

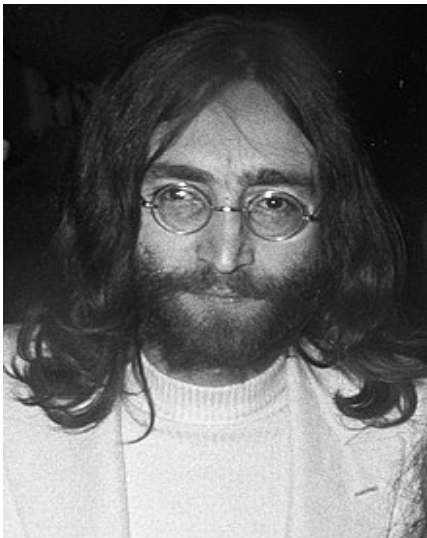
# *Famous Kinship Families: Part Two*

## Famous children raised by kinship families and their caregivers



### **Willie Nelson**

His mother left soon after he was born, and his father remarried and also moved away, leaving Willie and his sister Bobbie to be raised by their grandparents.



### **John Lennon**

Born to Julia and Alfred Lennon. Julia's sister, Mimi Smith, twice complained to Liverpool's Social Services, and Julia handed the care of Lennon over to her. In July 1946 Lennon's father visited Smith and took his son to Blackpool, secretly intending to emigrate to New Zealand with him. Julia - his mother - followed them and after a heated argument his father forced the five-year-old to choose between them. Lennon twice chose his father, but as his mother walked away, he began to cry and followed her. It would be 20 years before he had contact with his father again. Throughout the rest of his childhood and adolescence he lived with his aunt and uncle, Mimi and George Smith, who had no children of their own.



### **Maya Angelou**

When Angelou was three and her brother four, their parent's marriage ended, and their father sent them to Stamps, Arkansas, alone by train, to live with their paternal grandmother, Annie Henderson. Four years later, the children's father came to Stamps and returned them to their mother's care in St. Louis. At the age of eight, while living with her mother, Angelou was sexually abused and raped by her mother's boyfriend, who was subsequently murdered by Angelou's uncles. After his murder, Angelou returned to her grandmother's care. At the age of 14, Angelou returned to her mother's care.



### **Eric Clapton**

Eric Clapton was born in Ripley, Surrey, England, the son of 16-year-old Patricia Molly Clapton and Edward Fryer, a 25-year-old soldier from Montreal, Quebec. Fryer shipped off to war prior to Clapton's birth and then returned to Canada. Clapton grew up with his grandmother, Rose, and her second husband, Jack Clapp, who was stepfather to Patricia Clapton and her brother Adrian, believing they were his parents and that his mother was actually his older sister. Years later, his mother married another Canadian soldier and moved to Germany, leaving young Eric with his grandparents in Surrey.



### **50 Cent (Curtis Jackson)**

He grew up without a father and was raised by his mother, Sabrina, who gave birth to him at the age of fifteen. Sabrina, a cocaine dealer, raised Jackson until the age of twelve, when she was murdered in 1988. After her death, Jackson moved into his grandparents' house with his eight aunts and uncles.



### **Jamie Foxx**

Shortly after his birth, Foxx was adopted and raised by his mother's adoptive parents, Esther Marie (Nelson), a domestic worker and nursery operator, and Mark Talley, a yard worker. He has had little contact with his birth parents, who were not part of his upbringing.



### **Kellie Pickler**

Her mother left when Kellie was two years old. Her mother returned and took custody of Kellie for two years. After this, the court returned Kellie to her grandparents when she was 12, as her father was in and out of jail during her childhood. From this age to adulthood, she was raised by her grandparents.



### **Pierce Brosnan**

Brosnan's father abandoned the family when Pierce was an infant. When he was four years old, his mother moved to London to work as a nurse. From that point on, he was largely brought up by his grandparents, Philip and Kathleen Smith. After their deaths, he lived with an aunt and then an uncle, but was subsequently sent to live in a boarding house.



### **Ice-T (Tracy Marrow)**

His mother died of a heart attack when he was in third grade. When Tracy was 12 years old, his father died of a heart attack. Following his father's death, Tracy lived with a nearby aunt briefly, and was sent to live with his other aunt and her husband in View Park-Windsor Hills, an upper middle-class black neighborhood by South Los Angeles.

## References

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