

Fabrice Boatright Hudson
of
Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana

by Timothy Dean Hudson

Fabrice Boatright was born on 16 March 1916 on her parents' farm several miles east of Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana, the second daughter of George William Boatright (6 Sep 1886–24 Dec 1934) and Elizabeth Dean [Lizzie] (24 Nov 1885–20 Jan 1959). Fabrice's paternal grandparents, William Pinckney Boatright (10 Nov 1857–8 Feb 1901) [Will] and Mary T. Anna Ham [Anna] (Nov 1867–13 Dec 1900), both died fifteen years before her birth. Fabrice's maternal grandparents, Thomas Allen Dean [Tom] (29 Apr 1851–2 Aug 1924) and Rebecca Frances Albritton [Becca] (1 Nov 1850–6 Mar 1935), lived near Fabrice and her parents, and she grew up seeing them often [1].

In the 1920s, Fabrice Boatright attended Hopewell School located near her home, just off the Wards Chapel Road. In May 1924, she scored 100% on the Louisiana State Second Grade Spelling Test. Mrs. J. W. Brantley was her teacher that year, but a few years later, Mrs. Willie Brantley Love began teaching at Hopewell and taught Fabrice [2].

About 1929, Fabrice began attending Farmerville High School. During her junior year, each Friday morning between 8:20 and 8:45 a.m., all students met in the auditorium where one grade presented a program. On 23 October 1931, the junior class gave the program, including orchestra music, a piano solo and duo, and a sketch read on Edison's life. Fabrice Boatright presented a reading [3]. On 5 November 1932, "*the jolly group*" of 152 home economics pupils at Farmerville High School assembled to form a Home Economics Club. The two faculty sponsors called the group to order, after which they selected officers. Fabrice Boatright was elected secretary and treasurer of the organization. They then began working on a club name, slogan, creed, yell, rhymes, and a club song and motto [4].

During the spring of Fabrice's senior year at Farmerville High School, a group of students from the school presented a play, "*The Adventures of Grandpa*," described as "*a wholesome play in three acts*." Fabrice had the role of Marie Ribeau, "*the girl from Paris*." Students of Mrs. Selig and Mrs. Murphy provided music for the occasion. Admission to the "*nice, interesting program*" held at the community auditorium was 10 cents for children and 25 cents for adults, with proceeds supporting the Boys' Athletic Club [5].

Farmerville High School held its 1933 commencement exercises at the community auditorium on the evening of Tuesday, April 18th. Edward Everett Jr., a Farmerville attorney, was the speaker, and Dr. Jordan Gray Taylor, President of the Union Parish School Board, awarded diplomas to the seniors. Fabrice Boatright and her first cousin, George W. Dean Jr., both received their diplomas that night [6].

In the late 1880s and 1890s, religious changes in Southern society that began with the Second Great Awakening spread across north Louisiana and south Arkansas. This resulted in Wards Chapel Church, founded in the latter 1830s as a Protestant Methodist Church, to convert to the Wards Chapel Church of Christ. Fabrice's parents, grandparents, and many aunts and uncles all joined the church, and as a child, she attended services at Wards Chapel. She joined the church herself and remained a devoted member of Wards Chapel Church of Christ for her adult life. Fabrice regularly attended services at the church on Sunday mornings and on Wednesday nights.

In early 1933, Fabrice Boatright and Woodrow Hudson decided to elope, along with his brother, John T. Hudson and his fiancé, Flayo Cade. The Hudson brothers were sons of Charles Henry Hudson Sr. (16 Dec 1873–24 May 1957) and Nancy Theodosia Ward [Dosia] (8 Mar 1878–14 Mar 1950). On 4 March 1933, the two couples went across the state line to El Dorado, Union County, Arkansas and applied for marriage licenses. The girls were both only sixteen years old, but they lied to Mr. W. C. McGough, the Justice of the Peace at the courthouse, and claimed they were eighteen. McGough issued them marriages licenses and then performed a joint marriage ceremony for the couples [7].

Fabrice and Woodrow Hudson settled near his parents' farm on the Wards Chapel Road, about seven miles east of Farmerville. She graduated from Farmerville High School five weeks after her marriage. Nine months to the day after their marriage, at the age of seventeen, Fabrice gave birth to her first child. Another child arrived in 1935, followed by three more in the 1940s.

In the first few years after their marriage, Woodrow Hudson farmed, and in 1940, he was engaged in field work for the Agricultural Extension office [8]. About 1944, Fabrice and Woodrow moved to Mansfield for a few years, and then to Jonesboro. By about 1948, they returned to Farmerville and spent the rest of their married life together living on the Wards Chapel Road. In 1950, Woodrow worked as a salesman for a wholesale electrical supply company [9].

Upon their return to Farmerville about 1948, Fabrice became active in the Hopewell Home Demonstration Club. The members elected her as secretary-treasurer for the 1949–1950 year, and in this role, she read the minutes at the start of each business meeting. At the September 1949 club meeting, she won the "*lucky number*" in their drawing contest [10]. The group held their April 1954

meeting at the agricultural building in Farmerville, where Fabrice and Mrs. Gladys Dean *“gave a very interesting demonstration on good jelly making which made us all want to go home and make better jelly for our families”* [11]. Fabrice remained active in the group throughout the 1950s and 1960s, serving as vice president for the 1955–1956 year [12].

In the 1950s, several of Fabrice’s children attended Farmerville High School, and she became active in the Farmerville P-TA Club. In 1955, the group’s meetings were held at the high school auditorium, usually at 7:30 p.m. Perhaps as a graduate whose children also attended Farmerville High School, Fabrice earned a life membership in the Farmerville PTA. In January 1955, she served on the committee to select another qualified recipient [13].

In the early 1960s, Fabrice Hudson became active with the Taylor Cemetery Fence Fund Committee. After the group had the cemetery fenced, these efforts continued with the Taylor Cemetery Upkeep Committee. She frequently submitted notices in the Farmerville newspaper that solicited donations to help with the costs of erecting the fence and mowing of the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery [14].

Fabrice Boatright Hudson loved to cook, and like most country wives of her generation, she prepared vegetables throughout the summer season for the next winter, canning and freezing fresh vegetables. She loved making jellies and fig preserves each summer, and during holiday seasons, she had a separate table entirely for desserts. Her grandchildren especially remember and miss her incredible fudge and chocolate cake.

Fabrice spent her life as a homemaker, devoted to raising her children, attending her church, and caring for sick family members. The 1962 death of her youngest son, Ted Hudson, at the age of eighteen devastated her, casting a pall over the remainder of her life.

After nearly fifty-four years of marriage, Woodrow Hudson Sr. died on 11 February 1987 of a heart attack. Fabrice continued to live in their home on the Wards Chapel Road for another six years. In 1993, due to declining health, she moved to Live Oak, Suwannee County, Florida to be closer to her daughter, Beth.

Fabrice Boatright Hudson died in Live Oak, Florida on 23 November 1997. She is buried beside her husband and son, Ted, in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery near Farmerville [15].



Children of Woodrow Wilson Hudson Sr. & Fabrice Boatright

Woodrow W. Hudson Sr. and Fabrice Boatright had five children:

1. **Woodrow Wilson Hudson Jr.** [Woody, Junior] (4 Dec 1933–25 Oct 2019) graduated from Farmerville High School in 1952 and then joined the U. S. Army during the occupation of Korea in 1953–1955. Afterwards, he worked for Ford, Bacon and Davis and attended Northeast Louisiana State College and Louisiana Tech University. He graduated from Tech in 1960 with a B.S. in Business. In 1961, he moved to Bastrop to work at the International Paper Company's Louisiana Mill as an accountant. He worked for IP for forty-three years, retiring in 2004.

Elder Reason W. Rhodes baptized W. W. Hudson Jr. as a member of Liberty Hill Primitive Baptist Church on 25 April 1953, the same day as his grandfather, Charles H. Hudson. The church licensed him to preach in 1956, and he was ordained as Primitive Baptist minister on 29 May 1960. Elder Hudson served Liberty Hill Church as assistant pastor under Elder Rhodes from 1961–1966, and as pastor from 1966–2016, when the church dissolved. He also served as the pastor of numerous other Primitive Baptist churches in north Louisiana, southern Arkansas, and Texas from the 1960s until his health declined in 2016.

In 2008, Woody Hudson moved to West Monroe to be closer to family, and as his health further declined, he moved to Hammond, Louisiana to be closer to his son. He died in Hammond, Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana on 25 October 2019. He is buried in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery, Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana.

2. **Jackie Lee Hudson** (13 Dec 1935–2015) married on 24 February 1962 in Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana to Vera Mae West, born 19 February 1943. Jackie and his family lived in Louisiana, Michigan, and Alaska, before settling in Spring, Texas. He died there in 2015.
3. **Beth Hudson** was born on 24 June 1940 at Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana. She married on 7 August 1962 to Wayne Abram Winstead (9 Apr 1936–26 Nov 1993), son of Isaiah Winstead (13 Jul 1884–24 Jul 1947) and Emma Lewis Ayers (7 Aug 1908–13 Sep 1987). Beth and Wayne Winstead moved to Live Oak, Suwannee County, Florida, where he died at the age of only fifty-six years. Wayne is buried in the Mount Olive Church of Christ Cemetery, Live Oak, Suwannee County, Florida.
4. **Walter Prescott Hudson** (1 Oct 1942–29 Dec 2006) attended Louisiana Tech University in the 1960s. He never married and spent his adult life in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Prescott belonged to the Wards Chapel Church of Christ in Farmerville, and after moving to Baton Rouge, he belonged to several Church of Christ congregations there. In the early 2000s, he belonged to

the Capital City Church of Christ. Prescott Hudson is buried in the Greenoaks Memorial Park (Section 19), Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana.

5. **Ted Hudson** (14 Jul 1944–22 Aug 1962) became the star pitcher for the Farmerville High School *"Farmers."* Playing on their home diamond against Linville High School on Monday, 18 April 1960, *"Ted Hudson spun a four-hit shutout"* that ignited his team, which *"erupted for five runs in the sixth inning to trounce Linville,"* 8-0 [16]. A few months later, playing against Rayville in the American Legion Junior game, Hudson struck out nine, leading Farmerville's team to a 2-1 victory [17]. Playing against the Rayville Hornets on the afternoon of Monday, 9 April 1962, Hudson allowed only three hits and struck out four, leading the Farmerville Farmers to a 4-1 triumph [18].

Ted Hudson played baseball all four years of high school as well as on the American Legion and Louisiana All-State baseball teams. In the spring of 1962, he was selected for the Class A All-State first team [19].

Farmerville High School held their commencement exercises at the high school gymnasium at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, 1 June 1962, and Ted received his diploma that evening [20]. He was slated to play baseball at Louisiana Tech starting in the fall of 1962.

On August 22nd, Ted Hudson had his guns laid out in his bedroom to clean them, supposedly in preparation for hunting. After cleaning two, he began to clean the third rifle when the firearm went off, with the bullet striking him in the stomach. Family members summoned an ambulance, but the wound proved mortal. He lived only about forty-five minutes after the incident, with his death occurring en route to the St. Francis Hospital in Monroe. His funeral was held at 10:00 a.m. at the Farmerville Church of Christ, with Kenneth and Jurd Brantley conducting the services. Ted is buried in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery, Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana [21].

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HOPEWELL SCHOOL
1927



1947

FABRICE
BOATRRIGHT
HUDSON
(1916–1997)



WARDS CHAPEL ROAD
1950s



WOODROW & FABRICE
ABT. 1965



Notes

A note on sources:

Fabrice Boatright Hudson had a great interest in her family's history. Over the course of her adult life, she recorded stories told to her about her grandparents and great-grandparents by her father and uncles. She collected family data from her aunts and uncles, cousins, and other relatives. She was my grandmother, and she conveyed to me much of the information presented here. If not otherwise sourced, all statements made here come from information provided to me by my grandmother during her lifetime, either verbally or in letters written between 1982 and 1992.

1. Hamburg Cemetery (Hamburg, Ashley County AR), tombstone of [William P. Boatright](#). Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery (Farmerville, Union Parish LA), tombstones of [Thomas A. Dean](#), [Rebecca A. Dean](#), and [Fabrice B. Hudson](#).
2. "The Gazette" (Farmerville, LA), 28 May 1924, p. 1, column 7. A 1927 photograph shows that Willie Brantley Love was Fabrice's teacher at Hopewell School in 1927.
3. "The Gazette," 28 October 1931, p. 1, column 5
4. "The Gazette," 16 November 1932, p. 1, column 1.
5. "The Gazette," 11 January 1933, p. 1, column 7.
6. "The Gazette," 19 April 1933, p. 1, column 5.
7. Union County AR Marriage Record 14 (1932–1933), p. 200 (J. T. Hudson to Miss Flayo Cade, 4 March 1933); p. 201 (W. W. Hudson to Miss Fabrice Boatright, 4 March 1933). Both couples were married by Justice of the Peace W. C. McGough. John T. Hudson and Woodrow W. Hudson each served as the security on the other's marriage bond. Both women were sixteen years of age, yet they lied and claimed to the officials in the courthouse that they were eighteen years old.
8. 1940 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Ward 7, ED #5-15, p. 235b/10b, Household #77, line #52: Woodrow Hudson (age: 28; home rented; "Field work; Agriculture"); #53: Fabrice Hudson (age: 22; wife); #54: Woodrow Hudson Jr. (age: 5; son); #55: Jack Hudson (age: 3; son).
9. 1950 Union Parish LA Federal Census, ED #56-25, Sheet #2, East Along Farmerville to Port Union Road, Dwelling #15, line #9: Woodrow Hudson (age: 37; occupation: "Wholesale Electric supply salesman; Electrical Ind [industry]"); #10: Fabrice Hudson (age: 34; wife); #11: Woodrow Hudson Jr. (age: 16; Son); #12: Jackie Lee Hudson (age: 14; Son); #13: Beth Hudson (age: 9; daughter); #14: Walter P. Hudson (age: 7; Son); #15: Ted Hudson (age: 5; Son).
10. "The Gazette," October 13 (p. 6, columns 2–3), November 10 (p. 6, column 2), December 1 (p. 1, column 7), 1949; May 11 (p. 2, column 5), 1950; April 19 (p. 2, column 4), 1951.
11. "The Gazette," 20 May 1954, p. 4, column 2.
12. "The Gazette," January 13 (p. 6, column 4), October 6 (p. 4, column 4), 1955; 12 October 1961 (p. 5, column 7).
13. "The Gazette," 27 January 1955, p. 1, column 6.
14. "The Gazette," 9 February 1961 (p. 2, columns 2–3); March 14 (p. 6, column 1) and May 23 (p. 2, columns 1–2), 1963; 7 May 1964 (p. 2, column 2).
15. Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery (Farmerville, Union Parish LA), tombstones of [Woodrow W. Hudson Sr.](#), [Fabrice B. Hudson](#), and [Ted Hudson](#).
16. "The Monroe News-Star" (Monroe, LA), 19 April 1960, p. 9, column 1.
17. "The Monroe News-Star," 21 June 1960, p. 6, column 6. "The Richland Beacon-News" (Rayville, LA), 25 June 1960, p. 8, column 2.
18. "The Monroe News-Star," 10 April 1962, p. 11, column 3.
19. "The Gazette," 24 July 1958 (p. 1, column 5); 4 June 1959 (p. 1, column 7); August 11 (p. 1, column 5), 1960; 4 May 1961 (p. 1, columns 2–3); May 17 (p. 1, column 6), and June 7 (p. 1, column 4) and 21 (p. 2, column 4), 1962. "The Monroe News-Star," April 27 (p. 31, column 7) and May 4 (p. 9, column 1), 1960; March 28 (p. 9, column 1) and April 20 (p. 14, column 5), 1962. "Monroe Morning World" (Monroe, LA), 11 June 1960, p. 10, column 3. "Bastrop Daily Enterprise" (Bastrop, LA), June 16 (p. 5, column 1) and 29 (p. 5, column 5), 1960. "The Richland Beacon-News," 28 April 1962, p. 1, column 5. "State Times Advocate" (Baton Rouge, LA), 18 June 1962, p. 28, column 1.
20. "The Gazette," 24 May 1962, p. 1, column 7.
21. "Bastrop Daily Enterprise," 23 August 1962, p. 1, column 6. "The Gazette," 30 August 1962, p. 1, column 3.

