

The Patriarch

my turn is coming,
as generations pass on,
to be Clan Elder*

I am "Uncle Dan"
to dozens who share our genes,
and "Papi" to two

I remember Dad,
a living, breathing person,
I'll soon be the last

I span history:
three eventful centuries
from Civil War times

I'll embody tales,
precious family stories,**
that will die with me

* If I survive my two older siblings

** Some are preserved in my memoirs (*A Life Mostly Lived* and *My Last Haiku*) and other books



The future patriarch, 1948

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