

# The First 1918 Influenza Death in Dallas County

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In the fall and winter of 1918, 456 individuals died of influenza in Dallas county. During the epidemic, *Dallas Morning News* reported the names of the deceased, including those who died at Camp Dick, the army training camp at the state fairgrounds. The efforts of the city, schools, medical community, businesses and citizens of Dallas during the 1918 influenza epidemic foreshadowed events of the 2020 COVID-19 epidemic.<sup>1</sup>

On October 4, 1918, *Dallas Morning News* reported that

“[i]t was made public for the first time yesterday at the Emergency Hospital that the first influenza victim was Pierpont Balderson, aged 15, address 2001 N. Harwood, who died at St. Paul’s Hospital Sept. 30. Young Balderson was stricken first with influenza, which later went into pneumonia.”<sup>2</sup>

Who was Pierpont Balderson? Who were his family members and what was their family history? Let’s look through the records for clues.

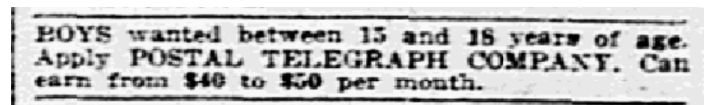
According to his Texas death certificate, Pierpont Balderson was born in April 1905 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the son of J. P. Balderson and Hattie Medlock. The informant on his death certificate was E. S. Parkinson who lived at 2001 N. Harwood.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> “Preventive Measures Against Influenza Urged in Letters,” *Dallas Morning News*, 13 December 1918, p. 7, col. 4, digital image, *The Dallas Morning News Archives* (<http://archives.dallasnews.com> : accessed 10 October 2020). The newspaper gave the names of 13 who died on October 15, 1918 attributed to influenza with a total of 86 deaths. “Influenza Epidemic Seems to be Waning,” *Dallas Morning News*, October 16, 1918, p. 14, col. 3; digital image, GenealogyBank (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 15 September 2020).

<sup>2</sup> “Spanish Influenza Rapidly Increasing,” *Dallas Morning News*, (Dallas, Texas), 4 October 1918, p. 14, col. 5, digital image, GenealogyBank (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 29 September 2020).

<sup>3</sup> Texas State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. Austin, Texas, USA. “Texas Death Certificates, 1903–1982,” subscription database, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 September 2020, for Pierpont Balderson, 33727 (1918)

Pierpont's death certificate recorded no trade or occupation, nor did it indicate that he was a student. The 1918 Dallas city directory, however, listed him as a messenger for the Postal TelGraph Company, rooming at 1920 Masten.<sup>4</sup> Perhaps he answered an advertisement like the one appearing in the *Dallas Morning News* on March 6, 1917 and in successive issues, seeking "Boys wanted between 15 and 18 years. Apply Postal Telegraph. Can earn from \$40 to \$50 per month."<sup>5</sup>



If he were in school, as a 15-year old, he would have attended Bryan Street High School, one of four public high schools in Dallas at the time. Located in the downtown area, it was the nearest school to where he and his family lived. N. R. Crozier was the principal of the school from 1914 to 1919.<sup>6</sup>

In 1918, the country was preparing for the war in Europe. "One feature of the registration at the High Schols (sic) is the heavy demand for certain subjects, such as military drill, manual trainings, domestic science, commercial subjects and several of the languages." The newspaper went on to note an increase in French and a decrease in German, likely due to the war in Europe. Perhaps, Pierpont did not attend school, but worked to help support his family. In fall 1917, the

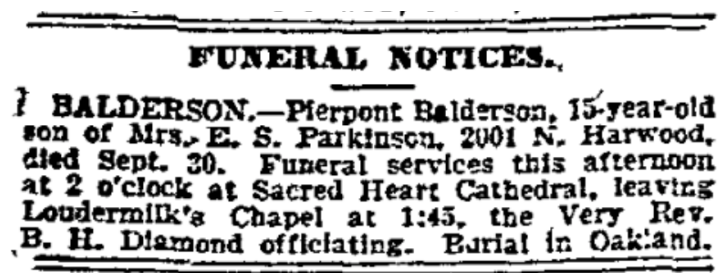
<sup>4</sup> John F Worley Directory Co., *Dallas City Directory 1918*, p. 91, digital image, Ancestry.com. *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995*, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011, (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 September 2020). City directories are often compiled the year before publication, so Pierpont most likely lived at 1920 Masten in 1917. His death certificate listed his address as 2001 Harwood, the same address as the informant.

<sup>5</sup> "Miscellaneous Male Help," *Dallas Morning News*, 6 Mar 1917, p. 16, col. 2, digital image, GenealogyBank (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 29 September 2020). The ad is repeated on 27 Mar 1917, p. 14, col. 2.

<sup>6</sup> Walter J. E. Schiebel, E.D., *Education in Dallas. Ninety-two Years of History, 1874-1966*. Dallas Independent School District, 1966. There were three white and one colored high schools: Bryan Street High School, Oak Cliff High School, Forest Avenue High School, and Booker T. Washington High School. Bryan Street High School was renamed N. R. Crozier Technical High School in 1942.

Dallas schools began to offer free night school open to individuals of all ages. Young boys selling newspapers and working as postal messengers could take advantage of the night schools.<sup>7</sup>

Pierpont would have attended elementary school in Little Rock, Houston and Dallas as the family moved around between 1907 and 1918. Five “ward schools” (elementary schools) fed Bryan Street High School. A comparison of the addresses where Pierpont’s family lived, the addresses of the schools that fed Bryan Street High School, and Dallas, Texas Sanborn maps suggest that he would have attended Cumberland Hill School for his elementary years.<sup>8</sup>



According to his death certificate, the newspaper funeral notice and cemetery interment records, Pierpont was interred in Oakland Cemetery, Dallas, Texas, on October 1, 1918 in section 40.<sup>9</sup> Sacred Heart Cathedral, where the funeral took place, was located at the corner of Ross and Pearl Streets. Was he confirmed as a Catholic? Was his deceased father an Irish Catholic? His parents and his half-sister were married by Methodist ministers. Additional records are needed to answer these questions.

<sup>7</sup> “War Causes Many to Resume School Work,” *Dallas Morning News*, 19 September 1917, p. 15, col. 2 digital image, GenealogyBank (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 16 October 2020). “Free Night School Now Open to the Public,” *Dallas Morning News*, 9 October 1917, p. 15, col. 3, GenealogyBank (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 16 October 2020).

<sup>8</sup> *Worley's Directory of Dallas Texas 1918*, p. 42, 1916, p. 955, *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995*, digital image, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 16 October 2020). “Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps - Texas (1877-1922)”, Dallas, Texas, 1905 & 1921, Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection, digital images (<https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps/sanborn/texas.html> : accessed 12 October 2020). Junior highs were not started until around 1933 according to Schiebel, *Education in Dallas*.

<sup>9</sup> “Texas Death Certificates, 1903–1982,” for Pierpont Balderson, 33727 (1918). “Texas, Dallas County, Oakland Cemetery Interment Cards, 1891-1999”, database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 20 March 2020), Pierpont Balderson, 1919. “Funeral Notices,” *Dallas Morning News*, 1 October 1918, p. 12, col.1, digital image, *The Dallas Morning News Archives* (<http://archives.dallasnews.com> : accessed 19 October 2020).

**Pierpont's Father:** Reviewing the 1900 census, we find Pierpont's parents, J. P. and [Hattie] Ida Balderson, living in Fort Worth. J. P. was born in March 1866 in either England, New York or Ireland. He immigrated to the United States in 1870 and was naturalized.<sup>10</sup> No immigration or naturalization record has been located. Research in various city directories in Dallas, Fort Worth and Houston, revealed J. P.'s full name as Joseph Patrick "Patsey" Balderson. He lived in Dallas from 1893 to 1898, in Houston in 1898, and then in Fort Worth from 1899 until his death in 1907.<sup>11</sup> He was described as the one-time proprietor of a Calhoun street theater in Fort Worth. City directories, in Dallas, Fort Worth and Houston, showed that he was a musician, played the cornet and piano, and operated a variety or vaudeville theater in the Daggett addition.<sup>12</sup>

In April 1901, a fire broke out in the building occupied by "Professor" Balderson at Twelfth and Calhoun, caused by "cigarette stump." A second fire occurred in May. Later in the

<sup>10</sup> 1900 U. S. census, Tarrant County, Texas, population schedule, Ward 3, Fort Worth, Enumeration District 96, p. 2 (penned), dwelling 26, family 29, J. P. Balderson : digital image, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 September 2020 ) citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1671. Department of Health, Austin, Texas. "Texas Birth Certificates, 1903-1935", database FamilySearch (<http://www.familysearch.org> : 27 September 2020) for unnamed daughter born to J P Balderson and Ida Balderson, 143378 (1905) citing J. P. Balderson's birthplace as Ireland. Texas State Board of Health, Austin, Texas, "Texas Death Certificates, 1903-1982," subscription database, Ancestry.com citing birthplace of father of Pierpont Balderson as New York.

<sup>11</sup> "CITY NEWS. Badly Used Up," *The Fort Worth Record and Register*, 18 September 1901, p. 8, col. 5 (<http://newspapers.com> : accessed 28 September 2020) citing Patsey Balderson. *Morrison & Fourmy's General Directory of the City of Dallas 1893-94*, p. 95, *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995*, digital image, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 September 2020) citing J. Patrick Balderson, pianist, Camp street operahouse. *The Evans & Worley Directory of the City of Dallas, 1898*, p. 91 *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995*, digital image, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 September 2020), citing Joseph P. Balderson, musician. *1898 Morrison & Fourmy's General Directory of the City of Houston 1897-98*, p. 67. *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995*, digital image, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 September 2020) citing Patrick Balderson, cornet player at New Palace Theater.

<sup>12</sup> *Morrison & Fourmy's General Directory of the City of Houston 1897-98*, "U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995," digital image, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 Sep 2020.), p. 67, Patrick Balderson, cornet player, New Palace theater, bds 1410 Commerce ave. For more about Fort Worth's theatrical history see the article by Jan L. Jones "Renegades and Philistines: The First Thirty-Five Years of Fort Worth's Theatrical History," *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, vol. 107, no. 3, 2004, pp. 414-433. *JSTOR*, (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/30240387> : accessed 21 Oct. 2020).

year, *Fort Worth Record and Register* reported that a physician was called at midnight to the corner of Calhoun and Twelfth to attend to “a man named Patsey Balderson” who had been engaged in a “difficulty, and as a result there was no question but that he had been badly used.” He sold the property in 1902.<sup>13</sup> Before his death in April 1907, his wife filed suit for divorce against him, but the case was one of several reportedly dismissed by a judge before July 1, 1907. Perhaps this was because J. P. died 23 April 1907 in Fort Worth. He was interred in Fort Worth’s Oakwood Cemetery on 24 April 1907.<sup>14</sup>

**Pierpont’s Mother:** Hattie Ida Medlock and her twin Effie Ada were born 18 February 1877 in Arkansas to John Forsyth Medlock (1840-1920) and Rhoda Malinda Glenn (1846-1879).<sup>15</sup>

The twins, age 3, appear on the 1880 census with their uncle, Benjamin S. Medlock, a physician, and his wife Julia, in Owen, Saline county, Arkansas. After their mother had died, their father remarried and they were raised by their aunt and uncle.<sup>16</sup> Hattie Medlock and Joseph

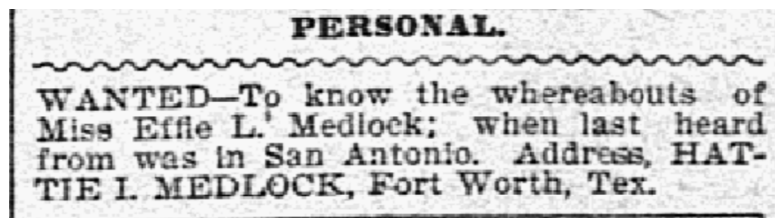
<sup>13</sup> “Blaze at Noon Yesterday,” *The Fort Worth Morning Record and Register*, 14 May 1901, p. 2, col. 3 (accessed newspapers.com : accessed 27 September 2020). “FIRES YESTERDAY. The Morning Blaze,” *The Fort Worth Morning Record and Register*, 26 Apr 1901, p. 5, col. 5, (accessed newspapers.com : accessed 27 September 2020). “CITY NEWS. Badly Used Up,” *The Fort Worth Record and Register*, 18 September 1901, p. 8, col. 5 (accessed <http://newspapers.com> : accessed 28 September 2020). “Real Estate Transfers. Fort Worth,” *Dallas Morning News*, 11 March 1902, p. 9, col. (<http://genealogybank.com> accessed 17 October 2020)

<sup>14</sup> “District Court Spurs Justice,” *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, 7 July 1907, p. 12, col. 1, digital image, Newspapers.com (<http://newspapers.com> : accessed 27 Sep 2020). “Deaths. J. P. Barderson,” *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* (Fort Worth, Texas) 24 April 1907 p. 3, col. 4 digital image Newspapers.com (<http://newspapers.com> : accessed 5 Oct 2020). “Historic Oakwood Cemetery,” Fort Worth Genealogical Society, database, ([http://www.oakwoodcemetery.net/index\\_files/Burials.htm](http://www.oakwoodcemetery.net/index_files/Burials.htm) : accessed 20 Oct 2020).

<sup>15</sup> 1900 U. S. census, Tarrant County, Texas, population schedule., Ward 3, Fort Worth, ED 96, p. 2 (penned), dwelling 26, family 29, Hattie Balderson, gives her birth as February 1880, age 18, while the 1880 Saline County, Arkansas gives her age as 3 (i.e. 1877) and the 1910 Saline county Arkansas census lists her age as 32 (i.e. 1878). Texas State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. Austin, Texas, USA. “Texas Death Certificates, 1903–1982.” subscription database, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 September 2020, for Hattie Parkinson, 33727 (1919)s

<sup>16</sup> 1880 U. S. census, Saline County, Arkansas, population schedule Owen township, p. 264 (stamped), dwelling 133, family 133, Hattie Medlock, digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 18 Sept 2020 ) citing NARA microfilm publication T6, roll 56. Information about family via email from Janet Cook, great niece of Hattie and Effie. Janet Cook, email 10 Oct 2020, personal communication.

Balderson, listed as “Joe Bolson” on the marriage license, were married on 11 December 1899 in Fort Worth, Texas by Methodist minister, Edwin D. Mouzon. Their marriage license and certificate is on the Tarrant County Archives website.<sup>17</sup> It is unknown how or where they met, but Hattie’s twin sister came to Texas to attend Baylor College at Belton and graduated from the St. Paul Nursing Training School in Dallas.<sup>18</sup> When Hattie lived in Fort Worth in 1898, she advertised for help finding Effie’s location.<sup>19</sup>



Hattie had three children: Pierpont, a daughter who was born in 1905 and died between 1908 and 1910, and a daughter, Lois, born in 1908. After J. P.’s death, Hattie returned to her native Arkansas where she met and married Eugene S. Parkinson. Their daughter, Lois Rhoda Parkinson, was born in Little Rock on 10 February 1908.<sup>20</sup> A Dallas city directory recorded

<sup>17</sup> Joe Bolson [sic] and Hattie I. Medlock. 11 Dec 1899, Tarrant County Marriages. Certificate # 9360. Recorded Vol 11, p. 265, 23 Feb 1900; filed 16 Feb 1900. “Marriage Licenses (1875-1900),” *Tarrant County Historic Ledgers*, Tarrant County Archives. <https://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/tarrant-county-archives/holdings/tarrant-county-historic-ledgers.html>. The marriage ledgers actually cover 1875 to 1905.

<sup>18</sup> According to her great niece, she and her twin sister attended nursing school. The sister graduated, but she didn’t. Janet Cook to Barbara Ware, emails, 11 October to 13 October 2020, photographs, obituary, and information regarding Medlock family.

<sup>19</sup> “Personal,” *Dallas Morning News*, 27 Oct 1898, p. 5, col.5, digital image, GenealogyBank (<http://genealogybank.com> : accessed 29 September 2020)

<sup>20</sup> Arkansas Department of Vital Records; Little Rock, Arkansas, Arkansas Birth Certificates, 1914-1917, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 October 2020) citing Lois Rhoda Parkinson. 1910 U. S. census Pulaski County, Arkansas, population schedule, Little Rock, p. 14B (penned), dwelling 137, family 140, E. Shelkey Parkson, digital image Ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 10 Oct 2020) citing NARA microfilm publication T624, Roll 62. “Deaths and Funeral Announcements. Gilchrist Lois Parkinson.” *Dallas Morning News*, October 4, 2000, p. 26, col.5, digital image *The Dallas Morning News Archives* (<http://archives.dallasnews.com> : accessed 8 October 2020). “Obituary. Mrs. Hattie Parkinson.” *Daily Arkansas Gazette* (Little Rock, AR) 24 January 1919, p. 9, col 6. Newspaper.com (<http://newspapers.com> : accessed 22 September 2020) Also see *Arkansas Democrat*, January 30, 1919, p. 7.



Hattie and Eugene's move to Dallas around 1914, where they were listed at 1211 S Harwood. She operated a boarding house. In 1917 Hattie and family lived at 1290 Masten and she "furnished rooms," an occupation in which she engaged to help support her family in Fort Worth, Little Rock and Dallas.<sup>21</sup> When she died on 21 January 1919, another victim of pneumonia and influenza, the family lived at 2609 Rosewood. She was buried in Section 37 of Oakland Cemetery.<sup>22</sup> After her burial, her son, Pierpont, was moved from his original burial location to the same section as his mother.<sup>23</sup>

**Pierpont's Stepfather and Half-sister.** Pierpont's stepfather, Eugene S. Parkinson, was born in Mississippi on 5 August 1876 and died in Dallas 11 November 1924. In between he lived in Little Rock, Arkansas, and Houston, Texas.<sup>24</sup> Eugene had moved from Mississippi to Arkansas

<sup>21</sup> "Too Late to Classify, Furnished Rooms," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* (Fort Worth, Texas) March 15, 1904, p. 3, col. 4. Repeated on March 16, 1904, p. 9, col. 1s digital image, Newspapers.com (<http://newspapers.com> : accessed 3 October 2020). Repeated on March 16, 1904, p. 9. "Too Late to Classify," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* (Fort Worth, Texas) 21 May 1905, p. 4, col. 6, digital image, Newspapers.com (<http://newspapers.com> : accessed 3 October 2020). "Board and Room. For Rent." *Arkansas Democrat*, 9 August 1908, p. 14, col. 4, digital image, Newspapers.com (<http://newspapers.com> : accessed 3 October 2020). Also repeated in in same newspaper on August 11 and 13, 1908. *Worley's Directory of Dallas, Texas 1915*, p. 618, *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995*, digital image, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 September 2020), citing Mrs. Hattie I. Parkinson, bdg hse [boarding house] 1211 S. Harwood. She is listed as Mrs. H.I Parkinson under "Boarding House" category, p. 816. *John F. Worley Directory Co., Dallas City Directory 1917*, p. 725, *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995*, digital image, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 September 2020), citing Mrs. Elizabeth S. Parkinson, furn rms, 1920 Masten. This is the address where Eugene S. Parkinson lived.

<sup>22</sup> Texas State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. Austin, Texas, USA. "Texas Death Certificates, 1903–1982." subscription database, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 September 2020, for Hattie Parkinson, 33727 (1919)

<sup>23</sup> "Obituary. Mrs. Hattie Parkinson." *Daily Arkansas Gazette* (Little Rock, AR) 24 January 1919, p. 9, col 6., digital image Newspapers.com (<http://www.snewspapers.com> : 27 Sep 2020). "Obituary. Mrs. Hattie Parkinson." *Arkansas Democrat* (Little Rock, AR) 30 January 1919, p. 7, col 4. digital image Newspapers.com (<http://www.newspapers.com> : accessed 27 Sep 2020).

<sup>24</sup> *Morrison & Fourmy's General Directory of the City of Houston, 1913*, *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995*, p. 644 digital image, Ancestry.com, (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 September 2020). *Worley's Directory of Dallas Texas 1915*, p. 618, *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995*, digital image, Ancestry.com, (<https://www.acestry.com> : accessed 28 September 2020).

after serving in the Spanish American War, first as a private and then a corporal.<sup>25</sup> He worked as a lineman for Southwestern Telephone and Telegraph in Little Rock, Houston, and Dallas. After settling in Dallas, he worked as a driver for Palace Dry Cleaning and Hat Works, Wells Fargo, Magnolia Petroleum, and American Railway Express.<sup>26</sup>

Hattie and Eugene moved their family to Dallas between 1911 and 1915. Pierpont died in 1918 and Hattie in 1919. After Hattie's death, Eugene married Frances Elizabeth Brown Clay, who had previously been married to James Thomas Clay.<sup>27</sup> When Eugene S. Parkinson died in 1924, he was buried alongside Hattie in Oakland Cemetery.

Eugene and Hattie's daughter, Lois Rhoda Parkinson, was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on 10 February 1908. Reverend Umphrey Lee of the Methodist Church married Lois to Thomas Clyde Gilchrist in Dallas on 13 November 1927. They had two sons. Both Lois Parkinson Gilchrist and Thomas Clyde Gilchrist are buried at Oakland Cemetery, Section 5.<sup>28</sup>

Although Pierpont Balderson had a short life, his name lives on when individuals write about the 1918 influenza pandemic in Dallas, but his family and their history were not mentioned.

<sup>25</sup> Polk's Southern Directory Co.'s Little Rock and Argenta City Directory, 1908 (p. 381), 1910 (p. 412), 1911 (p. 434), digital images, Ancestry.com (<https://ancestry.com> : accessed 10 October 2020)

<sup>26</sup> *Worley's Directory of Dallas Texas 1915*, p. 618, *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995*, digital image, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 September 2020) 1915 (p. 618), 1917 (p. 725), 1918 (p. 91), 1919 (p. 863). *U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*, digital images, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 September 2020)

<sup>27</sup> *Index to Dallas County, Texas Marriages, 1846 to 1963, Roll 13*, E. S. Parkinson and Elizabeth Clay, 11 Jun 1919, Book 26, Page 55 from microfilm in the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, Dallas, Texas.

<sup>28</sup> "Gilchrist-Parkinson Marriage." *Dallas Morning News*, 15 November 1927, p. 8, col. 1-2. digital image, GenealogyBank (<http://genealogybank.com> : accessed 23 September 2020). "Deaths and Funeral Announcements. Gilchrist Lois Parkinson." *Dallas Morning News*, October 4, 2000, p. 26, col.5, digital image, *The Dallas Morning News Archives* (<http://archives.dallasnews.com> : accessed 14 October 2020). "Texas, Dallas County, Oakland Cemetery Interment Cards, 1891-1999," digital image, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 2 October 2020), Lois Gilchrist, 2000.



## Family Genealogical Summary:

1. Hattie Ada Medlock was born 18 February 1877, one of a set of twins, to John Forsyth Medlock and Rhoda Malina Glenn, in Arkansas and died 21 January 1919 in Dallas, Texas. She married (1) Joseph Patrick Balderson on 11 December 1899 in Fort Worth, Texas. He was born March 1866 in Ireland or England, parents unknown, and died 24 April 1907 in Fort Worth, Texas. She married (2) Eugene Sharkey Parkinson in 1907, exact date and location unknown. He was born 5 August 1874 in Mississippi, and died 5 November 1924 in Dallas, Texas. He married Frances Elizabeth Brown Clay on 11 June 1919 in Dallas county, Texas.

Hattie Medlock and Joseph Balderson has the following children:

- 2 i. Pierpont Balderson, born April 1903 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; died 30 September 1918 in Dallas, Texas. Pierpont was the first person to die of the 1918 influenza epidemic in Dallas county, Texas.
- 3 ii. Daughter Balderson, born 2 Oct 1905 in Fort Worth, Texas; died between 1908 and 1910 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Hattie Medlock and Eugene Sharkey Parkinson had the following child:

4. i. Lois Rhoda Parkinson, born 10 February 1908 in Little Rock Arkansas; died 4 October 2000 in Lewisville, Texas. She married Thomas Clyde Gilchrist on 13 November 1927 in Dallas, Texas. He was born 10 June 1900 in London, England and died 6 December 1966 in Dallas, Texas. They had two sons who are still living.

**Source Summary:** It takes many sources to bring together a family story including census, city directories, newspaper articles, county marriage records, online data and records aggregators (e.g. Ancestry, FamilySearch, Findagrave), family members, vital records (death and birth certificates), cemetery interment cards, obituaries, and internet articles.

Record Source	Documents
Census	1880, 1910 U.S. Census: Little Rock, Pulaski county, Arkansas
	1900 U.S. Census: Fort Worth, Tarrant county, Texas
	1900 U.S. Census: Belton, Bell county, Texas
	1900 U.S. Census: Sharkey county, Mississippi
	1920, 1930, 1940 U.S. Census: Dallas county, Texas
	1880 U.S. Census: Mississippi
Vital Records	Texas Death Certificates: Dallas county, Texas: 1918, 1919, 1924, 1966
	Marriage certificates: Tarrant county, Texas; Dallas county, Texas
	Birth certificate: Little Rock, Arkansas 1908
City directories	Dallas, Dallas, Texas: 1893-4, 1894-5, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1915, 1916,

	1917, 1918, Fort Worth, Tarrant, Texas: 1901-02, 1902, 1904, 1905-06 Houston, Harris, Texas: 1897-98, 1913 Little Rock, Pulaski, Arkansas: 1907, 1908, 1910, 1911, 1919, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1929,
Cemetery Records	Oakland Cemetery, Dallas, Texas Interment cards Oakwood Cemetery (Fort Worth) online name list [Balderan, J P] Oakland and Fraternal Historic Cemetery (FamilySearch)
Findagrave	Cemeteries in Dallas, Fort Worth and Little Rock
Maps	Sanborn maps: Dallas, Texas 1899, 1921
Newspapers	Dallas Morning News Fort Worth Star Telegram Fort Worth Record and Register Arkansas Gazette, Arkansas Democrat
Military Records	General index to Pension Files 1861-1934 USGenWeb Mississippi Archives Index of Spanish American War Rosters World War I Selective Service Draft Registration Cards
Immigration and Naturalization	Various online databases that did not yield results. Not able to check other records with libraries and courthouses closed.
Tax Rolls	These do not seem to be available, at least not online, for the time period of interest.
Obituaries/Death Notices	<i>Dallas Morning News</i> (1918, 1919, 1966, 2000) <i>Arkansas Democrat, Arkansas Gazette</i> (1919), (1927) <i>Fort Worth Star Telegram</i>
Various historical information articles	Texas State Historical Society publications JSTOR Fort Worth Star Telegram Dallas Morning News Various articles found by searching Google.

**Comments:** In order to share the story of this family, Findagrave.com entries have been created or updated, and the related family trees on FamilySearch.com have been corrected, merged and enhanced. If you would like to know more about the 1918 Influenza in Dallas, you can find an interesting article in the “Influenza Encyclopedia” produced by the University of Michigan Center for History of Medicine and Michigan Publishing, University of Michigan Library.

<https://www.influenzaarchive.org/cities/city-dallas.html#>

Due to the current pandemic closure of libraries, archives and governmental offices, research for this article was conducted almost exclusively online. Thanks to the genealogy departments of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library and the Fort Worth Central Library for looking up county marriage license information available only at their sites.

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