

**Needham Family History**  
White Bluffs Hanford Pioneer Association 38<sup>th</sup> Reunion- 1981  
Response to family history questionnaire

George Henry Needham Family

1. George Henry Needham  
2116 Loma Alta Drive  
Fullerton, California 92633  
Telephone: 714-879-8974
2. James Ferdinand Needham – Born in Missouri Oct 9, 1878  
Maud Lee (mother)  
James Taylor (son)  
Robert Forrest (son)  
George Henry (son)
3. Father and mother were married in Missouri, in 1912, the year of the St. Louis World's Fair.  
They emigrated to Hanford, in 1912.  
They arrived in Hanford by riverboat.  
Father and brothers homesteaded land was across the river from Hanford and they tried wheat farming for awhile.  
Father and mother lived in the Hanford Hotel for some time.  
Father and mother were involved in several businesses in town; the grocery store, pool room, service station, ice and cold storage.  
Father and brothers had been in the Northwest for some time, working in lumber camps and mines. The Hanford area was appealing to my dad and he talked my mother into coming west. Mother didn't like at first, too arid.
4. Home was located about two blocks from center of town. Nine city lots, a bit less than an acre. The house was built in stages as dad had spare money to buy lumber. We raised produce and livestock mostly for our own use, but sold some as well; milk, eggs, chickens, livestock, vegetables and berries. We had our service station, as well as a ice and cold storage plant at the home. We also sold wood, caught from the river.
5. Most of community social activities centered around the schools, neighborhood associations, the Presbyterian Church, grange hall, boy scouts, movies and dances.
6. See #10.
7. An Indian girl, Mary Flett, boarded and roomed at our house for about two years, while she attended High School; from about 1935-36. Her family lived on a farm near Cold Creek. Mary was a good friend.

8. By 1940, Taylor had married Ruth Hoover and moved to California. George and Bob were in Spokane; and George moved to California. Bob was an active Reserve Officer, in the National Guard unit, for the Army service.

Mother moved south to join Taylor and George in Venice, California. We began hearing sketchy reports about the Government Land purchase. Father stayed in Hanford, lived in home and operated the service station which moved to the downtown location.

In 1944, father closed the service station and went to California to join the family.

We all felt sad about having to give up the home. Of course the project was all very secret and we were curious.

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|----|--------|-----------|----------|-----------------------|
| 9. | Father | Born 1878 | (Oct 9)  | Birthplace: Missouri  |
|    | Mother | born 1883 | (Mar 6)  | Birthplace: Tennessee |
|    | Taylor | born 1915 | (June 1) | Birthplace: Yakima    |
|    | Robert | born 1916 | (Oct 8)  | Birthplace: Hanford   |
|    | George | born 1921 | (Oct 20) | Birthplace: Hanford   |

Father moved to Santa Monica, California. Father and mother were divorced in about 1946. Father then moved to Long Beach, bought a home and remarried in 1951. Father died in 1951.

Mother lived in the Santa Monica, Venice area of California, with or near sons Taylor and George. In 1952, she moved to a home she had bought in Inglewood, California. She lived there until a few months before her death, in 1970.

Taylor and Ruth lived in Venice, California. Taylor worked for Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica. Taylor couldn't be in military service because of the rupture of one of his eardrums as a boy. Ruth and Taylor adopted a son, Donald, in 1946. About 1948, they moved to Brewster, Washington for awhile (Bridgeport). Taylor worked on the Chief Joseph Dam; later he worked on The Dalles Dam. Ruth and Taylor then decided to get a divorce. Taylor returned to California and worked in the Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo area as a construction foreman, until his retirement in 1981. Taylor remarried, Thelma and remained married until Thelma's death, about 1977. About 1978, Taylor married Jessie and they lived in Santa Maria until Taylor's retirement whereupon they moved to Leavenworth, Washington. They built a home in Leavenworth and are living there now. Taylor's son lived with his wife and child in Priest River, Idaho, until Donald and his young son died in a tragic crash in Spokane, Washington, in 1981.

Robert attended Washington State University at Pullman and graduated with a degree in Business Administration. He also was an ROTC graduate at WSU and received his appointment as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Reserve. Upon Graduation, he was employed by the Burroughs Adding Machine Company in their Spokane sales office. Just prior to graduation, Bob married Pat Proctor, also a student at WSU. They moved to Spokane after graduation. In 1941, Bob's National Guard Reserve Unit was called into active service and in the summer of 1941, his unit along with a National Guard unit from New Mexico were shipped to the Philippine Islands', Fort Stotsenberg. Bob was

assigned to a Tank Battalion. He got his pilot's license, took up motorcycle riding and mastered as many skills as he could. He and a fellow officers spent a considerable amount of time on their motorcycles, getting to know the country.

After the War started, of course we were all very worried about Bob. A day or two before Christmas we received a message from him by telegram, saying he was all right. A few days later we received the terrible news. Bob had been killed. We later learned that he was killed during action with his tank battalion. They were fighting the Japanese invasion in the Lingayen Gulf area of Northern Luzon. His body remained in the Philippines. He was survived by his wife Pat and his daughter, Roberta "Bobbe" Lee, born May 28, 1942. Pat died in 1982, in the Bahamas. She had remarried. Bobbe married a West Point graduate, who served a tour of duty in Vietnam. Bobbe's husband, Jan Hughey, returned from the service. They had three children; two boys and one girl and reside at 2916 NW 14<sup>th</sup> Pl Gainesville, Florida 32605.

George left the Hanford area in 1940. He attended a business college in Spokane, for a few months and then joined his brother Taylor in southern California. He worked for Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica for two years. He joined the Army Air Force in October 1942. He was assigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> Air Force Bomb Squadron in Kuhuku, Hawaii. He received a medical discharge in December, 1943. He married Ruth Peters, from Ohio and Pennsylvania, in March 1946. They had six children; Suzanne Lee, born December 1946, George Thomas, born February 1949, Peter Robert, born September 1951, Patrice Kay, born June 1954, Christopher James, born November 1967 and Jeremy R., born May 1970.

George attended UCLA and graduated from USC College of Pharmacy, in 1951. He has been working for the Los Angeles County Health Department as a pharmacist since 1952. George, his wife and youngest two children currently live at 21116 Loma Alta Drive, Fullerton, California.

9. Robert Forrest Needham  
Lieutenant Tank Corps  
Philippine Islands  
Age 25  
Silver Star: Purple Heart  
Survived by wife Pat and daughter Roberta Lee, born May 28, 1942  
Roberta Lee Hughey resides at, 2916 NW 14<sup>th</sup> Place, Gainesville, Florida 32605.