

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS



Such a nice family picture, six boys and one girl. The sad fact is, this picture was taken shortly after the death of their mother from Tuberculosis and before the family was split up. Some years ago, one of my sisters started writing to some of our father's cousins trying to get information on dad's family. When Cousin Eva Davis Thurston later received a letter from my Aunt Kathleen, the girl in the picture, she sent the picture to her. She in turn sent a

copy to each of her brothers except Kenneth, with whom they had lost contact. I have since located Kenneth's children, however they did not reply to my letters.

The handsome, charming, humorous man and his shy wife peeling apples had a relatively short marriage of less than twelve and a half years. They are my grandparents, Cyrus Elan and Ada (Lloyd) Doherty. Cyrus born 25 September 1865 in Grant County, Indiana, died 19 July 1922, Grant County married 15 December 1897 also in Grant County to Ada Lloyd born 30 October 1876 in Grant County Indiana, died 25 April 1910, Grant County. Cyrus and Ada were members of the Society of Friends known as Quakers. Cyrus sold vegetables he raised in a hothouse.



Cyrus' life was very hard during Ada's illness and after her death. Relatives convinced Cyrus that he couldn't take care of seven children. As a result Kathleen was adopted by her Uncle David and Aunt Ida (Lloyd) Crichton. The baby, Kenneth Howard, was adopted by Hazel Blankenbaker, the nurse who helped care for his mother, and her husband Charles. Donald, my father, was 2 ½ years old at the time of his mother's death and could not be adopted because he also had TB. It's ironic that my father with all his medical problems outlived all his siblings. He lived to the ripe old age of 91. My father was orphaned at fourteen years of age when his father had a heart attack while working in the fields.

Here are some interesting memories passed on to me by my cousins and Aunt Kathleen (Doherty, Crichton) Schacht. One time her grandmother Nancy Ellen (Wilson) Doherty gave Elam, her husband (pictured below) five dollars to throw away his pipe, he threw the pipe away and bought a new one with the money she gave him. Nancy Ellen was born 15 Dec 1823 in Randolph County, NC. She died 13 Feb 1913 in Grant County, Ind.

Elam was born 21 Jan 1821 in Guilford County, NC and he died 1 Dec 1892 in Liberty Township, Grant County, Ind.



Also, in a note from Aunt Kathleen she wrote that one time when Grandma was visiting our home Kathleen entered the house after being out climbing trees with Lloyd and Ted. Grandma said: "Oh Kathleen, thee has thy hair parted on the side like a boy" and proceeded to part it in the middle as good Quakers did. Another time while visiting Grandma Nancy Ellen at her large house in the country where Uncle Arthur and his family also lived, Grandma said, "Cyrus, Thee must tell Kathleen and John there is no Santa Claus." Kathleen sobbed and howled uncontrollably, "Santa Claus is dead." Papa (Cyrus) told her: "For everyone who believes in him

Santa Claus is alive." From all the things I have heard about Cyrus, he was a very good father, but had a very difficult time after Ada died. My father, Donald, must have learned from him. As children Kathleen said she and the boys would climb trees and jump onto the backs of cows and ride them.

I remember one thing in particular, my father hated the color gray. It probably reminded him too much of the colorless clothes Quakers wore. We didn't learn prejudice from either of our parents. They never talked badly about people of other races or religions.

The children in the first picture from left to right are: Lloyd Arthur (3 Feb 1899-21 May 1959); Joseph William (12 Sep 1906-11 Jun 1991); Kenneth Howard (baby, 7 Jan 1910-3 Jan 1992); John Charles (31 Oct 1904-1 Oct 1993), Theodore Elam (12 Jun 1900-21 Aug 1964); Donald H.. (the H stood for Hiawatha, the boys and Kathleen loved playing cowboys and Indians and told their mother to name my father after Hiawatha) (14 Oct 1907-26 May 1999); and Kathleen Ada Doherty (2 Feb 1903-16 Feb 1991).

I would enjoy hearing from descendants of the Guilford County, North Carolina Dohertys and Lloyds.