

I come from a family of bridge players, and my earliest memories of cards are my parents sitting us down at the table to play with them while they learned in the late 1970s. I was the best dummy in the family, but my brother and sister both picked up the game quickly and were playing against A players when they were 10 and 8, often beating the best in the room at times.

In my early 20s, I decided to learn the game more formally from my parents, who at the time were both life masters. My sister had given up the game as a teen and young physician, but my brother hit life master at 22 when I was just starting. Three decades, two children, a long career in education at the middle, high school, and college level, and three grandchildren later my sister and I both picked up the game again with my mom and dad during the pandemic playing on BBO. At the same time, my sister's son had learned while in college at Georgia Tech. Sadly, we lost my dad to cancer after a three year battle in 2021, but my siblings, mom, and I all continued playing as a part of our healing.

I started in 2020 with about 5 points I had earned in the 1990s, and today I have earned the rank of sectional master playing online, at our Hattiesburg Duplicate Bridge Club, and the Monday Robert Kirkpatrick Duplicate Bridge Club named after my late father. I moved from junior master, to club master in 2021 and finally to sectional master in October 2022. I'm just over two silver points away from regional master, which I hope to earn by February of 2023.