

Blane Family

Genealogical History Booklet

For: Linda Blane

Thank you for your help through the years in obtaining many of the details in our mutual family heritage.

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1998-2001

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Mid 1800's to Mid 1900's

Chapter I

James and Jane Blane

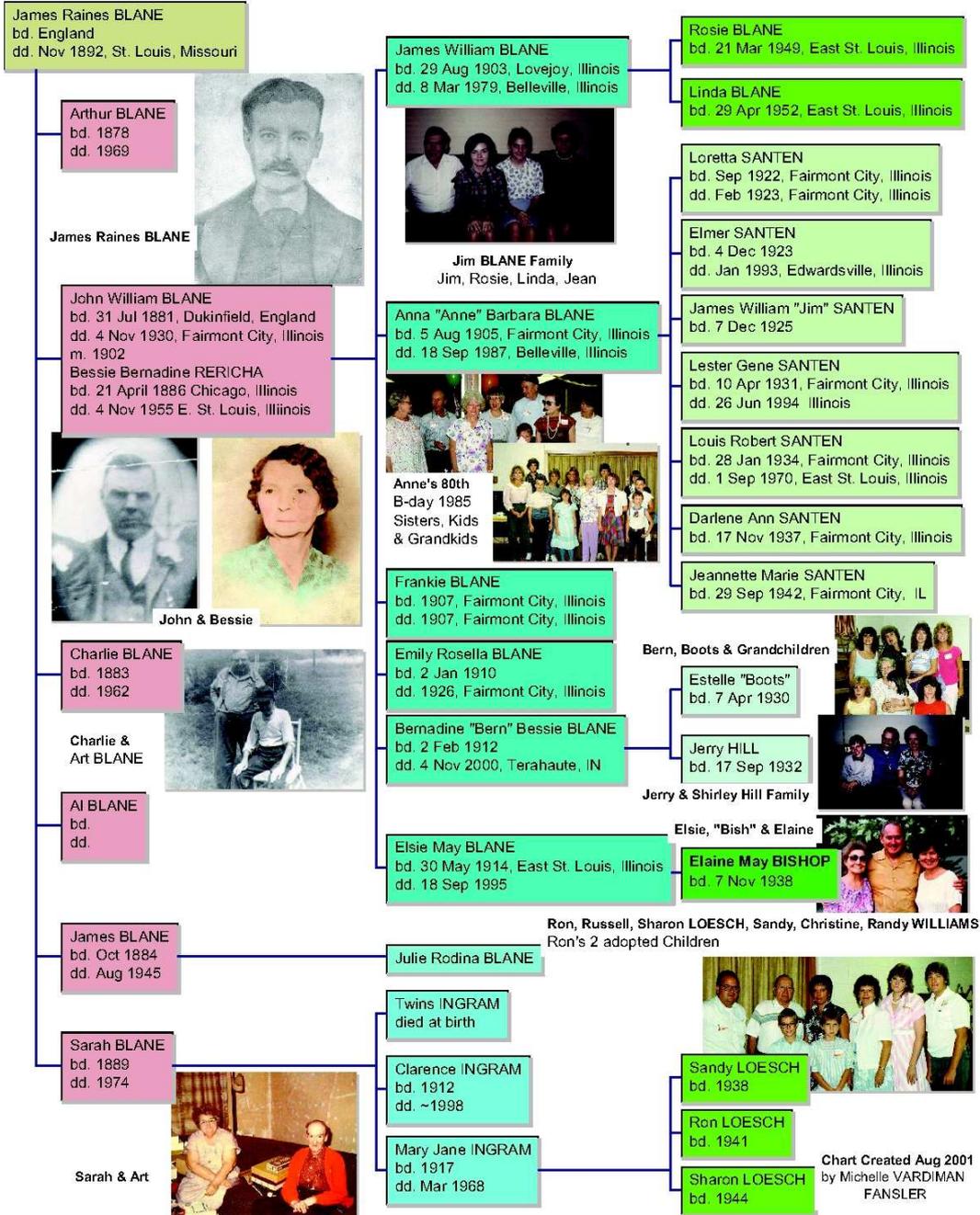
Dukinfield, England



Dukinfield England is in Lancashire County. The towns surrounding Dukinfield are: Manchester (W), Oldham (N), Barnsley (E) and Stockport (S).

Manchester is an industrial center of England.

James Raines BLANE Descendants



James Raines Blane (?-1892) and Jennie “Jane” Rodley Blane (1856-1923)

James Raines was born in England to Joe and Lavina Raines. We don't know what happened to Lavina's first husband but she remarried to Abraham “Abe” Blane. Lavina's son, James took Abe's last name of Blane. Other possible spelling could be Blaine.

Lavina was born May 1835 in England and died August 1900 in East St. Louis, Illinois at 65 years old. Lavina had six children according to family stories.

James Raines Blane married Jennie “Jane” Rodley in England and had several children in Dukinfield, England. We don't know what brought them to America but his mother, Lavina, came also.

James was a glassblower in England and worked for the railroad in the United States. He died in November 1892 and is buried at the Bethany cemetery in Missouri. His wife continued to live for another 31 years!

Jane was born February 1856 in England. James and Jane had six children.

James died when their youngest child, Sarah was three years old. Jane remarried to Jacob Mueller. Jane died in July 1923 in St. Louis, Missouri at 67 years old.



James Raines Blane

Blane Children:	Birth:	Place:	Death:	Place:
Arthur Blane	1878		1969	
John William Blane	July 31, 1881	England	Nov. 4, 1930	Illinois
Charlie Blane	1883		1962	
Al Blane (Died from Tuberculosis after service in US Navy)				
James Blane	Oct. 1884		Aug. 1945	
Sarah Blane	1889		1974	

James & Jane Blane's Children Short Summaries of their Lives

1 of 3

*From Left: Elsie, Uncle Art, Anne, Jim
Aug. 1964 – Anne's 59th Birthday Party*



Arthur Blane 1878-1969

Art was the oldest of the 6 Blane siblings and was born in England. The Blane family moved to America at some point.

Art was small and wiry. He didn't talk much. He never married.

In his later years he lived with his brother, Charlie in an old shack out in the country in Missouri. As he aged he and Charlie eventually moved in with their sister, Sarah, to the upstairs of the two-story Brown Stone House in St. Louis that Sarah's daughter, Mary Jane and her husband, Russell owned. Mary Jane and Russell Loesch took care of all three elderly relatives for well over 10-15 years while raising their own family of three children downstairs. In fact, Art and Sarah both outlived Mary Jane.

Art couldn't see well near the end of his life and didn't have any teeth. His great niece, Jeannette Santen Vardiman enjoyed visiting with him and told him she would name her son after him, as she was expecting her second child. Art died in November 1969 three weeks before Jeannette's second daughter was born. Art finally received his namesake in 1994 through Jeannette's grandson; Spencer Blane Fansler named after the Blane family.



John William Blane 1881-1930

John was born 31 July 1881 in Dukinfield, England. He immigrated with his family to America where he met and married Bessie. They had six children, four of which survived into adulthood.

He worked many odd jobs from the railroad, to the packinghouse to the loading docks. They moved to Fairmont City, Illinois sometime between 1903-1905. He died in Fairmont City from Leukemia at 49 years old in 1930. His oldest child, James, was 27 years old and youngest child, Elsie, was 16 years old at that time. He had two grandsons, Elmer-7 years and Jimboy-5 years and one granddaughter, "Boots", who was only 7 months old when he passed away.

See more of his story in chapter II.

**James & Jane Blane's Children
Short Summaries of their Lives
Continued 2 of 3**

Charlie and Art Blane



**Charlie Blane
1883-1962**

Charlie was jolly and liked to talk. He also liked to drink. Charlie never married. In his later years he and Art lived together and they very rarely took baths so they were surrounded by quit an odor. When they lived at their Niece Mary Jane's house Charlie would sneak off to get a beer.

One time his nephew, Clarence Ingram, took Charlie over to Anne Santen's house and dropped him off for a "visit." Clarence didn't pick Charlie up for about 2-3 days until Anne called demanding he be picked up because of his smell! Oddly enough Anne had no sense of smell from a particularly bad cold one time. Charlie died in 1962.

**Al Blane
Dates Unknown**

Al was in the United States Navy. He never married. He died from Tuberculosis. Nothing else is known about him.

**James Blane
1884-1945**

James married a lady who already had a daughter, Julie Rodina. He adopted Julie. They never had any more children. Julie became a pianist.

Sarah and Art Blane



**Sarah Blane
1889-1974**

Sarah was the youngest of the six Blane siblings and the only girl. Sarah married Will Ingram and they had four children. Their first two were twins that died at birth. Next came Clarence who was born in 1912 and finally Mary Jane who was born in 1917. Sarah's husband died when their kids were in their early adult years and Sarah lived with Mary Jane until Mary Jane died in 1968 then Sarah lived with Clarence.

"Sarah was a big woman with big boobs and three chins. She always wore a dirty housedress and you thought you were going to suffocate when she grabbed you." According to her great niece, Jeannette Santen Vardiman (interview 9 Aug. 2001)

James & Jane Blane's Children
Short Summaries of their Lives
Continued 3 of 3

Sarah's Children and Grandchildren

Jeannette loved to visit family and would convince her mom, Anne Santen to take her to her many cousins' homes. Since Anne didn't drive they would walk two blocks to the bus station and make 2-3 transfers until they reached their destination then walk about two blocks to visit Mary Jane and her family.

One time when Anne and Jeannette were over visiting Mary Jane shared that she finally discovered what was causing an awful smell to waft down the stairs from upstairs. Her mother, Sarah didn't like to wash dishes and Mary Jane finally found all the pots stashed under the sink with old food stuck to them.

Mary Jane and Russell Loesch had three children, Sandy born in 1938, Ron born in 1941 and Sharon born in 1944. When Jeannette was in nurses training in St. Louis she was only five blocks away from the Loesch's so she would go visit and play pool with her cousin Ron in the basement. One weekend she and Sandy drove to Terrehaute, Indiana to visit Aunt Bern.

Russell worked for the local newspaper "St. Louis Post Dispatch". Russell never complained and was an easygoing, layed back guy. Mary Jane was the light of his life. He called her every day at noon and Mary Jane would stop whatever she was doing to chat with him. Mary Jane and Russell bowled two times a week.

Ron became an accountant and adopted two children with his wife.

Sandy became a teacher. Sandy married John Williams and they had three children. Their first child was a little girl that died shortly after birth. Next they had Christine and Randy. One day when John was shaving he felt pain and didn't want to alarm anyone so he drove to the hospital. He died at the doorstep of the hospital from a heart attack.

Sharon moved to Texas and had two boys.

Mary Jane died in March 1968 from cancer three months after she was diagnosed. Russell was in the middle of painting the house when Mary Jane died and he just left the house that way for years. Art died in November 1969. Clarence took care of Sarah after Mary Jane died. Sarah passed away in 1974.

Russell remarried about 5-10 years after Mary Jane died and was married for about 15-20 years before he passed away around 1998.

Late 1800's - Late 1900's

Chapter II

John and Bessie Blane



John William Blane (1881-1930) and Bessie Bernadine Rericha (1886-1955)

John William Blane was born 31 July 1881 in Dukinfield, England. John's family immigrated to the United States from England. He had dark hair and blue eyes. He was 21 years old when he married Bessie Bernadine Rericha. John worked nights and had different jobs through the years. He worked for the railroad, packing house and loading docks. His hobbies were fishing and going to the tavern. He was a very nice man. He had a crooked finger. He died at 49 years old in Fairmont City, Illinois 4 November 1930 from Leukemia.



*John William Blane
5 years older than Bessie*



Bessie about 1911 at 25 years old

Bessie Bernadine Rericha was born 21 April 1886 in Chicago, Illinois. Her parents had emigrated from Bohemia (Prague, Czechoslovakia) between 1880-1885. She had an older brother, Frank Rericha who had been born in Bohemia and who was 6 ½ years older than her. Their mother remarried sometime before 1892. When Bessie was 6 years old her half-sister, Mary David was born in 1892. They were living in Cleveland, Ohio at the time.

Bessie married John William Blane when she was 16 years old in 1902. She had brown hair and brown eyes. They moved to Fairmont City, Illinois sometime between 1903-1905 after their first son, James had been born in Lovejoy, Illinois in August 1903.

They had six children four of which lived into adulthood. Bessie ran the household. She was the disciplinarian and had a razor strap but she never actually hit her children with it. They would run by her and miss getting hit. Bessie worked at a shirt factory and Hunter packing company for years. She was a hard worker. In her later years she cleaned houses and babysat.

John and Bessie argued a lot. He would stick up for the two older children, James and Anne, as they were living "right" and she would stick up for the three younger children and let them get away with things that John felt were "loose". Their daughter, Emily became pregnant at 16 years old and died from bleeding complications from an abortion in 1926. The doctor was sent to jail and Emily was buried with her baby.

John died four years later in 1930 from Leukemia.

Bessie and her oldest daughter, Anne did not get along well. Years later after Bessie became a Christian she mellowed considerably. She took her granddaughters faithfully to church at Fairmont Baptist where they became Christians.

John and Bessie Blane with youngest daughter Elsie about 1916-1918



Bessie and her mother, Ba-Ba, lived on 41st street in Fairmont City, Illinois near their grandchildren. Their granddaughter, Darlene remembers Bessie Blane as a little old lady that was stooped over slightly. She remembers Grandma Bessie taking her on a daylong trip to the Belleville cemetery to see the family graves. They would walk across the railroad tracks then take the bus into Belleville.



Bessie Blane

Grandma Bessie liked to have her hair brushed by her granddaughters, Darlene and Jeannette. She wore her hair in a bun. Bessie died from heart problems at 69 years old on 4 November 1955 a year after Louis Santen passed away. Darlene was 18 and Jeannette was 13 years old.



Mt. Hope Cemetery, Illinois

John and Bessie Blane's Children

Blane Children:	Birth:	Death:
James "Jim" William Blane	Aug. 29, 1903	Mar. 8, 1979
Anna "Anne" Barbara Blane	Aug. 5, 1905	Sep. 18, 1987
Frankie	~1907	~1908
Emily Rosella Blane	Jan. 2, 1910	1926
Bernadine Bessie Blane	Feb. 2, 1912	Nov. 4, 2000
Elsie May Blane	May 30, 1914	Sep. 18, 1995

Jim Blane



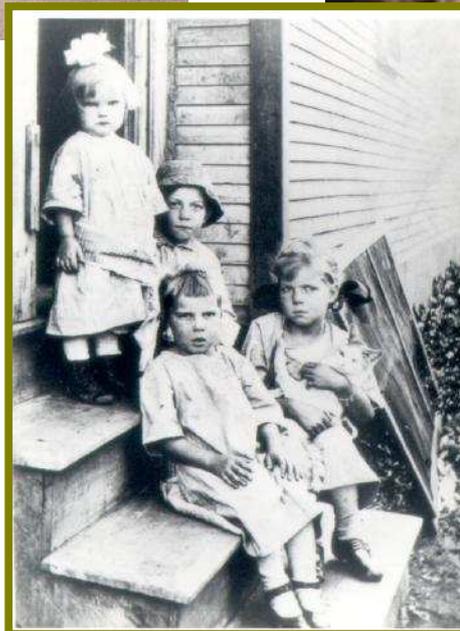
Anne Blane



Story by Bern:

“As a young girl I was in the back of a wagon with the beer for Aunt Mary’s Night Club. A little black boy came up and sang,

“My name is Sam and I don’t give a damn. I’d rather be a Niger than a poor white man.”



Elsie:

I was a teenager in the late 20’s and early 30’s. Oh how I loved being a “flapper”.

**Top left to bottom right:
Elsie Blane, Frankie
Sellers, Bern &
Emily Blane
About 1916**

**John & Bessie Blane's Children
Short Summaries of their Lives**



**James William Blane
1903-1979**

James William Blane was born 29 August 1903. He was outgoing and likable.

He married a woman who had a severe mental disorder and she had to eventually be placed in a mental hospital.

He married Jean Todoroff 21 October 1947 when he was 44 years old and she was 33 years old. They had two daughters: Rosie (right) and Linda (left). Neither one had children.

He worked at Hunter Packing Company for 50 years and received a gold watch at retirement. His "claim to fame" was that he attended every opening game for the St. Louis Cardinals from the very first day the Cardinals started playing in St. Louis in 1950 until his death. He loved to talk about that. James passed away 8 March 1979 at 75 years old.



**Anna "Anne" Barbara Blane Santen
1905-1987**

Second born was Anne on 5 August 1905 in Fairmont City, Illinois. Her friends called her "Ann". Her nieces and nephews called her "Aunt Annie" and she always spelled her name "Anne". She married Louis Frank Santen when she was 16 years old and had 7 children. Her first child died at 6 months old.

Her husband passed away in May 1954 when their oldest child was 30 years old and their youngest child was 11 years old. Their first grandchild was born 3 weeks after Louis' death in June 1954.

She lived in Fairmont City, Illinois her entire life and never learned how to drive. She could walk 2 blocks to the bus line and go anywhere she needed. She supported her family after her husband's death by working as a matron (custodian) at Rose Lake Elementary School 2 blocks from her house and as a barmaid at the local tavern half a block away.

She died from Heart Disease 18 September 1987 in the hospital in Belleville, Illinois at 82 years old.

Frankie Blane
About 1907-1908

Third born was Frankie who died at nine months old from a medication overdose due to the doctor's miscalculation. Bessie ended up switching from Catholicism to Baptist because the Catholic Priest wouldn't pray for Frankie unless he was paid.

Emily Rosella Blane
1910-1926

Fourth born was Emily on 2 January 1910. She died in 1926 at 16 years old from an abortion. The dead infant was buried in her arms. The doctor was sent to jail and there are some newspaper articles about the whole scandal. The family story goes that her mother, Bessie, took her for the abortion but the story in the paper is purposely misleading.

Bern with her daughter Boots behind her and her three granddaughters and great grandchildren in 1985!



Bernadine Bessie Blane
1912-2000

Fifth born was Bernadine on 2 February 1912. She went by the name Bern. She had a baby, named Estelle who goes by "Boots". Boot's father hung himself. Bern was pregnant by a gangster when she married Harry Hill. The baby was given Harry's name, Jerry Hill. Bern divorced Harry then remarried him. She divorced him again to marry Elmer Kelsey. She became a Christian in her late 40's. She out-lived all her siblings and passed away at 88 years old.

Elsie, Bish & their only child, Elaine Bishop Judd in 1985



Elsie May Blane
1914-1995

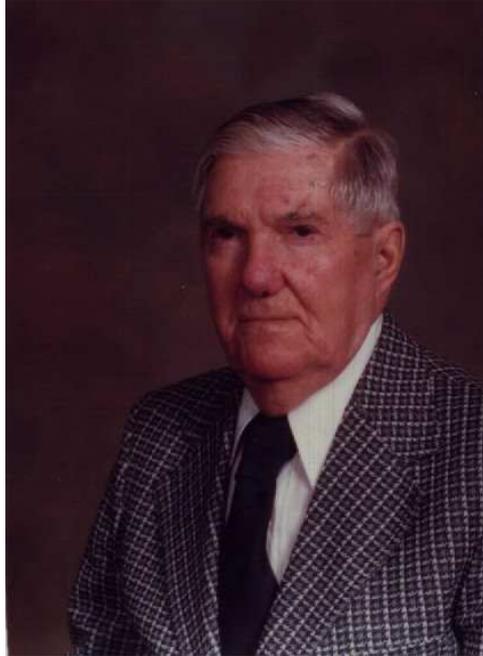
The youngest child, Elsie May was born 30 May 1914. Her first husband, Herron Bishop, "Bish" was in a minor baseball league. They divorced because of his unfaithfulness. She contracted syphilis from him and became blind because of it in her later years.

Elsie was married to Julius Piantanida for 20 years. He was an Italian Fireman. After he died Elsie and Bish remarried since Bish had become a Christian. He died in 1991 from throat cancer.

Even though Elsie was in a lot of pain at the end she held on as long as she could because she was convinced that Christ would come back in her lifetime. She died at 81 years old.

Grown Blane Siblings:

Jim Blane



Elsie, Anne & Bern at Anne's 80th Birthday Party - 1985



Documentation

Certificate of Baptism



In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ and in imitation of His example

ANNA BARBARA SANTEN (NEE BLANE)

EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS

Place

was buried with Him in baptism

MAY 3 1921

AUGUST 5, 1905 IN E. ST. LOUIS

Date of Birth

ILLINOIS

Minister

James D. Smith

Anna Santen

Anna B. Santen, nee Blane, 82, of Fairmont City, Ill., died Friday, September 18, 1987 at Memorial Hospital in Belleville.

She was a member of Fairmont Baptist Church; Slavenski Club of Fairmont City; Fairmont City and Canteen Township Senior Citizens.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Louis F. Santen; a son, Louis Robert Santen; a daughter, Loretta Santen; a brother, James Blane; a sister, Emily Blane; a grandson, James Louis Santen.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Elmer and Jonnie Santen, James and Mary Santen, Lester and Ann Santen all of Fairmont City, Ill.; two daughters and a son-in-law, Mrs. Darlene Hagen of Plano, Texas and Jeannette and Larry Vardiman of Santee, Calif.; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Bernadine Kelsey of Terre Haute, Ind. and Elsie and Huron Bishop of Fairview Heights, Ill.; 15 grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; Our dear sister-in-law, aunt and cousin.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Monday at the Kassly Colonial Chapel in Fairview Heights with Pastor Curtis Haas officiating. Burial will be in Mount Hope Cemetery in Belleville.

Friends may call after 4 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Donations can be made to the Fairmont Baptist Church.