

# Brief History of Byron Cecil Foy Family With Smith Background



Frances Smith

**Frances Agnes SMITH** was born on October 22, 1871 to **Presley E. SMITH** and **Sarah Frances (BOYDSTUN) SMITH** in Rockwall, Texas. It appears that Sarah died of complications from the birth of Frances. Sarah's grave is located in the Boydston Cemetery in Rockwall, Texas, and the dates on the gravestone are: Born July 14, 1839 and died October 29, 1871. Thus the apparent connection.

There's an interesting mystery in Frances Agnes Smith's records. California death certificate 55-009247 states that Frances Agnes Foy was born October 22, 1874 to Sarah Frances Boyston of Texas, and that she died on February 13, 1955 at the age of 80. The 1880 census of Callahan county, Texas shows she was 8 years old. The 1900 census of Dallas county, Texas shows she was born in October, 1871 and was 28 years old. The 1910 census record of Dallas county, Texas shows she was 38 years old, and in the 1920 census of Dallas county, Texas shows she was only 45 years old. The earlier records indicated that when she died, she was really 84 years old and the death certificate appears to be incorrect. It is not uncommon for the records to be wrong.



Walter Franklin Foy

**“Fannie” A. SMITH** and **Walter Franklin (W. F.) FOY**, born on January 13, 1869 and died on June 3, 1953, were married on October 25, 1891 in Baird, Texas. Their first child was a son named **Byron Cecil FOY** born in June 20, 1893 in Baird, Texas. (Most accounts have him born in Dallas, but the Foy family members in Baird say he was born there. Since W. F. Foy did not sell his land in Callahan county, Texas until December, 1893, it's likely he was born in Baird, Texas.

Byron had two sisters, one was **Vivian N. FOY** who was born 11 July, 1899 in Dallas, Texas. Currently Vivian's date of death is unknown. Vivian was listed as **Vivian Foy DUNCAN** of Los Angeles in the death announcement for Byron Foy. He also had another sister named **Nina Bell FOY** who was born on December 18, 1895 and supposedly died on December 31, 1897 per the Foy Book. Nina B is listed in the 1900 census in Dallas county, Texas at age 4 years so her date of death is in question and no tombstone has yet been found.

Van Beek, Barnard & Tinsley, Printers, Lithographers, Stationers and Blank Book Makers, St. Louis.


# MARRIAGE RECORD.

*STATE OF TEXAS, Callahan County*

To any Judge of the County or District Court, Ordained Minister of the Gospel, or Justice of the Peace, in and for said County of *Callahan*, GREETING:

*You are hereby authorized to solemnize the RITES OF MATRIMONY between*  
*Mr. W. F. Foy* and *Miss Fannie A. Smith*  
 and make due return to the Clerk of the County Court of said County, within sixty days thereafter, certifying your action under this License.

WITNESS my official signature and Seal of office, at office in *Beird*  
 this day of *Oct* A. D. 1891

 *J. N. Jackson*  
 Clerk of the County Court of *Callahan* Co.

By *Sudley Foy* Deputy.

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I, *F. B. Hilburn*, hereby certify, that on the *20th* day of *Oct*  
 A. D. 1891, I united in Marriage *Mr. W. F. Foy* and *Miss Fannie A. Smith*  
 the parties above named. WITNESS MY HAND, this *20th* day of *Oct* A. D. 1891

*F. B. Hilburn Minister*  
*No. 8. Church South*

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Filed for Record, this *10th* day of *November* A. D. 1891

By *Sudley Foy* Deputy. *J. N. Jackson* County Clerk

Byron's history started in Dallas. In the early 1900's, Walter and Fannie lived in Dallas, Texas at 121 Holmes Street. In 1920, they were listed on Grand Ave. The 1900 City Directory, lists them on page 202 as:

*FOY Walter F., Prop Prescription Drug Store, 161 South Ervay, phone 651-4r, r 121 Holmes, phone 709-1r* (Note: I think the 4r is 4 rings and 1r is 1 ring.)

The drug store is also mentioned on page 357. As a boy, Byron probably helped in the family drug store. Today, 121 Holmes street has been taken over by downtown Dallas, and no longer exists. The 1920 Dallas City Directory lists the store as:

*Foy's Drug Store: W F Foy Propr 1927 Bryan. (Gone - part of the city now.)*  
*Walter F props Foy's Drug Store r 937 N Marsalis Av. (Not there now)*

Next Byron attended the University of Texas in Austin. Various articles in the New York Times, claim he graduated from UT Austin, but when I called the Alumnae office there, I found that he had attended UT Austin only for the year 1912-1913. Additional information stated that he was a Baptist and his father owned a drug store.

Last Name: Byron | First Name in Full: Byron Cecil | Date: Sept 25  
 Home Address: Street: Dallas 1310 Preston | City: Dallas | County: Dallas  
 Parent or guardian's Name: W. F. Byron | Address: 1310 Preston | Occupation: Druggist  
 Birth Date: June 10, 1894 | Place: David Texas  
 High School attended: D.S. | No. of years: Three | Yr. of entering: 1908 | Yr. of leaving: 1911  
 Did you graduate? No. | What degree did you receive? None  
 Degree awarded: William Powell | No. of yrs.: 1 | Yr. of entering: 1911 | Yr. of leaving: 1912 | Degree for: B.S.  
 Of what church are you a member? Baptist | If not a member, which church do you prefer? B.S.M.

MODE OF ADMISSION:  THE STUDENT IS NOT TO WRITE BELOW THIS LINE.

Subjects	A. B. D. T. O. N. D.				Examinations			Dist. Ap.
	A.	B.	D.	T.	May	Sept.	Oct.	
Eng. I								
Eng. II								
M. and M. II								
Math. II								
Chem.								
A. and M. O.								
B. O.								
Trig.								
Algebra								
Ge.								
Phys.								
Phys. and Hyg.								
...								

Scholarship awarded: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total No. units credited: 15 1/2  
 Date: 9-25-1912  
 Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mode of removal of certificate: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Information Card for First Year Students.

Byron only attended the University of Texas for 1 year. His grades were not the best as his college transcript shows.

194 F O Y, BYRON CECIL, PERMANENT RECORD CARD  
 Last name: F O Y, Other name: BYRON CECIL  
 Degree Credits: William Jewell College: P.T.  
 The student is not to write on this side.

	1913-1913	19...-19...	19...-19...	19...-19...	19...-19...	19...-19...	19...-19...
E	C D D						
M. 21	E E F						
Ger. & S.	F 1/2						
Geol.	E F 1/2						
H. 11	E E D						
P.T.							
P.T.	D D D						
P.M. 1/2	F 1/2						

2161-812-2m-1704

The book, *Complete History of the Chrysler Corporation 1924-1985*, states on page 54:

*At the time Fred Rockelman moved over from Ford to take over at Plymouth, Byron C. Foy became his counterpart at DeSoto. Foy's credentials were almost in a class with Rockelman's. Born in Dallas, he had worked as a Ford Salesman fresh out of college, then became vice-president of Reo's branch operation in California at age 28. In 1924 he married Walter Chrysler's daughter **Thelma P. Chrysler** and became a partner in a Detroit-area Chrysler dealership at the same time.*

On page 59:

*Over at DeSoto, division president **Byron Foy** looked at the market, the national economy, and his work force and plant capacity. He made some quick decisions. The most far-reaching one was to dump his eight-cylinder line after 1931. For the next two decades, DeSoto would rely exclusively on the sixes.*

The next information on Byron is in the New York Times, September 24, 1924, page 19, column 1 (19:1) when Bryon C. Foy, is engaged to marry **Thelma Irene CHRYSLER**, the daughter of **Walter P. CHRYSLER** of Great Neck, New York and the head of the Chrysler automobile company. That article states:

*Mr. and Mrs. Walter P. Chrysler of Great Neck, L.I. and this city announced the engagement of their daughter, **Thelma Irene Chrysler** to **Byron C. Foy**, son of **W.F. Foy** of Los Angeles, Cal. at a dinner at their home in Great Neck last night. Miss Chrysler is a graduate of National Park Seminary (which was a high-class finishing school for rich young ladies). Mr. Foy was graduated from the University of Texas and later attended Cornell. During the war he served as an Ensign in the Naval Aviation Service.*

The marriage announcement is in the New York Times, December 4, 1924 (21:1) and is very hard to read:

*P The marriage of Miss Thelma Irene Chrysler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Chrysler of Carlton House to Byron C. Foy of Los Angeles took place last night at Elm Point, Great Neck, L.I. the country home of the bride's parents. The Rev. Kirkland ??? of All Saints' Church, Great Neck, officiated.*

*Mr. Foy and his bride left immediately for ??? Sulphur, Pinehurst and Palm ?? for their wedding trip. They will ??? for the holidays and a little later ??? for Michigan and Los Angeles where they will make their home.*

The New York Times has many other articles about Byron C. Foy and his wife. The March 29, 1931, Times states in section 9, page 9, column 2:

*Byron C. Foy, vice president and director of Chrysler Corporation has been appointed president of the De Soto Motor Corporation, a division of the former, it was announced last week by Walter P. Chrysler.*

*Mr. Foy started in the business as a retail salesman with the Ford Motor Company in Dallas, Texas in 1916. Subsequently, he was connected with Simons, Steward & Foy, distributors of Chrysler cars in this city from which he retired in 1929 to join the personal staff of Mr. Chrysler. In addition to his new duties, Mr. Foy will continue his connection with the management of Chrysler Corporation.*

Byron C Foy was President of Jack & Heintz Precision Industries and several other companies. The New York Times on December 9 and 10, 1946 details some of this information and several other references are available.

Byron's wife, Thelma, died on August 20th, 1957 as documented in the New York Times on August 21, 1957 (27:5).

The New York Times mentions him again in the April 11, 1961 (33:7) edition when Byron C. Foy re-married after the death of his first wife.

*Phoenix, AZ, April 10, **Mrs. Virginia Peine Reynolds** and **Byron C. Foy** both of New York were married this morning in the Valley Presbyterian Church of Scottsdale. The Rev. Herbert Landes performed the ceremony.*

*The couple were attended by Mrs. Huber Boscowitz of New York and George Lindholm of Phoenix.*

*Mrs. Foy is the daughter of the late **Mr. and Mrs. Adolphus Peine** of Chicago. She was divorced last year from **Quentin Reynolds**, author and commentator, her second husband. Before their marriage, in 1942 she acted in films.*

*Mr. Foy is the son of the late **Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Foy** of Dallas, Texas and Los Angeles. In 1924 he married the former **Miss Thelma Chrysler** who died in 1957.*

*The bridegroom, a graduate of the University of Texas studied at Cornell University. He served as a Navy Aviation officer in World War I and as a lieutenant colonel with the Army Air Forces in World War II.*

*Mr. Foy is a former vice president of the Chrysler Corporation and former board chairman of Jack and Heintz Corporation.*

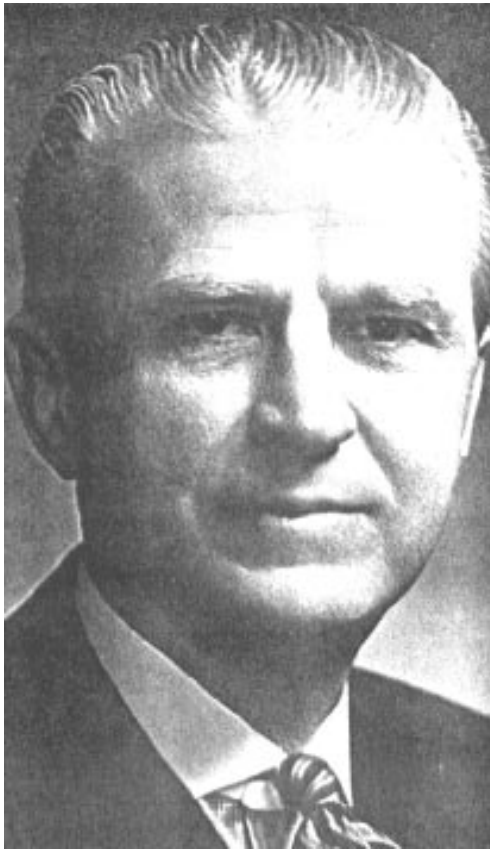
*The couple will live in New York at 475 Park Avenue.*

And his death announcement in the New York Times on June 29, 1970 (27:2):

**FOY-Byron C**, husband of **Virginia P.**, father of **Joan French**, and **Cynthia Baxter**, grandfather of **Byron Rupp**, **Wendy French**, **Christina French**, **Christopher Rupp** and **Pamela French**, brother of **Vivian Foy Duncan**. Funeral services, Tuesday, June 30, 2 P.M., St Andrews Dune Church, Southampton. Internment in Southampton. Memorial service, 2 P.M. Wednesday, July 1, St. Bartholomew's Church, Park Ave. and 50th St. N.Y.C. In lieu of flowers, please contribute to Southampton Hospital.

Byron C. Foy and Thelma I. Chrysler as children





Byron Cecil FOY



Thelma Irene CHRYSLER



Cynthia Foy as a child



Joan Foy as a child



Byron Foy



Byron Foy with Major Bowes - Radio Host



**MISSES MERIBEL DARDEN (left) and VIVIAN FOY of Dallas, Texas.**

—Examiner Photo.



### Texas Cousins Hollywood Guests

MRS. ROBERT INDEBRIEDEN of Russell avenue, Hollywood, is entertaining two attractive cousins, the Misses Meribel Darden and Vivian Foy of Dallas, Tex. She gave a bridge party in their honor shortly after their arrival, having as guests Misses Russell C. Bufum and H. H. Christie and the Misses Jean Webster, Elizabeth Rathbone, Mary Ellen Reed, Mary La Grange, Martha Risher, Myra Kingsler, Gertrude and

Adelaide Hoyer, Esther Roen and Louise Foster.

Next week Mrs. Indebrieden and her cousins will go to Venice for a week. They plan to spend the month of August at Catalina.

### Family Goes to Avalon

Burt Hamlin, chief engineer on the steamship Multnomah, which plies between San Pedro, Portland and Seattle, is enjoying a thirty-day vacation in his home, 1204 Pacific avenue, San Pedro. With their daughter, Mrs. Delorous Neal, Mr. and Mrs. Hamlin left Wednesday for Avalon to be gone two weeks. Mrs. Neal returned, however, last Sunday evening.