

August 18, 1999

Dear cousin Ivan:

Sorry, again, for my tardiness in replying to your wonderful papers on Laughton prehistory and geneology, as well as yoursuggestion that I write James Laughton, of Easterbister, Orkney about possible making and sending to us, copies of "The Rent Records of The Earl of Orkney". (Copy of my request enclosed) My excuse for being so tardy is that my wife, Phyllis has been consumed by back pain, progressively worse, for the last three years, Drs. could not find the cause with MRI"s or other usual methods, but did finally find the problem using a dye shot around her lower spine. That showed up a a bone spur that had grown over a nerve, pressing it against onther bone. 15 days ago, they removed the bone spur, freeing the nerve, but it had been so severely damaged, it will take time for the nerve to heal. Her pain is now worse than prior to surgery, but will go away, we are assured. The nature of her problem kept me busy as full time caretaker. (Phyl told me to take the time to do these letters now) Just retured from the Pharmacy with her Pain pills. my beds are made, breakfast served and washed up. Now I'll need to get Phyl OUT for awhile.

Sorry about the mistakes, I am hurrying.

Sincerely,

*Norm Laughton*  
Norm Laughton  
10444 Saratoga Circle  
Sun City, AZ 85351-2211  
623-876-0920  
E-Mail address vigga@juno.com

P.S.  
Cousin Archie Laughton, (whose address was Sandholme) did not know he was descended from my grandfather Jerome's brother David, (he was, I learned from you + Paul) but did know he was descended from Gilbert of the Island of Lambholme. Then he was sure of. Wonder if that could solve the problem of "which of four Gilberts." Spm

August 18, 1999

James Laughton  
Easterbister  
Holm Parish, Main Island  
Orkney, Scotland.


Dear James:

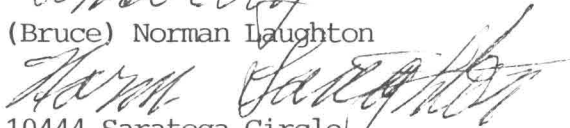
We met, at Easterbister, when cousin Archie Laughton, escorted and introduced my wife, Phyllis and I, in July of 1979, after you so kindly arranged time from your responsibilities, for us to visit. I thank you again.

While we were there, you showed me your "Rent Records Of The Earl of Orkney," dating back to the fifteenth Century. I was fascinated, but did not have time to study The Vigga farm rent history. My grandfather, Jerome Laughton was born at Vigga in 1834, married Jean Smith of Horsick, in 1874, then left Orkney for Canada, where he spent the rest of his life. Jeromes brother John had preceded him to Canada. Now, there are many Laughtons in Canada and the U.S.A. who are tracing their ancestry to Orkney, most that have contacted me trace back to Vigga and my great grand father and mother, John and Jane (Spence) Laughton, but cannot go farther back than John's father Gilbert, as there were four Laughtan families that produced a Gilbert Laughtan and, so far, no way to determine which was John's father. We wonder if anything in the Earls rent records would help, and J. Ivan Laughton of Nelson, B.C. Canada, offered to pay half the costs of copies, page by page, of the "Rent Records of The Earl Of Orkney" and I agreed to pay the other half if it were possible to obtain . (Ivan preceded me to Orkney, finding, as did Paul Laughton of Ottawa, Canada, they are direct descendants of my Grandfather Jeromes' brothers, John and David.) We understand making copies would require considerable work. We are willing to pay all costs, in Scotland Pounds, if you could do that. Please let me know?

Enclosed are copies of "Descendants of Gilbert Laughtan" and "Prehistory of Laughtons From Orkney", both by J. Ivan Laughton. Hope you find them interesting. Also, a few photos.

Thank you. again, for your past kindness,

  
(Bruce) Norman Laughton

  
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