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Article Summary: The thirty-eighth President of the United States, christened Leslie King, Jr, in Omaha, was adopted at age five by his stepfather, Gerald R Ford. The President took his stepfather's name and grew up as a member of the Ford family in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He never returned to live in Omaha, where a memorial park commemorates his birth.

Errata: Ford's parents were married in 1912, not 1913.

Cataloging Information:

Names: Gerald R Ford, Jr; Dorothy Ayer Gardner King; Leslie Lynch King; Charles Henry King; Gerald R Ford; Margaret Atwood King; Patricia King; Majorie King; Leslie Henry "Bud" King

Place Names: Omaha, Nebraska; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Glendale, California; Riverton, Wyoming

Keywords: Omaha Wool and Storage Company, Union Pacific Railroad, Gerald R Ford Birthplace Memorial Park, Ford Rose Garden

Photographs / Images: President Gerald R Ford; Wyoming entrepreneur Charles H King; inset advertisement for The C H King Company (*The Shoshone Pathfinder*, 1905); Omaha home where Leslie King, Jr (later President Ford) was born; Charles H King driving stakes to mark the site of a new warehouse for his Omaha Wool and Storage Company; Gerald R Ford, Jr, with his mother, Dorothy Gardner Ford, about 1915; Gerald R Ford, Sr, with his sons about 1928



Gerald R. Ford during his term as thirty-eighth President of the United States. Courtesy of Gerald R. Ford Library.

PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD'S ROOTS IN OMAHA

By Edward L. and Frederick H. Schapsmeier

Gerald R. Ford once defined history as a “river of circumstances whose currents and eddies take us through the present and drive us into the future with irresistible momentum.”¹ This was certainly true in his case. Through an unpredictable set of circumstances that occurred during his infancy, Ford grew up under the guidance of a foster father in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He did not actually know until he was

seventeen years of age the identity of his real father or of his roots in Omaha. To what extent Gerald Ford’s formative years were the primary product of heredity or of environment, or the interaction between them, may never be fully known.

Gerald R. Ford, Jr. was born in Omaha on July 14, 1913, to Dorothy (nee Gardner) and Leslie Lynch King. The newly born son was christened Leslie Lynch King, Jr. He seemed to have entered this world under the best environmental and economic circumstances. The place of his birth was a magnificent fifteen-room, three-story Victorian style mansion located at 3202 Woolworth Avenue in an elite neighborhood near downtown Omaha. Leslie, Sr. had many shortcomings as a

husband and father, but he was physically very handsome. The young man was tall and broad-shouldered with sandy hair and blue eyes. Leslie, Sr. was also the general manager of the Omaha Wool and Storage Company at a generous salary for that time of \$2,500 per year. But more important in terms of wealth and social standing was the fact that Leslie, Sr.’s father, Charles Henry King, was a multi-millionaire. Charles King was founder and president of the Omaha Wool and Storage Company and the owner of the Woolworth mansion, which had been his birthplace.

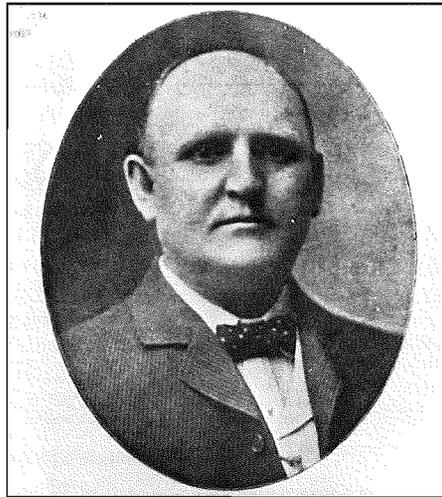
Charles Henry King’s fortune, reputed at one time to be \$20 million, was amassed because of his many successful entrepreneurial enterprises in

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Nebraska and Wyoming. C.H., as he was known to business associates, was born in Pennsylvania on March 13, 1853. In 1884 he and his wife, Martha Alicia (nee) Porter, moved to Nebraska and settled in a sparsely populated region in Dawes County. Their home nestled along the White River in an area that was shortly to become the fledgling town of Chadron. As a sort of merchant pioneer, King first began to trade with the Indians and then started a general store known as "C.H. King's Mercantile." A shrewd businessman, he anticipated the arrival of the Chicago and North Western Railroad network into Chadron and the nearby Wyoming territory. Thus he constantly expanded his commercial enterprises. Eventually King owned a string of general stores, lumberyards, banks, wool trading companies, a freight hauling business, and much real estate strategically located where the railroad access insured the founding of future towns and cities. It was on July 25, 1886, when Chadron was a barely recognizable community, that Leslie Lynch (Gerald Ford's real father) was born.²

By the turn of the century C.H. King was a baron among wool traders and a merchant king in western Nebraska. He was also known as one of the wealthiest men in Wyoming, which became a state in 1890. Ambitious and eager to seize new opportunities, King shifted his business headquarters to Omaha in 1905. Because it was the eastern terminal of the Union Pacific Railroad, with many other roads making it their western terminal, C.H. viewed Omaha as a city with a great future. With a reputation as an energetic but honest businessman, he found it relatively easy to raise large sums of capital for new profitable ventures.

In 1908, with a capital fund of \$100,000, the Omaha Wool and Storage Company was founded by C.H. King with himself as president. His son, Leslie, Sr., who owned stock in the company, was named general



Pioneer Wyoming entrepreneur Charles H. King was described in The Shoshone Pathfinder (1905) as a "founder of towns, banks, transportation companies, and promoter of various enterprises." Courtesy of Riverton (Wyoming) Ranger and Wind River Mountaineer, Lander, Wyoming.

manager. Their huge warehouse, 1200 feet long and 150 feet high, and covered with a corrugated iron roof, was conveniently located so that the Union Pacific ran a side track up to its loading dock. Within a year wool was being shipped into Omaha from western Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, and South Dakota. Not content with just one successful business, C.H. also started (and served as president of) three other commercial firms. One, the C.H. King Company, dealt in wholesale food merchandising. As one of the premier businessmen of Omaha, the elder King entertained royally in his luxurious home with its ornately decorated ballroom.³

Just why C.H. King decided in 1913 to move from Omaha to Glendale, California, is not clear. Health problems may have been a factor, since he did have some heart trouble. More likely the breakup of his son's marriage played an important role. The court records of his son's divorce and the subsequent litigation suggest that C.H. may have been motivated to move from

Omaha in an effort to assist his son to evade certain legal obligations resulting from these proceedings. If the elder King had a fault, and there seemed to be none relative to his business transactions *per se*, it was his personal predilection to spoil and overindulge his son. In any case this bigtime merchant and wool trader subsequently lived in Glendale until his death on February 27, 1930. Although his accumulated fortune declined during the initial year of the Depression, he (and later his wife) left a considerable monetary legacy to Leslie, Sr.⁴

Leslie Lynch King, Sr. was married to Dorothy Ayer Gardner in Harvard, Illinois (near Chicago) on September 7, 1913. Their son, Leslie, Jr. (who was to become Gerald Ford), was born eleven months later in 1913. The marriage of Dorothy and Leslie, Sr. lasted only about five months longer. On December 19, 1913, Dorothy obtained a divorce from her husband on the grounds of "extreme cruelty" and was given "sole custody" of their only child, Leslie, Jr. While granted visitation rights "at all proper times and places," Leslie, Sr. was also ordered by the court to pay the following sums of money: \$3,075 as alimony in lieu of Dorothy's household goods and personal possessions which he kept; \$300 in attorney fees; and child support of \$25 per month until Leslie, Jr. attained his majority at age twenty-one.⁵

The tangled tale of his divorce did not end with this judicial judgment. In fact, Leslie, Sr. had filed first for a divorce, claiming his wife had abandoned him for no valid reason. In cross-filing, Dorothy alleged that it was her husband who was abusive, went into frequent temper tantrums, used vile language, and on several occasions, while in fits of anger, resorted to physical abuse. Claiming to be a battered bride, she - not her husband - won the final divorce decree. But Leslie, Sr., not willing to bow to the court's decision relative to the financial judgment imposed upon him, quickly fled from

the state of Nebraska to Riverton, Wyoming. By changing his legal residence, he evidently intended to avoid paying future child support by getting beyond the jurisdiction of the Douglas County (Nebraska) court.⁶

In addition to this devious ploy, Leslie, Sr. claimed he was now without income since his father had discharged him from his job as manager of the Omaha Wool and Storage Company; that his stock in the company had been surrendered to his father in lieu of debts owed by him to C.H. King; and that to compensate for overdrawn accounts relative to the business, he transferred the personal property of his wife to his father to settle the obligation.⁷

Over the years Leslie, Sr. stayed out of the state of Nebraska so that he could not be served with papers relative to non-payment of alimony and child support. By claiming the Douglas County District Court had no legal jurisdiction over him, he refused consistently to honor summonses transmitted to him in Wyoming or to fulfill the financial obligations (now with accrued interest) repeatedly reaffirmed by court decrees. Leslie, Sr., in the meantime, eloped with Margaret Atwood in Reno, Nevada, in 1919. They subsequently had three children: Patricia, Marjorie, and Leslie Henry (nicknamed "Bud"). Gerald Ford would one day meet his half-brother and half-sisters. Although he was cordial towards them, Ford never regarded them as intimate members of his family circle.⁸

After receiving her divorce, Dorothy Gardner King moved back to Harvard, Illinois, with her parents. When the latter moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, shortly thereafter, Dorothy and her six-month-old son went with them. She subsequently met a handsome bachelor named Gerald R. Ford at a social function at Grace Episcopal Church. They were married on February 1, 1916. Ford, who soon opened a paint factory, was a church vestryman, active in civic affairs, and



C. H. KING COMPANY

**Shoshoni's Big
Department Store**

"Everything in Merchandise"

17,000 SQUARE FEET FLOOR SPACE

filled with fresh, new,
up-to-date merchandise,
especially selected
for Wyoming trade

"RIGHT'S RIGHT...
THAT'S ALL"  **SHOSHONI,
WYOMING**

The C.H. King Company advertised in The Shoshone Pathfinder (1905). Courtesy of Wind River Mountaineer, Lander, Wyoming.

belonged to such fraternal organizations as the Masons, Shriners, and Elks. For many years he served as a scoutmaster and became active in politics, eventually becoming chairman of the Kent County Republicans.⁹

After two years of marriage Gerald R. Ford legally adopted Leslie, Jr. and renamed him Gerald R. Ford, Jr. Gerald, Sr. proved to be a loving husband and an exceedingly fine father. Dorothy bore him three additional sons: Thomas, Richard, and James. These younger half-brothers, who did not know Gerald, Jr. was adopted, always looked up to him and admired him as their older brother. Gerald, Sr., whom Gerald, Jr. regarded as "the only father I ever knew,"¹⁰ was described as "kind, fair, and firm"¹¹ in bringing up his four sons.

Jerry Ford later recalled of his formative years, "My stepfather and mother, the environment they created, was - you darn well better tell

the truth and live an honest life if you don't want to pay a penalty down the road."¹² He also remembered the stern injunction of his stepfather: "Work hard to make something of yourself, speak the truth, and never be late for supper."¹³

As a result of the splendid upbringing he received, Jerry Ford always identified with the Fords of Grand Rapids and not the Kings of Omaha. As President of the United States, while sitting in the Oval Office dictating a letter, Ford described his deep-seated, personal feelings upon learning the truth about his real father. He reminisced:

Although taken aback momentarily after meeting my 'real' father and learning of my adoption, it did not make a change in the life with my family that I know. I loved and was guided in life by the only father I ever had - Gerald R. Ford, Sr. There was never any longing on my part to seek a family outside of the one in which I was raised with such love, tenderness, and happiness.¹⁴

This responsible role of Gerald R. Ford, Sr. as a parent contrasted sharply with the irresponsibility of Leslie King, Sr. It is for this reason that President Ford would fondly boast, "It is with pride that I say, I am 'from Grand Rapids'"¹⁵ and unfortunately for Nebraskans, not Omaha. King's wealthy, carefree lifestyle might have produced a different type of Gerald Ford, Jr.

Margaret Atwood, the second Mrs. Leslie L. King, admitted, "I know Leslie King, the son I married, was spoiled." This characterization was likewise that of those who knew and remembered Leslie, Sr. as a rich man's son with a reputation as a playboy. In addition, Mrs. Leslie King recollected that just before their marriage, her husband

told me that he'd been married and divorced and had a small son living with his former wife in the Midwest. But after we were married he never brought up the subject again. I don't know if he ever paid any child support or alimony or anything. If he did, he certainly kept it a secret.¹⁶

Mrs. King recalled that when she and her husband were travelling by train in 1930 from Riverton, Wyoming, to Detroit to purchase a new Lincoln automobile, Leslie suddenly announced



Leslie King, Jr. (Gerald R. Ford) was born in the home of his grandfather, Charles H. King, at 3202 Woolworth Avenue, Omaha. The house, built in 1893 for Mrs. E.L. Patterson, was destroyed by fire in 1971.

to her, "I'm going to look up that son of mine. He must be 16 or 17 by now, and I'm going to ask him if he wants to move in with us."¹⁷ At the time Mrs. King voiced no opposition to this surprising suggestion that after many years without any contact they should invite this son to live with them on their large ranch in Wyoming.¹⁸

In his memoirs former President Ford recounts that memorable and traumatic day when for the first time he met and came to realize that Leslie, Sr. was his real father. The young Ford, then seventeen and a junior at South High School in Grand Rapids, was working at his part-time job as a waiter that noon at the Bill Skougis Dairy Shoppe. Jerry was stunned when a stranger walked up to him at the counter and announced, "I'm Leslie King, your father."¹⁹

Jerry Ford was in a state of shock but consented to have lunch with Leslie King, who introduced him to his wife

and four-year-old daughter, Patricia. Ford had never been told he was an adopted son, a practice that was then common, so it was difficult for him to comprehend having a father other than Gerald R. Ford, Sr. Recalling the incident in his memoirs, President Ford wrote:

Nothing could erase the image I gained of my real father that day: a carefree, well-to-do man who didn't really give a damn about the hopes and dreams of his first born son. When I went to bed that night, I broke down and cried.²⁰

The poignant aspect of the situation was far greater than Jerry Ford realized at the time. His biologic father, who had never before bothered to visit him or to write, had (unknown to the young Ford) been the target of continuous court litigation in an attempt to force him to pay child support and other money due to Dorothy in which he was in arrears by deliberate default. This was at a time when Leslie, Sr., already a wealthy

man, had inherited \$50,000 in cash from C.H. King after the latter's death. Considering Leslie, Sr.'s prosperous financial status (he owned the King Investment Company, a ranch in Riverton, and a lumber yard in Casper), it was really a trite gesture to give his son a twenty dollar bill upon departing from Grand Rapids to pick up his new Lincoln Zephyr in Detroit.²¹

The first time Jerry Ford ever saw his half-sister, Marjorie, and half-brother, Leslie Henry, was in 1936. Ford, then an assistant football coach at Yale University, got a summer job as a forest ranger at Yellowstone National Park in northwestern Wyoming.²² Ford took the initiative, perhaps motivated by curiosity or a feeling of obligation, to visit his father's ranch in Riverton. He stayed two days. Many years later, Marjorie, Ford's half-sister, who was then a junior in high school, reminisced about meeting this attractive



Charles H. King (second from left) drives stakes marking the site of a new warehouse for his Omaha Wool and Storage Company. Depicted with King in this photo (published May 24, 1908, in both the Omaha World-Herald and the Omaha Bee) are J.M. Guild (left), commissioner of the Omaha Commercial Club; J.A. Delfelder, president of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association; and J.A. Ellis, railroad agent.

half-brother whom she previously had never seen. Jerry was athletic in build, tall, blond, blue-eyed, and possessed broad shoulders. He was extraordinarily handsome in his dapper ranger uniform and riding boots. She remembered being captivated by his presence:

I sort of hero-worshipped Jerry that summer. He was the big man from Yale. We used to take long walks in Riverton together before he went to Yellowstone. He was understanding and sympathetic, and I was a wide-eyed teenager. I always remember him with fondness and kindness. He looks just like our father.²³

It is not clear from the available records whether Leslie, Sr. helped get Jerry the summer position at Yellowstone so his son could meet his family or whether, as Ford recalled, Senator Arthur Vandenberg (R-Mich.) used his influence with the National Park Service to get him the job.²⁴ Likewise, Ford later indicated that he did meet his real father "from time to time,"²⁵ but how many times or where is unclear. There is some evidence to indicate that Leslie, Sr.

once took his family to a Yale University football game to watch Jerry perform coaching activities. Leslie King was an avid football fan and seemed to revel in the athletic accomplishments of his first son.²⁶

In 1939 Leslie, Sr. made the mistake of taking a trip to Lincoln, Nebraska, where, due to an outstanding warrant for contempt of court (stemming from his long and obstinate refusal to pay the court-ordered financial support for his son and other related assessments), he was arrested and held in jail pending the final disposition of the matter. He was cited for "contempt, negligence and misconduct."²⁷

On this occasion, despite pleas by Leslie, Sr. that he had "no property or assets" and was "suffering from asthma,"²⁸ the Nebraska court maintained physical custody of him and rejected his arguments. It was subsequently decreed that he had fraudulently transferred goods to C.H. King and that his departed father had, in fact, acted in collusion with him to

defraud Dorothy of her rightful property. The amount of money settled upon by both parties to satisfy back payments that were due (plus interest) totalled \$4,000.²⁹ Leslie Lynch King, Sr. finally paid that sum to gain release from court custody. So it was that twenty-three years after the divorce had taken place, and Jerry Ford was twenty-six years of age, Leslie, Sr. was forced to meet his obligations as a father.

The final chapter in Leslie, Sr.'s life was not a particularly happy one. He sold his ranch in Riverton and moved briefly to Akron, Ohio. Because he suffered so badly from asthma, the final year of his life was spent in Tucson, Arizona. There he succumbed to his illness at the age of fifty-five. He died February 18, 1941, and was buried next to his father, C.H. King, at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Glendale, California.³⁰ Margaret Atwood King, Leslie, Sr.'s second wife, later remarried; her second husband was Roy Mather, a copy editor for the *Los Angeles Times*.

The former King home on Woolworth Avenue in Omaha was eventually converted into an apartment building. In 1971 a fire destroyed the structure, and the charred remains were razed shortly thereafter. For two years the empty lot was left vacant to grow weeds and attract litter. It was in 1973, when Gerald R. Ford became vice president, that Omaha businessman James Paxson bought the lot for \$17,000 and donated it to the city. Fortunately, he realized its historical significance. A year later when Ford became president, Paxson further contributed \$250,000 to a fund for the creation of a proposed Gerald R. Ford Birthplace Memorial Park.³¹

Senator Roman Hruska (R.-Neb.) joined forces with James Paxson to initiate a contest to pick a design for the park and thereby draw public attention to the project. The first prize was \$1,000. The winner was a 21-year-old student, Gary L. Dubras, of the University of Nebraska School of

Architecture. His well-devised plan called for a multilevel flower garden surrounded by ponderosa pines (so it would blend well with Hanscom Park across the street). In the center stood a gazebo walk-in with columns similar to the north portico of the White House. A glass display case held Ford memorabilia, including a small scale model of the original King house and one brick salvaged from the foundation when the remains of the structure were leveled.³²

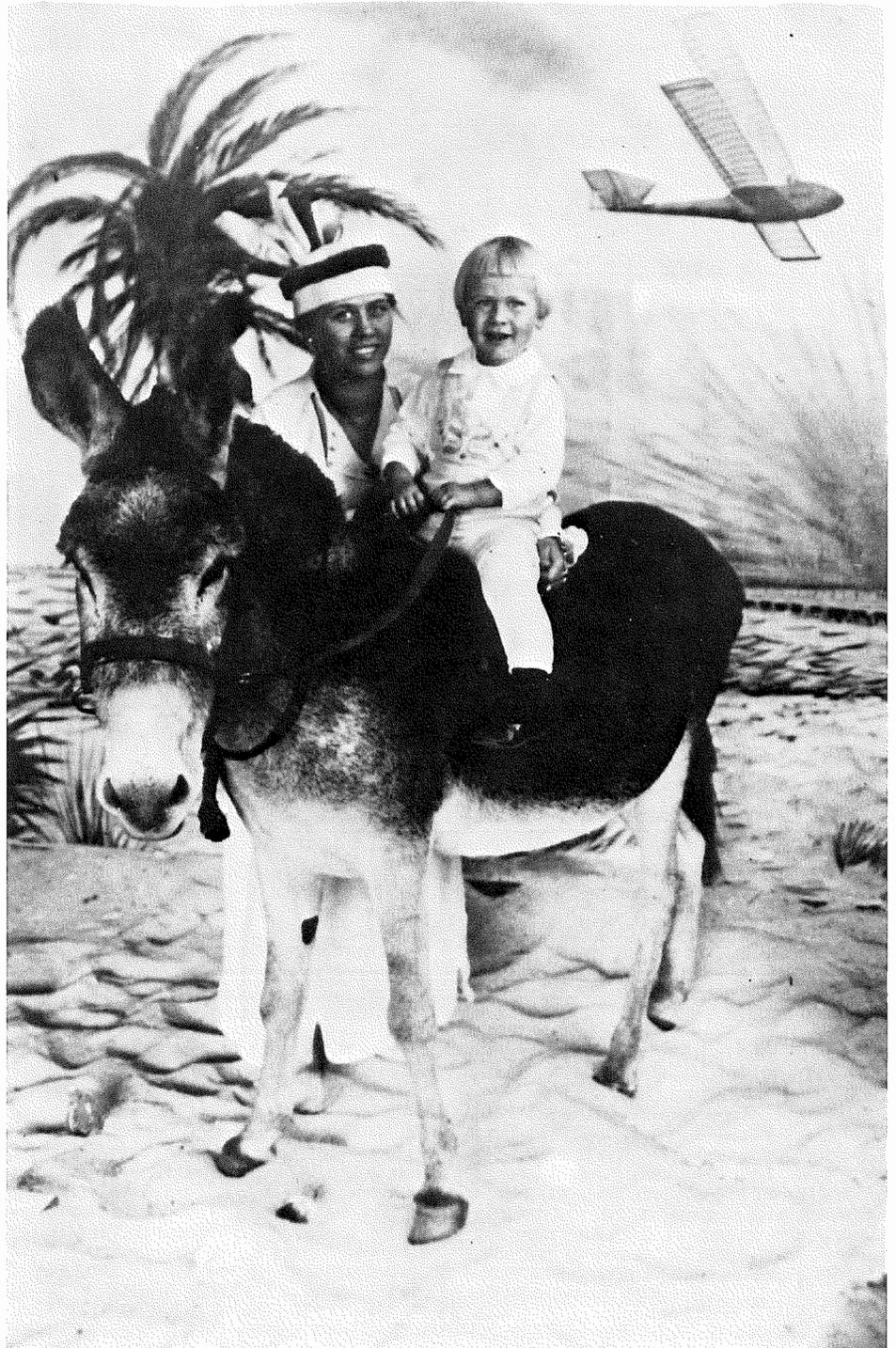
Gerald R. Ford visited the empty (but cleaned up) site when he was vice president. Since the park was not completed during his tenure as president, Ford never saw it while he was in the White House. He was present, however, at its dedication on September 21, 1977. The flowers were in bloom, the fountain flowing, and the American flag flew from a permanent fixture. Later on July 12, 1980, a portion of the grounds was set aside as the Ford Rose Garden in honor of former First Lady Betty Ford.³³

Annually a myriad of tourists leave the Gerald R. Ford Expressway to visit the Gerald R. Ford Birthplace Memorial Park located at the corner of 32nd Street and Woolworth Avenue in Omaha. No doubt many who gaze at the beautifully landscaped birthsite of Gerald Ford, the only president thus far to have been born in Nebraska, are not fully cognizant of all the strange ramifications of the King connection in Ford's life. On a sardonic note it is true that Leslie Lynch King, Sr. would not be remembered if he had not ignored his first son for so many years. The final twist of irony is that whereas the King family lost a president from their legacy, the state of Nebraska gained claim to one.

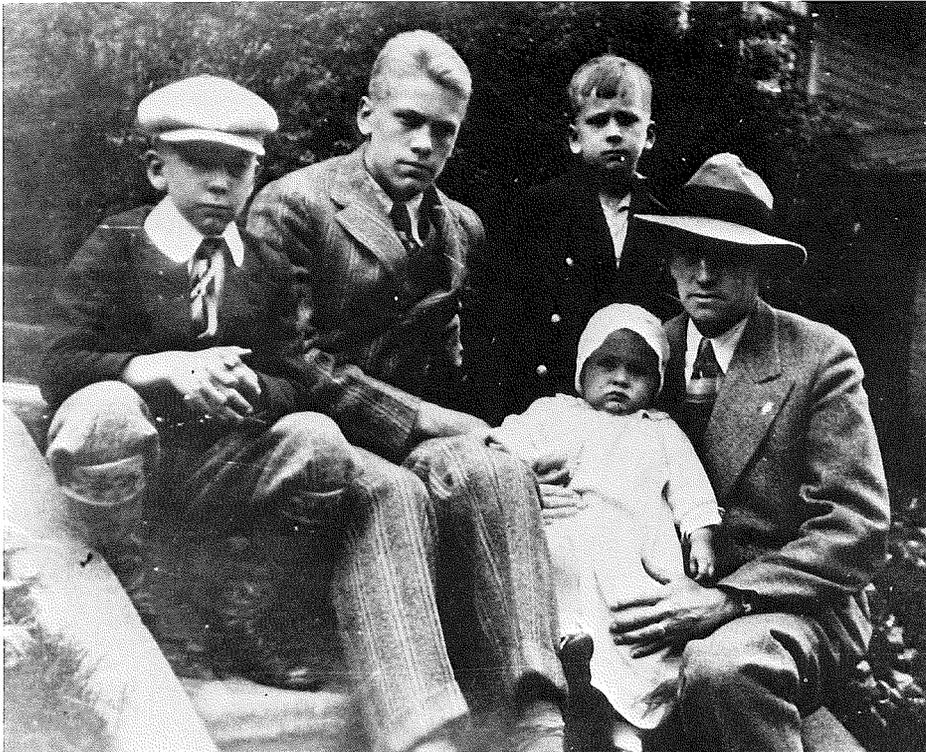
NOTES

¹Address to Michigan State Young Republican Club, East Lansing, Michigan, October 10, 1948, Press Secretary and Speech file, Gerald R. Ford Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan; hereafter cited as Ford Library.

²*Omaha World-Herald*, January 1, 1909, and



Gerald R. Ford, Jr., with his mother, Dorothy Gardner Ford, about 1915. Courtesy of Gerald R. Ford Library.



Gerald R. Ford, Sr. (right) with sons Thomas (left); Gerald, Jr.; Richard; and James about 1928. Courtesy of Gerald R. Ford Library.

July 31, 1980; Lloyd Shearer, "President Ford's 'Other' Family," *Parade Magazine*, September 9, 1974; H.W. Becker, "Wool King Drives 'Gold Stake,'" *Sun Newspapers* (Omaha), July 31, 1980; H.W. Becker, "He Was Grocery King of Chadron," *Sun Newspapers* (Omaha), July 31, 1982; *Omaha Bee*, December 19, 1885; Mary Lou Pence and Lola M. Homshur, *Ghost Towns of Wyoming* (New York: Hastings House, 1950), 222. Photo copies of the above newspaper clippings and those cited in this article are located in the White House Central File, Ford Library.

³J. Philips Magers, "Grandfather of Ford Recalled as Pioneer," *The Sunday Bulletin* (Omaha), December 1, 1974. It is interesting to note that Levi Gardner, Gerald Ford's grandfather on his mother's side, was also a businessman of distinction. He was born in Solon, Illinois, on April 24, 1863. After marrying Adele Ayer in 1884, he moved to Harvard, Illinois, where he owned a furniture business. He died on May 11, 1916. Letter from Arnold N. May to Gerald R. Ford, September 12, 1974, with undated clipping from the *Harvard Herald*, White House Central File, Ford Library.

⁴"Ford Ancestors Move West," *Omaha Sun*, July 31, 1980. Barbara Kellerman, *All the President's Kin* (New York: The Free Press, 1981).

⁵Divorce Decree, District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, December 19, 1913. Copy in Office of Legal Counsel File, Ford Library.

⁶Docket 126, No. 247 (October 20, 1913), District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska. Copy and answer to cross-petition in Office of Legal Counsel File, Ford Library.

⁷Petition for Citation to Show Cause and Writ of Attachment, District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, May 1, 1938. Copy in Office of Legal Counsel File, Ford Library.

⁸Docket 126, No. 247 (June 3, 1939), District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska. Copy of Satisfaction of Judgment, Office of Legal Counsel File, Ford Library; letter to Peggy Goldwater Holt, July 6, 1976, in General File, Ford Library; interview with Gerald R. Ford, March 12, 1984, on "Freeman Reports," CNN Cable Network.

⁹Oral history of Dr. Willard B. Ver Meulen, Papers of Willard B. Ver Meulen and the Paul Goebel Collection, Bentley Historical Library of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

¹⁰Alfred C. Haynes, "The Not-So-Hick Town Where Jerry Ford Grew Up," *Baltimore Evening Sun*, August 21, 1974.

¹¹Jerald F. terHorst, *Gerald Ford and the Future of the Presidency* (New York: Joseph Okpaku Books, 1974), 30.

¹²"A Man in Command of Himself, Ford Has

New Assurance," *Columbus Dispatch*, August 11, 1974, clipping in James B. Shuman File, Ford Library.

¹³"Autobiographic Additions to Letters as Vice President," 1974, Miscellaneous-Grand Rapids Composite Accession File, Ford Library.

¹⁴Letter, Ford to Joan Wheeler, December 21, 1974, White House Central File, Ford Library.

¹⁵Letter, Ford to John H. Zwarenstejn, September 11, 1974, White House Central File, Ford Library. Gerald R. Ford, Sr. died on January 26, 1962, and Dorothy Ford on September 17, 1967.

¹⁶Shearer, "President Ford's 'Other' Family."

¹⁷*Ibid.*

¹⁸*Ibid.*

¹⁹Gerald R. Ford, *A Time to Heal, The Autobiography of Gerald R. Ford* (New York: Harper and Row, Publishers and the Reader's Digest Association, Inc.), 47.

²⁰*Ibid.*, 48. In discussing his childhood, President Ford had such love and admiration for his stepfather that even after he discovered the existence of his real father, his psychological identification with his foster father was so strong it remained unshaken. "I have only one father and that was Gerald R. Ford, Sr.," he affirmed. Author's interview with Gerald R. Ford, Jr., Beaver Creek, Colorado, September 6, 1983.

²¹Authors' interview with Gerald R. Ford, September 6, 1983, at Beaver Creek, Colorado. Letter (with corrections) from Agnes Waldron, White House secretary, to Kent L. Brown, Jr., editor of *Highlights for Children*, October 18, 1976, in White House Central Files, Ford Library.

²²Jean Bullard, "Jerry Ford - 'A Darned Good Ranger,'" *National Park Service Newsletter*, July 1976. Copy in Domestic Counsel File, Ford Library.

²³Shearer, "President Ford's 'Other' Family."

²⁴Ford, *A Time to Heal*, 55.

²⁵Deposition of Gerald R. Ford, Jr. (given in New Haven, Connecticut), June 1, 1939. Submitted to the District Court of the Fourth Judicial District of Nebraska, in and for Douglas County. Copy in Office of Legal Counsel File, Ford Library.

²⁶Shearer, "President Ford's 'Other' Family."

²⁷Affidavit for Citation to Show Cause for Writ of Attachment, District Court of Douglas County, May 1, 1939. Copy in Office of Legal Counsel File, Ford Library.

²⁸Motion to Quash, District Court of Douglas County, May 29, 1939. Copy in Office of Legal Counsel File, Ford Library.

²⁹Satisfaction of Judgment, District Court of Douglas County, June 3, 1939. Copy in Office of Legal Counsel File, Ford Library.

³⁰"The Ancestry of Gerald R. Ford," Genealogy File, Ford Library.

³¹"Vacant City Lot, Once Ignored, Finds Spot in American History," *Omaha World-Herald*, January 19, 1975.

³²"Birthsite To Be Ready For Ford," *Omaha World-Herald*, April 2, 1976.

³³Information regarding the Ford Rose Garden on commemorative placard at entrance.