

Cousins

I have multitudes
of rather close relatives
I have never met*

leaving Ohio,
Dana pioneers trekked west,
seeding the Great Plains

Mom and five brothers,
too, produced an ample brood
this past century

we comprise a clan
of widely scattered strangers
sharing our gene pool

I know you're out there,
far away or just next door,
I'm your cousin Dan

* Estimates: 600-800 descendants of my father and his siblings, another 250-350 from my maternal grandparents, totaling over 1000 cousins, most living today.



Grandmother Dana with my dad (top row center) and siblings, circa 1899

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