

Jesus
THE LIGHT of THE WORLD

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Brother Amos,

As you know, Jim Ott has been regularly working in our archive department since his retirement several years ago. He recently became aware that the State of Virginia birth records become public after 100 years. That being the case, in 2013 the 1913 birth record of Virginia Crawford became available to the public. A copy of it is attached.

Brother Jim has also investigated the Multnomah County adoption and name change records. Those documents are also attached. The final adoption certificate, dated March 29, 1916, notes that Florence Crawford had the consent of the birth mother, Virtie Jolly, of Richmond, Virginia. It also notes that Virtie's child's birth name was Mildred Jolly and states that the child was born February 8, 1914 in Richmond, Virginia, to an unknown father. You will notice the Multnomah County change of names document shows that on March 17, 1916, the baby's name was changed from Mildred Jolly to Virginia Genevieve Crawford and her adoptive mother's name was Florence L. Crawford.

The Commonwealth of Virginia document does show the father as Howard Shurm (though I am unsure of the spelling since the writing is not clear), and notes his address, ethnicity, age and birthplace, while adding that he was not employed.

That same document names the mother as Virtie Jolly, shows her address as being different than that of the father but on the same street, her ethnicity, age, and birthplace. It shows the date of birth as being June 8, 1913. It originally noted that the birth was illegitimate. Box 6 first notes "no" to the question, "legitimate?" It appears that someone later wrote, "yes." It appears that someone also later crossed out the birth mother's name and wrote the adoptive mother's name.

One thing is clear from the archived records of Multnomah County in Portland and the Commonwealth of Virginia—Mildred Jolly, whose name was changed three years later to Virginia Genevieve Crawford, was born to Virtie Jolly on June 8, 1913. It is unclear why the Multnomah County records show her birthdate as February 8, 1914, in conflict with the Commonwealth of Virginia birthdate which shows June 8, 1913. It is clear that the Multnomah County Circuit Court shows the date of her final adoption as March 29, 1916.

In His Service,



Darrel D. Lee
Superintendent General

DDL/ap