

RUTH MARIE MOORE

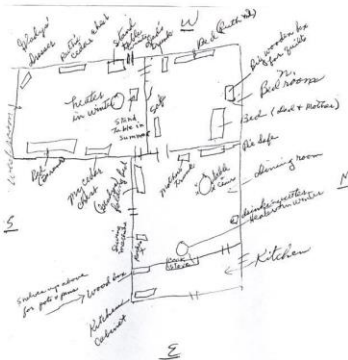
Ruth Marie Moore was born on February 26, 1908 in the family farm home 2.5 miles Northeast of Blythedale, Harrison County, Missouri and died June 6, 1964 in Blythedale, Harrison County, Missouri. She married Truman Ben White on April 4, 1928 in Blythedale, Missouri. She was the daughter of Harley Dean Moore and Elzadia Florence Dale Moore. The biography of Harley Dean Moore lists the Moore family before Ruth Marie Moore.

She attended school for the first three grades in the Fitzgerald School. Fitzgerald, Canady, and Snowball Schools combined to form the Blythedale School. Tuition costs were two dollars a month to attend high school. Ruth walked to school or drove a horse and buggy. Rent was paid to keep the horse in a barn while she attended school.

The farm where Ruth Marie Moore lived with her parents, Harley and Elzadia Florence Dale Moore on 120 acres located 2.5 miles north of Blythedale. Later 70 additional acres were acquired. The farm house had four rooms with no closets based on a sketch of the house was provided by Edith Moore Allman. ¹



Samuel Moore home
Those pictured thought to be: Caroline Dale Moore and Martha Susan Moore c. 1880



House Floor Plan
Harley and Elzadia Dale Moore
Provided by Edith Ellen Moore Allman



Harley Dean Moore
Elzadia Florence Dale
m. November 8, 1899

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The home on their farm north of Blythedale was on the northwest corner of the intersection of E. Highway T. and E. 147th. Street, Harrison County, Missouri. The house was demolished before 1990.

The farmstead had a cellar, a smoke house, a barn that was built when Ruth was thirteen, a chicken and brooder house, a grain bin, and a shed for the car and carriage. The family kept bees for honey, raised Duroc hogs, and Jersey milk cows. Horses were used to plow usually in a team of four. They raised oats, corn, and hay and the hay was put in the barn loft until full with the remainder put in stacks.

Saturday afternoon was for going into Blythedale to buy groceries and take cream and eggs for sale. Cooking was done on a wood stove and the lighting was by one kerosene lamp per room which was later replaced by Aladdin lamps. The house had papered walls, linoleum floors in the kitchen and dining room with rugs over the hard wood floors in the other two rooms. They had a wall telephone on a party line on which they called Central with one long ring.

Ruth's favorite subject in school was math. She took two years of Latin, two years of Algebra, plus the rest of the courses. The students would ice skate during noon hour on the reservoir located in Blythedale near the school. This reservoir was on the land that Ruth Marie Moore White and her husband, Truman B. White, purchased later for their home site.

The courses that Ruth took at Blythedale High School were as follows:

Freshman

- English
- European History
- General Science
- Algebra

Sophomore

- Geometry
- English II
- Missouri History
- Physiology
- Civics

Junior

- English III
- Arithmetic
- Algebra II
- American History
- Latin

Senior

- Am. Prob.
- Hygiene
- English IV
- Physical Geography

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Caesar
Occupations
Agriculture

Teachers at Blythedale High School included: B. Hinegar, B. Boulting, G.S. Wise, Velma Sheets, Vesta Dunn, W.E. Waltz, E. Buchner, H.C. Edwards. C.O. Morrison, W. Redinger, Thelma, Knecht, O.R. Hunt and Ida Liggett.

Ruth was a good athlete. She lettered for four years in basketball and track while in high school. She won first place in the Harrison County Track Meet ² for a basketball throw of 70 feet and placed second in the 100 yard dash. At a Blythedale High School Track meet she won first place in the 50 yard dash, 100 yard dash, relay team and the basketball throw.

Ruth was in both the Junior and Senior Class plays. The Blythedale High school had the first indoor gym in Harrison County and the high school graduation of May 1925 for Ruth Marie Moore and Truman Ben White took place in this gym. Their graduating class of 1925 was the first class to wear caps and gowns for the graduation ceremony.

Ruth Marie Moore met Truman Ben White while in high school. During their high school years Truman and Ruth dated and attended church youth meetings on Sunday evenings. There were also movies to see and cards were played frequently. The couple reported that one of their favorite places to “*park*” was adjacent to the lilac bushes in the Cedar Hill Cemetery. Truman commented in a 1965 poem about this time in his life stating the following:

*“While going to school at Blythedale High,
I met the girl who took my eye.
We went here to this school together,
And did here learn to LOVE each other.
In the year of 1925 I guess,
We graduated from old BHS.*

*Now in the summer of this same year,
In the bank I commenced to work, I fear.
The next two years in school Ruth taught,
Riding a horse who sometimes balked.*

*On April 4th in 1928 the Wedding Bells did ring,
With great anticipation we had looked foreword to this thing.
To this Happy union came,
Three daughters and one son
We loved them each dearly as they came,
And tried to treat them all the same.”³*

Ruth and Truman were engaged when Ruth was 17 and married when she was 20.

Ruth attended Northwest Missouri State College in Maryville, Missouri for one year and a

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summer for which she obtained her teaching license. She took the qualifying test in Bethany, Harrison County, Missouri and after she passed the test she was eligible to teach. Ruth taught in the Swanee and Canaday Schools for about three years. She received sixty-five to seventy-five dollars per month for salary.

On April 4, 1928 Ruth Marie Moore and Truman Ben White were married in Blythedale, Harrison County, Missouri by Reverend Babcock. Their attendants included Gladys and Edith Moore, sisters of the bride.



**Ruth Marie Moore
Truman B. White**

**Blythedale High School Play Bill*
(* Ruth Moore played two parts)**

“The Empty House”
A COMEDY DRAMA—THREE ACTS AND EPILOGUE
PRESENTED BY
**The Senior Class of Blythedale
High School**
Friday Eve., May 8, 1925
AUDITORIUM

ACT I—Living room in the Ferguson apartment. Hallowe'en.
ACT II—Sun room in the Allison home. The following Tuesday. (The curtain is lowered a few moments to indicate the passage of a few hours).
ACT III—Same as Act I. The next morning.
EPILOGUE—Same as Act I.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Nora, who first saw the lights | Helen Bowles |
| Larry Ferguson, typical young American | Olin Fowler |
| Fredericka Ferguson, with an identity | Hazel Arrasmith |
| Tom Ferguson, a would-be playwright | Lorren Gardner |
| Barbara Ferguson, to whom it happened | Irene Smith |
| Retta Reeves, the mysterious visitor | Helen Harrold |
| Ralph Overton, a young journalist | Ernest Bowles |
| Peggy Palmer, of witching ways | Elsie Allman |
| Anthony Allison, who disappeared | Raymond Brazzelton |
| Florine, with no curiosity whatever | Ruth Moore |
| Ned, a chauffeur | Truman White |
| Edna Allison, who almost succeeded | Vera Smith |
| Constance, who lived with Frances | Ruth Moore |
| Judge Lenox, the family lawyer | Guy Farman |

Accompanist—Mrs. F. McElhiney
Specialties Between Acts

ADMISSION 25 AND 35 CENTS
(Curtain Rises at 8:00 p. m.)



**Ruth Marie Moore
Truman B. White
1925**

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The following was the description of the wedding of Truman B. to Ruth Marie Moore on April 4, 1928.

Mr. Trueman (sic) White and Miss Ruth Moore were married April 4 at Cainsville by Rev. Babcock. They were accompanied by sisters of the bride, Miss Gladys and Edith Moore. The groom is the son of Frank White and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Elwood White and Horace Pryor. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harley Moore and the granddaughter of John Moore. They lived here from babyhood and were both members of the graduating class of 1925. The groom is the cashier of the Citizens' bank. The bride is teaching the Canaday school. They are both excellent young people and the writer joins the other friends in wishing for them a long life of happiness and prosperity. They will go to housekeeping soon in their property in the west part of town, previously owned by John Phillips. ⁴

Before they were married Ruth saved eight hundred dollars. Horace Vernon Pryor, Truman's grandfather, gave them an additional five hundred dollars to help purchase a home that cost about one thousand dollars. They bought a four burner oil stove for seventy dollars, a new dining table and chairs, and a cedar chest. Their bedroom furniture was ordered from a catalogue at the furniture store in Blythedale. They had a washing machine and a Majestic radio that cost one hundred and sixty dollars. The entire house was papered and painted. The curtains were from the Paul Travis Dry Goods store in Blythedale. They put a hard wood floor in the living room.

The 1930 Missouri Census, Harrison County, Colfax Township, page 81 lists the following:

| | Age | | Bir.Pl. | Fr. | Bir.Pl. | Mo. | Bir.Pl. |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|
| White, Truman | 2000 24 | Cashier | MO | IA | | MO | |
| , Ruth M. | 22 | | MO | MO | | KY | |
| , Bedonna J. | 11/12 | | MO | MO | | MO | |

Truman was the cashier of the Citizens Bank of Blythedale, Missouri. They bought their first car from John Binder. It was a second-hand, black, Model T, touring car that had buttoned curtains to fasten when it rained. ⁵

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Truman Ben White
c. 1906



Frank, Elwood, Truman and Bedonna White
Four Generations
c. 1930



Truman Ben White
c. 1924

Truman and Ruth Moore White clerked sales in the area. Truman knew the people well and Ruth was very good at the math and keeping records. Ruth collected the money.

Ruth Marie Moore White had a very large garden. She and her daughters would can large amounts of produce from the garden each year. Green beans, sweet corn, and tomatoes were canned and placed in the cellar cave that was connected to the basement of their home. Ruth also had large numbers of flowers in her yard and adjacent to the garden. Radishes, strawberries, raspberries, potatoes, onions, lettuce, and peas were grown to eat.

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A large chicken house for the layers was near the garden area. Rhode Island Reds, White Leghorns, and White Giant chickens were raised. At one time they had three hundred and fifty hens and nine hundred young chickens.

Ruth and Truman followed the sporting events in which the children participated. All of the children were good athletes as were their parents.

After Jimmy Dale White, her son, went to college, Ruth began working in the Citizens Bank of Blythedale, Missouri with Truman White. She kept the loan books as she was very good at math. She calculated the interest manually without a calculator.

In December of 1960 Ruth suffered a severe heart attack. She recovered from this heart attack but then later fell and sustained a fractured hip. She recovered from the fractured hip and returned to work at the Citizen's Bank, Blythedale, Missouri. On June 6, 1964 she died suddenly following a heart attack.

Obituary Ruth M. Moore

Ruth M. Moore was the third of four children, born on February 26 1908, born to Harley D. and Elzadia Moore, on a farm north of Blythedale, Missouri. She attended the Fitzgerald Country School, and completed her schooling in the Blythedale Public High School, where she graduated in the class of 1925.

It was during her school days that she was converted and joined the Christian Church in Blythedale and was a devoted member the balance of her life.

During her high school years she became the sweetheart of Truman B. White who was also her classmate. She attended the Northwest Missouri State Teachers College in the summer and taught school first at the Swanee and then the Canaday Country Schools.

On April 4, 1928 she was united in marriage to Truman B. White and was blessed with four wonderful children, Bedonna Jean, Joy Ann, Betty Ruth, and Jimmy Dale White. She spent her entire life in and near Blythedale, rearing her family and being a wonderful wife and mother. After the daughters were married and her son, Jimmy, was in school and college, she was connected with the Citizens Bank, to be near and help her husband, Truman B. White.

On December 26, 1960 she suffered a severe heart attack and after recovering in part from this, she suffered a fractured hip. After recuperating she took up her duties at the bank and continued until suddenly on June 6, 1964 her Maker called her to her Heavenly home.

She leaves to mourn her departure her husband, Truman B. White, and children Bedonna Gordon, Joy Ann Lynch, Betty Baker, all of Kansas City, and Jimmy D. White of the home, one granddaughter and four grandsons, her brother Frank D. Moore of Newport, Arkansas, and sister, Edith Allman of Kansas City, and a host of friends and neighbors.⁶

Ruth Marie Moore White and Truman Ben White were life-long members of the Christian

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Church in Blythedale, Missouri. Ruth Moore White is buried in the Cedar Hill Cemetery, Blythedale, Harrison County, Missouri.

References:

Bethany Republican, April 1928
Betty Ruth White Baker, family records
Bedonna Jean White Gordon, family records
Joy Ann White Lynch, family records
Jimmy Dale White, family records
Mary Lou Waters White, family records
Poem, Truman Ben White, 1964-1966.
Letters: Harley Dean Moore and Susan Clark Moore
Bethany Republican-Clipper, Bethany, Missouri, 1957.

Phillip Leonard Baker, M.D.
Topeka, Kansas
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¹ Moore home, by Edith Moore Allman, sketch provided to Bedonna Jean White Gordon and Richard Gordon, March 1, 1996

² Harrison County schools included Eagleville, Blythedale, Martinsville, Mt. Moriah, Bethany, New Hampton, Cainsville, Hatfield, and Gillman City.

³ Poem, Truman B. White, 1965

⁴ Bethany Republican, Bethany, Missouri, April 1928

⁵ Photo of this car is in the book *Movers and Settlers: The White Family*, by Phillip L. Baker, M.D., 2004

⁶ Obituary, Ruth Marie White Moore, Bethany Republican-Clipper, Bethany, Missouri, June 1964