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The Family History of Ethan D. Jewell

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The Family History of

Ethan D. Jewell

26 November 2019

Ethan Jewell authored this family history as part of the course requirements for HIST 550/700 Your Family in History offered online in Fall 2019 and was submitted to the Pittsburg State University **Digital Commons**. Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments: woestman@pittstate.edu

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A1a2b. Emmagene Toulson (1924-1985)

A1b1a. Daniel Jewell (1917-2004)

A1b1b. Maryellen Potter (1920-)

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A1a2b1. Elise Hitzemann (1898-Deceased)

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A1b1a2. Ruby Lizetta Lee (1885-1968)

A1b1b1. Earl Foster Potterton (1890-1965)

A1b1b2. Dorothy Marie Thomas (1895-Deceased)

A1b2a1. Charles Oscar Stenerson (1880-1958)

A1b2a2. Alma C Holman (1886-Deceased)

GENERATION ONE

Ethan Jewell (1998-) was born in Pittsburg Kansas on April 4th, 1998 to **Shaun Jewell (1968-)** and **Holly Jewell (1972-)**. He was born at 6:02 in the morning and was a week early. He was rather big compared to the average baby. Ethan was taken home on April 6th, and the next day April 7th, Shaun took Ethan to the opening of Bath Naylor crematory in Weir. This was his first time being outside the house.¹

He resided in the same home for 20 years before moving out for college. It was a yellow, two-story house with a basement. It had three bedrooms upstairs, and a living room and kitchen downstairs. Ethan's parents were not sure if he would be a boy or girl, so they painted his bedroom yellow because they thought it was a neutral color. Living outside of town, Ethan enjoyed country living; such as shooting air rifles off the back porch, walking to the nearby pond to go fishing, and running around outside with neighborhood kids without fear of local traffic and such². He attended elementary school at George Nettles, and because of the distance from the school, had to attend after school daycare till his parents could pick him up after work.

Ethan always felt that Pittsburg was the worst of a small town, and worst of a big town combined together³. Growing up near Weir, Kansas, with a population of about 700⁴, Ethan slightly envied the closeness of the community growing up. Also, frequently going to Tulsa and Oklahoma City to see his grandparents, he felt Pittsburg did not have a lot of activities compared to these two cities

Ethan grew up in Countryside Christian Church. His parents were not extremely dedicated to the Christian faith, but rather believed in treating everyone with respect and kindness. His mother Holly always volunteered in the Nursery, while Ethan would go to Sunday school. As he got older, he would

¹ Holly Jewell, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 02 September 2019

² Personal Knowledge of the author, Ethan Jewell

³ Ibid

⁴ "Weir, Kansas." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, November 20, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weir,_Kansas.

sneak out of Sunday School and go to Home Depot with his father⁵. Shaun's parents were very devout Christians, and constantly quizzed Ethan on his bible studies. At a young age, this made Ethan tend to resent the church, equating it to schoolwork. He believed he hated going to church and would fake sick so he could stay home at times. Though he did not like church, he was baptized September 16, 2008.

The early years of elementary school were difficult for Ethan. He had trouble sitting still in class and seem to have progressed much slower than the other children. He was also constantly put in timeout or told to sit out during recess. In third grade, Ethan's teacher, Mrs. Wilkes realized that Ethan had a problem and recommended that he be tested for ADHD. Ethan was diagnosed and medicated. From there, he progressed rapidly. After Graduating fifth grade, Ethan moved from Elementary School to Pittsburg Community Middle School.⁶

In sixth grade, Mrs. Westcott recognized Ethan's success and recommended Ethan for the honors program, to which he was accepted. Ethan continued to succeed, and around 7th grade, began to gain interest into the military. Ethan did not yet know what he wanted to do but began to feel an intense pull to a military career.⁷

This was mostly fueled by his admiration for his Grandfather, **John Michael Hitzemann (1946-)**, who was one of Ethan's biggest role models growing up. As a child, Ethan frequently played with little green army men, and one of his favorite toys was a plastic aircraft carrier with little metal planes. Though he did not know it at the age of six, these catalysts would lead to his military service.

While he was restless, Ethan was not the most active child. He played soccer, but did not follow it into middle school. Ethan's best friend at the time took dance classes, so Ethan took them as well. These dance classes were more centralized around tap and ballet. While Ethan did not love these classes, he continued with them for three years. He was also involved in many plays and musical programs that were not associated with the middle school. One of his most memorable roles was Oz from the Wizard of Oz,

⁵ Personal knowledge of the author, Ethan Jewell

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

where he had a whole song dedicated to his solo. But for most of the play, he stood behind a screen and did not have to do a lot of dancing. Ethan was not very active physically in soccer as he was a defender, so he did not have to run up and down the field like the other kids. Ethan did not enjoy physical activity and was a bigger kid than most.⁸

Starting high school, Ethan was the last person one would think of joining the military. He was not athletic, and his extracurriculars included Tenor in choir and Saxophone in band. But Ethan knew that it was what he wanted. He started going to the gym with a personal trainer to get in shape. Around sophomore year of high school, Ethan found out about ROTC, and how he could get a commission in the United States Army. Ethan had not been interested in college, but his mother had insisted on it. Ethan began working tirelessly for this goal, even waking up at 4 a.m. in the morning to run 3 to 4 miles before high school started. Junior year was a bit of a disappointment for Ethan. He became slightly apathetic to classes and began wandering through the hallways of Pittsburg High School when he should have been in class.⁹

While in High School, Ethan joined a program out of South East Highschool called Civil Air Patrol. Civil Air Patrol was apart of the United States Air Force, but with no JROTC units around, Ethan made the best of the situation. While the standards of the PT test were lower than those he would have to achieve in the Army, it gave Ethan a chance to start practicing to the standard. While he had not been there long, his aspirations saw him quickly climb through the ranks in the unit, which gave him more leadership within the organization. The minimum age to join Civil Air Patrol was twelve years old, but most of the kids in the unit were around fourteen years old¹⁰. Ethan at the time was closer to the age of sixteen, but he studied hard to pass the kids who had been in since they were twelve.

⁸ Personal knowledge of the author, Ethan Jewell

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ “How Old Do I Have to Be to Join?” Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters. Civil Air Patrol, November 23, 2017. <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/join/youth-in-cadet-program/cadet-faqs/how-old-do-i-have-to-be-to-join>.

He applied for multiple schools within the program, having to drive to Saline to interview against other Civil Air Patrol units within the State. He earned a slot to National Blue Beret, which is a prestigious school, teaching flight marshaling, and emergency service skills. The culminating event is assisting in EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. It is considered one of the largest air shows in the world, with hundreds of people flying in from across the country.¹¹

Another school that Ethan was accepted to was Hawk Mountain Ranger School, which was a premier search and rescue school¹². Attending the school at the age of sixteen, Ethan reflects that it was the hardest thing he had done up to that point in his life. Ethan had not been away from his parents for more than a week and had never truly ventured outside Kansas.

HMRS is hosted by the Pennsylvania Civil Air Patrol in the Blue Mountains. It is a fourteen-day course, where rain or shine, there is no interaction with civilization. When Ethan went through, the students were only offered two opportunities to shower. Other than that, they slept outside and were not allowed in any buildings. Ethan remembers one night there was a large storm. Ethan was so tired he slept through most of it. He shared a four-person tent with six people. Ethan was lucky enough to be sleeping at the top of the hill, but the three students sleeping at the bottom woke up in a pool of water.¹³

Seven days into the course, the students left their base camp and began hiking trails in the mountains, sleeping under the stars and refining their skills in search and rescue and wilderness survival.¹⁴ This course was difficult for the sixteen-year-old, pushing him outside his comfort zone. After this experience, three-day field training exercises with ROTC were child's play for Ethan.

As senior year approached, Ethan grew more excited. He could see the light at the end of the tunnel and was ready to start ROTC. In the spring of senior year, everyone was ready to graduate, but that

¹¹ "National Blue Beret." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, August 27, 2019.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Blue_Beret.

¹² "Hawk Mountain Ranger School." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, September 1, 2019.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawk_Mountain_Ranger_School.

¹³ Personal knowledge of the author, Ethan Jewell.

¹⁴ Ibid

was when tragedy struck the school of about 697¹⁵. A senior in Ethan's class was killed in a car accident. He was a big figure in the school, everyone knew his name, and his untimely death took everyone by surprise. He was extremely popular in the theatre and music departments, and while they were not extremely close friends, it rocked the departments Ethan called home.¹⁶ But the school carried on, and the 191 members of class 2016 graduated on the 21st of May¹⁷.

The summer of 2016 was very long as Ethan waited to start ROTC. For the last three summers, Ethan had worked at Highland Park Cemetery as a groundskeeper of sorts. He would mow, and weed-eat, as well as picking up trash and digging holes when necessary. But this year, he was promoted to work at Bath-Naylor Funeral Home. This job was much easier, consisting of taking care of the funeral vehicles and running general errands for the funeral directors.

Ethan started college at Pittsburg State University in August of 2016, with only one goal in mind, receive a commission in the United States Army through ROTC. Unfortunately, this meant that Ethan had to earn a degree and had no idea what he wanted to major in. All through high school Ethan had wanted to be a sheriff or student resource officer (SRO) once he retired from the military. But when discussing this goal with Pittsburg Highschool's SRO, he pointed out that if Ethan was injured in his military career, it would be very difficult to come back and conduct police work. Ethan decided he would be a teacher, but was not really sure what he would teach. He had been interested in History in high school, and figured he could learn more about military history, so he chose a major in History with an emphasis in teaching. But as ROTC began taking up more of his time, he realized that he would have to graduate late in order to earn his degree. This was unacceptable to him since he figured he would not be using his major anyway, so one final time he switched his major to a strict history major. While this major did help him prepare papers for other classes; Ethan at times found it a difficult major, more so when he looked around and

¹⁵ Musselman, Gary P. "Football Classifications and Enrollments." *Football Classifications and Enrollments*. Topeka Kansas, KS: KSHSAA, 2015.

¹⁶ Personal knowledge of the author, Ethan Jewell.

¹⁷ "Area Graduation Ceremonies Scheduled." May 12, 2016. <https://www.morningsun.net/news/20160512/area-graduation-ceremonies-scheduled>.

realized how much everyone else loved their majors. But Ethan endured in order to earn his commission.¹⁸

In November 2017, Ethan made the decision to enlist into the Kansas National Guard, 2-137th Infantry regiment, Charlie Company (Chaos), in order to gain experience in an Infantry company. At the time, he was paying for school and thought the extra \$300 a month would not hurt.¹⁹ Five months later, the state of Kansas passed 100% tuition assistance, alleviating Ethan from having to work full time to make it through college.²⁰ Ethan enlisted under the Simultaneous Membership Program, which meant that he was a cadet serving in a unit and shadowing a second Lieutenant. Unfortunately, at the time, Chaos company was deployed to Kuwait, leaving only about 40 people in the unit. There was no Lieutenant to shadow, so Ethan began filling the role as much as he was able to, gaining valuable experience in the admin work of an Infantry company. While it was not extremely exciting, Ethan made the best of the situation, asking senior sergeants in the unit opinions about the military, and how they viewed his role in the unit. At first it was not positive, but the unit slowly warmed up to the young, starry-eyed cadet, and began to mentor him.²¹

Ethan, not forgetting about his religious roots, found that ROTC had a bible study and began attending. Though he mostly went for the social aspect, Ethan began to feel somewhat empty and at the end of sophomore year, decided to take the summer off, to try to explore religion and meditate on what he believed in. As this was going on, he had also received a slot to the coveted Air Assault School in Ft. Benning, Georgia for July 2018. Little did Ethan know that this would be a pivotal point in his life.²²

¹⁸ Personal knowledge of the author, Ethan Jewell.

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Carpenter, Tim. "Jeff Colyer Signs Kansas National Guard Tuition Reform Bill, Urges Legislature to Expand Funding." The Topeka Capital-Journal. The Topeka Capital-Journal, April 4, 2018. <https://www.cjonline.com/news/20180404/jeff-colyer-signs-kansas-national-guard-tuition-reform-bill-urges-legislature-to-expand-funding>.

²¹ Personal knowledge of the author, Ethan Jewell.

²² Ibid

Air Assault school is regarded as the ten toughest days in the Army and has about a 50% drop out rate. In Air Assault School, there are three phases that must be passed to graduate. Phase one is helicopter knowledge, with a 6-mile ruck march ending with 100% equipment, halfway through. Phase two is known as sling loads and is the most failed phase of the course. Phase three is repelling, ending with a 12-mile ruck march on graduation day.²³ This pressure was not lost on Ethan, and everything that could go wrong seemed to go wrong. Before the school even started, Ethan was almost kicked out because his medical records were wrong, but after meeting with the PA, was signed off to continue the school. The first challenge for Ethan was the 6-mile march. Ethan knew he was good at rucking, and 6 miles was a piece of cake, but when it came time for the inspection, Ethan realized that his dog tags were no longer around his neck. He began to fear that they had fallen off while he was rucking and assumed he would be dropped from the course as soon the cadre checked him. Ethan began patting himself down fearing the worst, but found that his dog tags, by some miracle, had landed in his shorts and not fallen out while he was running. Ethan thanked his lucky stars, but this was just the beginning.²⁴

The next mountain was sling loads. The day before the final test, Ethan was failing every practice test. It was a Sunday, and the school cadre asked if anyone wanted to go to church. Ethan remembered thinking he had nothing to lose, so he went. In the service, the Chaplain discussed how our life is in God's hands and there was little we could do to affect his plan. This gave Ethan comfort as he went back to the barracks and prayed that night. The day of the test arrived, and Ethan had two minutes to find four deficiencies on different sling loads. On his last load, he was struggling to find his last one. The graders started counting down from five. When he reached two, Ethan found his last deficiency. Out of the class of 200, he was one of 50 that passed the first time. Ethan felt his faith had been tested, but he still had no idea what was to come.²⁵

²³ "United States Army Air Assault School." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, November 4, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army_Air_Assault_School.

²⁴ Personal knowledge of the author, Ethan Jewell.

²⁵ Ibid

Ethan passed the repel phase with ease, the only thing left in his way was the 12-mile ruck. The course was three miles long. In order to prove that you completed the full twelve miles, candidates were given items at each turnaround point. At the 3-mile, candidates were given a golf tee, at the 6 mile a poker chip, and at the 9 mile, they were given their Air Assault badge to carry to the finish line. Ethan cleared the 6 miles with ease but about a mile out he heard someone yell, “you dropped your poker chip.” “That can’t be me,” Ethan thought but decided to check anyway. It was his poker chip. It was two in the morning on an unlit road and Ethan had dropped his poker chip. Ethan began panicking. He sprinted back, trying to ask everyone he could if they had seen his poker chip. About 100 meters back, Ethan had stopped asking, vigorously trying to return to the 6 miles to get another poker chip. As he was running, his friends stopped him, wondering why he was going the wrong way. Ethan explained the situation and one of them immediately volunteered to help look. Right then, another looked down at his feet and saw a poker chip right at his foot. For the rest of the 12 miles, Ethan reflected on his plans for summer and how they had been answered in less than 10 days. For the last three miles, Ethan walked with another student, motivating each other and talking about how excited they were to graduate. But they may have counted their chickens too soon. Finishing together, they set up next to each other to complete their equipment inspection. Everything was going great until the last item was called, and the other student realized he did not have it. Ethan, having already been inspected, tossed the student his, giving the student his final go. Ethan reflected later that if he had not found his chip, the other student may not have graduated.²⁶

Ethan returned to school that fall with a better understanding of himself and started attending a bible study at Trinity Baptist Church every Wednesday. This is where he met Marissa, who helped encourage him to study further. They began spending more and more time together. On October 10th, 2018, Ethan finally asked her on a date. Marissa loved dancing, and his middle school classes finally paid off.²⁷

²⁶ Personal knowledge of the author, Ethan Jewell.

²⁷ Ibid

School was uneventful that year, but summer of 2019 rolled in and Ethan had multiple training events lined up. First, he traveled outside the country to Latvia, a small country off the Baltic Sea. There, Ethan had the opportunity to cross train with not only Latvian forces, but also the NATO Soldiers that were training there at the time. This was the first time Ethan had travelled outside the US, and he realized that he wanted to travel. The Second pivotal moment that summer was the time he spent in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was there job shadowing Officers in the 2-319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, and the 2-325 Airborne Infantry Regiment within the fabled 82nd Airborne Division. While he was there, he gained outstanding mentorship, as well as an admiration for these paratroopers. Ethan knew that he wanted to be a paratrooper and found out he could have the best of both worlds. When he returned to school fall of 2019, he placed a request to be stationed with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Italy. When branches came out November 13th, 2019, Ethan learned that he would finally be living his dream, and commissioning as a United States Army Infantry Officer, once he graduated college. He was one step closer to reaching Italy.²⁸

²⁸ Personal knowledge of the author, Ethan Jewell.

GENERATION TWO

A1a. Holly Hitzmann (1971-)

A1b. Shaun Jewell (1971-)

Holly Hitzemann (1971-) born August 12th, 1971 in Kingfisher, Oklahoma, with her twin sister **Amy Barnhisel (1971-)**. She always bragged that she was the older of the two, though it was only by 6 minutes. She grew up in a suburb of Oklahoma City called Bethany with her parents **Carol Virginia Ross (1949-)** and **John Michael Hitzemann (1946-)**. In the 1970s, Bethany had a population of 22,694. It was originally started by a community of the Church of the Nazarene, but Holly and her family were not extremely religious²⁹. While Bethany is a rough part of town now, Holly remembers walking to middle school without any fears.³⁰

They lived in a small, one story house. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living room, and a very small kitchen. It was not a lot, but they lived comfortably. Holly reflects that she had a very sheltered life growing up and had a rather reserved personality. She never broke or fractured any bones as children usually do. Her and her sister were regarded as teacher's pets because their dad was a teacher at the school. Holly remembers running through the hallways before and after school, playing hide and seek, as well as other games with the other teachers' kids. They would also go into the teacher's lounge and other areas normally forbidden within the school.³¹

The Hitzmann family usually had only one or two small animals at a time, consisting of cats, dogs, and guinea pigs. Holly's father was a science teacher at the local high school, and she remembers watching his class pets over one Christmas break. There were two guinea pigs, and Holly and Amy were both tasked with watching one. Naturally as siblings, they made it into a competition. Holly named hers Squibbles and remembers constantly feeding the guinea pig and giving it treats, though most of the time it

²⁹ "Bethany, Oklahoma." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, November 5, 2019.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethany,_Oklahoma.

³⁰ Holly Jewell, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 02 September 2019

³¹ Holly Jewell, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 02 September 2019

slept during the day. She tried to teach Squibbles tricks, but he was usually unresponsive. The end of Christmas came, and the girls had to figure out which guinea pig loved their caretaker the most. They made a track out of a cardboard box with the plan of calling to the guinea pigs. The first one to come to the owner would win. The day came when Mike was ready to take the guinea pigs back to school. They set the guinea pigs at the starting lines. Their parents watched, amused as the two twelve-year-old girls started yelling at their guinea pigs. As expected, neither guinea pig came to their name, but Holly assumes she won because Squibbles did not fall asleep like Amy's guinea pig did.³²

High School was fairly uneventfully for Holly, but she graduated in 1989 and decided to go to college at Central University of Oklahoma. She started college in the fall of 1989 to become an Occupational Therapist. She met **Shaun Jewell (1969-)** near the end of fall semester of 1991 in her Anatomy class. Her lab partner's boyfriend was Shaun's roommate at the time, and they set them up together. Within a few months, they knew it was meant to be. Holly earned her Associates in 1991, and though she was on the alternate list of Oklahoma University Medical School, she dropped out and moved to Siloam Springs, Arkansas with Shaun. While she was there, she received her Insurance license with State Farm.³³

In April 1995, Holly was in Dallas, Texas helping her grandfather **David Ross (1921-1996)** after the death of **Virginia Carter (1924-1993)** move, when she heard on the radio that the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building had been hit by a car bomb killing 168.³⁴ The bombing was committed by Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, in retaliation to the federal government and actions that had taken place by the FBI in Waco.³⁵

³² Ibid

³³ Ibid

³⁴ Gumbel, Andrew. "Oklahoma City Bombing: 20 Years Later, Key Questions Remain Unanswered." The Guardian. Guardian News and Media, April 13, 2015. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/apr/13/oklahoma-city-bombing-20-years-later-key-questions-remain-unanswered>.

³⁵ "Oklahoma City Bombing." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, November 24, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma_City_bombing.

Fearing the life of her family, who lived 20 miles away from the building, she called frantically, but was not able to get through do to overload of phone service in Oklahoma City. While contemplating leaving her grandparents and making the three-hour drive, her sister finally called to let them know that they were all right. This was the first time Holly had been truly terrified, but she was hopeful that this would be the last time anything like this would happen.³⁶

In March 1997, Shaun found a better job opportunity in Pittsburg, Kansas. Though Holly loved Arkansas, she moved with him. Unfortunately, her insurance license would not reciprocate in Kansas, so she made her final career change to Kansas Legal Services. They lived in a little One-bedroom pink house on 23rd street, until their house was built outside city limits. This was the same house **Ethan Jewell (1998-)** would spend his first 19 years. Holly quickly fell in love with Pittsburg, and though other job opportunities came along, they ultimately stayed. One year later, their first son, Ethan, was born. There was a small debate in the Jewell household over how many kids they wanted. Shaun, growing up in a bigger family, wanted multiple children but Holly only wanted one.³⁷ While families of two or three children were common when Shaun and Holly were born, it was more common in 2000 to have one child. After seeing how much money and effort went into one child Shaun agreed that one was enough³⁸.

Between raising Ethan, and at times Shaun, Holly wished at times she had a daughter to cook and watch movies with. Ethan would occasionally watch movies with her, but would quickly become distracted and run out of the room. But around Ethan's seventh birthday, Amy moved in one house down. She had two daughters, **Ky Barnhisel (2000-)** and **Emma Barnhisel (2004-)**. At a very early age, Emma would always come down to Holly's house, sometimes without Amy knowing. Holly and Emma quickly formed a close relationship. As much as Holly loved her son, she was happy to also have a daughter.³⁹

³⁶ Holly Jewell, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 02 September 2019

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ 1. Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 89

³⁹ Holly Jewell, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 02 September 2019

Holly loved being a mother. She was a very kind woman who always wanted to take care of people. She volunteered in the church nursery for six years. These kids usually ranged from 4 to 6. Many of them were crestfallen to leave her bible study, insisting that they wanted to stay one more year. She would always bring snacks for the children such as goldfish crackers. If they kid asked for more she would always give more. But her kindness did not stop there. She was the mother that always made cookies and other treats when her kid's friends would come over. Emma would bring her friends over because she knew Aunt Holly would drop what she was doing and fire up the oven as soon as they stepped through the door. When Ethan was in college, the family agreed to have family dinner every Sunday. Ethan would occasionally bring friends over, one time reaching up to eight extra people to feed. Holly made extra cookies and sent everyone home with a baggie of treats. If Ethan had a meeting after dinner, she would send him with a plate of snacks for the other students at the meeting. Holly thinks she has not had a very exciting life, but she has impacted the next generation immensely with her kindness.⁴⁰

Shaun Jewell (1969-) was born in Dodgeville, Wisconsin to **Richard Jewell (1943-)** and **Jan Christainson (1946-)**. Shaun grew up on his family's farm in Mineral Point with his two sisters **Michelle Jewell (1962-)** and **Janelle Johnson (1964-)**. Mineral Point was a small mining community and the third oldest city in Wisconsin. At the time its population was about 2,300.⁴¹ Shaun loved every second of it. Shaun was already getting into mischief at a young age. Michelle and Janelle loved messing with their little brother. They would treat him as a life-sized doll, dressing him up in different outfits and making him have tea parties. But Shaun wanted to be out on the farm. The girls would take turns watching Shaun. One day Michelle was watching Shaun when she realized he was no longer in the room. She and Janelle looked all over the two-story farmhouse for Shaun. They began to panic but were terrified of calling their

⁴⁰ Personal knowledge from the author, Ethan Jewell.

⁴¹ "Mineral Point, Wisconsin," Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, August 12, 2019, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mineral_Point,_Wisconsin.

mom. They looked all over the yard and still could not find him. They finally checked the barn where they found Shaun sitting on one of their tractors pretending to drive. At the age of 5 everyone knew Shaun was going to be a farmer.⁴²

Shaun loved country life. Any second he was not helping around the house, he was fishing in the nearby creek or shooting cans with his BB gun. Shaun never swam as a child and hated it as an adult. This was because at the age of 7 his mother insisted that he take swimming lessons and he hated every second of them. They were during the evening which Shaun thought was the best time to go fishing. He also did not like his swim teacher, who was rather harsh with the kids. Her approach was to throw them in the pool and let them figure it out for themselves. He was okay when he had a flotation device on but when they came off, he still did not know how to swim, though the teacher assumed he did. She placed him in the pool where he sank like a rock. While Shaun did eventually learn how to swim, he never enjoyed it after that experience.⁴³

But hatred for swimming did not destroy Shaun's love for water, more specifically fishing. He would fish everyday he could after all of his farm chores were done. When Shaun was 10, he was running home to tell everyone how big of a fish he had caught. He always released because he wanted the opportunity to catch them again when they got bigger. In his excitement, he forgot that his father and him had started stringing the new barbwire fence along his normal path. He caught the fence in his Adam's Apple running as fast as he could. He slowed down after that and made it home. Unfortunately, only his sisters were home at the time. Because of his cut, Shaun was unable to talk, and his sisters became hysterical. Frantically they called their mom on an old rotary phone. When their mom answered it took them minutes to stop crying and explain that Shaun was bleeding. Their mom raced home and took Shaun to the hospital. Luckily nothing vital was wounded, and Shaun recovered his voice though he was left with a large scar on his neck.⁴⁴

⁴² Jan Christenson, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 17 September 2019

⁴³ Ibid

⁴⁴ Shaun Jewell, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 04 September 2019

Shaun loved animals growing up. He would always volunteer to help milk the cows and enjoyed playing with the chickens. He also had multiple cats and dogs growing up. But Shaun's most memorable pet was Rocky the Raccoon. When Shaun was 13 years old, he found an injured baby racoon behind their barn. Shaun wanted to bring it in, but his father told him to wait because its mom would probably come back. Shaun checked the racoon everyday and after the third day noticed it was starting to look thin. He rented a book from the school library to find what racoons liked. He started feeding the racoon. As winter grew near, he was worried about it freezing in the Wisconsin winter. His family agreed and let him bring it inside in a shoe box. Shaun, assuming that it was now a family pet, quickly named it Rocky after his favorite show "Rocky and Bullwinkle." Shaun continued to take care of it all through winter, but as spring approached, Rocky was starting to get rather big. Shaun's parents feared that if it grew up with Shaun, it would become dependent and not able to function in the wild. Come April, they were able to talk Shaun into letting Rocky go. Though it was sad, Shaun understood that Rocky would be happier in the wild than in their house.⁴⁵

As much as Shaun loved living on the farm, it did not last forever. Once Shaun finished Middle School, his father left the farm and they moved down to Miami, Oklahoma for better job offers. Shaun was devastated to leave the farm and yearned to go back. He had earned his driver's license at 15 and would drive back to Wisconsin every summer to help his grandfather, **Daniel Jewell (1917-2004)**, on the farm. But these events were a reality check for Shaun. He realized that while he loved working on the farm, it was very costly to actually operate it. Some family friends convinced Shaun that the mortuary business was well paying and that he should pursue the career for the money. Shaun Graduated Miami Highschool in 1987 and began college at Central University of Oklahoma in Edmund pursuing a Bachelors in Mortuary Science.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ Shaun Jewell, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 04 September 2019

⁴⁶ Ibid

Shaun's family was very musically talented. His mother taught piano and both of his sisters sang as well. Shaun was no exception to this. He was not involved in a lot of high school extracurricular activities because of him helping his dad with his company, or farming, but Shaun was very involved with show choir. He did not like to dance unless it was the two-step, but everyone agreed that he was a good dancer. However, Shaun was an exceptional singer. He went to multiple state competitions in both middle school and high school. He even turned it into a second side job. In college, Shaun considered himself a professional singer, hiring himself out at weddings and other events. While he never made it big, many family, friends and residents of Dodgeville and Miami hired him to sing at their weddings.⁴⁷ Shaun has retired since then, and though he was a great singer, his wife Holly has never heard him seriously sing a song. He usually goofs around purposely singing off key or adding silly words to the song.⁴⁸

Shaun met **Holly Hitzemann (1971-)** in anatomy class and quickly fell in love. Holly remembers at the end of her first date, Shaun asked her three questions. Was she religious, what political party did she support, and were her parents still together? This was because Shaun's parents were extremely religious and Republican. Luckily, she answered the questions correctly and they were married in June 10, 1994. They moved to Arkansas where Shaun started work at Wasson Funeral Home in Siloam Springs, Arkansas.⁴⁹

Shaun quickly learned that the funeral business only pays well if you are the owner of the company and struggled with the hours and lack of pay. In 1997, he was offered better wages at Bath-Naylor Funeral Home in Pittsburg. He signed a contract putting him at salary pay rather than hourly, but also signed a non-compete contract. At the time it seemed like a good idea, but Shaun wished at times he could move out of Pittsburg.⁵⁰

⁴⁷ Jan Christenson, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 17 September 2019

⁴⁸ Holly Hitzemann, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 02 September 2019

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ Shaun Jewell, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 04 September 2019

While Shaun did not hate his job, he did not find it fully satisfying either. He worked every other weekend, and usually ended up working holidays as well. He did enjoy the funeral business because it gave him the opportunity to meet different people around town, as well as most local law enforcement and emergency responders. In 2007 a new door opened for Shaun. One night he had taken his son, Ethan, to the local Tropical Sno. There he saw one of the local Sheriffs, Jason O'Malley. Jason was only a part time Sheriff because he also had lots of work on his local farm. They were talking about farming and Jason casually joked that Shaun could come work for him any time. Shaun did not take farming as a joking matter and jumped on the opportunity. The next morning Shaun woke up at 5am to begin his new hobby. Jason was surprised to see Shaun on his doorstep but happily put him to work. Finally, Shaun was doing what he loved again.⁵¹

⁵¹ Shaun Jewell, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 04 September 2019

GENERATION THREE

Ala1. Carol Ross (1948-)

Ala2. John-Michael Hitzemann (1946-)

Alb1. Richard Jewell (1943-)

Alb2. Jan Christainson (1946-)

Carol Ross (1948-) was born on March 1, 1949 to **David Ross (1921-1996)** and **Virginia Carter (1924-1993)** in Tarrant County, Texas. Tarrant is a subsection of the Dallas-Fort Worth area. She had two sisters, and would have been the middle child, but both died at birth, her younger sister dying April 4th, 1952⁵². She grew up an only child and loved taking care of people. Her favorite gift was when she received a doctor's kit at the age of 6. She used to treat her stuffed animals and was clearly born to care for others.⁵³

She met **John Michael Hitzemann (1946-)** in Kingfisher, Oklahoma in 1966 while working for Mr. Pickens. They quickly fell in love and were quickly married a year later on October 20, 1968. Unfortunately, it was not long before her new husband left for basic training. At his basic training graduation, Carol saw some Army medics, and her dream of being a medical professional came alive again.⁵⁴

Carol used her husband's military benefits to help her through school and graduated from Oklahoma University in 1975, with a degree in nursing, though she had to take a small break in between with the birth of her two daughters. She quickly specialized in Neonatal nursing in Oklahoma City. She said she chose Neonatal in honor of her lost sisters. She loved every second of it until one fateful day.

⁵² "Texas Deaths, 1890-1976," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K3CY-4FG> : 13 March 2018), David M Ross in entry for Barbara Ann Ross, 04 Apr 1952; citing certificate number 20122, State Registrar Office, Austin; FHL microfilm 2,075,084.

⁵³ Carol Ross, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 06 October 2019

⁵⁴ *Ibid*

In 1979, Carol was working like any other day when she was buzzed that a woman was arriving by helicopter and having trouble with labor. Carol had yet to lose a child and raced to landing zone to receive the woman. The doctors performed a C-section and the baby was born very weak. Carol spent all night checking on it. But that morning the child lost the battle. Carol took it very hard. Some of the doctors, arguably not wanting to take the blame, said that it was the in-flight nurse who had failed the mother and child. Carol vowed to become a flight nurse and switched to Children's Mercy, joining their flight team.⁵⁵

Carol retired from Children's Mercy on March 3, 2016, taking a year off before becoming bored at home. She still had a craving for nursing. She began volunteering at the Ronald McDonald house on August 17, 2018.⁵⁶

John Michael Hitzemann (1946-) but went by Michael. He was born December 6, 1946 to **Hans Hitzemann (1921-2010)** and **Emmagene Tulson (1924-1985)** in Forestville, New York. He had one younger brother, **Peter Hitzemann (1950-)**, and one younger sister, **Beth Browker (1947-)**. They grew up in a 4-bedroom house. Though his father was German, Hans tried to avoid speaking German in the house, for fear of being discriminated against in the wake of WWII.⁵⁷

When Michael was in High School, he and Hans constantly fought. To relieve some of the tension, he would spend his summer vacation in Kingfisher, Oklahoma working on his Grandparents, **John J Toulson (1896-1967)** and **Vera Grace Miller (1903-1979)** farm. It was in Kingfisher where he met **Carol Ross (1948-)** and they quickly fell in love.⁵⁸

After graduating high school Hans wanted Michael to go to college. They argued, and Michael reluctantly went for two years. As a final act of rebellion against his father, Michael enlisted into the

⁵⁵ Carol Ross, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 06 October 2019

⁵⁶ Ibid

⁵⁷ Beth Browker, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 10 October 2019

⁵⁸ Michael Hitzemann, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 07 October 2019

Army reserves in 1969 as a truck driver. He started basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri later that year, but it was not what he expected.⁵⁹

His drill sergeants were extremely hard on the recruits. They had all served in Vietnam and had returned to the States with a form of shellshock. They constantly pushed the limits of what drill sergeants could do. They would wake their recruits up earlier than all the other recruits and make them run twice as far. They would make sure they “lost” the food from breakfast and continue to punish them throughout the day. They would do unethical things, such as make recruits steal items such as floor scrubbers and lie when officers would question them about it. They would throw artillery simulator grenades at the private’s feet while they slept, nearly blowing one kid’s feet off. At one point, they almost peer pressured a private to drive a truck off a cliff. After this incident someone finally reported the drill sergeants and they were quickly removed. While the replacement Sergeants were still hard on the recruits, no one had their feet blown off or were forced to steal items.⁶⁰

When his class graduated basic training, they were all sent to driving school, but Mike had been driving heavy machinery for years on the farm. Because of this he was given extra leave and was able to roam around while the other students were in school. While he was roaming Fort Leonard Wood one day, he stumbled into an officer recruiting office. He passed all of the tests and was recommended to be sent to Officer Candidate School.⁶¹

He was commissioned as a Field Artillery Officer. But there was one problem. Michael suffered from moderate dyslexia. Once he arrived at FA Basic Officer Leaders Course, he was quickly ruled below standard. To protect their numbers the Army sent Mike to the Marine Corps. The Marines quickly took him in as one of their own, and were hard but also very helpful, teaching him ways to calculate the angles. During one of their final exercises, Michael and a Marine lieutenant were practicing calling in artillery, and to prove they were sharp, they called it in on a monument outside their fire zone. A Colonel caught

⁵⁹ Michael Hitzemann, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 07 October 2019

⁶⁰ Ibid

⁶¹ Ibid

what they were doing just in time, and while they were chewed out, the leadership was impressed with their accuracy.⁶²

If Artillery was not hard enough, Michael later became a Logistics Officer. This was also his favorite job in the military because it challenged him. He would always make sure he triple checked his numbers before he sent them in. One time, a soldier in his sister unit sent in a request for a piece to a gas mask. Unfortunately, they misplaced a number in the ordering sequence and received a lot more than a gas mask. A week later a battleship anchor came onto post in place of the part to the gas mask. The sister unit's commander was flustered but Michael was able to contact some of his old friends in the Marines, who had friends in the Navy who needed an anchor. Michael never would have thought that his Marine training would be so useful.⁶³

While Michael was serving in the reserves, he was also a science teacher at Western Oaks Middle School in Bethany, Oklahoma. Because of his last name and the military regulations that would only let him grow a mustache, many of the students took to calling Mr. Hitzemann, Mr. Hitler. It also did not help that he was hard on his students. But they still respected him and usually enjoyed his class. He was also extremely unorthodox. He recalls a time when one of his students was mouthing off, he thinks to impress a girl. The student made the mistake of saying he could beat Mr. Hitzemann in a fight. Michael took him up on his offer and took the class outside. The 8th grader, a little stunned at what was happening, quickly backed down. While Michael was reported for trying to fight a student, he was given a slap on the wrist because the principal knew he had no actual intention of fighting.⁶⁴

Michael made it to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel before retiring in 2010, though he never thought he would have made it that far. A year earlier Michael was nearly kicked out of the Army for insubordination. He was in Fort Hood, Texas, participating in a training exercise with Active military personnel. They were in the field when a massive storm hit. Michael, realizing the severity of the storm,

⁶² Michael Hitzemann, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 07 October 2019

⁶³ Ibid

⁶⁴ Ibid

asked his commanding officer if he could bring the soldiers in, but the commander, who was cozy inside a stone building, denied his request. As the storm worsened, Michael began to fear the lives of these soldiers. Mike made the hard-right decision and ordered the men to return to the barracks. As they drove back, one of the trucks almost rolled over due to strong winds and precarious roads. When they returned, Michael's commander was furious and immediately placed Michael under house arrest for insubordination. Luckily, Michael had multiple high-ranking officers come to his aid, including Ft. Hood's Provost Marshal and the Brigade Commander of the unit he rescued. The commander claimed that they could not kick Michael out because he was slated to be his brigade executive officer. This was a position usually filled by Lieutenant Colonels, but Mike was only a Major at the time. The commander got his General friends involved, and Mike's commander quickly backed down. The brigade commander followed through with his promise and made Michael into his executive officer, promoting him to Lieutenant Colonel. Once he retired, he began pursuing a hobby in model trains and began working at a model train shop in Oklahoma City to support his newfound hobby.⁶⁵

Jan Christainson (1946-) was born December 16th, 1946 to **Mildred Stenerson (1916-1968)** and **Claire Christenson (Deceased)** in Dodgeville Wisconsin. She had one older brother **Jerry Christianson (1943-)** and grew up in a 3-bedroom house, South of Dodgeville.⁶⁶

Jan had a rather quite childhood. Her mother stayed at home raising her and Jerry, while her dad worked at the local cheese factory. Jan was very musically talented growing up. She started singing in Church at age 12, but also loved listening to Elvis. She also enjoyed playing her grandmother's (Alma Holman) piano when they would visit. She pursued her musical talents all the way into high school.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ Michael Hitzemann, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 07 October 2019

⁶⁶ Jan Christenson, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 17 September 2019

⁶⁷ Ibid

She met **Richard Jewell (1943-)** in Dodgeville Highschool in 1960 and fell in love almost instantly. They were married shortly after high school, and they had their first child, **Michelle Jewell (1962-)**. It was not long before **Janelle Johnson (1964-)** and **Shaun Jewell (1969-)** were born. Jan had to take on multiple jobs in order to help Richard support the family.⁶⁸

She started with small jobs, such as teaching swim lessons and piano. She was adamant that her children knew how to swim, especially Shaun, who she worried would drown while fishing. She also taught piano to multiple local kids. Michelle ended up enjoying the piano and started learning with her mother as well. These incomes helped but were not substantial to support Richard's farming and in 1976 she started a job as a secretary for a small real estate company.⁶⁹

In 1983, she moved with Richard down to Miami, where she again looked for work. She started working as a secretary for Richard's business, which inspired her to go to school in 1990. She started attending classes at North Eastern Oklahoma A&M for a business degree, but before she could finish, they moved to Olathe in 1992 for better opportunities in the construction business. By then, Richard's business was beginning to die down as he aged, so Jan began working at Olathe Medical Center in 1998. In 2001, Jan was diagnosed with Fibromyalgia and had to quit working entirely. She was okay with this and began traveling with Richard on his sales trips.⁷⁰

Richard Jewell (1943-) was born February 6th, 1943, in Dodgeville Wisconsin to **Daniel Jewell (1917-2004)** and **Maryellen Potter (1920-)**. He was the oldest of four siblings. He had a younger brother **Jim Jewell (1944-)**, and two younger sisters, **Gloria Jewell (1946-)** and **Anne Jewell (1947-)**. They lived

⁶⁸ Jan Christenson, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 17 September 2019

⁶⁹ Ibid

⁷⁰ Ibid

in a Three-bedroom farmhouse. Because of the lack of space, Jim and Richard had to share a bedroom, as well as Gloria and Anne. While they occasionally fought, Jim and Richard got along for the most part.⁷¹

Richard was always his dad's favorite because he enjoyed working on the farm. Jim was usually more interested in reading books, but Richard loved being outside. By the age of 12, he was already driving the smaller tractors with his dad. By the age of 15, he was able to basically run the whole farm by himself. While Jim did not enjoy it, he would help, but Richard was a farmer through and through.⁷²

He attended Dodgeville High School in 1958. This was a big time for Richard. He was heavily involved in High School. He was in show choir, which at the time was a mixture of singing and dancing. This is where he met his wife **Jan Christainson (1946-)**. She was a freshman when he was a junior, but he fell for her instantly. He would always ask to be partners during practice, and because they had good chemistry, the teacher would usually pair them up together.⁷³

Richard also was involved in track. His favorite event was the one-hundred-meter dash. He was also very good at it. During his senior year, he was sent to the state competition. All of his family came to cheer him on. His grandparents were so proud of him that they bought him a large Coke before the race. The family usually did not encourage soda, but this was Richards big day. He had seen the other racers times and was confident that he could beat them. He knew deep down that he was going to win! He finished his soda and headed to the starting blocks. He got in position. "BANG"! The starting pistol went off. Richard flew off the blocks getting a lead on all the other competitors. But he started to feel funny. His stomach was not taking to the soda. As he neared the finish line, another kid bolted right in front of him. He lost first by point two seconds. To this day he believes that he would have won, had it not been for that soda.⁷⁴

⁷¹ Richard Jewell, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 17 September 2019

⁷² Richard Jewell, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 17 September 2019

⁷³ Ibid

⁷⁴ Ibid

Once he graduated High School, he went back to working on the family farm. The Jewell Farm had been in the family for four generations and had won multiple awards at the county fair⁷⁵. The farm was started by Fredrick Jewell in 1840 and had stayed in the family for the past 100 years.⁷⁶

While Richard and his children loved the farm, differences between him and his father lead to him leaving. Daniel Jewell wanted to expand the farm and continue the empire, but Richard thought it was best to keep the farm the same size and focus on what they had before expanding. In 1983, Richard left the farm to pursue better job offers. At that time, the farming industry was dying out. According to a *Century of Difference*, the farming industry had gone from over 10% of the active population to almost 1% in the 1980s⁷⁷. It was a matter of time before the farm went under, and in 1989, Daniel could not afford farming and began renting out land.⁷⁸

Once down in Miami, Oklahoma, Richard started his own company, Tri Valley Builders. While most of his business was in Tulsa, Tri Valley took him all over the states. While Shaun helped during the school year, he did not have much interest in construction. His daughter Michelle, while not interested in construction, went to college to study business so she could take over the business. In 1998, Richard realized he was getting too old to continue working in construction, so he took a job as a sales representative for Beeline heavy equipment. He stayed for 11 years before retiring for good in 2012.⁷⁹

⁷⁵ *Iowa County democrat. [volume]* (Mineral Point, Wis.), 03 March 1921. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86086852/1921-03-03/ed-1/seq-2/>>

⁷⁶ "Wisconsin, County Naturalization Records, 1807-1992," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L93Z-XZFY?cc=2046887&wc=M56D-RMZ%3A350574101%2C350579601> : 22 May 2014), Iowa > Declarations of intention 1840-1945 vol 2 > image 173 of 194; State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison.

⁷⁷ 1. Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 109

⁷⁸ Richard Jewell, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 17 September 2019

⁷⁹ Ibid

GENERATION FOUR

A1a1a. David Ross (1921-1996)
A1a1b. Virginia Carter (1924-1993)

A1a2a. Hans Hitzemann (1921-2010)
A1a2b. Emmagene Toulson (1924-1985)

A1b1a. Daniel Jewell (1917-2004)
A1b1b. Maryellen Potter (1920-)

A1b2a. Mildrid Stenerson (1916-Deceased)
A1b2b. Claire Christainson (Deceased)

David Ross (1921-1996) was born in Fort Worth, Texas on July 21 to Frank Ross. He was a very quiet and reserved man. Even his daughter, Carol, said all she knew was that he sold insurance and played golf.⁸⁰

David was drafted into the Army October 13th, 1942.⁸¹ He was with the 69th Infantry division 271st regiment and saw some time in Germany.⁸² He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant before being honorably discharged after the war. David passed away and was buried October 6th, 1996, in Greenwood Memorial Park and Mausoleum.⁸³

Virginia Carter (1924-1993) was born in Mount Vernon, Ohio to James and Ethel Carter. She moved to Hattiesburg, Mississippi in 1943 to become a telephone operator. While she was there, she met

⁸⁰ Carol Ross, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 27 October 2019

⁸¹ "United States World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KMNS-64P : 5 December 2014>), David M Ross, enlisted 13 Oct 1942, Dallas, Texas, United States; citing "Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File, ca. 1938-1946," database, *The National Archives: Access to Archival Databases (AAD)* (<http://aad.archives.gov> : National Archives and Records Administration, 2002); NARA NAID 1263923, National Archives at College Park, Maryland.

⁸² "69th Infantry Division (United States)." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, November 8, 2019. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/69th_Infantry_Division_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/69th_Infantry_Division_(United_States)).

⁸³ Carol Ross, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 27 October 2019

David Ross (1921-1996) as he was at Camp Shelby for training. They quickly fell in love and were married in February 26th, 1944.⁸⁴

Virginia was a very bubbly woman, and she entered every contest she could and usually won. She would play to win, entering as many times as she was able to. One of her most memorable contests was the Coca-Cola IT pop tab contest, where the prize was a bright red Jeep Cherokee. She had no need for the car but wanted to win. **Holly Hitzemann (1971-)** thinks she did not know what the prize was, but what she does remember is having to dig to the bottom of a trash can to get a tab for her grandmother. When Virginia won the Jeep, she gave it to **Amy Barnhisel (1971-)** and Holly when they turned 16.⁸⁵

She also clipped every coupon she could find. She had full scrap books dedicated to specific stores. She would not buy anything unless she had a coupon for it. Holly remembers going to Jack-In-The-Box and wanting a hamburger, but she had to settle for chicken fingers because Virginia did not have a coupon for hamburgers.⁸⁶

Virginia passed away and was buried October 27th, 1993 in Greenwood Memorial Park and Mausoleum.⁸⁷

Hans Hitzemann (1921-2010) was born March 10, 1921 to **Emil Hitzemann (1895-Deceased)** and **Lisbeth Hitzemann (1898- Deceased)** in Hanover, Germany. In 1926, him and his mother reached Ellis Island with his father arriving shortly after.⁸⁸ He graduated from Kenmore High School in 1939.

⁸⁴ Carol Ross, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 27 October 2019

⁸⁵ Holly Hitzemann, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 27 October 2019

⁸⁶ Ibid

⁸⁷ "United States, GenealogyBank Obituaries, 1980-2014," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKWP-NVFC> : accessed 25 November 2019), Mrs Virginia A Ross, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, United States, 29 Oct 1993; from "Recent Newspaper Obituaries (1977 - Today)," database, *GenealogyBank.com* (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : 2014); citing *Daily Oklahoman, The*, born-digital text.

⁸⁸ "New York, New York Passenger and Crew Lists, 1909, 1925-1957," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KX MV-3Y9> : 12 March 2018), Hans Jochen Hitzemann, 1926; citing Immigration, New York, New York, United States, NARA microfilm publication T715 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

With WWII picking up, Hans voluntarily enlisted into the 353 Infantry regiment 89th division, New York National Guard in order to guarantee that he did not get drafted into the regular Army.⁸⁹

Once the war was over, Hans was honorably discharged from the National Guard and pursued a degree in Pharmacy, graduating from the University of Buffalo in 1949. He bought Forestville Drug Store from 1975 to 1985 retiring after.⁹⁰

Hans married twice. First to his wife **Emmagene Tulson (1924-1985)**, who birthed his three children. After her passing October 10th, 1985, He remarried **Frances Nelson (1930- 2009)** in 1986 and lived happily until her passing in 2009. Hans died a year later and was buried in Forestville Cemetery May 17th, 2010.⁹¹

Claire Christenson (Deceased), and his brother **Elmer Christenson (Deceased)**, changed the spelling of their surname before he married **Mildred Stenerson (1916-1968)**. No one knows why, or if it was done legally and no one knows the original spelling. Elmer never had children, but it made things very difficult for Claire's only son **Jerry Christianson (1943-)**, who no longer knows how to track his genealogy.⁹²

⁸⁹ Mike Hitzmann, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 01 November 2019, along with personal documentation

⁹⁰ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 25 November 2019), memorial page for Hans J. Hitzemann (10 Mar 1921–17 May 2010), Find A Grave Memorial no. 53247595, citing Forestville Cemetery, Forestville, Chautauqua County, New York, USA ; Maintained by Kathy Sloan (contributor 46775251) .

⁹¹ Ibid

⁹² Jan Christenson, Interview with Ethan Jewell, 10 November 2019

GENERATION FIVE

Ala2a1. John J Toulson (1896-1967)

Ala2a2. Vera Grace Miller (1903-1979)

Ala2b1. Elise Hitzemann (1898-Deceased)

Ala2b2. Emil Hitzemann (1895-Deceased)

Alb1a1. Irving Martin Jewell (1880-1961)

Alb1a2. Ruby Lizetta Lee (1885-1968)

Alb1b1. Earl Foster Potterton (1890-1965)

Alb1b2. Dorothy Marie Thomas (1895-Deceased)

Alb2a1. Charles Oscar Stenerson (1880-1958)

Alb2a2. Alma C Holman (1886-1963)