

*Van Den Berg  
Family History*

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**Cover Photo:** *The photo of Needle Rock, above Crawford, is by Bob Stovern, who also restored the photo of Grandma Maggie which is shown on the cover.*

## Introduction

*"We inherit from our ancestors' gifts so often taken for granted. Each of us contains within this inheritance of soul. We are links between the ages, containing past and present expectations, sacred memories and future promise." Edward Sellner*

### Dear Family,

We are pleased to share our Illustrated VanDenBerg Family History. We began this writing journey seeing the need for an illustrated history building on all the writing done by others, such as Wilma J. Vanden Berg's 1995 600-page book; Gary VDB's extensive profile of each of the families; Aleta Power's history of the Crawford Area;

Lee Anne Goodwin's video on the family; information from David Fisk; and the many writings done by Bud.

We are following this book with a video version, including video interviews with Aunt Marlys, home movie clips, and development of a website containing some of the earlier writings and resources. This website will be for posting new family writings and videos such as Annie's work on the family.

We thank all of you who have supported our "pandemic year" project with information, photos, and stories. We plan to do a scheduled revision of this book in the future, so if you see any important errors, let us know. In particular, we tried to find all the vets who wanted to be recognized for their service. Let us know if there are any we missed, and we will contact them for permission.

We especially want to thank our 20+ veterans and share their remarkable stories. Above all, we celebrate our Grandma Maggie, who is the soul of our family.

**Duard "Bud" VanDenBerg**

**John E. VanDenBerg**

**May 2021**

## **Chapter One**

### **The Early Days in the Netherlands**

Thanks to the efforts of Wilma Vande Berg from Iowa, we have over 500 years of historical data on our family. Wilma said: "The importance of recording our heritage and passing it on to future generations is very important to me".

The earliest known VDB ancestor is a man named Jacob (last names not yet used) who was born in 1685 and died in 1710 near the town of Doornspik and Elberg in the

Gelderland section of the Netherlands (NE). The first ancestor using a last name of Van de berg was Gerrit Jacob Van de berg, who was born in 1772.



***The town square of Elberg***

**Variations of the last name of VanDenBerg and the origins of the name**

Over 500 years, many variations of our last name have been made. These include: Van de berg; VandeBerg; Van den berg; Vandenberg; VanDenBerg; Van Den Berg. The variations all mean the same thing: Van (From), Den (the), and Berg (mountains). We use VanDenBerg in this book or VDB for abbreviation.

**The Netherlands is a flat country. How can we be from the mountains?**

In 2006, John E. VDB visited our home villages in the Netherlands. Outside the area, about 40 miles away, is a group of low hills, no more than 1,000 feet in elevation. Our earliest ancestors lived in these hills. When the Netherlands became a world power in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, villagers in the hills were forced to move to the seaports to be a labor force. The families from these hills were called Vandebergs, or “from the mountains”.



**Our earliest ancestors came from these hills (aka “mountains) outside the seaports of the Zuiderzee (a bay of the North Sea) Who were the first family to immigrate to the US, and when?**

Jan VanDenBerg was born in Oldebroek, NE, in 1845. He was the first VanDenBerg to come to America, in 1865, when he was 20 years old. His father Beert VanDenBerg was born in Doornspijk in 1821. His mother Aaltje Juffer was born in 1824. In 1866, they came to America with seven of their children.

### **Why did the family immigrate?**

The primary reasons why so many people from the Netherlands came to the US were either poverty or religious persecution, or both. Poverty had been hastened by foreign invasions, lack of industry, low wages, heavy taxation. Child labor was the norm. Potatoes were the primary food of the working class, and in 1845, a potato blight took that food away. Starvation was common.

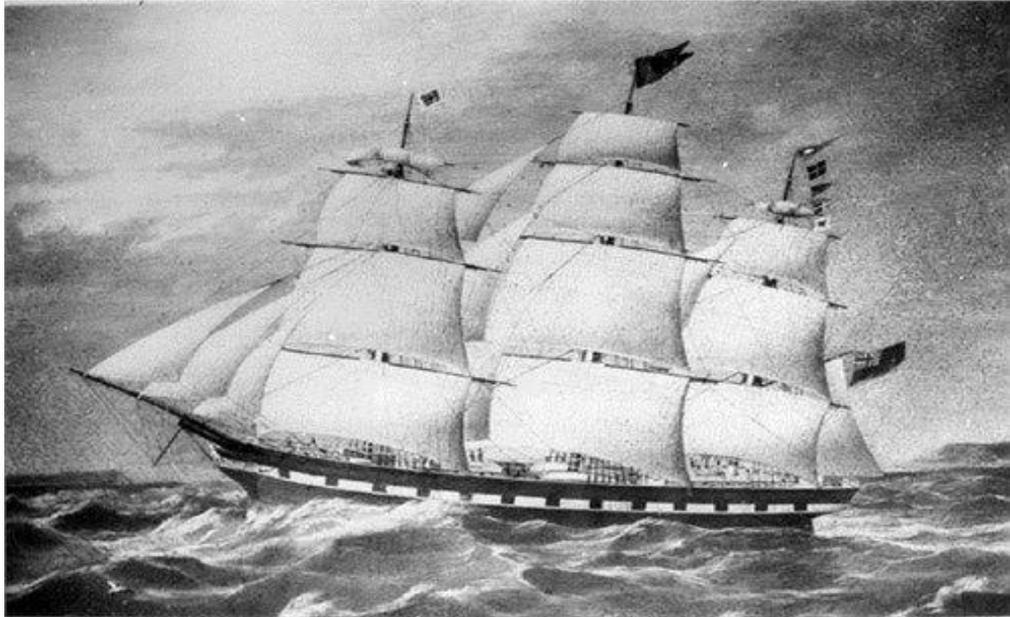


Most people, and certainly our ancestors, had never traveled more than a few miles from their home villages, and now contemplated a hazardous voyage of thousands of miles.

### **The Voyage Over the Ocean**

Ship passenger lists indicate that Beert and Altie and their 7 children, with a group of other Dutch families from their hometowns, likely sailed on a sailing ship called the “Trimountain”. There were at least six hundred passengers. They left Rotterdam and eventually landed in New York City. The voyage was characterized by storms, crowded conditions, poor food, and illness. On the trip, Beert and Altie’s son Gerrit died and was buried at sea.

The family was met in NYC by their son who had come earlier. Beert wrote in a letter that “this was a good thing, for without his help, we would have all been cheated.”



**This ship is similar to what our ancestors sailed on when coming to America**

## **Chapter Two: The Early Days in Wisconsin and Iowa**

After Beert and Aaltje first arrived in New York City, they first went to Alto, Wisconsin where their son Jan had rented a house. Many Dutch settlers were in the area. Son Jan (John) homesteaded land in Sioux County, Iowa, and was joined by his parents in 1872. They came from Wisconsin in a wagon train of other Dutch families, on a trip that took four weeks. Land was inexpensive, and they bought forty acres.



**Prairie outside Sioux County, Iowa**

**Beert and Aaltje and later Beert and Geertje**

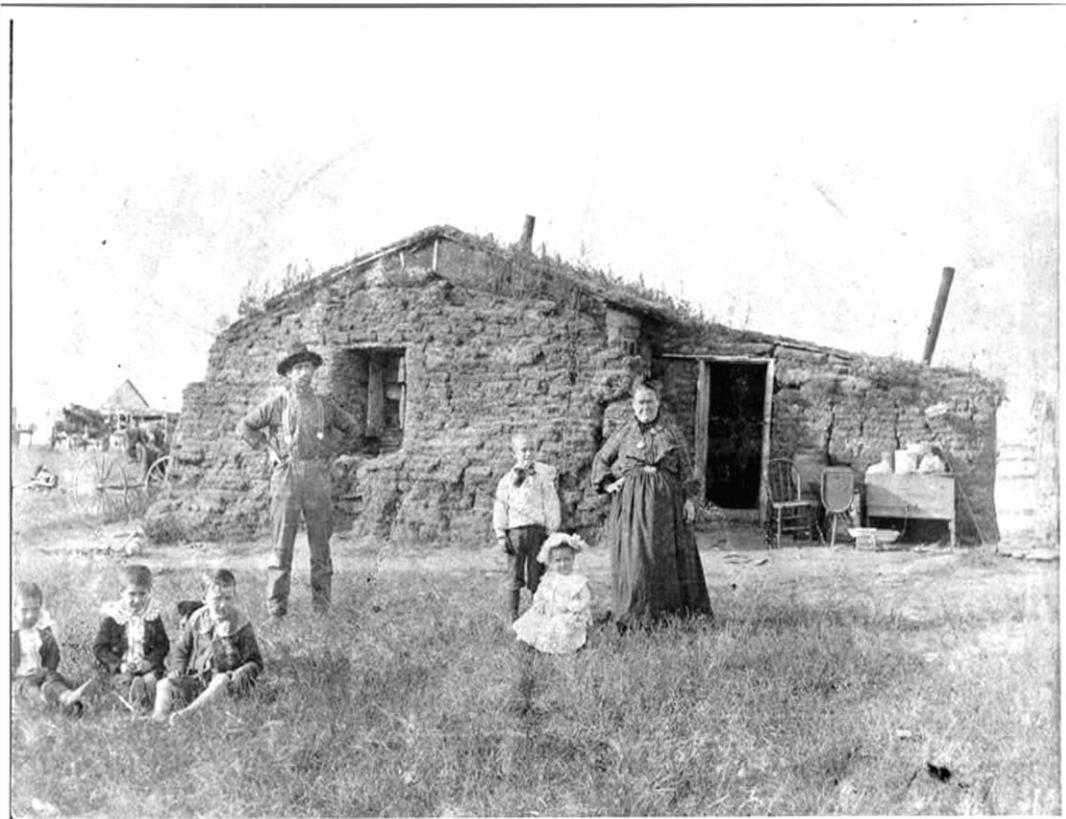
Aaltje died in 1875. After 7 years, Beert married Geertje, a widower. Her five daughters greatly increased the total number of children, bringing the total to 13. After several years, they moved into town (Orange, Iowa) from their farm. Beert died in 1904 at the age of 82.



**Beert and Altjie about 1870**

### **Settling Iowa**

In about 1842, a treaty with the Saux/Meskwaki Native Americans ceded to the U.S. all Iowa territory between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. The first white settlers were drawn to treeless western Iowa by the rich soil and land to homestead or purchase. They lived in sod houses, or in the case of Beert and Aaltjie, in small shacks. They were literally sodbusters, plowing the soil and planting crops needed by a growing nation, including wheat, corn, and other grains. They also raised cattle. The settlers worked very hard, dealing with storms, wolves, grasshoppers, famine, and disease.



### ***Sod House on the Prairie***

#### **John (Jan) Vandenberg, Beert and Aaltjie's Son**

John was the first of our family to come to America. He started his work in America as a farm laborer in Wisconsin.

In 1873, John and his wife came to Northwestern Iowa (Sioux County), drawn by available land and more open space. He homesteaded 80 acres and built a sod house. Later, he purchased 380 acres in what he called Welcome Township. By about 1880, they were able to build a permanent house.

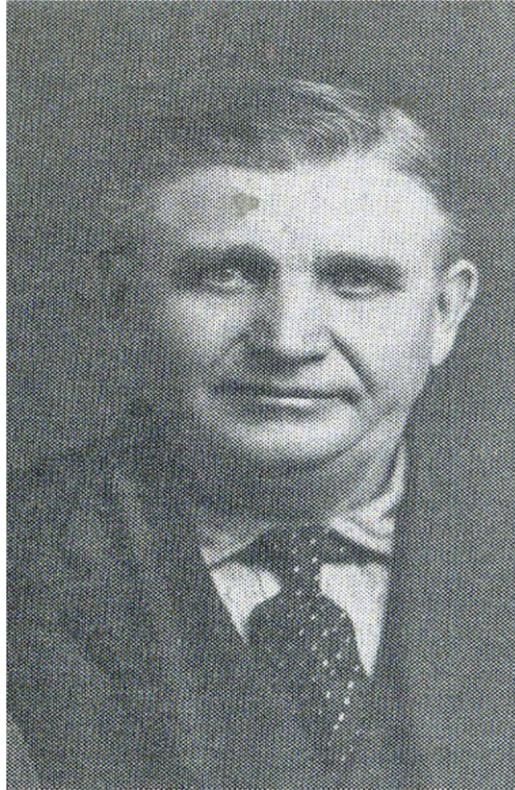


**From a sod home to a large home in less than eight years!**

John became a successful farmer who rapidly accumulated wealth from the rich, black soil. He expanded his farms to over 1400 acres. He and his wife Wilhelmina had nine children who lived. He was a founder of the local Dutch Reformed Church and started a creamery and became the president of the Farmers and Merchants Bank. He was called "King John" by local citizens. He sponsored Dutch immigrants, who worked for him while their passage debts were paid.

John died at age 62, of pneumonia. Wilhelmina died in 1912. They left each of their children a farm, and good inheritances.

## **King John**



## **Sioux Center and Orange, Iowa--Then and Now**

Our family lived in northwest Iowa after moving from Wisconsin. The major towns near where they farmed were Sioux Center and Orange. In the 1880's, these were small towns with a population of Dutch immigrants. Now, Sioux Center is about 7,000 people. Orange has a population of just over 6,000 and is the Sioux County seat. Both are known for being conservative, clean and organized cities that are a tribute to their Dutch heritage.



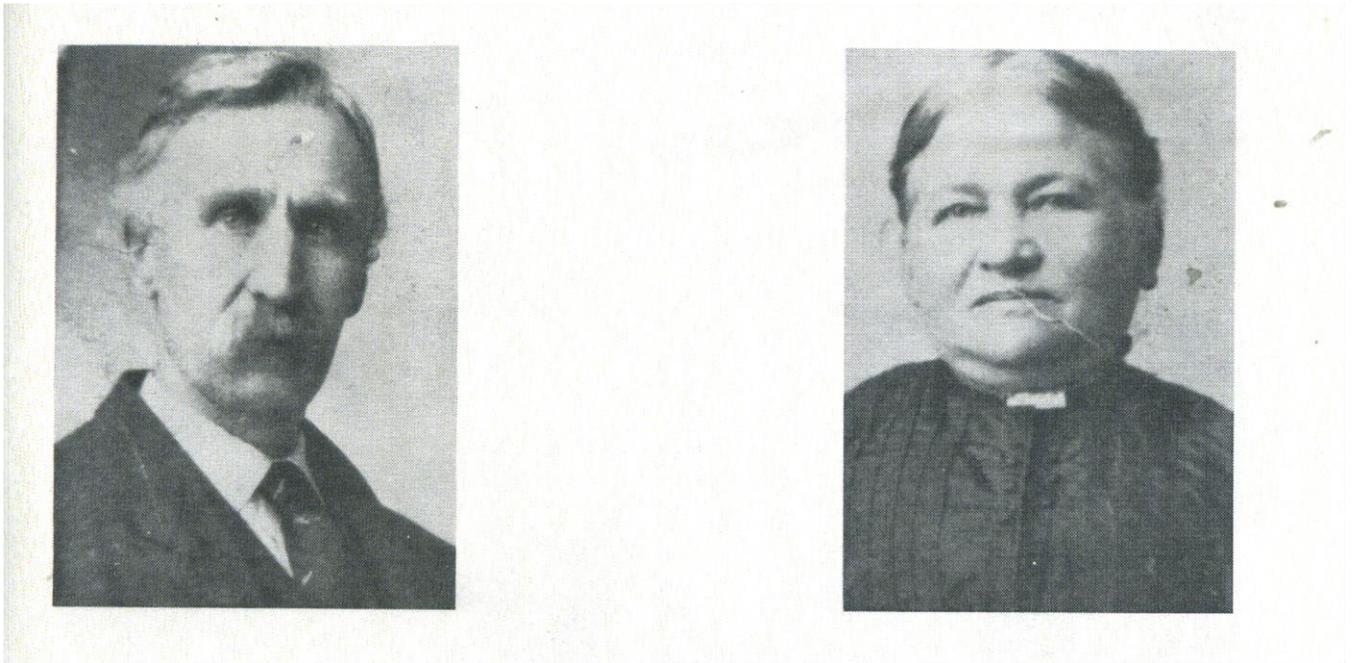
***Sioux Center in about 1900***



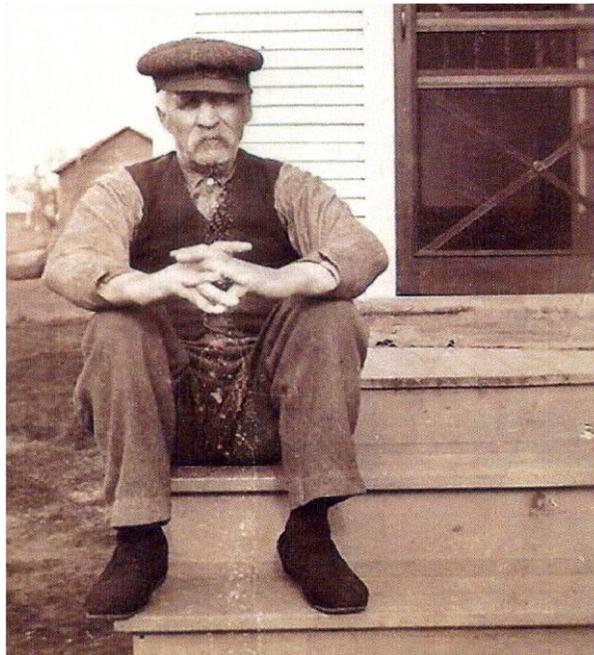
***Sioux Center in 2020***

**The Roots of Our Branch of the VanDenBergs**

One of Beert's and Aaltjie's children was our great-grandfather Andrew, who was 16 when his family came to America. He was born in 1850 and died in Orange City in 1927. He and his wife Tryntje had ten children who lived to adulthood.



**Our Great-Grandparents Andrew and Tryntje**



**Our Great-Grandpa Andrew on his porch in Sioux Center!**

### **The VanDenBergs Leaving Iowa**

A group of Dutch residents, our grandparents Charles and Maggie, and several of their early-born children left Iowa in about 1907 to come to the North Fork Valley of

Colorado. They came to Colorado in a rented freight train boxcar full of family and the few possessions they could bring.

### **Why did our Grandparents leave Iowa?**

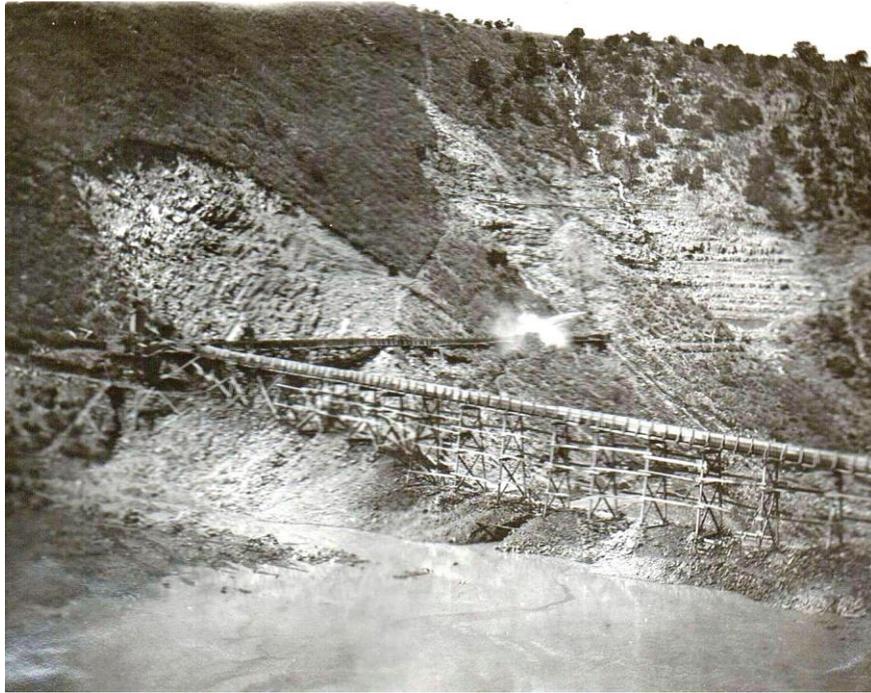
In many western US states, more settlers were needed and open land was more plentiful than settlers. In some areas, developers developed fliers which showed an overly optimistic view of the area needing additional people where land could be purchased cheaply or even given away free. Desert, dry areas were depicted in the flier as lush, green land full of water and promise where new settlers could become wealthy.



## **Chapter 3 The Early Years in Crawford**

*“Growing up in Crawford and knowing most of the people in the community... has made me very aware of the importance of the history of Crawford”. Duard “Bud” VanDenBerg, 2019.*

Cousin Bud has written extensively about the area in an edited book “An accumulation of Articles on the Crawford, Colorado area”. Cousin Aleta Powers did a master’s thesis on the early Crawford days, and most of this chapter is based on their work. Crawford is still less than 300 people, but it and the surrounding areas are truly our homeland as a family. Our life in the area started with a new dam at the top of Fruitland Mesa, the large mesa above Crawford.



About 1900, a dam was placed in a canyon above Fruitland mesa hoping to open and irrigate 15000 acres for homesteading. Two land speculators sold Sioux County resident John Sipma on the project and he then convinced some of the Dutch community around Orange City to make the move to Colorado.

### **1907 – The VanDenBergs come to Colorado**

Shortly after the turn of the century, the Gould Brothers, land speculators, began their attempt to draw people to the Crawford area. Brochures showed lush valleys full of fruit, extensive water, and dark rich soil. Mr. Sipma, a resident of Sioux County, Iowa saw the brochures and told other residents about the opportunity to get rich farming the area. In due time, a large group of Dutch farmers left Iowa to come to the Crawford area, and settled on a large mesa called Fruitland. It was about this time that Grandpa Charles and Grandma Maggie, and their children decided to come as well. Grandpa and Grandma bought a ranch outside Crawford and began to farm.

## Letters to Home

Several Dutch residents of the North Fork Valley wrote letters about the Dutch Community and sent them to the Dutch newspaper in Orange City Iowa (De Volksvriend). There are many mentions of our family, and often when yet another new baby was born!

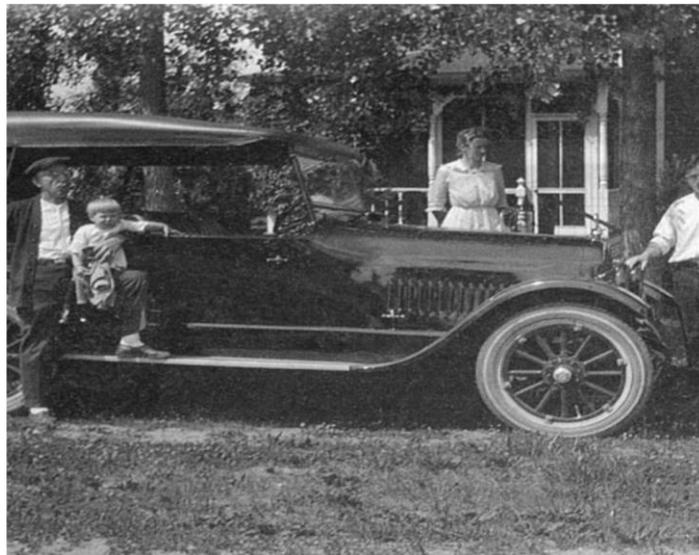
**3/26/1914.** *Yesterday, the 19<sup>th</sup> there arrived a fat baby boy at Mr. and Mrs. Charles Van den Berg's. (this was our Uncle Gerrit!)*

**1/15/1920** *At Charles Van den Berg and wife came the stork and brought son number 6, Theodore. This makes 7 young ones. Fortunately, Van den Berg has enough to eat. (This was our Uncle Ted!)*

**6/22/1922** *Yesterday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, Tracey Van denBerg was in marriage joined with Earl Busby of Crawford. They will dedicate themselves to the field life near their parents. That their boat can sail, but softly. (This was our Aunt Tracey)*

**12/13/1928.** *Charles VanDenBerg has a new daughter. I believe this is their 13<sup>th</sup> child! Mother and little one are well (This was our Aunt Ruby!)*

**9/14/1919.** *Chas. Van den Berg bought a 7 passenger Studebaker Six, he can occupy it with his family. This is a 1919 Studebaker, but not our family!*



**The Reality of the Crawford Area**

The convoy of Iowa Dutch settlers arrived in Crawford country ready to work. Soon, it was clear that although the climate was good for growing fruit, the reservoir that the Gould Brothers had built did not hold enough water, the high desert land was

unbroken and covered with sagebrush and juniper trees. The soil was not deep black lowa soil, and was full of rocks.

Cattle ranchers who could grow hay and graze their cattle in the mountains often had more success than did crop farmers. Mills and creameries were built, and a schools and stores were established in the town of Crawford. A Methodist church was built. The TeSelle's (Dutch reformed minister) established a church for the Dutch.

Water was not adequate to provide irrigation during the hot summers. By the 1930's most of the families had sold their equipment and abandoned their land. Farm sales sold everything possible and much of the land was eventually repossessed. Some of the remaining Dutch families developed different skills and moved to the towns of Hotchkiss and Paonia, some raised fruit or did plumbing or electrical work. Many of the young men were drafted or enlisted in the military at the beginning of WWII, including our Uncles Ted, Charles and Wesley.

John, Andrew and Lester went to Idaho and struggled to survive there. John was a trapper. Andrew worked on the railroad for a time then on cattle ranches. They all came back to help their parents in Colorado. Before the war Andrew rented a ranch on Fruitland Mesa and started making a decent living. He moved to a better property on the Smith fork and started a dairy. He then started investing money in real estate that he and his parents could live on. Andrew and Kleo's children worked on the farms, and the family became prosperous.

**Our Crawford ancestors and Cousins spoke of living there (from oral histories collected by Cousin Aleta Powers and from Bud)**

*"My brother John and I would stay with the Teeslinks. Well, those people were so poor, you just couldn't believe it, hardly. The only thing they had to eat was a patch of potatoes..."* Tracy VanDenBerg Busby, daughter of Charles and Maggie.

*"I don't remember any toys that I had as a little kid. Ruby (younger sister) and I cut up Sears and Montgomery (catalogues) and make our own paper dolls..."* "I remember having shoes and the whole sole would be gone, and I would have to get a jar rubber to put around there to hold that sole on, and then that would wear right out". Marlys VanDenBerg Hilton, daughter of Charles and Maggie

*About the time the VanDenBerg's house burned down: "We were at church. Some people saw it and came running and knocked on the door and said 'VanDenBerg's*

*house is on fire'. Everything burned. And then, I don't know whose idea it was, but someone got the idea that every kid in the class would bring something to us. I remember Nettie Collins, one of the girls that were Charles' age, brought us each a toothbrush. It was the first toothbrush I had ever had. I was so proud of that toothbrush, because everyone was poor."* Marlys VanDenBerg Hilton, daughter of Charles and Maggie.

### **Writings from Bud about the early days in Crawford:**

*Our Grandfather Charles farmed in the Clearfork area and ran livestock on the open range that is now Forest Service land. In 1917, he and several others built a log cabin for a cow camp on the headwaters of Curecanti Creek.*

*Dad (Andy) sold milk to the cheese factory in Hotchkiss. Milk was worth a dollar a pound for the butterfat. We were milking 27 head. We bought a milking machine that I used while Dad and Ted milked by hand. George and Lester fed the cows grain and kept the barn full. Once we were having a church picnic and the Harold Deutsch family was there while we were milking. They had two daughters named Dixie and Donna. In the barn, I called out to Lester, "Do you have Dixie's tits washed?" What a commotion that caused. Little did they know we had named the cows after their daughters.*

*Dad bought a small ranch on Rogers Mesa. Grandpa and Grandma VanDenBerg moved on the ranch to run it. Often, we would help with the farm work there. I skipped school to help thrash oats of the stack. We stacked the hay with a Mormon derrick. We used slips with a sling laid across to put up the hay. This changed the whole world for us. We handled all the hay with machinery, except stacking and feeding it for the winter. Our world revolved around hay. Irrigating it in the spring, mowing, drying, and stacking it during the summer, then feeding it to livestock in the winter.*

### **Life for the VanDenBergs in Crawford: Horses, Cattle, Hunting, and the Cabin!**

**Horses.** Horses were a foundation of life for families back in those days. Autos were new and not dependable, tractors were expensive and mechanically fragile, and horses took care of plowing, transportation, mowing, and all kinds of heavy work. Grandpa VDB had about 20 or more horses and would periodically take a mare to a person who had a stud horse and would increase his herd. He also would sell a horse

now and then for money when money was tight. Each of the boys had a favorite horse. John E. shares this about his Dad Charles:

*When Dad was a teen, he had a gray gelding that he loved. He was very attached to the horse. In his last years, with dementia, (late 80's and early 90's), the memory of his gray was often with him. When I would take him for drives around the valley (his favorite activity), he would see a gray horse in a pasture and it would trigger him to tell me stories about his horse, the horse he loved.*



### **Uncles Charles and Andy having fun on their horses**

The VanDenBerg kids learned to ride almost from toddler years. Bud shared that he can't remember a time when he was not a rider of horses. John E. shares this about his Dad Charles's skill with horses:

*We grew up in Napa a long ways from Crawford and horses. My sister Deb always wanted a horse on our small acreage, and one day one of my Dad's co-workers had an old horse for an inexpensive sum. Dad brought him home and Deb was delighted. However, Deb quickly discovered that the old mare (Brownie) did not like being ridden and in fact, did not like going more than 50 feet from the barn. Deb was disappointed. However, Dad got on the horse and when the horse tried the "go to the barn trick", Dad took control with the reins and his heels and quickly had the old mare moving. We kids watched him take the horse up into the hills around our land, in amazement that our Dad knew how to do that! Deb learned and was eventually able to make him go further from the barn. The horse soon proved the name Dad gave her (Hay Burner) and the horse was moved on to other owners.*

Bud shared the story of his love for horses. He said that when he was very young, Uncle Wesley would come over and take him riding. His mom, Aunt Kleo, would say “Don’t run that horse” (not wanting the horse worn out and not as useful for work). Bud said that as soon as they were out of sight of the house, Wesley and he would gallop the horse as fast as they could go!

When Bud was older, he and Uncle Andy went to the stock sale in Hotchkiss. At the sale, there was a horse that was not very impressive. In fact, the auctioneer noted that the horse had been “spoiled” which meant that it had been broken inappropriately, was aggressive, and good only for meat.

Bud followed his instinct and bought the horse for \$75. Bud had developed a special way of breaking a horse that involved gentleness, developing a relationship, and over a couple of weeks or more, teaching them to trust the owner. This was the opposite of the dominant way of breaking horses at the time, which involved fear and whipping the horse into submission. Bud was in demand to break horses for local ranchers and charged \$10 per horse. He named the new \$75 horse “Rocket” and he could see that underneath the exterior, Rocket was a real athlete. He taught Rocket how to accept a saddle, to have reins, and to also be a cutting horse (to be used in herding and branding cattle). Bud fed Rocket a linseed oil mix, and his coat shone. He took him to a horse competition in Grand Junction, and Rocket ended up winning the title “Champion of Champions”. Here is a photo of Rocket with Myrtle, Bud’s first wife, who was pregnant with Andy.



**The Industrial Age comes to Crawford.** Gradually, the role of the horse on ranches changed, as farming machines got better and more affordable. Uncle Andy ended up trading 17 horses for a Farmall tractor, which allowed him to increase his ranching capacity and eventually own a number of ranches. Andy's tractor was a Farmall H, one of which is pictured here.



**Cattle.** Cattle, both beef cattle, and milk cows, were highly important to our family. In the early 1920's and into the depression, cattle prices were very low, and for ranchers like our Grandfather Charles, raising cattle was a losing battle. Grandpa ran cattle in the mountains during the summer and raised hay to feed them in the winter and spring. If the cattle were plentiful, and the hay was available, prices often went even further down due to over-supply. Cousin Bud ran over 250 head of cattle on land on Fruitland Mesa above Crawford, and as he described it "Did not get rich!". Every family in rural areas like the Crawford area had milk cows for personal use and to sell excess milk and butter. In the years prior to milking machines, milking cows was a long and exhaustive process. The VanDenBergs sold excess milk, cream, and butter to one of the two creameries in Crawford, which supplied the family with a small amount of cash. The family also sold eggs and chickens when they had extra. Due to the beef availability, the occasional wild game, gardens, and dairy, the family ate well, even during tough times.

**Hunting.** For some Americans, hunting is still tied to having food. But for our family, and especially during the depression, it was a bottom-line essential activity. In the Crawford area, the primary game are mule deer and elk, trout, and game birds like grouse and pheasant. During the Depression, the deer and elk herds were decimated by hunting and lack of management. Uncle Charles talked about rarely seeing a deer

on their ranch. However, if they did see one, Grandpa would want it killed as the meat was very important so the family to be able to eat enough protein. Uncle Charles told John E. about seeing a mule deer doe come out of the woods near their property. Grandpa ordered Charles to get a gun, get on his horse, and don't come back until he got the deer. Charles complied, chased the deer all day and eventually up on a mountain called Saddle Mountain, where he finally shot the deer. He brought it home, and the family had venison!

Fishing for trout was an everyday activity, and Grandma Maggie really knew how to cook fish. There are numerous creeks in the Crawford area. The biggest hauls of trout came from going into Curecanti. The brook trout were and still are so plentiful that you can catch them on bare hooks. The VanDenBerg kids would take their horses in and fill the tied-off legs of pants with brookies and take them home to Grandma. Every once in a while, the VDB kids would hike down into Black Canyon and fish in the Gunnison River for much larger trout.

The area did have an active game warden. Due to the need for food, many people ignored the seasons, and kept the game warden very active. At the time, available phones were all party lines (*ok, young readers, google that for an explanation of what a party line is!*). Whenever anyone saw the game warden come into the Crawford area, people would get on the party line and warn the others!

John E. was privileged to lead the eulogy when Cousin Earl (Hugh) Busby died. He learned this story from Cousin Ted, and then told this story to the memorial service participants:

*Cousin Ted, just seven months younger than Earl, talked about one memorable trip being back in Curecanti fishing and hunting with his brother Bud and Earl, and our Uncle John. Both Earl and Bud each shot a bighorn ram and packed them out. Uncle John was scared to death the game warden Art Rogers would catch them. The fines would have been huge! When Earl Sr. saw the illegal big horn sheep his son had shot, he turned white and took the heads out in the field and buried them deep! (John E. told the crowd, speaking to Bud -- Don't worry about my telling on you, Bud, I think the statute of limitations is up on that one!)*

All of the boys learned to be crack shots. When many of them went in the military, they always excelled at shooting. When Cousin Bud was in Korea, both the officers and enlisted men had required shooting drills, and Bud always was at the top of the

list! Finally, one of his officers who was not a great shot figured out that the reason Bud excelled was that he had a better rifle (basic military issue gun) and borrowed Bud's rifle to qualify. Didn't help!

**Curecanti Cabin.** The Curecanti Wilderness area is in the mountains east of Crawford, about a half day ride on a horse. In about 1915, Grandpa Charles used to run cattle in the mountains during the summer, on open range. In 1917, Grandpa and several others felt that it would be good to build a cabin for shelter during the times they were running cattle, and to use the cabin as a hunting camp. It was over 8,000 feet elevation. They felled logs and built log walls and a special roof that would not only stand up to heavy snows (snows of over 12 feet are not unheard of at that elevation).



**The Curecanti Cabin**



**Dolly Keel, Aunt Kleo and Uncle Andy at the Curecanti cabin**

After it was no longer used as a cow camp, the cabin was widely used for trapping, hunting and a “get-away” camping and recreation site. During elk and deer seasons, the family (mostly but not always the men) would stay at the cabin and hunt in the area and pack the meat out on horses. John E. remembers his Dad Charles going from home in Napa California to visit his parents but also to go to Curecanti and hunt. This trip was free of a wife and kids – it was his yearly time! Often, he would bring coolers of elk and deer meat back with him.

The cabin was the site of several adventures. Once, Curley Pipher (father of Cousin Bud’s first wife) was trapping in the winter up in the area of the cabin, on a day trip in good weather. A heavy snow came and trapped him up there with no food, and severe cold. He was able to locate the approximate location of the cabin, which was almost buried in snow. He dug down into the snow, entered the cabin and found food, started a fire, and was able to survive.

Unfortunately, although it was still standing, the Forest Service burned the cabin in the mid 1990’s, following their policy of getting rid of permanent structures on wilderness land. When it burned, the VanDenBergs lost a big part of our history.

**School was a big activity!**

Schools were established and the community bonded and helped each other in time of need. On Saturday night many would gather at the school where someone would bring a fiddle or an accordion and dance till 2:00 in the morning. (*Some would bring a little booze to lighten things up*). Usually, the kids fit right in and had a good time also. Grandpa Charles and Maggie never participated.

***Can you spot the VDB's in this school picture from 1920?***



**Loss of the VanDenBerg Ranch**

During the Great Depression, many Crawford families struggled to hold on. Charles and Maggie, with all of their ten kids, were no exception. They worked, they canned, they raised chickens and sold eggs, but had almost no cash. One of our Uncles talked about finding a dime on the road, and their parent took the dime and was able to buy salt, as the family had no salt to season their food.

Finally, Charles and Maggie lost their ranch. This was devastating to Grandpa Charles. Their older children helped them find a place to live. They moved to Paonia and rented a farm there. They had another fire in Paonia and lost everything again. It was said that losing the ranches really broke Grandpa Charles' spirit. During a

postdepression program developed by President Roosevelt, he could have bought the Crawford ranch back for very little money, but he could not bring himself to do it. They moved to a number of different properties within Delta county. The children all grew up and left home.



## **Chapter Four: The Roots of Faith for the Family**

*Thanks to John T. VanDenBerg, for the information on the primary faith that is shared in this chapter. He is a minister of that faith.*

In the Netherlands, it is likely that most VanDenBergs (prior to immigration) were part of the Dutch Reform religion. The Dutch Reform religion was formed as a result of a schism with the Catholic Church and was tied to the Protestant Reformation. On the Rozeboom side of the family, we had an uncle, Uncle Richard, who was a Dutch Reform Minister in Denver. When a large group of Iowa Dutch settlers came to the Crawford, Colorado area (including the VanDenBerg's), the settlers were mostly Dutch Reform Church members. Eventually, a Dutch Reform pastor (Rev. TeSelles) came, settled in the Crawford area and did services in a school. The VanDenBergs were part of this church. After Rev. TeSelles left the area, the VanDenBergs joined the Methodist Church in Crawford.

Two traveling ministers (the Wilke brothers, pictured below) had come to Crawford to hold gospel meetings. Grandpa VanDenBerg invited the Wilkes to dinner, and when he found out they were sleeping in the school, he invited them to stay at their house outside Crawford. They stayed there for over 3 months. Over 7 years later, Grandma Maggie grew unhappy with their Methodist Church and communicated with ministers from the faith of the Wilkes and converted to their faith.



### **The Role of the New Faith in the VanDenBerg Family**

Beginning with Grandma Maggie and Grandpa Charles, the new faith began to flourish within the extended VanDenBerg family, where it continues in the lives of dozens of family members. Grandma's son Lester became a minister in the faith in 1936 and was in that role until 1953. After that, he left and married, and he and our Aunt Helen had two sons, John Timothy and David.

John T. has spent his life ministering the faith around the world. Two other family members, Cousins Lester and Dolly (children of Andrew and Kleo) were also ministers at one point in their lives. More recently, David daughter Lisa has become a minister in the faith.

**This picture is David, Uncle Lester and Aunt Helen, and John T. VDB.**



### **The Current Role of Faith in Our Family**

Beginning with the Dutch Reform Church, the Methodist Church, and the faith discussed here, faith beliefs have continued for many VanDenBergs and related family. In addition to the faith discussed here, many diverse faiths, including Buddhism, Unitarian Universalism, Earth-Centered Spirituality, and others are now practiced by family members.

## **Chapter Five**

### **Our Matriarch: Maggie Rozeboom VanDenBerg**

She was born in Sioux Center, Iowa August 6, 1885, married March 6, 1904 in Orange City, Iowa. Tracy, her oldest daughter, was born in 1905, in Iowa. Grandma gave birth to 11 children, 10 of whom lived. She and Grandpa Charles raised them during the great Depression, growing gardens, canning, and working, working, working.

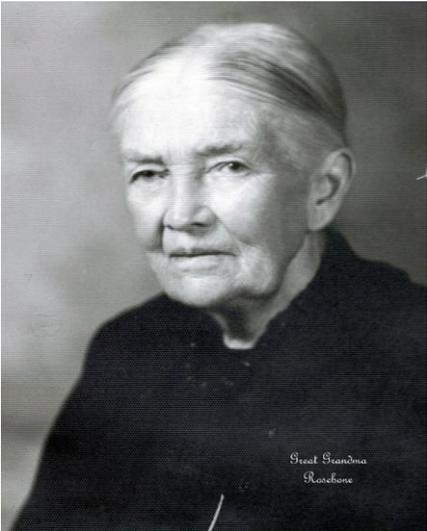


**Grandma Maggie was a Rozeboom! She had 20 brothers and sisters, half-sisters and half-brothers!**

The Rozebooms and the VanDenBergs were linked through friendship in the Netherlands, and continued association in America. Grandma was born Margaret Rozeboom in 1885. The father of Grandma Maggie was Jan Rozeboom. He married Hermina Schipper in 1863. Hermina had 13 children before dying in 1880 in childbirth. Jan came to America in 1881 with 8 of his children and moved to Iowa. He married Jannetje (Jenny) after moving. They were married for 45 years, and had 8 children,

including Grandma Maggie. Jan Rozeboom died in 1930 at the age of 90 years, the father of 21 children.

Aunt Marly has fond memories of her Grandmother Jenny. She said that Jenny was a sweet, gentle person who was the reason our Grandma Maggie ended up being such an amazing and supportive person. Jan and Jenny lived in Iowa and were prosperous. Each month, Jenny would write her daughter Maggie and include a dollar bill in the envelope. Aunt Marly said that due to the poverty level of her family in those days, the dollar meant a great deal, and that Grandpa Charles loved the letters coming in each month.



**Grandma Maggie’s Mother Jannetje (Jenny) Rozeboom**



**Grandma Maggie’s Father Jan Rozeboom**

**Rozeboom Family History.** Thanks to Jan and Jenny's late son Richard for much of the content of this history. Maggie VanDenBerg's father was Jan (John) Rozeboom, the oldest son of Beert Rozeboom and Driesje Van Loo. He had four brothers and two sisters. Jan was born in Elburg, Netherland, on April 16, 1840. He started school there and while still very young moved with his parents to Oldebroek. It was here, at the age of three or four, that he had an accident with his thumb. His father had been using the "Haskelbox," a homemade instrument made to cut hay and other fodder into small pieces by means of a long sharp knife that was attached at one end leaving the other end free to be manipulated as desired. Jan was always very inquisitive and when he saw the Haskelbox he decided to try it out. He slid the hay along through the box and pulled down the knife. It worked beautifully until he got his left thumb too close to the knife and almost cut it off. His parents did not take him to a doctor but bandaged the hand themselves. When the bandage was removed the thumb had grown on backward.

On March 13, 1863, at the age of twenty-two and one half years, Jan was married to Miss Hermina Schipper. Until the time of his marriage, he lived on a small farm with his folks. After matrimony he lived in a rented room in the same vicinity. His occupation then was that of a daily laborer. Their first son, Beert, was born here, but died at the age of eleven weeks. Another son was born and they again called his name Beert. Then Hannes was born. They moved to Zwollenburg and roomed with an ancestor of the VanDenBerg family, Gerrit Van De Berg, for three years. Dries and Aaltje were born here. They moved back to Doornspijk and rented a small farm and started to farm for themselves. They lived on this farm in the Buurschap (neighborhood) De Haare for twelve years. During this time, they had more children - Lambert, then a child who died at birth, Corneilius who died at the age of nine months, then Lil, Driesje, Annie and Minnie.

In April of that same year Hermina died after she had given birth to John. That was a terrific blow to the family, for she had been a loving, caring woman. Prior to this, Andrew had gone to Jan's brother-in-law, Eibert Dykhuison, and now John also went there in as much as it was impossible for Father to take care of a child who was still a baby. The problem of providing for his family continued and seeing no future in the Netherlands, he once more became interested in America. He consulted his family and they agreed that moving to America might solve their problem. They had a sale on August 4, 1881 and six days later, this family with eight children, the oldest being fifteen and the youngest three and a half, was on the sailing ship Pollux, seen below.



Children Andrew and John temporarily remained in the Netherlands with the Dykhuisons. They arrived in Le Mars, Iowa on September 3, 1881, and went to Alton, (near Newkirk) in the middle of the night and stayed with Hendrik Jan Schut, who treated them royally during their stay there. The entire family had stood the trip well and they were all healthy upon their arrival in the new land.

In 1883, with the help of John VanDenBerg (“King John” – the first VDB in America), they moved to Welcome Township, section 30, and rented a small farm in the N.W. Corner called in those days, district ninety-six. This was mostly prairie land. Jan lived here for two years and they bought eighty acres of prairie land for eight dollars an acre. He broke this land and farmed it.

On August 20, 1884, Jan married Miss Janetje (Jennie) Hoksbergen and experienced forty-five years of happily wedded life with her. Out of this marriage, eight children were born, all in the same house -- Maggie, Henry, Gerrit, Johanna, Neal, Richard, Jennie and Minnie. Soon after Jan’s second marriage he purchased an additional one hundred twenty acres of land for \$15.00 per acre. He rented two hundred acres more so that he was now working four hundred acres in all.

On November 28, 1911, Jan and Jennie held a retirement sale and moved to Sioux Center. They had built a house in the south end of town on a three acre plat of ground. He took two cows, two pigs and a dozen chickens with him. Two years later he had four cows, twenty-two pigs and about a hundred chickens. He decided he

might as well go back on the farm if he kept this up so he sold out and built a new house and lived there twelve years.

On February 15, 1930, Jan became ill and died on May 6, 1930 at the age of ninety years and twenty days. Every living son and daughter, sixteen in all were in the room when he passed away. He was buried on May 9, 1930 in the cemetery in Sioux Center, Iowa, after a funeral service had been held in the First Reformed Church.



**Jan and Jenny, and their daughter Jane, at their new home in Sioux Center, Iowa, about 1924**

### **Pictures of Grandma Maggie**



**Aunt Ruby and Grandma Maggie**



**Grandma Maggie, Cousin Leila, Great-Grandma Jenny, and Aunt Tracey**



**Our Grandma Maggie in her "Sunday Best"**

**Memories of our Grandma Maggie**

Cousin Elaine Davis: *One of my earliest memories of Grandma was from when I was quite young. I was still sucking my thumb, and I liked to feel the loose skin on her upper arm while I was sucking my thumb because it was so soft! Kind of like the satin on a blanket! She was so sweet. She couldn't hear very well but would act like she could and laugh at what we said.*

*One time we were looking at some old home movies, I think at Wes and Goldie's house. The movies were of someone getting bucked off of a horse. They started running the movie backwards so it looked like the cowboy was jumping back on! Grandma said: I didn't know my boys could do that! We were rolling on the floor laughing!*

Cousin Gary VDB: *When I was in high school (the high school was right near her home on Onarga Ave). I parked my car in front of her home. I usually did not bother Grandma in the mornings, but almost every evening after school I would stop and say hello and visit a while. Grandma, as you can imagine was always glad to see me, at least she seemed glad. I remember the family often stopping in for coffee. Ted, my parents, Ruby, Wes and any in town would stop to have coffee. They spilled coffee into their saucer and let it cool a bit before slurping it on down. Hearing that slurping made me a confirmed coffee drinker. Grandma Maggie was the kindest person I ever met. Grandpa Charles passed away when I was about 13 or so. I do remember him quite well also - the year he had his stroke he had the woodshed so full he could not get one more stick of wood in the shed - I think he knew he was not well and wanted Grandma to be in good shape when he was gone.*

Cousin John E: *I remember when Grandma Maggie stayed with us in Napa, California when I was 8 years old. I will never forget her unconditional love – I tried to do that with my own children, following her example. She was also physically affectionate, I really warmed to that. She told my Mom she had never been hugged so much by a grandchild!*

Cousin Bud: *Grandma Maggie had an inborn attitude of unconditional love not only for me but for each of her children and each of her grandchildren. I never remember her expressing this love verbally, but she instilled each person with that love or a sense of it by her mannerisms and attitude. It had an effect on everyone she associated with. One of my memories was going to her house and she was whistling a beautiful melody. She made bread every week and it was the best bread you can imagine. A story my Dad told was she painted her throat with red paint and was lying on the floor by the entry door when Grandpa came in. Really scared the heck out of him. She was*

*very hard of hearing in her older years and laughed it off very gracefully when she made mistakes in perception.*

Cousin Annie: *When my Mom got pregnant in 1956, she was living with Grandma and Grandpa. Ruby told Grandma about the pregnancy but not Grandpa. One day, Ruby got very upset when Grandpa put her shoelaces on the hot woodstove. Grandpa said, "Only a pregnant woman would get that upset over something that small" and the secret was out! During the time before my Mom met Uncle Ted Crawford, both Grandma and Grandpa doted on me. Grandma had the capacity for loving us for who we were. She raised all those kids during the Depression by doing it one day at a time, she never wanted "stuff". The best of all of us is from her.*

### **Grandma's Faith**

John E. commented to Cousin Annie that Maggie had many sons who served in some of the worst fighting on World War II. He told Annie that considering where the sons served, it was a miracle that none were killed. Annie replied, "It was Grandma's prayers that saved them". We can only imagine how she worried about them.

### **Grandpa Charles**

Grandpa was born in Newkirk, Iowa on September 6, 1878. He married Grandma Maggie on March 3, 1904, at the age of 26. Grandpa died in Delta, Colorado (under 30 miles from Crawford) in a local hospital on February 11, 1958, at the age of 80 years. He is buried in the cemetery in Crawford alongside Grandma Maggie. Grandpa was a rancher and cattleman most of his life. He was very much of an "in-charge" husband and father, and from all accounts, was a real character! Some of the family stories about Grandpa, in addition to the anecdotes in other parts of this family history, include:

- Physical strength. He was a very strong man. Cousin Teddy shared that at one point he and others were trying to load an uncooperative hog onto a truck. Grandpa lost his temper, grabbed the several hundred pound pig and threw it in the truck.
- Thrifty. Although many who have a Dutch heritage and those who survived the Great Depression are known as quite careful in how they spend money, Grandpa was in a class by himself! In his later years, he delighted in searching for small items at garage and farm sales, buying them for pennies and selling them for dollars, often to his own family.

- His view of the financial relationship of father/child was rather traditional. He felt that his adult children should take an active role in supporting their parents. John E. relates the story he learned from his Dad Charles: *“Dad said that in his early 20’s, he moved from Crawford to Denver and got a job at Gates Rubber Company. Grandpa told him to send his paycheck home, and that he would give Charles an allowance. Needless to say, Charles did not see it that way, and refused, causing Grandpa to get very angry!”* Uncle Andrew and other children were very active in providing resources in the years after Grandpa lost his ranch and provided a home for them in Paonia.
- He loved to garden and grow tall field corn. At his last home in Paonia, he took pride in growing corn up to the roof!
- He delighted in his seven sons and his three daughters. He frequently told people that he had “one and a half dozen sons!”



**From the left, Andrew, Ted, Gerrit, Grandpa Charles, Wesley, Lester, John, Charles**

**Grandma and Grandpa: Married Over 60 Years!**



This is their engagement picture, and on the next pages, their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding picture and other pictures of the two of them.



**60 Years!**





### **Tragedy for Grandma and Grandpa**

One of Grandma's ten children was Gerrit, who lived at home as an adult. Gerrit was named after Beert and Altjie's son Gerrit who died on the voyage from the Netherlands. Gerrit was liked by the local ladies. Aunt Marly remembers him as a sweet person with a gentle way.

In 1953, Gerrit was killed in a farm accident. He was packing silage and his tractor rolled over and he was crushed and died. When Grandma Maggie was told about Gerrit's death, she had a massive heart attack and was hospitalized. Apparently, previous to that time, she had been strong and robust, but from then on was not as healthy. Aunt Ruby had told Cousin Annie that Gerrit's death was devastating to Grandma, and she never quite got over it.

### **Our Uncle Gerrit**



**Chapter Six:  
The Children of Maggie and  
Charles VanDenBerg**



***Please see the coming VDB History Website for extensive photos of each family.***

**Descriptions of each of Maggie and Charles's children (In birth order):**

- 1. Tracey (b. 1905, in Iowa).** Aunt Tracey was married to Earl Busby shortly after he walked by her house, and asked her to marry him, even though no courting had occurred. She was a tall, strong woman and he was a small wiry guy. One time they had a fight and he tried to throw her out of the house, and quickly found out that was not going to happen! Aunt Tracey had two children, Leila and Earl, Jr. Aunt Tracey was known for how she made bread – many of us will never forget those thick slices of warm bread, and her gentle ways. In her last years, Katy Busby cared for her while Earl, Jr. worked in California.

**Tracey's granddaughter Tracey shared this:** *I was walking with my grandma (Aunt Tracey) and my mom (Cousin Leila) and I was telling them both how I really wanted to go swimming. The next thing I knew Grandma grabs both of my arms, slipped my shirt off and dipped me in the irrigation ditch. I'll tell you it was freezing cold!*

*When they moved to town, Gramma decided she was going to make chicken and noodles. She asked if I wanted to go to Fruitland Mesa to pick out a chicken. So, I went along with her. She picked out one that looked good to her. I have no idea where she kept it in the car. Maybe in a box in the trunk. When we got home, she was out back by the garage and she had that chicken by the neck, was trying to*

*wring it's neck but couldn't do it. Poor chicken was so traumatized. She goes in and gets it by the neck and 'WHACK", and I turned three shades of green. Being that I was a city girl, I said "I'm not eating that!" She said "Okay, suit yourself". I watched her methodically pluck the feathers and I think she may have singed the bird under a fire. She brought the hen into the kitchen and started cutting it up and was really surprised when she opened it up. That hen had small little eggs that led up to a hard white egg. She took those eggs and made the noodles out of them. When it came around to be dinner, I couldn't take it. I sat down at the table and helped myself to a serving of homemade chicken and noodles with mashed potatoes and I'm positive there was homemade fresh rolls as well. Really good memory. Most likely homemade ice cream, too!*

- 2. John (b. 1906, in Iowa).** Uncle John married Ada Blankenship, who had a son Edward whom John adopted. John was severely injured in a horse-related accident and underwent major surgeries, including bone grafts. He was left disabled, but his spirit never faltered. John and Ada were extremely hard working and at one time ran the jail in Paonia, ran a nursing home in their house, and painted houses. John and Ada had five children, Eddie, Daniel, Gary, Nancy, and John D. John was so admired that two of his brothers named sons after him (John E. and John T.). John had the best garden in the North Fork Valley and loved to fish and trap. Ada passed away first, and soon, John followed with a peaceful death at his home above Paonia.

**John's son Gary shared this:** *Alma Huyser was a great family friend who lived in Paonia. After her husband Bill passed away, Alma needed some extra help. My parents did a lot for her. They raised and cared for her vegetable garden. They also canned her garden stuff. Dad did home maintenance work for her, including painting, dad even mowed and watered her lawn. She was able to stay in her own home till she passed away.*

Uncle John was over 20 years old before he left his home county and was not known as a world traveler. Gary shared that Uncle John's brother Charles would drive John and Ada to the nearby big city (Grand Junction) for their appointments after John and Ada were less able to drive. Uncle John did not like the traffic there and thought people were friendly though, since they waved like mad at him (as he drove the wrong way down the street).

**Andrew (b. 1908 in Iowa).** Uncle Andy (also called Toots) married Kleo Keele in 1928 in Crawford, Colorado. He and brother John were renting the Feekus ranch adjoining Grandpa Charles and Grandma Maggie's ranch and the great depression struck. The Keeles, Kleo's parents, thought there was opportunity for employment in Idaho so Andy and Kleo went there with them. Andy hired on as a railroad worker and then later worked as a rancher. Spare time was taken with breaking some old horses. Andy's riding bucking horses scared Kleo to death but he did it anyway. Kleo also worked for a rancher. Andy's brothers John and Lester followed them to Idaho and trapped fur animals. Andy and Kleo lost a child during this time. Kleo gave birth to six children in seven years -- Dollie, Duard, Teddy, George, Lester, and Joann. Andy needed to go home to help Grandpa Charles in Paonia. They fixed many flat tires to get back home.

After months of their hard work, Kleo was pretty disgusted when thrifty Grandpa Charles brought in a sack of potatoes as Andy's total wages for the summer. During WWII, Andy leased a ranch on the Smith Fork and set up a dairy. They really thrived there and bought a small ranch on Rogers Mesa for Charles and Maggie to live. The Smith Fork ranch sold so Andy bought a ranch on Crawford Mesa with two houses and moved his parents there. He also bought the old home place on Clearfork about that time. With his boys, he had a built-in crew, so he put the boys into extra work cutting and stacking hay for the neighbors and feeding their cattle in the winter. He sold the Crawford Mesa property and bought the Piburn and Lambertson places. About 1955 he sold all four ranches and bought a large ranch on Missouri Flats above Crawford. They lost their teenage daughter Joann while there. In 1965, he sold the ranch and retired to the big city of Delta and passed away in April 1980. Kleo survived until 2006.

**Andrew's son Bud shared this:** *My Dad had a way about him that encouraged key attributes in a child who pleased him. Most all of these I experienced were work related. "Wow -- did you unload that truck of grain that fast? Did you really fix that broken wheel? Ted can milk that cow faster than you can." However, he was always gentle in instruction and did not criticize when we did something wrong or bad. He stood as a go-between me and my Mother when he thought she was harsh. He managed to excite a great love within me for him. I wanted to protect him when I thought he was threatened. At Curecanti one year he shot a buck and I dressed it for him. When I shot my first elk, he helped me find it and that was a task because I was so green at such a thing. He was soft and loving to his daughters and was known in the community as a "hell of a farmer".*

**3. Lester (b. 1910 in Iowa).** Uncle Lester married Helen Waddingham in 1953, after spending years as a minister. After he left the ministry, he went back to Crawford, where he met a woman he liked. However, one of his best friends called him from Washington State and told him about this wonderful woman he should meet. Uncle Lester immediately borrowed Grandpa Charles's car and drove nonstop to meet Helen. They were married 3 months later! Uncle Lester worked as a carpenter and they raised two children, John T. and David. Aunt Helen was a wellknown commercial artist, and many of the family have one of her pictures.

**Lester's sons John T. and David shared this:** *With the rigors of normal ranch life, Grandpa Charles became frustrated by how quickly his boys were wearing out their shoes and boots. Back in the early 1920's he heard of shoes that were made to last a lifetime and ordered a pair in the size of his oldest son's feet. The shoes were made of aluminum soles with leather riveted to the thick sole. The oldest, Uncle John, wore the shoes for most of a year and they were passed to the next oldest, Andrew, and then to the next, Lester. Lester told sons John and David that when he wore the aluminum shoes, there was no one else at school who walked quite like he walked. The shoe did not bend like a normal shoe so he had to waddle like a duck and lift his legs to cross the school yard flat footed. After a year, he passed the shoes to Uncle Charles. Charles was not happy to be wearing fourth hand shoes and was so perturbed that he took them somewhere on the ranch and buried them and therefore saving himself and three younger brothers from having to wear them.*

**4. Gerrit (b. 1914).** Uncle Gerrit lived at home with Grandma and Grandpa until his death in a farming accident about 1953. Uncle Gerrit often worked for other farmers and ranchers and was in demand for his hard working attitude. He was a good truck driver and collected milk for the cheese factory in Hotchkiss. He also drove a truck for John Van Oort.

**Gerrit's sister Marlys shared this:** *Gerritt was a gentle soul. Everyone liked him and was regarded as an excellent ranch worker. My mother had a heart attack when she was told about his death, and she never really got over it.*

**5. Charles (b. 1917).** Uncle Charles married Vivian Sickler in 1941, while he was in the Coast Guard. Growing up as one of the middle children in a very busy home, he sometimes felt ignored and left out. He told the story of being fed up with it all and then deciding to run away. He left and spent two days in the mountains, and finally went home. He was astonished to discover that in such a busy and chaotic home full of kids, no one had noticed he was gone! Uncle Charles and Aunt Vivian had three children. He was a baker at a mental hospital, and lived much of his life

in Napa, California prior to returning to Paonia to retire in 1975, where he built houses.

**Charles' son John E. shared this:** *My Dad was a bit gruff and reluctant to show much emotion. He kept most of his hugs and "I love you's" to himself. However, we kids knew underneath the exterior, he was a softie. Two examples: He was a baker at a mental hospital most of his working life. He would sometimes bring patients home to work our small farm. Sometimes, we kids would visit him at the bakery. Every time, patients would seek us out and exclaim to us what a wonderful, kind and loving person he was and how good he was to them. Deb and Chuck and I would look at each other and later say "Were they talking about our Dad?"*

*Another example is one time when we were driving from Napa to Colorado for vacation. We were at a gas station in Nevada, and a man approached Dad, coming from an old car with a bunch of kids in it. He had an old pneumatic jack in his hand, and we saw him talking to Dad, but could not hear them. Dad then reached in his wallet and handed the man some money and took the jack. When Dad got in the car, he said the man told him that they were trying to get to where they were relocating, and they were out of gas money, and he wanted to sell the jack to Dad. We kids were surprised Dad parted with cash, and we teased him that the guy probably had a trunk full of broken jacks, but we knew in our hearts that we had witnessed our Pop showing compassion.*

- 6. Ted (b. 1919).** Uncle Ted married Lucy Fisk-Wood in 1946 after his war experiences in New Guinea. Uncle Ted never talked about his war experiences except a brief anecdote shared with his granddaughter Sheri Hanson (see the Chapter on the VDB vets).

Ted worked the Crawford Mesa ranch then bought a ranch on Fruitland Mesa and Lucy taught school in Crawford. Lucy acquired her PhD. and they moved to Denver where Ted worked as a painter. Lucy accepted a job teaching at Western State and Ted as a painting supervisor at Western State College in Gunnison. Lucy had a son from her first marriage (Bob Wood) who was a veterinarian and was loved by the whole family. Ted and Lucy retired and travelled for several years then built a house in Paonia. Ted got leukemia and passed away and Lucy lived a few more years with Bob and Marilyn taking care of her.

**Uncle Ted's daughter-in-law Marilyn Wood shared this:** *Bob was 4 when Lucy and Ted married. When he was 5 or 6, he spent the summer with his real Dad. Bob was so surprised he thought Ted was his real Dad. They had a great bond, Ted*

*taught him to hunt and fish, he lived those two things until the day he died. Cute fishing story, when they lived in Gunnison, the girls went fishing in the river by their house and caught a big fish. Brought it to the house, boy he grabbed that pole and headed out with that long stride to catch one himself, but he never did, he was pretty disappointed. Like with most of his brothers, he was very tight with his money but he had a great heart.*

- 7. Wesley (b. 1920).** Uncle Wesley married twice. The first time it was to Betty, and the second time to Goldie. He had two sons with Betty, but they were adopted by Betty's second husband. Uncle Wesley was a real character! After his WWII experiences, he worked in many things, but in the 1960's bought his first A&W restaurant in Durango, Colorado. A&W was one of the first fast food chains. He later bought another A&W in New Mexico. He also bought and raced horses. Uncle Wesley died of cancer in 1981. He got George involved in another A&W in Durango, which launched George into the business world.

**Cousin Bud shared this about Uncle Wesley:** *Wes loved to fight when he was a youth, the tougher the better but got both arms broke in a scrap in Denver. Wes had a big heart. After I had an accident in the log woods, Wes was right there to see if I was OK. He invited his son Bill to live with him in Durango. Bill did a lot of rock work on Wes's restaurant.*

- 8. Marlys (b. 1925).** Aunt Marlys married Kenneth Hilton in 1945, at the end of WWII. They eventually lived in California in the Napa Valley, where her brother Charles lived. Ken and Marlys raised three girls in Napa, and then moved back to Paonia for retirement. Aunt Marlys, at the time of this writing, is 95 years old and is the last surviving child of Maggie and Charles. She helped Bud and I a great deal in remembering details about the family. We filmed an hour video of her which we will include on the website when it is configured.

**Marly's daughter Jeanine shared this:** *I was thinking of a time when Mom took a job as a teacher's aide at an elementary school in Yountville. I believe it was the only time that she worked outside the home since we children were born. It seems now like a brave step for her to take. The unexpected result of the job was that she fell in love with those kids! I remember her coming home and talking about how she would like to adopt or foster some of those children who she realized were in sad circumstances. I think I was probably in junior high school then and would have been the last one home. I look back now and see the kindness in her heart to be able to consider sharing our home and the abundance there with those less fortunate than us!*

**9. Ruby (b. 1928).** Aunt Ruby married Ted Crawford in 1959. She had a daughter, Lee Ann. Aunt Ruby was a gentle soul who was a wonderful mother to Lee Ann. After Ted passed away, Aunt Ruby's siblings helped her buy a home in the town of Paonia. Aunt Ruby spent a lot of time helping Ted in his greenhouse raising flowers. She also worked in a restaurant as a waitress.

**Ruby's daughter Annie shared this:** *I won the lottery when I got my mom. When I was born, she determined to give me the best childhood possible. Mom was very unassuming, so it was not noticeable to outsiders just how intelligent and skilled she was. Of course, she carried on the frugal lifestyle she had grown up with, and always made the most of resources. But she never drilled me about being wasteful. In fact, she allowed me to use Tide laundry detergent to make meringue for mud pies and use as much freezer paper as I wanted for drawing. Mom always led by example and let me make up my own mind about what I wanted. She made fun out of everyday tasks: we'd have jelly-making contests to see which one of us could get to the gel stage fastest. Window-washing: mom on the outside, me on the inside, matching moves.*

*Work was a cooperative where she was teaching without my noticing. Taking turns putting clothing through the wringer and having "her" clothesline and me having mine. She mixed and kneaded the bread, then I "punched down" and put the dough in pans. I just thought we were having fun.*

*Mom was the only person who did not like animals. She was fascinated that I loved them all. She would never abide animals in the house but tolerated me bringing in my bunnies to play with.*

*The older I get, the more I appreciate my mom, the best friend I ever had. Every time I bake bread, or go to the library, or snap green beans, she is right there, and I am reminded how blessed I am to be her child.*

**Grandma and Grandpa also had a daughter Jeanette, born in 1916, who only lived 5 months.**

## Chapter Seven: An Overview of the Wars and Battles our Veterans fought in



**Why this Family History has an extensive section on our Vets.** In their sacrifice, veterans gave us the freedom we enjoy. I know from personal experience in the Korean War that being in the military changes your life. Being in combat, as I was in Korea, changes your life the most.

Sadly, all too often the military experience of our veterans gets lost over time. Many veterans who are involved with heavy combat come home and never share their experiences with their loved ones. This was true for some of our family. John and I have read books, studied military records, and tried to research, interview veterans, and re-construct the missing information. In this section, since many younger family may not have information about the major wars and battles, we have included written descriptions of that history.

**Duard (Bud) VanDenBerg, March 2021**

### **World War II**

**(The Great War).** World War II was started by the countries of German and Japan. The Germans and their allied countries were called the Axis Powers (Europe) and the Japanese and their allied countries were called the Axis Powers (the Pacific and Asia).

The over 100 countries that came together to defeat the Axis powers were led by the United States' military and the British Military and were referred to as the Allied Powers. The Axis Powers were defeated in 1945. The United States alone lost over 400,000 soldiers in WWII. In our family, Uncles Wesley, Charles and Ted were in WWII as well as cousins Russ Jenkins and Roy Fisk. Our Uncle Ken Hilton went in the Army at the very end of WWII and was sent to the Philippines after the war.

### **The Korean War**

The country of Korea was split in half at the end of WWII, with North Korea backed by the Soviets and China. In 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea, beginning a war that has never been settled by a permanent peace treaty. Our US President Harry Truman thought the fall of South Korea would lead to the "Domino Effect" which would lead to domination by Communists, and perhaps another World War. Our involvement in Korea ended in a stalemate. The US lost over 40,000 troops in Korea, and over 100,000 wounded. In our family, cousin Duard (Bud) and Russ Jenkins were in the Korean War, and Cousin David Fisk was in Korea after the war.

### **The Vietnam War**

**Vietnam (1955 to 1975).** The war was fought between Communist North and Democratic/Capitalist South Vietnam. In 1964, the US said that North Vietnamese torpedo boats fired on US destroyers. This led to the US Congress passing the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, which gave the United States President the authority to run a largescale military operation without declaring war. Vietnam was the first major armed conflict that the United States lost and resulted in the loss of over 58,200 American troops. Many of our VanDenBerg relations were involved in the Vietnam war, including Gary and John D. VanDenBerg, Morrie Rupp, Joe Finell, Rich Davis, and Wayne Jenkins.

### **The Major Battles of WWII which our Family Vets fought in**

#### **WWII: Guadalcanal August 1942 to February 1943**



Two of our family vets fought in Guadalcanal -- Russ Jenkins and Roy Fisk. Guadalcanal was the first major Allied offense of the Pacific Theatre against the Empire of Japan. Previous to the battle, the Japanese military has swept across the Pacific, seemingly invincible. The United States had entered the war after Pearl Harbor, and unlike the Japanese, was largely unproven in large scale battle. The enemy had already established large and sophisticated military bases in that part of the Pacific, which gave them a huge advantage as they prepared to invade other parts of the Pacific, including Australia.

The Guadalcanal battle started with a surprise Allied attack on key Japanese bases, which were captured by our soldiers. The Japanese had been building a huge airfield on the island of Guadalcanal. We launched a naval and land attack on the airfield, losing thousands of troops and dozens of ships. Cousin Russ was a Naval commando and helped coordinate air support to attack the tightly embedded Japanese. Cousin

Roy Fisk was part of a PT boat unit that received tremendous enemy fire. The Allies were victorious.

### **WWII: The Allied Liberation of Burma**

Our Uncle Wesley fought in Burma as a handler of Army mules. The country of Burma was a strategic location for the Empire of Japan to conquer India and to proceed into China and other parts of Asia. Burma was defended by Indian and other troops operating from old British bases. The Japanese overran Burma and were beginning to move north.

The Allies planned an offensive to kick the Japanese out of Burma. By this point in the war, Japan had suffered major losses and were spread thin trying to hold onto their gains but were still a formidable enemy. One of the major challenges to the Allies was the terrain of Burma. Other than the middle of the country where our trucks and tanks could operate, moving supplies and troops across the country was very challenging. This is the reason the Allies decided to bring in mules, which are strong and sure-footed, and which were sent into areas controlled by Japanese soldiers. The entrenched Japanese snipers went after the mules and the mule handlers, to stop the Allied advance.

Thanks to Allied troops, including Indian, Burmese guerillas, East African, British, and Chinese troops, Burma was secured, and the advance of the Japanese military was halted. Uncle Wesley was part of an advance deployment of soldiers who, with their mules, led an advance into the country held by the Japanese. The United States took huge losses in these first Burma battles.

### **WW II: The battle of New Guinea**



Our Uncle Ted VanDenBerg fought in the battles of New Guinea, and our cousin Russ Jenkins was also involved in nearby islands in the Solomon Chain. The Japanese success in bombing Pearl Harbor brought us into the War against Japan, but at a huge cost to our naval capacity. The Japanese 8<sup>th</sup> Area Army was responsible for overrunning key islands in the Pacific, including in the Solomon Chain. General Douglas McArthur, who was the Supreme Commander of Allied Forces for South West Pacific area, was assigned to lead our offensive.

Unfortunately, the resources of the Allies were stretched thin and the Japanese were experts at amphibious warfare and had strong air capacity, including fighter planes and high-altitude P-40 bombers with 500 lb. bombs that were directed at our ships. The unit of newly enlisted Army troops (including Uncle Ted) whom Gen. McArthur assigned to New Guinea were just out of training camp and were completely unschooled in jungle warfare.

Australian, as well as United States Army and Marine troops, backed by United States

Navy resources and relentless air strikes, were sent into the middle of incredible fighting. The Japanese were stopped, losing tens of thousands of their troops. The Japanese military never fully recovered, although many battles were ahead.

### **Vietnam: The TET Offensive**



Many of our cousins were stationed in Vietnam, and our cousin Wayne Jenkins was directly involved in the TET offensive. He was in Danang, one of the major battles of the Vietnam War. The TET offensive was a series of coordinated North Vietnamese attacks on 100 cities and outposts of South Vietnam. The North Vietnamese were trying to convince the South Vietnamese population to rebel against the presence of the United States in Vietnam.

US and South Vietnamese forces held off the attacks, but news coverage of the TET offensive resulted in the erosion of much United States public support for the war. President Johnson called for negotiations to end the war, and anti-war sentiments within the United States were directly dividing the country.

## **Chapter Eight. Our VDB Veterans-- Profiles of Each of our Veterans**

*(This Honor Roll is of WWII vets from Crawford)*



# HONOR ROLL

EDGAR GATES ALLYN	RICHARD HOOVER	BRUCE PORTER
GEORGE ADAMS	MERLE HORTON	DUANE POWELL
LEONARD ADAMS	FAY HORTON	GERALD POWELL
MERLE ADAMS	ESTON HOWELL	MERLE POWELL
BOR ATKINSON	GILBERT HOWELL	JOHN REAKSECKER
EDDY ATKINSON	REX HOWELL	DAVID REED
ALLEN AVERY	WALDO HOWELL	BILL FRANKS
FRED AYER	SAMUEL JACOBS	ED REEDER
FRANK BATES	JAMES JACKSON	FRANK RIDER
EUGENE BAILEY	CHARLES KEENAN	FRANCIS REEDER
LYNN BEAR	DANNY KEENAN	WILBUR REIGLES
WILLIAM BEAZ	ROBERT KEENAN	CHESTER RHODES
LAMORCE BELSON	THOMAS KEENAN	WARREN RHODES
MYRON BELSON	ROBERT KNIGHT	HOWARD RICE
EUGENE BOHNING	SHELDON KNIGHT	JC ROBERTS
WILLARD BRIGGS	LESLIE KRAAI	RUPERT SAMERSON
DICK BUCKEY	ROBERT KRAAI	SANFORD SEEVERS
CLYDE BROWNING	ALLEN LEMON	BERT SHAW
LLOYD CAMPBELL	HOMER LEWIS	GLENN STEWART
ORNEY CHRISTIAN	BILLY LYNCH	JACK SHORT
KENNETH COLDIRON	JOHN LYNCH	DEWEY SMITH
LLOYD COLDIRON	EVELYN MACKLIN	HAROLD SMITH
WALTER COLDIRON	FRANK MACKLIN	JACK SMITH
BRUCE COLLING	GORDON MEEK	JIMMIE SMITH
OSCAR COLLING	JAMES MILLER	LEROY SMITH
CLAYTON COTTEN	MARVIN MILLER	OLIVER SMITH
BRUCE COTTEN	JACKIE MITCHELL	MARSHALL STONER
JIM DENBESTE	TRUMAN MOYER	JEROLD TAYLOR
LESTER DENBESTE	LEON M' CARTY	MASON TAYLOR
RAYMOND DENBESTE	LEROY M' CLURG	ROY TEEGLINK
HAROLD DOVE	WALTER M' ELVAIN	CHARLES VANDENBERG
DALE DRAKE	PAUL M' KISSEN	TED VANDENBERG
TERRY DEUTSCH	JOHN M' LEOD	WESLEY VANDENBERG
JAMES DRAKE	LYLE M' LEOD	JAMES WARD
RALPH DREXEL	CHARLES M' LEOD	WILLIAM WATSON
PHILLIP FERRIER	ALLEN OGLESBY	KENLEY WHITE
FRANKLIN FILENER	EDSEL OGLESBY	EARL WYATT
HARVEY FILENER	GUY OGLESBY	FRANK WYATT
LERoy FISK	CECIL PATTERSON	GEORGE WYATT
EVERETTON FLYNN	BERYL PATTON	HUBERT WYATT
KIETH FREY	GEORGE PATTON	HARLEY WYATT
DON GATES	GLENN PILLARD	MILTON WYATT
WILLIAM GLENN	ROBERT PITTS	RUBEN WYATT
VICTOR HAGLUND	DORCEL POLSON	HARVEY YOUNG
GLEN HAWK	ALVY PORTER	DEAN ZELD
WILLARD HAYDEN	LEE PINCKARD	J B STONE
ADLAND HERMANCE	BOYD WALLACE	
FRED E HAGIE	MARION STANFIELD	

Uncle Ted VanDenberg US  
Army, 1942 to 1944  
World War II

Our Uncle Ted VanDenBerg fought in one of the most difficult war theatres that our country had ever faced.



As part of the Red Arrow Division, he initially being sent to a Scandinavian country to serve as a deterrent to Nazi invasion. At the last minute, his unit was deployed to New Guinea, a large land mass north of Australia. The Japanese Army had invaded and conquered New Guinea and was in the process of establishing air bases from which to invade other areas of the Pacific and Australia. The Allied forces felt that if we did not stop them in New Guinea, the Japanese would soon control Australia and be in a position to threaten the United States.



The forces of the Japanese were by now battle hardened jungle fighters, and the Red Arrow Division were green soldiers much like our Uncle Ted. Our General McArthur was ordered to deploy the Red Arrow Division, with the division having had only a few weeks of training and being under-supplied due to the needs of the war in Europe.

Uncle Ted was in the first wave of troops in New Guinea. His unit suffered huge casualties, losing one-third of his Division in 90 days. Uncle Ted did not talk about his experiences, except once when he told a family member that he had been assigned to

locate dead US soldiers who had been killed by the Japanese, in the oppressive heat of the jungle. He was ordered to remove the dog tags (which identified the deceased soldiers) and bring them back, leaving the bloated bodies in place. Is it any wonder why Ted did not talk about his time in New Guinea?

**Photos from the New Guinea war.** Two caterpillar tractors worked in tandem to make a path to bring in supplies and ammunition for the howitzers and tanks. In the next photo, you can see the soldiers rolling out steel mats to cross the deep mud to make airstrips and roads.





### **Uncle Ted Back Home**

Re-entering life after the war was hard for Uncle Ted, as it was for most of the soldiers who were in New Guinea. Uncle Ted lived with his brother Andrew and his family for a month after he returned. During this month, he drank and stayed isolated.

Later, his cousin Leila (Aunt Tracey's daughter) introduced him to Lucy Fisk, who was from Crawford. Uncle Ted married Lucy and worked for the college in Gunnison as a painter. Lucy was a colorful, vibrant, and lively person, and Uncle Ted was a quiet man who did not talk much. Lucy and Ted raised Bob, Lucy's son from her first marriage.



**Ted and Lucy**



**Bob, Lucy, and Ted**

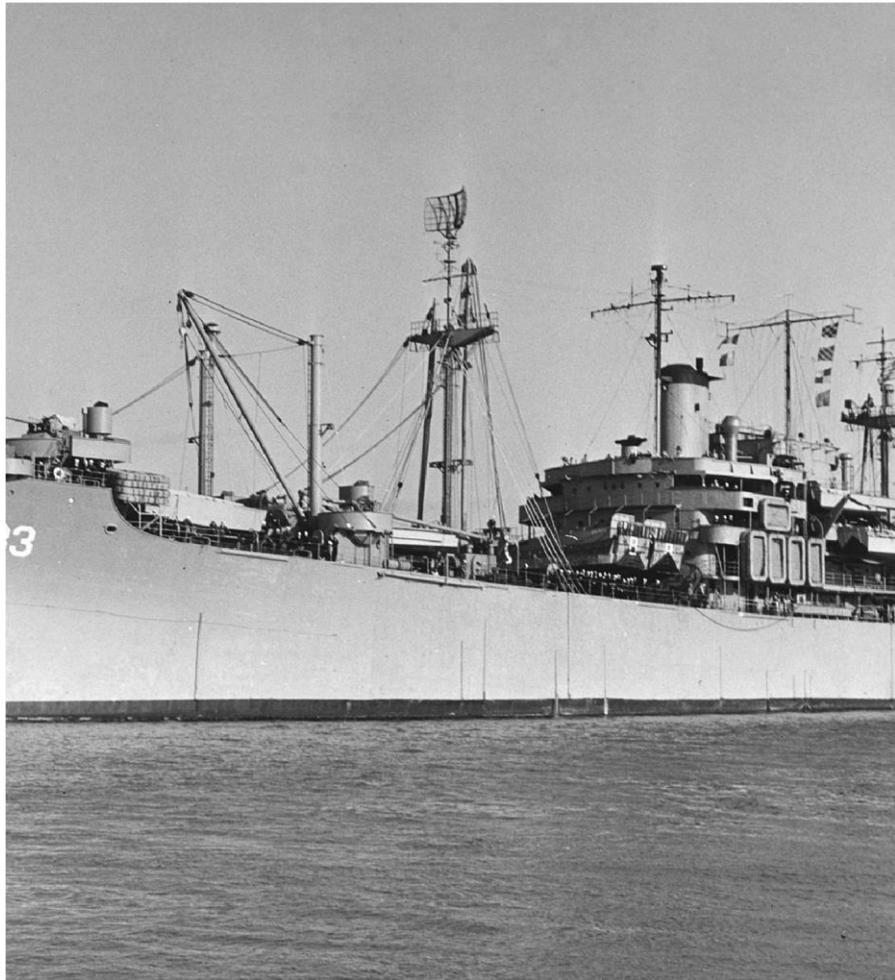


**Ted, Lucy, Sheri, Linda, Bob, and Marilyn at the Curecanti cabin.**

During Ted and Lucy's last years, they lived in a home in Paonia which was built by our cousin Rich Davis. They went to the Paonia Senior Center for lunch each day and had many friends. Ted died of leukemia on June 8, 2000, at the age of 80. To his final years, he never talked about his WWII experiences.

**Uncle Charles Rodney VanDenBerg**  
**US Coast Guard/Navy, WWII 1943-1946**

Uncle Charles enlisted in the Coast Guard at the start of the war. He was trained to be a baker, which along with building houses, became his career. In the Coast Guard, he was assigned to the USS Bayfield, a troop ship ferrying soldiers to the war in the Pacific, primarily from the San Francisco Bay area to the Philippines.



## **The USS Bayfield**

### **Troops Function on Food**

American soldiers consumed about nine million pounds of food daily. This meant that, starting with being transported on troop ships like the USS Bayfield, soldiers had to receive a good diet. On the battlefield, soldiers often had to consume what are called K-Rations, which were light and easily transported, and often not very appetizing. In this photo, they are enjoying a rare drink of Coke!

Uncle Charles was an example of an “essential worker” providing support to get the soldiers as ready as possible for combat.

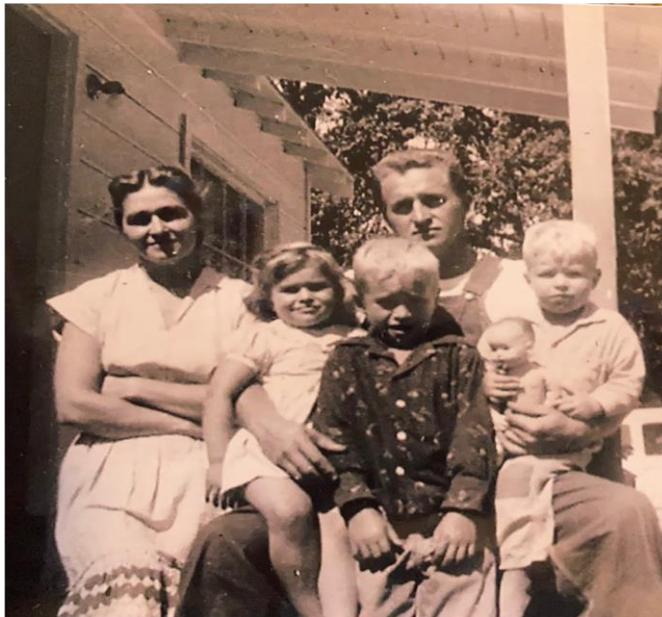




### **Uncle Charles After the War**

Uncle Charles, after his baking stint on the USS Bayfield, was a Navy baker at the base in Mare Island, near San Francisco. He was married just prior to enlistment to Vivian Sickler and put her in a shared house in San Francisco. After Charles was discharged, he worked as a baker at a coffee shop. His son Chuck was born in 1947.

A few years later, while Vivian and Charles worked on a turkey ranch near Santa Rosa, California, his daughter Deb was born as well as his son John. Charles took a job working as a baker at a state mental hospital in Napa, where he put in 20 years. Charles built a number of houses, teaching himself the craft of building. He used one favorite home design several times, including for the last home he built, in Paonia (where John E. and Janene live).



**Vivian, Charles, and daughter Debbie, son Chuck, and son John E. (1952)**



**Deb and Chuck (2020)**

**Uncle Wesley R. VanDenBerg**

## US Navy and US Army, WWII 1942 -1946



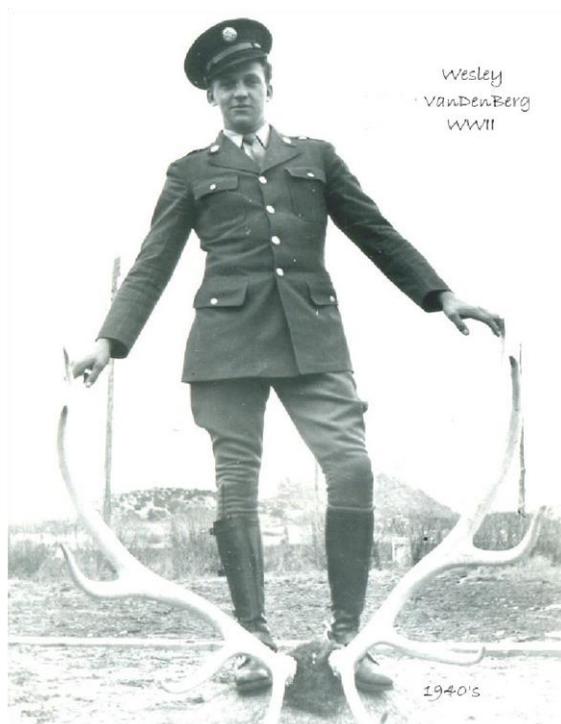
Uncle Wesley served in WWII, and like Uncle Ted, was in some of the toughest combat of the war. He had started off in the Navy, but when the Army began searching for soldiers who could handle horses and mules, he ended up in the Army.

The Army had been ordered to retake Burma from the Japanese. Our trucks and Jeeps could not handle the jungles and mountains of Burma, but the mules could!

Burma was the gateway to China, and the Chinese were determined to stop the rapid advance of the Japanese. Our military was assigned to push the Japanese out of Burma, working in collaboration with the Chinese military units. So, our Uncle ended up being a muleskinner in Burma!



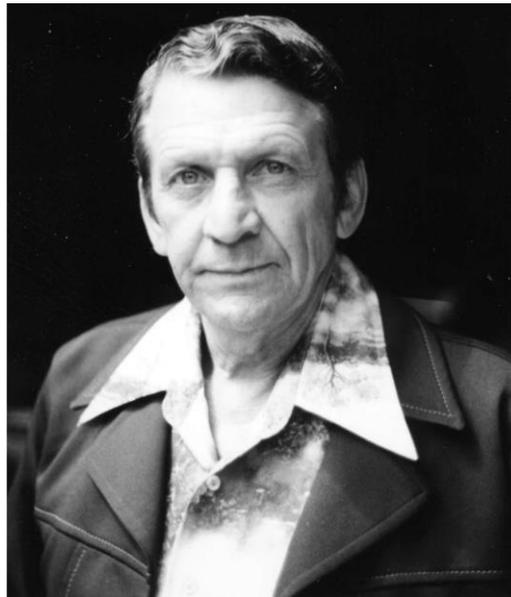
Uncle Wesley had the personality to handle mules. It was said about mules: “There are tricks to leading mules, just as there are to anything else, and it sometimes it seems we might have better luck if the animals had led the men. The average mule is one of the most intelligent and certainly one of the most sure-footed animals in the world... when he is led by a man, he can get into more trouble than any creature on the face of the earth.” General Merrill, leader of the famed Burma Marauders, said “Next time give me the mule skinnners instead of doughboys, for it is easier to made doughboys out of mule skinnners than make mule skinnners out of doughboys!”





Between the war years and his early death, he lived a life of adventure and risk. After the war, he married Betty and had two sons.

He was an entrepreneur. He owned A&W restaurants in Durango and Farmington, NM. After a divorce, he married Goldie, who was a personality match for Wes – no one ever said Wes was easy to be married to! Uncle Wes loved racing horses and owned and raced horses professionally. Uncle Wesley died from leukemia in his 60's.



**Cecil Earl (Russ) Jenkins US Navy,  
First Class Petty Officer, WWII and Korea**



Russ had quite a life in the Navy, the only one in our family to serve in the military through to retirement. At age 15 (disguising his actual age) he took a job welding at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in the San Francisco Bay Area of California. He joined the Navy as soon as he was old enough.

After going to boot camp in Idaho, he was in the Navy for over 20 years, eventually reaching the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

### **Russ in WWII**

Russ, like Uncles Ted and Wesley, served in the middle of major conflicts. Russ had been trained as a Naval Commando and was first sent to the Solomon Islands. He became involved with Guadalcanal, one of the major battles of WWII. The Battle of Guadalcanal was the first major offensive and a decisive victory for the Allies in the Pacific theater. With the support of the Navy and sailors like Uncle Russ, our Marines launched a surprise attack in August 1942 and took control of an air base under construction.

Reinforcements were funneled to the island as a series of land and sea clashes unfolded, and both sides endured heavy losses to their warship contingents (for us, the ships of the United States Navy).

The Japanese suffered a far greater toll of casualties, forcing their withdrawal from Guadalcanal by February 1943.



After WWII, Russ was stationed in occupied Japan, where his family remembers staying with a family named Takahashi. The Takahashi family had been well off prior to the war, but afterward had to rent a room in their small house and had little money for food.

### **Russ in the Korean War**



During Korea, Russ did airplane maintenance and as support for the pilots, flew dangerous missions with supplies for the troops. After Korea, Russ was stationed in the Philippines, and then went to the air station in Patuxent River, Maryland.

Eventually, he stopped flying, which his wife Leila greatly appreciated!

### **Russ after the Navy**



Russ retired from the Navy, and he, Leila, son Wayne and daughter Tracy moved to Milpitas, California, while son David finished high school in Maryland. Russ then embraced full time barbering.

Cousin John E. remembers when Russ and Leila would visit them in Napa, and Uncle Russ always drove a gorgeous car and was impeccably groomed! As with Uncle Wes and Uncle Ted, Russ did an incredible service for our country, and we need to know his story.

Russ was interviewed in a radio program shortly before dying. This radio program will be posted on the VDB History Website after the site is completed. On the show, Russ described what it was like to be in San Francisco when the war ended – he said it was an absolutely fantastic event. Russ was married to Leila for over 57 years and passed away in 2018.

**Burney Leroy (Roy) Fisk, US Naval PT Boat, Chief  
Warrant Officer, WWII**



Roy was born in Paonia in 1916. His first marriage was to Leila Busby, Aunt Tracy's daughter. He was the brother of Lucy, the wife of Uncle Ted VDB. Roy enlisted in the Navy in 1934. His later service included being a crew member of the USS Hornet, an aircraft carrier which was sunk by the Japanese in the battle of Santa Cruz (in the Pacific) a year after being commissioned. There is mixed information from family about whether or not Roy was on the ship when it sunk. Roy volunteered to be in a PT boat squadron and spent the rest of his service in that role. He was first a machinist, and later was made a Chief Warrant Officer.

In his first PT boat squadron, he met fellow PT Boat commander John F. Kennedy. Roy's brother William shared that Roy told him that at one time, he was in a PT boat race with PT 109 (JFK), which Roy's boat won.



Roy's squadron was posted to the Solomon Islands as part of an attempt to reverse the Japanese takeover of the Island chain, in order to prevent the rapid Japanese advance in the early days of WWII. Later in the war, Roy's PT Boat ferried repatriated soldiers (who had been in Japanese internment camps) from Okinawa to the Philippines. At his base, Roy had the skills to replace the engine in his Jeep with a much larger engine, and as his brother Bill said, "Roy drove his powerful Jeep at full tilt around the island!"

Originally, the US Navy scorned the idea of the small, powerful PT cruisers in favor of larger ships like destroyers. In the early days of the war, a handful of the ships were built. PT boats were 77 to 80 feet long, made of plywood, with huge motors, heavy guns, and room for 2 to 4 torpedoes.

When General McArthur had to abandon the Philippines due to Japanese advances, he was taken out of the Philippines in one of the early PT boats. He was so impressed that he asked the President to give him a fleet of 200 of the boats. President Roosevelt ordered them built, and fleets of them were sent to the Solomon Islands to help stop the Japanese advance.

The PT boats primarily worked at night, searching for Japanese Navy ships and supply barges, and were often targeted by Japanese dive bombers. What the PT boats lacked in size, they made up for with high speed and maneuverability.

Roy was in dangerous service in the Pacific – 99 US PT Boats were sunk by the Japanese. The adventures of Roy's PT units were documented in a book "Long Were the Nights – the Saga of PT Squadron "X" in the Solomons" by Hugh B. Cave.

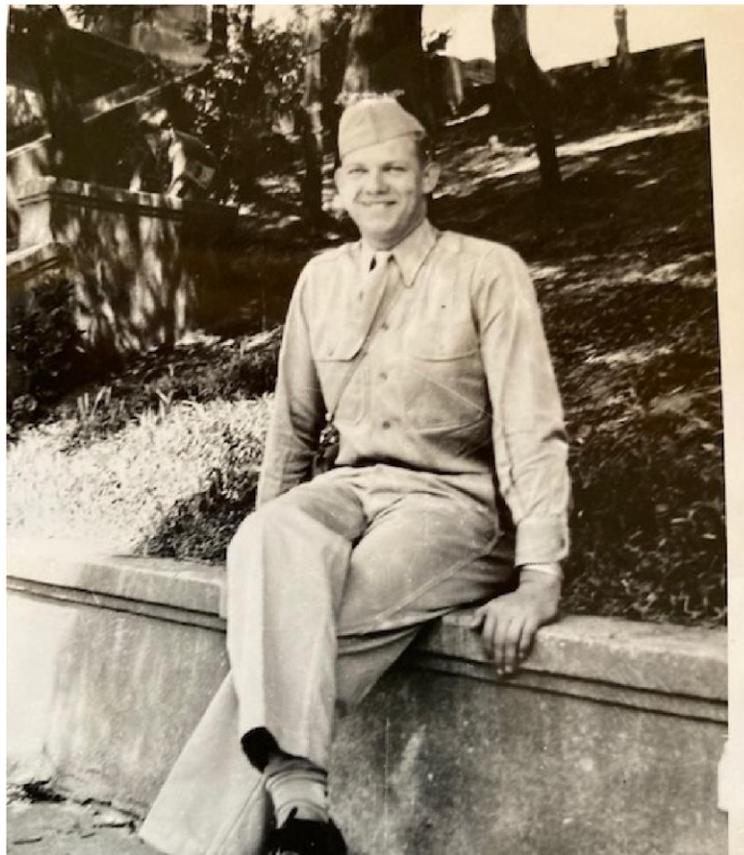
**After the war, Roy remarried and passed away from cancer at the age of 52.**

## **Uncle Ken Hilton, US Army**

Uncle Ken Hilton enlisted in the US Army right near the end of WWII, when he was old enough.

He was stationed in the San Francisco Bay area. It was at this time he met Aunt Marlys and fell in love!

He was in the Philippines after the war ended, working in an office. He witnessed the devastation of the country.



**Uncle Ken after the war**

After he was honorably released from the Army, Uncle Ken and Aunt Marlys settled in the SF Bay area. They had three girls: Jan, Elaine, and Jeanine.

Eventually, they moved to the Napa Valley where Uncle Ken worked for the Veterans Hospital in Yountville, working as a carpenter and later as a locksmith.

Upon retirement, they moved to Paonia, Colorado, built a home, and enjoyed the area.



**Jeanine, Jan, Elaine, Ken and Marly**



**Ken and Marly, 2011**

**Duard (Bud) VanDenBerg  
US Army, 1952 to 1954**

Cousin Bud was assigned to Camp Chaffee, Arkansas for basic artillery training. He was assigned to Officer Candidate School (leadership training) but declined when he was told he would have to be in Army Reserve for life!

Soon, Bud was sent to Korea, right to the battle front. He said the mud was up to the tops of his boots. The second night he was there, he fired a truck full of ammo through the howitzer, which made the barrel glow with heat. Bud took this photo of his fellow soldiers from his artillery section, in action.



### **Cousin Bud after the end of the Korean War**

The third day after Bud got to the battle, a truce in the Korean War was called on July 27, 1953. The truce continues to this day.

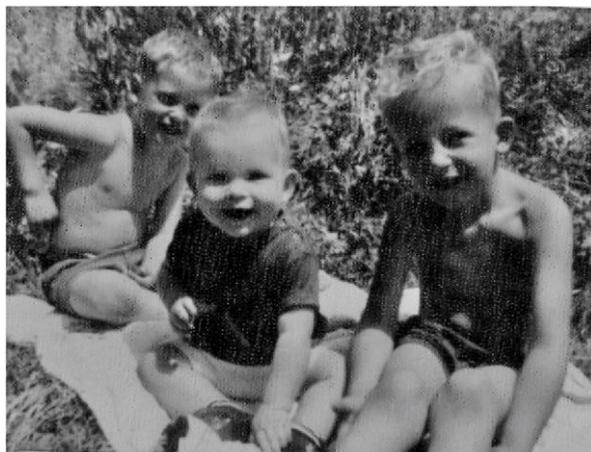
Bud was then part of a convoy of 600 trucks that drove to the DMZ. He said that Korean children lined the roads, mostly naked and crying for food. In his remaining time in Korea, he observed the after-effects of the war in a country that had been torn apart. Bud has said that the horrific images of the children never leaves his mind.



**Cousin Bud After the War**

Bud rotated home from the war after 15 ½ months, and eventually married and had three sons. Bud worked in many roles, including mining, ranching, and real estate.

In 2012, Bud married Willa Sorenson and has spent years documenting the VDB family history, gardening, and visiting with family.





## **Earl Hugh Busby, US Air Force Cook**

As the Korean War began to take off, Earl enlisted in the Air Force and served as a sergeant, working as a cook at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver.

As a cook, he and his fellow cooks were responsible for making thousands of meals a day, working 12-14 hour days, as soldiers were trained to go to combat roles in Korea.

Earl hated cooking! He tried everything he could to get assigned to other duties, but no luck. Eventually, he was made a Head Cook and said that was better because he supervised rather than cooked!



### Cousin Earl after the War

When he was discharged, he began to work in many different jobs, but gravitated to welding. Earl went to welding school, became a master welder and made this his career, having the unique ability to weld almost any metal with a machinist's precision.

This photo is Earl and Katy, with Earl Jr., his son from his first marriage, in about 2014.



Eventually, he and Katy settled in Paonia. Earl passed away (while digging a tree stump from the ground in his front yard!) in 2015 in his 80's. John E. was privileged to lead his memorial service at the Elks Club in Hotchkiss, with over 250 in attendance. At the service, Earl's grandchildren performed music.



**Earl, Granddaughter Jennifer, Katie, in 2011  
Ted VanDenBerg,  
US Army, 1953-1956, Paratrooper**

While he was working on a cattle ranch in Idaho, Ted was drafted into the Army. He rode with 30 other new recruits on a train from Salt Lake City to Fort Ord, California, where he was in basic training for 16 weeks. Ted enrolled in the Army's Airborne section, and went to Fort Benning Georgia for jump school, and after 11 weeks, joined the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne in Ft. Campbell, Kentucky.



When he was at Fort Carson, Nevada, his Dad, Mom, and sister Dolly got to watch he and other soldiers do a jump. Ted was sent to Greenland, where he was to make the first ever jump north of the Artic Circle, but it was cancelled at the last

minute. Ted said he had been ready to jump, loaded down with 60 pounds of ammo wire plus all of his gear! Ted, like his brothers, decided against reenlistment and was honorably discharged after 3 ½ years in the service, and returned to Colorado. His children are Randy, Colleen, Darwin, Troy and Gary.



### **Les VanDenBerg US Army 1956 to 1958**

Cousin Les, after high school, had worked in Ely, Nevada for the Kennecott Copper Company. However, he knew that he would likely be drafted, and tried to join the Navy with his brother George but ended up in the Army. He went to boot camp in Fort Ord, California. Les said that it was as he expected, long hours of training, marching, and classes. He said that some recruits were so exhausted, they drew open eyeballs on their eye lids so that they could sleep in class!



He was assigned to an anti-aircraft unit and to an M-16 Tank. Unfortunately, even though he wanted to pilot the tank, his legs were too long to fit in the cockpit! He was sent to Germany during the years of occupation after WWII, where among other duties he drove a 2 ½ ton truck.



He said the country was devastated, bombed out, and that the general population did not like the US soldiers running their country, except for the German girls, who loved American soldiers. Les did not give us more information on that! 😊

Les said that his military service taught him to take care of himself, and to grow up. He knew that he was not a “lifer” and when he could, he left the Army with an honorable discharge.

Les and his wife Chris, have two sons – Brent, who owns a construction company near Durango, and Scott, a police officer near Denver.



**Les and Chris and their boys Scott and Brent**

### **George VanDenBerg US Navy (1955)**

Cousin George volunteered for the Navy. He wanted to get his military service done so could move onto his chosen occupation. He and brother Les both went to Denver at the same time, to both join the Navy. However, after Les got walking pneumonia and was hospitalized. George went into the Navy, and was sent to San Diego for basic training, but Les ended up in the Army!

During rifle qualification, George, who was right-handed, was not able to shoot and close his right eye. So, he had to learn to shoot left-handed and still got the secondbest score in the company! These Crawford boys knew how to shoot! He was assigned to a destroyer, the USS Algerholm, # 826. To get a special position, one had to sign up for a longer stent, which George did not want to do. However, his friend the ship's barber was leaving and gave George some rudimentary lessons on cutting hair.



### **The USS Algerholm**

To pass the barber test, he was ordered to cut the hair of the ship's chief officer. Although very nervous, he passed the test, and became the ship's barber!

George was not a war time sailor, but he said that being in the military changed him. He learned to read and judge people and learned to think through decisions.

The Navy took him to the Philippines, Wake Island, Japan, and he crossed the equator. When he returned to Crawford after his service, he thought he would take over his Dad's ranch, but he learned that his future was not in farming!

George was the Fish and Game Commissioner for the State of Colorado, has enjoyed many jobs, and until just recently raised a great deal of hay! One of his most successful enterprises was owning and managing A&W restaurants.



**George and Grace, 2021**  
**Gary VanDenBerg, US Navy,**  
**E 5 Petty Officer 2nd Class 1965 to 1969**

Gary volunteered for the Navy, timing his boot camp so as not to miss hunting season in Colorado! He was sent to Machinist Mate School in Great Lakes, Illinois, and graduated second in his class. He was assigned to the USS Southerland – DD743, which was a WWII era destroyer that had been modernized with a new superstructure and engines.



After a 17-hour voyage, he went to Australia and from there to Vietnam. His ship was assigned to go up and down the coast, checking out small boats such as

fishing boats, looking for contraband. A spotter plane would identify targets on land, and the ship would shell the coast with 5-inch guns. When Gary went back to the U.S., it was in an old C-135 Cargo plane, with no insulation and freezing temperatures inside in the air. It was a 35+hour flight from Vietnam. As the plane came into Alameda Air Station in California, an engine burst into flames! As a civilian, Gary retired as the Repair Superintendent for Navy work in Washington, Oregon, and Alaska.



**Gary and Cathy's kids and their spouses: Joe, Haley, Greg, Carol, Hannah, and Cameron**



**Gary and Cathy, 2021**

### **Joe Finell, US Army Medic, 1969-70**

Joe went to Ft. Sam Houston in Texas for basic training and was stationed at Ft. Riley, Kansas. His unit was called the "Big Red One." When Joe was serving, his commander asked for volunteers for a classified mission, and Joe raised his hand.



In his mission, Joe was a medic on flights from Vietnam to Germany, transporting severely wounded soldiers. He treated those with missing limbs, severe head wounds and others gravely wounded, who died on the flights.



Joe also served in the combat areas. On one occasion, he and fellow soldiers had to hide in water for hours, and he could feel the large snakes around his body. He never liked snakes after that!

When Joe returned to the SF Bay area after his service, the Army advised the soldiers not to wear their uniforms because anti-war protesters would harass and spit on them. Joe never forgot that disrespect.

Joe's family shared that he carried the trauma of his war experience for his whole life. Joe was born in 1950 and passed away in 2017.



**Joe and Jeanine**  
**Wayne Jenkins, US Army Sergeant E5**



Wayne enlisted in the US Army in 1967, in the infantry. He served with the 1st Air Cavalry as a gunner on a chopper, and later was a squad leader. He was involved with one of the fiercest battles in the Vietnam war, in the TET offensive, in Danang. He was hurt in a landslide and received the Purple Heart. While he was in the hospital, his entire unit was killed in an ambush. He had “survival guilt” as a result, and it stayed in his mind his entire life.

### **Cousin Wayne after the war**

Wayne was treated for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder after the war. He was in the VA hospital. Like many veterans, the Vietnam war had a long-term effect on his life. He did try to help other vets with their war-related trauma.

Wayne was invited to speak at a Washington DC event hosted by the Daughters of the Revolution. He read his poem on the Capital steps.

### **Wayne’s Poem: They Talked of Peace in ‘68**

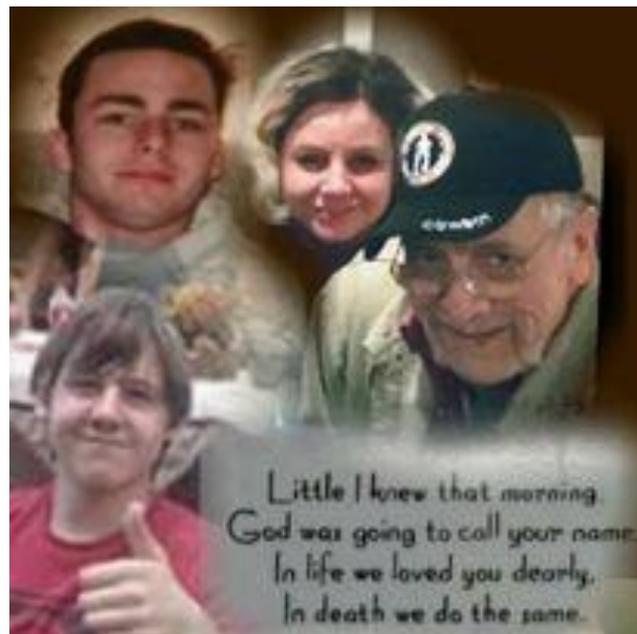
*Peaceful symbols were all addressed. In Canada draft dodgers could be found. Yet these were dead men close to me on the ground.*

*The guy next to me just lost his hand. An eighteen-year old became a man. We didn't think the War Games were fun. For real bullets came from the enemy guns and our POWs were not seeing the sun.*

*We were there constantly scanning the air for trip wires below our knees, for pits with sharpened stakes coated with feces so we would become deceased if we stepped on one.*

*They started a peace conference in Paris, France, while in our fox holes we contemplated the best fighting stance. Then came the Veterans full of concession and you hate to see the war had ended 58,000 men too late.*

Wayne passed away on October 5, 2017



**This was posted on FaceBook by Wayne's wife, Angela Jenkins  
John Dallas VanDenBerg,  
Navy Machinist Mate 3-5, 1966 to 1970**

John went in the Navy as a volunteer, he wanted to avoid getting drafted into the Army! He was assigned to a brand-new ship, the USS Ramsey (seen here) which was a guided missile, anti-submarine destroyer escort.



His ship then was stationed to Vietnam, where it functioned to shell coastal areas and protect other ships such as the USS Ticonderoga. As part of his Navy time, he was stationed in Long Beach, California for a year



**John Dallas after the War**

John worked in a number of professions, including being a coal mining supervisor. He became a builder of houses, and built many homes in the Cedaredge, Colorado area. He is retired and he and Sandy live in Cedaredge.



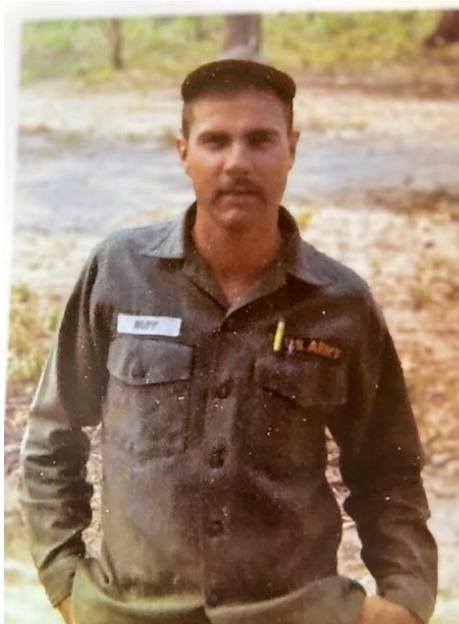
**Teresa, Justin, John and Sandy**



**John D. and Sandy on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Morrie Rupp: US Army, Specialist 5th Class, Medic. 1966-1968**

Morrie enlisted in the Army and was sent to medical training at Ft. Sam Houston in Texas. He married Cousin Jan while he was in the service.



He was shipped out to Thailand, worked on an Army road crew as a medic. After Thailand, he came to Ft. Carson, Colorado.

After the Army, Morrie used the G.I. Bill to attend college and used his medical training to work in emergency rooms. He got a teaching degree, and eventually served as an elementary and middle school principal in the Paonia area after he and Jan relocated to a beautiful piece of land between Delta and Paonia.



**Morrie and Jan, their children and grandchildren, in about 2018  
Dean (VanDenBerg) Silvett, US Navy, Submariner  
2013-2018**

Dean was the only submariner in the family. His military experience involved working on and living in nuclear submarines, as you can see from this picture (Dean is pictured here on the sub).

Being a submariner is considered to be one of the most challenging roles in the military. Overall assignments typically last three years. On a ballistic missile sub, two full crews rotate shifts to allow the vessel to remain at sea as often as possible. Each crew may serve for about 60 to 80 days before resurfacing and rotating out. After eight years in the navy Dean accepted a job in a nuclear plant in Florida. A year later he accepted a job with Amazon. He lives in Las Vegas, NV and leads a maintenance crew on Amazon equipment.



After 8 years in the Navy, Dean acquired a degree in nuclear engineering and accepted a job at the St. Vrain, Florida nuclear power plant. He next took an offer from Amazon and is living in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Rich Davis, US Army Private First Class,  
1966-68**



Rich went to Ft. Lewis, outside Seattle, for boot camp. He went to San Antonio for training to be a medic but also went through a truck driving school. Rich was a good typist and was assigned to be a company clerk. He served his military years in Texas.



While in the service, Rich was given a week off to come back to California and get married to Elaine.

Rich went back to his job with IBM after service, then used the GI Bill to attend college. He and Elaine eventually moved to Delta County (Rogers Mesa ) where he built a number of houses, including the one that Uncle Ted and Aunt Lucy lived in. He and Elaine recently moved to Missouri to be around children.



**Elaine and Rich on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**David Fisk, US Army, 2nd Lieutenant,  
Planning and Operations Officer**



In 1968 David started his service with Tank Officers Basic Training in Ft. Knox, KY, and was then assigned to Ft. Carson, CO where he became a tank platoon leader. David was the only tank guy in the family! In 1969, he was sent to Korea due to N. Korea shooting down a US aircraft. He was assigned to a tank platoon at the DMZ, but soon was transferred to another post. His wife Pat and his first child were able to briefly join him in Korea. He served there until February 1970.

In later 1970, he was called to active reserve status, working as a company commander one weekend a month and two weeks of active duty each summer, for 7 years more.

### **David after service in Korea**

After Korea, David continued his military service in the Army Reserves. He spent one weekend a month in personnel planning and operations, and two weeks each summer. As an ROTC graduate, he was obligated to serve two years active duty and 4 years of Reserve. David spent a total of 7 years in the Reserve, continuing in Field Army Support Command.

David (retired Computer Analyst) and Pat (retired Systems Analyst for Intel) have three children. In this photo, from the left rear is David; Wayne Boda, son-in-law, retired Systems Consultant and Executive daughter Jamie Boyda, Exec. Director of Creative Operations, Google; Pat; daughter Natalie Quli, Ph.D., Professor at GTU and Book

Editor; Natalie’s son Sayed Quli; Natalie’s spouse Sayed David Quli, Manager and Materials Engineer, Klatencor; in front is daughter Holly Fisk, a Project Manager and Freelance Author; and Natalie’s daughter Leela Quli.



**Randy VanDenBerg, US Air force 1976-1982**

After basic training, Randy (son of Cousin Teddy) was trained as an EMT. He served his country by being stationed in New Mexico, at Kirtland Air Force Base outside Albuquerque. During his time of service, the US was not in active war, and the biggest military concerns were the Iran Hostage Crisis and the failed rescue attempt.



Randy spent his service working in a 377<sup>th</sup> Medical Group Pediatric Clinic at Kirtland AFB. The mission of the pediatric clinic was to deal with medical problems of young children of Air Force families, so that the soldiers could focus on their military service. Randy described his pediatric work as “Great duty”!



## **Chapter Nine: The VanDenBerg Family As of 2021**

From the first ten children of Maggie and Charles, the family has grown over 18 fold. Bud and John E. estimate that there are over 185 direct living descendants of Maggie and Charles, not including spouses. Bud has compiled a detailed set of photos

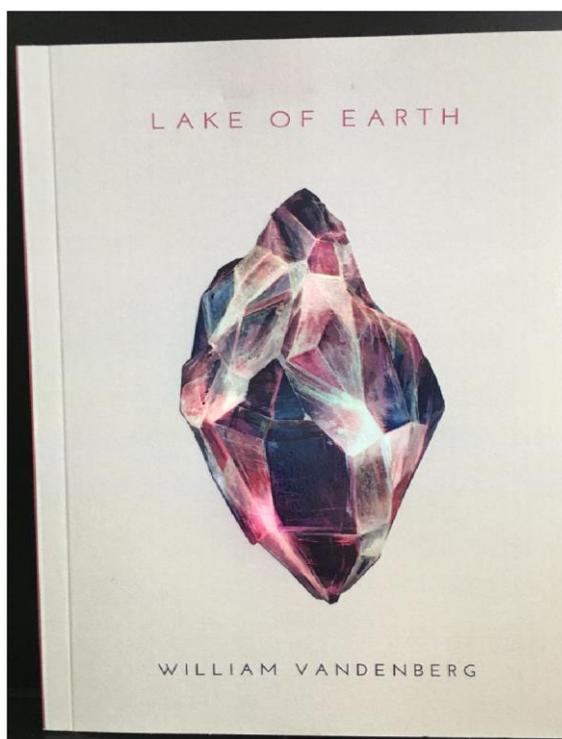
organized by family. This will be posted on the VanDenBerg History Website (under construction).

**Professions.** We have a very diverse family that have and are doing many different things.

- Professions in mining and energy included a Federal Mine Inspector; owner of a uranium mine; coal miners and coal mining supervisor; electrical and mechanical engineers; cement industry worker; oil field workers; and energy company manager.
- Professions in the food industry included being a waitress; owner of A&W restaurants; fast food workers; and being a baker.
- Professions in teaching included being a professor of Buddhism studies; a professor of psychology; elementary and middle school teachers; a principal of both elementary and middle schools; and a martial arts instructor;
- Professions in human services included being a psychiatric aide at a mental hospital; a doctor of child psychology; a Public Health specialist; a psychotherapist; a State mental health director; a social worker.
- Professions in real estate and construction included being a realtor; a remodeling specialist; a welder; a house painter; and a subdivision developer.
- Professions in the arts include: an abstract artist; a ceramic potter; and a knife smith.
- Professions in the medical field included psychiatric nurse; registered nurses; certified massage therapist; and chiropractors.
- Professions in agriculture included many farmers and ranchers.
- Professions in government included a State Director of Mental Health; an economist for the US Treasury; a State Commissioner of Fish and Game.
- Other professions include: an owner of a CBD company; a consultant to Native American tribal organizations; a writer; a marketing specialist; an insurance broker; a banker; a lawyer; field representative for the US Census; homemakers; trainer of Electronics manufacturing; a landfill owner; environmental engineers; beauticians and hair stylists; a police sergeant; and a road construction supervisor and heavy machine operator.

**Trending toward lots of Graduate level education!** Most of Maggie and Charles's children were not able to finish middle or high school due to having to work. Now our family includes dozens with college degrees, many with advanced graduate degrees. A partial listing of families with members who have advanced graduate degrees

includes: the family of cousin George with teaching degrees, a Ph.D. in Pharmacology, and an Juris Doctorate (Attorney); the family of cousin John E. includes a Ph.D. of child psychology, an R.N., a Masters level marriage and family therapist, a Master's in Public Health and a Masters in fiction writing; the family of cousin Elaine includes a Masters in environmental science, and an R. N; the family of cousin Jeanine included two R. N. degrees; the family of cousin David Fisk includes a Ph.D. level professor of Buddhism studies, two Masters in computer areas and system analysis; the family of cousin Les includes a Masters in Organizational Management; and the family of Uncle Lester includes one electrical engineer and one mechanical engineer.



**Writer William VanDenBerg's recent book  
Honoring Our Law Enforcement Relatives**

Bud and John E. wanted to honor any of our relatives who were in the military, and we found over 20 vets. We also wanted to do the same with our family who are in law enforcement and found only one!

This is Scott VanDenBerg, the son of Les and Chris, who lives in Parker Colorado. Scott is a Detective Sergeant in the Lone Tree Police Department, has a bachelors degree in public administration, and recently finished his Masters in Organizational Leadership.

Wife Jennifer is a noted educator in the field of special education. And, daughter Ashley finished her bachelor's degree in April of 2021, in the midst of a pandemic!

Here is to you, Scott! Thanks for keeping us safe.



**Tyler, Scott, Jennifer, Marly, and Ashley**  
**Chapter Ten: In Memoriam to**  
**Our Departed First Cousins and Spouses**

With few exceptions, the VanDenBerg's are a long-lived family. Aunt Marly (95 at the time of this book publishing) is the sole survivor of the children of Maggie and Charles. We wanted to honor the memories of eight of our first cousins or their spouses who have passed, as of April 2021.

**Cousin Earl Busby.** Earl was the son of Tracey and Earl, Sr. Earl was known as the guy who could weld anything and build anything out of metal. Earl was a great talker – he and John E. talked for an hour almost every morning. He is missed by many, we all loved him. Earl and Katie met in California, married in Las Vegas, and were married 56

years. Earl had four children from his first marriage, and he and Katie raised her two children from her first marriage, Jack and Linda.



**Earl (aka Hugh) and Katie**

**Gerald Goodwin.** Gerald was the husband of our cousin Annie. Gerald Goodwin was born in Columbus, Georgia and spent his early years in Dothan, Alabama. His family moved to Paonia during the civil unrest in the south in the mid-50s. Gerald and Annie married in Paonia August 14, 1972. They spent their lives together in Colorado and Arizona, finally settling in Canon City. Their family includes Erica and her children Heidi, Sarah, Tim, and Jaxon and Heidi's children, Noah and Sophia; Erin and her children Shelby, Olivia, and Mia and Shelby's children Jasper and Oliver; GERALYN and her children Andrew, JD, and Genna. Gerald passed away December 14, 2016 surrounded by his family.

Gerald was loved by all, a truly gentle and kind man. His last words summarized his life: Be Happy.

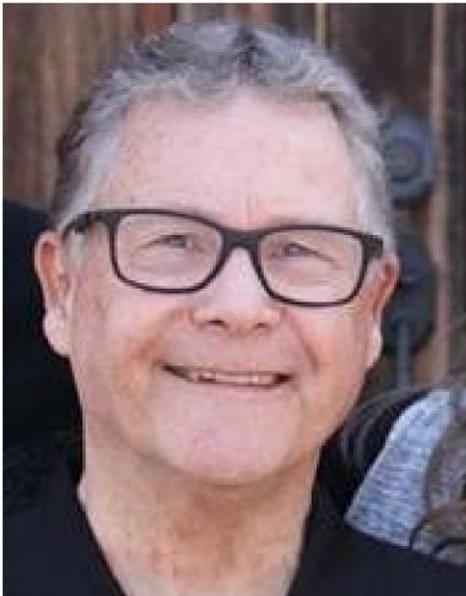


**Cousin Eddie VanDenBerg.** Married in their teens, Eddie was married to Jill for 63 years. Eddie passed away on October 3, 2019. Our cousin Eddie was quite a wonderful and interesting man. He worked as a Federal Mine Inspector, as a miner, a rancher, gold prospector, lumberjack, trucker, auto body repair, and was the ultimate collector of firearms, having owned hundreds of rare and collectible guns. Ed and Jill had two sons, Loren and Larry, and a daughter Jeanette.



**Joe Finell.** Joe was married to our cousin Jeanine (Hilton). Joe was born in Portland, Oregon September 2, 1950. He spent his childhood in Tillamook, Oregon, Chile, S. America and Miami, Florida. He graduated from high school in 1969 at Mt. Eden High School in Hayward, California. He served in the U.S.Army as a medic 1970 and 1971. In 1987, he graduated from Colorado Mesa University with an Associate Degree in Nursing. He especially enjoyed working in the Operating Room, spending his career in Colorado and Alaska.

Joe and Jeanine lived in a home that Joe built, on Grand Mesa above Grand Junction. Joe and Jeanine had two children, Chantal and Mark.



**Cousins Leila and Russ Jenkins and their son Wayne.** Leila was the daughter of Tracey and Earl, Sr. Leila was a real character, just like her Dad Earl Sr. She was incredibly dedicated to her children and to her husband Russ. Shortly prior to his death, Russ did a radio interview about his war experiences, which will be posted on the VanDenBerg history website (under construction). Their daughter Tracy says about her parents: “They traveled the world together in early military life. Warm, loving parents and grandparents. They RV’d all over the U.S. and visited friends and family. They especially loved vacationing in Colorado”. Tracy said about her brother Wayne: “He was a good big brother”.

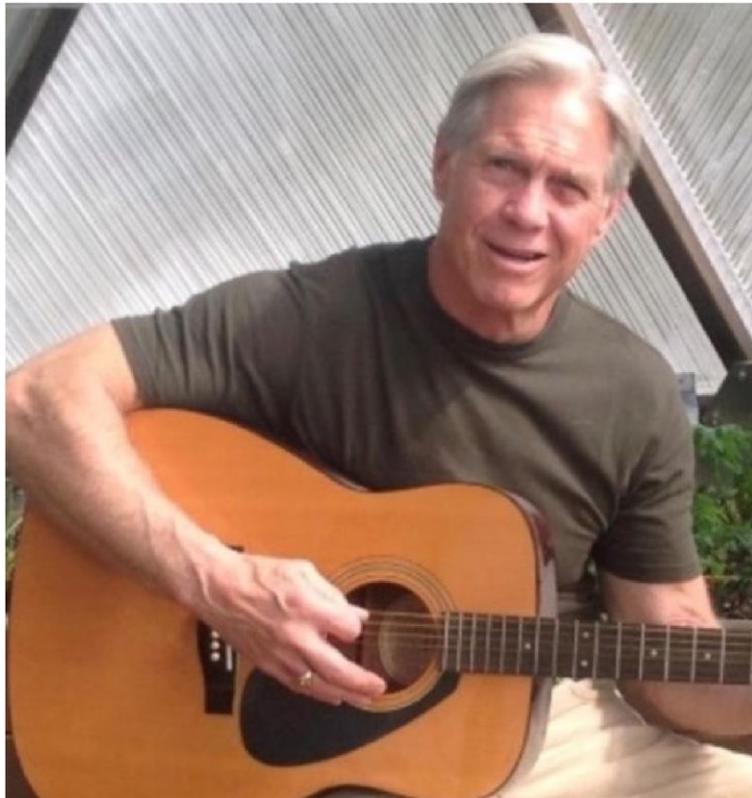


**Our cousins David Fisk and Tracy (back row left and center), and the departed Wayne, and his late parents Russ and Leila**

**Charlie Dillon.** Charlie was the husband of Cousin Deborah Dillon, daughter of Charles and Vivian. He was born in Denver in 1949 to Mother, Susan Jane Dillon, and Father, Charles Morton Dillon, now deceased. Charlie died on July 16, 2019, in Longmont, after a battle with cancer. He graduated from the University of Northern Colorado in 1971 with a degree in anthropology. Charlie and Deb were married for 28 years. Charlie and Deb owned a home in Pinecliffe, Colorado.

He is survived by his wife, Deborah; children, Anna Dillon Wall, Todd Dillon, Brian Dillon and stepdaughter Laura McCalley; two sisters, Thama Judy and Leslie Dillon; five grandchildren, Adelyn Wall; Willow Wall; Pax Wall: Ava Dillon, and Hazel McCalley.

Charlie loved coming to visit Deb's parents in Paonia. He always rolled up his sleeves and pitched in!



### ***The Compilers/Authors of this History***

**Duard (Bud) VanDenBerg.** I was born Sept. 5, 1931 in Salmon, Idaho in the middle of the great depression. I was the third child of Andy and Kleo. I started school in Eckert and completed the tenth grade in Crawford. I thought all of life was ranching. I was drafted in October 1952 and spent 15 ½ months in Korea. I leased the Zeldenthius ranch for one year and then worked with Burns Land and Cattle when they acquired Andy's ranches along with Chet Blake's. This included 275 head of cattle and BLM and National Forest permits. Burns sold the cattle with no notice to me and that ended my ranching. I worked for 6 months in a uranium mine then worked on Black Mesa in the timber industry. Winter came and Charlie Paskel and I built ten miles of road up Red Creek outside of Gunnison with a D9 Cat. It was 60 below zero at times. I then took a logging contract in Durango and built a high lead skidder and contracted with San Juan Lumber in Pagosa Springs. This grew into a larger contract and Brother Ted and I acquired skidders and a bulldozer. We got shut down because the Forest Service quit selling timber so we sold the equipment and I started in the building industry.

I acquired a realtors' license and bought a United Farm brokerage. I continued to build and contracted to build a road into a 960 acre development. I installed twenty-five thousand feet of four inch plastic pipe along with electric power and eleven miles of road, then built four houses in Falls Creek Ranch where I lived for 30 years. I raised three boys Wayne, Lee and Andy, all of whom helped me greatly. I divorced Myrtle and married Diane in 1977. I then divorced Diane and married

Willa Sorensen, whom I have known for many years and am retired. It is a pleasure to work with John on family history. I have been accumulating information for many years.



**John E. VanDenBerg.** I was born in Napa, California in 1951, to Charles and Vivian VanDenBerg. I have a brother Chuck, who lives in Salem, Oregon, and a sister Deb, who lives in Morro Bay, California. From my first marriage, I have a daughter Rain who lives in Sitka, Alaska with her wife Allison. Janene and I have been married over four decades, and have two children, Maggie and Will. Maggie and her husband Elliott have two children, Parker and Lexie. Will and his wife Lauren live in New York City.

I retired in 2018 from my life's work in children's mental health. I was the primary developer of "Wraparound Services", which is a treatment where children with mental illness get to live with their families rather than being placed in institutions. In Wraparound, plans are highly individualized and family friendly. Please see my TED talk (go to YOUTUBE and put my name in and the word TED) for a detailed description of the field, which now reaches over a million families in North America and has spread world-wide. I owe so much of my life's success to my ancestors, and the work ethic we inherited.

We live in Paonia in a house my Dad built. I love my huge extended family, and deeply enjoyed writing this "COVID year" family history with Cousin Bud! In a large effort like this, we very likely made a few errors, for which we apologize in advance. Let us know! We plan to do a scheduled revision in 2022, when we will correct mistakes.

*This is John with his granddaughter Lexie on the day of her birth.*

