

FAMILY ILLNESS AND ACCIDENTS

From the standpoint of transmissible familial diseases, genetic research indicates that there is increasing evidence that certain diseases are biologically inherited, or, a strong tendency toward them indicated, some of which control behavior in many instances. It would be difficult to trace lineage without the help of ancestral records dating back to 1600, or thereabouts, and would involve maybe thousands of ancestors.

Of those diseases we are aware of in our immediate past generations, of a behavioral and type are mental disease and disorders, /alcoholism. The other most common non-behavioral diseases are cancer and heart disorders. There appears to have been no alcoholism among our mother's sisters and brothers, or parents, or their family, but several of her uncles and cousins who apparently had psychiatric disorders. In our father's family, one brother committed suicide, and one died of alcoholism. Another, although undiagnosed, lived as a recluse in his parent's home for all of the years of his life.

Our father died of cardiac failure following valvular heart disease, attributable to untreated rheumatic fever he had as a child. Three of his sisters had coronary heart disease, and it is not known if they, too had rheumatic fever as a child which contributed to their cardiac conditions in later life. But, if one child in the family had rheumatic fever, it is highly likely that others in the family may also have contracted the streptococcus infection prevalent at the time. A fourth sister died of emphysema, and the fifth of "old age".

ACCIDENTS: When a young man of about 30 years of age, our Dad was thrown out of his buggy by a frightened horse, and his ankle was broken. Never set just right etc.

When he was about 60 yrs old, his body was badly burned by a freak accident. He always wore long underwear, wool, almost winter and summer, except in summer a cotton type, night and day. One day in the winter, he had our mother rub him down with Sloan's liniment as he was getting arthritic and felt stiff and sore. She did this and he put his wool, long underwear back on. Awhile later he went to the bathroom to have a bowel movement, and while there, decided to have a cigarette. He lit the cigarette and was depositing the match, apparently still flaming, into the toilet when he went up in flames, the lighted match apparently igniting the underwear infiltrated with liniment. Fortunately our mother was still in the house, heard his screams and went to his aid to get his clothes off, and the fire out. He spent several weeks in the hospital for burn treatment.

His final illness covered several years as his cardiac reserve slowly failed, blood pressure rose, and cardiac decompensation with ascites slowly increased until his death at 72.

In later years our mother had angina pectoris, and cardiac tachybradial. She had a pelvic hysterectomy in late years, a broken wrist, and a fractured femur. She died at 93.

Evelyn's train accident--Lila's liver disorders--Juanita's psychoneurotic breakdowns
Jerome, eye melanoma--John--cancer--Elaine, obesity--Burdette, broken ankles.