

1. Adventurers

Elon Musk's adventurous spirit traces back to his maternal grandfather, Joshua Haldeman, a risk-taker and chiropractor from Canada, who ventured into various professions and activism. After losing his farm during the 1930s depression, Haldeman's love for adventure led him through numerous escapades, including hobo and stowaway adventures. He became politically active, engaging with the Social Credit Party and Technocracy, advocating for economic and technocratic reforms. Joshua's love for adventure intertwined with his future wife, Winnifred Fletcher's, when he joined her dance class. Their adventurous spirit culminated in marriage and the birth of four children, including Maye, Elon Musk's mother.

Joshua heightened his adventurous life by learning to fly, becoming known as "The Flying Haldemans". The family's daring lifestyle included long-distance flights and rallies. Their motto, "Live dangerously—carefully," epitomized their approach to life's risks. In 1950, dissatisfied with Canadian governance, Joshua moved the family to South Africa, seeking adventure and a new life under the white apartheid regime. Their adventures continued in Africa, including yearly expeditions into the Kalahari Desert in search of a mythical city.

Elon Musk's father, Errol Musk, equally embodied an adventurous spirit. Coming from a robust lineage marked by a strong-willed mother and a quiet, cryptographer father, Errol pursued engineering, politics, and business adventures in South Africa. His ventures involved flying, business dealings in precious stones, and dabbling in non-conventional trade practices.

The narrative dovetails with the story of Maye Haldeman and Errol Musk's tumultuous relationship. Maye, sharing her father's adventurous spirit, was initially resistant to Errol's proposals. Their on-and-off relationship, marked by Errol's infidelity, eventually led to marriage after a dramatic courtship. Their union, steeped in drama and uncertainty, reflects the complex intertwining of risk, adventure, and perseverance that characterizes Elon Musk's family background. This backdrop of daring ventures, political activism, and unconventional life choices set the stage for Elon Musk's own path of innovation and risk-taking.