

# WOMEN OF THREE GENERATIONS

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## Introduction to story

October is Family History month. It is a time to remember the living and recognize our ancestors. What better way than to celebrate the women of our family. In what follows is the genealogy of three women due to a memory of a fourth woman Aldeen Davis. Because her memory was written down and recorded I was able to use it to trace four generations of my family. When I include my mother Penny King and myself our family has a direct link to six generations of women dating back to 1857-1858. When tracing your family women are most often the hardest to trace. Due to the fact their last name changes when they marry, they seem to vanish into history since most records are in the name of their husband.

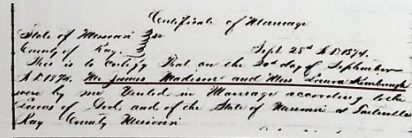
## Women of Three Generations

... I went with my mother and grandmother to Omaha, Neb. to be with my Great-grandmother, who was dying, ... When Clara Auldine "Aldeen" Louise (Jones) Davis wrote those words years later as an adult she may not have known the significance of that one sentence. In that sentence, she left a starting and ending point on where to begin to determine the identity of the women she mentioned but gave no name.

## The Great-grandmother-Laura Kimbrough

Laura E. Kimbrough was born 1857-58 in Ray County, Missouri to Lucinda and J. Kimbrough. We first see 13-year-old Laura in Grape Grove, Ray County, Missouri on the 1870 census. She was in the household of 63-year-old white farmer John M. Kimbrough who was born in Kentucky about 1807 and has real estate property valued at \$2,000.

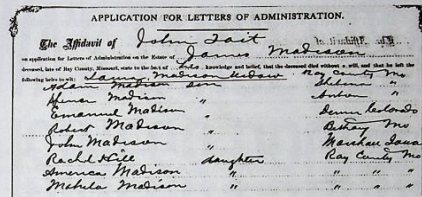
The other "Whites" in the household are 38-year-old Delia, 14-year-old Edward, 9-year-old Kelsa, 7-year-old James E., 3-year-old Fannie and 2-year-old Horace T. However, Laura is not the only "Black" in the household the others are 40-year-old Lucinda, 16-year-old George, 8-year-old Green and 4-year-old Low. There were twelve people living in the same house with eleven born in Missouri and most of the "Blacks" born between 1829 and 1862 before the Civil War began.



Ray County, Missouri, marriage record James Madison-Laura Kimbrough (20 September 1874); digital images, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>); accessed 8 June 2016; citing Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, p. 227.

Four years later Laura married James Madison on 20 September 1874 in Taittsville, Ray County, Missouri. By 1880, 24-year-old Laura was the mother of two daughters, 4-year-old America and five-month-old Mahala born in January with her 63-year-old husband James. However, Laura would soon be a widow left to raise her two daughters alone when James dies about 1886 in Ray County, Missouri. The application for letters of ad-

ministration of James' estate also list Laura's stepchildren Adam Madison, Spencer Madison, Emanuel Madison, Robert Madison, John Madison, Rachel Hill along with herself and daughters America and Mahala. The application states James died without a Will but does not provide details of what was in his estate or what anyone received.



Ray County, Missouri, "Probate Records, 1821-1915," database with images, Missouri Probate Court, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>); accessed 8 June 2016; the Administrators Bond and Letters for James Madison (18 June 1886).

Four years after James Madison's death on December 24, 1890, Elijah Bell and Laura Madison would marry in Richmond, Ray County, Missouri. They would later move to Iowa in 1891.

## The Grandmother-America Madison

The Madison and Bell family was now living in Iowa where 20-year-old America would marry (George) [Dudley] Crittenden on 2 April 1892 in Muchaknock, Mahaska County, Iowa.

In 1895, mother and daughter were living next

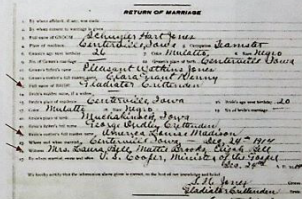
door to each other in Mahaska County. The Bell family includes Elijah, Laura and now 15-year-old Mahala and 1-year-old William and the Crittenden family includes George, America and 2-year-old Omer. By 1900, both families have moved to Appanoose County with the Bell's living in Vermillion and the Crittenden's living in Centerville. Later in 1895, America would have her own daughter Gladiator "Glady's" on 20 May in Centerville, Iowa.

America would soon need the support of her mother Laura after the death of her husband George Dudley "G. D." Crittenden on 3 June

1911. When G. D. died the couple had already lost two children with six surviving including Omer O, Gladiator "Glady's", Cora, Christina, James and Olive May.

## The Mother-Gladiator Crittenden

Time has moved on and Gladiator "Glady's" was 19-years-old and marrying Schuyler Hart Jones on 24 December 1914 in Centerville, Iowa. On Gladys marriage return her mother, America was listed and a couple of the witnesses to her marriage were her grandmother Laura Bell and step-grandfather Elijah Bell.



Appanoose County, Iowa, marriage certificate no. 3012 (24 December 1914), Schuyler Jones-Gladiator Crittenden; County Recorder, Centerville.