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### Williams Cribbage Tournament

Every Thanksgiving, my dad's side of the family participates in the one, the only Williams Cribbage Tournament. Since the age of ten, I knew how to play this complex card game that has been taught generation after generation since my grandma was a little girl. This game involves a board with little holes in it, two people, a stack of cards and luck. Depending on your cards, different amount of points can be earned. There are pairs, knobs, fifteen-for-two and so on. This game is highly based on math and how the players count the cards. Once you make it around the circle 2 times and make it to the end you win. My grandma is the queen of cribbage and she taught her kids how to play the game and then they taught their kids. My dad started teaching me the game when I was about ten years old. He taught me all of the points, how to peg and all of the dos and don'ts. All of my cousins know how to play so once we were all old enough; we got placed in the bracket for the tournaments. These tournaments usually take up to 2 days because we have a lot of people to play and once the winner is crowned, their name goes on a trophy.

This game entered my family history in 1914 when my great great-grandpa, William Francis became a game maker. He was the maker of all of the Drueke brand board games like cribbage, backgammon, chess, etc. When I interviewed my grandma about this she got all excited that I was writing about a tradition that has been in our family for a long time. She told me that not only did my great great-grandpa make those board games, but also his five children (one being my grandma's mom) designed a board game, which would be named after them. Like I said before, my grandma is the queen at

this game. She knows how to play the cards to get the most amounts of points and how to peg like nobody's business. She told me that she learned how to play all of the classic board games because her grandparents played them while she was growing up. My grandma said that she was eight years old when her grandmother taught her how to play. Now one would think that a grandmother would go easy on her eight year old granddaughter, but not my great great-grandma. She taught with a sense of "You're on your own" mentality, which my grandma adapted to and taught her kids with that same mentality. She said that the first official cribbage tournament was in 1956, when she graduated high school and every thanksgiving since; her family would get together and battle it out.

These tournaments are no joke in the Williams family. I swear to you they are like the Hunger Games in which it's every person for themselves. Brother turns on brother, cousins turn on aunts and even my grandmother tries to destroy my youngest granddaughter. We are a proud competitive family and even though this game is frustrating at times, I'm so glad I can call it a family ritual. In a sense the "you're on your own" mentality that my father taught me when playing this game gave me that mentality for other aspects in my life. Since I had to figure out how many points I had in my cards and what amount to peg, it gave me a sense of independence in my life. This game also gave me a chance to really bond with my family. Even though we are all trying to beat one another, this game really brings us together. When we play, we talk about our lives so far or how school is going. On occasion I will give help to a younger cousin and teach them the ropes of the game, which gives me the sense of unity between the families. This game is special to me because it is a chance for me to be excited about something our

family does and it is something that I can look forward to every Thanksgiving. I'm so grateful to my grandma who kept this game alive in our family because it brings more than glory to the winner to the table; it brings our whole family together. This is why the annual Williams Cribbage Tournament is my favorite family ritual.