

Oct. 11, 1977

Dear Gee Gee,

I have been meaning to write for so long - but you know how things go.

Grandma asked me to write to you about Uncle Homer - here goes as she recalled:

Homer was the 2nd oldest. He worked in a machine shop and put the oldest brother Ottie through medical school in Baltimore (Ottie delivered Betty). Ottie as a child went only thru the 7th grade, but he read books during a lengthy recovery from an appendectomy. As a child, Ottie dissected dead animals.

There were 4 brothers, 3 went to school. Ottie was an M.D. in Dayton, VA, Ernest went to Altona, Austin went to Washington & Lee and was a boxer. Lester died when he was one year old.

Their mother was Mary Elizabeth "Mary Liz" - she went to Dayton College for one year. Her maiden name was Pifer.

Homer worked for Mr. Brumback when he was a youngster. The Brumback's were well to do. Homer married Bertha Brumback.

On the Pifer family side, their great-grandfather was a Funkhauser. The family was Swiss & came to America before the Revolution. Funkhauser built a Swiss style home.

Grandmother Pifer's brother was a Northern sympathizer who lived across the river from her. His land was not harmed when the Northern troops invaded the Valley.

Grandfather Fisher's ancestors came from an area

between the Netherlands & Germany. The family allegedly got into trouble with the authorities for poaching on Royal property.

Homer's grandmother was a small girl when the Northern troops invaded. Hessians stormed into their home & took the freshly baked bread. Grandmother Pifer cried for she was hungry! This angered one of the Hessians & the Northern Commander cautioned the mother to keep the child quiet as he was fearful of what the Hessian might do. The troops took everything in the house - food, clothes, even the women's underwear.

Prior to this, some men living in the area would flee into the western mountains to escape conscription into the Southern army. Father Pifer paid another to take his place in the army, which was

the Gentleman's method of
fulfilling his obligations both
to the army & to his family.