

CHAPTER 11 CATHERINE ESTHER HAIGH

Catherine Esther Haigh (born 1900 in Greenfield Minnesota) to Anne Baxter and a Mr. Haigh (both from England, but it is a Scottish name), married in Greenfield Wisconsin. Grandfather Haigh was the Queen's farmer (probably Queen Victoria), so Rose Boje/Corbett's mother related to her.

About the Queen's Gardner, "he apparently took care of livestock and had a few of his own which he fed and groomed to take to the local fairs where he was able to gain some prizes. Anyone's guess if he was fired or if thought he would be in the promised land if he immigrated to the USA."

Catherine was orphaned at age 14, when her mother Annie Baxter Haigh passed away. She lived with her sister about one to two years. May had seven children and married to man who had seven more children. "Catherine was the oldest juvenile in the house. Everyday when she got home from school she had to peel a washtub full of potatoes, which were standard fare with milk gravy for dinner. The kids stood at the table except for the ones not tall enough to reach their food on the table. These little ones had boxes to sit on.

My Mother, Catherine [writes Rose] was revolted to anyone heaping their plate with food from this experience. She told us (my brothers and me) that we could always have seconds (seconds were out of the question, most times during the 'Depression' in the 1930s). Mays' kids would load their plates across with potatoes and gravy, from rim to rim.

How Catherine got away from there to Spokane (plus the fare & a job) is anyone's guess. I never asked, but I wondered. This N. Dakota episode at May's house hardly had a fresh vegetable or fruit only once..." – Rose Corbin, Aug 1993.

Catherine had 14 sisters. She was a helper for a mortician. She was sent to secretary school and worked for DOC (dept of Corrections); her mother Annie Baxter died in Ferinebc, British Columbia. "Catherine was only able to go to school about two months a year, as the family was always moving. The stepfather [Mr. Bell] always had another scheme to make some money: a delicatessen, another time a peddler, or other things. So with a mixed up mess, Catherine was able to grade work wherever they moved, and entered high school at age 14. She would have finished high school, but for the fact that the flu epidemic of 1918 came along and she was working for board and room for a family that owned a funeral parlor and the woman said to her, 'if she would quit school and stay full time at the house while the 'crunch at the funeral home was on, they would pay her tuition in business school. She accepted that proposal. Then when she finished school she was able to get work at a doctor's office. My guess that Catherine's mother was a good teacher, Anne Baxter Haigh.'" - story by Rose Corbin.

"Regarding Catherine Haigh's stepfather (the girls called him Professor); he was from Virginia, played the fiddle, sang Steven Foster songs, which the girls laughed at. And

once he was married to Annie Baxter Haigh, maneuvered to sell the farm and spend the money. Therefore the wanderer lived over a good part of Canada.

Catherine had one of the 14 sisters, in Cutbank Montana who married Cornelius Benjamin Smith. Cornelius may have remarried professor Bell from Virginia; had 14 kids; 7 of his and 7 of hers. A Mr. Bell (2nd husband) owned a taxi and limo service, one million silver dollars (a bit exocentric).

She had a sister Madge (married John Kondisko) in Portland, OR who had a son name Russell. "Son Russell, a teenager, was fixing the roof of the house, when his mother came out to scold her for something, and he sassed her. She went back in the house and when he went to sleep at night she disciplined him. I was never told how."

Sister May had 7 children in North Dakota; she broke with the family in 1926

Sister Mary moved to Saskatchewan Canada.

Sister Josephine married Mr. Whettlsea, a son of a visitor.

Sister, Ethel Dreda did not want anything to do with the family and had not talked to anyone since 1933 (was in Southern CA at the time).

There was a brother named Russell, who went riding at age 18; his foot caught in the strip and he had been dragged to death.

The above info comes from Rose Boje

Catherine Haigh and August M. Boje's children were Rose Catherine Boje (born 1921 in Spokane); she married Warren Corbin (born 2-4-1921; died Nov 19 1970), and had a daughter named Cheri Linda (2nd runner up for Miss California, USA) who married Michael Tambini (no children). Judith Jean married William Corbett; with children Debborah (born 7-5-1985) had Amanda Corbett. Judith and William Corbett also had daughter named Apryl Rose, who married Randall Maston, with children: Sarah born 1989 and another unnamed child born 1991. Rose had a son named William Lee (born 6-11-1951); never married. Rose lived in Tracy CA most of her life (she was an artist too).

Rose Corbin shared this story in letter to Karen. "a memorable moment in my young life happened when the family had a picnic lunch an afternoon at a creek near Mount Spokane. I and the boys were playing in the creek. Then someone yelled, 'timber.' The top of the tree just missed me by inches. I was really surprised. And in those days felling big trees with a couple of axes and a two man saw (chain saws were not even thought of at that time, 1930s)."