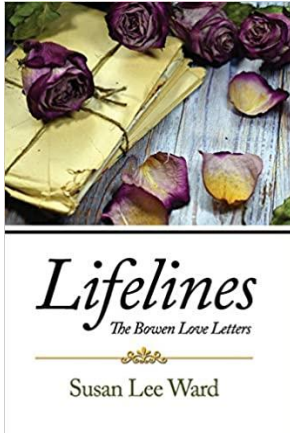


Here's a message to my classmates:

Hey, Classmates, I'm so excited to be featured on our Class of 1968 website's new Classmate Updates section! My first book, *Lifelines - The Bowen Love Letters*, was recently published and I wanted to share some information about it. You may know me as Susan Haug, but I'm using the pen name of Susan Lee Ward.



Lifelines – The Bowen Love Letters is a love story between two young idealists who overcome ingrained New England prejudices on their life's journey. Set against the backdrop of our country's westward expansion and inevitable conflicts that arose, *Lifelines* is about real people, places, and events as detailed in several hundred letters between Catherine "Katie" Cary Bowen and Captain Isaac Bowen between 1846 and 1858, just prior to the Civil War.

This is the true story of my great-great-grandparents, part of my matriarchal lineage. Please check out my website at <http://www.susanleeward.com/> to read more about their story, my fifteen-year journey to the publication of *Lifelines*, some sample *Bowen Love Letters*, and my recent blog posts related to the story. I try to create a new blog post every two weeks or so.

Here's the back-cover blurb:

"Katie Bowen was literate, observant, curious, compassionate, lucid, and philosophical. Her letters are informative, affectionate, and delightful to read. These letters constitute one of the finest pre-Civil War collections about military life." Dr. Leo E. Oliva, Santa Fe Trail Historian.

Catherine "Katie" Bowen (nee Cary) was born and raised in Houlton, Maine, where her family ran a lumber and mercantile business. After a whirlwind courtship, Katie married a dashing young West Point graduate, Second Lieutenant Isaac Bowen, who left soon after the wedding for the Mexican War.

When he returned safely from the war, Katie and Isaac embarked on the adventure of a lifetime: enjoying tea and discussing philosophy with Ralph Waldo Emerson; drinking a soldier's cracker toddy and smoking cigars with General Zachary Taylor, Colonel Jefferson Davis, and

Second Lieutenant Ulysses S. Grant, one of Isaac's West Point classmates; chatting fireside with Susan Shelby Magoffin, another well-known Santa Fe Trail traveler; sipping champagne at the White House with family friend, President Millard Fillmore; hearing crucial military intelligence from frontier scout, Kit Carson; and, being entertained with tall tales about Mississippi River life by steamboat Cub Pilot, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, later known as Mark Twain.

The Bowen Love Letters reveal intimate details about young lives full of passion and adventure - lives that ended tragically in 1858 when Katie and Isaac were still in their early thirties.

Author's Bio

I wrote a brief bio for the back cover of my book, which does not include my professional life. As an author, I wanted to convey that I'm an Army brat and come by my interest in military life quite organically. My father, Clarence Harry Haug, served in the U.S. Army for thirty-two years, including in the Pacific Theater during WWII. My mother, Gertrude Ruth Munsell Haug, later used her middle name, Ruth, when she obtained an MA in Public Administration in 1938, was employed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the State Social Security Commission in Jefferson City, MO, and then joined the war effort in 1942. Ruth worked with the American Red Cross in New Caledonia and New Zealand during WWII (important Allied bases), and married my father while he was on leave in Auckland, New Zealand on July 4, 1944. Mother later worked as a librarian at our various military posts in Texas and Germany.

I spent my formative years at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, where I became familiar with the sight of parades and military vehicles, the sound of 21-gun salutes, the distinctive smell of canvas tents in the hot sun, and the acrid smell of Brasso. I currently live in Austin, Texas, with my husband, William Seaton Ward, who is a storyteller, songwriter, screenwriter, and novelist.

Purchase options include:

Amazon

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0897SRJ7K?ref=k4w_oembed_qARPaEIEk1cD&tag=kpembed-20&linkCode=kpd

Dorrance Publishing Company

<http://bookstore.dorrancepublishing.com/lifelines-the-bowen-love-letters/>

Contact information:

Feel free to reach out to me at susanward1231@gmail.com if you have any questions or comments about the book. I love talking to fans! One of my newest fans described *Lifelines* as "Jane Austen meets military history, wrapped up in a love story." Let me know what you think!