

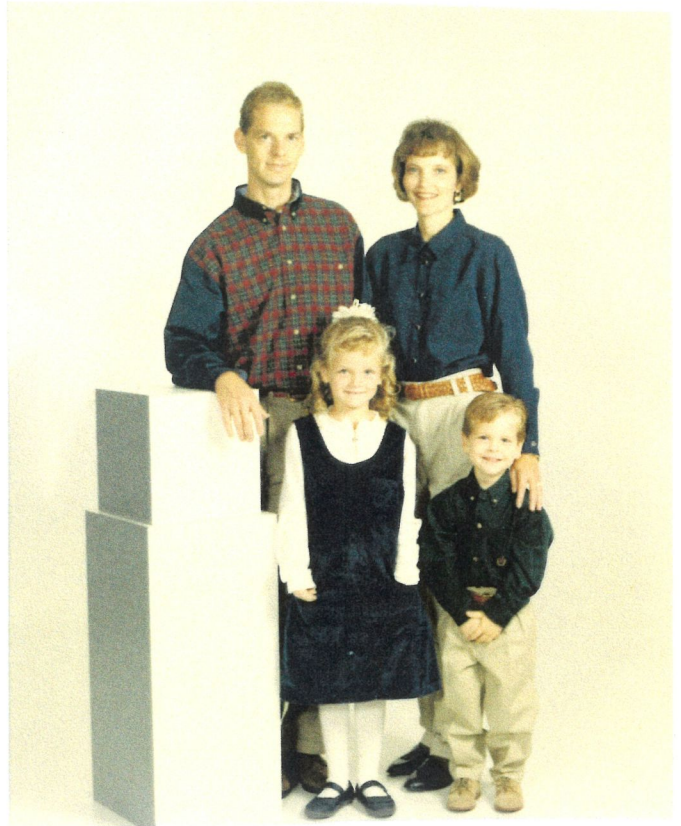
Rex & Margaret Wilson  
And Family

Kevin

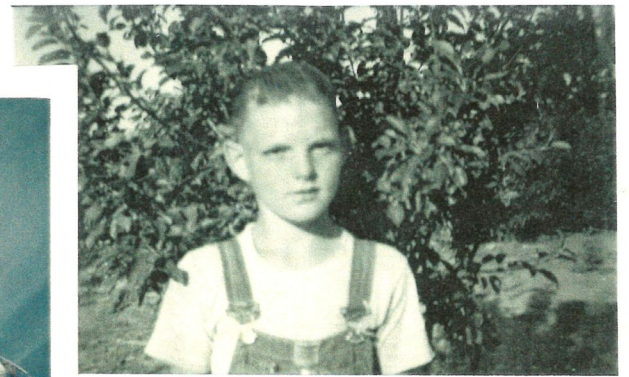
Lisa



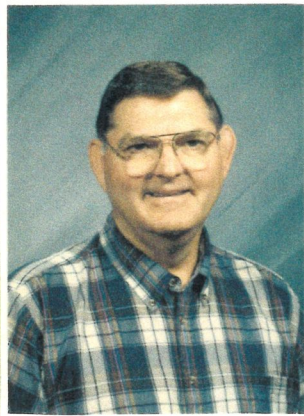
Margaret, Connie, Rex  
95<sup>th</sup> Birthday



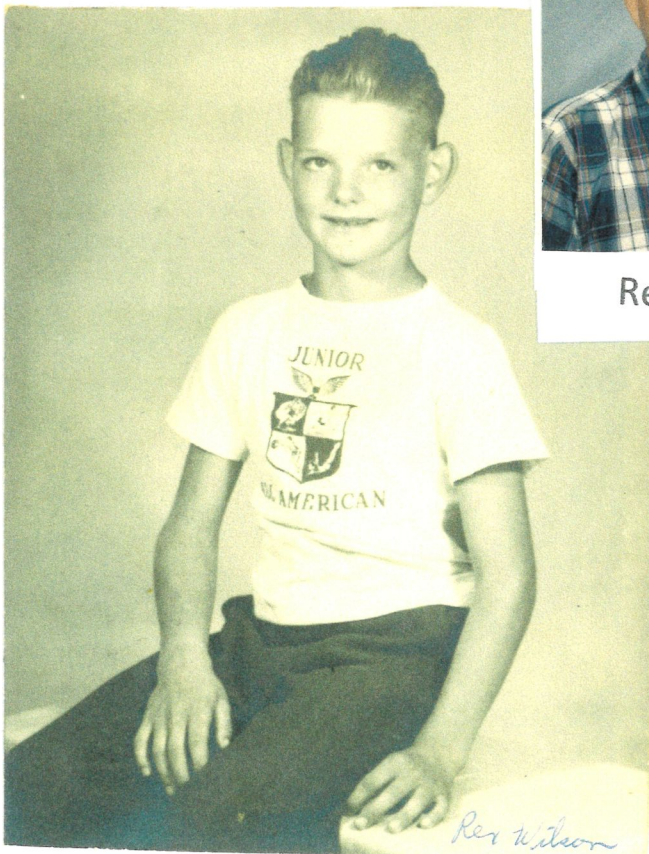
Kevin, Janet, Maranda Dylan 1997



Rex 1947



Rex 1996



Dean Scott & Rex 1955

## MEMORIES OF FAMILY EVENTS

By Rex L. Wilson

My memory of my father is very dim and sketchy. One thing I do remember is the haircuts which he gave to us and our cousins on Sunday afternoons. It was also a chance to get together and play ball or other games.

Some of the memories from growing up on the farm bring back many pleasant activities. Keith, with a little help from me, made a giant bean shooter out of a large fork of a tree we had trimmed. We used inner tubes and created a weapon that would shoot egg size rock at the cattle 200 yards away and make them jump when the rock hit the ground nearby. The weapon was attached to a metal post driven in the ground and took both of us to pull it back. Great fun was also had by flying coffee can lids which behaved much like Frisbees except you didn't want to catch them with their sharp edges. Had we known the potential we could be millionaires!! We tried to set off 50 caliber machine gun shells by putting them in an outdoor vise and shooting them with a 22 until we were told what would actually happen had we been successful. It would not have been pretty!!

We used to play hide and seek in the cane field north of the house. Keith and Dean would hide in the field and while I tried to find them, they would sneak out of the field and go to the house for a peanut butter snack. After a while, I would give up or they would come back to get me.

Watching storms arrive is another good memory. As the cool air from the storm approached we would huddle on the warmed cement steps wrapped in a blanket, squint through the dust clouds at the storm until the rain finally drove us inside. Our family still enjoys watching clouds and storm, admiring God's beauty and fury. As children we would stand in the barn doorway looking for the largest hailstone or watch the draws and rivers rise after a storm. Many of these events are very vivid to me.

The streams in our area, the Smokey Hill, Salt Creek, Plum Creek and the draw in our pasture each created indelible memories. The big floods on the Smokey Hill River, when the water rose to the bottom of the bridge on Hwy 23 and huge trees floating under the bridge struck the foundation of the bridge with a loud vibrating thud, was pure excitement to children.

When a call came that Plum Creek has received 5 or 6 inches of rain in its upper reaches and was expected to rise dramatically, the family drove north on Hwy 23 to the bridge. An incredible wall of water created by vegetation, trees and trash came flowing down the creek in a slow steady pace wiping out everything in its way. When it hit the fence, the wires strained and stretched and finally, with a snarl gave way and the trash surged on into the bridge. The bridge was temporarily blocked and the water rose and eventually ran over the road on both sides of the bridge creating a logistical challenge for those spectators on the bridge. The adults quickly removed us from the bridge to safety. Another fascinating thing about the floods was the wild life which would be caught in these trash flows. Rabbits, mice, rats, snakes, turtles were all searching for a place to escape. When I was older these creatures provided good target practice as the stream raced by.

The dam we built on Salt Creek was used for irrigation, fishing, swimming and duck hunting. After many years of use, floodwater washed out the spillways of the dam and eventually it was destroyed. The draw in the pasture provided a small but magical stream after rains with pools, waterfalls and rapids that were fascinating to us as young children. This pasture is located directly east of the Wilson home place where Dean and Gaye lived for many years.

When I was in lower elementary, Dean, Keith and I had daily chores - milking cows, feeding pigs, cattle and chickens. Chores were routine and passed without incident until dips in the cow tank became necessary to clean up after a manure fight. The fun consisted of finding a dry cow patty and scooping up fresh droppings and throwing it at a brother. All stinky good fun for boys.

We also liked to try to ride steers in the winter when the cattle were lined up at the feed bunks. We approached from the rear, leaping onto an unsuspecting critter that would back out of line and toss us quickly into the barnyard slop. Or we would grab a calf by the tail and see how long we could hang on. It was great fun as they ran across the corral until they made a sharp turn near a fence propelling us into the fence and ultimately into the muck. This went well until our Dad caught us having great fun running pounds off the cattle we were trying to fatten. That ended that.

Gathering eggs was my job for quite a few years. The old setting hens didn't appreciate me reaching under them to get eggs so they would peck my hands and arms. One day I reached into a nest high above my head and grabbed a very large bull snake. I was terrified but not bitten. I grabbed the hoe to kill the intruder but my Dad said "No, it's a good snake" and was later moved to the barn for mouse control. The snake had 3 chicken eggs in it. My Dad and I watched the snake come down and wrap around a post in the chicken house. The constriction of snake's muscles broke the eggs one by one. Another lesson learned.

Our biggest challenge as youth was to try to beat Mother at Croquet. To this day when I play Croquet I remember our court with fruit trees in it and trying different strategies to win a game against Mother. She would go first and beat us so we went first the next time figuring that was the secret and she would beat us again. We played thousands of games of Croquet, seldom were we able to win if she was playing. As I began making a list of family events in which we participated, the list became too large to cover in this writing. I know that all the kittens, cards games, ball games, livestock, gardens, chores and many other things shared with my brothers, sisters and parents shaped my life and everything that I may accomplish or enjoy.

After attending elementary school at Jerome, I attended high school in Dighton, KS and lived with my sister, Delila Speer, and her family in town. I graduated from Dighton School in 1955.

Upon graduating from Dighton High School I enrolled at Fort Hays State in Hays, KS. I majored in mathematics and completed in track as a javelin thrower. After achieving some success as a freshman I received a track scholarship for the next three years. During my junior and senior year I placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the National Championships. After graduating from Fort Hays State majoring in mathematics in 1960 and my marriage to Margaret Macy, I began my professional life by signing a contract to teach at Isabel High School, Isabel, KS in Barber County as math teacher and coach. I coached baseball, then basketball in winter and track in the spring. We won 4 consecutive league championships in baseball and track. Basketball was not as successful, winning only three games the first year and seven the second year. I did not coach basketball again, but continued coaching track for the next 5 years as head and assistant coach.

Isabel was a wonderful place to start my career and family. The community was caring, helpful and supportive in many ways. Both our children were born while we lived there. Kevin was born in the summer of 1961 when we lived with my mother, Consuella York. I worked for the York's with their farm operation during the summer. Lisa was born in Pratt, KS during the 1963 school year. Neighbors and good friends helped us with the children and supported us for those four years.

In 1964 the superintendent of Marion, KS called and asked me to apply for the math and track position at Marion High School. After an interview and much thought I accepted the position. I taught mathematics and coached track and cross country for 35 years. I was also a mathematics teacher for Butler College in Marion at their satellite campus in town. I retired from Marion High School in 1999, but have continued to coach as an assistant in track.

Our first home in Marion on West Santa Fe Street was a very humble dwelling for which we were very thankful. With frozen pipes, plugged sewer and flood threats it was a challenging time for our family. We are still living in Marion, 52 years later having moved from Santa Fe Street to Roosevelt Street and now live on Elm Street.

5. Rex Leland Wilson  
Birth: November 14, 1937  
Place: Gove Co., Kansas (farm)

Margaret Jane Macy  
December 24, 1941  
Beloit, Kansas

Death:

Cemetery:

Married: August 7, 1960; Hays, Kansas

Children Born To This Union:

Kevin Lee                      July 20, 1961  
Lisa Diane                      February 4, 1963

A. Kevin Lee Wilson  
Birth: July 20, 1961  
Place: Dighton, Kansas

Janet Leigh Hinderliter  
September 8, 1962

Death:

Cemetery:

Married: April 30, 1988; Wichita, Kansas

Children Born To This Union:

Miranda Lea                      May 6, 1991  
Dylan Lee                         May 24, 1994

B. Lisa Diane Wilson  
Birth: February 4, 1963  
Place: Pratt, Kansas  
Death: January 6, 2008

Brent Paul Ragsdale  
August 10, 1964  
Topeka, Kansas

Cemetery:

Married: October 5, 1991; Marion, Kansas

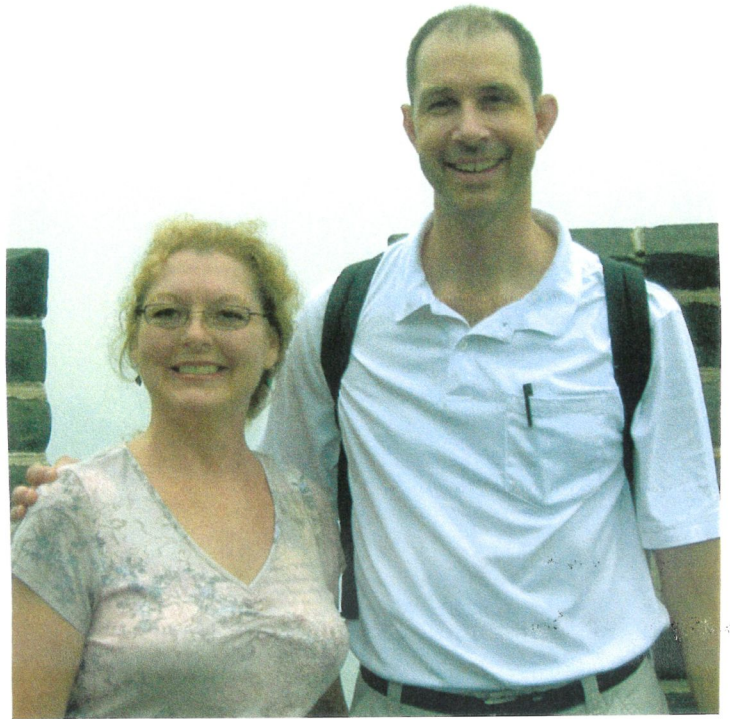
Children Born To This Union:

Blaine Connor                      May 27, 1993  
Logan Elliot                         May 3, 1995  
Jeremy Beck                         June 28, 1999  
Vivian Kate                         February 7, 2006; Adopted: August 2007; China

## Brent & Lisa Ragsdale



Name: Brent Paul Ragsdale  
Birth: August 10, 1964  
Place: Topeka, Kansas  
Death:  
Cemetery:  
Married: October 5, 1991;  
Children: Blaine, Logan, Jeremy, Vivian



Lisa Diane Wilson  
February 4, 1963  
Pratt, Kansas  
January 6, 2008



Lisa D. Ragsdale, 44, Shawnee, KS, died Sunday, January 6, 2008 at the University of Kansas Hospital. Memorial Services will be 6:30 p.m. Friday, January 11, at Shawnee Presbyterian Church, 6837 Nieman Road, Shawnee, KS 66203 where friends may call from 4:30-6:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers memorials are suggested to Families Thru International Adoption, P.O. Box 10, Stilwell, KS 66085 in support of Children's Hope House in Romania, or to an education fund for Lisa's children in care of any Commerce Bank. Lisa was born February 4, 1963, in Pratt, KS and had lived in Shawnee since 1996. She was an active wife and mother in her family's activities and her children's schools at Benninghoven Elementary, Trailridge Middle and Shawnee Mission Northwest High School. She is survived by her husband of 16 years, Brent P. Ragsdale, four children, Blaine, Logan, Jeremy and Vivian, all of the home, her parents, Rex and Margaret Wilson, Marion, KS, a brother and his wife, Kevin and Janet Wilson, Bentonville, AR, a foster brother and his wife, Kevin and Loraine McGahee, Shawnee, KS, maternal grandmother, Florence Macy, Marion, KS and many other family and friends who loved her.

## Vivian Ragsdale



Name: Vivian Kate Ragsdale (Yong Yu Ping – Happy Apple)

Birth: February 7, 2006

Place: Hunan Province of China

Adopted: August 6, 2007

Death: April 24, 2010

Cemetery: Lenexa, Kansas

## IN MEMORIAM

EXPANDED EULOGIES

*"In Memoriam" listings are expanded obituaries, phrased exactly as the family requests, and may include enhanced information or photographs that might not fit within free death notices.*



Vivian Ragsdale

### *Vivian Ragsdale*

Vivian Kate Ragsdale, 4, of Shawnee, died suddenly of pneumonia April 24, 2010, at Shawnee Mission Medical Center.

Memorial services will be at 5:30 p.m. April 28 at Shawnee Presbyterian Church, 6837 Nieman Road, Shawnee KS 66203, with a visitation starting at 4:30 p.m.

Memorials are suggested to Hope's Heart Orphan Foundation, PO Box 2903, Olathe KS 66063-0903 or [hopesheart.org](http://hopesheart.org) in support of orphan children in China.

Vivian was born Feb. 7, 2006, in the Hunan Province of China. She was adopted by Brent P. and Lisa D. Ragsdale who travelled to China and brought

her into their family on Aug. 6, 2007.

Vivian was preceded in death by her mother, Lisa, Jan. 6, 2008.

Surviving Vivian are her father and three loving brothers, Blaine, Logan, and Jeremy; and grandparents Rex and Margaret Wilson of Marion and Bob and Jeanette Ragsdale of Redmond, Wash.

Vivian attended Shawnee Presbyterian Pre-School and was cared for during the day by Celia Miller of Shawnee. Vivian was loved by many people in the community.

Though Vivian was often noticed because of her physical beauty, it was her personality that we will remember. Vivian was observant, empathetic, concerned, kind, clever, and helpful. She made Shawnee a brighter place and she will be dearly missed.

Condolences may be expressed at [www.porterfuneralhome.com](http://www.porterfuneralhome.com). Arrangements are provided by Porter Funeral Homes & Crematory, 8535 Monrovia, Lenexa KS, (913) 438-6444.

# Speared by Wilson

By a Hornet Reporter

Scott City won first place in the annual WKEA track and field meet at Scott Friday afternoon.

The Dighton thinclads finished second with 54 points, being almost 20 points ahead of third place winner, La Crosse, which finished with 35½ points.

Other team scoring—Tribune 25, Jetmore 20, Ness City 17, and Leoti 12.

Only one meet record was broken when Rex Wilson of Dighton threw the javelin 167 feet, 4 inches. The old mark of 165 feet, 2 inches was made by Allen of Ness City in 1934.

Dighton and Scott finished even in the number of first places, each having four, but Scott out-weighed the Dighton reserve.

Scoring for Dighton were—high hurdles—Lucas second; Bruns fifth; 100 yard dash—Scott, third; Hanna, fourth; half-mile relay, (Bradstreet, Bruns, Scott, Hanna), first; low hurdles, Lucas second; 880 yard run, Schwartz, fifth; medley relay fourth; 220 yard dash, Bradstreet, first; shot put, Heronemus, second; discus, Heronemus, first; Furgason fifth; broad jump, Heinz, fifth; and javelin, Wilson, first and Hanna second.



Janie & Alvin  
And Family

Von  
James

Garden City Telegram  
Saturday, Jan. 19, 1963

# on Week Is Feb. 10-16



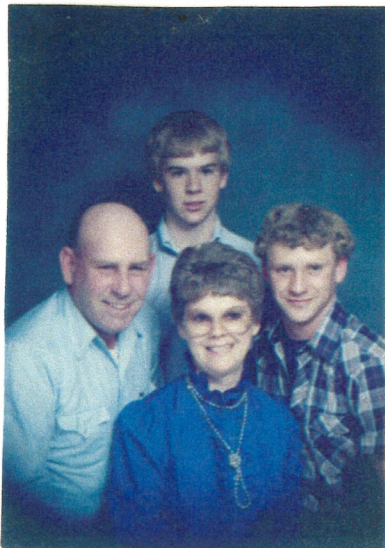
*Billie June 1947*

Janie



*Janie*

Janie



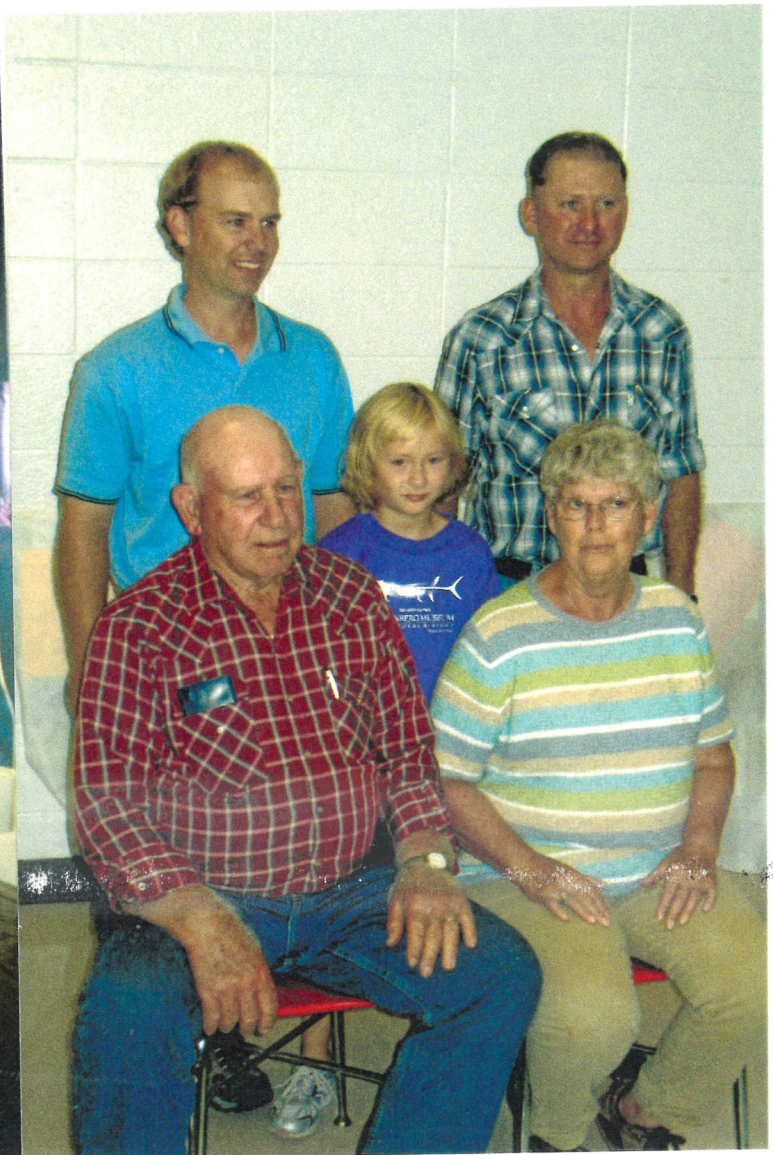
Alvin, Janie, Von, James  
December 1985



MISS JANIE Wilson, Garden City, daughter Mrs. Henry York, Dighton, was chosen national beauty queen of hearts of southwest Kansas. Miss Wilson will represent the Western Kansas Cosmetologist association when a state queen will be chosen Feb. 16 at the Civic Playhouse in Wichita. Miss Wilson is employed by Rose Beauty Salon, Garden City. Her hair was styled by Myrtle's Beauty Salon, Garden City. (Photo by Rudy Valenzuela)



DeLila & Janie  
1997 Easter



Von, James  
Madison  
Alvin, Janie 2008



## Alvin & Janie (Wilson) Johnson

Ella Jane Wilson was born January 19, 1940 in Gove County, daughter of Earl & Connie Wilson. She had 5 older brothers and sisters: Delila, Dean, Keith, Amy, and Rex.

Janie attended grade school in Gove County at Jerome Grade School and graduated from Dighton High school. She attended beautician school in Doge City and worked as a beautician in Garden City. She met and marriage Alvin Johnston on February 3, 1968 in Dighton, Kansas. They had two children, Von born February 23, 1966 and James born March 23, 1970.

Janie enjoyed gardening, crafts, sewing, her walks and 4-H activities. They were members of the United Methodist of Dighton. She was a member of the Lane County Farm Bureau Board.

Alvin was born on December 3, 1934. He graduated from Dighton High School in 1953. He attended the farm management program at Kansas State University. He then served in the Army and was stationed in California. After discharged he returned to the family farm and was a lifelong farmer & stockman.

6. Ella Jane Wilson (Janie) Alvin Clark Johnston  
Birth: January 19, 1940 December 3, 1934  
Place: Gove Co., Kansas (farm) Lane Co., Kansas (farm)  
Death: July 9, 2013 February 16, 2019  
Cemetery: Dighton, Kansas  
Married: February 3, 1968; Dighton, Kansas  
Children Born To This Union:  
    Von Ray February 23, 1966  
    James Alvin March 23, 1970

A. Von Ray Johnston Nancy Jean Kennis  
Birth: February 23, 1966 March 21 1969  
Place: Scott, Kansas Tribune, Kansas  
Death:  
Cemetery:  
Married: December 31, 2000; Dighton, Kansas  
Step Children:  
    Kalynn Danee Vincent September 16, 1988  
    Cody James Vincent November 14, 1991  
Children Born To This Union:  
    Madison Grace Johnston March 7, 2001

B. James Alvin Johnston  
Birth: March 23, 1970  
Place: Garden City, Kansas  
Death:  
Cemetery:  
Married:  
Children Born To This Union:

## Alvin & Janie Johnston



Name: Alvin C. Johnston

Birth: December 3, 1934

Place: Lane Co., Kansas

Death: February 16, 2019

Cemetery: Dighton, Kansas

Married: February 3, 1968; Dighton, Kansas

Children: Von & James

Ella Jane Wilson

January 19, 1940

Gove Co., Kansas

July 9, 2013



# Alvin C. Johnston

FEBRUARY 19, 2019 BY HAYS POST 0 COMMENTS



Alvin C. Johnston, 84, died on Saturday, February 16, 2019 at Scott County Hospital in Scott City. He was born on December 3, 1934 in Lane County the son of James Clark & Bessie Gladys (Edmundson) Johnston. He married Janie Wilson on February 3, 1968 at Dighton. She died on July 9, 2013. Alvin graduated from Dighton High School in 1953. He attended the farm management program at Kansas State University. He then served in the United States Army and was stationed in California. After his discharge he returned to the family farm and was a lifelong farmer- stockman. He was a member of the United Methodist Church, Kansas Livestock Association and past board member of the Farm Bureau Board, FSA Board and the family was active in 4-H and Alvin was the Beef Leader. He enjoyed bowling, playing the guitar, his hunting trips to Arkansas and Colorado and attending the annual 3 I show.

He is survived by his 2 Sons- Von (Nancy) Johnston and James Johnston both of Dighton, Sister- Elsie Beth Speer of Dighton, 3 Grandchildren and 2 Great-Grandchildren.

Funeral Service will be at **10:30 AM Wednesday** at United Methodist Church with Rev Berniece Ludlum officiating. Burial will be in Dighton Memorial Cemetery with military rites by Kansas Army National Guard Honor Guard. Memorials are suggested to United Methodist Church in care of Boomhower Funeral Home. Friends may call from **Noon to 8:00 PM Tuesday** at Boomhower Funeral Home.

Condolences may be posted at  
[[www.garnandfuneralhomes.com](http://www.garnandfuneralhomes.com)][www.garnandfuneralhomes.com](http://www.garnandfuneralhomes.com).

## **Janie Johnston**

**January 19, 1940 - July 09, 2013**

**Dighton, Kansas**

**Visitation:** Noon to 8:00 PM Thursday, 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM Friday , at Boomhower Funeral Home in Dighton.

**Funeral Service:** 2:00 PM on Friday, July 12, 2013 at United Methodist Church in Dighton with Rev Berniece Ludlum officiating.

**Interment:** Dighton Memorial Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be given to the United Methodist Church in care of Boomhower Funeral Home.

Janie Johnston, age 73, died Tuesday, July 9, 2013, at Lane County Long Term Care in Dighton. She was born January 19, 1940, in Gove County, the daughter of Earl Andrew & Consuella (Fullmer) Wilson. Janie married Alvin C. Johnston on February 3, 1968, at Dighton.

Janie attended grade school in Gove County and graduated from Dighton High School in 1958. She attended beautician school in Dodge City and worked as a beautician in Garden City before her marriage. She enjoyed gardening, her walks, crafts, sewing & was involved with 4-H activities. Janie was a member of the United Methodist Church of Dighton, United Methodist Women, FCE Extension, TOPS, and Past member of Lane County Farm Bureau Board.

Survivors include her husband, Alvin C. Johnston of the home; 2 sons, Von Johnston of Dighton, James Johnston of Dighton; 2 brothers, Dean Wilson of Dighton, Rex Wilson of Marion; sister, Amy Jewell of Warsaw, Missouri; 2 step-brothers, Forrest York of Healy, Dwight York of Oakley; step-sister, Maxine Wilson of Dighton; 3 grandchildren, and 1 great-granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by her parents, 1 brother- Keith Wilson & 1 sister- DeLila Speer.