

Walk With Me – My Father

WALK WITH ME



By
HARRY BRILEY

Walk With Me – My Father

Chapter 3 – My Father and His Family

Revised 3/08/2022

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Chapter 3 - My Father and His Family

Calvin (Cal) Howard Briley
(b. 9/12/1924 Alpena, Michigan - d. 5/26/1986 Sunnyvale, California)

His Paternal History

Why bother with his history?

My father was an enigma. We three brothers held no sufficient fond memories to offset the unhappy memories. Even though each of us is responsible for our own life and faith decisions, knowing about his failings helped me detangle disjointed feelings about him.

My father most directly influenced me, positively and negatively. My mother was present and helpful, but the grist of my father over-wound my psychological clock.

I slammed the door on my pain with my father, until I had some "shoe on the other foot" pain with my own teenagers. In writing, I worked backwards in time and that meant a tremulous re-opening of that distant parental door. I planned to limit myself to one-page. "*Leave that stone unturned*" said I in 2002.

My initial goal was to understand those emotions. However, the mystery of my father's unknown backstory became engaging in itself as a detective search. With the lifting of the mystery, I could observe the relationship and document his story more impartially.

There was much more data on my father's family, largely through stories of loss, more sources, and the burned bridges of his own doing (perhaps reflective of an undiagnosed bi-polar disorder). The stories collected, while the possible mental illness aspects disturb me, help explain his unusual behaviors. He was a virtual stranger, a distant enemy, and yet showed some positive qualities. My cousins found him fun and humorous at times.

I want to give a fair but unvarnished backstory. This was not an attempt to get even or to settle scores, but an earnest attempt to see my father as he presented himself in the light of conflicting data. Part of the conflict was:

- how he perceived himself in reality (surmised from observations)
- how he told us he perceived himself (true or colored)
- how we as family members perceived him (biased or not)

Later chapters refer to some of this data, but the main analysis about my father occurs here. His past has colored the environment that affected my own thinking and life decisions. Many essential vignettes that follow help unravel the mystery.

Source Material

I cannot understand Calvin without source material about and from his family. These stories came from e-mail, letters, clippings, and genealogies. This partial history applies to Calvin, and thus presents only a few closely held stories beyond that limited scope.

I used proper names to avoid many confusing references between common relationships among significant relatives. Common family first names (Charles, Ella, Hubert, Carl, Mary, et al.) required further appellations to distinguish between generations.

While researching Calvin's backstory, his younger half-sister, Carla Gardner (b.1932) and his next older sister, Velma Schroeder (1922- 2001), wrote about their memories. Velma wrote at length in 1984 and Carla wrote in broader and deeper detail in 2010.

My cousins Patti (b.1956), Keith's daughter, and Joe (hereafter, Larry 1947-2018), Cleo's son, gave more details in 2011 of their families. Cousins Kurt Schroeder and Mark Schroeder told some of their perspectives in 2017. Cousin Lynn Schroeder added some vignettes in 2021. As noted, this chapter does not capture all extended family data.



Figure 1 - Patti Briley and Alpena Michigan Beacon - 8/2012

As a high school project in 1/1936, Clemma Lenehan (1918-2011) wrote a short family history as told by her dad, Edgerton Briley. Jane LaVigne updated a copy in 1989 using Loren Briley's (1903-1978) handwritten family history (2 volumes). At age 85, Clemma gave Carla a copy in 2003. Carla sent me her updated copy.

Sally Gave has the family Bible and the most extensive Briley genealogy, which I have not seen. Sally's father was Austin Briley (1906-1982), Carl's younger brother.

Reba Reed Bean (1903-2002) recorded what "*my mother Dora Reed (1878-1963) and my Aunt Ella Irwin (1873-1953) told me.*" Jo-Ellen Currie computerized it on 6/5/1987.

Jo-Ellen Currie assembled a genealogy into a large McKenzie family book with cemetery records, pictures, and marriages. Jo-Ellen's mother-in-law was Sharon Gardner. Sharon, the [niece] of Mary McKenzie [my grandmother], maintains the McKenzie records.

Allan and Sarah Briley of Ontario

The male line of the typical Briley genealogy begins with Allan Briley. No one has found many records for him except for what Allan told his sons. Carla and Sharon looked at all the ship records for the year of his foster parent's arrival in America. They found no entry for any leaving Manchester, England with their names.

Allan could not recall his birth parents or his surname spelling. Allan thought it might be BRIERLY, but listed it as BRILEY. Many families in England and Ontario spell their name as Briley. Thus, Briley, as a surname has explicit credibility. However, we do not know whether Allan's chosen spelling matched that of his birth parents.

Allan immigrated to Providence, Rhode Island from Manchester, England with his English foster parents, William and Sarah Aldred. Mr. Aldred worked in the Rhode Island woolen mills a few years before going onto Toronto as a hotelkeeper (farmer?)

The 1851 Canadian Census does not list Allan nor the Aldred family although many Briley families lived in Ontario. There are many Sarah Cummings and Sarah Cumming, but only one Sarah Cumming at age 16, who matches Dumfries of Brant County, born in Canada, and whose parents from Ireland were members of United Presbyterian. She had an older brother named Hance. When Allan was 22, he married Sarah Cumming, age 21, of South Dumfries, Brant County, Ontario on 2/8/1856 at Glen Morris, Ontario.

About 1865, Allan and two neighbors (Mr. Watson and Mr. Buchannan) went to California for four years mining and lumberjacking in the Redwoods. He used his proceeds to buy a farm for five years. He sold that farm to buy a general merchandise store, which failed. Allan registered with the Masonic Fraternity for over 40 years, meaning that he joined the Masons in Canada just prior to arriving in Michigan.

Both 1861 and 1871, Census of Ontario in the Perth District lists Allan as a farmer of English origin. The Census lists a Sarah, a year younger, of Irish descent. In the 1861 census, they lived in a new one-story log home built in 1858. Both were members of the United Presbyterian (Canadian Presbyterian in 1871) Church. The 1871 Census lists five children (Ellen 14, Thomas 12, William 7, Elizabeth 6, and E[d]gerton O as infant.)

Settlers first arrived in Listowel (North Perth) in 1852, named after Listowel, Ireland. Most early settlers were Protestant Irish. The Briley farm there was located halfway between Toronto and Alpena Michigan across Lake Huron. The railroad arrived in 1871, first elementary school in 1877, and first high school in 1880. It remains a rural area.

The Ontario census data became easily accessible on-line. In June 2019, I quickly traced the Allan and Sarah family status, which affirmed family-provided paper data as noted.

Allan Homesteads in Michigan

In spring of 1878, at age 44, Allan came alone to Port Huron. He wanted timberwork within the hardwoods. Allan took the train to the furthest city north, Gaylord, and then walked east and staked his claim for 121 acres near Hetherton (halfway to Atlanta).



Map 1 - Gaylord to Atlanta to Hillman to Alpena (mapquest.com)

He cut a trail through the ten miles of woods to his homestead, over which a team of horses brought supplies and a little lumber to build a shanty. He cleared ten acres of forest his first winter. In three years, he built a two-story log cabin and a small barn.

After its construction, he wrote for his wife and many children in Canada to join him. The east-west trail became Old State Road, about a half-mile from and paralleled Briley Road in front of his cabin. Both of these dirt roads intersected Meridian Line Road.

The 1871 Canadian Census now listed a William and Sarah Aldred, born in England, and retired at age 67. A few lines down, Sarah, age 43, and family remained in Ontario. Their large family mostly still lived at home (Thomas 22, Elizabeth 16, Edgerton 11, Hance 9, James 7, Maud[e] 5, and Annie 3.) They named Hance after Sarah's brother.

When the family arrived in 1882 (and became citizens in 1883), other homesteaders erected a schoolhouse a half mile from their home. Until then, children went to school in the original shanty Allan first built. The first Post Office was the Briley home.



Figure 2 - Allan and Sarah Briley

b. 4/10/1834 Manchester, England
d. 11/19/1915, age 81

b. 9/ 26/1836, Ontario, Canada
d. 12/5/1910, age 74



Figure 3 - Markers: Allan and Sarah, in Hetherton – 8/2012

I visited, photographed, and documented Allan’s still extant log cabin house in a 15-page monograph *Allan Briley 1878 Log Cabin*.

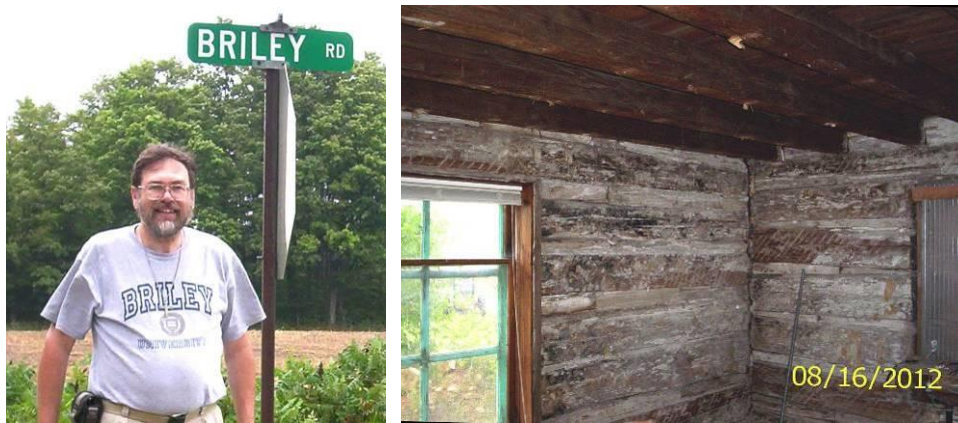
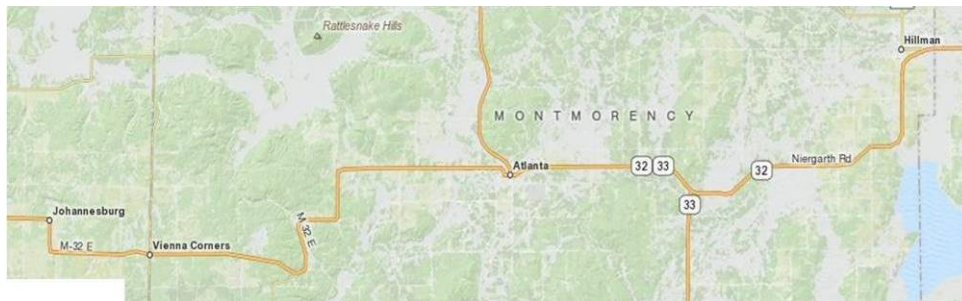


Figure 4 - 1878 Cabin on Briley Road, near Hetherton – 8/2012

Briley Township, Michigan

The first pioneers settled the area of Johannesburg, Hetherton, and Vienna. Newer homesteads settled eastward towards Atlanta. Persuaded by a few settlers, Allan organized Briley Township. On the map below, Atlanta is in the center. Johannesburg and Vienna Corners are west of Atlanta on Hwy 32 toward Gaylord. Hetherton (not shown) is a small hamlet near Vienna Corners. Carl Briley was born in Hetherton. Lewiston is southwest (not shown). Hillman is northeast on Hwy 32 to Alpena.



Map 2 - Johannesburg to Vienna to Atlanta to Hillman (mapquest.com)

Atlanta, Hillman, and Lewiston fought for the county seat. Vigilante folklore claims Lewiston men stole all the records from Hillman, and made Lewiston the county seat. Allan then stole and brought those records to Atlanta and no one dared confront him.

Instead, legislative records tell of a lawful democratic sequence. John Fedynsky in "Michigan County Courthouses" (page 134), UM Press, 2010 writes (edited):

The legislature organized Montmorency on 5/21/1881. Lewiston and [centrally located] Atlanta wanted to wrest the seat from outlying Hillman [on the east]. A vote to move the seat was defeated in 1887. With the help of Lewiston, Atlanta prevailed in 1893. Lewiston viewed Atlanta as a stop along the way for moving the seat [further west] to Lewiston. Waiting only a year, it won the vote in 1894 while Atlanta was constructing a courthouse. Fraud was uncovered and the vote of Albert Township thrown out. Atlanta narrowly hung onto the seat.

The County seat and Court House remain in Atlanta. Charles Powell (1848-1912) was the sheriff of Montmorency County when the county seat moved (by democratic vote) from Hillman to Atlanta. He appointed Jeremiah "Jerry" McKenzie as undersheriff, my grandmother's father.

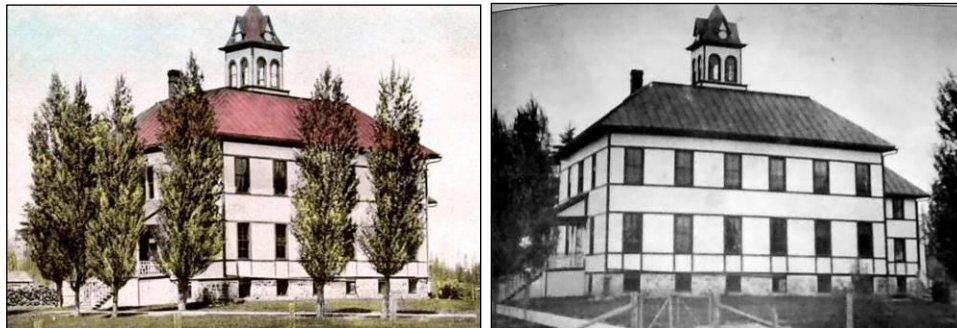


Figure 5 – County Courthouse 1895-1941

Left: Postcard (Source Unknown) – Right: 1940 (Jeff Wager, Trenton)

On 1/10/1942, the courthouse burned to the ground taking with it, as commonly believed, the vital records for family research. This opened conflicting human memories.

For example, Reba Bean (1903-2002) enthusiastically wrote:

Charles Powell was born in the old courthouse in Atlanta where his great grandfather was the first sheriff. The building burned when Charles was a few days old. His mother, Ruth Powell was carried from the burning building on a mattress, 1/1/1943.

The Bean dates were wrong for this episode. Ruth (b.1905) married in 3/1924 to Martin Powell (1905-1974), who was indeed the grandson of Sheriff Charles Powell (1848-1912). They bore five children, with a namesake Charles born in 1933. If people carried a woman out on a mattress in 1942, it was not Ruth with baby Charles.



Figure 6 - County Courthouse Fire (Cleo Briley 1/1942)

John Fedynsky, "Michigan County Courthouses" (page 134-135), 2010 (edited):

Fire burned the [Montmorency] courthouse on a cold and very windy 1/15/1942 at 5:30pm when the records were saved, only to be lost the following 4/1943 when the temporary [storage] facilities burned down. The fire started in the belfry and worked its way down the building frame. A newspaper surmised that burning soot ignited the dry birds nest and rotten wood up there.

The tunnel beneath the Community Center (which housed the local schools) was chosen [for the rescued records]. In 1/1943 [one year later], records of the local newspaper were lost to fire. In 4/1943, the community center burned.

The Montmorency County web site offered in 2013:

*The old County Courthouse burned in 1942 destroying the Prosecuting Attorney's records. After the fire, surviving records moved to the Community Hall. One year later, that building burned and with it all county documents--the **exceptions being Montmorency's birth, death and marriage statistics.***

[This means that our family vital statistical data are still available!]



Figure 7 - Briley Township Cemetery, Atlanta – 8/2012

Edgerton Briley

One of Allen's sons, Edgerton (1870-1942), lived on half the original homestead in the old log house built before the family's arrival. Edgerton (pronounced Edge-er-ton), and grandson Gordon (1920-2003) lived there until their deaths. When Gordon became wealthy from oil and gas wells drilled on the property, he continued to raise dairy cows and farm. Gordon later appeared to become somewhat of an eccentric with age. Joyce Briley, his wife, lived there until her death in 2007. Their younger son Clinton lives on and manages the dairy farm in Hetherton that hosts the Allan Briley log cabin.

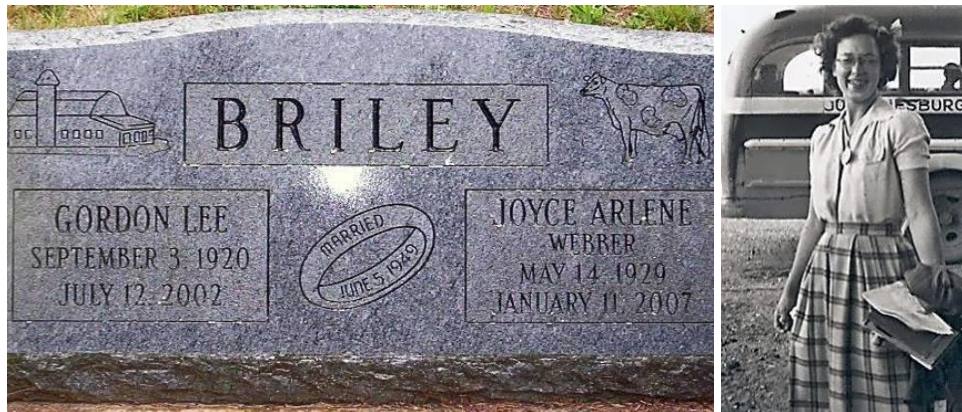


Figure 8 – Marker: Gordon /Joyce, Hetherton (8/2012) – Joyce as Student (1946?)

Patti Briley and I photographed historical pages for this branch of the family from Sarah's family Bible (1876 through 1950). While the Bible stayed within Edgerton's family, his younger brother Hance appears on the Memoranda page. Aside from a brief entry for James, none of the children of the other children of Allan and Sarah appears. It seems Edgerton and Hance, being close in age, kept the closest family ties as judged purely from their joint family presence in this Bible.

I documented this rarely seen family treasure in a 22-page monograph *Allan & Sarah Briley 1876 Family Bible*.

The children four generations from Allan share distinct facial traits and male-pattern balding. Patti and I connected with three of our cousins through Gordon and Joyce: Victor, Barton, and Clinton. Looking at Victor felt like looking in the mirror.



Figure 9 – Harry and Second Cousins: Victor, Barton, Clinton – 8/2012

Hance and Ella Briley

Hance Briley (1872-1942), Edgerton’s younger brother lived on the other half of Allan Briley homestead. He became a Probate Judge, a member of the County Poor Board, clerk of the Draft Board, and Postmaster of Atlanta.



Figure 10 - Ella Mosher and Hance Briley - Wedding 1891 - 50th Anniversary 1941

Hance married Mary Rose Ellen “Ella” Mosher (1872-1954) on 11/25/1891, both at age 19. Their four living children were:

- Harold (1892-1955)
- Carl (1894-1956) - My grandfather
- Faye (1902-1967)
- Austin (1906-1982)



Figure 11 – L-R: Ella, Carl, Faye, Harold, Hance - 1904

Hance owned the Atlanta Hardware, which housed the Post Office and at one time, a gas station. He sold the store to Carl who removed the gas pumps. Hance and Ella lived next door. Hance died one year after his 50th wedding anniversary.



Figure 12 - Atlanta Hardware



Figure 13 - Hance inside Atlanta Hardware - 1930's



Figure 14 - Carl (on right) inside Atlanta Hardware

Carl stands behind an electric Speed Queen wringer-washer of about 1935-1941 vintage based upon the handles on the cover.

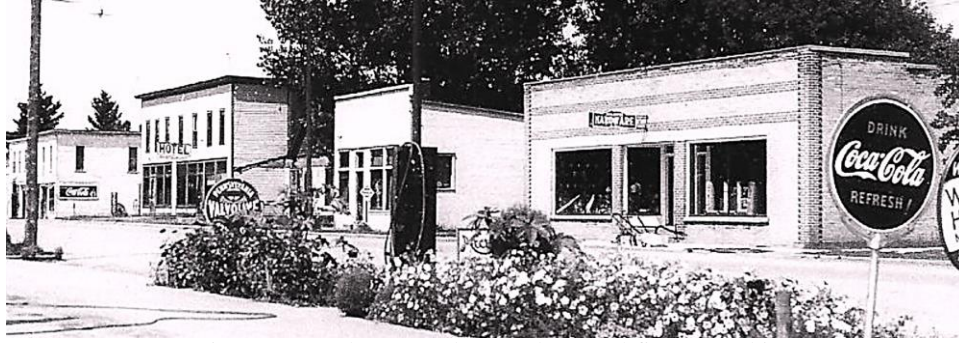


Figure 15 - Atlanta Hardware when Carl first owned it



Figure 16 - Calvin and Harry as toddler visiting Carl – 11/1955



Figure 17 - Atlanta Hardware - 8/2012

Possible Seneca (Algonquin) Heritage

Calvin made much of his Indian bloodline but he had no paper trail. His theme was vague, somewhat secretive, but he always expected me to honor it with head held high. Earlier generations may have elaborated upon a kernel of truth, but Calvin impressed upon me its veracity. His older sister, Velma, recalled identical stories. His older brother, Cleo, said a Seneca Indian was five generations back from Mary McKenzie.

The tribes along the Great Lakes region to the Atlantic belonged to the Algonquin language group. The Navajo College Museum curator in Tsaile, Arizona stressed to me that Navajo and Algonquin have a shared heritage based upon linguistic similarities.

This Seneca link has detractors. Allan was an English immigrant and Sarah came from first-generation Irish immigrants. The only possible Indian ancestry would thus occur in maternal lines after Allan and Sarah moved to Michigan. Velma’s son Kurt got his DNA checked and found no American Indian and no Irish. Instead, his DNA results pointed to Eastern Europe and Asia, but neither of those strains matches the written record.

I have no family history for Carl’s mother Mary Rose Ellen “Ella” Mosher, who married Hance Briley. Carl’s wife, Mary Sybil McKenzie, was part French Canadian [and Irish] according to records maintained by Sharon McKenzie.

Both sides agree that Hazel Joles (1897-1979), a full-blooded Blackfoot, married Harold Briley in 1916, Carl’s oldest brother. Harold was strong and someone to run to when things got tough. However, his mother Ella made Harold divorce Hazel in the late 1940’s. Hazel stayed with Harold regardless until his death in 1955. This unusual marital meddling and continued loyalty might reflect a racial disapproval by Ella. If that caused the forced divorce, it would speak against Ella having Indian ancestry.

Here is the conflicting data from both sides, edited and expanded using materials from Reba Bean dated 1987 as the framework and later research with Find-a-Grave in 2022.

=====
During the Revolutionary War (1775-1783), when the Indian nations in New York State chose between the Colonial and the British sides, Mr. Simmons [Mr. Hodgman?] heard an Indian baby hidden in some bushes. No one came (or was left alive) to claim the girl.

Sharon McKenzie thinks her grandmother [Ella Powell] McKenzie invented the infant story. Her neighbor took in an Indian baby girl and had photos. [Such a baby would be a full century after 1780.] Sharon knew no Indians who married into the McKenzie side while affirming, “*An Indian baby was found in the bushes and raised by a family, but there was no record of her marrying into the family.*”

While an unlikely Indian on the paternal side of the McKenzie line, Larry wrote:

Three sources confirmed an abandoned Native American baby girl in New York. She married one of the sons (James/Jim/Aaron) of the [Simmons?] family that raised her. Cleo did not say whether there was more than one [Indian ancestor].

Assuming the Reba Reed Bean backstory was true, here is how the bloodline works out.

(100% Seneca) "*Our Indian [great-] grandmother, [Sybil Hodgman (1793-1885)] Simmons*" had two daughters with **Aaron Simmons** (1788-1883): [Rhoda Lydia and] Selenda. Patti wrote, "*It appears that Selenda Simmons' mother [or grandmother?] was a Seneca [a branch of the Ottawa] Indian from New York.*"

(50% Seneca) Selenda Simmons (1828 -1918) married Thomas Endersbe (1815-1892) and had a daughter named **Syble** (and Philora, **Aaron**, Wm.Riley) in New York.



Figure 18 - Thomas Endersbe and Selenda Simmons

Selenda and Thomas Endersbe came to Grant Township, from St. Lawrence County, New York. They settled on a homestead in Bad Axe, Michigan in the Thumb area, around 1867 [ten years before Allan Briley moved to Michigan.] The county was a wilderness. They endured the hardship of pioneer life. When Thomas died, Selenda made her home with son Aaron, on a farm in Grant County. Two months before her death, Selenda was taken to New Lothrop to live with daughter Flora [Philora] Nelson. - Obituary (edited)

(50% Seneca) Rhoda Lydia Simmons (1825-1864), [Selenda's older sister,] married Peter Charles Powell in New York State. Their son, Charles (1848-1912), at age 15, was a drummer and water boy in the Civil War (1861-1865). Their large family later homesteaded a farm near Clio and Birch Run.

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(25% Seneca) **Syble** “Sibbie” Endersbe (1852-1885, listed in 1870 census as a domestic servant in the Powell home at age 17) married **cousin**, Charles Powell (the son of Rhoda Lydia, age 22, also 25% Seneca) that September. They had children **Ella** [Mary Sybil McKenzie’s mother], May, **Dora** [Reba Reed Bean’s mother], and **Hubert** Powell.



The Powell home near Birch Run had dirt floors. Ella said of the wooden floor put under the bedroom section, “*I remember sitting on the floor part and swinging my feet* [above the dirt].” Before further flooring, the family moved to Atlanta in 1884 from Sand Lake near Tawas city. Syble took ill and died in the hotel that Charles purchased. She was one of first buried in Briley Cemetery.

Charles remarried to Mary Nye, became sheriff, and much later died in the same hotel.

(25% Seneca) Ella Powell (1872-1953) married Jeremiah “Jerri” McKenzie (1842-1913) [the new undersheriff], and had eldest daughter **Mary Sybil** [my grandmother], **Hubert** [Sharon’s father], and five other children.

Sharon’s records reflect **no** Indian relatives on either the McKenzie or Powell sides.



Figure 19 - Ella Powell and Jerimiah McKenzie Family - 1903

L-R: Katheryn, Ella, Russell, Evelyn, Jerimiah, Mary
(Grandmother Mary Sybil McKenzie is eldest, lower right)

Jerimiah, born in Ontario, immigrated to Michigan and enlisted as a Private at age 21. He later homesteaded on 160 acres in the hardwoods at Big Rock, on Hossler Road, deeded to him on 10/18/1888 by President Grover Cleveland for his Civil War service.



Figure 20 –Jerimiah McKenzie 1889 Cabin (McKenzie family 1990)

Five years later, Jerimiah, age 51, and Ella, age 21, married on 3/2/1893. The 1889 cabin was their first home. After they died, his son Hubert, and wife Vera, lived on and off the farm for years. Their daughter, Sharon McKenzie, lives on the farm in a new home. Aside from the original log cabin, no prior homes were preserved.

Jerri and Ella lived at one time (1900?) in the Courthouse for a year. He, and his half-brother Alexander, built the McKenzie Schoolhouse for their children.

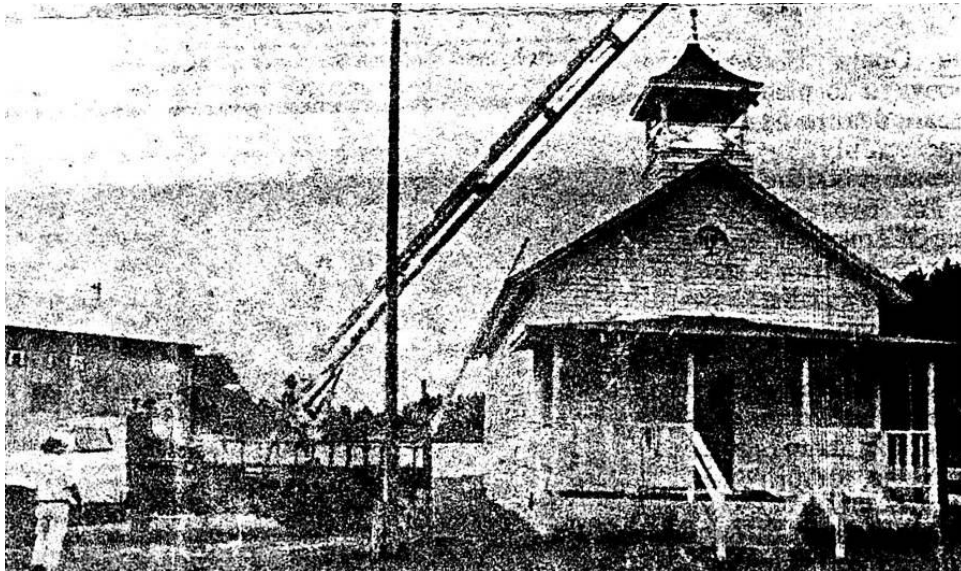


Figure 21 - McKenzie Schoolhouse (T. Young 7/25/1990)

Caption: “The Belfry is restored to McKenzie Schoolhouse with help of Dick Signs boom truck last week. The Fair Board is moving a frame house from the Big Rock area to the fairgrounds for preservation in the historic mini-village” – Montmorency County Tribune, 7/25/1990

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When Jerry died at 71, Mary had just turned 19. Ella later married Lindsey Irwin.

(12.5% Seneca) Mary Sybil McKenzie (1894-1925) spent part of her time [or most of her life (see obituary)] with her grandfather and step-grandmother (Charles and Mary Nye Powell) at their hotel. She married Carl Briley in 1914. Both she and Carl worked at the Alpern [sp?] store in Atlanta, where they met.

(6.2% Seneca) Their children were Ogal, Keith, Cleo, Velma, and Calvin.

(3.1% Seneca) We cousins through Mary's maternal line would only have a nominal percentage. This low percentage makes a DNA test a moot point for my generation.

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These two deeply held conflicting genealogical stories calls for some historian detective to pull further upon these loose threads. This data from both sides surfaced in my 2012 research [with Find-a-Grave updates in 2022] about our controversial heritage.

Walk With Me – My Father

My Grandparents

Calvin told me almost nothing about his father, and nothing at all about his mother, Mary. Carl Howard and Calvin Howard were my middle-name sakes. For years, I intended that a future son would carry our Howard middle name into the fourth generation. Adopting older children thwarted that naming prospect.

Carl Briley

Birth: 9/1894 in Hetherton, MI

Parents: Hance Briley (1872-1942) and
Mary Ellen "Ella" Mosher (1872-1954)

Moved: Atlanta area at age 17

Married: 9/1914, both at age 20,
in Atlanta, MI

Justice of the Peace - Edward Cameron

Death: 10/1956 in Atlanta, MI

at age 62, of cardiac arrest

Burial: Briley Township Cemetery, Atlanta



Mary Sybil "Minnie" McKenzie

Birth: 3/1894 in Vienna Township,
Big Rock, Atlanta, MI

Parents: Jerimiah McKenzie (1842-1913)
[He died at 71, when Mary was 19] and
Ella Powell (1872-1953)

Death: 10/1925 in Atlanta, MI
at age 31, of tuberculosis

Burial: Briley Township Cemetery, Atlanta



Figure 22 - Markers: Carl and Mary, Atlanta – 8/2012



Figure 23- Mary and Carl Briley (ages 23) – 12/1917

Carl's Descendants with Mary

Carl and Mary had five children, then living at 234 Fair Avenue. Mary died at age 31 after over a year of a second bout of tuberculosis. Calvin had just turned one year old.

Their five children were:

- Ogal (1915-1938) died when Calvin was age 14. His death polarized the immediate family. Sensitive accounts, 75 years later, are hereby omitted. Death Certificate: "Gunshot wound of heart"
- Keith (1918-1995) at age 77, died from congestive heart failure
- Cleo (1920-2007) at age 86, died of hereditary abdominal aneurism
- Velma (1922-2001) at age 79
- Calvin (1924-1986) at age 62, died from bladder cancer

Carl adored Mary. Whenever he drove past the cemetery, he always glanced toward her gravesite with a sad look.

Obituary in Local Newspaper – 10/1925 (edited)

Mrs. Carl Briley Passes Away

The community was greatly saddened last Friday morning; October 16, when the news came of the death of Mrs. Carl Briley, which occurred at about four o'clock at Alpena, where she had been the past several weeks taking treatments.

The remains were brought here Friday noon and taken to her late home in the north part of town, where they reposed until Sunday afternoon, when the funeral was held from the church, and she was laid to rest in the Briley cemetery.

Rev. Gadd preached the funeral sermon and a large number of relatives and friends were present to pay their respects to her. Mrs. Briley contracted tuberculosis several years ago. She took treatments and was apparently cured of the dread disease when it started afresh a little over a year ago. Although everything that could be done to arrest the disease was resorted to, it would not abate and she gradually sank until the end came to relieve her suffering.

Mrs. Briley was the daughter of Mrs. Lindsey Irwin; her maiden name was Mary McKenzie. She was born March 7, 1894; was married to Carl Briley on September 6, 1914. Her father, a sister and brother preceded her to the Great Beyond. She leaves to mourn her demise a husband and five little children, Ogal, Keith, Cleo, Velma, and Calvin; mother, Mrs. L. H. Irwin; [step-] grandmother, Mrs. Mary [Nye] Powell, with whom she made her home the most of her life before her marriage; a sister, Mrs. Frank Currie, and three brothers, Russell, Elliott and Hubert McKenzie.

Mrs. Briley was a lovely character, while her health permitted, she was a great help to Society, and a good mother to her children. Everybody who knew her universally loved her, and her passing will be more than a matter of keen regret to them. The entire community extends sympathy to the sorrowing husband, children and other relatives.

Growing Up in Michigan

Farming the Kids Out

After Mary died in 1925, Carl farmed his very young children out to relatives. This was a common practice. Cleo briefly lived with his Aunt Faye in Johannesburg. Velma lived with Grandma Ella Briley.

Mrs. Clark, in Lum, eastern Michigan near Flint, cared for Calvin from a toddler until 1/1932, for at least six years. His Second Grade report card at Lum School lists Mrs. Clark as the parent/guardian only through December. No follow-on names appear on the report card. The 1930 Census confirmed Calvin was not back with the family.

Carla and Sharon could not determine who this Mrs. Clark might be. There was no record of a Mrs. Clark in any of Mary's extant letters to her mother or brothers.

When Carl re-married to Isabelle, he brought the children gradually home until the only one missing was Calvin. It appears that this occurred in the middle of his second grade given the text in a letter from Mrs. Clark. The older siblings only saw him once or twice until then, meaning Calvin bonded to her as his only known mother. She did not want to give him up, but Carl must have brought Calvin home before Carla was born.

A letter with a Lapeer postmark of 5/6/1932 (Calvin, then seven and a half) to "Mrs. Carl Briley, Atlanta Mich" (no return address other than postmark):

Dear Mrs. Briley.

I was very glad to hear from you and have looked every day for a letter from Calvin. [None sent the prior four months.] I am glad you folks are all well.

Calvin has always been a hearty eater until after he got that soap and he never ate a good meal after that. He never liked vegetables cooked, but liked them raw. He drank lots of milk and homemade bread in milk. Each winter I gave him cod liver oil. That kept him built up. I get three pairs of BVDs every other summer and this is the summer for new ones. His old ones are worn out.

Tell Calvin [that] Lew has not seen the wolf anymore, but there is a red fox over on the 80 [acres]. Scrap caught a big rat up in the barn. Can Calvin come back home when school is out [in June]? I will meet him in Bay City [a partial mid-way point], if you'll let me know. I am so pleased to get the picture. And thank you. Velma is a nice big girl. Tell Calvin hello for us all and [to] write.

With Love, Mrs. Clark and Martha

In reference to soap in the letter, Grandma Ella Briley washed the grandchildren's mouths out with soap if they did the least small thing. Cod liver oil was another favorite of hers. Despite the Great Depression, it does not seem that any small boy could make three pairs of BVDs' last two years. Carla said her boys (1960's) wore them out almost monthly!



REPORT OF
Calvin Briley
2nd GRADE *Lum Sch.*
FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 19...19...

STUDIES	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
Days Present	16	15	19	14	11					45
Days Absent	1	2	2	4	2					
Times Tardy	0	0	0	0	0					
Department	C C C C C									
Reading	B B B B A									
Spelling	B B B B B									
Writing	B B B B B									
Arithmetic	C B B B B									
Geography										
Gram. or Lang.	B B B B B									
U. S. History										
Physiology										
Agriculture										
Music										
General Average										

Figure 24 – Calvin (5 1/2)- Spring 1930 and Second grade in Lum, Michigan

Calvin’s Return to the Family

Calvin’s arrival at his new family setting was a surprise to the siblings because they were raised one way and he another. He was coddled (spoiled they thought), fed, dressed, and cared for totally. He knew nothing about caring for himself. He could not bathe nor dress himself at age 7.

Calvin had a hard time adjusting. He cried and the older boys did not take to him at first. Carl took him from one whom he considered his mother. Calvin missed her so much and perhaps felt abducted by strangers with no one to love or help him. He was put into Velma’s charge, but she was at a loss. Velma was kind and sorry for him, but he was exasperating to train or teach. She was only a kid herself, two years older at age 10. Yet, she loved Calvin as a brother for the rest of her life, even in spite of his hostility.

The housekeeper, Mrs. Philips, cared for the children until her health failed. All the children loved her. Her only fault was that she thought burnt toast was healthy

No Anniversaries or Birthdays

Hance and Ella Briley did not mark family milestones. Carl and Isabelle did not mark their wedding anniversary or children birthdays. Hardly anyone had birthday parties. It was an austere way of life and most area families were alike. Calvin followed suit in later life. During WWII rationing, it was hard to buy sugar or flour. After the war, it took a long time to get back to normal. In 4-H, Carla learned to bake and made everyone a birthday cake. Carl seemed to disapprove but never commented. On an odd sad note, Ogal gave Carla birthday cards and valentines, but Isabelle took them away.

Carl's Descendants with Isabelle

Carl remarried on 5/11/1927 to Isabelle Mulholland (1899-1977). They had five living children (for a total to Carl of ten living altogether). These children were:

- Edward and Edwin (twins b.1928) died as infants
- Geraldine (1931-)
- Carlabelle "Carla" (1934-)
- Marlene (1936-)
- James "Jim" (1940-)
- Theodore "Ted" (1941-2017)

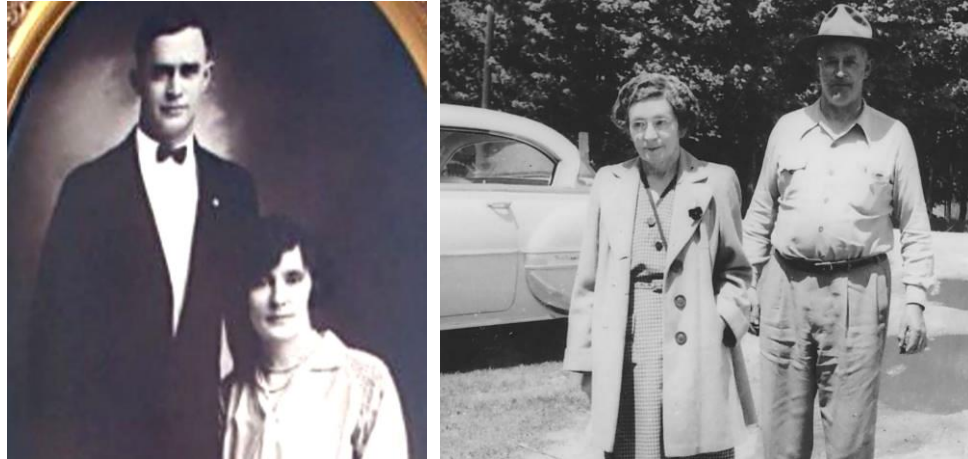


Figure 25 - Carl and Isabelle: wedding 1927, summer 1954



Figure 26 – Carl and Isabelle Family 6/1/1950

Caption: *Mr. and Mrs. Carl Briley and their five children: From left to right, front row, Jimmy, Carlabelle, and Teddy; and in the back row, Marlene, Mr. and Mrs. Briley and Geraldine. Two of Briley's older sons are on the staff of the Atlanta Hardware Company, Keith and Cleo. Another son, Calvin, and a daughter, Mrs. Velma Schroeder, live in California. - Local newspaper photo within Atlanta Hardware (30th anniversary of business), 6/1/1950*

Jealousy and a Blended Family

A blended family is a risky venture. Jealousy warps family relationships regardless of need. Even with modern foster programs, any physical break in the home life creates strange follow-up situations and memories.

Ogal was handsome and intelligent, but born with a “club foot”. Others teased him for this affliction. A surgery on the foot did not turn out well. Cleo regretted seeing this hostile treatment occur because doctors today could properly repair that foot.

Velma felt an emotional distance that surprised Carla. Velma wrote:

Carl “*did not want us getting emotionally close. He never took our side when Isabel [Isabelle] gave us hard times. He said few words, but the ones he said we jumped to obey. He let the older boys drive his car. He gave us spending money and took us to the Fair. He did many things for us, but showed no physical affection. It was how we were raised. I thought all families were like that until I saw other boys and girls get hugged by their parents.*”

Larry agreed, noting, “*Carl was undemonstrative. That was the way [the older five] were reared, Cleo followed the same pattern. Emma said that when she was dating Cleo, he was very uncomfortable with the touchy-feely Dices.*” It was only in later years that Larry and his own father Cleo became close friends.

Carla however observed that people rarely showed physical affection in public in the 1940’s - even to their spouse. It just was not done. The Briley side of the family had a straight-laced English “What will people think?” sort of view. Carl always said, “*Never care what people thought or said, unless they were willing to walk in your shoes.*” By contrast, the Irish side (McKenzie) was fun, loving, and enjoyable.

Carl did not like weakness. He expected the children to get out of any situation they got into. However, Carla recalled Carl as kind and well liked. He rarely said an unkind word. They knew he loved them. He had a fun presence and pulled practical jokes. If his kids could beat him at his own game, he was happy. He told the children there was good in everyone if they looked for it. He took them to ball games and swimming. He taught them to play cards, shoot a rifle, etc. He bowled with the younger brothers.

He owned three businesses and two working farms. Carl spent as much time as possible to father. Thus, those children who worked for him saw the most of him. He went to every PTA meeting. He always took them on a family trip before school started each year. He never missed a ball game when the younger brothers played. He drove Carla to every 4-H class to prepare for the Montmorency County Fair (that started up in 1947).

Ella Briley said Carl was devastated when Mary died. He did not know how to care for the older children. It did not appear to Carla that he was cold to the older five. They expressed a jealousy such that their behavior often hurt Carl. He did not shut them out and felt that they chose to exclude themselves. Cleo was the only one nice to the younger half-siblings.

Family Livelihood

Atlanta had under 800 people. Carl owned the Atlanta Hardware from 1922 to 4/1956, which he purchased from his father, Hance. Some of his daughters worked at that store.

Carl owned the John Deere Dealership and the Pet Bottled Gas Company. Keith helped in the John Deere tractor business. Both Keith and Cleo worked in the Hardware store. Cleo drove the Pet gas truck on deliveries. Calvin did not like to work. He wanted everything without effort. Carla could not remember Calvin helping at home or working.



Figure 27- At Lakeside Cabin 1941

L-R: Ed, James Briley (Carl's new son), Maude, Carl, Ella Briley (Carl's mother)

Carl was a member of the Briley Farm Bureau. He held civic offices as a Republican, was County Supervisor for 39 years, and head of the Draft Board. He loved farming, bought three farms, and moved the family out to one that had 360 acres, large barns, a large house with five bedrooms, a workers house, a potato house, an irrigation system, a granary, tractor barn,. The second farm had 80 acres with a house.

The third, the "Old Whitehead" Farm where Patti lived, was larger and had a history going back to fighting Indians. The hundred-year-old house was a well-built masterpiece, with stone basement walls and thick beams. It had secret rooms and rifle slots to shoot from the third story. It had new tractor barns, large orchards etc.

Walk With Me – My Father

Carl grew Certified Seed Potatoes and raised White Face (a Hereford and Angus cross) cattle. His daughter Carla preferred working at the farm to the hardware store. His youngest sons, Jim and Ted, drove tractors and plowed long adult days at ages 8 and 9.



Figure 28 - Potato House, Carl on Left – 1945? 1955? (Courtesy of Kim Briley)

Paternal Heart Conditions

The short life span for some Briley men was suspected, making that all the more reason to write as much of my story sooner rather than later. While each person is unique, this pattern affected my life outlook.

Some of the men died around the age of 60. Heart problems were throughout our background. Carl found out he had advanced coronary artery and heart problems. He sold the Hardware in 4/1956, taking two houses plus cash to sell it quickly. Carl, at 62, died suddenly of cardiac arrest in his chair at the farm. The coroner Robert Randall recorded the condition for Carl's death as coronary thrombosis at 8:50pm that evening.

They never had telephones in the house, as Carl did not want to be bothered after work. Carla took his car keys out of his pocket and drove to the nearest neighbor for a phone. When he died, the city closed the schools and [delayed] the upcoming election so everyone could attend his funeral.

While Keith died at a much later age of 77 of congestive heart failure, his son David died at 42 with cardiac arrest and another son Gerald (Jerry) died at 57 with congestive heart failure. Carla's son had a heart attack at 30.

Yet, of the older brothers, Cleo lived long without heart problems. He died of an abdominal aneurism, which is hereditary. Three of his sons have this same condition.

Acting upon a Heart Alert

At age 57, in 2011, I had a dull heartache on Friday, which caused me seek prayer and heart exams. The newly collected heart data about the Briley men pushed me into action.

Although my congregation is subdued about emotions, we had recent cases of an immediate turn-around in health due to simple prayer. I found myself arguing with God in the pew and suddenly realized my presumption. God was quite able to say 'No' all by himself, and my job was simply to go ask. A friend standing up front prayed quietly with me expecting a positive answer. He next asked me to let him know my EKG results. An hour later, I had no pain, then, or since. However, the request for an EKG was Biblical. Jesus pointedly told several people he healed to present themselves to the priests (as independent observers) for confirmation.

I saw my primary doctor and, a week later, a heart specialist. Both were appalled that I had waited over the weekend. A clean set of EKG tests, both at rest and after a treadmill stress test, along with an echocardiogram, which gave a three-dimensional image, showed my beating heart in good condition. The doctors independently urged the stress test after each clean EKG at rest. When I questioned the necessity, they independently both said, "*Because you are 57 with a history of cholesterol*" and both finished up with, "*Oh ... and do not wait 48 hours next time!*"

Life with Isabelle

When Carl re-married, Isabelle incrementally took the children back in. However, Isabelle appeared not to like children in general. She was not nice to any of the children. Isabelle often told Carla she hated her because she wanted a boy to name as Carl. Grandma Mulholland said her daughter was never quite right after her infant twins died.

Calvin disliked Isabelle and did things to bother her. Isabelle likewise tormented Calvin. He once forgot to flush the toilet, and she forbade its use, forcing him to use the outdoors.

The older boys stayed away from home a lot. Velma could not escape, so she ‘got’ to help Isabelle, and wrote, *“Isabelle did not like us and never let us forget it. She was jealous of our mother and never let any of us older siblings get attached to our father.”* As an upset teenager, Velma wound up living with Grandmother Ella Briley.

Carl stayed at the hardware store long hours, ate at the hotel, and played cards until midnight. He avoided coming home to conflict. The children loved and called Mary’s mother (Ella Powell McKenzie Irwin) as Grandma. However, like Isabelle, Grandmother Ella Briley (Carl’s mother) was coldly distant and stern. In the Atlanta home, Calvin, Keith, and Cleo shared an upstairs bedroom next to a room for the three youngest sisters. Carl hired housekeepers, which included Cleo’s wife Emma, to care for the children. The housekeeper, usually a young woman, had the third bedroom upstairs. Carla thought everyone’s family was like that. Life with Isabelle made them survivors.

Isabelle locked Carla in the basement stairwell for hours in Atlanta. Calvin would let her out until she caught him. The house had a wood furnace with a chute up to the basement window. Calvin showed Carla how to climb up the chute and go out the window.

When Calvin at 17 left for the Navy in 1942, the older siblings had already married and left. Carl then moved the remaining family to one of the farms. Isabelle had an ischemic stroke shortly after the move to the farm. Carla cared for Isabelle and the youngest boys. Hospitalized for over a month, Isabelle did not remember who Carla was for almost a year. At times, she thought Carla was her mother.

Carl died when the youngest boys were 15 and 16. Carla asked an uncle to become the boy’s legal guardian, as the Court wanted them placed in a group home. After a year, the estate made Isabelle auction off the farm, including Carl’s hunting dog. Isabelle and the boys moved back into town to a house on the river that Carl had taken as part payment for the hardware store. The sale of the Pet Gas Company and John Deere dealership and the hardware left her enough money to live on for the rest of her life. It paid the four youngest children’s way through college.

Isabelle sold all three farms to a crook who told her it prevented theft of Christmas trees from the property. Carla never saw one Christmas tree. She sold the farms without the family’s knowledge for \$8000. She died with him still owing her \$2000. The family did not declare her incompetent. She had a child’s mind after follow-on [TIA] strokes.

Leaving Home

Cleo Briley

Larry recalled Cleo as being a moral man, always speaking truthfully, and impressing those virtues upon his nine children. Carl was generous to Cleo and Emma. He gave them property in Hillman as a wedding gift, about five acres of land, where they built their first home.

On most Sundays, their family gathered at Emma's parents' home (Florence and William Dice), which was just up the road their home. Picnic tables were set up on the lawn and the women cooked and served a large dinner. In that part of the Michigan woods, the noon meal was called dinner. The evening meal was called supper.

Afterwards, the family joined in a musical sing-along with instruments while Florence Dice played the piano. Later, they set up tables and played cards long into the evening.

Carl visited frequently, always by himself, which was unusual in retrospect. When he opened the trunk of his car, the children loved seeing it packed full with gifts. They would anticipate him on the road. When he opened the trunk, it was a free for all. Each child could take from the trunk exactly one unmarked gift and got what they got. It showed Carl's generous side.



Figure 29 - Cleo Briley (1920-2007) and Emma Dice (1923-)

To an unaware outsider, Carl wound up with two families. According to Larry, when Isabelle married Carl, she "already had two daughters" [the twin sons who died?], and then they had another five children together. Isabelle did not like children, any children. When Cleo visited Carl, his children had to wait outside on the porch and never saw the inside of that house.

Isabelle and her children were invisible to the rest of the family. After Carl died, there was no communication between Cleo and Isabelle. She still did not allow the older siblings, even as adults, in the house. As noted above, the total estate, including the hardware store, the farm, and all of the other property went to Isabelle and her children.

Many years later, someone found a hand-carved box at a garage sale that Cleo sent to Carl from Burma, inscribed “To my father from Cleo Briley”. He knew the name and gave it back to Cleo (long after Isabelle died). That box was the only possession that remains from Carl within Cleo’s family.

The Alpena News, in 4/23/2007, recorded Cleo’s death. The spouses of his children were listed in parenthesis within the obituary notice.

BRILEY, Cleo A., 86, of Hillman, died 4/22/2007, at Alpena Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Emma [Dice]; nine children, 15 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

<i>Roger (Judi)</i>	<i>of Rogers City,</i>
<i>Mary (Roger) Marquardt</i>	<i>of Hillman,</i>
<i>Kathryn (Karl) Smith</i>	<i>of Clio,</i>
<i>Joe “Larry”</i>	<i>of Alpena,</i>
<i>Regina (James) Hottois</i>	<i>of Herron,</i>
<i>Greg (Sonja)</i>	<i>of Alpena,</i>
<i>Florence (Larry) White</i>	<i>of Grass Valley, California</i>
<i>Carl (Janet)</i>	<i>of Dryden,</i>
<i>Allen (Bobbe)</i>	<i>of Hillman;</i>

Friends may visit at the St. Augustine Catholic Church in Hillman on Wednesday from 11 a.m. until time of Mass at 12-noon with Rev. James Von Tobel officiating.

Hillman VFW Post #2356 will offer military tribute during the graveside services following mass. Arrangements are in care of the Beck Funeral Home Rogers City. Interment: St. Augustine Catholic Cemetery.

Children of EMMA DICE and CLEO BRILEY are

- i. ROGER A. BRILEY, b. January 10, 1942, Alpena, Michigan
331. ii. MARY E. BRILEY, b. June 28, 1944, Alpena, Michigan
332. iii. KATHRYN L. BRILEY, b. June 21, 1946
- iv. LARRY J. BRILEY, b. July 26, 1947
333. v. REGINA M. BRILEY, b. October 17, 1950, Alpena, Michigan
334. vi. GREGORY PAUL BRILEY, b. May 20, 1952, Alpena, Michigan
- vii. FLORENCE A. BRILEY, b. November 15, 1954
- viii. CARL H. BRILEY, b. June 18, 1956
- ix. CHRISTOPHER A. BRILEY, b. September 23, 1960; d. October 04, 1991
- x. ALLEN L. BRILEY, b. September 11, 1962

Table 1 - Cleo and Emma Family (Montmorency History Book)

Velma Briley Schroeder

Calvin was closest to his older sister by age, but his personality was opposite. He never spoke to us sons about his siblings. Velma lived with Grandmother Ella Briley as a teenager (next to the hardware store). She rarely visited thereafter at Isabelle’s house.

Carla recalled Velma (1922-2001) as “*a beautiful girl, lady-like, and kind*”. However, Velma wrote of unhappiness and increasing teenage animosity.

Carl sent her to Cleary Business College after high school. Carl was much disappointed, cause unknown, when she married a fellow student, Millard Schroeder (1921-2012) on 6/2/1941. Velma studied secretarial skills. Millard studied business administration.

They built a house in Briley Township with help through Hance’s Atlanta Hardware. Millard then served in the Army 1943-1945 and earned a bronze star. Millard later worked for Ford near Detroit. A job offer moved them to California in 1948. Millard often visited his family in Michigan, but alone. Velma however made a complete break.

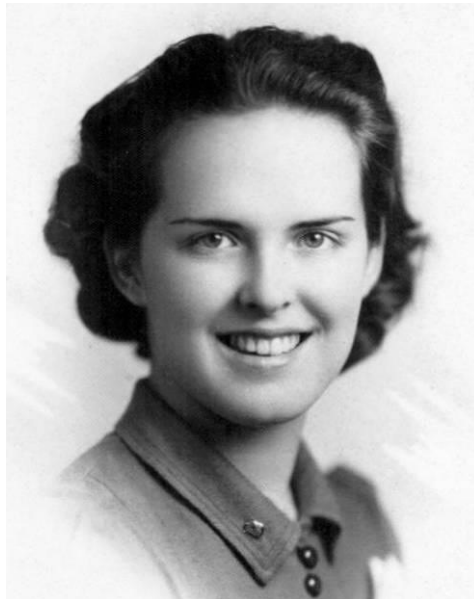


Figure 30 - Velma Briley Schroeder

Calvin spent very little time with Velma in Atlanta, perhaps because Grandma Ella Briley did not like him (but then, Ella Briley did not care for any of the children). After the Navy, Calvin moved to California and visited Velma and Millard’s home in San Gabriel. They enjoyed Calvin’s often-deadpan humor and Millard especially enjoyed his presence.

Velma rarely wrote home and did not attend Carl's 1956 funeral. They had five sons, Keith, Lynn, Kurt, Gene, and Mark; and three daughters Karen Walden, Jann Reis and Lori Perry. They attended a Lutheran Church for many years. Millard retired after 25 years as Credit Manager over 23 stores (the entire Western US) of the high-end Foreman and Clark clothing company. He next owned the Lake Matthews General Store for several years, briefly providing some of his children with jobs there.



Figure 31- Millard, Kurt's family, and Velma - 1980

In 1968 at age 46, Velma had a profound change in her life about the reality of faith. Calvin thereafter sparred with her routinely over the errors he perceived in her theology for the rest of his life. This life-change enabled her to extend an olive branch of peace through letters to her stepmother Isabelle (who had multiple TIA strokes by then).

She wrote in 1980 about that 1968 transforming mid-life event (edited):

I experienced the joys, frustrations, and heartaches of being the mother of eight children. There never was a dull moment in our home. During one particular difficult period, it seemed things were falling apart in spite of all my efforts. Two of our boys began to rebel and drift away from our standards. They questioned the very things we based our lives on - the home, [Lutheran] church, and school.

During this time of stress, my health began to fall and I suffered a great deal of stomach pain. I had an ulcer [in 9/1968], which [my doctor] considered dangerous. If my ulcer was not 50% healed, he [had] to perform radical surgery.

That same week, my daughter met Marlene Fair, a friend, who asked about me. Upon hearing of my illness, she called in a prayer request to a Ladies Prayer Group. I agreed that they could come, lay hands on me and pray for my healing. I was very unsure of this "religious" bit. I surely did not believe it was possible that God would heal me as I did not even believe the doctor could [do so]!

The ladies came, bringing our [soon to be] pastor [Ralph Wilkerson], and quietly asked God to heal me. I felt very hot and embarrassed over the whole ordeal. It was with great relief and gratitude I saw them leave. I told them I hoped they would not be too disappointed if their prayer did not work!

Closing the door, I walked slowly back to the kitchen. A battle raged in my mind, "Could it be true that God would answer prayer? I mean, for someone like me?" No, that's silly! Well, maybe. Those people really believed it. No, no, no! It

could not be true.” Just then, I looked up and God thundered these words across my kitchen curtain, "BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD." I was completely free of pain - gone - never to return! I was healed by the Lord.

My doctor later informed me that I was 100% healed and no longer needed his services. I hurried home to tell the "praying ladies", our pastor, and my family.

[I got three wildly different responses!] Some rejoiced with me, some looked [incredulously] at me as if to say "yeah, sure" and some hinted that I had never been sick, except maybe in my head!

A new spiritual life began. The women informed me kindly that I needed to ask Jesus into my heart to receive his salvation. I happily agreed to their suggestion this time! I was "born-again" into God's family.

Soon after, most of my children asked Jesus to be their Savior and were baptized in water and in the Holy Spirit. What a blessing. It was Christmas every day!

With the children grown, Velma became long-time church secretary for Good News on the Way church which her sons Kurt and later Mark helped establish in 1981. Forty years later in 2021, three siblings continue as local pastor couples: Kurt (Mary) at Good News, Mark (Cindy) at Heritage Christian, and (Troy) Lori at Ignite Church OC.



Velma Schroeder
Born:
February 15, 1922
Born Again:
September 1968
Glorified: March 7, 2001

Figure 32- Memorial for Velma Schroeder – 3/7/2001

Millard obituary from Press-Enterprise, 6/18/2012 (edited):

Millard Martin Schroeder, longtime resident of Riverside County, died 6/13/2012, two weeks short of 91st birthday. He was born in Michigan City, Indiana in 6/1921. He married college sweetheart Velma Briley on 6/2/1941, and served in the Army [Signal Corp] 1943-1945 receiving the Bronze Star. He raised eight children, and enjoyed 34 grandchildren, and 31 great-grandchildren. Memorial Services: Good News Church, 4350 La Sierra, Riverside on 6/19/2012.

Spiteful Teenager

Calvin did not have any known friends. Keith and Cleo avoided him, as did all the younger siblings. His oldest brother died when Calvin was 14. Velma recalled that Calvin stopped talking as a teen. He could speak, but would not. He lived inwardly.

Carla has a disturbing memory Calvin (then age 16?) abandoning her at a circus in Alpena, 40 miles east from home. Carla was seven years old without money among strangers. When she sought refuge in the tents, someone called the State Police. Carl retrieved her about 10pm that night. Calvin had not told him where she was.

Calvin told his younger sisters that he was 6' 4" (even though he was 6'). He never hit them but they were all afraid of him, including Isabelle before then. Their friends refused to come over to the house. It was a much happier home life after Calvin left.

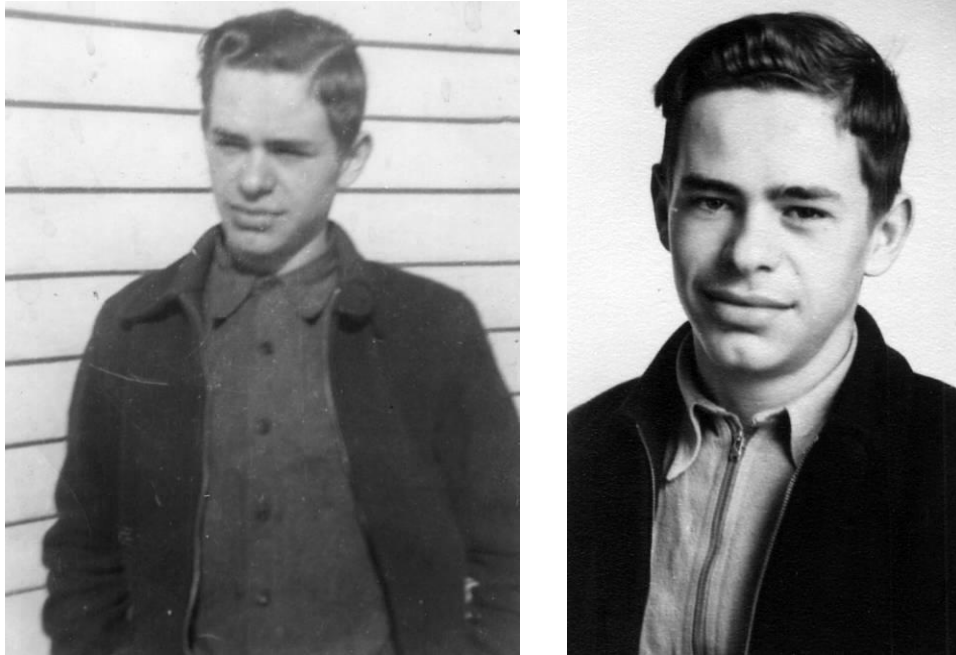


Figure 33- Calvin as a Teen -4/1940

Age differences may explain inconsistency toward the younger ones. It was not cool to be with 8 and 10 year olds. When they moved to the farm, Geraldine took the car and ran it in a ditch. Calvin got the farm tractor and pulled it out. He took the tractor back, walked back, and drove the car home. He never told. He taught Geraldine how to drive.

He might have threatened the younger ones simply because he could. He always told them what would happen if they told on him. He climbed out the sister's bedroom window onto a porch and down the clothes pole. He would be gone most of the night.

Calvin liked animals later in life, but as a teenager, he took away any animal that made the children happy. If a puppy, it would disappear. He shot Carla's kitten with a BB gun until it died. She found her pet turtle upside down with a rock holding it there, dead.

Walk With Me – My Father

Carla managed to even the score by carrying around a snake in her pocket, which made Calvin deathly afraid. Carla told Calvin that if he did not stop bullying her, she would turn it loose in his bedroom. Younger siblings eventually figure out how to survive.

Even so, when a friend gave Carla two chickens, Calvin at 17 chopped off their heads and threw them at Isabelle telling her he felt like chicken for supper. She cooked them. When Carla would not leave her room for supper, Carl found her crying. Carl demanded Calvin go outside and bring back a stick. He came in with a small one. Carl went out, brought in a large one, and beat him. Calvin then left home for the Navy.

Only a decade later, when Calvin moved to Oregon in 1956, he had become very fond of animals. He loved the farm life of sheep, dairy goats, chickens, ducks, rabbits, dogs, horses, burro, milk cow or two, and spare pig in the mix. To be cruel to an animal just out of spite would be simply unheard of during our farm years. It never entered our minds. Calvin was happiest in those early years ... and, more likely, too busy to be angry.

Military Enlistments

No one celebrated in Atlanta during WWII. They relied upon radio for war reports and worried about sons and daughters. Some soldiers from Atlanta died. Food and gas was rationed. The enlistment of older brothers, combined with scarcity of local work, probably prompted Calvin to enlist. He was waiting for an opportunity to escape.



Figure 34 - Cadet Keith Briley - 1941

His older brother, Keith briefly left home to find work in the corn or wheat fields. He wrote letters to Carl and Carl knew he was going. Keith was back at home for a while when he joined the Army. He was in heavy jungle fighting in New Guinea and contracted malaria. He spent time in a military mental hospital in Kentucky.

Walk With Me – My Father

Cleo joined the Army Air Corps in 1939 and flew fighter planes, hospital planes, or anything that flew. The Army Air Corps became the Army Air Forces (AAF) in 6/20/1941 and, after the war, became the US Air Force (USAF) in 9/18/1947.

He came home as a Captain after turning down a promotion to re-enlist. He bought an airplane in Hillman, where he gave flying lessons. He delighted in turning the younger siblings upside down in flight. After a fire destroyed that business, he worked at Carl's Pet Gas Company until taking a job flying the plane for Besser Company of Alpena.

US Naval Reserve

Calvin feared the Army draft and enlisted for active duty with the Naval Reserve instead. The trigger was as noted. He walked out of the home and never looked back. Carl cried.

Calvin never talked about the Navy with his siblings and became angry when they asked. Yet, Barbara proudly displayed his dog tags and Navy photo at home. I deduced his activities through his discharge papers, news clippings, and research about his vessels and stations. He enlisted from 6/1942 to 4/1946 and trained at Great Lakes, Illinois.

Non-prior service enlistees train at boot camp at Naval Station Great Lakes in Illinois. They must qualify for a specific job. [However,] few job ratings are available to them. By mid-1941, virtually all [reservists] served on active duty.
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Navy_Reserve#History

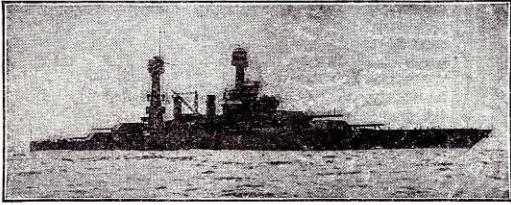
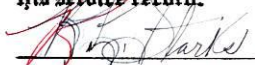
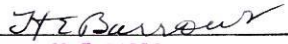
JNP 672 (Revised Sept. 1942)		The United States of America	
Navy Department		&	Bureau of Naval Personnel
			
Navy Training Course Certificate			
Calvin Howard BRILEY			
having completed the Navy Training Course			
Seaman, First Class and Practical Factors			
with a mark of 3.12, is awarded this certificate this 27th			
day of March, 19 43 Notation to this effect has been made in			
his service record.			
			
R. L. STARKS Ens., USN U. S. Navy, Division Officer.		H. E. BARROWS, Lt. Comdr., USNavy (Ret.) U. S. Navy, Commanding U. S.	

Figure 35 - Navy Training Certificate - 3/1943

Walk With Me – My Father

The 1943 training in “Practical Factors” (an archaic phrase) reminded me of Factors at wilderness forts who handled trade goods on behalf of the Hudson Bay Company.

His ranks and ratings went from AS (Able-bodied Seaman) to Seaman First Class (3/27/1943), to Storekeeper Third Class, and mustered out as Storekeeper Second Class. He received three service ribbons: American Area, Victory, and Asiatic Pacific.

He served, dates unknown, on an auxiliary repair dock (USS ARD). The separation papers list its number as OM, which does not match any of the known 33 ARD units.

An ARD was a floating dry dock built for the Navy during WWII. Like most of the ships of her class, she known only by her designation [as an ARD].

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_ARD-17 [edited]
See also military.wikia.com/wiki/USS_ARD-9

He served at the newly built Naval Air Facility at Attu, Alaska. This likely occurred sometime after the 5/1943 battle for Attu Island in the frigid Aleutian Islands.

Attu is the westernmost and largest island in the Aleutian Islands. The island was the only WWII land battlefield in the United States. In 9/1942, the invading Japanese on Attu left it unoccupied, but returned on 10/29/1942. They reached 2300 soldiers by 3/10/1943 and dug in on high ground away from shore.

On 5/11/1943, an Infantry force of 11000 began to recapture Attu with a shortage of landing craft, unsuitable beaches, and equipment that failed in the appalling weather. Many soldiers [without Artic gear] suffered from frostbite because essential supplies could not move where needed. Starting 5/21/1943, Navy Seabees built "Navy Town" [and an airstrip] near Massacre Bay.

On 5/29/1943, the remaining Japanese (about 1000) suddenly attacked near Massacre Bay in one of the largest banzai charges of the Pacific. The charge penetrated lines to rear-echelon Army engineer forces. After furious, brutal, hand-to-hand combat, the Japanese were killed almost to the last man.

This three-week battle resulted in 3929 U.S. casualties: 580 killed and injuries shared equally between wounds and weather. There were 2351 Japanese dead and only 28 prisoners. Massacre Bay became Naval Air Station Attu in 9/1943 and later a submarine repair facility in 2/1944.

Snippets taken from:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attu_Island#History

www.history.army.mil/brochures/aleut/aleut.htm

www.hlswilliwaw.com/Attu/attu_wwii.htm

www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USN/Building_Bases/bases-23.html

Walk With Me – My Father

He served briefly, sometime after 2/17/1945, aboard USS Wateree (ATF 117 fleet tug) in the Pacific. Lt. Gilbert E. Perry, USN was his commanding officer and a 21-year career officer. In a clipping about that skipper, Calvin scribbled upon the document facing the skipper. Upon turning the photo around, the text reads, “Give Briley a 30-day leave”. Calvin might have been aboard when the ship sank at anchorage only eight months later.

USS Wateree (ATF-117) was an Abnaki-class fleet ocean tug performing towing services between the Pacific islands. The Wateree was laid down on 9/22/1943 at Alameda and commissioned on 2/17/1945. Lt. Gilbert E. Perry was in command.

In 6/1945, American forces secured Okinawa. During the final months of WWII, Nakagusuku Bay became an important anchorage and the forward base called Naval Base Buckner Bay. It consisted of the anchorage, repair and depot ships, and various onshore facilities. The Base supported ships operating off Japan and landed supplies for forces on Okinawa. It was attacked several times. A Japanese aircraft torpedoed the USS Pennsylvania there.

The base continued operations into the immediate postwar period. On 10/9/1945, Typhoon Louise struck Buckner Bay, inflicting heavy damage. Fifteen merchant ships were driven ashore, some damaged beyond recovery. Three destroyers were wrecked. Over 200 other US military vessels, including six LCTs, various special purpose boats, patrol boats, and landing craft were grounded, severely damaged, or destroyed. Eighty percent of the buildings were completely wiped out while over 60 aircraft present at airstrips were damaged.

Fully staffed for emergency standby towing service due to the anticipated typhoon, Wateree itself was damaged beyond repair and the crew ordered to abandon ship. It sunk in 8 fathoms of water. The ship's commanding officer [Lt. Perry], her executive officer, and six enlisted men were lost.

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Wateree_\(ATF-117\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Wateree_(ATF-117)) [Edited]

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nakagusuku_Bay [Edited]

Calvin served, dates unknown, in the Program Management Unit at the Southern California Training Center (SCTC) located on Terminal Island near Los Angeles.

The Supply Response Section (SRS) serves as the point of contact for satisfying maintenance material requirements. The Program Management Unit (PMU) is under the control of SRS to process and expedite high priority requisitions.

www.navair.navy.mil/logistics/4790/library/Chapter%2009.pdf

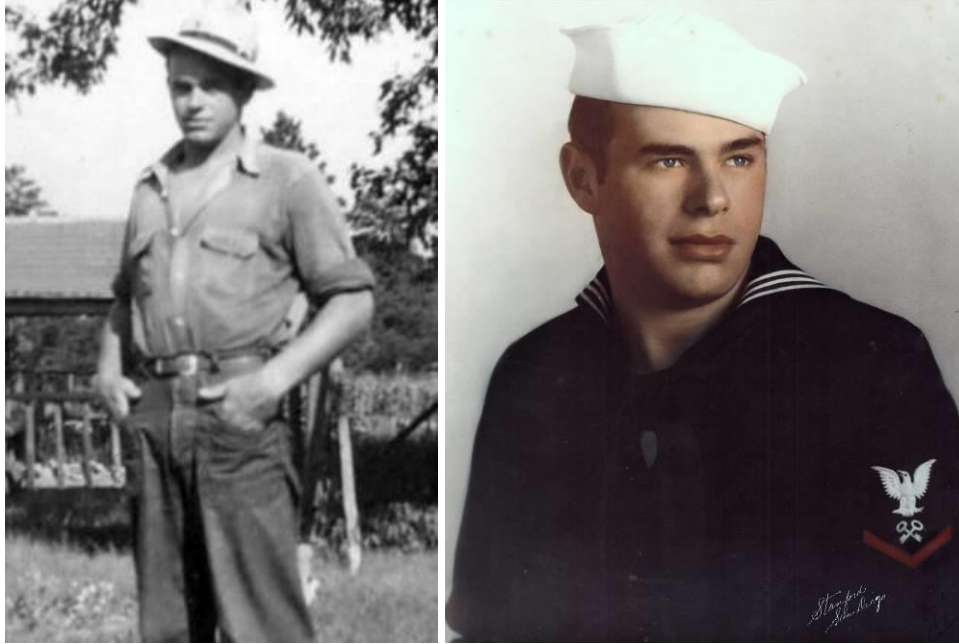


Figure 36 - Home on Furlough 8/1944 and Formal Portrait 1945

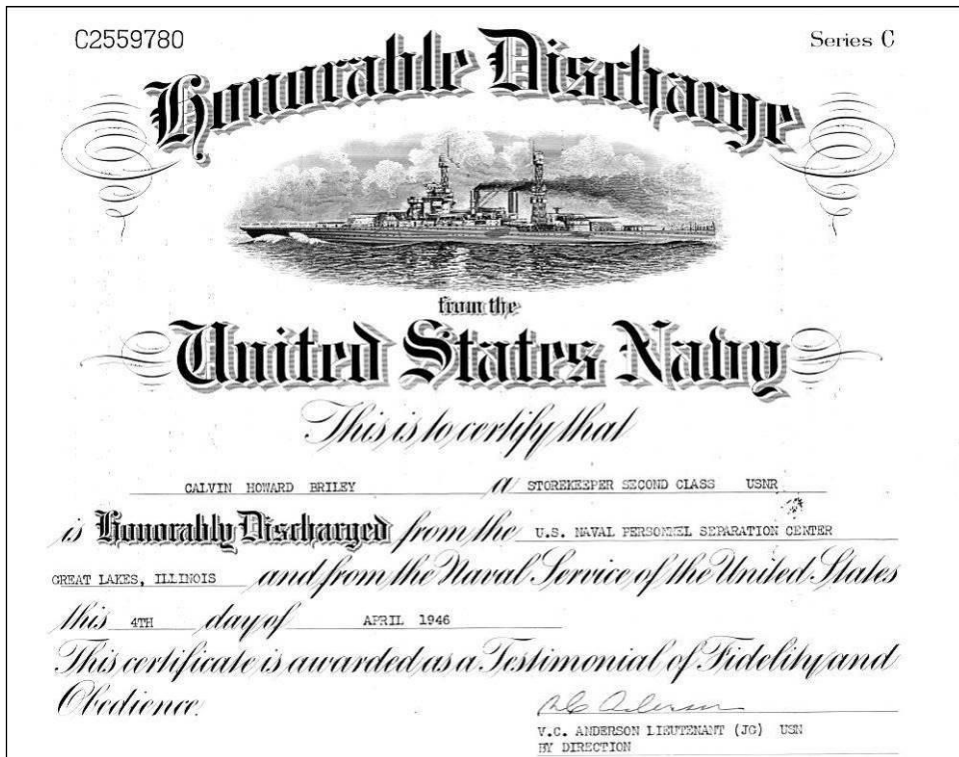


Figure 37 – Navy Discharge Certificate - 4/1946

Calvin never told us his job title or activities, but ships and oceans were his passion. He briefly considered buying a WWII minesweeper to make into our floating home when I was in the sixth grade, but monthly dock costs exceeded apartment rents.



STOREKEEPER, Second Class	
Calvin H. BRILEY 622 91 49 <small>Name and Service Number</small>	
SK2c <small>Rating</small>	
<i>Maurice Goldstein</i> <small>Signature of Certifying Officer</small>	
4/4/46 <small>Date of Issuance</small>	

Figure 38- Navy dog tag and Discharge rating booklet – 4/1946

NOTICE OF SEPARATION FROM U. S. NAVAL SERVICE NAVPERS-953 (REV. 8-45)		446-94-4	
1. SERIAL OR FILE NO. 2. NAME (LAST) (FIRST) (MIDDLE) 3. RATE AND CLASS/OR RANK AND CLASSIFICATION 4. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES		5. PLACE OF SEPARATION	
622-91-49 BRILEY, CALVIN HOWARD STOREKEEPER 2c V-6 USNR BOX 28 ATLANTA, MICHIGAN.		USN PERSEPCCEN UNIT # 4 GREAT LAKES, ILL.	
6. RACE 7. SEX 10. MARITAL STATUS 11. U.S. CITIZEN (YES OR NO)		4. CHARACTER OF SEPARATION	
WHITE M SINGLE YES		HONORABLE	
12. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH		7. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE BOUGHT	
9-12-24 ALPENA, MICH.		SCHOOL	
8. REGISTERED (YES/NO) 13. SELECTIVE SERVICE BOARD OF REGISTRATION		15. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE	
YES X NO		GEN DELIV. ATLANTA, MICH.	
16. MEANS OF ENTRY (INDICATE BY CHECK IN APPROPRIATE BOX)		17. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENLISTED <input type="checkbox"/> INDUCED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMISSIONED DATE 6-6-42 DATE		6-6-42	
18. QUALIFICATIONS, CERTIFICATES HELD, ETC.		19. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE	
SEE RATING DESCRIPTION BOOKLETS SK 2c		DETROIT, MICH.	
20. SERVICE SCHOOLS COMPLETED		21. RATINGS HELD	
NONE		AS, S2c, S1c, SK3c, SK2c	
22. SERVICE (VESSELS AND STATIONS SERVED ON)		23. FOREIGN AND/OR SEA SERVICE WORLD WAR II	
NAS GRT LKS, ILL.*USS WATERU ATF 117 NAS COLLEGE STA. TEXAS.*USS ARD -CM REC STA NAV STA NEW ORLEANS LA. NAV LAND. FOR EQUIP. DEPOT SAN DIEGO, CAL. NAF ATTU, ALASKA PAU # 7* SCTC TERMINAL ISLAND, CAL.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
IMPORTANT: IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR WITHIN THIRTY-ONE DAYS THEREAFTER, INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTOR'S SUBDIVISION, VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.			
25. KIND OF INSURANCE		26. EFFECTIVE MONTH OF ALLOTMENT DISCONTINUANCE	
NSI		APR	
27. NO. NEXT PREMIUM DUE		28. AMOUNT OF PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH	
MAY		6.50	
29. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO CONTINUE INS.		30. TOTAL PAYMENT UPON DISCHARGE	
YES		\$ 70.38	
31. TRAVEL OR MILEAGE ALLOWANCE INCLUDED IN TOTAL PAYMENT		32. INITIAL MUSTERING OUT PAY	
\$ 23.15		\$100.00	
33. NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER		34. REMARKS	
J.P. COLE 520025		POINT SYSTEM AMERICAN AREA RIBBON VICTORY RIBBON ASIATIC PACIFIC RIBBON	
35. SIGNATURE (BY DIRECTION OF COMMANDING OFFICER)		36. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST EMPLOYER	
<i>Maurice Goldstein</i> FOR MAURICE GOLDSTEIN LIEUT. USNR		SCHOOL	
37. DATES OF LAST EMPLOYMENT		38. MAIN CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND D. O. T. NO.	
FROM TO		SCHOOL	
39. JOB PREFERENCE (LIST TYPE, LOCALITY, AND GENERAL AREA)		40. PREFERENCE FOR ADDITIONAL TRAINING (TYPE OF TRAINING)	
COLLEGE		AGRICULTURE SCH.	
41. NON-SERVICE EDU. (YRS. SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED)		42. DEGREES	
3		-	
43. MAJOR COURSE OR FIELD		44. VOCATIONAL OR TRADE COURSES (NATURE AND LENGTH OF COURSE)	
-		NONE	
45. RIGHT INDEX FINGERPRINT		46. OFF DUTY EDUCATIONAL COURSES COMPLETED	
		NONE	
47. DATE OF SEPARATION		48. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED	
4-4-46		<i>Calvin H. Briley</i>	

Figure 39- Navy Notice of Separation - 4/1946

Getting Religion

While he was in the Navy, Calvin wrote that he had joined a fast growing organization. Carl thought Calvin was becoming a Communist and had Carla finish reading his letter aloud. Everyone was surprised to find out it was religion!

He came back from the Navy a nicer person. He studied religion and often spoke to Carla about it. He gave her a book written by Billy Graham. It seemed strange for Calvin to talk thus since he never went to church with the family, which they attended every Sunday at the Atlanta Congregational Church. At that time, Calvin never talked against organized churches but he did not participate either. That sounded unusual since Billy Graham encouraged people to be involved with a local congregation. I never heard Calvin speak about Billy Graham.



Figure 40 - Atlanta Congregational Church - 1956

Carl listed himself as a Mason, as did Hance, and others in the Township going back three generations starting with Allan. Church attendance was culturally expected.

Velma recalled:

Carl kept the Lord's Prayer on his desk, but he did not appear to [live faith openly]. Hance did not appear to like church. I saw our two grandmothers read the Bible, including Grandma Irwin.

I was not interested in believing during my growing years. We grew up in the church, but not one of us ever lived as if the Lord expected us. We were better people for having that background. I still remember the teachings, but I just never was aware of any special emphasis by anyone in our family on [an overt public] faith. [It may have been there, but I pushed personal faith out of my life.]

In contrast, Calvin talked about wanting to become a minister. He wanted to give the sermon at Carl's funeral but the arrangements were made. Isabelle did not want him to do so. Calvin never told me about wanting to preach the eulogy or to become a minister.

While both Velma and Carla recalled attending weekly church services as a family, it was not known when attendance became routine, nor how often the men were involved.

A Catholic Branch with a Pentecostal Sprout

Larry (1947-2018) wrote in 2011:

According to my parents, the Briley family knew nothing about religion. Cleo said he had no idea of any church affiliation. He did not know even if he was baptized. The courthouse in Atlanta burned to the ground and all records were lost, including birth certificates. Religion was not a part of the family history.

My mother, Emma Dice, was Catholic. They left for Texas where he joined the Army Air Corps. They borrowed \$50, borrowed a car, stopped in Ohio, and were married by a Justice of the Peace. Cleo then went on to various training across the country and Emma went home pregnant. Her parents rejected her.

She was not allowed home nor at any family functions, because [the elopement] was not recognized by the church. The Briley family, in general, did not like Emma because she was akin to “poor white trash” and had no place to live.

Yet, Cleo’s brothers, including Calvin, fixed up a “chicken coop” on Carl’s property with a barrel stove. They whitewashed and tar papered the chicken coop. That was where my brother Roger was born.

She lived there for two years and worked for \$5 a week in the house, cooking, cleaning, and taking care of Isabelle and the children. Emma said that Isabelle appeared sickly. Carl and Isabelle gave her two hours off on Sunday to go to [Catholic] church services.

When Cleo came home on leave from Burma, they were married in church ... but at a side altar because he was not Catholic. They had to sign papers that their children would be instructed in the Catholic Church. My oldest brother Roger was then two years old [and in 2011, diagnosed with early on-set of dementia.]

I left the Catholic Church many years ago, much to my mother’s dismay. My former wife and I were Apostolic Pentecostal. The [distinctive] doctrine is “Jesus only” and I still reject the notion of the Trinity. I believe in all of the gifts of the Holy Ghost. Yes, I am a tongue talking, holy rolling, born again, heaven bound believer in the liberating power of Jesus name. The Name above all Names.

*Although my mother was indeed upset, a few years later she said to me, “I do not understand your church or what you do there, but I like what it has done **to** you.”*

Millions of global “Oneness” Pentecostals do not affirm what they consider the unbiblical Nicene Creed [about the Trinity]. They assert that God is one Person manifesting as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and properly called Jesus Christ. They also preach that assurance of salvation only comes through the sign of speaking in tongues. – Christian History, Issue 130, 2019, page 46

California

Things Found in His Tax Returns

Calvin's Income Tax returns showed his addresses and jobs. The first tax return occurs after the Navy. In each, he listed jobs different from what he told me about in person.

For 1946, Calvin worked in Lansing for National Biscuit Company, an individual Philip Schwartz, Motor Wheel Corp, and Fisher Body Division of General Motors. He earned \$860. He bought a frame house for \$4500 and sold it for a profit that summer in Lansing. Residence: 821 Congress Avenue in Saginaw. Listed Occupation: Dental Lab [!?

For his Federal tax in 1950, he worked odd jobs in Los Angeles for Walter Binder, Ducommun Metal, and mostly with Metro Floor Coverings earning \$2800. Residence: 533 West Main, Alhambra, California. Occupation: Salesman. However, for his State tax, he listed a different address and occupation. Residence: PO Box 662, Topanga, California. Occupation: Douglas Aircraft [!?

In 1951, he worked for Butler Brothers, Reliable Paint, Public freight, Ducommun Metals, and Kellow Bowling Alley earning \$2400. Again, he listed different addresses and roles between his federal and state taxes. His State return listed the 1950 address. Federal Residence: PO Box 122, Temple City, California. Occupation: Student [!?

Then in 1952, he filed jointly with Barbara, intermixing incomes. Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica finally hired him as he closed out his work with Butler Brothers. Barbara worked for the Bank of America. Jointly, they earned \$3800, of which \$2100 was his. Their physical residence: 21459 Highvale Trail, Topanga, California

For 1953, I show up as a deduction. He worked with Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica, earning \$4400. Barbara worked briefly for Woodland Hills Community Church and Nursery School. This became their church based upon primary contributions in 1953, and only for that year. They contributed to Arcadia Presbyterian and Billy Graham. Residence: 21327 Dumetz Road, in Woodland Hills. Occupation: Mathematician [!?

For comparison, as a new hire in 1976, I earned a heady \$10,000. My parent's wages in the 1950's by comparison was very respectable middle class. Late in 1954, he left Douglas Aircraft to start his Dairy Route. They ceased supporting the Woodland Hills Community Church by the end of 1953, but supported the Presbyterian Church and Billy Graham one further year. Occupation: Milkman

The 1955 Return shows a marked change of financial direction. His new Dairy Route, after business deductions, showed a net loss. Occupation: Milkman, Real Estate.

By 1956, he listed himself as a farmer in Mapleton, Oregon, and my brother Michael was a newborn during the move. Calvin bought a lot of used farm equipment on 11/27/1956 for \$4400. Thereafter, the tax records add no new data.

California and Early Career

Calvin started at Michigan State briefly after leaving the Navy and transferred to UCLA.

Velma recalled:

Calvin then stayed with us [likely in 1950]. He went to college in Los Angeles. He took a psychology course and analyzed himself. He scared me with it. We had a lot of fun with Calvin when he first lived with us. He was hot-tempered sometimes, but he loved to laugh. Millard was able to joke with him a lot. [Calvin later repudiated all forms of psychiatry as evil.]



Figure 41 - Calvin 9/1952 - with Velma in San Gabriel 10/1952

Whenever Calvin stayed at the Schroeder's in their tiny San Gabriel home (2 bedrooms, 1 bath) in north Los Angeles, he got the boys room. Lynn Schroeder said they loved it because the two boys made it into an adventure sleeping in the garage.

Calvin panicked at earthquakes and experienced his first major quake at that San Gabriel home on 7/21/1952 at 4:32am. This 7.3 earthquake was far north in Kern County, but widely felt. Significant aftershocks occurred over magnitude 5. Six of these occurred the same day, but the strongest aftershock came on 8/22 as a 5.8 magnitude.

Calvin was not happy with any earth tremors. Yet, Lynn Schroeder recalled that right after that pre-dawn earthquake; Calvin remained under a sturdy table and soon fell back asleep! Kurt Schroeder years later loved to tease Calvin by jiggling the table.

David recalled Calvin, late in life, caught in a freeway jam during an earthquake in a narrow canyon with a dam upstream. Calvin probably recalled the earlier cracked earth-filled dam in the Saugus-Newhall earthquake of 1970. David said Calvin was terrified.

Calvin sent a rare letter to his father Carl in mid-1952 about his joining the post-college group at Arcadia Presbyterian Church in 1951, a description of Barbara, his upcoming marriage, asking for Mrs. Clark's full address, and seeking to repay his father some debt. Carl's response implies that Calvin never revealed his 1951 church membership nor engagement to Barbara. Since I never knew my father as a letter writer, I suspect my mother's involvement to mend family fences. Barbara stored Carl's letter carefully among her dairy goat awards, almost as if it were the last such letter.

Carl wrote on Atlanta Hardware letterhead in business longhand in 8/29/1952:

Dear Calvin- I was glad to receive your letter, am glad to hear you are well, and that you are living a good life. We are all pleased that you have joined the church and that you have the faith and courage to follow it. So many young people are lacking that today. Keep up the good work.

I am also glad to hear you are going to get married and I think from what you tell us, she must be a very fine girl.

Quit worrying about what you owe me. I never planned that you should repay it. In fact, you have been the least expensive of any of the children and I really owe you. I am going to surprise you and Velma by coming to your wedding. I probably will come alone, as Isabelle does not think she could stand the trip. You know she had a stroke to which she is some better, has been on a very strict diet, and cannot go very much or far. But of course, she might improve by that time. I don't know yet how I will come but probably by plane.

Mrs. Clark address is just "Lum, Michigan" [no first name, street, or zipcode needed for rural Lum]. I know she would be pleased to hear from you.

Have Bobby [Barbara] write to Isabelle. She would love to hear from her.

Write more often. Love, Dad

The 10/1952 wedding photo shows indeed that Carl, Isabelle, and Grandma Ella Briley attended. Calvin married at age 28 (see **My Mother and Her Family** chapter). He worked for Douglas Aircraft as a draftsman, which he found stifling and boring.

Calvin explained to Carl in 4/26/1953 (edited):

Dear Dad and Isabelle:

We are expecting in September. Both of us want a boy whose name will be Harry, her father; Howard, your name; Briley, my name. We found a used crib that we can paint and make like new. Bobby plans on shopping for baby clothes. We just got a letter from Mrs. Clark with a wedding present she made.

I am still at Douglas [Aircraft in Santa Monica]. It looks like they are going to keep me for a while. I go to night school [at Pasadena City College] every Wednesday to an aerodynamics course [in the Department of Aeronautics]. If I keep it up, I may find out what I am doing at work.

We are leaders of the junior high group in our church. They meet every Sunday night for two hours. We enjoy the work. It keeps us very busy.

These two rare letters surprised me that the unknown Mrs. Clark, who cared for Calvin as a toddler, remained in contact over the years. She was thus still alive in 1953.

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM
NOTICE OF CLASSIFICATION

Approval of Budget
Bureau not required

Briley **Calvin** **Howard**
(Last name) (First name) (Middle name)

Selective Service No. **20** **62** **24** **22**

has been classified in Class **5-A** (Until _____,
19____) by Local Board. Appeal Board,
by vote of _____ to _____ President
(Show vote on appeal board cases only)

Sept 29, 19**50** *Bruce Cameron*
(Date of mailing) (Member of local board)

Figure 42 - Military Draft even after WWII Service - 9/29/1950

By early 1954, Calvin was significantly balding, and looking much more worn than his late-twenties would expect. He wore a suit and ties for church then, which I do not recall him ever wearing after we moved to Oregon.



Figure 43- Calvin's Dairy Route – 10/1954

In late 1954, Calvin left Douglas Aircraft and ran a dairy route in Woodland Hills out of his home. Many photos show a rabbit, two ducks, a dog, and cats in the back yard. He built a small duck pond. He collected funds probably through Barbara's inheritance (according to the estate), and moved to Oregon to start an egg and milk ranch in 1956.

Mapleton Oregon

For three years, Calvin started farming on Sweet Creek Road in Mapleton, near coastal Florence Oregon. Early photos show a Palomino horse, a few goats, and at least three milk cows. Later photos show a flock of chickens and in 1958, a large herd of sheep fenced in a meadow near the house. I do not recall that herd of sheep but I visited the small utility shed that he retrofitted into a chicken hatchery with roosting cages, an egg-sorting machine, and a packaging counter. He contracted with a dairy to deliver milk.



Figure 44 - No Reins Bareback Riding - 4/1957



Figure 45 – Sweet Creek Sheep and Barn - 3/1958



Figure 46 - Ford 8N Tractor Plowing – 3/1959

Married Not Entirely For Love

Carla allied my deduction about where the farm payment came from. She thought Calvin was incapable of loving anyone. Concerning Barbara, he only talked about her wealthy family and the money she would inherit. He never talked about Barbara herself. She was perfect for Calvin, was kind, and tried hard to bridge the relationship gaps in the family.

I saw the same behavior in my adopted son who attracted wealthy girls. When he brought over his girlfriends (a repeated episode), it was "*look at this car I am driving*" (the girlfriend's late-model car) and, if he remembered, an introduction to the girl.

Around late 1985, Cleo and Emma visited Calvin in California. Cleo made a strange remark to his son Larry that Calvin and Barbara appeared just to live in the same house, not as in a marriage, but just shared the same house. This sharing of a house with emotional distance matches my own multi-year observations.

The only cousins I knew about were Velma's kids. Barbara mentioned Calvin's brothers in Michigan, but Calvin never told us anything ... just a dead silence ... and we instantly then knew to change the subject, or just go out and play. Barbara told me about Briley Township and Atlanta. She did not know much with only a brief visit once in 11/1955.

Religious Shift Towards

In the early 1950's, he possibly attended a campus group led by the late Bill Bright, who had just begun Campus Crusade for Christ. He likely earlier heard Bill Bright give his faith testimony as part of a deputation team to the Arcadia Presbyterian Church in early 1951 at the Lamplighters young adult group that Barbara helped start.

His membership certificate, 7/1/1951, stated he joined upon confession of faith and baptism. As confirmed by tax records, they left the Presbyterian Church to help serve the nearby United Church of Christ (UCC) in 1952, but visited for my dedication/baptism as a newborn in 4/1954. They enjoyed working with the UCC Junior High youth. He has broad smiles in most photos from the UCC Pilgrim Pines Camp in June.



Figure 47 – UCC Pilgrim Pines Camp, Yucaipa, CA - 6/1952

Religious Shift Away

I recall a photograph with me as a toddler dressed nicely, while Calvin held me up to pull the bell rope within the foyer of an unknown church (most likely the Woodland Hills Community Church in 1954) It was the one of my last times inside a church building.

He told me that he was horrified that the minister did not believe in heaven, hell, the virgin birth, and not much of anything else in the Bible. The hypocrisy was so galling, that it was not until after Calvin lost his life savings in the commodity futures market in 1969-1970 that he re-started any interest in church activity at the urging of Velma.

Velma never mentioned that Calvin read any Billy Graham books, but recalled:

About 1951, he met Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ and accepted the Lord as his savior. He changed for the better, for a while, but he did not seem to be “born again” just right. He wanted to intimidate everyone with the Bible and to tell them they were going to hell. The love of God was missing!

As the years went by, Calvin kept getting bigger books with teachings of other religions. I could not see the sense of studying other religions. I felt we should zero in on Christ's teachings and our Christian walk.

Velma said that Calvin had a run-in with Bill Bright. Calvin sensed some personal slight or societal class distinction and turned that distancing as a moral failure of all Christians in general. Calvin never spoke positively about faith within our secular home although he argued for hours about it with Velma. I never discovered from whence came his anger against faith-based organizations of any sort, and against Bill Bright in particular.

Calvin became an isolated rancher by the 1960's. My parents raised me as a moral person without underpinning reasons. There were no overt displays of faith for my first 16 years (no church, discussions, or Bible readings). We lived a fully secular non-religious life.

The only religious discussions were his intense arguments with Velma where we cousins high tailed out to the backyard. Three of those young cousins became lifelong pastors (Kurt, Mark, Lori). I became an active layperson along scholastic lines.

He celebrated Christmas with a decorated tree until 1970. When we moved to Simi Valley, he stopped using a tree. The tree obscured the reason for the season and I likewise adopted the approach. I did not feel deprived, but I think it crushed my mother.

Calvin's renewed church interest was short-lived and he forbid me to attend any church.

Even though he developed stringent internal ideas about faith, and despite his poor treatment of Barbara, it appears that he truly believed that a wife was a partner. David recalled that Calvin became incensed when a neighbor farmer, from another culture, required his wife to walk several steps behind him in public.

An Autodidact

I remember Calvin as an autodidact, "me against the world", and "*no one believes rightly except me*". He never talked about some things until one of us stepped into a minefield.

Autodidact is a coined word meaning self-taught. All mature humans become eventually self-taught. People thus use the word pejoratively to emphasize "self" rather than "taught". The word itself is an oxymoron because an autodidact refuses instruction. Most dictators or monarchial rulers, past and current, have autodidact attributes.

Likewise, any militant approach to life, such as militant Marxism, militant atheism, or militant Islam, bears the same traits. People militantly hostile to the Christian faith tend to focus on their autodidactic reasoning. Specifically, the autodidact vehemently never allows someone to challenge his or her reasoning intellectually.

The 2008 documentary film *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*, hosted by Ben Stein allowed a militant anti-God mindset to speak frighteningly against anyone who questioned their assumptions. The film allowed renowned educators and authors to present themselves in their auto-didactic manner.

W. Robert Godfrey, president of Westminster Seminary in California wrote in the Seminary's paper *Valiant* describing Harold Camping of Family Radio as an autodidact. Dr. Godfrey embraced faith in the same congregation where Harold Camping once taught. His first-hand knowledge and his quote could equally describe Calvin's approach to the Bible.

Robert Godfrey wrote (SCP Newsletter 35:4 Summer 2011, page 14):

After [Harold] Camping began to work full time with Family Radio, he spent much time studying the Bible. His knowledge of Bible verses is impressive indeed. However, his study of the Bible was undertaken in isolation from other Christians and theologians.

He adopted a proud individualism. He did not learn from Bible Scholars. He studied the Bible in isolation from the church and the consensus of the faithful. As a result, his understanding of the Bible became more and more idiosyncratic. No one could help, direct, or restrain him.

He was really an autodidact, that is, someone who teaches himself. He never really submitted his ideas to be challenged and improved by others; He was truly his only teacher. He has repeatedly said that he would be glad to change his views if he is shown that he is wrong from the Bible.

However, this humble statement covers a very arrogant attitude, because no one can ever show him that he is wrong. He alone really understands the Bible.

Along these autodidactic lines, Velma recalled in 7/28/1984:

When I later [became an active Christian myself in 1968], I thought I could be closer to Calvin but it never worked that way. He was always convinced that I had two or three doctrines mixed up, and that he needed to set me straight.

Calvin and Barbara went to Melodyland Christian Center in 1970 and while there, he was sure he was filled with the Holy Spirit. I agreed that the Lord touched him, but I did not feel he was baptized in the Holy Spirit. I suggested he ask the Lord into his heart and ask for the baptism of the Holy Spirit again. It would not hurt and it might set him clearly on the right path, but he felt I was the one who was off base. [Calvin was typically livid with fury if implicated that he was the one in error or that he did not pray correctly the first time.]

Finally, the Lord clearly let me know I was not to strive with his spirit anymore. Therefore, when they came over, I talked to them about everything but religion. This absence provoked Calvin very much. Kurt and I tried repeatedly at our home and at theirs, to get Calvin (and Barbara) to give the Lord a clear chance, just to examine what the Bible says with an open heart. However, he always felt he [alone] had the truth and he has spent the rest of these years looking, as he said, “for someone to agree with him”.

Calvin believed there were very few [real] Christians in the world and that he was one of them. “Many are called but few are chosen.” He felt that he heard voices guiding him to this [church] or that person, but when they would not [fully] agree with him, he got very angry and was almost constantly upset.



Figure 48 - Barbara, David (age 11), Calvin - Isla Vista, CA – 3/1974

Figure 49 - Calvin, Barbara, Harry, David, Carpenteria, CA - 1/1975

Going Farther Afield

While I was in college, he refused all celebrations, and did not call the days of the week by their names (due to their pagan origins and since the Bible listed no day names). I accused him in late 1974, in a heated undiplomatic moment, that he acted like a Jehovah Witness. Had Calvin acted with winsomeness, I might have accepted it as an odd personal spiritual discipline. My own bristling did not help matters.

Velma elaborated about this stage on 7/28/1984 with my comments:

I believe Calvin got "religion" but not the Lord. It took his common sense and warped it. I asked Barbara to get him to go to a Christian psychiatrist and she said, "no." She preferred to go on like they were. I could not understand why, because Calvin had all kinds of religious taboos [by the 1970's]; no birthday cards, cakes, gifts, or holidays. [Calvin strongly held that psychiatry was anti-Christian, with plenty of evidence from psychologists themselves, and thus he treated Christian psychiatry as an evil hybrid.]

Your dad and mom both had good minds. You boys were very intelligent. I hated to see [Calvin's] religion mess you up. It shocked me to hear your brother, Mike, say he hated his dad. We know that family living is always the most difficult place to be [an overt] Christian. We have had our share of problems and trials.

However, with Calvin, [we either had to fully] agree with him or else he would walk out. Once, he came up to our place in Woodcrest to stay a few days. He got mad and walked several miles from our store back to our home, and told Barbara to pack up, get David, and get in the car. He would not talk to me. Barbara cried because she looked forward to a good visit, and they had just arrived.

I tried to talk to him but he would not make sense. I asked where his love was, if he had any Christian love [which infuriated him even more]. He just drove off.

Millard and I drove over time after time to their apartment in Santa Barbara and tried to be family, but he would not respond. Then they disappeared without a word and no forwarding address. That really hurt.

Sabbath Oppression

After I left for college, David said Calvin posted a full-page newspaper ad for a long time next to their front door in Simi Valley that described how to honor the Sabbath. David could not recall the source but said Barbara was upset that it would offend the neighbors.

While David was in high school in Fremont, Calvin insisted that if anyone in his house worked on the Sabbath, then he, Calvin, would be at risk of his eternal soul. He clearly read Exodus 31:14-16 (and 35:2-3 ... the only two references) and observed the lack of implementation (with dire consequences for Israel). He did not accept the exemptions for non-Jewish believers at the Jerusalem Council extended by the Jewish believers in Jesus.

Anne wrote in her seminary class journal on 1/17/1985 (edited):

*I affirmed what Richard Foster says about the [spiritual] disciplines [in his book **Celebration of Discipline**] as being treated as law (becoming the way of death). My father-in-law Calvin treated the disciplines as law and it caused the death of all three father-son relationships. My husband was estranged. Calvin cut relations since Harry did not follow the Old Testament laws, specifically the Sabbath [as Calvin understood it]. Calvin did not even make toast on that day!*

I struggled with this. Did Calvin keep the Sabbath because he loved God or because he was afraid that God would let him fall if he did not keep it? I think it was the latter. Calvin avoided birthdays because they “glorified the flesh”.

Harry thus lost a father. His younger brother moved out [before] age 18. His youngest brother handled the sense of worthlessness with drugs. I wonder if Calvin [thus] thought he missed obeying a law. The whole thing was tragic.

I saw the net effect and mourned. I pray not to be judgmental beyond my current state. Harry had a father-in-law [Jack] that he related well to, but no real father.

Forced obedience holds no sway over anyone’s heart. Anne and I honored erev Shabbat (Friday evening), starting a bit after the teen wars, out of a mutual response to God’s love. The earlier practical kitchen benefits seen in observing Passover pushed us that direction. A recurring heavy moth infestation in our dry storage ceased once we held that annual top-to-bottom yeast/wheat removal exercise. That pragmatism impressed me! If there was such cause/effect benefit, what else occurs if we introduced a weekly down time? The result was a less hectic lifestyle and a break from e-mail. These things make such rituals in many observant Jewish homes culturally normal and openly welcome.

While I ate kosher, Anne was under no obligation (and indeed did not). However, Calvin intimidated his household with bullying, out of a deathly fear of God’s vengeance. If people equate oppression to holiness, there is no small wonder that people think of Jesus-centric believers oddly. I can only guess the bitterness and heaviness that pervaded his Sabbath compared to the warmth and expectation that Anne felt with me in later years.

Distrust of medicine and doctors

In spite of quality dental and medical care in the 1940s' and 1950's, Calvin treated the medical profession as if using methods from the late 1800's. He refused check-ups. Calvin told us that doctors were worthless by always asking him “*What's wrong with you?*”, when in his opinion, doctors should automatically know such answers ... after all, if he, Calvin, knew himself what was wrong, he would not need a doctor.

Clearly, this was a most trivial communication problem, but it was a life-long attitude of contempt towards medicine, which prevented timely treatment of bladder cancer. I imagine the theological hoops of deep despair that he went through with his cancer.

David recalled that Calvin much wanted someone to anoint him with oil. Since many ministers gladly anoint with oil for healing, I can only presume he wanted something radically different. Perhaps he wanted something similar to Aaron's sons (the Cohen, in Hebrew) in Exodus 29:21. Since it was abundantly clear that Calvin was no such descendent, I am not surprised that none would do it (nor do it in the way he insisted).

David echoed Velma's observation that Calvin never found anybody “*who would agree with him*”. Still, this desire for anointing surprised me. If he wanted it for healing, then perhaps the ministers observed a deeper problem and declined out of simple discernment.

Family Dental Needs

The same attitude about doctors applied to dentistry, but for an entirely different reason. His father, Carl, did not spend money for a dentist, except only for extractions when the tooth was beyond repair. The older five siblings' teeth were thus prone to decay.

Since Calvin was deeply impressed that God healed people of physical ills and mechanics, he maintained that God would likewise heal his decayed teeth. After his teeth literally rotted to stumps, he maintained that stories about miracles of teeth replaced with gold fillings and crowns, applied to his situation as long as he had enough faith.

His sister Velma recalled that Calvin was so pleased that his teeth did not hurt even though they were decayed to the stubs. That indicated to him that he would get new teeth from the Lord. Velma wanted to help him with the cost, but he would not consider it.

Probably for lack of dental insurance, Calvin never provided dental care for us three boys either, except when Mike dropped a 2x4 board on my face. The fluoride in Oregon water kept me safe until college years, when a mouthful of cavities woke me to reality. I did not get my impacted wisdom teeth removed or teeth straightened until after college. I do not fault Calvin for expensive orthodontia, but basic dental care was woefully lacking.

On 7/12/84, I complained in a long-forgotten letter to Velma that my brother David went to a dentist with over \$3000 worth of work. David had three molar root canals that prior week and had three more to go. I wrote that I felt Calvin was liable for child neglect. At age 21, David needed a dental bridge, in his first ever visit to a dentist.

Conflicting Theologies about Spiritual Healing

Calvin held strong opinions about sickness and sin from the late 1960's due his amazed observations of rapid/instantaneous healing after prayers in Southern California. He did not say every sickness was due to sin, but he was clearly more in that camp than outside of it. In a perverse reversal of logic, he concluded, "*The reason there are so many healings in [any given] church is that there is so much sin in that church.*" His conversations directed at me (not with me) on this topic were exceedingly draining, dismissive, derogatory, and depressively stated. He was healthy but prone to illness.

For me, sickness usually had reasonable causes such as:

- our bad behavior, sometimes from obvious sin (thus, natural consequences)
- behavior of others towards us (injury or communicable disease)
- lack of wellness behavior (physical weakness against disease)
- behavior of society (environmental damage)
- decay of the gene pool (genetically carried disease)
- sometimes (rarely) God uses it to get our attention (pro or con)

Clearly, only a few diseases were thus due to unrepentant sin (e.g. chronic alcoholism).

Even though the Prophets of old listed well-being as a sign of God's protection, the near-term outworking followed the mindset of the Preacher in Ecclesiastes. The Psalms always rue how well the wicked prosper and the godly seem forsaken. The book *None of These Diseases* (S.I. McMillen, MD, 1963) cut a middle ground reflecting on why God instituted certain laws through Moses (the Torah) towards the impact upon health.

On the other side, I firmly believe that God heals human bodies (and automobile transmissions per another chapter later on). Why he chooses to do so (or not) is his sovereign choice, but it appears that he is always the gentleman and never forces a healing upon someone. Jesus is often shown as asking "*What is it that you what to be done?*" I documented my case of the healing of a dislocated shoulder in 1975 (see **College with Purpose** chapter). That accident was not due to sin against God, but due to natural consequences of riding a bicycle without rear brakes on rain slick pavement downhill with a car suddenly pulling into the upcoming intersection.

In 2013, God healed my deep shinbone bruise (8-week prognosis in which doctors could not assist). I underestimated the height to hop into a pickup bed. The immediate consequence yielded the injury and not some prior sin. The following healing used simple unadorned prayers up front at my Baptist church after two weeks. This delay was not slowness on God's part, but due to my pride in thinking it was not worthy of walking forward on the prior Sunday. I could hop on that once-wounded leg that morning.

According to unhelpful people, some unrepentant sin (as Job's monochromatic friends maintained) set me up for injury. According to my father's theology, the healing occurred because of my sins or the sins in the church itself. He hypothesized that a lack of sin yielded a healthy life, and no healing occurs for healthy people, therefore healing implies sin. I will leave it to you to detangle the false premises of his polarizing theory.

Mental Instability

Possible Bi-Polar Disorder

Calvin thrived on anger, as a youth, and appeared to fabricate stories. Calvin's hostile environment was partly of his own making. Isabelle was indeed harsh but he would instigate conflict. He tried intentionally to make Carl's family miserable.

Velma noted his hot temper. No one knew how to handle Calvin. Isabelle left it up to the housekeeper. He had unknown problems at school. Likewise, I could not handle my adopted son. The bi-polar teenager welcomes opposition, thrill seeking, and high-risk.

Anne and I adopted a sibling pair as preschoolers, similar to a Velma/Calvin pair (older sister, younger/angry brother). We could tell as a three year old, that the child had serious issues. Calvin had nearly a pattern match to my son, being a terror as a teen, extreme mood swings, mania, frequent anger, unsubstantiated self-importance, paranoia, and financial risk-taking, with a quieting respite during his middle years.

In one case of an impulsive action typical of a bi-polar person, Calvin had Carl's grave headstone moved to bury Carl next to Mary. The workers cracked it while moving it. Calvin did not find it important to tell his family. Carla found out only because she made the funeral arrangements (since Isabelle was incapacitated). The family never told Isabelle about the headstone movement or its damage.

Bi-Polar within Family Line

Mental illness lurks in the larger family with unsuspecting children being carriers. Past diagnoses were weak and the stigma remains inflammatory. While circumstantial data, we see similar effects with enough cases not to be surprised by the diagnosis.

Mary's three brothers committed suicide. Cleo's son, Christopher, shot himself in front of his parents at age 30 in 1991. He became bi-polar in his late 20's. He did the on-again off-again routine with medications. Larry said his parents seemed to "get old" after that.

Larry readily agreed that there was a bi-polar thread. He wrote, "*The statistics prove that there is a genetic pre-disposition to being bi-polar [in our family]. The Dice side is prone to depression.*" [This complicates the gene pool among cousins]. He continued, "*Another brother has the same diagnosis. He recently divorced and living on mental disability. He is so moody that I do not know whether to say hello or duck my head!*"

The next generation has similar cases. Cleo's youngest son, another Carl, reported in 2011 that his 26-year-old son has bi-polar. Velma's son, Kurt, reported in 2010 that his 30-year-old son had a schizophrenia diagnosis.

It is not a comforting thought, but the working theory is that even if my Anne could have conceived (she had ovarian tumors), her mild bi-polar diagnosis combined with my suspected recessive gene would have yielded probable bi-polar children of our own.

Keith Briley

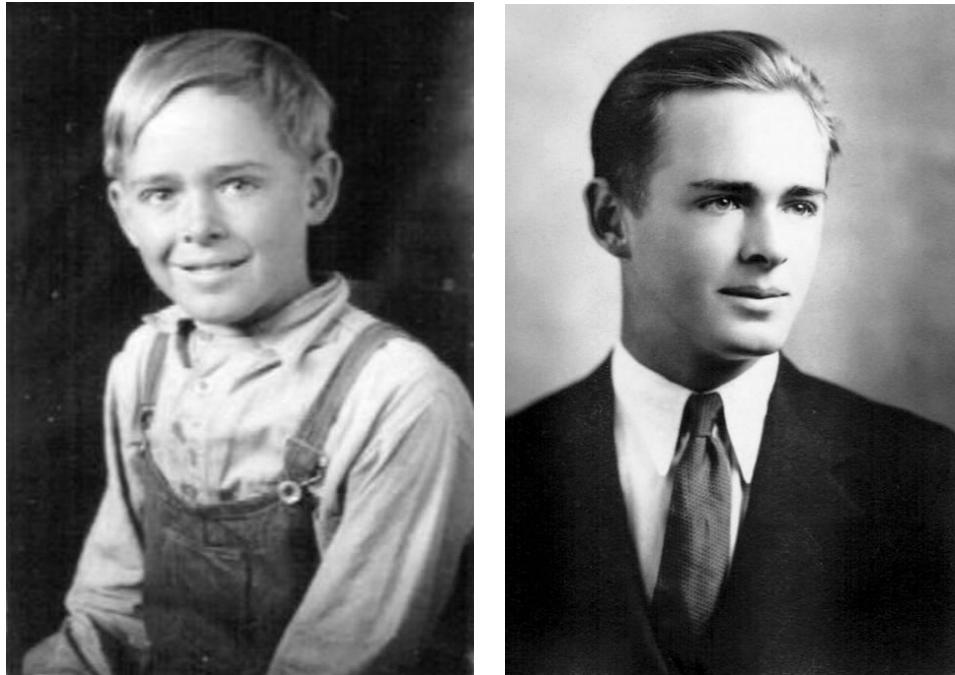


Figure 50 - Keith Briley - 11-year old 1929 and late 1930's

Keith was in a military mental hospital and struggled with mental illness his entire life that came back with him from WWII. Keith and his son William (Bill) spent time in mental institutions.

Another son, Jerry, had some similar noticeable issues. William, born 1952, has a Parkinson's-like disease (caused from Thorazine and shock treatments as an inpatient at the Traverse City State Hospital when he was 17) and a bi-polar diagnosis with schizophrenic tendencies. Larry noted, “*I know who Billy is, but he does not know who I am, as he is heavily medicated.*” Bill's youngest son, the third generation in this line, was diagnosed with bi-polar and depression.

Keith and his sons lived with Cleo's family for a long time during their mental difficulties. Cleo and Emma frequently took Keith to a state mental hospital in Traverse City, Michigan. The only explanation ever given to Larry was that “*something happened to him overseas in the war*”.

Patti wrote of her father:

Keith spent some time in the VA hospital for some sort of mental breakdown. They told my Mom, Donna, that he would never be released and to move on with her life. That might be when my brothers (Jerry, Dave, Bill) went to foster care and me, as a baby, continued to live with my mother. They divorced and Mom married George Paul. Dad was released from the hospital and I could visit him. Dad had mental problems the rest of his life.

Distant and Explosive

Calvin had some measure of friendliness to his few friends but he was not demonstrative with affection. He took us places and did some things with us, but he was present in an absent way. I thought his frequent anger started after the farm years. I never knew what triggered it. It was verbal but had an emotional toll. I was unaware that it was life-long.

He was 6' tall and we three boys towered over him. At 6' 4", I was the shortest of the brothers. All three of us skinny-as-a-rail boys were scared of him. My 10-year younger brother David said after I left for college, it got much worse, with punishments far out of proportion for his crimes. This included wrathful spankings with sticks and belts, reminiscent of Calvin's own past, and grounded to his bedroom an entire summer.

I was 16 when God called in my parent's promise. Faith started at age 9 but this was a transformational year. While many cannot accept God due to failings of their earthly father, I found a father-image previously glaringly absent. While God became a keel and rudder to me, Calvin grew desperate, deeply unsettled, and with increased turmoil.

In my senior year, Calvin thought an anti-social armed group would sweep me into their ranks. He was terrified as violent anarchy consumed the youth culture. It was a warranted fear. The Black Panthers organized effectively and the Minute Men planned to take down the government as in 1776. Vulnerable students believed the rhetoric. The news media in late 1960's did not help. He brought this up so frequently that I felt he lost touch with me as a person. He was distant earlier, but this focal shift was strange.

Once, he burst into my bedroom saying he smelled marijuana and found me instead sitting on my bed calmly reading the Bible. There was an unspoken truce. I never brought up the incident and he reluctantly trusted that I was unlikely to be a menace to society. We had other arguments, but he never again burst into my room. David thought the acrid smell came from his short-circuiting a wall plug in his adjacent bedroom.



I sadly discovered when my own teenagers pushed my limits, and I could not affect my son's trajectory to prison, that I copied my father's explosive rage. I thus have empathy for Carl's predicament with Calvin. I hated that anger because it was alien and out of character for me. My father's anger was understandable given valid assumptions, but his anger grossly misjudged me as the compliant son.

In college, Calvin worried that I might join the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA), active during 1973-1975 with Patricia Hearst. New Mexico School of Mines was so far off the student riots radar as if to be in another country. *"Kent State? What's that?"*

Calvin never paid a compliment to or about anyone. During college, he ceased talking to me. On a one-time visit in 3/1981, he gave a rare compliment, through my mother of course, about installing a shower door in our fixer-upper home. I was proud to show it off, but did not realize until then how compliments were fully absent in my youth.

Making Do

Family Heritage of Self-Reliance

Calvin's siblings were self-sufficient and cared for themselves. They worked and contributed to the care of the house, garden, woodpile, and pump water. Velma said they made their own beds, did dishes, swept, carried water, and hauled wood. They had enough to eat and wear (but nothing fancy). Carla said the second five kids likewise worked for every penny. The youngest boys moved to the farm at 5 and 6. These younger brothers at 8 and 9 drove the big John Deere tractors up to 10 hours a day for plowing. As a 4-H member of four years by age 12, Carla learned to cook, can, garden, and sew, as typical of farm life. Carla paid her way through teachers college.

A photo in 1953 shows Calvin wearing new Wrangler blue jeans. I noticed this because I am not partial to blue jeans and never saw him wear a brand new pair.

With scarce funds, I adopted the farm motto "*use it up, wear it out, make do.*" Calvin had no income to send me to college. At 17, I had a half scholarship and a loan for the first year due to my ACT exam scores. My campus job through the honors program paid for the other costs. Calvin disowned me in 1972 over my desire to attend Expo'72 in Texas (See **College with Purpose** chapter). Since most of the students had some sort of work, it seemed normal to declare financial independence at 18, and move on with life.

While in college, I loaned my parents about \$1300 (most of my savings). That was a lot of money for a student when gas was still 35 cents a gallon. Barbara paid the loan back monthly over two years. It just seemed the right thing to do to help the family. I worked my way through college and paid off my own student loan the year after graduation.

Healthy but Lean Meals in Simi Valley

Calvin provided for the family. Meals were lean in the high school years, but we never went hungry. As a residue after of our time in Hawaii, he made sumptuous fruit salads for desserts. Barbara cut up a single chicken breast into a rice and mushroom soup casserole for the five of us. David and I both recalled that tasty casserole.

David recalled a 'clean-plate' rule in, which he ate what was on the plate or sent to bed. I only recall having to eat whatever asked for. Even so, the terrors of the vegetable world were our parent's favorite treats: yellow wax beans, Brussels sprouts, Lima beans, and asparagus. I could only get them down hot, buttered, and salted.

Calvin discovered that the backyard soil in Simi Valley made great garden patches for corn and tomatoes. He mulched a fruit tree that responded well. David recalled an amazing summer bounty that supplemented their needs along with some dairy-based government assistance (powdered milk, cheese, eggs, etc.). They bought near-expiration-date bread and froze it for later use. The freezer was likewise a mainstay for me. I do not recall learning to freeze bread from my parents but bread keeps fine in a refrigerator and almost forever inside a freezer.

Calvin's Various Occupations

Calvin worked through a rags-to-riches-to-rags story while raising our family. He would sit on farm real estate until the property appreciated about three years, sold it, and bought another rural property. His excellent eye for market timing led him naturally into the stock market (He often told me, “*Buy low, Sell high*”) that led to a month vacation on Oahu with a rented beach house (a mansion) one spring, and then an entire year with a house on the Kailua canal across from the golf course.

Three things moved him back to Oregon.

- First, he never saw Hawaii. As a day trader, he lived in the darkened trading room at the brokerage from sunrise to sunset watching the green electronic ticker tape lights flow across the room display up near the ceiling.
- Second, he did not expect the reverse discrimination against whites who were not tourists. For family safety, he decided to move when the school year finished.
- Third, a close Realtor/Builder friend, Dairy Breeden (of Breeden Homes), in Eugene had just finished a tract of elegant homes on a wooded hillside. He must have given an irresistible price for Calvin to welcome him back to the States.

Mr. Breeden had purchased our older tract home in Eugene prior to our 1967 move to Hawaii and kept it in the family for years. His daughter (my childhood friend), Christy, was living there with a ‘For Sale’ sign when Anne and I visited the area in 1980.

Shortly after our move to Simi Valley, Calvin lost his entire savings gambling (not cautiously investing) in the commodity futures market. He purchased with borrowed money, was highly leveraged, and the Midwestern crops failed.

Bonnie Wright (a neighbor briefly in Simi Valley) responded on 7/3/2001:

He only gambled on the commodity market (beans, etc.) and he had a bad fall with it. He never could get back on his feet and this left [the family] out on a limb. He just could not climb back out of his hole [but he was not a ‘gambler’]. His world had fallen apart. It had to do a ‘job’ on his mind and well-being.

The first time I ever saw Calvin get into religion was when he was losing the house. My husband [Herb] gave him a job at my request as a night watchman at Gold Key Furniture, but he quit in five days. We were never sure why, but he said he was frightened. Herb never talked about it to me or Calvin afterwards.

Calvin would not stay with a job. I had to be careful about helping. They had pride. I believe he quit jobs because they did not want so much care [done] in his work. Calvin [did] a real good job on shelves and a pantry [for me]. Calvin would have done my job for free, but the deal was he got paid or I would [find] someone else. [So,] he drove from Santa Barbara to our home in Canoga Park.

He took a job in Los Angeles as a truck driver and then held a job as a laborer building mobile homes for the Budger Home Division of Wick Building Systems. He brought home scraps to build a wood deck.

Velma recalled:

Calvin had trouble working for a living because he always felt others were against him; they were not honest; they were not this or that. When others would [understandably] shy away from him, he would leave the job. Barbara kept the family going and Calvin hated that others preferred dealing [directly] with her.

He then took up a series of apartment manager jobs (Barbara was the manager and Calvin was the maintenance man) and spent years trying to get back into the stock market.

Calvin moved the family to Isla Vista in 1972 and then to Carpentaria (both near Santa Barbara) to manage apartments. He moved north to Healdsburg (near Point Arena) to act as a caretaker of an idle ranch for one year, and moved to Rohnert Park for four months.

He moved to Fremont to manage apartments, was dismissed (which I suspect prompted Barbara to work for Eaton), later evicted David upon his graduation, and moved to Pacifica on the San Francisco Peninsula (Barbara commuted by freeway to Sunnyvale).

While David was Home alone

Calvin, in Santa Barbara, attended seminars on bird watching and enjoyed observations on the local salt-water marsh. He worked on his car(s) himself until he was physically unable. He was an apartment maintenance man (Barbara was the manager).

1/1969	1020 Vallejo, Simi Valley
10/1969	1787 Marcella St, Simi Valley
6/1973	6764 Abrego St, Isla Vista/Goleta
7/1973	6775 Picasso St, Isla Vista/Goleta
6/1974	Tropic Shores, 126 Ash Ave #1, Carpentaria
5/1977	Hillside Ranch, PO Box 206, Healdsburg
12/1978 – 4/1979	1008 Eleanor Ave, Rohnert Park

Table 2 - Residences 1969-1979

In Healdsburg, as a tenant caretaker of the Hillside Ranch, he drove the heavy machinery and graded a road on the property. Barbara tended to a rag tag set of animals.

David enjoyed tinkering with electronics with a room full of parts, which Calvin intensely disapproved out of fear of electrical safety. Instead of nurturing David's interest in a technical career, he became overly controlling. David was a naturally rebelling teenager and dismal grades only added fuel to the fire.

After the move to Fremont in 1979, Calvin became overly sensitive that family support came from Barbara (who re-entered the workforce in 6/1980). David recalled an argument about being dependent upon "her money". Barbara got a morale boost when the Dairy Goat Journal published a poem of hers. This added to Calvin's isolation, but I believe he was happy for her publication.

Calvin moved the family several times without leaving Velma, David, or I forwarding addresses or phone numbers. In my 7/12/84 letter to Velma, I reported that Barbara was at Eaton Corporation in Sunnyvale by 1981 where she received her mail and phone calls.

5/1979	CVA, 41299 Paseo Padre Parkway #1, Fremont
9/1979	CVA, 41299 Paseo Padre Parkway #136, Fremont
1/1982	380 Talbot #106, Pacifica
11/1982	650 Alamo Court #3, Mountain View
12/1982 – 2/1988	227 North Mathilda #27, Sunnyvale

Table 3 - Residences 1979-1988

David located their home address in Pacifica but it was nearly two years old and no longer valid. Barbara seemed at ease with a dependable job and could write directly from work without censoring by Calvin. Even so, she asked that I not judge Calvin harshly.

Calvin lived his final year (or two) in a Sunnyvale apartment (which considerably eased Barbara's commute to Eaton Corporation).

His Last Communication

In his final year, he sent a cryptic postcard on 11/17/1985. I had seen a couple of these in the past and tucked it away in my office desk not deciphered until 2012. He never wrote a paragraph of text. These few instances of communication were symptomatic of his using uncommented scripture references to hide behind what he wanted to say.

The postcard content was this list of scripture verses:

James 1:19
II Samuel 18:33 - 19:7
Luke 14:26
Forgive me, I repent
Luke 17:3-4; 6:37
II Corinthians 13:11

The decoded series of scriptures presented a double edge, either as

1. A not-so-veiled threat to force me to forgive him for something unstated.
2. I was the one in the wrong for something unstated.

In either case, he could not bring himself to write plainly, of what bothered him. Indeed, I likewise have considerable trouble telling people what bothers me about them.

The specific issue of repentance was either that:

1. He bemoaned the loss after his attempts to dissuade my active church attendance (that is, I was a traitor to him since 1972)
2. He did not sufficiently hate my abandonment of his principals (because he still had some residual affection for me).

His final decoded communication states (bolding is mine):

¹⁹Take note of this: Everyone should be **quick to listen**, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

[Upon his son's death (the traitor Absalom),] ³³ The king [David] was shaken. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went, he said: "O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! **If only I had died instead of you—O Absalom, my son, my son!**" Joab was told, "The king is weeping and mourning for Absalom." ² And for the whole army the victory that day was turned into mourning, because on that day the troops heard it said, "The king is grieving for his son." ³ The men stole into the city that day as men steal in who are ashamed when they flee from battle. ⁴ The king covered his face and cried aloud, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!" ⁵ Then Joab went into the house to the king and said, "Today you have humiliated all your men, who have just saved your life and the lives of your sons and daughters and the lives of your wives and concubines. ⁶ **You love those who hate you and hate those who love you.** You have made it clear today that the commanders and their men mean nothing to you. I see that you would be pleased if Absalom were alive today and all of us were dead. ⁷ Now, go out and encourage your men. I swear by the LORD that if you do not go out, not a man will be left with you by nightfall. This will be worse for you than all the calamities that have come on you from your youth till now." [Indeed, my father died friendless and left a large medical debt to my mom.]

[Jesus speaking of putting anyone higher than God] ²⁶ "If anyone comes to me **and does not hate** father and mother, wife and **children**, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.

Forgive me, I repent. [... about something clear to him but unstated to me]

[Jesus said,] "If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. ⁴ Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying '**I repent,**' you **must forgive** them."

[Jesus said,] ³⁷ "Do not judge and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, **and you will be forgiven.**

¹¹ Strive for **full restoration**, encourage one another, **be of one mind**, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

[Calvin sought for just one person to agree fully with his internal theology and never outwardly demonstrated receipt of his desperately sought love and peace.]

His final upbeat greeting was incongruous with the verses. I suspect he recently heard his diagnosis of cancer and wanted to be reconciled. If so, I never got that message.

End of Life

It appears Calvin skirted with poverty frequently and likely could not afford health insurance. However, he would have distrusted doctors and medicine even if medically insured. Calvin died at age 61 from bladder carcinoma (cancer) about seven months from onset. He died on 5/26/1986 at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, California.

He loved the ocean and all things nautical. The Neptune Society scattered his cremated ashes into the sea off the Monterey County coastline on 6/5/1986.

**This is to Certify
that the Cremated Remains of**

CALVIN HOWARD BRILEY

**have been respectfully disseminated into the sea
off the CALIFORNIA, MONTEREY COUNTY Coastline**

on this day of _____ JUNE 5 _____ year of 1986

according to the laws of this State

Ears de Jounghe
Captain or Pilot

Carol W. Williamson
Manager

Figure 51 - Certificate of Cremation – 6/5/1986

Acknowledgements

I edited and credited materials from public sources in offset boxes.

Materials not publically available came from:

- Reba Reed Bean, recorded what "*Dora Reed and Ella Irwin told me.*"
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- Anne Briley, Seminary Journal
- Barbara Wilson Briley, Estate archives and photos
- Jo-Ellen Currie, large McKenzie family records book
- Sharon Gardner, McKenzie family records
- Clemma Lenehan, short family history told by Edgerton Briley
- Velma Schroeder, my Aunt's letters to me
- Bonnie Wright, my parent's neighbor in Simi Valley, Letter to me

Those who contributed and/or assisted me in person with this chapter were:

- Barton Briley, my second Cousin, Gordon's son
- Clinton Briley, my second Cousin, Gordon's son
- David Briley, my brother
- Joe 'Larry' Briley, my first Cousin, Cleo's son
- Patti Sue Briley, my first Cousin, Keith's daughter
- Victor Briley, my second Cousin, Gordon's son
- Carla Briley Gardner, my step-Aunt
- John Satterthwaite, Barbara's second cousin/brother
- Kurt Schroeder, my first Cousin, Velma's son
- Lynn Schroeder, my first Cousin, Velma's son
- Mark Schroeder, my first Cousin, Velma's son