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The Putman Families

Of Colusa County California

The following two men are sons of William Putman and Sarah Head from Linn County, Missouri. William Putman was a son of James Putman and Elizabeth Kendrick. William was born in Kentucky and then moved to Indiana before heading to Missouri.

After the Civil War, two of his sons moved to California. They were Francis Marion Putman and Jefferson Elmore Putman.

FRANCIS MARION PUTMAN

Marion was born in Ellettsville, Monroe County, Indiana on January 8, 1832. He married Permilia Jane Minnis in Sullivan County, Missouri on February 25, 1852. Permilia was born in Virginia March 26, 1833, and died April 22, 1864.

On August 1, 1865, he married Martha Jane Alexander. Martha was the widow of Daniel Jones. She was born in March 1843 in Tennessee and died in Glenn County California February 24, 1918.

He farmed in North Salem, Missouri until April of 1870 when he took his family by train to California and he opened a grocery store in Colusa, California. He ran the business until 1903 when he turned it over to his son Herman. The store operated until the 1940s.

Marion died in Colusa on March 3, 1908.

Children in the first marriage were:

JOHN PUTMAN born December 28, 1852 and died November 3, 1854.

PETER T. PUTMAN born June 11, 1856 and died April 13, 1864.

CLARENCE BYSSHEY PUTMAN born in Missouri in 1861. He was 19 in the 1880 California Census. He first married Alice Amelia Sanderson in San Jose on November 15, 1887. They separated soon after their daughter's birth. He became a doctor and was in Oakland in 1900 and then married Lily in 1902. They were in the 1910 census of San Francisco County, California. At that time he was 48 and his wife second Lily was 36 and there were no children. He had come down with Syphilis and was committed to the California State Mental Hospital in Napa by Lily. He died of that at the institute two months later on August 4, 1918 in Napa County, California and is buried back in the Bay Area. Alice was alive through the 1930 when she was age 64 and living with her daughter Olivia. She died October 6, 1942 in Santa Clara. There was only one child:

Olivia Amelia Putman born in March 1888. She married Stephen Olney Bartlett about 1919, and they were living in San Gabriel, Los Angeles County in 1920 and in Redlands, San Bernardino County California in 1930. Stephen was born April 21, 1881 in New Jersey and died June 23, 1963 in Los Angeles. He was a Veteran of the Spanish American War of 1898 and is buried in the Los Angeles National Veteran's Cemetery.

Olivia died in Wickenburg, Arizona in 1984 and is buried with her husband. They had two sons:

Stephen Sanderson Bartlett born November 29, 1921 in Los Angeles County and died November 18, 2002 in Fullerton, Orange County. He married Jacqueline G. Clark, born in Newtonville, Massachusetts January 5, 1913. She was hanging in just fine on her 98th birthday on January 5, 2011. They were both teachers. They had Stephen Bartlett Junior born June 4, 1948 and Alice Amelia Bartlett born May 5, 1951.

James Putman Bartlett born December 13, 1926 in Los Angeles County. He was a corporate lawyer and was living in Phoenix, Arizona as of 1993. He died there in July 2007.

HERMAN ROSS PUTMAN born December 2, 1864. He married Mary Ann McConnell January 12, 1888. Mary Ann was born June 11, 1864 in Colusa, and died in Sacramento August 6, 1952. He took over his father's grocery store in 1903, and ran it until his death on August 25, 1925. Children were:

Eulalia Marie Putman born November 9, 1888. She married Jeremiah Thomas O'Sullivan October 23, 1913. They were in the 1920 and 1930 Colusa County census. He was born December 12, 1886 and died June 27, 1944. She died in Colusa County on January 2, 1994. They had:

Jeremiah Herman O'Sullivan born September 5, 1914 and died in Woodland March 14, 1992. He married Alexa Aloyise Keegan June 21, 1945. She was born October 5, 1915 in Colusa and died February 20, 2001 in Williams, Colusa County. They had three sons:

Jeremiah Thomas O'Sullivan born September 29, 1947.

Robert James O'Sullivan born February 11, 1951.

Richard B. O'Sullivan born February 15, 1957.

Virgil Phillip O'Sullivan born May 7, 1918. He married June Jane Wallace in February 1950. She was born in Williams, Colusa County June 17, 1929. He died in Colusa December 27, 1918. They had:

Kathleen Marie O'Sullivan born June 10, 1951. She married William Ingram September 27, 1969 in Placer County.

Deborah Jane O'Sullivan born July 9, 1953. She married Gary W. Roper July 18, 1970 in Alameda County.

Kevin Wallace O'Sullivan born July 9, 1954. He married Kimberly Cherry May 9, 1981 in Marysville, Yuba County.

Drusilla M. O'Sullivan born June 21, 1958 in Colusa. She married Edward C. Otten in Reno, Nevada June 20, 1984.

Gregory Phillip O'Sullivan born January 5, 1961.

Polly Ann O'Sullivan born November 21, 1964.

Christopher O'Sullivan born June 12, 1972.

Walter Clarence O'Sullivan born December 9, 1919.

Angela Eulalia O'Sullivan born August 20, 1921. She married Max Vann in January 1922. Max was born in Williams, Colusa County September 9, 1922 and died in Colusa, Colusa County December 10, 1957. They had:

Sharon Marie Vann born December 19, 1942. She married Robert C. Curry July 2, 1960.

Jeremiah Max Vann born May 10, 1945 and died August 22, 2002. He married Caroline Owens December 8, 1973.

Jane Cecilia Vann born March 24, 1947. She married Harold Leroy Pulls about 1973.

Angela Jolene Vann born September 18, 1953. She married Michael F. Flanagan April 27, 1974.

Louis Festus Putman born February 17, 1890. He married Natha Clyde Coleman November 23, 1915 in San Francisco. He died January 26, 1967 in Yuba City. He ran the family store until 1940 when it burned to the ground. Natha was a daughter of Thomas Jefferson Coleman and Caroline Clyde Read. She was born in Colusa September 3, 1892 and died in Yuba City, California May 27, 1975. They had:

Anita Louise Putman born in Colusa August 9, 1917 and died August 21, 1996 in Marysville, Yuba County. She married Lawrence Martin Steele on January 6, 1943. He was born October 12, 1916 in Iuka, Kansas and died in Marysville, California April 11, 1997. They had:

Susan Louise Steele born November 23, 1943 in Woodland, California. She married James Ronald Grubb in 1965, and they were divorced in 1978. She is the gal who has filled me in on this whole family. She had:

Christopher James Grubb born October 12, 1966.

Gaylen Anita Grubb born August 22, 1969.

Kasey Loraine Grubb born May 27, 1974. She married Richard Alexander and they were divorced in 2007.

Thomas Martin Steele born June 10, 1948 in Woodland and died in Colusa July 13, 1964 in a car accident at age 16.

Ann Carolyn Putman born August 15, 1919 in Colusa. She married Cairns Kirk Hooper June 20, 1942. He was born April 13, 1920 in Knights Landing, California and died April 28, 2001 in Sacramento. They were divorced in February 1971 in Glenn, California. She was a High School Teacher. She retired and was living in Sparks, Nevada. She died there May 11, 2010 at age 91.

Louis Francis Putman born June 2, 1921 in Meridian, Sutter County California and died January 2, 1991 in Woodland, California. He married Barbara Louise Nichols. She was born October 8, 1928. They had 2 sons.

Louis Frank Putman born March 28, 1951 in Woodland. He married Sharon Maurita Hensley May 26, 1982 in Michigan. She was born in Dearborn, Michigan January 24, 1950.

John Thomas Putman born June 29, 1955 in Marysville, Yuba County. He married Kathleen Louise Gerving in Yuba City November 28, 1981. She was born in Los Angeles April 25, 1954. She was previously married to a Kruger and had two sons who took on the Putman name: Scott Arthur Kruger Putman and Kevin Lincoln Kruger Putman. They had a daughter Kayla Louise Putman born in 1990, and another daughter Geniella Christine Putman born December 13, 1986 who is married to Brandon Lester.

Natha Jean Putman born August 10, 1926 in Meridian, California and died May 14, 1974 in Woodland, California. She married Harry Nelson Harding in January 1949. She filed for divorce in July 1973. She was murdered in 1974.

Victor Yvo Putman born November 29, 1891. He married Mary Ann Desmond in Colusa August 19, 1954, and died July 18, 1970 in Meridian, California. Mary Ann was born in California February 28, 1893 and died in Davis, Yolo County California July 12, 1987. I would guess it was a second marriage for both, but I don't have any more information.

Omer Oswald Putman born September 26, 1893. His wife was Mary Elizabeth O'Donnell. They were married November 17, 1918. He owned and operated Putman's Food Market in Burlingame. He died March 31, 1982. Mary was born February 9, 1895 and died July 26, 1975. They had:

Lawrence Herman Putman born September 5, 1919. He married Mary Frances Seib in Orlando, Florida September 30, 1943. She was born in Wooster, Ohio April 2, 1918 and died in San Mateo, California December 1, 1990. They had:

Lawrence Herman Putman born July 2, 1944 and died in San Mateo, California October 26, 1987. He married Ann Marie Shannely July 2, 1969.

Mary Ann Putman born September 5, 1947 in Burlingame and died in San Antonio, Texas April 14, 2007. She married Larry Don Chestnut in Reno, Nevada December 23, 1969.

Thomas Arthur Putnam born February 15, 1953 in Burlingame. He married Rhonda Guritz in Reno on February 14, 1978. They were divorced June 9, 1988.

John Francis Putnam born February 5, 1922 in San Francisco and died in Menlo Park, Santa Clara County August 25, 1981. He married Eleanor Valentine Zanette in Burlingame May 2, 1959. They had:

Michael David Putman born March 18, 1960 in San Mateo.

Stephen John Putman born in San Mateo January 26, 1961. He married Lynn M. Mickelson June 17, 1984.

Terrance Valentine Putman born September 24, 1967 in San Mateo. He married Kimberly R. Fay in Belmont, California June 28, 1997.

Mary Elizabeth Putman born November 24, 1923 in San Francisco and died in Burlingame June 13, 1978.

Marjorie Ann Putman born January 6, 1928 in Colusa. She married Joseph Huysentruyt and they lived in Burlingame. He died in 1974 and she died August 1, 2009.

Marie Bernadette Putman born January 1, 1895. She died in Santa Rosa, California on November 11, 1975. She married Daniel P. O'Sullivan September 4, 1917. They had:

Marie O'Sullivan born October 18, 1918 and died in Oakland, California October 29, 2001. She married Lawrence A. Canning July 20, 1949.

Lucille Claire O'Sullivan born August 13, 1920 and died in Danville, Contra Costa County February 22, 1989. She married Gordon H. West April 18, 1942.

John Joseph O'Sullivan born April 3, 1927 and died in El Dorado County March 24, 1996. He married Eleanor Ann Jewett.

Loretta Angela Putman born September 4, 1898. She died in Sacramento, California on November 9, 1978. She married Raymond C. Dodge, and after he died, she married Oliver Welch.

Mary Theresa Cecelia Putman was born May 19, 1901. She married Elmer Renee Littlejohn in Marysville, Yuba County on March 12, 1920. They were divorced and she married George Kister. She died May 29, 1991. She just had one son:

Donald William Littlejohn born June 2, 1921 and died in Colusa November 28, 2010. He married Florence E. Johnson in 1961. She was born November 16, 1924 and died in Sacramento, California May 16, 2004. After she died he married Charlene Scroggins who was alive at the time of his death. He operated a law firm for most all his life.

In his second marriage, he had:

ADDIE BELLE PUTMAN born November 26, 1866. She married Charles Wilson Davis in Colusa County on October 3, 1891. She died December 27, 1898 at age thirty two. Their children were:

Allene Belle Davis born August 3, 1892 and died September 21, 1908 in Butte County.

Izilla Davis born December 5, 1894 and died March 27, 1987 in Butte County. She married Leslie Ewel Walbert July 22, 1923.

Gussie Belle Davis born April 6, 1897 and died September 20, 1967 in San Francisco. She married Robert Barney Wilson April 25, 1920.

FLORA VIVIAN PUTMAN born in Missouri January 10, 1869. She married John Crittenden Oldham in Colusa County on October 15, 1889. She died February 11, 1941 in Chico,

Butte County, California. He was born July 4, 1861 in Kentucky and died in Chico June 21, 1941. She was a teacher and he was a carpenter. Their children were:

Irene Oldham born October 11, 1891 and died February 14, 1962. She married Orrin Knight January 12, 1912.

Ola Oldham born December 7, 1893 and died October 1, 1975.

Marion Crittenden Oldham born January 4, 1898 and died February 28, 1982. He married Mary Wrinick April 25, 1953.

Otto Ralph Oldham born January 5, 1900 and died January 11, 1985. He married Belle S. Thompson January 28, 1925. She died May 25, 1962. He then married Lillian Rench January 14, 1966. She died July 1, 1972 and he later married Florence J. Mounty December 14, 1981.

FRANKLIN LAWRENCE PUTMAN was born in California October 7, 1873. He was a Physician and surgeon, and lived in Hawaii. He married Violet Harper Damon on November 23, 1909 in Honolulu. He died in Oahu, Hawaii February 11, 1956. This is from his Obituary: "Frank L. Putman was born October 7, 1873 at Colusa, California, the son of F. M Putman and Martha Jane Alexander. He received his medical degree in 1902 from the University of California, Berkeley. During his undergraduate days, he taught in the public schools in California and also served as deputy assessor in San Francisco. Coming to Hawaii in 1903, Dr. Putman served as relief doctor at Kealia Plantation on Kauai. Sometime between 1907 and 1908 he became the chief physician at Lihue Plantation, a position he held until he went on active duty in World War I. Following his war service in 1918, he became associated with Dr. A. G. Hodgins in Honolulu for a number of years. Dr. Putman married Violet Happer Damon, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Frank W. Damon in Honolulu on November 23, 1909. The Putmans had one daughter, Geraldine Putman. Dr. Putman was a major in the Medical Corps, 4th Regiment, Hawaii National Guard. During World War I, her served as a major in the US Army Medical Corps and was in charge of surgery at the Fort Shafter Hospital in Honolulu. The doctor was in general practice but devoted much of his time to surgery. He was one of the first early fellows the American College of Surgeons, affiliating in 1914, a year after its founding. In middle-life he took postgraduate work and specialized in dermatology, becoming the pioneer dermatologist of Hawaii. Through his postgraduate studies on the Continent he developed a knowledge of modern languages, which became a lifelong hobby. One of his favorite reference works was an eight volume set entitled "La Nouvelle Pratique Dermatologique". In later years he became interested in local business and served as a director of the Honolulu Gas Company and Pacific Refiners Ltd. Dr. Putman died in Honolulu on February 11, 1956 at the age of 82. He was a member of the American Medical Association, Hawaii Medical Association (president in 1921), Honolulu County Medical Society, the American College of Surgeons and a charter member of the Hawaii Dermatological Society." They had one daughter:

Geraldine Putman born November 23, 1923 and died in Honolulu March 31, 1992. She married Henry B. Clark.

ELWOOD ZENAS PUTMAN born in California July 26, 1876. He died in Monterey County, California March 12, 1940. He was in the Army Drug Department. He never married. After retiring from the Army, he operated the Kimball Hotel in Monterey California.

JEFFERSON ELMORE PUTMAN

Jefferson was born in Linn County, Missouri on January 30, 1847. He married Emma Griffith in Linn County on May 3, 1868. He later married Harriet Cornelia Norton in Missouri. She was born in Ohio in July of 1851. He served in the Union Army from September 4, 1864 through March 22, 1865.

He moved to Glenn County, California and was murdered there in Willows, California on October 7, 1895. He was a druggist. The murder took place over a dispute on the payment of an advertisement in the local newspaper. Jefferson was shot by W. A. Sehorn who was drunk at the time.

Harriet, or Nellie as she was called, later moved with her daughter, Grace, to Salt Lake City, Utah. She was listed there in the 1910 census at age 58. She died in Oakland, California on January 25, 1931.

They had the following children:

GRACE LEE PUTMAN born in Missouri on July 11, 1871. She married Henry Walter Walker in Willows, Colusa County on June 11, 1890. Henry was born in Salt Lake City on February 12, 1868. He died in Oakland, California December 30, 1937. She died in San Jose, Santa Clara County, California on July 18, 1942. Their children were:

Alma Erminie Walker born February 19, 1892. She married O. H. Needham and then C. H. West. She died January 29, 1965.

Ralph Putman Walker born December 24, 1893 and died June 24, 1973. He married a Ruth and then a Marie C.

Ethelyn Marie Walker born May 16, 1896 and died June 27, 1981. She never married. **Grace Natalie Walker** born November 27, 1898. She was alive in 1994 and married Edwin C. Alder on June 24, 1925.

Vern Randolph Walker born June 6, 1902 and died on his birthday June 6, 1978. His first wife was Margot Block and his second wife was Doris.

Carlton Holmes Walker was born December 11, 1903 and died October 12, 1969. He married Jessie Fogarty on June 24, 1927. He later married Mae Arline Edwards.

WILLIAM WARREN PUTMAN died as an infant.

NED PUTMAN died at the age of six years.

A HISTORY OF THE FAMILY & THEIR STORES

Here is a write-up by Susan Steele that gives a nice history.

Francis Marion Putman (Frank or FM) was the father of Herman Ross Putman and the grandfather of Eulalia, Louis, and Victor. Omar, Bernadette, Loretta and Theresa Putman.

FM Putman married Permelia Minnis in Missouri and they had 4 children: John, Peter, Dr Clarence and Herman Ross Putman. Permelia died when she was 33 years old in Missouri and FM married Martha Jane Alexander. Martha and FM had 4 more children: Addie Belle, Flora, Dr. Franklin and Elwood Putman. These sons and daughter of FM were all very close and came to California together. The 2 oldest sons died very young in Missouri, John and Peter.

The family came to California by train, arriving in April of 1870. They settled in what was then

Grafton CA (now Knights Landing) and for a short time FM farmed there. Before 1875 the family moved to Colusa. FM opened what he called the "Red Flag Store", name later changed to "H R Putman's" store by his son. F M was very enterprising and purchased goods from the farmers for the store in Colusa and also sold groceries to the small stores in the outlying towns (Wholesale). He and another gentleman became partners in a resort, in Indian Springs, which is north of Williams. There was a natural Spring there and it was a thriving business there. Martha and the children are there in 1880 running the spring resort during the summer. I have quite a bit of material on this resort and pictures and will put that in a separate email. When I find it.

F M Putman was in poor health and became to feeble to get out of bed the last 3 years of his life. He was a very large man and became more so, due to the fact he could not get around. There was a trapeze above his bed, for him to pull himself up for meals. He died in 1908 in Colusa at the age of 76.

The store was turned over to his son, Herman Ross (my great grandfather) around 1905. All of the children helped in the store when they were not in school, it was truly a family business. Herman Putman was a thin man, about 5'10" tall and a Democrat and a Methodist. He was quiet and did not drink or smoke. He worked in the store most of his life and was well respected by the community. He married Mary Ann McConnell in 1888 and they had 7 children. In 1925 Herman and Mary Ann went on vacation to visit all of the missions in California. It was a very long trip and the roads were not the best. When they returned home, he was ill and the Dr. was called. He had pneumonia and passed away about 2 days later in August. He converted to Catholicism on his deathbed. His wife purchased the stained glass window over the door in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in his honor.

When Herman died, the running of the store was turning over to Victor. Louis (Pop) had married Natha Coleman in 1915, and he had purchase some acreage in Meridian and was farming. However Victor was not at the helm for very long. All of the Putman children had a liking for alcohol and Victor more so than the others. Louis was summoned to Colusa by his mother, there was not enough money to pay the bills. Victor had gone through a great deal of money, drinking and buying round after round. After going over the books, Louis realized he needed to return to Colusa. He sold the property in Meridian and he and Natha and family moved back to Colusa. Mary Ann had inherited farming land from her side of the family but that is for another email.

In the late 1930's Putman's store in Colusa and two other buildings caught fire. The store was a total loss. Louis started looking for something else to do. There was a store in Marysville that was a General Electric dealership, and the couple who had it were not doing well. G E advertised for someone to take it over and in 1939 Louis and Natha opened Putmans' store in Marysville. They continued to live in Colusa and drive back and forth each day. They sold major appliances, washers, furnaces, refrigerators etc. Louis had put appliances in the Colusa before it burned so he knew some about them. In 1940, they rented a house on B Street, in Yuba City eventually buying it, where they would live the rest of their lives. Daughter Natha Jean was the only child still living at home and attending high school.

The store in Marysville was located on Third Street and the business was doing well. Then World War II broke out and metal was used for the war and appliances were not made during that time. They sold lawn seed and toys and anything they could purchase that was still available. And Natha loved what she called "pretty things". Little boxes began to arrive and Louis questioned her how they were going to pay for the items, but Natha had paid for them when she order them so all was good. Natha's pretty things sold and sold well and became a part of the major appliance store. When the war ended Louis Jr, returned home and like all returning men had no job so he was given a third of the store and started working with his parents.

As the years went by, folks went to Putmans' for appliances and gifts and the gifts had become a large percentage of the business. Natha would go the San Francisco to buy gifts and Louis would go to the G E dealers meetings to see all the new products. In 1953, Natha had to have surgery and the oldest daughter, Anita (Mom) was ask if she would come in for a year to do the buying and work the gift end of the business. It was a very long year. She retired in 1984, and in 1955 they had outgrown the location and secured renting a building at 5th and D Streets in Marysville. The building was a gas station and garage and they had to do any remodeling on their own. So the Texaco gas station was redone and Putmans' new location was opened in Oct 1955 with much fanfare. It however became Putmans' gift store at that time and the G E dealership was let go to a man they knew and respected Mr. McNalley.

When Louis Jr. and Anita retired and closed Putmans' in 1984, there had been a Putman's store for 109 years in our family.

Sue Steele February 14, 2015.