

GASCONADE VALLEY COUSINS

William Pike Poe

William Pike **Poe** was the third son and fourth child (of those that lived to maturity) of Barnabas Madison **Poe** and Eliza **Backues**. He was born in Osage County, near the present town of Rich Fountain but spent most of his life in Maries County as did several of his descendants. During the southern conflict the **Poe** family was sharply divided between the Union and Confederacy. Adam, William's older brother and Isaac, his younger brother, both served the south with Isaac dying of wounds suffered during the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas in December, 1862. Though he served the Union faithfully this schism in the family and the loss of Isaac was ever a burden to him and one that he talked about freely in his latter years. Mother remembers a small pension for his war service and a uniform that hung on a living room wall at their home.

William married Mary Adeline **Richey (Richie, Richa)**, daughter of William **Richey** and Ellen **Price** on May 4, 1865 at Galloway Station, later Belle, Missouri. The **Richey's** were from the Bland, Cleavesville area in Gasconade County. Many family stories are told about William's father-in-law. Some are that he always rode a big, fast, black stallion, always had money but no visible means of support, was frequently absent from home, and never entered a house where there were people he did not know. As the custom of the day, he was always armed. Family speculation was rampant, of course, with most suggesting that he was a gambler. William and Mary made their home in or near Belle, Maries County, Missouri during most of their lives. Their children and descendants are as follows:

Robert Isaac was born at Summerfield on January 16, 1866, and married Eliza Caroline **Shockley**, daughter of James Monroe **Shockley** and Polly Lavina **Matthews** on March 20, 1892. Robert and Eliza had only one child, Bryce **Poe**, who was born on October 22, 1894 on the home farm near Belle. Bryce I married Aileen **Keith**, daughter of Charles Alexander **Keith** and Rosa H. **Smith** from Higginsville, Missouri on July 30, 1923 at Kansas City, Missouri.

Bryce attended the local schools and then received his teaching degree from Warrensburg State Normal School, now University of Central Missouri and was a school teacher early in his career. Bryce served his country in France as an enlisted man in Ambulance Company 355, 314th Sanitation Train in World War I. He secured a commission as an officer in the U.S. Army and ultimately served as a professor of military science and mathematics at Kansas University. He retired from the U.S. Army as a result of disabilities suffered in the Philippines during WWII with the rank of Lt. Colonel. Both He and Aileen are buried in the National Cemetery at Ft. Leavenworth, KS.

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Bryce and Aileen **Poe** also, in common with his parents, had only one child. Bryce II graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and spent his career in the U.S. Air Force. He married Kari **Rollum** on March 24, 1955 at Ris Kirde, Oslo, Norway and they lived at Alexandria, Virginia after his retirement. Their children are Susan, Karen and Bryce III. At this writing, Susan is in Austin, Texas, Karen in Cincinnati, Ohio and Bryce III is deceased. Bryce II served his country with considerable distinction in Korea, Vietnam and in various peacetime assignments in both the U.S. and Europe; retiring from the U.S.A.F. as General Poe (four stars). He is also honored at the U.S.A.F. Air Museum in Dayton, Ohio for having flown the first U.S. jet combat mission; a reconnaissance over southern Korea at the very beginning of that conflict. Robert **Poe** died on September 28, 1938; Eliza on January 3, 1957 and both are buried in Liberty Cemetery.

The second child of William and Mary **Poe** was Lucy Celena Parridine (Parrie) born on August 31, 1867. Parrie didn't stay in Maries County upon reaching maturity, found her way to Colorado and married Richard **Pierce** of Hanover, Cook County, Illinois in Denver on September 17, 1890. Mr. **Pierce** made his living with the Union Pacific Railroad. Aunt Parrie was extremely hard to find as she changed her name to Clara and married, lived, died and was buried in Pueblo, Colorado using Clara as her "given" name. She and Mr. **Pierce** had two children, William and Laurretta. William never married, followed his father into the railroad profession and was killed in a railroad accident about 1911. Family sources say that this accident occurred in or near Eldon, Miller County, Missouri but no record has been found. Other sources indicate that Mr. **Pierce** witnessed this accident, never recovered from the emotional effects of seeing his son die and spent the balance of his natural life in a Colorado institution. Laurretta graduated from Centennial High School in Pueblo, Colorado State College of Education and taught school in Pueblo. On June 1, 1935, Laurretta and Vincent George **Nessen** were married in Denver, Colorado. They had one child, Vincent George **Nessen**, Jr. and Laurretta died in Denver on May 20, 1940. She had been hospitalized from the birth of her son until her death, about two months. Vincent George **Nessen**, Jr. lived in Colorado until he remarried and moved to California where he died in Ventura County on August 29, 1993. He has a son, Vincent George **Nessen** II, but this Mr. **Nessen** (to date) has refused to return correspondence or acknowledge his birth mother.

Columbus was the third child of this marriage, born on February 5, 1873 and lived only a few days.

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The fourth child and third son of William and Mary **Poe** was Andrew Aride Benton **Poe**, known to many Maries County natives, particularly the older generations. Andrew was born on April 3, 1876 at Belle, married Sophia **Shockley**, daughter of James Monroe **Shockley** and Polly Lavinia **Matthews** on March 18, 1900 at the Adkins School "when it was being used for church services". Sophia was a sister to Eliza **Shockley** who married Robert I. **Poe**. Andrew spent all of his life in the Belle area, served as a school teacher, the profession from which he retired; postmaster of Belle and two terms as representative of Maries County, Missouri in the Missouri State House. Andrew and Sophia had only one child that lived to maturity, Steele M. **Poe**, born on January 3, 1901 at Belle. My records do not reflect when Steele left Maries County, but sometime after marrying Amanda **Bentlage** at Belle on April 16, 1927 they apparently moved to Kansas City where they spent the balance of their lives. Steele retired from the General Motors, Leeds Assembly Plant in Kansas City and both have passed on.

The children of Steele and Amanda **Poe** were Dorotheleen Rebecca and Charles William. Dorotheleen is still living in Kansas City with grandchildren scattered to several states. William made his career in the U.S. Air Force, lived at Grandview, Missouri after his retirement and has passed on. William's children are in Missouri and Maryland.

Laura Roseanna **Poe** was the next child of William and Mary **Poe**. She was born on March 29, 1879 and spent little of her adult life in Maries County. She married William Franklin **Chambers** on April 27, 1898 at St. Louis, Missouri and to this union was born George on March 12, 1899, at St. Louis, Missouri; Earl on August 27, 1908 at Eldon, Missouri and Hazel on September 21, 1910 at Eldon, Missouri. At the time of Mr. **Chamber's** death, October 13, 1934, they were living at Sedalia, Missouri. In early July, 1946 Laura married William Morris **Campbell** and lived in Sedalia until she died on February 22, 1957. Of Laura and William **Chamber's** children George married Mabel V. **Kirkpatrick** on September 25, 1921; lived his entire life in Sedalia and died on April 21, 1963. Mabel and their son, Robert, have since passed on as well but Jack Chambers stills lives in Sedalia. Earl married Dorothy Larue **Rothganger** on July 26, 1936 and moved to the Kansas City area in the mid 1940's. Earl died on October 14, 1985 and is buried at Parkville, Missouri. Dorothy and their children, grown with families of their own, live in the Kansas City area. Hazel, youngest of Laura's children lives with her husband Edward **Brockmeier** in St. Louis County, Missouri.

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The sixth child of William and Mary **Poe** was Anice May; born on May 24, 1881. She lived at Belle, Lanes Prairie, Bland and Osage County until she moved to Dixon, Missouri in her latter years. Anice married Thomas V. **Shockley** on January 20, 1901 at Belle, Missouri; of their six children; Garfield, Frank, Clara and Daisy did not live to rear families of their own and are buried at Liberty Cemetery.

Buell M. was born on January 20, 1907 at Belle, Missouri, followed the railroad profession to Denver, Colorado where he retired from Union Pacific. He married Louise **North** first and their children William N. and Patricia were born in Colorado. Patricia died on July 1, 1973 and left a son David who has a family in California. William married Melba Joan **Martin** and with their children; Terri, Toni and Tina and their families moved to Oregon. William served his country with distinction in Korea as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps, was wounded and a prisoner of Red China for eighteen months. I can remember very well listening for his name to be called from the lists of men that were being released and read on national radio. Buell died in Denver on January 27, 1970, and Louise in 1976. William has passed on as well but Joan and their family still live in Oregon.

Sophia Belle was born on September 13, 1908 and married William Earl **Thompson**, son of Rolla J. **Thompson** and Lucy Ann **Palmer**, in 1923. Earl was employed by and retired from Shell Oil Co. Before his death on May 24, 1979; they lived several years in Belle in addition to several other locations in Missouri and lived in Union, Missouri when he died. Sophia lived in Union, Missouri until her death May 26, 1979. Their children; Alma L. married Harry **McCollum** and both died at Lebanon, Missouri. Their children and grandchildren lived in that area at that time. Wilma A. married Floyd **Moore**, lived most of her life in St. Louis and left two children. Both Wilma and Floyd have now passed on. Her son Kenneth Lee and his family live near Union, Missouri and daughter Katherine Sue and her family live in Maryland.

Mr. **Shockley** died on August 25, 1912, is buried at Liberty and Anice May **Poe** married Columbus Elexous **Clark** on August 16, 1923. Their only child was Ruby Nadine **Clark**. Nadine married Leslie **Schwegler** at Iberia, Missouri in 1942 and has since passed on leaving two sons. She is buried next to her father at Skaggs Chapel, Maries County, Missouri. Her oldest son, William Leslie (and this writer) is retired from both General Motors Corp. and the U.S. Air Force Reserve and lives in Bossier City, Louisiana. His children live in Michigan and South Carolina. Her second son, Buel Leon, wife Jane, Jennifer and Daniel live in Waynesville, Missouri where he owns a tax preparation and accounting business. "Lex" **Clark** died on July 25, 1934 and is buried at Skaggs Chapel.

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The third husband of Anice **Poe** was August **Bauman** whom she married on April 6, 1935. When he passed on in 1940 she remained a widow until her death on February 13, 1964. She is buried at Liberty Cemetery near Belle, Maries County, Missouri.

The youngest child of William and Mary **Poe** was William A. born on August 29, 1883. William, though self-educated, followed the Civil Engineer's profession, and very successfully, as his life's work. He married Nettie Lou **Anderson**, daughter of Christopher J. **Anderson** and Bertha **Sorem** of Lane, Kansas, on November 1, 1908. Their only child; Barbara Aileen was born in Kansas City, Missouri on January 25, 1917 and still lives in the family home in Little Rock, Arkansas. She married Jack Curtis **Hammett**, born on May 24, 1916 at Little Rock, on November 29, 1936 and he passed on in 1987. Their son, Jack Curtis Jr. married Carol Anne **Raines** in Little Rock, spent his career as an officer in the U.S. Army and has children in Maryland and Georgia. Carol, an accomplished artist, passed on in 2000, Jack remarried and he and wife, Sharon, are currently living in Paeonian Springs, Virginia.

Mary Adeline Richey **Poe** died on September 23, 1926 and William Pike followed her on May 4, 1935. They are at rest next to each other and near many of their descendants and relatives at the Liberty Cemetery near Belle, Maries County, Missouri.