

## Six Generations in My Life Time

Anyone reading the daily newspaper, magazines and other various periodicals; or turning on the t.v. or Radio cannot help but hear the word "generation" repeated many times. Turning to the Bible concordance there is a list of well over 100 references to generations from Genesis to Revelation and coming up to date we all know about the movie called "Roots" and also realize the current war in the Mid-East is only the heating up of war that has been going on between nations for generations. The average period of time between generations is considered as 33 years.

Now looking back to the title of this article please don't think of me as 198 years old. Ha! but I am in position to look back on 3 and ahead on 3. Now, to clear it up, I remember O'pa Rendall, my Father, my generation, Irene, Donna, Leah; making six in my lifetime.

I know this is not unusual but while I am able I would like to tell you children what I can remember about your "Roots".

It started way back in 1839 and this information I copied from my Grandfather's Wedding Certificate; so, thoughtfully sent me by Jr. and Joan.

Charles Rendall - Ann Apsey  
Age (of full age)  
Bachelor - Spinster  
Tailor -  
Residence - Kingstone Somerset  
Father's names Charles Rendall (Blacksmith)  
Job Apsey (Yeoman)

My Father - Joseph Benson Rendall	1859 - 1921
Mother - Evangeline Lewis Rendall	1967 - 1946
Brother- Orrin Rendall	1889 - 1959
Sister - Grace Lewis Rendall	1898 - 1930
Me - Arthur Benson Rendall	1901 -
Brother- Clarence Herbert Rendall	1903 - 1922
Brother- Irwin Clare Rendall	1905 -
Sister - Eva Mae Rendall	1907 -

From now on I will have to depend on a very weak and unpredictable memory:

I was born September 30, 1901 in Ledyard, Iowa but the family moved to Zion, Ill. when I was about 3 years old.

I remember a house being moved onto a lot at 2408 Gideon Ave. in Zion which became our home.

Houses in those days were moved from place to place by using a capstan and cable. A horse was trained to go round and round the capstan to wind the cable thus pulling the house and he had to learn to step over the taught cable each round. For several days it was a source of excitement for neighborhood kids.

### Memories 1901 - 1914

These years are very vague - learning some house work, like making bed, sweeping, washing windows and plenty other such things so obnoxious to a Boy.

School of course began at 6 years of age and with sister Grace holding my hand we walked 2 miles to school; a large frame building holding the first 8 years of grade school.

Here we were taught the 3 "Rs" (yes to the tune of a hickory stick) while outside activities were marbles, base ball, run sheep run, hide and seek and a few others the teachers didn't even know about.

These were also the years the city built a large number of cement walks all over the city and this caused roller skating, tricycles, bicycles, wagons anything with wheels to become the "fad".

Dad came up with a 3 wheel tricycle and with 3 boys the wheels never cooled off - until it broke.

Then came roller skates and later a bike, but they had to be earned picking strawberries and potato bugs. Oh, my aching back.

Incidentally when the cement walk was poured in front of our house Dad picked Clarence and Erwin up and made their foot prints in the wet cement. About 65 years later I found the prints and I believe they can still be seen there in front of the house at 2408 Gideon Avenue.

Our house was 3 bedrooms upstairs (steep like a ladder) while downstairs was a Parlor (for company), Living room, Dining room and Kitchen, soon enlarged by a woodshed holding our winter supply of tree stumps and logs. Oh, yes the toilet was down a path to rear of yard while our Saturday night baths were completed by a tin tub set near the kitchen oil burner stove to heat the water and room. Running water? Sure, but we had to run over to a next door neighbor and pump and pump and carry and carry.

#### Memories 1915 - 1919

World "War I" started I believe in 1914 but as we had no news papers, radios or t.v. or phone it did not mean much to us at first. However we lived only about 3 miles to Camp Logan and it soon became a busy place where target practice was carried on day and night by the Army and Navy both for a while.

I was in High school now and one of our studies was German, but after 2 years of it we suddenly found it was a "nine nine" and you better not even say Ja-ja around the school grounds. So, I had a year of "Latin".

The war of course was an exciting topic most of the time and became more so as America entered. Two of my class mates went oversea through Canada. One came home, one did not. War ended in 1918 while I was 17.

During this period of my life our church was able to establish a Conservatory of Music and offered free lessons to young adults including some Band Instruments. A neighborhood boy and I heard about it and decided it was for us, so we applied for a Cornet or Trumpet. Mr. P. B. Newcomer shook his head and said, "Don't anyone want anything except a Cornet?" Seeing the disappointment on our faces he said, "Bous I have 2 Clarinets you can have." It was a decision as you children well know that shaped my life in many pleasant ways for half a century. Band, Orchestra, Teaching, Radio.

#### Memories 1919

This was the year I graduated from High School. Our class numbered only 12 - 6 boys and 6 girls.

Being "Seniors" we were more or less a privileged group. One day changing class two of us boys were running up stairs 3 or 4 steps at a jump and nearly bumped over our Prindipal "Miss Thompson". We expected a reprimand but she only smiled and said "Well you can't tell me the Lord doesn't take pride in the legs of a man."

Another time she called me into her office and asked what I intended to do after graduation. At that time I had already been working afternoons and all day Saturday at Zion Lumber Yard, and the manager had offered me a steady job, which I had more or less accepted. Miss Thompson seemed rather disappointed and said she thought I would make a good Teacher if I would go to Summer School and then could start teaching in the Fall, but it did not appeal to me. I was through with school and study.

Also by that time the Clarinet had become my first "Love" and soon was playing "first chair" in Zion Concert Band and Orchestra as well as doing some sparetime teaching in Zion Conservatory of Music. Also Radio had become a hot issue by that time and Zion Church built a large Radio Station called WCBD second only in size to Salt Lake City it was said.

Memories 1920 - 1922

During the last year of High School I met a young lady who was in the first year and when ever a couple was needed at the many parties or picnics which was our main entertainment in those days we seemed to be together. Her name was Esther Cook.

Being out of school gave me the opportunity to work steady at the Zion Building Industry and soon I was a "Jack of All Trades" starting with dusting empty cement bags to loading wagons of lumber - driving a one horse delivery - then a team - then a truck - then becoming a yard man - then a Head Yard Man where I soon learned all about lumber and then moved into the office where I became the "Buyer", and Office Manager.

Little did I know that all this experidnce was just what I needed to start my own Lumber Yard in the distant year of 1938.

All this period I was living at home helping my Father and Mother raise us five children. It was a real problem as my Father was not well and early in 1921 I had my first experience with a funeral and then a year later (1922) a second for my brother Clarence.

That night I took a long walk and looking up to Heaven asked God ~~why~~ why - why? Suddenly a beautiful display of "Aurora - borealis" - (Northern lights) lit up the sky ahead of me. I turned and went home to my widowed mother with a smile on my face and ever since then the words of this beautiful song has been very precious to me.

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look into His wonderful face  
And the things of this world  
Grow strangely Dim  
In the Light of His Glory and Grace." - Anon\*

Memories 1922 - 1930

Now I had to settle down to work supporting the family although my mother did take care of the church choir robes a 6 day week job, as there were 300 members as well as about 50 Elders and Deacons all using robes every Sunday, but as the "Old Saying goes - We got by financially!"

I was working steady at the Building Industry and thanks to R. Steel received raises very regular as He pushed me along thru the Yard and Office.

About this time (No dates available) my sister Grace married a Widower with one child who was living with her Grandparents in Minneapolis. She remained with them. George and Grace lived in Zion and 2 girls (Joyce and Carol were born there.) George died about 1928 and 1 year later Grace was killed in a Car - Train accident, so my mother raised Joyce and Carol until they were married.

This was the period I also married (1924). Esther and I dated from 191 to 1924 as she was still in High School (Graduated in 1922) and as money was scarce we decided we would earn enough to furnish a small apartment. We were successful.

Memories 1930 - 1938

The years of the Great Depreciation - Men out of work everywhere and willing to work for as little as one dollar a day or most anything (I know as I was still kept on at the Zion Building Industry Office to handle what little work there was.)

Irene was born in 1925, Clarice in 1930 and June in 1932 and our family was complete. Times were very hard and the Zion Industries went into the hands of a Court Receiver I think about 1937 but kept on operating as they liquidated, - so, with L. Klawn and C. Spencer and A. Rendall we formed Benton Lumber Co. and started our own business in 1938.

It was tough going as we were on the "Proverbial shoe string" but God was good and with hard work we began to prosper and here in 1982 there is still an operating Benton Lumber Co. I sold out to Klawan and Spencer in 1960 carrying a Contract for 4 years which was paid in full.

The main reason for retirement so early was bad health. Esther had several operations and I was in hospital 2 times with a heart condition and the last time the Doctor said "stop work or else", so, down to Florida we came. It was a big decision as the company was doing well; I was on Board of Directors of a young and new Savings and Loan of Zion and still enjoying music, but we felt it was necessary and for the best. This little poem perhaps will explain my feelings.

I do not know, why oft around me  
My hopes all shattered seem to be;  
God's perfect plan I cannot see, but -  
Someday I'll understand  
Someday He will make it plain to me  
Someday when I His face shall see  
Someday from tears I shall be free  
For someday I shall understand - W.S. Leech

Esther and I had 42 very happy years together enjoying 3 beautiful daughters; two beautiful homes built mostly ourselves in Zion and two homes built for us in Florida.

We had many vacation trips over most of U.S.A. but best of all seeing our three girls happily married and even Grandchildren and one Great Grandchild (Leah).

In 1966 we moved into our new home in Oakmont Subdivision in Vero Beach, just in time for Christmas and enjoyed it very much. However as Spring 1967 rolled around we wanted to return to Zion to see the children. We made the trip successfully arriving at June and Don's on a Monday - took Esther to Hospital on Wednesday night and by Friday night she joined that heavenly choir with her beautiful soprano voice.

Think of stepping on shore and finding it Heaven  
Think of taking a hand and finding it God's hand  
Think of new air and finding it Celestial air  
Think of passing from storm to unknown calm  
Think of waking up and finding it "Home in Heaven".

#### Memories 1967

Clarice came back to Vero Beach, to an empty house, with me and stayed about a week stocking up the kitchen - teaching me what burners to use - how to run the combination washer and dryer and which end of the broom to use and how to make the beds.

With the visits and help of the children a year passed but a very unhappy one so I made up my mind to sell the home and return to Zion and the children, but God had a different idea for "Often we stand at Life's crossroad and view what we think is the end but God has a bigger vision and shows us its "Only a Bend".

#### Memories of 1968

Through a chance meeting with Charles and Lois Deck one morning in Publix Market I was invited to join them for an evening meal at their home and meet her sister; I was very happy to accept and so Mrs. Blanche Campbell came into my life; She had lost her husband just one month before I lost Esther. They had made vacation trips to Florida to visit Charles and Lois several times before but we had never met. However, in a few days she had left in Florida we covered ground.

Palm Beach Mall, Cape Canaveral, Dodger Ball Game and of course the Ocean. Then to Melbourne for a plane to Greensboro, N. C.

As Blanche disappeared into the plane I returned again to an empty home. It was almost unbearable until the thought came - if she can fly to Greensboro why not I? So, in a few days I phoned, received a yes answer and at once arranged for a plane ticket.

Looking back now (1982) we both know God had prepared this meeting as 14 years of very happy married life has passed and we both look forward to more or until God calls us home.

Now, my dear ones, this brings my roots pretty well up to date; memories are a wonderful thing to have but now I will copy a beautiful article by an unknown writer.

"Footprints"

There was a man who had just died and he was reviewing footsteps he had taken in his life.

He noticed that all over mountains and hard places he had traveled, there was one set of footprints but over the plains and down hills there were two sets of footprints as if some one had walked by his side.

He turned to Jesus and said, "There is something I don't understand; why is it that down hills and easy places you walked by my side, but here over rough and hard spots I have walked alone, for I see in these areas there is just one set of footprints."

Jesus turned to the man and said - "It is true that while your life was easy I walked at your side, but when walking was hard and paths were difficult, I realized that was the time you needed me most and that is why 'I carried you' ".

"Christ can take the place of anything  
But nothing can take the place of Christ."

1982 To----?

The Bible tells us in Psalm 90:10 "The days of our years are 3 score years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be 4 score years yet is their strength labour and sorrow/<sup>for</sup> it is soon cut off and we fly away."

Now having passed 4 score years perhaps I should begin to wonder about the future, so again I turn to the Bible and there is the answer John 14:1-3

"Let not your heart be troubled-

Ye believe in God, believe also in me;

In my Father's house are many mansions,

If it were not so, I would have told you,

I go to prepare a place for you and will come again

To receive you unto myself-

That where I am you may be also."

Now isn't that a beautiful promise? After reading that I feel my future has been prepared for me, it is only up to me to accept it.

Yes looking back over 80 long years it seems like only yesterday so much has happened and God must know that recalling our past blessings would give us the strength and comfort for the present, because what we keep in memory is ours unchanged forever.

It is my firm conviction the "Bible" tells us how and what to believe, it tells us how to live; it is like an operating manual. If we but only follow it that's how we will get the most out of life.

In closing I wish to repeat this precious little poem by an unknown author:

Some would gather money along the path of life

Some would gather roses and rest from worldly strife

But I would gather children from among thorns of sin

I would seek a golden curl and a freckled toothless grin

For money cannot enter in that land of endless day

And roses that are gathered soon will wilt along the way

But Oh! The laughing children as I cross the sunset sea

And the Gates swing wide to Heaven-

I can take them in with me.

So my Dear Children God has prepared a Mansion.

You all come, You hear?

Daddy - G'pa - GGpa.