm; Record #1296).
7. "The Monroe News-Star," 16 September 1925, p. 2, column 2. "New Orleans States" (New Orleans, LA), 21 October 1925, p. 6, column 4. The Pardon Board rejected the application of "Willie B. Aulds, Parish of Ouachita, selling intoxicating liquors."
8. "The Monroe News-Star," 8 December 1925, p. 9, column 3.
9. 1926 Louisiana Death Certificates:
  - #5003, Joseph Aulds; died: 9 April 1926; age: one month, twelve days; record #529.
  - #5004, Josephine Aulds; died: 10 April 1926; age: one month, thirteen days; record #530.

The death certificates stated that both infants were born and died in West Monroe, Ouachita Parish, and they both listed their father as "W. B. Aulds" and mother as "Minnie Ham."
10. "The Monroe News-Star," 14 April 1926, p. 11, column 8. "The Gazette," 19 May 1926, p. 6, column 4. The Farmerville newspaper article stated:
 

*Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Roan and children, Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Ham and children...visited Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Aulds in Monroe Sunday.*

Minnie's sister, Mattie Lou Ham, had by then married Noah Jasper Ham (Jack), their double first cousin, the son of their uncle, Henry R. Ham, and aunt, Daisy Elkins Ham Skates. Although Mattie Lou and Jack Ham had no children of their own to survive to adulthood, Mattie Lou had one daughter by her first marriage. "O. R. Roan" was Oliver Robert Roan, Minnie Ham Aulds' first cousin, the son of Nancy Alice Ham Roan.
11. World War II Draft Registration, Order #11014, Talmage Gordon Ray; date: 27 January 1945; address: Box 173 Iraan, Pecos County, Texas; age: 18; birth: 27 January 1927; birthplace: Borger, Texas; contact: N. J. Ray, 440 George Ave, Bastrop, La.; Unemployed; 5'11", 149 pounds, white, brown eyes, brown hair, ruddy complexion.
12. 1930 Pecos County TX Federal Census, Justice Precinct No. 3, Mid Kansas Camp No. 1, ED #186-7, p. 63a/2a, Dwelling #45, line #47: Gordon Ray (age: 27; born: Louisiana; occupation: "Tong pusher; oil field"); #48: Minnie Ray (age: 28; wife; born: Louisiana); #49: Talmage G. Ray (age: 3; son); #50: Dorothy Ray (age: 1; daughter).
13. 1940 Pecos County TX Federal Census, J.P. 3, Iraan, ED #186-6, p. 80a/15, #306, line #10: G. M. Ray (age: 38; born: Louisiana; occupation: "Roustabout; oil production"); #11: Minnie Ray (age: 39; wife; born: Louisiana); #12: Talmadge Ray (age: 13; son); #13: Dorothy Ray (age: 11; daughter).
14. World War II Draft Registration, Order #10073, Gordon Monroe Ray; date: 16 February 1942; address: Iraan, Texas; age: 39; birth: 23 November 1902; birthplace: Union Parish, Louisiana; contact: Mrs. G. M. Ray (wife), Iraan, Texas; employer: The Ohio Oil Company, Iraan, Texas; 5'10½", 210 pounds, white, gray eyes, brown hair, ruddy complexion.
15. 1950 Lea County TX Federal Census, Hobbs, ED #13-21, Sheet #20, Clinton St., Dwelling #255, line #4: Minnie J. Ray (age: 52; widowed; born: Louisiana; occupation: "Runs grocery store"); #5: Talmage G. Ray (age: 23; son; single; occupation: "Truck driver, Trucking Co."); #6: Frances Ham (age: 40; widowed; born: New York; sister; occupation: "Baker; Pie making Comm").
16. "The Press-Tribune" (Roseville, CA), 27 February 1987, p. 5, column 1. This obituary for "Minnie Hughes Duvall" (9 Nov 1896–26 Feb 1987) stated: "The Louisiana native had been a resident of Roseville since 1958." It listed the survivors as: "three daughters, Dottie Herrman of Citrus Heights," a city in California that adjoined Roseville, "Mildred Bryan and Lorraine Odom, both of Louisiana; and a son, Gordon Ray of Roseville."
17. Roseville Public Cemetery District, also known as the Roseville Cemetery (Roseville, Placer County CA), tombstone of "Minnie Hughes Duvall" (9 Nov 1896–26 Feb 1987).
18. 1930 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Police Juror W5, ED #56-11, p. 225a/3a, Household #52: Willie B. Aulds.
19. "The Gazette," 6 April 1927, p. 6, columns 3–4.
20. "The Gazette," 26 October 1910, p. 1, column 1.
21. World War I Registration Card, John Ollie Ham, Farmerville, La., Serial #389, Order #A536.



22. 1920 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Ward 8, ED #134:  
p. 152b/6b, Dark Corner Public Road, Household #114, lines:  
#51: Willie Aulds (age: 25, Farmer).  
#52: Minnie Aulds (age: 23; wife).  
p. 154a/8a, Phillips Ferry Road, Households:  
#152: Ollie Ham (age: 22; House Carpenter).  
#153, line #31: Jim Nelson (age: 24; Rail Road Grader); line #32: Anna Nelson (age: 19; wife).
23. *"The Shreveport Times"* (Shreveport, LA), 29 August 1923, p. 1, column 7. Liberty Cemetery (Linville, Union Parish LA), tombstone of *"J. O. Ham"* (5 Nov 1897–28 Aug 1923). Roselawn Memorial Gardens (Calhoun, Ouachita Parish LA), tombstone of *"John Ollie Ham Jr.; US Navy; World War II"* (20 Sept 1923–2 Oct 1997).

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