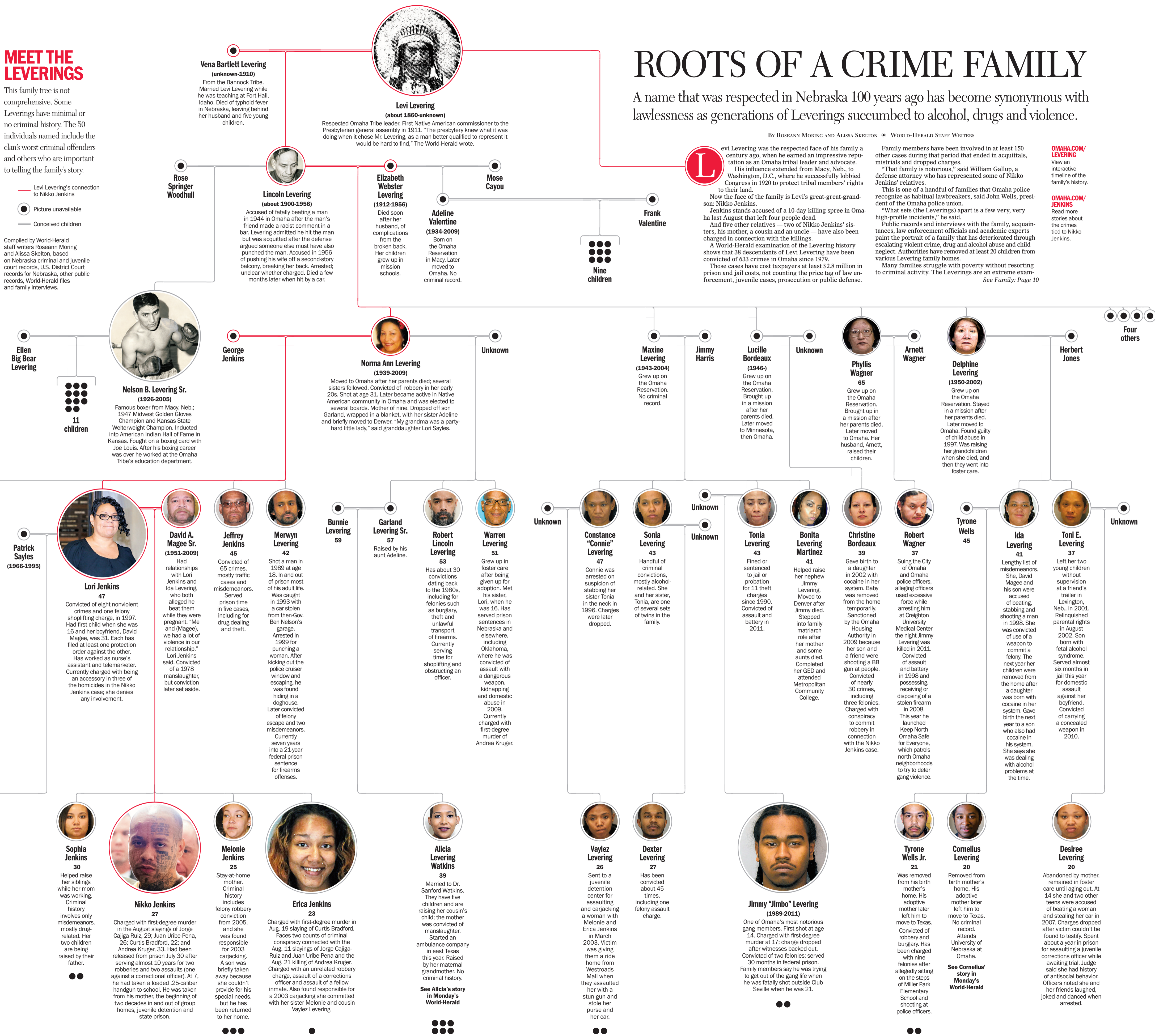


MEET THE LEVERINGS

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.



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

Levi 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 to their land.

Now the face of the family is Levi's great-great-grandson, Nikko Jenkins.

Jenkins stands accused of a 10-day killing spree in Omaha 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 attorney 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 Leverings) apart is a few very, very high-profile incidents," he said.

Public records and interviews with the family, acquaintances, 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 example.

See Family: Page 10

OMAHA.COM/LEVERING
View an interactive timeline of the family's history.

OMAHA.COM/JENKINS
Read more stories about the crimes tied to Nikko Jenkins.

Four others

Unknown

Unknown

●●

Herbert Jones

Unknown

Unknown

●●

Delphine Levering (1950-2002)

Ida Levering 41

Tyrone Wells Jr. 21

●●

Arnett Wagner

Robert Wagner 37

Cornelius Levering 20

●●

Phyllis Wagner 65

Christine Bordeaux 39

Tyrone Wells Jr. 21

●●

Unknown

Unknown

Unknown

●●

Lucille Bordeaux (1946-)

Tonia Levering 43

Unknown

●●

Jimmy Harris

Unknown

Unknown

●●

Maxine Levering (1943-2004)

Sonia Levering 43

Dexter Levering 27

●●

Unknown

Unknown

Unknown

●●

Unknown

Unknown

Unknown

●●

Norma Ann Levering (1939-2009)

Garland Levering Sr. 57

Alicia Levering Watkins 39

●●

Elizabeth Webster Levering (1912-1956)

Robert Lincoln Levering 53

Unknown

●●

Mose Cayou

Warren Levering 51

Unknown

●●

Adeline Valentine (1934-2009)

Merwyn Levering 42

Melonie Jenkins 25

●●

Unknown

Unknown

Unknown

●●

George Jenkins

David A. Magee Sr. (1951-2009)

Nikko Jenkins 27

●●

Unknown

Unknown

Unknown

●●

Ellen Big Bear Levering

James Jenkins 48

Lori Jenkins 47

●●

Unknown

Unknown

Unknown

●●



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.



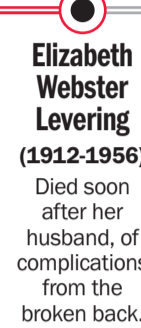
Lori Jenkins
47
Convicted of eight nonviolent crimes and one felony shoplifting charge, in 1997. Had first child when she was 16 and her boyfriend, David Magee, was 31. Each has filed at least one protection order against the other. Has worked as nurse's assistant and telemarketer. Currently charged with being an accessory in three of the homicides in the Nikko Jenkins case; she denies any involvement.



Nikko Jenkins
27
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 two decades in and out of group homes, juvenile detention and state prison.



Levi Levering
(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.



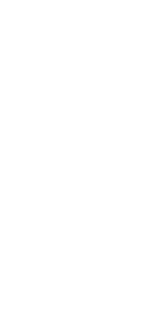
Elizabeth Webster Levering
(1912-1956)
Died soon after her husband, of complications from the broken back. Her children grew up in mission schools.



Norma Ann Levering
(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-hard little lady," said granddaughter Lori Sayles.



Robert Lincoln Levering
53
Has about 30 convictions dating back to the 1980s, including for felonies such as burglary, theft and unlawful transport of firearms. Currently serving time for shoplifting and obstructing an officer.



Alicia Levering Watkins
39
Married to Dr. Sanford Watkins. 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 World-Herald



Nine children



Patrick Sayles
(1966-1995)
Convicted of two felony theft charges in the 1980s and about a dozen misdemeanors since. Most recently charged with missing child support payments.



Sophia Jenkins
30
Helped raise her siblings while her mom was working. Criminal history involves only misdemeanors, mostly drug-related. Her two children are being raised by their father.



Jeffrey Jenkins
45
Convicted of 65 crimes, mostly traffic cases and misdemeanors. Served prison time in five cases, including for drug dealing and theft.



Melonie Jenkins
25
Stay-at-home mother. Criminal history includes felony robbery conviction from 2005, and she was found responsible for 2003 carjacking. A son was briefly taken away because she couldn't provide for his special needs, but he has been returned to her home.



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 a car stolen from then-Gov. 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-year federal prison sentence for firearms offenses.



Erica Jenkins
23
Charged with first-degree murder in Aug. 19 slaying 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.



Garland Levering Sr.
57
Raised by his aunt Adeline.



Warren Levering
51
Grew up in foster care after being given up for adoption. Met his sister, Lori, when he was 16. Has served prison 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.



Constance "Connie" Levering
47
Connie was arrested on suspicion of stabbing her sister Tonia in the neck in 1996. Charges were later dropped.



Vaylez Levering
26
Sent to a juvenile 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.



Sonia Levering
43
Handful of criminal convictions, mostly alcohol-related. She and her sister, Tonia, are one of several sets of twins in the family.



Dexter Levering
27
Has been convicted about 45 times, including one felony assault charge.



Tonia Levering
43
Fined or sentenced to jail or probation for 11 theft charges since 1990. Convicted of assault and battery in 2011.



Jimmy "Jimbo" Levering
(1989-2011)
One of Omaha's most notorious gang members. First shot at age 14. 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.



Bonita Levering Martinez
41
Helped raise her nephew Jimmy Levering. Moved to Denver after Jimmy died. Stepped into family matriarch role after her mother and some aunts died. Completed her GED and attended Metropolitan Community College.



Christine Bordeaux
39
Gave birth to a daughter in 2002 with cocaine in her system. Baby was removed from the home temporarily. Sanctioned by the Omaha Housing Authority in 2009 because her son and a friend were shooting a BB gun at people. Convicted of nearly 30 crimes, including three felonies. Charged with conspiracy to commit robbery in connection with the Nikko Jenkins case.

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Robert Wagner
37
Suing the City of Omaha and Omaha police officers, alleging officers used excessive force while arresting him at Creighton University Medical Center the night Jimmy Levering was killed in 2011. Convicted of assault and battery in 1998 and possessing, receiving or disposing of a stolen firearm in 2008. This year he launched Keep North Omaha Safe for Everyone, which patrols north Omaha neighborhoods to try to deter gang violence.



Tyrone Wells Jr.
21
Was removed from his birth mother's home. His adoptive mother later left him to move to Texas. No criminal record. Attends University of Nebraska at Omaha. See Cornelius' story in Monday's World-Herald

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Ida Levering
41
Lengthy list of misdemeanors. She, David Magee and his son 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 from the home 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.



Cornelia Levering
20
Abandoned by mother, remained in foster care until aging out. At 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 about a year in prison for assaulting a juvenile corrections officer while awaiting trial. Judge said she had history of antisocial behavior. Officers noted she and her friends laughed, joked and danced when arrested.

●●



Toni E. Levering
37
Left her two young children without supervision at a friend's trailer in Lexington, Neb., in 2001. Relinquished parental rights in August 2002. Son born with fetal alcohol syndrome. Served almost six months in jail this year for domestic assault against her boyfriend. Convicted of carrying a concealed weapon in 2010.



Desiree Levering
20
Abandoned by mother, remained in foster care until aging out. At 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 about a year in prison for assaulting a juvenile corrections officer while awaiting trial. Judge said she had history of antisocial behavior. Officers noted she and her friends laughed, joked and danced when arrested.

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Tyrone Wells Jr.
21
Was removed from his birth mother's home. His adoptive mother later left him to move to Texas. No criminal record. Attends University of Nebraska at Omaha. See Cornelius' story in Monday's World-Herald



Cornelius Levering
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Phyllis Wagner
65
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.



Robert Wagner
37
Suing the City of Omaha and Omaha police officers, alleging officers used excessive force while arresting him at Creighton University Medical Center the night Jimmy Levering was killed in 2011. Convicted of assault and battery in 1998 and possessing, receiving or disposing of a stolen firearm in 2008. This year he launched Keep North Omaha Safe for Everyone, which patrols north Omaha neighborhoods to try to deter gang violence.



Tyrone Wells Jr.
21
Was removed from his birth mother's home. His adoptive mother later left him to move to Texas. No criminal record. Attends University of Nebraska at Omaha. See Cornelius' story in Monday's World-Herald

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



Robert Wagner
37
Suing the City of Omaha and Omaha police officers, alleging officers used excessive force while arresting him at Creighton University Medical Center the night Jimmy Levering was killed in 2011. Convicted of assault and battery in 1998 and possessing, receiving or disposing of a stolen firearm in 2008. This year he launched Keep North Omaha Safe for Everyone, which patrols north Omaha neighborhoods to try to deter gang violence.



Tyrone Wells Jr.
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Delphine Levering
(1950-2002)
Grew up on the Omaha Reservation. Stayed 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.



Ida Levering
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Lengthy list of misdemeanors. She, David Magee and his son 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 from the home 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.



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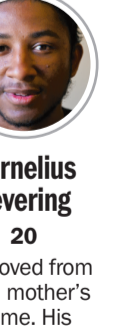
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Herbert Jones
Grew up on the Omaha Reservation. Stayed in a mission after her parents died. Later moved to Omaha. Found guilty of child abuse in 1997. Was raising her grandchildren when she died, and then they went into foster care.



Ida Levering
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Lengthy list of misdemeanors. She, David Magee and his son 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 from the home 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.



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