

For this interview I had talked to my grandmother (my mother's mother). Her name is Linda Ursula Valentine Gibson, she happened to be named this because of her father. Her father had the name of Zelindo, meaning 'handsome man'. So her parents had decided to have her name correspond with his. So it is Linda meaning, "pretty woman" in Italian. Linda was happily born on October 1st in Philadelphia Pennsylvania to her father Zelindo Fiorvanti Valentine and her mother Esther Geraldine Fascano. Her loving sister Elissa Lenore Valentine and she became good friends growing up together. She happened to be born into quite the amazing family. Unfortunately her father (a very brilliant man with a photographic type memory) had killed himself with alcohol. It was hard on the family and Linda had explained that she was affected by it greatly. Anyways, when asked of what she remembered about her grandparents, she had said she always remembered a grandfather of hers liking Benito Mussolini; he'd lived in Melon, Italy. Another one of her grandfathers was the first jeweler to come to New Haven, Connecticut, and opened the first jewelry store. And last but certainly not least she had remembered a grandfather that even brought deNoble cigars to America (apparently a pretty popular brand).

Being born into a smart family she was raised to be a brilliant child as well. She had a ton of education throughout her life. She ended up going to college to get her Master's degree in English and Literature. Some of the things that she had thought she'd wanted to be were a lawyer, politician, and a writer. She ended up becoming a writer a little bit on the side. She wrote for a newspaper when she was into her early adulthood.

Her main idea for her career in life was to be a lawyer, it was her number one thing. When she married to John Gibson, things changed and she'd then become a writer. She says that she did change her mind but she doesn't really regret it. She's happy with her choice that she'd made then. Which is alright because she mentioned being there for her all the time being caring and loving in good times and bad, so I guess it *would* be very worth it to change your mind as long as your happy!

As well as being born into a brilliant family, having a large well leading career, she had to have some early experience getting there. For her career, the first thing that she did was being a fountain girl in Manhattan, New York City. She for the most part waited on people, and in the process she got to see big celebrities. Even that was a big deal of her life too!

Linda had also lived in several areas throughout her life and there all also a large span... She lived in White Planes New York from 1960-1978, Greenwich Connecticut from 1978-1989, (which was a mansion, a legit *mansion*...) And now she owns two houses (a summer home and a winter home) In Machias Maine and somewhere called Cow Pt. which is in Roque Bluffs.

My grandmother been to several places around the world as well. One of her favorite places she's been is St. Peters in Rome. She absolutely adored the statue of St. Peter by Michelangelo. When asked what types of things she felt there, she said that there were really no words for how she felt. She said she felt overpowered and amazed, as if god was right there next to her. She was so overwhelmed with these emotions she cried over it the whole day! Though she did say her favorite place in the world was wherever there's love and kindness around.

She had a lot of fun with her children throughout her life. She had her oldest son Andrew Lyle Gibson and her second child Jennie Lynn Gibson. Jennie was my mother, and was a very interesting person as well. Some of the things that seemed unusual about them but was a very nice quality about them was that when they wanted to do something, they would do what it took to devote themselves to it and do it well. They put their best effort forth into everything they did, for they were very smart, intelligent children and did well. One of the funniest but frustrating things about one of her children was that Andrew (my uncle I live with) when asked something and would not answer, Linda would say "I wanna know!" and he'd reply with, "That's your problem not mine." He still has that sense of stubborn silliness too!

There are PLENTY of differences between now and then. Well, there's the big one of technology. She said that she remembered when the first televisions came out about when she was nine. Some of the first ones that were made were sold on her block, they were tiny! The cars are different, the crime is even different. The crime was so much less and things were easy when she was a teenager of about the age of 15 or 16. She used to get her information of media through her parents really, but then through the newspaper and radio. The president is a huge difference, and what seems to be my grandmother's most favorite thing in the world, the FREEZER! My grandmother is one who likes to keep her left overs and absolutely adores to use her kitchen! She uses her freezer a lot and it's good that they were invented, what would she do without them and instead trying to use an ice box?

As you can see she lived a well put together life and did very well with what she wanted. She raised her children well and her grandchildren all seem to be on the same track of doing alright and being involved in things they love. Her children continue the ways of Linda, being very sweet loving and kind, and keeping the brains as well. Luckily it was passed on to their children. (I don't mean myself completely! I have a cousin who is in medical school right this moment!) There was a quote that her mother has said to her that inspired her to keep going on through life. "The most important thing in life is to have confidence and that you can do *anything* you want." She really lived by it and it surely did her well!

One thing that she'd added on at the end of our interview was that, she didn't do this by herself, there were a lot of people to help her along the way. Keeping her religion with her every moment really helped her as well. She's a Christian, and believed God every second of her life in her heart. She had said that her religion really played a lot into her life and helped her with things upsetting her whether it be personal or more of a family crisis.

She'd also said that she didn't really have a lot to say because she never really lived in the past. She likes to keep her mind in the present because what's done is done, it cannot be changed. She'd rather not wallow in those things, but if it's something that *really* hurt her, such as her father's death it's a little different. For the most part though she'd rather just get over it and move on to life in the present.

I really got to know my grandmother through doing this, and I really enjoyed listening to her stories. It made me not only know more about her but more about people I'm close to. I learned a little bit about my mom and my uncle so it makes for some conversation between my uncle and me. I like to know more about my mom because she never really shared her own memories with me. I was young so I wouldn't totally understand everything. I really liked this and both my grandmother and I were really excited about this!