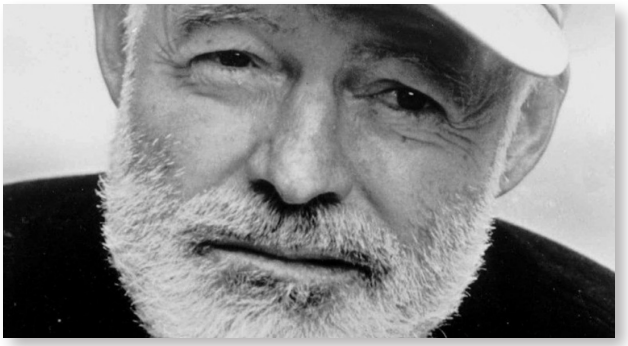
Ernest Hemingway

Clan Hannah

Writer Struggles with Depression

Hannah Munson (Thomas Munson's daughter)

by Lori Hahn



Ernest Hemingway was born to Dr. Clarence "Ed" Hemingway and opera singer Grace Hall on 21 Jul 1899 in Oak Park, Chicago. Nobel Prize and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of such books as *The Old Man and the Sea*, *For Whom the Bells Toll*, *A Farewell to Arms*, and *The Sun Also Rises*, he could not have achieved any higher accolades in his chosen profession. He pursued all things manly, bull running, war reporting, deep sea fishing, and boxing. He sustained nine concussions during his various exploits, multiple operations, pneumonia, and had problems from chronic alcoholism, but he still survived.

Hemingway had four wives, three children, and had multiple homes. He longed for peaceful surroundings, but couldn't stand to be alone. On 02 Jul 1961, while at home in Ketcham, Idaho, he killed himself with his shotgun. Thirty-three years earlier, his father had shot himself to death. Two of his sisters would kill themselves and his granddaughter Margaux would also kill herself. He said, *""The world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong at the broken places."*

It wasn't a surprise. He'd tried before. He had treatment at top hospitals with top specialists. What was diagnosed as manic depression, alcoholism, and narcissism, was far more complex. These were but pieces of a very convoluted mental puzzle. Dr. Andrew Farah, forensic psychiastrist, took a deep dive into Hemingway's history and determined that much of Hemingway's erractic behavior and self-medicating was due to developing dementia.

Farah believed that Hemingway, with his physical history, was a victim of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), once called pugilist dementia. This type of diagnosis is usually attached to those who have had repeated blows to the brain (boxer and football players being most common). For athletes and others where CTE is suspected, today, the diagnosis can only be made definitively posthumously. It's unlikely anything could have prevented Hemingway's sad outcome.

RECOMMENDED READING: *Hemingway's Brain,* by Andrew Farah, MD, 2017, Univ of South Carolina Press.
Ernest Hemingway: A Biography, by Mary V. Dearborn, 2017, Knopf.

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