



Photos from the tree from left: Hilliare, Alice Ann and Winnie in 1922; The Nitschke/Wilder family ca. 1951; Hilliare & Diane Wilder

The Hilliare/Winnie Ramsey Nitschke Line



Winifred 'Winnie' Ramsey was born on Oct 16, 1896, the daughter of FT and Belle Ramsey. She attended Austin Public Schools and the University of Texas. She married Hilliare Francis Nitschke in March 1918. They had been inseparable childhood friends. Mercy Ramsey and Annabel Murray were flower girls at her wedding. According to an article on the wedding, the timing was moved up because Lt. Nitschke received orders to go to Washington, DC. She wore a traveling dress of 'military blue silk with jaunty hat, gloves and shoes to correspond.' The flower girls 'were captivating in their short white frocks, pink sashes and baskets of pink sweetpeas.' Another article on the wedding commented that Winnie 'is an unusual favorite with a very large circle of friends. She attended the University of Texas a number of years and is an attractive member of Phi Mu.'

Winnie and Hilliare's daughter, Alice Ann Nitschke was born in 1920. Hilliare and Winnie developed the Rosedale subdivision, an inner city subdivision in Austin, Texas between 38th Street, Hancock Blvd, Shoal Creek and Burnet Road. They named it from the Rosedale arbor vitae tree grown by the Ramsey Nursery and built the first house in the development at 4115 Rosedale Ave. They also created the Rosedale Village Shopping Center between 47th and 49th Streets along Burnet Road. Its logo draws on family tradition. It replicates an etching of a model A Ford on a gold watch fob medallion that Winnie gave to Hilliare when he purchased one of the automobiles around 1930. Winnie served as Chairman of the Building Committee for the renovation and addition to the Austin Woman's Club on Nueces. She died on Dec 1, 1969 at the age of 73.





Hilliare Francis Nitschke was born on Oct 2, 1895 in Texas. He married Winnie Bell Ramsey In 1918. Nitschke earned a law degree from the University of Texas at Austin and was a practicing attorney for more than thirty years. He was an Army officer during World War I, and he was an attorney for the War Department in World War II. He negotiated the securing of fields for the Air Force in five states, including Bergstrom Air Force Base. Hilliare also had learned the trade of masonry and helped lay the tile on the house built for their daughter and her husband, Alice Ann and Harry Wilder. Hilaire and Winnie were active in the growth of Austin. They built the first efficiency apartment house in 1925, and also developed the Rosedale Subdivision on land previously belonging to Winnie's father, Frank Taylor Ramsey of Ramsey's Austin Nursery. The Rosedale development opened up the entire northwest part of Austin in the mid-1930's. In an interview made by Charlie Cate in

1989, Mercy Ramsey Carl said Hilliare was also the one who collected all the deeds on the pieces of land FT had acquired over the years and made sure the family had clear title to them. He died on May 9, 1962 at the age of 66.



Alice Ann Nitschke Wilder was born December 17, 1920 in Austin, Texas and attended the Austin Public Schools. She graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with highest honors in 1941 and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Mortar Board, Orange Jackets, The Curtain Club and Kappa Kappa Gamma and nominee for Sweetheart of the University. She was a Sustaining Member of the Junior League of Austin, a past President of The Helping Hand Society, a past President of the Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae Association and a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church. Alice and her husband Harry, along with her parents Hilliare and Winnie Ramsey Nitschke, developed the Rosedale subdivision. They also created the Rosedale Shopping Center on Burnet Road. Alice Ann and Harry Wilder moved from Central Christian Church with their two children, Hilliare and Diane, to become founding members of the new University Christian Church. Alice Ann owned and managed residential and commercial property all her life, which created space for businesses, jobs in the community and housing for Austinites. According to her obituary, "Alice Ann was very musical and always ready to play the piano for any occasion or sing-along. Her life exemplified her strong faith, and she shared her exuberant spirit, love of life and encouragement with others throughout her life. Her sweet presence and beautiful smile brought joy to all." She died on December 18, 2011 at the age of 91.

Alice Ann was predeceased by her parents, Hilliare Francis Nitschke and Winnie Ramsey Nitschke; her first husband, Harry Wilder; her second husband, Ed Cornwell; and her grandson, David Davenport. She is survived by two children, Dr. Hilliare Wilder of Sullivan, New Hampshire and Diane Wilder Howard and son-in-law James A. Howard of Austin; a granddaughter, Casey Davenport; a grandson, Bill Davenport, his wife, Leslie, and their three sons, Wilder, Jack and Whit, all of Austin.



Harry Wilder at Mercy & Ed Carl's wedding, June 1940; Charlotte, Harry and a fish in 1953

Harry S. Wilder, Jr. was born in Groveton, Texas on July 9, 1914. After attending public schools in San Antonio, Houston, he graduated from Corpus Christi High School in 1933. He attended Texas A&M for two years and was a member of the Ross Volunteers. He graduated from the University of Texas in Petroleum Engineering and was a member of the Texas Cowboys and Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity. He worked as a petroleum engineer for Dow Chemical during WWII, a real estate salesman, a building contractor and an insurance agent. Because he was crippled from polio and suffered from diabetes and residual effects of back surgeries, he couldn't pursue his career in engineering. He was interested in geology, and had Wilders Gem and Mineral Shop and was a member of the Austin Gem and mineral Society. He was known for taking interesting rocks and minerals to area schools to help children understand and appreciate geology. He also liked to fish. Wilder died on Aug 29, 1994 in Austin at the age of 80.



Diane Wilder Davenport Howard was born in Austin on July 21, 1942 and attended Austin public schools. In 1964 she graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelors of Science in Education and worked as a substitute teacher in the Austin public school system. With her parents she was instrumental in the urban redevelopment and revitalization of the Rosedale commercial area. She was also a nationally-syndicated food columnist, and wrote the "Specialty of the House" food column for the AmericanStatesman for many years and 'America a la Carte.' She has also written three books: A Complete Guide to the College Application Process for the Learning Disabled Student, A French Cottage Cookbook: Les Crepes and Taste the Temptation and Ice Cream, Low-Fat Frozen Yogurt, Sherbet and Sorbet. She continued the family's tradition of charity and humanitarianism with her work with school organizations and the Helping Hand Home for Children and the Austin Junior League.



Casey Collins Davenport was born on July 14, 1966, the daughter of David and Diane Wilder Davenport.



David Thomas Davenport, Jr., was born on March 23, 1970 in Austin, the son of David Davenport, Sr and Diane Wilder Davenport Howard. He attended Westlake High School before going to Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas where he was a member of the Wildcats football team. David channeled his love for cuisine and cooking into his job as researcher for his mother's nationally syndicated newspaper food and travel column, America a la Carte, and because he had a special place in his heart for handicapped children, he also worked in the field of Recreational Therapy. He was married but divorced. He died on August 9, 2009 after a long battle with cancer.



William 'Bill' Wilder Davenport and his wife Leslie. Their sons Wilder, Whit and Jack. Bill was born on Sept 29, 1971.



Hilliare Sinclair Wilder was born on Oct 1, 1940 in Austin, the son of Harry and Alice Ann Nitschke Wilder. He attended Austin public schools and the University of Texas. He earned an MFA from Rutgers University and a Ed.D in Art and Education from the Columbia University in New York city. He was an Associate Professor at the University of New Hampshire where he taught visual art to children and worked with student teachers at the elementary laboratory school of Keene State College, part of the University of NH system from 1975-1995. He was listed on Linked-in as Contra dance musician, piano, harmonica in Sullivan, New Hampshire.

In an email on November 20, 2022, Hilliare shared that he had married Karin Altmayer in Aug. of 2018. Both were in their senior years. She was born in Finland in 1945 and has children from her previous marriage. Her first husband died. Hilliare has no children of his own.



Left, Hilliare with his friend Chris in 2021. Right, the earth berm, passive solar house Hilliare built.



Left, the footbridge Hilliare built to his house. Right, a 2001 article that includes a photo of Hilliare with his street puppet at an anti-FTAA, Free Trade Area of the Americas, rally.

To hear Hilliare playing go to this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uf8FsHEeF8Y> of him on harmonica with his friend and award winning NH fiddle, Randy Miller.