

Feb. 11, 1980

Dear Cousin Ivan:

Finding time to write, but no proper writing materials, my conscience dictates, I must write while I have the time.

Your most welcome letter was received last week. My first act was to phone my mother, Mrs. Herbert Laughton, and read it to her. She confirmed what I had not known, that my father had a sister Ida. Ida died in her early teens. I had known of Uncle Bill and Aunt Lillian.

My skimpy and unconfirmed knowledge of the Laughton family origins were simply that my Grandfather Jerome and his wife Jean, nee Smith, had come to Canada from the Orkneys. My father, Herbert, was born in Walkerton, Ontario, where he lived until he was 17. He then spent two years in Toronto and Detroit before coming to California. Dad remembered little of what his father told him of Orkney, but did tell me of a Laughton

father to son story that had been handed down since pre-historic times. My father said his father had told him that prior to written records, three O'Laughlin brothers had come to the Orkneys from Ireland and then each took a different version of the name; one Laughton, one Haughton and he had forgotten the third name. (None of the Orkney Laughtons had ever heard that story, I learned last year.)

From my father, Herbert and my mother Gladys Isabel Laughton came seven sons and then two daughters (in third) as follows; Ben Edward (deceased) has two sons, Robert Emerson - has 5 sons 3 daughters; Norman Bruce has 3 daughters + (1 son retarded) Keith Nichols has 3 daughters + 1 son; Donald Herbert has 2 daughters; Richard Buell has 2 sons + 2 daughters; Raymond Patterson has 2 daughters; Joyce Isabel has 1 son + 2 daughters; Dorothy Jane has 1 son. My mother is 86, still lives alone in Rosemead, (no longer called Wilmar) in the house at 7722 Vandorf St., where she + my father and family moved when they left 7316 Jackson St.

I'm all, including Mates, there are 90 of us, now, in the family, and still growing. The nine of us produced 30 offspring, who have produced 33 offspring. The "90" figure includes 27 Mates, and of course not all are Saughtons.

My wife Phyl and I found our way to Arkney, last July, through my taking a construction Supervisory job in Saudi Arabia. The job gave me a two week paid vacation, including round trip fare to London, every four months, so I was able to realize a lifelong dream and see the Arkney. I found them to be beautiful farm land, contrary to what I had been told. My luck was perfect in the Record Office in Edinburgh and we went directly to Vigga, not visiting the present tenants, but, as I overshot that house, I stopped at a house, still on part of the old Vigga farm, (where Jerome and his brothers and sisters were born) and found a woman, Emma Robson, who had been a servant at Vigga when the last

Laughtons owned it. Emma introduced us to Archie Laughton who in turn introduced us to many others who were directly descended from James' brothers and sisters, including Jean Aitken, who told us of you Iwan, and another Laughton from Canada. In all the excitement, I neglected to get your address, but did remember it was in Nelson. The other in Ottawa.

Most of my family, here, were only glad for me, as I have always been interested in Laughton family, but except for brother Ray, who is a Mormon, they were uninterested. Please do let me know more.

Thank you,

Tom Laughton