

Juanita Elizabeth Baldwin Hayman Worthington

My mother was named after her Aunt Elizabeth, and one of her mother's friends named Baldwin. I can't remember if Juanita was after a friend, or just a name Grammy liked.

She was born in McClure's Mills, just outside of Truro Nova Scotia October 11, 1908. Her birthday was always celebrated on the 12<sup>th</sup>, so she was surprised when as an older woman, ordered a copy of her birth certificate, and discovered she was born on October 11.

Mom lived on a farm with a large farm house. She had several brothers and sisters: Gove Yuill, Anne (Tommie), and Isabelle (Issie). A brother, John, died very young.

She was not very healthy as a child. In 4<sup>th</sup> grade, she got sick with Empyema, an infection in the space between the lung and the inner surface of the chest wall. She got sick in school and felt so ill that she had to lie down on the side of the road on the way home. She was in bed for a year with the disease. Antibiotics had not been discovered yet, and it took that long for her lung to heal itself. She had a drain put in her side to let the pus drain out. She did her schoolwork at home that year.

Halloween was a favorite holiday of my Mother's. When she was little they had parades with cat tails dipped in kerosene and sent on fire to be used as torches. When I was little, we would read James Whitcomb Riley's poem "Little Orphant Annie." It was a favorite poem of hers. They would bob for apples at Halloween parties. Once her sister Anne scared her with a wooden toy that would make a rat-a tat-tat noise on a window when a string was pulled to move some gears.

Anne got her nick name Tommie one day when an Indian man named Tom came to the house to fix the furnace. Anne sat on the basement steps watching him work all day. Then she went upstairs, cut off her long hair, and announced to the family that she wanted to be called Tom from now on. She always signed her letters to my Mom "Tommie." Sometimes her husband Charlie called her Thomas.

My Mother went to Willow St School in Truro. She must have been a good student, because she was able to get into the "best nursing school in the world." Bellevue Nursing School in NY. She came from Halifax to NY on a ship with her trunk packed with all her clothes and a few mementoes of her childhood, a toy dog and a little china doll.

Her father, Gordon Jasper Hayman was a farmer who also held other jobs off the farm. He was a carpenter, and a policeman. He was an only child. His father left when he was very young to work in the fields out west and never came back. His mother Millicent married James Yuill who helped raise my Grandfather. I called him Poppie. When first married, my Grandmother, Grammy, lived with Grammy's parents. As an old woman Grandmother Millicent lived with Mom's family on the farm, as did her sister Aunt Lib (Elizabeth.)

The farmhouse was a big stucco house with trees around it. There was a big L-shaped living room that was big enough to hold 2 "squares" for square dancing. The family would move all the furniture out for dancing. Poppie's cousins probably came and played for the dances. Poppie put in a beautiful parquet floor in the living room that Mom loved. At first, the house did not have indoor plumbing. There was a pump for water, and an outhouse that was connected to the woodshed and the house.

When Eleanor Nixon ( a neighbor of the Armstrongs at the shore) was little, she would go to the farm with her aunt Ann and Issie. She would ride out in the fields on top of the hay in the hay wagon. In the winter they would ride over the fields in a hose and sleigh.

Mom used to play in the pasture. Once they picked wild strawberries, and Mom put the berries in her hat and the juice ruined the hat. They had a horse and a dog. The dog was named Old Nell. Mom played with the Wynn children next door.

Grammy and Poppie moved in to Truro and lived at 75 Exhibition St. the farmhouse was abandoned eventually, and was finally torn down. An exit ramp of the big highway goes through the pastures.