

On Jun 27, 2019, at 10:24 AM, Chalmers <chalmers@atlanticnortheast.com> wrote:

Yesterday I had a chance to chat with Moira. She sounded good, reporting that she tries to get up once a day to sit in a chair, but does not always feel up to it. She has frequent visits from Deborah, who has finished sorting through and distributing Moira's possessions, and who has several landscaping clients now. Yay! Kelsey also comes and three weeks ago brought John, who is much improved. Yay 2!

M, who can hold a book or newspaper, confessed to spending much of her time looking out the window and composing limericks. I demanded one from her, and she recited:

*There once was a lady named Moira,
Who spent quite some time in her foyer,
She seldom did roam,
Very far from her home,
Except to search for a lawyer.*

"It's not that good," M said. But it is fun!

Also, I asked how she had met Larry.

In the spring of 1942, M had finished college and was living and working at home in Baton Rouge. Larry had joined the Army, and was attached to the Army Air Force in the weather office. His first posting was to an airfield in Baton Rouge.

A friend of M's - male but not romantic - was also stationed there and asked if he could bring some friends to Moira's to meet her, in particular one, Larry. They were married in October 1942, and she did not see him again for three years. "A wartime wedding!" I kidded her. "Yes," she said.

"The Southern belle captures the Yankee," I added, "just as Scott Fitzgerald was captured - in the First World War." M replied, "Yes, I suppose so. I never thought of that."

M went on to relate that Larry's aunts, Mabel and Gertrude (the "witches" of the photo in the Salem room and generous donors to Larry and Moira of furniture etc) had explicitly warned him before he went south about "Southern belles." !!

Chalmers

On Aug 18, 2019, at 7:41 PM, Chalmers <chalmers@atlanticnortheast.com> wrote:

Today I asked two questions:

1. Where did the silver bowl Moira gave to Concordia, with the Persian markings, come from?

“Mabel and Gertrude.” (See earlier e-mails.) They spent their money on travel, and when there, spent on material goods, not on accommodations. They often stayed at a convent outside Rome to save money.

Moira has no idea of the background of the bowl itself. Chalmers brought it to his place in Freeport in hopes of taking it to someone who could identify and price it... Not yet done.

2. When did Uncle Don die, and what was he like?

1950. She, Larry, and Louise were in Kuala Lumpur, where he was working for (full text of 1 January 1950 Foreign Service list shows him as assistant consular attache).

Kuala Lumpur, Federation of Malaya (C).	Richard A. Poole, vice consul.....	June 10, 1949	FSO-5
	Lawrence van Bylandt Nichols, asst. consular attaché.	Sept. 23, 1949	FSR-5
	James R. Ward, vice consul.....	Aug. 5, 1948	FSS-9
	Allan F. McLean, Jr., vice consul.....	Dec. 31, 1947	FSS-11
	Duncan Campbell, consular attaché ⁴	Sept. 30, 1948	FSR-4
	W. Henry Lawrence, Jr., consul ⁵	June 2, 1949	FSO-4

Moira urged Larry to go, but he did not want to go without M and L. He also preferred that Jan get some attention - Kay (Jan's wife) was resentful that Larry usually got top billing. So they stayed in K-L. Jan carried off the work well. He was on active duty at the time, in Massachusetts, Moira believed.

Janet, Don's second wife, left Weston after Don died. She remarried, and spent her last days on Cape Cod. (I seem to remember Jan talking about visiting Janet in Virginia?)

Don was quite a guy whom everyone liked. His appreciation for others was genuine. [Collis modelled some - not all! - of his department after Uncle Don, per Hardenbergh family lore.]

[Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate of the United States](https://books.google.com/books?id=hjUNAQAAMAAJ)

<https://books.google.com/books?id=hjUNAQAAMAAJ>

THE WHITE HOUSE, *January 27, 1949.*

To the Senate of the United States:

I nominate the following-named officers for promotion in the United States Air Force, under the provisions of sections 502, 508, and 518 of the Officer Personnel Act of 1947. Those officers whose names are preceded by the symbol (X) are subject to examination required by law. All others have been examined and found qualified for promotion.

Nicholas, Judson Dye, Junior, AO45756.
Nichols, Cranz, Junior, AO40017.
Nichols, Franklin Allen, AO34518.
Nichols, Guy, AO51321.
Nichols, John Donaldson, Junior, AO33652.
X Nickerson, George, AO52129.
Nigro, Edward Henry, AO34605.
Nims, Frank Leslie, AO24148.
Nix, William Elgin, AO34917.

edings
91,

o

On Apr 28, 2018, at 7:07 PM, Kelsey Underwood <kelsey1103@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Deborah has done yeoman's work in helping Moira since she moved back to California and especially during this last highly difficult week. Her devotion to Moira, patience, attentiveness, assertiveness and communication with the staff at Piedmont Gardens has been untiring and invaluable. She deserves a medal!

Driving to the meeting in Oakland yesterday, I looked up at the sky as the clouds parted and thought how pleased Maisie and Alice would be looking over (and acting through) their daughters as we cooperate in the loving struggle to assist the last one of that generation.

After the meeting it was a special time when the three of us were back in Moira's hospital room (with roommate's TV blaring on the other side of the curtain) "debriefing" after the meeting. Amidst the exhaustion, pain, confusion, and uncertainty, Moira shared some amazing reflections she's been having about life and death, her upbringing in the South and her decades-long awareness of racism and attempts to do her part in treating people equally.

She would like to keep on living though this week's experience has certainly made her question if she can/will, and needless to say, Deborah and I told her we want her to keep living. She more than concurred, and we shared a deep smile about the wish that we'll all be going for a walk again soon. (where Deborah is going to walk with Chalmers this weekend, in the cemetery).

To answer David's question — at the meeting, they showed us the report from an x-ray that showed her lumbar vertebrae L1 and L3 are damaged. Though we heard the term "compression fracture" earlier in the week, what I saw in writing was "minimal compression deformity. Degenerative changes in the spine." Part of the communication confusion is that the "team" at PG is treating her for rehabilitation from this pain that began a week ago, and the report that says the injury is in her lumbar vertebrae. Moira, on the other hand, insisted that it began a year ago with cracked ribs from a Heimlich maneuver, and described the location of the pain as being in her lower ribs. No one was sophisticated enough about the body and pain to have a meaningful interchange about causality and pain perception. They said that recovery from this vertebral injury takes about two months, if a person can be regaining movement and strength. Up until this yesterday, her pain has been excruciating and not managed, so her desire to eat and ability to try to move more are almost non-existent. Moira would probably not allow me to tell you how much she weighs, so I won't, but you can guess how much she has lost and how frail that makes her. And weak from not eating. Hopefully after the meeting with the in-house doctor there can be better "pain management" and better communication between the staff and Moira about her needs.

What a complicated mix of cross-generational, cross-cultural, bureaucratic people and positions.

As we've often said, Moira may have grown up in Louisiana and be a southerner by background, but in her marriage to Larry and becoming a Nichols, she is more New Englandish than the New Englanders. My thought is that her "New England stoicism and independence" have been a tremendous strength in her integrity and perseverance after Larry died and Louise was murdered, and these qualities continue to be in many ways, but that they are also not adaptive to the interdependence of her present situation where she needs a lot of help and is frustrated and reluctant to persevere in asking for what she needs.

Thanks for all comments and concerns. Even though Moira isn't as immediate a cousin as our 4 Hardenbergh parents, she now holds the longest share of memory of all of them, Granny and Gramps, Uncle Don, Concordia, and the house in Salem, and has unflaggingly given those stories and dedication to us.

Love,
Kelsey