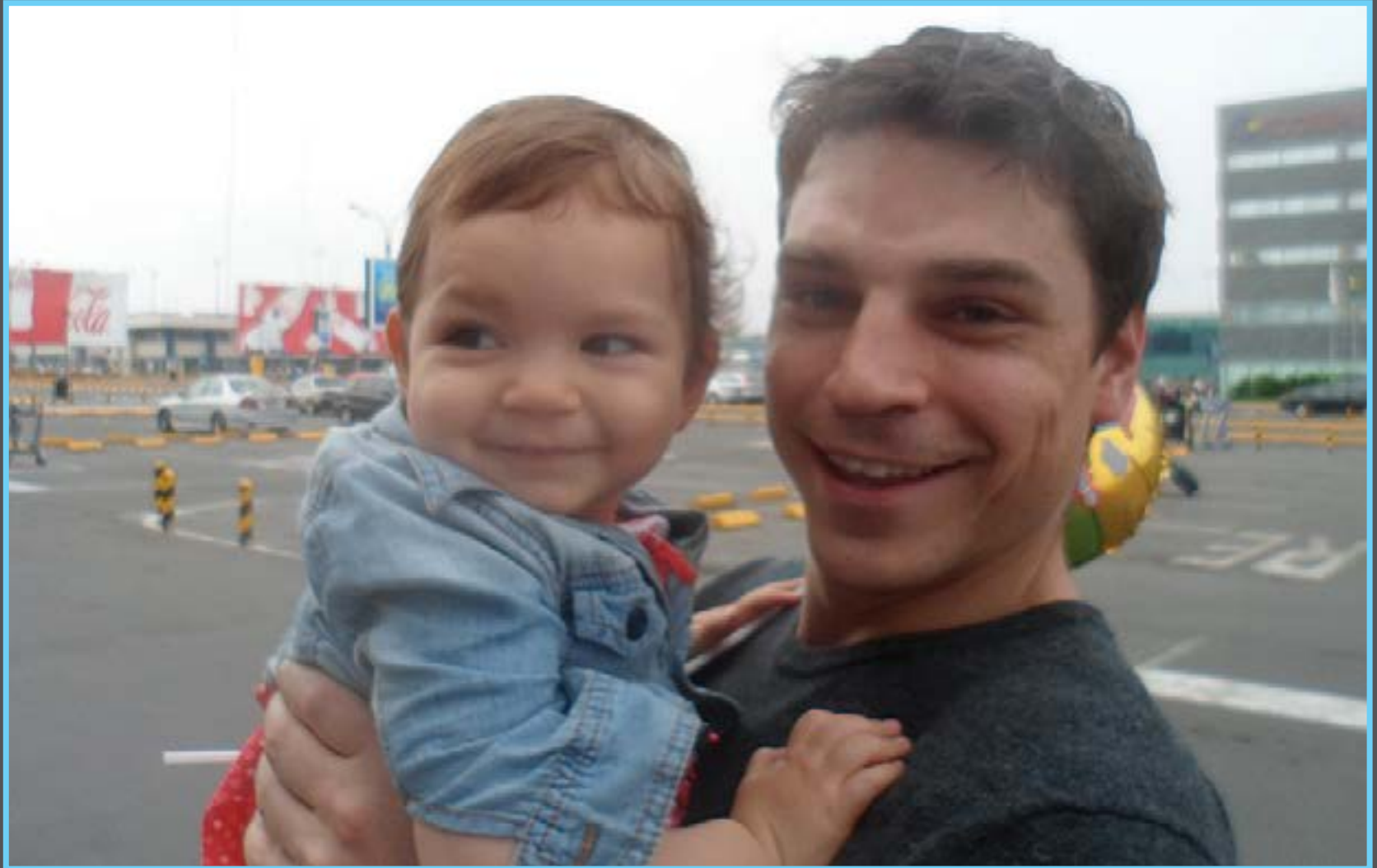


Benjamin's Book

A photographic history, part one, 1985-2014



Your life as Benjamin Christopher Locke began on July 11, 1985, at Valley Hospital in Palmer, Alaska. Your entry into the world was slow-going, but both parents managed to survive the intense experience. You weighed a solid eight pounds, 12 ½ ounces and measured 21 ½ inches in length. Pictures following the birth showed your father seemingly more worn out than your mother.

You had some initial problems getting used to nursing, but then turned out to be quite an eater when you got the hang of it. By August 1986 your mother wrote your father's mother, GranAd: "He seems like such a big boy now, walking and running, and pointing to things he wants, and understanding words like horsie, and ball, and bed, milk, house, and imitating us when we talk. He is a real handful, much more active and vocal than Holly was at one year, and infinitely more rebellious and stubborn."

Some of your first words were "Bon Jovi," who was on the cover of *Rolling Stone* magazine. You called our dog, Sam, Gocks (instead of Gomps), and Gomps was a shortened form of Samuel P. Gompers, a union leader whose name was used by your father to lengthen Sam's name.

Your brother, David Neely Locke, followed, on March 12, 1987, also at Valley Hospital. In September 1987, your mother wrote GranAd: "Benjie got his first haircut (after these pictures) and has the vocabulary, intelligence and physical build of a 3 year old. Each day there is more interaction between Benjamin and David and it is so cute to observe." Your mother sometimes called you ficus Benjaminus (after a plant). Your father sometimes called you Monks, possibly morphed from a French version of your name.

In October 1987, you moved to Denver from Alaska. The next month, your mother wrote GranAd: "Benjamin is always running over [David] or trying to pick him up and then dropping him unceremoniously on the floor but he tolerates it pretty well." In March 1991 you had a new 20-inch Roadster bicycle without training wheels that you learned to

ride in two days. You started first grade at St. Vincent De Paul that fall, and your father wrote GranAd: "Benjamin is enjoying first grade, including chasing girls at recess."

In May 1994 your father wrote GranAd: "David and Benjamin had big weekends in soccer, each scoring several goals. ... The following weekend they start with the Skyline swimming team and they'll both be playing baseball too." In 1995, your mother wrote that you had the third-highest reading vocabulary score in your class. In November 1996, you, 11, and David, 9, were getting your best-ever report cards. That Halloween you went as Bob Dole, with pen in hand, and you kept asking people to vote.

Christmas letters in the following years documented your activities. 1996: "David (9) and Benjamin (11) have been earning accolades from their teachers and [in their] sports triumphs. They are swimming year-round and also now playing indoor soccer and basketball." Clover, the parakeet, had died and Suki, the adopted Sharpei, didn't work out.

1997: You and David started ice hockey. You, 12, dropped soccer and picked up lacrosse and were becoming a computer whiz. Not noted in the letter was the trip to Washington, D.C., with GranAd. 1998: You were taking a course in Java programming at Emily Griffith Opportunity School and wowing the adults there. You were still playing the clarinet and had gone horseback riding twice with the family in South Park. On one horseback riding adventure, you wanted to gallop and fell off, but it didn't faze you. 1999: You were 14, 5'11," with a size 11 shoe. You made second honor roll and went with us to Boston and Cape Cod.

2000: You learned to drive and gave your father gray hairs in the process. You were 6'1" and 190 pounds, with a size 12 shoe. Not noted in the letter was the trip to New York with GranAd.

2001: You were in the mock trial club at Regis and went with the family to California, where we visited potential colleges. We had a side trip to Mexico.

2002: A senior, you had left Regis Jesuit and were finishing your high school career at East High School, where you played rugby. You had worked that summer at the Denver Zoo renting strollers.

2003: You went to Alaska with the family and gained some weight as a freshman at CU Boulder. 2004: You had three female housemates and plans to study in China and took 19 hours in one semester. 2005: You were in your third year at CU, with plans to go to China in the fall. Your parents had moved to Pine from Denver and bought horses.

2006: You were in China and about to return for two weeks around Christmas to Denver and Dallas. 2007: You returned to CU in the fall to finish up and graduated in December with two degrees, one in political science and one in Chinese.

2008: You returned from China for your brother's funeral.

2009: You were selling real estate projects around the world for Elite Investment Group.

2010: You had eight months of adventures in South America and two months in Sri Lanka with a great job lined up in real estate on your return.

2011: Your daughter, Olivia, was born on Aug. 20 to Lucia Bazan in Peru.

2012: You and Englishwoman Charlotte "Charlie" Middlehurst visited Colorado during the summer.

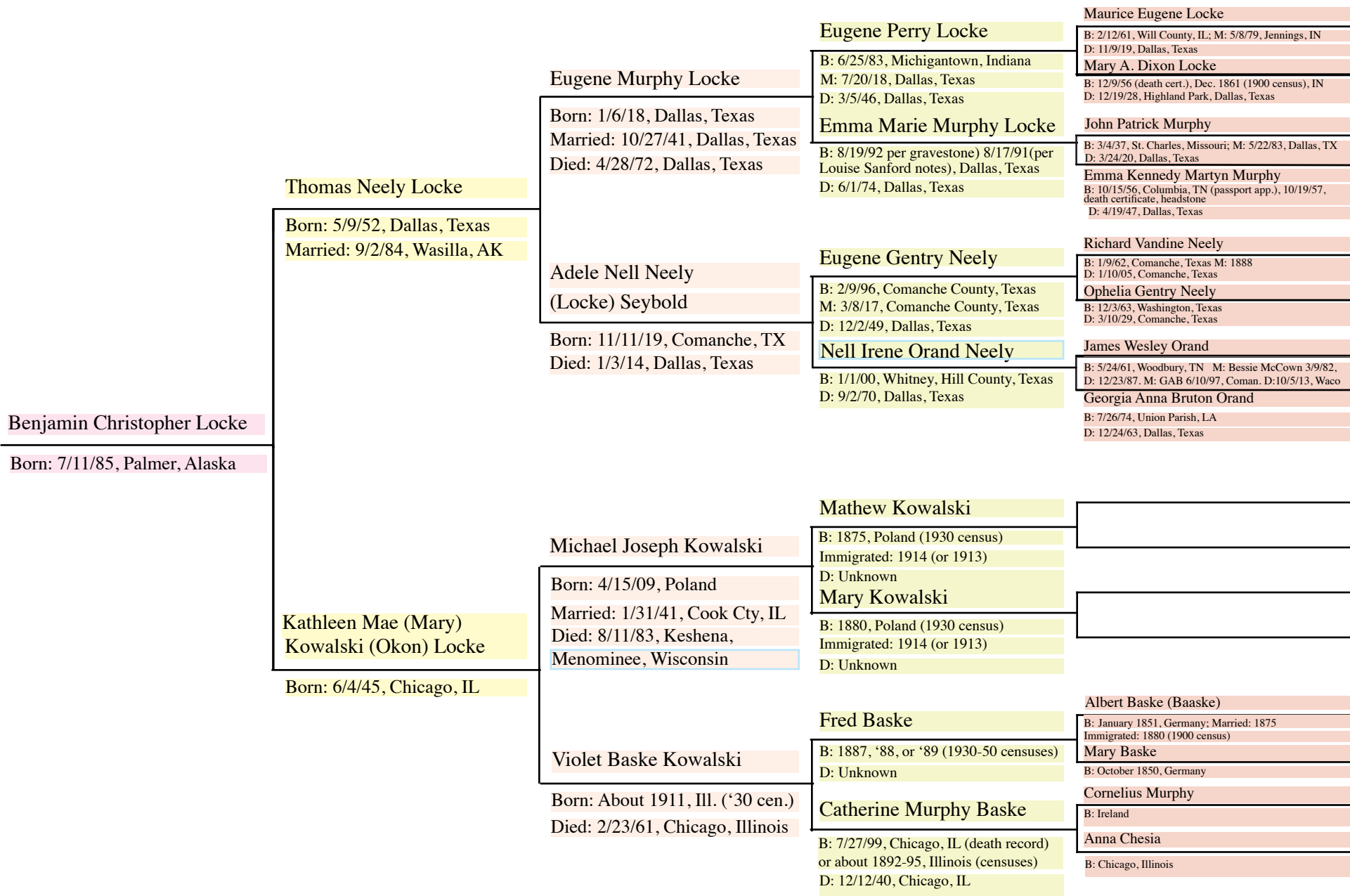
2013: You and your parents visited Peru in late 2012, early 2013, to see Olivia and her family.

2014 (letter not yet written): It will note your visiting Dallas with Charlie for Christmas 2013, GranAd's stroke on Christmas Eve, and her death in January.

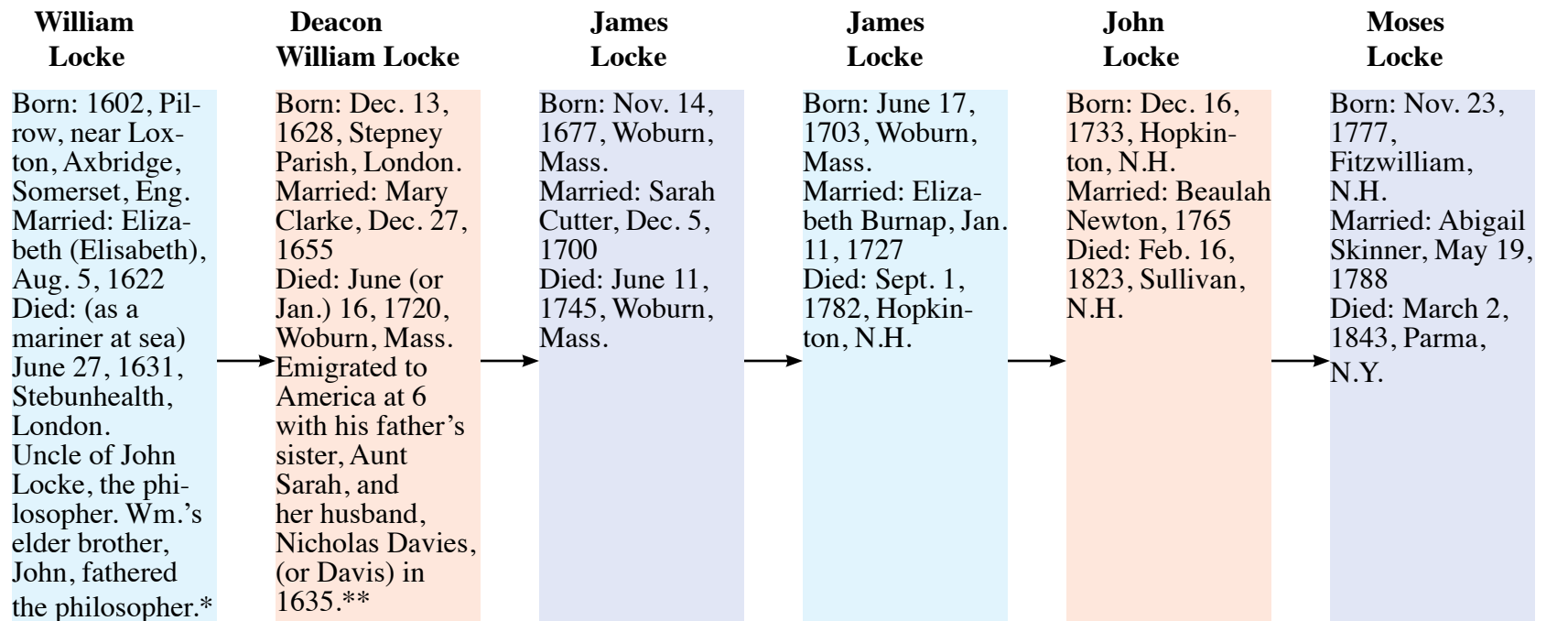
Of course there is much missing, such as your escapades with 9-Carrot-Carrot videos, Benny Lake and Moses, your film with Gabe, and much, much more. And there's lots more to come in your adventures. We're with you all the way.

Mom and Daddy

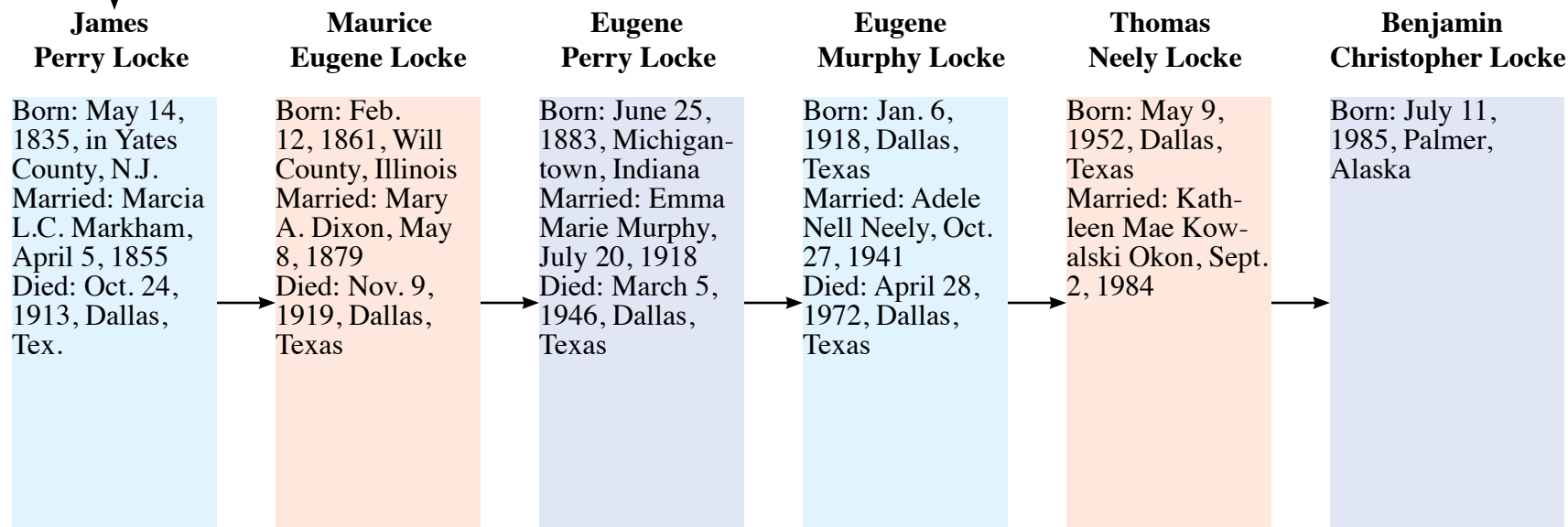
Cover photo: You and Oli right after we arrived at the Lima Airport in December 2012.



Note: Dates are listed by month, then day, then year.

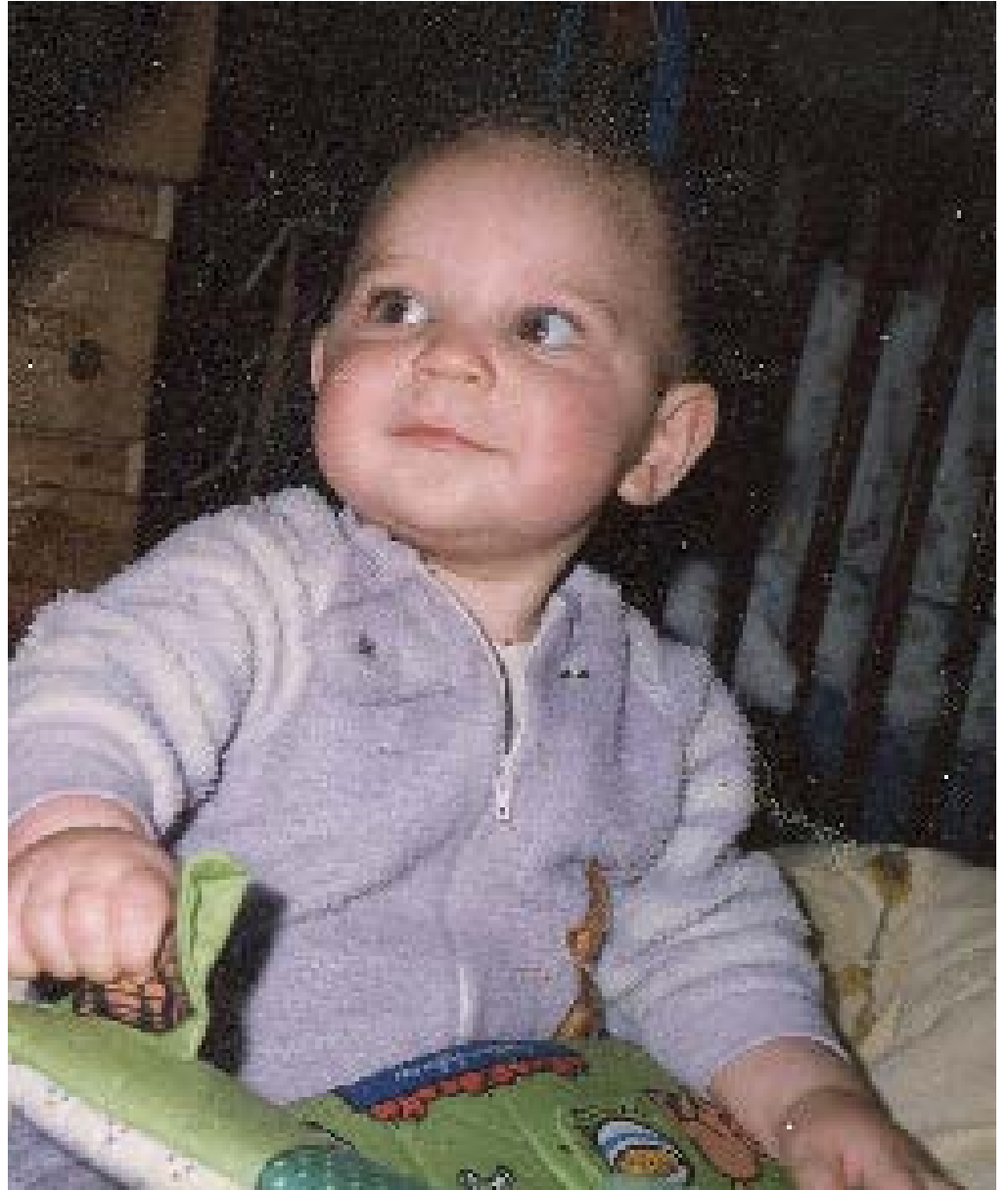


Benjamin Locke's tie to John Locke, the philosopher



*Source: RootsWeb (ancestry.com) Contact jim.weber@nwintl.com. The philosopher was born Aug. 29, 1632. His father, also named John, was baptized Aug. 1, 1595. The father of William and John was Christopher Locke, born about 1570 in Pilrow near Loxton, Axbridge, Somerset, England. Christopher married Elizabeth Salter, who was born in 1604 in London, Middlesex, England. **Source: Ancestry.com (Marie Kathleen Meixner family). The three came on the ship Planter, which left London April 2, 1635. Arrived in Boston June 7, 1635.

Note: Much of this was compiled by John Patrick Locke, Thomas Neely Locke's brother, for the family reunion of June 6, 1982, in Dallas.



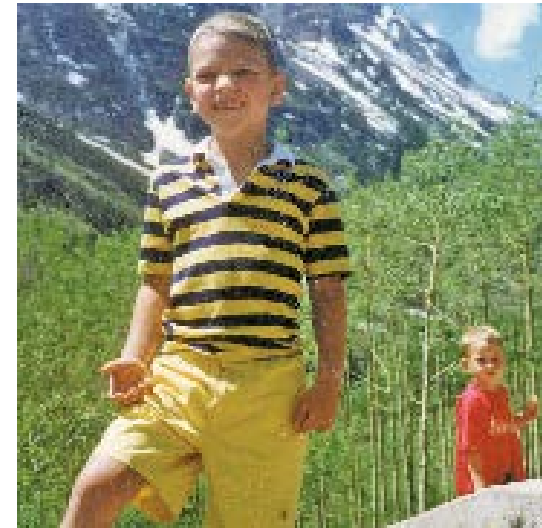
The world seemed to look a little scary after your birth in Palmer in 1985 (left), but after awhile your smile was bringing a special warmth to our little Alaskan cabin at Mile 61.8 of the Parks Highway, north of KABN Radio at Mile 51.5.



(Clockwise from top left) Your brother, David, joined us on March 12, 1987, and made it down to Texas for his first Christmas that year. You ham it up for the camera while your father simultaneously sips coffee and feeds David. You and David share a chair and have room to spare on your second birthday in Alaska. Also during Christmas 1987, you are joined by Billy Seybold while holding your beloved Fiki. David plays in the background.



(Clockwise from the top left) Christmas Eve in Dallas, probably in 1989, with your mother and brother was a bit more formal than an outing with your father and brother and Sam, another outing in the mountains with David, and a peek from behind a tree. There were times when we had trouble keeping track of you and David in the mountains.





You didn't mind being front and center on Christmas Eve, probably 1992 or 1993, at John and Ramona's old house on Marquette. Emergency doctor Randy Seybold plays the guitar left-handed while your father plays and sings, and a bandaged David opens wide with gusto. Your mother tends to something else.

Below, you're a happy guy riding your scooter through Cook Park near our house at 1941 South Locust St. in Denver in 1991 or 1992. At right, you and others are drawing at a birthday party for David. Devon and Julie Fitzgerald are to your left. Brian Wagner is upper center. Tyler Stapp is to your right. Robbie McGourty is far left.



To the right is your YMCA baseball team in the summer of 1993, so you were about eight years old. You had your own way of doing things in baseball, which was true of a number of other activities.





School pictures in maybe 1993-1995, third or fourth grade and fifth grade (left), are complemented by a Club Denver soccer photo (right) in perhaps 1996. Below, David, GranAd (Adele Seybold), your father and you take a boat trip in the Washington, D.C., area in 1997.





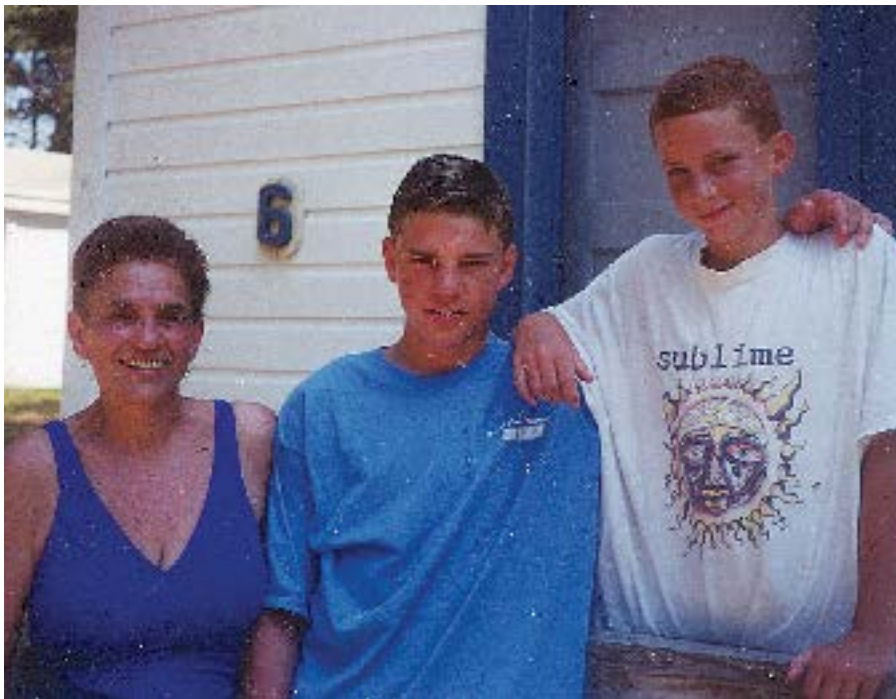
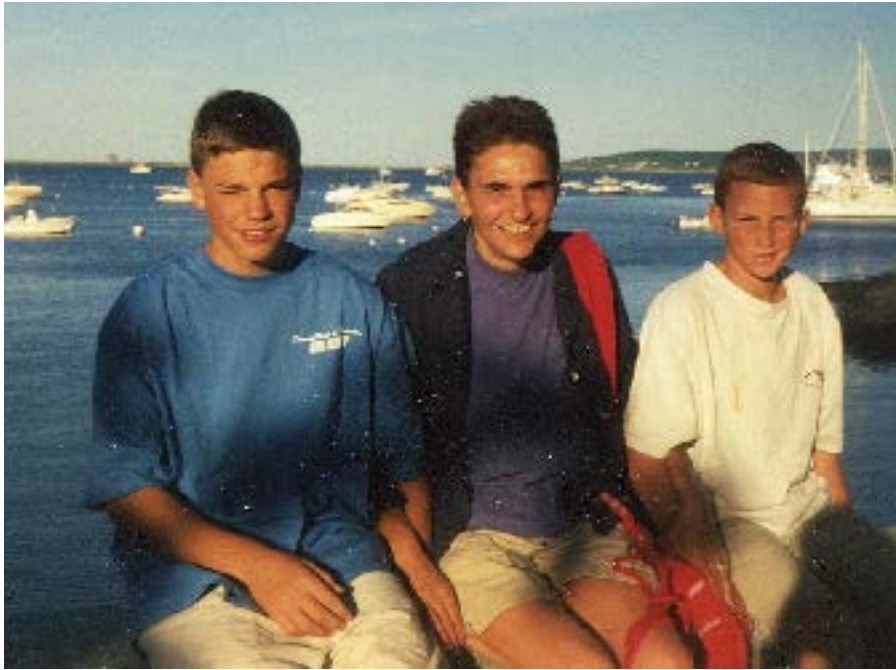
At left, pure Benjamin Locke is on display during a camping trip, maybe in 1997. It's not clear what you're doing, but it's certain that you're expending a lot of energy in something akin to an Indian war dance. The old Ford Taurus is in the background.

Below, you, your mother and David are nicely dressed, with hair combed, on Easter day in 1997. This angelic exterior on Easter Sunday might have been enough to fool all but the photographer.

Right, opposite page, the Locke family gathers for a Christmas card portrait, probably in 1997. With them are their menagerie: Crivel the rabbit, Cranberry (Crannie), our German shepherd, and Chloe of the spots. You look down with loving kindness on your wonderful family.







Upper left, you, your mother and David are at Plymouth, Mass., and lower left, you three are at Brownies Cabins on Cape Cod in 1999 during our trip to your father's 25th Harvard reunion. Above, you and David try out some headgear you got for Christmas, probably in 1999.



The Big Apple played host to you, your brother, your father and GranAd on a trip in March 2000. Above, you and David enjoy the view from one of the twin towers of the old World Trade Center. Below, you both are incorporated into a New York City drawing that your mother still has in her office at home in Pine. It is dated March 28, 2000.





This was a time of bleached hair. There were earlier times in soccer when there was some question whether they would let you play because of the color of your hair. This was perhaps because it was so distracting that it gave your team an unfair advantage. Above, left to right, David, you, your mother, Holly and Matthew take a breather on a trip to Estes Park in the summer of 2000. At left, on the same trip, you poke your hand out of the window of the Taurus in monster fashion as others in the group pose before the heavily laden Taurus outside the Stanley Hotel in Estes Park. Unfortunately it rained, making your father's packing job seem less ingenious.



Above, horseback riding in South Park was part of the fun during Holly and Matthew's visit from Alaska in the summer of 2000. At left, the core Locke group pauses for a photo in the mountains. With your eyes shut and your headphones off, you appear to be soaking in the feel and sounds of the moment.

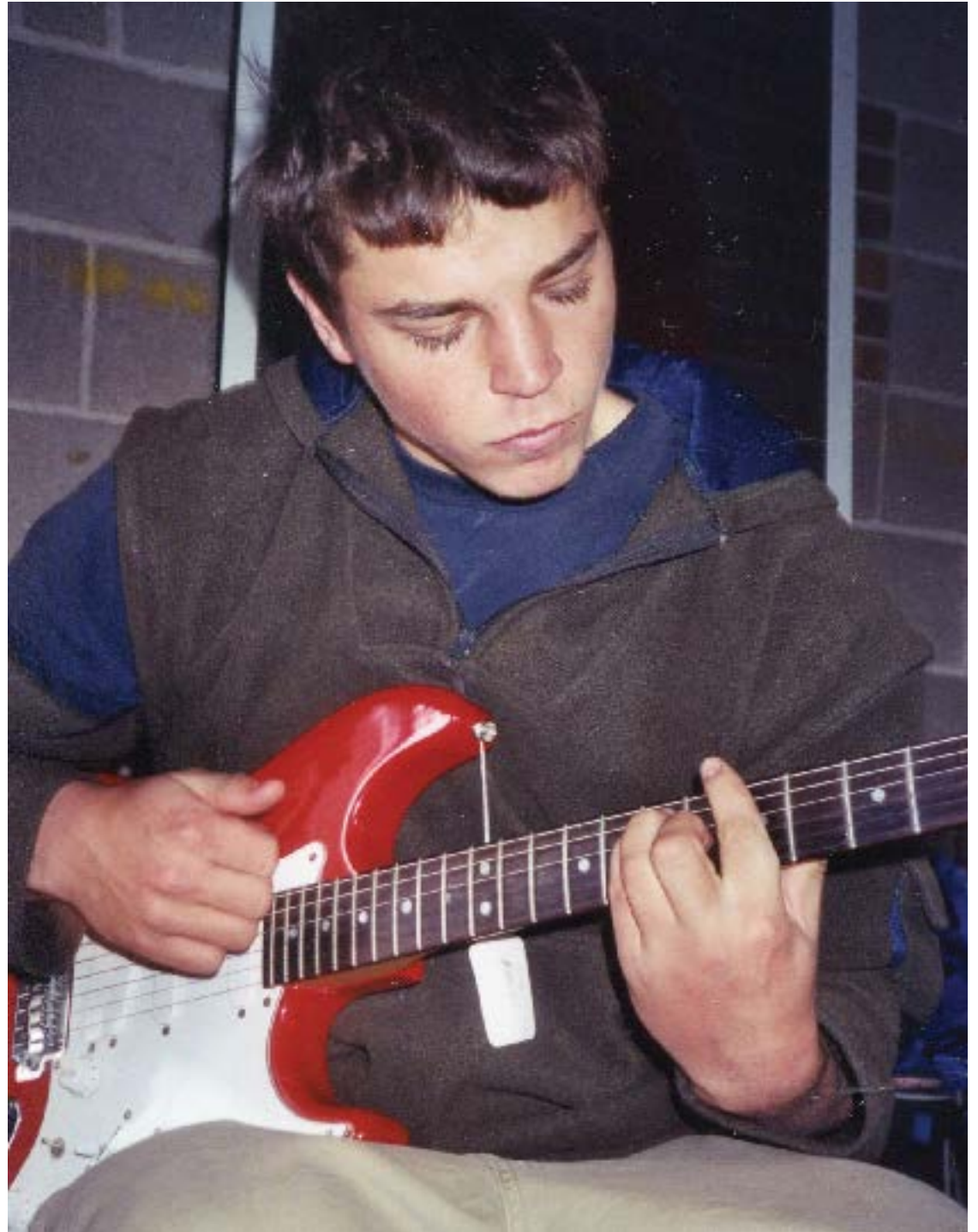




On the opposite page, you carry the ball for the East High Angels rugby team in the spring of 2003. Notice the expression of determination. Above, in the inset, a sick Benjamin Locke is on a boat in the Kenai Fjords on our trip to Alaska in May 2003. Plane travel appeared to agree with you more, as we pose above in front of the airplane that flew us around Mt. McKinley (Denali) on the same Alaskan trip.



Above, you talk things over with Tim Ford in your freshman dormitory at CU-Boulder in August 2003. At right, you play the guitar with the old Ricky Nelson closed-eyes effect during Thanksgiving vacation in 2003.





Clockwise from top left, you make some sort of gang-like signs during Thanksgiving dinner at the Locust Street house in Denver in 2003. Left to right are your mother, Kevin Kohler, you, David and Tim Ford. You and David share a moment during Thanksgiving 2005 at our new house on Nova Road in Pine. David grimaces as the four of us stop for a photo on Thanksgiving 2005.



Above, Kevin Kohler, you, Bethany Lyons, David and John Tolsma gather for Thanksgiving in 2005. Below, Bethany, you, David and Gabe Hensley (who is being poked with a flower by David) have a laugh, maybe in 2005.





Above, David, your mother and you stand in front of Willow, our alpha mare, in May 2006 at 3645 Nova Road. At the time it was our relatively new property in Pine. At right, on the same day, you appear to have swallowed a bug with your soft drink.







China brought a whole new set of adventures and friends. At left, you dance with Erica Davis at the Glamour Bar in China in 2006. Above, you and friends share a couch in China in 2005. Left to right are Farrell Feighan, you, Jessica Stoller, Eric Kassab and Erica Davis.

At right, Mongolia was a good time in 2006. Left to right are you, Farrell Feighan, Erica Davis, Jessica Stoller and Eric Kassab. Below, a big group gathers in Shanghai in July 2008. Left to right are Ben Ivory (your old friend from Regis), an unnamed female, Lily Changli Yang, Marie Wang, you, William Fh, Leon Cao, Xiao Qiang, an unnamed male, Tyler Haglund and Patrick Ryan.



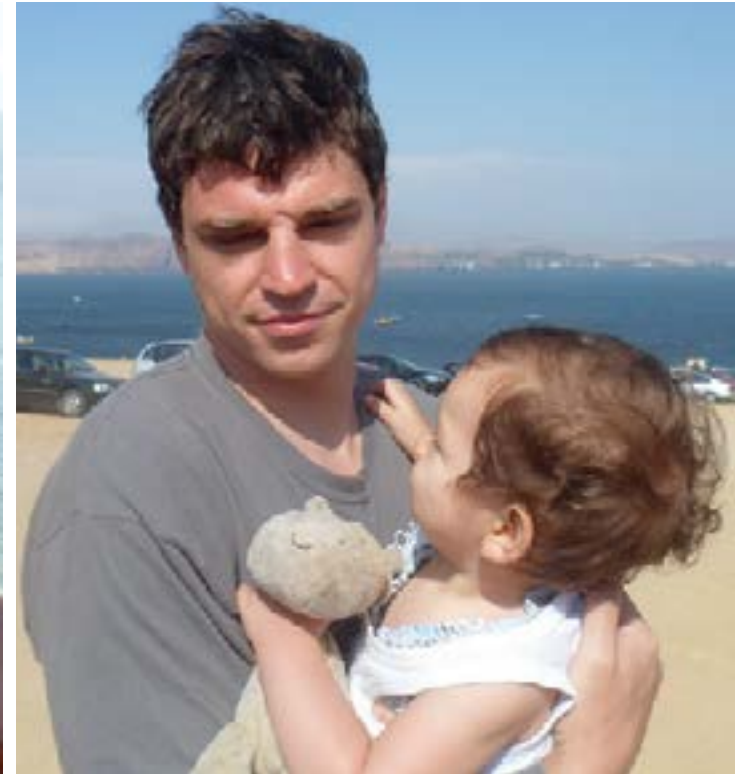


South America brought you new friends on a different continent, in part because of your couch surfing. The three photos on this page were taken in Chiclayo, Peru, in July 2010. The female in the red shirt is Leticia. Filiberto Cueva is kneeling in the picture to the left.

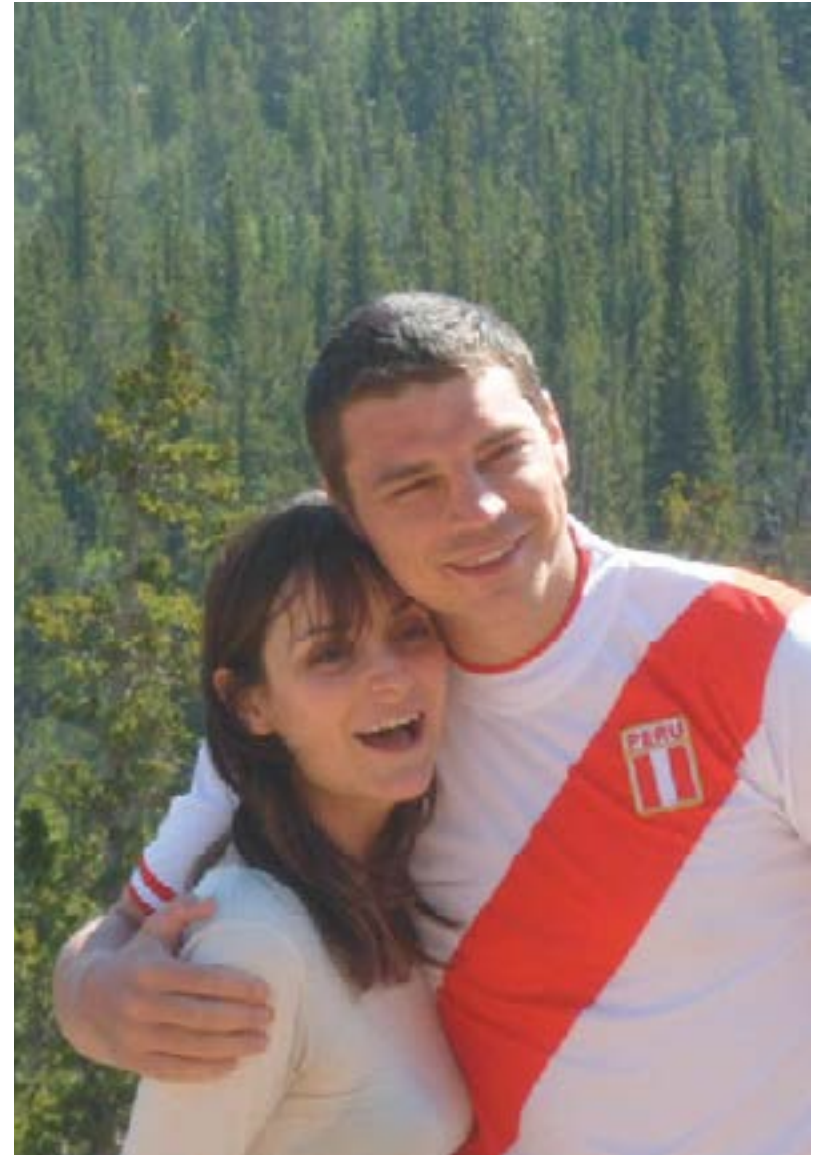




At left, (left to right) Peter Gruppo, your old Brazilian friend from CU; Leticia Aranda; Tim Ford, who you knew at Regis and CU; and you get together in China in 2012. At right, you carry Charlotte “Charlie” Middlehurst over a bridge in Moganshan, China, a mountainous region west of Shanghai, in February 2013.



Clockwise from top left, your mother, you and Lucía Bazán stand at a railing in the Miraflores section of Lima, Peru, with a view of the beach and ocean during our trip in December 2012, January 2013. Your beautiful daughter, Olivia, carries in one hand Gigi, her giraffe that was a gift from her godfather, Tim Ford. With the other hand she reaches up to grab her father's face. You use chopsticks hanging from your lower lip to imitate a walrus or some other creature to entertain Oli at a restaurant in Lima, which we traveled to right after spending Christmas 2012 in Dallas.



Above left, you hold Angel as your mother holds her walking stick on our trip with Bernie Nagy to see the Limber Grove south of Fairplay in the summer of 2012. Above right, you and Charlie enjoy a moment on the same Limber Grove trip as pine trees provide a backdrop. At right on the opposite page (left to right), you, Ryan Ewing, Elizabeth Ewing, Lou Hillman and Perry Locke enjoy Christmas dinner in 2012 at GranAd's house, 3805 McFarlin Blvd. in Dallas.







Left on the opposite page, Charlie somehow manages to carry your big hulking frame on her back for at least a second in Mumbai, India, before you both traveled to Goa in February 2013. Above, Charlie, you, Charlie's friend Alice Williams and Tim Ford enjoy Vail in December 2013 before our Christmas trip to Dallas.

