## The original documents are located in Box 41, folder "Ford, Michael - Biography" of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

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For immediate release

# THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

#### BACKGROUND ON FORD FAMILY

The Nation's First Family is an outdoor-sy, sports-loving family, close-knit and informal in their life-style.

The family consists of four children, ranging in ages from 17-25 and in interests from ranching to the ministry. Susan, the youngest, is a senior in high school and the only Ford offspring to live in the White House. Her three older brothers, Steve, Jack and Mike, have a variety of interests and are scattered in locale from the East Coast to the West.

Susan, 17, is a senior at Holton-Arms, a girls school in Bethesda, Md. A tall, blue-eyed blonde, she plans to attend Mount Vernon College in Washington, D.C. next year and is considering the possibility of a career in child care or fashion. She is a sports enthusiast and espcially enjoys skiing, swimming, horseback riding and tennis. Among hobbies are photography, needlepoint and caring for a growing family of plants at the White House. Susan also has unofficial charge of the White House pets, a sealpoint Siamese named Shan and a golden retriever named Liberty.

The youngest son is Steve, 18, who graduated from T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Va., last year and decided to take a year off before starting college. He is a ranchhand on a cattle ranch near Missoula, Montana, and has also worked on a ranch in Utah and a dairy farm in Virginia. He is looking into studying agriculture when he returns to school.

Jack, 23, is a senior at Utah State University at Logan, Utah. Though his plans following graduation are uncertain at the moment, he is particularly interested in environmental affairs. Jack's interests range from reading to camping, from sports to music. He has been a member of the US Forest Service fire fighting crew and has been a park ranger for the National Park Service.

Mike, 25, and the oldest of the Ford offspring, is married and a student at the Gordon-Connwell Theological Seminary in Essex, Mass. He is married to the former Gayle Brumbaugh of Catonsville, Md. \ Mike, a political science major as an undergraduate, is studying for a masters degree at the Seminary and is interested in a career working with young people. Gayle has a masters degree in social work.

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July 1, 1976

Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

The First Family

President and Mrs. Gerald R. Ford are the parents of three sons and a daughter. The Fords share an enthusiasm for sports, the outdoors, and each other. Separated by different pursuits and individual interests, the family gathers each Christmas for a skiing vacation in Colorado and maintains close touch through frequent calls and letters.

Michael Gerald (Mike) was born March 14, 1950. Mike and his wife, the former Gayle Brumbaugh, live in Essex, Massachusetts, where Mike is a student at Gordon-Cornwell Theological Seminary. Mike plans to work with young people after completing his theological studies. Gayle has a master's degree in social work and shares Mike's interest in youth, particularly in counseling young people and college students.

Steven Meigs (Steve) was born May 19, 1956. Steve is an animal science major at California Polytechnic University and works part-time on a ranch. Steve, who is learning how to raise horses, also has tried rodeo-riding.

July 8-10, he will represent the President at the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede in Alberta, Canada. Steve also worked three summers on a ranch in Alaska, studied grizzly bears and worked on a cattle ranch and dairy farm.

Susan Elizabeth (Susan) was born July 6, 1957. She just completed her first year at Mount Vernon college in Washington, D.C. She hopes to pursue her interest in photojournalism at the University of Kansas next January. This fall, she plans to return to college in Washington, D.C.

Susan has worked as a part-time photographer for the Associated Press. Last summer, she studied with photographer Ansel Adams and interned on the photographic staff of <u>The Topeka Capital</u> <u>Journal</u> in Topeka, Kansas. Like her brothers, Susan is a skiing enthusiast. She enjoys many other sports, including swimming and tennis. John Gardner (Jack) was born March 16, 1952. Jack lives in the White House and has traveled extensively working for the President's election. He graduated from Utah State University at Logan, Utah, in 1975, with a major in forestry. He is a former member of the U.S. Forest Service fire fighting crew and a former park ranger with the National Park Service.

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The oldest child is Michael Gerald (Mike), who was born March 14, 1950. Mike and his wife, Gayle, Live in Essex, Massachusetts, where Mike is a divinity student at Gordon-Cornwell Theological Seminary.

Mike and his wife, Gayle, met at Wake Forest University In North Carolina. Gayle has **EXEMPX** a masters degree in social work and is presently. Mike **hopesets** plans to work with young people after completing his theological studies.

Mike and GAyle share the Ford family enthusiasm for skiing and other sports. Both are avid tennis players and enjoy