MEET THE LEVERINGS

This family tree is not comprehensive. Some Leverings have minimal or no criminal history. The 50 individuals named include the clan's worst criminal offenders and others who are important to telling the family's story.

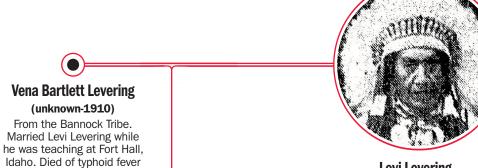
> ____ Levi Levering's connection to Nikko Jenkins

Picture unavailable

Conceived children

Compiled by World-Herald staff writers Roseann Moring and Alissa Skelton, based on Nebraska criminal and juvenile court records, U.S. District Court records for Nebraska, other public records, World-Herald files and family interviews.





(about 1860-unknown)

Respected Omaha Tribe leader. First Native American commissioner to the Presbyterian general assembly in 1911. "The presbytery knew what it was doing when it chose Mr. Levering, as a man better qualified to represent it would be hard to find," The World-Herald wrote.



Lincoln Levering (about 1900-1956)

Accused of fatally beating a man in 1944 in Omaha after the man's friend made a racist comment in a bar. Levering admitted he hit the man but was acquitted after the defense argued someone else must have also punched the man. Accused in 1956 of pushing his wife off a second-story balcony, breaking her back. Arrested; unclear whether charged. Died a few

Elizabeth Webster Levering (1912-1956)Died soon

grew up in

mission

schools.

after her husband, of complications from the broken back. Her children

Adeline (1934-2009) Born on the Omaha Reservation in Macy. Later moved to Omaha. No criminal record

Mose Cayou

Frank

Valentine

children

Constance

"Connie"

Levering

47

Connie was

arrested on

stabbing her

sister Tonia

in the neck in

1996. Charges

were later

dropped.

ROOTS OF A CRIME FAMILY

A name that was respected in Nebraska 100 years ago has become synonymous with lawlessness as generations of Leverings succumbed to alcohol, drugs and violence.

By Roseann Moring and Alissa Skelton

World-Herald Staff Writers

evi Levering was the respected face of his family a century ago, when he earned an impressive reputation as an Omaha tribal leader and advocate. His influence extended from Macy, Neb., to Washington, D.C., where he successfully lobbied Congress in 1920 to protect tribal members' rights

Now the face of the family is Levi's great-great-grandson: Nikko Jenkins Jenkins stands accused of a 10-day killing spree in Oma-

ha last August that left four people dead. And five other relatives — two of Nikko Jenkins' sisters, his mother, a cousin and an uncle — have also been charged in connection with the killings. A World-Herald examination of the Levering history

shows that 38 descendants of Levi Levering have been convicted of 633 crimes in Omaha since 1979. Those cases have cost taxpayers at least \$2.8 million in

prison and jail costs, not counting the price tag of law enforcement, juvenile cases, prosecution or public defense.

Family members have been involved in at least 150 other cases during that period that ended in acquittals, mistrials and dropped charges.

"That family is notorious," said William Gallup, a defense attornev who has represented some of Nikko Jenkins' relatives.

This is one of a handful of families that Omaha police recognize as habitual lawbreakers, said John Wells, president of the Omaha police union.

"What sets (the $\bar{\text{Leverings}}$) apart is a few very, very

high-profile incidents," he said. Public records and interviews with the family, acquain tances, law enforcement officials and academic experts paint the portrait of a family that has deteriorated through escalating violent crime, drug and alcohol abuse and child neglect. Authorities have removed at least 20 children from various Levering family homes.

Many families struggle with poverty without resorting to criminal activity. The Leverings are an extreme exam

Arnett

Wagner

See Family: Page 10

OMAHA.COM **LEVERING**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2013 • 9A

View an interactive timeline of the family's history.

OMAHA.COM/

Read more stories about the crimes tied to Nikko

Herbert

Jones

Ellen **Big Bear**

Patrick

Sayles

(1966-1995)

Jenkins

48

Convicted of

two felony

theft charges

and about

a dozen

misdemeanors

charged

with missing

child support

payments.



Lori Jenkins

Convicted of eight nonviolent

shoplifting charge, in 1997.

Had first child when she was

16 and her boyfriend. David

Magee, was 31. Each has

filed at least one protection

order against the other.

Has worked as nurse's

assistant and telemarketer.

Currently charged with being

an accessory in three of

the homicides in the Nikko

Jenkins case; she denies

any involvement.

Nelson B. Levering Sr.

(1926-2005) Famous boxer from Macy, Neb.; 1947 Midwest Golden Gloves Champion and Kansas State Welterweight Champion. Inducted into American Indian Hall of Fame in Kansas. Fought on a boxing card with Joe Louis. After his boxing career was over he worked at the Omaha Tribe's education department.

David A.

Magee Sr.

(1951-2009)

Had

relationships

with Lori

Jenkins and

Ida Levering.

who both

alleged he

pregnant. "Me

we had a lot of

violence in our

relationship,"

Lori Jenkins

said. Convicted

of a 1978

manslaughter

but conviction

later set aside.

and (Magee)



in Nebraska, leaving behind

her husband and five young

Rose

Springer

George

Jeffrey

Jenkins

45

Convicted of

65 crimes,

mostly traffic

cases and

misdemeanors.

Served

prison time

including for

drug dealing

and theft.

Bunnie

Levering

Merwyn

Levering

42

Shot a man in

1989 at age

18. In and out

of prison most

of his adult life

Was caught

in 1993 with

Ben Nelson's

garage.

Arrested in

1999 for

punching a

woman. After

kicking out the

police cruiser

window and

escaping, he

was found

hiding in a

doghouse.

Later convicted

of felony

escape and two

misdemeanors.

Currently

seven years

into a 21-vear

federal prison

sentence

for firearms

offenses.

(1939-2009) Moved to Omaha after her parents died; several sisters followed. Convicted of robbery in her early 20s. Shot at age 31. Later became active in Native American community in Omaha and was elected to several boards. Mother of nine. Dropped off son Garland, wrapped in a blanket, with her sister Adeline and briefly moved to Denver. "My grandma was a party-

Garland

Levering Sr.

57

Raised by his

aunt Adeline.



Robert

Lincoln

Levering

53

Has about 30

convictions

to the 1980s,

including for

felonies such as burglar\

theft and

unlawful

transport

of firearms.

Currently

serving

time for

shoplifting and

obstructing an

officer.

Warren

Levering

51

Grew up in

foster care

after being

given up for

adoption. Met

his sister.

Lori, when he

sentences in

Nebraska and

elsewhere.

including

Oklahoma,

where he was

convicted of

assault with

a dangerous

weapon,

kidnapping

and domestic

abuse in

2009.

Currently

charged with

first-degree

murder of

Andrea Kruger.

hard little lady," said granddaughter Lori Sayles.



Unknown

Maxine Levering

(1943-2004)Grew up on the Omaha Reservation No criminal record.

Sonia

Levering

43

Handful of

criminal

convictions

mostly alcohol-

related. She

and her sister

Tonia, are one

Unknown

Unknown

(1946-)Grew up on the Omaha after her

Lucille

Bordeaux

Reservation. Brought up in a mission parents died Later moved to Minnesota,

Tonia

Levering

43

Fined or

sentenced

to jail or

probation

charges

since 1990.

assault and

battery in

2011.

for 11 theft

then Omaha.

Unknown

Bonita

Levering

Martinez

College.

Wagner

Grew up on the Omaha Reservation. Brought up in a mission after her parents died. Later moved to Omaha. Her husband, Arnett,

raised their children.

Christine Bordeaux 39

including

three felonies.

Charged with

conspiracy

to commit

robbery in

connection

with the Nikko

Jenkins case.

41 Gave birth to a daughter Helped raise in 2002 with her nephew cocaine in her system, Baby Levering. was removed Moved to from the home Denver after Jimmy died Sanctioned Stepped by the Omaha Housing

into family matriarch Authority in role after 2009 because her mother her son and and some a friend were aunts died. shooting a BB Completed gun at people. her GED and Convicted attended of nearly Metropolitan 30 crimes, Community

Wagner Suing the City and Omaha

police officers, alleging officers used excessive force while University **Medical Center** the night Jimmy Levering was killed in 2011. of assault and battery in 1998 and possessing

Robert

37

receiving or disposing of a stolen firearm in 2008. This year he launched Keep North Omaha Safe for Everyone, which patrols

Tyrone Wells

Levering

(1950-2002)

Grew up on

the Omaha

Reservation, Staved

in a mission after

her parents died.

Later moved to

Omaha. Found guilty

of child abuse in

1997. Was raising

her grandchildren

when she died, and

then they went into foster care.

> lda Levering

> > Lengthy list of

misdemeanors.

She and David

Magee and one

of his sons (not

Nikko Jenkins)

were accused

of beating

stabbing and

shooting a man

in 1998. She

was convicted

of use of a

weapon to

commit a

felony. The

next year her

children were

removed after

a daughter

was born with

cocaine in her

system. Gave

birth the next

year to a son

who also had

cocaine in

his system.

She says she

was dealing

with alcohol

problems at

the time.

Toni E. Levering

Four others

37 Left her two young children

supervision at a friend's trailer in Lexington Relinquished parental rights in August 2002. Son born with fetal alcohol syndrome.

Served almost six months in iail this year for domestic assault against her boyfriend.

Convicted

of carrying a concealed 2010.



Savs she was "spoiled" growing up. Has worked as a lifeguard and was attending Metropolitan Community College. Charged with accessory to a felony in connection with Nikko Jenkins case Father, Patrick

to be her



Sayles, died when she was a baby: considered David Magee



30 Helped raise her siblings while her mom was working. Criminal history involves only misdemeanors mostly drugrelated. Her two children are being raised by their

father.



Nikko Jenkins

Charged with first-degree murder in the August slayings of Jorge Cajiga-Ruiz, 29; Juan Uribe-Pena 26; Curtis Bradford, 22; and Andrea Kruger, 33. Had been released from prison July 30 after serving almost 10 years for two robberies and two assaults (one against a correctional officer). At 7, he had taken a loaded .25-caliber handgun to school. He was taken from his mother, the beginning of

homes, juvenile detention and

state prison.



two decades in and out of group



25 mother. Criminal

history

been returned

to her home.

000

from 2005. cariacking.



Stay-at-home

includes felony robbery conviction and she was found responsible for 2003 A son was briefly taken away because she couldn't provide for his special needs. but he has



Erica Jenkins

Charged with first-degree murder in Aug. 19 slaving of Curtis Bradford, Faces two counts of criminal conspiracy connected with the Aug. 11 slayings of Jorge Cajiga-Ruiz and Juan Uribe Pena and the Aug. 21 killing of Andrea Kruger. Charged with an unrelated robbery charge, assault of a corrections officer and assault of a fellow inmate. Also found responsible for a 2003 carjacking she committed with her sister Melonie and cousin

Vaylez Levering.



Levering **Watkins** 39

They have five children and are raising her cousin's child; the mother was convicted of manslaughter. Started an ambulance company in East Texas this year. Raised by her maternal grandmother. No criminal history See Alicia's story in Monday's



Married to Dr. Sanford Watkins.

World-Herald

000 000



Levering 26 Sent to a iuvenile detention center for assaulting and carjacking

a woman with Melonie and Erica Jenkins in March 2003. Victim was giving them a ride home from Westroads Mall when they assaulted her with a stun gun and stole her purse and her car.



Levering 27 Has been convicted about 45 including one

felony assault charge.



Jimmy "Jimbo" Levering (1989-2011)

One of Omaha's most notorious gang members. First shot at age Charged with first-degree murder at 17; charge dropped after witnesses backed out. Convicted of two felonies; served 30 months in federal prison. Family members say he was trying to get out of the gang life when he was fatally shot outside Club Seville when he was 21.





north Omaha

neighborhoods

to try to deter

gang violence.

21 Was removed

from his birth

mother's home. His adoptive mother later left him to move to Texas. Convicted of robbery and burglary. Has been charged with nine felonies after allegedly sitting on the steps of Miller Park Elementary School and shooting at



Removed from birth mother's home. His adoptive mother later move to Texas No criminal record. Attends University of Nebraska at Omaha. story in

20



14 she and two other teens were accused of beating a woman and stealing her car in 2007. Charges dropped after victim couldn't be found to testify. Spent for assaulting a juvenile corrections officer while awaiting trial. Judge said she had history of antisocial behavior. Officers noted she and her friends laughed, ioked and danced when arrested.

Desiree

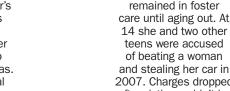
Levering

20

Abandoned by mother,



police officers



See Cornelius Monday's





