

## My Dad's Earthly Afterlife

smoking was not blamed  
no one knew it was cancer  
that was killing him

coughing up dark blood  
he got sick in mid-winter  
did he see ahead?

I am his youngest  
us kids stayed with Grandmother  
to shield us, I s'pose

last time I saw him  
snaked tubes in oxygen tent  
he was not moving

and then he was gone ...  
glimpsed in wistful, wishful dreams  
he still breathes in me



Photo: J. W. Dana (12/14/1874 – 4/22/1955) with family, 11 June 1952

Created: 25 December 2021



[dandana.us/poems](http://dandana.us/poems)