



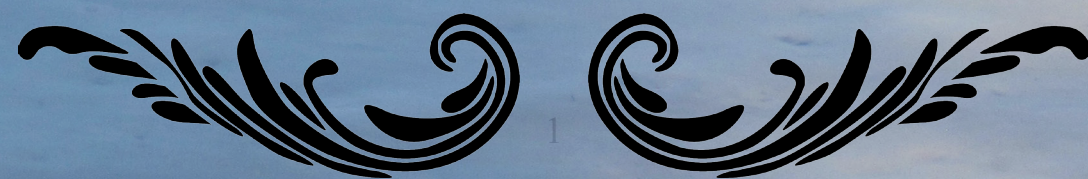
MY LIFE SO FAR

By

Daniel L Oughterson

Begun in my 64th year 2006

First Edition



Forward

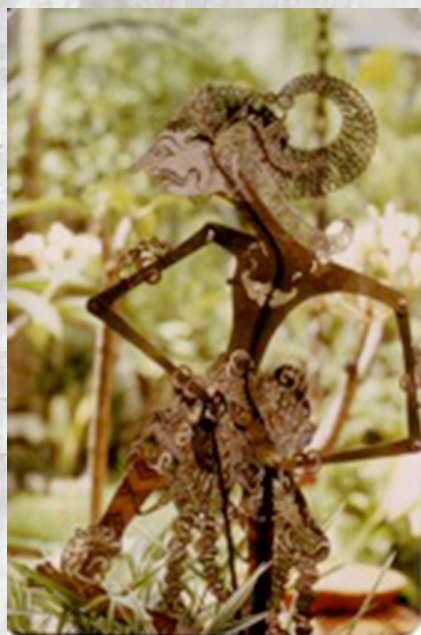
While visiting Seattle on business in 2005, my friend and former squash partner, Bernie Silbert showed me his recently completed “memoirs” and encouraged me to write mine.



Bernie and Edith at Fisherman's Pier in Seattle 1998

Like most of us, I had never considered it. After all, who'd be interested in reading my life story?!

Bernie had been encouraged by family members and his completed work was very well received. So, here I sit at the computer, where I spend far too much time already, starting mine. Maybe someday my children will be bored enough to read it and continue the story of our family by adding their own lives.



Shadow Puppet from Indonesia

Family Origins

Where to begin? I could, I suppose, start at my birth. But, since my uncle Glenn provided us with a little family history, I decided to start there with my earliest records of the Oughtersons and where they came from.

The family story, as I know it, goes back to the late 1700's to William Oughterson in Scotland. William married Ellen Murdock (ironic, since that was also my mother's maiden name). They had 8 children including my great great grandfather John, born in 1806. John was even more prolific and had 10 children including my great grandfather Alexander. There is a descendant's family tree in the rear of this document.

At some time John and his family immigrated to the United States from Ireland. They settled in and around Dundee, in the heart of the Finger Lakes of Central New York.

The Oughterson name is not common to say the least. Using the internet, I have found Oughtersons in only a few and widely scattered, locations. Other family branches showed up in Cape Cod, Great Britain, India, Barbados, and Nova Scotia.

Alexander's son Ellis was my grandfather. He was at one time a salesman but my earliest recollection of him was retired. He was an investor, landlord, and sometimes pool shark in Penn Yan, NY where he lived and died with his second wife Hester. He lived in a large house on the Main Street and rented out apartments on the upper floors.



Ellis and first wife, my grandmother, Edna Mae Andrus

Leon, my father, was born on March 22, 1915 in Dundee. His siblings included younger brother Dick, sister Leona, and older brother Glenn. Here they are in an early photo, taken by Dad, on the porch of the farm where they grew up.



Dad was a store manager for A&P Supermarkets, a leader in the food industry at the time. He worked for “the tea company” for 40 years from high school graduation until he retired about 1973. He married my mother, Thelma Murdock of Auburn, NY, on July 15, 1940. Mom was an Executive Secretary for the Columbian Rope Company in Auburn.

While the Oughtersons were all Scottish, my mother’s family was all Irish. I have less information on them, but do know that my grandmother’s maiden name was Agnes Morten. She became a Murdock when she married Archie; son of Archibald.



Dad was a very good athlete and received a scholarship to a private school called Starky Seminary (now Lakemont Academy) for his last year of High School. He would have gone on to college and medical school if it had been financially possible.

Growing up I remember that what Dad loved to do most was fish. He put together elaborate networks of lures at various depths on an ocean rod and reel and fished the deep waters of the Finger Lakes with much success. Maybe that’s the reason trout is not my favorite fish to this day! We certainly had enough of it.

The firstborn, I arrived on April 29, 1942 at Mercy Hospital in Auburn.



Dad was also a hunter (deer and pheasants) One of his hunting buddies was Don Sopp of Cortland. Don’s daughter Bobbi would later become my high school girlfriend and my second wife in 1996. We met again after 32 years of living separate lives.

