

## **Biography of Henry Ninghan Ho, 1937-1987**

Ho Ninghan was born in Hankow, China, on 8 February 1937, just before Chinese New Year. Hankow is part of Wuhan, the capital city of Hubei Province, China. Ninghan means “Peaceful China,” reflecting his parents’ hope for peace despite the imminent threat of war. In fact, Japan invaded China on 7 July 1937, when Henry was five months old. His family was able to move to the United States in 1948. There he became Henry Ninghan Ho. He lived a full life for a half-century before dying of lung cancer in Potomac, Maryland on 19 January 1987. This is Henry’s story—how his life began on one side of the planet and ended on the other.<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> The author of this biography, dated 23 May 2021, is Henry’s widow, Linda R. Horton.

Henry was survived by his parents Lien-Yu Ho and Yin-Hwa Cheng Ho, his three siblings Stephen, Barbara, and Margaret (also known as Liang), his widow Linda Horton, and his children, Michael, Jonathan, and Colleen. His DNA lives on in them and in his four grandchildren, Nicholas Ho, Lauren Ho, Craig Swink, and Ryan Henry Horton.

**Henry's parents** Lien-Yu (1906-1994) and Yin-Hwa (1914-2005) had amazing lives, as reported in their combined autobiography.<sup>2</sup> A timeline at the end of this story begins with the birth of Lien-Yu and covers major events in the family members' lives. Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa grew up in different communities in Hengyang County, Hunan Province. They did not know each other growing up and, to use an American expression, their families lived on opposite sides of the tracks. To use a Chinese expression, "The door does not match the frame."<sup>3</sup> She came from a wealthy family. He was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of nine children of a relatively poor rice farmer.



Lien-Yu's father, through hard work and saving, purchased five acres and hired a tutor for his children. The father hoped that, if his children were educated, they could stand up against local despots who usurped peasants' property. But soon after 18-year-old Lien-Yu started at a missionary-run high school 250 miles from Hengyang, his father died. Family informed Lien-Yu that his education must end. Instead, he managed, through perseverance, to obtain a first-rate education, including college and graduate school. He taught school, then served in a series of positions in the Chinese Kuomintang Government.<sup>4</sup>



After World War II, in 1945, the Kuomintang Government sent Lien-Yu to Washington, DC, to study U.S. accounting and finance. Colleagues were impressed with his work and recommended him to the new Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), then headquartered in Washington. This opportunity was welcome, given the civil war in China. Lin-Yu brought over his family from China. They arrived on 25 March 1948. At the time it seemed that the FAO assignment would last only a few years. Instead, he had a career at FAO, and in 1956 the family became naturalized U.S.

citizens. After Henry's death, in August 1987 Lien-Yu took Linda and his grandchildren Jonathan and Colleen on a trip to China that included a visit to his home village (photo at left was at the Great Wall).

Linda grasped that the giant leap in Lien-Yu's life was not only his move from China to the United States, but also his move from a small, poor farming village to a comfortable, professional-class urban life. No one else from the Chestnut Village of the Ho Clan had achieved anything approaching his accomplishments.

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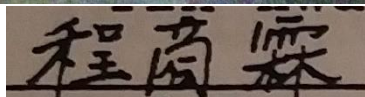
<sup>2</sup> Principal source: *Autobiography of Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa Cheng Ho*, Washington, DC on 15 Sept. 1987.

<sup>3</sup> "Men bu dang hu dui," according to Stephanie Ho, granddaughter of Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa. Script for her Voice of America program, *The Voice of America Presents Focus, An American in Hunan*, 22 July 1994 (Key: 319025).

<sup>4</sup> Kuomintang is the party of Chiang Kai-Shek. The civil war was between the Kuomintang and the Communists.



Yin-Hwa Cheng had an unusually good education for a young woman of her era in China. Her wealthy father Shianglin Cheng, known as Venerable Cheng and shown below,<sup>5</sup> was 68 when she was born. As the Hunan Province Salt Superintendent, he controlled the distribution and taxation of salt in vast regions of China and, through taxes on salt, accumulated great wealth and several wives. Her mother Shih Pan was 24 when Yin-Hwa was born and was Cheng's youngest concubine. Yin-Hwa was the second of



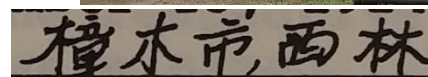
four children of Shih Pan and Venerable Cheng. He built a large family compound in Hsiling, Chang-mu-shih, Hengyang Shi, Hunan, China. It housed each of his wives and their children. After reading Bette Bao Lord's 1981 novel *Spring Moon*, a gift from Linda, Yin-Hwa said that the House of Chang described in the book was just like the Cheng compound and its hundreds of rooms. After the death of Venerable Cheng, Shi Pan and her four children moved to the city of Hengyang. This was fortunate because, after the 1949



Communist takeover of the government, the Communist army evicted those Cheng family members still in Hsiling and used the property for its own purposes. Today the compound is a ruin, used as a stable (see photos, right, with the name of the Cheng compound in Chinese). Local people refuse to live there: they believe the property is haunted by Cheng family ghosts.



**Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa met** in Hengyang in 1931 at her high school's Lantern Festival celebrating the final day of Chinese New Year. They corresponded for a year, saw each other again in Hengyang the following summer, and married on his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday on 15 September 1932. Not quite 18, Yin-Hwa had to overcome her mother's objections to marry the son of a poor rice farmer. This was not the first time she had stood up to pressure applied to girls in China to adhere to cultural norms. It was expected that she, like most girls from wealthy families, would have her feet bound. Her tiny, size-five feet were wrapped to start this painful and debilitating cultural mutilation. Yin-Hwa removed the wrappings from her feet and declared that she would not have her feet bound.



The time line at the end of this history describes the many moves by Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa during the early days of their marriage. While the couple was living in **Hankow** due to Lien-Yu's work assignment there, **Ninghan (Henry) was born** on 8 February 1937.<sup>6</sup> One week after Henry's birth, his father carried

<sup>5</sup> Photos of a painted silk screen depicting Venerable Cheng and of his home were taken in 2013 by Stephanie Ho, Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa's granddaughter. Above the entrance is a slogan: "Serve the People, Defend the Motherland, and Increase Vigilance." Photos were compiled by Stephanie Ho for the 2013 Ho family reunion.

<sup>6</sup> In the United States, Henry and his family always celebrated Henry's birthday on 1 February. The choice of date was the result of a quick calculation by his mother when she, Henry, and her three younger children went through

him through the snow to a hospital for a smallpox vaccination. Two infant daughters before Henry died of smallpox, and the young couple was taking no chances with this child, born in a city near a clinic where he could be vaccinated. While they were living in Hankow, the family first hired an amah, a servant whom they soon regarded as a family member. Her name was Li-Mah, 1948 photo at right. She was a native of Shiangyin, Hunan Province.



Soon after Henry's birth, Lien-Yu was ordered to a new post in **Nanjing** (Nanking). Yin-Hwa, with Li-Mah and baby Henry, joined him there two months later. But then the Japanese army invaded China on 7 July 1937. Lien-Yu and other officials were hastily transported to **Lingling**, a small city in southern Hunan, while Yin-Hwa, Henry, and Li-Mah relocated to the Cheng family compound near Hengyang for six months. Henry celebrated his first birthday there. Later they joined Lien-Yu in Lingling, where Shiao-ling (Stephen) was born on 8 September 1938.

In December 1938, Lien-Yu received a new assignment to **Chongqing**, China's wartime capital (1937-1946). Five months later, Yin-Hwa, the babies, and Li-Mah joined him. They lived in Chang-Chia-Wan, in Chinese at left,<sup>7</sup> a village near Shiao-Lung-Kan, today called Xiaolongkan 小龙坎. This area was about nine miles west of Chongqing as shown.<sup>8</sup> It was a dangerous place because the Japanese regularly bombed the radio towers in the area, 1938-1943. "Yin-Hwa, with Stephen in her arms, and Li-Mah, with Henry in her arms, narrowly escaped a direct hit air attack in the open rice fields ...."<sup>9</sup>



In Chang-Chia-Wan, Beeyuan (Barbara) was born on 7 September 1940, and Yintang (Margaret) on 4 September 1943. In 1943, Lien-Yu was sent to a new post in **Kunming**, 900 miles southwest of Chongqing. Kunming was key to the U.S.-China cooperation that eventually was successful in repelling the Japanese invaders.<sup>10</sup> The family remained in Chang-Chia-Wan while Lien-Yu worked in Kunming. In 1944, Lien-Yu was called back to a new position in Chongqing, and the family was reunited.

Henry had fond memories of his childhood in Chang-Chia-Wan. His lifelong passion for the outdoors and for hunting and fishing had its origins in these early years in rural China. He later recalled to his children how Chinese youngsters in those days—like country children everywhere—had to make their own toys without aid from toy manufacturers. He did remember owning a toy revolver that was a prize

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immigration into the United States in 1948. Today websites enable conversion of Chinese lunar calendar dates to Western calendar dates: <https://www.holymtn.com/homepage/astrology/lunar-astrology-year-chart/>.

<sup>7</sup> *Autobiography of Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa Cheng Ho*, p. 12.

<sup>8</sup> Googlemaps, accessed April 3, 2021. Chongqing, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chongqing>

<sup>9</sup> *Autobiography of Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa Cheng Ho*, p. 19.

<sup>10</sup> See timeline at the end. See also *Shared Sacrifice: U.S.-China Cooperation During World War II* at [https://photos.state.gov/libraries/chengdu/201329/201501/wwii\\_book\\_ver2015\\_compressed.pdf](https://photos.state.gov/libraries/chengdu/201329/201501/wwii_book_ver2015_compressed.pdf)



possession till it disappeared. And, marbles, beautiful, multicolor, perfectly round and oh, so hard to come by—marbles were the subject of many happy daydreams. Marbles was a competitive sport enjoyed by Henry and Stephen. Steve recalled that the large transport trucks with their missing reflector lights had supplied the raw materials for children to make at least some of the treasured marbles.

Even in those early years, Henry's prowess at sports and his musical talent were evident. He told Linda that, in any group of youngsters, he was always the strongest and could always run the fastest and jump the highest. Henry attributed his musical interest to the lullabies that his mother sang to him when he was small. While in elementary school he received a prize for excellent singing. Stephen was only a year and a half younger than Henry and, during their childhood in China and adolescence in America, they spent a lot of time together. Steve recounted memories of adventures with Henry when they were young, recalling “the rice paddies and lotus ponds of Szechuan [as their] playground... where we spent early formative years together.”<sup>11</sup>

Henry described to Linda how lunch was served in Chinese elementary schools. The students sat at round tables, eagerly awaiting the arrival of a large bowl of noodles with meat and vegetables. No sooner had the bowl hit the table than a dozen chopsticks plunged eagerly into its contents, as each child sought to claim his fair share.

After the defeat of Japan, Lien-Yu was selected by the government to travel to the United States in September 1945 to undertake advanced studies of industrial management and financial administration. He arrived in Washington, DC on 26 September 1945 after traveling by ship from China to Calcutta. There he boarded a ship to New York, through the Red Sea, the Suez Canal, and the Mediterranean Sea, stopping in Liverpool before crossing the Atlantic Ocean. He traveled by train from New York to Washington, DC. The best source of information about Lien-Yu's 30 months in Washington before the family joined him is a journal he kept during this time.<sup>12</sup> The family remained in Chang-Chia-Wan for a



while then, after Lien-Yu began work for the FAO in 1947 and was able to bring his family to Washington, she and the children moved first to Hengyang and then to Shanghai, as a prelude to the **long trip to America**. At left are Barbara, age 7, Yin-Hwa, 33, Margaret, 4, Henry, 11, and Stephen, 9.

On 27 March 1948, Yin-Hwa and the children arrived at National Airport, Washington, DC. The Pan-

<sup>11</sup> Stephen Ho, eulogy for Henry Ho at the 8 February 1987 memorial service at the Geneva Presbyterian Church in Potomac, Maryland in *Autobiography of Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa Cheng Ho*, p. 22.

<sup>12</sup> *Journal of Lien-Yu Ho: January 1, 1946-March 30, 1948*, ed. Colleen Horton, granddaughter (19 May 2020).

Am Clipper flight originated in Shanghai two days earlier and required connections in five-cities—Tokyo, Midway, Honolulu, San Francisco, and Chicago—so the trip involved a total of seven airports, including Shanghai and Washington. Henry told Linda that he felt guilty that he and Stephen had been so badly behaved in the airports, when his mother and the children were rushing to make connections. The boys kept racing off through the airports' busy corridors while Yin-Hwa, holding onto the two small girls, struggled to catch up to the boys. Any parent can imagine her fear of losing one of the four children.

Yin-Hwa probably wished she had had Li-Mah with her. Li-Mah had wanted to accompany the Ho family to America. In fact, Lien-Yu purchased air tickets for her and applied for her passport and visa. Unfortunately, Li-Mah did not pass the health requirements for entry into the United States when she tested positive for tuberculosis. Because she was more like a family member than a servant, everyone in the family was sad that Li-Mah could not come to America.

**The Ho family's early years in America** saw Henry and his siblings adapting quickly to U.S. life. Henry was placed in fifth grade but, due to his lack of knowledge of English, he joined second graders for reading and spelling studies. While in elementary school, he quickly transitioned to being a typical American kid. Henry, in his adult life, was so Americanized that he did his thinking in the English language. However, when he was doing multiplication he always had to revert to Chinese, then translate to English, as he had originally learned his multiplication tables in Chinese.



1983: Linda and Henry with Colleen and Jonathan in Martha's Vineyard



Ning Han Henry



Shao Ling Stephen

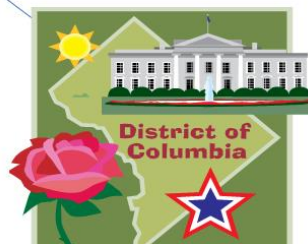


Bee Yuan Barbara



Yin Tang Margaret (Liang)

## CHINA TO AMERICA







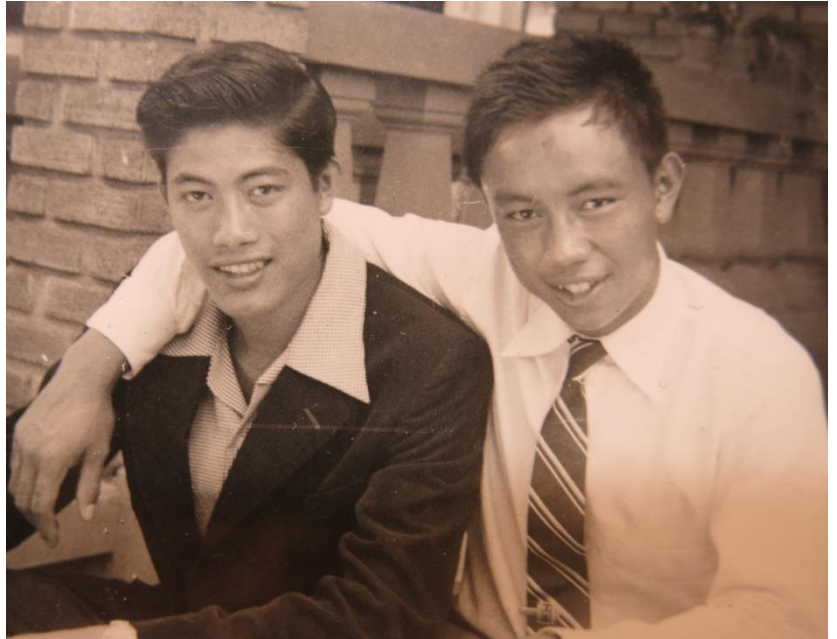
The entire family took Americanization classes and joined the National Baptist Memorial Church, located at the intersection of 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Columbia Road. Henry remembered how church members came to their house to drive him and his siblings to the Daily Vacation Bible School. Henry was grateful for the kind and unselfish individuals at the National Memorial Baptist Church (image at left) who helped his family make its way in a new land. Friends at the church had connections that enabled the family to be naturalized by private legislation in Congress during the mid-1950s, when the general immigration laws discriminated against people from China.

Soon Henry was the proud owner of a bicycle. He could not drive past the Sears store on Wisconsin Avenue without recalling his thrill at his parents' purchase of the bicycle for him there soon after their arrival. On their bikes, Henry and his brother or a friend could cover vast territory in the city and surrounding areas, often with the goal of catching fish.

**The Lin family** became close friends, starting in 1949 when the Lins arrived in Washington. S.Y. Lin had been in charge of fisheries in Hong Kong. He also was an expert on fish farming, a priority for the FAO, and was offered an FAO job. So, S.Y. Lin and Lien-Yu were work colleagues. Their wives hit it off, too, even though they spoke different languages. Mrs. Lin spoke Cantonese while Yin-Hwa spoke a Hunan dialect of Mandarin. Somehow, they understood each other. The Lins had four sons, Hank Shan, Gee Chek, Geeming or “Jimmy,” and Chi Fong. Geeming and Henry (below) were best friends.

The friendship lasted until Henry passed away. Geeming shared these memories:<sup>13</sup>

1) Because my father, S.Y. Lin, and Mr. Ho both worked in the same office, FAO in Washington, DC, our families met in 1949. That was the year we came to the US. After that, Henry and I became good friends. Mr. Ho also introduced my family to the National Baptist Memorial church where we met several Chinese families with similar backgrounds. Over the years, the Lins and the Ho families have become very close friends.



<sup>13</sup> Email from Geeming Lin to Linda Horton, 31 Mar. 2021.

2) Henry was good at playing basketball. He and I would ride our bicycles to Powell playground where he played basketball and I played tennis. In 1954, Henry and I went to New York for two days. With a limited budget, we booked a very cheap hotel in Chinatown. It had only one bed. So, we took turns sleeping.

3) Henry was a good fisherman. He knew where to go. We went to Rock Creek park near the zoo in DC to fish, and he caught a three-pound carp (shown at right) .... [In a] 1978 summer vacation, Henry's family and my family went together to Virginia Beach. One day during the high tide on the beach, Henry showed off his shore fishing skill. We stood knee high in water and caught more fish than we could eat. (See photo, page 20.)

4) Henry had another talent. He loved singing. One day after we played [basketball], he was singing opera while taking a shower.

5) Those days, to get around Washington, DC, we mainly rode our bikes (see Henry's fully loaded bike, above). We never took the buses or the street cars. This all changed when I started classes at GWU. I got a motorcycle. I had no insurance because I could not afford it. Shortly after, I showed Henry how practical and economical [it was] to get around town with a motorcycle. He was convinced, and he bought a big and heavy Indian motorcycle, a preWW2 model that needed some work.



**Henry and Stephen** also rode bikes all over the area. Once they rode out to the tiny Montgomery County community of Brookmont, where, in the yard of a house near the Potomac, they discovered a compost heap rich with earthworms. When the property owner discovered two young boys digging in his garden, his anger softened and he told them that, if only they'd asked, he'd be more than willing to grant permission for them to dig worms for bait. Sometime in the mid-1970s, Henry and Linda returned to this house and, sure enough, the by-then-quite-elderly owner vividly recalled the incident and the many visits by Henry and Stephen to dig up worms for bait from his compost heap.

Stephen shared these memories of Henry when they were youngsters in America:

There were many happy summer days when we competed on the local playgrounds and tennis courts. We also shared many quiet moments at those secret fishing holes on the upper Potomac which was our special retreat. We would wish those days to never end. After high school, our daily paths diverged, but we always remained together in spirit.<sup>14</sup>

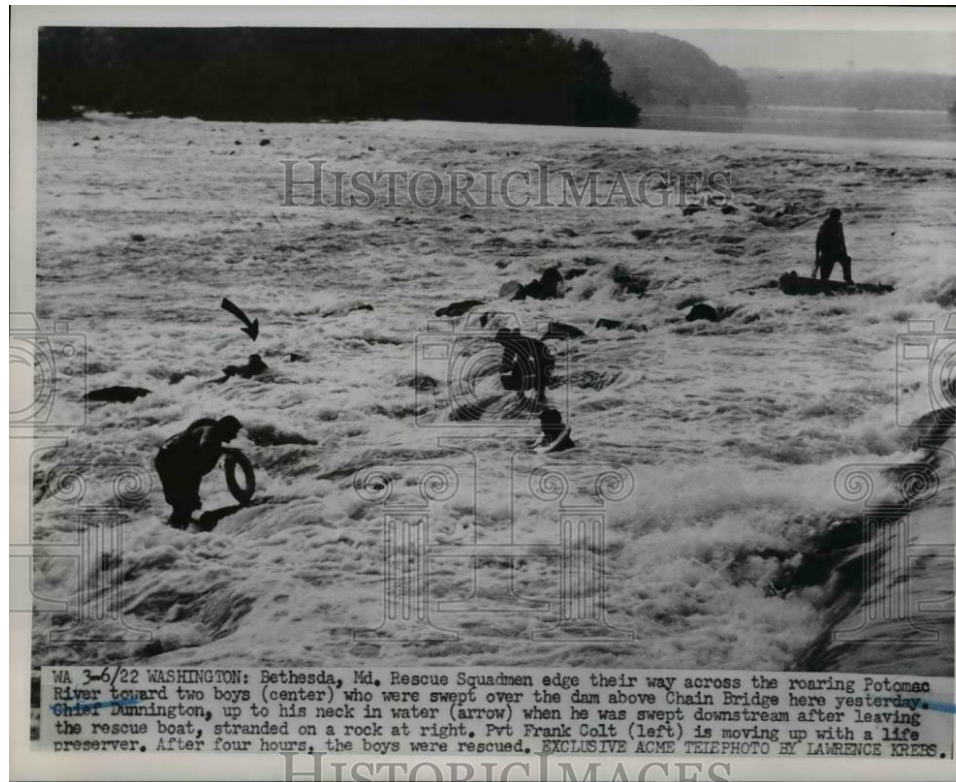
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<sup>14</sup> Stephen Ho, eulogy for Henry Ho, *Autobiography of Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa Cheng Ho*, at 22.



After renting a house near Georgetown a few years, on 14 March 1951, Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa purchased a spacious rowhouse at 1624 Allison Street, NW. Stephen told his daughter Stephanie that, with Rock Creek Park so close, he and Henry liked to hunt for crawfish, minnows, and other fish in the creek. Henry told Linda he thought of his childhood and early adolescent years as a golden time in his life, innocent years in which children could wander freely without any thoughts of danger.

**A tragedy was narrowly averted**, however, when on 6 July 1951 14-year-old Henry and a friend might have drowned in the



Potomac. Fortunately, Henry and his friend were rescued, as was recounted in the captions of these press photos by the Bethesda Rescue Squad. The ensuing publicity made them celebrities. After Henry was taken home, his father gave Henry a beating, according to Liang, viewing the incident as calling undesirable attention to the family. *Above: Rescue Squadmen edge their way across the roaring Potomac River toward two boys (center) who were swept over the dam above Chain Bridge.... Chief Dunnington, up to his neck in water (arrow) when he was*

*swept downstream after leaving the rescue boat, [was] stranded on a rock at right. Pvt Frank Colt (left) is moving up with a life preserver. After four hours, the boys were rescued. Left: Henry Ho is brought to safety by Pvt C.E. Carter of the Bethesda, Md. Rescue Squad.*<sup>15</sup>

**Henry worked to earn money** at a young age. Riding his bike, he delivered newspapers in the Mount Pleasant area when he was a boy. Stephen told his daughter Stephanie that he and Henry worked as soda jerks and sandwich board operators at the Dupont Circle Peoples Drug Store, now a CVS.

<sup>15</sup> Both photos are marked as follows: EXCLUSIVE ACME TELEPHOTO BY LAWRENCE KREBS. The original of the second photo was purchased on eBay by Linda Horton on 22 March 2021.

**The teenage years** often bring conflict between the generations, and such conflict might be exacerbated in immigrant families. Henry told Linda that, when he was a teenager, he frequently argued with his parents, and sometimes his father would become so angry that he would strike Henry. One argument involved a soft drink bottle cap. Henry had popped off the cap then, instead of throwing it in the trash, left the cap on the kitchen table. His father entered the room and, seeing the cap, demanded that Henry immediately return and dispose of it properly. Henry refused. He told Linda that he knew this was such a little thing, but he decided to put up some resistance to the constant orders from his father. His father reddened in anger and started hitting Henry. Neither would back down. Recounting the episode years later, Henry shook his head in dismay at his own immature behavior and his father's excessive reaction.

**The Chinese Youth Fellowship**, starting in 1954, was at the center Henry's social life. Henry, Stephen, Geeming Lin, and other young China-born Americans were members. More information is provided in a separate story entitled "The Chinese Youth Fellowship."

**Education** was always a priority for Henry. Henry attended McFarland Junior High School and Theodore Roosevelt High School, from which he graduated in 1956. These 1956 Roosevelt yearbook photos show Henry in chemistry class (left) and study hall (right). After high school graduation, Henry studied at the University of Maryland, from which he received a BS in electrical engineering in 1960.

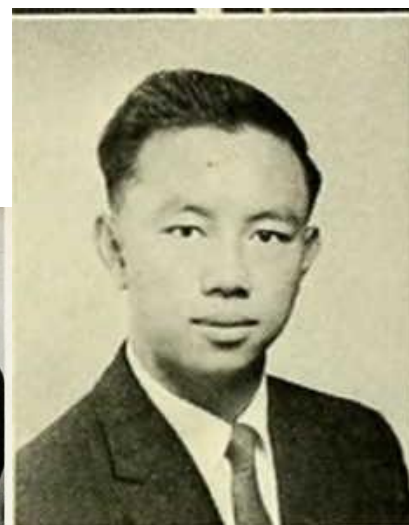


For his first two years at Maryland, he lived at home and commuted via the motorcycle described above by Geeming Lin. For junior and senior years, Henry lived in a dormitory on campus. He told Linda he was grateful for that experience. Henry appeared in several University of Maryland photos in yearbooks digitized on Ancestry.com, documenting the dormitories in which he lived and his participation in several activities. In the Men's Glee Club, Henry was the singer at right at the end of the front row.





At right is Henry's senior yearbook photo. The University of Maryland Chinese Students Club photo below showed Henry and several friends from the Chinese Youth Fellowship. On the left, standing, was Henry and to his left Jackson Yang. Seated in the front row were, second from left, Lillian Huang, who married Geeming Lin, and to her left Ta-Hsung Tung.



At right in 1958, standing, were Henry's sister Margaret, Henry, and Jean Huang, sister of Lillian. In front were Henry's sister Barbara, Julie Fangming Ho, and Lillian Huang. They were at Camp Letts, Maryland for a religious retreat. In the late 1950s, Henry and Julie began dating. They met when she and her parents lived with Henry's family for several



months after they first arrived in the United States from Hong Kong. At left are Lillian and Julie. At right, Julie and Henry were at a Chinese Youth Fellowship party. Geeming Lin said that he and Lillian double-dated several times with

Henry and Julie. Henry's family and Julie's family shared the surname Ho, but there is no known blood kinship between the families.



**Marriage and fatherhood** came at a young age. In 1960, during his senior year at University of Maryland, Henry and Julie were married. She was a GWU student. Michael Dinghwa Ho, born on 16 October 1960, was the first grandchild on both sides of his family.

As happens with many young marriages, problems developed. In 1963, Henry and Julie separated and later were divorced. During the marriage, Henry and Julie lived with her parents at their home at 1609 Great Falls Street in McLean, Virginia. These living arrangements began when the newlyweds could not afford a place of their own. Over time, these arrangements made Henry miserable.

In 1963, there was no such thing as no-fault divorce in any U.S. state. The first state to introduce no-fault divorce was California in 1969, and since then all states including Virginia have enacted no-fault divorce laws. “Prior to the introduction of no-fault grounds for divorce in [Virginia], divorce litigants were left to allege their spouse did something that caused the marriage to fall apart. That something had to be an official fault-based ground for divorce. If a fault-based ground for divorce did not exist at the time, the court was without power to grant the divorce.”<sup>16</sup>



Ancestry.com has on its website a copy of the divorce decree indicating that the cause of Henry and Julie’s divorce was “Desertion,”<sup>17</sup> With this record on Ancestry.com, Linda feels obliged to tell Henry’s side of the story. He told her that his mother-in-law would neither allow Henry to hold and spend time with Michael nor permit visits by Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa Ho. Henry’s father-in-law, a kind and scholarly gentleman, advised Henry that the path to marital happiness was to allow the woman to have her way and never argue. Henry had great respect for his father-in-law but was uncomfortable with this advice, if it meant he had to continue living in such an uncomfortable situation.

Henry believed that living with a spouse’s parents was detrimental to the marriage and to the ability of a young couple to form a family and be good parents. As soon as Henry could afford it, he identified an apartment for rent in Fairfax, Virginia that he believed was suitable for his family of three. Julie refused to move out of her parents’ house. According to Henry, she was extraordinarily attached to her mother. He sang a line from the folk song, Billy Boy, that he believed said it all: “She’s a young thing and cannot leave her mother.”<sup>18</sup> Julie was willing to sacrifice the marriage to continue living in her parents’ house. It seems fair to say that Henry had a more Americanized conception of what marital living arrangements worked best and favored the model of the nuclear family living on its own. Julie embraced the traditional, multi-generational Chinese approach. When a very frustrated Henry prepared to move out, his in-laws prevented his departure until he had sat down at the kitchen table and signed an agreement to hand over to Julie most of his paychecks. Henry signed it because he believed he had no choice, but he knew the little money left meant he could not afford the apartment in Fairfax or just about

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<sup>16</sup> Divorce Q&A: No Fault Uncontested Divorce in Virginia. <https://www.frugallegalservices.com/20-divorce-questions> Then and now, a wife who refuses to move out with her husband from her parents’ home, when the husband believes the in-laws to be intrusive or abusive, is herself chargeable with constructive desertion. Id.

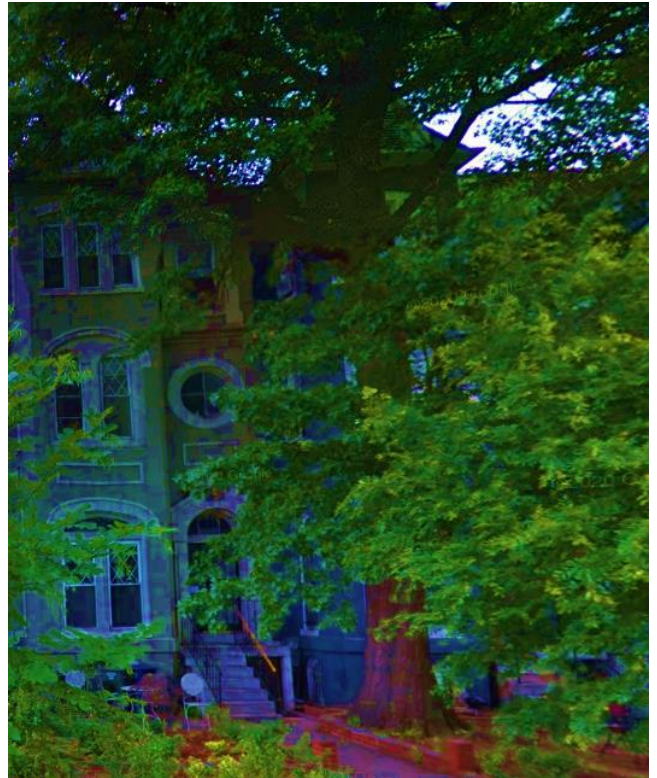
<sup>17</sup> Commonwealth of Virginia—Report of Divorce or Annulment (State File Number 5993), Circuit Court for Fairfax, Final Decree of Divorce, 1 Sept. 1964. Ancestry.com, Virginia Divorce Records, 1918-2014.

<sup>18</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy\\_Boy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_Boy).



anywhere else. Later the payments were reduced to a more reasonable amount. But that was after Henry found a place to live within his budget.

**The Dupont Circle area** was said to have many affordable rooms. This was in 1963, long before gentrification made the area a high-rent district. In front of a house at 1634 19<sup>th</sup> Street NW that had a sign in the window announcing, "ROOMS FOR RENT," a short, wiry, and swarthy man was sweeping the porch. As Henry approached, the man paused his work. Henry greeted the man and asked about the rental rate for the rooms. The man on the porch answered the question in an accented voice. Henry felt dismay, hearing that the rent was \$60. Henry asked the man if he had anything less expensive. The man leaned the broom against the house, crossed his arms over his chest, looked Henry from head to toe, and said, "Sure, if you want to be my roommate, you can share my room, if you give me \$30 a month." Henry was shocked. How could he share a room with someone he'd met two minutes earlier? It was then his turn to size up this stranger. Somehow Henry knew the guy was all right, so he agreed to the arrangement.<sup>19</sup>



That is how Henry met Reza Movahed, a friend for life. Reza was from Iran. He worked as property manager for the landlord, whom they called "The Colonel," while also driving taxis and working on a PhD in astronomy at Georgetown University. Sometime in the late 1960s, Reza married an American woman named Carol. They moved into a larger basement apartment and soon they were joined by a daughter, Roya, born in late 1967. By the time Linda met Henry, he had the second-floor room to himself and he could afford the \$60 rent. That he was driving a recent-model, maroon Chevrolet sedan, a big tank of a car with a comfortable ride, also suggests he was no longer hurting financially.

Henry's room was spacious, with high ceilings and a fireplace that he never used. Its mantel was covered with knickknacks of various origins. Just outside the door to his room was a large bathroom that he shared with the tenant renting the other second-floor room. This was a student from Morocco whose live-in girlfriend was American. Both were fluent in French, and this was the language in which they communicated and argued, often and loudly. Henry and the neighbors also shared a hall closet that served as a tiny kitchen. In it was an old refrigerator and a small console table with a hotplate on top. Linda was amazed at the delicious meals that Henry could prepare in this spartan setup. The rowhouse had once been a majestic single-family home. The retired Army colonel who owned it lived nearby and owned several such houses. Each had been divided up in one-room units for rental to students, young adults, and Bohemian types. The 1966 photo on the next page, taken by Henry, shows a lively day at Dupont Circle. The drums, a regular feature, could be heard many blocks away.

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<sup>19</sup> The image above of the 1634 19<sup>th</sup> Street NW is from Googlemaps, accessed 19 March 2021.

**Work, graduate school, dating, and leisure** were the key elements of Henry's life after divorce. Following graduation from the University of Maryland, Henry had gone to work at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL). NRL's address is Southwest Washington but its location is on the east side of the Anacostia River, accessible from the larger western part of the city only by bridge. Although Henry enjoyed his work and many friends at NRL, in 1963 his family financial responsibilities led him to leave NRL for more pay. He worked at several companies as a systems engineer: Howard Research,



Control Data Corporation, IBM, Hydrotronics, and Hydrospace-Challenger. The timeline at the end of this story provides dates. Like many engineers in those days, Henry called himself a "gypsy" or "nomad" who travelled from company to company depending on who had won government contracts, who had the most interesting work, who was paying better salaries, and whether your mentor had moved there or had formed a new company.

These years in the private sector brought Henry much interesting work, several fun trips—including, in 1970, a several-month detail in Fort Lauderdale—and many lifetime friends. Nevertheless, in 1974 he was thrilled to return to NRL with its intellectually rigorous yet laid-back, campus environment. In the early 1980's, he turned down a lucrative offer from IBM to remain at NRL. When management at NRL saw the offer letter from IBM, they immediately processed a long-promised promotion for Henry. He didn't plan it this way, but his career path meant that he earned survivor benefits in both the social security system and the Federal pension system. This helped his young family when he retired on disability from NRL in Fall 1986 and died on 19 January 1987, shortly before his fiftieth birthday.

Like his parents, Henry revered higher education. After finishing his BS at the University of Maryland in 1960, Henry entered **graduate school** at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences of George Washington University. Attending school entirely at night, he earned an MS degree in 1966 and a doctoral degree there in 1975.



For a time after their separation, Henry hoped he and Julie would reconcile, but that did not happen. He was disappointed when she filed for divorce. He dated several young women during the mid-1960s.

Henry was seriously interested in a petite, blond Australian named Mary Ann, shown with him here.



The photo of Mary Ann at right was taken in the room on 19<sup>th</sup> Street NW in which Henry lived from 1963 to 1975. Other images from the 1960s from slides in Henry's collection suggest a busy social life that involved strolls around Washington, parties with friends, and summer trips to the beaches at Rehoboth, Delaware or Ocean City, Maryland. Often several couples would get together such as Henry and Mary Ann, Reza and Carol, and a couple named Mehdi and Sally. Mehdi was Reza's friend, and Sally was a good friend of Henry's sister Margaret. Later Mehdi and Sally got married and had two sons.



**When Henry met Linda** Horton on Thursday 9 January 1969, both had happened that evening to go to a downtown Washington gathering place called the "Top of the Y." As its name suggests, the place was located on the top floor of the YMCA. A kind of coffee house, it was frequented by students, particularly international students, and recent graduates. Coffee and soft drinks were served. There was music and dancing, and card tables were set up for games or conversation. Linda was there that night for the first (and only) time. She came with a friend named Annie, whom she had met when both were looking at apartments in the Hunting Towers apartment building in Alexandria, next to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Linda and Annie each ended up with a studio apartment and kept in touch.

Linda and Annie had set out for the YWCA in Linda's new 1968 Ford Mustang. They parked nearby and, at the Y, took the elevator to the top. Linda met Henry, almost immediately, when he walked up to her not even a minute after she stepped into the room. In his telling of the story, Henry said he saw two beautiful new girls pause at the entrance to the Top of the Y. His first thought was "My goodness, those girls are so TALL!" But he resolved to go up and meet one, and he chose the blond in the mini skirt, which was Linda. They danced a little but preferred to sit and talk. Other fellows asked Linda to dance. She danced with a couple of them but turned down the rest. Henry asked for her phone number, which she provided, and later he walked her and Annie to Linda's car. On the way, he asked Linda out for the following night. Not wanting to appear too available, Linda turned him down, saying she was busy, which wasn't a lie, because her plan was to shampoo her hair and go to bed early. He then asked her out for dinner and a movie on Saturday night. She agreed and soon the two were seeing each other every weekend. In those early days, Henry and Linda loved Saturday morning breakfasts at Schwartz's Drugstore on the northwest corner of Connecticut Avenue and R Street NW.

Not long after Henry and Linda started dating, she became aware that he had lied to her about his age. The night they met, they told each other their birthdays, establishing that she was a Sagittarius while he was an Aquarius. She had described turning 22 the month before, and he said he was 28, about to be 29 in February. Actually, he was three years older than 28—in fact, he was 31, going on 32. A couple of weeks into the friendship, Linda remembered that his birthday was in February, which meant it was coming up soon and she should buy him a card. He had not said which day in February, and she resolved to find out. While visiting him, she waited until he went to use the bathroom then looked inside his wallet at his driver's license. She was surprised to see that his birthday was 1 February 1937 but chose to say nothing when he returned. No wonder he seemed flustered the night they met when they were discussing the ages of siblings.

Linda, the eldest of six, always wanted to know about people's siblings. Once Henry lied about the year of his own birthday, he ran into problems when Linda wanted to know the years in which his siblings were born. Henry chose to add three years to his siblings' birthyears, so he said Steve was born in 1941, Barbara in 1943, and Margaret in 1946. Hearing that Henry's younger sister was born in 1946, Linda got

excited because this meant that Henry had a sister exactly her age who, like her, must have just graduated from college and begun a career. The only thing was, Henry's youngest sister was not born the same year as Linda. She was three years older. Upon discovering Henry's birthyear, Linda grasped why he had looked uncomfortable during the discussion of siblings' ages. (Also, he probably had to do the math in his head in Chinese and then translate the numbers into English.) On the first of February, Linda gave Henry a card, and he decided he had best confess his lie. When he did, Linda said she already knew and told him how she had learned the truth. Henry explained that he was afraid Linda wouldn't go out with him if she knew he was in his 30s. He was relieved that she hadn't dumped him over his lie.

Even when his true age was revealed, Henry continued to conceal the fact that he had been married before and had a son, Michael, then eight. Linda learned the truth when the phone rang at his place. Soon her gentlemanly boyfriend was shouting in an angry voice, first in English and then in Chinese. After Henry hung up, red-faced, Linda asked what that was all about. Henry explained that the call was from his ex-wife, and they had a disagreement. He said Julie was having a hard time because her second marriage had broken up. She, Michael, and a daughter from the second marriage, Debbie, were living at Julie's parents' house after several years in Mississippi. It had hurt Henry's feelings that Julie had been unwilling to move out of her parents' house for him but did so for the second husband. Michael told Linda that Julie initiated the second divorce for his well-being. The second husband was cruel to Michael. Fortunately, Julie later met and married David Rao, who was happy to live in Julie's parents' house and has been a good father for Debbie.

**Studying** was a dominant feature of Henry and Linda's dating lives. When Linda and Henry met in 1969, both were taking courses at George Washington University, his as part of a PhD program in electrical engineering and hers a management course as part of the FDA management intern program. Linda started law school in 1971. Until their graduations and marriage in 1975, their courtship occurred on the fringes of their academic efforts. Henry and Linda did not live together until marriage but staying over at the other's place was common. The couple rarely saw each other on weekdays and, when they got together on weekends, their studies were always part of the plan.



When it came to **dates**, Henry was a great boyfriend, an idea person, and a gentleman, and he was not cheap. These are all good qualities. In those days Henry was a member of the Playboy Club in Baltimore, and he took Linda there on an early date. They went to a few concerts together, including Jimi Hendrix in Baltimore in April 1969, Roberta Flack and Donny Hathaway at the Carter Barron Amphitheater, and Gordon Lightfoot at the DAR Constitution Hall. They saw *Porgy and Bess* performed at the Kennedy Center. Henry and Linda also visited his parents frequently for Yin-Hwa's delicious meals and socialized with friends such as Geeming and Lillian Lin. At left is a photo of the Lins' sons Gary and Jeffrey, the smaller boy on Henry's



shoulders.<sup>20</sup> Much as Henry and Linda loved their dates that involved eating out at restaurants and seeing movies,<sup>21</sup> their favorite dates involved outdoor activities like walks or bike rides on the C and O canal, fishing or camping, or day trips to Harpers Ferry or Blue Ridge Parkway. For several months during their dating years, Henry owned a huge Yamaha motorcycle. Linda recalled a white-knuckle experience holding tightly to Henry when they took a day trip to Harper's Ferry and back. "Never again," she swore. Not long after that, the motorcycle fell over, with Henry on it, and only through luck did it not crush one of his legs. His face was badly skinned on the pavement. Linda put her foot down: she told him, "You have to choose—it is either that motorcycle, or me! I cannot be with someone who does something as dangerous as riding that thing!" Henry agreed his biker days were over and sold the big Yamaha.

As mentioned earlier, throughout his adult life Henry was friends with other Chinese Americans who as teens were known as the Chinese Youth Fellowship and later simply the Fellowship.<sup>22</sup> The group got together periodically during the years in which Henry and Linda dated. A funny incident involved an outing with Fellowship friends to Hains Point in Washington, DC. Henry and the other guys and a few older kids were fishing. As was typical during fishing excursions when Linda was in law school, she brought her books and a blanket to spread on the grass for study. Most of the women were chatting rather than fishing, while the younger children chased around, having fun. No one caught a thing. With a mischievous sparkle in his eyes, Henry whispered to Linda to not tell anyone, but he was going to drive to the Maine Avenue fish market. Henry disappeared for a few minutes, his absence unnoticed, and soon he appeared with an enormous fish on a hook and line. He called to everyone to come look at his catch. Everyone gathered round, ooing and ahing—briefly. Soon the friends were exchanging knowing glances and chuckling. If Henry's effort at deception fooled anyone, it was for about 30 seconds. But everyone had a good laugh, and Henry and Linda knew what they would be having for dinner that night.



Linda and Henry had no problems with cultural differences or with their families' acceptance of their relationship. Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa loved Linda, and her parents, Ray and Marcia Horton, loved Henry. When Henry and Linda drove to Kentucky for a long weekend in July 1969, her parents showed Henry their home state. They went hiking in the Natural Bridge State Park (photo at left), dined at a Chinese restaurant in Louisville that Marcia had thoughtfully located, and drove to see the outdoor drama *The Stephen Foster Story*, at My Old Kentucky Home in Bardstown, a small city 40 miles south of Louisville.

On the way home from Bardstown, with Henry driving his roomy Chevy sedan through the pitch-black night, they were pulled over by a local policeman. When the policeman asked to see Henry's driver's license, Marcia, sitting in the back seat, erupted in anger. "You are just stopping this boy because of his Washington, DC license plates! He didn't do anything wrong!" Henry tried politely to quiet her while he

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<sup>20</sup> In sharing memories of Henry in an email to Linda Horton on 31 Mar 2021, Geeming wrote that Henry "went through some rough times for a few years, but life became better for him after he met Linda in 1969."

<sup>21</sup> A list of movies that Linda remembers seeing with Henry during their 18 years together, appears on page 24.

<sup>22</sup> The author has written a companion story entitled **The Chinese Youth Fellowship**.

attempted to handle the matter diplomatically. “Officer, could you please tell me why you are stopping me?” The policeman explained that he had observed Henry’s car occasionally going off the road. At this, Marcia retorted, “What do you expect? He is from a big city, and all we have here in Kentucky are these unlighted and narrow country roads!” She was right—when a car had approached from the opposite direction, Henry had to steer that big Chevy so far to the right side of the road that, a few times, the right tires left the pavement and landed, ka-bump, on the dusty path next to the steeply paved blacktop. The officer asked Henry, “Have you been drinking?” Henry truthfully said no. From the backseat came Marcia’s exasperated outcry, “Officer, are you trying to get him to give you a bribe?” At this point the policeman stopped ignoring the raving woman in the back seat and asked with a shocked voice, “Ma’am, are you accusing me of soliciting a bribe?!” Henry told Linda later that, at that point, he was seriously afraid he was going to be arrested and would spend the night in the local county jail. He really wanted Marcia to be quiet, but he also didn’t want to offend this girlfriend’s mother.

The cop then shone his flashlight on Marcia and at the floor of the car’s back seat. There he saw a small pile of empty beer bottles on Linda’s father’s side of the back floor. Ray hastily explained that the bottles were his, not Henry’s, and they were empty. He was bringing the bottles home to Jeffersontown so he could turn them in and collect their deposits. Through the miracle of Henry’s calm, patient, smiling diplomacy, the police officer overlooked the behavior of Henry’s future in-laws and allowed him to drive off without receiving a ticket. Everyone in the car was relieved. Marcia said she had been afraid Henry would get a ticket just because he was Chinese or was from out of state. The visit was a success: Linda’s parents were impressed with her new beau.

Linda met Henry’s parents soon after they started dating and his siblings when they visited their parents. Above in August 1971 are Stephen, Henry, Barbara, Linda, Yin-Hwa, Margaret, and Lien-Yu with Stephen’s son, Philip, age five.



As it happened, Linda’s last exam in law school occurred the very same evening, 18 December 1974 in which Henry successfully defended his dissertation entitled *Transient Analysis of Phase-Locked Loops in the Presence of Noise*. Henry and Linda met up after their respective examinations and were jubilant as they walked hand-in-hand to Henry’s car, parked in a GWU garage. There, they hugged, danced, and spontaneously whooped loud howls of delight and relief at the top of their lungs! They then went to a Chinese restaurant on Connecticut Avenue, a trifle fancier than their usual places, where they split a Peking duck as part of the celebration. Henry received his ScD Degree in February 1975 in the same GWU ceremony in which Linda earned her Juris Doctor (JD) from GWU’s law school. Photos in their grand academic robes are on the next page.

On 8 March 1975, Henry and Linda were married in the Chapel of the Presidents, National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC. The wedding was small because Linda’s schedule studying for the Maryland bar provided little time for wedding planning. The only guests were the four parents, Henry’s brother Stephen, and Linda’s sisters Laurel and Robin. Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa treated the wedding guests to a banquet at the Yenching Palace Restaurant. Henry and Linda honeymooned in Aruba.





In 1976, Henry and Linda bought a four-bedroom split level house at 11702 Devilwood Court in Potomac, Maryland. Their son **Jonathan Bryan** was born on 16 December 1976. Their daughter **Colleen Elizabeth Ho** was born on 1 July 1979.



Linda said that the days their children were born were the best two days of their lives.



Not long after Jon was born, Henry, Linda, and Jon visited Henry's son **Michael**, then 16, and his mother and stepfather. For several years, Henry and Michael had seen each other infrequently, and Linda met Michael for the first time. It was thanks to Henry's sister, Barbara, that this visit took



place: she had remained friends with Julie. After this first visit, Michael visited Henry and Linda at their home in Potomac whenever he could, and they participated in major events in Michael's life including his graduation from McLean High School in 1978 and from



Cornell University in 1982. In 1986, despite having cancer, Henry attended Michael's graduation from the medical school of Washington University, St. Louis, and had a chance to meet Michael's then girlfriend, and future wife, Trang Cung. In 1992, Linda, Jon, Colleen, and their blended family members, Carl Nelson (Linda's second husband), and his children Cassandra and Doug, participated in Michael and Trang's wedding reception in Washington, DC. In 2015 and 2018, Linda and Colleen attended the high school graduations of Michael and Trang's children, Nicholas and Lauren, as well as Nicholas's 2019 graduation



from Duke University. Barbara Ho also attended these ceremonies. The photo at right was taken on the Duke campus. From left are Michael, Lauren, Nicholas, Trang.

**The friendship of Geeming and Henry** led to vacationing together. In the late 1980s, when the Lin boys, Jonathan, and Colleen were young, Henry and Linda vacationed several times at Virginia Beach with Geeming and Lillian Lin and their sons. The two families always stayed at the Cherry Motel. Jonathan and Colleen have fond memories of these vacations, which always included fishing in the surf for crabs and fish, then feasting on the catch back at the motel.



Jonathan listed these memories of his Dad, who died when he was 10: Virginia Beach. McDonalds for sausage and egg biscuit and hash browns breakfast.

Cooking crabs alive—they were screaming in the pot!



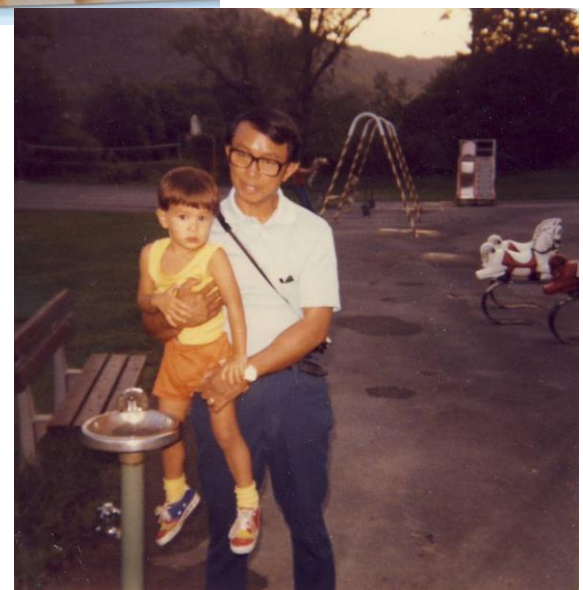
Soccer practice and kicking extra balls in the net.

Watching Dad coach a basketball team of Chinese American guys who worked at NRL (Jon described their playing as “terrible!”).

China Doll Restaurant in Chinatown.

Dinner with Grandpa and Grandma Ho in DC: cellophane noodles, homemade noodles, and winter melon soup.

Martha’s Vineyard trip in 1983; Henry and Jonathan took long bicycle rides.





Deep sea fishing off the Virginia coast; sand shark in the freezer for a year.

Math on Sundays. Ugh.

Falling in the C and O canal, then dim sum at Tong Bor Restaurant.

Linda recalled an impulsive decision she and Henry made one Saturday afternoon to take Jon and Colleen to the movie *Ghostbusters* when it was playing at the Cabin John movie theater. What a shame that this theater closed—it had an upstairs party room which was available to a family with a nursing baby or a small child, our situation from 1976-1982, so we used that room often. Colleen was about three, and Linda was afraid the movie might be frightening for her. Henry really wanted to see the movie, which received great reviews. He promised to carry Colleen out of the theater if the movie became too scary. So, we four went to the movie, and it was a fun experience. Colleen fell asleep before the scariest of the closing scenes in which the Stay-Puft Marshmallow Man (shown above) makes his appearance. Only when Colleen saw the movie again, years later, did she understand Jon’s references to the Marshmallow Man.



Colleen reported these fond memories of her Dad, who died when she was seven:

I asked Dad what my name is in Chinese, and he responded, with a huge smile and complete confidence, “Colleen.” Another time, he told me he would “take me to China to eat chocolate-covered ants,” which sounded delightful.

He seemed to have super-human strength. I would envision him at the jungle gym at our school [Norwood School], holding his athletic body horizontal with the strength of one arm on a vertical pole on the gym. This memory could have been a scene that occurred to me in a dream, but it definitely was inspired by my Dad Henry’s positive attitude and strength.



Dad won a large, green stuffed frog for me at the fair and carried it around all day, because I was too small to carry it. I kept it in my room for many years after his death.

In kindergarten, I did a crayon portrait of Dad and they posted all of them on the wall.

Dad smoked a cigar once a year when we vacationed at Virginia Beach with the Lin family.

Dad came to me in a dream, and I didn’t see him, but I felt him give me a hug like he did on the Space Mountain ride at Disney World. When my family, meaning my mother, father, brother, and I went to Disney World, I said, “Hold me tighter, Dad,” and he did. He was great.



As was recounted in his obituary, despite a busy academic and professional career, Henry “found time to coach youth soccer and men’s basketball teams in the area, and was a hunting, fishing, basketball, tennis, and running enthusiast.” He loved tigers and read books about hunting them.

When they were

dating, he gave Linda a kitten and named him Lao-Fu, “tiger” in Chinese, even though the all-black long-haired kitten bore little resemblance to tigers. Henry loved that cat, shown on page 23. Henry and Otto Jons, above in the red shirt, coached a first-grade soccer team that included their sons Jonathan and Chris, next to Jon. Later Henry and Tom Long, Sarah’s father, coached Colleen’s first grade team.



**Singing** was one of Henry’s many talents and interests that many of his relatives and friends remember. Margaret said her favorite memory of her brother was hearing him sing “Danny Boy,” with her picking out the notes on the piano. “He had a rich and melodious voice and could have pursued music further,” she said. During his single years, Henry sang with the Paul Hill Chorale and the National Presbyterian Church choir. Later Linda loved hearing Henry sing in the shower, often wonderful showtunes as, “To Dream the Impossible Dream” and “If I Loved You.” Henry led the children singing such favorites as “You Are My Sunshine” during family road-trip vacations. Henry also played the guitar and, 30 years after his death, his guitar was restrung so that his grandson Ryan Henry Horton, right, born in 2009, the son of Jonathan could use it during visits to his Nana and Pop (Linda and Carl). Like Ryan, Henry’s grandson Craig Swink, born in 2001, the son of Colleen and Jim Swink, clearly inherited Henry’s musical genes. Craig won scholarships to both the Interlochen Academy for the Arts, where the photo at left was taken, and to the University of Michigan (class of 2023).



**Lifelong learning** was a priority for Henry. He sought always to learn new things and improve himself. This was one of his defining characteristics. If he wanted to know about something, he would check out a library book, or buy a book, and research the matter. He would have loved the internet. Henry studied books to improve his chess and tennis and to learn how to repair cars and houses. He believed that any field of knowledge could be mastered in that way. Linda told Colleen that her father was a big believer in mind over matter. Even after earning his doctorate in 1975,



Henry took advanced courses at GWU. In 1983 he became an adjunct professor at its School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, a position he held until the diagnosis of cancer in December 1985. He taught an advanced communications theory (basically complicated applied math) to graduate engineering students.

Henry had **many good qualities**, including his generosity, according to his sister Margaret: “In his quiet way, he always extended a helping hand. I’m sure many of us have experienced that same support and generosity. It was typical of Henry to never think too much about himself while helping others.”<sup>23</sup> Colleen remembers hearing people describe her Dad as “reserved.” In the Chinese Zodiac, Henry was a fire rat and thus said to be intelligent, humorous, gifted; faithful; pleasing in love; able to manage money; and well-suited for work as a teacher, artist, or doctor.<sup>24</sup>

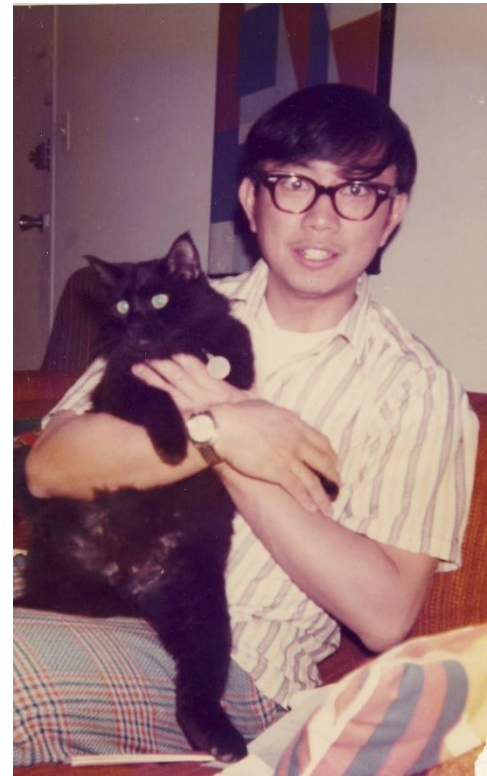
Linda started a biography of her husband a few days after he died in 1987. But in the 1980s, lawyers were not expected to type, and she could not ethically ask her government secretary to type a personal document like a biography. In those days, Linda had no typewriter at home that worked well. Personal computers still were a thing of the future. So, Linda’s handwritten draft was untouched for years. The draft was useful in writing this memoir because it contained details that Linda wrote down in 1987 but later forgot. An advantage to completing the biography in 2021 rather than in 1987 is that additional source materials have become available including:

- *Autobiography of Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa Cheng Ho*, Washington, DC, 15 Sept. 1987.
- *Journal of Lien-Yu Ho: January 1, 1946-March 30, 1948*, edited by Colleen.
- Research and photos by Stephanie while living in Beijing, including particularly her presentation of photos and family information shared at the 2013 family reunion. Stephanie’s study of family history included her research on the Ho and Cheng families.<sup>25</sup>
- Internet resources, including yearbook photos posted on Ancestry.com.

To give an example of the wonders of the Internet, on 25 March 2021 Linda researched the sales history of the house on Allison Street and found the following description:

1624 Allison St NW is a house in Washington, DC 20011. This 2,208 square foot house sits on a 3,111 square foot lot and features 4 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms. 1624 Allison St NW was built in 1923 and last sold for \$762,000. Based on Redfin's Washington data, we estimate the home's value is \$973,646.

What would Lien-Yu and Yin Hwa think if they knew their house is worth almost a million dollars!



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<sup>23</sup> Eulogy for Henry Ho, in *Autobiography of Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa Cheng Ho*, at 22.

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.asia-home.com/china/animal/animal/1.php>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.mychinaroots.com/blog/stories/frozen-footsteps-meet-the-first-chinese-man-at-the-north-pole/> The article also describes Stephanie’s maternal ancestor, who was the first Chinese person to reach the North Pole.

At long last, the family has this short biography of Henry in honor of his memory. All who knew him remember him as a great man and a wonderful son, brother, husband, father, and friend. Comments are welcome—additions, deletions, and corrections—especially from those who knew him during the first 32 years of his life.

Linda R. Horton  
5605 Griffith Farm Road  
Rockville, Maryland 20855  
[lrhorton@comcast.net](mailto:lrhorton@comcast.net)

*Listed below are some of the movies that Henry and Linda saw together, with Henry's favorites marked with asterisks. Notably, due to their intense academic commitments, then their busy, two-career, working-parent schedule, they missed several blockbuster movies of the era such as Airport, The Big Chill, The Exorcist, Fiddler on the Roof, The Godfather, Jaws, and Rocky. Some of these Linda saw years later, and others await her seeing.*

All the President's Men	Five Easy Pieces	Nashville
Amadeus*	The French Connection	Never on a Sunday
American Graffiti	Garden of the Finzi-Continis	The Neverending Story
Anne of the Thousand Days	Ghandi	Night at the Opera, Circle Theater
Annie Hall	Ghostbusters, see page 21*	Ninotchka, Circle Theater
Atlantic City	Hannah and Her Sisters	On Golden Pond
Belle du Jour, first date movie	The Harder They Come	One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
Black Orpheus*	Heaven Can Wait	Patton
Cabaret	Ind Jones & Temple Doom*	Pink Panther; A Shot in the Dark*
Butch Cassidy/Sundance Kid	Hello, Dolly	Rachel, Rachel
Chariots of Fire	Karate Kid*	Raiders of the Lost Ark*
Chinatown	Kramer vs. Kramer	The Right Stuff
Close Encounters Third Kind	The Last Picture Show	Romancing the Stone*
Coma	The Last Unicorn	Star Trek movies*
Dr. Strangelove	Love Story	Star Wars; * The Return of the Jedi
Easy Rider	MASH	Superman
The Emigrants	Midnight Cowboy	Terms of Endearment;
The Empire Strikes Back*	Modern Times, Circle Theater*	War and Peace, Russian version* <sup>26</sup>
E.T.*	Tess	Z
2001, A Space Odyssey*	Tootsie	Zorba the Greek

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.vox.com/culture/2019/2/15/18223285/war-and-peace-sergei-bondarchuk-adaptation-1966>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War\\_and\\_Peace\\_\(film\\_series\)#:~:text=War%20and%20Peace%20\(Russian%3A%20%D0%92%D0%BE%D0%B9%D0%BD%D0%B0,1869%20novel%20War%20and%20Peace.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_and_Peace_(film_series)#:~:text=War%20and%20Peace%20(Russian%3A%20%D0%92%D0%BE%D0%B9%D0%BD%D0%B0,1869%20novel%20War%20and%20Peace.)



## Timeline of Henry and the Ho Family

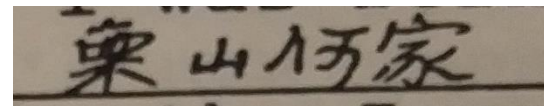


Fig. I-10 (Supplemental to Fig. I-1) The room in which Lien-Yu was born, recorded Aug. 21, 1987 on his trip there, accompanied by Linda (Henry's wife), Jonathan & Colleen (their son & daughter).

### Grandpa Ho in the room where he was born, 1987.

The old house made of mud bricks was by the main square in the Chestnut Hill Village of the Ho Clan, near the ancestral hall. I saw the house when I visited in May 1994, but it was gone when I visited in April 2013.

15 September 1906: Lien-Yu Ho was born in Li Shan He Jia 栗山何家 the Chestnut Village of the Ho Clan in Hengyang County,



Hunan Province, China. At right shows the village's name as written by Lien-Yu in his autobiography. His U.S. official birthday was 27 August. The statement above that, "I saw the house when I visited in May 1994, but it was gone when I visited in April 2013," was written by Stephanie Ho, daughter of Stephen and granddaughter of Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa Ho. The above captioned photo was included in her compilation of photos for the 2013 Ho family reunion.

10 October 1911: The Qing Dynasty was overthrown, and China became a republic (Double-10 Day).

23 December 1914: Yin-Hwa Ho was born in Hsiling, Chang-Mu-Shih, in the County of Hengyang. In Chinese, her birthplace was Hsiling, also known as Xilin 西林 Chang-Mu-Shih, also known as Zhangmu Township 樟木市 Her U.S. official birthday was 7 December. Additional information about the Cheng family compound is available at these websites:

[https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=zh-CN&u=http://www.e0734.com/content/2021/0324/56\\_16283.html&prev=search&pto=aue](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=zh-CN&u=http://www.e0734.com/content/2021/0324/56_16283.html&prev=search&pto=aue)

<https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=zh-CN&u=https://zh.wikipedia.org/zh-hans/%25E8%25A5%25BF%25E6%259E%2597%25E7%25A8%258B%25E5%2585%25AC%25E9%25A6%2586&prev=search&pto=aue>

1924: Lien-Yu graduated from junior high school and began high school at the John C. Wells High School in Shiangtan. In October, his father, Nie-Tang, died. Lien-Yu graduated from this high school.

17 February 1931: Lien-Yu met Ying-Hwa Cheng in Hengyang during winter break from the National Labor University in Shanghai. He attended a New Year celebration at her school. They were introduced by a mutual friend.

1931: Lien-Yu graduated from the National Labor University in Shanghai with a BS in agricultural chemistry.

1931-1934: Lien-Yu taught chemistry, math, and other subjects at the Double Ten High School in Xiemen (Amoy).

Summer 1932: Lien-Yu returned from Xiemen to Hengyang and conversed with Yin-Hwa, learning for the first time that she was the daughter of the Venerable Cheng.

15 September 1932: Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa were married on his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was 17. They left immediately for Shanghai and honeymooned in Hangzhou. They returned to Shanghai, where Yin-Hwa entered the Great China University. Lien-Yu returned to his teaching job in Xiemen.

December 1932: Yin-Hwa traveled by boat from Shanghai to Xiamen and transferred to the Xiamen University, College of Education.

Early 1933: Pan Shih, mother of Yin-Hwa, died in Hengyang. Yin-Hwa left school to go to Hengyang.

Summer 1934: Yin-Hwa was reunited with Lien-Yu in Shanghai, where she resumed her studies at the Great China University. Lien-Yu took and passed the examination for the College of Economics, the National Political University, Nanking.

1934-1936: Lien-Yu attended graduate school and in 1936 received a degree in accountancy from the College of Economics, the National Political University, Nanking.

1936: To fulfill the public service requirements for graduates of the National Political University, which is tuition-free, Lien-Yu was assigned to the Military Daily News Publishing House in Hankow, where he was to establish a new financial control and accounting system for this public enterprise. In Hankow, they met Li-Mah, who went to work for them as a maid and was soon regarded as a family member.

8 February 1937: Henry Ninghan was born in Hankow, Wuhan, Hubei, China.



At right is an August 1987 photo of Henry's daughter, Colleen, age 8, in the room where her father was born a half-century earlier. Linda found it a moving experience to encounter a young woman with a baby living in the apartment where Henry was born.

15 February 1937 (approximately): Lien-Yu took Henry to the hospital for a smallpox vaccination.

18 February 1937, Lien-Yu was ordered to return to Nanking to the position of Chief, Accounting Division in the Artillery Academy.

April 1937: Yin-Hwa, with Henry and Li-Mah, went by boat on the Yangtze from Hankow to Nanking.

7 July 1937: Japan invaded China.

Late 1937-38: Yin-Hwa, with Henry and Li-Mah, went from Nanking to the Nine-Pine Quarter of her family's compound in Hsiling, Chang-mu-shih, Hengyang Shi, Hunan, China. Henry celebrated his first birthday during their six-month stay there.

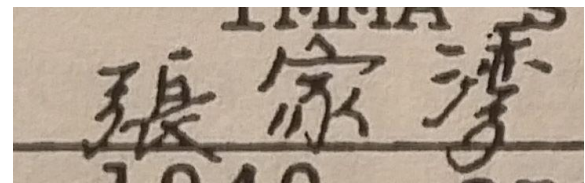
Late 1937: To escape Nanking (which the Japanese captured in December 1937), Lien-Yu and other staff and the troops of the Artillery Academy moved to Lingling,<sup>27</sup> a small city in the southern part of Hunan Province. After six months at the Cheng family compound, Yin-Hwa, Henry, and Li-Mah joined Lien-Yu in Lingling.

8 September 1938: Stephen was born in Lingling, Wuhan Province.

December 1938: Lien-Yu was ordered to a new position in Chongqing (the wartime capital of China) as Director, Office of Budget and Finance, Veterans Administration, overseeing 120 staff members. Senior officials in this agency were corrupt, and Lien-Yu encountered much resistance to his reform efforts.

May 1939: Yin-Hwa, accompanied by Henry, Stephen, and Li-Mah, joined Lien-Yu in Chongqing. In that month, the Japanese bombed the city.<sup>28</sup>

1939 or 1940: Lien-Yu obtained a new position as Chief Accountant in the Industry and Mining Adjustment Administration (IMMA), Ministry of Economic Affairs, designing accounting systems for enterprises and enforcing price controls. The IMMA office was in Chang-Chia-Wan. In his autobiography, Lien-Yu wrote the name of this town as shown at right.



<sup>27</sup> Lingling District is one of two urban districts of Yongzhou City, Hunan Province. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lingling\\_District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lingling_District) (accessed March 19, 2021).

<sup>28</sup> *Autobiography of Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa Cheng Ho*, Washington, DC on Sept. 15, 1987, p. 19.

7 September 1940: Barbara was born in Chang-Chia-Wan, a village near Shiao-Lung-Kan, 10 miles west of Chongqing.

7 December 1941: Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Day of Infamy. United States entered the war.

4 September 1943: Margaret was born in Chang-Chia-Wan.

1943-44: Lien-Yu moved to Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan Province, to become Deputy Director of IMMA's regional office there. The U.S. Lend-Lease Program was supplying China with materials needed to resist Japan, and Kunming was the point of entry for many of the materials being supplied to China to aid in the country's defense. The family remained in Chang-Chia-Wan. Kunming is 900 miles southwest of Chongqing (halfway to the border with Myanmar). Even on modern roads today, the trip is a 10- to 11-hour drive through hills, valleys, and mountains.

1944: Lien-Yu was called back to Chongqing to work as a liaison officer in China's War Production Board, organized with U.S. government help. The family became friends with Edward Candee, an American assigned to work with the board.

September 1945: After the end of war, the Kuomintang government selected Lien-Yu to travel to the United States to undertake advanced studies of industrial management and financial administration.

26 September 1945: Lien-Yu traveled to Calcutta to board a ship, the General A.W. Greeley, leaving from there to travel to Liverpool then New York.<sup>29</sup> The ship passed through the Red Sea, the Suez Canal, and the Mediterranean Sea before its stop in Liverpool<sup>30</sup> and passage across the Atlantic Ocean to New York. From there Lien-Yu traveled by train to Washington, DC.

Late 1945: Lien-Yu began his advanced studies at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, after trying unsuccessfully to find an assignment to study the industrial management and financial administration of heavy industry corporations in such sectors of the economy as iron and steel, heavy machinery, and electric power. Companies did not want a foreign government official to study their operations. Lien-Yu on his own initiative contacted the Federal Government to study its accounting systems and fiscal control procedures. He was welcomed as a visiting scholar at the Treasury Department.

1 January 1946-30 March 1948: Lien-Yu maintained a journal documenting daily activities of his life in Washington, DC. The journal ended when his family arrived in Washington, DC.

1 December 1946: Linda Rae Horton was born in Louisville, Kentucky, the daughter of Marcia Bryan and Raymond Thomas Horton. Raymond had served in three years in the U.S. Army Signal Corps in World War II, in New Guinea and Manila and briefly in Tokyo, before returning home in January 1946.

1946-1949: The Chinese Civil War between the Kuomintang and the Communist Army resumed.

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<sup>29</sup> Ancestry.com. *New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

[https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7488/images/NYT715\\_7009-0033?usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=SWn1222&usePUBJs=true&pId=3020485078](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7488/images/NYT715_7009-0033?usePUB=true&_phsrc=SWn1222&usePUBJs=true&pId=3020485078)

<sup>30</sup> Ancestry.com. *UK and Ireland, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960*. [https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/31832383/person/18448769493/media/30807\\_a001202-00269?\\_phsrc=SWn1222&usePUBJs=true](https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/31832383/person/18448769493/media/30807_a001202-00269?_phsrc=SWn1222&usePUBJs=true)



15 April 1947: Lien-Yu began working for the FAO in its then headquarters in Washington, DC, then at 2000 Massachusetts Avenue NW. After a few months as an Internal Auditor and Control Officer, Lien-Yu was transferred to a new position as Chief, Accounting Division, where he introduced a new accounting and budgetary control system.

Fall 1947: Yin-Hwa took the children to visit Wang Fang-Yuan, Lien-Yu's mother, in the Chestnut Village of the Ho Clan. 11 October 1947: Wang Fang-Yuan died in the Chestnut Village. Yin-Hwa returned there to pay final respects on behalf of her husband.

20 February 1948: As a prelude to their travel to Washington, DC, Yin-Hwa and the children traveled to Hengyang.<sup>31</sup> 27 February 1948: Yin-Hwa sent a cable to Lien-Yu saying that the visa was in Hankow. The visa was required for her U.S. entry.



29 February 1948: Lien-Yu moved from a rental apartment at 3511 S Street into a rented house at 3719 W Street, NW, the rowhouse with the tan steps shown at left (accessed on GoogleMaps, 19 March 2021).

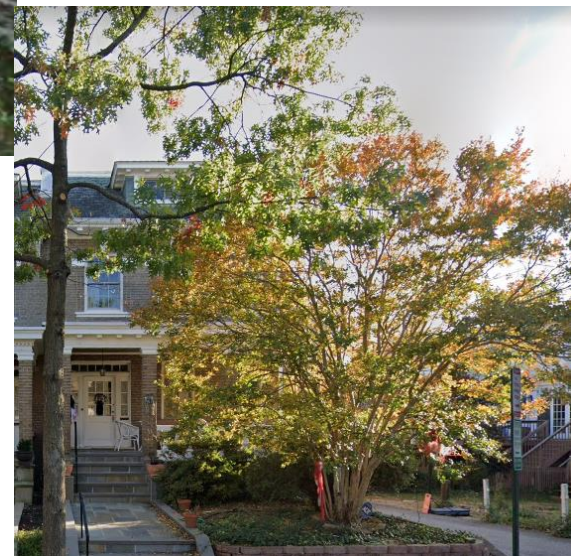
8 March 1948: Yin-Hwa cabled Lien-Yu that she had arrived in Shanghai.

27 March 1948: Yin-Hwa, Henry, Stephen, Barbara, and Liang arrived at National Airport, Washington, DC. The flight originated in Shanghai on 24 March and connected in Tokyo, Midway, Honolulu, San Francisco (arriving 26 March), and Chicago.

October 1949: Communist forces prevailed in China and the People's Republic of China was established.

1951: FAO moved to Rome in 1951. By mutual agreement, Lien-Yu remained in the USA as FAO North American office finance officer, so his children could continue schooling here.

14 March 1951: Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa purchased a home at 1624 Allison Street, NW, Washington, DC (photo at right was accessed on GoogleMaps 19 March 2021). While renting the



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<sup>31</sup> Journal of LY Ho, at 135.

house on W Street NW and while living in the Allison Street house that they owned, the Hos generously hosted other Chinese immigrant families. One of the families who stayed with them in the W Street house was the family of television journalist Connie Chung, an infant at the time. There was an unpleasant financial dispute involving a transaction between her father, William Ling Chung, and Lien-Yu, due to a misunderstanding about whether money provided to Mr. Chung by Lien-Yu was a loan, requiring repayment, or an investment that did not have to be repaid. Lien-Yu believed that the loss of money delayed the Ho family's purchase of a house but eventually forgave Mr. Chung. The five Chung daughters were in the same social circles as Henry and Stephen. See photo on page 32 and the companion story on the Chinese Youth Fellowship.

May 1953: Henry completed eighth grade at McFarland Junior High School, Washington, DC.

1953: Lien-Yu's five-year assignment at FAO ended. FAO converted his employment to career. He published *Essential Operations of Federal Fiscal Systems*, his study of the U.S. Treasury Department.

25 July 1955: Both houses of the U.S. Congress passed the resolution granting Lien-Yu and his family the right to permanent residence in the United States. This matter was assisted by family friends Rev. and Mrs. Edward B. Willingham and Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Boles. Mr. Boles had asked Kentucky Senator Earle C. Clements to assist in obtaining Congressional approval.

13 March 1956: Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa Ho and their four children became naturalized citizens. A family friend, S. James Radcliffe, who headed financial operations in the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, acquainted Lien-Yu with the legal procedures for naturalization.

May 1956: Henry graduated from Theodore Roosevelt High School, Washington, DC.

2 January 1960: Henry Ho and Julie Fanning Ho were married.

May 1960: Henry graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park.

1960-1963: Henry worked as an Electronic Engineer at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL).<sup>32</sup>

16 October 1960: Michael Dinghwa Ho was born in the George Washington University Hospital in Washington, DC, the son of Henry Ho and Julie Fanning Ho.

**THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
**BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION**

No. 7627369

*Application No.* 28017

*Personal description of holder as of date of issuance of this certificate:* Age 26 years, sex Male, complexion Medium, color of eyes Brown, color of hair Black, height 5 feet 6 inches, weight 150 pounds, visible distinctive marks None, marital status Married, former nationality China.

*Signature of holder:* Henry Ninghan Ho  
*(Complete and true signature of holder)*

*Be it known that* \*\* HENRY NINGHAN HO \*\*  
*residing at* 1634 - 19th Street, N.W., Washington 9, D. C.,  
*having applied to the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization for a Certificate of Naturalization and having proved to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that (1) he was naturalized by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, at Washington, D. C., on March 13, 1956.*

*Now Therefore, in pursuance of the authority contained in Section 943(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, this Certificate of Naturalization is issued this* 28th *day of* March *in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and* Sixty-three *and of our Independence the one hundred and* Eighty-seventh *and the seal of the Department of Justice is hereunto set pursuant to statute.*

*Seal*

*Signature of Commissioner:* Raymond J. Farrell  
 COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

218306

FORM N-570 (REV. 5-1-57)

<sup>32</sup> Employment dates were found in the Final Examination announcement for Henry Ninghan Ho for the degree of Doctor of Science from the School of Engineering and Applied Science (18 December 1974).



July 1961: Geeming and Lillian Huang were married in Tacoma, Washington, where he was serving in the military. Henry, at left, was best man.



January 1963: Henry left NRL to take a position as a Systems Engineer at Howard Research.

2 February 1963: Stephen Ho and Margaret Yunching Feng were married in Taipei, Taiwan.

3 February 1963: Henry and Julie separated.<sup>33</sup>

1963-1965: Henry worked as a Systems Engineer at Control Data Corporation.

1 September 1964: Henry and Julie were granted a final decree of divorce in Fairfax County, Virginia.<sup>34</sup>



Early 1960s: Geeming and Lillian hosted a party. Left to right, Lillian's brother Bobby and sister Jean, Henry, David Tseng, and Connie Chung.

1965-1967: Henry worked as a Systems Engineer at IBM.

8 February 1966: Philip Ho was born in Tacoma, Washington, the son of Stephen Ho and Yunching Feng Ho.

1967-1971: Henry worked as a Systems Engineer at Hydrotronics.

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<sup>33</sup> Commonwealth of Virginia—Report of Divorce or Annulment (State File Number 5993), Circuit Court for Fairfax, Final Decree of Divorce, 1 September 1964 (Ancestry.com, Virginia Divorce Records, 1918-2014).

<sup>34</sup> Id.

9 January 1969: Henry and Linda Horton met at the Top of the Y, Washington, DC, starting six years of dating before their marriage on 8 March 1975.

29 January 1969: Stephanie Ho was born in Dayton, Ohio, the daughter of Stephen and Yunching.

1969: Lien-Yu retired from FAO.

1970: Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa took a trip around the world while Linda house-sat for them. Henry was working in Fort Lauderdale on a temporary assignment.

25 March 1971: Melissa Deanne Ho was born in Dayton, Ohio, the daughter of Stephen and Yunching.

Summer 1971: Henry and Linda spent a week in London. Henry also visited Paris and Amsterdam.

1971-1974: Henry worked as a Systems Engineer for Hydrospace-Challenger, Inc.

1972: Lien-Yu and Yin-Hwa traveled to China, shortly after President Nixon's visit.

1974: Henry returned to NRL as an Electronic Engineer.

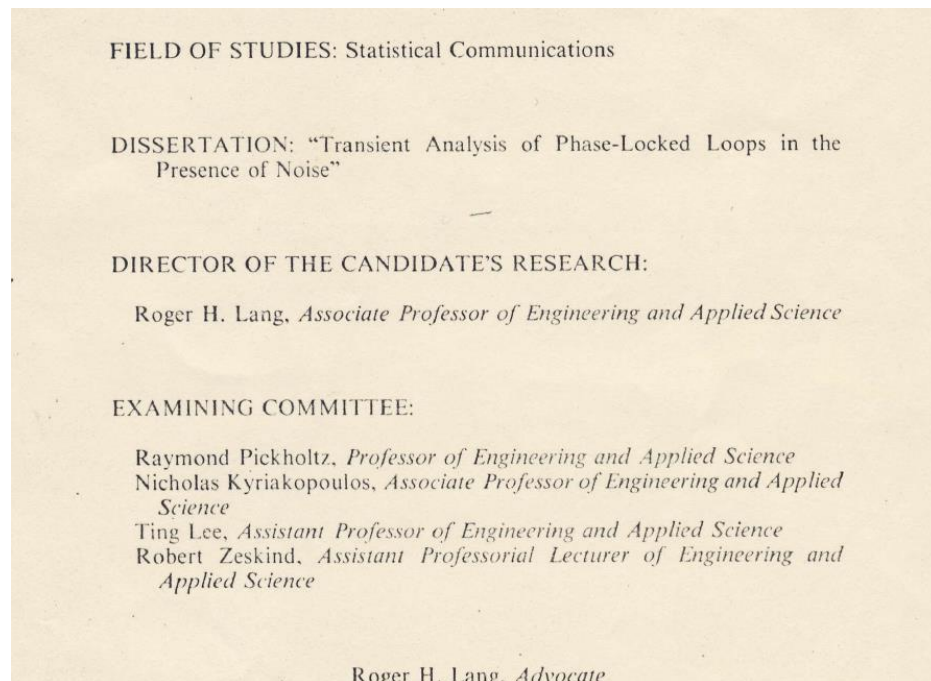
18 December 1974: Henry successfully defended his dissertation (right).

February 1975: Henry and Linda received diplomas from George Washington University, Henry a Doctor of Science from its College of Engineering<sup>35</sup> and Linda a Juris Doctor from the National Law Center.

8 March 1975: Henry and Linda were married in the Chapel of the Presidents, National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC, and honeymooned in Aruba.

May 1976: Henry and Linda bought and moved into a home at 11702 Devilwood Court, Potomac.

1976: Margaret, Henry's sister, moved to Hawaii and began using "Liang" as her first name.



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<sup>35</sup> Image is from the Final Examination announcement for Henry Ninghan Ho (18 December 1974).



16 December 1976: Jonathan Bryan Ho was born in Sibley Hospital in Washington, DC. In 1977, Henry and Jon accompanied Linda on business trips to New York City and Miami Florida.

August 1977: Henry, Linda and Jon vacationed in California and visited Steve Ho and his family.

5 June to 13 July 1978: Lien-Yu and Liang traveled to China. She wrote two articles about her observations from the trip.

1 January 1979: The United States recognized the People's Republic of China as the legitimate government of China.

April 1979: Henry, Linda and Jon vacationed in Orlando, visiting Disney World.

1 July 1979: Colleen Elizabeth Ho was born at Sibley Hospital.

August 1982: The 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Lien-Yu Ho and Yin-Hwa Ho was celebrated. *At left, bottom row:* Stephen, Jonathan, Linda, Colleen, Yin-Hwa Ho, and Lien-Yu Ho. *Second row:* Henry, Stephanie. *Back row:* Liang, Margaret Yunching, Barbara Ho, and Melissa Ho.



1981: Henry, Linda, and Colleen vacationed in Nova Scotia. Photo, bottom left. For this road trip, they borrowed a friend's pop-up camper and stopped in Delaware, Maine, several campgrounds in Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. Below, for readers' benefit, is an image of a pop-up camper like the one they used.



May 1982: Michael Ho graduated from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Lien-Yu, Yin-Hwa, Henry, Linda, Jon, and Colleen attended.

August 1983: Henry, Linda and the children again borrowed the pop-up camper and traveled to Martha's Vineyard, vacationing with their friends, Bill and Ruth Sherman, whose daughters Jessica and Audra were close in age to Jonathan and Colleen.



1984: The family joined Seven Locks Pool. Jonathan and Colleen became top swimmers on its team.

Spring 1985: The family drove to Disney World during spring break.

December 1985: Henry was diagnosed with lung cancer and received various treatments for the next year (recounted in a story by his wife Linda entitled **Losing Henry**).

May 1986: Michael Ho graduated from Washington University St. Louis. Henry attended.

October 1986: Henry retired from NRL. Colleagues held a retirement luncheon recognizing his service.

19 January 1987: Henry died at home in Potomac, Maryland. His obituary is on the next page.

8 February 1987: The memorial Service for Henry at the Geneva Presbyterian Church in Potomac, Maryland, fell on his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

June 1987: Linda, Jonathan and Colleen moved into a house at 11904 Gainsborough, Potomac.

August 1987: Lien-Yu, Linda, Jonathan, and Colleen traveled to China for four weeks.

17 August 1990: Linda met Carl Nelson.

July 1991: Linda, Jon, and Colleen, and Carl, Cassi, and Doug Nelson, moved into a house at 5605 Griffith Farm Road, Rockville, Maryland.

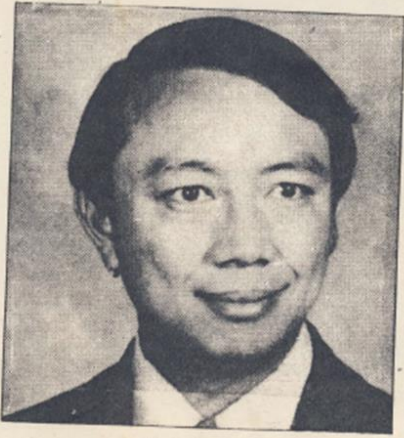
27 March 1992: Michael Ho, MD and Trang Cung, DDS, were married in Fort Bend County, Texas, followed by a reception in Washington, DC.

1 March 1994: Lien-Yu Ho died in the Washington DC Hospital Center.

13 July 1995: Through legal name changes, Jonathan Bryan Ho became Jonathan Bryan Horton. Colleen Elizabeth Ho became Colleen Elizabeth McKay Horton.

1 October 1996: Nicholas Ho was born in Houston, the son of Michael Ho and Trang Cung.

*Henry N. Ho, 49*



*Henry Ho*

Henry N. Ho of Potomac, an electrical engineer for the Naval Research Laboratory and an adjunct professor at George Washington University, is dead at the age of 49. Memorial services are scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 8, at 3 p.m., Geneva United Presbyterian Church, Seven Locks Road.

Dr. Ho was a native of Hankow, China, and his family came to Washington, D.C. in 1948.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Maryland, worked for the Naval Research Laboratory and in private industry for a number of years while earning his master's degree in electrical engineering in 1966 and his doctor of science degree in 1975, both from George Washington University.

He returned to the Naval Research Laboratory in 1974, specializing in research and development of naval space communications involving satellites and radar.

Author of numerous publications on communication, Dr. Ho received the Naval Research Laboratory's Research Publication Award in 1982. He retired last year, but continued as a consultant to the laboratory's space systems and technology division. He taught advanced engineering courses at George Washington University.

Dr. Ho was a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Sigma Xi and the Fraternal Order of Masons. He also found time to coach youth soccer and men's basketball teams in the area, and was a hunting, fishing, basketball, tennis and running enthusiast. As a member of the NRL Sea Dragons Karate Club, he earned a green belt.

Survivors include his wife, Linda Horton Ho, a son Jonathan and a daughter Colleen, all of Potomac; another son, Dr. Michael D. Ho of McLean, Va.; his parents, Lien Yu and Yin Hwa Ho of Washington, D.C.; a brother Stephen Ho of San Bernardino, Calif., and two sisters, Barbara Ho of Tucson, Ariz., and Margaret Ho of Honolulu.

Memorial contributions may be made to George Washington University or to the Montgomery Hospice Society.

*Potomac Almanac - page 10*

*January 28, 1987*



May 1999: Jonathan Horton and Elizabeth Pappas graduated from the University of Wisconsin.

10 November 1999: Lauren Ho was born in Houston, the daughter of Michael Ho and Trang Cung.

30 January 2001: Craig James Swink was born in Washington, DC, the son of James Swink and Colleen.

29 April 2001: Brian Ho was born, the son of Philip and Agnes Ho.

3 January 2002: Linda Horton retired from FDA and joined Hogan & Hartson as a partner.

May 2002: Colleen Horton graduated from Trinity University DC, in Washington.

24 October 2003: Samantha Ho was born, the daughter of Philip and Agnes Ho.



19 Dec. 2004: 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Yin-Hwa Ho. *On floor*: Brian Ho; William and Thomas Funkhauser; Nicholas and Lauren Ho; Craig Swink. *Seated*: Agnes Ho, holding Samantha; Linda Horton; her mother Marcia Horton; Yin-Hwa Ho; Helen Pan and her husband. *Front row, standing*: Gee Chek Lin; Chi Fong Lin; Colleen Horton; Chris Funkhauser and his wife, Tammy; Lynne Funkhauser, Stephen's long-time significant other; Jonathan Horton; Barbara Ho; Liang Ho; Julie and David Rao; Geeming Lin. *Back row, standing*: Philip Ho; Carl Nelson; Trang Cung; Michael Ho; Stephen Ho; Melissa, Stephanie, David Hathaway. Unknown friends were in front of Carl and Mike and nearest Christmas tree.

27 January 2005: Margaret Hathaway was born, daughter of Stephanie Ho and David Hathaway.



28 May 2005: Jonathan Horton and Elizabeth Pappas were married at his home in Rockville, Maryland.

25 August 2005: Yin-Hwa died in the Washington Hospital Center, Washington, DC.

14 March 2009: Calvin Alexander Day was born in DC, the son of Melissa Ho and Scott Day.

23 June 2009: Ryan Henry Horton was born in Milwaukee, the son of Jon Horton and Elizabeth Pappas.

30 April 2010: Linda retired from Hogan & Hartson and Carl from Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab.



30 July-1 August 2010: Linda and Carl hosted a family reunion. *Front row:* Carl's daughter Cassandra McLemore with Jocelyn; Samantha Ho; Logan McLemore; Brian Ho; Nicholas Ho; Colleen Horton; Melissa Ho with Calvin Day; Scott Day, Gary Lin. *Kneeling at left:* Florence Lin (2<sup>nd</sup> wife of Geeming); Stephanie Ho with Maggie Hathaway. *Seated:* Barbara Ho; Julie Rao; Linda Horton with Jon's son Ryan Henry Horton. *Kneeling 2<sup>nd</sup> row:* Elizabeth Pappas, David Hathaway. *Standing:* Geeming Lin, Philip and Agnes Ho; Liang Ho; Chi Fong Lin; David Rao, Jonathan Horton; Stephen Ho; Lynne Funkhauser; Michael Ho; Carl Nelson; Jim Jenkins.



20 May 2013: Cora Lu Fu Jia Ahn Day was born in Guangxi, China.



27 July 2013: Linda and Carl hosted a Ho family reunion, featuring a pool party and a banquet at the Hunan Palace in Gaithersburg. Right: Ryan, Elizabeth, Jon, Linda, and Colleen.

28 July 2013: Melissa Ho and Scott Day hosted a brunch. The younger generation (second cousins) got to know each other. Stephanie gave a fascinating presentation about ancestral locations and relatives in China. Later she added captions for a CD that Linda mailed to relatives. Stephanie, her husband David Hathaway, and their daughter Maggie were then living in Beijing.

*At right, on floor:* Stephanie Ho, Nicholas Ho holding Calvin Day, Melissa Ho, and Scott Day. *Seated:* Gary Lin, Craig Swink, Barbara Ho, Jonathan Horton, his wife Elizabeth Pappas, and Ryan Horton. *Standing:* Michael Ho, his wife Trang Cung, Colleen Horton, Lauren Ho, Linda Horton, and, in front of Linda, Maggie Hathaway.



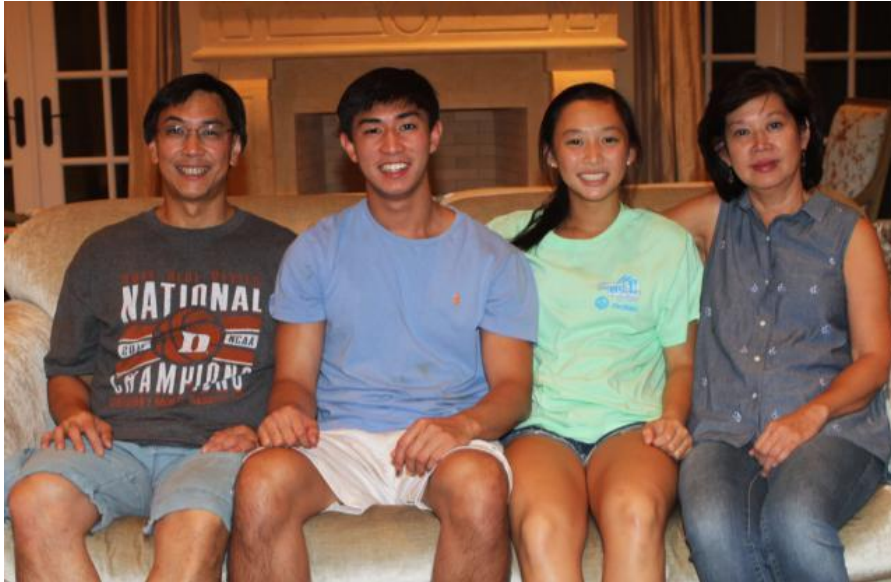
30 August 2014: Julie Fangming Ho Rao passed away in Fairfax County, Virginia. “Julie Fangming Ho Rao was born in Chungking, China on 11 April 1941, the only child of Dr. Yichun Ho and Ying-Hwa Chang. ... Julie attended school at Western High School, George Washington University,

Columbia Union University, and Rutgers University. After earning a master’s degree in human nutrition, she worked in various positions as a dietitian...”<sup>36</sup>

23 March 2015: This was “Gotcha Day” for Cora. She was officially family on March 24, 2015 and, with her parents and her brother Calvin, reached home in Washington, DC on April 2, 2015.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>36</sup> Her obituary was published at <http://national.tributes.com/dignitymemorial/obituary/Julie-Ho-Rao-101646367>

<sup>37</sup> Source: announcement sent by Melissa Ho and Scott Day. “Gotcha Day” is the anniversary of the day on which a person joins a family by adoption. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gotcha\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gotcha_Day)



2015: Michael, Nicholas, Lauren, and Trang were photographed at their home in Sugar Land, Texas.

May 2015: Henry's great grandson, Nicholas Ho, son of Michael Ho and Trang Cung, graduated from the Kinkaid School in Houston.

May 2018: Henry's great granddaughter, Lauren Ho, daughter of Michael and Trang, graduated from the Kinkaid School in Houston. That fall she started at Emory University.

May 2019: Nicholas graduated from Duke University with a major in public policy. One year later, he completed a master's in business administration (MBA) at Duke and accepted a position at Accenture.

May 2019: Henry's grandson, Craig Swink, graduated with honors from the Interlochen Academy for the Arts in Interlochen, Michigan. He won a scholarship to attend University of Michigan with a major in clarinet performance and began studies there in September 2019.

August 2020, at right: Colleen, Elizabeth, Ryan, Linda, Jon, and Craig vacationed in Dewey Beach, Delaware.



May 2021: Henry's great grandson, Ryan Henry Horton, son of Jonathan and Elizabeth, will complete the Cumberland Elementary School in White Fish Bay, Wisconsin and start middle school in fall 2021.

*Although his days on earth ended in 1987—more than a third of a century ago—Henry Ninghan Ho lives on through his children and grandchildren.*



Ho family locations in China:

Nanjing  
(Nanking)

