

BERNICE CROOMS
Bernice Wilma (Crooms) Jones
Project Writer – Finney County

Thanks to Kamilah Jones (granddaughter of Bernice Crooms Jones) for providing personal information about Bernice and her family.

BERNICE WILMA CROOMS, daughter of Joshua C. Crooms (1869-1951) and Hattie S. McFadden (1883-1939), was born on 21 Nov 1913 in Kansas.

In 1919, at the age of 6 years, Bernice enrolled at the Prairie Queen School in Grant County, Kansas. There were thirty-seven pupils and that was the largest attendance in Grant County at that time.

In 1920, she was living with her parents in Sherman, Grant County, Kansas. In 1935, she was living in Ulysses, Grant County, Kansas. She moved to Garden City, Finney County, Kansas in 1936, where she became interested in writing the project stories about the Finney County, Kansas area.

Bernice Crooms married **MELVIN STUBBS JONES** on 11 Jun 1937 in Lamar, Otero County, Colorado, where they lived for several years before moving to Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, in about 1950. Melvin Stubbs Jones was born on 30 Sep 1909 at Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas. His parents were Matthew Shadrack Jones (1870-1936) and America E. Fantroy (1877-1964). Melvin worked as a Real Estate investor. He died in 1958 in Detroit, Michigan.

By the 1960s, Bernice had moved to California (to the Bay Area). There she married **JOSEPH K. HORTON** on 11 March 1961 and they divorced in September of 1968.

Bernice died of heart failure on 8 Apr 1975, in Alameda, California, when she was 61 years old. Her family shared that Bernice was sick as a child and could not play with the other children due to a high fever that damaged her heart and eventually caused her death later in years.

Bernice and Melvin had two sons, **WILLIAM WRIGHT JONES**, born 26 Sep 1938 in Colorado, and **MELVIN STUBBS JONES, JR.**, born 14 Jul 1940 in La Junta, Otero County, Colorado. Melvin, Jr. died on 9 Jun 1998 and buried at San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery in Santa Nella, Merced County, California.