

Project 160. Self-interview questions and answers.

Childhood

What is your full name?

My full name is Paula Lynn Smith-Vanderslice. Smith-Vanderslice is my legal married name. Vanderslice is a Dutch name, from the town of Sluis, near the border with Belgium.

Why did your parents pick that name?

My parents picked Paula Lynn Smith. Smith is my father's family name. As for my given name, Paula, that is my mother's middle name, and her first name, Lynn, is my middle name. Also, my father's middle name is Paul, and my mother's mother's given name is Pauline. So, there is a root of Paul in all of those names.

My parents were married in a civil marriage in Superior Court of D.C. in June, 1955. They had a religious marriage ceremony at St. Matthew's Cathedral on July 2nd, with a reception at the Hotel Washington. My father and his brother, Donald Joseph Smith, were married within a month of each other. Donald and his wife, Catherine Stearns, were both from out of town, did not live in D.C., and were married out of town.

Do you have brothers and sisters?

I don't have brothers and/or sisters by either of my parents. In my early childhood, I was an only child. For six years of my upbringing, I was an only child, living with a childless couple, Newton Spencer "Mack" McCullough and Gertrude Mae "Trudy" Grady McCullough, instead of my divorced mother or father. Mack had come from West Virginia to the D.C. area like his siblings, and Trudy was brought up with her siblings on a farm in Laurel, Maryland. I had one stepsister by my stepfather for three years. I had two "sisters" and one "brother" with my legal guardians for one school year.

When and where were you born?

I was born at 3:34 o'clock in the morning at Georgetown University Hospital, in Washington, D.C., on July 19, 1959. Dr. Stephen Hulburt brought me into the world, with Sister Mary Evangelist as administrator.

How did your family come to live in D.C.?

My mother was from D.C. My father came to D.C. to work in the Federal government for the U.S. Department of State.

Describe what your siblings were like. Who were you closest to?

My stepsister, Debbie Bryant, was two years older than me. I first lived with her when I was age 10, for a year. The next time I lived with her was when I was 13. She was from a sibship of eight children, the only one to live with her father following his divorce. We went to the beach near where we lived together with her father and my mother during those years, 1969-70 and 1972-74, in Norfolk, Virginia, sometimes with friends from the neighborhood. She left home at age 17.

Describe the house you grew up in. Describe your room.

I lived first in an apartment as a baby with my parents at the Palisade Apartments, 4540 MacArthur Boulevard, N.W., Washington, D.C. I cannot remember anything from being in the apartment except for becoming aware of being in a room with a radiator. Next, in my early childhood, I lived at my grandparents' home in Foxhall Village, a Tudor-style townhouse at 1634 44th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. My grandfather was still living there after my grandmother died before I was one year old. He had bought the house in the early 1930s, during the first decade of the neighborhood's development. The front yard of the house has a brick wall with stairs cut into it. There is a first door with a step in before the front door to protect from the elements. Inside, I remember my grandfather sitting in the living room in his big chair, wearing a red shawl, and having me on his lap as we watched The Lawrence Welk Show on television. Also, I remember my mother's baby grand piano, a Steinway, and her playing it. I remember the dining room and the kitchen, where they made Campbell's tomato soup for us, and scrambled eggs. I also learned to mix scrambled eggs for pouring into the pan. I remember the stairs to the second floor, where my bedroom was, on the front of the house. It overlooked the front yard and street. It was decorated in wallpaper with English ivy, which turns out to be a pattern just like one used in a sitting room at the Cawdor Castle in Scotland. I liked to trace the pattern with my finger. My dresser had tiny glass figurines on it, one of them a deer. My closet had a hat box for fancy hats like one wears to church. It was a nice room. My grandfather's bedroom was down the hall in the back of the house. I would go up into the attic to look at and play with my mother's sharks' teeth collection from Ocean City, Maryland. To go downstairs, it was fun to slide down the banister, or take scarves out of my mother's scarf drawer and slide on them down the stairs with a friend. The back porch outside the kitchen was small, with a long staircase to the backyard. This was my home until my mother sold the house and we moved to stay temporarily with a friend in Silver Spring, Maryland following her divorce from my father. Next, we moved to a room in College Park, Maryland, where I began first grade at College Park Elementary School in the fall after turning 6, in 1965.

Describe your neighborhood.

My childhood neighborhood in D.C., Foxhall Village, seemed very big to me as a small child. I went to nursery school in 1963 in a garage in the alley a couple of houses away. I think my nursery school teacher was named Mrs. Beall. I met new neighborhood friends there. One of the things I liked to do with a friend was play with pogo sticks with little horsies, and blow bubbles. Nursery school was close to home. I went to kindergarten in 1964 at the Rose Lees Hardy Elementary School. I was driven there, since it was too far to walk. I remember laying inside a multilevel shelf in the classroom. Our house was across the street from the Glover-Archbold Park. I liked to go across 44th Street with friends to the "big tree." The big tree stood by itself. When it snowed, we went sledding, and my sled hit the big tree. I thought sledding was fun.

Where did you shop? How far away were these shops and how did you get there?

I remember shopping at the Woodward & Lothrop department store, known as Woodies. Woodies had the nicest, largest selection of clothes. It also had a tea room, where I went with my mother and her cousin. It was fun to look in the windows at their displays, especially at Christmas. I got my picture taken with Santa there. For groceries, my mother drove us to the Safeway on MacArthur Boulevard, which was too far to walk, especially carrying groceries.

What were your duties around the house as a child? What were the other children's duties? How did duties break down by gender?

There were no other children living with me while I was a child in D.C., which was until age 5. I didn't have any regular duties up to that age, other than learning to do self-care and developmental things for myself in early childhood.

What did you do for fun when you were young? Did you have a favorite toy?

In my early childhood living in D.C., I went to the Crystal swimming pool at Glen Echo Park with my mother and another mother and her children. I liked playing with my miniature glass figurines in my room. I also liked building blocks, and dominoes. A game I invented was counting patterns on the ceiling and the floor wherever I would go. I liked coloring with connect the numbers and connect the dots. I liked Play-Doh, and crayons. I liked spinning my top. I did not like playing with large dolls. I did not have a pet, but I loved playing with one of my friend's dog, Rex. Rex was a large dog, and us very small children could climb on his back from atop his dog house. Lots of fun with such a nice dog. After moving to College Park, Maryland, I had other fun games beyond age 5. I liked playing with Etch-a-Sketch, a kaleidoscope, jacks, Lite-Brite, hide and seek, freeze tag, Life, Monopoly, Twister, the "fish" card game, concentration, pantomime, riding a bicycle with training wheels, hula hoop, yo-yos, clackers, and various tricks with frisbees.

What chores did you have? Which chore was worst?

I didn't have any chores up to age 5 that I can remember. My mother returned with me to stay in her family home when her father was living alone after her mother had died and my mother was separated from my father. At that time, my grandfather's visiting maid, a black woman named Lucy Murphy, did chores like ironing, which I remember her doing. She stopped working for my grandfather after awhile.

Did your family attend church? How did religion affect your family? What do you believe now?

I was baptized in the Episcopal Church of my mother's parents, Louis Ribnitzki and Pauline Cudlip Ribnitzki, St. Patrick's of Foxhall Village, D.C. I first remember attending church at about age 3. My godmother, Hulit Brown, was present. I believe the Episcopal church influenced my family to place emphasis on love and respect with humility toward mother, and to try to be excellent in everything one does, and the Lutheran church influenced those members of my family to have a good work ethic. I believe these values were instilled in my mother in her upbringing, who always quietly referred to her mother as "mother." That was her name for her mother, not her first name or her nickname. My father's side of my family was mostly Catholic. My grandmother Smith burned a votive candle every day in a safe place. I married a Catholic. I am spiritually in touch with being a Christian, and I believe in God, and Jesus, the one whose footsteps walk beside mine.

Where did you go to school? What was it like?

I attended school at the nursery school on the alley a couple doors away from our house. The next year, for kindergarten, I went to the Rose Lees Hardy Elementary School. The year after that I entered first grade at College Park Elementary School in College Park, Maryland. Limiting my description for Project 160 mostly to my time in school in D.C., I would say that nursery school was a lot of fun, learning to play with other children my age. Kindergarten seemed more

daunting, as the school was very large for those of us entering it for the first time. It was interesting being in a classroom setting, and with so many other children.

Was there a graduation ceremony?

My elementary school graduation followed completion of 6th grade at College Park Elementary School in College Park, Maryland. I excelled, with solid “VGs” (VG=very good, my school’s equivalent of the grade of “A”) throughout elementary, and had perfect attendance. I also received a D.A.R. (Daughters of the American Revolution) Good Citizenship Award at age 11, and I was on the President’s Physical Fitness Team at my school for my athleticism.

What were your favorite subjects in school and why?

Here I would need to depart from my school time in early childhood in D.C. once again. I was good at everything until junior high school math. I continued to be good at everything else in my curriculum, including science. I regained some of the high school math and college math for college. I liked English, foreign languages, geography, social studies, history, anthropology, drama, music, and gym. These subjects seemed to come more easily to me.

Who were your favorite teachers and why?

I liked all of my teachers for what they taught us. I was one of the best few in my class. My 1st grade teacher, Mrs. Bohannon, sat me in the corner with a dunce cap on my head for talking back. My 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Wells, taught us a very important lesson, not to plagiarize. When our reading out loud in front of the rest of the class sounded too far advanced for our age, the teacher knew it. My 6th grade teacher, Mr. McGraw, taught me a valuable lesson, which was not to taunt your regular teacher by giving him a nickname based on a cartoon, “Quick Draw McGraw.” I had to stay after class and write on the board 100 times that I would not say that again.

Who were your friends and what did you do when you got together?

My friends in nursery school were from Foxhall Village. Our mothers got together with us. At the Hardy Elementary School, in kindergarten, there were other kids, but I continued to know the ones from nursery school. We went riding in the car through the Rock Creek Ford off of Beach Drive and sang “Row Your Boat.” We also went out to lunch at outdoor cafes in D.C.

Did you have any hobbies?

My favorite pastime was reading a lot of books. I was a bookworm. I also liked crocheting.

Favorite stories? Favorite games or make-believe? Favorite toys?

I was given a book of Bible stories for children by my guardian’s sister, Willis Keenan. I loved it. It was fun to play dress-ups, and charades. My favorite game at recess during the school day was Greek dodge, because I was the best, and it was fun.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

The first thing I wanted to be when I grew up was a ballet dancer, along with my friend Lilly. We were going to go to ballet school. The next thing I wanted to be was an interpreter for the United Nations. I thought I should speak other languages and serve as interpreter.

What were the different groups at your school? Which did you belong to? How do you think you were perceived by others?

For me, while in early childhood in D.C., kindergarten was as far as I went before moving to Maryland. In elementary school in old town College Park, Maryland, I belonged to a group of friends who had one parent as a professor at the University of Maryland. Our parents and, for me, guardians got us together for birthday parties. I had to be smart to belong. Neither one of my guardians was a professor, although they rented rooms in the house to university students. When it came time to choose teams for softball, the picks worked a little bit differently, and I was still picked, but I was not one of the top picks. In middle school I enjoyed Bible study with another female student with whom I got into good discussions about it in 8th grade. I was best speller, which was announced over the PA system. I still remember the announcer calling me “Rolla (pronounced with a short “o”) Smith.” How ironic. I also was best speller in the spelling category in the Forensics Club in high school in Norfolk, Virginia, making it to regionals in forensics for the state, but being beaten by a student from Virginia Beach. So, I remained best speller in Norfolk. I was in Concert Chorus, Spanish Club, Girls Varsity Basketball, and Pep Club. I think I was perceived by others as a nice girl.

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities? What were they?

In elementary school, I was involved in Girl Scouts as a Brownie, and then as a Junior into middle school. My favorite thing to do outside of earning merit badges in scouts was to go on field trips. Our troop, Troop 202, from College Park, went to the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. It was a blast. We also participated in the huge Jamboree at Greenbelt Park, camping overnight. Another great activity our troop participated in was camping at Camp Letts near the Calvert Cliffs in Maryland. While in middle school, I washed windows for the Days Apartments large picture window in East Ocean View at the beach in Norfolk, where we lived. Other extracurricular activities were what went along with Concert Chorus, including selling various items to raise funds. I picked jewelry as what I would sell, and I was acknowledged by our choral director, Mrs. Dorothy Carter, as the best jewelry salesperson in the chorus. I also won a scholarship to the rigorous Virginia Music Camp in the summer of '76 for my solo soprano aria at auditions. During the school year, our city public high school choruses, including Booker T. Washington, Maury, Granby, Lake Taylor, and Norview, gathered at the Norfolk Scope for a citywide concert. We also sang at the Military Circle Shopping Mall during the Christmas holiday. Pep Club required showing school spirit, learning cheers, and attendance at all football games to cheer on our team, the Lake Taylor Titans. I would find out later when watching the movie, ‘Remember the Titans’ one of our LTH Titans cheers was the same as the T.C. Williams (now Alexandria City H.S.) high school cheer in the movie. Being on the Girls Varsity Basketball team required maintaining the minimum grade point average, and many hours of practice, including running, drills on the court, and weightlifting to represent our school at games. Our coach was Alice Meacom. We were the first girls’ varsity basketball teams to play the sport in the city of Norfolk, in the Virginia High School League. My position was back court guard relief.

Spanish Club required attendance at cultural events, such as the production of 'Man of La Mancha' at Old Dominion University, learning Latin dances, and sharing of Spanish foods made by members at a club party. My contribution was gazpacho soup. Señora Belkov, our Spanish teacher originally from Cuba, was our mentor.

What were your plans when you finished school? Education? Work?

Following high school, I thought I would work full time for awhile and go back to college full time to get a bachelor's degree, which I did.

Did you have jobs during your teenage years? Doing what?

I did work while in school once I was old enough. I volunteered to pick up trash on the beach for a voucher for free admission to Ocean View Amusement Park. I washed the large picture window at the Days' Apartments in East Ocean View, Norfolk, Virginia when I was 13. I babysat neighbors' children for pay. I also did a newspaper delivery route by bicycle for the Virginian-Pilot and Ledger-Star.

At what age did you begin dating? What kinds of activities did you do on dates? Describe your first date.

I had my first kiss at age 13. I went to see the movie, 'The Poseidon Adventure.' I dated at 16, and went to see the movie, 'JAWS.'

What books did you read? I read all of the books I had time for.

What music did you listen to? I liked rock music, since it was popular with people my age who I knew. My friends and I would sing along when we heard it on the radio, learning the words, such as to the Beatles' 'Hey Jude.'

What sports did you play? I was the best at co-ed Greek dodge, and I played high school girls' basketball. I was generally into kinesiology, and played many sports growing up.

What hobbies did you have? I enjoyed pet care. I enjoyed crochet.

Relatives

What are your parents' and grandparents' names?

My parents' names are Harry Paul Smith and Lynn Paula Ribnitzki.

My grandparents on my father's side are Morris Simonson Smith and Florence Genevieve Murphy Smith.

My grandparents on my mother's side are Louis Frederick Ribnitzki and Pauline Lola Cudlip Ribnitzki.

How far back can you trace your family line? Who is the earliest relative you can identify?

I can trace my mother's maternal side back to my 14th great-grandparents, Christopher of Drogheda Bathe, born in the year 1480 in Drogheda, Meath, Leinster, Ireland, and his wife, Elisabeth Dillon, born in 1482 in Riverstown, Meath, Leinster.

A node where many people in the maternal family lived was Purton, Wiltshire, England, and their church was St. Mary the Virgin. Notables in the immediate Bathe lineage related to Christopher of Drogheda include his wife, Elisabeth Dillon (1482-1520), son William Bathe (1505-1585, my 13th great-grandfather), William's son Richard Henry Bathe (1535-1600, my 12th

great-grandfather), William's daughter and Richard's half sister Madame Margaret Elizabeth Whateley (1541-1583, born in Athcarne, Meath-died at Moymet Castle, Trim, Meath, buried at Newton Church Priory, my 12th great-grandaunt), Mme. Margaret's half-brother James Bathe (1528-1572), Chief Baron of the Irish Exchequer, the baron presiding over the Irish Exchequer, one of The Four Courts at Dublin, (born at Athcarne Castle-died in Dublin, Leinster, my 12th great-granduncle).

Another node where maternal ancestors lived was Plympton and Stoke Damerel, Devon, England. Still another was St. Mary's, Portsea, Hampshire, England.

My 5th great-grandfather, Thomas Cudlipp, was father of John Lambert Cudlipp, who died before coming to America. His wife, my 4th great-grandmother Louisa Cleverly Cudlipp, arrived in America with her six children, all free White persons from England. Thomas Cudlipp was born in 1750 in Stoke Damerel, Devon, and sailed to India, living in Fort Marlborough, India in 1795 as registered by the East India Company and the India Office, in its Bengal Calendar, as an employee, a free inhabitant and a monthly writer. (Source: The Wohl Library of the Institute of Historical Research, School of Advanced Study, University of London) Thomas had returned to Hampshire, England by 1798 and continued to live there.

The Hutton branch of my mother's mother's family can be traced to a Revolutionary War captain, as Mary Deems married William Hutton. They are my 3rd great-grandparents. Frederick E. Deems, my 5th great-grandfather, served in the 7th Maryland Regiment as captain in 1777. He was killed by "Indians or those appearing to be Indians on the Pa./Md. border." His son was a colonel in the War of 1812, Col. Jacob F. Deems, my 4th great-grandfather. They are succeeded by at least three more generations of Deemeses in the U.S. military ranks. Lt. Col. James Monroe Deems (my 3rd great-granduncle) served in the 1st Maryland Cavalry Regiment of the Union Army during the Civil War, and was brevetted Brigadier General. His son, Col. Clarence Deems, (my 1st cousin 4x removed) was commandant of Fort Howard. Col. Clarence Deems's son, Brigadier General Clarence Deems, Jr., (my 2nd cousin 3x removed) was a veteran of the Spanish-American War and WWI.

I can trace my mother's paternal side back to my 9th great-grandfather, Valten (Valentin?) Aschenbach, who was Lutheran, born in 1620 in Klein-Schmalkalden, Thuringia, Germany. A node where many Aschenbach family members were from in Germany is the Schweina/Bad Liebenstein, Meiningen, Sachsen-Meiningen and Meiningen, Schmalkalden-Meiningen district, Kleinschmalkalden, Wartburgkreis, in Thuringia. Depending on what years a family member lived there, Meiningen was either in the Saxon Duchy of Saxe-Meiningen or the dominion of Schmalkalden. Thuringians were living in the aftermath of the Schmalkaldic Wars, and formal recognition of Protestantism and Lutheranism within the Holy Roman Empire.

The Ribnitzki node of family was from Marienburg, Malbork, Pomorskie, Poland or Pomerania, West Prussia, Germany, depending on which country held the town during years I have traced back to that the family was there, during the Third Partition of Poland. This can be seen in a married couple's years in the same place, Malbork. Friedrich Wilhelm Rybnitzki and Helena Buckholz, my 3rd great-grandparents, were both born in 1803 in Poland. By the time they married, in 1825, Malbork was in Germany. By 1831 it had reverted to Poland. Two years later, in 1833, it was again part of Germany. Ten years after that, by 1843, Friedrich died there, and Malbork was again in Poland, where it stayed upon Helena's death there in 1848. The next generation immigrated to live in D.C.

Another node, the Schanderwitz family, lived in Bielefeld in Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, with St. Jodokus Roman Catholic Church as their church.

What was your mother's maiden name?

My mother's maiden name was Lynn Paula Ribnitzki.

What type of work did your parents do?

My father worked as an administrative assistant for the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. My mother worked as a documents translator (Spanish) at the Central Intelligence Agency.

Tell me a story about your mother/father that shows what kind of person they were.

An adjective I would use to describe my mother is generous. She took care of stray cats. She would also stand together for a cause she believed in, such as marching for Social Security benefits. My father liked to peel an "Irish" potato and eat it raw. As a divorced man, he liked to wear his Cossack hat and eat peanuts sitting on the bench at Dupont Circle.

Where is family buried in D.C.?

My father is inurned at Arlington National Cemetery with his second wife, Judith O'Connor Nugent Smith. He died in 1998, she in 2015.

My mother is buried at Fort Lincoln Cemetery in Brentwood, Maryland. She died in 2009. Many of her relatives are buried in D.C., at Congressional Cemetery, St. Paul's Rock Creek Cemetery, Glenwood Cemetery, Prospect Hill Cemetery, and St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. In the D.C. suburbs, other family members are buried at Fort Lincoln Cemetery and Arlington National Cemetery. Still other family members are buried in Baltimore, many, but not all, at Green Mount Cemetery. Others are buried in Philadelphia at the Old Pine Street Church Graveyard and Laurel Hill.

What did your grandparents look like?

My grandparents were White. Their features were typical of northern and northeastern and western Europeans and the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Did your grandparents tell you any special stories?

My mother's parents did not tell me any special stories that I can remember, as my grandmother, Pauline Lola Cudlip, died when I was about seven months old. My grandfather, Louis Frederick "Rip" Ribnitzki, died when I was age four. So, there were no grandparents in D.C. for me after early childhood. My father's parents lived in Pennsylvania through my teen years. My father's mother, Florence Genevieve Murphy Smith, lived until I was 18. My father's father, Morris Simonson "Chalky" Smith, lived until I was 22. I'm attributing Morris's nickname, "Chalky," to his love of baseball. I visited them at their home in West Pittston, in the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania for two weeks each summer during my elementary years. When both of my grandparents would take me for a drive in the car, we would drive up into the mountains, and my grandmother would sing in the car. She had been from the mountains in the West, in Butte, Montana. So, her singing is a special memory, not a story. The fire companies would have an Independence Day parade in the Wyoming Valley townships, and it was always fun to eat pierogies. My grandparents took me to Insalaco's, and my grandfather to a store on Luzerne

Avenue, West Pittston, that sold “phosphates,” sweet drinks. My uncle took me to Sabatini’s Pizza. My uncle, first cousin, and I visited Stroudsburg in the Poconos. My grandmother Florence was a devout Catholic, going to the church a few doors away from home first thing every morning. My grandparents, Morris and Florence, enjoyed one beer together on Sundays, and it was either Genesee or Rolling Rock, sometimes visiting with some of their friends Fred and Jean in Forty-Fort, or vice versa. Morris, a former athlete, would also enjoy a beer on Saturday afternoon while watching New York baseball.

Do you know anything about your great-grandparents?

My German/Polish great-grandfather Frederick William Ribnitzki was the first generation of native-born Washingtonians, with both of his parents being immigrants to this country. Like his immigrant father, he was the owner of a small business here, starting out as a merchant tailor. His wife, my great-grandmother Wilhelmina Dorothea “Minnie” Krause Ribnitzki, was a housekeeper, and the daughter of an immigrant retail grocer in D.C., Louis Krause, and his wife, Theresa Aschenbach, a housekeeper and an immigrant in D.C. Louis Krause was a U.S. Civil War veteran.

My English great-grandfather Francis Lloyd “Frank” Cudlip was a collector, and later a statistical clerk in the “railroad company,” while married to my great-grandmother Emma Lee Thomas. Both were born in D.C.; Frank to a D.C.-born father, Lemuel Cudlip, a well-known photographer of D.C. landmarks in stereoscopic images and later a clerk in the U.S. Pension Office, and a mother from Baltimore, Elizabeth Nimmo, and Emma to a Georgetown, D.C.-born father, George W. Thomas and a Maryland-born mother living with her family in D.C., Emma Hutton. Emma Thomas was a dry goods saleswoman who enlisted in World War I as a Yeoman 3/C in the U.S. Naval Reserve, serving from 1918-19. She became a clerk in the Department of the Navy and married a second time, in 1926, to Thomas Harris from Alexandria, Virginia, a joiner in the Navy Yard. Emma Thomas Cudlip and Thomas Harris resided in D.C. with my grandmother, Pauline Lola Cudlip, Emma’s only surviving child, who had been born in 1905. Frank Cudlip married a second time in 1930 to Anna Martin, who was a milliner. Anna died in 1947, and Frank married a third time to Viola F. Watts in 1955. Emma Lee Thomas Cudlip Harris died in 1950. She was remembered by her comrades at the U.S.S. Jacob Jones American Legion Post No. 2. Tom Harris died in 1970. Frank died in 1974, and Viola died in 1989.

One of Lemuel Cudlip’s brothers, Charles Cudlip, my 2nd great-granduncle, was a photographer of D.C. landmarks, also, and a few years older than Lemuel. He had rooms at the St. James Hotel, which was located at the southeast corner of 6th Street, N.W. and Pennsylvania Avenue. What follows are two newspaper accounts about him compiled by Bytes of History in 2015. “A fire in the photograph gallery of C.S. Cudlip, 459 Pennsylvania Ave. yesterday afternoon caused damage amounting to about \$50.” —*The Evening Star*, September 9, 1889, and a few weeks later,

“Charles S. Cudlipp, the photographer, died suddenly yesterday at noon at his rooms in the St. James Hotel. He had been subject to epilepsy, and Saturday morning he fell in a fit of this character, striking his head heavily. Later in the day he was seized with another attack while lying in bed and remained unconscious until his death. Mrs. Cudlipp had returned from Europe only Friday morning. Her husband was 41 years old and had been in the photographic business

here about 15 years. The funeral will be strictly private.” —*The Evening Star*, Monday, September 30, 1889.

Gallagher-Thomas

A notable relative in my great-grandparents' generation who lived in D.C. is Edward Gallagher, one-half of the famous musical double comedy vaudevillian act, Gallagher and Shean (see photo of duo). Edward Gallagher and Al Shean's theme song, "Mister Gallagher and Mister Shean," was a hit in the 1922 Ziegfeld Follies. Edward Gallagher was my great-grandaunt Ella Ann Thomas's husband. Their son Edward Gallagher, an actor, was my first cousin, 2x removed.

MacDonald-Ribnitzki

Another notable relative who had a distinguished career, in his case serving Washington, D.C., was Dr. Andrew Magruder MacDonald, who was D.C. Coroner, and a United States coroner, from 1934 to 1962. He was a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps during WWI. His group of Marines sailed on the Aquitania. He was the son of Dr. Fraser James MacDonald, who emigrated from Bayfield, Ontario, Canada and married Lawrence May Ribnitzki, my first cousin 3x removed, was a druggist/pharmacist, and owned the Security Drug Store at 12th and H Streets, N.E., D.C. From 1900 through 1920, the family lived at the corner of 800 12th Street, N.E., and 1128 H Street, N.E., and by 1930, 520 11th Street, N.E., and by 1940 at 1009 F Street, N.E. Lawrence May MacDonald died in 1929. By 1954, Dr. Andrew Magruder MacDonald lived at 5115 Lowell Lane, N.W. Dr. Fraser MacDonald had lived with his son since Fraser's retirement the year Fraser's wife Lawrence May died, and Fraser died in 1954 at age 90. Dr. Andrew Magruder MacDonald died in 1972 at age 80.

Sardo-Ribnitzki

In 1880, John Henry (Johann Heinrich), my 2nd great-granduncle, and his wife Mary Ribnitzki and their children, one of whom would become Dr. Fraser J. MacDonald's wife, Lawrence May, about 1890, lived together with the Sardo family, Joseph and his wife, Alice Ribnitzki Sardo, my first cousin 3x removed, and their two sons, William and Charles, at 1106 4th Street, N.W. Henry was a tailor and Mary was a housekeeper. By 1910, the Sardo family lived at 408 H Street, N.E. Joseph and Alice's son William, my second cousin 2x removed, was an undertaker, at age 36. The William H. Sardo & Co. undertaker was located at 412 H Street, N.E.

Can you talk about any "black sheep" in the family?

I don't know of any "black sheep" or scoundrels in my family who lived in D.C.

Can you describe the personalities of your aunts and uncles?

My only aunt was from my father's side, as my mother had no sisters. My father also had no sisters. My aunt was Katherine O'Shaunnesy "Kay" Stearns, from Weehawken, New Jersey. She was a sales representative with an advertising company in New York. She died giving birth to my first cousin, Michael Dewayne Smith, one year before I was born, in 1958, so I never knew her. Michael was their only child. My father's brother, my only uncle, was Donald Joseph Smith of West Pittston, Pennsylvania. Uncle Don was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, with two years and eight months of domestic service and nine months of foreign service. When he registered for the WWII draft into the Army, he was working at the Westmoreland Colliery in

West Wyoming, Pennsylvania for the Lehigh Valley Coal Company. He lived close to D.C. at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. He was also employed by an advertising company in New York, and he was also a theater manager in Weehawken. Uncle Don had an outgoing personality, raising his son as a single parent, and liked to test my wits and tease me, his niece, to see if I was as sharp as he was. He and his son, my cousin, lived with his parents at the family home, so my cousin had the advantage of living with both of our grandparents. He would give his opinion about something. He read the comics, and expected one to see the humor. He would tell jokes, so one would laugh. I was his niece, but he called me his “niece.” He worked later for the Pennsylvania Railroad. Uncle Don’s son, Mike, my only first cousin, died at 33 from bronchitis related to the AIDS virus, in 1991. Uncle Don died in 1993.

Who was your favorite family member and why?

Of the family I knew, I loved my mother the most. We spent a lot of time together, and went through a lot of things together. Of the family in my age group, I would definitely say I had the most affinity with my first cousin, Mike. I did not have any brothers or sisters.

Did you or anyone close to you serve in a war? What do you remember of that experience?

I was not in the military. I remember my Uncle Don speaking of being in the Army during wartime. He didn’t want to talk very much about it, though. My father was in the Navy, and he never talked about it. I just knew that he had been at Ft. Bragg in North Carolina, and that he had also been stationed in Alaska. My guardian, Newton Spencer “Mack” McCullough, was an Army veteran, “buck” sergeant, Tech 4, and an expert welder. He worked after WWII for the Naval Ordnance Laboratory and NASA’s Apollo space program. He told stories to my friends and I and the university student renters about being on a troop ship in the waters off of Okinawa, Japan during WWII. One is that he was asked to go underwater to repair the ship by welding, and he couldn’t do it because he couldn’t swim. He had grown up in West Virginia on a farm with fruit trees near Morgantown, West Virginia and the Cheat River. He also told us a story about walking for a long way in the snow to and from school while living at his boyhood home and having to jump over a fence while running away from a bear that was chasing him in the snow. Another story from his wartime experience in Japan was that he lost a lung in hand-to-hand combat while fighting with a saber. I saw the scar on his chest. Still another was sleeping with mosquito netting. Mack was my father figure during my elementary years. My friends and I loved listening to his stories. He was a good storyteller. When I was a teenager living with my mother in Norfolk, Virginia, many of our neighbors were Navy veterans of the Vietnam War. Some had PTSD (Post-traumatic Stress Disorder), and acted it out.

Were there any special family foods or recipes? Do you still make any traditional family foods?

One food that my mother made as a specialty was candied yams. She made this for holidays, and with turkey for Thanksgiving. I make candied yams, too, now, to carry on what she did, and because people who eat with us seem to like them.

What activities did the family do together?

I remember riding in my grandfather’s green Plymouth as a young child from our home in Foxhall Village to the Warner Building at 13th and E Streets, N.W., where my grandfather Louis worked. I remember being in his office and seeing him sitting at his desk. He retired in 1963. He introduced me to Harden and Weaver, the radio hosts, at a café downtown. They made a big

impression on a little girl like me. My mother also had a car, her white Chrysler, and we would go out to eat lunch at some sidewalk café downtown. She also took me to a bar in the 1960s with a modular music video projection located in the corner of the building that is now the National Museum of Women in the Arts, where there was a video of a go-go dancer, while we listened to the music. I can see the place clearly in my mind. I don't remember ever going anywhere together with both of my parents, except to Ocean City, Maryland. My mother also took me in 1965 to The Other Room on Route 1 in College Park, where there was a dais for students and everyone there to try go-go dancing for themselves, so, even though I was a kid, I danced, too.

What did you do on Christmas? Thanksgiving? Birthdays? Other holidays?

My mother loved decorating the Christmas tree for Christmas. I visited with my godmother at her house on Christmas about two blocks away. On Thanksgiving, my mother made candied yams along with a turkey. I don't remember any special party for my birthdays while living as a young child in D.C. I don't remember doing anything on any other holidays except getting dressed up in a costume and walking through the neighborhood on Halloween.

Are there any family letters, photos, recipes, or other heirlooms that have been handed down to you?

There are a few items, including photos, jewelry, documents including a cemetery deed, and my mother's name bracelet in beads from the hospital where she was born, Columbia Hospital for Women in D.C. There were other books and photos I remember that burnt in a house fire in 1988.

Do you have any objects or photographs to share from your past? Do you have any documents, such as a birth certificate, marriage license, or old yearbook? Do you have a family tree?

I have photographs of relatives. I have my mother's original 1928 version of the Anglican prayer book that was given to her. I do have a copy of my parents' church marriage certificate. I have old yearbook photos. I do have a family tree.

I will concentrate on my maternal side, as my father was the first on the paternal side to live in Washington, D.C., in 1955. His brother, my only uncle, came to live close to D.C., but not in it, only while he was in training during enlistment for WWII at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland and while stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland.

Dull-Mortimer-Nimmo-Cudlip

The side of my mother's family who emigrated from England lived in the District of Columbia, beginning with my 4th great-grandparents, James and Jane Rebecca Mortimer Dull, from Maryland. James, born in 1795 in Pennsylvania, was a shipsmith who moved to D.C. from Baltimore by 1860, according to the U.S. Census, with Jane and their two daughters, Rebecca and Emma. Before moving from Baltimore, there was an account of the man who would become a "gentleman" in D.C. as follows: "*Rioting at the Theatre*. James Dull, John Patterson and William Miller, for rioting at the theatre on Christmas Eve, were, in default of security, committed by Wm. A. Schaeffer, Esq." —*Baltimore Daily Commercial*, Friday, December 27, 1844. There was one servant classified as "mulatto" in the D.C. household. James is classified as a gentleman living in Ward 2 with Jane in D.C.

Jane's daughter, Rebecca, born in 1827 in Maryland, married my 3rd great-grandfather, William T. Nimmo, born in Baltimore in 1822. He was a druggist in Baltimore by 1850, and they moved to Washington, D.C. William and Rebecca had two sons and two daughters. On September 12, 1855, William reportedly contracted "the epidemic," yellow fever. He was a member of the Howard Association, formed during the epidemic in Norfolk, Virginia as a humanitarian organization and named after British prison reformer, John Howard. On November 25th of that year, Rebecca gave birth to her last child, Elizabeth, my 2nd great-grandmother, in Baltimore. William, who survived the fever, was a collector by 1860. Rebecca was living in Baltimore Ward 10 in 1860. She died in April, 1862 at age 35 in D.C. Rebecca Nimmo is buried in Baltimore. William married a second time to Sarah Bickham in 1864 in D.C. He continued to live the rest of his life in D.C. Rebecca's father, James Dull, died in March, 1868 in Baltimore and is buried there. Her mother, Jane, returned to Baltimore by 1870 and was a housekeeper. In 1870, William was working in the books and stationery profession. By 1871, Jane had returned to D.C. My 2nd great-grandmother, Elizabeth, had lost her mother, Rebecca, at age six, during the Civil War. She married Lemuel Cudlip, one of Frederick and Eliza Cudlipp's children, in 1879. Jane returned again to Baltimore by 1880 and was a housekeeper. In 1880, William was a music teacher. In 1880, Lemuel, at age 27, was a photographer in D.C., and he and Elizabeth had a son, Francis Lloyd "Frank" Cudlip, my great-grandfather, that year in D.C. Lemuel and Elizabeth had two more sons, Walter and Frederick, and a daughter, Mabel, in D.C. Jane Dull died in October, 1885 in D.C. and is buried in Baltimore. William Nimmo died in 1886 at age 64 in D.C.

Cudlip-Cleverly-Drummond

Another branch on the maternal side of my family emigrated from St. Mary's, Portsea, Hampshire, England. Louisa Cleverly, born in 1780, my 4th great-grandmother, arrived in America with her six children, Benjamin, 16, Louisa, 12, Eliza, 12, Frederick, 11, John, 9, and George, 4. She had been married to her husband, John Lambert Cudlipp, in 1802. He passed away before coming to America. Her son Frederick Cudlipp was 11 years old and she was 40 when they arrived by way of Havre de Grace, Maryland to St. Mary's, Maryland in 1820. They resided in Election District 1 in St. Mary's as of August, 1820. He moved to D.C. by 1833, was a dyer by trade, and a steward at Columbia College of George Washington University. He was married that year to his wife, Eliza Drummond, born in 1815, who moved to D.C. from Philadelphia. Frederick and Eliza are my 3rd great-grandparents (see headstone rubbings).

In 1840, the census schedule showed that Frederick Cudlip's household listed four free White persons, one free "colored person" and one slave in Washington City. No other names are listed in the census for that year. In 1850, the census was called Schedule I and included free inhabitants. It also listed the given and surnames of every person in the household. It defined race as either White, Black, or Mulatto, abbreviating by first letter, as "W" for White, "B" for Black, or "M" for Mulatto. There were eight persons in the Cudlip household, Frederick and Eliza and five children, George, Issabella, Edward D., Mary Ann, and Charles, as well as one Johanna Mickey. The family was listed as residing West of the 7th Street Turnpike, in D.C. Individual addresses were not listed. Also in 1850, Schedule 2 included slave inhabitants in the county West of 7th Street Turnpike. Columns listed "Names of Slave Owners," "Numbers of Slaves," "Age," "Sex," "Colour," "Fugitives from the State," "Number Manumitted," and "Deaf and Dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic," the last category also listed on the free inhabitants' schedule. Frederick Cudlip at age 40 owned three slaves, a 29-year-old Black male, a 27-year-old

Black female, and a 2-year-old Mulatto male. The adult slaves were not “fugitives from the state,” or “manumitted.”

In 1860, Frederick and Eliza owned and managed a boarding house at 427 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., and Louisa was living with them and their children, and the boarders. The boarding house listed two Black persons, Tom Henson (or Henson), born in D.C., age 45, Charlotte Henson, age 20, born in Virginia, and Charlie Henson, age 10, born in D.C., listed as Mulatto. Thomas Henson was a slave. On May 5, 1862, according to the District of Columbia U.S. Slave Emancipation Records, Frederick Cudlipp, enslaver, paid a certificate to Thomas Henson, enslaved person, recorded in manumission record, folio 63 in the Emancipation papers resulting from the Act of April 16, 1862, A-L:M433:1. Frederick Cudlipp’s petition number 770 for “. . . release of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia” gives the description of Thomas Henson as of the age of forty two years, with description “five feet four inches high-color black-stout and able bodied.” Frederick Cudlipp had, as per Exhibit A of Petition, purchased the slave from Francis P. Blair Esq. on January 17, 1850 for \$500, in Francis P. Blair’s handwriting, “. . . secured by a note payable four years after date with interest from date with a deed of trust on said Cudlipp’s house and lot (no. 20 Square A Washington DC) and I do hereby convey to the said Cudlipp all my right title and interest in said Negro with my hand and seal the day and year above written.” Frederick Cudlipp’s description of the slave is as follows, “Thomas is a healthy, able bodied and vigorous man and has been used by me as a house servant, and I found him to be honest and exceedingly useful-I am not aware of any defects or infirmities either mentally, morally or bodily about him-”.

In November, 1861, Louisa Cleverly Cudlipp died at age 81. She is buried at Congressional Cemetery.

By 1870, Tom Henson had been gone from Frederick Cudlipp’s household, the boarding house, since 1862.

In 1880, the boarding house location was listed as being at 338 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. The address numbering had changed in 1870.

By 1890, Frederick Cudlipp, then age 82, was listed as living at 1335 Q Street, N.W., with his daughter, Mary A., and her husband Samuel Hodgkins, their children and one great-grandchild. He died in September, 1890, and is buried at Congressional Cemetery.

Thomas-Hutton

My 3rd great-grandfather H. Thomas was born in Maryland in about 1802 and lived in Georgetown, D.C. as of 1850, according to the U.S. Census, Schedule I of Free Inhabitants in Georgetown, with his wife Sarah, who was born about 1807 in Maryland, and their children, E. Thomas, age 17, C. Thomas, age 14, and G.W. Thomas, age 6, and William Thomas, a baker, age 30. Others living with them were A. Brown, female, age 60, and a family of three, two children and an adult with the last name Williams. H. Thomas was a carpenter in construction. By 1860, George W., my 2nd great-grandfather, and his mother, Sarah, lived with the Meredith family in Georgetown, D.C. At age 15, G.W. was a carpenter’s apprentice to R.L. Meredith, a master carpenter. By 1870, George W. was married to Emma Hutton (see Emma Hutton’s photo) from Maryland, and they had two children, William and Maggie, and two domestic servants, Ida Mirth, White, and Maria Webb, Black, in the household. Between 1872 and 1890, they would have 10 more children, four sons and six daughters. In 1880, the Thomas family lived at No. 5, Fourth Street, in Georgetown. George was a house carpenter, and Emma was a housekeeper. Twin daughter Emma Lee Thomas is my great-grandmother. She was born on July 28, 1883. By

1900, Emma, age 16, was living with her parents, George and Emma, at 3416 T Street, N.W. She was a saleswoman in dry goods. In 1902, Emma married my great-grandfather, Francis "Frank" Cudlip. They had one daughter who died as a one-day-old infant in 1903. Their next and last child is my grandmother, Pauline Lola Cudlip, born in 1905 in St. Louis, Missouri. Emma Hutton Thomas is buried in St. Paul's Rock Creek Cemetery in D.C. with George W. and their daughter, Lola.

As of 1910, Pauline, age 4 was living with her parents at 63a L Street, N.E., D.C. Her father, Frank, was a clerk in the "RailRoad Co." Emma was a housewife. In 1917, Emma Cudlip was a clerk and was listed in the City Directory at no. 45 1223 12th St., N.W., D.C. Frank was a clerk at the Southern Railway and lived at no. 2, 52 Quincy Place, N.W., D.C. with his father Lemuel, my 2nd great-grandfather, a clerk with the U.S. Pension Office, and brother Walter E, a clerk, at no. 33, 52 Quincy Place, N.W. Fifty-two Quincy is The Madison apartment building now. Emma Lee Thomas Cudlip enlisted during World War I on February 18, 1918 in the U.S. Naval Reserve Forces, serving as a Yeoman 3/C. She was discharged on July 31, 1919. In 1919, Frank was living at 533 21st Street, N.W., D.C. His daughter Pauline was 13. In 1920, Pauline was 14 and living with her cousin, Edward Chappell, who was a plumber, and his grandmother, Emma V. Thomas. Frank married Anna Martin in August, 1930, several months after his mother, Elizabeth, died. By 1930, Pauline was living with her mother, Emma, who married Thomas Harris, a joiner with the U.S. Government, in 1926. Emma was a file clerk with the U.S. Government, and Pauline was a 24-year-old typist with the Film Exchange. They lived at 2530 Q Street, N.W., D.C. By 1934, Frank and Anna lived at 1818 Kalorama Road, N.W., Apt. 43 and by 1940, Anna's aunt, Florence, lived with them. Frank again continued his work as a clerk with the Southern Railway. Anna worked in millinery, and Florence was a dressmaker. By 1940, Tom and Emma Harris lived at 2316 40th Street, N.W., D.C. Tom was a joiner at the Navy Yard and Emma worked for the Department of the Navy as a clerk. Frank's second wife, Anna, died in 1947. Emma died in 1950, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. By 1950, Frank, age 69, was a statistical clerk for the railway company, and living alone at 1818 Kalorama Road. He married a third time to Viola, in July, 1955. Frank died in 1974 at age 94 and is buried at Glenwood Cemetery in D.C. Viola died in 1989 at age 98 and is buried with Frank.

My grandfather, Louis Frederick "Rip" Ribnitzki, age 23, married his first wife, Elizabeth Tulew, age 19, in November, 1920. I know nothing further about what happened afterward with Miss Tulew. My grandfather Louis was a film salesman for a "Moving Picture Co." in 1920, at age 22. He was also a musician. In 1929, at age 31, he asked the District Supreme Court to declare him "a bankrupt," saying his assets consisted of "clothes on my back and a few neckties and shirts," as quoted in *The Evening Star*, Washington, DC, Wednesday, April 24, 1929. My grandmother Pauline Cudlip married my grandfather Louis in April, 1931. The following year, my mother, Lynn Paula Ribnitzki, was born, in August, 1932, at Columbia Hospital for Women. In 1933, Louis was assistant booker for Warner Brothers Theatres Circuit Management Corporation in the D.C. area, based at the Earle Theatre Building. By 1950, Louis was a film booker and contract buyer for Warner. Louis, Pauline, and my mother, Lynn, age 17, were living at the family home at 1634 44th Street, N.W. Pauline died at home in February, 1960. Louis was in the Army during WWI. His group sailed from Baltimore on the steamer Keemun in June, 1918. He was in the 29th Division, a Private in the "F.A.N.G." unit of Battery B, 110th Forward Artillery. He returned home with others in his artillery group from St. Nazaire, France on the U.S.S. Orizaba to Camp

Stuart in Newport News, Virginia in May, 1919. He died in April, 1964 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery with Pauline.

Hutton-Deems

Another 3rd great-grandfather on my mother's mother's side was William Hutton, who was born in 1808 in Maryland. His wife, Mary Deems, was born in 1810 in Maryland. I have no further information about William's or Mary's parents. William married Mary in October, 1829 in Baltimore. They had seven children; three sons and four daughters. Their fifth child, daughter Emma, was the only child to be born in D.C., in 1840. The others were born before and after Emma, in Maryland. Emma Hutton is my 2nd great-grandmother. Emma married George W. Thomas. The family resided by 1850 in Ward 2 in D.C. William was a bricklayer, and two of his sons, Jacob and James, became bricklayers, also. Two more adults resided with them. One of them, Fred Kemp, also was a bricklayer.

Krause-Aschenbach

My German 2nd great-grandparents who came to D.C. were Louis Krause, born in Wurttemberg, Germany in March, 1827, and Therese Aschenbach, born in Schweina, Sachsen-meiningen, Thuringia, Germany, in 1842. Louis emigrated sometime before 1857, the year his first son John Krause was born in Washington, D.C. Louis Krause was a retail grocer in D.C. His first wife was Barbara Krause, born in Bavaria in June, 1831. His first daughter, Josephene Krause, was born in D.C. in 1862, during the Civil War. Barbara died in 1872, on May 21st. Later that year, on December 3rd, Louis married Therese Aschenbach, my 2nd great-grandmother, at Concordia Lutheran Evangelical Church in D.C. Therese had emigrated from Germany and arrived at the age of 27 at the Port of Baltimore in May 1870. She moved to D.C. the same year. She was a housekeeper. With Louis, she had a daughter, my great-grandmother, Wilhelmina Dorothea "Minnie" in July 1874, followed by her sisters Bertha in 1876 and Rosa in July 1880, in D.C. Louis's son with Barbara, John, was a plumber in 1880. They lived at 1910 K Street, N.W. In July, 1896, Louis died at home at 1910 K Street, N.W., D.C. Less than two months later, Minnie married my great-grandfather, Frederick William Ribnitzki. Louis is buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery. Therese died at home at 1910 K Street, N.W. in August, 1905 and is buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery with her husband.

Ribnitzki-Schanderwitz

The German/Polish side of my mother's family came to D.C. beginning with my 2nd great-grandparents, Friedrich Wilhelm Rybnitzki, born in Marienburg, Malbork, Germany in 1828, and Dorothea Sophia Schanderwitz, born in Bielefeld, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, in 1829. Dorothea Sophia "Dora" had married Friedrich at St. Jodokus Church in Bielefeld on April 6, 1855. They had two sons and two daughters in Bielefeld, Anne Catherine Franciska, Anne Marie, Johann, and Gottlieb Theodor. Friedrich Wilhelm arrived at the Port of Baltimore in July, 1861 at age 33, speaking German and Polish. One of their sons, Gottlieb Theodor, born in 1859, died in May, 1863. Dora arrived in Baltimore later that year, in September, 1863, at age 33 on a ship from Bremen. She came to D.C. sometime between then and the birth of their daughter Augusta, in 1866. They had one more daughter, Mary Henrietta, in Baltimore in 1864, then Augusta, in 1866 in D.C., and one more son, Frederick William, my great-grandfather, in October, 1867, in D.C. Friedrich Wilhelm was a merchant tailor in D.C., and Dora worked in a restaurant and was

a housekeeper. In 1880, they lived at 1102 18th Street, N.W., D.C. with their four daughters, Johanna, Mary, Augusta, and Annie, and son, Frederick. Johanna and Mary were dressmakers. Augusta was at home, and Frederick was in school. Annie was at home, and her husband, Charles Colne, was a clerk in the Treasury Department and lived with Annie and the family. Dora died at home at 1104 18th Street, N.W., D.C. in November, 1896 and is buried with her husband. Friedrich died in May, 1914 at 433 H Street, N.W., D.C. and is buried at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in D.C.

My grandfather, Louis Frederick Ribnitzki, was born in July, 1897. By 1900, Minnie and Louis Ribnitzki were living at 1016 18th Street, N.W., D.C. Frederick W. and Minnie had a stillborn daughter in 1904. My granduncle, their son Frederick William, was born in May, 1906. In 1909, a real estate transfer to Frederick W., Sr. took place on November 27th, as follows: "Eighteenth Street Northwest—between K and L streets—Walter A. Johnston et al., trustees, to Frederick W. Ribnitzki, part original lot 20, square 107; \$2,810." By 1910, my great-grandfather Frederick, Sr., continued his trade as a tailor. They still resided at 1016 18th St., N.W. In 1919, Wilhelmina Dorothea (Minnie) died at age 45. In 1920, Fred. W., Sr. was a widower, and was living at 1104 18th Street, N.W. as a merchant tailor with his own business and on his own account. His sister-in-law, Bertha, also lived there with her husband, Louis Van Reuth, who was an insurance agent. My grandfather Louis was 22, and was a salesman for a Moving Picture Company. Fred Jr. was 13. Fred Sr.'s sister-in-law, Rosa Payne, was a manicurist, and a widow, and was living there, also. By 1930, Frederick, Sr., was married to Pearl Gill. They lived at 1829 K Street, N.W., D.C. In 1940, Fred, Sr., Pearl, and their son, Jack, age 16, were living at 5823 Sherrier Place, N.W., D.C. Fred, Sr. had become a liquor salesman with his own retail liquor store working on his own account, 60 hours per week, at age 72.

In 1950, Fred, Sr. was 82 years old living with wife Pearl, age 57, and their son Jack, age 26. Frederick was proprietor of his retail liquor store on his own account, and Jack was a clerk and salesman for the store. At this time, Jack was working 50 hours per week and Fred, Sr. was working 40 hours per week.

In March, 1956, Frederick William, Sr., died. Jack died in 1960 at age 36.

Pearl died in 1982. Frederick William, Wilhelmina Dorothea, Jack, and Pearl Ribnitzki are buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery (see headstone photo).

Adulthood

Did you come to D.C. as an adult? If so, what brought you here?

No, I did not come to D.C. as an adult. I was born here.

Where did/do you live in D.C. as an adult?

As an adult, I have lived in several places in D.C. After high school and a short time in my guardians' basement apartment in College Park, Maryland as an 18-year-old adult, I moved to D.C. to live in my divorced father's studio apartment, number 107, 1916 R Street, N.W., in the Dupont Circle neighborhood, while he lived with his girlfriend, Geraldine Sheffield, an accountant at the World Bank, at Winthrop House on Massachusetts Avenue nearby. She later moved to the newer Corcoran Mews. I moved out of D.C. to Kirkwood Apartments, and subsequently, to Castle Manor Apartments in Hyattsville, Maryland, and a student house on Calvert Road in College Park for several years, the latter two while I was working full time and attending the old University College at the University of Maryland in the evenings. I returned to

D.C. to live at apartment number 405, 2900 Adams Mill Road in Adams Morgan to be closer to my job downtown. I met my future husband there, where he also had an apartment, at a tenants' association meeting. After about a year, we moved in together to a larger apartment, number 315, at 2901 18th Street, N.W., the Park Crescent, not far from the other building, also in Adams Morgan. I began full-time college study at UMCP, and moved to Old Town College Park for one semester. I returned to the Park Crescent for another year. We went house hunting, and bought the house where we live now, at 1403 Monroe Street, N.E., D.C. We moved in at the beginning of 1987. My mother came to live with us in the basement in-law apartment for 21 years.

What was your first job?

My very first job as an 18-year-old adult was as a cashier at the ice cream shoppe in the College Park Shopping Center.

How did you choose your line of work?

When I started working following high school, my options seemed to be to work in a restaurant or in an office. I chose the latter to continue with, until I could afford to return to college full time for a bachelor's degree. I wasn't intending to stay in an office setting.

Did you serve in the military?

I did not serve in the military. I have previously worn the National Park Service uniform and badge as an interpretive park ranger, from 1992-94 and again in 2018.

Do you have a partner? How did you meet them?

Yes, I have a husband who was once divorced. He is not from D.C. I met him at a tenants' association meeting in our apartment building at 2900 Adams Mill Road, N.W., D.C. He asked me out to the 9:30 Club.

Where did you go on dates?

In D.C., by ourselves, we went to the 9:30 Club, to restaurants near where we lived in Adams Morgan including Millie & Al's, Mama Ayesha's, The Red Sea, and El Tamarindo, and later with mom to Connecticut Avenue, N.W. to The Roma Restaurant where she had been as a younger Washingtonian, with a couple visiting and staying with us from out of town to The Marrakesh, to The Red Sea with a group of my husband's co-workers before we were married, and many other places before and after becoming engaged.

How were you affected by large historical events (WWII, civil rights movement, 1960s counterculture)?

World War II had influenced my family, as there were veterans of that war who were survivors of it to tell stories about the war. The WWII generation, including my family members and my guardians and their families, believed in fighting for our country, and showed their patriotism and pride, so that I grew up feeling the same. I was influenced by my newly divorced mother in D.C. in my young childhood to feel free, such as learning the go-go dance, for example, in the early- to mid-1960s. I remember, first when living with my guardians in Old Town College Park,

in our house just off of U.S. Route 1 near fraternity row and behind the old fire house location, an event associated with the Vietnam War and civil rights. There was a continuing protest against students killed at Kent State for protesting expansion of the war by several thousand University of Maryland students and others in the middle of Route 1, blocking traffic. Tear gas was thrown by state police to disperse the crowd. Demands were made for withdrawal of the U.S. from the war and a national student strike organized, including ending repression of Black people and the Black Panther Party, cutting university ties with the military, and shutting down R.O.T.C. on campus. During high school in the mid-1970s, students in my public school in Norfolk, Virginia fought with each other over mandated busing for racial integration, although we had already been integrated in 1972 in public junior high school.

Did you participate in, or do you have any memories of any of the movements that came out of the 1950s, '60s, and '70s, such as the civil rights movement, the women's liberation movement, or the gay liberation movement?

In the '60s, when I was a child, when other girls were allowed to start wearing pants instead of a dress or skirt, I was not allowed to wear pants. So, there was some old-fashioned resistance in my guardians' home to the notion that girls could wear pants. Wearing pants was an expression of women's liberation. One of the boys in the neighborhood was transgender, and cross-dressed. My first cousin was gay.

What is the greatest challenge you have faced?

The greatest challenge I have faced is finding legitimate ways to have enough money, based on education and acquired skills, in a city that is expensive to live in.

What has been the best day of your life so far?

I guess the best day of my life so far would be college graduation.

Why live in D.C.?

D.C. has always had a lot of opportunity for good jobs. For me, there is also the memory of much of my mother's family who came before me and lived and died in D.C.

What's your favorite place in D.C. and why?

Home, and Rock Creek Park. I love my house. I also enjoy hiking in the woods as part of a holistic approach to reality.

How has D.C. changed since you've lived here?

There are a lot of newer, taller residential or mixed use buildings increasing the density of the built environment in the city in the past 10 years or so. A worker needs to have a very high salary to be able to apportion expenses to survive the cost of rent or mortgage in D.C. The cost of housing is prohibitive now. There were commonly more affordable rents in my earlier adult years, making it easier to live in the city. Were I to arrive as a young woman in the city today, I would not be able to afford my own apartment by myself, like I could before.

What were the biggest challenges living in D.C. growing up or as an adult and what are they now?

While I was growing up, I did not live in D.C., except during the early years through kindergarten. My neighborhood was nice. After kindergarten, I lived in a near suburb, College Park, that was part of a state, Maryland. The biggest challenges as a young adult after high school were learning to work full time to have enough of a salary for food, clothing, and shelter to live by myself. I also needed to be able to save so I could afford to return to college full time, since obtaining a bachelor's degree was an important goal for me. With a bachelor's degree, I felt that I would have more marketable skills, that I could make a higher salary, and that I should have a better, smarter network of associates, while becoming smarter and more studied myself. In addition, I gained 30 Master's hours in literacy education, anthropology, and environmental management. It continues to be a big challenge to have enough money for expenses. I have been able to spin off from full-time professional editorial work to freelance editorial work based at home. I have been able to create a more flexible schedule of my own, working on site at my part-time place of employment on days I choose to work. In semi-retirement I hope to continue to rely on my inbred sense of adventure, which allows me to find spiritual and physical renewal, challenging myself outdoors in nature. I also want to be able to afford a true vacation for personal fulfillment and mental, emotional, and physical health, which makes me a better person in the rest of day-to-day life.

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