

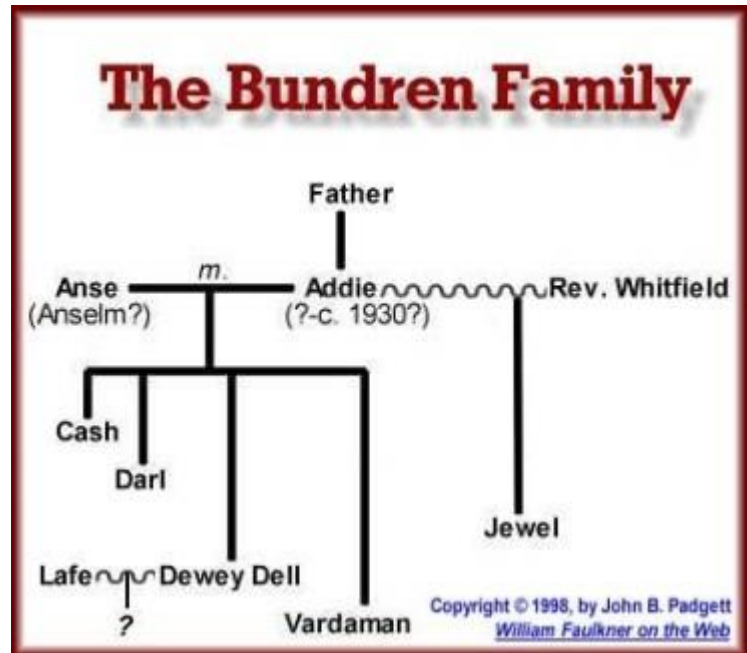
## *Paper 2.1: Collaborative Interpretive Genealogy (10%)*

*How do we represent a family on the move?*

1 slide (as .pdf) and 150-200-word museum tombstone uploaded by noon on 20 March 2023  
In-class presentation 21 March 2023

The widely available scholarly genealogies of *As I Lay Dying* offer what we often consider an objective view of their family tree. And yet Faulkner chose to reveal the Bundren family in parts, through conflicting perspectives and a story that unfolds in time.

Does his fragmented and evolving story offer something that genealogies like the one to the right do not? Or does he simply unravel family and relationship as we move through the pages? Does his story make us newly aware of genealogies as constructed documents? Does he uphold the methods and values inherent in such scholarly charts?



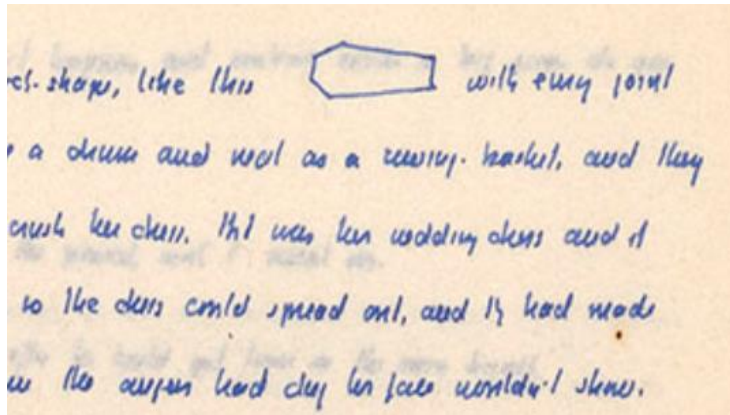
**How can we best “account” for the Bundrens?** We have looked at the tools the Digital Yoknapatawpha editors have employed to track Faulkner’s families across texts and time. What tools are appropriate for *this* novel?

### Some questions to consider:

- How do we depict marital and extra-marital relationships?
- Does the usual emphasis on progeny and patriarchy capture a given character’s way of building meaning in his or her life?
- Is birth order the right way of signaling a child’s relationship with parents and siblings?
- Can an individual flee the family tree?
- Are all characters clear on the distinction between people and property? Are there ways of indicating relationship that don’t slide into proprietary claims? (“This is my child” is grammatically indistinguishable from “This is my chocolate.”)
- Where does Addie go when she dies? Does she remain visible in your representation of the family?
- Are you linking people to people? people to animals? people to land? Are you highlighting social, moral, aesthetic, or political relationships, or something else entirely?

## Visual Representation

We will collaborate, as a class, to create what you might call an evolving Bundren genealogy. You are asked to create ***one slide*** that shows us how the Bundren family appears from any one point in



<http://faulkner.iath.virginia.edu/media/resources/MANUSCRIPTS/AILDMS11.html>

**Word cloud reminder:**<sup>1</sup> when reading Faulkner, you can't build *relationships* without considering the role of *aesthetics*. Although you will ground your slide in textual evidence, make use of **aesthetic tools** to envision new representations of the Bundrens that capture the specific tone and priorities of the perspective you've chosen. We are, after all, reading a novel in which the author *drew* a coffin in his manuscript! Use whatever data, textual quotations, and artistry will make the particular lens you're using (which character? at what point in time? using what aesthetic techniques?) clear to viewers.

### *Written Analysis*

Be sure to identify the section of the novel that informs your visual representation, so that I can compile the slides in page order for our class discussion. An accompanying **150-200-word museum tombstone (see handout)** gives you an opportunity to name and support your aesthetic and analytic decisions. What elements from the novel inform your genealogy? Help us see not only the connections that you want to make, but also what *tools* shape your interpretation. I would strongly encourage you to include quotations from the novel, but remember not to take those at face value: even here they will require some unpacking so that we can see how they inform your genealogy. You can treat your analysis as something of a script: you will have an opportunity to present your family tree as part of our collective evolving genealogy of the Bundrens in class on Tuesday, 21 March 2023.

### *As I Lay Dying* Keywords on DY



<sup>1</sup> [https://joostburgers.github.io/dy\\_data\\_dog\\_breakfast/](https://joostburgers.github.io/dy_data_dog_breakfast/)