

Geraldine Dawson:

The Story of Her Life



Table of Contents:

- 1. Title Page**
- 2. Table of Contents**
- 3. Dedication**
- 4. Poem: "This Poem Is For You"**
- 5. Poem: She and I**
- 6. Recipe**
- 7. Childhood**
- 8. Childhood/Teenage Years**
- 9. Teenage Years/ Adulthood**
- 10. Adulthood**
- 11. Adulthood/The Present Day**
- 12. The Present Day**
- 13. The Present Day Quote**

To Grandma Nani. You are the one who has always been there for me. I love you so much and I will always love you. No matter how many fights we might have, you always be my Grandma. My one and only Grandma. <3 This is to honor you and your life. :) :)

Poem: “ This Poem Is For You...”

This poem is for you, Nani.
For your words that guide me,
For your big and courageous mind,
For your hands that make new things.

This is a poem for you, Nani.
Because you care for the ones that smile,
you live just a day at a time,
you believe in second chances.

I love the way you,
cook fried chicken,
make random strangers feel good about themselves,
help me follow my dreams.

I hope that you will,
always have warm hugs,
never forget who I am,
always be there when I need you.

Poem: She and I

She lives Cedar Springs,
I live in Grand Rapids.
She is 80 years old,
I am 13 years old.

She cooks like a chef,
I eat her gourmet meals.
She plays her music like a piper,
I sing and dance like a performer.

She has the words of wisdom,
I have the soul that listens.
She has the beautiful blue eyes,
I have the big green eyes.

She is my paper,
I am her pen.
She says goodbye,
I say hello.

The Dawson Pizza Sauce Spaghetti!

Ingredients:

- Thin spaghetti noodles
- Prego mushroom spaghetti sauce
- Pizza Sauce
- small pot
- strainer
- gumbo pot
- Parmesan*
- Measuring cup
- stirring spoon
- cooking oil

*=optional

Instructions:

- Put as many cup of water into your gumbo pot as needed and put the stove on high for water to boil.
- Once water is boiled, put cooking oil in and grab your thin spaghetti noodles and put them into the pot. One thing at a time.
- While noodles are boiling, put your pizza sauce in a small pot and put your stove on medium.
- Once pizza sauce is warmed up, mix your prego sauce with it and mix with stirring spoon.
- When your noodles are boiled, put them in your strainer.
- Once all water is gone put noodles back into pot.
- You are now ready to serve. Put noodles on the plate and place sauce over delicately.
- Put a light amount of parmesan on*

Childhood

On October 10, 1933, Geraldine Birch was born. She was born in Essex County, Canada¹. She grew up on a big farmland. The farmland was about 100 acres. By the age of five, Geraldine was put to work on her farm with her siblings, mother, and father. She worked very much. At the age of ten years old, Geraldine learned how to drive a car. She got her drivers license when she turned eleven. The reason Geraldine got her license so early is because if you lived and worked on a farm, you had to know how to drive a tractor.

Geraldines parents names were Cleo Underwood(maiden name) and Percy Birch. As Geraldine was growing up, her parents rarely talked to each other. They were very busy with their farm. The only time they actually talked to each other was at the dinner table. They weren't the best couple, but they still loved each other.

Percy Birch was born in 1904. Geraldine is a lot like like him. Percy was a very hard working man, he always tried to treat people well, and he was giving. On the other hand, Cleo Underwood was born in 1905. Geraldine is nothing like her mother. She does look like her, but they don't have a lot in common. Cleo was very abusive. She did have a mental disorder though. Cleo was a butcher for her job. Cleo was not the best mother you could have.

Geraldine had many pets. She had black labs that would protect her family's

¹ Essex County, Canada is in the southern part of Canada. Their population is 177,891. Its census division has population of 388,782 in 2011. That makes it one of the most populated areas in Ontario. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essex_County,_Ontario

farmland. She also had horses that they would ride. The horses helped them with transportation. They pulled a buggy² to help Geraldine's family travel. Geraldine also had pigs. Geraldine's mother would sell the pork as her job as a butcher.

The most vivid memory Geraldine has was when she moved to her Grandmother's house. Her Grandmother's name was Mary-Jane Birch. Geraldine stayed with her grandmother when she was four years old. She felt very relieved. Geraldine's mother was very abusive and Geraldine hated the abuse. Geraldine was very close to her Grandma Birch. She loved her dearly and loved being around her. By the age of twelve years, Geraldine's mother came to get her.

The house Geraldine lived in was a country house³. It had six bedrooms. It was not a big rich home. She didn't have a good bedroom out of all of the rooms. Geraldine mainly lived in a closet room. It was very small and Geraldine thought of it as an attic. She had a bed and carpet. Geraldine loved her dolls. She loved playing with her dolls and loved them dearly. Her favorite doll was her porcelain doll⁴.

Teenage Years

Geraldine's teenage years weren't the best years. Geraldine loved music in her

² A horse buggy is a two seated person ride. It was used in the late 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries. Some used even today with the Amish.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horse_and_buggy

³ A country house is a very big house. About the size of a mansion. Usually they were in the British sides and Irish sides.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Country_house

⁴ A porcelain doll was mainly called a bisque doll. Made out of bisque porcelain. The dolls have a skin like feature. They mainly had popularity between 1860 and 1900. They are a collectible. They are worth thousands of US dollars. They are now mainly sold at collectors markets.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bisque_doll

teenage years. She was alive when World War II⁵ happened. Geraldine and others had to work into the fields to pick milkweed⁶ because soldiers took the milkweed for food. When Geraldine first found out about the war, she was at school. Geraldine wasn't frightened, but she was misunderstanding the concept at first. As it went on for a while, she started to understand it.

During her teenage years, Geraldine was prohibited to use phrases. They had to say pure English. If they didn't speak pure English, then they were punished. They did not like the punishments at all! Also, her outfits were very dressy. She wore dresses and blouses mainly. In the spring time, they had to change into their farming clothes. She wore overalls, shirt, and mud boots.

In Canada, you would take five years of high school. The last year is your first year of college. Her graduation was like today's. They had people come up on the stage to get their diplomas. Geraldine played the piano for the graduation and loved it. Her goals were to be a lawyer. She loved law and loved government, but her mother would not allow it. Cleo believed that women should not be in the law institute or government.

Adulthood

Geraldine went to college. She went to the University of West Ontario. She studied

⁵ World War II was around the globe. The war itself lasted from 1939 to 1945. There were some conflicts in Asia though. Some participants had to give up their economic, industrial, and scientific capabilities for the war.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II

⁶ Milkweed is a plant that is also called Asclepias. This plant has very good installation usage. During World War II, over 5,000 tons were collected from America, as another for kapok.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asclepias>

piano and music there. Then she went to the University of Toronto and studied teaching. She studied teaching from first grade to eighth grade. Geraldine taught grades first to eighth in one big room. All third grade lessons were taught to all of the kids. She taught everything in that one big room. She was so kind and influenced so many kids lives. She taught kids how to read, write, and how to have a better future. She helped children so much that she brought kids home. Many children looked up to Geraldine.

Geraldine was in the band. She played the glockenspiel⁷. Geraldine loved band and music. Geraldine met Charles Dawson in band. Charles played the trumpet in band. Geraldine did like him. Soon later, they got married. One of the reasons why she married Charles is because Geraldine's mother, Cleo, told her that either she work and live with her or get married and move out. So Geraldine married Charles.

Later on, Geraldine and Charles had seven children. All of her kids were named after people she loved. Phoebe Dawson, granddaughter of Geraldine, named her mother after her brother Lorne. Her name is Lorna Dawson. Geraldine's kids in order are Thomas Dawson, Paul Dawson, Rebecca Dawson, Mary Dawson, Philip Dawson, Diane Dawson, and Lorna Dawson. Geraldine is very proud of her children. They were all hard workers and they all got great grades.

Geraldine was in fact alive when John F. Kennedy was assassinated⁸. Geraldine

⁷ A glockenspiel is a percussion instrument. It is an instrument that is called a bell kit now. It is an instrument that has many different keys with a different sound. The glockenspiel has 30 keys.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glockenspiel>

⁸ JFK was assassinated on November 22 1963. He was killed in Dallas, Texas in the afternoon at 12:30pm. They finalized his death at 1:00pm. JFK died at the age of 46.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_F._Kennedy

remember it like it was yesterday. She was wallpapering a bathroom and watching a very small television. She remembers the news saying JFK (John F. Kennedy) has been killed. Geraldine was very stunned. Geraldine and her friends stopped wallpapering the bathroom and watched the television all night long.

Geraldine and her family rarely took vacations. They took vacations back to Canada to see Geraldine and Charles families. They had a lot of fun on those days.

As a parent. Geraldine has learned to love. Even though they all got in trouble, even though they all make mistakes, even though they have their differences, Geraldine loved them all the same and equally.

The Present Day

Geraldine's typical day today is very quiet. She feels very lonely at some times. Geraldine feels like there is not much to do, but during the summer she works in her gardens. There are roses and tulips and many more! Geraldine also likes to work. She likes to work on laundry and her house.

Everyone depends on someone. Geraldine trust and depends on two of her daughters. Diane Dawson and Lorna Dawson. If they didn't visit her a lot or help her, Geraldine wouldn't be walking. She would always be at home. Alone.

One thing that has changed her goals was when she crashed her car. She felt locked inside. Geraldine feels like she has no freedom. Geraldine feels like she can't do things how she did when she had her drivers license. She feels she can't visit places as

much as she wants to.

Geraldine has stated that if she could have changed her life, she wouldn't have gotten married. She would have gone to law school! She would work for hours and hours. She would love if she could be a lawyer.

Turning points in Geraldine's life is when she was married. She found out what a family is fully like. Her seven kids changed her life. It changed her feelings. A hard turning point in life was how hard it was to keep going on in life.

Geraldine has been asked about a time capsule. Geraldine loves her kids and grandkids so much that she would put a letter in the time capsule that states how important life is and how rough it is. Geraldine would put in the letter that she loves them so much. She would also put her life savings in. She would put money in for her grandkids to pay off their college debt.

Geraldine would like to be remembered as a woman who loves and did everything she could. She wants to be remembered as a hard worker. That she tried to do the best she could ever do.

Geraldine is an amazing woman. She has been through hard times and good times. Geraldine loves everyone who smiles and loves her family. She was through a hurtful mother, a quiet father, music, working, great family members. Geraldine has inspired Phoebe Dawson by these words...

"Live just a day at a time."

-Geraldine Dawson