

Mumau Mumaugh Mewmaw Muma Mummah Moomau Mummaw  
Mumaw Moomaw **MUMMA SURNAME** Mumma Mumah  
Mummau Moomaw **AND ALL SPELLING VARIATIONS** Mumma Mumah  
Momma

BULLETIN #30

27 April 2008

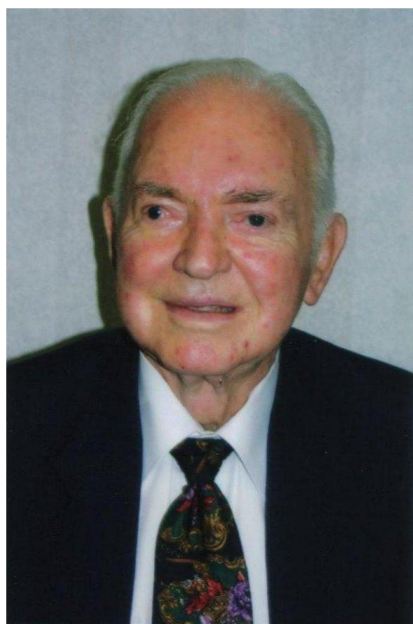
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DEATH OF ROBERT AUSTIN MOOMAW



It is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of Robert "Bob" Austin Moomaw on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 in Houston, Texas. Bob was not feeling well for the last two months and the doctors were having difficulty pinning down the exact problem because of multiple symptoms. He finally succumbed to an badly infected and perforated colon.

For those of you who are not closely acquainted with Mumma / Moomaw genealogy, Bob Moomaw was the compiler of the "Moomaw \* Mumma \* Mumaw \* Mumaugh Genealogy" which he self published in 1990 with the help and contributions from many of you. That hard bound book contained 541 pages and included about 20,000 individuals. He was tireless in his pursuit of publishing that book to fulfill a promise he made to Dr. H. Warner Kloepfer. Dr. Kloepfer self published the first "Moomaw" genealogy in 1965 which had 142 pages and listed about 9800 individuals. Bob promised to publish an expanded version of Dr. Kloepfer's work after Dr.

Kloepfer's death. Bob included an autobiography in his book on page 426 and it is repeated below.

----- Bob's Autobiography -----

The compiler of this book was born at Bayard, NE. My grandparents, Austin and Ida Agnes "Aggie" Moomaw, left Missouri in 1887 to take up homesteading in Western Nebraska when almost all of the land was still owned by the U. S. Government. My father, Leon A. Moomaw, was born in 1887 in the sod house built on the land. He and his sister were the first two graduates of Bayard High School in 1905. My father received Bachelors and Masters Degrees before returning to farm on a Tree Claim obtained for him by his parents. After retiring at age 75 from a successful farm products business, my father wrote three books for publication.

My interest in genealogy began in 1952 by copying some Moomaw information obtained by my sister, Evelyn Hubbard, from Frank Ray Moomaw (2217711) while attending a registered cattle show in Ohio. "Uncle Ray", as he was known to my co-worker, Margaret Moomaw Dieringer (22177122), had been accumulating Moomaw information for several years. My "seed" information was given to Dr. H. Warner Kloepfer in 1962, and culminated in Dr. Kloepfer's 1965 MOOMAW-MUMMA genealogy.

I was a minor helper with Dr. Kloepfer's genealogy, and he turned over his files and correspondence to me in 1978 when it became apparent that he would not have the time to complete an update that he had hoped to make. Dr. Kloepfer died on March 27, 1982. It was not until my retirement in 1986 from Exxon Company, USA, that I could devote time in obtaining the greatly expanded material in this book.

My business career included four years with the FBI with assignments in Havana, Cuba and Santiago, Chile. My first assignment with Exxon was with Creole Petroleum Company in Venezuela in 1948, and domestic assignments in Tulsa, OK, New Orleans, LA, and the final 20 years in Houston, TX. I am very proud of my two children, Jane and Paul.

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[Bob's obituary Published in the Houston Chronicle from 4/25/2008 - 4/27/2008]

#### Robert Austin Moomaw



ROBERT AUSTIN MOOMAW died April 22, 2008, in Houston. He is survived by daughter Jane Moomaw Cowell (and husband Ron) and son Paul Owen Moomaw (and wife Carol). Bob is also survived by his sister Phyllis Moomaw Sears and brother Russell Moomaw. He is survived by four grandchildren: Ryan Cowell, Kevin Cowell, Lisa Moomaw and Erica Moomaw. Bob was preceded in death by his sister Evelyn Moomaw Hubbard. Bob was born July 9, 1918, in Bayard, Nebraska, to Leon Austin Moomaw and Minnie Edith Young Moomaw. Bob's parents and grandparents were Western Nebraska pioneers who settled previously uninhabited lands by filing "tree claims" with the federal government. Bob left the family farm at age 15 to attend business college, launching a varied business career that took him to government jobs and oil-industry posts in places including Havana, Cuba, and Caracas, Venezuela. The last 38 years of his career were spent with Exxon, including time in Tulsa, New Orleans and Houston. Bob served in both the FBI and the U.S. Army during World War II, including a stint in Western Europe near the end of the conflict. He graduated from the University of Nebraska on the GI Bill. Bob's travels for business and pleasure took him on dozens of trips to six continents, ranging from lengthy car trips through Mexico with his family to tours of the Holy Land with church friends. In recent years, he was devoted to genealogy. In 1990 he published a genealogical volume on the history of the Moomaw family name. Bob was a longtime member of First Methodist Houston, serving as an officer of the Human Potential Sunday School class, where he gathered weekly with many of his closest friends. He also greatly enjoyed the fellowship of his friends at Clarewood House, his residence since 2002. A memorial service will be held Monday, April 28, 2008, at 11 am at First Methodist Church Houston, 1320 Main St. An onsite reception follows. A family service will take place later at Houston National Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be directed to Emergency Aid Coalition, 5400 Fannin, Houston 77004. published in the Houston Chronicle from 4/25/2008 - 4/27/2008.

Postscript -----

I became acquainted with Bob through a telephone call we had in 1989. He was in the final phase of his book which primarily focused on the MOOMAW surname spelling, but included some Mumma information. He and I then began an exchange of genealogy information prior to his printing his book. I am still amazed at the quality of his work using a DOS based, all-in-one "office" program called Intutit. That was in the days of 5 1/2" floppy disks and they were indeed "floppy". He became disheartened many times when his computer would "crash", but he prevailed and the book was published.

After some discussion, we agreed that it would extremely helpful to the genealogy community if we could make his genealogical effort more broadly available on the new medium - the World Wide Web. With that agreement and goal, we set about converting his book into an electronic database which could be easily searched and create useful reports. Our first release of the Mumma/Moomaw database after adding information from Richard Huffman's book and others was posted on my mumma.org website in November of 1997 with about 34,000 individuals. From the humble beginning, the database has now grown to over 74,000 individuals. Needless to say, Bob's help has been invaluable for the last 10 years as we have expanded, edited, and corrected the database. It is amazing to see how much things have changed since the initial release of the database.

To Bob I owe a great debt of gratitude for his words of encouragement, steady hand as we ploughed through murky waters creating the database. He has been a great help with queries from many people, relying on his rich resource of letters and information gathered for over the past 35 years. And most of all, I will always treasure his wonderful friendship.

Bob, it is hard to say farewell!!!

Doug Mumma

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