



***Avis Eldora Perry Brown***  
***2/28/14 to 11/15/02***

Dec 26 - 95

I've started this several times and somehow never seemed to get it finished. I think now is the time to do it.

I was born Feb. 28, 1914 in Brookfield VT. on a farm that my Dad <sup>Roy Perry</sup> and his brother Gilbert (Uncle Gil) evidently owned together. Their mother Sophronia Perry (of course my grandmother) along with my mother Leah Mae Perry and Aunt Zoe - Uncle Gil's wife.

When I was about 6 mos old I was sick with Erysipelas - (a disease caused by specific streptococcus). The lower half of my body was swollen - and from what my mother told me they couldn't put clothes on me for some time and she and my grandmother cared for me. (I'm sure a Dr. was involved too). I have no idea how long a period I was sick but as you see I did survive!

I'm not sure how old I was when we left this farm and moved into Town (Randolph) Between two & three as I can faintly remember a little about being there. While I'm sure was born there as ~~I'm~~ I was she was born Dec 1, 1916 -

I neglected to say that when we moved into town we were on our own - I'm not sure why we all left the first farm - remember visiting Uncle Gil & Aunt Zoe later and I believe Grandmother lived with them so there evidently was not trouble between them.

From town we moved to a farm north of Randolph probably about 3 mi as later on I did walk from Randolph home in warm weather.

I remember quite a lot about the farm. Erma was born there July 10, 1918 - They sent me to a neighbor and I fell asleep under a tree. When I came home the dr. was just leaving so of course I thought he had brought her in the black bag.

Uncle Sing (Moses) and Aunt Josie lived here for some time as did nephews Bert Duckham, Herbert Tallman, Elmer Perry - all working on the farm.

This was a good place for young people. We roamed the woods - played in the horse barn (I fell through an opening that hay was put down & still have scar on leg) Played behind barn on rocks & in

brook that flowed in the back. Forgot to mention Mildred Perry was there some of the time too. She was Uncle Sings daughter - Also Aunt Josie was his 2nd wife as first wife died - She (first wife) was mother of Elery, Clinton & Mildred).

When I was six and started to school, was sent to Randolph school - My mother taught me some at home so I started in 2nd grade. After winter started I stayed in town with first Grand mother Perry - who was a 7th day Adventist - Friday after sunset I had to come in from play - She always cooked ahead for Sat. Usually slept with her in a big feather bed and she kept me warm. Then I stayed with other Grand mother who had remarried so I had a step Grand father - Andrew Morgan - Her name had been Edna Shipley - She was of a quaker family who had migrated to Indiana from N.C. She later divorced my grandfather & moved to Ut. with my mom and her sister, Esther.

They first lived right in town almost across from school - Later ~~was~~ moved a little out of town - Not too far from Grand mother Perry.

4 I have pictures of some of  
the houses we lived in &  
will get them together

I guess I would go home quite  
often on weekends so this special time  
on the way home I was told I had a  
baby brother. In those days children  
were not told the facts of life and being  
young I wouldn't notice too much change  
in my mother - He was born Oct 27, 1920

When I was just starting 5th grade  
we moved to a farm in Massachusetts -  
The address was Billerica. It was a dairy  
farm that bottled milk and delivered it.  
Uncle Gil, Aunt Zoe, Donald and Gordon moved  
down too. It was a double house so they  
had separate quarters. In fact it was really  
a rich man's farm as our part was very  
elaborate - large living room with large  
fire place - music room with grand piano,  
library - dining room with fire place and  
an enormous Cook stove in Kitchen -  
Sun room upstairs

Uncles Herbert Tallman, Roy Tallman and  
Ellery Perry all came along to work on  
the farm.

John Perry Uncle Gil's youngest boy  
was born at this place.

There again it was a wonderful place for children - There was a pond and empty chicken house so we made a play house out of one of them.

I went to school on a street car into Billerica - I guess it was about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mi away. Mule started to school <sup>here</sup>, but think it was too upsetting for her and waited another year. ~~to go to school~~

Then tragedy of a sort struck. The barn caught fire and tho all animals were gotten out except the bull it meant the ~~long~~ end of dairy farming.

I guess Dad had a wandering foot and we headed for Fla in the fall when I was 10 - we first went to VT. and visited everyone - Uncle Gil + family evidently went back to VT as did Roy Tallman Herbert + Ellery went down with us - we had a Cadillac, + two fords that were always having flat tires. This was 1924 - Roads were terrible in a lot of places - we camped out and it took us 12 days to get there. There were tourist homes and we stayed in them too - Encountered bed bugs in one.

the  
street  
car

Mama had inherited \$10,000 from her father so we went in style. It was the Fla. boom as it was called so they invested in land. Stayed at a boarding house to begin with and got our first taste of sulphur water - Ugh - Dad + Mama finally settled on a small house on the river that we rented and that's where the Wickham family came into our life and at 82 Jeanette and I are still friends and visit to the others in the family through the years. Right now there's only Joe, Jeanette, Paul + Charlott left from family of 11 - Mother lived into her nineties - Someone has a write up of her family and will put it with this.

There again it was a wonderful life. Money wasn't important -

We were never told details of why we moved but after a couple years we moved to Melbourne <sup>or west of</sup> where Dad had a truck farm. There again it was a fun place for his kids to explore and we went to school on a bus to Melbourne.

It was a bad place for Dick at one time. He and a friend found some dynamite caps in an old chicken house

and fortunately only picked out one to pound. It exploded - I don't think the other boy was hurt but Dick's index finger was hanging by a thread, his clothes were in tatters. Fortunately we had a neighbor not too far away (Dad + Mom weren't home) and she took Dick + I to the Dr (I'm about 12). I'm sitting outside Dr's office and he stepped out and said "I have to take off his finger." I remember saying do what you have to. Got him home - In meantime folks had come home so turned around + went back to Dr's office (no hospitals then) and just missed us - we were home and I had gotten him into bed when they came in. I had been calm through all of this but broke down when they came in - Thinking back I guess I did O.K. 1 year later bits of Copper worked out from Dick's head.

I'm not sure how long we stayed on farm in Melbourne - Know crop of beans froze out and we finally went back to Eau Gallie - I marvel some time that we always had some thing to eat as I'm sure things were getting rough.

This time we lived up on Main street

and oddly enough Wickhams lived almost next door. School was only a short distance so we walked - There again life was good - and Fla. was a fun time. Probably not so much for Mom + Dad but we weren't aware of the situation.

It was a small school and if I remember only about 10 people in my room. In the 70s there was a reunion of the school for anyone who had gone there - I think Joe Wickham was the only one graduated the year he did.

I'm not sure of what work Dad did think it was several things but as I said we never were hungry.

There again I guess things got too tough and we moved to Md. this time. Uncle Gil was manager at Mt Ararat farm and gave Dad a job on the farm. We moved to a house outside Port Deposit and I guess we went to school on a bus the one time I remember walking in deep snow to get there - This was some school and had 12 grades while a lot of schools at that time had 11 grades.

Forgot we did move from first

to a place we always called the Simmers place. I'm not sure Dad still worked on the farm - Anyway we stayed there awhile and he got a job managing a farm in Churchill - owner Mrs Vogel. I had not finished High school and since my cousin Clinton & wife Nellie lived on Mt. Ararat farms I stayed with them so I could graduate from Tome - which I did - One of 13 with honors -

Of course I would come home probably weekends - There was where George DeBoard came into the picture - (my first boyfriend - and still friends after 63 years - he married Bryce's cousin and of course I married Bryce but that's farther on in the story)

Dad & Mama boarded ~~the~~ some of the men that worked there - Dewey Lonelace, John Brown & George. Mama was sick a lot that year and finally had to have an operation - I think I missed a lot of school days until they got a black lady to help out - and could she cook!

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Through George I met Bryce as Bryce's uncle was married to George's sister.

Well again this job at the farm didn't last too long (think Mrs Vogel sold farm) and he moved to Towson on a small farm. I had graduated and Mule + Emma still in school + went to Towson. This was a truck farm so grew vegetables + also butchered hogs made sausage, long land, scrapple and had a buyer for all this.

Because I had no schooling for business I went to work as a maid - first worked for Tentons in Ruxton than Samuel Cook in Towson - He was superintendent of schools - George + I had kept in touch but not too seriously - Bryce + I had gone out some - then Bryce left for West and we kept in touch - I had somewhere met Lena Johnson and we became good friends as that has continued through the years -

Another move - this time on Lock Raven Blvd. Another farm - with some cattle and dad furnish milk

11  
to two Ice Cream places beside buying  
+ selling live stock

I'm not sure again why but  
there was another move to Sunnybrook  
North of Lowson. I think here it was  
more buying + selling - a big garden.  
For some reason I stopped working +  
came home.

In the meantime Bryce had come  
back from the West - living at home in  
Newark Del but coming down weekends -  
with Muri, Erma, Dick + I go<sup>ing</sup> to Lowson to  
the movies.

We all took a trip to VT + visited  
(Muri, Erma, Dick, Bryce + I) ~~and~~ Grandma  
Morgan. While there relatives from Indiana  
came - (I can't think of their names right  
now but they would be Grandmothers  
nieces). Also my friend Victoria + friend  
from Mass. For some reason after we all  
got home correspondence with her stopped -  
Anyway - on way home Bryce went to  
sleep + ploughed down some fence in  
Pa. Farmer wasn't going to let us leave  
until fence was paid for. Radiator was  
damaged and we had to turn home for

5 12  
some money. Can't remember too much  
more of details but we got home O.K. Had  
a wonderful visit with Grandmother - besides  
Glenn + Bert DuCharme <sup>who lived close</sup> and went out to  
Goodrich farm - Bryce finally got to see  
Peth that he'd heard me talk about - Really  
not a town - just a place. Grandmother  
liked Bryce - he went around fixing things  
for her and she wanted to know when we  
were going to get married -

752  
7-16  
We planned on March but then he got  
the ~~measles~~ <sup>mumps</sup> so it was April 14 - In meantime  
I had gone up to Browns (Clinton came +  
got me) Had never met family but think  
it was a mutual liking from the beginning  
Bryce was a sight to behold & Red heard with  
measles mixed in - (Never saw him with any  
kind of beard after), we did not have a  
big wedding - Came down to Clintons - he  
married us with Myrtle as witness. Then  
they went off to a meeting + we stayed  
+ babysat children. Guess we stayed  
there a day or two then came on down  
home - On way stopped at Uncle Gils +  
Aunt Zoes + spent the night. Mama took  
a while to accept Bryce but think in

later years she was very fond of him.

We started housekeeping in a couple rooms at ~~Charles~~ but later moved into Newark - Actually only had two rooms there - A large room that was kitchen, dining room + sitting room. It was a happy time - Leonard + Neets visited us there, as did Wayne + Lina, Harvey + family - and we spent a lot of time at Browns -

Soon there was a happy prospect of a baby and Mama was excited by this - Gave us a sewing machine with material for diapers that Bryce preceded to make. When it was getting close to time of Jeanette's birth Bryce got transferred to Salisbury (I forgot to mention he worked for American Oil Co. out of Wilmington?) There were many people involved in our life - some through the company - family and others.

We came home to find a dr. for J's delivery and settled on dr. Schoett - Also at about the same time Mule was expecting Laurence. Both babies born at Mama + Dad's. Laurence June 12 and Jeanette <sup>Light Brown 8 lbs -</sup> June 18, 1938 - Bryce had just gone to Salisbury so called him back and he was here for her birth. At that it was a happy occasion!

time one had to stay in bed a week after birth of baby and that was hard - Finally after a couple weeks left for Salisbury and stayed at Jorman's house as their guest - Bryce hadn't been able to find us a place. Finally did in Laurel and there again it was a huge house and we had a couple rooms in it. We were young and life was fun. Had acquired Bill Dog before we came down there - He was spitz, Chow & Collie - a beautiful white dog. (When ever we came home he was as excited as a child when we'd get close).

We finally moved to a small bungalow near Dilmar. Had good neighbors - Efrids and Lee + Margaret - names escape me of others. Here again it was a good life - Not much money but always enough to eat. Forgot to say Sam + Jennie came into our life in Laurel and still keep in touch with Jennie and Lee + Margaret and that is from the 40's to 96

Bryce at times would get extra work with a friend he met up with that worked for another oil company - Also he did some

horse shaming with a man he met down there so that all helped out.

Since the beaches were close we were there quite often - Then too when we moved to Delmar Bob + <sup>Betty Dean</sup> Doug Wagner came in from Washington State so they lived with us awhile. Later on they moved into Delmar - Margaret was on the way along with a boxer dog expecting pups - I told Bryce if it all happened the same time the dog would get priority as we were going to get money for the pups.

I'm not sure now how it all happened except the day I started having pains announcing the arrival of Margaret I started early in morning + I didn't go in to hospital until close to twelve - I guess I was lucky as she was born soon after.

(Before this Bryce had been in hospital for appendix so was acquainted with nurses) Had Margaret out in hall way showing her off.