

DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT**Chapter 8 is not complete yet****Preface**

The name Gabrielson is not a common name in America. Approximately 2,364 people share this name within the United States, and it ranks 12,189 in popularity.¹ Of that group, about 100 Gabrielson's or their descendants are in our family. Gabrielson is a patronymic surname of Scandinavian origin (Danish, Norwegian, or Swedish). It literally translates to "Son of Gabriel." The name Gabriel itself is Hebrew in origin, meaning "God is my strength" or "Strong man of God."

When you start looking at the variations of "Gabrielson," you're essentially looking at a map of Scandinavian immigration to the U.S. Each spelling tells a slightly different story about where the family originated and how much the name was "Americanized" upon arrival.

Here is how **Gabrielson** compares to its closest relatives in the U.S. (based on 2010 Census data):

Surname	U.S. Rank	Approx. Count	Primary Origin
Gabrielson	#12,986	2,364	Americanized / Swedish
Gabrielsen	#37,442	595	Norwegian / Danish
Gabrielsson	#131,293	129	Traditional Swedish

¹ Surname Discovery, 23 and Me.

Breakdown of the Variations

1. Gabrielson (The American Standard)

This is by far the most common version in the States. While it is occasionally found in Sweden, it is most often an Americanized spelling. Immigrants with the "-sson" or "-sen" endings frequently dropped the extra 's' or changed the 'e' to an 'o' to fit standard English phonetic patterns.

2. Gabrielsen (The Dano-Norwegian Link)

The "-sen" suffix is a dead giveaway for Norwegian or Danish roots. It is much rarer in the U.S. than the "son" version, likely because many Norwegian families changed their spelling to "son" to blend in. If you find a "Gabrielsen" today, there's a high chance the family arrived more recently or was particularly intent on keeping their specific heritage intact.

3. Gabrielsson (The Swedish Traditionalist)

The double "-sson" is the classic Swedish patronymic form. It is the rarest of the three in the U.S. because it is the most "foreign" looking to an English speaker. Many Gabrielsson's became Gabrielson's at Ellis Island or shortly after settling in the Midwest.

Why the difference?

In the 19th century, Scandinavian surnames were often fluid. A man might be "Johan Gabrielsson" in Sweden, but when he moved to a farm in Minnesota, his neighbors (and the local census taker) would record him as "John Gabrielson."

Because of the surname's strong Scandinavian roots, the geographic distribution of Gabrielson and its variants is heavily concentrated in the Upper Midwest—the historic "landing zone" for Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish immigrants in the 19th century.

Here is where these names are most commonly found today:

Top States for the Gabrielson Family Names

Based on historical census trends and current residency data, the name is most prominent in:

1. Minnesota: Historically the "capital" for Gabrielsons. In the late 1800s, nearly 27% of all Gabrielsons in the U.S. lived here.
2. Wisconsin: A close second, following the general pattern of Scandinavian settlement.
3. Iowa: Particularly in the northern counties where Swedish and Norwegian farming communities were established.

4. Washington: High concentration due to later 20th-century migrations and the fishing/logging industries that attracted many Scandinavians.²
5. California: While not a "traditional" hub, its sheer population size means it now holds a significant number of Gabrielson's who moved west over the generations.

Fun Fact: If you look at the 1880 Census, Minnesota had the highest concentration of Gabrielson's in the country, accounting for nearly 27% of everyone with that name in the U.S. at the time.³

My personal family database, some 35 years in the making, now has over 77,000 family members listed, with branches far and wide. It includes my wife's family trees (she was a Cearley) and we found that we have a common ancestor from the 1600s in Hempstead NY, Samuel Denton I of Hempstead NY 1631-1712. We are 10th cousins!

As odd as this may seem, most Americans of European ancestry are related in some way, and you can include our African American, Hispanic and Asian neighbors (going back to Noah's sons – Shem, Ham and Japheth!)

A very interesting book to research this, if you are interested, is called TRACED by Harvard trained Professor, Nathaniel T. Jeanson, Ph.D.

I would be amiss if I did not mention that this research was initiated decades ago by Henry Martin Gabrielson, Jr., my uncle. Before the internet he began contacting family far and wide to gather information about our Gabrielson lineage. He hired researchers in Norway (the records there are in Norwegian) and slowly began to piece some of it together. From his beginning I have been able to extend the work and build upon it to present this volume of history for the Gabrielson and related family lines, for you, but also for your children, their children, and theirs beyond.

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² <https://gemini.google.com/share/continue/f2b998aec602>

³ <https://gemini.google.com/share/f2b998aec602>

Introduction

From time to time, those of us among the living wonder about those of us among the dead, especially the ones who were our forebears. This only seems natural to me, since we want to know what is the stuff we are made of, and why we are the way we are.

This first came to me about the year 1993, shortly after the tragic accident that took the life of my younger brother, Gary. I began to look about to find who my family was, since I didn't know many of them, and I along with brothers Bruce and Gary, Mom and Dad, had moved away from our home in New York at my young age of 10.

Thus began a quest to find more information, first on the paternal side and later on the maternal side of my heritage. I briefly knew my paternal grandmother, Anita Gabrielson and only slightly longer my grandfather, Henry Gabrielson Sr. I was, it seems, one of a long list of his grandkids.

I did know my maternal grandparents, "Lin" and Cora Milligan, who lived on for some years and enjoyed times with us until I was in my 30s. They also got to know my children which I count as a great blessing.

To know one's grandparents is a joy, and for them to know their grandchildren a greater joy. At the time of this writing, I am 67 years old, probably 68 by the time I finish, and a recent prostate cancer patient, and the moments with my five grandkids (three home grown and two grafted in) are a great joy to me and Sherri, my wife of 49 years this year.

A brief word on myself – currently Sherri and I live on a (nearly) 40-acre farm in Craig County Virginia, a lovely rural county which is two thirds national forest. The population is sparse, the people rugged but true, hardworking, God-fearing Americans, whom we relate well with. I pastor a church in town, a group of about fifty souls who together make up Craig Valley Baptist Church, which I took on a year ago, and have enjoyed the role of "church father", teaching, preaching, counseling, loving and being loved by this fine group. They are not perfect, of course, as there is no perfect church, but as the nameplate on my desk indicates, I am the "chaos coordinator" a role I relish well. I have been gifted in public speaking (at least some would say) and in administrative abilities, as seen in my past business adventures (I have owned several) and in writings (this is my third book, along with numerous magazine articles and regular newspaper articles for our local paper here in New Castle, VA).

Enough about me for now – let's get to the subject at hand.

I have been engaged in genealogy now for more than 30 years, before there was an "internet". The early years I spent in writing to family members and receiving copies of research done by them, which they kindly passed onto me. My uncle, Henry Gabrielson, Jr. was a great help in those days, as he too had the "bug" and had researched, or paid researchers, to look up our family tree in Norway. He passed along copies of his work to my father, Richard A. Gabrielson. This was awesome since I had no knowledge of the Norwegian language. It was told me by my father - that his father, Henry Sr., spoke some Norwegian, and visited Norway with his father a few times as a young boy. My paternal grandmother, Anita Gabrielson, was of French-Canadian descent, and only spoke French as a young girl, learning English later, and then passing a few phrases off to my dad and his two brothers, Henry Jr. and Bob. The one I remember the best – from my childhood of course – is "Ferme ta grande bouche" meaning shut your big mouth!

Over the years I have accumulated files containing some 78,000 family members, from both my and Sherri's families. This report is primarily on my paternal lines, although the spouses and their parents will be included where significant.

An earlier form of this report was done in 2008 but never published, so this time I intend to publish it and make it available to any Gabrielson descendant (or related family members) who wish a copy. It's alarming to realize that 18 years went by without an update.

While digital copies are fine, I have learned that it is easy for digital records to get lost in computer files or when computers crash, never to be seen again. As our world becomes more computer centric, and AI takes over our lives, a "hard copy" of a physical book on the shelf becomes more of a gem to young family members wanting to know the stories of our familial lines.

Before publishing this, it is my intention to reach out to as many living Gabrielson descendants as I can – and include any information they would like. I know that I do not have the connections to all of them. If I missed you, please forgive me. You can try to reach me for the next revision at famtree@gabrielson.us.

Your kinsman,

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Spring 2026



Chapter One – “In the Beginning”

It only seems fitting, seeing that I am a Gospel minister, to use this Biblical phrase as a starting point. Of course, it is not really possible to go back to the real beginning of our family, but we go where we can. Recent developments in genealogical research, especially in DNA, can tell us much about where we come from and who we are.

One thing I think is fascinating is that people everywhere are really all related. DNA shows how much we have in common, something like 98.5% of our genes overlap. As you consider that each of us has two biological parents, and they each have two, and they each have two, and so forth, it's amazing that DNA dials us into a family. If you go back in time some twenty generations, about 500-600 years, you mathematically have 1,048,576 ancestors.

Yes, this is possible, as you will see from my report, I have identified my 45th great grandfather on my father's maternal line. I'll explain more on that later.

However, you run into a problem in that the population of the earth gets smaller as you go back further in time. For example, in 1776, some 250 years ago this year, the population of the United States was about 3,000,000. Today (2026) it is some 350,000,000 or so.

In the year 1400, some 600+ years ago, the entire world population was about 350,000,000. Today it is estimated to be over 8,300,000,000.⁴ There is currently a negative growth rate in the world, which will lead to a population decline at some point. Wars, poverty and pandemics don't help that.

What we learn from this is that the fewer and fewer people in our world from yesteryear make up more and more of our genetic ancestors. In other words, our ancient cousins married cousins on a regular basis, causing an overlap in ancestors. This was true largely because in the past people lived in small communities and did not, in fact could not, travel very far. The other people in their communities were their kinfolks so you end up marrying cousins. This has been a common practice through the ages. Beyond first cousins, there is little danger of genetic problems from (second, third, etc.) cousins mating.

While this seems abhorrent today, knowing what we know about genetics, keep in mind the Biblical record. If you, as I do, accept the story of Biblical creation, then we see Adam and Eve having sons named Cain, Abel and Seth. They also had daughters who were unnamed in the record. Abel died early at the hand of Cain. Then, Cain and Seth must have married their sisters.

Why then are we not all idiots? (perhaps we are, lol!) Simply, when sin entered the world, it brought corruption which took time to propagate. Those early generations lived hundreds of years because sin had not fully corrupted the human genome yet. Intermarriage was possible for some time and necessary to follow God's command – “Then God blessed them, and God said to

⁴ <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/world-population-by-year/>

them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”⁵

Therefore, we have ancestors who show up in our records more than once. I only recently discovered that my wife, Sherri, and I share a common ancestor – Samuel Denton I of Hempstead NY (1631-1712). That means we are 10th cousins!

The “Gabrielsens”

Yes, that is not a misprint. Gabrielsen spelled with the ending of “sen”. My great grandfather (Martinius Lauritz Gabrielsen) spelled his last name that way, taking it from his own father in following the patronymic naming system used in Norway and other Scandinavian countries which was prevalent up until the 20th century. What does that mean?

Our grandfather’s ancestors came from Norway and Sweden. Norwegians followed for hundreds of years the patronymic system of names. They did not use fixed surnames prior to the 1860s. The 1860s was the beginning of that cultural shift. It would take several decades for it to filter through to all families.

Unlike our American (and most of the Western worlds) system, where a child takes the last name of his or her father, in Norway the child would assume part of the father’s first name, and then a suffix was added such as “sen” for son or “datter” for daughter. Therefore, a man named John Olsen was the son of Ole Larsen, who was the son of Lars Neilsen, etc. This was common in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Holland and perhaps other countries. At times, the daughter would also use the “sen” suffix.

This system was used in a few families up to about 1923.⁶ As you can see, it makes finding one’s ancestors a bit tricky, especially since many persons had common names. To help with the matter, often the name of the farm or a location where one lived was added to the personal name to help identify who you were. It was like saying, my name could have been Day Farm Scott Gabrielson (we currently live on the old Day Farm).

My great grandfather, **Martinius Lauritz Gabrielsen**, was born at or near Gamel aker, Oslo, Norway, January 27, 1865. Gamel aker means “old church”. This was one way to follow his line through the family.

The “sen” ending also came from a time when Norway was administered by Denmark. Denmark, Sweden and Norway were all bound together by history and culture.

During the late 1800’s, many people from Norway emigrated to America due to a concept known as Bondeveldet. This word translates as “farmer tyranny.” It was a system where one wealthy, established farmer in an area, who owned land for miles around, would rent a small plot to a young farmer. The young farmer had to pay his rent as well as provide for his family which was

⁵ Genesis 1:28, New King James Version

⁶ <https://norwegianridge.com/2011/07/10/understanding-norwegian-naming-patterns/>

often difficult to do. At times it was a sharecropper situation, and due to drought, infestation of insects, or just bad crops it often just didn't work out. Many dirt farmers endured a continual cycle of poverty. This was complicated by the land owner who would restrict what crop the farmer could grow, which meant that there was little diversity at harvest time and thereby more competition. This meant low prices at market and a low income for the year.

Coupled with political strife in the country and regional wars, life was increasingly difficult in the latter part of the 1800s in Norway.

These economic problems in the Scandinavian countries were the primary factors that pushed emigration to North America during the nineteenth century. Medical advances, such as smallpox vaccination, helped populations to grow faster than food production could keep up. Many of the Scandinavian emigrants had been peasants in their homelands, those younger farmers working tiny plots of land whose small harvests they had to share with landlords. In their harsh northern climates, they struggled to grow crops on tired soil during short summer growing seasons and typically were only one harvest away from starvation.

Other emigrants had been skilled craftsmen, but who had insufficient markets in their depressed home areas to sell their goods. Many Scandinavians faced the additional burden of having to pay church ministers' head taxes. This source of grievance came from the fact that both Sweden and Norway had state religions, meaning there was no real freedom of religion, only Lutheranism. This was true in other European countries as well, including Great Britain, although there it was to support the Anglican church.

During the late 1880s, the religious landscape of Europe was defined by an intense conflict between traditional faith, growing secularism, and political transformation. As science, industrialization, and political movements reshaped society, established churches faced deep crises of authority while simultaneously launching defensive revivals.

Elements of the Scandinavian political systems also helped push people to emigrate. Some Scandinavians were denied the right to vote or wished to avoid compulsive military service. Many also chafed under the monarchic rule and yearned for democracy, spurred on by movements in the United States and elsewhere.

In America, you could actually own your land, and in many western areas land was being given away freely to people for homesteading. Peasants looked forward to abundant free, fertile land available under the federal Homestead Act of 1862. This legislation allowed settlers to claim virtually free 160-acre parcels of land in return for living on the land and making modest improvements. The United States appeared to offer many compelling economic opportunities that pulled immigrants dissatisfied with their homelands to our eastern shores and from there, westward.

Immigrants who were not farmers also felt the pull of good jobs in the many industries and factories springing up in the late 1800s. The letters that immigrants sent home were circulated among family and friends and were sometimes published in newspapers. "America Fever" also spread via advertising by steamship companies, trying to drum up business.

Late 19th-century American factory growth (c. 1870–1900) saw the U.S. transform into the world's leading industrial power through mass production, rapid railroad expansion, and technological innovation. Driven by cheap labor (immigrants/migrants), abundant natural resources, and, the trust system, manufacturing output soared, causing urban population growth and a shift from agriculture to wage-based labor.⁷

This was known generally as America's gilded age, a time when the mansions of New York and other cities were built by the craftsmen of Europe who came here for a better life and better opportunities. In addition, the “iron horse” (trains) proliferated across the country making travel easier and safer. Native Americans had largely been either eliminated, assimilated or moved onto reservations in faraway areas. And the steel, iron and oil industrial boom meant many jobs for all who would apply.⁸

There was also freedom of religion and democracy. Coming first through New York, the areas of Wisconsin, Minnesota, the Dakotas and other northwestern states grew with Scandinavians. The concept of the “land of opportunity” led many to our country.

Although many eventually found success in the Midwest or by moving into specialized trades, their initial arrival in New York was often marked by significant financial struggle. There was no free land in New York. In New York City, those late 19th-century immigrants often struggled to find work due to intense competition for low-skilled labor and widespread discrimination against Norwegians. Many were impoverished, landless farmers or unskilled laborers seeking quick income, and they often faced language barriers that limited them to difficult, low-paying, or temporary work.

That Last Name

In the case of our family, (as told to me by my father), when many of the Norwegians emigrated to America, coming to New York and remaining there, though they found it difficult to find work.

One way to skirt this issue was to pretend to be Swedish, as the Swedes were better liked among New Yorkers. Changing the spelling of your last name to “son” instead of “sen” was a simple and painless way to help you find work. That was, at least, what was reported to me.

Our ancestor, my great grandfather, Martinius Lauritz Gabrielsen changed his first name to “Martin”, his last name to “Gabrielson” which became an Americanized spelling, so Martinius Lauritz Gabrielsen became Martin Lauritz Gabrielson.

Upon arriving in America, and entering at Ellis Island, those responsible for writing down the names of immigrants would often write them phonetically or how they sounded, thus “sen” became a more proper English “son”. We don't know if this happened but it appears the change took place after Martin arrived.

⁷ <https://study.com/academy/lesson/the-industrial-revolution-in-america-inventions-effects-quiz.html>

⁸ <https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/united-states-history-primary-source-timeline/rise-of-industrial-america-1876-1900/work-in-late-19th-century/>

Of interesting note, Martinus/Martin was not the first child in his family to bear that name. He had a brother, Martinus Lauritz Gabrielsen who was born in 1855 (ten years earlier) and died in 1860 of unknown causes. Being the next male born after the death of the first Martinus, our ancestor was given the name of his brother. This was a common practice across European and Scandinavian cultures, and even into the American states early on.

Going back to the patronymic naming system which was being used in Norway in the late 1800s, he was called Gabrielsen because his father's name was Gabriel. In fact, it was **Gabriel Christophersen**. This trend continued back in time until we reach the first ancestor that we know of at this time – Ole Larsen. Ole was born about 1760, give or take 10 years. Ole is the earliest ancestor of record right now, so let's start with **Ole Larsen**, my great, great, great, great grandfather.

In a census record in Norway from 1801, we see Ole Larssen, male, married, age 51, born 1750 and living in the city of Loten, the county of Hedmark, counting district of Hollingstad at house number 2. There were five in the household.

These generations listed below were first located by Henry M. Gabrielson, Jr. through the employ of a genealogist in Norway. This was pre-internet and language barriers then made searching very difficult if not impossible.

Please note that **direct ancestors** in this book are listed in **BOLD print**.

1. **Ole Larsen – my 4th great grandfather**

Ole Larsen (b. 1750) was married to **Gunor Erichsdatter Graneroddal** (born 1750) on May 1, 1777 in Loten, Norway. To this couple was born a son, **Christopher Olsen** (born on July 27, 1789 in Haanolt, Norway. Ole was in likelihood a farmer or whaler. They lived in Nesodden, a village on the southeastern coast of Norway, just across the bay from Oslo. It is in the county or province of Akershus. The parish of Nesodden was later established as a municipality January 1, 1838. Nesodden has a modern population of about 16,000 today.

2. **Christopher Olsen – my 3rd great grandfather**

Christopher Olsen (b. 1789) was married to **Mari (Marie) Abrahamsdatter**, in Nesodden, who was born December 3, 1797 in Sandager, which was likely in Denmark. **Mari Abrahamsdatter** was the daughter of **Abraham Hansen** (b. 1770) and **Else Andersdatter** (b. 1770) from Nesodden, Akershus, Norway. Born to Christopher Olsen and Mari on December 26, 1821 (in Høybråten, Nesodden, Akershus County, Norway) was a son, **Gabriel Christophersen**.

3. **Gabriel Christophersen – my 2nd great grandfather**

This begins the start of our family name – Gabriel Christophersen. There were also other siblings to Gabriel, including Andreas (b. 1824) who died in infancy, another Andreas (b. 1826), a son Christian (b. 1830), as well as stillborn twins about 1830. It was not uncommon to name a child born later after one who perished in childhood.

Gabriel Christophersen (b. 1821) married first to Berthe Marie Syversdatter (b. 1826) on May 5, 1849 at Oslo, Norway. To Gabriel and Berthe were born two children:

a.) Carl August Gabrielsen (b. 1848) who married Hansine Johannesen (b. 1866).

Some of the issue (children) of Carl A. Gabrielson and Hansine Johannesen (b. 1866) moved to America and settled in the Chicago area.

b.) Syverine Amalie Gabrielsdatter (b. 1850). She married Peter Anderson (1848-1924) and had issue, some of whom moved to the Becker County, Minnesota, and Portland Township, Monroe County, Wisconsin areas.

Berthe Marie Syversdatter died around 1852 at about the tender age of 26.

Gabriel Christophersen then remarried to **Helene Jensdatter** (b. 1828 in Biri, Oppland County, Melbyeeseie, Norway).

- Her parents were **Jens Larsen** (b. 1780) and **Johann Lisbeth Hansdatter** (b. 1800).
- They married July 8, 1854 at Gamel Aker, Menighet, Oslo, Akershus, Norway.

Born to Gabriel and Helene we have an additional line of 4th generation children:

c.) Martinius Lauritz Gabrielsen (1855-1860). Born at Nedre Foss 2, Vestre Aker, Oslo.

He died in childhood. Nedre Foss 2 means Lower Foss Farm 2.

d.) Ludvig Hagbarth Gabrielsen (1857) Born at Nedre Foss 2, Vestre Aker, Oslo.

Ludvig Gabrielsen married to Matea Thorgersdatter. They had four children.

e.) Gustava Amalie Gabrielsen (1860) Born at Nedre Foss 2, Vestre Aker, Oslo

f.) **Martinius L. Gabrielsen** born January 27, 1865 at Gamel Aker (old acre) in Oslo, Norway.

This is my great grandfather.

g.) Hanna Colette Gabrielsen (b. 1867 at Nedre Foss 2, Vestre Aker, Oslo) Hanna moved to New York City on August 15, 1895.

4. **Martinius L. Gabrielsen – our (my) great grandfather**

As mentioned previously, Martinius L. Gabrielsen was born January 27, 1865 at Gamel Aker (old acre) in Oslo, Norway. Maps indicate this to be a rural area but very close to Oslo.

We don't know much of his early life. Some records seem to indicate that he worked for the Oslo telephone company for a season, but this is unproven. It is a nice thought, however, given that his descendants worked in radio, telephone and television, and now internet businesses. Like many others, at some point Martinius decided to relocate to America.

In late 1890, Martinius moved to New York, and within me is an imaginary love story that says he could not live without his future wife, Marie. Just my romantic side, I guess!

Our Great Grandparents – Martinus L. Gabrielson and Marie Juliusdatter Grønberg

Our line of Gabrielson kin begins with **Martinus L. Gabrielson** and his future wife, **Marie Juliusdatter Grønberg**.

Martinus L. Gabrielsen came to America on the SS Servia, a Cunard Line ship sailing out of Liverpool UK, and arriving in New York on December 15th, 1890. It was the second largest ship in the world at the time (some 515 feet long with a beam of 52 feet, and capable of 10,300 hp.) He was then 25 years old. The ship supported a crew of 298 and capacity of 480 in first class, and an additional 750 in the steerage areas. She was the first ocean liner to specialize in passenger transportation, and had electrical lighting.⁹

Martinus already knew **Marie Juliusdatter Grønberg** as evidenced by his gift of a book to her in 1887, which would have been in Norway. It is possible they attended the same church. We don't know if they dated in Norway, but a gift from Martinus to Marie provides some evidence of more than a friendly connection. I have in my possession a leatherbound book that Martinus gave to Marie in 1887. The title of the book is "Bible Women" or Bibelens Kvinder in Norwegian. It was evidently a gift from Martinus to Marie by the inscription. It was inscribed, Marie Gronberg – Erindring fra Martinus Gabrielsen, Christiania, 16 du September, 1887. This literally translates as "Recollection from Martinus Gabrielson, Christiania (Oslo)." It is difficult to know what "recollection" actually means in this context, but AI seems to indicate that it is saying, "remember me, or remember an occasion."

The book is a collection, as best I can tell, of Bible stories about the women in the Bible. The book is in Norwegian. The cost of the book would have been about 25 Norwegian Krone, equal to about 3 days wages, so it was not an insignificant gift. The book also indicates that the two knew each other by 1887 in Norway. It was five years before they married in 1893. It took him some time to convince her that he was the right one, no doubt!

Martinus was by trade a machinist. At the time of his death at age 52, he was 5'7", blue eyes, brown hair, and resided at 230 53rd St., Brooklyn NY. Before his death he became a naturalized US citizen (in 1916.) He died on August 1, 1917 in Brooklyn. He died from "acute congestion of the lungs" which seems to be pneumonia in today's language. Martinus and Marie are both buried at Linden Hill Cemetery, Metropolitan Ave, Ridgewood - Queens, NY 11385. (note – there are 2-3 cemeteries in NY named Linden Hill).

When **Marie Juliusdatter Grønberg** was born on June 21, 1865, in Oslo, Norway, her father, Julius **Grønberg**, was 30, and her mother, Annette Reuyiss, was 28. She was baptized on August 6, 1865 at Strømsø, Buskerud, Norway. In 1875, the family had moved to Akershus, a suburb of Oslo. We know little of her upbringing.

⁹ Wikipedia reference, SS Servia, Nov. 5, 2020.

Prior to the marriage of Martinus Gabrielsen and Marie Juliusdatter Grønberg, Marie, at the age of 24 had been involved with another man during the 1898-1889 period. She became pregnant by this man, and decided to move to New York, possibly for a fresh start. The baby was born in January 1890. The child's father is believed to be Alexander Coarsi (a Spaniard).

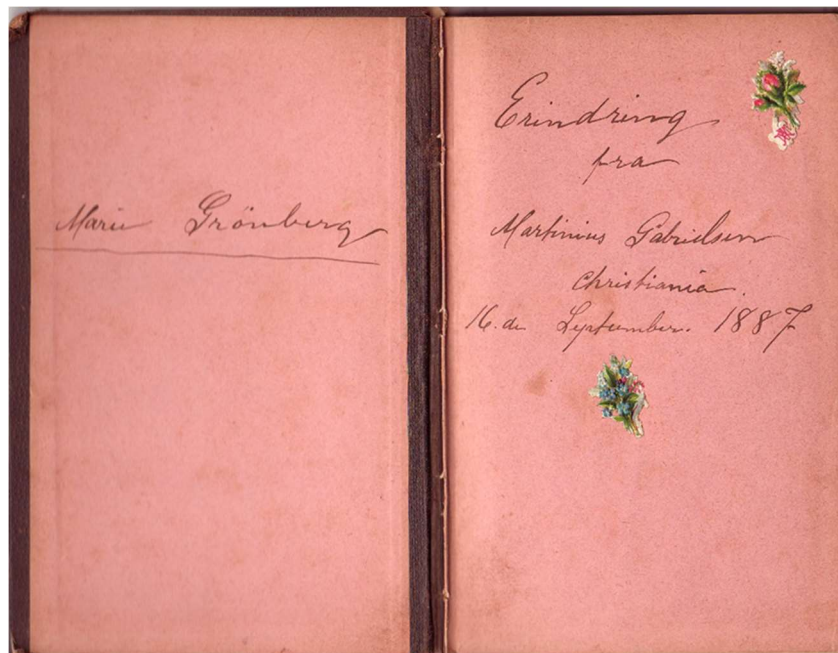
The child's full name was Pauline Irene Bernahdotte Gronberg (nee Coarsi). She born on January 7th, 1890 in New York City. As Pauline was "illegitimate", her baptism record listed her name as *Pauline Gronberg* and her mother Miss Maria Gronberg. There is no father listed. In the Lutheran church record book, the word "Miss" is underlined.

We do not know if Martinus was aware of Marie's illegitimate daughter, Pauline, being born, in January of 1890, prior to his move to New York. Regardless, it did not seem to change his feelings for Marie. Marie was in New York for at least a year before Martinus moved there.

It was some two years after they were both in New York before they married. **Martinus Lauritz Gabrielsen** and **Marie Juliusdatter Grønberg** married on the 14th day of January, 1893, at Port Lutheran Church in New York City by Pastor Mauritz Stolpe. Dr. Stolpe was the minister at the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Gustavus Adolphus at that time, so that may have been the actual marriage location, with "Port" being a nickname for the church. Martinus (Martin) was living at lot 176 in Greenwich and Marie simply listed her address as New York City.

The wedding was witnessed by Aagot A. Gronberg, a sister of Marie, as well as an Aron Ingram. Both Martinus and Marie were 28 years of age.

The year after **Martinus and Marie Gabrielson** married, in 1894, they had a son together, **Henry Martin Gabrielson**. They lived as a family along with Pauline (from Marie's previous relationship).



Chapter 2

The Grönberg Family Line & a Bit of Area History

My 7th Great Grandparents - Halfvard Hansson & Margeta Olufsdotter

Our Grönberg family line begins in the records about 1678 with the birth of **Halfvard Hansson**, in Holmedal, Årjäng, Värmland, Sweden.

Halfvard Hansson, my 7th great grandfather, lived in a farming community, and was married to **Margeta Olufsdotter** around 1706 at Holmedal, Sweden. They had at least 6 children before Halfvard died on November 8, 1741 at his home place in Holmedal, Värmland, Sweden, at the age of 63. **Margeta Olufsdotter** was born in 1689 in Holmedal, Värmland, Sweden. She died on December 28, 1772, in Holmedal, Värmland, Sweden, having lived a long life of 83 years.

SIDEBAR Holmedal is a village in Askvoll Municipality in Vestland county, Norway today. The village is located on the northern shore of the Dalsfjorden, about 7 kilometers (4.3 mi) east of the village of Askvoll. The village has some industries, such as a knife factory, Helle Fabrikker. Holmedal Church is also located here.

At one time this area was considered Danish, or Swedish, then later Norwegian. "There's always been a cultural divide between the different regions in Scandinavia. One of the few contemporary sources from actual Scandinavians during the Viking age, the travels of Othere from Halogaland - written down by the court of Wessex, Othere tells us that he lives "the furthest north of all Northmen". This tells us that the idea of Norwegians (or Northmen, that the Norwegians today call themselves) as a separate people from Danes and Swedes existed already in the 9th century - before the first Norwegian kingdom. Exactly where the cultural border went is uncertain, and most likely was the Scandic area, the Oslofjord region is a cultural border area, with influences from Norwegian, Danish and Swedish culture. However, Scandinavians in western Norway during the 9th century definitely saw themselves as Norwegians, those in eastern Sweden as Swedes, and those in Sjælland and Jylland as Danes.

When the Kingdom of Norway went into personal union with Denmark from the 14th century, the kingdom had existed for 400 years, and never really disappeared as a formal kingdom. Even though Norwegian independence within the union gradually reduced (especially with the reformation in Denmark in 1536, and the introduction of absolute monarchy in 1660) the Danish kings still went with the title of Kings of Denmark and Norway - even though Norway was supposed to be treated like any other Danish province. The point is that Norwegian identity remained, with several sources throughout our union history insisting on their Norwegian identity.

Therefore, when the Treaty of Kiel demanded that Norway was to be handed over to Sweden at the end of the Napoleonic Wars, it was received as an insult by many Norwegian elites. It implied that Norway was a province to be handed over, and not a kingdom in a union. Therefore, a national awakening culminated in the creation of the Norwegian constitution on the 17th of May 1814, that declared Norway an independent kingdom and state. This created a very loose union with Sweden the same year, but it was plagued by Norwegian separatism from beginning to end.

To conclude: Norwegian identity has existed at least since the Viking age, and the Norwegian Kingdom as a conceived idea was not really challenged until the Treaty of Kiel, where Norway was to be handed away like a province. This sparked a national awakening that led to creation of its own constitution and the beginning of the modern Norwegian state, which would later result in its final independence in 1905.”¹⁰

My 6th Great Grandparents - Lars Halfvardsson & Karin Rasmusdotter / Raymusdtr

The line continues with their son **Lars Halfvardsson** (or Halfarsson), (my 6th great grandfather) born about 1709 at Holmedal, Årjäng, Värmland, Sweden. A survey and census showed him living on the village or farm of Hällesrud. He married **Karin Rasmusdotter / Raymusdtr** on 26 December 1769. Lars died on October 30, 1817 at Kongsberg, Buskerud, Norge (Norway). Karin was born October 14, 1717 and died June 19, 1773, both at Holmedal, , Värmland, Sweden. **Karin Rasmusdotter**, my 6th Great Grandmother, was from a Norwegian royal family lineage. (see below)

My 5th Great Grandparents - Rasmus Larsson Grønberg & Anne Olsdatter Hermandsen Stixrud

The children of Lars and Karin include **Rasmus Larsson Grønberg (1755-1817)**. The name of Gronberg was likely added due to it being a farm or region where they lived, to differentiate between one family and another of the same name as Rasmus Larsson. Rasmus Larsson's (Gronberg) occupation in the 1801 census was a master carpenter.

“The surname Gronberg has its roots in Scandinavian heritage, particularly within Sweden and Norway. The name is derived from the Old Norse elements grón, meaning green, and berg, meaning mountain or hill. This suggests a geographical origin, likely referring to individuals who lived near or on a green hill or mountain. The surname first appeared in historical records during the medieval period, with its usage becoming more common as surnames became standardized in the 19th century. Occupations associated with the name may have included farming or land management, reflecting the agrarian lifestyle of the region. The name embodies a connection to nature, indicative of the landscapes that shaped the lives of those who bore it.”¹¹

When Rasmus Larsson Grønberg was born on October 24, 1755, in Holmedal, Värmland, Sweden, his father, Lars, was 46 and his mother, Karin, was 38. He married **Anne Olsdatter Hermandsen Stixrud** on May 17, 1785, in Kongsberg, Buskerud, Norway. They had eight children in 19 years. He died on October 30, 1817, in Kongsberg, Buskerud, Norway, at the age of 62.

SIDEBAR

Holmedal is a small community situated in Värmland, Sweden. In the year 1755, the village and its surroundings reflected typical Swedish rural life during the 18th century.

The economy largely depended on agriculture and forestry. People lived in close-knit communities, relying heavily on agrarian practices. Men and women worked together in fields; men primarily performed heavier labor, while women managed household tasks, shaped by societal roles and expectations.

¹⁰ https://www.reddit.com/r/AskHistorians/comments/1apna2o/why_did_sweden_and_norway_develop_into_two/

¹¹ <https://lastnames.myheritage.com/last-name/gronberg>

Christianity, especially Lutheranism, was central to daily life. Church gatherings were important religious and social events for families. People of all ages attended services, which strengthened community bonds and shared values.

The population included Swedes and minority groups such as the indigenous Sámi people. Social structures often guided their interactions. Class distinctions were marked yet communities supported each other, fostering resilience amid ecological challenges.

Holmedal in 1755 encompassed rustic, faith-driven living with a strong emphasis on community ties. Economic, social, and religious frameworks defined life for diverse residents in this Swedish rural setting.

Kongsberg's mining community, with its mix of Norwegian and foreign workers, influenced fashion. Both middle and working classes wore garments suitable for the rugged environment, albeit without fancy embellishments present in affluent societies.¹²

Rasmus Larsson Grønberg (5th ggf) married **Anne Olsdatter Hermadsen** on May 17, 1785. Anne was born on March 10, 1759 at Kongsberg, Buskerud County, Norway and died January 1814 at the same area. She was the daughter of **Ole Hermadsen** (1716-1782) and **Marthe Thoresdatter Stixrud** (1733-1785). Rasmus and Anne had eight children including **Lars Rasmussen Grønberg**.

My 4th Great Grandparents - Lars Rasmussen Grønberg & Maren Kristine Larsdatter

When **Lars Rasmussen Grønberg** was born on October 28, 1786, in Kongsberg, Buskerud, Norway, his father, Rasmus, was 31 and his mother, Anna, was 27. Lars married **Maren Kristine Larsdatter** and they had six children together. **Maren Larsdatter** was the daughter of **Lars Christoffersen** (born about 1757, d.1801) and **Anne Thomasdatter Berg** born 22 April 1770 at Sandsvær, Buskerud, Norway. Lars and Maren had 6 children, one of them being **Johan Grønberg**. In 1810 Lars occupation (age 24) was as a shoemaker, by 1821 he was a police officer.

Maren Kristine Larsdatter died in 1840 and Lars Rasmussen Grønberg then married **Anne Karine Sørum** on November 7, 1841. He died on January 19, 1872, in Stromso Parish, Drammen, Buskerud, Norway, having lived a long life of 85 years.

SIDEBAR: KONGSBERG NORWAY

What was Kongsberg, Buskerud, Norway like at this time?

In 1817, Kongsberg was a key mining town in Norway. Established in 1624 by King Christian IV, the town's economy centered around silver mining. Silver from Kongsberg was vital in minting Norwegian currency. The Royal Norwegian Mint was established here due to abundant resources.

Kongsberg had a diverse community, with miners, craftsmen, and families. Education was valued, fostering a literate populace. The region's culture blended urban and rural influences, with traditional Norwegian customs prevalent.

Infrastructure development included mining facilities, residential structures, and religious institutions like the Kongsberg Church. Buildings reflected both functionality and Nordic architectural styles.

My 3rd Great Grandparents - Johan Grønberg & Marthe Karine Steen

¹² Norsk Folkemuseum; Tradisjonsklær i Kongberg

When Johan Grønberg was born on December 15, 1810, in Drammen, Buskerud, Norway, his father, Lars, was 24 and his mother, Maren, was 18. Johan married **Marthe Karine Steen** in his hometown of Drammen on December 30, 1827. They had nine children in 21 years. He died in 1865 at the age of 55. Marthe, who was born in 18004 in Drammen, also lived until 1865 or shortly thereafter. Her parents were **Steen Nilsen** (1780-?) and **Else Hansdatter**, who married in 1803 at Bragernes, Norway.

Johan's occupation was listed as a musician in 1832, but by 1835 we see him as a police officer, following in his father's footsteps. It was in 1835 that Marthe gave birth to **Julius Grønberg**, my 2nd great grandfather. Johan continued in police work at least until 1838 and possibly until 1849, when we find him working as a civil servant working for the city. Julius was the 4th of nine children to the couple. It would seem that civil service paid off well for Johan and his family. Johan and Marthe lived in Strømsø, Buskerud, Norge (Norway).

SIDEBAR

Drammen, located in Buskerud, Norway, was a bustling river town in 1835. It played a crucial role as a center for shipping, trade, and industry in the region. The Drammen River facilitated transport and trade of timber and other goods. Its favorable location supported businesses, especially related to sawmills and wood export. Sources indicate diverse participation among locals in developing trades and industry. The year 1835 saw varied cultural practices shaped by Norwegian traditions. Known for Lutheran Christian roots, Drammen had thriving church communities. Residents, including farmers and tradespeople, contributed to a vibrant local culture with festivities and gatherings. While the majority were ethnic Norwegians, Drammen was beginning to see some diversity. Social hierarchy was notable, with a mix of family farmers and emerging middle-class merchants. It reflects on the inclusive city growth when considering religious and ethnic backgrounds.

My 2nd Great Grandparents: Julius Grønberg & Annette Laurentse Reuiss

When **Julius Grønberg** was born on June 15, 1835, in Strømsø, Drammen, Buskerud, Norway, his father, Johan, was 24 and his mother, Marthe, was 31. He married **Annette Laurentse Reuyiss** on October 28, 1860, in Bragernes, Buskerud, Norway. They had nine children in 28 years. He died on August 1, 1891, in Grünerløkka, Oslo, Norway, at the age of 56.

Annette Laurentse Reuyiss was born in 1837 at Nordre Lands, Oppland County, Prestegjæl Parish, Norway and lived until after 1900. She was the daughter of **Gunder Reüss** (born about 1796 in Norway) and **Johanne Johnsdtr** (born about 1807 at Sehjellunger (the Seven Sisters mountain range near Sandnessjøen in Nordland County.)

In 1870, Julius, Annette and their children lived on Tøien Gaden Street in Kristiania (Oslo), house number 14. Living with them was my great grandmother, **Marie Juliusdatter Grønberg**, who was at the time 5 years old. Another of their children, Aagot "Olga" Grønberg (b. 1863 Drammen Norway) also emigrated to the United States, marrying John Johnson. They lived in Brooklyn.

Drammen in 1835 was a growing river port town in Buskerud, Norway, centered on timber exports, river traffic, and trade along the Drammenselva River. It was part of the young Norwegian state formed after

1814, still in union with Sweden, with laws shaped by the 1814 Constitution. The population was about 5,500 in the town; with more in surrounding rural districts.¹³

The town featured a majority of ethnic Norwegians; however, there were small communities of Danish, German, and other European merchants and skilled workers. Lutheranism was the state religion; Jews and some Christian groups faced legal restrictions until later reforms.

The main industries were timber, sawmills, shipbuilding, river transport, and coastal trade, as documented in contemporary trade statistics and port records. Men commonly worked as log drivers, sailors, craftsmen, traders; many women worked in households, small trade, textile work, and farm tasks. Social classes included merchants, shipowners, craftsmen, laborers, and tenant farmers; poor relief was limited and locally administered.

The town consisted mainly of wooden houses, with warehouses along the river. Several bridges linked Bragernes and Strømsø and frequent fire risks were recorded in local archives. It was governed by municipal authorities under national law; with both church and state closely connected. The infrastructure included basic schooling under church oversight, a simple health care program from local doctors and midwives.

OUR ROYALTY CONNECTIONS

Here is the line from the Grønberg family back to the [sparrestjerne] and [halv-lilja] noble families. I have attached the Halv lilja and Sparrestjerne coat of arms. Also, there is an article in Värmlands Anor 2005:3 (in Norwegian) about Brynte Olsson which traces the family back to 1353. See: <http://www.varmlandsrotter.se/>

1. **Johan Grønberg** (1810-1865) was the son of **Lars Rasmussen Grønberg** and **Maren Kristine Larsdatter**.
2. **Lars Rasmussen Grønberg** (1786-1872) was the son of **Rasmus Larsson Grønberg** and **Anne Olsdatter Stixrud**.
3. **Rasmus Larsson Grønberg** (1755-1817) was the son of **Lars Halvfarsson** and **Karin Rasmusdotter**
4. **Karin Rasmusdotter** (1717-1773) was the daughter of **Rasmus Andersson** and **Karin Gunnarsdotter**.
5. **Karin Gunnarsdotter** (c.1690-1762) was the daughter of **Gunnar Övensson** and **N. Bryntesdotter**
6. **Ingeborg** (or Possibly **N. Bryntesdotter** (? –bef.1728) was the daughter of **Brynte Olsson** and **Elin Bryntesdotter**
7. **Brynte Olsson** (c.1628-1702) was the son of **Oluf Jönsson** and **Ingrid Bryntesdotter**
8. **Ingrid Bryntesdotter** (? -aft.1668) was the daughter of **Brynte Segolsson** and **(unknown) Olsdotter**
9. **(unknown) Olsdotter** (?-?) was the daughter of **Olof Jonsson** and unknown
10. **Olof Jonsson** (c.1525 – aft.1589) was the son of **Jon Gislesen** and **Ingrid Olavsdotter**

¹³ Based on 1835 Norwegian census.

11. **Princess Ingrid Olavsdotter** was the daughter of **Olav Amundsen** [Sparrestjerne] or **Holter** (c. 1440- c.1510) in Holter i Fenstad sogn, Nes Romerike, Akershus, Norge and wife Bothild Svendsdotter [Halv Lilja]

12. **Olav Amundsen** [Sparrestjerne] or **Holter** (c. 1440- c.1510) was my 15th great grandfather.

The genealogical history of Olav Amundsen Holter (c. 1440/1445 – c. 1503/1510) is tied to the lower nobility (væpner/armigerous) of medieval Norway, specifically identified by the "Stjerne under Sparre" (Star under Chevron) coat of arms. **Olav Amundsen Holter** was a Norwegian Knight at Arms.

Family Tree and Origins

Olav Amundsen Holter was the son of **Amund Jonsson Holter** (c. 1415–1475), a Squire (væpner) at Holter in Nes, and **Gyrid Hallvardsdatter**.

His siblings included Anders Amundson Holter (c. 1435–1513) and Mats Amundson Holter.

Olav is famously recorded in 1499 for paying a significant fine following the 1497 murder of Lasse Skjold, a prominent royal official. He is mentioned as a man "of arms" (våpen) in a 1491 letter from Eidsvoll, confirming his status among the local elite.

He was married to **Bothilda Svendsdotter** (sometimes cited as **Botilda Svendsdotter Halv Lilja**), reportedly around 1479. A Halv Lilja is a modern conventional name for a Swedish medieval noble family that took its name from the ancestor who was a nobleman.

The family was based at the Holter farm in Fenstad sogn, Nes, Romerike (Akershus). Holter was the name of a farm they lived on, and hence became a part of their family name. He had the farm Holter around 1475 in Nes in Romerike.

As noted, **Olav Amundsson Holter** married **Bothilda Svendsdotter** who was the daughter of **Knight Svend Jonsson and Ingeborg Toresdotter** from Stola Manor in Kålland, and they lived in Dingelvik in Vädbo Härad on Dal. They were Swedish and Knight Svend (Sven) Jonsson (Jonsen) (Halv Lilje) is listed as a warrior.

Bothilda's eldest sister, Ragnhild Svendsdotter, married the son of the Häradshövding in Väne härad; Gudmund Torbjörnsson of the Gumsehuvud family **who are ancestors of the Nordic royal family**. Her younger sister, Karin, took over Dingelvik.

Bothilda received her inheritance in current Norway and became the progenitor of Norwegian families.¹⁴

Sven Jonsen and Ingeborg were married on 5 Oct. 1449, and Ingeborg received her morning gift on 6 October). A little of the morning letter reads as follows, to all who see or hear this letter, I greet Sven Jonsson in Dyngvik with God announcing in this letter that I have given my dear all-powerful wife Ingeborg Bytingsdatter (Toresdatter Byting) as a morning gift on the due date these below-mentioned estates on Dal. (Then come all the names of the Estates.) A morning gift in Norwegian tradition was a wedding custom dating back to the Viking Age and continuing into the Middle Ages. It was a gift given by the groom to his bride the morning after their wedding night, symbolizing the completion of the marriage contract and the groom's commitment to her. It could have been property, jewelry, livestock or some other valuable, but remained her property should she become widowed.

¹⁴ Boken Steneby, <http://www.catshamans.se/m07medelor/07medelt.htm>

Sven (Svend) Jonsen (Jonsson) received 5 mantals in Daladelen.¹⁵ **Ingeborg Toresdatter's** morning gift (wedding gift) was one sixth of Sven's inheritance on Dal, with Dyngvik as a seat estate. Bothilda received her inheritance in Norway. (That is, she owned multiple family estates in Norway.)

Dyngvik or Dingelvik is a small village in Bengtfors municipality, Västra Götaland county, in the district of Steneby Socken, Älvsborg, Sweden.

My 16th Great Grandfather Amund Jonsen Holter – lived mid 1400s

Amund Jonsen Holter, son of **Jon Holtesen** and **Unknown**, was born in Ænes, Kvinnherad, Hordaland and died after 1475 in Fenstad nordre, Nes, Akershus. He lived at Romerike. He was the Envoy from Romerike to the royal election in Lödöse 1482 when Christoffer of Bavaria was elected king.

Amund Jonsen Holter was known as the Squire Armorer, or Armor Bearer to the King. In Swedish it is called a väpnare, and was in the High and Late Middle Ages a term for a nobleman who had not been knighted. There was no legal difference between squires and knights, but the difference was social: The squires constituted the lower class.

The distinction between squires and knights arose in the Nordic countries in the 13th century, following the pattern in the European states further south, where knighthood was a prerequisite for being called a knight. During the 13th century, the division was gradually introduced in Norway to replace the old noble classes described in Hirdskrå. For squires, the term “sveinar á vápn” (plural) was first used, while “väpnare” appears around 1400. In Danish, the terms “svend and knabe” were also used.

A squire was originally a young nobleman who, in preparation for knighthood, served a knight and looked after his weapons. The squire wore silver spurs as a sign of his position. Later, squire became the lowest rank within the knighthood.

In Norway in the late Middle Ages, the nobility was divided into two ranks: knights and squires. The title of knight gave the highest rank.¹⁶

The Holter Farm

Beautifully situated on top of a hill lies Gamel Hvam. With such a location, the houses were dry, and the fields below received manure from stables and barns. With a clear view to all sides, one could follow the work in the fields and see people approaching the farm along the village road.

Today the Gamel Hvam Museum consists mainly of the former large farm Store Hvam. There has been a permanent settlement and farming here for more than 1500 years. The farm was privately owned until 1908. The buildings are currently owned by Viken County Municipality. Gamel Hvam is part of the foundation MiA - Museums in Akershus.

Rich farmers lived at Hvam; the buildings here were considerably larger than was usual elsewhere in the village. Today, the farm looks the way it must have looked around 1820, when the youngest house on the farm - what we now call the Yellow Building - was erected. The magnificent svalgang building and the

¹⁵ The Mantals record got its name from the word *mantal*, which in early days indicated the size of the farm being enough to sustain one family. Around the year 1630, it took on the meaning of a measure for the assessing of taxes, and thus a farm is measured in ½ mantal, ¼ mantal, etc.

¹⁶ <https://www.geni.com/people/Olav-Amundsen-Holter/6000000006996826878>

majestic barn were probably considered status symbols in their time. Unknown people who traveled the village road past Hvam quickly realized that this was where the nobility lived.

The large timber buildings are harmoniously and well-proportioned to each other. A large shed divides the yard at Gamle Hvam in two. Around the shed we find the outbuildings, which were houses for the people on the farm. Below the shed is the outbuilding with houses for animals, feed and crops. There is a proud farm tree which stands as it has for several hundred years.

Artists such as Dagfin Werenskiold and Henrik Sørensen have drawn inspiration from this land for several of their illustrations in Asbjørnsen's and Moe's folk tales. In the magnificent svalgangs building from the late 1720s, there are rich interior exhibitions that show how the great farmer of Romerike lived in ancient times. If you visit, take the time to listen and imagine the times of the past! Maybe you'll hear the footsteps of Christen Hellesen who lived here 350 years ago? Or can you imagine the powerful Anne Antonidatter, who hid a silver treasure under the floor in the southern living room?

The spacious yard is a great place to relax from a busy and hectic everyday life. Visitors to the museum particularly express their appreciation for the calm, relaxed atmosphere they experience here.

For those wishing to do more research, the VARMLANDS genealogical site is at

<https://start.varmlandsrotter.se/>



Svendsdotter



Holter

Chapter 4

The Fournier Family Line – Our French Canadian Family

The Founder of our Fournier Family in America – Nicolas Fournier, my 7th Great Grandfather

Nicolas Michael Fournier, the founding member of our family in America, came from St-Etienne de Marans, diocese of La Rochelle, in Aunis, France (known today as the Department of Charente-Maritime, Region of Poitou-Charentes). He was born in 1652, the son of **Hugues Fournier and Jeanne Huguette**. Nicolas, being the first Fournier in North America, arrived in Quebec on May 25, 1664 on the ship "Le Noir de Hollande", having a three-year contract for work in this new country. In the 1666 Quebec Census, he is declared as being 24 years old and a male servant for Louis Fontaine, the ship's pilot. He worked as a domestic for Louis Fontaine and also for Jacques Hedouin.

After his work contract ended, Nicolas Fournier signed a marriage contract on September 8th, 1670 with **Marie Catherine Hubert**, a daughter of the late **Pierre Hubert and Bonne Brie**, originally from St. Sulpice, in Paris. Marie arrived in New-France (Quebec) in 1670 with a group of other women sent to marry the men settlers there. They were known as Les Filles du Roi or the "King's Daughters" because the King funded their trip to the new land to find and marry the French men there. There were less than 800 of these young women sent to "New France" to become wives for the men already settled there.

New France, at its start, was populated mostly by men: soldiers, fur traders, and missionary priests. Settlers began to develop farms and by the mid-17th century, there was a severe imbalance between single men and women in New France. The small number of female immigrants had to pay their own passage, and few single women wanted to leave home to move and settle in the harsh climate and conditions of New France. At the same time, officials noted the population growth of the competing English colonies, which had more families, and they worried about France's ability to maintain its territorial claims in the New World.¹⁷

Nicolas Fournier married Marie Catherine Hubert, in the Beauport Chapel, on September 30th, 1670. Then, our ancestor Nicolas bought a piece of land in Bourg-Royal, in 1670. Later, he enlarged his land by forty arpents, in 1682 and again in 1684 he acquired of another piece of land of forty arpents. (An arpent is a measure of land, approximately an acre.) It took years of work for a man who had to raise a family to clear that much land by hand.

SIDE NOTE: It's worth noting here that most of the women of this period were given a Baptismal name of "Marie" or "Maria." They did not use this name in life, but in the official baptismal document "Marie/Maria" is noted, a tribute to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Likewise, many of the men are given the Baptismal names of either Joseph (Josepth) or Jean-Baptist (John the Baptist) to honor the earthly father of Jesus or the forerunner of Jesus. Our grandmother, on her Baptismal record, is listed as Maria-Anita Fournier. Her first name in life, however, was Anita.

¹⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King%27s_Daughters

The Fournier Association of America is an organization based in Canada and made up of descendants of all those named Fournier who came to New France or the United States. The original number is small, consisting of 42 people, of whom twenty-two were soldiers and twenty-five married. The rest never married or had known issue (children). Our direct ancestor, **Nicolas Fournier**, was an early settler and one of the more prominent ones.

"One of a number of immigrants to Québec with the surname of Fournier, our ancestor **Nicolas Fournier** is one of the ancestors of many modern-day Fourniers in Québec and the United States (not to mention his descendants with other surnames through his female progeny). The Association of Fourniers of America states he has the second-highest number of Fournier descendants of the eleven men with that surname who immigrated to the early Québec colony.

Our ancestor, Nicolas, was from the St-Etienne parish in the commune of Marans in the Charente-Maritime district of France. We know who his parents are from his marriage record - they were Hugues Fournier and Jeanne Huguette. Researchers have unearthed information on his siblings in the parish of St-Etienne, but note many holes in the parish records; his own baptismal record has not been found.

The first definite instance of the existence of Nicolas Fournier is the evidenced signing of a contract. These agreements were typically to be transported to the colony, work for three years, and at the end of the indenture period, the worker could either return to France or remain in Québec. Nicolas Fournier signed his contract on the 18th of February in 1664 and arrived in Québec on the 25th May of that same year. The ship he arrived on was called *Le Noir de Hollande*.

Nicolas is next found in the census of 1666, working as a servant for a sea captain named Louis Fontaine. The following year, he is found working as a hired servant for Jacques Hedouin in Charlesbourg; the indenture period would have been completed about that time. Nicolas apparently liked what he saw in Charlesbourg, and decided to remain there. By 1670 he had accumulated enough to be able to begin a family. An arrival of a ship in 1670 with a cargo of "Fille du Rois" (King's Daughters) brought his future wife. He signed a marriage contract on the 8th of September, 1670, and on the 30th of September he and **Marie Hubert**, (daughter of the late **Pierre Hubert** and **Bonnie Brie**) were married. Marie and her family were from Paris, the parish of St-Sulpice. They were married in the chapel of Beauport, and the marriage was recorded in the registry of the parish of Notre-Dame-de-Québec.

By 1681 the census notes that the farm had eight arpents (an old measure which approximates to an acre) of land under cultivation, and three cows. It also notes that the family had grown. There is some irregularity of the names and ages of the children on the census, but parish birth records show four children born by that time.

An industrious man, Nicolas purchased another 40 arpents in 1682, and yet another 40 in 1684. Another two children were born, bringing the family to three boys and three girls. Tragedy struck the family in November 1687, only two months after the youngest child was born, as Nicolas passed away. Circumstances are not known, but the Charlesbourg parish register records the death 30 November 1687 and burial the following day in the parish cemetery. Nicolas was 35 years old, Marie-Catherine was 32.

At this time of Québec's history, a widow with young children and a farm to run would typically remarry quickly. Perhaps Nicolas' industriousness left her with the wherewithal to manage for a time without

having to do so. It was not until three and a half years after her husband's death, that Marie-Catherine Hubert married Jean Gachet, a soldier. Jean did not join with the Fournier-Hubert family with their love for Québec, and planned a return to France. The five elder children remained with the family farm, inherited by the oldest son, Michel, and young Jeanne accompanied her mother and her new husband back to France. Nothing more is known about them from this point. The surviving marriage records of four of the five children who remained and married in Québec note her name, but do not mention that she is known to be no longer living (their father is mentioned as deceased).

The oldest daughter, Marie-Madeline, married twice. First she wed Pierre Grondin (1650-1729), with whom she had five children. The second marriage was to Jean Baptiste Franche Gens (with no children from this marriage). Her birth and first marriage records are lost, but the relationship to her parents is established by a notary act at the time of her first marriage.

Michel (1674-1711), also known as “Germain” was the eldest son, and married Marie-Catherine Beriau. It seems she was a widow of a man named Poiter. Michel and Marie-Catherine had three children, a son and two daughters. The son's birth record is the only trace of him, he probably died young, and there are no known descendants from him. The daughters both married.

Ambroise-Francoise (1677-1717) married three times. Her first marriage, To Pierre Lefebvre dit Boulanger, produced ten children, only four of whom survived infancy or childhood to marry. Five of the seven children from her second marriage to Antoine Blaise lived to marry. Her last marriage to Pierre Corriveau did not produce any children.

Jean Baptiste (1680-1735) married once, to Marie Madeleine Fradet dit Fournier. PRDH verifies eight children, five of whom survived to adulthood to marry. Two of their sons, Michel and Pierre, are noted to have left a large number of descendants in the Ontario and Outaouais regions.

Jacques George Fournier – my 6th ggf (1684-1767) married once, to **Marie-Francoise Blanchon**. They had fifteen children. Their male descendants settled in Bellechasse, Dorchester and Beauce, and further into New England and Manitoba.

Nicolas Fournier lived a brief life of 35 years, but his name lives on in many of his descendants.”¹⁸ Nicolas was the progenitor of many of the Fournier family in the Americas. He died on November 1, 1687 at Bourg Royal, Charlesbourg, Quebec.

My 7th Great Grandmother - Marie-Catherine Hubert

Marie-Catherine Hubert, was a “Fille du Roi, or King’s Daughter, and was born December 4, 1655 at Germaine, Marne, Champagne-Ardenne, France. She arrived in New France in 1670 at an age near 15. A “King's Daughter” is an expression; in French it is “Filles du roi” or “girls for marrying”. At the time of her arrival in Quebec (sometimes referred to as “New France”), the area was largely populated by men. Marie was the daughter of Pierre Hubert and Bonnie Brie of St. Sulpice, near Paris, France.

“The Filles du Roi, or King's Daughters, were some 768 women who arrived in the colony of New France (Canada) between 1663 and 1673, under the financial sponsorship of King Louis XIV of France. Most were single French women and many were orphans. Their transportation to Canada and settlement in the

¹⁸ The Fournier Association of America <https://association-fournier.com/nicolas-fournier/>
<http://www.fichierorigine.com>; <http://www.genealogie.org/ancetres/gen0.htm>

colony were paid for by the King. Some were given a royal gift of a dowry of 50 livres for their marriage to one of the many unmarried male colonists in Canada. A livre was one pound of silver at that time. These 50 livres could purchase at that time a single cow, a horse, or 1 sheep and 9 pigs. In today's (2026) US dollars it would be worth about \$2500. These gifts are reflected in some of the marriage contracts entered into by the Filles du roi at the time of their first marriages.

The Filles du Roi were part of King Louis XIV's program to promote and populate the settlement of his colony in Canada. Some 737 of these women married and the resultant population explosion gave rise to the success of the colony. Most of the millions of people of French-Canadian descent today, both in Quebec and the rest of Canada and the USA (and beyond!), are descendants of one or more of these courageous women of the 17th century.”¹⁹

Nicolas and Marie-Catherine Hubert Fournier had 6 children, 3 boys: Michel, Jean, **Jacques George Fournier** and 3 daughters: Marie, Ambroise and Jeanne. This last one was born on September 30th 1687, in Charlesbourg. Nicolas died two months later, on November 30th 1687, at the age of fifty-five years. He was buried in Charlesbourg, on December 1st, 1687.

Marie-Catherine Hubert Fournier remarried, to Jean Gachet, a soldier, on February 25th 1691, in Charlesbourg. However, we lose track of this man after September of the same year. It seems that he returned to France, with **Marie-Catherine Hubert Fournier** and the youngest child Jeanne, while Michel, the oldest son remained on the land which he inherited, along with his other siblings.

Michel, the oldest son of **Nicolas** and **Marie-Catherine Hubert Fournier**, married Marie Bériault, on June 5th, 1702, in Notre-Dame Church, in Quebec. This couple had 3 children, 2 daughters who married. There is no trace of the son Michel, born in 1704 in Charlesbourg. Michel and Marie Bériault die the same year, 1711, a only a few weeks between the two deaths.

It is by their two last sons that **Nicolas Fournier** and **Marie-Catherine Hubert Fournier** have a numerous progeny in all North America. One of them was my 6th Great Grandfather – **Jacques George Fournier**.

By consulting the book "The Burrows of the St. Lawrence into 1674" by the historian Marcel Trudel and the book "Chains of Titles of the grounds of Bourg-Royal 1668-1873", Mrs. Lina Gouger from the Company of Histories de Charlesbourg, states "it is possible to locate the site of the ground (land) where the home of Nicolas Fournier lived at Bourg-Royal, in the village of Charlesbourg. One knows that Nicolas lived there in 1671, until his death which has occurred about November 30 1687. He bought the first portion of land from Jacques Heudes on 7 June 1671 and another portion from George Stems on 16 November 1684."

On page 152 of his book, Marcel Trudel mentioned concerning the home of Nicolas Fournier, the front of one half-arpent being joined with the feature-quarré (town square) with a depth that is widening until 4 arpents are parallel to the front. Today, the grounds of Nicolas Fournier would be located on and at the west of Trefflé Street in Charlesbourg.

It seems that Nicolas added several times to his land, first by buying 40 arpents in 1684 belonging to George Stems. By the time of the census of 1681, Nicolas Fournier had ground of 8 arpents and three sides of the corner (of the street). Nowadays, the grounds of Nicolas would be at the corner of the streets

¹⁹ <https://fillesduroi.org/Kings-Daughters>

of Treffle and West Tracy (north) and it is still possible in spite of the urban development to see some overgrown land there. (Rue Carre' de Tracy, Ouest - Carré de Tracy Street, West).

My 6th Great Grandparents – Jacques George Fournier & Marie-Francoise Blanchon

When **Jacques Georges Fournier** was born on May 24, 1684, in Charlesbourg, Quebec, Canada, his father, Nicolas, was 32 and his mother, Marie-Catherine, was 28. He died on January 5, 1767, in Beaumont, Quebec, Canada, having lived a long life of 82 years.

When **Marie-Francoise Blanchon** was born on September 28, 1690, her father, **Etienne LaRose Blanchon** was 58, and her mother, **Marie-Francoise Casse Blanchon**, was 23. Marie-Francoise married Jacques Georges Fournier on November 27, 1708, in Beaumont, Quebec, Canada. She died on April 29, 1768, in Beaumont, Quebec, Canada, having lived a long life of 77 years.

In 1684, the home of Jacques Fournier (Charlesbourg, Quebec) was a developing area within New France. It played an essential role in the region's cultural and economic activities.

Charlesbourg was a seigneurie, a territory under a feudal lord, where settlers and Indigenous communities coexisted, though with differing perspectives on land use. French settlers focused on agriculture and fur trading. The community reflected French cultural influences, visible in architecture and lifestyle, while showing respect for Indigenous contributions and knowledge.

The economy thrived on agriculture, particularly wheat and corn. Trade between settlers and Indigenous peoples was crucial. Society was hierarchical, with seigneurial systems dictating land distribution. Men generally held dominion over public roles, while women contributed significantly to domestic life and informal economy.

Religion played a central role, with the Catholic Church influencing daily life. Missionaries established churches and schools, promoting education and religious practice. Education was mainly accessible to the privileged, focusing on basic literacy and religious instruction. Indigenous groups often had distinct spiritual practices respected by settlers.²⁰

Jacques George and Marie Françoise Blanchon Fournier had 16 children, though one died in infancy. Their children married and their descendants established themselves in the regions of Bellechasse, Dorchester and Beauce and also in New England and in the province of Manitoba. One of their children was **Jacques Desilets Fournier** (1710/11-1779).

My 5th Great Grandparents – Jacques Fournier & Marie-Catherine Turgeon

Jacques Desilets Fournier was born in Beaumont, Quebec, Canada, in 1710, the son of Marie-Francoise and Jacques. He married Elisabeth Roy (1727-1747) and they had two children together. He then married **Marie-Catherine Turgeon** and they had ten children together. He died on August 16, 1779, in Lauzon, Quebec, Canada.

When **Marie-Catherine Turgeon** was born on March 26, 1729, in Lauzon, Quebec, Canada, her father, **Joseph Turgeon** (1687-1790), was 42, and her mother, **Marguerite Boutillet** (1702-1783), was 26. She

²⁰ Ancestry.com AI

married **Jacques Fournier** in Lévis, Quebec, Canada. They had ten children in 15 years. She died on November 18, 1765, in her hometown at the age of 36.

Beaumont, Quebec is a small community with a rich history dating back to the early 18th century. In 1710, it was part of New France, an extensive zone in North America colonized by the French.

Beaumont's residents in 1710 primarily spoke French and practiced Roman Catholicism. The society was a blend of French settlers and Indigenous peoples, including the First Nations communities, who engaged in trade and mutual exchange of knowledge.

The economy focused on agriculture, fur trading, and fishing. Men and women contributed to daily life; men often farmed, hunted, and traded, while women managed households, gardens, and contributed to crafts, such as textile making.

European settlers established a social hierarchy with seigneurs (landlords) who owned large portions of land and had rights over the tenants working it. People from various backgrounds, including different classes and expertise, worked together to sustain the community.²¹

One of their children was **Charles Frederick Fournier**.

My 4th Great Grandparents – Charles Frederick Fournier & Marie-Catherine Gonthier

Charles Frederick Fournier was born on July 18, 1755, in Lauzon, Quebec, Canada, the son of Marie-Catherine and Jacques. In 1755, Lauzon was a small farming community in New France, directly across the St. Lawrence River from Quebec City.

Lauzon was mostly rural, with vast forests and fertile land. It was located near the vital St. Lawrence River, facilitating trade and transport. The community was composed mostly of French settlers, living in small, family-centered homes and farms.

Agriculture was the primary occupation, with crops including wheat and corn. Fishing in the river and hunting were important for sustenance. Trade with Quebec City for tools and goods was common. Community life was interwoven with Catholic traditions, with the Church playing a key role.

The French Catholic culture dominated, as residents participated in religious festivals. There were strong community ties and kinship networks. Social structures were hierarchical, with seigneurs (landlords) often holding significant influence over tenant farmers.²²

Charles Frederick Fournier married Marie-Catherine Gonthier on January 21, 1783, in St-Charles-de-Bellechasse, Quebec, Canada. They had six children in 24 years. He died on June 28, 1827, at the age of 71. **Marie-Catherine Gonthier** (1762-1849) was my 4th great grandmother, and was the daughter of **Jean Francoise Gonthier** and **Marie-Catherine Genevieve Guenette**.

Charles and Marie Gonthier Fournier had six children together, including **Louis Fournier**.

My 3rd Great Grandparents – Louis Joseph Fournier & Marguerite Gosselin

²¹ Ancestry.com AI

²² Ancestry.com AI

When **Louis Joseph Fournier** was born October 1, 1793/94, at St. Charles, QC, his father, Charles, was 39 and his mother, Catherine, was 32. He married **Marguerite Gosselin** on August 1, 1815. They had nine children in 17 years. He died on April 13, 1874, having lived a long life of 80 years.

When **Marguerite Gosselin** was born on October 16, 1797, in St-Charles-de-Bellechasse, Quebec, Canada, her father, Jean, was 47, and her mother, Marguerite, was 47. She married **Louis Joseph Fournier** on August 1, 1815, in her hometown. They had nine children in 20 years. She died on July 8, 1882, in St-Charles-de-Bellechasse, Quebec, Canada, having lived a long life of 84 years.

St-Charles-de-Bellechasse, in 1794, was a small, rural parish in Quebec, Canada. This was during a time when Quebec was a British colony, following the Treaty of Paris in 1763. The population mainly comprised French-speaking settlers, with deep Roman Catholic faith. They were engaged in agriculture, with the fertile land conducive to crops. The community also included Indigenous peoples, contributing to diverse cultural interactions.

As mentioned, agriculture was the primary occupation, with families growing crops like wheat and tending livestock. The seigneurial system influenced land distribution, aligning with traditions from New France. Trade with Indigenous communities and nearby settlements was common.

Society was shaped by colonial laws. Residents would follow British governance but maintained French civil law and customs. Social structures were patriarchal, with emerging impacts of British rule noticeable in everyday life.

The children of **Louis Joseph and Marguerite Fournier** included **Firmin Fournier**.

My 2nd Great Grandparents – Firmin Fournier & Mathilde Jolivet

When **Firmin Fournier** was born on April 27, 1823, in St-Charles-de-Bellechasse, Quebec, Canada, his father, Louis, was 29 and his mother, Marguerite, was 25. He married Marie-Anne Gagnon on September 11, 1848, in St-Charles-de-Bellechasse, Quebec, Canada. He then married **Mathilde Jolivet** and they had 14 children together. He died on February 28, 1907, in his hometown, having lived a long life of 83 years.

Marie-Anne Gagnon was born on September 1, 1832, in Baie-St-Paul, Quebec, Canada, the daughter of Catherine-Esther and Roger Gagnon. She married Firmin Fournier on September 11, 1848, in St-Charles-de-Bellechasse, Quebec, Canada. She died as a teenager on May 18, 1849, in St-Charles-de-Bellechasse, Quebec, Canada.

Mathilde Jolivet was born on December 13, 1833, in St-Gervais, Quebec, Canada, the daughter of **Marie-Angele St. Pierre** and **Joseph Jolivet** (born 1807). She married **Firmin Fournier** on July 28, 1851, in her hometown. They had 14 children in 22 years. She died on January 28, 1922, in St-Charles-de-Bellechasse, Quebec, Canada, having lived a long life of 88 years.

Their children included **Arthur Edmond Fournier**, my great grandfather.

My Great Grandparents – Arthur Edmond Fournier & Marie-Louise Parent

When **Arthur Edmond Fournier** was born on June 18, 1863, in St-Charles-de-Bellechasse, Quebec, Canada, his father, Firmin Fournier, was 40 and his mother, Mathilda Jolivet, was 29.

Arthur Fournier married **Marie-Louise Parent** on January 7, 1890. They had five children during their marriage, three of whom survived to adulthood.

Arthur moved from Canada to Fall River, Massachusetts about 1887. Fall River, Massachusetts, in 1887 was a thriving industrial city known for its robust textile manufacturing industry. Fall River was a textile hub with over 114 mills, making it the leading textile producer in the U.S. Residents worked in mill jobs, where labor from diverse ethnicities, including French Canadian, Irish, Portuguese, Polish, and Jewish communities, contributed significantly to the local economy. The city had diverse neighborhoods reflecting various ethnicities, with community centers often based around churches and social clubs. Cultural narratives were enriched by immigrants bringing unique traditions and religious practices, such as Catholic Mass services and Portuguese festas.

Arthur Fournier applied for US citizenship as a naturalized citizen on September 7, 1890.

Infrastructure improvements included streetcars and railroads that facilitated movement and commerce. Housing was dense, with tenements accommodating mill workers, often leading to crowded conditions. Public works projects improved sanitation, impacting the overall health and quality of life.²³

Fall River experienced significant growth due to Irish and French-Canadian immigrants, forming distinct communities and contributing to the textile industry. In contrast, the broader U.S. saw diverse European immigrant groups, including Germans and Scandinavians, with varying regional concentrations.

Catholicism was prominently practiced in Fall River due to Irish and French-Canadian populations. Nationally, Protestant Christianity was the dominant religion, with emerging Catholic communities in urban centers due to immigration patterns.²⁴

According to his obituary, “the many friends in this city of Arthur E. Fournier, a former resident of Globe Village, will learn with regret of his death in Canada last week. He came to this city when he was a young man. He served as a grocery clerk in various stores, and later started in business for himself on East Main Street, in company with Joseph U. Gagnon. In French, the name “Fournier” means baker. Someone in the family history was likely involved in this profession, perhaps several generations of Fournier’s. A mention in the Evening Herald (Fall River Daily Herald) on Thursday September 10, 1891 listed the business of Fournier & Gagnon as *Grocers and Bakers*.

On November 21, 1890, a fire destroyed part of the business of Fournier and Gagnon.²⁵ The young men had business reverses after a few years of good business and had to close their store. Later Arthur Fournier entered the employ of the John Hancock Insurance company as a collector. He left the latter position six years ago to become clerk and bookkeeper for Victor Picard, the South Main Street furniture dealer.

While in the employ of Mr. Picard he was attacked by a strange disease which brought on general paralysis and insanity. “There was somewhat of an epidemic of this disease in the late 1800s, commonly afflicting young men in their 30s and 40s. Named GPI (general paralysis of the insane) it caused grandiose illusions, a staggering gait, disturbed reflexes, asymmetrical pupils, tremulous voice and muscular weakness. Their prognosis was bleak, most dying within months, weeks, or sometimes days of admission (to an asylum).”²⁶ He was removed to an institution in Canada, near Quebec, about two years

²³ History of Fall River" by Henry M. Fenner

²⁴ Historical census data, immigration records.

²⁵ The Fall River Evening Herald, November 22, 1890, page 4.

²⁶ *This fascinating and fatal disease* The Psychologist.org.uk by Jennifer Wallis, Vol 25, No. 10, page 790, October 2012.

ago. He left behind him a wife and two children, who were in the care of Mrs. Fournier's mother, who lives in Kingston. While living here, Mr. Fournier always took a prominent part in society affairs."²⁷

"General paralysis, as many had suspected, was the outcome of untreated syphilis that finally attacked the brain and rendered its victims utterly helpless. Today, it is commonly referred to as tertiary or neurosyphilis."²⁸

The news article goes on to report that Fournier was the first president of the Franco-American union of Globe Village and ably conducted the affairs of the society. He was "public spirited" and involved in the forefront of political campaigns. When he passed, he was about 34 years of age and his funeral was held in St. Charles, Bellechasse County, Canada. Finally, the article remembers that he was a highly educated man who was well known and well liked.

The Fall River Globe in 1896 reported that Arthur Fournier was elected a delegate for the Foresters in America society, a social benevolent group. Another group he was involved in was the St. Jean Baptist Society where he was elected as bookkeeper. Both were groups designed to help the poor, homeless and widows and children of lost souls.

He entered the grocery business of Fournier & Gagnon about 1891 but had difficulty over time - possibly because Mr. Gagnon died or dropped out of the business. In either case, Mr. Gagnon was no longer listed as a co-owner. A couple of years later Fournier is listed as the sole owner of the grocery business. In 1893 a news article shows that Mr. Arthur E. Fournier "assigned" the business, which indicates that he gave it away to creditors to pay off his debts.²⁹

Arthur Fournier died on August 25, 1899 at the age of 35. His daughter, (my grandmother) Anita was only 19 months of age so she really didn't know her father. Rumors from my youth that he fell on a ship and hit his head, falling overboard, are unsubstantiated.

Marie "Lizzie" Louise Parent

Mrs. Arthur Fournier, my great-grandmother, was an attractive lady that we know very little about. Somehow, she lost her thumb on the left hand. Her occupation in a marriage record (to Loran Hersey) was a dressmaker. She was a practicing Catholic and her funeral was at the Immaculate Conception Church.

Lizzie, as she was known, was a direct descendant of **Jean Parent**, born in the late 1600's in the Diocese Avranches, Normandie, France, and his wife **Jeanne Des Jardins**.

The original ancestor, Jean Parent is also known as Jean Parent Demoran, a Frenchman from the Diocese d'Avranches, Normandie, France was married to Jeanne Jardin [Desjardin]. Two of their sons, Gabrielle [born in 1727] and the other, a brother whose name we do not know, and a friend were prisoners during a war. This was likely the War of the Austrian Succession (1740-1748). They finally escaped and fled into the woods and took refuge in a hollow tree that had fallen on the ground. After a day or so, they boarded a ship and crossed the Atlantic for Canada. The ship landed in Kamouraska, QC. Gabrielle's brother left and went somewhere near Nova Scotia, at the time known as the isle of Acadia. As to where the friend went, it is unknown.

²⁷ The Fall River Daily Herald, Fall River MA. August 31, 1899, pg.1

²⁸ This fascinating and fatal disease' The Psychologist.org.uk by Jennifer Wallis Vol 25, No. 10, page 791, October 2012.

²⁹ The Boston Globe, September 22, 1893. P.9

Seven generations from Jean and Jeanne Parent, my great-grandmother **Marie Elizabeth “Lizzie” Parent** was born on October 3, 1868, in Van Buren, Maine. Her father, **Michel Parent** (1844-1925), was 24, and her mother, **Obeline Charette** (1846-1904), was 22. Lizzie married **Arthur Edmond Fournier** and they had five children together. Two died in childhood.

As noted above, **Arthur E. Fournier** took ill with a disease that made him insane in his mid-30s. He died in August 1899. Lizzie was left a young widow after the passing of Arthur and did not waste any time in remarrying, in order to help care for and raise her young family of three remaining children.

After just a month since Arthur’s passing, she then married Loran Augustus Hersey on September 26, 1899, in Boston, Massachusetts. She died on June 8, 1951, in Everett, Massachusetts, at the age of 82. Keep in mind that Arthur had been ill, insane and in an asylum for some time before his passing.

Marie “Lizzie” Louise Parent remarried to Captain Loran Hersey

When Loran Augustus Hersey was born on November 5, 1864, in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, his father, Captain Harvey Hersey, was 26 and his mother, Lydia Whitman Hersey, was 22. Captain Harvey K. Hersey was a Master Mariner of Nova Scotia, Canada.

Loran Augustus Hersey married Agnes Larkin in 1891 in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada. He then married Marie Elizabeth “Lizzie” Parent on September 26, 1899, in Boston, Massachusetts. He died on November 16, 1935, in Brooklyn, New York, at the age of 71.

Loran Hersey was also a Master Mariner, learning his trade early in Nova Scotia. A noted sea captain and deep-sea diver, he was a captain for the American Hawaiian Steamship Company. In late 1800s Nova Scotia, a **master mariner** was a fully certified and licensed captain who legally held the highest level of professional qualification to command a seagoing merchant ship. It represented the top grade of competency in the merchant service, obtained through years of practical experience at sea and passing official examinations (or receiving a certificate of service based on prior command experience). On board, the master mariner was in complete command. They were responsible for the safety of the crew and passengers, the navigation of the ship, commercial cargo decisions, and the vessel's financial and legal business in foreign and domestic ports. During the late 19th century, Nova Scotia had a massive shipbuilding and global-trading economy. Master mariners from ports like Lunenburg, Yarmouth, and Pictou commanded wooden sailing ships that carried timber, fish, and goods across the Atlantic and around the globe.

Henry Gabrielson signed on as a radioman for the ship SS Fairmont, commanded by Captain Loran Hersey, and met Hersey's step-daughter, **Anita Fournier** (my grandmother), whom he later married. Captain Hersey was not in favor of a member of the crew marrying his step daughter. Captain Hersey did not talk to them for a couple of years afterwards.

Hersey was a descendant of the New England Planters, as they were known, David Hersey of Pembroke MA (born 1721) and his wife Susannah Ramsdell Hersey. This couple moved to Nova Scotia about 1754. David Hersey was a great-great-grandson of William Hersey who was born in England and came in 1635 to Hingham MA.

Through his mother, Loran Hersey was also a descendant of John Whitman of Weymouth, and the noted Rev. Jacob Whitman of Yarmouth.

CHAPTER 4 - OUR FRENCH ROYAL CONNECTIONS

Through our grandmother, Anita Fournier Gabrielson

Through genealogical research, it is sometimes possible to extend our family tree far into the past. This is especially true when it involves royalty, as the records for royal lines are well documented over time.

In addition, the Catholic church maintained excellent records long before anyone else, for the various parishes, villages and areas across Europe and in Scandinavia that tradition continued through the Reformation into the protestant churches that emerged, especially the Lutheran and Anglican ones.

Our grandfather, Henry M. Gabrielson, came through a line of Lutherans, and our grandmother, Anita Rhea Fournier Gabrielson, was of Roman Catholic heritage.

In the Roman Catholic heritage, you will often see a baptism name added to a child's real name. For girls it was "Marie" and for boys it was "Joseph" or sometimes "John".

Thus, on our grandmother's baptismal certificate she is listed as "Marie" Anita Fournier. Below are listed some 53 generations from the earliest we can find (so far) Clovis, King of Cologne, to yours truly.

Our Royal European Heritage

1. Clovis "the Riparian" KING OF COLOGNE 375-420 AD

50th great-grandfather

2. Childebert King OF COLOGNE -481

Son of Clovis "the Riparian" KING OF COLOGNE

3. Sigobert the Lame OF COLOGNE -509

Son of Childebert King OF COLOGNE

4. Chloderic OF COLOGNE -509

Son of Sigobert the Lame OF COLOGNE

5. Munderic VITRY-EN-PERTHOIS

Son of Chloderic OF COLOGNE

6. St Gondolfus of Tongres 545-599

Son of Munderic VITRY-EN-PERTHOIS

7. Borogiso II of Aquitaine 562-610

Son of St Gondolfus of Tongres

8. Arnoldus Bishop of Metz 562-601

Son of II of Aquitaine Borogiso

9. Dodo of Saxony 586-611

Daughter of Arnoldus Bishop of Metz

10. Ansegisal of Austrasia 602-678

Son of Dodo of Saxony

11. Pepin of Heristal 635-714

Son of Ansegisal of Austrasia

12. Charles Martel Ruler of Austrasia 686-741

Son of Pepin of Heristal

13. Pepin the Short King of Franks 714-768

Son of Charles Martel Ruler of Austrasia

14. Charlemagne I King of France dit Charles 742-813

Son of Pepin the Short King of Franks

15. **Pépin I King of Italy 777-810**
Son of Charlemagne It King of France dit Charles
16. **Bernard King of Italy 797-818**
Son of Pépin I King of Italy
17. **Pépin, Count of Region of Paris**
Son of King of Italy Bernard
18. **Héribert I Count de Vermandois**
Son of Count of Region of Paris Pépin
19. **Robert I - King of France 866-923**
Son of Count de Vermandois Héribert I
20. **Hugues le Grand 898-956**
Son of Robert I King of France
21. **Hugues Capet King of France 941-996**
Son of Hugues le Grand
22. **Robert II King of France 972-1031**
Son of Hugues Capet King of France
23. **Henri I King of France 1008-1060**
Son of II King of France Robert
24. **Philippe I King of France 1052-1108**
Son of Henri I King of France
25. **Louis VI King of France 1108-1137**
Son of I King of France Philippe
26. **Louis VII King of France**
Son of VI King of France Louis
27. **Philippe II Auguste (King of France)**
Son of VII King of France Louis
28. **Maire de France 1198-1224**
Daughter of Philippe II Auguste (King of France)
29. **Élisabeth de Brabant -1272**
Daughter of Maire de France
30. **Mathilde de Clèves**
Daughter of Élisabeth de Brabant
31. **Marguerite de Luxembourg**
Daughter of Mathilde de Clèves
32. **Jean IV Lord de Ghistelles 1286-1346**
Son of Marguerite de Luxembourg
33. **Roger de Ghistelles**
Son of Jean IV Lord de Ghistelles
34. **Isabelle de Ghistelles**
Daughter of Roger de Ghistelles
35. **Catherine de Gavre d'Escornaix 1405-1472**
Daughter of Isabelle de Ghistelles
36. **Guy II Le Bouteillier 1425-1513**
Son of Catherine de Gavre d'Escornaix
37. **Jean Le Bouteillier 1460-1530**
Son of Guy Le Bouteillier II
38. **Bénigne Le Bouteillier 1507-1576**

- Daughter of Jean Le Bouteillier*
39. Miles Maillard 1535-1605
Son of Bénigne Le Bouteillier
- 40. Renée de Bailloon Maillard 1580-1630**
Daughter of Miles Maillard
- 41. Alphonse De Baillon 1598-1673**
Son of Renée de Bailloon Maillard
- 42. Catherine de Baillon 1645-1687**
Daughter of Alphonse De Baillon
- 43. Jean Miville Dit Deschenes 1672-1711**
Son of Catherine de Baillon
- 44. Pierre Francois Miville Dit Deschenes 1700-1773**
Son of Jean Miville Dit Deschenes
- 45. Marie- Josephthe Miville Dit Deschenes 1731-1783**
Daughter of Pierre Francois Miville Dit Deschenes
- 46. Marie-Genevieve Laplant De La Bourliere 1757-**
Daughter of Marie Josephthe Miville Dit Deschenes
- 47. Marie-Charlotte Ouellette 1791-**
Daughter of Marie-Genevieve Laplant De La Bourliere
- 48. Pascal Parent 1815-1883**
Son of Marie-Charlotte Ouellette
- 49. Michel Parent 1844-1925**
Son of Pascal Parent
- 50. Marie-Elizabeth “Lizzie” Parent 1868-1951**
Daughter of Michel Parent
- 51. Marie-Anita Rhea Fournier-Hersey 1898-1963**
Daughter of Marie Elizabeth “Lizzie” Parent
- 52. Richard Arthur Gabrielson 1932-2016**
Son of Anita Rhea Fournier-Hersey
- 53. Scott Richard Gabrielson**
You are the son of Richard Arthur Gabrielson

The Holy Roman Emperor – Progenitor of Most of the Royal Houses of Europe

The most significant person of this line is **Charlemagne**, (#14), born April 2, 748 AD and died January 28, 814 AD. Charlemagne, also known as Charles I, was King of the Franks, King of the Lombards, Western Emperor of the Carolingian Empire and was the first recognized Emperor to rule the Holy Roman Empire. He was crowned Emperor in Rome by Pope Leo III in 800 AD.

He united most of Western and Central Europe and was the first recognized emperor to rule from the west after the fall of the Western Roman Empire approximately three centuries earlier. Charlemagne's reign was marked by political and social changes that had lasting influence on Europe throughout the Middle Ages.

“Charlemagne's influence on the Middle Ages and on the territory he ruled has led him to be called the "Father of Europe" by many historians. He is seen as a founding figure by multiple European states, and several historical royal houses of Europe trace their lineage back to him.”³⁰

Genealogists generally believe that most persons of European descendance today can trace their lineage to Charlemagne in some way. “Genealogists believe this because most people of European descent can trace their lineage to Charlemagne due to the phenomenon of pedigree collapse. This means that as you trace your family tree further back, you inevitably find the same ancestors appearing multiple times. Charlemagne, as a powerful and influential ruler, certainly fits this profile. The mathematical probability of being related to Charlemagne is high, as anyone who lived 1000 years ago and has descendants today is an ancestor of all contemporary Europeans. This is supported by genetic studies and genealogical research, which have identified over 38,000 common ancestors among current European royal families. While the statistical probability is high, proving concrete descent from Charlemagne remains a considerable challenge due to incomplete genealogical records and the need for documentary evidence.”³¹

“The Carolingian emperor presents a major advantage for genealogists: his descent is exceptionally well documented. Charlemagne had 18 children from 10 different wives and concubines, creating multiple descendant lines.

King Felipe VI of Spain alone has over 14 billion genealogical paths leading back to Charlemagne. Research by genealogist Christopher Moore identified over 38,000 common ancestors among current European royal families, confirming the extraordinary interconnection of aristocratic lines.”³²

Our Norwegian Royal Lines

Through our grandfather, Henry M. Gabrielson

The royalty lines of Norway, Sweden and Denmark are not as well documented but this line best represents what is known to me. Notice it starts with a “Squire”. A Squire is a young nobleman who will eventually become a Knight. They are generally connected to royalty but often not directly in the royal lineage. There is also a Princess, Ingrid Olavsdotter, listed in the line.

1. Amund Jonsen Holter 1395-1480

16th great-grandfather

³⁰ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlemagne>

³¹ <https://geneafinder.com/blog/en/13-400/do-we-really-descend-from-charlemagne-what-genealogical-science-reveals>

³² Ibid.

2. Amund Jonsson Holter, Squire 1415-1475*Son of Amund Jonsen Holter***3. Olav Amundsen Holter Squire 1440-1510***Son of Amund Jonsson Holter, Squire***4. Ingrid Olavsdotter, Princess***Daughter of Olav Amundsen Holter, Squire***5. Olof Jonsson 1525-1589***Son of Ingrid Olavsdotter, Princess***6. Oldsdatter***Daughter of Olof Jonsson***7. Ingrid Bryntesdotter***Daughter of Oldsdatter***8. Brynte Olsson 1628-1702***Son of Ingrid Bryntesdotter***9. Ingeborg or N. Bryntesdotter 1668-1718***Daughter of Brynte Olsson***10. Karin Gunnarsdotter 1690-1762***Daughter of Ingeborg or N. Bryntesdotter***11. Karin Rasmusdotter 1717-1773***Daughter of Karin Gunnarsdotter***12. Rasmus Larsson Grønberg 1755-1817***Son of Karin Rasmusdotter***13. Lars Rasmussen Grønberg 1786-1872***Son of Rasmus Larsson Grønberg***14. Johan Grønberg 1810-1865***Son of Lars Rasmussen Grønberg***15. Julius Grønberg 1835-1891***Son of Johan Grønberg***16. Marie Juliusdatter Grønberg 1865-1936***Daughter of Julius Grønberg***17. Henry Martin Gabrielson Sr 1894-1967***Son of Marie Juliusdatter Grønberg***18. Richard Arthur Gabrielson 1932-2016***Son of Henry Martin Gabrielson Sr***19. Scott Richard Gabrielson***You are the son of Richard Arthur Gabrielson*

There are likely multiple other royal connections but these lines are well documented, in case you are interested in calling yourself Prince, Princess, or Your Royal Highness. In these “woke” days when people are listing their pronouns, I prefer YRH.

Chapter 5 - The First American Generations

The oldest child of our Great Grandparents – **Martinus L. Gabrielson and Marie Juliusdatter Grønberg**, was Pauline Gronberg / nee Coarsi. Pauline was actually the child of Marie and an earlier encounter with Alexander Coarsi, who was born about 1860 in Spain. Nonetheless, Martinus took her as his own child as he took Marie to be his wife.

Insert photo of Martin and Pauline here

When Pauline Irene Bernahdotte Gronberg-Coarsi was born on January 7, 1890, in New York City, New York, her father, Alexander, was 30, and her mother, Marie, was 24. She married Charles Eugene White on June 5, 1906, in Brooklyn, New York. They had four children during their marriage. She died on April 26, 1975, in Seaford, New York, at the age of 85, and was buried in East Farmingdale, New York.

She was baptized at a Lutheran church in New York City on April 20th, 1889 as Pauline Gronberg, the daughter of Miss Marie Gronberg. Note that the word Miss was underlined in the record.

Later, Pauline used the last name Coarsi before marrying Charles E. White, but at times we see her in records using the name Gabrielson, so it is unknown if she was ever officially adopted. In my childhood, I remember visiting the home of my great Aunt Pauline. She was a stout woman, and a good cook, and lived in some type of old brownstone house. In her bedroom there were dozens of family photos, and I wish I had them today.

Pauline B. Coarsi, of 523 Fifty First Street, NY City, married in June 1906 Charles E. White (born June 5, 1887 in Buffalo, NY) of 416 Fifty-Ninth Street. They married at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. White, his parents, in Brooklyn, with the Rev. W. N. Ackley of St. Andrew's Church officiating.³³ See the next generation for the line of Pauline Coarsi and Charles E. White.

Pauline and Charles White had 4 children:

1. Charles White, Jr. was born May 23rd, 1908 and died February 7th, 2004 at Albany NY. Charlie, as he was known, married Jean Smith from Vermont, however we do not know where in Vermont. She outlived Charlie by many years, and Charlie was a Judge in Albany, NY but did live in Rensselaer, NY. Charlie was also a first-degree Mason. He also worked around 1942 for the King Varick Corporation They may have lived at Defreestville, Rensselaer, New York. There are four known children.

³³ Marriage of Coarsi-White – 18 June 1906 Brooklyn, NY Newspaper clip

2. Gertrude White (1907-1987) was a business woman, who married Howard W. Williams. Their children include:

- Delano Eugene “Gene” Williams - Killed in WWII over Germany- shot down.
- Charles Williams- 1931 – 2001 He was a radio personality in Crawley, LA and the head of the Chamber of Commerce there. He married Deneige M. Morrissey. He later married Jolene Cramer and they had four children: Delano, Janey, Lisa and Marc.
- Hartley J. Williams (1933-2022) Hartley lived in Antigua in the Caribbean, he married twice and was associated with NASA in the early years (Mercury flight tracking stations) and married there with I believe 4 children.
- Paula Williams, (1935-2015) married to Richard Finnie, Sr. on June 4, 1955 at Shelburne Falls, MA. She was living at Camp Lejeune NC so one of them was a Marine (likely Richard). Paula passed in 2015 in White County AK. Together they had four children: Thomas, Timothy, Christopher and Richard Jr.

3. Ray White (1913-2004) was born at Oceanview, NJ. He married Louise Helen Onnen (1918-2000) and settled in Sun City AR Ray and Louise had two children, Richard and Linda. Louise died at Riverhead, NY.

- Linda White (1948-2006) lived at Long Island and married Louis Ramirez. Their children included Amber Ramirez and Nicole Ramirez.
- Richard White (1940-2014) married Patricia J. Smith (1942-2016) and they lived at Sun City, Arizona where he was retired from Swift Transportation. Richard passed away at Kissimmee, FL. Richard reported he had 4 children:
 - a. Laura White was born on July 23, 1962, and married to Robert J. Hueber, and together they had Ashley Hueber (b. 1991)
 - b. Marie White, married a Mr. Lynch
 - c. Barbara White was born in 1969
 - d. Richard Jr. Born on June 16 and died before 2022.
and 7 grandchildren and, and 2 great grandchildren all on Long Island in NY.

4. Margaret White (1909-1982) was born at Mays Landing, NJ. She married three times, a Pierre Andreau (1911-1973), a James J. Rivoli Degrigoli (1907-1962) and Anderson Dilly (1902-1962. Anderson Dilly was from Arbroath, Scotland. They lived at Putnam Lake, NY. Anderson Dilly in 1942 lived at Brooklyn NY and worked for Speery Gyroscope Company. They had 3 known children, including an unnamed infant who passed at birth or shortly thereafter:

- Kenneth James Dilly (1932-1933) died at a young age
- Marilyn B. Dilly (1933-1947)

- Kenneth Anderson Dilly (1935-1970), lived at Port Chester NY, died at New Canaan, CT, reportedly by suicide.
- Margaret Dilly (1940-1970) who married a doctor or hospital administrator in Mass or Conn. and moved there. Margaret was reportedly a champion swimmer but drowned in an accident. No known children.

Henry Martin Gabrielson – our grandfather

Henry Martin Gabrielson (my paternal grandfather) was born in Providence, Rhode Island, on April 1, 1894. It is unknown why his parents were in Rhode Island at that time, they did not seem to be living there and there is no record of his birth in the Rhode Island official records. However, he self-reported in his draft card and census records that he was born at Providence.

The family lived in Brooklyn, NY, where his father Martin(ius) Gabrielson worked as a machinist in a machine shop, and his mother, Marie, worked as a midwife. She seemingly served pregnant Norwegian women since she spoke Norwegian natively, although she may have served women of other nationalities. I do recall my father saying that at times she took along a police officer to these births, perhaps in case there was a stillbirth or some trouble involved with the family.

While young, Henry traveled to Norway at least once, and perhaps several times, with his dad, and perhaps the entire family, to visit with relatives. Young Henry spoke some Norwegian but I do not believe he was fluent in it.

At the age of 7, Henry traveled to Norway with his father, returning Dec 29, 1901 thru Ellis Island. They traveled on the Hekla (ship). They apparently went to Kristiania (Oslo), and also departed from there, in Akershus County of Norway. It is likely that they visited family.

Henry's son, (my father - Richard A. Gabrielson) told me this... "Yes, (dad) told me a story of him leaning over the docks to catch shrimp in his cap and almost fell if. I got the impression that was in Norway."

Henry Martin Gabrielson was therefore a first generation American, born of immigrant parents from Norway. Being Norwegian meant he had a keen mind, and developed an interest early on for the newest innovation of the time – radio. A 1910 report card shows his grades (age 16) as B+ Very Good. While attending school at the age of 16 he also worked as a printer at a printing house in Brooklyn, NY.

His interest in radio and electronics was not unlike the interest by today's Gabrielsons in computers and the internet. The brand-new world of telephony and radio was unfolding right before him.

The telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1877, just 17 years before Henry's birth, and over the years to follow it was established in communities, homes and businesses across the continent. It was, of course, reliant on a wired connection.

Radio waves were discovered by German physicist Heinrich Hertz in 1886, again just a short 8 years before Henry's birth. "Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi first developed the idea of a radio, or wireless telegraph, in the 1890s. Marconi's ideas took shape in 1895 when he sent a wireless Morse Code message to a source more than a kilometer away. He continued to work on his new invention, and in 1897 he received the official British patent for the radio – which was really a wireless telegraph system at first."³⁴

That first wireless morse code signal was followed by the first transatlantic signal on December 12, 1901. Growth in this new industry was fast, with the first commercial broadcast taking place just as Henry was becoming an adult.³⁵ During this experimental and growth period, radio (wireless) was being developed for ship to ship – and ship to shore communications primarily, but also for military use once World War I began. So great was the lure of radio that by 1912 some five hundred ships had been equipped with the equipment needed to contact each other or shore, a critical component when sailing in choppy seas or unexpected weather conditions. A radio on board might mean the difference between drowning or surviving a sinking vessel.

A law passed in 1910 required all vessels leaving ocean or lake ports to be equipped with an efficient apparatus for radio communications capable of transmitting and receiving messages over a distance of at least 100 miles. The Radio Communications Act further required all transmitting stations to obtain licenses from the Department of Commerce.³⁶ Young Henry Gabrielson at some point began his studies in electronics and radio to obtain his licenses, in all likelihood moving from third class, to second class and later to first-class licensure.

In 1914, about the age of 20, Henry enlisted in the Naval Militia in the 18th Engineer Division, 2nd Battalion. During this time, he was assigned to the ship USS Gloucester, (a *Sovereign*-class yacht/gunboat, sailing locally out of the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

While WWI (1914-1918) interrupted the use of shortwave or "ham" radio for personal use in the United States (the military did not wish to allow any unauthorized communications between the enemy and secret agents overseas) the time period also allowed for study and learning about radio from young men interested in it, like Henry Gabrielson. The military was the place to learn best.

³⁴ <https://www.elon.edu/u/imagining/time-capsule/150-years/back-1890-1930/>

³⁵ KDKA first broadcast was the November 2, 1920 transmission of the live 1920 US presidential election returns

³⁶ Commercial Broadcasting Pioneer: The WEA Experiment 1922-1926; Banning, Harvard University Press, 1946, London, 9.

Henry was intrigued by this new world of radio and electronics. To further himself as World War I approached, in 1914 he joined the Merchant Marines, a branch of the Navy. In the navy he further learned the world of electricity, becoming a Chief Electrician.

This period of World War I, from July 1914 until November 1918, was triggered by the June 28, 1914, assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. He was assassinated because nationalist groups wanted to end Austro-Hungarian rule in the Balkans and unite the South Slavic people. The conflict quickly escalated into a global war between the Allied Powers and the Central Powers, ending with an armistice on November 11, 1918. In this war, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, marking the start of the war. Germany declared war on Russia and France also in 1914, the Britain declared war on Germany. By 1917 the United States declared war on Germany. Towards the end of the war, Henry separated from the Naval Militia on March 30, 1917.

On the same date, March 30, 1917, Henry shifted to enlist in the USNRF. USNRF stands for the **United States Naval Reserve Force**, which was officially founded on August 29, 1916. Its purpose was to organize civilian volunteers and veterans into a trained force in preparation for World War I fighting. It was the precursor to the modern U.S. Navy Reserve. It was created to broaden recruitment beyond enlisted Navy veterans, organizing them based on experience, trade, and operability. Henry enlisted as a Chief Radio Electrician on the USS Gloucester from April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918.

In 1919 Henry applied for a Seaman's Certificate. A Seaman's Protection Certificate was an official document issued by U.S. Customs collectors starting in 1796 to verify a merchant sailor's American citizenship. Designed to prevent British "impressment" (kidnapping) of sailors, it listed the mariner's name, age, physical description, and birthplace.

Key details about these certificates:

- **Purpose:** Primarily used to protect U.S. citizens from being forced into service in foreign navies, particularly during the period leading to the War of 1812.
- **Appearance & Content:** They often featured an engraving of an American eagle and included detailed descriptions like hair color, eye color, and unique scars or tattoos.
- **Usage:** Functioned as an early form of a passport for sailors traveling internationally, according to the National Archives.
- **Historical Significance:** These documents, often used by African American sailors to establish their free status, were used from the late 18th century through the early 20th century, says the Newport Historical Society. Certificates were obtained for 25 cents and required proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or affidavit, noted the USS Constitution Museum and the National Archives.³⁷

³⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protection_papers

At that time, on November 24, 1919, Henry was living at 345 47th Street in Brooklyn NY. This was not far from the upper bay where the Statue of Liberty stands and Henry probably saw it often. He listed his date of birth as April 1, 1892 (although other documentation indicates that he was born 1894 – he may have altered his birth record to enlist in the military which was common among young men at that time). His birth/citizenship was confirmed by the US Navy Maritime Service Certificate #282978, serving on the USS Aramis from August 19, 1919, with C. E. Leif Burroughs, Commanding, signing, in the 3rd Naval District.

He listed his father's and mother's place of birth as Norway and indicated that on April 1, 1919 he was 27 years old. He was 5'8" tall with fair complexion, brown hair and blue eyes and a scar on the left forehead and under his chin. His last (previous) vessel, the USS Aramis arrived August 19, 1919 and his next vessel (private vessel) was listed in abbreviation as B.A. Independent W & L Co. His rating was radio operator and the rating was confirmed by an employment certificate and radio license 19051 dated September 6, 1919 in New York City.

Next, he was assigned to the SS. Chebaulip from November 29, 1919 to November 5th, 1920 under a Captain Gage. This was a new vessel commissioned on July 12, 1918 and was used until the end of World War I, then decommissioned and returned to the United States Shipping Board on February 10, 1919. The ship was later sold to the USSR as part of a major surplus sale in 1929. It had a complement of 52 and a length of 396 feet. Henry remained in the service, however, until his discharge on March 29, 1920 at Brooklyn NY.

On May 21st, 1920, Henry joined the crew of the SS Fairmont as a Radio Operator, under the command of Captain Loran A. Hersey. A sea captain and deep-sea diver, Loran Hersey was a captain for the American Hawaiian Steamship Company. This was into the private employment of this company, not a military service at that time. Henry only served on this vessel until August 5th, 1920, where it seems he was called back from Naval Reserve into an active-duty status.

Captain Hersey was from a longstanding family of Nova Scotia and New England, a descendant of William Hersey (1596-1658) who left Higham, Norfolk, England and came to Massachusetts prior to 1632.

When Henry Gabrielson signed on as a radioman for the Fairmont ship, he met Captain Hersey's daughter, Anita, whom he courted. Her name was **Anita Rhea Fournier-Hersey**. Her father had died young in 1899 and her mother, 31-year-old Marie Elizabeth "Lizzie" Parent had remarried in 1899, in Boston to Captain Hersey, who was a 35-year-old widower. Young Marie was a very pretty lady and needed help to raise her children.

By December 31, 1920 Henry was back on a naval vessel, the USS Eagle #54, then the USS Fox and finally the USS Eagle again, finishing his service in November 12th, 1927 with a "very satisfactory" rating by Lt. Commander JT Kane, USNR.

Anita Fournier (later adopted by Captain Hersey and assumed the last name Hersey) had four siblings, Louise born in 1891, a brother who died at birth in 1893, a brother Philip born 1894 and a sister Malvina born 1896. Anita was the baby of the family.

Henry Gabrielson and Anita Fournier Hersey married at Trinity Lutheran Church, 411 46th Street in Brooklyn NY on June 4th, 1921 by Pastor Arthur S. Rholl. Mrs. Marie Gabrielson and Charles White were witnesses.

Captain Hersey was not in favor of a member of the crew, or perhaps of Henry in particular, marrying his step daughter. Captain Hersey did not talk to them for a couple of years afterwards. Henry Gabrielson Jr. remembered his mother driving Captain Hersey to New York city to the pier where his ship docked. Henry Jr. remembered it being a thrill to see the large ship.

As we can see, Henry was still involved in the Naval Militia during some time, likely as a reservist, as **seen in this news article.**

The Radio News publication of July 1921 reported this information:

*“RADIO MEN WANTED. Editor RADIO News: Beginning about the middle of this month, the Naval Militia of the State of New York will start a state-wide publicity campaign to enlist recruits in all the various branches of the service. **H. M. Gabrielson, chief radio man of the Second Battalion, N. M. N. Y.** located at the foot of 52nd St., Brooklyn, has been asked to inquire if you will give this outfit a write-up in the next issue of the RADIO News, being very desirous of enrolling high -grade amateurs and others who can handle spark and C.W. sets.*

*There has been assigned to the Second Battalion by the Navy Department three Eagle boats for the purpose of training recruits. These boats will make week -end trips in and about New York until July, when they are to make three 15-day cruises, stopping at numerous ports along the coast. A member may make one or all of these trips. if he so desires. The ships are all fitted with modern one-KW spark sets and one-half KW radio telephone sets, so there will be no end of experience to be gained by those who join us. Besides these week- end trips and cruises, a member may en- joy unlimited use of a fine big armory with its swimming pool, bowling alleys, pool and billiard tables, indoor track, tennis, hand- ball and basketball courts, etc. We have two 40 ft. steam launches and a number of sailing cutters used for little pleasure trips to Long Island, up the Hudson and along the Jersey coast. Any man between the ages of 18 and 35 is eligible to join and any one desiring any information regarding enrollment may obtain same by call- ing at the Armory any Monday or Friday evening at 8 p.m., or by letter addressed personally to **Mr. Gabrielson**. Such letters will receive prompt attention.³⁸*

Another **news article** the following year reported the following:

Tuesday, April 4, 1922 Radio Devices on View at Opening of Exhibition

³⁸ Radio News, July 1921, Experimenter Publishing Co., Inc, NYC, NY, p. 34

The greatest and latest improvements in the transferring of music of the spheres are featured at the radio exhibition which opened last night in the armory of the Twenty-seventh Divisional Signal Corps, Dean Street and Washington Avenue.

The show will remain open all this week until Saturday night, and it promises to get better every day. About one thousand persons attended the opening. The chief object of the exhibition is to bring sellers and buyers of radio equipment into closer relationship, and arrangements have been made to give daily lectures by experts to explain fully the methods of radio communication and to answer any and all questions. Concerts of the best and most popular music will be heard every day from the big broadcasting stations in Newark, Chicago, Pittsburg, Springfield, Arlington, Fort Wood and Deal Beach.

An interesting booth is that of the Brooklyn Electrical Supply Company, which has on display quite a number of radio accessories. A booth is run by the Boy Scouts, in charge of which is Max Schwartz, field scout executive of Manhattan Council. The music program of WJZ, the Westinghouse Newark station, was heard on a receiving instrument built entirely by scouts. A portable receiving and transmitting set for hikes and camping trips and a regenerative set with an audion and three steps of amplification all contained in one cabinet built by Scout Frank W. Gratz of Troup 501, Manhattan.

*Another booth is that of the Naval Militia, Second Battalion, which shows the complete standard navy type C.W. transmitting and receiving set. The set has a detector and four stages of amplification. Chicago and Pittsburg have been heard on this apparatus. **The Naval Militia booth, in charge of which is Radio Chief Henry M. Gabrielson, the headquarters being at the foot of Fifty-second street, Manhattan.***

In another corner of the armory is a motor truck of the Signal Corps, to which is attached a complete telephone set. The radio truck is in the charge of Sergeant John E. Smith, and everything that is going in the air is heard by him.

*The exhibition is being held under the auspices of the Radio Exhibitors' Syndicate, and William Reynolds is the secretary. **Insert clipping** From the Brooklyn Standard Union.*

HENRY ENTERS RADIOLAND

Henry received his First-Class Radio Communications License by 1922 at the age of 22, an accomplishment that is very difficult by all standards. I have copies of several of his licenses. Each lists his various services on Navy or other vessels as part of his work and the 1916 license reports his use of Morse Code at 25 words per minute with a 97% accuracy. I understand he could actually send and receive much faster code. This qualified him to be of greater use within the radio community, in fact first-class operators were in great demand.

His military record and ongoing training opened opportunities for him in the new commercial world of broadcasting. His license service records of 1927 to 1929 reports his service at the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) as Supervisor of Maintenance.

Public acceptance of radio programming began in 1920 from an economic and cultural point. From that date, a vast number of improvements in radio quality, signaling and receiving took place which allowed for its greater use. Initially radio was for two-way communications, however the period of 1922-1926 began to see radio used as a one-way medium for performance. “As those involved experimented with programs that would appeal to and serve the public, they also learned how these programs could be financed. From the standpoint of business, one of the great challenges of radio broadcasting was how to pay for the service rendered.”³⁹

The first “toll” or commercial station was in Pittsburg, where in 1920 KDKA went on the air. “It became the first station to transmit a scheduled, previously announced program, of presidential election results (the Harding – Cox election) alternating with recorded music, on November 2 of that year.”⁴⁰

From that point, radio exploded, with people flocking to buy radio sets of in lieu of other musical machines like phonographs. Furniture stores lined their shelves with radios, large and small. In 1923, some 190,000 sets were sold, but by 1930 two-thirds of American homes had a radio receiver, double the number that had a telephone.⁴¹ Radio democratized the consumption of American music, and Henry Gabrielson was primed to be in the middle of it all.

Although primarily used first for the local broadcasting of voice communications, music and programing, it was learned that the telephone lines of AT&T could also be used to carry “toll programing” or commercial broadcasts from one area to another in order to share information, entertainment and news across a broad area. This was the beginning of networking, and it took place first at the experimental radio station called WEAf in 1922.⁴²

Henry went to work for WEAf radio, a pioneer in Radio Broadcasting in New York City, shortly after he married Anita. From www.earlyradiohistory.us, “Large companies are often slow to innovate. A notable exception occurred when the research and experimentation by the American Telephone & Telegraph Company -- the largest company in the world -- on interconnecting telephone lines, loud speakers, and radio transmitters led in late 1921 to a plan to create a national radio network, supported by advertising, at a time when most people had yet to even hear a radio broadcast. AT&T's intention to set up nationwide broadcasting was formally announced on February 11, 1922 and publicized in articles such as National Radio Broadcast By Bell System, which appeared in the April, 1922 issue of *Science & Invention*. Most of the

³⁹ Commercial Broadcasting Pioneer: The WEAf Experiment 1922-1926; Banning, Harvard University Press, 1946, London. xix.

⁴⁰ The Wall Street Journal, Nov. 9, 2020, page A17.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Commercial Broadcasting Pioneer: The WEAf Experiment 1922-1926; Banning, Harvard University Press, 1946, London, 3.

network broadcasts originated from WEAF in New York City, thus the network was generally called the "WEAF Chain". However, company circuit charts marked the inter-city telephone links in red pencil, so the chain of stations was also known as "the red network". From 1922 until 1926 AT&T would be the most important company in the programming side of U.S. broadcasting. Its advertising-supported radio network, including flagship station WEAF, set the standard for the entire industry.

After AT&T began organizing the first U.S. radio network, the three companies that comprised the "radio group" -- General Electric, Westinghouse, and their jointly-owned subsidiary, the Radio Corporation of America -- responded by creating their own, smaller, radio network, centered on WJZ in New York City. But, blocked by AT&T from using telephone lines to connect their stations, this other network had to find some other way to link up stations. Initially leased telegraph wires were used. However, the telegraph companies hadn't been in the habit of employing acoustics experts or installing lines with more fidelity than what was needed for basic telegraph service, so this often resulted in low fidelity broadcasts accompanied by loud hums. Also tried was connecting the stations using shortwave radio links, but this couldn't meet the reliability or sound quality requirements. Another idea that was investigated was increasing transmitter powers, to create a small number of "superpower" stations of upwards of 50,000 watts. This higher power might have helped some, but still didn't match the reliability and flexibility provided by local stations linked together by high-quality phone lines.

At this point, the radio group got a break. After four years of increasing success in the broadcasting arena, AT&T decided that it no longer wanted to run a radio network. In May, 1926, it transferred WEAF and the network operations into a wholly-owned subsidiary, the Broadcasting Company of America. Then came the bombshell announcement -- AT&T was selling WEAF and its network to the radio group companies for \$1,000,000. (RCA's David Sarnoff was fond of saying "when life hands you a lemon, make lemonade". In this case, the strategy became "buy the other guy's lemonade stand".) At this point a new company was formed, the National Broadcasting Company, which took over the Broadcasting Company of America assets, and merged them with the radio group's fledgling network operations. AT&T's original WEAF Chain was renamed the NBC-Red network, with WEAF continuing as the flagship station, and the small network that the radio group had organized around WJZ became the NBC-Blue network. In September, 1926 NBC's formation was publicized in full-page ads that appeared in numerous publications: Announcing the National Broadcasting Company, Inc. The new network's debut broadcast followed on November 15, 1926. “

SIDEBAR Apr 23, 1922 Annual Ball of Naval Militia Crew

Henry's next position, right out of the service, was "supervisor of maintenance" for the National Broadcasting Company, starting in November 1927. Henry also was involved in the "ham" radio side of broadcasting – establishing his call sign (radio identification) in December 1925 as 2NT to operate a restricted Amateur Radio Station from number 631 56th Street, Brooklyn New York, at a transmitter input not exceeding one-half kilowatt (500 watts), operating with a 50 foot high antenna with a vertical length of 30 feet. A later call sign used by Henry was W2LR, and the last one was K2FR, which he had embossed on his license plates later in life.

By 1930, Henry and Anita were living at 837 60th Ave. in Brooklyn NY, and he was elected to the Associate Membership of the Institute of Radio Engineers, thereby representing that area. This elite group of specialists across America (including Canada) worked together to improve radio transmission and receipt. A paper presented at the regular monthly meeting of the Institute was held in the Engineering Societies Building in New York City on May 7th, 1930, shared this:

“This paper undertakes to outline and summarize the almost countless ways in which the development of radio has affected human progress and civilization, during the past quarter century-both directly as space -radio and ether -wave communication, and also through the many non -radio applications of the electronic tube and associated circuits in their amazing variety of uses, throughout industry, power distribution, medicine and therapeutics, and the whole gamut of the arts and sciences. Applications of the vacuum tube to human safety, in both war and peace, comprise one of the most significant human uses of this new electronic tool. These safety uses of electronic devices are already found in many forms-in navigation, aviation, street, traffic, railroad signals, protection of industrial machinery, warnings against charged electrical apparatus, etc. The Army and Navy make numerous uses of electron-tube devices for safety purposes, throughout all arms of the services. The author offers some speculation as to the important war -time value of our existing system of broadcast stations for general emergency communication throughout the nation in the event of another war. These stations are already pressed into service during regional emergencies, and this use might be extended, even in peace time. The paper mentions many novel uses of devices derived from radio research, for example, new musical instruments; alarms; detection of larvae in fruit; diagnosis of heart murmurs; talking pictures as wills and legal documents; the "talking book"; aiding blind to read ordinary print; sound pictures with acoustic depth; structure analysis; food preservation; emotion recorders; "lie detectors"; etc. The paper closes with a listing of nearly two hundred principal classes of applications of radio and electronic tubes, nearly all of which are subject to further development and wide subdivision. In short, it is declared that both the radio and non -radio applications of the vacuum tube are just beginning to find uses, and the prediction is made that in a few years there will be nothing that the average man hears, sees, or buys that will not be controlled, regulated. or affected in some important respect by an electronic tube.”⁴³

THE DIFFICULT YEARS IN AMERICA – 1929 to 1945

The years of the Great Depression in America followed the 1929 stock market crash and lasted for about ten years. When the Great Depression affected everyone in America, and about 25% of Americans lost their jobs, Henry remained employed at NBC and was not greatly affected. In fact, radio was one of the few industries that grew during that crisis. Listening increased dramatically during the 1930s and families who cut out other expenses would buy radios and stay home and listen to their programs, free entertainment, news and for a sense of connection

⁴³ Proceedings of The Institute of Radio Engineers, 1930 Convention, Toronto, CA, 909. ©1930

during that time.⁴⁴ Radio, then, became a cultural and political force unlike any seen before, and President Roosevelt's fireside chats became synonymous with a sense that all was well in Washington and would be elsewhere in time.

Following the Great Depression, World War II brought a rise in foreign news reporting and the continued rise of the political power of radio. Before television, radio news was fast and furious. Movie theaters offered news reels prior to the picture shows but they were often weeks or months old. Radio was king until the advent of television and still was beyond for many years.

The years of World War II brought different issues to America, namely shortages of many products and services. While the economy boomed due to wartime spending, daily life was defined by government mandated sacrifices and social upheaval. For example, The Office of Price Administration rationed essential goods including gasoline, tires, meat, sugar, butter and shoes. Civilians were issued ration books and had to supplement their diets with Victory Gardens. However, these shortages had very little effect on Henry and Anita Gabrielson, as his position was considered a critical one and he was given special privileges to buy extra gasoline, tires as needed, and the other items. While there may have been a few odd items in short supply, Henry and Anita did well during that time.

In another chapter we will see that two of their older sons joined the military efforts in World War II, with Richard (Rick) being the youngest, unable to because he was only 7 years old when the war began.

During leisure times, however, Rick was at home with Henry and Anita, providing help around the house, learning gardening (a passion for the family) and taking Henry out on a small rowboat from Amityville harbor, going fishing and clamming with his dad. He recalls often jumping out into the murky waters waist deep and feeling around for clams or oysters by stepping on them. Henry, in the boat, was waiting with an oyster knife and a bottle of ketchup, ready to consume them fresh and raw!

FROM AN ARTICLE IN NBC TRANSMITTER MAGAZINE, 1937

Henry M. Gabrielson, electrical engineer, grew up with radio via the "Ham" route (Ham meaning amateur radio experience). His experience as a radio operator on various coast-wise ships gave him the professional background to supplement his amateur work. All this took place in the good old days when the old Morse Code was in use and ships had only two call letters instead of the three and four they have today.

During the war he served as Chief Radio Man, P.A., (Permanent Appointment) in the U. S. Navy for twenty-nine months; is proud of his twenty years' service as Radioman with the New York Naval Militia.

⁴⁴ https://www.encyclopedia.com/education/news-and-education-magazines/radio-1929-1941?utm_source=copilot.com

Finally, in September, 1927, Mr. Gabrielson joined NBC as a construction man. In that capacity he helped install some of the equipment used in the old 711 Fifth Avenue NBC Studios. He also worked on the NBC television studio in the Empire State Building.

When NBC moved into its present location, Mr. Gabrielson supervised the wiring and installation of Radio City equipment racks, the Control Room racks and Master Control Desk. He has just returned from Washington, D. C., where he and Construction Man Elmer Mead acted as supervisors in the building of NBC's new studios in the Trans Lux Theatre building. Engineer Gabrielson is married and has three sons, aged five, twelve and fifteen. His home is in Amityville, Long Island.⁴⁵

Mary Margaret McBride – The Most Radio-Active Woman in America:1934-1954

Henry Gabrielson was a long-time radio engineer, having worked at first for WEAf in New York, and helped create the original red and blue networks, which became WNBC and WABC.

One of the most popular radio programs of this time was hosted by Mary Margaret McBride. McBride was a household name in the period from 1934 to 1954, being on the air every afternoon, Monday through Friday. Known as the "First Lady of Radio", her program initiated at CBS in 1937 but by 1941 she was at NBC with its much larger reach. Henry became the Chief Engineer for Mary Margaret McBride's daily radio show then as she became the Oprah Winfrey of her day, her program becoming so popular it would be heard by millions. She was based in New York City and her studios were at NBC, where Henry was based. He became McBride's chief engineer during this time.

Henry Gabrielson's photo and name are mentioned in the book, "Out of the Air" McBride's autobiography. He was there when she interviewed the politicians and celebrities of her day. There is a second book out about McBride and she is well represented in radio history. The 2005 book is titled: *It's One O'Clock and Here Is Mary Margaret McBride: A Radio Biography* by Susan Ware.

McBride, like Oprah more recently, was world famous and interviewed everyone from movie stars to mayors, priests to presidents and famous authors to kings. Mary Margaret McBride is considered a pioneer who essentially "invented" the modern talk show format by moving away from scripted programs toward a more spontaneous, conversational style. She challenged the idea that daytime radio for women should only cover "recipes and housekeeping". Her show, often called a "magazine-style" format, blended politics, celebrity news, and social issues, treating her female audience as intelligent and worldly. Her followers numbered up to eight million listeners daily, and every broadcast started with her classic opening of "It's One O'clock and here is Mary Margaret McBride". She connected with everyday housewife's who were at home generally during that time and her midwestern voice made them feel at home as well. In over 30,000 interviews, McBride also dealt with and presented the day's discussions of current events in a language everyone could follow. Henry, in the midst of it all, made sure that the connections went through, from an engineering standpoint.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ NBC Transmitter Magazine, January 1937, p0165. World Radio History.com

⁴⁶ <https://www.npr.org/2005/05/14/4652468/remembering-radios-mary-margaret-mcbride>

McBride had a tea rose named for her and a popular cookbook published with recipes under her name.

Two books about her include “Out of the Air” and “It’s One O’clock and Here is Mary Margaret McBride: A Radio Biography by Susan Ware (published 2005).

Ware tells in her book, “one of the most beloved radio show hosts of the 1940s and 1950s, Mary Margaret McBride (1899—1976) regularly attracted between six and eight million listeners to her daily one o’clock broadcast. During her twenty years on the air, she interviewed tens of thousands of people, from President Harry Truman and Frank Lloyd Wright to Rachel Carson and Zora Neale Hurston. This is her story.

Five decades after their broadcast, her shows remain(ed) remarkably fresh and interesting. And yet McBride—the Oprah Winfrey of her day—has been practically forgotten, both in radio history and in the history of twentieth-century popular culture, primarily because she was a woman and because she was on daytime radio.

Susan Ware explains how Mary Margaret McBride was one of the first to exploit the cultural and political importance of talk radio, pioneering the magazine-style format that many talk shows still use. This radio biography recreates the world of daytime radio from the 1930s through the 1950s, confirming the enormous significance of radio to everyday life, especially for women.

In the first in-depth treatment of McBride, Ware starts with a description of how widely McBride was revered in the mid-1940s—the fifteenth anniversary party for her show in 1949 filled Yankee Stadium.”⁴⁷ Along with 54,000 friends, among her celebrity guests were none other than her good friend, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. At home were millions upon millions of loyal listeners tuned into the broadcast.

Her daily broadcast (Monday through Friday) during these years, and especially with World War II raging, helped Americans feel grounded and connected to some normalcy in life, and grandpa Henry was right there by her side as her engineer, keeping the wires humming with her voice across the nation. In her biography, McBride recalls that “Eric Herud and Henry Gabrielson, my engineers, had been in radio since the days of crystal sets and earphones. They were not easily upset. Newsroom bulletins rushed into the middle of a program bothered them not at all. They juggled voices expertly. Their panel of dials and knobs were like test tubes to a chemist; they knew how to mix and stir sounds until they got them properly balanced. But as Gabe sometimes pointed out, he couldn’t change words. He could only change the way they sounded.”⁴⁸ At her peak, twenty percent of all possible listeners were tuning in daily to hear her broadcasts.

ILLNESS IN 1939

⁴⁷ It’s One O’Clock and Here is Mary Margaret McBride: A Radio Biography; ©2005, NYU Press, New York, NY.

⁴⁸ McBride, Mary Margaret, *Out of the Air*, ©1960 Doubleday & Company, Garden City, NY. P. 56

The June 1939 ATE Journal reported that H. Gabrielson, NYME, (New York Maintenance Engineer) was out recently due to illness. (He) Returned looking quite fit and healthy.⁴⁹

The 1940 ATE Journal reported, “Gabrielson back after long illness, and is again on the way up, this time in the Studio Group.”⁵⁰ We do not know the nature of his illness.

In 1941 we see Henry continuing as an engineer, monitoring NBC programs called “The Mystery Man”, and “Valiant Lady”. Henry was referred to as “Gabe”, a common nickname among men in the family.⁵¹

In 1945, Henry was elected by his peers as the “Chapter Chairman” for NABET, the National Association of Broadcast Engineers and Technicians, representing NBC Studio. He also spent several months at the Master Controls for NBC in New York, presumably radio.

In August of that year we see him attending a Chapter Dinner of NABET at the Hotel Pennsylvania with other chapter representatives.⁵²

Photo available

Henry continued at NBC for more than 20 years as a chief engineer, and was recognized along with others in the April 1947 issue of “Chimes” magazine. For those of us old enough to remember, NBC would play three chimes during station identification in the early days.

*The article reads, “TEN YEAR DINNER DATE SET The induction of the new Ten and Twenty Year Club members will take place on Monday, May 5. The occasion will take place in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf- Astoria. By having the celebration in May, the induction returns to the month it has been traditionally held in the past. Last year the affair took place in November to coincide with the Company's twentieth anniversary. The 20 Year Club members to be inducted are William Bloxham, Gustave Bosler, Alice Brazee, Alfred Christopher, William Clarke, Walter Damrosch, Paul Dumont, **Henry Gabrielson**, Melville Greene, Charles Grey, Joseph Kent, Steere Mathew, Hugh McGeachie, Philip Merryman, William B. Miller, Marion Murray, Granville Peers, Robert Sharpe, Ella Sheil, Gordon Strang, Andrew Wad- dell, Helen Walker, Jens Wies, and Roy Witmer. In addition, 51 will receive their 10 Year Club buttons. Niles Trammell, President, and Frank Mullen, Executive Vice President will preside, with Dr. James R. Angell acting as toastmaster...The twenty year members were each presented with a service button studded with a ruby.”⁵³*

In 1949 as Mary Margaret McBride recalls in her book, “It is rather sad to have to relate that after our expensive Yankee Stadium birthday party Stella came to blows the very next year with

⁴⁹ ATE Journal, June 1939, p. 13

⁵⁰ ATE Journal, August 1940, p.16

⁵¹ The Engineers Broadcast Journal, December 1941. P, 132

⁵² Broadcast Engineers Journal, Sept. 1945, p. 8

⁵³ Chimes Magazine: News and Views of NBC Personnel in New York, April 1947, page 1

the network over a proposed time change. She felt that "One o'clock and here's Mary Margaret McBride" was by that time a valuable trademark, and after a good deal of palaver and offers from WEAf of bonuses and fringe benefits in a new contract we accepted a very good bid from American Broadcasting and, trailing all seventeen sponsors, Henry Gabrielson, our engineer, and considerable notice in the public prints, we journeyed to ABC.

It wasn't really much of a distance to travel, since we still used my same old studio in Rockefeller Center for that first broadcast and for the weeks of 1950 that followed. In 1951 we moved to my apartment on Central Park South, and a very pleasant arrangement that was. The first ABC program was, as might have been expected, full of pretty speeches from my new bosses, old friends, and a great armful of flowers (Mary Margaret McBride roses) from Robert E. Kintner, president of ABC and then and always one of my favorite people. Also there was a new recording of my theme song made by Paul Whiteman. Jane Froman, the brave singer and an alumna of my university, talked about courage, and Ole Olsen brought his eighty-year-old mother and Denise Darcel, who had just come from getting a marriage license at City Hall.

The ABC people were wonderful to us. Our contract must have stipulated that we were to have anything we wanted, for I had only to express a desire to have it gratified. Soon our show was being taped for ABC's network, and so I was back with my national audience again. And when I decided I'd like to cover the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, Mr. Kintner agreed at once and the news department included me in plans for ABC's coverage.⁵⁴ McBride ended her daily show in 1954, due to the shift towards television and the illness of her long-term business manager Stella Karn. She continued to do some programs from home for a while and Henry may have been there helping to do the engineering.

RETIREMENT

According to his obituary, Henry Gabrielson retired in 1962, about the age of 68. Waiting at home dutifully was his adoring Anita.

My Father's Recollections about Henry

My father, Richard A. Gabrielson, offered some recollections about his dad Henry. Fortunately, his father Henry Sr., was a very intelligent man, and had worked his way into the new field of radio, having earned a reputation and position at WEAf in New York, which later split into and developed the Red and Blue Networks (these became, in time, NBC and ABC TV). As the networking of radio was being developed, Henry Sr. was in the midst of it all, and as such he was granted special privileges during the depression. For example, he had a good salary, was able to buy gasoline (it was restricted to most folks through the use of coupons) and food, and

⁵⁴ McBride, Mary Margaret, *Out of the Air*, ©1960 Doubleday & Company, Garden City, NY. P. 147

occasionally the family was able to eat dinner out. Dad remembered these occasions and spoke of them. Henry Sr. became the Chief Engineer for one of the earliest syndicated radio broadcasts, the Mary Margaret McBride show. She interviewed everyone from Presidents to Hollywood, and Grandpa Henry was right there running the controls.

Dad recalled that one of his favorite youth activities was taking out a small rowboat into the harbor area, fishing and clamming. He enjoyed living at the water and would remember going out in a rowboat to get clams or oysters for his father, by walking around in waist deep water and stepping on them. Grandpa Henry, when riding along, opened the clams and consumed them raw, or with a bit of ketchup.

My Mother's Recollections about Henry

My mother, Pat Russel, recalls meeting Henry in the mid-1950s when she and my dad, Rick were dating. She recalls that dad told her that Henry had been an alcoholic at one time, but she did not see that as he had “dried out” years before. She remembers laughing, because there were “cases and cases” of ginger ale in their house and “Pop”, as Henry was referred to, seemed to always have a ginger ale in one hand and a cigarette in the other.

She recalls Pop (Henry) as being a very dapper man, well dressed, extremely charming, and a gentleman. Pop was very interested in people, very interested in her (Mom) as a young lady, and it was difficult not to love him.

Henry suffered from angina, causing occasional pain in the chest. So far as I recall, he was still smoking heavily in his 70s. Henry Sr. also had a “catch” in his chest, in other words a place that feels pressure and needs to “pop” like you would pop an elbow or finger. He had colon cancer and prostate cancer, causing considerable suffering and inconvenience at a time in history when little could be done for him, near the end of his life.

THE OBITUARY – Newsday, April 18, 1967

Henry M. Gabrielson, 73, Retired Radio Engineer

Merrick – A funeral service will be held tomorrow for Henry M. Gabrielson, 73, of Merrick, a retired radio engineer who died Sunday in Brunswick Hospital, Amityville.

One of the pioneers of early radio, Gabrielson for many years was the engineer on the National Broadcasting Company interview shows of Mary Margaret McBride. He had been a radio engineer with NBC and the American Broadcasting Company for 25 years before he retired in 1962.

He was a member of the National Association of Broadcasting Engineers and Technicians, a bargaining agent in the industry, and was an active amateur radio operator at his home at 1642 Meader Avenue. He has also lived in Amityville and Massapequa.

The funeral service for Gabrielson will be at 8:45 AM in the N.F. Walker Funeral Home, 2039 Merrick Ave., Merrick. Burial will follow in Long Island National Cemetery, Pinelawn.

Surviving are his wife, Constance; sons Henry M. Jr., Robert E., and Richard A., Robert Kennaugh, and Richard P. Harrison; a sister Pauline White; and 11 grandchildren.

Our Grandmother - Anita Rhea Fournier Hersey Gabrielson

Anita Fournier was born February 1, 1898 in Roxbury, Massachusetts, the daughter of Arthur Edmond Fournier and Marie Elizabeth “Lizzie Parent, both French Canadians. As a young child she only spoke French. Her father, stricken with a disease thought to be GPI, general paralysis of the insane, became paralyzed and went insane, and died in August of August 1899 so she never really knew him. He was ill for more than a year before he passed

Her mother, an attractive young widow with five children, rapidly remarried in September 1899 to Loran Augustus Hersey, a ship’s captain. It is likely that she had little to support herself and her family with, and when opportunity knocked, she opened the door.

Anita, who was later adopted by Captain Hersey and assumed the last name Hersey had four siblings, Louise born in 1891, a brother who died at birth in 1893, a brother Philip born 1894 and a sister Malvina born 1896. Anita was the baby of the family.

There is little extant information about Anita. I remember her from my childhood briefly, only in the bed during the end of her life. My vague memories are of a sweet, small older lady. My mother, Patrica Russell, recalls Anita as a loving, maternal person. She seemed to worship my father, the baby in her family and a “late in life” child. As a youngster they would tickle each other, and she was a very good cook, something my dad (Rick) took up later in life, especially after retirement.

Anita had some kind of large tumor on her back, but never went to a doctor, never got it fixed, and it was a large lump. To help conceal it she wore house dresses most of the time. Unlike most of the adults in that era, she did not smoke and dedicated her life to her home, her kitchen and her family. Mom also recalls that Anita was highly intelligent, like Henry, a trait that probably drew them together, but very introverted. She was short and stocky, but not fat, a true homebody, which was not uncommon for women of that era. She enjoyed crossword puzzles, would take a taxi to get groceries, then return home, not having many friends.

She adored her husband Henry also, who at that time (about 1956) was the chief engineer for the Mary Margaret McBride show, which would be like being on the Today Show in current times. Mom (Pat) recalls that they had a cute little house on Long Island, two bedrooms, possibly on the

corner of Cedar Street in Amityville. Henry, my grandfather, would dress up in a suit daily and often worked long hours as an executive and due to broadcast production meetings, then ride the Long Island Railroad home. Grandma Anita was a simple housewife spending much of her time alone and tending to her youngest son, Rick (my father). Mom (Pat) recalls that Anita was quiet and subdued, and when she and my father (Rick) married, both he and Anita broke down in tears, knowing that their relationship had changed forever.

Henry called her Anita, and she called him Henry, but they were not known to be great conversationalists together. Mom recalls hearing that Henry had consorts at times, lady friends, which was probably not uncommon among executives in New York City.

Anita developed breast cancer and suffered a stroke, dying on December 13th, 1963. There was little to be done for these ailments in the early 60s. I barely remember her as I was born in 1958, but have just a faint image of her in my mind.

Our Step-Grandmother - Constance “Connie” Stodulski

Less than a year after Anita’s passing, Henry remarried a nice lady named Constance “Connie” Stodulski on September 17, 1964 at Merrick NY, and lived in their home together until his death April 16th, 1967. Connie, as I recall her, was a lovely and gracious lady. She cared for Grandpa Henry in the later stages of his life as he dealt with colon and prostate cancer. They enjoyed gardening together and he built a “sunken” greenhouse for her as well as a nice goldfish pond which we all enjoyed. Grandpa Henry suffered from colon cancer and prostate cancer.

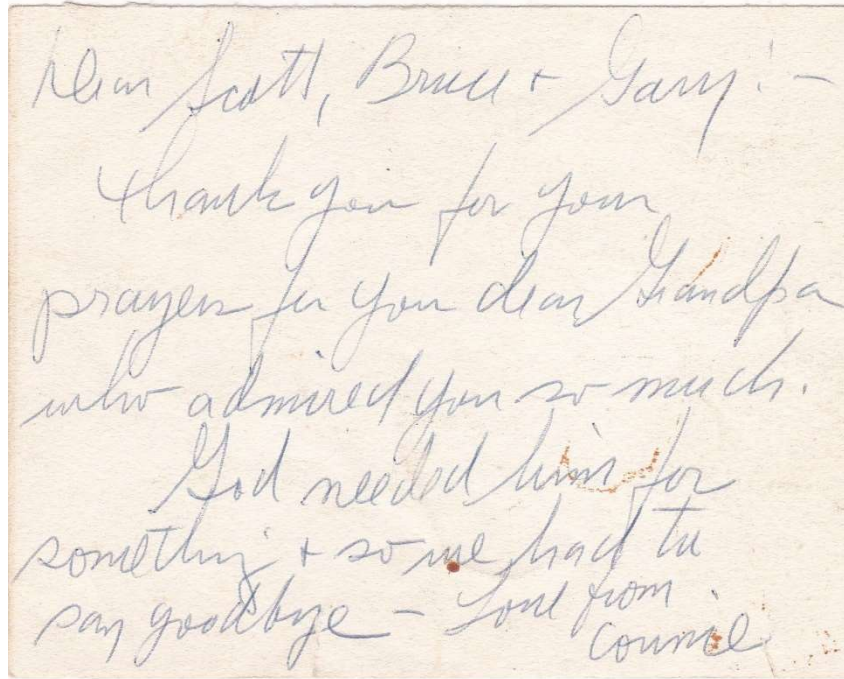
When Constance “Connie” Wanda Stodulski was born on December 10, 1916, in Brooklyn, New York, her father, Adam Stodulski was 33, and her mother, Angeline Menriski, was 31, both being immigrants from Poland. Connie married Robert Morton Kennaugh on January 15, 1937 and they had two children together. Her two sons with Robert M. Kennaugh, are Richard Kennaugh born in 1940 and Robert Kennaugh (1948-2013).

After Robert Morton Kennaugh and Connie divorces in 1943. Some two decades later, Connie married Henry Martin Gabrielson on September 17, 1964, in Merrick, New York. They made their home together at her home at 1642 Maeder Avenue in Merrick, Long Island, New York.

Connie was a kind and loving family member, an “extra” great grandmother to my children as they grew, always remembering their birthdays with a card and some money or a small gift. I corresponded with her at times, as did my father, over the years, mostly letters about gardening, family, weather and such. We referred to her as “Aunt Connie”.

In 1967, Aunt Connie sent this note to us:

Dear Scott, Bruce and Gary, thank you for your prayers for your dear Grandpa who admired you so much. God needed him for something and so we had to say goodbye. Love from Connie.



Dear Scott, Bruce + Gary! -
Thank you for your
prayers for your dear Grandpa
who admired you so much.
God needed him for
something + so we had to
say goodbye - Love from
Connie

I continue to correspond with her nephew, Charles “Charlie” Vossbrinck, who remembers them both and admired Henry as a role model from his youth. Charlie especially liked the sunken greenhouse Henry and Connie built as well as their koi pond.

In an email from 2018, Charlie wrote to me... “I remember Uncle Henry, as I called him, very well. He was a wonderful guy. We were discussing his ham radio one day and he told me that there was enough band width and technology that potentially everyone could have a radio phone. I believed him. We built Aunt Connie's pit greenhouse together (sunk into the ground to save energy). That was way ahead of it's time also. I remember my aunt staying in touch as she did a lot of typed correspondence. I also have a copy of Uncle Henry's ham radio call card K2FR at home (I am on vacation right now for another week). I am 65 and still working as a scientist and we just had our first grandchild 8 months ago.”

Connie also corresponded regularly with my father, Richard A. Gabrielson, through the end of her life. Most of the letters, several of which I have copies of, are of the nature of friendly communication with chats about weather, gardening, fishing, cooking and family. In one letter dated January 21, 1989, she commented that Grandpa Henry was a great cook. I know Dad enjoyed receiving these and sending them as I feel like Connie did too, filling a void in her life after Henry passed. Dad began doing more cooking, possibly as a result of this, and also became a very good cook later in life, often cooking for us at our house.

In late 1986 she reported the death of her mother, Angeline Stodulski aka Rone, who lived a very long life. I met her only briefly, and remember her as a collector of shark's teeth. My copies of letters from Connie (which I received after Dad's passing) seemed to end about 1992 and it

seems likely to me that the conversations shifted to telephone after that as Connie expressed some difficulty in writing, then typing, the letters. Dad had an unlimited long distance plan, having worked for AT&T for some time, so I think the letters turned to calls until her passing.

Connie was faithful to remember our children on their birthdays and at Christmas with cards and notes and we responded to her in kind. That was her preferred method of correspondence as most of her life was lived before the internet or email.

Connie lived 36 years after Henry passed, until 2003 when she succumbed to lung cancer, although she did not smoke. She died on June 13, 2003, in Merrick, New York, at the age of 86, and was buried in East Farmingdale, New York. Like her mother, Connie lived a very good and long life, passing at 86, and was a treasured member of our family.

Chapter 6 – Second Generation Americans

The Second Generation

The second generation of our family lines includes the three sons of **Henry and Anita Gabrielson**, the four children of Charles and Pauline Gabrielson-White, and the three children of Odber R. McLean and Malvina L. Fournier-Hersey.

Pauline and Charles E. White had 4 children:

1. Charles White, Jr. was born May 23rd, 1908 and died February 7th, 2004 at Albany NY. He was the son of Charles E. White (1887-1955) and Pauline Gronberg Gabrielson White (1890-1975). Charlie, as he was known, married Jean Smith from Vermont, however we do not know where in Vermont. She outlived Charlie by many years, and Charlie was a Judge in Albany, NY but did live in Rensselaer, NY. Charlie was also a first-degree Mason. He also worked around 1942 for the King Varick Corporation They seem to have lived at Defreestville, Rensselaer, New York. There are four known children.

2. Gertrude White (1907-1987) was a business woman, who married Howard W. Williams. Their children include:

- Delano Eugene “Gene” Williams - Killed in 1943 during WWII over Germany-shot down.
- Charles Williams - 1931 – 2001 He was a radio personality in Crawley, LA and the head of the Chamber of Commerce there. He married Deneige M. Morrissey. He later married Jolene Cramer and they had four children: Delano (Gene), Janet (Janey), Lisa and Marc.
- Hartley J. Williams (1933-2022) Hartley lived in Antigua in the Caribbean, he married twice and was associated with NASA in the early years (Mercury flight tracking stations) and married there with I believe 4 children.
- Paula Irene Williams, (1935-2015) married to Richard Finnie, Sr. on June 4, 1955 at Shelburne Falls, MA. She was living at Camp Lejeune NC so one of them was a Marine. Paula passed in 2015 in White County AK. Together they had four children: Thomas, Timothy, Christopher and Richard Jr.

3. Raymond “Ray” White (1913-2004) was born at Oceanview, NJ. He married Louise Helen Onnen (1918-2000) and settled in Sun City AR. Ray and Louise had two children, Richard and Linda. Louise died at Riverhead, NY.

- Linda White (1948-2006) lived at Long Island and married Louis Ramirez. Their children included Amber Ramirez and Nicole Ramirez.

- Richard White (1940-2014) married Patricia J. Smith (1942-2016) and they lived at Sun City, Arizona where he was retired from Swift Transportation. Richard passed away at Kissimmee, FL. Richard reported he had 4 children:
 - e. Laura L. White was born on July 23, 1962, and married to Robert J. Hueber, and together they had Ashley Hueber (b. 1991) who lived in New Jersey.
 - f. Marie White, married a Mr. Lynch
 - g. Barbara White was born in 1969
 - h. Richard White Jr., Born on June 16 and died before 2022.
and 7 grandchildren and, and 2 great grandchildren all on Long Island in NY.
4. Margaret White (1909-1982) was born at Mays Landing, NJ. She married three times, a Pierre Andreau (1911-1973), a James J. Rivoli Degrigoli (1907-1962) and Anderson Dilley (1902-1962. Anderson Dilly was from Arbroath, Scotland. They lived at Putnam Lake, NY. Anderson Dilley in 1942 lived at Brooklyn NY and worked for Speery Gyroscope Company. They had 3 known children, including an unnamed infant who passed at birth or shortly thereafter,
- Kenneth James Dilly (1932-1933) died at a young age
 - Marilyn B. Dilly (1933-1947)
 - Kenneth Anderson Dilly (1935-1970), lived at Port Chester NY, died at New Canaan, CT, reportedly by suicide.
 - Margaret Dilly (1940-1970) who married a doctor or hospital administrator in Mass or Conn. and moved there. Margaret was reportedly a champion swimmer but drowned in an accident. No known children.

The Fournier Line

We might also consider the Fournier family line, Grandmother Anita Fournier-Hersey had four siblings:

1. Marie-Louise Fournier 1891-1892
2. Infant boy Fournier 1893-1893
3. Philip Louis Fournier-Hersey 1894-1974
4. Malvina Leontine Fournier-Hersey 1896-1930

The first, Marie-Louise, died at a young age from unknown causes, the second (a son) died at childbirth. The third, Philip, never married, was a beautiful figure skater, served in both WWI and WWII, and traveled the world. He was a gifted musician, playing the mandolin. His primary occupation was as a ships radio operator and his home was near Boston, MA.

The fourth and most prolific of the group was Malvina Fournier-Hersey. Like her siblings she was born a Fournier and adopted by Captain Loran Hersey when her mother remarried. When Malvina Léontine Fournier Hersey was born on February 14, 1896, in Fall River, Massachusetts,

her father, Arthur, was 32, and her mother, Marie, was 27. She married Odber Rutledge McLean on May 27, 1918, in Chelsea, Massachusetts. They had three children during their marriage.

Odber R. McLean rose to the rank of Lt. Commander in the United States Navy. He died an untimely death at the age of 50 when he was “pushed” outside a Camden NJ saloon twice, striking his head on the sidewalk. Believing he was in a drunken stupor, he was taken to the police station without receiving medical treatment until much later when he complained of being ill. The doctor’s thought he had suffered a heart attack, only learning later that he had a fractured skull, which ended his life. The culprit in the incident, a truck driver, was taken into custody.

Malvina graduated from Belmont High School in the Boston area, and entered Stoneleigh College, a two-year women’s college at Rye Beach, NH. She died as a young mother from tuberculosis on March 4, 1930, in Everett, Massachusetts, at the age of 34.

The children of Odber and Malvina McLean are Paul McLean (1934-2016), Malvina McLean (1919-2009), Odber R. McLean, Jr. (1920-2018), and Loran B. McLean (1928-1941). For further information on these visit Chapter seven.

Philip L. Hersey, brother of Malvina and Anita, is listed in his US Army military cemetery headstone application as having “no relatives” upon his death in 1974.

Two other Fournier children, Marie-Louis (1891-1892) and an infant son (1893-1893) died in childhood.

The Gabrielson Line - The sons of Henry and Anita Gabrielson:

1. Henry Martin Gabrielson, Jr. (1922-1990)
2. Robert Edward Gabrielson (1925-1991),
3. Richard Arthur Gabrielson (1932-2016).

1. Henry M. Gabrielson, Jr. - (1922-1990)

The first born of these was Henry Martin Gabrielson Jr. When Henry Martin Gabrielson was born on August 31, 1922, in Brooklyn, New York, his father, Henry, was 28 and his mother, Anita, was 24. He married Philomena Rose Galgano and they had two children together. He also had one daughter with Margaret "Marge" C. McManus. He died on November 18, 1990, in Massapequa Park, New York, at the age of 68, and was buried in East Farmingdale, New York.

He was the oldest son of Henry Martin Gabrielson and Anita Rhea Fournier. He served in the US Army during WWII as a Private and his education was listed as four years of high school. His civilian occupation in 1943 was as a clerk. He lived until November 18, 1990 in Massapequa Park, NY.

Henry M. Gabrielson, Jr. was the oldest brother to my father, Richard A. Gabrielson, and to Robert E. Gabrielson.

According to Henry's son Lou, "Dad (Henry Jr.) grew up in Amityville and was in a dance band as the trumpet player. He also worked at the Massapequa Zoo as a snake handler while in high school. His hobbies were building hi-fi's. For the younger generation, a "hi-fi" was a high-fidelity radio console that offered a deeper and richer tone, with base included, than was otherwise available in those days. It generally included a turntable that played a stack of records, either 45 RPM (rotation per minute) singles or 78 RPM albums. Like his father, Henry, Jr. enjoyed radios and growing his garden."

Henry and Philomena also loved to cook. He especially enjoyed cooking on a grill or as northerners call it bar-b-queuing. Lou continued, "I'm not sure about how he met my mom (Philomena). That was a rough romance with her being Italian and dad a Norseman. He worked his whole life with the NY Telephone company and loved his job. In those days the utility companies took good care of its workers. Henry, Jr. also served in the US Army Air Force in the 1940's as a radio gunner on bombers. However, he never fought overseas and was stationed in Maine."

As Lou recalled, Henry loved to garden, it was one of his favorite things to do. He especially loved to grow tomatoes which seems to have been a common theme among Gabrielson men, as he often compared his tomatoes with his brother Rick, brother Bob, and dad Henry Sr. They would compare notes on which varieties they were growing in a certain year and which they hoped would do best. He enjoyed receiving the Burpees catalog and others with seed information and in springtime half his back yard would be plowed out waiting for planting. He had a tractor he used to plow with and also grew corn and other vegetables.

Henry enjoyed going out east on Long Island to the strawberry fields and picking fresh berries and other farm stand items.

Henry also loved fishing and crabbing. He kept crab nets in the garage and he and Lou would go crabbing all night sometimes, especially in the 1950s. The next day was like a Christmas feast with a big pot of crabs boiling in the kitchen! Henry preferred surf fishing over freshwater fishing.

Lou also recalled... "I would say the earliest memory I have of my dad was all the love and kindness he gave us. He was always there for us. I always felt safe if he was around. He taught me so much about life and the world around us. It was important to him that everyone was happy. He was always helping someone on the block with a project and would help anyone in trouble. I sure learned a lot from him and his voice was one that I would hear inside me even today if I need an answer. As we got older things were a little rough at home after my mom died, and I would try to help him as much as I could, but he wanted me to enjoy my youth and would never let me work on my summer vacations. Towards the end of his life dad still was there to give us advice and as sick as he was, he never let it get him down. When my dad passed away, I was the first one in the hospital room and I saw he had a smile on his face and a happy look in his eyes and I feel he was telling me that everything was ok and he is now in a wonderful place. That gave me a better understanding about God."

Henry also loved photography. These were the days of black and white photos and big cameras, not digital like we have now. He had a room in his basement where he would process the films into photographs. He especially liked taking nature photos of birds and such.

He learned about electricity from his dad, and taught his son Lou how to rewire his own home when Lou was only about 8 years old. Like other Gabrielson men, Henry enjoyed working on things and fixing them, he was a jack-of-all-trades.

Henry enjoyed learning and did so by reading and visiting museums with his family on weekends. He enjoyed the crossword puzzles which took a great deal of concentration and knowledge.

In a personal letter to me in 1977, Henry Jr. recalled that he never met his grandfather because Martinus Gabrielsen died before Henry was born. He does remember his grandmother very well. He indicates that she was a midwife, who delivered babies. She in fact, delivered him, Bob, and Rick all at home. Bob was born on 4805 4th Street and 4th Ave in Brooklyn NY. Rick was born on Washington Ave in Amityville, NY ten years after Henry. He was a bit of a surprise!

Henry (in the same letter) mentioned that his father Henry Sr. was born in Providence RI. He thinks that his mother Anita was born in Roxbury Mass. Henry Jr. commented in his letter "I remember as a little boy visiting there and uncle Bob and I used to delight in pushing great grandfather Parrot (ie Parent), who could not fly off the porch railing." I am not sure what this means, but it is interesting. Henry closes with mention of an organization called the Sons of Norway which publishes a magazine, and which offers to assist in tracing ancestry. Henry took up an interest in our family history and he is the one responsible for some of the Gabrielson information contained in this report.

For most of his career, Henry worked for New York Telephone Company, a part of the Bell System and AT&T. He retired from there at one point. I recall my father, Richard Gabrielson, telling the story that after his military service, his dad Henry Sr. told him to get a good job like his oldest brother Henry. That's exactly what he did, joining the NY Telephone company as well.

Henry married Philomena Rose Galgano (1924-1966), the daughter of Louis and Rose Galgano, an Italian family of New York. She had a sister Phyllis and brother Angelo. Together they had two sons, Henry Louis Gabrielson (1947-2012) and Louis Martin Gabrielson ("Lou" 1950 -).

After the passing of Philomena from Hodgkin's disease in 1966, Henry was lost and lonely for a bit, but he had good friends and one of Henry's friends was a man named Harry Gerlach (1924-1966). They played cards together along with a few other phone company men and through their friendship Henry met Harry's wife Marge. Margaret "Marge" Catherine McManus had married Henry Gerlach in the late 1940s and gave birth to a daughter, Deborah (Debbie) Gerlach in 1959 in New York.

For many years Harry Gerlach was first a letter carrier for the US Postal Service, and later worked for the NY Telephone where Henry Gabrielson worked. Marge worked as a receptionist at an importers office. Harry Gerlach passed away in October 1966 from a heart attack, leaving Marge a widow. (Harry and Marge are buried at St. Charles Cemetery in East Farmingdale, NY.)

Margaret "Marge" C. McManus. Marge was born on December 12, 1926 to Joseph A. McManus and Margaret Eden of Jersey City, NJ. Marge became a widow in 1966 as well.

In 1972, after both were widowed a few years, Henry Gabrielson and Marge McManus Gerlach fell in love and married. Debbie became the adopted daughter of Henry Gabrielson and together they raised her in their home.

Marge and Henry, along with Marge's daughter Debbie Gerlach, lived together until his passing on Nov. 18, 1990 at Massapequa Park, NY. Marge passed away in 2008. She enjoyed being with Henry Jr, and with Debbie, Debbie's husband Bryan Nolan and their son Harrison Bryan Nolan, who born in August of 1999. They all live on Long Island around Massapequa Park, NY.

Debbie remembers Henry as "Hank", stating Hank was a wonderful stepfather who took us on many weekend adventures to museums, beaches, lighthouses and other historic places. These are things we still do today! He loved to cook and make French fries from huge potatoes we would get from out east Long Island. I miss him and my mother everyday. ❤️

Henry Gabrielson Jr.'s first wife, Philomena Rose Galgano was born on May 28, 1924 in Amityville, Long Island, New York. She was the daughter of Italian immigrants Luigi "Louis or Lou" Galgano and Rosina "Rose" Carisi.

The Galgano's lived on Willis Avenue in Amityville, with brothers Louis and Joe buying "twin houses", identical houses that shared a common driveway. Louis was like the family godfather, what he said was what everyone did, but it was a very tight family and they loved being together.

The Galgano's were known to be a wealthy family, with "John" Giovanni Galgano (Philomena's brother) involved in airplane manufacturing and having invented some type of landing gear.

Philomena, known as Phil, was a gifted seamstress like her mother, Rose. A devout Roman Catholic, she kept to her faith and understood some of the Latin mass since Latin was close to Italian, which she could speak very well. When raising her sons, Henry III and Lou, however, they did not pass along the Italian language, possibly because they felt others looked down upon them as being an immigrant clan and wanting the boys to be just "Americans".

She attended Catholic schools and graduated from Queen of the Rosary Academy in Amityville on June 20th, 1943 after completing the four-year academic course preparatory for entrance to college, schools of nursing and the secretarial fields. In school, Phil majored in art and was very good, and would later after marriage color in the black and white photos which Henry took and developed. (My parents did the same.) Phil had an outgoing personality and loved to cook, especially Italian foods. Her neighbors would come to her for cooking tips.

When she was 22, Phil married **Henry M. Gabrielson Jr.** on June 29, 1946 at St Martin's Rectory in Amityville, NY. She often helped neighbors and local merchants in need of sewing work, repairs and such. Henry worked for the telephone company and Phil was a full-time mom,

except when filling in at local stores and shoppes when someone was out sick or they needed a hand. She knew all the local store owners in Amityville village and often filled in as a seamstress.

She loved her two sons, **Henry (Hank) Gabrielson and Louis (Lou) Gabrielson.**

Sadly, at the young age of 41 she developed Hodgkin's disease and passed away, and was buried at East Farmingdale, Suffolk County, New York.

Philomena Galgano's Family Tree

1. Luigi Galgano was born in 1835 in Ferrandina, Matera, Italy. He had one son with Domenica D'Elia in 1870. Domenica was the daughter of Domenico P. D'Elia (b. 1797) of Ferrandina, Matera, Basilicata, Italy, and his wife, Pasqua Maria Montano (1796-1842) of Ferrandina, also,

Ferrandina is a town and commune in the province of Matera, in the Southern Italian region of Basilicata. It is a center for production of high-quality olive oil.

2. The son of Luigi Galgano and Domenica D'Elia Galgano was Angelo M. Galgano.

When Angelo Maria Galgano was born in 1870 in Ferrandina, Matera, Italy, his father, Luigi, was 35 and his mother, Domenica, was 35. He married Felicia Arenella on December 20, 1886, in his hometown. They had seven children in 17 years. He died in 1910 in his hometown at the age of 40. Angelo was a gunsmith; Felicia was a spinner of cloth.

3. The oldest son of Angelo M. and Felicia Arenella Galgano was Luigi "Louis" Galgano.

When Luigi "Louis" Galgano was born on April 26, 1892, in Ferrandina, Matera, Italy, his father, Angelo, was 22 and his mother, Felicia, was 25. He had one son and two daughters with Rosina "Rose" Carisi between 1918 and 1924. He died on December 2, 1950, in Amityville, New York, at the age of 58, and was buried in North Amityville, New York. The 1920 NY United States Census lists Louis as an airplane mechanic, living on Ketcham Avenue in Babylon, Suffolk County, NY. and they were still aliens in the USA at that time, not being Naturalized. They immigrated to the United States in 1912 from Italy.

Rosina "Rose" Carisi was the wife of Luigi Galgano, born on January 1, 1892, in Ferrandina, Matera, Italy, the daughter of Filomena Gianotti and Pietro "Peter" Carisi. Notice she was from the same Italian village as the Galgano family, although she did not arrive in America until Sept 17, 1909 at New York. She was 17 when she arrived on the ship "SS Cretic".

She died in March 1974 in Ormond Beach, Florida, at the age of 82, and was buried in North Amityville, New York. Rose was a master seamstress, owning a singer sewing machine in a time when they were few and far between. She was reportedly a very smart person.

The 1930 US Census has them at #6 Willis Avenue, Amityville, NY in dwelling #2, which they owned, and the value of the home was \$6000. Their "first papers" had been sent for

Naturalization (likely still in process) and Louis was the Foreman in the Airplane Factory. He was 37 at the time, and Rose was 38 at the time of the census in 1930. Their three children were with them, Felicia (11), Angelo (10) and Philomena (5). Luigi (Louis) lived until December 2, 1950 and died at Amityville, NY.

Luigi and Rosina Galgano had three children,

- a) Felicia (1918-1977) (aka Phyliss) who married Alan Brown, around October 25, 1946.
- b) Angelo Louis Galgano (1919-1997). Unmarried.
- c) Philomena Rose Galgano, married to Henry M. Gabrielson, Jr.

2. Robert E. “Bob” Gabrielson, Jr. - (1925-1991)

When Robert Edward Gabrielson was born on May 19, 1925, in Brooklyn, New York, his father, Henry, was 31 and his mother, Anita, was 27. He married Barbara Ann Evans on October 11, 1947, in New York. They had six children in 14 years. He died on December 20, 1991, in Thousand Oaks, California, at the age of 66, and was buried in Westlake Village, California.

Robert Edward Gabrielson was born on May 19, 1925 in Brooklyn, New York. His parents were Anita and Henry Gabrielson. He was in the middle of two brothers, Henry Jr., and Richard. Robert, better known as Bob, was a hard working young man who loved his family. In his youth he was an excellent pitcher at Amityville High School in New York. He was very athletic and quite a mischievous young man who often enjoyed playing practical jokes on people. At the same time he was intelligent and made high grades in school. Bob was amazingly quick at completing crossword puzzles and did them daily. He had a wonderfully dry sense of humor.

At nineteen, he joined the Marine Corps and was a sergeant in World War II. He fought at Iwo Jima and Okinawa in Japan. While there he was involved in radar operations. He was also there when the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan. Rarely did he talk about these experiences after he returned home, probably because it was so painful to remember. When he did return home in 1946 he married his high school sweetheart, Barbara Evans in 1947. Bob and Barbara lived in Amityville and had six children, Joanne, Robert, Jeanne, Glenn, Nancy and Eric. Bob received his honorable discharge on May 6, 1946 at Bainbridge MD.

Bob worked in construction and at Western Electric initially but then was hired by ABC as a cameraman in 1949. His father, Henry was an engineer for NBC. Bob bought a house in Wantagh NY with his savings and was always a good provider to his family. Later, he went into field work and became a Supervising Engineer. The family moved to California about 1967 as television production became popular in Hollywood and the west coast. He loved his job and traveled the world doing many shows such as the Academy Awards, the Emmy's , professional baseball, football, golf, ice skating in Norway, ABC's Wide World of Sports, the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles and much more. He received an Emmy award himself that year for outstanding achievement.

One of the earlier shows he worked on is regarded as a pioneer in music broadcasting, American Bandstand with Dick Clark. Another show, Family Feud with Richard Dawson, continues after 50 years production to this day, although with Steve Harvey as the current host.

Bob loved gardening when he was home and would regularly hand out tomatoes and other home-grown vegetables to his neighbors. He was strong and loved working outdoors. Often, he would help his neighbors build fences and do landscaping projects. Rarely would he sit long except when he was watching his favorite baseball team on television, the New York Giants which later became the San Francisco Giants around 1960. If they lost a game, he was often heard scolding the players quite loudly in his living room!

Bob also enjoyed cooking and tending the barbecue grill in the yard. His famous dish among many was lasagna. Thanksgiving was always a big event, in fact it was his favorite holiday. Christmas was huge too at the Gabrielson household. He was a very generous man and gave abundantly to all those around him. Although Bob could afford a nicer car, he was known for driving a little white 1962 Volkswagen bug which later became the famous Gabrielson family vehicle. Each and every teenager in the family learned to drive in that car and how it lasted for so many years is a true mystery!



In the late 1980's Bob came down with cancer near the pancreas, had major surgery at UCLA Hospital in Los Angeles. He recovered nicely until it returned a few years later. He never complained. Before he passed away Bob accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior before

dying peacefully on December 20, 1991 at age sixty-six. He is dearly missed by his friends and family and is often discussed at family gatherings. Barbara lived with her daughter Jeanne in Simi Valley, California for many years until her passing.

Barbara Evans Family Tree

Barbara Ann Evans Gabrielson was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell L. Evans of Amityville, NY. She graduated from Amityville High School and worked for a while at the First National Bank and Trust there.

Barbara Ann Evans was born to Russell L. and Dorothy M. Barish Evans in Bayshore Hospital on Long Island, New York on November 13, 1927. Russell worked in 1950 as a chauffer for a private party and Dorothy was a registered practical nurse at Nassau-Suffolk General Hospital. They lived 21 Cedar Street in Amityville, NY. At the age of 33 Russell was drafted into the military during World War 2.

Dorothy Barish (1906-1999) was the daughter of Richard Paul Barish and Lillie Helen Schuemaun of New York.

Barbara enjoyed a wonderful childhood growing up on Cedar Street in Amityville, New York. By all accounts, she was very popular, had many friends, and was an "avid" talker. She spent most days at the home of her best friend, Mary Goodwin. She was a beauty and had many boyfriends which irritated a certain young suitor. It is reported that this suitor, "Gabe" and his best friend, Gerry, in order to avoid the watchful gaze of Russell's peering eyes, climbed atop the garage conveniently located under Barbara's bedroom window, threw rocks at same window. And there faithfully appeared Barbara and younger sister, June. So the two singers serenaded the two lovelies establishing quite the romances. There's even a tale of one of the two stowing away in the toilet paper closet to avoid Russell's discovery upon his return from the graveyard shift.

To nip these romances in the bud, Russell decided to send his two daughters off to summer camp in Vermont. This plan was short circuited when Barbara contracted Plantar warts on the soles of her feet. Solution? Both girls were sent back to the site of burgeoning romances.

As a high schooler Barbara was the drum majorette for Amityville High School. She led many community parades. She also loved sports and played field hockey as the team's goalie, and softball. At age sixteen she joined a water-skiing team and appeared on the cover of a water skiing magazine. She travelled to Cypress Gardens, Florida and performed in water skiing shows there. In this same era, Barbara was part of Esther Williams "Aquacade," a synchronized swimming and water ballet show at Jones Beach. She performed in these for several summers.

Upon graduation from high school, Barbara worked for the Bank of Amityville. Later she secured a "better" job in New York City where she delivered messages on roller skates, both inside buildings and out! Barbara was lovely, athletic, strong and competitive. She could arm wrestle with the best of them!

Then, there began the stream of love letters from Bob who was serving in the Marine Corps in Iwo Jima, Okinawa. Upon his return, Gabe and Barbara were engaged and on October 11, 1947 they were married in First Methodist Church in Amityville, New York. They had purchased a first home, which was brand new at the time, located in Wantagh, New York. Gabe worked at Western Electric at the time.

About a year and a half later, after one send-home trip to the hospital, Joanne Carol was born on January 23, 1949. For four years she was their one and only! On what turned out to be an annual trip to Niagara Falls for a while, Gabe (Bob), Barbara and little Joanne spent the night in a motel in Watkins Glen, New York. Joanne was curiously opening the dresser drawers and found a belt there. She pulled it out only to find a gun attached. She said, Daddy, what's this?" His face blanched as she pointed the gun right at his nose. "Gently put that on the floor, Jo" he said. She did. The gun was loaded!

The couple then moved to a bigger home in Massapequa, New York which was a few miles away. Around this time Gabe secured a new position at American Broadcasting Company in New York City. On February 11, 1953, a little brother, Robert Evans, came along to keep Joanne company. Two years later another girl joined the family, Jeanne Marie on February 28, 1955. By this time, the "new" house was beginning to feel cramped, so the family moved to a larger home in Massapequa. The Gabrielson's needed another boy. Glenn Richard arrived July 9, 1958. Glenn was an incredibly curious little boy constantly taking things apart to figure out how they worked. He once drained a neighbor's huge backyard pool to see what would happen. He turned out to be an aircraft mechanic, so apparently, it was inborn! Nancy Anita came on board on October 15, 1960. Although there were kids in every room, we made space for Eric James on July 22, 1963. A frequently asked question was, "Is your family Catholic?" The Gabrielson's were not Catholic, but just liked kids! Barbara loved each one and never stopped.

By this time, Bob had been promoted to Technical Engineering Supervisor at ABC, and had helped initiate "Wide World of Sports." He travelled all over the world helping to broadcast all types of sporting match ups. In 1984, he worked tirelessly on the Los Angeles Olympics. He won an Emmy for his hard work on that incredible project. Due to his heavy travel schedule, Gabe was rarely home, leaving Barbara to raise the growing children by herself.

In 1991, Bob (Gabe) passed away after 44 years of marriage to Barbara. Barbara missed him terribly but never complained and kept herself busy with grandma duties and by volunteering at Los Robles Hospital. She always loved to help people. Barbara's sister, June Sears and Barbara starting a series of road trips together, while truly bonding in the process. The trip to Coeur d'Alene included sleeping on futons where they, according to the description, "slept downhill" and therefore sliding to the bottom all night long. They also discovered that everything in Gilroy, including the bed linens, smelled like garlic! Although green with car sickness on a trip involving Rte., 1, Barbara totally revived when she saw the ocean. She always loved driving to see the ocean, even during the last few days of life, when son Bob, and on that occasion, Glenn drove her there again. Even though the "twisty" road promoted car-sickness, she never complained. She could drive forever! On one ill-fated trip to Seattle, June's car was broken into

and all the clothes inside it were stolen. Not good!

During this time, daughter, Jeanne, her husband Bob and daughter Dawn moved in with Barbara. They stayed there helping her with the upkeep of the house and watching over her. At her 84th birthday party, when asked what her goals were for the upcoming year, she replied, "I don't want to bother anyone. I just want to be happy!" How fitting that she would simply pass from earth to Heaven at home, in her sleep and in her own bed! She was happy and never complained. She loved her family and her family loved her!

3. Richard A. Gabrielson - 1932-2016

1930's - THE EARLY YEARS

This is the story, as I recall it, of the highlights of my father's life, Richard A. Gabrielson. Known as Rick to his parents and brothers, Gabe to his friends and peers, Dad to three sons, and Grandpa Gabe to his grandkids. I will refer to him in this record as Dad, occasionally Gabe.

Dad was born in 1932 in Amityville, NY. The youngest of 3 sons to Henry M. and Anita Gabrielson, he was a "surprise" baby, born later in their lives. His oldest brother was Henry Jr., who was some 10 years his senior, the next was Robert (Bob), 7 years older.

Dad was born (in his home on Margaret Avenue) just as The Great Depression was getting into full gear (1929-1938) times were tough. More people were out of work than working, poverty was rampant, and more than 10,000 banks failed. People were focused on saving everything, from what little money they had to rubber bands. Dad grew up during this time and it impacted his life. His grandmother Lizzie, was a midwife, and assisted in his birth.

Dad recalled that one of his favorite youth activities was taking out a small rowboat into the harbor area, fishing and clamming. He enjoyed living at the water and would remember going out in a rowboat to get clams or oysters for his father, by walking around in waist deep water and stepping on them. Grandpa Henry, when riding along, opened the clams and consumed them raw, or with a bit of ketchup.

Dad enjoyed fishing and boating all of his life, and some of my favorite memories are our early fishing jaunts. We fished in lakes or we would go shore fishing. He did not have many opportunities to go, but it was installed in him during his early days near the water at home. Dad especially loved trout fishing. During these years he would go early on the first day of trout season, in the middle of the night, taking his lunch, to fish. He also owned a small rowboat with motor and would enjoy going in the bay, which was next to their home. He especially loved Avon Lake and would fish with his friend Bill Smith.

Dad's school years were no doubt like those of other young boys at the time. Many people did not complete school as it was more important to find work. His school grades were average to above average, although he always received high marks for effort. He graduated from Elementary, Eight Grade and High School at Amityville. Dad graduated from Amityville High School in 1952.

The 1940's - THE SCHOOL YEARS

While in school, Dad developed an interest in cars, as did most young men. He loved working on cars or anything mechanical. He also began a lifelong interest in radio (including shortwave) and electronics. These, no doubt, were due to his own father's interest in these things. There were many new inventions coming forth during this time period.

Dad was very mechanically minded. He could repair most anything. These interests continued through his life. During school, Dad worked for a short time for the Nassau-Suffolk Lumber Company where he was a Photostat Operator. At that time, he lived at 47 Berkley Place in Massapequa, NY.

The 1950's MILITARY & TRAINING YEARS

During his high school years, America joined WWII and Dad's brothers joined the service, but by the time Dad was out of school the war was over. However, in 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea and the Korean War started. Dad was drafted into the Army on Dec 8, 1952. He did his basic training at Ft. Bragg in Fayetteville, NC, 82nd Airborne (US ARMY) where he made friends and enjoyed going, at times, to their homes for some Southern Cooking. He was assigned, after Basic, to the HQ Company of the 66th Signal Group based at Fort Monmouth, NJ. This put him close to home and he enjoyed going for his mother's home cooked meals at times. At Fort Monmouth, in 1953, he entered the Field Radio Repairman school (signal school). Dad also completed a "Leaders Course" in the same school. In 1954 as he completed the school, the war ended, and he was transferred to the Reserves.

He received the National Defense Service medal while in the service. As Dad was completing his training at Fort Monmouth, the Korean conflict ended, and he was, at some point, transferred to the US Army Reserve to complete his military obligations. He received an Honorable Discharge. When his Army term ended, he was 5'7", weighed 140 with brown hair and brown eyes. Dad received his final full discharge from the Army in 1960. I did not realize that he was still a part of this when I was born, until after going through his papers.

AFTER THE ARMY

When Dad returned home from the Army, he used his GI Benefits to further his education by going to the RCA Institute in New York City. From 1955 to 1956, he took their courses in Radio and Television. About this time, Dad qualified and took the test to become a licensed Second-Class Radio operator. This was a difficult task and he kept it active all of his life. His father, Henry Sr., had a First-Class radio license (very few people did). During High School, I also took an interest in radio and was able to take classes in Portsmouth, VA in radio, and obtained my 3rd Class Radio Operators license (with broadcast endorsement at the age of just 13) that allowed me to operate radio stations, which I did for a while in High School). Dad also dabbled in Amateur Radio and had licenses in that as well. He was a member of the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) and upon his death requested that they be notified of his "silent keys". ...We did.

LOVE and MARRIAGE

Dad and Mom, Patricia Ann “Patty” Milligan met on a blind date in the mid 1950’s and fell in love. He was 5 years older than she, and probably seemed like a dashing young soldier. They married March 31, 1957 at the Methodist Church in Babylon NY with lots of friends and family present. There is a video of the wedding party following the celebration, one of the only such videos surviving from that time. It has been copied to DVD digital format. Patty was the daughter of Frederick Linwood Milligan and Cora May Griffin Milligan. The Griffins and Milligan’s are long time “Long Island” families, and before then the Milligan’s are related to the Milligan’s of Charleston SC during the Revolutionary War period. The Revolutionary War Patriot, Captain Jacob Milligan of Charleston SC, is part of our family. I have written a book about Captain Jacob Milligan, entitled “The Intrepid Patriot”.

At some point Dad gained a strong interest in photography, developing his own semi-professional photos and would take Mom to Montauk Point, a nice place at the end of the Island to take photos or a picnic.

The 1960’s - MARRIED LIFE AND FAMILY

After their wedding, Mom and Dad took a honeymoon trip to Virginia down the Shenandoah Valley. They enjoyed their time away and soon settled in to housekeeping back home. The first home was an upstairs apartment in a home that others owned. They had the main floor, Pat and Gabe (Mom and Dad) had the upstairs. It was on Bunnell Place in West Babylon. This was also my first home, so they were there from their wedding through my first year or so. Another apartment followed briefly, then Grandpa Gabrielson helped Mom and Dad with a down payment of \$600 to buy their first home.

Around 1960, they bought their first home in West Babylon at 9 Glenda Drive. It was a modest but nice beginner home; a square design clapboard style house with four rooms and a bath in the center. It had a very nice fenced yard, with the local high school directly behind so we could watch school kids on the track. There was also a nice garage, and at one point our family got baby chicks for Easter and they had a pen behind the garage. They turned out to be all roosters, so no eggs!

Our neighbor on one side was an elderly lady named Jean Comb, who loved to treat me, and later, Bruce, to cookies from her oven. On the other side was a young family and a boy named Michael who became my playmate. Nearby was family, Uncle Issac “Ike” and Aunt Bessie Milligan Sprague.

Ours was a normal nuclear family. Dad worked while Mom was home with us kids. We enjoyed playing with each other, with friends, and visiting family and such. We enjoyed school, family gatherings, holidays, and other typical family times.

Dad tried his hand for a while in radio and tv repair and had his own little business, but I don’t think it did well for him.

Following his RCA Institute education, he was advised by his father, Henry Sr., that the NY Telephone Company was hiring. Dad’s older brother Henry worked there as well. Henry Sr. advised that they offered a steady job with benefits and he should get work there. That is exactly

what Dad did. In 1956, he joined the NY Telephone Company, and would stay within the Bell system until his first retirement in 1985.

Dad (Rick) and Mom (Pat) had three sons together. I (Scott) was born in June of 1958, and Bruce, in January, 1961, so, as our family grew the small Glenda Drive house got smaller. Bruce and I shared a bedroom. I recall a “trundle bed” which was a twin bed that was designed to lower and raise by a mechanical arm. It could then be hidden under the main twin bed when not needed. While it saved room in our small house, it was an interesting death trap! Our younger brother Gary was born in 1964, about the time we moved to a larger home at 518 Asharoken Boulevard in Bay Shore, NY.

The 1960's - THE WORKING YEARS

For most of my early life, Dad commuted to New York City to work at the New York Telephone Company, a division of AT&T. He started out collecting change from pay phones and moved up to other areas over the years, improving his position. As changes in technology came about, Dad was trained in switching systems, including Cross Bar 5, a new system that was being implemented in NY in the 1960's. He sometimes took the train from our home in West Babylon (9 Glenda Drive) or later, after Gary was born, our home at 518 Asharoken Blvd in Bay Shore, NY. Other times, he commuted with friends or colleagues who took turns driving.

I had started school while we lived in Babylon. Then, in 1964, my dad's mother (Anita Gabrielson) passed away. She had suffered a stroke and was bedridden for some time. It was soon after that dad and mom learned that another “baby bundle” was on the way. The small, 4 room bungalow at 9 Glenda Drive in Babylon would not suffice.

In 1964 when Gary was coming, Gabe and Pat sold the house at 9 Glenda Drive to our grandparents, Fred “Lin” and Cora Milligan. I think the selling price was \$4,000. Mom and Dad bought a nice brick home on Asharoken Boulevard in Bay Shore, with 3 bedrooms and a basement. It was a Tudor style home, with a small front porch, a garage that had been added on, and a nice fenced back yard.

Across the street was a short dead end, then the local shopping center, a recent invention for shoppers. It was easy to turn this into our play area! Especially during snow season when the mounds of snow became our snow fortresses and slides! Our school, Gardner Manor Elementary School was nearby until we moved again in 1968.

The 1970's - THE VIRGINIA YEARS

Dad hated the commute to New York City and at the time, NYC was a dirty, dangerous place. Patty's brother-in-law, Richard “Dick” Marlow, worked for another branch of AT&T called Western Electric. It was a manufacturing arm of the phone business. Dick Marlow was able to leave his New York City job at Western Electric in the early 1970's and move to the Tidewater area of Virginia Beach, VA. Western Electric was at the time a subsidiary of AT&T, or as it was known, Ma Bell.

In Virginia, the local phone company was known as C&P Telephone (Chesapeake and Potomac). The C&P Telephone company was moving towards installing the Cross Bar 5 telephone switching systems and they invited dad to come work. Although they were a sister company to NY Telephone, NY Telephone did not want dad to leave and refused the transfer, so he had to actually quit NY Telephone to make the move, but C&P offered to retain all of his seniority and benefits. So, in April 1968, our family packed up a station wagon. The big moving van came to our home and we took off south. What a culture shock! I think we were the first Yankees in Virginia since the Civil War!

I was in the 4th grade at the time, and found myself, at the beginning of each school day, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, but also having devotions and prayer, and finishing our morning routine by singing Dixie! I can still sing it today, LOL! The school in VA was teaching me things I had already learned in NY in the 3rd grade, so I was ahead of my peers, which did not make socialization easier. I quickly learned to develop a Southern accent to try and fit in.

Dad did well in the C&P telephone service and we soon moved from a rental home on Clintwood Drive in Chesapeake (now Portsmouth) to a brand new, purchased ranch home on 3605 Linnet Lane! Wow, it had central air conditioning, and we were in heaven! As I recall, it was \$18,000 new. That was 1969. (Value in 2026 is \$325,000). I still remember our phone – 703-484-4627.

By 5th grade I moved up to a Middle School, which was near the C&P building where Dad worked in Chesapeake. I would occasionally walk to his work after school and enjoy a gas station candy bar and soda, and hang out until time to go home.

Good school attendance was important to Dad, as was safety. He emphasized safety to us all to the point it drove us nuts, but it eventually hit home, and we have shared it with our kids, and now they, with their kids.

During the years we lived in Portsmouth (which was originally Chesapeake when we first arrived but was annexed into Portsmouth during our time there), the phone company would occasionally go on strike. Dad was in the union, and it was required to participate in those strikes. Since the family income was cut off during this time, Dad got a job at McDonalds nearby. I think he liked doing something different and perhaps this was instrumental in developing his love of cooking as he grew older.

1972 - THE PROMOTION

In 1972, Dad was offered a promotion to the Engineering Department, a management job, with a good raise, but with the caveat that he move to the Roanoke, VA area.

One day, the five of us loaded the car up and took the 5 or 6 hour trip to Roanoke, drove around a bit, and then drove back- the same day! What a ride! There is a place on 460 near Lynchburg that I remember us stopping at, a little picnic area, and every time I pass there I am reminded of that trip.

We made a few trips to Roanoke to find a home and dad and mom settled on a house at 85 Lakeshore Terrace in Hardy, VA, a bit out in the country but right next to Smith Mountain Lake.

We had lived in Chesapeake for just 5 years. When Dad was promoted to management and transferred to Roanoke, VA, we moved with him in April 1973. However, just before the move, an accident occurred to Bruce. He was about 11 years old and was riding his bicycle along the road when a pickup truck's oversized mirrors clipped his head, opening a serious gash. He was rushed to the hospital (Maryview Hospital in Portsmouth) where major surgery took place to save his life. His skull was crushed on one side, and a metal plate inserted to protect his brain from further injury. I remember praying for Bruce and on one occasion riding my bicycle the 5 miles to go see him. Not a short trip for a 13 year old! Fortunately, Bruce survived, and although it delayed the moving process, he fully recovered.

Our family moved to Franklin County in April 1973. The Lakeshore Terrace subdivision was fairly new at the time, just a short drive to Roanoke, and the new home we bought (85 Lakeshore Terrace) was built by Bob Bowers of Tempo Homes. Bob was a good Christian businessman who was later known for his Hands for Christ Ministry.

Here was another brand-new home. This one was a \$25,000 split level with four bedrooms and a 2 car garage. There was more red mud there than anyone should ever have to see in their lifetime! Red stains ended up everywhere, and oh, it was on the side of a mountain. A very steep mountain! But across the street was the Roanoke River branch of the wonderful Smith Mountain Lake.

Although our home was always filled with love, the marriage of dad and mom grew incompatible over time. Dad was, during those years, very stressed and usually ended his days with a six pack of beer. Stress has a way of shaping our lives and the course of life, and it did with my family. My parents ended up divorcing around 1975. Dad and I stayed in the Lakeshore Terrace house (I was in my senior year of high school) while Bruce, Gary and Mom ended up in Vinton in a townhouse. Mom and Dad were, I think, even more compatible in divorce than in marriage, and for many months after, dad would go to mom's house for dinner. After the divorce, dad gave up drinking.

By 1976, I was off to college, marrying in 1977. and dad was now on his own in the four-bedroom house, living on the side of a hill that was difficult to mow, so he opted to sell and move into town, buying his final home at 536 Olney Road in Vinton in 1978. He was not far from Mom, Bruce and Gary, and later mom's parents, the Milligans moved nearby to Mountain View Lane as well. In 1979 Bruce graduated from William Byrd High School and married soon after, while Gary came to live with Dad in the Olney Road home.

THE REMARRIAGE

On April 14, 1979 Dad married again. Margaret Rose was a divorced lady who worked with Dad at the phone company. They had a simple ceremony, which I performed. Margaret had a daughter, Cindy, who was about 11 at the time. Since I was away at college during this time, I don't know much of the history, except that Cindy was a spoiled child who would not listen to her mother or Dad, and it caused turmoil in their new marriage. The marriage lasted only a few months and they separated and divorced within the year. It is my understanding that Margaret later passed away at a young age.

Dad swore off relationships after that and never again dated or envisioned life as a married man. He was quite content to be on his own. Dad kept some cats at times, one was named Lucky. They brought him comfort and kept him company.

THE 1980's

Dad continued his work with the C&P Telephone Company until 1985. He lived in Vinton, VA, and had a few friends and mostly enjoyed his home life. Gary lived with him, while Bruce was married and began having kids, as did Sherri and I (Scott).

Dad loved seeing and playing with grandkids, and especially enjoyed cooking for us all. He worked on improving his cooking skills, and over the course of time, ended up with well over 1,000 cookbooks. (I know, I moved them!)

Dad's first grandchild, Joshua Gabrielson, was born in 1978. I remember calling Dad from the hospital early in the morning to let him know! He was pleased to wake up to such news.

This photo was taken about 1982, showing Dad, Gary, Bruce, Scott and Joshua.

Later joining the family were Forrest, (born in 1980 to Bruce and Robin his first wife in 1980). Teresa was born in 1981, and Rick in 1982 (named for Dad). Bruce remarried to the lovely Kimberly Simmons, and from them were born Christopher in 1991 and Logan in 1996. A total of 6 grands!

Dad enjoyed each of his grandkids, never interfering in their lives or upbringing, but always providing a gentle reassurance that life "will all work out".

Although his mother was Catholic and father from a Lutheran family, Dad was never raised in church and was not comfortable in church, but he did believe in God and took comfort in knowing that God was in control of things. It is my understanding that Dad invited Christ into his life during a visit of Rev. Terry Harper of White Rock Church to our Lake Shore Terrace home, in the 1970's. Dad had a peace about life and his faith, although he was not outwardly religious.

The LATE 1980's

Scott and Sherri and kids moved back to the Roanoke Valley in 1985 after completing a pastorate in Charlottesville, VA and spending time in Zebulon, NC (for Seminary studies) and always enjoyed having Dad come to our house. He would join us most years (if not all) for Christmas day and we would include gifts for him, and he of course brought gifts for our family as well. I think he greatly enjoyed these Christmas dates. Our Thanksgiving was always enjoyed with Sherri's family in Chesapeake and I believe that Dad spent many Thanksgivings with Bruce and Kim and family.

THE LATE 1980's – DAD'S FIRST RETIREMENT

Dad continued to work at C& P Telephone into the early 80's. I think he found the desk work boring, but his job was secure and the benefits fantastic. As he was now in management, he also had to go "fill in" for striking workers occasionally, which he did not care for.

In 1985, the AT&T system of telephone service, across the country, was a large monopoly and the US Government ordered that it be broken up into smaller companies to promote competition. The last time phones worked perfectly all the time was just before this breakup. C&P joined with other regional Bell companies to form Bell Atlantic. At this point, benefits were about to change dramatically for employees and those with a certain amount of time of the job could retire (early) and keep their benefits. Dad opted to do this. I believe he was burned out after many years of telephone work. Although, as a manager, he worked inside mostly the Brambleton Avenue (Roanoke) phone office, his work was neither exciting or particularly rewarding, as he developed plans for new phone service (paperwork) across the area. Dad was a bit shy and out of place in the office environment, and ended up taking Dale Carnegie classes to learn how to deal with other people effectively. He became so good at this that they made him a Dale Carnegie instructor! Dad loved learning all through his life.

Thus, when given the opportunity – Dad took early retirement in 1985. He was 53 years old. Gary, the youngest son, was living with Dad at this point, and Dad was helping to get him established in life. Gary took training as a truck driver.

THE SECOND CAREER – The 1985-95

Soon, Dad was given a job opportunity to do something he REALLY loved, fix things! In 1985, he hired on at the Roanoke County Schools as a maintenance technician, doing audio-visual repairs and updates (think VCR's) and upkeep on all types of electronics. He went about to all the Roanoke County Schools with Dave Bell, his sidekick, and enjoyed this work as much as any he ever had. In the office, a co-worker named Shirley became a good friend, but no relationship developed from it. Dad continued his work at the schools for 10 years, after which he retired from this job. He was fortunate to receive a second pension in life for his work there!

During his years at the school system, Dad continued to take classes and avail himself of self-improvement. He loved learning and although he did not pursue degrees, he was (like his father) a very intelligent and educated man. However, because of his humble spirit, he did not flaunt it or suggest that he was better, in any way, than others.

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND RETIREMENT

During retirement, starting around 1995, Dad began to develop new computer skills, worked on his garden (mostly tomatoes, which he would start indoors) and asparagus, cooking (this became a passion) and of course, family. We visited regularly with him, often on Sunday after church, having lunch, doing some shopping, or just a drive.

Dad developed a deep love for learning and development. He was especially intrigued by computers (a trait shared by all Gabrielson's). Both while at work and in retirement, he studied and applied himself in many areas.

In retirement, Dad's days were filled with hobbies, visits to the DAV store, Goodwill, and learning. Dad loved bargains and would buy things he knew he would eventually need if it was a bargain. Sadly, like most of us, he forgot what he had and at the end of his days he had many multiples of some items. Dozens of cast iron pans, hundreds of tools, 6 cheese graters, and countless packages of toilet paper. He always seemed to need toilet paper, not realizing that he had bunches in the house already. Being a bargain hunter (this is my nice way of saying "cheap") he only bought the single ply, Sandpaper brand! It had been rejected by the prison systems, so he got a good deal on it! Also, he spent lots of time learning computers. He was not willing to spend his money on new ones, but Bruce and I kept him supplied with updated equipment.

THE 1990's and THE FAMILY TRAGEDY

On January 26, 1993 my brother Gary was killed in a tragic automobile accident in Roanoke. I won't go into the details much but will emphasize to all who are reading this – do not drink and drive. It's not worth the life you may lose and the great loss to your family and friends. Gary's passing was difficult on Dad and Mom as well, and the accident involved two other young men who ended up suing Gary's estate (for which Dad was responsible). I did not realize at the time, but learned later when I was handling Dad's estate, what a tremendous stress and pressure this was on Dad. Everything he had worked so hard for was put at risk. Fortunately, the settlement for the two young men was limited to Gary's auto insurance and things worked out, but I know this episode created many gray hairs for him. He never let on, to Bruce or me, the suffering he was going through.

Gary was 29 when he died. He dealt with depression, but unfortunately drinking alcohol makes depression worse. He had recently completed truck driving school (big rigs) and seemed to be doing better at the time of his accident. He had also recently begun helping me (Scott) in my church furniture business. He is buried at the Vinton Burial Park in VA.

The loss of my brother had an impact on both my parents for many years, as well as the rest of the family.

THE 2000's

The 2000's brought about a time of comfort and peace for Dad. He enjoyed his home, his garden, puttering about town in his 1993 Toyota truck, and visiting with family when he could. His days often were taken up with doctor visits. His eyesight became worse from Glaucoma. He visited his heart doctor, his General Practitioner, his Dentist, Dr. Black, his eye doctor (who was older than he was!) Life was about doctor visits! Dad had the best insurance you could get, as a

result of his early retirement from C&P Telephone. He rarely paid anything for any test or procedure, or office visit. **They loved to see him!**

In 2001, our family gathered at Bruce and Kim's house to celebrate Father's Day. Kim's dad, Norman Simmons, and our Dad were featured that day. It was enjoyed by all.

Kim recalls "what a wonderful father-in-law Gabe was. He was so kind and never had negative things to say about anyone. I miss him coming to our house teaching me how to cook something or show me a new technique he learned from the cooking channel. He did and always will have a special place in my heart!!!"

HEALTH IN DAD's LATER YEARS

HEART ISSUES

Around 1998, Dad entered the hospital for a heart stent, that turned into a triple bypass. He'd never had a heart attack but dealt with high blood pressure and angina over the years. He recovered quickly and fully.

Over the years, Dad's health began to slowly change. He developed Parkinsonism, a disease that is a part of Parkinson's but affects mainly the lower body area. His walk, or gait, changed and he shuffled about. He would not give up driving as it meant his freedom. And, he strongly advised us that he never wanted to go into a nursing home.

His memory was fading, his walking became unsteady, and he lost most ability of smell and taste. He would take forever at the grocery store, taking two steps then looking over everything on the shelf as though he were lost in space. At times he was depressed, although he never let on to family, but we could tell.

In 2013, Dad got up in the night to use the bathroom, and fell, hitting his head, which caused major internal bleeding.

The doctors advised surgery, so Dad's head was opened to relieve the pressure and to help him. The first photo shows the stitches from the surgery, 10 days after. He took some time to recover, and for a while Bruce and I had to step in to handle his bills, house and such. He was glad to get his hat after a while!

Recovery meant physical therapy and a long stay, first at Roanoke Community Hospital, then at the Franklin Rehab Center, which was very near my office.

About 3 months later he was able to go home, but still under close care. Eventually, he regained much of his ability and was able to lead a fairly normal life until his passing, given his advancing Parkinsonism.

After this, Dad continued his gardening and reading, although his eyesight was failing. Glaucoma was slowly taking his sight as it progressed in his eyes. By the time of his death, he had great difficulty reading or seeing a computer. We changed the computer settings to help.

2016 - THE FINAL DAYS

Dad always enjoyed our lunch trips to the NY Deli for a good pastrami sandwich, the NY Pizza restaurant in Vinton, or Bojangles, where he took a strong liking to biscuits and gravy. It reminded him of a dish his mother made for him. We often went there together.

On August 18, 2016, I went in the hospital for hernia surgery. I had called Dad the day before to see if he wanted lunch, but he was not feeling well. He told us the same thing the Sunday before, which was unlike him. I mentioned the surgery, and again heard his reassuring voice telling me, “it will all be ok”.

On the way home from surgery, I got call from Bruce, who was out of state. He had called Dad to check on him and did not get a response, so he contacted Vinton police, who found Dad under his bed, not making sense. He indicated that Lucky, the cat, had jumped on him and he was trying to get him out from under the bed, and then got stuck. Lucky, in truth, had passed away years before.

They took him to the hospital where he was making little sense, and he was examined by the neurologist and others. After a few days, he slipped into a coma-like state and it was apparent his brain was shutting down. The hospital advised us we would need to move him after a day or so to skilled nursing care, but we knew the end was near. On Monday, August 22, 2016, while I held his hand, he passed peacefully into the arms of our Lord. Rest in peace dad. You are loved and missed. He will be forever in our hearts. Bruce said it well, when we selected his grave stone inscription.

He was the finest man we ever knew.

LAST WISHES

One of Dad’s last wishes was to have all the family together for NY Pizza, to thank us for his care during the 2013 fall and surgery. We were not able to gather at one time, until his funeral. We all went to the restaurant in Vinton together to celebrate one last slice for Dad.

What Grandpa Taught Us. By Teresa Gabrielson

Grandpa taught us to always be kind.

He taught us the importance of love.

The kind that's given freely, asking nothing in return.

He taught us about friendship. How to be a good friend, and how to have a good friend.

Grandpa taught us all how to be a family- and

That nothing is more important than your loved ones.

He taught us about forgiveness, for others and for ourselves.

He taught us to appreciate our heritage. and

He taught us to treat future generations with love.

He taught us how to show kindness towards animals.

And that if you take care of your plants and they will bring joy to you.

He taught us that cooking is an art, and having the right tools will make life easier.

He taught us that anger is rarely necessary,

But when it is, it's best to simply let go of it quickly.

He taught us to treat people with respect.

He taught us to appreciate the technology of today.

He taught us that enjoying the simple things in life will make you much happier than buying the most expensive item money can buy.

Grandpa taught us all these things and more.

And along with the legacy he leaves with us, he leaves this lesson: words aren't always necessary for teaching. Grandpa has taught all of us so much, simply by setting the example for us through the way he lived. We are all Blessed to have been his family.

RICHARD A. GABRIELSON's OBITUARY

Richard Arthur Gabrielson, "Gabe", was born at Amityville NY on June 25, 1932, the son of Henry Martin Gabrielson and Anita Fournier Hersey Gabrielson. He was the youngest of three sons, his older brothers being Henry Martin Gabrielson, Jr., and Robert Edward Gabrielson. Gabe was proud of his Norwegian heritage, having been the grandson of an immigrant to the USA.

He attended and graduated from local Amityville NY schools then joined the US Army during the Korean Conflict. He studied radio during his army years, and the war ended just as he

finished school so he never saw battle. Following his US Army service, he attended the RCA Institute for Electronic Studies in New York and graduated from that institution. Following his father's advice he joined his brother Henry as an employee of the NY Telephone Company, where he worked for many years. In 1972, he moved with his family to VA and transferred to the C&P Telephone Company where he was promoted to Engineer and specialized in Crossbar 5 telephonic switching. He was a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America.

During his earlier years, he was an avid amateur photographer and amateur radio operator as well. He enjoyed fishing and camping as well. He was an amateur gardener also, enjoying the tomatoes and other vegetables he grew.

Gabe married first to Patricia Ann Milligan in 1957, from which three sons were born. Scott R. Gabrielson, Bruce F. Gabrielson and Gary H. Gabrielson. Gary preceded his father in death due to an automobile accident in 1993, in Roanoke, VA. He divorced from Pat in 1974 and later, briefly, was married to Margaret Rose. They divorced after a year of marriage.

Following many years of service with C&P Telephone, Gabe retired and then was employed by the Roanoke County School system for over 10 years. He worked there as a repairman for the school system and then retired from there as well.

During his life he was well known as being able to repair most anything, from automobiles, to radios, TV's, appliances and more. He enjoyed tinkering with most anything mechanical or electrical up into the computer age. In his middle life he went back to school to learn refrigeration repair and later attended VA Western Community College to get his motorcycle license when he was in his early 60's. When they arrived in his life, he was fascinated by computers and the abilities they bring.

His mother's maiden name was Fournier, which in French means "baker". He was a natural chef and loved cooking of all types. He was a big fan of cook books and Julia Child and enjoyed cooking for his family when he could. He also collected the Mary Margaret McBride cookbooks. She was an early radio personality nationally, (the "Oprah" of her day,) and Gabe's father Henry was her Chief Engineer. Henry is featured and photographed in the book, "Out of the Air" based on McBride's life.

Gabe developed heart disease after age 50 and had a heart bypass but continued to lead a normal healthy life for many years afterwards.

In the last 3 years of life he suffered from Parkinsonism disease, although his mind was sharp until nearly the end of his life. He did not suffer but died a peaceful death into the loving arms of his Heavenly Father.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and brothers Henry M. Gabrielson Jr. of NY and Robert Edward Gabrielson of CA, and son Gary H. Gabrielson who died an untimely death in 1993 from and auto accident.

He is survived by Scott R. and Sherri Cearley Gabrielson, Bruce F. and Kimberly Simmons Gabrielson, grandchildren Joshua Gabrielson, Forrest Gabrielson, Teresa Gabrielson, Richard

Gabrielson, Chris Gabrielson and Logan Gabrielson, as well as six great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. He greatly loved his grandchildren and enjoyed “blessing” them each Christmas with some canned food wrapped up as a present.

Interment will be at the family area of Mountain View Cemetery on Mountain View Lane in Vinton, VA.

A graveside service will be led by Rev. Scott Gabrielson at the cemetery.

PATRICIA ANN MILLIGAN

Patty Milligan, born in 1937, is still living today in Myrtle Beach SC. She has lived a full and adventurous life, having traveled the world, developed her own business, and coordinated hundreds of foreign students who came to the USA to be placed for “foster families” for their high school experience.

She is the daughter of her father, Frederick “Lin” Milligan who was 26 at her birth, and her mother, Cora May Griffin Milligan, who was 23. Patty was born at Amityville NY and lived with her parents and older sister Joan Helen Milligan at Farmingdale, NY, then also at Babylon, and Lindenhurst. After marrying Richard Gabrielson, they lived at West Babylon then Bay Shore NY before moving to Virginia.

Frederick “Lin” Milligan worked as a laundry driver for Farmingdale Laundry, operated a gas station with his brother-in-law Walter Clay, was a roofer, then finally settled into Grumman, a large Long Island corporation what eventually employed thousands including many members of our family. Patty worked at Grumman following high school in the secretarial pool. Cora Griffin Milligan was a homemaker, having worked as a telephone switchboard operator in her earlier years.

Patty graduated from Lindenhurst High School in 1955, being known for her sense of humor, great singing ability (singing in school programs and chorus) and majoring in science and business. She was a member of the Leaders Club, Officials Club, Chorus and other social clubs.

After meeting Richard “Gabe” Gabrielson on a blind date, they courted and married on March 31, 1957 at Babylon NY. After first living in apartments, they settled into 9 Glenda Drive in West Babylon to raise their family.

Although primarily a homemaker, Patty also started a business making large wooden stork yard displays and renting them to announce the arrival of new babies. She was quite successful at this and marketed her storks, placing and picking them up around the Roanoke area.

She and Gabe divorced in December 1976 and Patty moved to an apartment in Vinton VA, along with two sons, Bruce and Gary.

Patty found enjoyable work teaching special needs children at the Oakland School on Williamson Road in Roanoke. This developed into a 17-year teaching career. Starting as an Assistant Teacher in the language arts department, she helped her students increase their test scores and was appreciated and respected for her work. She took classes at Virginia Western

Community College to enhance her abilities and received awards for her art work (she loved drawing the Charlie Brown characters) and developed a talent show for her school. Patty developed a music group at the school, the Oakland 8, in her own time after hours. She also wrote the first school song for Oakland, which is still used today.

Patty found a new love in George William Russell, an amiable fellow who was laid back enough to allow Mom to fulfill her dreams. George was the son of Edison T. Russell and Dorothy Oschman Russell. He married first Peggy Blackwell in 1958. George and Peggy had two daughters, Julia Ellen Russell and Lorraine Marie Russell (1962-2023) and one son, Edison T. Russell II. They had several grandchildren.

After dating for some time Patty and George married in June 1977. George was working for the N&W Railroad as an internal auditor and traveled a bit. After retiring from N&W, mom and George moved to Myrtle Beach. They traveled the world together and enjoyed many years until George's passing in 2009 from a stroke.

During that 20-year period, Patty began work as the area coordinator for AYA (Academic Year in America), an organization that worked worldwide to place students in American homes for high school training. She became the top placer in the 400-person organization, placing over 200 students in Myrtle Beach area homes, gaining high accolades and awards and becoming a trainer to other coordinators. She became attached to many of her students and helped guide and change their lives during their time in America. Many still stay in touch after many years. During her career with AYA, she earned free trips to a variety of locations in 25 countries worldwide and took advantage of the free travel, taking George or sometimes her cousin Gloria Green to visit amazing places.

One of Patty's favorite things were her pet dogs. Max, Benjy, Peppi and Cubbi (at different times) were the light of her life and brought her much joy!

George and Patty also visited Hawaii many times and it was their dream to one day live there. After George passed, Patty decided to fulfill that dream and sold her Myrtle Beach home and took off to Honolulu, finding a home at the Four Paddle Condo in Waikiki. Being very social she developed a network of friends there and enjoyed her time.

After a few years, however she began to sense her loneliness, she sought God's guidance and the internet and found a good Christian man who shared many of her interests. Floyd Louis Oliver, Jr. was a widower, a retired engineer living in Texas, and they began corresponding. Floyd is the son of Floyd Oliver, Sr. and Anna Gardner Oliver, and the widower of Barbara K. Learned. Floyd and Barbara had two children, Bret Oliver and Susan Oliver and several grandchildren.

After finally meeting, their courtship developed and Patty and Floyd married on October 21, 2019 on Magic Island in Honolulu. They recently moved back to Myrtle Beach to live out their golden years together there. God continues to guide their lives and bless them together.

Chapter 7 – The Third American Generations – First Cousins

The third generation of the Gabrielson family includes these first cousins:

The sons of Henry and Philomena Gabrielson: Henry and Phil (as Philomena was known) had two sons, Henry Louis Gabrielson (Hank) and Louis Martin (Lou) Gabrielson. Henry Gabrielson lost his wife Philomena Galgano Gabrielson in January of 1966. “Phil” passed away from Hodgkin’s disease at the young age of 41.

In 1972, after both were widowed a few years, Henry Gabrielson and Marge McManus Gerlach fell in love and married. Debbie became the adopted daughter of Henry Gabrielson and together they raised her in their home.

Henry Martin Gabrielson Jr.’s children:

1. **Henry Louis Gabrielson**, the oldest son, was born in 1947 in Amityville NY. Known as Hank, he married Regina Ciaccio (1950-2015) the daughter of Joseph L. Ciaccio and Louise Falsetta.

Hank and Regina had two sons, **Henry Martin Gabrielson, III** (b. 1971) and **Joel Matthew Gabrielson** (b. 1977), both born in NY but later moved to Minneapolis. Henry and Regina divorced by 2004. He then lived at Cape Coral FL.

Henry Louis Gabrielson, 64 years of age, of Cape Coral, Florida passed away on Friday, May 11, 2012 at Hope Hospice House in Cape Coral, Florida. Mr. Gabrielson was born in Amityville, New York on July 28, 1947, a son of the late Henry Martin Gabrielson and Philomena Rose Galgano Gabrielson. He was retired from the Air Conditioning Industry where he had been employed as a mechanic. Henry had resided in Cape Coral since 2004 coming from Bayshore, Long Island, New York. He is survived by his sons, Henry Martin (Darcy) Gabrielson and their sons, Carter Gabrielson and Connor Gabrielson and Joel (Joscelyn) Gabrielson and their daughters, Cade and Iliana all of Minnesota; and his devoted friend, Linda A. Tarlowe of Cape Coral, Florida.

Hank also loved radios and got a Heathkit radio to assemble at an early age, learning to solder with it. He also had a Allied Crystal radio, which was a vintage unpowered AM receiver kit sold by the Allied Radio corporation in the mid-20th century. It had no batteries and simply captured microscopic radio frequency energy directly from the air using an antenna and ground wire.

Regina Ciaccio Gabrielson passed away in February 2015 at Chaska, Minnesota. A friend noted “Regina was a breath of sunshine and fresh air. Always smiling and a joy to talk with. I miss her dearly. I hope her family knows we thank them for sharing her with us.”

The Minnesota Star Tribute reported as follows:

Ciaccio, Regina Born October 5, 1950, in Farmingdale, New York, fell asleep in death on February 8, 2015, in her home in Chaska, Minnesota, surrounded by her family. Regina was baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses on September 10, 1960, and remained a faithful servant

of His for nearly 55 years. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 14th at 1:30 p.m., at Hazeltine National Golf Club, 1900 Hazeltine Blvd., Chaska, Minnesota.

2. Louis Martin “Lou” Gabrielson (b. 1950) married Kathleen A. “Kathy” Morton (b. 1956), they have no children. Kathy is the daughter of John F. Morton and Rae Kotler of Mineola NY.

Lou is retired from the medical field. They have lived all their lives in Amityville, NY, which one might consider the hometown of all the second generation of Gabrielsons. Lou and Kathy met in 1978 at a work manufactured bifold doors in Farmingdale. They married May 1, 1982. He started working at Brunswick Hospital in Amityville in February of 1998 and worked there until early medical retirement for prostate cancer in 2008.

Kathy worked for a school bus company for about 15 years, starting in March of 2007 then until she retired during the summer of 2022, after her mom passed away.

Around October 2023 Lou went into the hospital until February 2024 for esophageal cancer as a result of Barrett’s esophagus. He went through a very difficult recovery as esophageal cancer only has a 15% cure rate. They cut and removed a section of the esophagus which now limits his ability to eat and causes weight loss. Currently 125 pounds and taking Nexium 40 mg twice a day but enjoying life in Amityville.

3. Deborah A. “Debbie” Gerlach Gabrielson (b. 1959) is married to Bryan Nolan and they currently live in retirement in Port St. Lucie, FL. They have one son together, Harrison “Harry” Nolan, born in 1999. Harry is partnered with a lady named Bethany and they live in Milford, CT, where he does sales work.

Deborah (Debbie) is a delightful lady and Henry soon took her in like his own daughter when he married Marge.

Debbie married Bryan Nolan and they have a son, Harrison “Bryan” Nolan, born in 1999. After retiring in New York, the family moved to sunny Florida about 2024.

Debbie and Lou are as close as any brother and sister to this day, although they are separated by several states.

Bob and Barbara Gabrielson’s children:

1. JoAnne Carol Gabrielson, born 1949 at Amityville, NY.

Joanne Carol Gabrielson Griffing, was the first-born child of Robert and Barbara Gabrielson. She was born in Brunswick Hospital in Amityville, New York on January 23, 1949. Shortly thereafter, the family moved to Massapequa, a few towns over and we lived there until she was a junior in high school.

Around 1967 the family moved to Southern California because Bob Gabrielson (dad) was transferred there. He was then working for ABC's Wide World of Sports,

After High School, JoAnne went to the University of California at Berkeley where she met her husband Barry, only two weeks after arriving at school.

A historical note about this time in the Berkely area: This was a time of great change in American culture. The **Jesus Movement** of the late 1960s and early 1970s was a major American religious revival that merged evangelical Christian theology with the styles, aesthetics, and communal lifestyle of the hippie counterculture. While much of the movement's pop-culture imagery originated in Southern California (such as Calvary Chapel beach baptisms), its manifestation at the University of California, Berkeley took on a unique, highly intellectual, and politically radical flavor.

At UC Berkeley—then the epicenter of the Free Speech Movement, anti-war protests, and radical leftist politics—the Jesus Movement was not a retreat from activism, but rather a direct attempt to frame **Jesus Christ as the ultimate revolutionary**.

JoAnne and Barry became avid Christians in 1968, experiencing the life changing joy of Jesus Christ, and found a church to join, and remained there about 14 years.

Rev. Ross Barron Griffing was born 1947 in Los Angeles to Charles W. Griffing and Madge Barron Griffing. He and Jo Anne Gabrielson married on June 28th, 1969 at Oakland California.

Barry graduated from the Shiloh Bible College in Oakland in 1976, after also completing work at UC Berkely and Florida State University. Barry was ordained at their church in 1977, where he was hired as Music Minister. Barry comes from a musically talented family along with his brother Steve Griffing. Barry currently also serves as the Celebrate Messiah Event Director & Rehearsal Conductor.

Jo once drove the 100 mile trip from Calabasas to Saugus and then back again five days a week in the family VW bug with the parking brake on and never adding one drop of oil!

By 1973, a family came along. JoAnne had a son, Joel Jeremy Griffing (1973-2019), a daughter, Leslye Christiana Griffing, born in 1975, and another daughter, Danielle Tiphonie Griffing, born in 1977.

The family moved to Delaware in 1983 and started a church there, but stayed only a short season as Barry was offered a Music Minister position in Central Florida. They moved in 1985, living there until June 1995 when Barry was offered the pastorate of Jubilee Fellowship in Torrance, CA. JoAnne and Barry are a pastoral couple, serving the Lord and His church together. JoAnne was ordained there in 1997 and basically does ministry on the worship team, sometimes teaching and preaching, and handles church finances, along with many other responsibilities. They currently live at Murrieta, CA.

Barry and JoAnne have been married 57 years and are still excited to be with each other every day!! Barry has had many health challenges, but he NEVER gives up!!!! JoAnne has been blessed with wonderful health, probably so she can help my husband and our church. They are a blessed family!!!

2. Robert Evans Gabrielson – born 1953 at Amityville NY

When Robert “Bob” Evans Gabrielson was born on February 11, 1953, in Amityville, New York, his father, Robert, was 27 and his mother, Barbara, was 25. He married Sharyn Marie Warner on January 7, 1987. They divorced in 1989.

Bob has lived in Ashland Oregon for some 20 years. Previously he lived in the Santa Barbara CA area. While there he worked for the FAA as an air traffic controller for 25 years in before retiring.

Bob served in the US Marine Corp like his father, for four years. While in the Marines, he learned the air traffic protocol and when he was discharged took further training in this area, providing the opportunity with United Airlines.

Bob is married to Nora Coolridge since 2012. Nora is a yoga instructor part time. Nora has three sons from her previous marriage.

Bob enjoys riding motorcycles and bikes with Glenn and Jeanne and the out of doors in the beautiful area he lives in.

3. Jeanne Marie Gabrielson – born 1955 at Amityville, NY

When Jeanne Marie Gabrielson was born on February 28, 1955, in Amityville, New York, her father, Robert, was 29, and her mother, Barbara, was 27. She married Gerard F. LaFond (1954-2003) on October 19, 1974, in Hartford, Ontario, Canada. She then married Robert S. Colon on March 23, 1984 in Manchester CT.

Jeanne is a veteran of the US Navy and settled in Connecticut after serving where she met her current husband, Robert Colon.

Jeanne graduated from Channel Islands Bible College & Seminary and has served at various churches during her lifetime. This school was founded out of a desire to bring seminary level education and training to the pew sitter, and CIBCS operated from 1999-2012 as a fully accredited Bible college and seminary. Its impact was community wide, national, and international, and continues today in the legacy of its alumni who use their training to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

Jeanne has worked as a case manager assisting the elderly, then also as a records technician for the Thousand Oaks, CA police department. She also worked at the US Postal Service and for the

Social Security Administration. Both Jeanne and Robert are currently enjoying retirement in Oregon where they visit often with her brothers Bob and Glenn, who also live in Oregon.

Robert S. “Bob” Colon (born 1950 in Denver) is the son of Robert N. Colon (b. 1927) and Shirley M. Colon (b. 1931). Robert, or Bob as known to family, loves the outdoors, and he and Jeanne love to camp and ride e-bikes every weekend. Robert spent 28 of his working years with the US Postal Service. He also worked as a technician at Lens Crafters.

Bob is a very talented artist also, painting natural scenes. Bob and Jeanne’s daughter Dawn shares this same talent.

Jeanne and Bob love the outdoors and walk together, camp and go hiking. They enjoy riding e-bikes with family also.

Currently Jeanne and Bob attend the Grant’s Pass Vineyard Church in Grant’s Pass, Oregon, the town where they live. Jeanne uses her skills and gifts to counsel those in need.

Although Bob has 3 daughters (2 living) from his previous marriage with Brenda Albert, Jeanne and Bob Colon have one daughter together, Dawn Elise Colon (b. 1986).

Bob’s other daughters are Alisha Lynn Colon, (1978-2023), Heather Colon and Jennifer Colon.

4. Glenn Richard Gabrielson – born 1958 in Amityville, NY

When Glenn Richard Gabrielson was born on July 9, 1958, in Amityville, New York, his father, Robert, was 33 and his mother, Barbara, was 30. He married Heidi Hammer in 1987. They had one child during their marriage, Craig Robert Gabrielson (born 1990).

Glenn lives in Phoenix OR, not far from his brother Bob and sister Jeanne. They enjoy getting together for ebike or motorcycle rides in the beautiful area they live in.

Glenn attended trade school, earning an associate degree in aircraft maintenance and subsequently worked for United Airlines as an aircraft mechanic some 27 years. He was given the opportunity to retire early during the covid era and has been enjoying retirement since. He likes to work on things, including cars and is very handy. He also enjoys hiking and heading to the ocean when he can.

A special lady in his life is Elizabeth “Liz” Eubanks who currently lives in Red Bluff CA. She is an avid equestrian. They have been dating since 2026. Glenn has a healthy lifestyle and enjoys visiting with his son Craig when he can.

5. Nancy Anita Gabrielson – born 1960 in Amityville, NY

When Nancy Anita Gabrielson was born on October 15, 1960, in Amityville, New York, her father, Robert, was 35, and her mother, Barbara, was 32. She married Lee Anderson (born 1958)

in 2008. Although they first met as teenagers, they did not marry until their 40s. They are best friends and live a simple life in Newbury Park, CA.

Nancy's biological daughter is Taylor May Nuciforo, and she was born in 1994 to Nancy and her previous husband James R. Nuciforo (b. 1952). Taylor and her husband Jake Robertson have blessed Nancy and Lee with two grandchildren: Maisy Robertson (born 2021) and Rhett Robertson (born 2023). They are a great joy to the family.

Nancy is also a step mom to Lee's son George Anderson as well, and George has a daughter Lori M. Allen.

Nancy loves to cook and Lee loves to eat! They love camping in their camper van and travel often to Flagstaff AZ where Taylor, Jake and the kids live. They are very proud of their family!

Nancy worked mainly in customer service and Lee was a concrete artist before they retired. Nancy overcame tonsil cancer around 2015 and is doing well now. She is a loving mom and grandma who loves to cook for and care for her family, and they are looking forward to a new grandson coming soon!

6. Eric James Gabrielson - born 1963 in Amityville, NY

When Eric James Gabrielson was born on July 22, 1963, in Amityville, New York, his father, Robert, was 38 and his mother, Barbara, was 35. He married Tina Marie Hunsicker on July 21, 1984, in Calabasas, California. They have four children.

Eric received his college degree in Computer Science before beginning his career in internet technology. The internet has been an area where many of the Gabrielson clan have excelled and Eric is not exception. We come to it honestly, noting that our grandfather was a pioneer in early radio communications and networking.

Eric spent 20 years working for Teradyne Corporation, a major manufacturer of military equipment. (Tina, his wife, continues to work at Teradyne in business administration.) Eric then shifted to the Moorpark Unified School district where he is the Technology Support Technician for the school system.

Eric and Tina make their home for some 40 years in Moorpark, California. This is a very nice area of Ventura County in Southern California. They've raised an exceptional family which continues to be very close knit – they all live near enough to gather at the family home and to travel to baseball games together – a family pastime. Eric and Tina are big fans of the Los Angeles Dodgers but enjoy watching the Cubs and Phillies play also.

“Family is centerpoint,” Eric pointed out. Their four children and five grandchildren (both home-grown and grafted in are an important part of their lives. For fun, Eric likes riding his Harley Davidson, though Tina has given it up for safer transportation these days.

Tina, born in 1962 to David L. Hunsicker (b. 1936) and Carole Jean Bier (1939-2016), is a graduate of Agoura Hills High School in the Agoura Park area, just 15 miles from their present home at Moorpark. Agoura Hills is a suburb of Los Angeles between the Simi Hills and the Santa Monica Mountains.

Their children include:

- Wesley James Gabrielson, born 1987
- Cody Alan Gabrielson, born 1988
- Colton Lee Gabrielson, born 1990
- Alexandria Marie “Lexi” Gabrielson, born 1992

The family of Richard A. Gabrielson and Patricia Ann Milligan Gabrielson (Russell)

1. Scott Richard Gabrielson – born 1958 in Bay Shore, NY

When Scott Richard Gabrielson was born on June 26, 1958, in Bay Shore, New York, his father, Richard A. Gabrielson, was 26 and his mother, Patricia Milligan Gabrielson, was 20. He married Sherri Lynn Cearley on August 1, 1977, in Roanoke, Virginia. They have three children.

Scott is the author of this book, and has been an “amateur professional” genealogist for over 35 years. Scott has been married to Sherri Lynn Cearley Gabrielson for 49 years (as of 2026) and together they have had many adventures in life, and watched God bless their efforts and family.

Scott was born at Bay Shore on Long Island, with lots of family around. His father worked in New York City and grew tired of the rat race and crime there, so the family moved in 1968 to Chesapeake Virginia, where his Aunt Joan and Uncle Richie Marlow has relocated already. The family lived there for about 4 years, then when Scott’s dad was promoted to a supervisor position they moved again to the Roanoke area, buying a house at Lakeshore Terrace, at Smith Mountain Lake in Franklin County VA.

Early on, Scott had an interest in radio broadcasting, which was a family interest. He studied for and passed the FCC third class radio-telephone exam for a license (with broadcast endorsement) at the age of 13, which was at that time the youngest of any applicant to pass at the FCC office in Norfolk, VA.

Scott invited Jesus Christ to be his Lord and Savior in June of 1973, about the age of 15. It has been the single most important event of his life. He joined the White Rock Baptist Church nearby. In the years that followed, he felt that God was leading him to a ministry career. He opted to attend a Christian college to begin preparations for ministry.

Scott and Sherri met at Bluefield College in Bluefield Virginia, a small Baptist college in the mountains. At that time the school had only about 325 students. We started dating and fell in love, and married at the beginning of our second year in school. After completing a 2 year degree in Religion and Philosophy at Bluefield (it was a two year school then just beginning to become a four year one) they moved to Danville VA. At Danville Scott enrolled at Averett College (then another Baptist school) to complete his Bachelor's degree. He also interned at a church nearby (Vandola Baptist) for additional training. During the last months of school, Scott was ordained to the ministry at Vandola Baptist church in 1980.

During his training, Scott had been invited to go on "youth revival teams" from the college to churches across the state. One such church enjoyed these meetings and after graduation invited Scott and Sherri to move there and for Scott to become the new pastor. In July 1980, Scott and Sherri, along with their new son Joshua, moved to the North Garden area of Albemarle County (near Charlottesville) to become a part of the Hardware Baptist Church family.

Hardware is a very old and historic church, having started in 1802 on the Hardware River. Nearby was Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson and also Viewmont, the home of Miss Lottie Moon, who was the first female missionary to China. Lottie Moon had been a member of Hardware church and had taught the children's Sunday School classes there.

While at Hardware Church, Scott and Sherri were blessed to add two more to the family, Teresa Miracle Gabrielson was born in 1981, then Richard A. J. Gabrielson came along in 1982. They also added a fur baby named Pepper, a mixed Border Collie. In addition, Scott started studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, eventually moving to Zebulon NC, a small town near the Wake Forest NC seminary. During that time, Scott went to work for a company that made photographic directories and memorial albums for churches. The company was United Church Directories, and it would provide income to Scott, Sherri and the family for the next decade, the 1980s. It also provided training to Scott in how to call on and sell to churches.

Following their time in North Carolina, the family moved back to Rocky Mount, VA, renting a house in Doe Run. Scott began work at Schewel Furniture company as a salesman. Here he learned the furniture business and did quite well with the company. At one point he was offered a promotion to Assistant Manager but turned it down to take another position, Pastor at Ninevah Baptist Church in Hardy. Ninevah was a small church near Scott's home church (White Rock Baptist) and it was a Union Church, meaning the Baptist congregation shared the building with a Church of the Brethren, each having two Sunday's a month. Ninevah was another old church, and at one time it had also hosted Methodist, Presbyterian and Old Order German Baptist congregations.

Scott continued to work at Schewel Furniture while at Ninevah until he received a call to take the pastorate at Mount Ivy Baptist Church in the Moneta (Scruggs) area at Smith Mountain Lake. The family moved to the Mount Ivy parsonage and began serving there in 1986. Being another rural church Scott worked part time again for United Church Directories, and was eventually made Regional Manager for the firm, in charge of 5 states. This proved difficult given his church responsibilities, and after a year he stepped back to part time with United.

About 1990 Scott and Sherri accepted another church opportunity in Franklin County, this time in Callaway. Faith Fellowship Baptist Church was a younger church with a newer building, and while there Scott introduced Praise and Worship music, the first church in the county to do so. The church grew very rapidly but some of the “old timers”, not liking the change in styles, conspired to remove Scott from the pastoral position so after a year, Scott and Sherri found themselves without a church and deeply hurting from this attack.

Needing to find work, and not wanting to jump into another ministry so quickly, they began to pray. As they did, God impressed on Scott that he knew about selling to churches, and knew about furniture, so why not try selling furniture to churches?

This was the pre-internet period, about 1991, so Scott wrote letters to half a dozen companies selling church furniture and most either did not reply or replied with no openings. One however, a small office in Daleville VA (within driving distance) offered to meet. Brian Walker of BKW Sales was a representative for Sauder Manufacturing, the largest church pew and furniture manufacturer in America. (They also were widely known for their “ready to assemble” furniture for homes.) Mr. Walker offered Scott a position as his assistant, trained him in selling techniques and Scott began to work in the church furniture business, driving to Daleville from Franklin County every day.

A year and a half later, Mr. Walker had a falling out with the management at Sauder and was dismissed as the mid-Atlantic representative. Scott was laid off since there was not work.

Once again, the family prayed, and Scott searched for opportunities. He found an advertisement this time for a sales position with Imperial Woodworks of Waco, TX and contacted them. They invited Scott to come to Waco for an interview (at his expense). Money was very tight then but God had provided a free airline ticket earlier from being “bumped” on another flight, so Scott got to Waco, interviewed and was offered the North Carolina territory.

Scott hit the ground running, and orders began to come in. God was in charge of the family and its finances, and He provided our needs! This was the beginning of a 17- year relationship with Imperial and one which saw Scott rise to the top of the sales charts. In fact, Scott still holds sales records even after being out of that business for over 20 years now.

Since this work demanded travel each week, Scott took a break from active pastoring, and only provided fill in or pulpit supply work. Scott was successful enough in this work that by 1996 the family was able to buy it’s first home, a small brick ranch on the edge of town, but debt free for \$75,000! A couple of years later an office was purchased and the business moved to 1201 Old Franklin Turnpike in Rocky Mount, with Scott and two assistants working while Sherri took wonderful care of the family and home nearby. Scott added some auxiliary product lines like carpeting, steeples, stained glass and more, becoming a “one stop shop” for churches that were expanding or remodeling.

By the early 2000’s there was a shift in church seating with more churches going to padded chairs instead of pews, and with the internet coming into its own, Scott realized that he needed to

shift from focusing on church pews to selling chairs. He resigned from Imperial, bought a domain name (worshipchairs.com) and began selling chairs online at great prices. For the first few months, the phones rang constantly with Scott now working from home and taking orders in the spare bedroom/office. He was now rarely on the road which suited him better as it meant more family time and fewer late-night meetings. This new opportunity grew so quickly that Scott soon rented an office in Rocky Mount, hired an assistant (Cindy Wright) and his son Rick to come in and work in this business. The business was called Gabriel Church Services, but online traded as Worship Chairs.

The business adopted its motto Romans 12:11 – “Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.” God honored our efforts and work increased so that we had to expand into addition office space. One of the things requested by churches was pulpit furniture so Scott added this to the sales, setting up another website. Soon, ChurchFurnitureStore.com, WorshipChairs.com, ChurchPools.com, BaptistryHeaters.com and others emerged as the business grew.

Scott learned of a small furniture maker in Southwest Virginia, an Amish shop, and went to visit them one day. Liking what he saw, Scott decided to order six sets of furniture by faith, praying they would sell quickly. They did indeed, before they were even finished. Scott ordered 6 more, then 12, then 18, then truckloads were coming regularly!

More workers were hired to help handle the increased business, and soon Scott realized he needed to invest in a new office. One building, located at 1746 South Main Street in Rocky Mount, was available but too expensive. One day a lady who was working in the office told Scott that this building was now going up for auction. She encouraged Scott to attend, even though Scott was engaged in securing another property by that time. Scott did attend, and it turned out Scott was the ONLY person who showed up. He was able to purchase the building for less than half it's value, and pay cash for it! God is good!

After remodeling the new building, the Gabriel Church Services firm moved to its new location. By this time the Amish group could not keep up with orders and it became apparent that a change was needed. After praying for guidance, Scott learned of a former woodworking business facility that was available. It had initially been used to manufacture baseball bats for the big leagues! It needed repairs, but again Scott was able to get it for a great price so the process began to turn this into a new facility for manufacturing. This property, at 18421 Virgil H. Goode Highway (US 220), offered 11 acres with several buildings and warehouse space totaling about 20,000 square feet. Scott contracted with a local man to run the facility for him, and he brought his woodworking equipment with him.

Sadly, after a year or so, the man contracted cancer and passed away at a very young age. Scott offered to purchase his part of the business and equipment from his widow, which provided them with funds that they needed to survive. New craftsmen came along, primarily from a local church called Blue Ridge Chapel. This church also had a Bible training school which provided a group of wonderful young Christian men and woman to work together building church furniture.

Sales continued to grow and even during the 2008-2012 economic downturn, sales increased. Scott was able to hire all his children to work in the business, and nearly his entire Sunday School class as many of them lost their jobs during this time.

It was during this time that expansion was necessary again, and Scott was approached by a local banker who had foreclosed on a large warehouse just a mile from the main office. This facility was over 80,000 square feet in size and sat on about 18 acres! Scott assumed that there was no way he could purchase such a building, but with annual sales then approaching \$5,000,000 the bank would not take no for an answer. They were in trouble for financing a development at Smith Mountain Lake that had gone bankrupt during the recession, and they needed to get this building off their books. Once again, God intervened and Scott was able to purchase this facility way below its value. The shift to more growth continued with lots more space now available.

During this time, Scott was introduced to a Chinese pastor who was building church chairs in China. These chairs were popular, well made and available at good prices if purchased in container lots. Soon, containers of chairs from China were arriving at the new warehouse regularly, and at one point over 80 containers, each holding about 1000 chairs, arrived yearly!

While business was doing well, Scott found himself working long hours managing a business and its nearly 50 employees. It was a far cry from the days when he was working directly with pastors and churches and praying with them, counseling them as they were working to provide for their church and its facilities. In addition, Scott was beginning to have health problems and not sleeping well as his responsibilities grew. One day, about 2015, this item came across his desk:

The Dali Lama, when asked what surprised him most about humanity, answered “Man’ Because he sacrifices his health in order to make money. Then he sacrifices money to recuperate his health. And then he is so anxious about the future that he does not enjoy the present; the result being that he does not live in the present or the future; he lives as if he is never going to die, and then dies having never really lived.

This spoke deeply to Scott and he began to think about passing the business to another generation. None of his children were particularly interested in running a large business, which had in fact become multiple businesses by this time as it had grown to include a delivery (trucking) business, a Christian bookstore, a Cupcake Bakery, an import business, a wholesale business for other vendors, several property holding companies, a baptistry water heater business, a carpet company, etc. In addition, he was sensing that God was speaking to him about moving back into active ministry.

After much prayer, discussion and with many meetings, it was decided that Scott would sell the main business to Jody, his right-hand assistant, and her husband Sam, a local minister. The business sale was financed entirely, with monthly payments to be made to Scott and Sherri.

This worked well for about two years, but sadly the business ran into financial difficulties under the new owners, and bankrupted eventually, leaving Scott and Sherri with nothing remaining from it. However, Scott still owned the real estate, including a 5-acre parking area next to the

large warehouse. Over the next months God provided buyers for the various properties in miraculous ways. For example, one day God spoke to Scott to type out a sales flyer, just a one page flyer for the first manufacturing plant with some photos. Then Scott was led to just go out door to door to businesses to see if anyone needed it.

By the end of the day, Scott found a buyer for the property and the deal was made! The office building on Main Street was then vacant, and a friend in the rental business contacted Scott to see if he wanted to rent it. Someone was looking for space. They came over, fell in love with the facility, and Scott just suggested they buy it instead of renting. So they did!

It wasn't long before the 80,000 square foot warehouse was sold as well, with God bringing just the right person. However, Scott still had a 5 acre paved parking lot next door, which they did not want or need.

In 2016, Scott had hernia surgery to correct an issue, and the next day he learned that his father had fallen and hit his head. Grandpa Gabe, as he was known, was in the hospital and did not awaken. He passed away by Scott's side, while Scott was holding his hand.

Looking for a fresh start, Scott and Sherri, now retired, moved to Myrtle Beach, SC. With no regular income, they were eating through their savings by that time. The parking lot was for sale but with no takers this time. One day, the phone rang and a man asked if Scott would rent the parking lot for a business needing to store equipment. The man offered \$10,000 a year if he could rent it.

Scott turned down the offer, saying he really wanted to sell it. The property was then worth about \$125,000. It was all fenced in and paved.

A week later the man called again, this time offering \$25,000 to rent the property. Again, Scott said no, choosing to depend on God.

Another week passed, and the man called a third time. This time he asked the question – “what would it take to rent that property?” Scott thought a moment, then replied \$50,000 a year with a 5% increase each year additional year. The man replied – “we can do that!” Once again, God provided, as this was now the income Scott and Sherri needed for the next several years!

In early 2018, Scott learned he had prostate cancer, semi aggressive. After testing, surgery was done to remove the prostate with two weeks in the hospital to recover. Sadly, the cancer had escaped into other areas, so multiple rounds of treatment including radiation and hormone therapy have been used to help control it.

In 2020, Sherri learned she had endometrial cancer, and ended up having a total hysterectomy. Thankfully, today she is cancer free.

God has been faithful throughout this time, providing not only the income from the land rental but eventually the sale of that land as well at a good price.

During this time, Scott had opportunities to minister, preach and had several churches ask him to become their pastor, but Scott was not led to accept any offers. Finally, in 2024, contact was made with the Craig Valley Baptist Church, located in New Castle VA. It is near Roanoke, which is where Scott and Sherri and their family were very familiar, and in fact just about 35 minutes from Joshua and Carole's home in Roanoke. God led both the church and Scott and Sherri to bring us to New Castle, where they purchased a brick home on a small farm of 40 acres, just 5 minutes from the church. Scott started as the pastor of Craig Valley on January 1, 2025, their first pastor in over seven years! God continues His blessing in their lives and ministry as the church reaches out in the community to share the love of Christ and the good news of His gospel!

Sherri Lynn Cearley Gabrielson was born in Honolulu Hawaii, before it even became a US state! She is known therefore as a "territory baby", a title for those born there before August 1959.

She is the daughter of Virgil Richard "Dick" Cearley (born 1939) and the late Carol Sue Rowland (1940-2024), both of Bristow, OK. After dating as a young couple, they married and Dick joined the US Navy, spending the next 22 years rising through the enlisted ranks to become a CWO4 or Chief Warrant Office 4, the highest rank for an enlisted man. He specialized in communications (radio) and was stationed at Honolulu when Sherri was born there in 1958.

Subsequently, the family moved stateside, and after a brief time for school in Washington state, settled in Virginia Beach, VA. They were only there for a few years, however, before being stationed at the US Naval Air Station Keflavik (Iceland). Following a couple of years, there, they were transferred to the US Naval Communications facility near Athens Greece, while the family lived at Nea Makri, Greece. It was there that Sherri finished her high school at the American Academy of Greece.

She left Greece at the tender age of 17, flew around the world to attend Bluefield College, a small Baptist school, at the recommendation of her Virginia Beach Baptist pastor. While there, she met Scott Gabrielson, and the two started dating, marrying a year later. Sherri's college funding did not come through as expected so she worked while Scott continued in school, and the two started their family while there, welcoming Joshua Scott Gabrielson into their lives. In the years to follow, Teresa Miracle Gabrielson and Richard A. J. Gabrielson also joined the family.

2. Bruce Frederick Gabrielson, born 1961 at Bay Shore, New York

When Bruce Frederick Gabrielson was born on January 13, 1961, his father, Richard, was 28 and his mother, Patricia, was 23. Bruce was born with an investigative mind, inquiring about everything and has been gifted both with great engineering understanding and the ability to teach it to others.

Bruce was injured in an automobile / bicycle accident at a young age, yet God spared his life. Doctors replaced part of his skull with metal plating to protect his brain and his recovery is a testament to his drive to succeed and God's intervention. During school at William Byrd High School in Vinton, VA, Bruce enjoyed drama and acting.

After high school, Bruce married to Robin L. Sparks (1963-2013) and from their marriage was born Forrest L. Gabrielson (b. 1980). Robin was the daughter of Frank and Bonny Schuermann Sparks Jr. of Vinton, VA.

Bruce has worked at a number of positions including managing a McDonald's restaurant, and it was there that he met his current wife, Kimberly Lynn Simmons (b. 1966), the daughter of Norman M. Simmons (1931-2014) and Darlene E. Jones Simmons (b. 1939) of Floyd, VA.

Over 35 years ago, Bruce found employment at Valcom, Inc. of Roanoke, a \$65 million dollar company founded in 1977 to provide full IP and network distributed paging systems for businesses, schools, government facilities, healthcare and other large concerns. Bruce is Engineered Solutions Technical Support Manager as well as International Sales Manager, traveling the world to introduce and train building engineers in the use of and maintenance of their systems.

Kim works as a manager for Dollar Tree where she enjoys interacting with customers and co-workers on a daily basis. Bruce and Kim make their home in Vinton, Virginia.

They have two additional sons, Christopher M. Gabrielson (born 1991) and Logan N. Gabrielson (born 1996).

3. Gary Henry Gabrielson (1964-1993)

When Gary Henry Gabrielson was born on September 8, 1964, in Bay Shore, New York, his father, Richard, was 32 and his mother, Patricia, was 27. Gary attended William Byrd High School in Vinton, VA, and afterwards took training as a professional truck driver, earning his CDL license.

Gary especially loved camping, fishing and boating. He enjoyed going camping with his dad to the outer banks of North Carolina and other areas. Gary accepted the Lord Jesus at a young age.

Gary loved trucks and boats and could often recite the details on these with infinite accuracy. Tragically Gary died young at 28 as the result of an automobile accident. He never married and had no children, and was living with his dad at that time in Vinton, VA. He is buried in the family plot area of the Vinton Burial Park.

Just prior to his passing, he was working for his brother Scott in the furniture business, and while working at a church wandered into the church cemetery. Commenting on a grave of a young person, he commented that he did not expect to live a long life. His premonition proved accurate, and he passed a short time later.

Chapter 8 – The Fourth & Fifth American Generations – Second and Third Cousins

Descendants of Henry M. Gabrielson, Jr.:

Henry “Hank” (1947-2012) and Regina Ciaccio Gabrielson (1950-2015) had two sons:

1. Henry Martin Gabrielson (b. 1971) was born in Islip NY but later moved to Minneapolis.

He is married to Darcy Rae Landry (born 1972) Currently they are in the Richfield, MN area.

Henry works in technology and is affiliated with H2K Technologies. He is an expert of PC/LAN troubleshooting and computer issues. He is also involved with NutriDyn sports nutrition.

Henry and Darcy Rae have two sons, Carter Henry Gabrielson (b. 1999) and Conner Calvin Gabrielson (born 2002). Carter Gabrielson also lives at Richfield MN and works for Endeavor Air as a dispatcher. He graduated from Richfield High School. Conner Gabrielson lives at Richfield MN and works for Specialty Java, Inc. in the coffee roasting business. He attended Penn Foster University.

2. Joel Matthew Gabrielson (b. 1977), was born in Bay Shore, New York then moved with his parents to the Minneapolis area. He married Joscelyn Kai Halbert (born 1980) on February 6, 1999, the daughter of John F. Halbert and Jodi Lynn Halbert.

Known for his early skills as a barber, he became known as “Joel the Barber” and had a following online. Currently he is the Chief Operating Officer of NutriDyn, a medical supplement company in Maple Plain, MN. See www.nutridyn.com for more info.

Joel and Joscelyn have two children, a daughter Iliana Gabrielson (b. 2014) and a son Cade Gabrielson (b. 2014).

Louis (Lou) and Kathy Gabrielson have no children.

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Descendants of Robert E Gabrielson:

A. JoAnne Gabrielson and Ross Barron (Barry) Griffing had three children: Joel, Leslye and Danielle Griffing.

1. **Joel Jeremy Griffing** (1973-2019). Joel was born on December 19th, 1973 in Alameda, CA. Joel was a veteran of the United States Navy for many years.

Like many veterans, Joel was afflicted with PTSD. He joined the Navy at a young age, took basic training in Navioics and married his first wife Tonya before taking his first tour of duty on the USS Kittyhawk. Joel had a genuine faith in Jesus Christ and was baptized in 1981. He was a quiet but noble person, following his own path while serving his country and family. He was involved in a horrific military explosion which scared his life though he survived. Joel was an

unfailingly loyal and generous friend, always ready to give away, money, food, a place to stay, or semi-functioning vehicles, to those who lacked.

Sadness came to the Griffing family in 2019, as their oldest child Joel passed away. He left his current wife, Kayla, and two daughters, Cassie and Kayley Griffing. JoAnne states, “we miss Joel ("Jay") every day!”

1a. **Cassie L. Griffing** (born 1992) married Tyler McCombs in 2019 at Hemet, CA. She is currently single. Cassie attended Mt. San Jacinto College studying Business Administration and Creative writing. Cassie works as a Wellness Counselor.

1b. **Kayley Griffing**, (born 2008) currently lives in San Diego, CA.

2. **Leslye Christina Griffing** was born in 1975 in Alameda, CA. Leslye is married to Ronald Dale (Ron) Charlesworth (born 1968 in Indiana). Ron is a monster musician who teaches lessons, records, and has a music store, and lives in Santa Rosa, CA. Leslye is a school psychologist at Healdsburg Unified School district and helps many students with learning disabilities. She graduated from the University of Denver and Wheaton College.

Leslye and Ron Charlesworth have two children:

2a. **Grace Charlesworth**, (born 2010) is a cheerleader extraordinaire. Grace is a rising senior and enjoys cheer, dance, music and performance. She really enjoyed her US History class this year and is setting to consider what she might study after high school.

2b. **Spencer Charlesworth**, (born 2014) an incredibly gifted athlete, now quarterbacking in High School football.  Spencer will be a high school freshman who enjoys sports, but especially football. He has also recently taken up an interest in music production.

3. **Danielle Tiphonie Griffing** (born 1977 in Alameda, CA., married **Nickolas (Nick) Kougoulis** (born 1976 in Charleston WV) and they live currently in Richmond Virginia. They married in 2001. Danielle worked in television for a time for TBS in Richmond. She attended Boston College.

Nick worked at Bowman Consulting as Director of Transportation Surveys. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia and a licensed Land Surveyor in Virginia. Nick is currently employed at Rinker Design Associates, LLC, a civil engineering firm, where he is Director of Surveying. The family lives in Henrico, VA.

3a. To Danielle Tiphonie Griffing and Nick Kougoulis were born **Isaac Alexander Kougoulis** (born 2007). Isaac, is in his sophomore year at East Carolina University, in Greenville NC.

3b. **Charles Michael Kougoulis** (born 2009). Charlie is a senior in high school.

B. Robert Evans Gabrielson Jr. and Nora Coolridge Gabrielson have no children.

C. Jeanne Marie Gabrielson and Robert (Bob) S. Colon have one daughter, Dawn Elise Colon.

Dawn Elise Colon was born 1986 in Westlake, CA.

Robert (Bob) also had 3 daughters (2 living) from his previous marriage with Brenda Albert. Bob's other daughters are **Alisha Lynn Colon**, (1978-2023), **Heather Colon** and **Jennifer Colon**.

Alisha's obituary read as follows: Alisha Colon Obituary 1978-2023

It is with profound sadness that we share the loss of Alisha Lynn Colon of Manchester. Born February 10, 1978, and passed away suddenly August 11, 2023. Alisha had a heart larger than life and an intense love of animals. She made an impression on everyone she met with her loving, outgoing personality. She was always quick to pay a compliment. Her kindness and generosity was evident in all aspects of her life, including her love for all the pups she cared for at Bolton Kennels, where she was a valued employee. Alisha had a unique gift of seeing the good in everyone. There was no greater gift to her than her family and friends. Alisha leaves behind her beloved dog Meadow, her parents Brenda and Al Albert of Manchester, her father Robert Colon and his wife Jean Colon of Oregon, her three sisters, Heather Colon, Jennifer Colon, and Dawn Hickey. Aunts and Uncles Debbie and Jean Williams, Lisa Peterson-Blinn, Richard Blinn, Cindy Albert and Richard Zelles, Michael and Lynda Albert along with several cousins, nieces and nephews and many friends. A Celebration of Life will be held on September 23rd, at 11 AM at The First Church Of Christ, 549 Storrs Road, Mansfield, CT 06250

Dawn Elise Colon (born 1986) is an amazing person born in Westlake, CA. She attended Butte College in 2016 where she studied Child and Family studies. Dawn is very artistic, (a trait she inherited from her dad) and is currently CEO of Paint Parties by Dawn. (www.paintpartiesbydawn.com)

Dawn is passionate about dogs, music, photography and painting. She lives in Magalia, CA. She is currently involved in the creation of an animal sanctuary (non-profit) called Second Chance Sanctuary Rescue.

Dawn married Jeremy Mosher in 2006. Jeremy worked for the Post Office and helped local realtors. From this union were born two children:

Kaydence Ariel Mosher (born 2008) and **Kasen James Mosher** (born 2010) in Utah.

D. Glenn Richard Gabrielson (born 1958) and Heidi Hammer had one son, Craig Robert Gabrielson (born 1990).

Craig Robert Gabrielson was born at Colorado Springs, CO. He joined the Air Force and served two tours in Afghanistan. He married Hannah in 2020 and currently lives in Vancouver WA where he works for the US Geological Survey studying earthquakes and volcanoes. Hannah Gabrielson is the founder of Beneath-theblue.com and is an underwater and nature photographer. She attended Western Washington University.

E. Nancy Anita Gabrielson and James R. Nuciforo (born 1952) had Taylor May Nuciforo (born 1994). Nancy later married Lee Anderson in 2008 and they live in Newbury Park, CA.

Taylor studied Early Childhood and Elementary Education at Northern Arizona University. She knows American Sign Language. She is an elementary school teacher.

Taylor married Jake Robertson in 2019 in Thousand Oaks, CA. Jake is the son of Elyssa Robertson and is from El Cajon, CA. He currently works for Kinney Construction, LLC as a project manager. Jake also attended Northern Arizona University and graduated in 2018. They live at Flagstaff, AR.

Taylor and Jake have two children, Rhett Robertson (born 2023) and Maisy Robertson (born 2021)

F. Eric James Gabrielson and Tina Marie Hunsicker (born 1962) had four children: Wesley James Gabrielson (b. 1987), Cody Alan Gabrielson (b. 1988), Colton Lee Gabrielson (b. 1990) and Alexandria Marie “Lexi” Gabrielson (b. 1992). Eric and Tina live at Agoura Hills, CA.

1. **Wesley James Gabrielson.....** Wesley Gabrielson graduated military training 2007
Lackland AFB
2. **Cody Alan Gabrielson**
3. **Colton Lee Gabrielson....**
4. **Alexandria Marie “Lexi” Gabrielson**

FILL IN THIS AREA NEXT TIME

Descendants of Gary H. Gabrielson

FILL IN

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Chapter 10 – The Family Tree

This will be a visual look at the family tree from different perspectives.

Descendants, Ancestors, etc