



*Dedicated to Annie Josephine McClellan Phillips – 1891 to 1945*

I love my family - they send me beautiful cards with heartwarming messages when I am sick and they send me flowers when I am in the hospital (and sometimes, I even get some of Ron's honey). Along with John's help and support, these gestures mean so much to me. And, my family even has reunions and gives me the honor of celebrating my birthday with Atticus.

I'm the youngest of seven siblings and am the only remaining sibling born to Annie Josephine McClellan Phillips. But fortunately for me, I have my "more-like-a-sister than a sister-in-law" Mary Ellen to help me hold down the matriarchal fort. While I love my family dearly, there is one BIG REGRET that I have, and that's the fact that our loving, faithful, and hard working mother lived in poverty on a sand-blown

farm, and never had the joy of seeing her accomplished grandchildren into adulthood. While she knew some of them as children, and I'm sure witnessed a few scuffles here & there, she never had the joy of knowing their accomplishments in adult life. For this reason, and many more, this is written in her honor.

My oldest brother Loyd and his wife Verna had three sons. His first, David Neal, was a hardworking and dedicated student, who managed to get a degree through diligence. He made a great life for himself and his talented wife Jean. Second son, Loyd Wade, was just inducted into his 4th Hall of Fame, so how's that for you? He and his personable and kind wife Betsy are enjoying a great life in Arkansas. Third son, Terry Don, has been a very successful football coach as well as the Athletic Director at Clemson, and is now noted for having the vision to see the talent in the famous Dabo Sweeney. All of this with the tremendous support of his generous and delightful wife Tricia.

Mama's next child (one of the cute boys in the photo) was J.N. He and his wife Faye had one daughter Nelda, who is full of love, and after the tragic death of her son in a fire, was the first to open her heart and home to his wife, whom she and her husband James now care for with love and affection. J.N. was considered our family historian and also livened our life with his games and puzzles.

Next we have Jewel, the rock of our family, and with her husband Taft, their darling daughter Shirley Jean. Jewel was widowed when Shirley was just a baby. Despite this hardship, Jewel worked many hours to build a life for them and, unfortunately, sometimes this meant some lonely hours for Shirley. In spite of some challenging times, our Shirley, due to her happy disposition, was able to attend college and become the manager of a California-based Savings & Loan. Shirley & husband Jim currently live on a beautiful piece of property overlooking the ocean.

Lois (# 4) was the next of Mama's children, and with her husband Harl also had three accomplished children (Lois was photo shy – see the picture). Her first, Harlene, still lives in White Oak, close to Longview. She attended a business school, and now in her

retirement, she does a lot of charity work. We feel that all is in good hands when she is around. Lois' second, Jeanette, and her husband Ron had a successful business in Mount Pleasant. Lucky for us, upon retirement, Ron started courting the bees in his area and sometimes provides us with very good honey. Eddie, tragically, passed away at a young age. However, in his time with us, he was extremely successful. In addition to having a PhD in statistics, he also taught at a university and did important private sector work.

Frances was #5 and was blessed with a will to rise above her surroundings. We laughed when a friend said they wanted to come for a visit to the house, which would have been fine, except that Frances had boasted about the lovely RANCH that was her home. Can't remember how she got out of that one! Frances had three children with her husband Hans. Her first son, Ron (Butch to us), has started and owned three computer businesses and flies around the world in his jet plane. He is also a very loving and generous person and always offers to take friends or family where they need to go. "Want to go to Tibet...just jump in!" He currently splits his time between Massachusetts and Florida with his lovely wife Nancy. Frances' other son Don purchased and owned the Lazy Boy furniture store in Reno. And, with his lovely wife Becky operated it very successfully. The store was recently sold, but the story goes that he couldn't stay away, until finally the new owners asked him to "please just go and enjoy your proceeds!" He and Becky now do, as they are seen in all parts of the world on Facebook. Frances' third child, daughter Maria, transitioned from a fine business education into various successful ventures, including property ownership & management. Maria is also our animal lover in the family and a very successful one, with her breeding of cats & puppies. Some of her cats & dogs are so adorable that one would be tempted to buy one (or two). She also takes after her aunt Jewel in loving long car trips, preferably in a big travel-friendly vehicle. Jewel always lamented not having a big pickup. Maria is a very jolly niece and we all love her.

My brother Steve (# 6) was always a hard worker which paid off handsomely for him as he provided a good life for his wife Mary Ellen & daughter Sheila, who is a beautiful young lady. Sheila & her husband Cary also have a successful business and lovely children.

Now it's my turn to brag about our children Susan & Bruce. There are many things that I'm so proud of, but some people might think it's bragging, though it's been said that if you are talking about one's children or grandchildren, it's not bragging. I will wholeheartedly say that our children, grandchildren and now great-grandchildren have given John and me so much joy & love, and we are very grateful for that. Susan and husband Ted currently live outside of New York City, while Bruce, as a recent retiree, lives the good life in Queens.

Now I would be terribly remiss if I didn't mention my angels Marie & Bill Baldridge, who gave me a home during my high school years which made those days a happy time for me. And, I never once had a hint of resentment from their children Pat & Bill Jr. that they had to share their parents with me. In fact, Pat and I (one year apart) have been friends all these years and we just had a wonderful visit here in Charlottesville.

I know that my sweet Mama would be so proud of all of her amazing grandchildren! And, just know that you are all very dear to me and I love you all so much!!

Aunt Bea