

F. J. Stoy

Ann Arnold Hennings

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December 10, 1997

Dear Ginny,

What a lovely envelope of information I received last week. Thank you so much for sending the information. Seeing my mother's correspondence brings back fond memories of her and our discussions about family members.

For the last few months I have been working on my genealogy in a slightly different direction. I decided to take what pictures I have of my direct-line ancestors and share them with my children. To do this, I used the mighty computer to copy them and make prints. As you can see by the enclosed, the printer doesn't produce camera quality but it is better than nothing. I have a lot to learn yet about the process but I thought you might want to see my family. (I don't need these back.) If you have a picture of Margaret Stoy McAllister and her husband that you would share with me. I'd love to have them but if it is your only copy, I would send it back after scanning.

After I scanned and printed the collection, I purchased some photo albums (reproductions of Victorian-style tick paged - see color photocopy enclosed - aren't new technologies great?) and presented them to my daughters for an early Christmas present.

Now I have to get busy and put my papers in order. Over the past 10 years they have gone out of control and I need to make sure the more important ones are preserved. One of these would be my copy of the letter Phoebe Stoy wrote about her roots and Margaret shared with Mother (or was it you, I can't remember). Do you still have it? I would love to scan it so it can be preserved and shared with others. As you work through your collection and find anything your son isn't interested in, I'd love to have them, especially that letter.

I'm finding that local historical societies are now accepting personal papers and it is my hope to pull together good-quality copies (or perhaps originals) to donate for other researchers. The Virginia State Library and Archives in Richmond is collecting Bible records and has already started making them available to review through the Internet which I can access through my computer. I can actually see the copy of the original (sometimes very poor, however) and even print it out and never step foot in Richmond, even though I want to go and see their new facilities.

Last May I took a wonderful genealogical trip for a week and went to Ohio. Back in the early 1800s, my Caylor family left Loudoun County, Virginia, and moved to Fayette County, Ohio. I wanted to see what the area was like and visit all the court houses in that county and

surrounding ones. I flew to Columbus and rented a car, drove to Chillicothe (a few hours south of Columbus) and took a room in a nice motel that offered a great breakfast as part of the cost. By eating there in the early morning before heading out and then returning in the early evening and getting dinner, I didn't have to waste time stopping for lunch. I met a lot of nice people who were willing to dig through old records for me as well as see the area. Much of it was very flat farm land with small towns and it probably hasn't changed too much since the early days, except for newer houses. The weather was lovely and I enjoyed myself immensely. I came back with more questions than answers, however, because I discovered a second couple named Jacob and Catherine Caylor living in the same area at the same time. I proved it was two couples but I have two Bob Stoy's (1st cousins), and I imagine it is probably the same thing. I visited the church where my couple were buried but was shocked to see so many broken stones. This seems to be a growing problem in this country and it makes me sick.

From your note, it certainly appears that you are enjoying life to the fullest. I certainly hope I can keep up with the type of activities you described when I reach your age. I envy you. Don't let your church activities get too overwhelming. Mother had a hard time asking for help but at times you just need to say "I need help" or "I can't do this any more". It is very hard to admit but once Mother starting doing it, she began to relax.

I'm currently waiting for a new boss at work as well as facing a very busy two years which will include a move from our present building, working with several new computer tools (which haven't been explained to us yet), and training a new Executive Director. It has been over a year since the last one left and while we are now going through the third round of interviews, the powers that be can't seem to make up their minds or the good ones look at the whole picture (including the political structure) and decline the offer. Needless to say, I've had some sleepless nights but yesterday I was told that there should be announcement made next week.

One of the candidates this time is a former manager from our department who was recruited away from us to develop the major computer system used by all the universities in the area to hold listings of the libraries. Once you search the database and find the book you want, you can request it be sent from another university and it is done without too much trouble. It was a big job and Carl did a wonderful job getting it working. Now that it is stable, he is ready to move on to another challenge and really wanted to return to AU. I really, really would like to see him get the job because we worked so well together the last time he was there. Last September I celebrated the beginning of my 42nd year with the University and 18 years with the computing department. I think about retirement and think I want to wait at least another 10 years but whether they will let me will be the question. I've seen too many people they want to let go "reorganized" out.

Besides my full-time job, I am still working part-time for the cookbook writer and her husband. Joan has just had a new book published in time for the holidays (see clipping) and is starting on

another one as well as working with the Maryland Public Broadcasting TV company to do a cooking series. She is currently traveling to New York and other cities to do the filming. I have to catch her when I can to get checks signed. While I don't help with the typing of the manuscripts, I'm in charge of making sure all her household bills are paid on time and boy do they spend money. Her husband, an international lawyer, is the typical absent-minded professor (a some-times job) who must fall in the genius category because he can't remember the basics like paying bills, making deposits, recording checks, and not spending when the bank balance is low. I have to really work to dig through the piles of papers on his desk (and even the trash can) to dig out the bills he gets. It's a real challenge but I'm not too sure how much longer I can keep up my strength. The household needs a full-time business manager and I've been thinking I should keep my foot in the door, so to speak, should anything happen at AU and I find myself retiring before I want to.

As I mentioned before, there are two major computer projects in the works, one of which our department wasn't given the opportunity to get involved with before the purchase and according to our staff with years of computer programming experience, I'm told the program is an antique in today's world. It puts all of the University's eggs in one basket. All computer programs that run the admissions, registrations, development, payroll, etc. will be together and heaven help it when something happens. We have pointed out the problems we can see coming but I believe it is too late. I'm sure fingers will point to us when things don't turn out right and the administrators that made the decisions will have probably moved on. I'm sure that is why many of the candidates being interviewed see the problem up front and back off from the job. Carl, on the other hand, has seen the picture and still wants to take it on. I sure hope he wins.

I need to close now and get ready for work. I find that my sleeping habits have changed over the past few years (probably from stress which the doctor is helping me with) and I spend from 4-6 am here at my computer writing letters or reading. This morning I'm continuing my inventory of computer equipment in my office. We sure have a lot of unused stuff sitting around that we need to get rid of.

Again, I want to thank you for all the lovely materials. I don't recall if you sent them earlier but during the Christmas holidays I hope to start getting things updated and filed. Have a wonderful Christmas and don't overdo at church.

Love,

Ann

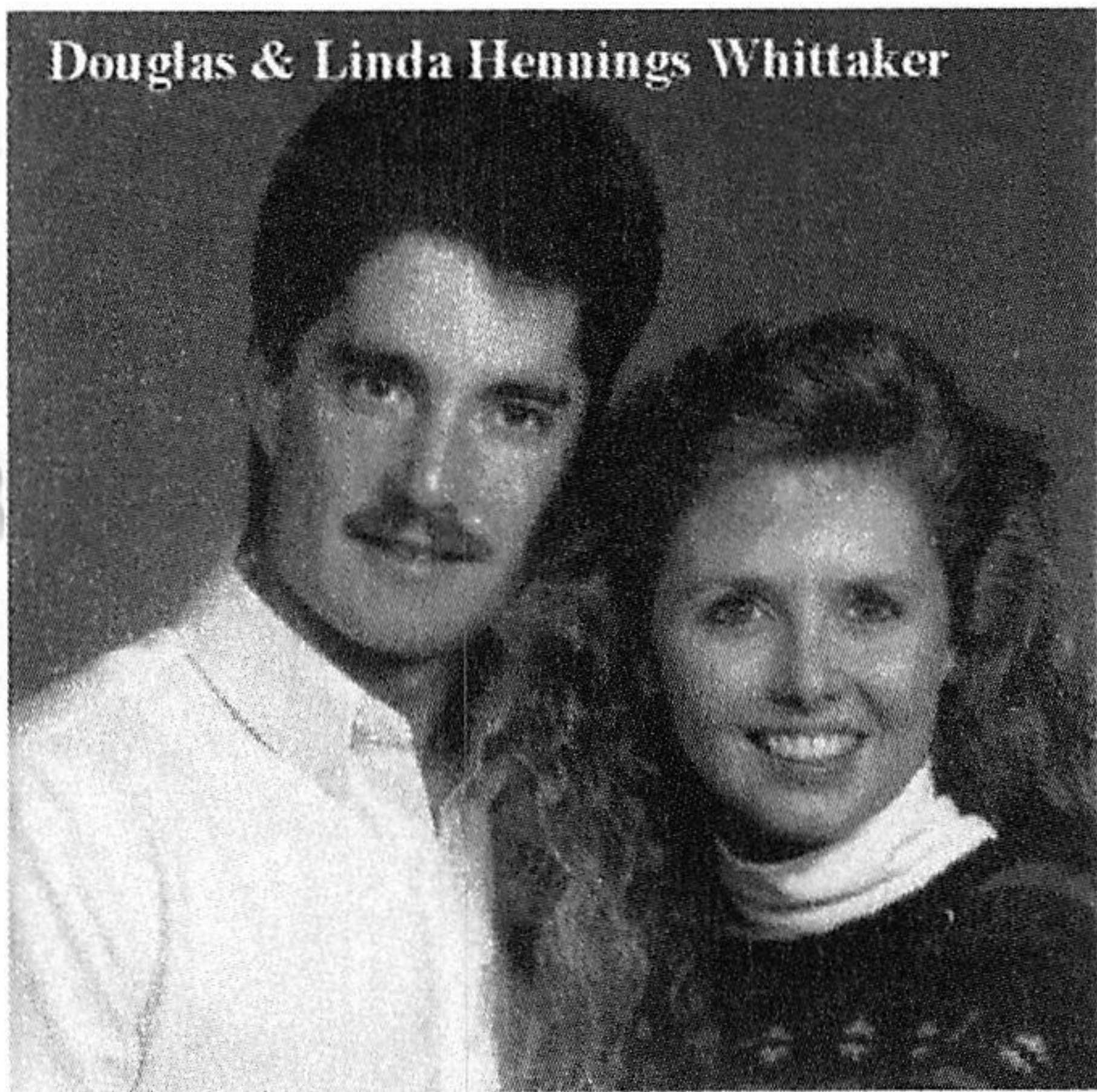
*P.S. My granddaughter will be 3 just after Christmas
& is a real doll. She will probably be soel like her
father.*



Virginia Mae Stoy Arnold



Worth Hampton Arnold



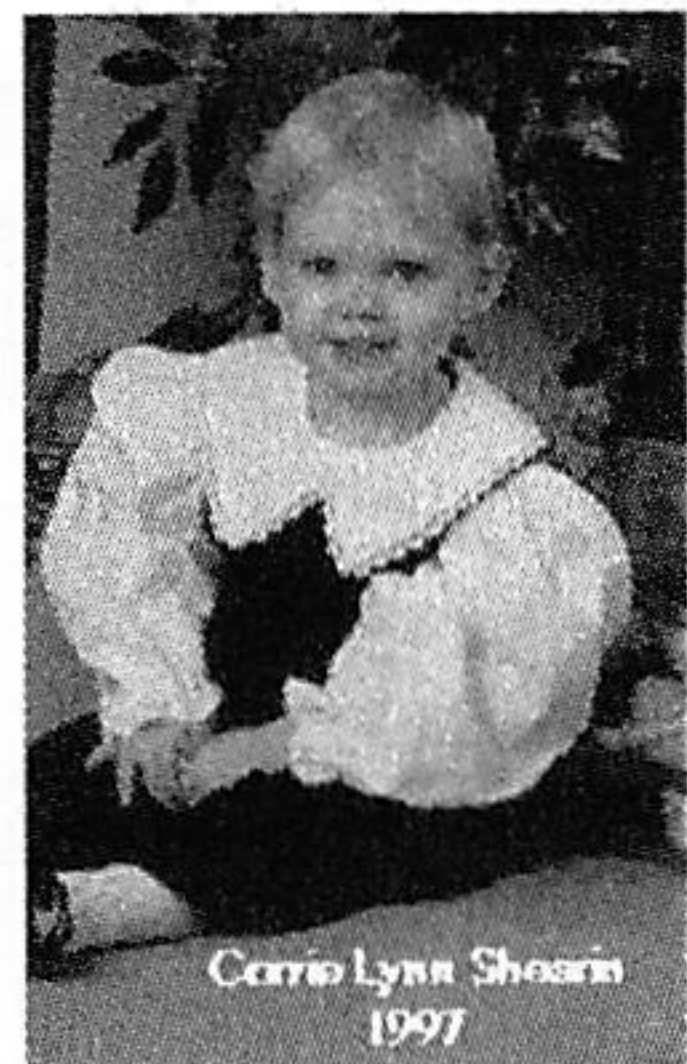
Douglas & Linda Hennings Whittaker



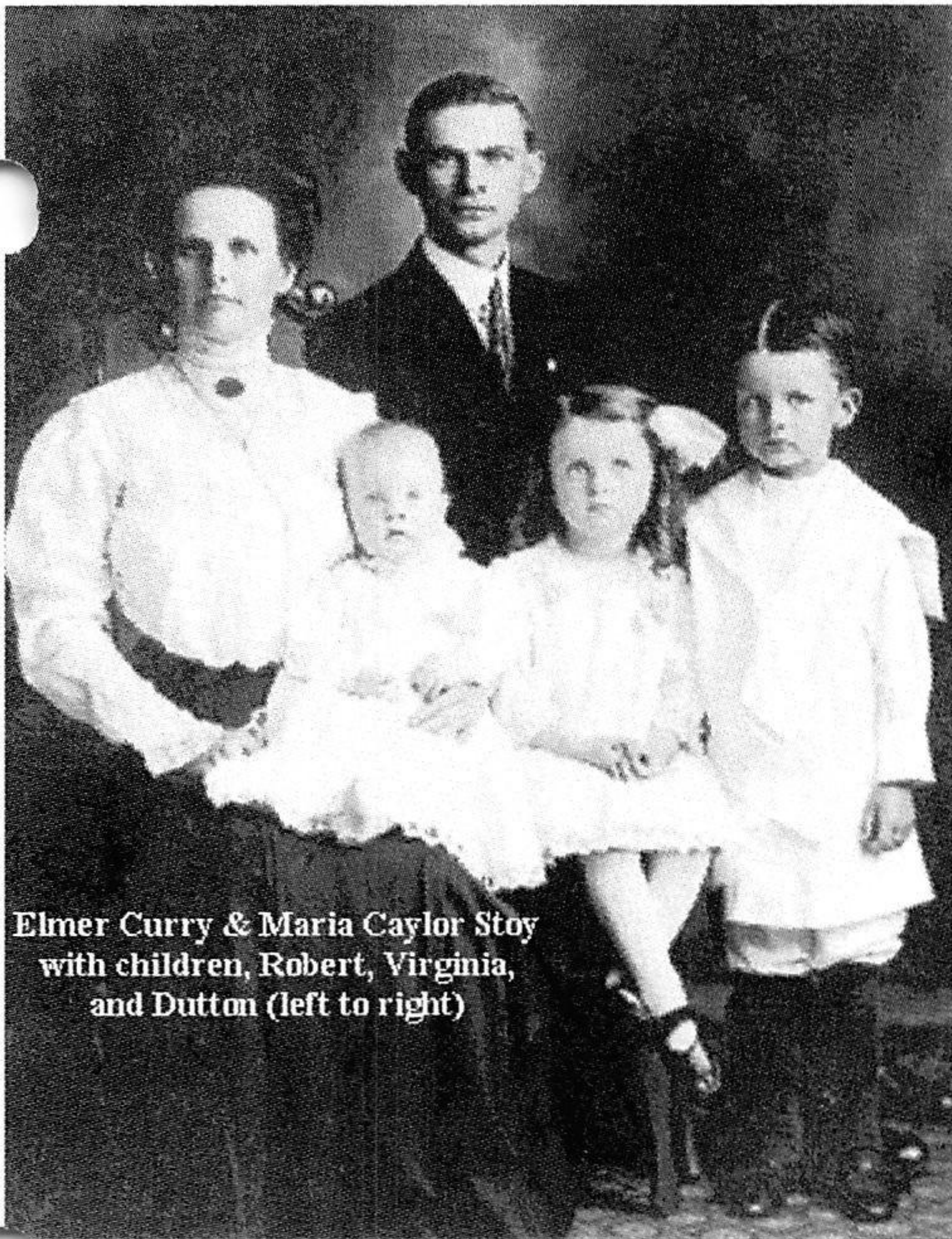
Jerry & Ann Hennings

Virginia & Joe Shearin
March 1986

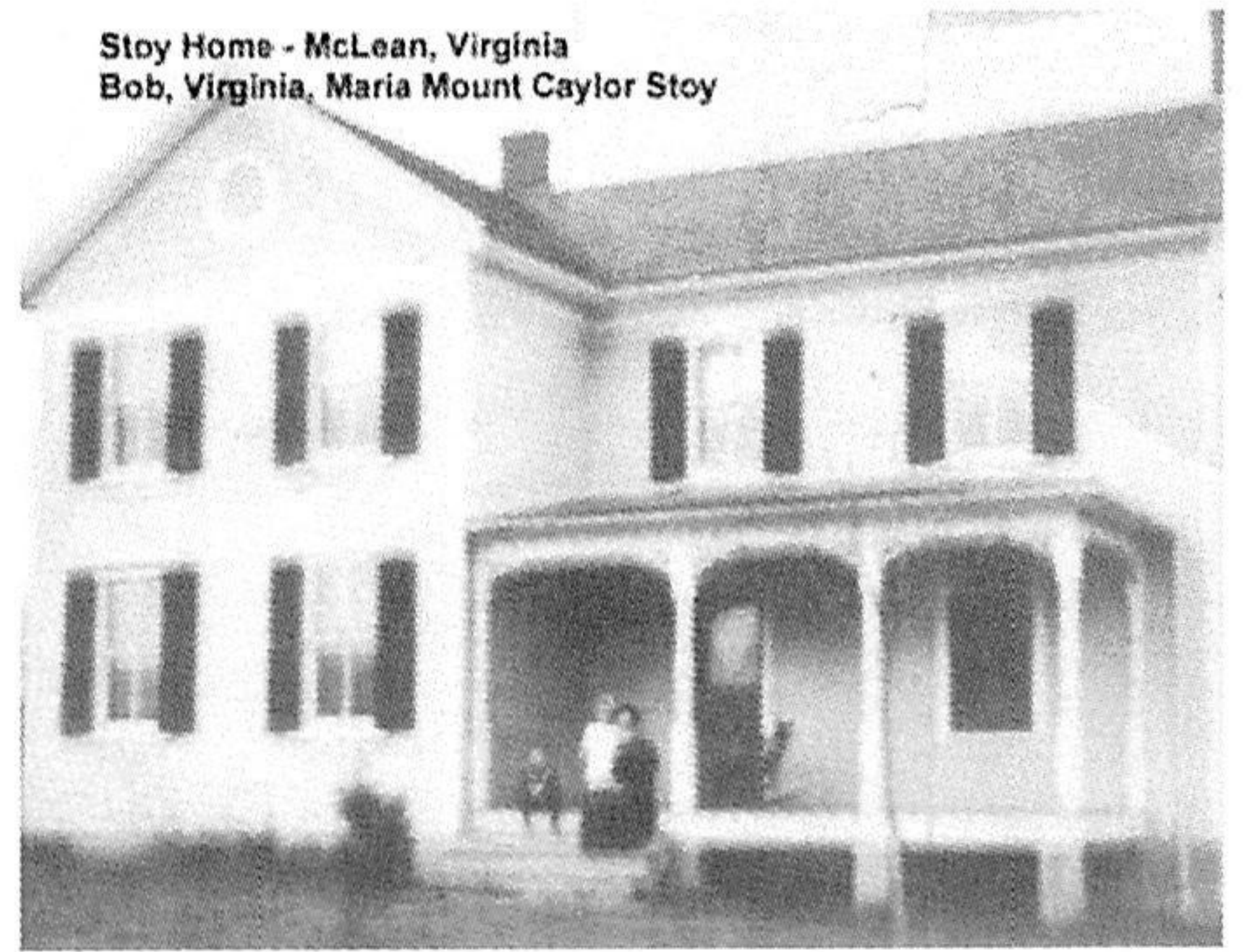
Jo Ann & Joe Shearin



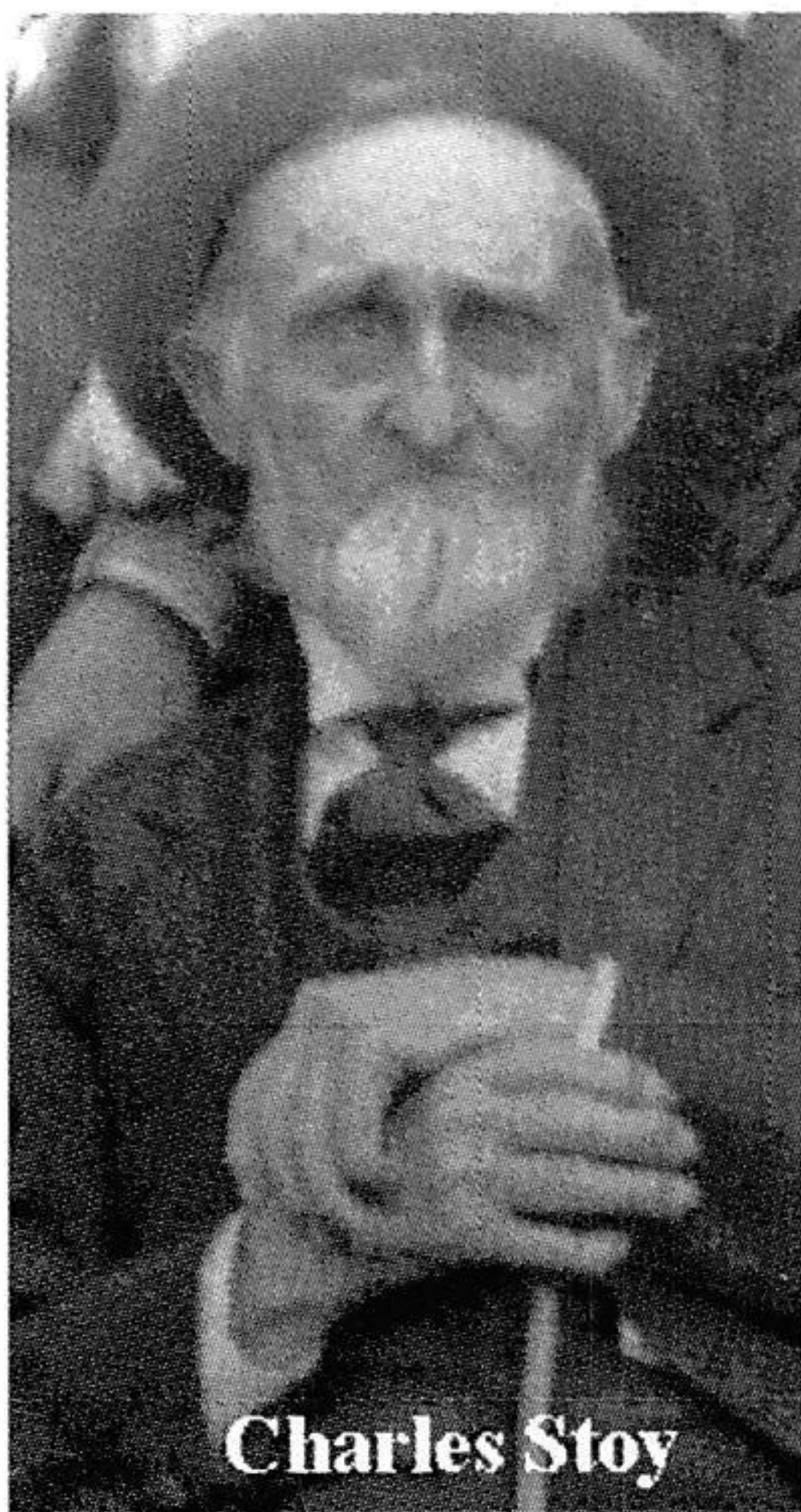
Corrin Lynn Shearin
1997



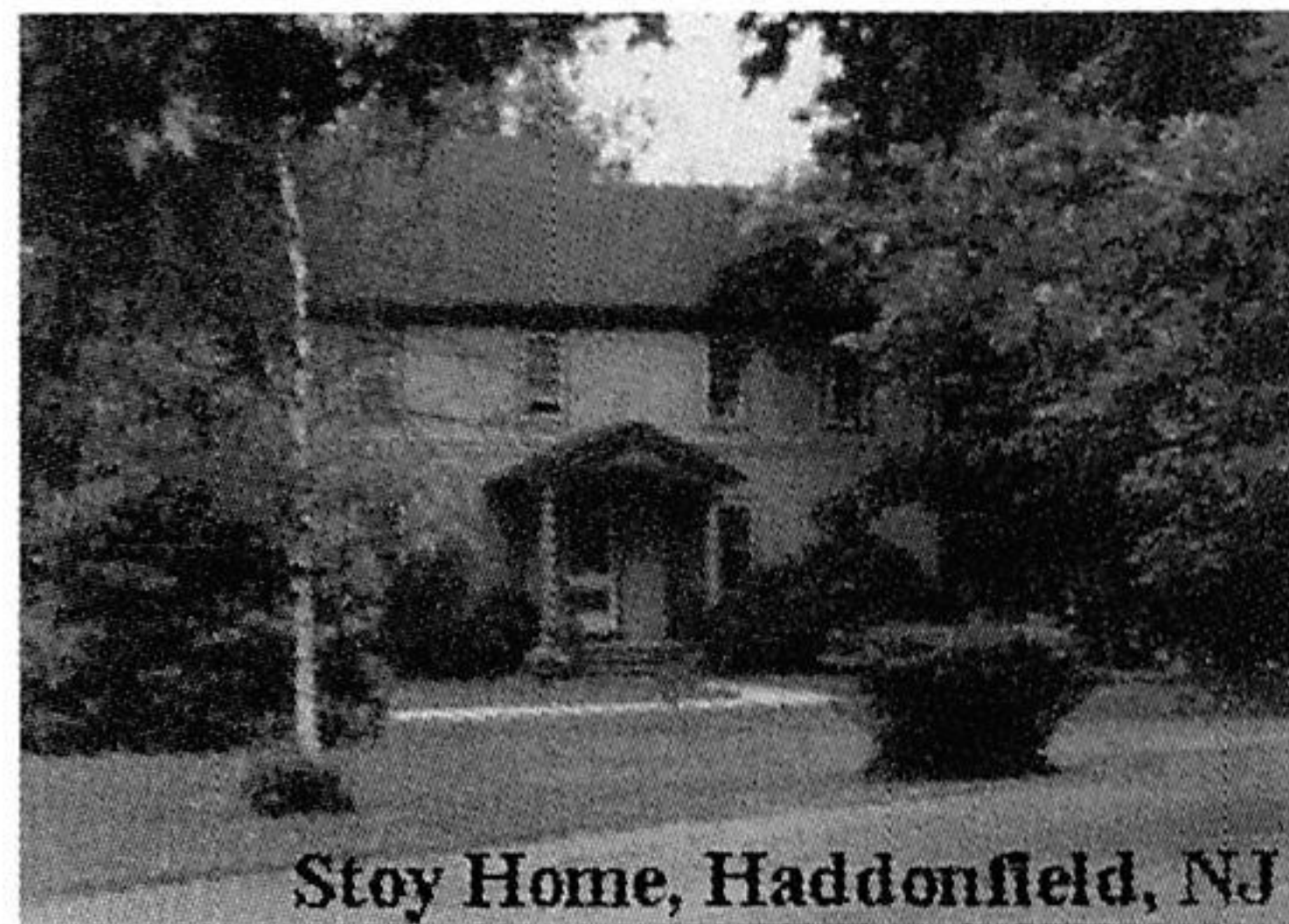
Elmer Curry & Maria Caylor Stoy
with children, Robert, Virginia,
and Dutton (left to right)



Stoy Home - McLean, Virginia
Bob, Virginia, Maria Mount Caylor Stoy



Charles Stoy



Stoy Home, Haddonfield, NJ



Phoebe Ann Kelley Stoy