

Undated interview with Elsie Winter George--probably in the early 1980's in Wrentham, MA.

There were 3 Winter brothers who came across from Scotland (Aunt Elsie was emphatic that they had to be sure and let people know they were NOT Irish). Her father, Patrick Murray Winter, always let people know that his name was Murray since that was very English. The brothers were Patrick Murray Winter, Charles Winter who married Isabella Smith of the Smith cough drop family and William who married Mary Clark. Great-grandmother Isabella was Mary and William's only child. Aunt Elsie wrote letters to her grandmother as a child of 7 or 8.

Isabella and her 3 oldest children went to Scotland to see her family. They went in June and came back in June--Murray's' birthday was involved both times. Isabella was seasick both ways from Boston to Liverpool and back.

Patrick had come to the U.S., went back to get Isabella--they had an understanding. Her father worked in the gardens at Scone Palace. Patrick worked there, too, and that is how he met Isabella. They married in Perth in 1871

Aunt Elsie remembered that they used to ride bikes up to Lake Pearl on dirt roads from Mansfield after work on Saturdays.

Patrick's brother Charles was "retired" all the time. She thinks maybe he had TB. His wife Isabella had the money.

William was a florist. Patrick and he worked with him. They were greenhouse men and horticulturalists. They grew grapes, tomatoes and flowers. the produce was put on trains to NY to the big hotels before there was refrigeration. What bananas they ate came by boat up the coast. They never had oranges until Christmas.

The Auntie Twins the care packages to Mardie Winter during the war. She wanted spam and prunes. Eggs were stored in a liquid in a crock. The liquid was called "waterglass".

Elsie's brothers were not drafted in WWI because of Winter Brothers Tap and Die Co.. She remembers the railroads and bicycles in Mansfield in the 1890's. The girls wore bloomers. When she was 18 she enjoyed going to the lake. It was not considered ladylike to swim. She remembers a time when they were moving and there was a black man driving the wagon. The Auntie Twins were quite impressed as they had never seen a person of color . Aunt Elsie was 10 when the twins were born. All Aunt Chris was wanted to do was play ball, so Elsie took care of the babies. Their mother had a sewing machine and made everything. When Aunt Elsie was 10 and 12 she learned sewing in a Saturday afternoon class. They used Butterick patterns.

Isabella had a washing machine with manual power. It was a large tub with a rockers with rollers which would agitate the clothes. There was a hard

Family History Interviews by Pat Oakes

Notes from an interview with Roberta (R.) Brown Carter taken July 23, 1988 at her home in Bridgewater, MA. Present were Bob and Lois (L.) Winter and Pat (P.) Oakes.

Roberta set out her family in the following manner--3 boys born within 5 years (Harold, 1890), Wilson (Tick), and Fred, then 3 girls in 5 years (Cora-1900, Dorothy, and Lucy, then in 6 more years--a boy and 2 more girls--Arthur, Roberta, and Rebecca. Harold was born in 1890, Cora in 1900 and Roberta in 1910. Their parents were Ella Florence Keene (b. Hansen, 1875-d. Dec.26, 1955) and Elton Armington Brown (b. Aug. 19, 1868--d. 1954, at 86, in Hansen). His parents were from Nantucket--Thomas Richmond Brown and Lucy Lincoln Brown.

Editorial note--Aunt Roberta was a "cahd" and a great character!

P. What did your father do?

R. Well, he had 9 kids, didn't he! He worked on the railroad first. He worked for Shepherd, the undertaker, he was the first fireman--worked for 15 years with no days off for sickness. He was not much of a father. I'll say this for the old coot, he always gave ma the paycheck--worked nights. Little Harold died at 9 (son of Harold and Ruby ?).

R. My grandfather had a garden and we had pigs. Tige and I would take the bladder and tie it up and play ball. Poor Ma--we lived on lima beans, bread, gravy, onions and potatoes.

L. Your mother made wonderful baked beans

R. God, yes! I'd love to have a plate right now! I have wanted a good old fashioned smoked shoulder. They don't taste like they used to

P. What did you do for Christmas?

R. Ma always got us a Christmas present and we'd have an orange. I can't remember if we put out stockings. We'd go down to the woods. One day Tige and I nearly got lost and we had a hard time getting home.

P. How did Tige get his nickname?

R. There was an old man down in Hansen, Ben Livermore, who had a sawing machine. Arthur chased him around the machine and called him Tige. I remember that your Mom and Florence got up and played on the billiard table at the fire station.

Editorial comment--I can't read my notes, but this is what I think it says

R. Urann (?) made him (Grampa?) play alimony. He started the cranberry place. Riffraff got in and stole it away from him.

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wringer. They used a powdered soap called Gold Dust and also Ivory soap, a powdered soap called Soapene, Welcome soap and Naptha soap. The clothes were hung out on a line. Aunt Elsie got her 1st washing machine after WWII. She sued a "wet wash"--a laundry truck came by and picked up the laundry bag and brought it back wet to hang. During the war the service was stopped due to the gas shortage.

*Wanta
Brown*
Patrick Winter worked for Daniel Brown who ran a straw shop. He was offered a property near the train station for Winter Brothers Tap and Die. It had gas, lighting, pumped its own water and a big vault.

The Brown house is the big yellow house in the center of Wrentham near the Maples. They made straw hats there until 1910 in behind the Maples. It was hit by lightning one afternoon and burned--about 1930. Aunt Peg and all the kids stood outside and watched at Aunt Mae's on her tennis court

