



928 Mushoka Ave,
Ottawa, Ont. K2A3H9,
20 Jan 81.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

Dear Mrs. Laughton:

My nephew, Richard VanWyck Laughton of Milton, Ont. was contacted by Mrs. Barbara Barnes of Hornby as a result of publicity for Richard's triplets, and by this roundabout route I have been asked to write to you about the origins of our sept of the Laughton clan.

I doubt very much that we are related. Laughtons are thick on the ground in the U.K. The village of Laughton in Leicestershire, a delightful gated village ESE from Leicester, was mentioned in the Domesday Book (7 manors). A Sergeant Laughton was killed at the battle of Crecy. Other places called Laughton are Laughton-en-le-Morthen a few miles SSW from Doncaster; two Laughton villages within 20 miles N & S of Lincoln; Laughton & Laughton Place NE from Lewes in Sussex. A few years ago a friend was showing us around the University of Leeds, which has an abandoned graveyard on its grounds - Laughton headstones in abundance!

My own branch was started by one Gilbert Laughton (also spelled Lachtan) who jumped ship from an English privateer (yes, he was presumably a pirate!) at Orkney in 1574(?) In 1972, we only met two people on two of the Orkney islands who were not obviously related. Unfortunately I cannot trace back to that Gilbert in an unbroken line because the church in Ham, Orkney, ^{spelled "Helm"!} burned down about 1805 with all the parish records. I descend from a Gilbert Laughton born in that parish between 1770 & 1775 - there were four such born in that period (!), ^{three} four of whom had mothers with names common in my line. I will enclose a scribble of what I have for what it is worth, which isn't much.

You are the first Laughton's I have run into who hail from Bedfordshire. Richard's wife included your male line back to Samuel (or I should say your husband's). I don't suppose you can tie in with Charles Laughton either!

Yours sincerely,
Paul MacDonell Laughton