

My background

Born April 18, 1904 to Dr & Mrs Robert Henry Dinegar,
a daughter, Adelaide Elizabeth Kaiokalani Dinegar.
My brother was born Aug 29, 1902 Henry Alexander
Dinegar. Both born on the Island of Maui.
Mother's name was Rosina Tergetta Kalamikewikiulani
Ayers, Polynesian & English. Father was Holland
Dutch & English. Mother's mother was Namoslau
Manakia Ayers, an Alii, who served as an interpreter
for the Hawaiian people in Court for several years.
The word Alii means "belonging to Royalty".
Mother was a gentle loving beautiful person,
and a fine character. She was a descendant of
Kamehameha I, an Alii and belonged to the
Kahaumanu Society. Papa was a practicing
physician in Wailuku, Maui, a pioneer in X-ray
work. He practiced 12 to 14 yrs. there & in 1909 he
left & brought us to the states to live with his
mother who was aging & wanted us all back
home with her at her large home in Chatham, N.Y.
near Albany. Papa opened an office & commuted
until he bought our house in Albany. Here he
was chief of the X-ray dept. at St Peter's Hospital.
He also had his private practice where he
did deep therapy X-ray cancer treatment until
his death in 1930. My early childhood was very
happy, swimming, climbing banana trees &
sliding down the trunk which was slippery &
staining my underwear, for which I got
scolded. The bark of the banana tree stains
like dandelions do. I learned to sing nursery
songs in Japanese when only 3 or 4 yrs old as
my nurse Nana was Japanese & she was with
me for 6 yrs until we left the islands. Henry's
nurse was Moku & Acker was the Chinese
cook, a loyal servant. Nana's husband was

papa's chauffeur. Papa had the first automobile on the island of Maui, an Oldsmobile roadster with a curved dash & then a white steamer. Before the automobile, Mama & Papa's recreation was horseback riding & shooting Plover. The only reason we left the "Isles of Paradise" was because, Papa's mother was getting along in years & he felt it a duty ~~to~~ being an only child that he should be near her. That was before the airplane. I have wonderful memories of Mama telling us of the ^{old} customs among the Hawaiians. Evening prayer was a must in her family. Their love & faith in God & Jesus meant so much. Their out going affection for other people, sharing & doing whatever one could to help the other person. Hawaiians love music, people & nature, which is interpreted in the dances. We listened to Mama telling us about the ancient family chants & stories. One which I always remember is when Uncle Alama was caught by a large Octopus. He had been spear fishing & slipped on a rock losing his spear. The water was deep & he was caught by a giant Octopus, he had to struggle & fight for his life as his spear was gone. Finally he was able to bite the Octopus between the eyes, that paralyzed it so the long arms were released & Uncle Alama was saved. We learned so much of Hawaiian Culture. Mom was educated at Monolua Seminary (Episcopal) There she learned to do fine embroideries which she taught me at her knees. Neither had

to do it correctly or rip it out & do it over again.
 As I mentioned before, it was ^{September} 1909 when we came
 to the states. One of the first important tasks, was
 for us to be fitted out for the approaching winter
 weather. Grandma saw to it that the whole family
 took the New York Central R.R. train to New York City.
 Then to Waxmachers where the winter outfits
 were purchased. All was fine with the exception
 of the long knit underwear which was ordered
 for Henry & me. It scratched and the leg went right
 down to our ankles. It took a little time to get
 used to such clothing, but, when the stormy snow
 days came we didn't mind wearing them. Mom
 became the owner of her first fur coat & hat made
 of seal skin. When we witnessed the first snow
 fall, that was a great event. When the weather was
 too bad we were driven to school by horse & sleigh.
 Papa's driver was an English Coachman named
 William Alinsdale. On good days we were made
 to walk to school, it was all of a mile or more.
 It was good for us to walk said Papa. When Sunday
 came, we went to Sunday School. There was no
 "do I have to go or why" it was just a part of our
 daily life. It was a joy for me to put on my
 pretty dress to go to Sunday School. Henry didn't mind
 going either. He probably had a sling shot in his
 pocket to fire spit balls around, but all in all
 we were pretty neat. We also had 5¢ to spend for
 a bag of candy on the way home. It is my wish that
 my followers "line up to my backseat." Do unto others
 as you would have them do unto you. I know they will.
 I graduated from St. Agnes Episcopal girls school in
 Albany. Henry graduated from the Albany Bay Academy
 then on to Union College in Schenectady & was a member of
 Psi Upsilon fraternity. On Feb. 20, 1928 I married James
 Charles McLaughlin a fine American citizen whom I deeply
 loved until he was passed away Dec. 24, 1956. We were
 blessed with our son James Charles, in 1930 & now I have
 4 grandchildren & a very lovely daughter-in-law. I am
 very lucky. Now I am 81, 40 and I & I thank God for every
 day like on two feet. I still

Take long walks and love to swim.
I have been sending back a few things
to the Palace that were given to Mama's
mother by Queen Liliuokalani, a brooch
and a feather lei made from the now
extinct Oo bird. A Hawaiian Tilt made
for Mama & Papa when they were married
is in the Smithsonian Institution. It
is the Hawaiian flag with the coat-of-arms
applied in the middle with the motto
"Ua Mau Kea Oka Aina Ika Pono"
meaning "The life of the land is established
in righteousness". Henry has a Koa paddle
used at the time of the overthrow of the
government when Queen Liliuokalani
abdicated. It was used in the harbor.
Henry also has a spear made of iron
wood which was used at the battle when
Capt. Cook was killed. These pieces will
eventually go back to the palace. The times
that I have gone back home, I have been
treated royally by the few old Hawaiians
who knew my background. Now there is just
a distant cousin or two left. I haven't been
home in several years but I hope to
return once more. Queen Liliuokalani was
fond of Henry when Mom would take us to see the
Queen, Henry was the important one. It seems that I
~~would~~ seemed at her & bowed. Guess I should have
been more of a little lady. I embraced my
mother. ~~She~~ always kissed us. We didn't have to bow
down to ground as her subjects had to do as we were
part of the Royal family. She (the Queen didn't approve
of our coming to the states as Henry was a bit delicate.

as a little fellow ⁵ & the Queen felt that the
winter weather would be bad for him. As it turned
out sunny, picked up & was just fine. I was the one
who wasn't too well for awhile. They said part of my
trouble was from eating green apples before they were
ripe. They were something new to us. After a couple
of years we were just as rugged as everyone else here.
Hope this hasn't been too boring. Now you know
a little about 'Mac Nana', who, ~~at~~ what & why.