

Bryant and Violet Phinizy

1920 - 2016

Building a Forever Family

From Morenci/Clifton to the temple of the Lord



Bryant

Violet

by Thomas Lee Palmer

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Bryant and Violet Phinizy

by Thomas Lee Palmer (2021)

(Special thanks to family members of Bryant and Violet Phinizy who provided photos, memories and histories to help give life to this book)

This presentation is an attempt to capture the faithfulness of the ancestors of Bryant and Violet Phinizy and recount their early years growing up in Georgia and Arizona and their love of their family. It is hoped that this book will help our children and grandchildren turn their hearts to their fathers as they come to know those who have gone before and that they will come to love the temples of the Lord as they did.

This book is not intended as a scholarly work, but rather to present to our family an overview of the lives of our ancestors. Sources of the information provided herein include:

- ***The Phinizy Family in America* by Ferdinand Phinizy Calhoun (1925)**
- ***Grandmother was a Phinizy – A registry of Phinizy Descendants and Allied Families* by F. Phinizy Calhoun, Jr., M.D. (1991)**
- ***Clarence and Maud Post 1898-1978 – Southern Arizona Pioneers* by Thomas L. Palmer (2020)**
- ***Family Search.org* – Memories and stories of ancestors**
- Life histories of Nellie Gretna Helms and Paul Bryant Phinizy Jr.
- Reflections on his childhood by Paul Bryant Phinizy Jr. (2008)
- Photo albums, scrapbooks and memories of family members.

Who are Bryant and Violet to ME?

This chart should help you decide . . .

Paul Bryant Phinizy 1892 - 1934

Clarence Evans Post 1898 - 1978

Nellie Gretna Helms 1896 - 1977

Maud Billingsley 1900 - 1972

Paul Bryant Phinizy

&

Violet Mae Post

1920 - 2016

1925 - 1996

Children

Gretna Palmer

Pamela Crosby

Helen Kennedy

Paul Phinizy

Pauline Holgate

1943

1944

1946

1952

1953

Paul Bryant Phinizy 1892 - 1934

Nellie Gretna Helms 1896 - 1977



Clarence Evans Post 1898 - 1978

Maud Billingsley 1900 - 1972



Paul Bryant Phinizy & Violet Mae Post



Children of Bryant & Violet



Helen Pauline Pam Paul Gretna

Ancestral Roots

Violet's ancestors (Posts, Evans, Billingsleys, and Busbys) came from England to the United States and then mostly to Kansas and Utah and eventually to the San Pedro River Valley in Southern Arizona In the late 1800s and early 1900s [*Details of these ancestors are contained in the book, Clarence and Maud Post (2020)*]



England



Kansas



Southern Arizona



Utah

The values and traits of Violet's ancestral roots have become part of the heritage of Violet and all of her posterity – a deep and abiding love of God and their fellowman.

Ancestral Roots

Bryant's maternal ancestors (Helms & Murphy) settled primarily in Missouri in the 1700s and 1800s



Bryant's paternal ancestors settled in southern United States in Georgia and Virginia in the late 1700s and after. The first Phinizy to come to America, Ferdinand Phinizy, came from Italy.



Italy



Georgia

Ferdinand Phinizy comes to America

The book, *The Phinizy Family in America*, provides some history of the first Phinizy to come to America. Ferdinand Victor Francois Phinizy was born in northern Italy, in the city of Parma, Italy and was left an orphan at an early age.



Parma, Italy was established many years before the birth of Christ. It is home of the University of Parma, one of the oldest Universities in the world. It is known for it's architecture (In photo above: Torrechiara Castle built in the 1400s), music, art, cheese and ham (Parmesan cheese and Parma ham).

Ferdinand Phinizy comes to America

Upon reaching young manhood Ferdinand was sent to France for an education or for military training. Ferdinand, age 17, misrepresented his birth date and enlisted in 1777 in a French force heading to the newly formed United States of America to aid in their battle against the British. His regiment landed in Savannah, Georgia, and immediately participated in a fierce engagement with the British, in which his commanding officer was killed. He took part in battles and maneuvers around Yorktown. He was discharged from service in January, 1784, and soon after married Margaret Condon. They settled in Georgia where he became a respected planter and merchant. One account records, *“There was no man in the county of such energy, such quick perceptions, and sudden in his actions as Ferdinand Phinizy.”* His headstone states the following: *“He was a native of Parma, Italy, but in early life became a citizen of the United States, and shared in the struggles, advocated the rights and was a firm friend to the independence of his adopted country.”*

Establishing Roots in Georgia

In the book, *The Phinzy Family in America*, the making of their life in Georgia was noted: “*There were born to Ferdinand Phinzy and Margaret Condon in Wilkes or Oglethorpe County five children: Sarah (1788), Jacob (1790), Eliza (1791), John (1793), and Marcoe (1794). With a family rapidly growing up and with large business interests in Augusta, that city was decided upon as a permanent home, which was established about 1800.*”



THE STORE AND HOME OF FERDINAND PHINIZY, BROAD AND CENTER STREETS, AUGUSTA, GA.

The “Phinizy” name

The surname of Ferdinand when in Parma, Italy, was likely either *Finici* or *Finizzi*, which are both distinctly Italian. The name “Phinizy” is unusual and was thought to be a change by the family at some point. Nothing is definitely known of Ferdinand’s parentage – his life, however, is a tribute to the fact that he was born of honorable and educated parents. Ferdinand was respected in Georgia for his ability to speak Italian, French, and English and conduct business in exemplary fashion.

In Georgia, the Phinizy family gained the reputation of protecting the underdog or those not properly treated. [*This reputation seems to have found its way to the descendants of Bryant Phinizy as well 😊*] Ferdinand’s sons were said to have been strong and quite the fighters. Once at a public dinner in Augusta his three sons learned that their father was insulted because of being a foreigner. They armed themselves with sticks and beat up the entire dinner party.

The Phinizy family was principled and religious

On at least two occasions Ferdinand provided emancipation for slaves and appointed attorneys to secure a statute with the legislature to confirm his act.

Ferdinand was Catholic much of his life, then later converted to Methodism. He was the donor of the bell in the Catholic Church in Augusta, Georgia.

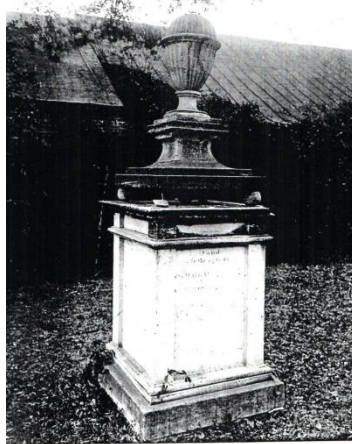
Ferdinand's wife, Margaret, died August 15, 1815 and was buried in St. Paul's churchyard.



HISTORIC SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH AND YARD IN AUGUSTA, GA., WHERE LIES BURIED MARGARET CONDON, WIFE OF FERDINAND PHINIZY.

Burial of Margaret Phinizy

Ferdinand's wife, Margaret, was buried in St. Paul's churchyard under a monument of unusual design (Ferdinand was buried under a similar monument a few years later).



MONUMENT OVER THE GRAVE OF MARGARET CONDON, WIFE OF FERDINAND PHINIZY, IN ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD, AUGUSTA, GA.

The inscription on Margaret's monument reads as follows:

“Sacred to the Memory of Mrs. Margaret Phinizy who having adorned the doctrine of God her Savior, by a life of exemplary piety and usefulness, was called to the enjoyment of the blessed above on the 22nd day of August, 1815, age 55.

The dust which here in silence lies Shall at the Archangel's trumpet arise And formed anew by power divine, shall in endless glory shine.”

The Legacy of Ferdinand Phinizy

Ferdinand Phinizy died on October 19, 1818 at “China Grove” on a visit to his son, John. He died without a will and his estate was estimated to be worth \$120,000 (a very sizable estate in that day).

Ferdinand left far more than a wealthy estate, he left a legacy to his family [as noted in the *Augusta Chronicle* of October 18, 1818] of

- *Integrity*
- *Love of God and his fellowman*
- *A strong work ethic*
- *Charity – a Christ-like love for those in need*
- *Compassion and generosity in assisting others no matter their race or creed*
- *Tender feelings for his children*
- *Warmest affection for his wife*

These character traits are mirrored in the life of Bryant Phinizy and his posterity – a tribute to the first Phinizy in America.

Ancestral line from Ferdinand to Bryant

Bryant comes through the line of Ferdinand's youngest son, **MARCOE PHINIZY**. Marcoe died at age 22 in 1816 leaving a 2 year old son, John Ferdinand Phinizy.

JOHN FERDINAND grew to manhood and farmed extensively near Athens, Georgia, and since most of his property consisted of slaves, he, like many other planters in the South, was left almost penniless at the close of the Civil War. He moved to a farm on the Coosa River, near Rome, Georgia. He died in 1889 leaving one son, **JOHN FERDINAND**, who was educated at the University of Georgia and became a planter near Rome, Georgia. He was a Captain in the Confederate Army and was killed in a runaway just after the war at approximately 35 years of age. He left a son, **JOHN WILLIAM PHINIZY**, born August 4, 1855 near Rome, Georgia. John William Phinizy's fourth child is **PAUL BRYANT PHINIZY**, born January 1, 1892 in Cedartown, Georgia. Paul Bryant Phinizy married Nellie Gretna Helms on October 28, 1915 and they have five children: Marjorie, born August 7, 1916; Dorothy, born March 14, 1918; **PAUL BRYANT PHINIZY**, born June 15, 1920; Sarah Virginia, born June 28, 1922; Robert Burchall Phinizy, born June 30, 1926.

[Bryant's ancestral line in blue]

Northwest Georgia

Ferdinand Phinizy's grandson, John Ferdinand (ancestor of Bryant), was the first of the family to occupy the northwest corner of the state of Georgia in the mid to late 1800s. Towns referred to in the history of the Phinizy family in northwest Georgia included, among others, Rome and Cedartown.



Georgia had been occupied for many years by the Cherokee and other Native American tribes. In the 1800s the rich, fertile soil invited a boon in short-staple cotton growing in which the Cherokee and newcomers (like the Phinizys) engaged in. Steamboats took the harvested cotton down the Coosa River to New Orleans. Georgia experienced many battles during the Civil War and with the Native American tribes.

Northwest Georgia

In the early 1900s the area around Rome was hit hard by the boll weevil, which destroyed much of the cotton crop and suppressed the economy. They turned to other crops and because they produced much of their own food they survived some of the harsh effects of the Great Depression in 1929-1933. Many freedmen stayed in the area as sharecroppers and tenant farmers, and the economy continued to depend on agriculture. Cedartown was also a town based on agriculture. These small towns in which many of the Phinizy families lived and grew up were all of a humid and subtropical climate – great for farming, but harsh in the hot summers.



Bryant's Mother

Bryant's mother, **Nellie Gretna Helms ("Gretna")**, is the oldest child of James Robert Helms and Olive M. Murphy. She was born July 16, 1896 in Bonne Terre, Missouri. She remembers as a young child at 3 years of age going daily to her grandfather's store and often getting her pick of candy, gingersnap, or cheese as a treat. Her father was principal of the schools in Bonne Terre. She describes her father as one with a spirit of adventure who loved to travel. He took a job as a teacher in Payette, Idaho and while there contracted typhoid fever and almost died. Gretna remembers going after dark to get milk from neighbors – she often repeated the words, "God helps those who help themselves" as she walked along. With her father's adventuresome spirit the family moved to other cities in Idaho: Idaho Falls, Market Lake, and Iona.

He also taught in Kennewick and Hover, Washington.

When Gretna's mother needed to leave the higher altitudes for health reasons, her father secured a position as principal in Palmetto, Florida – Gretna was then 14 years of age and anxious to live in one place forever.



Gretna graduated from Palmetto High School in May 1915

Bryant's parents

Bryant's mother, Nellie Gretna Helms, and her father, Paul Bryant Phinizy, were married on October 28, 1915 at Gretna's parents home in Palmetto, Florida – Paul was 22 and Gretna 19.

Paul was born in Cedartown on January 1, 1892. We know little of Paul's growing up, but assume he was active in farming and dairy life in the Rome-Cedartown area of Georgia as were his ancestors.



Paul

After their marriage, Paul and Gretna moved to Cedartown, Georgia where Paul and his father owned a farm. It had a large colonial home on it.



Their colonial home in Cedartown may have been like this 1907 home still there

Raising a family in Georgia

Gretna recalls in her life history (which she wrote in 1966 at the request of her granddaughter and namesake, Gretna) : *“My first baby, a girl named Marjorie was born in August 1916. Then in March 1918 another girl Dorothy arrived. We traded the farm for some farm land and timber in middle Georgia and moved to Lumpkin, Georgia. Here my first son arrived in June 1920, named Paul Bryant for his father (he was wild with joy over a son). Virginia was born in June 1922, my smallest child only weighed 5 pounds, tiny but as fat as a little pig. Bryant adored her and called her “little honey” for years. My last child, Robert Burchall, was born at Ben Hill, Georgia in June 1926”*

Lumpkin, Georgia (Bryant’s place of birth) only had 984 people when he was born in 1920. Lumpkin is on the western border of Georgia toward the south and is the home of “Little Grand Canyon” (Providence Canyon State Park)



Raising a family in Georgia



**Paul & Gretna Phinizy family
in Georgia – about 1929**

Paul, Bobby, Bryant, Dorothy, Virginia, Gretna, Marjorie

A difficult time for a close family

In 1929 Paul (Bryant's dad) became very ill – he was diagnosed with Tuberculosis. The doctor recommended he move to a dry climate like New Mexico or Arizona. Paul and Gretna moved to Arizona when Bryant was just 9 years old and left the children in the care of relatives. In August of 1930 his mom got a job in a store in Wilcox, Arizona. They hoped for a reuniting of the family in Georgia soon, but Paul's health improved only marginally. Gretna mentioned in her history the difficulty of being away from her children "I underwent the deepest homesickness."

Wilcox, Arizona



The move west took them from one "Grand Canyon State" to another, but the goal was to reunite the family in Georgia when Paul recovered.



"Little Grand Canyon" near Lumpkin, Georgia



Grand Canyon in Arizona

Reuniting the family in Arizona

In 1930 Paul was better, but not well. His doctor diagnosed him with Undulant Fever (Bang's disease) and ordered rest as they were unsure of how to treat this new disease. They decided they would likely have to live in the west. Paul was operated on for cancer of the throat, but just kept getting worse. Both Paul and Gretna really missed the children so they made the decision to bring all of them to Arizona. In 1932 (after about 3 years of separation) all of the children came to Arizona except Marjorie who was married and living in Rome, Georgia.

Bryant was 12 when he was reunited with his parents after the 3 day train ride from Georgia. Years later he wrote: *"when we arrived at Wilcox I was met by Mom and Dad, what a wonderful time – it was a sight to see the mountains. Dad was quite sick and needed constant care for which Mom had an old miner that was with Dad every day while Mom worked at a store that sold everything - food, clothing, and hardware."*

Paul got progressively worse and passed away at home on September 4, 1934. By this time, Gretna was working at the Post Office in Wilcox. Gretna recalled, "As I had a good job and children were in school and loved it here and had good friends, I decided to stay here. I bought a house which we painted and remodeled and made our home"



Wilcox Main Street 1940

Gretna's marriage to George Coleman

Almost 10 years after Gretna's Paul passed away, she married George James Coleman on June 12, 1944, in Tucson, Arizona. George was the principal of the Wilcox Elementary School at the time. All of the children except Bob were married by this time.

**Gretna and
George**



Gretna and George were so good for each other. Nana suffered for several years with dementia and Parkinson's disease and George was a gentle and loving caregiver for her. To her grandchildren she was always "Nana". She passed away November 27, 1977 and George followed on October 17, 1982. Gretna recorded in 1966, "We have had a good life . . . God has been very good to us all. We try to take the 'bitter with the sweet' but more sweet than bitter has come our way. We are truly grateful." Both have been an inspiration to the family!

Bryant and Violet - Growing up years

Violet

*Growing up years
in the San Pedro River Valley*

Violet was born in St. David, Arizona on February 24, 1925, the third child of Clarence and Maud Post.



Violet

Her father, Clarence Post, was a deputy county sheriff from the time she was 9 until she was married. He ranched on the side and eventually turned to ranching fulltime.

Violet Mae Post
Growing up years
in the San Pedro River Valley

Violet had siblings, cousins and close friends to grow up with and attended school in Benson, Arizona.



Violet



Post children: Ella, Phil, Howard, Violet, Jack

Violet Mae Post
Growing up years
in the San Pedro River Valley

Violet had a very serious case of mumps when she was young – it traveled through her whole body – this made her lose her hair and made her eyesight bad. She had to begin wearing thick glasses thereafter. Her brothers started calling her “baldy” – Jack called her that the rest of her life and she didn’t seem to mind.

Violet had very sensitive skin and was allergic to the sun, so she wore a hat and long sleeves to protect from the sun.

Violet loved to ride horses. One summer she was riding with her Dad looking for cattle and it started raining hard. Her Dad said they would have to hurry to make across the wash before a flash flood stranded them. They were running the horses fast when she raised her right hand above her head just in time to catch her glasses that blew off of her face – she was so happy to still have her glasses!

Paul Bryant Phinizy Jr.

Growing up years in Rome, Georgia

Bryant spent the first 12 years of his life in Rome, Georgia. He is the 3rd child of Paul Bryant Phinizy and Nellie Gretna Helms Phinizy.



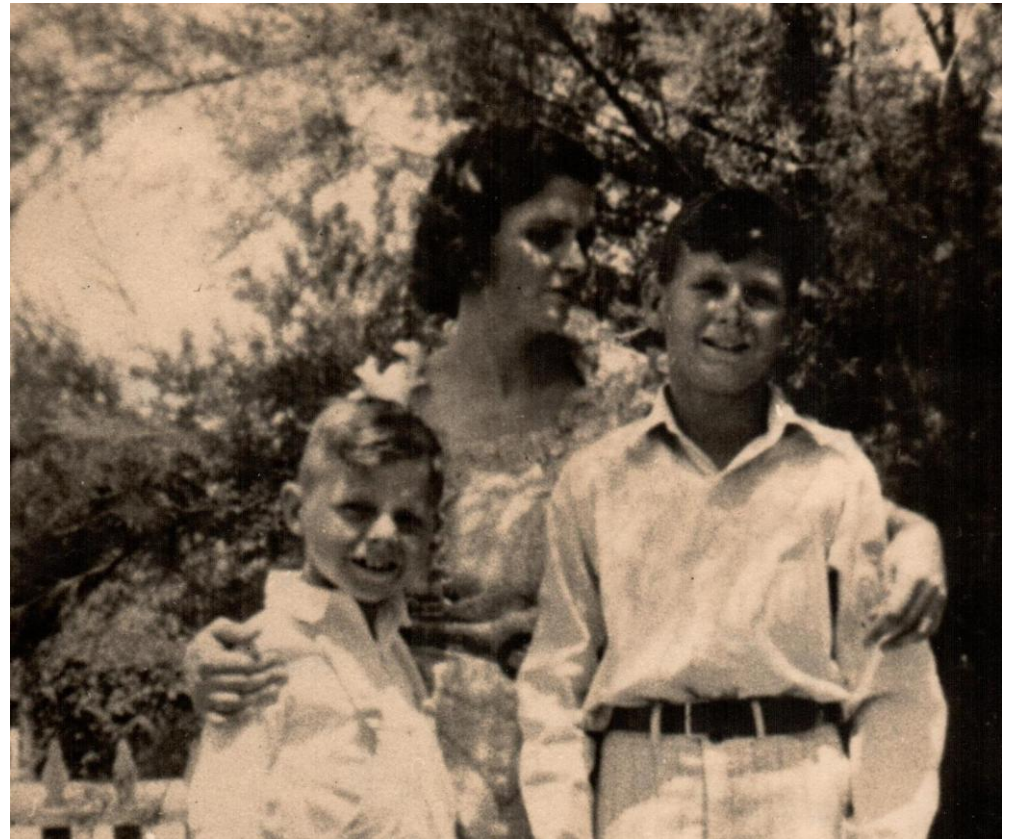
**Bryant was 9 years
old in this photo**

Paul Bryant, Bobby, Bryant, Dorothy, Virginia, Gretna, Marjorie

*Paul Bryant Phinizy Jr.
Growing up years in Rome, Georgia*



Bobby, Virginia, Bryant, Marjorie, Dorothy

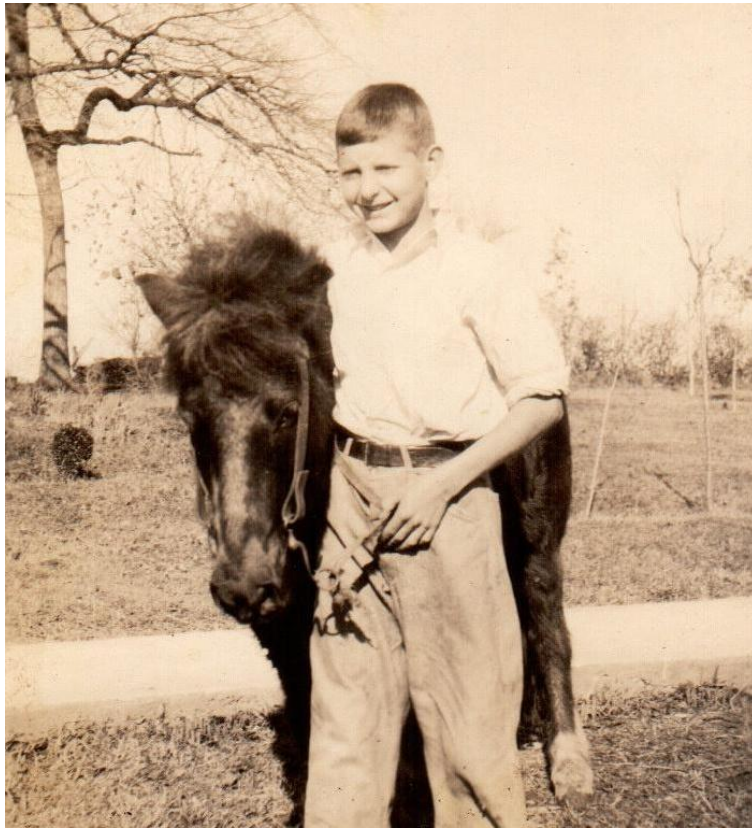


Bobby Gretna Bryant

Paul Bryant Phinizy Jr.

Growing up years in Rome, Georgia

Bryant loved the farm and country environment.



Bryant rode his horse to school when he could.

Paul Bryant Phinizy Jr.

Growing up years in Rome, Georgia

Bryant shared the following memory: “I began fishing when I was 6 years old. Where I grew up in Georgia, there were streams nearby full of fish. One woman told us of a great place to fish. She would put cornmeal in a gunny sack and put it in the stream with a large rock on it. The fish would constantly feed off of the corn. When we came to fish, she pulled the sack out of the stream and we caught fish all day – there was always fish there because they were used to being fed there. We ate some of the fish and this lady some as well, but we mainly fished for the adventure of catching the fish.”



Coosa River near Rome, Georgia

Paul Bryant Phinizy Jr.

Growing up years in Rome, Georgia

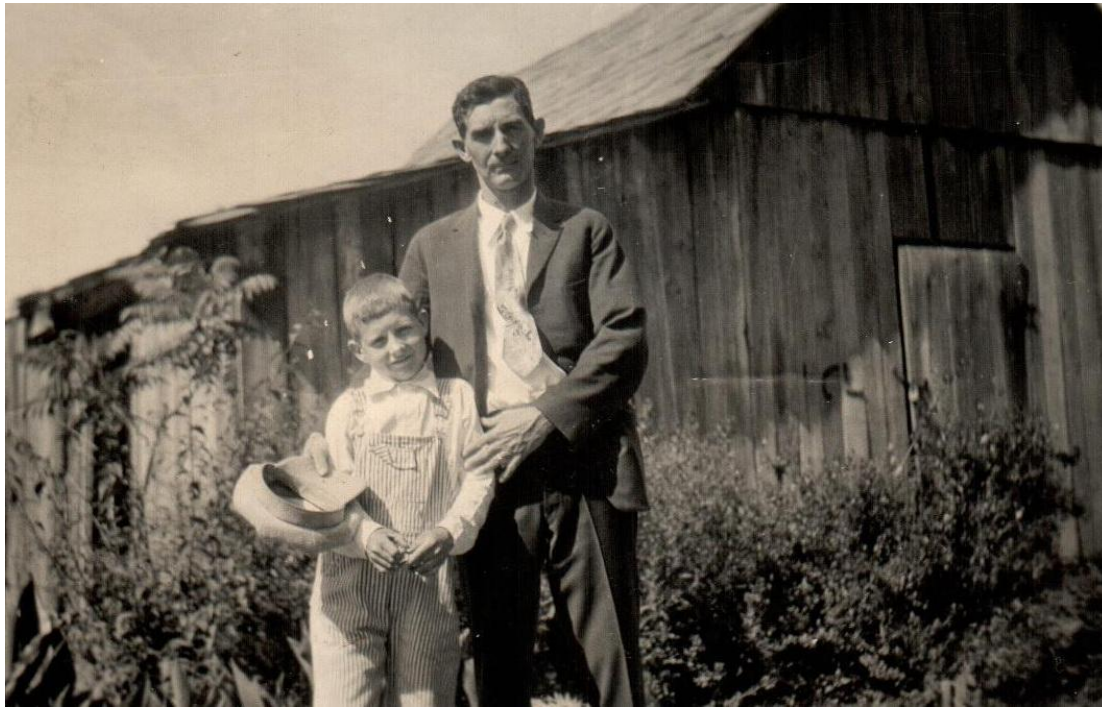
Bryant recalls growing up on the farm. “On our farm lived 5 families – they were all former slaves who were now share croppers. This means that what they worked and harvested was part theirs as well. They were honest families and we all canned our food together and kept it in a common cellar. Our family and these 5 families would all gather in our kitchen and can the harvested produce together.”



Paul Bryant Phinizy Jr.

Growing up years in Rome, Georgia

Bryant's family was close. Growing up in a rural farming environment invited that closeness.



Bryant and his Dad



Virginia and Bryant

Paul Bryant Phinizy Jr.

Growing up years in Rome, Georgia

Bryant's Dad had a dairy farm, so Bryant developed a strong work ethic milking cows, delivering milk, working in the garden, and helping with canning after harvest. He remembers the fun of riding horses and going fishing in Georgia. He loved the homemade ice cream the family often made.



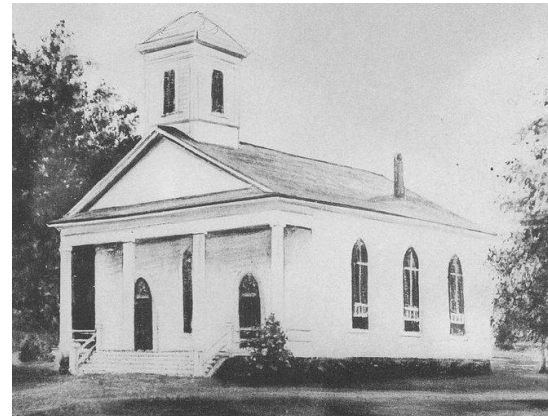
Learning how to work (like the young boys shown above) would come to bless Bryant's life both in his youth and as an adult.

Paul Bryant Phinizy Jr.

Dad and Mom to Arizona

A very difficult time for the family came in 1929 when Bryant's Dad was diagnosed with tuberculosis and his parents left for Arizona seeking treatment for the disease. Bryant and his siblings were placed with family members in Georgia – Bryant lived with his Dad's sister, Willie Mae, and her husband Claude Whitehead in nearby Polk, Georgia. He remembers that they made him walk to church down a scary tree-lined road – he hated to go because it was scary and the preacher was scary too. He blamed God for taking his Dad from him at an early age. His church-going in Georgia and his feelings toward God due to his Dad's passing didn't heal until Bryant finally embraced God and religion later in his life.

**Rural church in Polk County,
Georgia in early 1900s**



Paul Bryant Phinizy Jr.

Growing up years in Wilcox, Arizona

Bryant came to Arizona with a strong understanding of the value of hard work. Aware of his father's serious illness and his mother having to go to work daily to support the family, Bryant began working after school anywhere he could find work. He washed dishes at a café, washed windows and cleaned the sidewalks at the bank, cleaned the Post Office after school each day, and any odd job he could find. Bryant gave everything he earned to his Mom. He learned years later that she opened a savings account in his name and most of the money he gave her went into that account. She gave him the account when he got married – a sizeable amount of money.

Bryant and his Mom



Paul Bryant Phinizy Jr.

Growing up years in Wilcox, Arizona

Bryant graduated from elementary school in Wilcox in 1934 and then from Wilcox Union High School in 1938. He began working at the Theatre



**Bryant – Senior
Picture**

from the time he was a senior until 1942. He drove from town to town setting up the projectors and showing the movies. He eventually became the manager of the Benson theatre.

Bryant learned quickly at every job he had and found respect of those he worked for. In his earlier years working at the bank sweeping sidewalks and washing windows, he had many talks with the manager of the bank and learned all he could about finance – he remembers how this helped him in his life.



Bryant at Theatre

Old Benson Theatre



Bryant and Violet Phinizy Becoming a family

While Bryant was manager at the Benson Theatre, two young Post girls began working at the Theatre – Ella and Violet Post. Violet began work at the age of 16 and was drawn quickly to Bryant. Ella describes the scene in a poem she wrote in 1967 about Violet and Bryant:

*“Now, there was Bryant, tall and thin and shy . . .
Now Violet, she could have her pick
Of just any guy in town,
but when they asked her out
Invariably she’d turn them down.
She had picked the one from all the rest
Ah, she thought, patience will be the test,
But anything besides work to Bryant was a sin,
To the game of dating and playing he was no kin.
But as I said before, her patience endured
And a lifetime with him was soon assured
On September twelfth in forty-two.
Before the Bishop they said ‘I do’.”*

VIOLET POST AND BRYANT PHINIZY VOWS ARE TAKEN

Within one week both of C. E. Posts' daughters had married; for Saturday evening, in their home at 7:30, the younger daughter, Violet, became the bride of Bryant Phinizy of Clifton, but formerly of Benson and Willcox. Ella had been married the previous Monday to Donald Dunn

The wedding was performed in the presence of only the Post family with Bishop Goodman of the L. D. S. church reading the vows.

Violet, who was a senior this year in the local high school, has been working at the local theatre for the past year and a half and it was here that her romance started. Last spring she was ill for weeks and was unable to be at her work which was cashier for the latter part of her time of working at the theatre.

Bryant Phinizy is the son of Mrs. Gretna Phinizy of Willcox. He started in theatre work when he was only a boy and worked at it for several years, or until May of this year when he went to Morenci and Clifton to work as an electrician for the Phelps-Dodge Corp.

The young couple left the first of the week for Clifton where they plan to make their home.

Bryant and Violet Phinizy Becoming a family



Bryant and Violet were married at her parents' home at 7:30 in the evening by Bishop Goodman in the presence of only the Post family on September 12, 1942. They left for Clifton where they planned to make their home as Bryant began in May 1942 working for the Phelps Dodge Mine in Morenci.

Morenci Copper Mine – early years



*Bryant and Violet Phinizy
Home in Clifton, Arizona*



Family Life in Clifton, Arizona

Parenthood came soon to Bryant and Violet with the birth of their first child, Gretna Ann on July 15, 1943 in Morenci.



Becoming a father and a mother came natural to Bryant and Violet and added to the joy of being a family

Family Life in Clifton, Arizona

Central to the lives of Bryant and Violet was the family they would build together. They were blessed with five children:

Gretna Ann, born July 15, 1943

Pamela Lee, born October 17, 1944

Helen, born December 21, 1946

Paul Bryant, born February 5, 1952

Pauline, born March 21, 1953



Pam Pauline Violet Gretna Helen Bryant Paul

Family life in Clifton, Arizona



Helen

Pauline

Pam

Paul

Gretna

*Bryant and Violet Phinizy
Home in Clifton, Arizona in later years*



Family life in Clifton, Arizona

Bryant continued to distance himself from God, but was supportive of Violet teaching the children and taking them to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where each of them was baptized and embraced the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints meetinghouse in Clifton with flooding San Francisco River in front

Family life in Clifton, Arizona

Bryant worked hard to support his wonderful family – first at the Morenci copper mine, then later with his own appliance service and sales business. Bryant was recognized as a highly self-educated person – he read everything he could get his hands on and at one time had 5 different contractor’s licenses.

Bryant often trained and managed those who had college degrees, but who did not understand practical application. He cared about people and provided service calls for those in need – many times at his own expense. A son-in-law accompanied him to Eagle Creek just to be sure the stove of an older woman was functioning properly at no charge. Bryant was also a volunteer fireman for the town of Clifton.



Family life for Bryant and Violet

Bryant's reputation as a skilled worker and manager led to many opportunities outside of Clifton. He was employed to direct work on the University of Arizona Medical School necessitating a move to Tucson.

After several years of work with the same company, Bryant eventually retired. His retirement didn't last long because the company needed his expertise and leadership on two major jobs so he agreed to come back to help. The first was in California and then in Albuquerque, New Mexico - necessitating moves to those locations – by then the children were all married.

WORK was simply in his blood 😊. His son, Paul, followed in his footsteps and became respected as his Dad - a trusted employee and worker.

Family life in Clifton, Arizona

Bryant as a husband and father

Bryant loved his family – they remained his first priority throughout his life.

Whenever he and Violet visited Violet's parents he was always fixing up this or that and loved being busy.

One of the children recalls, “Dad was strict in his discipline, so most of the time us children were on pins and needles so as not to upset him.” He expected obedience and integrity of his children – character traits he and Violet both felt were important – and sometimes, in keeping with the Lord's counsel in the Doctrine and Covenants 121:43 (a scripture Bryant was then unaware of), “Reproving betimes with sharpness . . . then showing forth afterwards an increase of love.” The children always knew they were loved and generally knew when correction was needed.

Bryant was very concerned about who his children would marry. When Kenny asked for Pam's hand it took Kenney most of an evening at their home to get the courage to ask Bryant. When Tom asked for Gretna's hand, Violet made sure he was in a good mood and had a really nice dinner ready for him. She brought Bryant into the bedroom where Tom asked to marry Gretna. Tom remembers that Bryant asked how he was going to provide for her and what he was studying in school and explained how hard it is to provide for a family. After Tom answered his questions, he said, “you have my blessing, let's eat!”

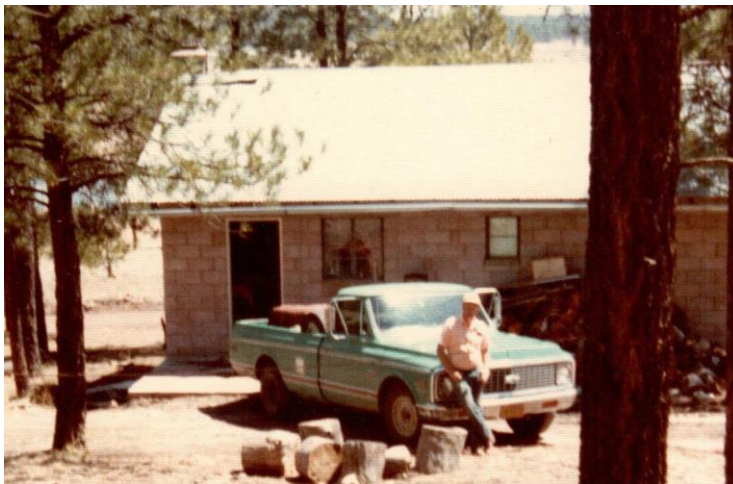
Family life in Clifton, Arizona

Alpine Cabin - a blessing to the family

In 1946, Bryant and Violet bought property in Alpine, Arizona and worked together to build a nice cabin.



Building a family and a cabin by working together



Family life in Clifton, Arizona

Alpine Cabin - a blessing to the family

The Alpine Cabin was the subject of numerous work projects with all of the family helping at different times and stages of the Cabin's construction and remodels.



A family that works, plays, and prays together – stays together! Many treasured memories have been made at the Alpine Cabin and surrounding forest, lakes, mountains, and streams. The Alpine Cabin was a dream come true for Bryant and Violet – a blessing to their family!

Family life in Clifton, Arizona

Alpine Cabin - a blessing to the family

The Alpine Cabin is known to locals and friends as the “Phinizy Cabin” at Alpine. Following the passing of Bryant and Violet, the cabin was acquired by their only son and namesake, Paul Phinizy – The cabin remains the “Phinizy Cabin”. Paul and Ollie have added structures and done remodeling – following the pattern of years gone by.



Nice tack shed and feed barn and corrals have been added to the “Phinizy Cabin”

Family life in Clifton, Arizona

Violet as a wife and mother

Violet loved Bryant and supported him in all of his endeavors – from his work, to the Alpine Cabin, to his love for hunting and fishing.

She understood her God-given opportunity to “nurture . . .their children”.

She taught them in their home, supported them in their school studies and activities and ensured that they were blessed by the knowledge and ordinances of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

She loved their children, prayed with them and played with them



Family life in Clifton, Arizona

Violet loved to ride horses and was a member of “Arizona Cowbells” – a women’s auxiliary to the Cattlemen’s Association.

Each year the Cowbells went on a trail ride for several days in the mountains of Arizona or New Mexico. At the end of each day of riding rough mountain trails they returned to camp for cooking, singing and sleeping

under the stars. (As reported in the June 1971 issue of The Progressive Farmer)

Pauline recalls, “Dad would always take his truck and pull the horse trailer and help mom get situated and then he would come home and go back when the ride was done.”



Family life in Clifton, Arizona

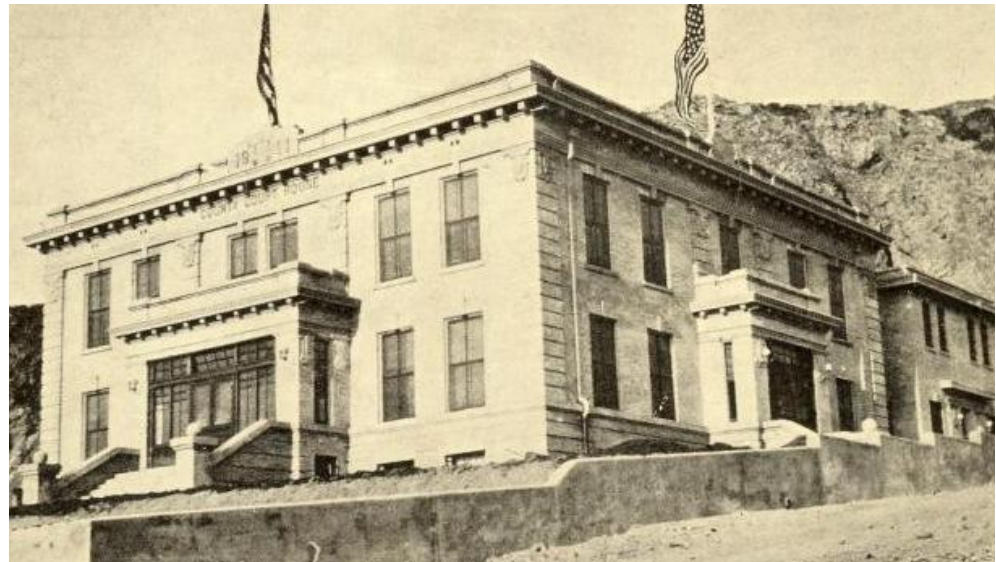
Violet was a true “helpmeet”

In addition to her roles as the nurturer of their children and homemaker, Violet helped in the financial support of the family.

Violet worked some at the Creamery with Bryce Kempton and also did sewing for people working with her neighbor and friend, Valora Webster – she learned a lot from Valora, an excellent seamstress.

Violet worked for several years in the recorder’s office at the Greenlee County Courthouse.

Greenlee County Courthouse



Violet also sold real estate in Tucson after their move there in the 1960s

Family life in Clifton, Arizona

Violet as a Homemaker

Violet kept a clean and tidy home with the help of her children and was also a wonderful cook. She had several favorite recipes: peanut brittle, pie crust, pretzel salad, and vinegar taffy are a few of her favorites.

Violet Phinizy Peanut Brittle Recipe

Ingredients: 3 cups sugar, ½ cup water, 2 cups raw peanuts
½ teaspoon salt, 1 tablespoon butter, 1 teaspoon vanilla,
2 teaspoons baking soda

1. Put sugar, syrup and water in a heavy pan to mix – cook at 250 degree hard boil – not too fast
2. Add salt, peanuts and butter and cook at 300 degrees – stir occasionally
The mixture will turn yellowish brown.
3. Remove from heat and stir in the vanilla and baking soda
4. Pour quickly onto marble slab or cookie pan (spray oil on pan first)
5. Spread to desired thickness and let it cool

This recipe has now been used for at least 3 generations in the family

Bryant and Violet

Roosevelt Home

Bryant and Violet built a home in Roosevelt Estates on Roosevelt Lake. They loved this home, which had a nice swimming pool and a wonderful garden area and was close to good fishing ☺. This home was sometimes their main home and many times their “get away” home. The grandchildren remember many fun times here.



Bryant



Violet

Bryant and Violet

Payson Home

A house becomes a home when there is family inside!



Visit of Gretna's family in Payson home

Bryant and Violet

Mesa Home

Bryant built a home in Mesa that was a fun gathering place for many of the family in the Salt River Valley in his later years and a fun place for all of the family to gather.



Grandson, Steven, and family lived close by and enjoyed a special bond with Grandpa and great grandpa.



Bryant's legacy of work was shared with his great grandchildren - Samuel mowing backyard lawn of Mesa home

Phinizy Family Memories

A turning of the heart

The Savior promised, “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet . . . And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers . . .” 3 Ne 25: 5-6

Bryant had a good heart, but it needed softening due to his childhood experiences of attending church in Georgia and his father’s passing when Bryant was only 12 years old. The Lord provided several “softening experiences”:

1. Violet, with Bryant’s permission, received her own endowment in the Mesa Arizona Temple on February 24, 1988. One gift of the endowment is the power to do all that God wants us to do – she was endowed with priesthood power.

2. On October 19 and 20, 1990, several members of the family gathered at the Mesa Arizona Temple to do ordinance work for ancestors of Bryant – the work for his parents, Paul and Gretna Phinizy was completed. These ancestors were now empowered to act as directed by the Holy Ghost to help with the gathering of Israel from the other side of the veil . . . Including helping a heart to soften.

3. Grandsons of Violet and Bryant prepared for and served missions for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and came home as men – empowered by their spirit and examples. Bryant noticed the difference between his grandsons and granddaughters and those of his friends and his heart softened knowing their love of God and willingness to serve him played a big part in their goodness.

Phinízy Family Memories

A turning of the heart

With Bryant's heart softening by these experiences he and Violet moved to Payson, Arizona, where a sweet couple in the Church, Brother and Sister Muir, visited them and became their dear friends. Bryant and Brother Muir often went fishing together (a captive audience when you are in a boat on the lake 😊) and in time Brother Muir had him reading the Book of Mormon. Other than Violet, none of the family was aware of this progress.

In December, 1992, Gretna and her family visited Bryant and Violet at their Payson home – this visit came after much preparation and a lot of faith by all of the family. They presented Bryant with a leather-bound larger print copy of the Book of Mormon with his name engraved on the cover. He looked at it and said to Violet, "I can read this one!" Gretna and her family didn't know what this meant at that time. They also gave him a large envelope with hand written testimonies of his children and grandchildren expressing love for him and a desire to be a forever family. Bryant read every testimony with tears streaming down his face and then said, "I could not have received a more beautiful gift." Bryant later told the family that he had recently had special feelings toward his parents.

Phinizy Family Memories

A turning of the heart

In January, 1993, all of the family of Bryant and Violet Phinizy fasted and prayed for him. With the love and influence of his wonderful family on both sides of the veil and the love, faithfulness, and patience of Violet, Bryant was taught the Gospel and was baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on February 6, 1993. His 7 returned-missionary grandsons participated in the baptismal service. The following day for the first time he presided and led in holding family prayer. He expressed gratitude to the family for bringing him this far and humbly asked for help in catching up. The Lord worked through so many people on both sides of the veil to turn his heart.



Family at baptismal service in Payson

Phinizy Family Memories

A forever family!

Bryant received his own endowment in the Mesa Arizona Temple on February 19, 1994 and he and Violet were sealed and their four daughters were sealed to them. Bryant was also sealed to his parents. Knowing the long wait Bryant had (since he was 12) to be close to his Dad again, we all felt a very tender and special Spirit during this sealing.

Forever!



Phinizy Family Memories

Bryant and Violet took a memorable trip with their four daughters and husbands to Salt Lake City to allow Bryant and Violet to have their first experience attending General Conference for the Church in person.



The family group was invited to take a tour of the Salt Lake Temple by an engineer of the temple. While taking the tour Elder Lynn Mickelson of the Seventy approached the family and shared several kind words. Later as the family sat in the tabernacle awaiting the start of a conference session, Elder Mickelson saw Bryant sitting about half-way back in the tabernacle and came to greet him again.

**Elder Lynn
Mickelson**



Family trip to Salt Lake City

Phinizy Family Memories

Violet became quite ill in 1994 and underwent surgeries (including the removal of a brain tumor) and long hospital stays. Bryant was at her side during this difficult time both in the hospital and at home – his love for her was evident in his gentle care for his eternal companion. With his care and priesthood blessings she was brave and faced her difficult time with courage – Bryant needed this time to prepare himself for her passing. She passed from mortality knowing that her relationship with Bryant and her family would continue for eternity – what a blessing!



Violet called home

Violet was called home on July 27, 1996 and was remembered by family and friends at her funeral as the loving wife, mother and friend that she was in mortality. Her faithfulness to God and family will always be an inspiration to her children and grandchildren.



In Loving Memory of

Violet Mae Post Phinizy

Born

February 24, 1925
St. David, Arizona

Died

July 27, 1996
Mesa, Arizona

*Do not weep for those you love,
whose parting fill your
heart with sorrow,
just think of the joy
that will be yours again,
when you meet
in that great tomorrow.*

Maud B. Post, Mother

Living in Mesa

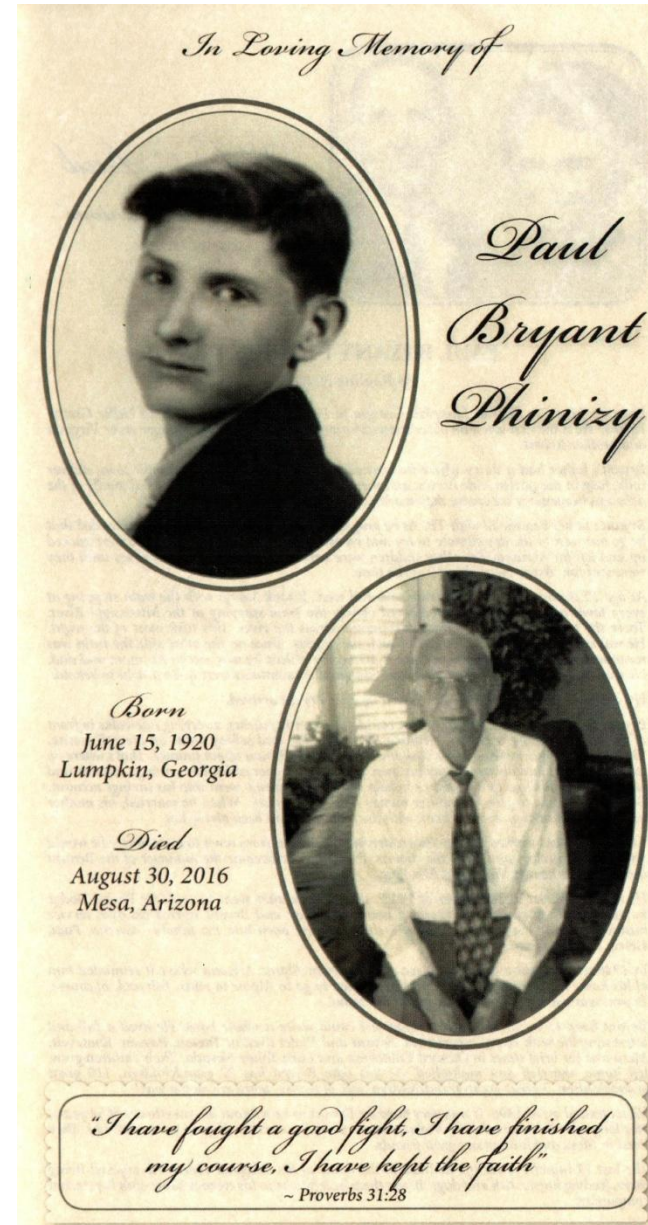
Before Violet's passing she had asked her sister, Ella, to take care of Bryant. Being alone was hard for Bryant. Bryant and Ella were married for time only on November 2, 1996. They lived in Mesa and enjoyed many good friends there. They had several good years together helping each other in their older years.



Bryant and Ella

Bryant called home

In Bryant's final years in mortality he suffered with dementia – much like his mother had. Daughter, Helen, and her husband, Glen Kennedy, invited him into their home and provided a wonderful environment and loving care for him until his passing from mortality to be reunited with the love of his life and eternal companion, Violet.



It's all about FAMILY

During our mortal lives and for all of eternity it's all about Family. The Lord said, “. . . marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and . . . the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children.” The Family: A Proclamation to the World (1995)

Bryant and Violet made their family the center of their lives preparing for the eternity ahead of them that will definitely be a family experience.

They loved life and each other



It's all about FAMILY

They loved their children and their families and were in return loved by each one of them



At the time of Bryant's passing in 2016 Bryant and Violet had 27 grandchildren, 110 great grandchildren, and 5 great great grandchildren. The family will continue to expand for many years to come and will remember the precious roots from which they come.

It's all about FAMILY

Each of the children of Bryant and Violet are married to wonderful companions and are building and strengthening families of their own



Remembering BRYANT and VIOLET *with* *GRATITUDE*

As descendants of Bryant and Violet, we express our deep gratitude for their enduring love for each other and for each of us, for their examples of faith and sacrifice, their work ethic, their integrity, their love of life, their sense of humor, and their love for all mankind.

Surely, they have been exemplary in fulfilling the two great commandments – To love God and To love their neighbor as themselves.

They were a blessing to us in mortality and will be a blessing to us throughout all of eternity

“God gave us family to help us become who He wants us to be”

From the rising of the sun each morning



To the setting of the sun each evening



*May we each remember who we are as children of God and as
descendants of Bryant and Violet Phinizy and live for the
reunion with each of them*