

Leo Hoover Family

Jill Marie (Johnson) Tewsley

Father: Richard William Johnson

Mother: Sally Catherine Hoover



Jill Marie (Johnson) Tewsley

Born: 8/10/1966 | Butterworth Hospital, Grand Rapids, Kent, Michigan, USA

Died:

Marriage(s):

Spouse: John Vincent Tewsley | 7/5/1968 | Niagara Falls, Niagara, New York, USA

Wedding: 10/2/1999 | Bowne Center United Methodist Church, Bowne Center, Kent, Michigan, USA

Children:

Maxine Eleanor Tewsley, November 12, 2001, UM Hospital, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw, Michigan, USA

Alden Ellsworth Tewsley, March 18, 2005, UM Hospital, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw, Michigan, USA

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

I grew up in a small home on Bancroft Avenue in Alto, Michigan. My parents still reside there. The house, located across the street from Alto Elementary School, had three bedrooms (only two before an addition in the early 70s) and only ONE bathroom (before and after the addition).

When my brother Marc and I were little, our cousins from the other side of the family lived next door to us in an apartment building that had previously been the elementary school.

Growing up, we always spent Thanksgiving and Christmas with my mom's sisters and their families. We also got together to celebrate birthdays with each of our first cousins. For several summers in a row, my mom and her sisters would put on garage/yard sales. This was always fun for my cousins and my brother and I as we would spend time together hanging out. I also remember spending a lot of time together on weekends when my Aunt Mary and Uncle John were building their home on Pinckney Road in Saranac, Michigan.

Some other Hoover-related memories that stick out for me include attending the Hoover Family Reunion at Potter Park every year. I loved seeing all of my great Uncles. In them, I could imagine what my grandfather might be like...must have been like. I also remember a trip to Gun Lake to spend time with my mom's cousins and their families. But, I especially remember my grandmother, Maxine. Although she was not a Hoover by birth, she was my direct link to the Hoover family. Grandma raised four young girls on her own after her husband, Leo Augustine Hoover, was killed. She was a fierce, funny, loving broad who could play the piano, enjoy a can of beer, and always have time for her grandkids. I named my first child after her.

I graduated from Lowell High School in 1984 with honors. I earned my B.A. from Aquinas College in 1988, graduating with honors. My intention was to become teacher but upon graduating I discovered I was a class shy of being able to do my student teaching. The class I needed was not available for another year so I found myself needing

employment until the class was available. I accepted a position as a youth counselor at a residential treatment facility for adolescent sex offenders. At the same time, I worked part time as a bookseller at Doubleday Bookshop in Woodland Mall in Grand Rapids

I never did get around to going back to college to get the class I needed for my student teaching. After a couple of years working as a counselor, I moved to Lancaster, PA for another counseling job. A year later, missing my family and friends, I returned home with no job prospect. Fortunately, Doubleday, where I had previously been a part time bookseller, had an opening for a full-time supervisor position.

It was always my intent that bookselling was just a job I would have until a “real job” came along. Instead, bookselling was my career for nearly twenty years. I left Doubleday to manage a my own bookstores, B. Dalton Bookseller in Lansing, MI for two years. From there I accepted a position as a manager at a Borders superstore in Dearborn, Michigan. I spent a year in that store before accepting a position at Borders Corporate offices in Ann Arbor, MI as an event marketing specialist. I remained at Borders in the event marketing department as a specialist, manager and senior manager until 2008 when my position, along with nearly 200 other positions in the company were eliminated. Borders eventually filed for bankruptcy and closed all of their stores in 2011. My career at Borders was a great experience. I served on the committee that developed Borders’ inaugural social media event marketing strategy. I also managed the task force responsible for developing Borders event strategy for the release of the final Harry Potter book. The nationwide release parties for *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* were applauded by the publisher and resulted in industry-leading market share for that title. Most importantly, Borders is where I met my husband, John Tewsley.

Following Borders, I was the events and promotions manager for AnnArbor.com, a digital media company where I was responsible for the planning, promotion and execution of annual events such as the Summer Concert Series, a B2B Expo, and Deals of the Year – a black-tie event celebrating local business success.

In 2012, I accepted a job as the executive director of the National Writers Series based in Traverse City. During my three years there, I travelled from my home in southeast Michigan to Traverse City several times a month. As the executive director for the National Writers Series in Traverse City, Michigan, I helped to curate 10 - 12 events annually with bestselling authors, led a creative writing center for students ages 8 - 80, produced an annual literary journal, and developed programming that, I hope, inspired people to read (and to write).

During my career with Borders’ and my time at the National Writers Series I met and worked with hundreds of authors including Stephen King, Maya Angelou, Madonna, Patricia Cornwell, Anne Rice, Hillary Clinton, Rachael Ray, Emeril Lagasse, Mitch Albom, Jimmy Carter, John Updike, Rita Mae Brown, Diana Gabaldon, Lee Child, Michael Connelly, Harlan Coben, Nikki Giovanni, Jeff Shaara, Sara Paretsky, Emily Giffin, Sophie Kinsella, and countless others.

After three years of travelling between Milan, MI and Traverse City, I was weary of the travel. My kids were growing too fast and I wanted to spend more time with my family. I left the National Writers Series and started my own business assisting authors with marketing and promotions. I also contracted with other organizations to assist with marketing and event planning. A contractual job with the City of Milan (my hometown) led to a full-time position as the executive director of Milan Main Street / Downtown Development Authority.

I met my husband while working at Borders. We were married on October 2, 1999 at Bowne Center United Methodist Church. Our wedding reception was at Aquinas College.

When we were first married, we lived in an apartment building near the University of Michigan campus. We were the only non-students in the building, but John was the “building manager” so we lived rent free for a couple of years. We moved to Milan in 2000, after purchasing a small two-story farmhouse (that wasn’t on a farm). In 2004, we moved into the home we currently reside. Known as “the purple house” in our town, it was built in 1912 and has a large wrap around porch, as well as a walk-up attic which houses John’s home office.

We have two children, Maxine Eleanor Tewsley and Alden Ellsworth Tewsley.

Maxine was born on November 12, 2001 – just two months after 9/11.

I was working at Borders while pregnant with Maxine. On the morning of 9/11, I was at work when news began to come in about a plane hitting the World Trade Center. Borders had a store located at 5 World Trade Center. Later, we would hear stories about people who escaped from the path train under the World Trade Center through Borders. That morning, as you can imagine, we were worried about all of our employees as well as a group of individuals from the Ann Arbor offices who were visiting NYC on business. We eventually learned that all of the employees and visitors were safe. In fact, I received one of the first communications from one of the store employees to the corporate

office. I worked with him directly on events in that location and he called my office phone to let me know he was safe and that all of their employees had been accounted for.

Maxine is named after my grandmother, Maxine Elizabeth (Jones) Hoover.

Alden was born on March 18, 2005. His middle name, Ellsworth, is my mother-in-law's maiden name. She has a sister, Dawn and a brother, Doug. Doug passed away in his early 20's taking with him the end of that Ellsworth family line. We wanted to carry it a generation further, so we gave the name to our son. His first name also has family significance. My great, great grandfather was Alden Nash and my great grandfather was Henry Alden Johnson.