

THE DEXTER FAMILY HISTORY

BY

ANDREW DEXTER**INTRODUCTION**

DISCLAIMER: I was asked to write the first generation Dexter Family History, as I know it. It is not all pretty, but I will try to be unbiased. I am not clear on all dates, but others in the family are. If that exact information is known, send me corrections and I will modify this history. This is the general way I evaluate my family. Although undiagnosed, it is my opinion that Vale and Eugene suffered severely from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, PTSD. Orin and Clayton Bosh seemed to handle their wartime experiences quite well. Jim became an alcoholic and some of the time a drunk. Most of the time he was light hearted and fun. LouGena's husband, Wayne Fowler saw a lot of combat in the South Pacific and handled his experiences very well. Wanda was controlling and Bud obeyed. Verna was probably mentally slow and so was her second husband Garland Cook. Martha was a serious woman that was very pragmatic. LouGena was a momma's girl.

I never met my paternal grandparents and only spent a couple hours with my maternal grandparents, George Darlin and Stella Rose (Wymer) DeGraw. George, born November 5, 1863, was the son of Frederick and Elizabeth (Todd) DeGraw. Frederick was born in St. Paul, Minnesota June 13, 1838 (I was born June 12, 1938 100 years later). Stella Wymer was born February 18, 1877 in Minnesota. George grew up in Minnesota secured a homestead in Cheyenne County, near Dalton, Nebraska. George married Stella December 7, 1897 and had thirteen children. My grandparents were successful farmers in southwestern Nebraska. Expanding their farm. George died Aug 14, 1956 in Laramie, Wyoming and Stella died June 20, 1959 in McMinnville, Oregon. The only memory I have of my maternal grandparents was when Stella told my mother, Hannah, "That Andy and Lila (Herzberg, my cousin) aren't worth anything!" George and Stella must have farmed through and survived the Dust Bowl and Great Depression.

My father, Vernon Orin was born October 18, 1888 in Red Lake, Beltrami, Minnesota. He died March 8, 1963 in Pocatello, Idaho. He and his sister were orphaned as children in or near Land-O-Lakes, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Dexter, people that operated the orphanage adopted them. I believe for slave labor. (Author's note: In the late eighteen hundreds children were frequently adopted for slave labor, some for seasonal work. The orphanage burned down and destroyed all of their records. Brother Vale told me he had Vernon's original adoption papers.) Vernon left and headed west. He never looked back, never contacted his sister and in my presence, never made a derogatory comment about his childhood. He stopped at the George DeGraw's farm to work on the thrashing crew. A thrashing machine was a stationary machine powered by a large cumbersome tractor. Grain was manually cut and tied in bundles called sheaf/sheaves, or hauled by horse drawn skids to the machine and manually fed into the machine. The grain coming out of the thrashing machine fell into gunny/burlap sacks (weighing about a hundred pounds) and the

straw was blown out the back. Both the straw and grain had to be physically handled by men and hauled away.

Hannah was born October 1, 1899 (she told me November 1, 1899) in Sidney Nebraska and died March 17, 1994 in Grand Coulee, Washington. She was the oldest girl of George and Stella DeGraw's thirteen children. At about seventeen she moved to the nearest town to continue her education. Her father, George, forced her to return to the farm to cook for the thrashing crew. George DeGraw also grew sugar beets and owned a plant to process and ship the beets. I think it is still in existence. He had a large thrashing crew that performed very hard physical work and was always hungry. Hannah became bitter and resentful about being forced to leave school to prepare meals.

Vernon, about eleven years older than Hannah, married her and they moved to a homestead, near Bridgeport, Nebraska, where they started their family. Between August 1920 and March 1922, Hannah and Vernon moved to Hull, Wyoming. Hannah told me, "During that time, I had to gather and burn cow chips to keep my babies warm." They lost the homestead, I think due to the Dust Bowl. Sometime along the way, they were down and out. Public assistance was not available to families where the husband/bread earner was at home, but abandoned families could get help. Many men left home so the families could receive enough money to eat. Vernon was one of them and became a Hobo (Homeless Person).

Hannah was back in Bridgeport, Nebraska where Jimmie Lee was born July 1, 1926 and in Lagrange, Wyoming where Martha was born May 13, 1928.

The family moved to Palisades, Colorado by August 26, 1929 when LouGena was born. Eugene, Andy and Roanna were born in East Palisades, Colorado. Vernon worked at the local power plant. I understand that one of the older boys, probably Vale, also worked there. Vale would have been an upper teenager before moving from East Palisades.

The Great Depression was rampant and anyone with a job was lucky. (Author's note: Women were not counted in the work force. When government agencies recorded more than 50% were unemployed, it would be more than 75% in today's numbers.) To help economic recovery, the Federal Government, in the New Deal, started the CCC, Civilian Conservation Corps. Young men were accepted and they constructed a lot of Federal Government projects. The young men had to send money home to help their parents and siblings. Orin, the oldest son joined. Oklahoma was probably the hardest hit by the Dust Bowl and many young men from Oklahoma also joined. Orin became acquainted with some of those boys from Oklahoma. I think they were working in northwestern Colorado.

One of these young men was Henry Taylor Nicholes known as Bud who was born April 2, 1916 in Manchester, Oklahoma. He married Wanda, the oldest daughter/second child in 1937 and they moved to King Hill, Idaho. Bud's sister, May and her family lived between King Hill and Glens Ferry. About this time Verna the third child and second oldest daughter married George Arthur Thiel about 1940. He was born January 1920 in Pocatello, Idaho and died January 20, 1988. They also lived in King Hill/Glens Ferry area.

I was the ninth and last unplanned child that Vernon and Hannah had. I was born June 12, 1938 in East Palisades, Colorado. According to Hannah, their tenth child,

Roanna, born December 21, 1942 was planned because of the six years between Eugene and myself. They didn't want to raise me alone. Roanna lived about one month and died of pneumonia January 12, 1943. She is buried in Palisades, Colorado. Hannah delivered all ten babies at home. Hannah had her first baby, Orin, before her mother, Stella had her last. Hannah had Vernon Andrew and Roanna, after her oldest daughter, Wanda, had her first baby, Buddy Orin. Hannah overlapped her mother and daughter. Wanda had her first baby, Buddy Orin Nicholes May 30, 1938, thirteen days before my birth, so I was an uncle when I was born.

The family evidently did well in Palisades. They had two cars and good employment. I think Vernon and Vale both worked at the Palisades Power Plant. Vale must have attended Palisades High School. A recent photo showed him nicely dressed in a letterman's sweater with a big P on the front.

There were some less than good things that happened in Colorado with my older brothers. Who did what I do not know. However there was a sawed-off 4/10 shotgun involved and it remained in the family until I joined the Navy. I remember my brothers talking about diving off a bridge into a river and recovering the 4/10 and another weapon. I think Jim and Vale were involved. As teenagers, Vale and Jim were very close. I do not know how the weapons came to be in the river or whom they belonged to. I have been told Jim, about sixteen, got involved with a young girl and as a result, the family was forced or volunteered to leave Palisades. The remaining Vernon Orin Dexter family moved to King Hill, Idaho.

About the time the family arrived in King Hill, Orin was in the Army. He served from July 1940 to October 1945. Vale and Jim had traveled to King Hill ahead of the family. Vale had obtained a job as a Gandy Dancer on the Union Pacific Railroad. Wanda had two children. Buddy Orin and Carolyn, who were born about the same time Hannah, had Roanna. While in King Hill and about the same time, Wanda had Marolyn and Verna had Mildred Lee Thiel. Growing up, I often heard Wanda say, "Poor Carolyn. Buddy has Andy and Marolyn has Mildred, but poor Carolyn has no one. Poor Carolyn."

I have some memories of Vernon and Hannah's family living in King Hill. During that time, I went with the family to Boise to see Vale off to the Army and visited a large clothing store. Mother had dressed me in a kid's army outfit and I lost the overseas cap when I ducked in between some clothes hanging on a circular rack. We searched but never found the hat.

In King Hill, the men liked to go down to a tavern called The Joint. Our homes didn't have showers. On Saturday everyone would go to a local motel, pay a nickel to take a shower, but we had to provide our own soap and towels. The houses were heated with coal. Buddy and I would play in the pea gravel road with fire shovels. He got mad at me and hit my forehead with his fire shovel and I carried the scar for years. A fire shovel had a scoop about 8" X 12" X 1" that would fit into a kitchen wood fired cook stove. The handle was about 18" long.

What Jim did while in King Hill is unknown to me. Martha, LouGena and Eugene attended elementary school in King Hill. Martha made friends with Clayton Bosh, a fellow classmate she later married. Eugene became friends with a girl named Judy that Vale would later marry. (This is important because this friendship became

a real problem between Vale and Eugene.) All of our young life, Vale was Eugene's hero and role model.

The family selected Broadacres, Oregon to settle because Hannah's sister, Iris lived there and allowed our family to stay until a small farm was found to buy. Hannah's sister, Nellie lived in McMinnville, Oregon about twenty-five miles away. Iris was married to George Herzberg and Nellie was married to Jerry Michael. None of these three brothers-in-law liked each other. Before leaving Colorado or Wyoming, the three had a big disagreement over a toolbox. Mother wouldn't talk about it and my two aunts like to stir the pot. I never found out any details.

In King Hill, the family must have had two cars. One was a 1936 Ford sedan with a flathead V8 engine. The family had a four-wheeled trailer that had front axle steering and one axle in the very rear. I remember Jim driving the Ford towing that trailer. It seemed very big to me. The trailer was loaded quite high and a mattress was put on the top in front. Eugene and I slept on that mattress traveling to Oregon. We made it across the Oregon border the first day and made camp next to a river. Hannah cooked over an open fire and the next morning, I remember Hannah making coffee over the open fire in a two pound coffee can. She put the grounds in old silk hosiery. I don't remember how long it took us to travel the 530 miles to Broadacres. We could only go about 25 or 30 miles per hour.

Hannah and Vernon bought a muddy ten-acre farm from Mr. and Mrs. Lucky, a very old couple. I remember him because he apparently had skin cancer on his ears and had big chunks of his ears cut away. He was scary to a preschooler. The house had a kitchen and living room on the first floor and two bedrooms on the second floor.

Living in that house for the next few years was Vernon, Hannah, Jim, about 16, Martha about 14, LouGena about 12, Eugene about 11, and myself about 5.

The farm had a shallow well with a hand pump on the back porch, an outside toilet and a wood fired kitchen stove. Kerosene and White Gas lamps provided light. Water had to be hand pumped and carried to the kitchen, to the animal's water troughs and to the garden. Saturday evenings were spent bathing. Water had to be hand pumped, heated on the wood stove and dumped into a number 3 washtub. The washtub was galvanized tin or steel, about twenty-four inches in diameter and held about seventeen gallons. Martha got the first bath, LouGena second, Eugene third and I was the fourth using the same water. I am sure Hannah bathed, but I don't think Vernon did. I remember some comments about his lack of personal hygiene.

Toward the end of the war, Wanda with her three children moved to Broadacres for Hannah's help. Her third child, Marolyn had medical problems. About the same time Verna separated/divorced her husband George Authur Thiel and moved to Broadacres. Wanda's husband Bud went into the Army. Wanda and her three children moved into a small cabin adjacent to the Broadacres farm's main house. I think Verna and her two children Mildred and Dale lived in the main house with Vernon, Hannah, Martha, LouGena, Eugene and myself.

Orin served in the Army Corp of Engineers building metal runways in the Pacific Theatre. Vale was an Explosives Specialist in the European Theatre. As the war was ending, Jim entered the Army Air Corps and was a Flight Engineer on a B17. He participated in the Berlin Air Lift. Orin and Vale were both extended for the duration plus six months. Consequently Orin, Vale and Bud were discharged about the same

time and Jim came home on leave. Post WWII the country was wild with a lot of drinking, and partying that Hannah, being religious, found offensive.

Hannah spent most of the money the older boys sent home while on active duty for safekeeping. They still had quite a lot from their mustering-out pay, travel pay and pay for unused leave.

For a period of time, on the small farm, we had, Vernon, Hannah, Orin, Vale, Wanda and her three children, Verna and her two children, Martha, LouGena, Eugene and I. Jim was there for a few days while on leave. To say the least, it was complicated and frustrating.

About this time, electricity was run down the mud lane to the farm, the house was wired and a deep well was drilled for water. I have no idea who paid for these improvements. Orin started working for the Hubbard Chevrolet Dealership in Hubbard, Oregon and met two sisters, June and Helen at a bar called Playmore. Both had children. Orin fell in love with June but she wouldn't leave her husband and Helen was in the process of separating.

Vale was investigating his job on the Union Pacific Railroad. He discovered if he returned to King Hill, Union Pacific, by law, had to give him his job back. Because his longevity continued while he was in the Army, he became the youngest section foreman on the railroad.

As a young woman in Colorado, Verna had met Garland Cook while he was a CCC Boy. She contacted him and he moved to Broadacres.

I remember a big family blowup. Hannah couldn't tolerate the situation and said to Vernon, "Get your older sons out of the house."

He returned with, "You get your older daughters out of the house." Shortly thereafter things changed. Vale returned to work on the railroad in King Hill.

Helen had separated from Elwood Taylor and he got custody of one boy and one girl. Maxine and Larry, Helen got custody of Charles and Jackie. Orin and Helen married in Vancouver, Washington in March 1946 and moved to King Hill. They took Charles with them, and left Jackie with Elwood. A few months later they went back to Oregon and picked up Jackie. Two years later Helen went to visit Maxine and Larry and told Elwood she wanted to take them to visit Aunt June. She stopped at Junes for a short visit and went straight to Idaho where Maxine and Larry would be safe from being taken from her.

Jim returned to active duty. Verna married Garland Cook and he obtained work nearby as a farm hand. Wanda and Bud and their three children continued to live in the cabin and later moved to Woodburn, Oregon.

After settling in Broadacres, Martha attended Woodburn High School and I think LouGena and Eugene attended Broadacres Grade School. Each day, they walked about a mile to and from school. I walked with them as far as the Wolf residence. I stayed with Mrs. Wolf while they were in school. They picked me up after school and we walked home. In the fall of 1944 I started the first grade at Broadacres and attended until eight-grade graduation in the spring of 1952.

During these years, Jim and Orin were my idols and Vale was Eugene's. I played with souvenirs Vale sent home from Germany. He sent a German Air Force light blue uniform jacket, a German Luger, a rifle, and several swords. They were kept in an upstairs closet with the 4-10 sawed off shotgun. Eugene and I both understood Vale

sent the rifle to Eugene and the Luger/pistol for me. As an adult and after Korea, Eugene had the rifle modified and used it as a deer rifle. The last I saw these things was just before I went in the Navy. After Hannah sold the farm and I came home on leave, I discovered a lot of my belongings and these items were missing. Hannah sold the farm in 1957.

Orin worked for a Kaiser Frazer dealership in Glens Ferry until he and Helen started their own business in King Hill and bought/built a home nearby. After a year or so, they returned to Oregon, kidnapped Helens other two children Maxine and Larry and returned to King Hill. They never brought the children back to Oregon until Larry, the youngest, was old enough to make a decision on which he wanted to live with, his mother or father.

After retuning to work on the Union Pacific, Vale worked in the King Hill area for some time. He met and married Judy and they had Valetta Jean "Vicki" and Jimmy. When Vale was given his own Section he moved his family to Soda Springs, the very southeastern corner of Idaho. The railroad gave them a house to live in. I don't think it had electricity or central heat. They heated with coal the railroad provided. It was not the living a very young woman wanted.

I don't remember the time frame, but after Martha graduated from high school, she and LouGena hitchhiked to King Hill to visit brother Orin. I remember them saying they shared a toothbrush. Martha got re-acquainted with her old friend, Clayton Bosh. They later married and had Ethel Laree, LouGena Joyce and Clayton Arnell.

Sister LouGena, post WWII met Wayne Fowler through a friend's family that lived near Wiseacre Lane in Broadacres. Initially, Hannah didn't like Wayne and made a statement that if LouGena married Wayne Fowler, she would gas all of her sons-in-laws. The next time LouGena and Wayne visited, Hannah asked Wayne why he was there. He told her, "I came to help you build a gas chamber." That is the way we found out they had married. They had, Qwendolyn Marie (Wendy), Wanda Rose (Pete), Hannah Diane (Tinker Bell), Wayne Jr. (Bo) and Merle Craig (MC). LouGena nick-named her children after Peter Pan characters.

Jim was discharged from the Army Air Corp in Mississippi, I think Biloxi. I recall a story about him being married and lived in Mississippi for a time. He came back to Oregon alone in the middle of the big construction boom. The government was building hydroelectric dams, and the inter-state freeway system. Jim and Wayne became friends and both started working heavy construction.

Martha and Clayton still lived in King Hill where Clayton worked for the local irrigation canal company. Clayton decided to join Wayne and Jim to earn more money working heavy construction. They worked on the Detroit Dam, The Dalles Dam, Chief Joseph Dam, Green Peter Dam and Bonneville Dam to name a few.

During the late 1940s and early 1950s the older siblings and their families moved from construction job to job. After release from the Army and the shutdown of the shipyards Vernon and Bud worked as seasonal workers in the food cannery in Woodburn, Oregon. Vernon continued working seasonal work until the summer of 1952. Bud and Wanda worked in some type of mill in Portland, Oregon. They lived in a large two-story house just off of 99E on McLoughlin Boulevard a few blocks from the famous B17 Bomber Restaurant. Buddy and I used to play on the Bomber. Bud decided to start working heavy construction and left Wanda and children in Portland.

Wayne Fowler operated a large cable device that hauled concrete out to the Detroit dam during its construction. It was such a unique operation that later a company hired and moved Wayne and LouGena's family to Maine to operate a similar device during another construction job.

Clayton Bosh was successful enough that his company moved him and Martha to Washington, D. C. in 1972/73. He was Project Superintendent of the laborers on the underground construction of the subway.

About 1947/48 Eugene started High School in Hubbard. After his tenth grade he was old enough to join the Army. He served with the Army Corps of Engineers in Korea. There was an explosion/fire in a hangar and Eugene pulled an injured airman out. In doing so, the explosion damaged his hearing. After discharge he visited his hero, Vale in southeastern Idaho. Vale gave him a job and a place to live. Two things happened. Judy, Vale's young wife, and Eugene being childhood friends started doing fun things two young adults would enjoy. Eugene assured me their relationship was strictly platonic. Vale became very jealous and resentful. Eugene quit his job and stayed with Orin in King Hill. He and Vale got into a horrible fight doing physical damage to each other. Both swore to me they would have killed the other if they hadn't been stopped. They remained enemies the rest of their lives fighting over the rifle Vale took from Germany and Eugene claimed as a gift.

While working for Vale in southeast Idaho Eugene also dated Violet, a very young girl. She got pregnant. I think Violet was trying to escape a less than desirable family environment and Eugene was looking for sex. Eugene decided to follow heavy construction and moved his family to Oregon. I don't think Eugene and Violet ever loved each other but had five children, Floyd Eugene, Teresa Pamela, Dean Byron, Lee Vale and Marcia Janet.

The summer of 1952 Vernon left the Broadacres farm without telling Hannah. Vernon told Andy, "I'm quitting the cleanup man job at the Woodburn cannery to work in construction. I want to make some of that big money." He never returned. He was born in 1888 and would have been about sixty-four. He worked construction for a while. He lived with Orin and/or Vale until he died in 1963. He is buried in Glens Ferry, Idaho.

Heavy construction jobs were not permanent jobs and workers were frequently laid off. They of course could draw unemployment compensation but needed a place to live between jobs. The two landing places were the Broadacres farm and Wanda's big house in Portland.

On one of his jobs, in July 1961, Jim met and married Bonnie who had a daughter Lynn and together they had Guy Lee, Kenneth R. and Gregory D. Alcohol was a problem for both of them. Guy Lee died of spinal meningitis and is buried in Sacramento, California. Jim and Bonny separated several times and remarried. The last separation/divorce, Jim was given custody of the two boys. As a single head of household, Jim needed help and Hannah lived with him on and off.

After Jim and Bonnie separated, Jim and boys moved in with Wanda for a period. Also another time Martha and Clayton lived with Wanda. There of course were money problems even though an agreement had been reached and complied with. LouGena and Hannah were very close throughout their adult life and spent a lot of time at the farm.

When Eugene moved his family to Oregon, he dropped Violet off at the farm and left to find work. Violet had never met Hannah or Andy. She had at least one infant. She was close to Andy's age, didn't have any money and was totally dependent on Hannah. At that time, Andy was attending North Marion Union High School, had a job, a car and a girl friend. The house only had two bedrooms upstairs. The front bedroom had a double bed that Hannah used. The back bedroom had two single beds and room for a crib. Violet, Andy and the baby shared the back bedroom. It was a difficult situation.

Eugene was gone several months without communicating or sending any money to Violet. Hannah woke about five each morning, drove to Salem, worked in a flax mill for eight hours, and came home. She went to bed early. Violet, was a teenage mother who had gone from being isolated on a remote ranch in southeastern Idaho to being isolated on a farm in Oregon. Both were less than desirable conditions. She must have been scared, lonesome and angry. One time Hannah told Andy that Violet needed to get out and suggested Andy take Violet to a drive-in movie. Hannah would baby sit. When Eugene finally returned to take his family to a new job site, Andy told Eugene he had taken Violet to the movie but they didn't do any thing. Eugene said, "I wouldn't care if you did!"

In 1957 Hannah accepted employment as a cook housekeeper for Chester Robinson in Lyons, Oregon. They married in June 28, 1957 and bought a home in Lyons. LouGena and family lived with her quite a bit of the time until Wayne and LouGena moved to Grand Coulee, Washington. Hannah sold the house and moved to Grand Coulee also. Chester and Hannah both died and are buried in Grand Coulee.

Wanda discovered Bud molesting their adopted son, Rocky. Some of the male family members were sure Bud was gay. After thirty-five years, Wanda divorced Bud. Wanda eventually met and married Douglas Reno. They lived in Irrigon until Douglas died. When Wanda could no longer safely live alone, Carolyn, Bill and Marolyn moved Wanda in with them. Wanda spent the last seventeen years of her life with them.

When Vale and Judy divorced Jimmy stayed in Soda Springs, Idaho with Vale. Vicky/Valetta and Judy moved to Mountain Home, Idaho. Judy married Bill Brown and they lived in Mountain Home. Judy died in 2015. Vicky met and married Mike Cudihee, a young Air Force Officer. After a career in the Air Force they retired in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Vale did visit them once. Vale married Pauline Eva Young (Polly) who had a son, Johnny, and they had three children, Andy, Roy and Kay. Vale developed dementia in his later years, died a natural death and is buried in Grace, Idaho.

Eugene's son Floyd, at age 14 drowned in the Snake River at Clarkston, Washington. After Eugene and Violet divorced, Eugene met and married Darlene. After her death, Eugene moved to Irrigon, Oregon and lived in his 5th Wheel Recreational Vehicle until his death. He is buried in Kennewick, Washington with Darlene, and her mother, all three in the same gravesite. Violet continued to live in Clarkston until she moved to Spokane and lived with her daughter Marcie.

In May 1956, after graduating from High School, Andy attended Capital Business College and had an emergency appendectomy. He and Hannah lived a few weeks with Martha and Clayton in The Dalles while Andy recovered. He applied for many jobs as an accountant/bookkeeper but was told to come back after his 1-A draft

status changes. The only way Andy knew how to do that was to enlist. April Fools Day 1957 Andy left for the Navy and spent twenty-two years active duty. He married Sharon Lee Grimes and they had Deborah Dee and Kimberlee Mae. They retired and lived in Napa, California until 2015 when they moved to the present home in Lincoln, California.

In addition to Helen's four children, Orin and Helen had three daughters, LaVerne Ann, Derryll Rae and Orina Georgia. When the girls finished school, Orin sold his business in 1959 and relocated to Oregon. Orin lived three years in Blue River working on the Cougar Dam. His trailer was next to Wanda's. He also moved to Eugene, Oregon and worked for Dunham Motors.

In the 1980s, Helen's brother-in-law passed away and her sister June became a widow. At the end of the war while Orin and Helen were dating, it was clear to Helen that Orin favored June. Helen knew that June also loved Orin. After June's husband passed away, the three purchased Recreational Vehicles and started traveling together. Helen told Andy, she knew how Orin and June felt about each other and she wanted the two most important people in her life to be happy. They separated and Helen purchased a pickup camper, June moved in with Orin and they traveled together. In his later years, after Helen and June died, Orin married Lulu Mae. They lived together for seven years. Lulu Mae, Ralph Kupersmith's mother. Orin died a natural death and is buried in Albany, Oregon with Helen.

Jim spent his life in and around big trucks. He was working under one when a jack failed and crushed him. He is buried in the Willamette Veterans Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.

During the last few decades, as the original family members died, the family started fragmenting. This is a natural process and I would encourage each of the clans to write their family history, starting with my sibling's births and reconstructing their family history in more detail. I truly regret not interviewing my older family members and recording a better history for all of you. I think if I had, this short history could have turned into a book. If each family wrote their family's history, we could include a chapter for each clan. If we included all of the clan's stories with this, we could make a book out of it.

With love Andy (Vernon Andrew Dexter)