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@TITLE = Preface

@FIRSTPARAGRAPH = This history of my grandparents was related to me by three of their children ? Mary Pearl Beutler, Mildred Beatrice Lundberg, and Myrtle Blanche Winn. When I asked my Aunt Bea to relate some of her memories about her Mother and Father, she responded, ?In this life we have to select and neglect, and sometimes we neglect the things that are most important in our lives. Other things are far more important than these everyday mundane things that we do.?

Sometimes we think eating, cleaning house, or working is more important than caring for our minds, contemplating our lives, going for a walk, or spending a few minutes with a neighbor. My Aunt Bea has never been one of those people. She has always been just wonderful.

I wish to thank her, Aunt Pearl, and my Mother for their help in this work. It would have been impossible without them.

The first section was related by Mary Pearl Beutler; the second part, by Mildred Beatrice Lundberg; and the third part, by Myrtle Blanche Winn.

All in all, I wish to thank these three sisters for their help in making available to me information about my grandparents, whom I never knew, much to my regret.

The material given here has been severely edited and rearranged. Even though I have tried in all instances to preserve the essence of the history as I received it, I accept responsibility for its present form.

Rex Winn

@TITLE = Foreword

As I was growing up, holidays were a special time for me because as relatives got together for celebration, without fail there was talk of their childhood days. Listening to these stories was always more pleasurable for me than playing outside. Since then I have wanted to record stories about my grandparents.

As I worked with the stories in this history, many of them presented in different ways from different children, I gained a greater insight and appreciation for my grandparents and their many children. Not only did I learn about them, I learned many things about their children and their grandchildren. I felt their struggles and joys, and I got to know their pains and heartaches. Life spares none of us from learning the good and the bad. This family was no different. They had many difficult times, but they were survivors working with their own hands.

Through the years whenever a story included something that conflicted with strict religious ideals, I often heard, ?We don't need to talk about *that*.? Being aware of that, when I asked for this historical information, I stressed that conflicts in life are important to know about if we are to gain an understanding of how we may better our own lives. Left without understanding as to the truth, we are not set free.

As I finished this work, I was concerned about what was not being said. This family struggled through the depression and struggled to create a place in a new world. The omitted facts distort the true picture. Avoiding the negative qualities do not make them less real or less a part of the real history.

Therefore I understand that most of the Johnson Family will object to me saying my grandfather was an alcoholic. This had a strong impact on the family life. Maud was, no doubt, a wonderful mother and loved by her neighbors. She was, as this story shows, a typical wife of many alcoholics: she was a good, noble, devoted woman who tried to save her husband. He, in his role, was

a victim. These 'forgotten' stories are easily recreated. They explain his change of jobs, why he was not home much of the time, why the younger children do not know much about their father.

I am proud of my heritage, which is the reason I have done this work. But I, as a grandchild, feel many of us could benefit by knowing the mistakes of my grandparents. His drinking did not make him unworthy of merit.

Rex Winn