

FOVERAN
ST, OLA
KIRKWALL ORKNEY

10/4/60

Dear John

Seeing that we have a common ancestor in the dim past, I'll risk a familiar approach in answer to your ~~in our~~ letter in our local paper, referring to the Laughton family.

As far as we know, the Laughtons settled in a small island called Lamb's Holm, or more familiarly remembered by the Laughtons as "Lamma", or just, "The Isle". It lies opposite the parish (or area) of Holm (pronounced Ham, I expect by the Norsemen who settled in Orkney some eight or nine hundred years ago,

and it means good land.) I hope to be able to send you a map of Cobrey later on so that you may have a better idea where your ancestors lived.

My father, who is now 91 yrs. of age was the last Laughton to live in Lamman. He had to leave it when his father died as he was considered too young to follow on in the farm after his father's death.

As his memory is still fairly good for his years, I read your letter to him, and he could remember Tom and Dave mentioned in your letter. (My father was born in 1869.)

Now Tom, Dave, Jerome or Jerry as he was called, and your

great-grandfather John lived on a farm called Vigga. It was situated on the larger island, or what we call the mainland of Orkney almost opposite Lamman. The boys as they called ^{them,} used to visit the Isle by boat, there being a stretch of water with a 6 to 8 knot tide running between, so you may be sure that the Laughtons of a former generation were famous boatmen.

Now, there is a cousin of my father's, called Willie o' the Park living in Holm who is descended from the Laughtons of Vigga. We used to visit them in the summer months but have not seen them for

some time now, as my father is unable to travel. I hope that he will contact you as he must be descended from either Tom or Dave.

I recollect my auntie Jessie (my father's sister) speaking about the "boys" who went to "America" some years ago. She is hard on 90, so you may be sure that the Laughtons have been a hardy race.

I am enclosing a rough sketch of some of the Orkney Islands showing where we live and also giving the position of our ancestral home.

The snapshot enclosed was taken about two summers ago and it shows a field of oats growing on Lamman. A spot

to fans, and my uncle p. if old
my father has been a member of the club 5
phenomena or not
(unpublished)

of sunlight leaked into the picture and somewhat spoiled it, but it will give you a fair idea of the likeness of some of your 42nd or cousins at this side.

My father has been a farmer all his days, I am a mason by trade, and my boy is still at school. We looked up your place on the map and believe it to be near the south end of B.C.

Now although Willie o' the Park (people are usually named after the farms or houses) is closer related than we are we still hope that you^{may} find time to drop us a line.

My father would be delighted to hear from a descendant of the "boys" of Vigga. (over)

Hoping these few lines, snap &
sketch of islands will interest you
Yours sincerely,
Archie (Lawrightson)

