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# The Turrentine Letter

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February 11, 2017

No. 242

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**President – Harold Turrentine, 3636 N Bernard ST, Chicago, IL 60618-4205**

[hdturrentine@hotmail.com](mailto:hdturrentine@hotmail.com)

**Vice-President – Sylvia Hyde [hyde\\_s@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hyde_s@sbcglobal.net)**

**Secretary – Linnith Arnold [LinRN123@aol.com](mailto:LinRN123@aol.com)**

**Treasurer – Aleta “T” Hawkins [aleta.hawkins@alumni.dmu.edu](mailto:aleta.hawkins@alumni.dmu.edu)**

**Turrentine Letter editor and Cemetery Chair – Joyce Hodges, 17952 168<sup>th</sup> ST,  
Basehor, KS 66007-7293 [jehodges@email.com](mailto:jehodges@email.com)**

## Births

Cora Close Greving was born 2016 to Ross and Elizabeth Greving #3636.1 . She is a descendant of Durwood T. Stokes #1635. Durwood was a dedicated Turrentine historian. He tracked down the original Turrentine Cemetery in Orange County, North Carolina which had been lost to the many lines which had moved west before the Civil War.

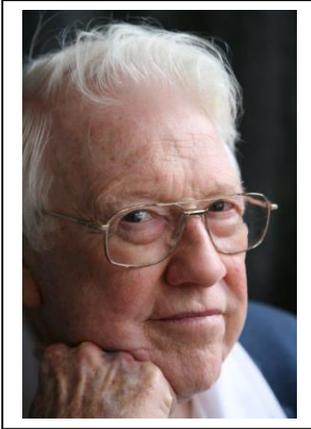
## Deaths



Harvie Eugene Turrentine Jr. #3236.001 was born at Excelsior Springs, MO Oct. 23, 1946. Harvie's dad was in the Navy, which would provide the family travels around North America for the next 6 years. In 1967 Harvie married Lesly Kay Muck. Southern California would be home to Harvie for most of his life, with six years working and living an Alaska adventure with his family.

Harvie loved to fish. As a young boy he fished with his Father, Uncles, Cousins and Grandfathers, and taught his children as well. He was a Bass Master; catch and release. Lesly and Harvie would take their children wherever there was water in which to fish, and sometimes water ski. Many houseboat, fishing and skiing parties were hosted for immediate and extended family. Harvie's work career included: pizza maker, glazier, roofer, auto towing service driver as well as owner operator, entrepreneur and real estate. Harvie died July 20, 2016 at his home in Southern California at the age of 69. He is descended from Sarah Farmer and Absalom Turrentine # 129.

Ronnie Turrentine born 29 June 1951 in Morgan County, Alabama to Albert Grady Turrentine and Vera Marie Asherbranner. He worked for Monsanto-Solutia. He was married to Brenda Gail. He died 11 Nov 2016 in Hartselle, Alabama. He is the grandson of James Thomas Turrentine #1960 and Ruthie Penelope Hart.



Walter Delos Smith #2241.0721 was born 07 June 1936, Rennsselaer, Jasper County, Indiana to Walter Myron Smith and Evelyn Geraldine Murphy. He served in the United States Army in Korea after the war. He married Yvonne Marie Dietz and had six children. Walt attended and graduated from Walton School of Commerce in Chicago; after his schooling he sat and passed his CPA exam and began his working career. He was a Certified Public Accountant working with several companies in international business, before coming to Baraboo to work for Flambeau, Inc. In 1983, he formed his own CPA business in Baraboo, Wisconsin in 1983. In 1960 he was united in marriage to Yvonne Dietz in Sterling, Illinois. He served on multiple committees and boards of charities including: Baraboo School District, Boys and Girls Club, Kiwanis,

Wisconsin Professional Speakers and was the sponsor of the annual Walt Smith Charity Golf outing that raised over a quarter of a million dollars for local charities. He wrote two books “Soar with the Eagles” and “A Father’s Thoughts on Living”. His advice, “If you believe good things will happen, you improve the odds dramatically.” As it was said when he received the Gem Award, Walt “dedicated his working life in helping to make Baraboo a more prosperous and positive place to live and work.”

George Esca Turrentine #1319 was born 12 May 1925 to Daniel E. Turrentine and Bess Price Ridgeway. George was married to Johnnie Marie Paetzoid. He served during WWII in the US Navy as a radio man. He lived most of his life in Hereford, Deaf Smith County Texas. George passed away 5 Dec 2016.

**The Turrentine Family 3<sup>rd</sup> edition edited by Edgar M. Turrentine, October 1972, aka “The Orange Book” has been scanned and digitized. It is now available on the internet at ExlibrisRosetta. See link below:**

[https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps\\_pid=IE3648303&from=fhd](https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE3648303&from=fhd)

The link has also been added to the home page of our website: <http://turrentinenews.tripod.com/>

### **Family Research – when documents conflict**

In the last letter I ended with:

Gabriel is a descendant of Levi Turrentine and Libey, not Lively, Murphy of Sevier County, Arkansas. How they are related to Gilbert Turrentine and Lively Murphy of Sevier County has not been established. Considering the small size of the population in Sevier County at that time; there is probably a biological as well as a surname, connection.

The answer is that the death certificate from which the information was taken is incorrect. The death certificate for Walter Turrentine, date of birth of 18 Jan 1886, occupation Pullman porter retired, address: 846 W 3<sup>rd</sup> So., Salt Lake City, Utah, spouse: Mamie Murphy Turrentine, parents Levi Turrentine and Libely Murphy. Information given by Harold Turrentine of the same address.

However, I found:

WWII draft registration for Walter Turrentine born 14 Jan 1879, Lockesburg, Arkansas, same address as above, with a Mamie Turrentine as person who will always know your address.

WWI draft registration for this same Walter, with person Mamie Turrentine in Omaha, Nebraska. The son Walter Joffe Turrentine was born in 1916 in Nebraska.

1930 census shows William, instead of Walter, age 51 (1879) born in US, wife Mamie, daughter Larrain, son Joffe, son Harold, living at 846 cross reference street is Fayette Ave, occupation Pullman porter.

1940 census, same address, Walter age 60 (1880), wife Mamie, son Joffie, son Harold, son Richard, occupation Pullman porter.

The Social Security application for Walter Turrentine born 14 Jan 1879 shows his parents as Gilbert Turrentine and Lively Murphy.

The marriage record in Sevier, Arkansas, 18 Jun 1913, shows bride of Walter Turreneine: Mamie Murphey.

The marriage record for son Walter J(offie) Turrentine shows mother Mamie Murphy.

The death certificate for Mamie Turrentine, was completed by W. Turrentine and gives her father's name as Spencer Graves. The year is 1947 and he gives his own age as 69 (1878).

These documents demonstrate the pitfalls of using only one or even two documents to identify a person. You need the rest of the family, multiple documents, and context such as: addresses where lived and places of birth for other family members, to determine which documents relate to the same person. I believe the names of the ancestor couple are Gilbert Turrentine and Lively Murphy.

Still to be resolved: is Walter's mother Minnie's maiden name Murphy or Graves?

I received this update from Madison Turntine. "Hi, it's been a few years since I have given an update as I've been rather busy, but just thought I'd give one. I recently graduated in May of 2016 as my high school Valedictorian, as well as completing an Associate of Arts Degree from Mineral Area a College while in high school. I am now attending Mizzou, majoring in two subjects: BHS in Communication Science and Disorders, and BA in Political Science. My younger sister Macie is currently a senior, she is currently in position to be Salutatorian, and graduate high school with her associate degree as well." It is always good to hear about young people working hard on their education. Madison and Macie are the granddaughters of Donald Wayne Turrentine #2107.22. (Samuel Turrentine #1 line.)

## **Question about a Symbol on Tombstones**



I was asked to research this symbol which appeared on several tombstones in the Holly Springs Cemetery outside Lockesburg, Arkansas. This is the symbol for the Supreme Royal Circle of Friends of the World. Per the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture: The Supreme Royal Circle of Friends of the World, aka RCF, “was an African-American fraternal organization founded in 1909 in Helena, Philips County, Arkansas, . . . to supply insurance to the African-American population, but was also dedicated to the moral , physical, social, and economic welfare of its members. Men and women were equal members. From the beginning, the RCF grew rapidly across Southern states and soon spread across the nation. In 1944, the membership was quoted by a Chicago, Illinois, newspaper as being in excess of 100,000.”

The *Helena World* newspaper reported in 1915, that “membership was 30,000 and that the RCF had loaned \$29,500 to members; had \$46,000 in mortgages, real estate, and capital; and had paid out \$200,000 in benefits.” Benefits were: \$300 at death of a member, sick pay from one to five dollars a week and the distinctive headstone for members” featuring the above logo of a triangle with the lion on top. The organization kept dues low and grew rapidly. In 1911, local lodges, called circles, It moved its headquarters to Chicago in 1918. In 1947, the organization was disbanded. Having declared bankruptcy, the headquarters building in Chicago was sold at auction along with all other assets. The Supreme Royal Circle of the World had served its members well during a period when African-Americans had limited access to financial institutions and insurance.

## Interesting Second Job

David Turrentine of Chicago has an interesting second job. He is professional understudy. Here are some excerpts from an article by Chris Jones that appeared August 18, 2016 in the Chicago Tribune.

Are there any really good understudies in town, who actually like being an understudy?...Here's one: David Turrentine, 57 years old. Fifteen hundred performances covered and counting... "I'd gone 500 before I went on the first time," Turrentine said. Turrentine is an Equity actor who, things financial being as they were, also became an accountant. One year, during tax season, he accepted a full-blown role at what's now Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. "I nearly killed myself." He said.

"David is a superb understudy," said artistic director Michael Halberstam of the Writers Theatre. "Mature in look, age and skill and very gifted."

## Ocularist Bud Turntine

KCPT, a local public TV station, did a 5 minute feature on Harold W. "Bud" Turntine #3200 of Shawnee, Kansas who makes prosthetic eyes.

<http://www.kcpt.org/health/an-artists-eye-ocularist-bud-turntine/>

Turntine is the way some people pronounce the name. In this lines case, the spelling was changed to Turntine back before spelling was standardized. The first Turrentine record in America actually shows Torrentine. I have seen multiple spellings of last names even in the same document. It always makes searching for old records interesting.

## New Dean

Professor Michael "Mike" **Turrentine** has been selected as the next Dean of the Gary E. West College of Business at West Liberty University. "Mike was the unanimous selection of the screening committee and both President Greiner and I agree that he is an excellent choice for the position," Crawford said. "Professor **Turrentine** has performed exceptionally well as a faculty member and an administrator; I'm certain he'll do a great job. Professor **Turrentine** began his career at West Liberty in 1999, serving as a full-time adjunct. He is in his 17 year at the university, and some of the classes that he has taught include "Business Law," "Principles of Macroeconomics," and "Management in Labor Relations." **Turrentine** completed his undergraduate degree in communications with a focus in management from Ohio University before receiving his law degree from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa. He also earned a teaching certificate for grades 8-12 in Ohio. Before teaching at WLU, **Turrentine** worked as a public relations coordinator for a public library system in Ohio. After law school, he became a full time lawyer in Steubenville, Ohio. **Turrentine** still serves as an acting judge in Ohio, who is called in when a full-time judge cannot participate in court. (extracted from Trumpet, April 29, 2016)

## **Newspaper Clipping “Mrs. Viola Turrentine Receives Greeting From Governor on 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday Anniversary”**

This clipping was part of a file from the Mocksville (NC) library, sent to me by Judy Church. Mrs. Viola Bowles Turrentine was remembered last week by Governor Hames B. Hunt and Congressman William G. Hefner as she quietly observed her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday....She was born in the Oak Grove Community, the daughter of the late William and Sally Boger Bowles, and has outlived ten brothers and sisters. In 1913 she married Charles “Sonk” Turrentine. They had three children: Elizabeth who is married to Edgar Sain; Thomas, who passed away a few years ago; and W.C. “Dee” Turrentine of Monroe, N.C. Mr. Turrentine died June 24, 1949.

Mrs Turrentine has always lived within sight of the Oak Grove Methodist Church of which she has always been a devoted member. The Wonderknit plant now stands on the site of the old homeplace. Employed for many years by the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, she put the first tax stamp on the can of Prince Albert tobacco. She has also served many people as a practical nurse.

I have a question for our readers. Per his death certificate the above Charles Marshall Turrentine was born 20 June 1866 in NC and died 24 Jan 1950 in Mocksville, Davies County, NC. His parents were William Franklin Turrentine born about 1829 and died 13 Dec 1862 and Hannah C. Foster born 27 April 1830 and died 27 Oct 1873. We believe that William’s parents were James A. Turrentine born about 1800 and Elizabeth Graves born about 1810. James’s father appears to be Samuel Torrentine born about 1772 and Nancy (last name unknown).. Samuel’s father appears to be a Robert Torrentine. I have been unable to connect this family to our known Samuel and Alexander Turrentine brothers. Does anyone know how this family is related to Samuel #1 and Alexander #2? It has Judy Church and myself stumped.

If you feel that editions of the Turrentine Letter are few and far between, it is for lack of news. Please send me information on the accomplishments of your family or some interesting story about your Turrentine ancestors that is not already in the “Orange Book” that is now available online.