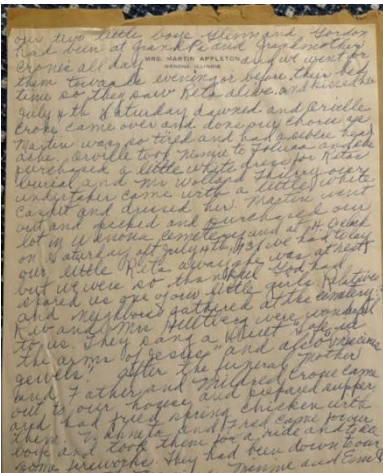


September 2026 This old chair.



My Grandma Appleton was the O.G. writer in our family. She didn't write stories or books. She wrote to help herself process life. Before journaling was a thing, words spilled from her yellow pencil onto the pages of letters and any available paper. Her handwriting still brings evokes memories, and the woman did not waste a spot of white space! She poured out her worry over her WWI beau, who became my grandpa, her Depression scarcity, her two sons serving in WWII. This page I've included references her twin girls, my mom, Greta, and her sister, Rita, who lived only a day. Dozens of spiral notebooks were filled with whatever occupied Grandma's mind, with a golden sentence about an ancestor's lineage lined up next to a notation that Del Monte creamed corn had been on sale that day for eleven cents. And she pasted-in the receipt.

Grandma wrote from this old chair I'm sitting in. It's a good spot for a new photo for my upcoming book, *The Voices of Roanoke Island*, due out next May from Cynren Press. This sturdy mission oak chair snuggled up to the dining room table and was occasionally dragged to the sturdy black telephone that perched in the corner. Many Sundays, before my toes could touch the ground, I sat in this chair and ate some righteous cast-iron-skillet fried chicken with angel food cake for dessert.



I like to think that Grandma would appreciate my writing, since I love bringing history to life and her generation saw a lot of it. She would have known Gene Hambleton, the hero in *Finding Bravo*, available now from BookPress Publishing. And while I opt for a comfier seat these days, I still love this old chair.

Have a relaxing sit in your favorite chair!
Gail



FINDING BRAVO: THE GREATEST RESCUE IN AIR FORCE HISTORY, is **now available at [Bookpress Publishing - Gail Bradburn](#)**. A huge shoutout to illustrator Michelle Rouch, who has created fantastic watercolor pages that will make you feel the humidity of the Vietnamese jungle and hear the thump of the helicopters.