

JANUARY 24, 1999

DEAR KINFOLK:

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET THIS GOING FOR THE LAST THREE HOURS BUT BETWEEN COMPANY AND PHONE CALLS - IT'S BEEN HELD UP. HERE GOES AGAIN.

I HAD A CALL FROM MARK DUMONT YESTERDAY - HE RECEIVED A NOTICE ABOUT A FAMILY (DUMONT) REUNION WAY UP IN MAINE. HE IS GOING TO DROP IT OFF TODAY SOMETIME. I'LL KNOW MORE AFTER I SEE IT. FRANK CALLED ME ABOUT THIS AND HE SAID JOHN GOT ONE TOO. MAYBE I WILL RESPOND IN SOME WAY BUT I DOUBT ANYONE WILL GO THERE. I BELIEVE THE DATE IS THIS COMING SUMMER.

WE HAVE DECIDED TO BREAK DOWN AND BUY A COMPUTER. WE WILL GO "ON-LINE" SO I CAN TRY SOME GENEALOGY RESEARCH AND JEAN CAN GET RECIPES FROM HIS FAVORITE COOKING SHOWS. SO FAR WE'VE PICKED OUT A DESK AND HUTCH. IT'S NAKED FURNITURE IN OAK SO JEAN WILL FINISH IT TO MATCH THE REST OF THE WOODWORK. WE'RE STILL LOOKING OVER THE COMPUTER PROPAGANDA BUT HAVE'NT DECIDED WHICH WAY TO JUMP YET.

WE ALONG WITH MANY OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY HAVE HAD A ZINGER OF A JANUARY WEATHER WISE. IF IT ISN'T HEAVY SNOWFALL, ICE JAMS IN THE GUTTERS CAUSING WATER DAMAGE INSIDE, IT'S HEAVY RAIN AND FLOOD WARNINGS.

JEAN HAD HIS ARTIFICIAL VALVE ACTIVATED AROUND THANKSGIVING. IT IS WORKING WELL AND SURE SAVES ME TIME FROM MAKING PADS. HE IS MUCH MORE SECURE TO MOVE AROUND THAN HE WAS. QUALITY OF LIFE IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT. HE BACK TO BAKING BREAD AGAIN. THIS AFTERNOON HE IS MAKING SPEGETTI SAUCE WITH GROUND BEEF AND SWEET ITALIAN SAUSAGE. THE OTHER DAY HE MADE LEMON MERINGUE PUDDING. WE WERE USING THE OVEN FOR SOMETHING ELSE SO HE BROWNED THE MERINGUE WITH A BLOWTORCH (LIKE THEY DO ON THE COOKING SHOWS). I PREFER IT UNDER THE BROILER.

I GOT TO SEE KAREN'S MEGAN AND EMILY RECENTLY. I ESPECIALLY LIKE TO SEE THE KIDS WHEN THEY ARE LITTLE - MARTY IS RIGHT - WHEN THEY GET OLDER - SOME OF THEM TURN INTO BRATS.

TOM AND GALE AND THE KIDS ARE GOING TO DISNEYLAND IN ANOTHER WEEK. HIS BOSS IS DONATING ABOUT \$5000.00 SO THEY CAN STAY INSIDE THE PARK FOR A WEEK. THIS IS BECAUSE OF MAC HAVING DUCHENES MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY. A SUPPLIER WANTED TO SEND THEM BUT HIS BOSS DECIDED HE WAS GOING TO DO THE HONORS. MAC IS 4½ NOW AND IS WEARING BRACES ON HIS LEGS AT NIGHT. I SURE PRAY THAT THERAPY TURNS UP SOMETHING TO TURN AROUND THOSE DYSTROPHY GENES. RON AND SHERRI'S DANIELLE IS DOING QUITE WELL. SHE IS 11 YEARS OLD. SHE COUGHS QUITE A LOT AT NIGHT - THEY ARE LOOKING INTO AN ADJUSTABLE BED SO HER HEAD CAN BE ELEVATED AT NIGHT - ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE COUGHS A LOT. SHE ALSO COULD BENEFIT FROM GENE THERAPY.

JOE, ELAINE TOLD ME YOU WERE HAVING SOME SURGERY SOON BUT SHE COULDN'T REMEMBER WHAT YOU WERE HAVING REMOVED. I JUST RE-READ YOUR LETTER. IS IT A FRICTION CALLUS IN THE COLON? BY THE TIME YOU GET THIS - THAT WILL BE HISTORY.

ELAINE WAS HERE FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS OVER THE HOLIDAYS. SHE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO GET HOME SOONER BUT THE SNOW AND JEAN'S BAD COLD DELAYED OUR PLANNED TRIP. JIM FINALLY DID THE HONORS. THEY HAD FROZEN WATER PIPES TO DEAL WITH WHEN THEY GOT THERE.

LOVE TO ALL OF YOU. UNTIL NEXT TIME,

*Jan and Jean*

P.S. THIS MONTH MARKS THE BEGINNING OF OUR 12TH YEAR OF ROUND ROBIN LETTERS.

P.S. IT LOOKS LIKE WE COULD BE DECENDENTS OF THE PEOPLE NAMED. (JACQUES QUERET/DUMONT BORN IN NORMANDY, FRANCE AND ANNE TARDIF BORN IN QUEBEC.) I FOUND THEM ON THE PEDIGREE CHARTS ELAINE ORDERED FROM SALT LAKE CITY. THIS COUPLE WERE BORN IN 1666 AND 1667. I'M GOING TO DO SOME CHECKING. THE TOWN WHERE THE REUNION IS GOING TO BE IS ALMOST AS FAR AS YOU CAN GO NORTH IN MAINE - ALMOST ON THE CANADIAN BORDER. ALSO - THIS IS ONLY ABOUT 70 MILES FROM - RIVIERE DU LOUPE AND L'ILE VERTE WHERE DAD'S PARENTS WERE BORN.

DAD'S PARENTS CAME TO MICHIGAN BY WAY OF BANGOR, MAINE - THEN LOWELL, MASS - THEN OSCODA, MI.

2-15-99

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

Well here I go again with not a whole lot to write about

We certainly can not complain about the weather, it has been just unbelievable so far. We have had only 1 storm that I would consider 12-14", other than that a few with 1-2 or 3", how lucky we are it seems like everytime you pick up the paper there is a storm or flood or something going on somewhere.

We took Bettys Dad for a ride again today down to Tawas and back - he enjoys his rides but it is getting so hard for him to get out to the car anymore, looks like he will be in a wheel chair or worse shortly.

I can't get out in the woods hunting anymore so I done my thing out the back door this yr. again, the nicest one I've seen in quite awhile - wasn't going to have it mounted but the family had a fit - they thought it would look nice on the wall next to my Wj. deer, note the brow time at the base of its left horn, a lot of hunters around here had been watching him all summer.

John, just talked to you so not much more to add.

Jim, hope the baby is doing ok now, and did

you go over to see Jeff in Japan?

Marty, how do you find the time to do all of your remodeling? I'll bet it made a big diff., hope the babies are all doing fine.

Elaine, was glad to hear that you made the rounds over the holidays, it sure beats sitting at home alone with the winter blas, I'm sure you won't like the picture but like I said so others would have been glad to have had the chance, I feel like I have done my part over the years to help my pets.

Joe, you may very well be done with your surgery by now. Hope everything turned out fine. As I'm sure it did, I should be going for my P.S.A. test right shortly.

Sis, I don't know if you heard that Bill Kuhn passed away - I don't remember the date but Betty was called to make up some food for a small get together at the American Legion hall in Mikado, I just called Ron Michauds and no answer - their oldest son Kevin had another heart attack the other day and Elbetta may be with him - we saw her at Mass Sunday but she leaves in a hurry - I'm sure she is getting so tired of people asking how things are going.

Jan, was glad to hear Jean's problems are



getting more manageable! I did not know that he was that much into cooking - you must have things pretty easy now that you have retired, thanks for the info. that you got on the Dumont clan, Betty has a distant cousin writing her from Fla. who is really getting back into her Dad's pedigree as far back as ~~the~~ Wales with pictures ~~of~~ of the old homestead there etc. it's really interesting.

As of the 9th of Dec. I quit smoking! I have to say it's probably the hardest thing I've ever tried to do! after my Bronchoscopy in Nov. in which I was sure they would find cancer in my throat and lungs - which they did not I was very surprised, the Doc. told me if I quit my lungs wouldn't get any better they just wouldn't get worse, there are times I would give my left arm for a cig. as of today I have saved \$448.00, as of New years eve. Betty & Dave quit also.

Enough rambling I guess for this time.

Love and Prayers go with this letter at this Lenten time.

Grand & Betty

(Turn Page)

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Kevin Mechaud had a heart attack  
recently, this is ~~third~~ attack. He had  
five by-passes.

March 5, 1999

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I recently received the family letter from brother Frank so it is now up to me to continue on with the family news.

Frank, thanks for giving us all a chance to see what a real buck looks like. That must have been a hardy shot at 21 or 22 feet.

Jan, the history of the Dumont family sure looks interesting. Jan what can you find out about (Santos Dumont). South America is comparing him equal to the Wright brothers.

I have had the honer this winter of testing that new virus strain that is going around. It would be fair to say, plan on four to six weeks of pure misery. Pat on the other hand is wondering what the fuss is all about.

The big (64) has come and gone rather quietly. I do not know what the future holds for me. The past however is best left to rest in peace.

We managed to bring home six bucks from the farm this year. Six or seven would be a normal year with or without unwanted help from the DNR.

Even though this winter started off slow we should be closing in on the average snowfall of 80-85 inches per year.

Retirement may not be heaven, but it sure beats the other choices we have. Probably the best thing about it is we can control our own lives, not be controled by others.

Besides looking foreward to spring and the family reunion there is not much happening up here in the wintertime.

I will have to sign off for now and may God bless each and everyone of you.

Your Loving Brother,

John

April 6, 1999

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have had the letters too long so I guess I better get busy and get them in the mail. We are all relatively healthy at this time. I had a session with a kidney stone and it is still with me but it is not bothering me at present.

Carolyn is in her new classroom now. It has some advantages but she wishes they had given her some input into its design. All things considered she would rather have her old room. It has been a tough year with all the moving.

Mark and Sheila are expecting their second boy in August. She is doing better with this pregnancy than the last. Ryan is a great little boy. He is going on three now.

Karen and John are starting to build their new home. This one is on the north side of St. Mary's lake. The two girls, Meghan and Emily, are doing fine.

Brian is doing fine. Nothing is new there. Jeff is in Japan again. He left Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> and has been in a hotel for 2 months. He is now in his new apartment. He is in Atsugi, about two hours by train south west of Tokyo. We thought he would be coming home in August but the present plan is for him to stay until November. We may go to see him in June.

Carolyn and I sold the house in Hazel Park in February. We are glad to be out of the rental business. We got a good price for it.

I have been busy with St. Vincent de Paul as usual. I have to go to St. Louis later this month for meetings. I have region meetings in Louisville Ky. the first week in June and then the national meeting in Los Angeles in late September.

Our new building is going up on the site of the fire. We will have a topping out ceremony on Friday. We will sign our names on the last beam and then they will raise it in place at the top. That should be interesting. We expect it will be finished around October.

I have talked to all of you except Sis, Frank, and John in the last two weeks so I need to touch base with them.

Sis, if you can give us any pointers on traveling to Japan, we can surely use them. You have more knowledge on the subject than anyone else in the family.

Frank and John, I am sure you and I are sure glad to see spring arrive. I am ready to put some more windows in the house and start the garden.

Well I better get this in the mail so take care and God bless all of you.

Your loving brother

Jim & Carolyn



HI DUMONTS, ALL SEVEN OF YOU, PLUS BETTER HALVES.

GOT THE ABOUT NINE DAYS AGO, SO SHOULD GET THEM ON THEIR WAY. JUST TALKED TO ELAINE AND SHE IS CHIPPER AS ALL GET OUT SO I HAVE NO MORE NEWS FOR HER.

I WOULD SURE LOVE TO GO UP TO MAINE THIS SUMMER BUT MY WORK WILL NOT ALLOW THAT SO GUESS I WILL DO IT IN MY DREAMS. I WAS DREAMING ABOUT TAKING THE TRAIN FROM SARNIA TO QUEBEC CITY AND THEN RENTING A CAR FOR THE SHORT 180 MILES INTO MADAWASKA. MY GUESS IS THAT IT WOULD BE LESS THAN HALF THE PRICE OF AN AIR FARE. WELL, MAYBE NEXT TIME.

AS PROBABLY MOST OF YOU KNOW, I HAD A LUMP TAKEN OFF MY PROSTATE ABOUT 25 YEARS AGO WHICH WAS BENIGN. THEY HAVE BEEN WATCHING IT EVERY SINCE AND NOW THEY TELL ME THAT A BAD SPOT IS BACK AND A BIOPSY SHOWS IT IS CANCEROUS SO NOW I AM ON SIX MONTHS OF MEDS AND THEN IT MORE THAN LIKELY WILL BE CRYOSURGERY. I WILL TRY TO KEEP YOU ALL INFORMED. THEY ARE DOING A BONE SCAN TO SEE IF IT IS ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE MEAN TIME.

JOE, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE KEEPING THE PILL BOX GOING WITH ALL YOUR MEDS. IT CAN GET EXPENSIVE CAN'T IT.

SIS AND ROG, WHAT DOES MALIA STAND FOR. I BET YOUR NEW GRAND DAUGHTER IS BEAUTIFUL. THEY ARE SO MUCH FUN.

JAN AND JEAN, I HAVE TALKED TO YOU MANY TIMES LATELY AND KNOW YOU ARE SENDING MENTAL VIBES OFTEN. I WILL TRY TO KEEP YOU INFORMED. I WENT BACK FOR MORE XRAYS TODAY AS THEY DID NOT LIKE THE LAST ONES THAT ST. MARYS SENT OVER. I FEEL LIKE THE XRAY GURU. HAVE YOU NOTICED A PIERRE DUMONT IS PLAYING HOCKEY FOR THE CHICAGO BLACK HAWKS AND HE IS FROM THE MONTREAL AREA. ANYONE GUESSING WHETHER HE IS A DESCENDANT OR NOT?

FRANK AND BETTY- WOW, WHAT A NICE BUCK. I DID NOT THINK THAT YOUR WERE FEEDING THEM THAT WELL. GOOD JOB. WAS SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT BILL KAHN. FRANK, WHERE DID KEVIN MICHAUD HAVE HIS BY-PASS? CONGRATS ON DROPPING THE SMOKES. I AM SO PROUD OF YOU ALL. GREAT BIG HUGS TO ALL OF YOU.

JOHN AND PAT- I HOPE THE NEXT FIVE YEARS GO BY FAST SO I CAN EXPERIENCE RETIREMENT. YOU CAN KEEP THE FLU BUG UP NORTH AND EXPERIMENT WITH IT. THANKS

JIM AND CAROLYN- I WOULD GUESS THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY BEEN TO JAPAN AND BACK. THAT WILL BE A FUTURE TRAVEL SPOT WHEN IT GETS A LITTLE CLOSER TO THE USA.

THE TRIP TO ST. MAARTEN WAS NICE BUT MAYBE MAUI WILL BE NICE AGAIN AS IT IS CLOSE TO PARADISE. JUST THE BEST OF EVERYTHING.

GUESS I WILL HANG UP AND GET THIS ON TO ELAINE. , LOVE YOU ALL.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely reading 'Marty', is written at the bottom right of the page.

Dear Brothers & Sisters: April 30, 1999

Time to do my "thing"  
namely try to make a few lines as interesting  
as you all have made yours - What a great  
group of "Letter Writers"! As much as we are  
on the phones so much there isn't much  
that's NEW.

Good to hear about Theresa's associate degree  
even John and Pat weren't aware of her talent  
When you all set out to travel to another  
Continent - far Northeast and the upper mos.  
part of the upper Michigan I have to thank  
God for my days of traveling and where we  
were able to get to. I had a good life  
With Chuck and it's not too bad yet thank  
to all of you and your "Car giving". We  
aren't going thru this "Vale of tears" without  
the throne.

I'm hoping Joe and Jackie are planning to  
come by - I'm not planning on mailing this til  
they come get it - I know what with spring  
a wonderful time of year they, like you, are ~~be~~  
busy.

Hope you and yours are going to be able to be  
at the family reunion, you'll be missed should  
you not be able to be there.

Love and God bless all,

Elaine

Cadillac, MI  
May 4, 1999

Dear Family:

Again we meet via letter. It is a very hot, dry spring day, with high forest fire alert in this whole region of the State. There is a chance for some rain in the next several days.

One of our next door neighbors died last week and his funeral was yesterday. This circle was his local family. Six of his family showed for the funeral and we had a dinner at one of the neighbors for the party. Gene Boyer was his name. He had been a Penny Store manager for 38 years before he retired at some time before we moved here. He was <sup>2</sup> months younger than me. That makes 2 old guys died in this subdivision in the last 5 months.

I am still among the living, having survived the last couple of outpatient procedures. Some one of you asked for more detail on my episode. One normal and two minor polyps removed from the large intestine. I was sedated and felt no pain during or after the procedure. I did faint in the bath room while in recovery--the pop didn't set well and I lost it in the parking lot while trying to leave. Watch out for those recoveries, don't worry about the operation.

Elaine is requesting more reunion planning, and we will be getting together on our next visit to firm up more details for the July 31st, at the Holiday Inn on the south edge of Grayling. The cost could easily go to \$700 and that scares me, so I hope we can count on some assistance where possible. Plan on making it part of a weekend vacation and stay up North as some have been heard to say. Some might even plan on a AuSable canoe excursion. There will be any weather play area and a motel room available for our use as well as the private meeting room. We park in the southwest back of the building close to the entrance of the dining room we will be using. Please don't any one not come because of cost problems.

I am inclosing a packet of data provide by our Nephew Dennis concerning the "aspartame" question in our last series of letters. It appears that there is a lot more to it than at first it seemed.

We have attended three funerals in the last few months and would like a rest for a while OK.

It seems that we have had contact with most of you very recently so there is little more that I can think of.

Son Steve showed up Sunday morning with a 20 lb. tom turkey with nearly a 16" beard, he shot while out with his Son Chris and a turkey calling friend on his last available day to hunt. They were very pleased at the good luck, except for the bird of course.

Grand Daughter Miranda just turned One and it seemed that others were mentioned in the letters.

Marty I am sorry that you have to take your lumps at this time but it just goes to show us that being the youngest won't always save you for ever, Good luck and may God be with you always.

See you all July 31st

Joe & Jackie

*Joe Jackie*

5-14-99

My Dear Bro's + Sisters,

I've been enjoying the letters for a week or so, but guess I won't hang on to them until Jan comes for her Perm ~~on~~ June 2.

Chris gutted out my laundry room and redid the plumbing walls + floor. Rog II did alot of finish work. We work together very well and it turned out gorgeous. A far greater job than I thought we could do. I'm so glad its done.

we are waiting to hear from Texas as we are expecting another Great Grand daughter from Josh + Maria. They have a beautiful 17 mo old daughter now.

Marty I'm so glad your count is down. We are praying for you. Maria means Mary in Hawaii and yes she is beautiful. would love to see her again. They are coming in 2000



2 for our 50th Anniversary June 17th. Hopefully  
we will see them all then.

Jim, I expect you will land at a  
different airport than when I went in  
1978. Take lots of money, Jeff may  
be able to help you cut some corners.  
You'll need an interpreter. It's a different  
culture and takes some getting used to.  
A very good experience for anyone. Bill  
can give you a lot more on Japan than  
I can. Come and visit.

Nice to hear about your families  
and all the new babies.

John, so happy for Teresa and all  
your family. I'm glad you are on the  
mend. Spring has ~~spring~~ sprung.

Frank we just had a nice  
visit with you and expect to see  
you at Aunt Emma Birthday on 5-23-99  
That is a dandy Buck you bagged.

Joe will see you all ~~on~~ July 31st.  
Glad your medical problems are solved  
Testing is for the birds. I avoid it

3/ when ever possible. I'm glad we met with you at Don Michauds funeral. we plan to go to Janice's class reunion as we know so many from that class also. Its on June 12th. Hope you will come.

Jan The Family Linage is very interesting. you are lucky if you can go to the reunion in Maine. I don't expect to go. we will have a good visit in June 2nd.

Elaine - Hope to see you at Aunt Emma's party and glad you are doing better.

Our Stallion pranced in the parade for Sgt Stone. The media made a big deal, but they honored all the P.O.W. and veterans so I guess it is alright.

until we chat again.

all our love to  
your spouses too.

Si + Roy





**CLASS OF 1949 --** Graduates of the Class of 1949 Barber, Janice Dumont Marion, Marilyn Hubbard making it to the All-School Reunion in the Oscoda American Legion Hall Saturday were, from left, Silverthorn, Dale Rice, Don Spain, Don Holmes, front: Ruth Thompson Mathis, Dortha LeCureux Milton Clouse, Bud Rick and Don Reed. -- PRESS PHOTO



**CLASS OF 1934 --** These members of the Oscoda Area High School Class of 1934 made it to the All-School Reunion Saturday in the Oscoda American Legion Hall. Seated is Violet Unkovich Popovich. With her are Tom Laforge and Alice Caswell. -- PRESS PHOTO



#28

*May*  
~~JUNE~~ 30, 1999

DEAR FAMILY:

I WANT TO GET THESE LETTERS ON THEIR WAY BEFORE THINGS GET ANY BUSIER. CHUCK WAS HERE LAST WEEKEND. HE FLEW IN FROM NEW ORLEANS FOR A QUICK VISIT. HE IS WORKING FOR A CONTRACTOR THAT BUILDS CASINOS. HE WILL BE THERE FOR THE NEXT 6-8 MONTHS. THE COMPANY PAYS AIR FARE FOR A WEEKEND A MONTH SO HE CAN GO BACK TO RENO TO SEE HIS KIDS AND CHECK ON HIS HOUSE.

ETHEL ROSE AND BOB WILL BE HERE FOR 2-4 DAYS NEXT WEEKEND. THEY WANT US TO GO TO SEE AUNT JUNE AND MAYBE GREENFIELD VILLAGE WITH THEM. THE NEXT WEEKEND WE GO TO OSCODA FOR OUR 50<sup>th</sup> CLASS REUNION. ON THE 21<sup>st</sup> WE FLY TO MAINE FOR THE BIG "DUMONT" REUNION. WE PLAN TO DRIVE TO THE ATLANTIC COAST OF MAINE AND MAYBE GO UP TO RIVIERE DU LOUP. WE MAY DECIDE TO WAIT ON THAT UNTIL I HAVE A CHANCE TO DIGEST SOME OF THE PEDIGREE MATERIAL FROM MADAWASCA. THE GENEALOGY BOOK HAS GROWN TO TWO VOLUMES AT A COST OF \$60.00.

WE ARE ALSO PLANNING A MARION FAMILY REUNION FOR JULY. WE ARE NOT STRICTLY IN CHARGE BUT I DID ARRANGE FOR A PAVILLION AT A NEARBY PARK SO WE WILL BE VERY INVOLVED. THIS WILL BE THE FIRST ONE FOR THAT FAMILY. THEN LAST BUT NOT LEAST WILL BE A TRIP TO CADILLAC ON JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>. THERE IS ALSO A BOOK SALE AT THE LIBRARY AND SEVERAL GRADUATION PARTIES. THERE ARE SOME CONFLICTS BUT WE WILL GET TO WHAT WE CAN. IT WILL BE AUGUST BEFORE I CAN RELAX AND SMELL THE FLOWERS. THIS RETIREMENT SURE DOES KEEP ME BUSY.

FRANK, I EXPECT A LOT OF HUNTERS WOULD LOVE TO HUNT FROM THEIR BACK PORCH. DO YOU THINK THE DEER WILL STILL COME NOW THAT YOU CAN'T FEED THEM? NICE RACK FOR 1998. I'M SURE GLAD YOU DECIDED TO QUIT SMOKING.

BROTHER JIM GAVE ME A LEAD ON THE MCGILLIS (MacGILLIS) SURNAME FROM HIS TRIP TO ST. LOUIS. I WROTE HIM AND GOT A REPLY. HE SENT MY LETTER ON TO THE PERSON HE KNOWS THAT PURSUES GENEALOGY. NO REPLY FROM THERE YET.

MARTY, IF I'M FIGURING RIGHT, IT WILL BE OCTOBER BEFORE YOU ARE DONE WITH YOUR HORMONE MEDICINE. HAVE YOU DECIDED WHERE YOU WILL GO FROM THERE?

JOHN, I DID PUNCH SANTOS DUMONT IN THE COMPUTER. THERE WASN'T MUCH EXCEPT THAT HE WAS A PILOT. I DON'T KNOW MY WAY AROUND THE INTERNET VERY WELL YET. MAYBE I WILL SIGN UP FOR A CLASS IF I EVER HAVE THE TIME.

ELAINE, I EXPECT TO CALL YOU IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS. AND SIS I WILL BE SEEING YOU ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FOR A PERM.

I WAS REALLY EXCITED TO GET THE CORRECT WEB SITE FOR THE MAINE REUNION. I WILL ENCLOSE A COPY OF ONE DOCUMENT I GOT.

JOE, YOU MENTIONED THAT SON STEVE SHOWED UP WITH A TOM TURKEY WITH A 10 INCH BEARD. I'VE NEVER SEEN A TURKEY WITH A BEARD. HOW ABOUT A PICTURE OF THAT?

I GUESS THAT WILL DO IT FOR THIS TIME. WE ARE GOING NEXT DOOR FOR A BON FIRE. IT'S ALMOST DARK.

P.S. I HAVE SHIELA, KATHY AND MARTY  
ON MY PRAYER LIST.

LOVE TO ALL,

JAN AND JEAN



# Gueret~Dumont Family History

Originally in Normandy, our paternal family was Gueret. In the old archives of France, the family name of Gueret had many variations of spelling. It sometimes appears as "Gure, Guere, or Guerey".

It was not until the Early 1600's before the Dumont name was incorporated in the Gueret name. This occurred through the marriage of one ancestor by the name of Jean Guerey. Jean Guerey married Francoise de Meherenc, who was the Seigneur du MontMirel. MontMirel was the manor estate in the village of Chantey, Normandy. Jean de Meherenc was known lately by the people as "Seigneur Dumont", rather than "Seignuer du MontMirel". The name du MontMirel may be visited today. Later the children and grandchildren of Jean Guerey were given the extra surname of Dumont in honor of their prominent maternal grandfather, a custom found in the those days. To this day, the Guerets of Canada and the United States are still doing honor to their long forgotten ancestors in Canada. During the period of New France and Canada in Quebec, many of our generation would completely forget the use of the "Dumont" in their name, only to have their children or their children's children revert to its use. This is particularly true of the second and third generation in the New World.

In the early 1900's two more changes were to occur with our family name. First the "Gueret" part of our name has completely

fallen to disuse, and secondly, especially in the United States, even the name of Dumont has been changed. Now many of the Gueret Dumonts' carry the name of 'Dumond'. It is curious if time will again change our

## Jacques Gueret dit Dumont and Marie-Anne Tardif

(Two surnames separated by "dit" means that a person has acquired a second surname for some reason, honoring some by taking their name, or an orphan taking the name of a guardian. In this case the Dumont name was added to honor an ancestor in France who carried the title of nobility Du Mont Mirel. For many descendants the Gueret name was dropped leaving the name Dumont.

Jacques Gueret was born in the tiny village of Geurre, Parish of Canchy, Normandy, France; very close to Omaha Beach of World War II fame. In 1691, at the age of 25, his parents deceased. Jacques immigrated to the New France by the way of the Port Of La Rochelle. He was indentured to the landowner Jacques Tardif of Beauport, Quebec for three years. Here he fell in love with and married one of the landowners daughters, Marie-Anne Tardif, in 1694. Marie-Anne had been born in New France. Her father was from Normandy and her mother was a Kings Daughter. Jacques and Marie-Anne were given land by her parents fronting on the St. Lawrence River three arpents in width (about 586 feet). Her parents also gave them room and board for one year, one milk cow, two sows, a bedspread, a cooking pot, some utensils, and some milled grain. Jacques helped his father-in-law sow the new year's crop. Over the next 15 years, Jacques and Marie-Anne had

~~SEVEN CHILDREN, THREE OF THEM~~  
were triplets, all of whom survived.

Perhaps seeking more land, the Gueret dit Dumonts left Beauport in 1711 to settle at Mont-Louis in the interior of the Gaspe Peninsula. Named to honor King Louis XIV of France, the land was described as fertile, the streams filled with fish, and the forests plentiful with game. Mont-Louis turned out to be a scheme for profits by investors without the potential that had been advertised.

In the spring of 1711, Jacques and Marie-Anne Gueret dit Dumont and five children made the journey to Mont-Louis. Marie-Anne was pregnant; our ancestor Jean-Baptiste was born en route. The family tried for two years to establish themselves at Mont-Louis, but the growing season was short, markets were far away, stores were poorly stocked, and the area had no priest. By 1714 the family was again living in Beauport.

In 1716 the Gueret dit Dumont family moved to Riviere-du-Loup, toward the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. There is a record of Jacques renting a farm for five years. Later the family moved to Isle-Verte, where in 1736 Jacques and Marie-Anne placed their land and possessions in the hands of son Jean-Baptiste and his wife Madeleine (our ancestors). The parents lived their final years in Kamouraska where most of their 12 children lived. The Dumont land at Isle-Verte has remained in the ownership of descendants down through the generations, even into 1995.

( SOURCE: LaForest, Vol. III  
pp. 103-111 )

LOVE

6-28

Dear Family! -

Here it is summer already and I can't wait for cooler weather! the humidity really bothers me anymore I am more and more having to use my Oxygen out in public and even at home I feel stupid walking around with it on even though the Dr. told me I should be using it all the time.

Betty is having a hard time with her flowers this yr. it's got to be the weather, I think it was 3 wks. ago we had temps in the 30s and the next wk. in the 90s how does anything or anybody know what to do?

Sara had her open house in Lapeer and it turned out really nice, Betty said they ~~had~~ had a good turnout and the weather cooperated for the most part, I was assigned to dog and cat set that wk. end and that did not bother me at all (cheat you know).

Crystal is going down to her mother's in town on the 9th. for 3 wks. and is due to come back to Pontiac on the 30th. or 31st. so don't know what our deal will be for our family reunion, got a flyer in the mail the other day and the London Reunion is on the same day over in Glenvil

Betty took cake and Ice Cream up to the home

#

where her dad is yesterday, he was 92 those oldsters really enjoy a party, he is getting so crippled up that he can hardly use his walker any more.

John I will be watching the blue berries I hope and I'll keep in touch.

Jim it seems like ~~poor~~ poor Harv and John are in the house building business all the time aren't they? I hear that Brian has a girl friend now?

Marty I hope your situation has gotten better, I wanted to talk with you about it but thought aunt Emma's party was not the place, will give you a call.

Elaine: just talked to you the other day and was happy to find you in good spirits and health, I got the feeling that you are like me I love to get these letters but I hate to write my own.

Joe: We are all having our medical ups and downs right now, I guess its that time in our lives hey? I'm going to my Pulmo Dr. on the 30th and Tawas St. Joe's on the 1st. for a stress test.

III

Sis: Just had a visit with you and Rag. I don't know how you guys do it (I'm telling you family members) they come up here and in 1 day will visit 14 family and friends who - I'm glad you can.

Jam: Was glad to see you and Jean - you are another one, how do you guys keep on the go so much? happy travels and more of them. my letter is dated before yours - I don't know how that happened.

P.S. a new flock for you.

Love and prayers to all

Frank & Betty

July 26, 1999

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I recently received the family news letter from brother Frank (hand delivered) now that is first class service.

Just in case any of you have interest in the, Ausable River Queen out of Oscoda please call (517-739-7351) or (517-728-3775).

I do have a confession to make in regards to each of you. I have said special prayers each morning for all of you for good health. Good health is the foundation of life.

I had a nice visit with Father Mulka yesterday. He was the priest at St Rapheals in the early 1950s. Brothers Jim and brothers Marty would recall him as they were alter boys then. I was collecting the goods from the parishioners at that time.

I lucked out on the wild blueberries this year, not so with wild rasberries and blackberries.

We have repainted the outside of the house and added shudders. Most of the inside was repainted this year. One thing is for certain painting is no picnic.

I am trying to convince pat to retire at 60 this would be in July of 2000. Life is just to short for most us to enjoy working beyond that age.

Their has been an unusual amount of wild weather both to our east and to our west this year. Comins Mich got struck hard by a tornado the fourth of July weekend, beyond that we have been real lucky.

We should be seeing most of you at the upcoming family reunion on the 31th. Will close for now and may God Bless each and every one of you.

Your Loving Brother,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John".



July 30, 1979

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The letters arrived this week and since we are preparing to go to the family reunion I think I better get this written and pass the letters on to Marty. I will try to concentrate on just positive news.

As you know we went to Japan last month and it was a very good trip and experience. I know I definitely would not have wanted to take that trip without having someone there to guide us. I would have been lost real quick. Jeff has a girlfriend Emmy. Between Jeff, Emmy, and their pastor, Father Ken Mager (from Detroit), they were terrific guides and they showed us a great time. We stayed with Jeff in his apartment (which was like camping) so it was not as expensive as we expected.

We have many stories to tell, which I can not do here, but one of the most amazing things we experienced was the number of people living in just a small area. Jeff had a map of the city he lives in (Atsugi) and on the front it said the average population was 2240 people per square kilometer which is roughly 6000 people per square mile. I don't believe that Atsugi is anywhere near as populated as Tokyo. Tokyo is just a mass of people.

I was amazed at the transportation system

to move all these people. Trains and subways are the main form with buses to supplant them. There are a few cars but parking is a big problem so most people don't have them. Enough about Japan.

As most of you know by now, I was operated on July 16<sup>th</sup> for an enlarged prostate. It was growing into the bladder and preventing it from draining completely. The operation was a success and I am coming along fine (that's positive). Thanks for your many prayers.

St. Vincent de Paul is about the same. The building is going up. We expect a ribbon cutting Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> which is the anniversary of the fire. As with most construction these days in Detroit it is way over budget (1 million dollars). Our stores are not doing well at present. In a good economy even the poor can buy new so the shoppers are way down. It's just another obstacle to overcome. God has blessed us and will continue to provide.

Since I will be seeing you all tomorrow I will not make individual comments on your letters. I really enjoy reading them. May the good Lord be with you always.

Your loving brother

Jim & Carolyn

P.S. Mark and Sheila have sold their house in Hazel Park and are purchasing one in Shelby Township. They are waiting for closing on both. Sheila is due in 3 weeks.

HI FAMILY -ONE AND ALL.

WOW, WHAT A NICE REUNION. IT WAS SO NICE TO SEE EVERYONE. THANK GOD IT WAS FAIRLY COOL. WHICH REMINDS ME. I AM SO GLAD THAT I QUITE FIGHTING SONDA AND PUT IN CENTRAL AIR. IT HAS BEEN SO HOT THIS SUMMER, AND WE HAVE SURELY ENJOYED THE WONDERFUL, AIR CONDITIONING AND I THINK IT HAS BEEN MUCH BETTER SLEEPING WITH THE AIRCONDITIONING. THANK GOD FOR THAT.

I WAS NOT HAPPY THAT WE HIT JOE AND ELAINE WITH THE BILL, BUT THE FOOD WAS OUTSTANDING.

HAVE TALKED TO ELAINE SO MUCH THAT I CAN'T THINK OF ANY MORE TO TELL HER.

JOE, YOU ARE KEEPING THE PLACE UP PRETTY NICELY AND YES THAT TAKES WORK. WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF PUTTING NEW SHRUBS IN THE FRONT AND THE NORTH SIDE TO DRESS IT UP A LITTLE. IT SURE IS A LOT OF WORK. IT WAS GOOD TO SEE ALL YOUR CHILDREN. TIM'S TY SURE IS A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN, ISN'T HE.

SIS, IT WAS NICE CHATTING TO YOU. YOU ALWAYS LOOK SO YOUNG AND ZIPPY. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DO IT. GOOD TO HEAR THAT CHRIS IS DOING SOME REMODELING. HE MUST BE VERY HANDY.

JAN, HAVE TALKED TO YOU A LOT LATELY. THANKS FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS ON THE FAMILY HISTORY. I AM GLAD SOMEONE HAS THE TIME TO DO ALL THIS. I WAS SO IMPRESSED BY THE BOOK THAT YOU HAVE. SIXTY FIVE IS A LOT OF MONEY. WOULD YOU TAKE A DONATION TOWARDS ITS PURCHASE PRICE?

I WAS PUZZLED ABOUT THE DATES ON THE LETTERS.

JANICE DATED HER LETTER ON JUNE 30TH, AND FRANK DATED HIS ON JUNE 28TH. DID THE LETTERS GO TO FRANK AND THEN TO JANICE????

FRANK, EVERYONE IS HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE FLOWERS THIS YEAR. THE SUN IS SO HOT, IT JUST BAKES THEM. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAD A SCHEDULING CONFLICT AND COULD NOT MAKE IT TO THE REUNION. WE SHALL HAVE TO STOP AND SEE YOU NEXT TIME WE ARE UP.

JOHN, YOU SEEMED WELL RESTED AND CHIPPER AT THE REUNION. RETIREMENT MUST BE DOING WELL FOR YOU.

JIM AND CAROLYN, IT WAS NICE TO SEE THE PICTURES OF JAPAN. NOW, I AM NOT TO EXCITED ABOUT GOING THERE. THE FLIGHT ALONE WOULD TURN ME RIGHT OFF. SEE YOU SOON.

NOW AS FOR ME, I AM SCHEDULED TO GO IN FOR CRYO-SURGERY ON SEPT. 14TH. I NOW FIND OUT THAT BLUE CROSS IS NOT PAYING FOR THE SURGERY AND THEY WANT \$13,000 UP FRONT SO I GUESS I BETTER TAKE A LOAN OUT WITH FARM BUREAU AND THEN FIGHT WITH BLUE CROSS. SOME PEOPLE HAVE HAD SUCCESS WITH FIGHTING BLUE CROSS SO I GUESS I BETTER GET MY BOXING GLOVES ON. OTHER THAN THAT, I FIRED MY UROLOGIST AND NOW HAVE THE SAME ONE THAT JEAN MARION HAS. HE IS VERY GOOD AND HAS GOOD PEOPLE SKILLS. I GUESS I BETTER GET OUT OF HERE AND GET THIS TO ELAINE.

LOVE TO ALL AND GOD BLESS YOU.

*N. M. L.*

Dear Family: It would be nice to Aug. 6, 1999  
be able to keep these letters for  
more time but Joes are getting  
ready for their trip so here goes.

It was "great" seeing you all at our reunion.  
So sorry more couldn't have made it. Our lives  
'some of us' have to be elsewhere for whatever  
reason. The gathering was the high light of my  
summer.

The North woods is really beautiful at the  
time I'm writing, every thing is so lush and  
green, we have been blessed so many of the  
parts of the world's weather is always in  
choas, up here.

Next week I'm to see an ear specialist to  
let Blue Cross approve hearing aids for me. That  
probably going to be a BLAST to get used to  
Hape It doesn't end up in a drawer like a  
piece of JUNK Jewelry. Same junk - \$3500.00 Count  
the zeros.

By the time this gets to each of you, Jean and  
Marty will probably have their surgery. I'm  
praying for them and I know you have been.  
Also. I am very grateful for many blessings  
especially for all of you. And keep each and  
everyone

Love and Prayers.  
Elaine

Cadillac, MI  
Aug. 7, 1999

Dear Family:

This is one week from our family reunion here at Cadillac. We just received the letter packet today and our visit is very fresh in mind, so this letter will be short.

I just shortened Jan's family history into language more useful to me, and I feel very thankful to your efforts in this matter. I now feel more historical.

We are preparing for a trip out west via car and Canada, crossing at International Falls. We will follow highway 1 to Calgary Alberta and on to Lake Louise near the Continental Divide & the British Columbia border. Jackie has this as a special request.

We will travel thru Idaho, Washington (stop at Ethel Roses), Oregon, California (Big Sur) another Jackie special request. We expect to pass by two of my USAF stations Spokane, Wash. & Riverside, Calif.; next to San Diego for a stopover. On our way back we will stop in Albuquerque, New Mexico to visit Jackie's sister. It should take about 3 weeks if all goes well. I know the spelling can't be right.

Since you people were here we found some shrubs for the house front. We chose three strains of Barberry. Our cucumbers are starting to produce as the wild berries are beginning to fade for this season.

I called Frank and filled him in on the reunion and I expect he and John will be planning a later reunion together probably at Oscoda.

John and Pat have now located Elaine's and all seemed to get back home safely. Now when we get all the medical procedures taken care of we should be able to get back to normal for the beautiful Fall season.

Expect to have more to visit about on the next letter.

Love Joe & Jackie

*Jackie*



8-19-99

My Dear Sisters + Brothers,

It was great to see so many of you at the reunion. Perhaps we can get more next time. We had such a nice time.

We lost our sweet Aunt June this year. Rog + I got down to the funeral home to represent our Family. We enjoyed seeing Joyce, Carol + Ron with all their Families.

Our Children want our 50th on 6-17-2000. Rog + I can go with the Flow. John + Gayle are trying to get home from Hawaii and their school lets out in June. We do hope to see any and all of you there that can make it. We will take our turn at the Family reunion when its time and we will try to be there were ever it takes place next year.

Frank + Betty we havent seen you since Aunt Emma Birthday, but expect we will be up your way soon for one reason or another. Hope its for something good.

2/ I got a nice letter from Ethel Rose. She and Bob came with Jan + Jean to visit and she really wants to keep in touch. Her brothers are both gone so she really feels the need for extended Family. It will be fun to take a trip out there and visit them some time.

Jan's Joshua + Marie had another little girl. Jim + Donna are expecting two ~~grand~~ children from each of her children; so we will have 5 greats this year. It's wonderful to be Great Grandparents!

Well I just visited with all of you less than 3 weeks ago so I will make this short this time. I do love your letters and I think every Family should keep in touch this way. So glad our Family thought of it.

God Bless you all  
Sis + Roy

IT'S TIME TO GET THE LETTERS BACK ON THE ROAD. I PUT IT OFF UNTIL MARTY'S SURGERY WAS OVER BUT TODAY I FOUND OUT IT'S NOT TILL TOMMOROW.

WE SURE HAD A BUSY YEAR. THINGS ARE CALMER NOW. I'VE MADE GREAT HEADWAY ON THE MCGILLIS CLAN THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS. THROUGH JIM'S LEAD - I EVENTUALLY GOT CONNECTED WITH A THIRD COUSIN OF OURS. HIS NAME IS NEIL MCGILLIS AND HE LIVES IN QUEBEC. HE SENT ME A SHEET (copy enclosed) IT SHOWS OUR OLDEST ANCESTOR TO BE A GILLIS MCGILLIS BORN IN 1796 IN SCOTLAND. THE FAMILY CAME TO NOVA SCOTIA AROUND 1837. WE KNOW THE LAST FOUR CHILDREN WERE BORN IN NEW BRETON, NOVA SCOTIA. AT SOME POINT MOST OF THE FAMILY MOVED TO LOCHIEL TWP. IN ONTARIO. FROM THERE THREE OF THE FAMILY (JAMES, MARGARET AND JOSEPH) CAME TO HARRISVILLE. I HAVE ALSO BEEN IN E-MAIL CONTACT WITH AUNT ESTHER'S SON MANLEY McDONALD. WE ARE ALL TRYING TO ESTABLISH DATES. I WAS VERY PLEASED TO DISCOVER OUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER JAMES AND GREAT-GRANDMOTHER'S GRAVE SITE AT SPRINGFIELD CEMETERY NEAR HARRISVILLE. THIS HAPPENED FROM SOME NOTES ETHEL ROSE GAVE ME FROM HER CEMETERY HOPPING LAST MAY. I JUST HAD TO CONNECT THE TWO. ENOUGH ABOUT THAT - I GET THE IMPRESSION SOME OF YOU ARE BORED SILLY WITH THE SUBJECT.

FRANK, THANKS FOR THE REUNION PICTURE FROM THE NEWSPAPER. THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO SEND EACH OF US A COPY - BUT NEVER DID. I HOPE YOU MANAGED THE SUMMER HEAT OK. I SURE DO APPRECIATE CENTRAL AIR. I FEEL SORRY FOR THE YOUNGER FAMILIES THAT DON'T HAVE IT (THE OLDER ONES TOO) THEN I REMEMBER THAT I WAS 55 YEARS OLD BEFORE WE GOT IT. I FIGURE AGE HAS SOME PRIVILEGES.

JOHN - SPEAKING OF WILD WEATHER - HURRICANE IS ABOUT TO HIT THE EAST COASTLINE. EVEN HIGH WIND IS SO DESTRUCTIVE. I HOPE EVERYONE WILL BE SAFE.

IT SEEMS JIM AND CAROLYN'S TRIP TO JAPAN WAS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME TRIP -(BY CHOICE) AS WAS OUR'S TO ITALY. I WOULD NOT CHOOSE A WORKING/ SIGHTSEEING TRIP AGAIN. THE PACE IS TOO HECTIC.

MARTY - AS I SPEAK - YOU ARE ENJOYING YOUR GO-LIGHTLY COCKTAIL. YOU MUST BE SUPER CLEAN FOR TOMORROW. YOU KNOW WE ARE ALL PRAYING THAT EVERYTHING GOES AS IT SHOULD AND YOU'LL BE BACK TO NORMAL IN NO TIME. JUST KNOWING IT'S OUT OF THERE IS A GREAT MOOD ELEVATOR.

ELAINE, HOW LONG BEFORE YOU GET YOUR HEARING AID? IF IT HELPS, IT WILL BE MONEY WELL SPENT.

JOE AND JACIE - DID YOU GET CLOSE TO ANY OF THOSE FOREST FIRES ON YOUR WAY DOWN THE WEST COAST? WE WERE CONCERNED KNOWING THAT YOU WERE TRAVELING THAT WAY. I GUESS KATHY'S BABY IS THE LAST MEDICAL EVENT THIS YEAR (AFTER MARTY'S TOMORROW). HOPEFULLY

WE CAN HAVE A LONG DRY SPELL IN THAT AREA.

SIS, I SAW YOU RECENTLY. I STOPPED IN TO PICK UP SOME ORIGINAL OLD FAMILY PICTURES. I WAS PUTTING TOGETHER SOME PICTURES FOR NEIL McGILLIS AND MANLEY McDONALD. MY SCANNER IS WONDERFUL FOR COPYING PICTURES. MANLEY HAD LUNCH WITH AUNT NOAMI ON LABOR DAY.

ALSO ENCLOSED IS A PLAIN PAPER COPY OF A PICTURE OF DAD. IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN A XEROX COPY FOR FRAMING - JUST ASK.

TILL NEXT TIME.

LOVE,      JAN AND JEAN

1796-  
GILLIS MC GILLIS 1792-1876

CHILDREN:

1. Catherine McGillis (1826-  
born in Scotland, @ home 1861

2. Mary (Mc)Gillis  
married  
John Hugh McDonald  
lived in East Bay, N.S.

3. Elizabeth McGillis ??  
married after 1868, his 3M  
Ranald McDonell

4. James McGillis 1835-1919  
married in ON.  
Esther McInnis 1837-1925  
lived in Michigan

5. Margaret McGillis 1838-1918  
married 1862, St. Finnan's, Alexandria  
Duncan R. McDonell 1828-1910  
lived in Glengarry, Bruce county,  
then moved to Mikado, MI, Alcona county

6. Mary McGillis 1841-1923  
married c. 1866  
Duncan McKinnon  
1824-1904  
lived in Minn.

7. Ranald McGillis 1844-1887  
3 children: James 1869-c1890,

8. Joseph McGillis 1847-1913  
Children: Mary Ann 1873-

M. Loch 1868 Jessie Walsh 1848-1896, lived Lochiel 7C  
JOHANNA 1871-1961, John Francis 1875-c1882

M Loch 1872 Ann McDonald  
, Elizabeth (1874), Elizabeth 1876-  
John, Archibald, Ranald

lived in Harrisville, MI.  
, Gillis 1878- ,

ANN MC DOUGALL 1802-1872

GRANDCHILDREN

Donald 1861-  
James 1863-

Neil 1867-1907-ordained 6 Aug. 1893  
bur. @ Holy Redeemer, Sydney, N.S.

Joseph 1869-  
Mary 1870-  
Agnes 1873-1947 Sr. Cecilia Congreg. St. Martha

Sarah  
Katie  
Lizzie  
Sue  
Esther 1881  
Bob  
Henry R. 1877 (DEC. 31)  
Annie  
Henrietta 1868-c1965  
William J. 1869-1958

Alexander McDonald (1863)  
Alexander McDonald 1865-67  
Mary Ann McDonald 1867-1910  
James Ranald McDonald 1869-1954  
John Ranald McDonald (1870)  
Gillis McDonald 1871-1918  
Catherine McDonald 1874-  
Angus McDonald 1876-  
John Ranald McDonald 1880-1912

Joseph 1867-1955  
Angus 1869-19  
James 1871-1922  
Daniel 1873-1937  
John J. 1875-  
ANNIE 1878-1951  
Mary 1881-  
Katherine 1885-

*Johanna is my grandmother*

NEIL J. MCGILLIS  
125 SINCLAIR  
ST-SAUVEUR, QC JOR 1R7



9-28-99

Dear Sisters + Brothers,

Received the letters a few days ago and decided to wait until after our anniversary anniversary to answer, we took a short trip out of town to get away from things for a change - Betty needed it with all that has been going on with her Dad and all.

We got a good rain storm last night and didn't we need it, the grass has taken a beating the last 3 wks. or so, maybe we will get more than we want come winter - but how lucky can we be? every direction you want to look all across the country - this is about as close to heaven as some of us may get..!

John, so you are home now and I'm sure you are glad but take it easy for a while and stay away from those micro waves ok.

Jim, just talked to you about John, I'll bet that trip to Japan was something, I just don't think I would want the experience at least not at this point in my life, golly you guys and your prostate problems, I don't know if it runs in the family or not - I don't have any trouble and I don't need it, I have enough already.

Morty, you are another one - I hear about these operations well after the fact and wonder what in the world is happening am glad to hear that you came through ok and hope you continue take it show lifes to short.

Elaine, we missed getting your call to wish a happy b. day and Anniv. but thanks for the call, you probably have your hearing aid bup. now - how do they work?

Joe, I just talked to you also when checking on John but did not hear anything about your trip - I'll bet

it was great? I don't imagine you got anywhere near Big Sur with the forest fires? I and John will be talking about a family reunion in the near future.

Sis, glad you and Rog. stopped by after seeing John yesterday, again I don't know how you guys do it - get around to see ~~so~~ so many people in such a short time, you are certainly blessed

Jon, just talked to you also about John, no I'm not the least bit bored with the family history I think it's very interesting. I'm glad you have the guest for it, Uncle Floyd and Aunt Lanny's son Ernest & his wife stopped by there last fall we had a nice visit, he live over near Whittimore - yes we would like a copy of Dad's Pic.

Enough scratching for now.

All our Love and prayers Frank & Betty

October 6, 1999

DEAR BROTHERS and SISTERS,

I recently had a conversation with brother (Frank) in regards to the 2,000 family reunion. We both feel at this time it's a go. In all likelihood it would be in a restaurant in or near Oscoda.

As you all know I recently, narrowly escaped leaving this very troubled world. I now have a backup battery system, however partial heart blockage is causing me the greatest concern and loss of energy.

The 1999 rifle season will soon be upon us and I again will be forced to enjoy the wild game, fresh air and neighborhood visitation. While these events are happening brother (Frank) will probably be planning yet another long shot halfway across his backyard.

Many of you have traveled to other parts of the world over the years, most of the time you returned with pleasant memories. Returning safely to your roots was probably the most important event of the trip.

The U.S 23 road construction project here in Ossineke is still ongoing but expect to be completed by 11-1-99. Two inches of sealer will be rolled on next summer. Rumor has it that the Harrisville hills (valleys) will be filled in this winter and the road will be closed atleast six months.

Jan I was a little surprised to find a large picture of Dad in the latest family letter. His framed navy picture is around somewhere, both are very well done.

Yesterday morning I looked out the front window only to find seven turkeys feeding in the front yard. This morning they were replaced by atleast 500 blackbirds. Mother nature will probably bring more new surprises in the days to come.

The outside painting never was completed this year as was the timber cutover problem. There is many things in our lives we have no control over regardless of the cost, time, and prayers gone unanswered. I will have to close for now and wish you all the best.

Your Loving Brother,

John

Nov. 3, 1999

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is a very cold day here in Troy and I don't want to go out yet to work on Brian's garage so I will relax inside and get this letter written. It is so nice to sit down and read the letters but of course it is nicer to see you all in person. The reunion was great. I am already looking forward to next year.

As I said I am working on Brian's garage now. I have it all up and I am working on the trim and siding now. It will be nice when it is finished.

Mark and Sheila have moved into their new home in Shelby Twp. It is very nice. I spent one week there painting. Mark broke the tip of one finger last week on the job. They operated on it and he is doing better now. He may go back to work today.

Karen and John are busy building their new home on St. Mary's lake (north of Battle Creek). They hope to move in around Thanksgiving.

We are anxiously waiting for Jeff to get home from Japan. He is due to arrive Dec. 15th. He and Amy are engaged now. It is very difficult with her family. Pray for them and God bless and guide them.

Carolyn is so busy at school. She tries



to do so much and gets depressed when she can't get it all done. Thank God she has nice kids this year.

I am doing fine. The results from my surgery are very good and I am feeling good. I am busy with St. Vincent de Paul as usual. I was surprised last Wednesday when I was given an award from Cardinal Maida for volunteerism and service. I was not aware that it was happening until I walked into the hall and they pinned on a carnation.

Elaine, I am waiting to hear how your hearing aids are doing. I will give you a call soon.

Joe, how was your trip to the west coast. I hope you had a great time. I went to Newport Beach, Ca. in Sept. We got to San Diego, Disney Land, and Santa Catalina Island.

Sis, we won't be able to get to your 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary next June since we are scheduled to be in London then. I hope all goes fine.

Jan and Marty, I have talked to both of you lately. I will be talking to you soon.

Frank, you sound like you are doing pretty good at the present time. Are you going to get in any hunting out the back door. Good luck.

John, I am happy you survived your surgery and hopefully life will continue to get better.

I am running out of paper so I better quit  
over

for now. God bless all of you.

Your loving brother  
Jim & Carolyn

HI FAMILY ONE AND ALL:

NOV. 08, 1999

WELL THIS IS THE LAST LETTER THAT I WILL BE WRITING THIS CENTURY. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE YEAR 2000.

I HAVE TALKED TO ELAINE LATELY SO I HAVE NO WORDS OF WISDOM FOR HER. SHE ALWAYS GETS ALONG SO WELL.

I DID TALK TO JOE SINCE HE CAME BACK FROM OUT WEST SO I GOT THE SCOOP ON HIM. I BET HIS CUCUMBERS ARE FROZEN ABOUT NOW.

SIS, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE LOTS OF COMPANY NEXT SUMMER. I WAS HOPEING THAT FRANK AND JOHN WOULD HAVE THE REUNION AT THE MIKADO TOWN HALL. WOULDN'T THAT BE GOING BACK TO OUR ROOTS? OH WELL, WHATEVER THEY DECIDE, LETS DO IT.

JAN, HAVE TALKED TO YOU MANY TIMES LATELY ABOUT HEALTH AND OUR RELATION FROM WAY BACK. YOU ARE A HERO FOR DOING ALL THAT NECESSARY STUFF. THE PICTURE OF DAD IS GREAT. GOOD TO HEAR THAT JEAN IS DOING WELL. HOPE TO SEE HIM THE NEXT TIME HE HITS THE VA AT SAGINAW.

FRANK, I SAW YOU NOT TO LONG AGO AND WOULDN'T YOU KNOW FAMILY, HE WAS OUT ON THE DECK WHEN ELAINE AND I CAME BUT I COULD NOT FIND OUT WHERE HE HAD THE RIFLE STASHED. FRANK, YOU SURE LOOKED GOOD. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

JOHN, WE SAW YOU THE SAME DAY AND AM HOPEING THAT YOU ARE GETTING YOUR STRENGTH BACK. I BET IF YOU WOULD HAVE HAD THAT PROCEDURE DONE HERE AT SAINT MARY'S, THEY WOULD HAVE GONE DOWN IN THERE AND REMOVED THAT ONE BLOCK BEHIND YOUR HEART. THEY ARE SO GOOD AT WHAT THEY DO.

JIM, TALKED TO YOU A WEEK AGO. NOT A THING NEW TO REPORT FROM THIS END. THE SURGERY WAS A SLAPPING SUCCESS AND WE GO BACK TO SEE THE UROLOGIST ON DECEMBER 20TH. I BELIEVE.

LOVE YOU ALL.



Dear Families: If I can put pen to paper and organize my thoughts that is a job for me. It's the coldest today ever these very last days of Fall! Dec. 1999

Joe, Jackie and son Mike from Maryland, are to stop by tomorrow so I have to write something!

It goes without saying the highlight of my yr. was my birthday surprise and thanks a million it took me so long to settle down after, the holidays are surely taking second place.

So glad most of you will be in Michigan for a few weeks after going all over the place. I'm like a mother hen when you're not at your phone numbers. My VICE!! Big mouth!

Hope we can help Leo and Rog celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> this coming summer, where are the years going?

My health is not a subject I like to deal with I try to thank God for my blessings. <sup>Yuma</sup> Sam Yacono who lives in a motor home at present in <sup>Yuma</sup> Arizona has a wall hanging saying "Life is fragile, handle with prayer."

Welcome Alexander James Reid to the Clan —  
may God bless and keep you always  
Love, Elaine

Cadillac, Mi.  
Dec. 28, 1999

Dear Family:

I have been delaying the letter writing for long enough so here goes.

The timing of our trip through the Canadian Provinces and the western US turned out about as we had anticipated as to time allotted for each segment. We have traveled by car so much that we know our limits.

Some surprises were the large amount of grain grown in the Canadian Provinces and how late it gets harvested. They stack the straw in very large storage areas for later shipment to some industry I expect.

As for the mountain areas of Alberta and British Columbia, they are beautiful beyond words. We found that the popular resorts are over-run by four or five tour groups in the June-July-August months, reserved far ahead. Anything available will be very costly. There are many glaciers viewable from the major highways but they are small compared to the BC-Alaska region along the Pacific and the far north. If you take the trip, be self contained for the mountain areas, but not with very large trailers due to parking and handling problems. Going north to south is wise due to the grade is toward the Columbia River area and its route to the Pacific between Oregon and Washington states. It takes powerful tow vehicles that are in top condition. September would be a preferred month, with traveling families back to school and work. May can be late winter stormy in the Canadian west mountains. Fuel is very expensive in Canada every Province.

Above Winnipeg, Manitoba there is a wealth of exploring to be done in the big lake country. The changes in the landscape are spectacular. The Province of Alberta is outstanding in Canada. It is a wealthy and well populated region. Heavy to mining, oil, farming, ranching, industry and tourism, and well worth visiting.

Spokane, Washington is a very nice city to visit. I spent some time there in the early fifties with the US Air Force. The Bomber bases there and at Riverside, California are no longer in use. There is much grain farming in SE Washington state as there is in Oregon to the east of the major mountains. We stopped at the Grand Coulee Dam but it was closed to traffic at the time so we spent our time in the tourist show buildings.

We had a special two days with Ethel Rose and some of the family. About 200 miles of Mt. Rainier National Park trip with them as guides. The weather was excellent so ~~xxxx~~ we say some sites to cherish. Robert was raised in the region and was a Conservation Officer in that region of Washington State. He also hiked and camped throughout his life in the Park region. They worked with youth group on trips into the wilderness.

We joined Xway 5 at Portland Oregon for the long trip south past Mt. Shasta in northern California to near Sacramento in the central valley where it goes into the 100 degree temperature region. We saw some forest fire smoke in the distance near Mt. Shasta, and one staging area for fire fighting where they were loading large helicopters for trips to smother the blazes. There were no fires near Big Sur area at that time, the point was closed when we stopped, for some reason.

Highway 1 from Monterey was a wonder to behold. They advise you to time your trip so that you will be off the road by 6 PM due to fog hazard. This road is a real trial to drive, and much work was being done to repair damage from earlier storms and the erosion they caused. You are high above the ocean beaches without side hiking.



LA was no problem for us but San Diego was a trial for me with its winding roads and confusing maps. Mostly we rested and did washing in the hotel we stopped at. On a trip like this you have to clean clothes every few days. The temperatures were more livable along the Pacific coast but got very hot again in the Imperial valley of SE California. We touched the edge of Phoenix just on the edge of a rare strong storm.

We spent another rest 2 days at Jackie's sisters in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The trip ended on Labor Day with no road problems and us in much need of a work break. We set out to touch some new country for possible later visits to special spots in our spare time. Three weeks on the road is too long in hot weather.

We just completed a two week trip to Boca Raton, Florida where we used a time-share for one week. This is a much easier trip to manage than the previous out west. That area of Florida is very rich along the coast and very Cuban as you get near Miami. Many of the locals don't like to go to the Miami area now. The weather going down and until ~~XXX~~ we got out of Florida was excellent. We were about  $\frac{1}{2}$  block from the ocean and it got into the low eighties most days. At night we opened the sliders for the ocean breezes. Very few insects, none biting. Saw several alligators sunning along the waterways along side I75 Alligator Alley on the way to the Gulf Coast as we headed home. We had several million dollar type homes in the neighborhood near where we stayed. Our resort wasn't near that fancy and there were many apartment type buildings near by as well. The larger buildings along the coast highway were 16 story very wealthy type apartment homes, much of which are being repaired as are many of the old homes along the inland waterway.

Elaine told you about Kathy's new baby Alexander, who is now just over six lbs. He was born 5 weeks premature, but now is doing fine.

We brought the winter weather north instead of south this trip. We have had cold like in '76 when we moved to the Cadillac area and now we have snow in abundance.

Jan I had thought the McGillis side was more Irish than Scotch. Good work, and when you get it figured out let me know. I am interested in the facts and only the facts Mam. I suspect we all are interested but not to the degree you are. We have a copy of Dads picture in our files somewhere.

John your hunting luck was much better than anywhere else in the state according to the reports I have been hearing. Some of our bow hunting family members were seeing many bucks early this fall but without snow the rifle season was a miserable flop in most areas.

Try to give a little warnings to the final dates for coming events. We are getting more retirees in our numbers and can often be quite flexible with just a little warning.

We seem to be getting our health problems under control and I sincerely pray that trend continues.

See you all later in the news letters  
God Bless you all

Jackie & Joe

a wonderful trip with our blessings.  
we expect to see every one up north  
in August at the Family Reunion... I don't  
know if the plans are firm on this or  
yet.

Jan: we do enjoy the Family Tree.

John: Dad's Sailor picture has been  
hanging in my front Hall for years.  
would you like to have it awhile?

Frank: what a nice long letter. We  
will see you when we get up there.

Marty: So glad you are doing so well.  
Every thing turns out if we just roll  
with the punches..

Doe: Our plan is a tour out west in  
Sept. after all the parties + Reunions  
are over. what a nice guided tour  
you gave us all in your letter. We  
feel like we've been there already.

Claine: I'll be talking to you soon. You  
are a joy for all of us.

Jesus Loves you  
and so do we  
Sis, Roy  
+ all  
over

1-7-2000

Hi Loves,

Its early morning. Michelle is off to work. She works at GO. on Mon wed. + Fri. She works on car parts at a sheltered work shop. They have lots of outings, so its fun as well as work.

Its a half hour before my first Lady so I'll get started on this Round Robin letter. Its so good to hear from all of you every 4 mo. or so.

The Holidays are over and we all made it into the new Millennium. I didn't waste too much time worrying about that. We pray that all of you keep in good health and enjoy life as you serve God in these later years.

We do hope to see all of you on 6-17-2000, but understand that it will be impossible for some. Jim & Carolyn we know your plans were made well in advance. Have