

Ya hoo brothers and sisters

Hope everyone is fine. We got over the Christmas season and am looking for some warm weather soon. I will start this in Michigan and finish it in

Florida.

I talked to Elaine yesterday and she sounded great. I too wonder where her letter went to but better luck next time.

Joe, You are up to first place in statistics, but your typewriter is beating you to death. Why don't you fire that thing and let Hewlett-Packard do the job for you in the form of office documents program. It is very friendly and would love you for it. John uses it and he loves it. (see attached letters). Other than that, are you going south this winter????

Yes, it looks like all is going well at your place. John and Gayle made a smart move when they were able to buy that place across the road. It will seem so good that they can retire and come back to the land of lower prices. It so expensive to live in Hawaii.

Janice, I hope that we will be able to get down to Bonita Springs. It is a two hour drive from Treasure Island, but really no difference than from here to Detroit. I will call you as soon as I get my phone in down there.

Frank, I know how hard it is to think of things to write about but when I can't think of something to say, I just get up and go make a cup of tea, and then that clears my head. I think that more cars got deer in Saginaw County than hunters did. We sure have a lot of accidents with

Deer but the body shops love it. Have your deer survived the winter so far??

John, that fence line problem could go away, if you just forgot about it. Some surveyors do make mistakes too. I am thinking that back pain and hip pain come with being 70. Am I wrong or not? I have had both and I am told that I am not a spring chicken any longer.

Jim, I just talked to you and will see you in Florida on your trip down. I am going to finish these letters in Florida and mail them to Elaine from down there, so I can put some warm weather in the envelope. See you all later.

Well, I have BEEN in Florida for a week now and it is very cool. Supposed to warm up by Thursday. The sun is BEAUTIFUL today. I will get out for a walk. Linda is coming down on the 19th and going back on the second of Feb. All is well here. Hope you are all well.

love

Marty

Jan. 22 2010

Dear Families:

Hope this letter doesn't get lost?
Joe: good to hear your eyes are good. It's
always something. I need my other eye operated
on. When I don't know?

Sis: I'm sorry I'm such a pain but thank God
for you and all you do for me, I couldn't survive.
Jan: thanks for your thoughts for letters - a
phone call isn't always enough. Have a great
vacation in Fla.

Frank: I miss your letter too - where did it go?
Keep as well as you are doing?

John: my last letter was complimenting you
and what a great job putting that journal to-
gether. Your Guardian angel is surely busy.

Jim: Thanks for the nice mini reunion / B day
party, you do great things. Enjoy Florida.

Marty: By now Fla. maybe nice, hope so!
The earth is in such turmoil.

Oh how time flies even when one isn't
having fun. For my years I'm doing O.K. and

I thank God.

My Best to everyone and my our Lord
bless and keep you

Love & Prayers

Elaine.



Cadillac, MI
2-6-10

Dear Family:

We are OK and just finished the income tax which takes a big load off my mind. We used H&R Block after trying to do it myself. My nerves just can't take the strain any more and the tax writers seem to get better at confusing writing.

I just reread the letters. Please date your letters. It makes it better to figure the I'm reading about.

Just now, the Florida vacationers are getting the Florida version of odd weather. We have about 40% of the snow we had at this time in 09. We haven't had a below 0° morning yet but it is close and cold enough for us old people.

We got rid of our time-share and doubt we will travel to Florida again. With the health problems it just seems too risky to be on the road.

The Winn Boat Co. has been sold and is getting ready to start building again. Several hundred workers have out of steady work for many months.

over

It is a beautiful day and no snow is
expected.

~~It~~
We wish good health to all of you and
yours.

Joe and Jackie

2-12-2010-

Our Dear Family

We are reeling over our Dear Michaels passing on, but I feel guilty because his life was so hard and I'm sure painful. He never complained and tried to be upbeat.

Thank you Jan + Elaine for coming to the Funeral. I know most of you Guys had gone South when this happened or your Health problems prevented you from coming.

We've had Mike for twelve years and Ron was our care for at least two years before that, so we have time for something else now. or perhaps we ~~can~~ slow down. Roy is eighty and I'm soon to be. Most of the time we don't feel like it.

Yes John + Gayle bought the place across the road and had planned to rent it out, but have had no takers so far. They plan to retire in about 5 yrs + move here. They'll winter in Hawaii.

John I surely did enjoy your book and I
thought I told you so. You have had the
busiest Guardian Angel I've ever heard
of. I'm going to read it again as soon as
I find where I put it for safe keeping.
I'm putting it down at Christmas

I find were
 Jam my way of cutting down at Christmas
 was to give each one something I have
 and want them to have. It worked out
 pretty well.
 are not ^{at} all a pain

pretty well.
 Elaine you sure are not ^{at} all a pain
 and we love you very much. So happy
 your feeling well right now.
 I hope you see real snow

Joe we just had our first real snow here in Inlay City. Its the first I've had to be plowed out unlike alot of the country. I love the Crystal Days, we havent had many of them this year.

many of them this year.

Jim: yes we sold four horses and hope to sell the others this year. Its time to slow down.

... but this least stuff? Jim is so glad

Frank. Whats this heart stuff? Im so glad
your over that and that your lungs are better
we will be up when the weather clears.

It looks like I'm retiring at least part
of the time. I lost about 8 ladies this year.
The last do was at the Funeral Home. Bless
men

Marty + Sanda.

I imagine you will be home by the time this letter gets around to you. I'm glad you enjoy going south. I don't see how we could do that even if we wanted to.

we love and miss you all
God blessings be upon
all of you

Sis

I guess I better get the lead out and get these back on the road. For some reasons I have been especially busy. When we got home from Florida there was Income Tax to get together, some genealogy info to gather for Sonda, daughter-in-law Pat wanted me to make her a folder of family stories. I finished all those - I also decided to write down some things about my life so the kids will have them in case I check out sooner rather than later. I also had Jean dictate happenings from his early life up until we got married. I also plan to make up some booklets for all of the kids so I had to copy all the stuff I had gathered for Pat. She is making her way thru and has come up with a lot of questions. She and her parents were sure gracious about letting us stay at their condo in Florida. Joe has recovered from his hip replacement and will be starting his concrete leveling business season shortly.

I've talked to several of you recently about Marty and the cow story. That went into the booklet for the kids too.

We have only one serious deer hunter ant that's Rob. He bow hunts and then rifle hunts until that season is over. He got two last season. You would laugh at all the preperations he goes through before he goes in the woods.

John, I did get your book. I am clueless as to why you experience these things on a regular basis. I can only believe Our Lord may be using you in some way. Your booklet is very nicely done and is in the Dumont notebook along with the other family history. Just keep in mind that God has a very close eye on you and who better to protect you. Some of the silence you hear may be because your stories are mindboggling and leave us speechless?????

We sure did have a weird winter. A few small snowfalls through January. Then a 6" and a 7" in early February and not much since. The guys have been kind of disappointed

because they want to get on the John Deere with it's snowblower, it's heated cab and it's speed in clearing snow. Ron did our drive, the tenant's drive and his own drive in a little over an hour. We arrived home from Florida the day of the 6" fall. We got off the shuttle bus at the car lot. We didn't have any boots and had to clear all that snow off the car before we could make our way home. We sure missed our dogs. I don't know if we will be making any more trips. I found the travel part quite stressfull. The airport at Metro seems like it's a mile long and until you get used to it - it's very confusing. We were glad to be home. While we were waiting to board the plane to go to Florida - my feet started to burn big time. I knew once I got on the plane it would be 3 to 4 hours before I could get them into cold water. I bought some cold bottled water and soaked them right in the waiting area. I bet they don't see that everyday.

This is a little short for me but I want to get these in the mail tomorrow.

God Bless all of you until next time.

Love, Jan and Jean

WAKE UP AMERICA

3-30-10

DEAR FAMILIES,

I HAVE TO GET IN THE RIGHT FRAME OF MIND TO START THESE LETTERS, IT SEEMS LIKE MOST OF US ARE IN THE SAME BOAT HEALTH WISE ITS CALLED OLD AGE

SINCE MY LAST LETTER I HAVE BEEN IN ST. MARYS OF MICH. IN SAQ. FOR A CATHETERIZATION THEY FOUND A 70% blockage IN ONE VESSEL BUT CHOOSE NOT TO DO ANYTHING AT THIS TIME, IN ST. JOE'S INTA WAS TWICE IN ONE DAY WITH WHAT WAS THOUGHT TO BE HEART ATTACKS, THEY HAVE PRETTY MUCH DECIDED I HAVE ANGINA.

THIS HAS BEEN I GUESS THE MOST FANTASTIC WINTER I CAN REMEMBER AT LEAST IN NORTHERN LOWER MICH - WE ONLY HAD ONE STORM THAT WE GOT ABOUT 6" OF SNOW, NO POWER OUTAGES NO NOR EASERS NOTHING, SOME THAT LEFT FOR SUNNY FLA. DIDN'T FAIR SO WELL.

OVER

The Rest of our gang is doing
pretty well EVERYTHING Considered
Betty is having some eye problems
A TORN RETINA IN HER LEFT eye we
MAY HAVE TO go down TO SAG. FOR
SURGERY, She WAS down THERE A
couple of weeks ago FOR shot
IN THE EYE AND RIGHT NOW she
SAYS ITS feeling pretty good
Hope Fully.

Will Close For Now And Keeping
All of you in our PRAYERS

With love

BETTY + FRANK

DON'T let us slip INTO

COMMUNISM / SOCIALISM

WAKE UP AMERICA

April 12, 2010

Brothers & Sisters,

Having received the family letter some ten days ago, it is time to respond.

Last deer season, I hunted only three days and shot a three point buck. Hunting next season is in question. In the last two of three years, my car was totaled by hitting a deer, very expensive venison steaks.

What was reported in the earlier life time memories was certainly true. However, you can double the earlier experiences and still be baffled as to why this happened to me. It struck four times so far this year. One thing is for certain, Cousin It has a pile of toys and comic books, also can pick locks to do his deeds quietly.

Like the rest of you, we had a very nice winter. Kidney stones and back problems took the enjoyment out of it. Expect to have scheduled surgery for my lower back soon as I will see our Dr. on Friday to review test to be cleared for this procedure.

Before we realize it, folks from Florida will be coming up north for the winter, lucky them.

Our #2 grandson is going into the military in June. I am sure he realizes it is a very dangerous world out there, but I can't fault his bravery.

It sure looks like come November, the upcoming election will result in some well needed house cleaning.

I will close for now and may God bless each and everyone of you.

Your loving brother

John.

May 5, 2010

My Dear Sisters and Brothers

The letters arrived just before Carolyn and I attended the national mid year meeting in St. Louis. I was spending a lot of time preparing a case to remove two people from leadership roles within the society while praying that I would not have to do it. Eventually I had to do it to protect the society and the employees that they were abusing. The removal has taken place and we are trying to clean up the mess they had created. The Holy Spirit has been at work and I thank God for that.

On a lighter side, The weather is beautiful and I am spending some time mowing the grass, weeding the flowers, planting the garden and spraying the trees. I also have been picking up furniture, cleaning and repairing them and delivering them to the needy. Carolyn has been busy cleaning all kinds of bedding and kitchen ware.

From the letters it appears that all of us are doing relatively well at the moment. At least I do not hear of a crisis now. We are all slowing down a little bit, I am seeing some people now wanting me to back up and let them do the heavy lifting ~~now~~. Maybe they think I am getting a little old for that. That could be.

My travel ⁵⁸ schedule for the rest of the year is as follows. I have budget meetings in June in St. Louis, region meetings in Fort Wayne In, in August, national meetings in

New Orleans in September and board meetings in St. Louis in November. We are trying to fit in a trip to Kentucky sometime this summer. Yes Jan, I do know that traveling is stressful.

Emi is taking the two children to Japan June 27th for five weeks. Jeff will go over for the last two weeks and they will return together. Alisa will spend one month in school in Japan. That should be quite an experience for her.

I am running out of news so I better quit for now. I will call Jan now and see if she wants some rubarb. God bless all of you and keep you safe.

Your loving brother
Jim and Carolyn.

DEAR FAMILIES:

JUNE 6TH.2010

WOW HOW TIME FLIES THESE DAYS. IT SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY THAT JIM SENT ME THE LETTERS.

ELAINE, ITS GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK HOME AND WE SHALL TALK IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS. SONDA KEEPS TELLING ME THAT I NEED HEARING AIDS BUT THE HEARING SPECIALIST SAYS IT IS TO EARLY FOR ME TO GET HEARING AIDS. I KNOW THAT MY LEFT EAR, WHERE THE SHINGLES HIT, IS IN BAD SHAPE BUT THE DR. SAYS ITS STILL READABLE.

JOE, , YOU ARE RIGHT ABOUT THE WEATHER LAST WINTER. YOU HAD IT NICE UP HERE AND WE HAD TO WEAR JACKETS OR SWEAT SHIRTS MUCH OF THE TIME. JUST ONE THING THAT WE DID NOT HAVE , AND I HAD TO GO ON THE WEATHER CHANNEL TO GET WAS A SNOW STORM OR TWO. THEN I WAS OK FOR AWHILE. WE DID GET TO TWO TIGER BASEBALL GAMES AND THEY WERE PRETTY MUCH SOLD OUT, AND WE GOT BACK TO BUSCH GARDENS ONE DAY. WE HAVE A FRIEND THAT WORKS THERE SO HE GETS US HALF OFF TICKETS AND THE SHOWS ARE WONDERFUL.

SIS, ITS TIME FOR CLASS REUNIONS AGAIN, AND JIM CALLED TO SEE IF I PLANNED TO GO. I DO WANT TO GO, BUT SONDA DOES NOT LIKE THEM SO , SHE MAY DECIDE TO STAY HOME.

I AM GLAD THAT JOHN AND GAYLE WERE ABLE TO BUY THE FARM ACROSS THE ROAD. IT WILL BE REALLY NICE WHEN THEY CAN MOVE BACK TO THE LAND OF LOWER PRICES. I AM GLAD THAT THEY WILL GO BACK TO HAWAII FOR THE WINTER. SEE YOU SOON.

JANICE, WE PLAN TO BE AT YOUR HOME THIS FRIDAY AND I GET ALL YOUR EMAILS, SO IT SEEMS LIKE WE ARE IN TOUCH OFTEN. IT DOES NOT SEEM POSSIBLE THAT WE HAVE EXCHANGED LETTERS 56 TIMES. TIME FLIES WHEN WE GET OLDER. IT SURE WAS NICE THAT WE ALL GOT TOGETHER AT AVE MARIA IN FLORIDA. I JUST GOT A NEW ATLAS AND IT IS NOT SHOWING ON THE MAP OF FLORIDA. I DON'T KNOW IF I TOLD YOU OR NOT BUT ONE OF THE PEWS AT THE ORATORY HAS THE NAME OF A SAGINAW FAMILY EMBOSED ON THE END. I DO NOT KNOW THEM PERSONALLY, BUT THEY ARE BIG SHOOTERS IN THIS AREA. IN YOUR NOTES ABOUT YOUR EARLY LIFE, DON'T FORGET TO TELL THEM THAT YOU THREW YOUR BABY BROTHER DOWN THE STAIRWAY. IT SHOWS HOW STRESSED OUT , WOMEN GET.

FRANK, I AM WITH YOU ON THE "WAKE UP AMERICA" LINE. I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW SOME PEOPLE ARE TAKING THIS CHANGING OF AMERICA, REAL LIGHTLY. HOLD ON TO YOUR WALLET AS WASHINGTON IS COMING TO GET IT.

YOU AND JOHN ARE GETTING TO BE FREQUENT FLYERS AT ST. MARYS IN SAGINAW. AT LEAST, THE LOCAL HOSPITALS HAVE YOUR WELL BEING IN MIND AND REFER YOU TO A HOSPITAL THAT IS EQUIPT TO DO THE JOB. HAS BETTY'S EYE GOTEN BACK TO NORMAL YET?

JOHN, HOPE YOUR BACK SURGERY AT ST. MARY'S IS COMING ALONG FINE. I WAS OUT WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION PUTTING FLAGS ON GRAVES WHILE YOU WERE HAVING SURGERY AND DID NOT KNOW ABOUT IT TILL I GOT HOME IN THE AFTERNOON . SIS CALLED AND LEFT A MESSAGE ON THE PHONE. I WORKED AT COVENANT HOSPITAL THE NEXT DAY, BUT SIS SAID YOU WERE GETTING OUT SO I FIGURES YOU WERE BUSY. COVENANT IS SO BIG AND SPRED OUT THAT PEOPLE GET LOST ALL THE TIME, SO I GET A CHANCE TO SHOW THEM THE WAY. I GET TO MEET A LOT OF NICE PEOPLE THAT WAY. IT HAS BEEN VERY GRATIFYING. KEEP US POSTED ON WHERE THE #2 GRANDSON IS STATIONED, WILL YOU.

JIM, I JUST TALKED TO YOU A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, AND WAS GOING TO WAIT AND DELIVER THE LETTERS, BUT I GUESS I WILL MAIL THEM SINCE ELAINE IS LOOKING FOR THEM.

GUESS, I WILL GET OUT OF HERE. LOVE YOU ALL.

SONDA AND MARTY

Dear Families:

Jan 11, 2010

How great to start Round Robin # 57 - We learn things that make us a family who don't see too much of one another but keeps us in touch.

Thanks Jan!

I'm trying to get OVER another operation! Woe me! What has God in store for me? I'm trying to be well once more. All of you have to try too!

I'm glad to be back at Sanctuary once called Casa Maria. Rent keeps raising every year but I'm O.K. so far. I've been blessed in so many ways.

Frank & John who have had problems. Hope you keep up the job. Some more of you have had the same to deal with. God Bless.

I'm happy to scribble my way thru a page to let you know I appreciate your letters and trials and don't give up.

Once in a while a chuckle or two in spite of sur-backs. Keep them coming.

I'm running out of bright things to say.

Until next time God Bless em Keep each one and all your kids
Love & Prayers.

Elaine

Cardillac, Wt.
7-19-10

Dear Family:

We have visited with each of you very recently so there is very little new news.

We had a tornado watch last evening, but no touch down. 1.37" of rain, which we needed.

Our 53 anniversary was on the 13th. We took a short trip to Charlevoix, Gaylord, Alpena. John's, Frank's, Max & Dad's graves, by the farm and back by way of M-55. Every thing is aging and new at the same time.

Frank lent us the "Alcona Co. / a pictorial history Volume I. I read or reviewed it and will try to get it to Marty next. We were closer to ~~Lower~~ Escabe than to Alpena, so most of it was a history to my memory. You all should review it if you get a chance.

Our raspberry crop is very good, and the black berry crop will do well if keep getting rain.

We have been very warm lately but it doesn't seem to be hurting most plant growth. Late frosts did hurt the blue berry and apple crops in the region.

We are reasonably well for our age, and
glad to find you are likewise.

Enclosing a news story about a Dumont
family that is very active locally. We have
never met them yet.

I keep forgetting this letter - so I better
get in the mail.

May our love be with each of your families

Jackie and Joe.

July 26, 2010

My Dear Family

It was so very special to see most of you at our 60th wedding anniversary party last month. We understood that Frank + John couldn't be there. We sure missed you. We got a beautiful new refrigerator with our generous gifts and enjoyed the other things also.

I've been watching a deer graze on the bean field outside our big dining-room window. That made my day.

Jan I was on the pot when you tossed Marty down the stairs. You didn't expect him to fly out of your arms and I sure was in shock also. Praise God he was just fine.

We have had a very busy summer with five of John's family coming for 5 weeks. They were so busy working at planting an orchard and getting their yard under control. They also planted hay seed on his other property. They were at our house for 2 wks until they got some furniture. The last 3 wks they slept

2 at home and ate both places, they tried so hard to make it easy on us.

Rog J's 3 sons came for our party with Ben's Fiancee. They will be coming in Sept for Ben and Amanda's wedding. The wedding reception will a yard party here, so we will be busy for awhile

Our plan is to get up North very soon. Sorry Jimi & Marty for missing the class reunion. Perhaps we will make it next year.

We are doing pretty well health wise. We must check our blood sugar, but other than that my doctor says I am amazing. Some days I'm not so sure, but it was nice for her to say that.

Elaine is rather amazing also after having such an operation and snapping out of it like she has.

God bless all of you and keep you in Good Health & Happiness.

Love
Bis Rog
& all

8-12-10

Hello again to all. I want to get these on the road again so I can concentrate on my daughter-in-law's (Pat) ancestral genealogy. As of Monday she will be free to compare notes. I have found a few new facts on

Sonda's mother's ancestors and I will get that out to her in the next few days.

I have been busy with the tomato canning this past week. I have to decide whether to can or to give them away to the close relatives and neighbors. With a small garden (6-8 tomato plants) it's hard to get enough ripe at the same time to bother canning. I have done 14 pints and will do a few more but it's time to pass the harvest on. The red raspberries are getting their second wind so I'll need to do something with them - not to mention pears and peaches. Tomatoes and peaches are easy. I wish you were closer so I could share. Helen (Jean's sister) just picked up over a half bushel of tomatoes.

Rob just stopped by - he said several deer jumped their fence and destroyed their garden. Victoria is very pee-ooh'ed as she was getting ready to can too. He's going to send her here for tomatoes.

We got word this a.m. that John is back in the hospital. Jim called there and learned they are awaiting test results before they decide what action to take. It sounds like carotid artery. Jean had one side of his neck done a few years back. He goes every 6 months for a recheck.

I'm enclosing a story from a book on Iosco County and it's early occupants. I may have sent it before but I can't remember (old age again). I need to take the time to read the rest of the stories before I pass it on. It took them 3-4 years to get it together. Our family story starts on page 20. Note- this book cost me over a hundred dollars so I kept after them till they produced.

We learned this week that one of Jean's brother's (Paul) has a grand son who is entering the Sacred Heart Seminary. He is 30 years old. He will need lots of prayers. Isn't that a pleasant surprise these days.

Jim, we talk on a regular basis so will go on to Marty's letter.
Marty - did you have to mention that I threw you down the stairs.
I must have been 7 or 8 years old and my common sense needed
some further development. That was not the intended outcome.
Either that or you were playing in the grease bucket and I couldn't
hang on to you. I loved Sis's remark while I was busy with you.
She happened to be sitting on pot at the time. Oh me Oh me Oh my.
By the way - I'm still stressed out.

Elaine - I've been wanting to call you all day - We have a buyer for
Jean's Astro Van and we are waiting for her call to close the deal.
It's after 3 p.m. and she hasn't called yet. I don't want to be on the
phone it she tries to call. Maybe tomorrow.

Joe, it must have been you that sent the article about a Dumont
family in Cadillac. I read the whole thing but didn't recognize
any of the names. How nice to have several generations keeping
us safe. Speaking of short trips - we haven't gone on a car trip
for several years. Jean scares the life out of me with his driving.
It's not that he's not a good driver but he does things that scares
me. I do most of the local driving but I avoid expressways. Guess
what?? Old age again.

Sis, you make my head swim with all the goings on at your place.
I think you will have to learn to say NO to some of these party's
that require you to work so hard to be ready. Guess what - YOU
are old and need to slow down. I sure don't want to hear that you
had a heart attack scrubbing the carpet.

Time to close - God Bless all of you.

Jan and Jean

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had a heart attack scrubbing the carpet.

Time to close - God Bless all of you.

Jan and Jean

assistance of a hired girl, Buelah (Van Wormer) Putnam, fed the crew two meals a day from her large garden.

Forms were built for the lower barn wall that would be the foundation for the entire barn.

Platforms were built along the top of the forms to walk on and work from. A ramp was built to get the wheel barrels of wet cement and supplies up to the platform and then the cement would be dumped into the forms. Otto and Ross Shellenbarger were two of the men from the crew that wheeled the wet cement up the ramp. They had to start running to get up enough speed to make it up the ramp and not spill the cement. A man would stand at the top of the ramp with a hook. He would hook onto the wheel barrel to help pull it up and get it turned on the platform. After dumping the cement in the form, another man would poke the wet cement with a long pole. This was done to get out air pockets to keep the cement wall from cracking when it set. On the day of the barn raising, men came from neighboring farms to help raise the beams and rafters. Brace Shattuck walked the beams to drive wood pegs in mortise and tendons.

They had a barn dance when the barn was completed. A piano was taken up the approach to the hay floor. Many people came and the cars were parked for a mile down the road each way. I wondered as a child how grown-ups could stay awake all night when I was so excited and having fun and couldn't stay awake.

In the summer of 1946, Jim Wilson asked John about taking his team of horses to the Ogemaw County fairgrounds for the horse pulls. John said he had no truck to haul the horses and had a field of hay to cut. Jim told him he would have a truck the morning of the pull and be over the next day to help with the hay. The team (Far and Bess) was purchased from Ray Parliment of West Branch, and won first place in the heavy weight pull.

John called for square dancing and enjoyed his team of horses. Florence enjoyed picking berries. Both enjoyed hunting, fishing and playing euchre. John and Florence were active in the Grange and Iosco County Fair, and were members of the Hale United Methodist Church.

JOHN RAPHAEL and PHILOMENE EUGENIE (MARTIN) DUMONT. My grandfather, John Raphael Dumont, and my grandmother, Philomene Eugenie Martin, left Riviere-du-Loup, in Quebec (approximately 1889) and traveled to the United States looking for work. They

first stopped in Bangor, Maine and later moved on to Lowell, Massachusetts. They married on February 19, 1884.

It's believed that they had relatives in each of those areas. By 1893, the family with four living children, left Lowell and traveled to the Iosco County area. Their first child born in the Oscoda area was my father Emmet Amil Dumont (born August 28, 1893). Grandpa first worked at loading ships at the docks. He later bought three 40 acre parcels of land on the banks of the Pine River. This was on the southwest corner of the river and the County Line Road. He had to clear land and build a house to live in. He earned their living selling wood products and butchering pigs and deer. He was the preferred butcher used by the Jewish families living in the area. They trusted him to observe their kosher requirements. He made many pieces of household furniture and turned out a few coonskin hats.

They had 15 children of which 12 reached adulthood. My grandmother was a tiny woman about five feet tall. She could do anything and everything a pioneer woman needed to do to feed, dress and care for a large family. My family is Roman Catholic and had to go to mass at Mikado by horse and buggy. Mikado is located about five miles north of the farm in Alcona County. The family had cousins living on farms nearby with the surnames of Martin and Michaud. In his late 50s, Grandpa developed cancer. He was sick for five years before he died. My Uncle Leo Dumont was 13 when his dad got sick. He was the oldest boy still at home so he quit school to help care for the family. There were two younger brothers and three sisters at home. The family moved into Oscoda about 1914. Their house is still standing facing Park St. It had two field-stone porches. My Uncle George and Aunt Frances Dumont lived next door with their three children, Ed, Art, and Ethel



John Raphael Dumont and Philomene Eugenie Martin married Feb. 19, 1884



Emmet Amil Dumont and Mary Amelia McGillis married on June 20, 1928

Rose. My dad's sister Emma married Fred Landon. They lived in Tawas City all of their married life and reared their family there. She died in the year 2000 at the age of 91.

My parents, Amil and Amelia, married June 20, 1928. They had a farm in Alcona County. He also had a produce route down along Van Ettan Lake and in Oscoda. He sold eggs, butter, chickens and produce in season. It was a family affair to gather, wash, bundle and load the car each Friday morning. My dad was a widower, with a 9-year-daughter, Elaine, when he married my mother. They reared seven children on the farm: Joe, Mary, Janice, Frank, John, Jim and Martin. All of us attended Oscoda Schools and graduated from there.

My husband, Jean Marion, and I (Janice) were married on Oct. 20, 1951. We live in Rochester Hills, MI (a northern suburb of Detroit). We are the parents of eight sons: Mike, Joe, Chuck, Tom, Jim, Rob and Ron (twins), and Andy. They were all born between 1953 and 1965. Jean worked in construction. After the boys got bigger, I was an office manager for a small manufacturing firm for 20 years. We are both retired now. My father, my husband, and two of our sons (Joe and Tom) are Navy veterans. Our immediate family totals 30 now. They keep as busy. I also sing in a choir and do volunteer work at our local library. Submitted by Janice Dumont Marion.

JOHN WILLIAM DURANT. John (born 1862, died 1938) and his wife Anna Elizabeth Chambers moved to Grant Township from Canada in 1899. They lived and farmed on Meadow Road with their five children: Mabel, Ethel, Elmer and Alma (twins), and Henry A.



Children of John and Anna Durant, Back l-r: Mabel, Ethel, Alma. Front: Henry and Elmer (year unknown)

DEAR FAMILY

9-16-2010

John tracked down these letters
and me to get writing, I didn't realize
I had them this long, it seems there
isn't much to write about except bad
news. This letter is not going to be
long, the last 4 days I have been
stumbling around the house so Betty
got me down to the Dr. yesterday and
he said I had vertigo and it adds to
my pill collection, if you have had
it you know it isn't fun, three
wks. ago I had to go over to West Branch
to see my cancer Dr., I take tests
at St. Joe's Hospital in Tawas in wks
prior to going over to see him - CAT
SCANS PET SCANS PULMONARY FUNCTION
TESTS AND blood work then we take
the disks over with us, after going
over the disks he said you no longer
have one tumor I have 3 more so
the cyberknife treatments in Sag.
didn't take care of my problem, he
suggested going back to ~~Albany~~ and
try chemo, after telling me months
ago that my lungs would not stand
it.

So that's about all of my problems for
this time so I will stop for now
over

AND KNOW THE MAN UP THERE KNOWS WHAT'S
BEST AND IS IN CONTROL.

I KNOW THAT ALL OF YOU HAVE YOUR OWN
PROBLEMS, AND OUR FAMILY IS DOING PRETTY
WELL. BETTY IS HAVING HER TROUBLES TO BUT IS
KEEPING US GLUED TOGETHER.

I'LL CLOSE FOR NOW AND WISHING YOU ALL
THE BEST.

ALL OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS GO WITH THIS
LETTER BETTY & FRANK

P.S. THANKS JAN. & BOB FOR THE INFO.

September 26, 2010

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

It has been a whole week since I received the latest family letter from brother Frank.

Jan, until now, I did not know that you threw your baby brother down the stairs. Sis would have helped you but realized that the pot had met the same fate earlier. All I can say is that I am still laughing three days later.

As you all know by now, I have had many hills to climb this year. It was God's will that some things were not known to me way back in January. The spiritual experience I had in the hospital was one of many encounters. With millions of people on earth, why was I chosen & why 6 or 7 times a year? Perhaps this is why He wants to keep me here.

It looks like we will be seeing only 2 family letters a year. They are exciting to receive & enjoyable to read.

Yes, we are all looking forward to Nov 2nd. I had trouble finding a broom the other day. The last shipment must have gone directly to Washington DC.

Seeing that the area is covered with large acorns, does this indicate a harsh winter?

Jacob got thru basic training at Ft Knox recently. Now he is advanced training & was selected for more advanced training to follow before he gets his 14 day leave. He likes big vehicles, will be driving a Styker-a troop carrier.

A dry summer has been followed by a rainy fall. In Mikado, the corn is 9 feet tall & still growing.

In closing, may God bless all of us. GOD BLESS THE USA.

Your brother
John

Oct. 18, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I received these letters a couple of weeks ago. I guess it is time for me to get busy and send them on. I am dealing with a problem in Traverse City now and set up a meeting yesterday to meet some of the people from there today. We will meet half way in Midland. I will try to contact Marty this morning and hopefully we can get together later today. If that works I will pass these letters on to him then.

It seems that I can not get one fire out before I learn of two more fires burning. At present I am dealing with problems in Owensboro, Ky, Covington, Ky, Toledo, Oh. and now Traverse City. I just finished one in Kalamazoo. Eleven months and thirteen days to go but who is counting.

I have a meeting to go to in St Louis in three weeks and another in January.

The leaves are falling now and I am getting things put away for winter. I lost my apple crop this year. I wanted to get away from spraying chemicals so I sprayed with soap and water. It was a disaster. all the apples were diseased. I will go back to chemicals next year. We will take the cider press in to Alisa's class in a couple of weeks. She is in first grade at the Shrine of the Little Flower.

Jan, Jean, and I went to Inlay City a couple of weeks ago and had a nice lunch with Sis, Rog, and Elaine. It was a beautiful day and I really enjoyed it. We will have to do that more

often.

John, in my travels I have noticed how tall the corn crop is this year. I still see that many fields have not been harvested.

I don't know if we will have a bad winter or not but you guys need to sit back and watch it from inside and enjoy the view. That is God's gift to the elderly.

I am looking forward to a month in Florida again. Instead of a month in LaBelle we are planning on 3 weeks in LaBelle, 6 days in Disney World, and 4 days in St. Augustine for a change.

Well I better wind this up and get ready to go. God bless all of you. I love you very much.

Your loving brother
Jim and Carolyn.

Dear Families,

November 19th 2010

I have held these for 30 days and now it is time to get them out so will take them to Imlay City with me Sunday for sis's birthday.

I will stop and see Elaine and wish her get well soon as I have heard she is under the weather.

Joe, that article that you sent about another Dumont family in the Cadillac area was very interesting. I have wished that I could find and air patrol in this area, as I have wanted to join one. I have Franks book that you sent me, and will try to find a way to get it to him, and my last resort is to mail it to him, as I own two of them already. Our farmers around here are delighted with the crops this year. One farmer here told me that the corn normally weights 56 pounds per bushel, but this year it is weighing in at 61 pounds per bushel, and is very dry. I have heard no farmer complain about this year's crops.

Sis, you say that your Doctor thinks you are amazing, but has Mr. Arthritis checked in with you lately. I have it in my back and it takes constant exercising to keep it in check. I will be there for your 30th. it is wonderful that we keep trucking along like the energizer bunny.

Jan, it sounds like the garden was very good to you this year. Our tomatoes were very good this year, but some people had blight on their tomatoes, and did not have a good crop. The story that you sent about Grandma and Grandpa Dumont was great. It brought back a lot of

#2
Memories of things that were told to me but I have just forgotten over the years. Great Job Jan. Ethel Rose sent Sonda a notebook of her family genealogy. Sonda is delighted with it. She would never attempt it on her own.

Frank, Sounds like the doctor is not being very nice to you... I am not sure about Cyber Knife, but you are not the first person that says it did not work for them. I wonder what the real success rate is for that program. How are the deer? You did not mention them in your last letter.

John, Hope you are back to normal now and back to maintaining your Yard. It is a lot of work to keep up with all the things that can go wrong around the house. Yes, November 2nd cleared away a lot of dead wood, and now we shall see what they do to get us back on track. If you get a chance, send us a picture of Jacob standing by a stryker. Pictures like that are wonderful to include in our family letters.

Jim, I talked to you about every two weeks, and you sure are up to your Duppa with problems in St. Vincent Depaul. I would bet you that when 10 months are up, you won't want to quit, and will go to the next level. I am afraid that I would have a heart attack, doing all the busy work for the group.

I have decided that I would look into hearing aids, and when I went for a test they detected something unusual, so they sent me for an MRI yesterday, and I will find out on the 30th to see if hearing aids will help.

Will keep you informed.
Love you all.
Sonda & Mary

Dec. 5, 2010

Dear Families!

It's time to get to sending these on their way. Christmas is coming soon! It's always so good to hear from one & all! I'm re covering ~~the~~ from another surgery, I hope, please God. I'm 91 now. I don't have a lot of get up & go! Winter is here, too soon this year but we are still fortunate compared to some and lots of places. What do I write.

My news is so scarce, what do I write. My rent keeps increasing. - but I'm still OK so far! I'm so fortunate.

Hope all of you are looking forward to Christmas - such a pretty time of year for those who can afford it.

To night I don't have TV - two cables & wonder what the power is doing. Something hit this area.

I guess I ~~should~~ should terminate this now and send each & every one my prayers and blessings.

Love,

Elaine

P.S. You wouldn't have to do better than I does me!

Cadillac, Mi.

12-15-10

Dear Family..

We were welcomed to winter with a big bang on the eleventh. Temperatures -50 below normal and 12"+ of snow with high winds for three days. Today the main roads getting fair to travel. We got stuck getting ^{in to} our subdivision on Sunday mid day. 4x4 vehicles are getting to be a near necessity.

We are all reasonably well and working most of the time. For retired people that is at our type of work. Jackie and I are getting teeth and eye care often. Winter maintenance is my job and exercise.

Son Michael, of Baltimore visited over Thanksgiving. He is rebuilding his home when he has time and it seem to be going well.

I forgot to mention that power outages are common during the storm. Ours was a brief outage but the boat company lacked heat so had to send workers home. Schools were out everywhere.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all. God Bless us all.

Joe & Jackie