

“It’s a Small World” (My third observation¹)

By Michael P. West

Comments? Comments are welcome. Just use the link below to our message board.

<http://www.audiemurphy.com/msgb/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=4743>

AUDIE Leon Murphy died in a plane crash on May 28, 1971 in Craig County, Virginia. It would have been his mother’s 80th birthday.

On May 23, 1941, Josie Bell Killian died in a small house on Neathery Street in Farmersville, Texas. The street was named for a very prominent family – the Neatherys.

The Neathery family of Farmersville, Texas gave us doctors, lawyers, merchants, and – dare I mention – politicians. Harriett, or simply “Miss Hattie”, was a daughter of Dr. Allen Hill Neathery and she was equally prominent in social work and various charities. Even being the pillar of philanthropy that she was, she was always known as “Miss Hattie.”

In the July 16th, 1945 Life Magazine spread featuring Audie Murphy, there appears a picture of Audie and Miss Hattie sitting on her front porch having a “chat”. According to the caption, we learn that Audie delivered newspapers to Miss Hattie.



Figure 1: Audie has a chat. July 16, 1945
Life magazine photo of Audie talking to Ms. Hattie Neathery.

Photo by James Laughead

Is there more here than simply a friendly visit?

Now the rest of the story.

Miss Hattie Neathery had family not only in Texas but in Louisiana where she had second cousins. (This is not a bad affliction – we all have them.)

¹ The third observation of three presented by the author in a speech during the summer 2016 Audie Murphy Days at the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum in Greenville, Texas.

For more information visit the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Website at www.audiemurphy.com

One of her second cousins was Mary Susan "Mollie" Neathery. Mary Susan, a daughter of Tillman S. Neathery (see figure 2), would marry William Fletcher Lambert, December 1896, in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana and from that marriage would be born six children. One of their daughters was Eula Thelma Lambert (see figure 3).

Several years later, Eula married Marcus Brown Butler, December 24, in Caldwell Parish, Louisiana and she too had a family. There were at least four children, two daughters, and two sons. One son

was named Herman. Herman's middle name was Lavelle. Herman's last name was Butler (see figure 4).

You see, Miss Hattie's - Hattie Neathery's second cousin twice removed - was Herman Lavelle Butler, the pilot of the airplane in which Audie Murphy was killed on May 28 1971 (figure 5 and 6).

It is a small world after all.

[7-296.] 1880

Page No. 73
Supervisor's Dist. No. 3
Enumeration Dist. No. 3

Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1870, and ends May 31, 1880.
Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children BORN SINCE June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.
Note C.—Questions Nos. 13, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Ward Ten, in the County of Caldwell, State of Louisiana enumerated by me on the 5th day of June, 1880.

J. B. Godfrey
Enumerator.

Line	Name	Sex	Color	Age	Married	Profession, Occupation or Trade	Health	Education	Native	Place of Birth	Place of Birth of Mother	Place of Birth of Father	Date of Birth	
													Year	Month
26	Tillman Neathery	M	W	41		Farmer				Miss N. C.	Miss			
27	Mary E.	F	W	36	wife	Keeping house				La	La	La		
28	Charles B.	M	W	18	Son	works on farm				La	La	La		
29	Thomas S.	M	W	16	Son	works on farm				La	La	La		
30	Melvin S.	M	W	14	Son	works on farm				La	La	La		
31	Hester	F	W	12	Daughter	At Home				La	La	La		
32	Samuel	M	W	10	Son	At Home				La	La	La		
33	Faith	F	W	8	Son					La	La	La		
34	Charles	M	W	6	Son					La	La	La		
35	Susan	F	W	2	Daughter					La	La	La		
36	Preston W.	M	W	67	father	Farmer				N. C.	La	La		

Note: Lines 1 to 25 and 37 to 50 removed to provide clarity

Figure 2: 1880 Federal Census and Neathery family details. Tillman Neathery (line 26) was the first cousin Dr. William Allen Neathery. Dr. Neathery's daughter, Miss Hattie's Neathery, was first cousin to Susan Neathery (line 35). Susan would later marry William Fletcher Lambert in Louisiana. Susan's daughter, Eula Thelma Lambert, would later marry and have a son named Herman Lavell Butler.

Source: National Archives and Records Administration

For more information visit the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Website at www.audiemurphy.com

STATE *Illinois* DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
 COUNTY *Wabash* THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910 - POPULATION
 TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY *Ward 7* NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE *Ward 7* SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. *2* SHEET NO. *B*
 NAME OF INSTITUTION *A* ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE *26* DAY OF *April*, 1910. WARD OF CITY *2* ENQUIRATOR *Doug Brown*

LINE NO.	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	SIBLINGS	SEX	AGE	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	REMARKS	PROPERTY	VALUE	REMARKS
71	<i>William Fletcher Lambert</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>W 37 12 2</i>	<i>Lambert Lambert Lambert</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Common School</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>250 0</i>	<i>1/2 0 00</i>	<i>2 5 00</i>
72	<i>Mary Susan Neathery</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>W 37 32 7 1/2 18</i>	<i>Neathery Neathery Neathery</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Common School</i>	<i>Homemaker</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>
73	<i>Myrtle Neathery</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>W 37 12 5</i>	<i>Neathery Neathery Neathery</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Common School</i>	<i>Homemaker</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>
74	<i>Susan Neathery</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>W 37 12 5</i>	<i>Neathery Neathery Neathery</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Common School</i>	<i>Homemaker</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>
75	<i>Uula Neathery</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>W 37 12 5</i>	<i>Neathery Neathery Neathery</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Common School</i>	<i>Homemaker</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>
76	<i>Uula Neathery</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>W 37 12 5</i>	<i>Neathery Neathery Neathery</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Common School</i>	<i>Homemaker</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>
77	<i>Uula Neathery</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>W 37 12 5</i>	<i>Neathery Neathery Neathery</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Common School</i>	<i>Homemaker</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>
78	<i>Uula Neathery</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>W 37 12 5</i>	<i>Neathery Neathery Neathery</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Common School</i>	<i>Homemaker</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>

Note: Lines 51 to 71 and 80 to 100 removed to provide clarity

Figure 3: 1910 Federal Census and Lambert family details. William Fletcher Lambert (line 72) was married to Mary Susan “Mollie” Neathery (line 73). Dr. Neathery’s daughter, Miss Hattie’s Neathery, was first cousin to Susan Neathery (line 35). Susan’s daughter, Uula (sic), or Eula Thelma Lambert (line 78), would later marry and have a son named Herman Lavell Butler.

Source: National Archives and Records Administration

Eula Thelma Butler
 ALBION — Eula Thelma Butler, 85, died Dec. 2, 1991, at the White County Hospital.
 She was born Sept. 11, 1906, in Catahoula Parish, La.; the daughter of Fletcher and Frances (Nethery) Lambert.
 She married M.B. “Pop” Butler on Dec. 17, 1924, in Columbia, La., he preceded her in death.
 Surviving are two daughters, Velda Morrow of Albion and Mary Fran Messman of Browns, 16 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.
 She was preceded in death by two sons, Herman and Marcus Bernard Butler; two brothers, Davis and Govie Lambert; and one sister, Myrtle Horn.
 Mrs. Butler, a homemaker, was a member of Easter Star.
 Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at the First Baptist Church in Albion; the Rev. Randy Miller will officiate and burial will be in Graceland Cemetery.
 Visitation is from 6 to 8 this evening at Ingram Funeral Home.

Figure 4: Obituary of Eula Butler. This article establishes that Eula Lambert was married to Marcus Brown Butler and their children’s names.

Source: *The Daily Republican Register*, p.12, Wednesday, December 4, 1991, Mt. Carmel Illinois



Figure 6: Grave of Herman Lavelle Butler. Herman Butler was the pilot of the twin-engine Aero Commander 680E, N601JJ that crashed on Brush Mountain, Virginia on May 28, 1971 taking the lives of all six people on board including Audie Leon Murphy. In a strange twist of fate, Butler was also related to Miss Hattie Neathery, Farmersville, Texas resident who was photographed 26 years earlier with Audie Murphy in the Life Magazine article, July 16, 1945..

*Photo Source: Karen Klemm Pinckard, www.findagrave.com
Plane Accident details: www.thisdayinaviation.com/tag/heman-lavelle-butler/*