

## Eugene's Story: A Family's Mystery

One of the greatest joys in life is raising a happy, healthy family. Our family has been blessed to have good health at least for the most part. As the years have passed, we have noticed a pattern of neurological illness. It starts in the late 40s to early 50s with difficulty balancing and walking. The degeneration progresses until the individual is wheelchair-bound by their 70s or 80s. Upon examination by several specialists, it has been determined that the problems stem from a deterioration of the cerebellum. The doctors are unable to classify the disease due to its late onset.

Through genealogy work and speaking with individuals in the family, we have been able to confirm that this condition has been present in our family for at least five generations. It affects both males and females and seems to appear randomly in our family tree. We have three members of the family who are currently affected by the condition and others are beginning to show the early signs.

Experts have concluded, at least for the time being, that there is no cure. We continue to work toward educating ourselves about the disease, hoping for more comprehensive knowledge of the condition and its causes. It is our hope that scientific discoveries will allow future generations to take preventive measures.



**Tell us your story by visiting [www.health.utah.gov/genomics](http://www.health.utah.gov/genomics).**