



NEVILLE'S PATERNAL GRANDFATHER

CHARLES DAVIS FRIERSON SR.

b. 12/9/1877 Cleburne, Cross Co., AR

d. 1/16/1947 Jonesboro, Craighead Co., AR



CHARLES DAVIS FRIERSON SR.'S PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

JAMES GORDON FRIERSON

b. 11/5/1837 Maury Co., TN
d. 3/8/1884 Jonesboro, Craighead Co., AR

m. 11/12/1868 Cleburne, Cross Co., AR

EMMA GWYNNE DAVIS

b. 2/11/1847 Greene Co., MO
d. 8/9/1899 Jonesboro, Craighead Co., AR

DR. CHARLES CALVIN FRIERSON

b. 4/4/1811 Maury Co., TN
d. 4/23/1879 College Hill, Lafayette Co., MS

m. 9/1831 Maury Co., TN

MILDRED NICHOLSON PAINE

b. 3/21/1812 Warren County, NC
d. 9/13/1874 College Hill, Lafayette Co., MS

DR. NEWLIN ADDISON DAVIS

b. 2/22/1821 Shelbyville, Bedford Co., TN
d. 2/10/1876 Forrest City, St. Francis Co., AR

m. 3/1/1842 Polk Co., MO

ELIZA MURRAY DRAKE

b. 12/15/1826 Carter Co., TN
d. 11/5/1888 Jonesboro, Craighead Co., AR

CHARLES DAVIS FRIERSON SR.'S ANCESTORS

The progenitor of Neville's Frierson ancestry is **William Frierson Sr. (c. 1700–1773)**, a Scotch-Irishman who was first recorded in 1736 in the Williamsburg District in South Carolina. In 1805 his grandson **Moses Gordon Frierson (1775–1813)** led the family's migration to Maury County, Tennessee.

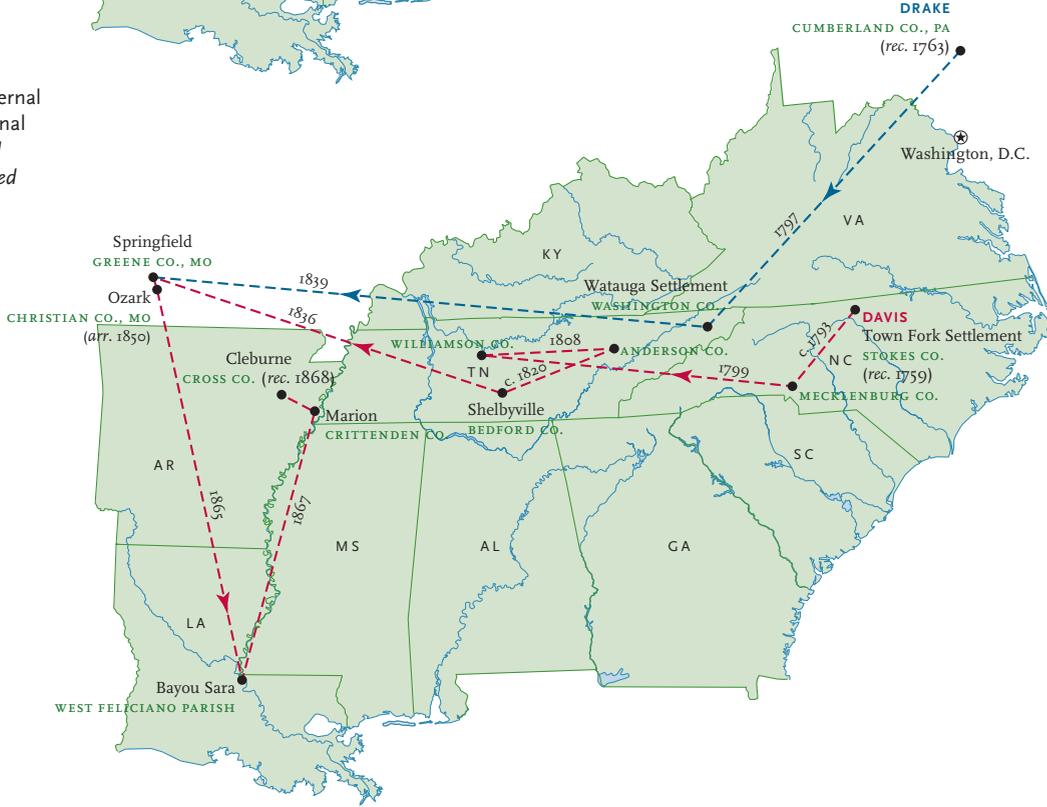
In 1841 **Charles Davis Frierson Sr.'s (1877–1947)** paternal grandparents, **Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson (1811–1879)** and **Mildred Nicholson Paine (1812–1874)**, removed their family to College Hill, Mississippi. It was from nearby Oxford that their son **James Gordon Frierson (1837–1884)** went to Cross County, Arkansas, in 1866. He, thus, became the first of Neville's Frierson antecedents to live in Arkansas. Mildred Nicholson's forebears lived in North Carolina and came to Tennessee in 1814.

The maternal grandparents of Charles Davis Frierson Sr. were **Dr. Newlin Addison Davis (1821–1876)** and **Eliza Murray Drake (1826–1888)**. They were both born in Tennessee and descended from families who lived in North Carolina backcountry settlements in the eighteenth century. At a young age, Newlin Addison Davis and Eliza Murray Drake migrated with their families to southwestern Missouri, where they met and married in 1842. After the Civil War, the Davis family moved, by way of Bayou Sara, Louisiana, to Arkansas, where their oldest daughter, **Emma Gwynne Davis (1847–1899)**, married James Gordon Frierson in 1868.

MIGRATION | FRIERSON/PAINE AND DAVIS/DRAKE



BLUE is maternal
RED is paternal
arr. = arrived
rec. = recorded



CHARLES DAVIS FRIERSON SR.'S LIFE

Neville's paternal grandfather, **Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)**, was a judge, lawyer, banker, and leading citizen in Arkansas. Like his father before him, he was called Judge Frierson, and he was much admired and respected. Throughout his life, Charles Frierson Sr. marched to his own drummer. He was a bit of an iconoclast, mocking some of the conventions of his day.



Charles Davis Frierson Sr. with his mother, Emma Gwynne Davis Frierson, c. 1883.

Charles Davis Frierson Sr. was the last of four children born to **James Gordon Frierson (1837–1884)** and **Emma Gwynne Davis (1847–1899)**. He was born on December 9, 1877, in Cleburne, Arkansas, once the county seat of Cross County.

Charles Davis Frierson Sr.'s oldest sibling was **Mary Corrine Frierson (1868–1870)**, for whom records state that she was born in 1868 and died at age two on November 8, 1870. Her recorded birth year and her age at death are highly suspect, for her parents married on November 12, 1868. The next children born were twins, **James Gordon Frierson Jr. (1872–1951)**¹ and **Camille Frierson (1872–1961)**,² both of whom outlived Charles Davis Frierson Sr. Neville's great-aunt Camille married Thomas Allen Hughes (1870–1939); they had eight children, whom Neville calls the Hughes cousins,³ and fourteen grandchildren, who are Neville's only known second cousins on her father's side of the family.⁴

At about age one, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. and his family moved to Marion, Arkansas, which is near the Mississippi River. When he was almost six years old, in 1883, they moved to Jonesboro, sixty miles northwest of Marion.

Charles Davis Frierson Sr.'s first schooling took place at his mother's private school, which she founded in 1884, shortly after her husband's death. From 1887 to 1892, Charles attended Jonesboro's first free public school, which opened in September 1887. His last two years of schooling in Jonesboro (1892–94) took place at the State Normal School, an institution that opened in 1892 and operated for only three years.

In the fall of 1894, at age sixteen, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. enrolled at Arkansas Industrial University (University of Arkansas) at Fayetteville in northwestern Arkansas. He spent three years (1894–97) in college, where he was a Corps Cadet, a fraternity man, a musician, a poet, and a stenographer.⁵



Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (third from the left) as a schoolboy in Jonesboro's public school, c. 1888.



Charles Davis Frierson Sr. at age sixteen, when he enrolled in college.

Sophomore Class
1896-97



A class photograph from the 1896–97 Arkansas Industrial University yearbook. Charlotte Martin Gallaway is at the bottom left and Charles Davis Frierson Sr. at the top right. People did not smile in early photographs. One reason was technical, for early film had to be exposed much longer than does contemporary film. Mostly, however, people posing for portrait photographs wanted to be perceived as serious by posterity. People who smiled were thought to be silly, lewd, or drunk.

It was in the Literary Department at Arkansas Industrial University that Charles Frierson Sr. first met **Charlotte Martin Gallaway (1878–1968)**, a classmate who was voted “*prettiest young lady in school.*”

In 1897, after three years of college, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. dropped out and became a court stenographer for the Second Judicial Circuit in Jonesboro. Fourteen years later, in 1911, after becoming a chancery judge, he explained his decision in a slightly sardonic piece written for the *Kappa Alpha Journal*. The article concludes, “*Thus reads the thrilling story of me life.*”⁶

In early 1899 Charles Davis Frierson Sr. went to work as a stenographer in Memphis, Tennessee, but he returned to Jonesboro to be with his mother, Emma Gwynne Davis Frierson, during her illness that year. She died in August 1899, at age fifty-two, when Charles Frierson Sr. was only twenty-one years old.



Charles Davis Frierson Sr. and Charlotte Martin Gallaway Frierson in Jonesboro in May 1901, just a few weeks after their wedding on April 30, 1901.

In the fall of 1899, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. entered what he called “*the Law Department at the University of Arkansas*” in Little Rock. Today it is called the Bowen School of Law and is part of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The University of Arkansas Law School at Fayetteville was not founded until 1924. Charles completed the two-year course in one year and graduated with honors. He was admitted to the Arkansas Bar in 1900.

On April 30, 1901, at age twenty-three, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. married twenty-two-year-old Charlotte Martin Gallaway in Fayetteville and began to practice law with his thirty-year-old brother-in-law, Thomas Allen Hughes, in Jonesboro. After a couple of years, Allen Hughes was elected judge of the Second Judicial Circuit. Later, for about two years, Charles Frierson Sr. was a law partner in a practice that he shared with his older brother, James Gordon Frierson Jr. During the first year of their marriage, the newlyweds, Charles and Charlotte, lived in the Frierson House at 1112 South Main Street, along with Allen Hughes, Camille Frierson Hughes, and their two children. Also in the household were Charles Frierson Sr.’s twenty-nine-year-old brother, James Gordon Frierson Jr. and his great-aunt **Mary Lucretia Callison Whitsitt (1838–1910)**.

In 1902 Charles Davis Frierson Sr. and Charlotte Martin Gallaway Frierson built a new, classically styled home next door to the Frierson House. They lived at this home, at 115 East Cherry Avenue, for the next twenty-five years.



An architectural drawing of the front of the East Cherry Avenue house built by Charles Davis Frierson Sr. in 1902. The house no longer exists.

In 1907 Charles Davis Frierson Sr. was elected city attorney for Jonesboro, a position he held for four years. In that same year, his first child, Neville's father, **Charles Davis Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)**, was born. Charles Jr. would become city attorney in 1934 and serve in that position until 1938; his son Charles Davis Frierson III (b. 1932) would also be elected city attorney, serving from 1960 to 1964.



Charles Davis Frierson Sr. with his son, Charles Davis Frierson Jr., c. 1910. Is that a hat, a halo, or the moon? Neville says it is a hat.

In 1911 Charles Davis Frierson Sr. was elected to the newly created position of chancery judge of the Twelfth Chancery Circuit.* He held that position until February 1917, when he resigned to become a law partner with Judge Nathan F. Lamb (1861–1943).

In 1912 Charles Davis Frierson Sr.'s second child, **Margaret Frierson (1912–1990)**, was born. In 1912 or 1913, Charles Frierson Sr. founded the first northeastern Arkansas Boy Scout troop, about three years after the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. His Boy Scout leadership became one of his life's most defining accomplishments.⁷



Charles Davis Frierson Sr.
(age forty) during World
War I, 1918.

In March 1918, as a retired judge and business lawyer, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. took his first trip to the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. He wrote two letters describing his experiences.⁸ During World War I (1914–18), Charles Frierson Sr. wrote a strong endorsement of the United States' entry into the war. Written in late 1917 or early 1918, his paper was entitled "The Silver Linings of the War Cloud."⁹ Charles Frierson Sr., age forty at the time, also served as head of the local draft board. In September 1918, he waived all exemptions, refused all commissions, joined the army as a private, and entered the Infantry Officers Training School at Camp Pike in Little Rock. During his fifty days there, he wrote twenty-nine letters to his family.¹⁰

*State chancery courts were established in Arkansas in the early twentieth century to deal with matters of equity, such as domestic relations and the probate of estates. In contrast, state circuit courts dealt with matters of law, both civil and criminal. In 2001 the chancery courts were recombined into twenty-three Arkansas circuit courts.

Soon after World War I ended, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. bought his family's first automobile, a 1919 Chandler Dispatch that cost a little less than \$2,000. In September 1927, he bought a Packard, which cost him about \$3,000.¹¹ Earlier in 1927, he had also purchased the Frierson House, which was adjacent to his house at 115 East Cherry Avenue. He paid \$8,000 for it.



The Frierson House in July 1927, shortly after Charles Davis Frierson Sr. purchased it. On the front steps are Charles Davis Frierson Jr. (age twenty) and Margaret Frierson (age fourteen).

Charles Davis Frierson Sr. returned to his law partnership, Lamb, Frierson, and Sloan, after World War I. In August 1925, there was a friendly dissolution of the firm, which at that time was called Lamb and Frierson. After that Charles Frierson Sr. practiced alone, until he formed the partnership of Frierson and Frierson with his son, Charles Davis Frierson Jr., in 1931.

In April 1928, Charles Frierson Sr.'s secretary, Clara Browder (1894–1966), became the first woman ever elected to public office in Jonesboro. She was elected city clerk. Miss Browder worked for Charles Sr. and his son for most of her life. She compiled an extraordinary and highly important set of twelve scrapbooks, which hold documents, pictures, and newspaper clippings about Charles Sr. and his family over the period from 1899 to 1960.



Clara Browder (age thirty-four), Charles Davis Frierson Sr.'s private secretary, pictured in The Jonesboro Evening Sun on April 4, 1928, under the headline "Has Distinction of Being First Lady Ever Elected to Office in City."

In April 1929, Charles Frierson Sr. announced that he would erect a two-story office building (thirty by ninety feet) on Church Street in Jonesboro. The building, a modern, Art Deco creation, cost \$22,000. The cornerstone for the building was laid on September 15, 1929; the stock market crashed just six weeks later, on Black Tuesday, October 29, 1929. Charles Sr. moved into his second-floor offices in January 1930, and the offices were occupied with six tenants by February 1. Importantly, the offices were ready for Charles Sr.'s new partner, Charles Jr., who finished law school in 1931.

While Charles Frierson Sr. was a prominent lawyer for the rest of his life, one particular aspect of his law career stands out: he never charged widows for legal work. This was a tribute to his mother and mother-in-law, who had both become widows at age thirty-seven, yet bravely raised him and his wife.



The Art Deco-style office building erected by Charles Davis Frierson Sr. in late 1929. The building was razed in the early 1980s and replaced by a parking lot. In 1998 the cornerstone of the 1929 building was incorporated into a new branch bank building erected on the site.

After World War I, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. became deeply engaged in the political life of Jonesboro and northeastern Arkansas. For almost twenty-seven years, beginning in 1920, he was chairman of the Democratic Central Committee of Craighead County. During that time, he became known as a champion of clean elections and clean government in his city and county. In *The Jonesboro Sun* on August 3, 1946, at age sixty-eight, he was quoted as saying, “I’m ready to take off my shirt and clean up this county. If we have to do it with guns, by gosh that’s how we’ll do it.”

At age fifty-five, in 1932, Charles Frierson Sr. became vice president and a stockholder in a newly formed bank, the Mercantile Bank.¹² During the next fifty-three years, he, his son, Charles Jr., and his grandson Charles III would serve as presidents of the Mercantile Bank. Charles Sr. also accumulated real estate and several farm properties near Jonesboro.

Charles Frierson Sr. was a lifelong Democrat and deeply devoted to his contemporary Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882–1945). Neville was staying with her grandparents when the sudden death of President Roosevelt was announced on Thursday, April 12, 1945. She was eight years old and recalls that her grandfather was terribly distraught. In fact, it was the only time she ever saw him cry.

In her recollections, written years after her father’s death, Charles Frierson Sr.’s daughter, Margaret Frierson Cherry, revealed and explained, somewhat apologetically, why her father “was not particularly involved in the church.” He was a lapsed Methodist.¹³ In the family archives, there is a remarkable letter written in 1933 by Charles Sr. It is a scathing indictment of the Protestant ministers of that time and reveals much about his liberal thinking, wisdom, and character.¹⁴

The Mercantile Bank building at the corner of South Main Street and West Huntington Avenue in downtown Jonesboro was constructed as a bank building in 1890. The building was the home of the Mercantile Bank from 1932 to 1969. Neville’s grandfather, father, and brother served as president of the bank. Since 2005 the Mercantile Bank building has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.





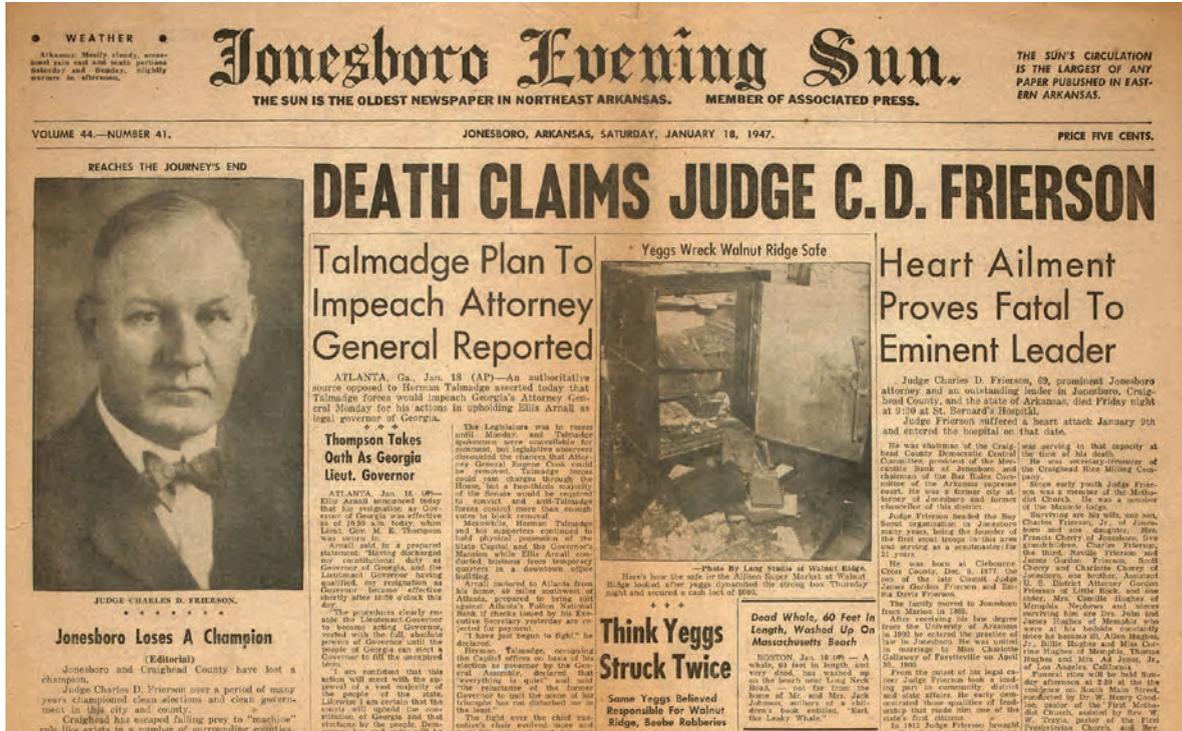
Charles Davis Frierson Sr., age forty-nine, with a slain deer in Jonesboro in 1927.

Throughout his life, Charles Davis Frierson Sr.'s recreational passion was hunting. For twenty-six years, he was an active member of the Five Lakes Outing Club at Horseshoe Lake in Arkansas, where he shot game birds and was an accomplished deer slayer.¹⁵ Horseshoe Lake is near the Mississippi River and thirty-three miles southwest of Memphis, Tennessee. In 1932, at age fifty-four, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. took the first of seven ambitious hunting trips to shoot big game in the West.¹⁶

Charles Davis Frierson Sr., at about age fifty-eight, in the mid-1930s in Arizona.



Recollections of Charles Davis Frierson Sr., written by his oldest grandson, Charles Davis Frierson III, describe him as a somewhat antisocial, forceful, and honorable man. Charles III also wrote that his grandfather was 6'3" tall. He was, however, recorded as 5'10½" when he was discharged from the Army in 1918.¹⁷



The front page of The Jonesboro Evening Sun on Saturday, January 18, 1947.

On January 9, 1947, just after returning from a hunting trip, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. had a major heart attack. He died eight days later, on Friday, January 17, at 9:30 p.m. at St. Bernard's Hospital in Jonesboro. He was sixty-nine years old. The local newspaper, *The Jonesboro Sun*, announced his death with a front-page headline, called him an "eminent leader," and wrote a special front-page editorial entitled "Jonesboro Loses a Champion."¹⁸

CHARLES DAVIS FRIERSON SR.'S LIFE

PAGES 40–49

1. GREAT-UNCLE GORDON FRIERSON, “ONE OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE OF MEN”

Neville’s great-uncle **James Gordon Frierson Jr. (1872–1951)** was a twin, born with his sister, **Camille Frierson (1872–1961)**, on November 18, 1872, in Forrest City, Arkansas, at the home of their grandmother **Eliza Murray Drake Davis (1826–1888)**.



Neville’s great-uncle James Gordon Frierson Jr., c. 1920.

Uncle Gordon, as he was known in the family, spent his youth in Cleburne, Cross County, Arkansas, and in nearby Marion, Crittenden County. In late 1883, at age eleven, he moved with his family to Jonesboro, Arkansas. Gordon Frierson attended his mother’s school and then the public schools in Jonesboro. He also went to the University of Arkansas (then called Arkansas Industrial University) but did not graduate.

As a young man, James Gordon Frierson Jr. became proficient in stenography and worked for a year or two as a secretary and stenographer in the offices of a Jonesboro lawyer. After that he developed a rather distinguished curriculum vitae:

- 1893–94

He served as an executive clerk in Little Rock, Arkansas, for Governor William Meade Fishback (1831–1903), governor of Arkansas from 1892 to 1895.

- 1895–96

He served as an executive clerk in Little Rock for Governor James Paul Clark (1854–1916), governor of Arkansas from 1895 to 1897.

- 1896

He graduated with honors from the University of Arkansas Law School, which was at that time in Little Rock, Arkansas. He then returned to Jonesboro to practice law.

- 1898

He enlisted on April 25, 1898, in Company C of the Second Arkansas Volunteer Infantry for service in the Spanish-American War. He achieved the rank of colonel on May 14, 1898, and was discharged on September 23, 1898. The Spanish-American War lasted for about 109 days, from April 25 to August 12, 1898. James Gordon Frierson Jr. served for 151 days.

- 1898–1903

He practiced law in Jonesboro. Sometime between 1901 and 1903, he was joined in his law practice by his younger brother, **Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)**.

- 1903–05

He served as police judge for the municipality of Jonesboro.

- 1905–06

He served in Washington, D.C., as the private secretary to Senator James Paul Clark, an Arkansas senator from 1903 to 1916.

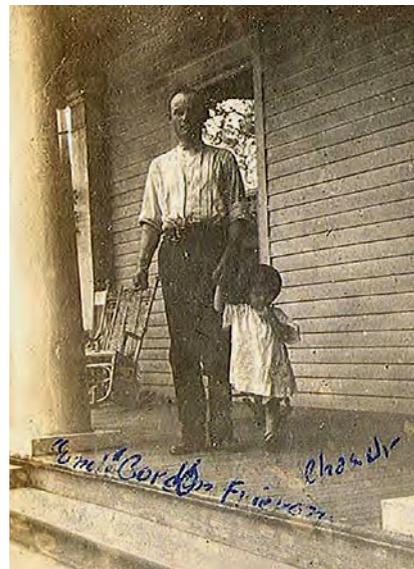
- 1906–07

He served in the Department of Civil Administration in the Republic of Panama. He was there during the early part of the ten-year period (1904–14) during which the Panama Canal was built.

- 1907–11

He practiced law in Memphis, Tennessee. In the 1910 census, he is listed as a member of the household of his brother-in-law, Thomas Allen Hughes (1870–1939), and his sister, Camille Frierson Hughes.

He returned on May 2, 1911, to Jonesboro, where he moved into the recently vacated office of his younger brother, Charles Davis Frierson Sr., who had just been named chancellor of the Twelfth Chancery Circuit. The office was in the Lutterloh building.



A 1909 photograph of James Gordon Frierson Jr. at age thirty with his two-year-old nephew, Charles Davis Frierson Jr.

- 1917–21

He served for two terms as mayor of the city of Jonesboro.

- 1921–34

He practiced law in Jonesboro. During this time, he also served as counsel and chief attorney for the Missouri Pacific Railroad.

- 1934–47

He served as Chief Deputy U. S. District Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas. He was recommended for this position by the Arkansas U. S. Senator Hattie Caraway (1878–1950), who served from 1931 to 1945. Senator Caraway was the first woman elected to a full term as a United States senator. James Gordon Frierson Jr.'s office was in the Federal Building in Little Rock.

- 1947–51

He retired at age seventy-four, on May 1, 1947, at which time he was ill. He lived in Little Rock.

James Gordon Frierson Jr. was a member of the Benevolent Order of Elks and the Knights of Pythias, two fraternal orders founded in the 1860s. He was also a Democrat and a member of the Presbyterian Church.

James Gordon Frierson Jr. married three times but had no children. On December 10, 1902, in Jonesboro, he married Sadie Glover Hudson (1885–), a seventeen-year-old from Helena, Arkansas. Gordon Frierson was thirty years old at the time of his first marriage. Family members simply said it was a short and unsuccessful marriage.

James Gordon Frierson Jr.'s second marriage occurred on March 14, 1912, when, at age thirty-nine, he married forty year-old Eugenia Pearl Clardy (1871–1934). They were happily married for twenty-two years. About Pearl, Camille Frierson Hughes wrote, *“She was a beautiful cultured girl. They were very happy. She was a distant cousin.”* **Margaret Frierson Cherry (1912–1990)** wrote, *“She was a charming woman who was a distant cousin. She came from St. Louis, and had been reared in a family of some wealth. I was very fond of both of them.”*



Eugenia Pearl Clardy Frierson, second wife and first cousin of James Gordon Frierson Jr.

Eugenia Pearl Clardy Frierson was not a “*distant cousin*”; in fact, she was James Gordon Frierson Jr.’s first cousin. Eugenia Pearl Clardy was the daughter of Gordon Frierson’s aunt **Eugenia Caroline Frierson Clardy (1844–1875)**. Pearl Clardy Frierson died of heart disease on Christmas Day, 1934. She was sixty-three years old, and Gordon Frierson was sixty-two years old. They had no children. They are buried together in Oaklawn Cemetery in Jonesboro.

In about 1941, James Gordon Frierson Jr. married his third wife, Clara Bell McKinney (1892–after 1956). She was the owner and operator of Clara Bell’s Coffee Shop in Little Rock. At the time of their marriage, Gordon Frierson was a sixty-eight-year-old widower and Clara Bell was a forty-nine-year-old Kentucky-born spinster who lived with her mother in Little Rock. Clara Bell reportedly took good care of Gordon Frierson in his declining years. He died at age seventy-eight, on October 16, 1951, in Little Rock.

Gordon Frierson, Former Jonesboro Mayor, Dies

*James Gordon Frierson Jr.’s obituary from
The Jonesboro Evening Sun.*

Former Jonesboro Mayor Gordon Frierson died Tuesday in a Little Rock Hospital. He had been a resident of Little Rock since 1934.

He was a former chief deputy United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas and a former Jonesboro municipal judge.



GORDON FRIERSON

Mr. Frierson was for years a prominent figure in state political circles. He served as secretary to the late James P. Clark during Clark’s term as Governor of Arkansas and later during Clark’s term as United States Senator from Arkansas.

For many years Mr. Frierson served as counsel for the Missouri-Pacific Railroad. He was a veteran of the Spanish-American war.

Mr. Frierson would have been 79 years old Nov. 18. He had been in ill health for two years, and been confined to his room for the past year. His last visit to Jonesboro was one year ago.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Clara Bell McKinney Frierson; and his twin sister, Mrs. Camille Hughes of Memphis. He was the brother of the late Chancellor Charles D. Frierson of Jonesboro.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro.

Funeral services for Mr. Frierson are being held in Little Rock today. Services will be held in Jonesboro Thursday at 3 o’clock at the home of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Charles D. Frierson, 1112 South Main Street.

Interment will be in Oaklawn Cemetery. Pallbearers for Mr. Frierson will be his nephews, Charles D. Frierson, Jr., and Judge Francis Cherry of Jonesboro; and Dr. James Hughes, Dr. John Hughes, Allen Hughes, and Bill Hughes, all of Memphis.

Late in his life, James Gordon Frierson Jr. wrote in longhand a recollection of his early life before coming to Jonesboro in the fall of 1883. He recalled an aspect of life in the Arkansas Delta at that time:

On a day in the spring of 1883, Papa, Mama, and the three children and our negro girl, Annie Nash, took a hack [nineteenth-century passenger wagon] for Mound City [about 4 miles from Marion], our dog "watch" coming along on his own power.

We had seen Mound City before, having gone down there on two hanging days in order to get out of Marion. Hangings were in public, from scaffolds, and enormous crowds attended, nine tenths of them negroes.

James Gordon Frierson Jr. also recalled his strongest impression upon his arrival as an eleven-year-old in Jonesboro in late 1883: *"I couldn't believe there were so many white people in the world. At that time I suppose there were 20 negroes to one white in Crittenden County, and the white boys and girls could be counted on your fingers. Here in Jonesboro, everywhere there was a white boy."*

James Gordon Frierson Jr.'s twin sister, Camille Frierson Hughes, was fortunate to spend more than sixty birthdays with her brother. Upon his death, she published the following remembrance of him in a local newspaper:

Mr. [James Gordon] Frierson was a lawyer of great ability, thoroughly versed in the law, possessed a quick penetrating mind, prepared his cases analytically, and was a sound and safe advisor to any client who sought counsel [sic].

He was a man of the highest personal and professional integrity and advised [revealed] all hypocrisy wherever he found them, not only in the legal profession but in other avocations of life.

He was a man of very keen sense of humor and possessed a natural wit, which, along with his manly and courageous character, made him one of the most attractive of men.

2. NEVILLE'S GREAT-AUNT CAMILLE

Camille Frierson (1872–1961) was the older sister of Neville's paternal grandfather, **Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)**. Camille was also the twin sister of **James Gordon Frierson Jr. (1872–1951)**.



Camille Frierson Hughes (age forty-seven) with Neville's grandfather Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (age forty-two) in June 1920.

In an extensive collection of memories, written in about 1959, Camille Frierson Hughes recalled that she and her brother James Gordon Frierson Jr. were born in the home of her maternal grandparents, **Dr. Newlin Addison Davis (1821–1876)** and **Eliza Murray Drake (1826–1888)**, in Forrest City, Arkansas. Camille's mother, **Emma Gwynne Davis (1847–1899)**, had traveled about twenty-five miles from nearby Cleburne, Arkansas, for the delivery of her children. The twins were born on November 18, 1872.

Camille Frierson was eleven years old when her father died, and thus she was raised by her mother, who opened a school in the family home in order to educate and support her children. Of her early years, Camille later wrote:

I had a fine childhood and girlhood, thanks to my mother. As a young lady, I had a good time. I was considered quite good-looking and had many friends, and lots of beaux. I was an organist for our Methodist Church choir. . . and also taught a class of 15-16 years old girls in our Sunday School. . . . I taught second grade in Jonesboro Grammar for two terms.



Camille Frierson with her mother, Emma Gwynne Davis Frierson, in the late 1890s.

Recollecting her first memories of her husband, Thomas Allen Hughes Sr. (1870–1939),* who was always called by his middle name, Allen, Camille Frierson Hughes wrote:

*For a year or two, [I] was secretary and stenographer in a law office. . . . While I was [there] a very handsome, tall, dark, young, lawyer who had just graduated with the highest honors (Founder's Medal,** etc.) from Vanderbilt Law School, . . . walked in, introduced by Judge W. H. Cate [1839–1899] as a new member of his firm. I had met this young man the night before at a jolly party!*



Camille Frierson, c. 1893.

*Thomas Allen Hughes Sr., born in Shelby County, Tennessee, was the son of Thomas Newton Hughes (1832–1904) and Mary Pricilla Gilliam (1845–1914), who lived in both Memphis and Danceyville, Tennessee, which is about fifty miles northeast of Memphis. Thomas Newton Hughes was a Confederate captain who fought with General Nathan Bedford Forrest's (1821–1877) cavalry in the Civil War.

**The Founder's Medal is an award given to the top graduating student in each of Vanderbilt's undergraduate and professional schools each year. Allen Hughes was awarded the Founder's Medal in the Law Department at Vanderbilt during commencement exercises on Wednesday, June 15, 1892. These medals have been awarded every year since 1877, the year they were created with a special endowment made by Cornelius Vanderbilt (1794–1877).

Camille Frierson (age twenty-three) and Allen Hughes (age twenty-six) married on March 19, 1896, at the Frierson House in Jonesboro, in the presence of 130 kinfolk and friends. For the next twelve years, they lived at the house where they had married.

At the young age of thirty-two, in 1902, Allen Hughes was elected circuit judge of the Second Judicial District, a position in which he served until 1906. He is, thus, one of five members of the Frierson family and family spouses to serve as a circuit or chancery judge in Arkansas between 1882 and 1948.

In 1908 Judge Allen Hughes and his family moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where in 1909 they built a home at 1417 Harbert Avenue in midtown Memphis, just east of downtown. Camille Frierson Hughes lived in that house for over fifty years. The Hughes home in Memphis is now over one hundred years old.

Allen and Camille Frierson Hughes had eight children between 1896 and 1912. The first five were born in Jonesboro, and the last three in Memphis. Their second child, Gordon Frierson Hughes (1899–1904), died at age four and one-half of diphtheria.



A c. 1950s photograph of the Hughes family home at 1417 Harbert Avenue in midtown Memphis, Tennessee. The man in front of the house is possibly Thomas Whitsett Hughes.



A c. 2012 photograph of the Hughes family home. The house is 4,500 square feet and sold for \$615,000 in 2012.



Hughes family portrait, c. 1915: (standing, left to right) Camille Hughes, Thomas Allen Hughes Jr., and Thomas Whitsett Hughes; (seated, left to right) William Frierson Hughes, Judge Thomas Allen Hughes Sr., Corinne Frierson Hughes, Camille Frierson Hughes, James Gilliam Hughes, and John Davis Hughes.

In about 1959, Camille Frierson Hughes recalled her husband's death twenty years earlier, in 1939:

My husband, Allen Hughes, retired from his law practice on account of ill health about 5 years before his death. He was not confined to his bed. He retained his mental faculties until the end of his life. He died of a sudden heart attack on February 24, 1939. He is buried at Elmwood Cemetery. The boys and girls all have nice homes of their own. Corinne and I still live at dear old 1417 Harbert.

Allen Hughes died at age sixty-eight. Camille Frierson Hughes lived for twenty-two more years and reigned as the family's matriarch. It was during her widowhood that most of her fourteen grandchildren, who called her "Gam," were born and grew up. Camille died at age eighty-nine, on December 9, 1961. She was buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis with her husband.

In 1988 Neville's brother Charles Davis Frierson III (b. 1932) wrote a letter to Corinne Hughes (1912–2000), Camille Frierson Hughes's daughter. The letter included a paragraph about his great-aunt:

I recall Aunt Camille as a Grand Lady (yes, it deserves the capital letters), ruler of a large domain from her residence on Harbert.

Thinking back, she seemed almost a modern, but not too modern Queen Victoria, as a dominant figure. A very strong image.

Her “troops” responded when summoned, in spite of being strong willed individuals in their own right.

She seemed to represent an era—a way of life—that was something of a golden age. Although I was never too comfortable in these surroundings, I certainly felt a loss of something when the era passed.



Camille Frierson Hughes, called a “Grand Lady” by her grandnephew Charles Davis Frierson III. This photograph is probably from the 1920s.

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3. THE HUGHES COUSINS

Neville's father, **Charles Davis Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)**, had eight first cousins, the children of his father's sister, **Camille Frierson Hughes (1872–1961)**.

Thomas Allen Hughes Jr. in 1919, at age twenty-three. Written on the picture frame are the words "To Aunt Charlie [Charlotte Martin Gallaway Frierson]."



- **THOMAS ALLEN HUGHES JR. (1896–1979)**, called Allen, was born in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and moved to Memphis, Tennessee, as a teenager. He attended Columbia Military Academy and Vanderbilt University, where he registered for the World War I (1914–18) draft in June 1918. In 1929 Allen Hughes Jr. married Julia Avery Taylor (1905–1998) in Memphis, where he worked as a lawyer throughout his career. Allen died at age eighty-two, in 1979. He and his wife, Julia, are buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis. The couple had no children.



Thomas Allen Hughes Jr., c. 1930.



Julia Avery Taylor Hughes, c. 1930.

- **GORDON FRIERSON HUGHES (1899–1904)** was born on July 27, 1899, and died on February 26, 1904, in Jonesboro. His mother said, "*Gordon died of diphtheria at the age of 4 years.*"

*Thomas Whitsett Hughes
in on his wedding day,
June 16, 1934, at age
thirty-two.*



*Thomas Whitsett
Hughes in the mid-
twentieth century.*

• **THOMAS WHITSETT HUGHES (1902–1989)** was born in Jonesboro on June 5, 1902. He was always called Thomas and was surely named for Dr. Thomas Coleman Slaughter Whitsitt (1828–1887), whose widow, **Mary Lucretia Callison Whitsitt (1838–1910)**, was his great-great-aunt. Aunt Mary Whitsitt was living with the Hughes family at the Frierson House in Jonesboro in 1902, when Thomas Hughes was born. We do not know when or why Thomas Hughes spelled his middle name Whitsett with an ‘e.’

Like his older brother, Thomas Hughes attended Vanderbilt University and received his law degree there. He returned to practice law in Memphis. In the 1930 census, he is enumerated as a twenty-seven-year-old attorney living with his parents and siblings in Memphis. On October 2, 1931, Thomas Hughes, at age twenty-nine, was the best man at the wedding of Neville’s parents, **Charles Davis Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)** and **Margaret Alice Purifoy (1908–1973)**.

In 1932 Thomas Hughes moved to Los Angeles, where in 1934 he married Mary Elizabeth “Betty” Storer (1909–2006), born in Minnesota on August 7, 1909. In 1940 Thomas and Betty Storer Hughes are enumerated in the household of her parents in Los Angeles. They later lived on Wigtown Road in Cheviot Hills, a neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Thomas and Betty Storer Hughes had five children, including two sets of fraternal twins. Throughout his career, Thomas Hughes worked as an attorney. Betty Storer Hughes was the personnel director at The Broadway, a Los Angeles–based department store that existed from 1896 to 1996.

Later in life, Thomas Hughes resided in an apartment in Memphis, where his sisters, Camille Hughes Jones (1905–1988) and Corinne Frierson Hughes (1912–2000), lived. He died in Memphis on September 28, 1989, at age eighty-seven, and is buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis. Betty Storer Hughes died in December 2006 in San Diego, California, at the age of ninety-seven.



Camille Hughes in the 1920s.

- CAMILLE HUGHES (1905–1988) was born in Jonesboro on March 1, 1905, and moved to Memphis with her family as an infant. Camille attended Miss Hutchinson’s School for Girls and the Theodore Bohlman School of Music, both in Memphis.

On June 21, 1927, at age twenty-two, Camille Hughes married Addison Benton Jones Jr. (1902–1974), who was from Jonesboro. Charles Davis Frierson Jr. was a groomsman at her wedding. Six months after their wedding, they moved from Jonesboro to Los Angeles, California. Camille and Addison Jones were living in Glendale (just north of Los Angeles) in 1930, and his occupation is recorded as a proprietor in the life insurance business at that time. In 1940 he is listed as a sales manager for a building mall in Los Angeles. From at least 1955 until Addison Benton Jones’s death at age seventy-two, in 1974, he and Camille lived in Pasadena, California. They had no children.

Sometime after her husband died, Camille Hughes Jones returned to Memphis and resided near her siblings Thomas Whitsett Hughes and Corinne Frierson Hughes. Camille passed away on February 7, 1988, at age eighty-two. She is buried in Elmwood Cemetery along with her parents and her siblings, Thomas Whitsett Hughes and Corinne Frierson Hughes.



William Frierson Hughes, c. 1930.

• WILLIAM “BILL” FRIERSON HUGHES (1907–1995) was the fifth and last of the Hughes children born in Jonesboro. He was born on December 17, 1907, and lived for most of his life in Memphis. He graduated from Memphis Central High School and went to college at Southwestern at Memphis (now known as Rhodes College), a small liberal arts college that had moved to Memphis in 1925 from Clarksville, Tennessee. While at Southwestern, he was the captain of the basketball and tennis teams. For ten years, Bill Hughes was the Memphis city champion in tennis, and at one time, he was the Tennessee state champion.

William Frierson Hughes of Memphis is listed as one of the ushers who “*marched to the altar*” at the wedding of Neville’s parents in Jonesboro in October 1931. He was about eleven months younger than Charles Davis Frierson Jr., but they were both born in 1907.

William Frierson Hughes married Elizabeth Kirtly Leavell (1915–2005), who was from Memphis. They had three children. For many years, he was a general agent for the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company.



Elizabeth Kirtly Leavell and William Frierson Hughes, c. 1980.

William “Bill” Frierson Hughes died of heart failure at age eighty-seven in Memphis on October 13, 1995. His wife, Elizabeth Kirtly Leavell Hughes, died almost ten years later, at age ninety, on May 9, 2005. They are both buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis.



James Gilliam Hughes (left) and John Davis Hughes (right).



Identical twin brothers James Gilliam Hughes (left) and John Davis Hughes (right). The Hughes twins were so identical that all six of their children called them Daddy and Uncle Daddy throughout their lives.

• JOHN “JOHNNY” DAVIS HUGHES (1910–1999) was one of the identical twin boys born to the Hughes family on September 11, 1910, in Memphis. Both boys attended Central High School and went to Southwestern at Memphis, where they excelled, alternately heading the campus newspaper and the football team. They graduated from college in 1932. In 1935 they both graduated from the Medical School of the University of Tennessee in Memphis and were the top two students in their graduating class. That same year, Johnny Hughes married Nell Barker Jones (1910–1992), a third-generation Memphian and a graduate of Southwestern at Memphis. They had two children.

During World War II (1939–45), John Davis Hughes served in the United States Army Medical Corps in North Africa and Italy. He achieved the rank of colonel by the end of the war. Dr. Johnny Hughes was a doctor of internal medicine and founded the Memphis Clinic for Internal Medicine. He and his twin brother, Dr. James “Jimmy” Gilliam Hughes, remained very close throughout their lives.

Nell Barker Jones Hughes was a painter, sculptor, and one of the founders of the Memphis Symphony. She died after a long illness in 1992, at age eighty-two. Johnny Hughes died in Memphis at age eighty-nine, on November 9, 1999, just two months and four days after the death of his twin brother. Dr. John Davis and Nell Barker Hughes are both buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis.



Dr. James Gilliam Hughes at age seventy-eight and his wife, Jane Barker Hughes, at age seventy-eight, April 15, 1989.

- JAMES “JIMMY” GILLIAM HUGHES (1910–1999) was the identical twin of John Davis Hughes. Jimmy Hughes focused his medical career on pediatrics and became an international figure in that field of medicine. On March 1, 1935, Jimmy Hughes married Jane Barker (1911–2008), who was born on March 28, 1911. She was the daughter of a Memphis judge. They had four children.

During World War II, Dr. James Gilliam Hughes served as the commanding officer of the 330th General Hospital in Italy and Africa. He was awarded two Legions of Merit and attained the rank of brigadier general during his military career.

Dr. James Gilliam Hughes was the chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Memphis. He was a major force in the founding of Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital in Memphis, and he was instrumental in bringing St. Jude’s Children Research Hospital to Memphis. He wrote the first child-abuse laws in Tennessee. Dr. James G. Hughes additionally wrote *Synopsis of Pediatrics*, the standard pediatric textbook of his time. It was translated into twenty-six languages. He spoke five languages himself, lectured widely, and advised both the World Health Organization and the Rockefeller Foundation on pediatrics. He was president of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Jimmy Hughes died of heart failure on September 5, 1999, just six days before his eighty-ninth birthday. His wife, Jane Barker Hughes, who was a well-known artist and prominent civic leader, died at age ninety-seven, on October 12, 2008, after a long illness. They are both interred in Elmwood Cemetery.



*Corinne Frierson Hughes in the mid-twentieth century.
The inscription on the photograph reads, "Love to Aunt
Charlie [Charlotte Martin Gallaway Frierson]—Corinne."*

- CORINNE FRIERSON HUGHES (1912–2000) was the youngest of the eight Hughes children and was born in Memphis on November 4, 1912. She lived in Memphis throughout her life. Like her older brothers, Corinne attended Southwestern at Memphis. Called Aunt Rennie by the family, she never married.

Corinne Frierson Hughes was a lifelong poet. In fact, more than seven hundred of her poems were published in *The Commercial Appeal*, Memphis's major newspaper. She was also a very active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), an organization that requires documented proof of an ancestor who fought in the American Revolutionary War (1775–83). Corinne used her third great-grandfather **Captain William Frierson Jr. (1733–1803)** to qualify for membership in the DAR.

Corinne Frierson Hughes lived with her mother for much of her life. She later had an apartment in Memphis next door to her sister, Camille Hughes Jones, and near her brother Thomas Whitsett Hughes. Corinne died of respiratory failure at a nursing care facility in Memphis at age eighty-seven, on February 15, 2000. She is buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis.



A 1920 photograph of Charles Davis Frierson Sr. with his son and three nephews: (left to right) Charles Davis Frierson Jr., age thirteen; James Gilliam Hughes, age nine; Charles Davis Frierson Sr., age forty-two; John Davis Hughes, age nine; and William Frierson Hughes, age twelve.

This photograph dates from the early 1930s and depicts the six male members of the Hughes family: (back row, left to right) James Gilliam Hughes, William Frierson Hughes, and John Davis Hughes; (front row, left to right) Thomas Whitsett Hughes, Judge Thomas Allen Hughes Sr., and Thomas Allen Hughes Jr. Interestingly, they were said to be the largest family of Kappa Sigmas at that time. Kappa Sigma is a major collegiate social fraternity, founded at the University of Virginia in 1869. Neville's father, Charles Davis Frierson Jr., was also a Kappa Sigma.



The Hughes brothers at Bear Creek Lake, near Marianna, Arkansas, in the 1970s: (left to right) James Gilliam Hughes, John Davis Hughes, William Frierson Hughes, Thomas Allen Hughes Jr., and Thomas Whitsett Hughes. They called themselves the Varmints.

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4. THE FOURTEEN HUGHES GRANDCHILDREN, NEVILLE'S SECOND COUSINS

CHILDREN OF THOMAS WHITSETT HUGHES (1902–1989) AND
MARY ELIZABETH “BETTY” STORER (1909–2006)



Twin brothers Russell Storer Hughes and Gordon Frierson Hughes, age forty-three (back row); Katherine Elizabeth Hughes, age forty-four (center); and twin sisters Corinne Charlotte Hughes and Mary Margaret Hughes, age thirty-six (front row).

- KATHERINE “KATHY” ELIZABETH HUGHES (1936–2013) married William “Bill” Frank Scheufler (1928–2008) on September 9, 1962. In 1970 they were living in San Diego, California. They had no children. Bill died at age eighty near San Diego, and Kathy died at age seventy-six.
- GORDON FRIERSON HUGHES (b. 1937) and his fraternal twin brother, Russell Storer Hughes, were born on September 9, 1937. In 1962 Gordon Hughes married Patricia Marie Sullivan, who is deceased. They had two children. Gordon Hughes earned a doctorate from Cal Tech in 1963. On December 11, 1982, he married his second wife, Shirley Gordon (b. 1928). Gordon Hughes worked in Silicon Valley and was a research scientist at the University of California, San Diego. He is retired and lives in San Diego with his second wife, Shirley.
- RUSSELL STORER HUGHES (1937–2011) is the fraternal twin of Gordon Frierson Hughes. He was married in about 1966 to Virginia “Gee Gee” Willis Day Hall (1937–1999). Russell Storer and Gee Gee had two children. She died at age sixty-two in North Hills, an area of Los Angeles, California. Russell Storer Hughes died at age seventy-three, also in North Hills.

- CORINNE “RENNIE” CHARLOTTE HUGHES (b. 1944) and her fraternal twin, Mary Margaret Hughes, were born on December 9, 1944. Rennie married Michael “Mickey” Adams on January 3, 1971. They had no children. Mickey is deceased and Rennie lives nears Seattle.
- MARY MARGARET “MAGGIE” HUGHES (b. 1944), the fraternal twin of Rennie Hughes, married Phillip R. Stalcup (b. 1940) on June 20, 1964. They have two children and live near Seattle.

CHILDREN OF WILLIAM FRIERSON HUGHES (1907–1995) AND ELIZABETH KIRTLY LEAVELL (1915–2005)

- CAMILLE HUGHES (b. 1940) married Edward Bennett “Eb” LeMaster II (b. 1938), whose family has been in the real-estate business in Memphis for over one hundred years. Eb LeMaster’s sister, Elizabeth “Beth” LeMaster Simpson (b. 1936), was a classmate and good friend of Neville’s and mine at Southwestern at Memphis, where we attended college from 1954 to 1958. Camille and Eb have two children.
- WILLIAM “BILL” FRIERSON HUGHES JR. (1943–2013) married Mary Katherine “Kathy” Weems (b. 1944) in 1968. They had two children. Bill was the executive managing director of Morgan Keegan, a Memphis-based financial services firm. Like his father, Bill was a champion tennis player and sportsman who loved the out of doors. He was also quite engaged in the social and civic life of Memphis. Bill Frierson Hughes died of cancer at age seventy, on December 4, 2013, in Memphis.
- ELIZABETH “LIBBY” LEAVELL HUGHES (b. 1955) married Timothy O’Connor (b. 1954) in 1996. Tim O’Connor had two sons by a previous marriage. Libby and Tim O’Connor live in St. Louis, Missouri.



Libby Hughes O'Connor at left and Camille Hughes LeMaster at right.



William Frierson Hughes Jr.

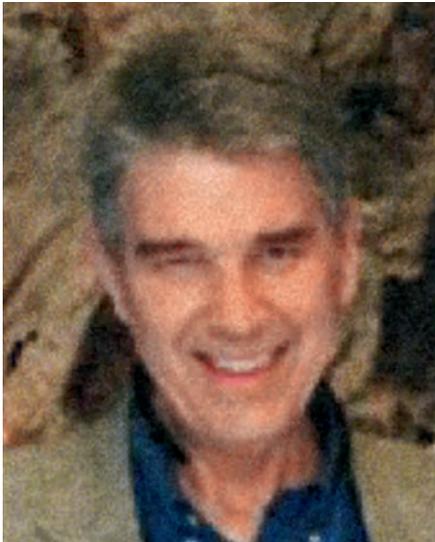
**CHILDREN OF JAMES GILLIAM HUGHES (1910–1999)
AND JANE BARKER (1911–2008)**



Anne Louise Hughes, Jane Caroline Hughes, Allen Holt Hughes, and Sarah Elizabeth Hughes at one of their six art shows in Nashville in 2015.

- ALLEN HOLT HUGHES (b. 1939) married Marily Davis (b. 1939) in 1961; they have two children. Allen Hughes and Marily Davis were students at Southwestern at Memphis when Neville and I were there, between 1954 and 1958. Allen Hughes is a highly regarded plastic surgeon in Memphis and an artist who specializes in wildlife paintings and carvings.
- JANE CAROLINE HUGHES (b. 1942) married Dr. Daniel Russell Hightower (b. 1939) in 1963; they had two daughters. She married her second husband, George William “Bill” Coble II (b. 1932), in 1986. He has three children from a previous marriage. They live on the Cumberland River in Nashville, Tennessee, where they are both active in the community. Bill is an environmental and business leader, and Jane Hughes Coble is a well-known artist.
- SARAH ELIZABETH “SALLY” HUGHES (b. 1946) married Charles Donovan “CD” Smith III (b. 1942) in 1966; they have four children. CD Smith is a pediatric surgeon, and he and Sally live in Charleston, South Carolina. She is an artist who paints impressionist landscapes.
- ANNE LOUISE HUGHES (b. 1954) married Robert Peel Sayle Jr. (b. 1948) in 1976. They have three children and live in Lake Comorant, Mississippi. Robert Sayle Jr. has run his family’s Howard Plantation for many years. Anne Hughes Sayle is an artist who creates oil and watercolor paintings, pottery, and fabric wall hangings. She is also a longtime art teacher.

**CHILDREN OF JOHN DAVIS HUGHES (1910–1999)
AND NELL BARKER JONES (1910–1992)**



John J. Hughes at around age seventy in May 2016.



Nancy Barker Hughes Coe.

- **JOHN JONES HUGHES** (b. 1947) married Claire Ellen McCaskill (b. 1948) in 1968. He is a biblical scholar. In the mid-1980s, he published a formative book entitled *Bits, Bytes, & Biblical Studies: A Resource Guide to the Use of Computers in Biblical and Classical Studies*. Since that time, he has worked in the publishing industry, designing and developing Bible software and managing large academic projects for Christian publications. John and Claire Hughes have three sons and nine grandchildren, and since 1982 they have lived in Whitefish, Montana, where John is an ardent outdoorsman, who engages in hunting, fishing, skiing, biking, hiking, camping, and rafting.
- **NANCY BARKER HUGHES** (b. 1950) married Charles “Chuck” Robert Coe. They have two children and live in Memphis. Nancy Hughes Coe is an investment advisor and principal of Dominion Partners Wealth Management. She is also an endurance athlete and an accomplished painter.

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5. CHARLES DAVIS FRIERSON SR.: A CORPS CADET, FRATERNITY MAN, MUSICIAN, POET, AND STENOGRAPHER

For three years, from 1894 to 1897, **Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)** attended college at Arkansas Industrial University in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He was a student in the Literary Department and was between the ages of sixteen and nineteen.

Arkansas Industrial University, a land-grant university,* opened to students in 1872. Its name was changed to the University of Arkansas in 1899. Coincidentally, the school's first football team was fielded in 1894, the year Charles Davis Frierson Sr. entered the university. The team was not called the Razorbacks until 1910, however.

Charles Davis Frierson Sr.'s sister, **Camille Frierson (1872–1961)**, wrote about him, "*In college, he was especially interested in military activities, joined the Kappa Alpha Fraternity, led student yells, and wrote poetry.*" Indeed, at the university, he joined the Corps of Cadets, a student military organization that conducted military exercises and performed on many formal occasions. The Cadet Corps Band, founded in 1874, was also an important part of the organization's activities.



Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (front row, second from the left) with members of the Corps of Cadets at Arkansas Industrial University, c. 1895. Charles and several others are wearing their Corps of Cadets uniforms. Two of the cadets are pictured with their musical instruments. Two, including Charles, have their rifles.

*A land-grant university is one established by an 1862 United States law that authorized states to sell federal lands and use the proceeds to establish colleges that would provide education in agriculture, engineering, and military training, as well as traditional arts and sciences.

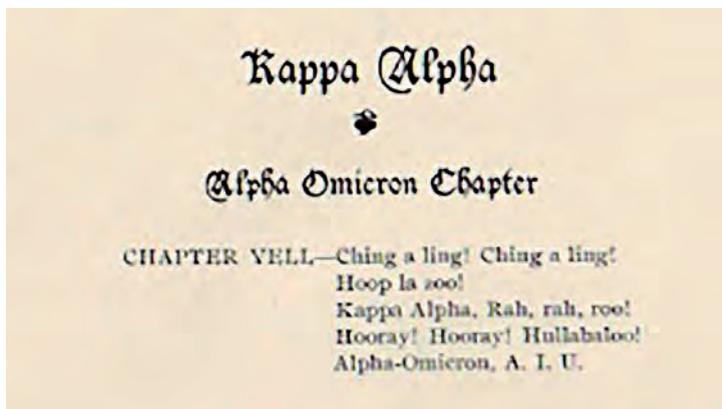
Charles Davis Frierson Sr. was a founding member of the Alpha Omicron chapter of the Kappa Alpha Order at the university, and he remained enthusiastic about his fraternity throughout his life.



Charles Davis Frierson Sr. as a Kappa Alpha in the 1897 yearbook.



Kappa Alpha badge.



Kappa Alpha chapter yell.

Kappa Alpha Order (KA) is a men's social fraternity founded at Washington University (now Washington and Lee University) in Lexington, Virginia, in 1865. KA was chartered at the University of Arkansas on April 27, 1895. Incidentally, I was a member of the KA Order at Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College) during my college days, from 1954 to 1958. As Neville was a Chi Omega, we belong to the same Greek societies as did Neville's paternal grandparents.

Charles Davis Frierson Sr. was also a member of the Mandolin, Banjo, and Glee Club at the university. He was a singer.



The Mandolin, Banjo, and Glee Club at the University of Arkansas in 1896–97. Charles Davis Frierson Sr. is third from the right on the top row.

In the 1897 yearbook, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. is listed as the class poet. The yearbook also notes that Charles was awarded the prize for the best poem, “Nox Incubat Alma.”* The entire poem is published in the yearbook. Its opening lines are:

*The beaming sun, now slowly descending in the western sky,
Casts one last lingering smile of love upon the earth,
And gazing eastward o'er his long day's course on high,
Contentedly upon his couch doth lie
To seek repose.*

*The earth, that gay coquette, with dimpling mirth
Returns the sun's soft smile with one more sweet, and all the hills
And all the plains and forests now are bathed in one great glow
Of golden radiance.*

Near the conclusion of the yearbook, a review of the year includes these words about Charles Davis Frierson Sr.: “Mr. Frierson was next elected poet laureate, but being taken by surprise, and having left his portfolio at home, he was unable to give an impromptu exhibition of his genius.”

*“Nox Incubat Alma” is a Latin phrase that means, as best I can tell, “Night rests the soul.”

A Song of Arkansas.

[The following poem was composed by Chas. D. Frierson, when he was a student in the State University. It has never been published before, but was recited by Mrs. Frierson on Arkansas Day of the Twentieth Century club, and by that means came into the hands of the printer. This poem is entitled to rank as a classic:]

A song of Arkansas!

Of her grand old river, flowing,
Curving, winding, onward going
From the bleak plains of the West;
Through the sand banks, ever growing,
Till it casts itself in rapture on the Mississippi's
breast.

A song of Arkansas!

Of her forests wild and wide,
Where the deer and turkey bide;
In the brake the hoot-owl dreams,
Through the ooze the serpents glide,
And the black bass leaps and splashes in the
darkley flowing streams.

A song of Arkansas!

Of her meadows, orchards, trees,
Swaying in the balmy breeze;
Of her cotton fields, snow-white,
Rolling broad like foam-capped seas,
'Neath the soft and witching glamour of the
Southern moon so bright.

The first three stanzas of a poem written by Charles Davis Frierson Sr. during his college days. The poem was published in the local newspaper some years later.

Another poem written by Charles Davis Frierson Sr. during his college days was published some years later. The poem, entitled "Song of Arkansas," beautifully combines his poetic skills and his love of nature.

While at the University of Arkansas, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. became very accomplished as a stenographer. He used shorthand to transcribe dictation or court proceedings. A new system of shorthand was devised in 1888 by John Robert Gregg (1867–1948), an Irishman who moved to Chicago in 1893 and published a highly successful book called *Gregg Shorthand*. Charles also became proficient with a typewriter, a tool that was experiencing widespread use in the 1890s. During his time at the university, he became the secretary to John Lee Buchanan (1831–1922), who was president of the University of Arkansas from 1894 until 1902.

After three years at the University of Arkansas, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. dropped out of college and went to work as a stenographer for the 2nd Judicial Circuit in Jonesboro, Arkansas. This was the court in which his father, **James Gordon Frierson (1837–1884)**, had been the judge until his death in 1884. I suspect that Charles dropped out of school because he already had marketable skills as a stenographer and needed the money. He also may have been bored with college. Whatever the reason, he did not receive an undergraduate degree.

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6. “THE THRILLING STORY OF ME LIFE” BY CHARLES DAVIS FRIERSON SR.

In 1911 **Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)** gave an autobiographical account of his career from 1894 until 1911, when he became the chancellor of the Twelfth Circuit in northeastern Arkansas. The account appeared in a feature article in the *Kappa Alpha Journal*, and it reveals his clever writing style.

CHARLES D. FRIERSON
ARKANSAS JURIST GIVES THRILLING ACCOUNT OF BRIEF,
IF SOMEWHAT PICTURESQUE CAREER

ADORNING THE BENCH IS A SITUATION NOT COVETED BY A BALL PLAYER, BUT IN LEGAL CIRCLES IT IS A HIGH HONOR, ESPECIALLY WHEN ATTAINED BY A YOUNG MAN HAVING NOT YET REACHED THE THIRTY-FIVE-YEAR MARK. SUCH IS THE LOFTY LEGAL ESTATE IN WHICH CHARLES D. FRIERSON, ALPHA OMICRON, NOW FINDS HIMSELF AS THE RESULT OF MERIT RECOGNIZED BY THE GOVERNOR OF ARKANSAS, WHO HAS NAMED HIM AS THE CHANCELLOR OF THE NEW TWELFTH CHANCERY CIRCUIT OF THAT GRAND OLD COMMONWEALTH. FRATER, OR “JEDGE,” FRIERSON, WHO HAS GONE UP THE LADDER AT THE JONESBORO BAR, WHERE HE HAS WORKED HARD FOR A DECADE FOR AN HONORABLE CAREER AT THE BAR AND IN PUBLIC LIFE. . . . AS TO HIS IMMEDIATE AND PURELY PERSONAL CAREER HE HAS THE FOLLOWING TO OBSERVE WHICH APPEARS JUST AS HE CHRONICLED IT FOR THE EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL:

I went to the University of Arkansas (Literary Department) in the latter part of 1894, but did not complete the course, quitting in 1897 to take the position of court stenographer of the Second Judicial District.

In the University I was chiefly noted for my skill in evading chapel and class-work, my distinct aversion to mathematics, Latin, physics, and other studies, and a raucous yell that made me conspicuous among the bystanders at a football game.

With the aid of a complete rhyming dictionary, I also contributed much very beautiful poetry to the college magazines, which was never as highly valued by my fellow students as I thought it should be. Thus was my dearest ambition thwarted, for if sufficiently encouraged I would have written an Epic or something. . . .



Charles Davis Frierson Sr. at about age thirty-three, c. 1911.

Holding the position of court stenographer for about a year, I then went to Memphis and held a position as stenographer there for nearly a year.

Afterwards, in 1900, I went to the Law Department of the University of Arkansas, where I took the two years course in one year, with the honors, and after graduation began the practice forthwith.

Meantime, I had acquired a sweetheart, and we got married April 30, 1901. Her name was Charlotte Gallaway, and she is a member of Chi Omega. We have one fine boy four years old, Charles Davis Frierson, Junior.

I have been practicing alone for about ten years, confining myself wholly to civil practice for the larger part of the time, particularly corporation and real estate law.

In 1907 I was elected city attorney as one of the 'reform' administration, and held the office two terms, four years. On the creation of the Twelfth Chancery Circuit, I received the honorable but not lucrative appointment as chancellor.

Thus reads the thrilling story of me life.

CHARLES DAVIS FRIERSON SR.'S LIFE

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7. BOY SCOUT FOUNDER AND LEADER CHARLES DAVIS FRIERSON SR.

Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947) was praised and honored throughout his life for his unique role in the development and leadership of the Boy Scout movement in northeast Arkansas. Charles Frierson Sr. was not a Boy Scout in his youth, for the movement was not founded until he was almost thirty years old.

In 1912 or 1913, around age thirty-five, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. started the first Boy Scout troop in northeast Arkansas. He then served as Scoutmaster of that troop for the next twenty-one years. In his earlier years, Charles Frierson Sr. served as the director of a summer camp for Boy Scouts. For many years, the summer encampments were held at Camp Frierson, which was at one of Charles Frierson Sr.'s farms. Camp Frierson was located on the border of an area that became Craighead Forest Park, a 692-acre city park created in 1937, and now in the southern part of the city of Jonesboro.

Speaking about her father's Boy Scout activities, **Margaret Frierson (1912–1990)** said: "*The boys [Boy Scouts] met at our house every Tuesday night. He taught them to sing, he taught them to play games,*

he taught them how to handle guns, he taught them, above all, wonderful attributes of character."



Over several decades, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. had an enormous influence on the lives of hundreds of young Boy Scouts. His son, **Charles Davis Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)**, was an enthusiastic Boy Scout during his youth and teenage years. In 1924, at age seventeen, Charles Jr. was chosen as one of forty-eight American Scouts to compete for the United States at the 2nd International Boy Scout Jamboree, held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (age forty-six) and his son in the summer of 1924, when Charles Davis Frierson Jr. (age seventeen) attended the 2nd International Boy Scout Jamboree in Denmark.

Incidentally, Neville's father, Charles Davis Frierson Jr., and her brother Charles Davis Frierson III (b. 1932) both achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. About two percent of Boy Scouts achieve that rank.

In 1927, for his efforts on behalf of the Boy Scouts, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. received the Rotary Civic Service Medal, given to Jonesboro's most useful citizen. His expression of thanks appeared in the Jonesboro newspaper on January 6, 1928.

THANKS

I am deeply grateful for the extraordinary honor conferred upon me in the bestowal of the Rotary Civic Service Medal. I wish it were deserved by me and I realize that others have done far better service than I have been able to do.

My belief is therefore that the vote of my friends was not a tribute to me personally, but an evidence of appreciation of the Boy Scout Organization with which I have so long been connected.

I should feel happy beyond words if the result should be a renewal of interest in Scout work and if more men would volunteer as Scoutmasters. Every normal boy wants to be a Scout, but there are not enough Scoutmasters to give them a chance.

Again, thanking my friends and the Rotary Club for the honor which I value more than any gift within their power.

In Margaret Frierson Cherry's taped recollections, she said that her father "was not much of a backslapper social person and in fact didn't belong to the Rotary Club or any other clubs. However, when the Rotary Club gave its first Good Citizenship Award, it was given to him. . . . I have this gold medallion in my possession."

Charles Davis Frierson Sr. served as president of the regional Boy Scout Council and as a member of the national Boy Scout Board. He also received the Silver Beaver Award, a distinguished service award given to select adult Boy Scout leaders.

Charles Davis Frierson Sr. loved the outdoors and manly pursuits. He also liked instilling honor, duty, and the service ethic in young boys. He was the quintessential Boy Scout.



The Silver Beaver Award medal.

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8. LETTERS FROM WASHINGTON, D.C., 1918

During a business trip to Washington, D.C., in the spring of 1918, **Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)** wrote two letters to his wife, **Charlotte Martin Gallaway (1878–1968)**, and his two children. Excerpts from the first letter follow:

Washington, D. C., March 24, 1918

My Darling Wife and Kiddies,

Here I am in the Capital—a totally unexpected thing last Thursday. As we stepped out of a restaurant late this P.M., I looked up, and there were three aeroplanes, looking inexpressibly graceful, soaring around the Washington Monument. Son, one of them suddenly turned on one side and fluttered wing over wing just like a withered leaf—but when it got close to earth, it soared up again and then flew around the Washington Monument, seemingly almost grazing it.

We have walked around a couple of hours and have looked at most all of the buildings—White House, Capitol, Library, etc., etc. Some of the buildings are unexpectedly large—but as a general thing they looked just exactly as you would expect them to look from the pictures in the Geographic Magazine. There are thousands of soldiers and sailors on the streets, also Japs, Chinese, Mexicans, and every other kind of people. The White House is more beautiful than I expected to find it.

We took the Pennsylvania “New Yorker” out of St. L. at 12:02 Saturday. It is a train made up solely of sleepers, diner, buffer-car, with tailor shop and barber-shop, stenographer, maid for the ladies! We were due at 1:05 but we were an hour late.

We passed through Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland—going thro Terre Haute, Dayton, Indianapolis, Columbus (O), Pittsburgh, Harrisburg (Pa.), Baltimore (Md) and many other towns we have often heard of. The scenery was beautiful.

War news looks bad—but everybody hopeful of change. . . .

Your own

Dad

The second letter from Washington, D.C., was written two days later, on March 26, 1918. Charles Davis Frierson Sr. used the same salutation as he had in his earlier letter and closed by simply writing “*Your Dad.*” A few excerpts follow:

We went through the Capitol Building with a guide today—saw the Supreme Court and the Senate and the House in session, inspected all the mural decorations and historic features. . . . We then took a “rubberneck wagon” around the city and saw the historic houses, etc. . . .

We have seen Caraway several times and I talked to Mrs. C. over the phone, but have been too busy to call. . . . We intend to see what Joe T. Robinson** can do for us tomorrow. Caraway went with us today, but we didn’t achieve anything—not his fault though. . . .*

I miss you kiddies and wish you were here with me, except for the cold. The wind is bitter and I need an overcoat, but my raincoat does fairly well—but I am in thin underwear.

The purpose of Charles Davis Frierson Sr.’s trip to Washington was to secure approval for a \$1.5 million bond issue that had been sold subject to the approval of the Capital Issues Committee of the Federal Reserve Board. The Capital Issues Committee of the Federal Reserve Board was established during World War I (1914–18) to assure that any issuances of securities were compatible with wartime interests. The committee was terminated in 1919.

For Charles Davis Frierson Sr., the approval meant that he would receive a fee of about \$3,500 (one-half of one-third of 1.5% of \$1.5 million). We do not know if he was successful in gaining this approval, but in his second letter, he wrote, “*I begin to see my \$3500 fee go glimmering.*”

*Thaddeus Caraway (1871–1931) was from Jonesboro, Arkansas, and was the United States Representative for the 1st district of Arkansas from 1913 to 1921. He became a United States Senator from Arkansas in 1921 and served until he died in 1931. His wife, called Mrs. C., was Hattie Caraway (1878–1950). She served as a United States Senator from Arkansas from 1931 to 1945, and she was the first woman ever elected for a full term as a United States Senator.

**Joseph Taylor Robinson (1872–1937) was a first-term United States Senator from Arkansas in 1918. He later became an important national political figure: he was the Democratic Party’s vice presidential candidate in 1928 and the United States Senate Majority Leader from 1933 to 1937.

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9. “THE SILVER LININGS OF THE WAR CLOUD” BY CHARLES DAVIS FRIERSON SR.

Neville’s grandfather **Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)** was an enthusiastic supporter of the United States’ entry into World War I (1914–18). At some time close to his fortieth birthday, in 1917, he wrote a paper that enumerated the positive benefits of the country entering the war against Germany. It is entitled “The Silver Linings of the War Cloud” and opens with these words:

We are living in the most thrilling period of the world’s history. In no preceding age have such stupendous adventures happened to mankind.

The generation that has witnessed the perfection of the telephone, of wireless telegraphy, of the aeroplane, the automobile and the submarine, has also seen the birth of a Chinese and a Russian Republic.

A generation that has created the Hague Convention and has talked of peace more than any other, has taken part in a world conflict more tremendous and dreadful than war ever was before.

Our own country . . . has drawn the sword for the avowed purpose of “making the world safe for democracy.”

After that introduction, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. elaborated on what he called the “*silver linings*” or “*compensations*” that the United States would gain from entry into the war. He first wrote that entering the war would allow the United States to avoid having to fight Germany alone at a later date, should Germany win the war. He went on to say that entering the war would secure rather than jeopardize the friendship of the European countries that had been at war against the Germans for almost three years. Charles Davis Sr. also believed that the war would be a catalyst for the formation of a federation that would enforce peace in the world. He wrote, “*Such a federation . . . in itself may well prove a glorious justification for our entry into the struggle.*”

Charles Davis Frierson Sr. concluded his rather grandiloquent paper with these words:

Battling for an idea, battling under the leadership of the greatest idealistic chieftain of the age [President Woodrow Wilson (1856–1924)], waging the fight for the freedom of the seas, for the end of militarism, for the downfall of despotism. May our entire nation be lifted up and purified by this war.

May we emerge from it a great, strong, gentle, and chivalrous country, without hyphenism, or dissension, determined to deal justly and firmly with all the world, looking to the happiness and welfare of our citizens of every race, and forming with other civilized nations one of a league that will enforce peace upon whatsoever country may be so backward as to long for conquest by force.*

If such be the result of war, then it will be a blessing, not a curse, and the children of ages to come will be taught to honor the leaders of the present generation who had the understanding vision to see and the courage to strike for humanity and right.

Sadly, Charles Davis Frierson Sr.'s vision for a better world after World War I was not realized.

***Hyphenism is defined as dual patriotic loyalties. The word was at one time used to define foreign-born persons, such as German-Americans and Italian-Americans, who were called hyphenates.*

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10. PRIVATE CHARLES DAVIS FRIERSON SR. IN WORLD WAR I

Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947) served for about two months as a private in World War I (1914–18). It was a rare and rather bold decision for him to join the army at age forty.

In April 1917, the United States entered World War I, and on May 18, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson (1856–1924) signed the Selective Service Act, which led to the registration of twenty-four million men. (The United States' population was about ninety-two million in 1917.) As a result of the Selective Service Act, about 2.8 million American men were drafted into military service; an additional 2 million volunteered.

The United States participated in the war for a little over nineteen months. About one million U.S. soldiers went overseas, and about 110,000 died (45,000 from the influenza pandemic). In contrast, the British lost over one million soldiers in the war.



Charles Davis Frierson Sr., age forty, as a private during World War I.

In September 1918, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. was head of the draft board (also called the Board of Exemptions) in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He resigned from that position, refused exemptions and commissions, and volunteered for military service.

During his term of military service, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. was stationed at Camp Pike, a training camp established in 1917 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Camp Pike was named for General Zebulon Pike (1779–1813), who discovered Pike's Peak. The camp was located about 130 miles southwest of Jonesboro.

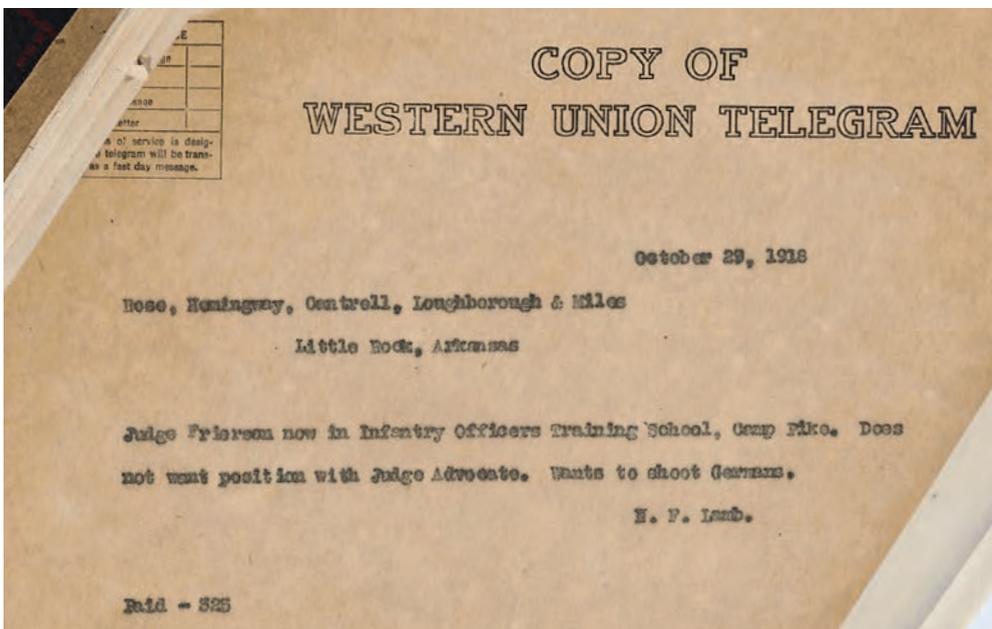
In a family scrapbook, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. wrote in 1924 about his decision to join the military:

When the draft act was passed . . . I became Chairman of the Local Board [of Exemptions] of Craighead County. We had the most awful job of being our own judges, sheriffs, and clerks. We sent a great many young men to war, and in the meantime, I helped patriotically by buying bonds, whipping a few traitors, and making some speeches. . . .

In 1918, I waived all exemptions (whether as draft board member or as a father of two children and a married man) and classified my own questionnaire for immediate service. Then I got sent to the Infantry Officers Training School at Camp Pike Little Rock. . . .

During my life in camp, I was offered a job as Major in the Judge Advocate Department, but refused it for private of infantry. I was also offered a commission in the Quartermaster Corps and refused it.

That same scrapbook includes an exchange of telegrams dated October 29, 1918, after Charles Davis Frierson Sr. arrived at Camp Pike. In response to an inquiry about his availability for the judge advocate position, Charles Davis's law partner, Nathan F. Lamb (1861–1943), responded that Charles Frierson Sr. “wants to shoot Germans.”



Charles Davis Frierson Sr.'s law partner, Nathan F. Lamb, rejected a commission on behalf of Charles Frierson Sr.

Charles Davis Frierson Sr. was stationed at Camp Pike from October 19 to December 7, 1918. During that fifty-day period, he wrote twenty-nine letters to his wife and children, who, during his absence, were living with **Charlotte Martin Galloway's (1878–1968)** mother, **Eudocia Margaret Martin Galloway (1846–1927)**, at her home in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Charles Davis Frierson Sr. always signed his letters as “*Dad*” or “*Your Loving Dad*.” He addressed his wife with the nickname “*Chosh*” or “*My Loving Wifie*.” He simply called his eleven-year-old son and six-year-old daughter “*Kiddies*.” Excerpts from his letters reflect his motivation and desire to subject himself to the same experiences as the draftees he had inducted.

October 28, 1918

As for me, don't worry, for I am getting fit. You ought to see me eat and sweat. I am one of the oldest men down here, but I am getting along fine with these boys, who in many respects remind me of my Scouts.

You know, it certainly is a change for me to [be] a Buck Private from one who thought of himself [as an] equal to anybody. I smile when I think of it.

October 31, 1918

I have been homesick today. Still I am glad I came because I would never have been satisfied with myself if I had not, and it really may be fine for me.

November 5, 1918

Honey Girl, don't imagine I regret coming because I grumble some. I would not miss being in it for any amount of money, simply for my own self-respect.

Charles Davis Frierson Sr. was eager to get back to civilian life after the armistice ended World War I on November 11, 1918. He was released and returned home on December 7, 1918, two days before his forty-first birthday.

11. THE FRIERSONS' EARLY AUTOMOBILES

The first automobile owned by Neville's Frierson family was a Chandler Dispatch, bought in 1919 by Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947).

THE 1919 CHANDLER DISPATCH



The first car owned by Charles Davis Frierson Sr.



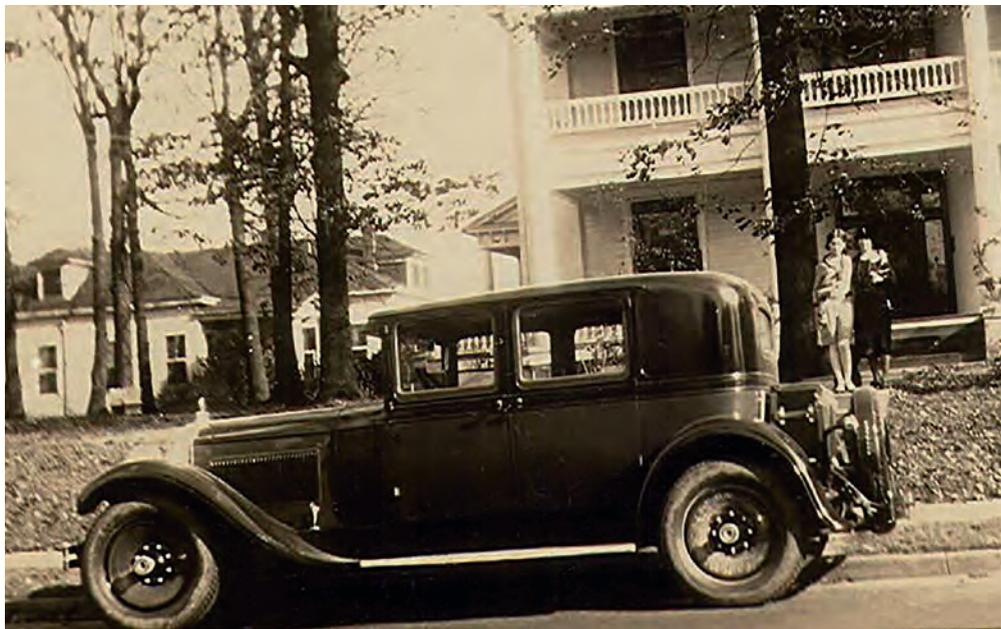
An advertisement for the Chandler Six, the first car owned by Charles Davis Frierson Sr.

The Chandler Motor Company was a maker of high-quality, medium-priced automobiles. Its cars were made with a wooden frame, metal skin, and cloth roof. While as many as 20,000 of the cars were sold in 1927, very few of them survive today.

The Chandler that Charles Davis Frierson Sr. bought cost a little under \$2,000, whereas a Model T Ford could be bought for as little as \$300 in 1920. The Chandler Dispatch was considered an appropriate car for American small-town gentry in 1920.

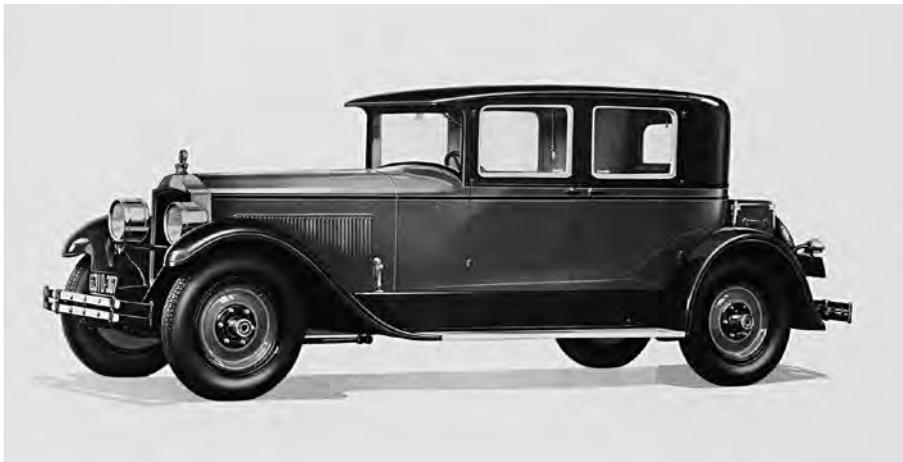
The Chandler Motor Company was founded in 1913, and it was successful through the mid-1920s. The company over-expanded in 1928 and was sold in 1929, after which the Chandler name was abandoned. The company is, perhaps, best remembered today as the employer of a young eighteen-year-old named Bob Hope (1903–2003), the most famous twentieth-century American comedian.

THE 1927 PACKARD



Charles Davis Frierson Sr.'s 1927 Packard in front of the Frierson House in late 1927 or later. The house to the left is the Friersons' Cherry Avenue house. The two women are unidentified, but Neville thinks her grandmother Charlotte Martin Callaway Frierson is on the right and Corrine Frierson Hughes, Charlotte Callaway Frierson's niece, is on the left.

In September 1927, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. purchased a new Packard Club Sedan, for which the base price in 1927 was \$2,685.* For comparison, the Ford Motor Company introduced its new Model A Ford in the fall of 1927 with a base price of \$500.



A period photograph of the 1927 Packard.

In a September 30, 1927, letter to his son, **Charles Davis Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)**, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. described his new car:

It has a black top, the fenders are black, the sides are dark green and the top of the hood is a very dark green, almost black looking. It is a beautiful car and I think it will run splendidly when limbered up.

I mortgaged my immortal future to finish paying for the thing and I expect I should not have bought it under present financial conditions, but I have it anyhow.

The Packard Motor Car Company was based in Detroit, Michigan. By 1927 the Packard car had replaced Cadillac as the United States' most popular premium automobile. After World War II (1939–45), Cadillac regained its leadership in the premium segment of the market. In 1955 Packard merged with Studebaker, and in 1958 the last Packard was made.

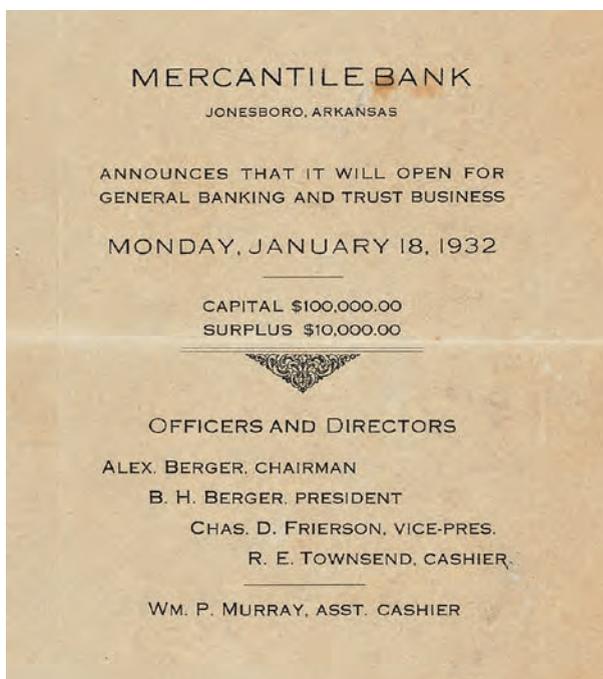
*The current price for a 1927 Packard Club Sedan is around \$40,000 in the antique car market.

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12. THE MERCANTILE BANK OF JONESBORO

For fifty-three years, from 1932 to 1985, Neville's Frierson family was identified with the Mercantile Bank in Jonesboro, Arkansas.



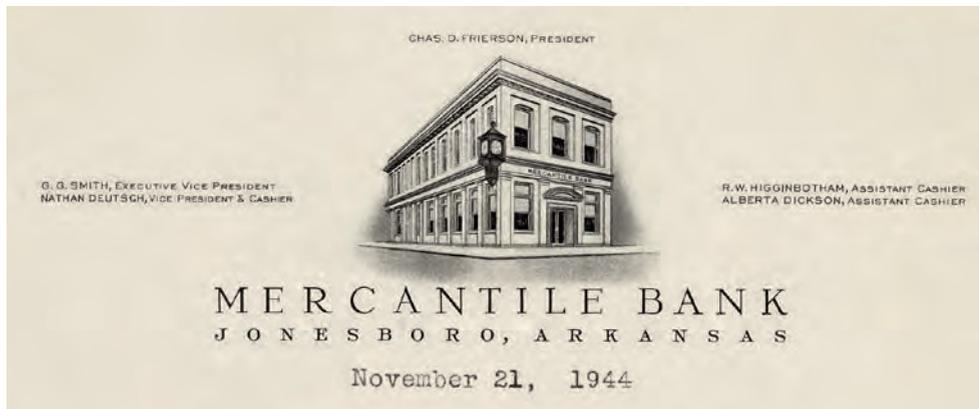
Announcement of the opening of the Mercantile Bank in Jonesboro, Arkansas, in 1932. Charles Davis Frierson Sr. was the vice president of the bank when it opened.

In December 1931, as the Great Depression (1929–39) was deepening, the last remaining bank in Jonesboro failed and closed its doors. About five weeks later, in January 1932, a fifty-five-year-old St. Louis businessman named Alex M. Berger (1876–1948) organized a bank called the Mercantile Bank in Jonesboro. The Mercan-

tile Bank purchased the former premises of the failed American Trust Company. It paid \$12,500 for the bank building and its contents.

Alex Berger had lived in Jonesboro until the late 1920s and had previously been in the banking business there. He was the son of Marcus Berger (1844–1906), a Jewish, Hungarian-born early pioneer to the Jonesboro area of northeast Arkansas. Marcus Berger was a successful merchant and landowner. The announcement of the new bank was greeted enthusiastically.

Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947) was an original stockholder of the Mercantile Bank. He was asked, as the bank's lawyer, to become a member of its board of directors and vice president. He served in those capacities for twelve years. In January 1944, Alex Berger sold his controlling interest in the bank to a group led by Charles Frierson Sr., who became president on February 1, 1944. The bank's deposit base had grown to about \$4 million by that time.



The letterhead of the Mercantile Bank shortly after Charles Davis Frierson Sr. became president in February 1944. The Mercantile Bank occupied the building depicted above from 1932 to 1969. The 6,500-square-foot building, built in 1890, is located at the corner of Main Street and West Huntington Avenue in Jonesboro, Arkansas. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.

In the local newspaper, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. revealed his motive for buying the bank:

We hope to make more loans to farmers than the bank has made heretofore and also to provide ample credit for any individual or business organization whose record justifies the type of loan we are permitted to make. It might be summed up by saying we hope to make the bank a greater asset to the community.

When Charles Davis Frierson Sr. died in January 1947, his son, **Charles Davis Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)**, joined the bank's board of directors. In 1954 Charles Frierson Jr. became president of the bank and served in that position until he passed away sixteen years later, in 1970.

Charles Davis Frierson III (b. 1932) was named chairman of the board of the bank after his father died in December 1970. He was named president of the bank in 1972. By 1981 deposits to the bank had grown to over \$100 million, and it was the eighteenth largest bank in the state of Arkansas.

Charles Frierson III served as president of the bank until he retired in 1985.

In 1991 the Mercantile Bank was sold to the Union Planters Bank of Memphis, Tennessee, and in 2004 the Union Planters Bank became a part of Regions Bank, based in Birmingham, Alabama. In 2015 Regions Bank had \$122 billion in total assets and was ranked as the twenty-third largest commercial bank operating in the United States. Coincidentally, my brother, George Wilkerson Bryan (b. 1944), has been a member of the board of directors of Regions Bank since 2004. He was a member of the board of Union Planters Bank from 1986 to 2004.

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13. A LAPSED* METHODIST, CHARLES DAVIS FRIERSON SR.

Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947) was descended directly from **John Knox (1514–1572)**, the founder of the Presbyterian Church, and Charles's father, **James Gordon Frierson (1837–1884)** was the eighth in an ancestral line of zealous and clannish Presbyterians.

However, when the James Gordon Frierson family moved to Jonesboro, Arkansas, in 1883, there was no Presbyterian Church there. For that reason, they joined the Methodist Church, to which Charles Davis Frierson Sr.'s mother, **Emma Gwynne Davis (1847–1899)**, had belonged before she married his father. Thus, Charles Frierson Sr. was raised in the Methodist Church.

Margaret Frierson Cherry (1912–1990) wrote about her father's relationship with the church:

Your grandfather Frierson was a very strong upstanding man, a man of the outdoors. He wasn't involved particularly in the church. I remember your grandmother's feeling about that.

He [Charles Frierson Sr.] sang in the Methodist choir and he was an active Methodist, but after your grandmother and he married, your grandmother tried to be a Methodist with him but he wasn't very active at that point and so she went back to the Presbyterian fold. . . .

As I have said he was not really a churchman, . . . though he always kept his membership in the Methodist Church, and made an offering each year. Through the years church people in the Methodist Church came to him for advice and counsel in times of crisis.

He worshipped in the out of doors, my mother always said.

Charlotte Gallaway Frierson's (1878–1968) return "to the Presbyterian fold" is why both Neville's father, **Charles Davis Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)**, and Neville were brought up in the Presbyterian Church.

Incidentally, Charlotte Gallaway Frierson's move back to the Presbyterian Church preserved Neville's unbroken lineage of descent from thirteen generations of Presbyterians, beginning with the denomination's founder, John Knox.

*In this context, "lapsed" means having fallen away without having made a complete break with a church. Nonpracticing is, perhaps, a synonym for lapsed.

14. A REVEALING LETTER FROM CHARLES DAVIS FRIERSON SR.

In 1933 **Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)** wrote a letter that revealed his liberal thinking, wisdom, and character traits that were quite rare in his time and place. The letter was a response to an inquiry from George Vaughn (1873–1945), a Methodist layman and professor of law at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. After the Roaring Twenties and the onset of the Great Depression (1929–39), Vaughn issued an appeal for a spiritual awakening in the United States. In this call to arms, he especially lamented what he termed “*the irrepressible drift to lower ideals*” and the “*moral lapse of the world today.*” In a personal note, written on the letter, he asked for a reaction from Charles Frierson Sr.

Charles Davis Frierson Sr. retained a typewritten carbon copy of his response on onionskin paper in his files. No signature was affixed to the carbon copy.

October 18, 1933

Prof. George Vaughn
Post Office Box 145
University Station
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Dear George:

Answering your circular letter of October 14th regarding the question of spiritual awakening of the world and the present low ebb of religion and morality I will briefly say this:

The Protestant ministers in my opinion are the direct cause of the recession in religious and spiritual matters. Having organized upon an elaborate and expensive scale they first undertook to practically compel the general public to come to their organizations and particularly to tithe.

Later they forced upon an unwilling public the Eighteenth Amendment, Ku Kluxism,** and began a tremendous campaign for Sunday blue laws*** which alienated the liberal minded citizen.*

*The Eighteenth Amendment prohibited alcoholic beverages in the United States. It became the law in January 1920 and was repealed by the Twenty-First Amendment, enacted on December 5, 1933, less than two months after this letter was written.

**Ku Kluxism is the belief in the doctrines of the Ku Klux Klan, which used terrorist tactics to suppress black people in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

***Sunday blue laws are laws that restrict activities—particularly the opening of certain stores and the sale of certain items—on Sundays.

The education of the average preacher is imperfect, his egotism colossal, his religion itself a matter of pater, words, and not substance, and his intolerance and bigotry are the curse certainly of the South and to a large extent the world.

Men of natural humanitarian feelings are repelled by the narrowness of the doctrines and nowhere upon the horizon does there seem to be a preacher of broad vision, deep charity and a real spiritual religion to start a new movement.

The churches are over-organized, over-financed, and the leaders are to a large extent the narrow-minded, uneducated, but acquisitive men of the community and still more largely the emotional and ill-balanced of the women.

After looking for some years for a new movement that would re-instate the leadership of the Church and of religion it seems to me that each year sees a further narrowing of the doctrines and certainly an increase of bigotry and intolerance among a vast majority of the membership.

The new movements within the church are not movements for the broadening of its sympathies but purely doctrinal and the most active movements are those insane ebullitions such as Four Square,** Fundamentalism,*** and the like. There must be a renaissance such as the Great Reformation before we can hope for anything from the religious minded people.*

The Catholic Church has changed little but its influence has not been broadly appealing for centuries and on the whole it does not appeal to cultured people who are not raised in that faith.

With best wishes I am

Very Truly,

Fb

* "Ebullition" is defined as a sudden outburst of emotions or violence.

** The Foursquare Church is a Protestant evangelical Pentecostal Christian denomination founded in 1923. It has about 350,000 members in the United States today.

*** Fundamentalism is a strict and literal adherence to a religious teaching.

15. AN ACCOMPLISHED DEER SLAYER AND A REAL SPORTSMAN

Without question, the greatest recreational passion of **Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)** was hunting. It appears that he hunted his entire life. In 1920 Charles Frierson Sr. employed a professional photographer to record the first deer kill of his son, **Charles Davis Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)**, who was thirteen years old. Charles Jr.'s slain deer was a "spike" buck, which is a young male deer whose antlers have not yet begun to branch.



These words are written on the photograph: "Dec. 1920—Chas. Frierson Jr. age 13 killed the Spike buck; Chas. Sr. the other two." The photograph was taken by Artura Studio of Jonesboro, Arkansas.



Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (age forty) with his daughter, Margaret (age fifteen), on November 20, 1927. Below the picture Charles Frierson Sr. defined the subjects of the photograph from left to right as: "Peggy, Dusky, Buck, Betsy (his gun), and I."

In 1927 Charles Davis Frierson Sr. was photographed with his fifteen-year-old daughter, **Margaret Frierson (1912–1990)**, and a large white-tailed deer he had killed that season.

Around sixty years later, Margaret Frierson Cherry recorded her recollections and perspectives on her father's hunting:

He spent much time out of doors, and was one of the early conservationists. However, because he hunted and did kill game, we always ate every bit of it or gave it away for others to eat, so none was wasted. And of course the trophies from his hunts decorated our house.

He also restocked his farm north of town with quail each year as quail and all game began to be scarce. So in spite of the fact that he found his sport in hunting. . . . He was an early conservationist. After game came to be scarce he no longer hunted in the wilds, he hunted only at the Five Lakes Outing Club, which was a preserve.

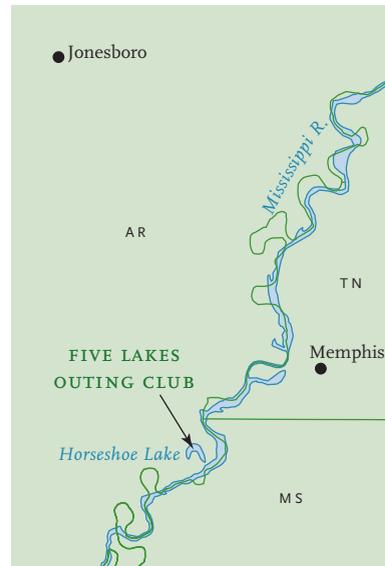
In 1921 Charles Davis Frierson Sr. was invited to join the Five Lakes Outing Club, located about eighty-five miles southeast of Jonesboro, Arkansas, in the middle of a chain of lakes called Horseshoe Lake. Five Lakes is a hunting club founded in 1901 by prominent men from Memphis, Tennessee. Charles Frierson Sr. was an active member there for the next twenty-six years.

On Tuesday, November 10, 1936, *The Commercial Appeal*, published in Memphis and the region's major newspaper, reported extensively on the opening of deer season on the previous day at the Five Lakes Outing Club. The newspaper that day also ran a special feature under the headline "A Real Sportsman—Judge Frierson of Jonesboro." Two excerpts from the rather lengthy article are noteworthy:

Judge Frierson, a native of Jonesboro, has been an enthusiastic hunter from his earliest boyhood days and his luxurious office and palatial home here are filled with countless mounted animals and fowls and other prizes and curios of the woods. . . .

As for trophies, his son, Charles, Jr. a deer hunter himself, and the judge have 30 buck heads and hides, four elk heads and hides, six antelope heads, three moose heads, six bear hides, together with hides and rugs, birds, snakes, etc.

Also on November 10, 1936, the *Jonesboro Daily Tribune*, *The Jonesboro Evening Sun*, and *The Commercial Appeal* all reported that Charles Davis Frierson Sr. had killed the first and largest deer at the opening of deer season at the Five Lakes Outing Club. *The Commercial Appeal* reporter further stated: "Judge Frierson, who led the club parade of huntsmiths yesterday is a veteran of many hunts with the eye of an eagle and the nerve of a gladiator. The Judge knows his deer, how to hunt them, and will never go hungry with a gun in his hand."



Charles Davis Frierson Sr. hunted for twenty-six years at the Five Lakes Outing Club at Horseshoe Lake in Crittenden County, Arkansas, about eighty-five miles southeast of Jonesboro.

JONESBORO SPORTSMAN BAGS BIGGEST BUCK

*JONESBORO TRIBUNE
Nov. 13-1936*



JUDGE CHARLES D. FRIERSON

What is believed to have been the biggest deer bagged during the current season fell before the gun of Judge Charles D. Frierson Monday at the Five Lakes Hunting club in Crittenden county.

Judge Frierson, one of the state's best known sportsmen, brought down the six-point buck shown in the above picture.

Although he takes a big game hunting trip to the Rocky mountains each year, Judge Frierson prefers to hunt in Arkansas and the Virginia (white tail) deer is his favorite game.

Countless deer have fallen before his gun and he seldom fails to bag at least one or more antlered prizes every season.

This photograph and sidebar appeared in The Jonesboro Daily Tribune on Friday, November 13, 1936. The photo was a reprint of a picture used three days earlier in The Commercial Appeal, published in Memphis, Tennessee. The deer in this photograph is called a six-point buck, counting only the points on one antler; in many other parts of the country, it is called a twelve pointer.



Left to right: Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (age sixty-four), Haskille Scott Cherry III (age two), Neville Frierson (age six), James Gordon Frierson (age two), and Charles Davis Frierson III (age ten), November 1942.

After returning from the Five Lakes Outing Club in November 1942, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. had a series of photographs taken to celebrate the first deer killed by his grandson, Neville's brother Charles Davis Frierson III (b. 1932).

In January 1947, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. had a massive heart attack just after returning from a hunt. He died about a week later.

Soon after his father's death, Charles Davis Frierson Jr., Neville's father, was informed that he had been elected to membership in the Five Lakes Outing Club. He respectfully declined his election and sold his father's stock in the club for \$2,500. Neither Charles Davis Frierson Jr. nor Charles Davis Frierson III remained hunters after the death of Charles Davis Frierson Sr.

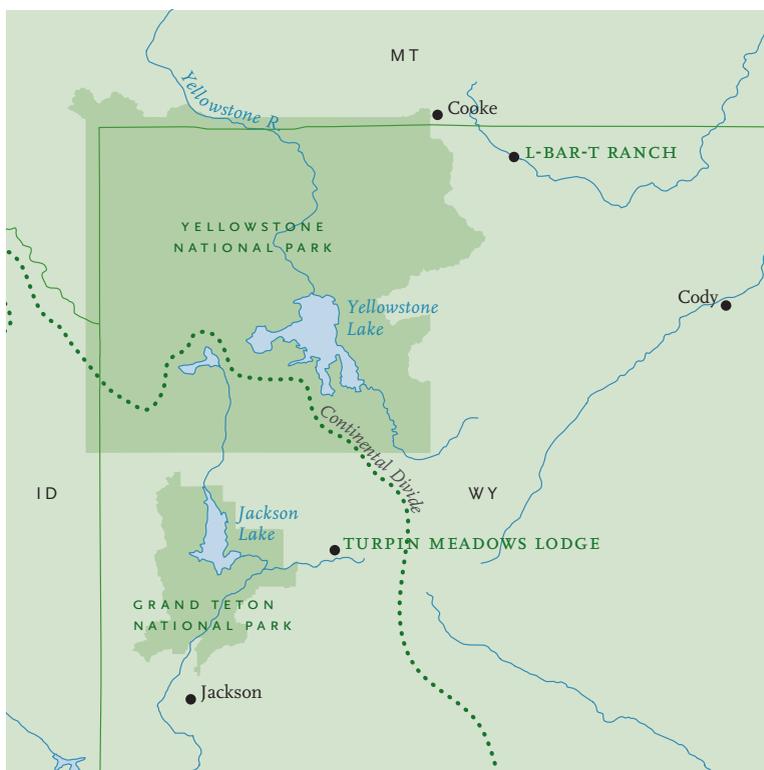
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16. BIG GAME HUNTING IN THE WEST

Beginning in 1932, at age fifty-four, **Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)** went on seven annual big-game hunting expeditions in the western United States. We surmise that he began these ambitious trips in 1932 because his son, **Charles Davis Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)**, could, by then, take care of his law and business interests while he was away.

Charles Davis Frierson Sr.'s most frequent big-game hunting trips were to the Rocky Mountains of northwest Wyoming, east and south of Yellowstone National Park and east of the Continental Divide. It is an area called “*America’s Happy Hunting Ground*” in a brochure from the period.



A map of the area in Wyoming where Charles Davis Frierson Sr. took five hunting trips in the 1930s.

Charles Davis Frierson Sr. took hunting trips to northwest Wyoming in 1932, 1933, 1934, 1936, and 1938. The train ride from Jonesboro, Arkansas, to Cody, Wyoming, required two days. In 1934 Charles Frierson Sr. traveled by way of Kansas City, Missouri, and the round-trip ticket cost \$73.70, including \$3 for a Pullman sleeper from Kansas City to Cody.

In September and October 1938, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. went to Wyoming and Montana for a twenty-six-day hunting trip. His outfitter was a Swede, Lawrence Nordquist (1886–1963), in Cooke, Montana, just outside the northeastern entrance into Yellowstone Park. Nordquist owned the L-Bar-T Ranch just across the border into Wyoming, where the rates were \$50 per week, and where Charles Frierson Sr. stayed. The ranch had frequent guests from Winnetka and Lake Forest, Illinois, and it was a favorite stop for Ernest Hemingway (1899–1961) in the 1930s.

On that hunting trip, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. also stayed at the Turpin Meadows Lodge (now called Turpin Meadow Ranch), near Jackson, Wyoming. The ranch is a popular dude ranch in Wyoming today. During Charles Sr.'s 1938 hunting trip, he killed two elk, a coyote, and his first mountain bighorn ram. The local newspaper reported:

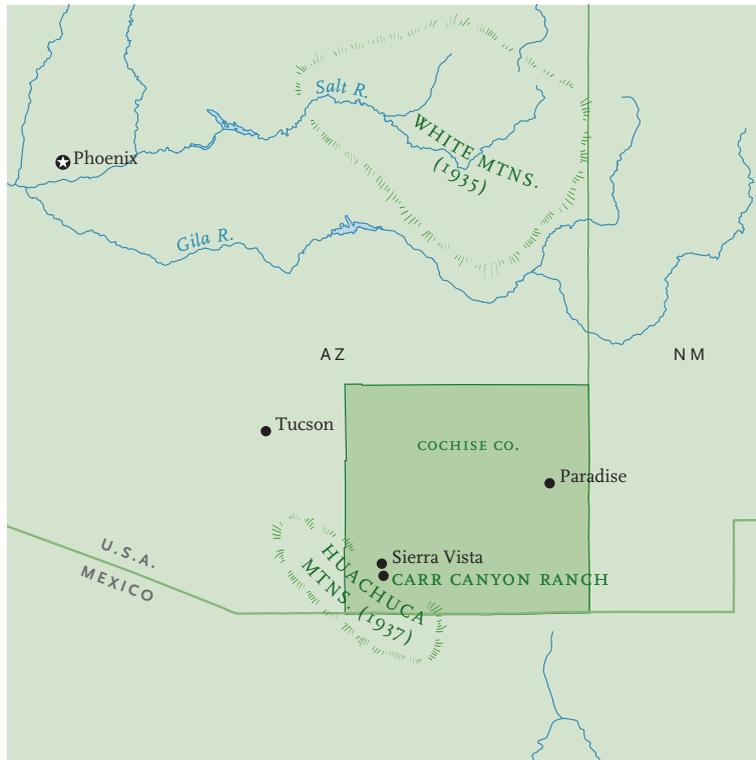
He is having all four heads mounted and all the skins tanned, except the coyote, which will be made into a rug.

The killing of the mountain sheep leaves one more accomplishment for the Judge before he will consider putting away his rifles. He wants to kill a grizzly bear.



Charles Davis Frierson Sr. posing with a large elk that he killed in Wyoming in September 1938.

In 1935 and 1937, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. took hunting trips to Arizona. He hunted in both the White Mountains in east Arizona and the Huachuca* Mountains, which are in Cochise County, southeast of Tucson.



A map of southeast Arizona showing the location of the White Mountains and the Huachuca Mountains, where Charles Davis Frierson Sr. hunted in 1935 and 1937.

In the late summer of 1935, Charles Davis Frierson Sr. wrote to the then-famous (or infamous) Lee brothers of Paradise, Arizona, to inquire about their rates and the experience of hunting mountain lions (also called cougars) and bears in that area. In a letter written before his trip to Arizona in October 1935, he stated:

I am 57 years old, weigh over two hundred pounds being large frame but not particularly fat and have been very active and hardy, but, of course, I am not so now. I can ride a gentle strong horse but I don't want to undertake any spookey horses nor buckers nor stumblers.

*Huachuca is pronounced "wah-CHOO-kuh."

Charles Frierson Sr. reported on his 1935 trip to Arizona in a letter written in December of that year: *“I tore loose and took a hunt in the White Mountains of Arizona this fall for mountain lion and bear. They made the rates cheaper than a Wyoming hunt [the Arizona hunt cost \$450]. I hunted with the dogs of the Lee Brothers and personally got two bear. We got no lions but cold trailed several.”*

In 1937 Charles Davis Frierson Sr. again went to Arizona to hunt with the Lee brothers and their hounds. They promised him that he would kill a mountain lion and a jaguar. On this trip, he stayed at Captain John H. Healey’s (1881–1970) Carr Canyon Ranch, south of Sierra Vista, in the Huachuca Mountains, near the Mexican border. The rate was \$35 per week. He killed a mountain lion and a coyote.

The three Lee brothers are best remembered for killing more than 1,000 mountain lions, 1,000 black bears, and 124 jaguars in the 1930s–50s. They were largely responsible for the near extirpation of the jaguar in the American Southwest.



Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (center) posing with a hound dog and a mountain lion, which he killed on August 4, 1937, in the Huachuca Mountains in southern Arizona. To his left is Mrs. John Healy of Carr Canyon Ranch, and to his right is a guide named Vince.

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17. CHARLES DAVIS FRIERSON III REMEMBERS HIS GRANDFATHER

Neville's older brother, Charles Davis Frierson III (b. 1932), said the following about his grandfather **Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)**:

I believe that he [Charles Davis Frierson Sr.] was just about the finest grandfather a young impressionable boy could have had. I was the eldest grandchild, and the more than three years that my father was away during World War II gave him an opportunity to assist in my upbringing. . . .

During this war period [1941–45], I went with him about every other weekend to his farm (mostly woods) seven miles North of town at Greensboro. We walked some, and rode horses some. Shot at squirrels and quail. He tried to establish pheasants on the place, but the foxes got them all.

Charles Davis Frierson III also wrote this remembrance: "Grandpa was an imposing figure, standing about 6 feet and 3 inches tall." Neville has the same recollection. However, the following is recorded in Charles Davis Frierson Sr.'s World War I (1914–18) discharge papers, dated November 14, 1918: "Said Charles D. Frierson was born in Clebourne, in the State of Arkansas. When enlisted he was 40–10/12 years of age and by occupation a lawyer. He had brown eyes, brown hair, light complexion, and was 5 feet 10½ inches in height." The average height of males in the United States in 1900 was 5'6". Charles Frierson Sr. was a tall man for his time, though not quite as tall as his grandchildren remember him. Today the average height of American males is 5'10", an increase of four inches.



Left: Charles Davis Frierson Jr. (age thirty-one) and Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (age sixty) with Charles Davis Frierson III (age six), August 7, 1938. Charles Davis Jr. was 5'8¾" tall and Charles Davis Sr. was 5'10½" tall.

For a comparison, **Charles Davis Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)** is recorded on his 1943 military identification card as having a height of 5'8 ¾", which was about average in his time. He also had brown eyes and brown hair, and he weighed 176 pounds.

Charles Davis Frierson III further remembered his grandfather:

He was not mean or aggressive, but he did not suffer fools gladly, or condone disrespect or general nonsense. His favorite rebuke to a kid who responded with "Huh?" was to say "Pigs say Huh."

He sang very well, singing mostly to the children with songs like "Home on the Range", his favorite, "Froggy Went a-courtin", and "Polly Wally Doodle." . . . He had great command of the English language, writing poems and stories, many about wildlife and nature.

Charles Davis Frierson III said that most people remembered his grandfather for the animal head trophies that hung at his home and in his office on the second floor of the Frierson Building. He wrote, "*Since they [his grandparents] entertained very little, most remembered the office.*"



Charles Davis Frierson Sr. at his office in the Frierson Building at age sixty-four. The caption below the photograph reads, "Dad pretending to work—5/12/42."

Charles Davis Frierson III also wrote about hunting with his grandfather:

He belonged to a fairly exclusive and costly hunting camp called the Five Lakes Club, in Crittenden County, on Horseshoe Lake. Since hunting was his only recreation, he felt he could join with people like Boss Ed Crump (1874–1954) of Memphis, the Crain family of Wilson, (Arkansas), and other richer members. . . .*

At age 10, he took me to Five Lakes, showed me a deer, and I shot it. . . .



A 1942 photograph of ten-year-old Charles Davis Frierson III and his grandfather Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (age sixty-four) with deer they shot at Five Lakes Outing Club.

We visited 5 Lakes about 4 years in a row, staying about a week each visit. . . .

Grandpa was very patriotic. During the war, when South School had a scrap drive, he contributed some old muskets. . . . He also insisted on saving energy by closing most of their big house, setting up an easy chair in the dining room where he listened to war news on a large floor model radio. He would comment on the relative success or failure of the Allies in no uncertain terms. . . .

I was generally in awe of him. I was not outgoing and did not initiate plans or conversations. . . . He represents the most honorable person I have ever met. Well respected, and a force in his time.

**Charles Davis Frierson Sr. paid \$1,250 to join the Five Lakes Outing Club in 1921. A dues payment of \$150, dated January 1, 1947, was a part of his accounts payable when he died on January 17, 1947.*

18. AN EDITORIAL UPON THE DEATH OF CHARLES DAVIS FRIERSON SR.

Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947) died on Friday, January 17, 1947. The next day, Saturday, January 18, the following editorial appeared on the front page of *The Jonesboro Evening Sun*.

