

BT FAMILY CHRONOLOGY

- 1918 Dad is born in St. Paul, Minnesota.
- 1943-44 Dad and Mom are married and move to Boston.
- 1946-59 Five children are born of the marriage: **Debby (b.1946)**, **Tony (b.1949)**, **Marina (b.1952)**, **Nick (b.1956)**, **Ben Jr. (b.1958)**.
- 1947 Dad is one of seven founders, along with Walter Gropius, of the Architects Collaborative (**TAC**), with offices in Harvard Square. Walter Gropius is a world famous educator and architect who had founded the Bauhaus, a school for artists that existed for about 10 years during the 1920's and 1930's in Germany. As a prominent member of the class of free-thinking artists persecuted by the Nazis, Gropius fled that country for the U.S. and is now teaching at the Harvard School of Design. Consistent with his philosophy of education, Gropius wants to practice, not just teach, the profession of architecture. The other founders of TAC are graduates of Yale Architectural School. They are all in their 20's, newly married and ambitious to learn at the knee of the Master.
- 1949 The six young partners in TAC purchase and develop land in Lexington as homesites for themselves and others. The community is known as **Moon Hill**, named after the location of the development. The homes are designed by TAC. The young TAC partners take up residence there, having children at the same time and raising their families in close proximity to each other.
- 1953 Dad is founder, president and 50% owner of Design Research (**D/R**), a modern furniture and furnishings store in Harvard Square. The store presents a new retail concept, selling products used in everyday life that have been designed by followers of the modern design movement. The concept behind D/R is the Gropius philosophy that art permeates and affects everyday life at all levels and that our physical environment should be beautiful, or at least well-designed.
- 1959 Dad and Mom purchase 5+ acres of waterfront property overlooking Barnstable Harbor (**Bluff Property**).
- Dad and Mom purchase an adjacent 2-acre parcel of waterfront property, also overlooking Barnstable Harbor (**Millett Property**).
- 1964 Walter Gropius is now Dean of the Harvard School of Design, and he appoints Dad as Chairman of the Department of Architecture.
- Dad meets **Jane McCullough** in connection with a TAC architectural project. Jane is a member of the School Board of Bennington, VT, and Dad is designing a public school in the town. Jane (**b.1924**) is five or six years younger than Dad.
- 1965-66 Dad leaves Mom and their five children in Lexington and moves, first, to the top floor of D/R and, later, to a rental apartment in Harvard Square.
- Debby is in college at Bennington. Dad makes Debby an unwilling participant in his affair with Jane. While at Bennington, Debby babysits for Allen and Sheila, and Mom takes Dad and Jane's behavior out on Debby. Debby is increasingly

upset with family relationships, feeling particularly that her mother is overbearing and is invading her privacy. She becomes estranged from Mom, Dad and her four siblings.

1966-67 Dad leaves TAC and starts his own architectural firm, Benjamin Thompson and Associates (**BTA**).

Dad is removed from his position at Harvard School of Design after faculty and students protest his lack of attention to teaching and administrative responsibilities.

Dad & Jane buy an historic waterfront weekend home in Newburyport, MA.

1968-69 The Bluff Property and Millett Property (**Barnstable Property**) are auctioned as part of Mom's and Dad's bitter divorce settlement; only Dad and Mom are permitted to bid, the idea being to keep the property in the family; Dad secretly uses Jane McCullough's money to outbid Mom but takes title to the Barnstable Property in his own name.

1969-70 Dad's and Mom's divorce is finalized.

Dad and Jane are married; Jane is Dad's fourth husband. She brings to the marriage (a) two children by her previous marriage: **Allen (b.1958) and Sheila (b.1960)**, and (b) two step-children by earlier marriages: **Gail (b.1945) and Jill (b.1954)**. Allen and Sheila move from Vermont to Cambridge to live with Dad and Jane (Gail is already an adult and living on her own; Jill remains with her father in Vermont).

Dad and Jane purchase, renovate and move into a double-townhouse near Harvard Square on **Willard Street**. They take ownership as tenants-by-the-entirety (so that if one of them should die, the survivor will automatically own 100% of the asset). It is not known how substantial renovations to this house were paid for.

Jane begins making independent real estate investments, including the purchase of the rental property next door to the Willard Street house.

Marina goes to school overseas for her senior year in high school.

Dad deeds the Barnstable Property to the Scudder Lane Trust (**SLT**); Dad and Jane each take a 50% stock ownership in SLT; this information is kept secret from the family generally, but it is disclosed in confidence to Debby and Tony during summer of 1970.

1970-71 D/R is struggling under Dad's benign neglect. Dad gets into a bitter legal dispute with a disgruntled investor and loses control of the company. In a rapid succession of transactions, the store is sold to Crate and Barrel.

BTA flourishes.

Marina spends a summer living at Willard Street, then gets an apartment in Cambridge.

Dad & Jane sell their historic waterfront home in Newburyport, MA.

1970's

Jane takes primary control of decisions regarding Thompson children's access to the Barnstable Property.

Dad and Jane are "functional alcoholics."

Jane is businesslike and a linear thinker; she has a temper and tends to see only one side of any argument. Dad is by nature an artistic person who avoids personal confrontation. Their relationship develops into one where Dad has broad freedom to be a creative thinker and designer, while Jane takes charge of everyday personal and financial matters.

Jane commissions estate lawyers to rewrite Dad's and Jane's wills; Jane handles the lawyer relationship and manages the decision-making process.

The Barnstable Property is maintained and improved generally by the Thompson children (other than Debby, who is absent except on rare occasions). The Thompson children are told that because of the divorce and alimony obligations, Dad is short of money. Barnstable becomes a "work camp" for them, and they are not welcome there unless they commit to work constantly to maintain and improve the property.

The Thompson children (other than Debby) are given heavy chore lists. As they mature into adulthood, they are expected to work full time on or at the property or to leave. When from time to time they do leave, even if for short periods, they are made to feel they have "abandoned their father." This "guilt trip" treatment is not used against the McCullough kids.

Tony spends two years between college and law school living and working on Cape Cod, but to avoid paying rent at the Barnstable Property he finds housing elsewhere in Barnstable. Tony leaves New England in 1973 to go to law school in Washington, DC. After law school, he starts his legal career, gets married and begins raising his family in Washington. On those occasions when he returns to the Barnstable Property, he is asked to work full time or to pay rent.

Marina goes to college in Ohio for five years. When she returns, she settles in the Boston area, becomes a commercial artist, gets married and raises her family. Marina spends time on Cape Cod, but decides that the atmosphere there is oppressive. She determines to make her own way and spends as little time in Barnstable as possible.

Nick goes to college in Rhode Island and becomes a graphic illustrator. From 1979-1991, he works for BTA and spends most of his summers and free time working at the Barnstable Property.

Ben Jr. goes to college in western Massachusetts, then attends architectural school in Minnesota. His summers are spent mainly on Cape Cod working at the Barnstable property. When he returns from Minnesota, he goes to work at BTA. Ben gets married in the mid-80's to an architect he has met in Minnesota. Both Ben is an employee at BTA from 1985-1999, and his wife is a BTA employee from 1985-1992 and again from 1996-2001.

Debby's estrangement continues.

Barnstable becomes a BTA annex and is now principally a place for client entertainment and presentations (household and garden employees are partially paid by BTA; BTA pays rent for use of an out-building as a "Design Studio").

Nick and Ben, as well as Tony, Marina and Debby, when there, are assigned duties, including maintaining gardens, keeping lawns mowed, painting and shingling houses, grocery shopping, meal preparation, maintaining BTA Design Studio and guest quarters for BTA employees and clients, helping produce slide shows. These duties extend throughout weekends and evenings, seven days a week. Summer days are often spent in the "Design Studio" working on BTA projects.

Allen and Sheila have free life styles, are financially independent, are not required to work at the Property, never work for BTA and, when they do visit the Cape, do only minimal labor (e.g., some washing of dishes and making their own beds). Allen spends one, unsuccessful, summer during the 1980's working at the Bluff with his then girl friend. The work proves too much for both of them.

1972 Jane has become a full-time BTA employee charged with the lead responsibility for marketing Dad's reputation and the firm's architecture. She assists Dad in the marketing effort by promoting his work in professional journals, entering BTA projects in design award competitions, traveling with Dad on business trips, writing letters and speeches for him, strategizing with him, and entertaining clients at Willard Street, at the Barnstable Property and on the road.

1974 Dad encumbers his farm land in Minnesota (**Minnesota Farms**), inherited after having been passed down through four previous Thompson generations. His and Jane's purpose is to start a restaurant named the **Harvest** in Harvard Square.

1976 The Harvest Restaurant opens in Harvard Square. In accordance with Jane's instructions, the stock is issued to Dad and Jane as joint tenants (so that if one of them should die, the survivor will automatically own 100% of the asset).

Jane spends most of her BTA work time on Harvest restaurant business.

Dad and Jane together take home from BTA between \$700,000 and 1,000,000 in annual income. No other architect at BTA earns more than \$250,000.

1975-76 The Rouse Company's project at Faneuil Hall/Quincy Market in Boston opens to public acclaim.

1980's Debby's estrangement continues.

The four younger Thompson children are made less and less welcome as visitors to the Barnstable Property.

Marina stays away, with the exception of one summer when she spends occasional weekends gardening with Dad. She brings food as her contribution. She and Dad have their own agenda, and Jane is not part of it.

Nick works at BTA as a graphic designer.

Ben Jr. works at BTA as an architect, accepting the relationship of working for

BTA as an employee as means of access to Bluff property.

Dad further encumbers the Minnesota Farms. The loan is now \$2 million and is used to expand the Harvest Restaurant and to finance three new restaurants and a bar that Dad and Jane plan to open at the Faneuil Hall/Quincy Market project (**Faneuil Hall Restaurants**).

BTA is thriving. Its most recognized projects are Rouse Company festival marketplaces in Boston, Baltimore, New York, Miami and Jacksonville; performing arts centers in Florida and Minnesota; a U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, Canada (never built); inner city commercial developments in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Jane purchases two investment apartments in New York. She has one renovated utilizing the services of a BTA architect.

1980-81 Dad and Jane open the Faneuil Hall Restaurants. Jane handles the legal work and, for the Harvest Restaurant, arranges for joint ownership between herself and Dad.

The new restaurants and bar are in immediate financial trouble. Jane devotes substantially all of her BTA work time to restaurant business.

1983 Tony becomes BTA's general counsel. He negotiates equity positions for BTA in public-private partnership redevelopment projects in Washington, DC; Dublin, Ireland; San Diego, CA; and Buffalo, NY. All but the Washington, DC project (known as **Union Station**) are halted before completion because of the real estate turn-down and economic recession of the late 80's.

1984 Dad has cataract eye surgery in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The old Cape Cod house located on the Mudgett Property burns to the ground. It is not replaced.

1985 The Ordway Music Theatre in St. Paul opens to national acclaim. At the opening, when the design team is thanked in the fully packed theatre, it is Jane who stands up and takes an "opera like bow" from a balcony box. Jane's interest in and contribution to the project has been minimal. The actual design team is sidelined, and it is Jane who jumps into the spotlight. This is behavior that becomes increasingly apparent as Dad's health declines and he determines to transfer the leadership of the firm to his employees.

Renovations begin on the main house on the Cape. BTA people work on this job. To assist on this project is BT Jr's first assignment on starting his architectural career at BTA. It is unknown how the substantial renovations were paid for.

1984-2002 Allen marries in the late 1980's and lives in Brooklyn, NY with his wife and one child.

Sheila lives in Jane's New York City apartment. She marries in the early 1990's and moves to Boulder, Colorado. She currently lives in Northampton, Massachusetts with her husband and their two children.

1985-86 Dad's health shows signs of failing. He is talking about retiring. Dad is seeing a

chiropractor, acupuncturist and eye doctor and taking regular physical therapy. Dad's primary doctor is Curtis Prout. Dr. Prout warns Dad that he is working too hard. Jane has no interest in retiring and continues to push Dad, burning the candle at both ends, drinking and eating heavily with him, not exercising.

BTA is elected "Firm of the Year" by the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Jane's hard work and talent as a promoter is attributable, in part, to this success.

Dad is trying to negotiate sale of BTA to the key members of his architectural team. Tony assists, as BTA's counsel.

1986-87 Dad asks Tony to advise him regarding will and estate planning issues. Dad tells Tony that his will is not favorable enough to his own five children. He constantly asks Tony to help him decide how he might make it more equitable to all his heirs and beneficiaries. His concern is that Jane has managed the process of drafting his will and trust, and that she will object to any change he might want to make. Dad hires **Steve Wolfberg, Esquire** of the Brown Rudnick law firm in Boston to help him negotiate with Jane and to redraft his will and trust.

1987-88 Dad allocates 82% of the equity interest BTA earned in Union Station among himself and four key members of his architectural team. The 18% balance of equity is allocated among about 15 other long term architectural employees of BTA. Dad allocates 41% to himself; Jane's share is about 1.5%. When a member of Dad's key architectural team leaves the firm, Dad offers this employee's 8.0% share to Tony; Jane is furious and demands that, rather than Tony, she be given the 8.0%; Dad refuses her, saying she is not a key employee; Tony turns down the 8.0% interest as inappropriate because BTA's compensation for his work as outside counsel should run to his law firm, not to him personally; Dad keeps the 8.0% for himself, telling Jane that she will share with him as his wife, not as a key BTA employee. The fact that the two fight over this issue becomes generally known at BTA.

Dad and Jane are smitten by the energy, business prowess, leadership ability and aggressiveness of a young architect, new to BTA, named **Ben Wood**. Ben Wood is generally recognized as a brown-nose of the first order. Notwithstanding (or perhaps because of this attribute), Ben Wood manages to influence major decisions at BTA and the restaurants. He is incorporated into Dad's and Jane's personal and professional lives as a confidante and advisor.

1988-89 Because of disclosures made in the process of marketing BTA to its employees, Jane's high salary is now known to the prospective purchasers, the five to ten members of BTA's key architectural team. These architects also know that Jane has been concentrating almost full-time on personal restaurant business, as the Faneuil Hall restaurants have become a serious financial drain. Jane's high salary, her aggressive personality, and Ben Wood's sudden rise in influence create resentment and jealousy throughout the firm, and particularly among the key members of the BTA design team.

Dad hires a financial consultant by the name of Judy Ludwig to "help me find my money." He is concerned, he tells people, that Jane may be using his money to

pay for all joint expenses and investments while leaving her own substantial reserve of free cash untouched.

Bruno D'Agostino, the senior member of BTA's architectural team, loyal and talented, leaves the firm. Bruno departs stating that he recognizes that Jane and Ben Wood have effectively blocked his career path and his future as a potential owner of BTA.

Bruno leaves after Dad turns down his buyout offer. His offer would have made him sole proprietor. Dad wants a collaborative group, saying he does not think any of his subordinates had the ability to lead successfully.

Jane takes credit in *Architecture* magazine for being the "Project Designer" of a major BTA project in Manhattan named South Street Seaport. Jane is not an architect, never went to design school and was not the Project Designer of that or any other BTA project.

Phil Loheed, another key, long term, loyal and talented member of BTA's architectural team, leaves the firm. Phil does not leave by choice. Rather, he is forced out in a show of force by Ben Wood and Jane.

1989 Dad is tired, overextended and in failing health. He wants to spend more time on the Cape, and to retire as soon as possible

Jane and Ben Wood are working long hours, trying to land big projects in Japan and elsewhere. The Japanese client wants to make sure it is hiring "Benjamin Thompson," himself and not one of his subordinates or self-appointed successors.

Jane and Ben Wood persuade Dad to travel with them to Japan to meet the prospective client. While there, Dad suffers a stroke (**1989 First Stroke**).

Jane interprets Dad's first stroke as a problem with his tooth. She sends him to a dentist only in Japan. Dad doesn't see an appropriate doctor regarding the stroke for days.

Dad is flown home and admitted directly into Mass General Hospital. After discharge, he is admitted to Uvill Rehabilitation Hospital in Cambridge.

1989-91 Dad is in rehabilitation for much of this time. He is focusing on recovering from his stroke. He also spends substantial time on the Cape.

Ben Wood forms an overt alliance with Jane and has a heavy influence on BTA decisions regarding design philosophy, promotion, hiring and firing, and related business matters.

Jane asks Dr. Prout to issue an opinion that Dad is not competent to manage his own affairs. She wants a power-of-attorney. Dr. Prout denies the request.

Notwithstanding the denial, Jane is effectively handling all of Dad's financial decisions.

Dad, recovering and confused, goes to the office only for important design reviews and meetings. He tries to speed the process of his phasing out of BTA. A power struggle ensues among BTA principals, as Jane and Ben Wood take

sides against the others.

1990-91

The various restaurants begin to be sold, and the process continues over the period of about two years. The success of Harvest is balanced against the failure of the Faneuil Hall restaurants, and Dad and Jane actually come out slightly ahead. At settlement, Jane and Dad receive a promissory note in an unknown amount (**Harvest Note**). Jane arranges for the note to be issued to the two of them as joint tenants.

Steve Wolfberg handles the legal work to accomplish a transfer of Dad's Minnesota Farms to the five Thompson children. For tax reasons, the conveyance is designed to take place over a period of five or six years. The farms are still encumbered by the restaurant loan, however, and Jane agrees to pay the loan down to \$300,000 (an amount that she claims represents what Dad borrowed to build the family home in Lexington in 1949 and to start D/R in 1953).

1991-92

Dad is living on the Cape, for the most part, finally relaxing. He is beginning to see Jane and Ben Wood as adversaries, and he wants to do something about it. He confides in Tony and others that he would like to get a divorce. He hires **Betsy Doris** and family friends to help establish an outpost at the Barnstable Property. He actively maintains a distance from Cambridge, BTA and Jane.

Nick moves to Barnstable Property, where he lives with and helps care for Dad.

BTA staff visits the Cape from time to time for marathon design sessions.

Dad is awarded the AIA Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Architecture. Dad and Jane visit the White House and attend a Kennedy Center Award presentation. Dad and Jane are pictured with Barbara Bush.

Nick drives Dad and Betsy from the Barnstable Property to Logan Airport. They meet Steve Wolfberg at the airport, and Dad executes a revised will (**1992 Will**) on the roof of his car before boarding an airplane to Minnesota or Ft. Lauderdale with Betsy. A BTA employee also witnesses the signing. Dad becomes infatuated with Betsy, who is approximately 30 years younger than he. Dad travels with Betsy back and forth to Cambridge, Minnesota, Ft. Lauderdale, on BTA business and fun.

Dad focuses his life on design and gardening.

Jane works and travels with Ben Wood. The two are known to be having an affair. They leave BTA and form the **Thompson & Wood Design Group**.

BTA continues with **Hank Haff, Tom Green and Mac Freeman** as its principals.

Baybank forecloses on BTA's equity line of credit. Jane pays off \$135,000 by investing Allen's and Sheila's trust funds, on the condition that BTA sign over to her in return \$275,000 worth of the firm's equity interest in the Union Station project.

Jane and Ben Wood end their affair.

1993-94

Dad and Jane continue to fight. Dad tells Jane that he has changed his will. Jane tells Dad he cannot attend Sheila's wedding unless he changes the will back to reflect its previous intent. She also threatens to "put him out on the street" if he doesn't change the will back.

Dad relents. He goes to Sheila's wedding. Dad and Jane reconcile. Dad returns to Cambridge to live in his and Jane's home on Willard Street off of Harvard Square. Dad is fully retired, slow and in poor physical condition.

Jane continues to work at Thompson & Wood and to manage Dad's finances. She is typically away from home for 8-12 hours per day, 6-7 days per week. Also, she travels out of town several days per week, often staying out for dinner, leaving Dad alone most of the time.

Nick moves to Belmont from Cape and spends hours per day with Dad in Cambridge keeping him company while Jane is at work or away on travel. Nick comes to the house every day to find Dad in his bathrobe. Nick helps Dad take showers and forces Dad to get dressed. The process is painfully slow.

Dad is depressed and is taking anti-depressant medication. It is believed that Dad and Jane are in psychological counseling together.

Thompson & Wood is dissolved. Jane starts her own firm named the **Thompson Design Group**.

Dad tells Tony that Jane has discovered that he changed his will in 1992. Jane becomes furious, according to Dad. He says that "she rants and rails against me constantly, every day, whenever she's home." Jane threatens to leave Dad if he doesn't "correct the situation" by revising his will again to reinstate its previous provisions. Dad agrees to do as she insists, but he somehow never gets around to it. Jane continues, he says, to badger him and to be outraged.

1994

In May 1994, while Jane is in New York on a week-long business trip, Dad is discovered by the gardener in a semi-conscious state under the table on the kitchen floor.

In the hospital emergency room, Nick takes a call from Jane and relays her the news from doctors that Dad has suffered a massive stroke, is paralyzed on his left side, and may not survive (**1994 Second Stroke**).

Nick informs Jane that she should get home from New York as soon as possible. Jane responds to Nick, "Damn it. I have a big fire going on down here." Jane remains in New York for her meeting and returns late that evening.

Dad is in Intensive Care for 3-4 weeks. Then, he moves to a standard hospital room for another 3-4 weeks. From there, he is admitted to Uvill Rehabilitation Hospital and remains there for approximately two months.

Jane continues to work long hours and to travel.

Dad's second stroke spurs Debby to make peace overtures to Dad and Jane.

1994-95

Jane obtains a power of attorney with respect to Dad's financial affairs.

Dad is now at home. He is completely paralyzed on his left side and is bedridden. He is under 24 hour-a-day nursing care. He is mentally weak, not able to concentrate or speak much more than a sentence at a time. He is unable to reason well. He does not understand simple arithmetic problems. But as his post-stroke mental fog begins to lift, he understands much of what is going on around him, shows regularly that his sense of humor is intact and watches CNN on the television all day long.

Dad's hearing, which has been weak for years, is now almost completely gone. He can hear only with the use of expensive, sophisticated hearing aids that utilize leading edge technology.

Dad also has tunnel vision. He can see only through a narrow passageway of light.

In late 1994, Dad asks Tony to review the substantive changes that Jane is seeking in the form of a new revision in his will and trust. He says he cannot understand them very well, even though Jane has asked Steve Wolfberg to represent dad's interests. The modifications include an outright gift to Jane of 50% of Dad's interest in Union Station, as well as a life interest in the income from an additional 25% of Union Station. The 1992 Will had provided that Jane would receive no percentage of Union Station outright and a lifetime interest in 50% of its income.

1995

Early in the year, Jane and Tony correspond about how the Cape property might be equitably transferred to the seven Thompson and McCullough children. Although Jane does not immediately cut off all efforts to talk through the subject, she raises as a precondition that she be indemnified and released from all claims that the Thompson children might bring against her. She insists on getting the release before disclosing her and Dad's financial records relating to the history of the Cape Cod property. The Thompson children respond that the desire for a release is understandable but that a release is appropriate only after they understand what rights they might be waiving. They say they would like to see the financial records before agreeing to the release. Jane refuses this request, and discussions regarding the Bluff Property abruptly end.

Tony and Nick visit Dad to discuss the revised will. On the surface, Dad takes Jane's side, stating that there is nothing he can do because Jane will not budge. He says to Tony, "Who's going to take care of me -- Nick?" Under his breath Dad tells Tony and Nick that he understands how they must feel, but "please don't do anything while I'm still alive." He also says, "I don't want a war with Jane. It would kill me." He says that Jane's "ranting and raving," her "screaming," her "pounding the table" and her "threatening to leave him" were more than he could handle. He tells Tony that Jane's anger and threatening behavior, in his opinion, is what had brought on his second stroke and that he was in no position to do anything about it.

According to Dad's physical therapist and others who know him, Dad is very depressed during this period, principally because of the bleak prognosis of his physical condition..

Tony, Marina, Nick and Ben consult among themselves and decide that it might be appropriate, given Dad's weak health and state of mind, to compose a letter to Allen and Sheila. The letter would say that the four Thompson children (not including Debby) consider the revised 2/95 Will to be different from what Dad really wanted, not to mention unfair, and that perhaps the six of them should discuss together whether there might be a way to rectify the situation. The letter is written by Tony, Marina, Nick and Ben and is sent to Allen and Sheila.

Allen and Sheila do not respond. Rather, Jane delivers a scathing reply to the four Thompson children.

Five days later, on April 21, Dad signs a new will and trust (**4/95 Will**) prepared by his lawyer, Steve Wolfberg. Like the 1992 Will, the 2/95 Will names Jane and Tony as co-executors and co-trustees.

Debby sides with Jane and the McCulloughs and writes an accusatory letter to her siblings, saying that "the disposition of Dad's estate is none of our business" (this being, essentially, a restatement of Jane's position). After dad's death, Debby says that she was "manipulated" into writing this letter and that did not represent her true position.

Tony is considered by Jane to be the instigator of this family trouble. Jane tells family members and friends, including Dad, Allen, Sheila and Debby, that Tony is threatening to file a lawsuit against her. Dad is influenced by what Jane says and expresses anger at Tony (and Nick, to a lesser extent) for upsetting his marriage and for being selfish and ungrateful.

In October, Nick pays an impromptu visit to the uninhabited Bluff Property. He discovers there a crew of surveyors measuring the property. On questioning, the surveyors say that they have been hired by Jane Thompson.

Dad confides to Marina that Jane had threatened "to put him out on the street" if he didn't sign the revised 2/95 Will.

Dad signs a will codicil in December (**12/95 Codicil**). It contains only two provisions – the first removes Tony as co-executor and replaces him with Ben Jr.; the second is an *in terrorem* provision. This codicil is not disclosed to the Thompson children until Dad is dead.

1996

In January, Dad writes a letter to his four unhappy children asking them to accept the position that he has taken in his 2/95 Will, to make peace with Jane and to respond to "Debby's" letter. This letter from Dad appears to have been written and typed by Jane.

Two days later, Jane announces in a letter that "she and Dad" have decided, together, that they will reestablish "one acre" of the old Millett Property in Barnstable as a buildable lot. The purpose is to increase the overall value of the Bluff Property and to increase sale options. The Thompson children make no written objection.

Jane spends Christmas through New Year's in Paris. This is a last minute trip that leaves Dad alone over the Holidays. Jane lets Nick know of her travel plans only

at the last minute. She expresses anger that "none of the Thompson children visit their father as often as they should" and says that this is a chance for them to spend Christmas with him.

Ben and Allen attempt mediation to help resolve family differences. The effort does not bear fruit.

In August, Jane writes to say that she will build a new home on the old 1.2-acre Millett site. She makes no pretense of consulting with Dad about her plans.

1996-97 Jane's Thompson Design Group revises an earlier design and builds a new house on the Millett Property. She claims to use her own money to finance the construction.

1997 Jane announces in a letter that she and Dad have decided to deed the Millett Property, with its new house, from the SLT to themselves, individually, as tenants by the entirety.

In 1997, there is ongoing angry correspondence between Jane and Tony regarding the disposition of the Cape property and other family subjects. Jane continues to seek a release from all legal claims, which Tony says will be considered but only after full disclosure.

Tony also corresponds with Debby in an effort to bridge the gap. Debby reiterates what is basically Jane's position, saying that Tony is spearheading family strife. She says, "I have made (continue to make) bonds with those in the family that treat me like family, and not necessarily with those who are blood relatives." The letters accomplish nothing.

Dad also writes to his four alienated children during this time period, expressing what seems to be genuine confusion about their lack of understanding about family matters.

During a pleasant visit by Tony and Nick at Willard Street, Dad says he is afraid of Jane and wishes things were not the way they are. Several days later, back home in Washington, Tony receives a "message to Tony" dictated to and typed by Jane on Dad's letterhead. It refers to things said by both Nick and Tony in the visit at Willard Street. It says, among other things, "don't come see me again. You are like an evil cloud over my bed, over our lives. I cannot have people in my house (least of all children) talking and thinking this way about me and my wife." A few weeks later, Dad denies to Nick that he wrote such words. In a conciliatory letter to Tony typed by a non-family member, he says "I have told Nick several times that my letter at that time was written but not typed by me."

1998 Jane announces a gift to the Thompson children of stock in a technology company that is about to go public. The gifted stock she says, has been paid for by Dad. She says that she owns an equivalent amount of the stock, paid for from her own funds. Over the next year, the gift of technology stock turns out to be exceptionally valuable, as the stock value appreciates rapidly and significantly before collapsing with other technology stocks in the year 2000. Jane owns approximately twice as much stock as the Thompson children combined. It is

- unclear whose money was used to buy this stock
- 1998-99 Dad spends two summers at Jane's new house. He is able to sit in a wheelchair. He occupies himself by painting watercolors and feeding birds. He has visits from old and new friends and seems relatively happy. Dad proudly displays his watercolors in the summer of 1998 at an art gallery on Cape Cod.
- Dad spends the fall, winter and spring of 1998 and 1999 at home in Cambridge.
- 1999 Dad becomes psychologically unstable and is admitted for a month to the Psychology Ward of Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge. He recovers and returns home.
- Dad loses his physical ability to talk and to carry on conversations.
- Jane instructs caregivers to have all visitors (including Dad's children) "sign in when they visit Dad." She is of the mistaken belief that his children are not visiting him at all. In truth, the children are visiting when she is not present, and they are not signing in.
- 1999-00 Dad develops serious and painful bowel problems that, because of his weak condition, are potentially life threatening. Nick takes Dad to the hospital for tests and treatment and was joined by Ben and his wife. Jane is out of town and remains there.
- Doctors inform Nick that an operation is inadvisable because it would risk dad's life. Jane, who is still on her business trip, nonetheless wants Dad to have the operation and expresses anger when Nick relays the news to her that the doctors refuse to proceed.
- Nick learns that Jane is investing in luxury condominiums in Cambridge and Boston. Hired help is cleaning the condos, moving furniture from the Cambridge house and the Cape into and out of the condos.
- 2000 Dad's sight entirely leaves him. He is too frail to travel to Barnstable. His speech is impaired enough to make it difficult for others to understand what he is saying. He utters only a single phrase or a few words at a time. One cannot tell whether he knows who is in the room with him or whether he can comprehend what people are trying to say to him. Often he does not respond to questions.
- Dad signs an amendment to the 1995 Trust Agreement (**2000 Trust Amendment**). Neither Dad's lawyer nor his doctor are consulted. None of the Thompson children (not even Debby) is made aware of the amendment. Under the amendment, Tony is removed as co-trustee and replaced by Debby. Other changes favorable to Jane and her children are made.
- 2000-01 Dad and Jane are knighted by the Finnish government (**Award of the Knight**). The award arises out of Dad's contribution to the broad acceptance of Finnish design – particularly Finnish furniture, furnishings and fabrics. The award is a recognition of Dad's accomplishments through D/R and the interior design work of BTA. It is unclear, especially to the Finns, why Jane is being knighted. She has had nothing to do with the founding or operations of D/R or with BTA's

interior design work. But she has orchestrated the award.

Jane continues to work and travel extensively. Dad's health and state of mind continue to deteriorate. He is left in the almost exclusive care of his care-givers.

2002

Dad contracts pneumonia in the spring and almost dies. Again, Jane is away when it happens. Nick takes Dad to the hospital for tests and diagnosis.

Dad dies on Saturday, August 17, 2002.

That morning, Jane asks for the Thompson children's fax numbers. She sends out legal documents regarding Dad's estate. She then leaves for a long-planned, week-long trip Aspen, Colorado.

Memorial Service is held September 8, 2002.