

# The Hamel Family of West Warwick

*by Paul J. Hamel*



*Rosa (Jetté) Hamel in her kitchen in River Point,  
West Warwick around 1911*

# The Hamels in 1911

*Odélie (Lamothe) Hamel*

*Rosa (Jetté) Hamel*

*Solime*



*This photo was taken at a small beach house around 1911 in an unknown location (probably Warren) along the Rhode Island shoreline.*

*Only Joseph-Wilfred, his wife, Rosa (Jetté), their children, and Rosa's sister Solime, are identified.*

*Although many of the persons in the photo appear in other family photos, their names and relationships are unknown.*

*Roland Hamel*

*Rita Hamel*

*Wilfred Hamel*

*Loretta Hamel*

*Joseph-Wilfred Hamel*

# The Hamels in 1978

This photo was taken at the Hamel and Landry Family Reunion on July 16, 1978.

Rita (Bruneau) Hamel    René Hamel    Jeanette (Hamel) Tellier    Lou Tellier    Rita (Hamel) Mailloux    Reggie Mailloux    Steven Hamel    Cora (Coutcher) Hamel    George Leo Hamel    René Landry    Ray Babcock    Pauline (Babcock) Hamel    Stella Babcock



Raymond Armond Hamel    Barbara Hamel    Dawn Hamel    Jeff Jones    Suzanne Babcock    Audry (Hamel) Jones    Stevens    Denise (Hamel) Stevens    Michelle Stevens    Rita (Vallières) Landry    Millisa Stevens    Harry Babcock

# Coming to the United States

Wilfred-Joseph Hamel and his parents, Alfred and Odélie (Lamothe), were the first members of this branch of the Hamel Family to come to the United States. They



*Louis-Alfred Hamel and Odélie Lamothe around 1911*



*Joseph-Wilfred Hamel, Odélie (Lamothe) Hamel, and Rosa (Jetté) Hamel in the 1920s*

immigrated from Sainte-Croix in Quebec, Canada, to Rhode Island before 1898. The exact year they arrived is unknown.

Alfred and Odélie (Lamothe) were married in Ste-Croix on July 1, 1868. In 1869 Wilfred-Joseph was born. Alfred and Odélie also had a daughter, Alice who was born in 1873. Alice (Hamel) Messier lived on Shippee Avenue in Arctic, Rhode Island, for most of her life. She died in 1962 and is buried in Saint Joseph's Cemetery in West Warwick, Rhode Island. She did not have any children.

The Hamel Family arrival in the United States coincided

with a large number (about 900,000) of other French Canadians who immigrated to New England's textile mill towns that were thriving at the turn of the 20th Century.

Around the time the Royal Mill, a textile mill, opened in River Point in the late 1800s, the Hamel family settled in West Warwick. River Point, which is a town in West Warwick, was one of many "French towns" in New England that attracted French Canadian immigrants between 1840 and 1940. Other "French towns" where other branches of Hamel Family took root included Centerville, Warren, Natick, Arctic, Coventry, Pawtucket, and Woonsocket. The French Canadian population of



*Joseph-Wilfred Hamel on April 27, 1925*



*Rosa (Jetté) Hamel around 1910*



*The Hamel children around 1907  
(Standing) Roland and Loretta  
(Sitting) Rita and Wilfred*



*Loretta, Rita, Wilfred, and Roland  
Hamel around 1910*

Rhode Island between 1900 and 1930 was about 56,000.

Wilfred-Joseph Hamel was a stationary engineer as were his sons, Wilfred and Roland. Stationary Engineers operate boilers, refrigeration equipment, diesel engines, turbines, generators, pumps, condensers and compressors. These workers are called stationary engineers because much of the equipment they operate is similar to the equipment operated by locomotive or marine engineers except that it is not in a moving vehicle.

The earliest record of the Hamel Family of West Warwick is documented in a book by Father Adrien Hamel in Quebec, *Genéalogie de la Famille*

*Hamel: 1656-1956.* The entry states “*Wilfred Hamel, son of Alfred and Odelie Hamel, married Rosa Jette, in Providence, Rhode Island on September 5th, 1898.*” (See Chapter 2, *Family Origins.*)

Wilfred-Joseph was 29 and Rosa Jetté was 25 years old when they married. The only other information about Rosa Jetté is that she was born in Canada in 1873. After a few years of marriage, Wilfred-Joseph and Rosa moved to the corner of East Main Street and Bridge Street (Highway 115) in River Point a few blocks from the Royal Mill where Wilfred-Joseph worked. Within the first five years of their marriage, they produced four children: Loretta, George-Roland, Wilfred-Joseph, and Rita.

Over the next ten year, the



*Joseph-Wilfred and his wife, Rosa (Jetté) Hamel around 1911*



*Joseph-Wilfred and his wife, Rosa (Jetté) Hamel playing cards at home in the 1920s. Yvonne (Landry) Hamel in the background dressed in white.*



*Rosa (Jetté) Hamel around 1911*

Hamel Family grew in number and prosperity as is evident in many of the family photos that date back to 1911. In one family photo, the whole family is posing for a photo on the porch of a beach house probably located in Warren. Every member of the family appeared well-dressed, well-groomed, and well-fed. (See photo on page 00.) The family was apparently affluent enough to afford a car and a camera—an invention that just started to become popular at the time. They left hundreds of photos, which appear in this book. These photos document how they lived at the time.

Joseph-Wilfred died in 1930 at 61 years old, and Rosa died on December 8, 1923 at the age of 49 years old. They are buried at Saint Joseph's Cemetery in Arctic, West Warwick, Rhode Island.

In the 1920 and 30s Roland, Loretta, Wilfred and Rita started their own families. Roland married



*Rita and Wilfred Hamel around 1912*



*Rita and Loretta Hamel around 1915*



*Roland and Wilfred Hamel around 1910*



*Loretta and Wilfred Hamel in the 1920s*



*Joseph-Wilfred Hamel in the 1930s*

Cora Alma Bergeron, Loretta married Romeo Auclair, Rita married Louis Vallieres, and Wilfred married Yvonne Landry. (See Chapter 00, The Landry Family of Warren, RI.)

## **Loretta (Hamel) Auclair**

The exact date of Loretta's birth is unknown; it was around 1899. She died June 6, 1963. She married Romeo Auclair. They had no children. She is buried in the Hamel Family plot in Saint Joseph's Cemetery in Arctic although her name is not shown on the head stone.

## **George Roland Hamel**

George Roland Hamel was born on November 11, 1901 in Providence. Although his name was George-Roland, he used the name Roland. Following in his father's footsteps, Roland worked at various textile mills in West Warwick as a stationary. While working at the Slatersville Mill, in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, Roland met Cora Bergeron whose

family came from another French Canadian family in Woonsocket. Roland and Cora had three children: Rene, Rita, and Jeannette. As a young family, they lived at several locations: on Union Street, 10 Junior Street (behind Horgan Elementary School), and 225 Providence Street. In the 1950s Roland and his children build their homestead consisting of three houses next to one another on Harvest Drive in Coventry.



*Roland and Cora Hamel's Wedding photo. Cora's father, Mr. Bergeron, and Joseph-Wilfred Hamel are standing.*

## René Roland Hamel

Son of Roland and Cora Hamel, René Hamel was born on December 9, 1929 in North Smithsfield. Rene, like his father and grandfather, also worked as a stationary engineer in several textile mills in the area. In 1948 he joined the Navy and served as an electrician on board



*Roland and Cora (Bergeron) Hamel with their children: Jeanette, René, and Rita in the 1930s*



*Roland Hamel in the 1930s (Below) Roland and Cora Hamel in the 1950s*



the Destroyer Harlin R. Dickson (DD708). While working at the Anthony Mill, Rene met Rita Bruneau and they were married on February 3, 1951. Rene Hamel and Reggie Mailloux started Reggie & Rene's Super Service Texaco Station, and the HAMA Armature Co. Rene and Rita Hamel had six children: Arline, born on December 19, 1952, married Donald Fontaine in 1972. Denise, died soon after birth in 1954; Renee, born on August 29, 1956, married John Wickham in 1979. Janice, born on October 7, 1959, married James Holihen in 1984, divorced and married Matthew Theroux in 2002. Joyce, born on June 20, 1961, married Michael Bradshaw in 1989. Shelia, born on July 11, 1963, married John Socha in 1981. Rene and Rita still live on Harvest Drive, in Coventry.

Their eight grandchildren include Chrystal Fontaine Geauette and Monique Fontaine, Adam



*Rita, René, and Jeanette Hamel in front of their home on Union Street in the 1930s*



*Hamel sisters Jeanette Tallier and Rita Mailloux in the 1950s*



*Brother and sister, Jeanette Tellier and René Hamel in the 1950s*

Wickham, Allyson and Aimee Holihan, Chasisty and John Socha, Kyle Bradshaw. Chrystal married David Geauette and had Trevor.

Rene and Rita have two great grandchildren: Trevor Geauette, the son of Crystal and David Geauette and William Corriera, the son of Allyson Holihen.

### **Rita Alice (Hamel) Mailloux**

Daughter of Roland and Cora Hamel, Rita Alice Hamel was born on April 26, 1925. She met Reginald, better known as "Reggie" Mailloux at a family gathering in the early 1940's. They married at St. John's Church in Artic on July 6, 1946. Rita worked as a Billing clerk for Davidson Bros.

Reginald was born in West Warwick, a son of the late

George and Alice (Forcier) Mailloux, he had been a resident of Coventry since 1949. Reggie was a partner at HAMA Armature Co. in Warwick and a partner at Coventry Auto & Truck Electric. He was a Machinist mate 1st class in the Navy during WW II serving in the Pacific for 4 1/2 years with the 1st C. B. Battalion. While he was in the service, he received three Letters of Commendation, one from President Truman and two from his Commanding Officers. He was Police Commissioner Chairman, Chairman of the Democratic Party, and he was very active politically and civically on both the town and state levels. Reginald passed away March 9, 2006 and was buried with Military Honors in the Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery in Exeter. Rita still lives on Harvest Drive in Coventry.



*Rita and Jeanette Hamel in the 1940s*



*(Left) Jeanette (Hamel) Tellier and father Roland at Rita Hamel and Reggie Mailloux's wedding*



*Rita, Jacqueline, Richard, Reggie, Ronald and Susan Mailloux in June, 1961*



*Rita (Bruneau) and René Hamel's wedding photo on Feb. 3, 1951. (Below) with their children in the 1980s*



*Lou and Jeanette (Hamel) Tellier in the 1950s*

Rita and Reggie had two sons, Richard G. and Ronald P. Mailloux; two daughters, Jacqueline Louise Mailloux Grant and Susan Rita Mailloux DeResta, all of Coventry. Richard married Patricia Ellen Beaudry on July 11, 1970. They have two children, Richard Jr. born May 1, 1972, and Judith Renee born Oct 5, 1976. Jacqueline Louise Mailloux married T. Peter Grant on Feb. 12, 1972. They divorced in 1984. They have three children, Elisha Kathleen, born March 1, 1973, Jessica Louise, born March 11, 1975, and Erin Susan born March 30, 1982. Elisha married Scott Gellar on Aug. 15, 1999. They have two children, Reece born Oct. 9, 2003, and Owen born Feb. 8, 2006 and Gellar. Jessica married Steven Giguere on April 7, 2001. They have two

children: Grant, born Aug. 8, 2003 and Ava Giguere, born Aug. 22, 2005. Ronald married Shirley Sepe on Dec. 29, 1974. They have a daughter Hollie Ann, born July 14, 1975. Hollie married Justin Pomfret on May 27, 2000. They have two children, Alexis born Oct. 24, 1997 and Skylar, born Aug. 28, 2001. Ronald divorced and married Patricia Ann Dlugosz. They have no children. Susan married Joseph DeResta on April 23, 1983. They have two children, Vincent born March 18, 1984, and Jared born July 14, 1986.

Joseph DeResta has two children Maria DeResta Cativo and Jodi DeResta. Maria married Michael Cativo July 25, 1999. They have two children. Mikayla, born May 1, 2001, and Matthew Cativo born June 7,



*Reggie and Rita (Hamel) Mailloux in the 1970s*



*Richard and Jacqueline Mailloux in the 1950s*



*Jeanette (Hamel) Tellier in 2005*



*Rita (Bruneau) Hamel in 2005*



*Rita (Hamel) and husband Reggie Mailoux in 2005*



*René Hamel in 2005*

2005. Jodi has two children, Joseph Doyle, born Feb. 20, 1992, and Anthony DeResta born Sept. 10, 2001.

Rita and Reggie Mailloux have eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

### **Jeannette (Hamel) Tellier**

Jeannette Hamel was born on December 12, 1926. She married Louis L Tellier on Oct. 3, 1953. They met at a St. John's church festival and settled in Coventry, they had no children. Lou worked as a Supervisor for TENNECO Inc., and Jeannette was a payroll clerk for Berkshire Hathaway, and a secretary for HAMA Armature Co. and Coventry Auto & Truck.. Louis passed away on March 24, 1985. He had a daughter Annette Johnson, who resides in Maine, and Jeannette still resides in Coventry.

### **Rita (Hamel) Vallières**

The daughter of Joseph-Wilfred and Rosa Hamel, Rita Hamel was born around 1907; the exact date is unknown. Rita married Louis Vallières around 1924 and produced a daughter, Rita Vallières, who is now Rita Landry of Santa Clara, California. Due to the premature death of her mother, daughter Rita lived temporarily with Roland and Cora Hamel. Then, at the age of three, Rita went to live permanently with her uncle and aunt, Wilfred and Yvonne (Landry) Hamel. After the death of his wife, Louis had little or no contact with his daughter or Hamel Family.

His army discharge documents states that he was born in Rhode Island on



*(Above and below) Louis and Rita (Hamel) Vallières in the 1920s*



*Rita (Vallières) Landry in the 1930s*

February 25, 1904 and worked as a sewer and waterworks forman supervising 22 workers. On September 19, 1942 during World War II, Louis joined the army at the age of 38. He worked as a radio teletype operator for the 389th Fighter Squadron in Northern France, Rhineland, Ardenne, and Central Europe. He and his unit received a Distinguished Unit Citation for destroying two German armored columns. After the war, he returned to Rhode Island where he lived until his death. His daughter, Rita and her husband, Rene Landry, live in California. They have three children: David, Darleen, and Joanne. (See *Chapter 00, The Landry Family of Warren, RI, page 00.*)

## Wilfred-Joseph Hamel



*Wilfred Hamel*

Although he has the same name as his father, he only used Wilfred as his first name. Wilfred Hamel was born in West Warwick on March 27, 1904 and grew up in the towns of River Point, Centerville, Artic, and Natick in the Pawtuxet Valley. While working in Warren in 1924, Wilfred met Yvonne Landry while walking home from work along the railroad tracks, which were

located directly behind the Landry Family homestead. Shortly afterwards, Wilfred and Yvonne were married on April 27, 1925 at Saint Jean's Catholic Church in Warren. Wilfred and Yvonne were both 21 years old. They first settled in Warren, then over the next four decades they lived in West Warwick, Providence, Artic, Natick, and Coventry.

Following in his father's footsteps, Wilfred also became a stationary engineer. (See *page 00.*) He worked at several textile mills in Warren and West Warwick. His last job was at the power plant at the State Hospital and Prison in Howard. Before marrying, Yvonne worked in a mill in Warren. After her marriage, she became a housewife and remained



*Wilfred and Yvonne (Landry) Hamel in 1924 (top), in the 1940s (center) and in 1955 (below)*



*Raymond, Wilfred, and Leo Hamel with René Landry in 1938*



*Rita Vallières and Wilfred and Yvonne Hamel in the early 1940s*



*Paul, Leo, and Maurice Hamel with Rita (Vallières) Landry and Pauline (Hamel) Thompson in 2000*

at home. In addition to their niece, Rita Vallieres, Wilfred and Yvonne had six children. The first, Theresa, passed away as an infant. Four more children followed: Raymond (Armond), George (Leo), Maurice, and twins Paul and Pauline.

On June 22, 1956 on the way to a drive-in theater with his wife and daughter Pauline, Wilfred had a heart attack and died on the way to the hospital. Wilfred was only 51 years old. Yvonne and twins, Paul and Pauline, then moved to the Landry Family homestead on Barney Street in Warren. On May 22, 1958, at the age of 52, Yvonne died at a hospital in Fall River, Massachusetts. Paul and Pauline then joined the family of Rene and Rita (Vallieres) Landry in California. Rita was their cousin and adopted sister. Rene was their mother's brother (uncle.)

## Raymond Armond Hamel

Armond Raymond Hamel was born to Wilfred and Yvonne (Landry) Hamel of Warren, Rhode Island on April 8, 1926. He served in the Pacific in World War II. Shortly after the war he was trained as electroplater and eventually became president of his own company, MelRic Plating Company of West Warwick, Rhode Island. His first wife, Dorothy (Couture) Hamel was born in Coventry, Rhode Island on December 28, 1929. Raymond and Dorothy married on August 30, 1947. Together they had five children: Linda, Wayne, Donna, Kevin, and Dawn. The family moved to California and settled in South San Francisco from 1954 to the early 1960s. While in California, the family lived at 985 Linden Avenue in



*Raymond Hamel at home in the 1950s*



*Dorothy (Couture) Hamel in the 1940s*



*Raymond and Dot Hamel with children, Kevin, Dawn and Donna in 1962*



*Raymond Hamel at home in the 1950s*



*Wilfred and Dorothy Hamel in 1956*



*Linda and Wayne Hamel in the 1950s*



*Donna, Raymond, Scott, Linda Hamel and Laurie Larkin in the 1980s*

South San Francisco. The family eventually returned to Rhode Island. Raymond's second marriage was to Barbara R. Snow of 22 ½ Elizabeth Street, Attleboro, Mass. Raymond passed away on November 12, 1987 at the age of 61 years old. Barbara (Snow) Hamel passed away in the 1990s. Dorothy (Couture) Hamel and her children still reside in Coventry, Rhode Island.

Linda Hamel was the first child born to Raymond and Dorothy (Couture) Hamel in Providence, Rhode Island on November 12, 1948. After spending a few years living in California during her childhood, Linda and her family returned to West Warwick, Rhode Island. Linda married Carl Bradford Larkin on July 31, 1966. They had three children, Laurie Larkin born on May

15, 1967; Carl Larkin II, born on December 12, 1968; and Scott Larkin, born in 1975. Linda and Carl Bradford Larkin eventually divorced, and Linda and son, Scott, took back the Hamel name. Carl Larkin Jr. has two children, Carl Larkin III, born on October 27, 1992 and Angle Larkin, born on February 14, 1990. Linda Hamel currently resides in Coventry.

Wayne Raymond Hamel was the second child born to Raymond and Dorothy (Couture) Hamel in Cranston, Rhode Island on March 28, 1951. After spending a few years living in California during his childhood, Wayne and his family returned to Rhode Island in the 1960s. Following in his father's footsteps, Wayne worked as an electroplater at Mel-



*Linda and Wayne Hamel in the 1950s*



*Raymond and Barbara Hamel in 1969*



*Wayne and Lorraine Hamel in 2002*



*Dawn (Hamel) Otten and Donna Hamel, Dorothy (Couture) Hamel, and Linda Hamel*



Wayne Hamel Jr. and wife Paula in 2006



Dawn (Hamel) & husband, Jerry Gacques



Linda Hamel (right) with daughter Laurie Larkin and son Scott Hamel in 2006



Kevin and Sue Hamel in 1999

Ric Plating Company in West Warwick for 30 years. Wayne married Stephanie Grattage on December 23, 1970. Together they had a son, Wayne Hamel Jr., born on April 16, 1971. Wayne's second marriage was to Lorraine Hamelin on July 7, 1987. Wayne's stepdaughter, Cristen Hamelin, was born on April 21, 1981. Cristen married Toriano Hobbs in 2004. They have two children, Kayara Hobbs, born on April 12, 2001 and Toriano Hobbs Jr, born in Texas on December 29, 2006. Cristen's husband, Toriano, was born in Texas on February 10, 1979. Wayne Hamel passed away at the age of 52 on April 17, 2003.

Donna Hamel was born to Raymond and Dorothy (Couture) Hamel in San Mateo, California on March

15, 1955. In the 1960s she returned to Rhode Island with her parents and siblings. Donna graduated from the New England Institute of Technology in 1980 and worked for Allied Signal and then started her own advertising business, "Biz-com." Donna gave birth to a son Corey Raymond Hamel on August 7, 1973. Donna now lives in Coventry, Rhode Island.

Kevin Hamel was born to Raymond and Dorothy (Couture) Hamel on July 18, 1958 in San Mateo, California. After returning to Rhode Island from California in the 1960s, Kevin, his parents, and siblings, settled in West Warwick. Kevin married Christine Van Couyghen on September 2, 1983. They had a daughter, Stephanie, who was born on April 14.



Michael and Eddy Otten with son, Michael Jr. in 2005



Alissa Otten with daughter Ariana and father Patrick in 2004



Michael, Gene, Dawn (Hamel) and Christopher Otten in 2003



Cristin and Toriano Hobbs in 2004



*Kevin and sister Linda Hamel in 2006*



*Dorothy (Couture) Hamel in 2006*



*Wayne Hamel Jr with sister Cristin Hobbs in 2004*

1984. Kevin remarried on August 14, 1999 to Sue Maxson, the daughter of Rev. Henry and Evelyn Maxson. They have two step children, Dale Boling, born on September 12, 1981 and Wendi Boling, born on January 30, 1991. Sue Maxon was born in Hong Kong on January 5, 1961. She was adopted in 1966 by Rev. Henry and Evelyn Maxson. Kevin worked at the Electric Boat Division at General Dynamics in Groton, Connecticut as a painter and sand blaster. Kevin and his family reside in Coventry, Rhode Island.

Dawn Hamel was born to Raymond and Dorothy (Couture) Hamel at Saint Luke's Hospital in San Francisco, California on December 24, 1961. Shortly after her birth, her family returned to Rhode Island.

On August 25, 1985 Dawn married Gene Otten. Gene was born May 16, 1939 in New York. Together they had three children all born in Rhode Island: Michael Otten, born on November 10, 1980; Alissa Otten, born on April 15, 1982; and Christopher Otten, born on November 9, 1983. Dawn's second marriage was to Gerald Gacques on April 19, 2003.

Son Michael Otten married Eduarda Correia on Sept 3, 2006. They have a son Michael Otten Jr., who was born on June 21, 2002. Eduarda was born October 17, 1978. They reside in West Warwick.

Daughter Alissa had a daughter, Ariana, on August 6, 2005. Ariana's father, Patrick, was born on October 27, 1979. They reside in Coventry.



*Dorothy Hamel with great-great grand daughter, Ariana in 2005*



*Donna Hamel in the 1990s*



*Kyara and Toriano Hobbs Jr, in 2005*



*Rita (Vallières) Landry in the 1940s*



*Raymond, Leo, Yvonne Hamel and Rita Vallières in the 1930s*



*Raymond, Leo, and Yvonne Hamel with Rita Vallières in the 1930s*

## **Rita (Vallières) Landry**

Adopted daughter, and niece of Wilfred Hamel, Rita (Vallières) Landry, was born on September 26, 1924. Her birth mother, Rita (Hamel) Vallières died shortly after Rita was born. Rita first lived with Uncle Roland and Aunt Cora, then at the age of three years old, became part of Wilfred and Yvonne's family. In 1946, Rita married Rene Landry (Yvonne's younger brother) and had three children: David, Darleen and Joanne. In the early 1950s they moved to South San Francisco and then in 1963 to Campbell, California. In 1958 Rita and her husband, Rene, adopted Paul and Pauline Hamel. After retiring to Auburn, California for a few years, Rita and Rene returned to the San Francisco Bay Area

and now live in Santa Clara near their son David.

Son David Landry was born on July 30, 1947 in Rhode Island. Along with his parents, he moved to California at a early age. He grew up in South San Francisco and Campbell. In 1965 David married Bernadette Smith and produced two sons, David Jr. and Eric, both of Riverside, California. David Jr. married Tonya in 2004 and have a son Julien. Eric married Michelle in 1998 and they have two daughters, Erin and Paige. In 19— David married again. David and his wife Teresa now live in Campbell close to his parents, Rene and Rita Landry of Santa Clara.

Daughter Darleen (Landry) Guien was born on January 30, 1952 in West Warwick, but moved to California with her parents and brother



*Darleen, David, and Joanne Landry around 1956*



*(Standing) René, Rita, David, Darleen, and Joanne Landry around 1955*



*(Standing) Paul Hamel, David, Rita (Vallières) Landry, and Pauline Hamel (Sitting) Joanne (Landry) Vordale and Darleen (Landry) Guien in 1958*



*Eric, David, and David Landry Jr. in the 1980s*



*Four generations of Landrys: René, David, David Jr, and Julian in 2006*



*Eric and Michelle Landry with their daughters, Erin and Paige in 2006*



*David and Teresa Landry in 2003*

David in 1953. She grew up in South San Francisco and Campbell. While attending the University of California in Berkley, she visited her adopted brother, Paul Hamel, in Bafia, Cameroon where he was serving as a Peace Corps volunteer. During the six months of her stay, she met Michel Guien, a Frenchman, who was teaching at the same school. Shortly after leaving Cameroon and going to France, Michel and Darleen got married in 1974. They lived in Paris and then settled in the suburb of Santerny. Darleen graduated from the Sorbonne University in Paris and became a high-school English teacher. Michel worked in banking. Michel and Darleen have three children: Raphael, Daniel, and Aurélie. After living twenty-five years in France,

Darleen returned to the United States with two of her children, Aurélie and Raphael in 2002. Raphael graduated from the Sorbonne in Paris and Aurélie is completing her studies at University of California, Berkley. Darleen lives in West Los Angeles and teaches English to adults for the Los Angeles Unified School District and UCLA Extension. Daniel remains in France and care for his father.

Daughter Joanne (Landry) Vordale was born in South San Francisco on October 29, 1953. As did the other children, Joanne grew up and went to school in South San Francisco and Campbell. In 1980s she moved to Washington State where she met then married Jim Vordale. They have two children, Connor and Kelly.



*Raphael, Daniel, and Aurélie Guien in the 1980s*



*Raphael, Daniel, and Aurélie Guien in the 1990s*



*Raphael, Darleen (mother), Daniel, and Aurélie Guien in the 2003*



*Jim and Joanne (Landry) Vordale with their children, Kelly and Connor in the 1990s*



*Maurice and Leo Hamel in the 1930s*



*Cora and Leo Hamel in 1953*



*Cora and Leo Hamel in 2005*

## George Leo Hamel

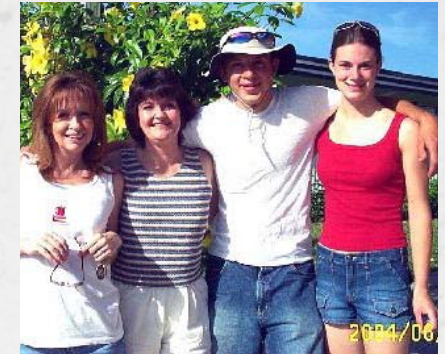
The son of Wilfred and Yvonne (Landry) Hamel, George, better know by his middle name "Leo," was born on April 12, 1929. Leo joined the Navy during the Korean Conflict serving on the USS Philippine Sea as a radio operator. After his military service Leo returned to Rhode Island. He met Cora Coutcher and they were married in Oakland Beach, Rhode Island in June, 1953. After a short stay in Natick, they moved to South San Francisco, California in 1953 where Leo worked as a welder. Leo and his family returned to Rhode Island in the 1973 to work with brothers Ray and Maurice in the electro-plating business. In the 1999 Leo and Cora retired to Alva, Florida where they currently live. Leo and Cora had three children,

Steven, Denise, and Audrey.

Leo's son Steven Hamel was born on January 10, 1956 in South San Francisco. When his father moved back to Rhode Island, Steven followed. Like his father, Steven served in the Navy. After his military duty he returned to Rhode Island and met Debbie King. They were married and son Steven Jr. arrived on June 1, 1984. He then opened a construction company and set up shop in Rhode Island. When his father and mother, Leo and Cora, retired to Alva, Florida, Steve and his family followed. Steven started a successful construction company, which build the steel infrastructure for large retail stores. Steve Sr. was an accomplished pilot and used his airplane to supervise construction sites in the southern United States. On Mother's Day,



*Stephen and Denise Hamel in the 1960s*



*Denise (Hamel) Stevens, Audry Hamel \_\_\_\_\_ Stevens, and his wife, \_\_\_\_\_ in 2005*



*Leo Hamel with his granddaughters, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Stevens*



*Stephen and Denise Hamel in the 1960s*



*Stephen Hamel and wife in the 1990s*



*Stephen Hamel Jr. and wife in 2004*



*Stephen Hamel Jr.'s son, Stephen*

May 12 1998, Steven's plane crashed during a storm, and he and his best friend were killed. His son, Steven Hamel Jr., is married and lives near Lake Tahoe in California.

Denise Hamel was born on September 18, 1957 in South San Francisco. Denise moved back to Rhode Island with her parents in 1973. When her parents retired to Florida, she followed. Denise married and became Denise Stevens. This marriage produced three children: Millisa, born January 3, 1977; Michelle, born October 20, 1978 and James, born June 10, 1980. Son Stephen is now serving in the military in New Hampshire and his family lives in Maine. Denise remarried and is now Denise Brodeur.

Audry Hamel was born on November 9, 1961 in South

San Francisco and returned to Rhode Island with her parents in 1973. At the age of 17 she married Jeff Jones. The marriage lasted a short time and then Audrey moved to Alva, Florida near her parents. In 1988, she became a police officer, and then a member of the Fort Myers Bomb Squad. She was recognized as the first woman to complete Bomb Quad Training for the FBI. Today Audrey works and lives near her parents in Leigh Acres in Florida.

### **Maurice Jean Hamel**

Maurice was born on May 15, 1935 in Denemy's Block in Arctic. He went to school at St. Jean's Catholic School in Warren, Saint Joseph Catholic School in Natick, and Lockwood High School in West Warwick. As a young man in 1955 he joined



*Maurice Hamel in the 1930s*



*Maurice and Virginia Hamel in 1955*



*Maurice and Virginia Hamel in 2005*



*Twins Paul and Pauline Hamel around 1947*



*Pauline Hamel around 1953*



*Pauline (Hamel), Ray Babcock and daughter, Suzanne in the 1970s*

his brothers Ray and Leo in South San Francisco. After a stay of several years he returned to Rhode Island where he met Virginia DiCristafaro while working at Leviton Manufacturing. They were married at Sacred Heart Church in Natick on September 17, 1955. Shortly afterwards, they relocated to South San Francisco where their first child, Glenn Maurice, was born on December 5, 1958. After a few years in California, Maurice and his family returned to Rhode Island where he joined his brothers Ray and Leo in an electro-plating business. Shortly afterwards, two more children were born: Mark and Joseph (Joey). Virginia passed away in 2005. Maurice now lives in West Warwick.

## **Pauline Yvonne (Hamel) Thompson**

Twins Paul and Pauline were born on two separate days: Paul on November 29, 1945 and Pauline on the 30th. They were born in a maternity home Centerville and lived in Natick, Artic, Coventry and Warren as children. Upon the death of their parents, they moved to California to live with Rita and Rene Landry and their three children: David, Darleen and Joanne. From 1958 to 1964, they lived in South San Francisco. Then, they moved to Campbell near San Jose. Pauline and her first husband, Ray Bobcock, produced one child, Suzanne, who lives in Sacramento. Suzanne has one child, Ryan. Pauline and her husband Will Thompson moved to Auburn, California and then to Corsicana, Texas where they retired.



*Paul and Pauline Hamel around 1947*



*Paul and Pauline Hamel around 1949*



*Paul and Pauline Hamel in 1957*



*Will and Pauline (Hamel) Thompson in the 1990s*



*Suzanne (Babcock) Kirkland in 2005*



*Pauline (Hamel) Thompson with grandson, Ryan Kirkland in 2006*

## Paul Joseph Hamel

Finally, there is me, Paul, the author of this book. I was born in West Warwick on November 29, 1945. Upon the death of my parents, I joined the family of René Landry, my mother's younger brother, and Rita (Vallières), my cousin (my father's niece) and adopted sister. Although René and Rita are not related to each other, I am related to both of them. René is my uncle on my mother's side of the family, and Rita is my cousin on my father's side of the family. (See **Completed Relationships** below.)

My career has been in education writing textbooks for English as a Second Language, teaching, and school administration. I received degrees from San Jose State College, UCLA, and California State University Los Angeles. I

have also studied in programs at Laval University in Quebec (Peace Corps training) and at the University of Florence in Italy. My experience in teaching started at Saint Denis in Quebec, at the Lycée de Bafia in Cameroon, Africa, in the Intensive English Language Program for Russian Immigrants at Jewish Vocational Service in Los Angeles, and as an English-as-a-Second-Language instructor at Fairfax Adult School, Santa Monica College, and UCLA Extension. In the 1980s I served as assistant principal at El Camino Adult School for the Los Angeles Unified School District. In 1995 I was appointed Principal of Westside Education & Career Center in Los Angeles where I have been ever since. Currently, I live in West Hollywood with my partner, Michael Breyer.



*Paul and Pauline Hamel around 1952*



*Paul Hamel and Mike Breyer in 2005*



*Paul Hamel, Rita (Vallères) Landry, Leo and Maurice Hamel in Feb. 2007*

# Complicated Relationships

**RIDDLE:** What do you call someone who is your cousin, your sister, your aunt, and your mom, but who is not your mother?

**Answer:** You call her Rita.

Family relationships become complicated when children, for example, are adopted by other family members. The Hamel and Landry families have a long history of caring for other family members, especially orphaned children. This occurred in the case of Rita (Vallières) Landry and twins, Paul and Pauline Hamel.

Niece Rita Vallières was adopted into the Wilfred and Yvonne Hamel family around 1927 after the premature death of her mother, Rita (Hamel) Vallières.



Rita Vallières, Wilfred Hamel's niece, married René Landry, the brother of Yvonne Hamel in 1946.



Upon the death of their parents, Paul (top second from right) and Pauline Hamel (right) went to live with Rita and Rene Landry and their children, David (top left) Joanne (left), and Darleen (center) in 1958.



Rita Vallières went to live with Wilfred and Yvonne Hamel after the death of her mother.



Rita Vallières with her aunt and adopted mother, Yvonne Hamel in the 1940s

Other complications also occur when multiple members of two different families marry. For example, in 1925 Wilfred Hamel married Yvonne Landry and René Landry, brother of Yvonne, married Rita Vallières, daughter of Rita Hamel in 1946. At this point Rita became her own adopted aunt, and René became his own adopted uncle. Rita was also René's adopted niece, and René became his own adopted nephew.

In 1958, Paul and Pauline Hamel went to California to live with their uncle, René and adopted sister, and cousin, Rita (Vallières) Landry upon the death of their parents, Wilfred and Yvonne (Landry) Hamel. At 11 years of age Paul and Pauline Hamel became part of the Landry Family in California. René and Rita became "mom" and "dad." Therefore, Rita (Vallières) Landry is Paul and Pauline's mom, sister, aunt, and cousin.

