

C35-1123-1

Marshalltown, Iowa
November 23, 1935-

Mrs. Margaret Anderson
35 Lascelles Blv'd.
Toronto, Ont. Can.

Good Morning,
 Cousin Margaret
 & Cousin Joe-----

I am pleased to hear from you in response to my letter, and thus to make your acquaintance. I judge from the remarks that you made about my father that you must have known him in days now gone by. His last thirty years were put in as president of a bank in Muscatine, so he and your husband had something in common. However, I am glad he died before the strain of this last depression which, I fear, would have taken him, because he was the most conscientious man I have ever known, especially as regards his guardianship, as it were, of some else's funds.

It is a very difficult task to find relatives who are interested in people or things of other days- apparently most of them think they have enough to do pay attention to the present. And, of course, that sounds sensible, but I must have been born with a deal more of curiosity-- at any rate, when I once get started I am not content to let the matter drop. I got a Mr. Pedlow, at Renfrew, interested finally and he is now keen about helping me to get beyond the James Francis, Sr., Lissacurran, Ireland. It develops that one of his ancestors and ours lived neighbors in this Irish village and married sisters- Stuarts. He is going back to Ireland again and delve into the records and I hope that the strain can be traced back to Wales, and thence to Normandy, from which point tradition as I have heard it says that our family came from. Uncle Arthur, being a clergyman, has been interested in the thought-- don't know where he got it-- that St. Francis of Assisi belonged to the early members of our family. On the other side, great-granfather married Rachel Stuart-- A. V. claims that the Stuarts are descended from the Royal Stuarts. So, with religious and royal blood running thru our veins we should be quite 'ritzy' -- or something!

So I am glad to get your help and now if I can get your further interest and extend the possible sources of information I shall be grateful.

I believe that I can give you some information that you have omitted in your letter to me, and with the chart I am sending which, by the way, was sent to father by Margaret Muldoon, daughter of your

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Aunt Jane. It was written many years ago for the paper has yellowed with age. Maggie Muldoon added the deaths and dates. I wished I knew that she was alive and where to reach her, because she may be able to recall some important facts.

Note spelling The chart, or list reads as follows:

Names of the children of James Francis & his wife Rachel

1st Margaret Francis born on thursday at ten o'clock A. M.
August 1st, 1811

2d Jane Francis born at one o'clock mondy A. M. June 29th,
1813

3d Samuel Francis born on mondy at one o'clock A. M. January 28th,
1815

4th Mary Francis born on sunday at five o'clock A. M.
September 1st, 1816

5th James Francis born on wednesday at one o'clock P. M.
September 2d, 1818

6th Jonathon Francis born wednesday at ten o'clock A. M. June
28th, 1820

7th Eleanora Francis born on wednesday at five o'clock P. M.
April 3d, 1822

8th Peter Francis born on wednesday at two o'clock A. M. April
14th, 1824

9th Christianna Francis born on wednesday at two o'clock A.M. March
29th, 1829

10th Elisha Francis born on monday at one o'clock A. M. December
29th, 1829

11th Rachel Francis born of tuesday at one o'clock A. M. June
29th, 1830

DIED

In kilmarnock 6th November 1848 Rachel Francis wife of James

Edgar A. Francis to Margaret & Joe Anderson 11-23-1935

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Francis - aged 64 years

At Napanee on Thursday at seven o'clock P. M. July 24th, 1851 Peter Francis fourth son of James & Rachel Francis in the 27th year of his age.

In Wolford on April 5th 1852 Mary Francis third daughter of James & Rachel Francis and wife of Eli Haskins in the 36th year of her age.

On the next page- Margaret Muldoon has these notations:

Grand Father died July 21, 1875 Aged 91
Aunt Christianna died 8 March, 1884
Uncle Samuel died 21st August 1885
Uncle Jonathon died 7th Oct 1888
Uncle Elisha died 5th Jan 1891
Aunt Ellen Holmes died 14th Jan 1898
Aunt Margaret Best died October 26th 1893
Uncle James died at Salem Jan 23d 1895
Mother Jane Muldoon died April 17th 1899
Aunt Rachel Francis died Nov 15th 1909

Now to get back to James Francis, your grandfather. Where is he buried? Someday when the Fates are more kind, my wife and I want to visit these places. My wife's grandfather was a MacDonald who lived around Perth.

You indicated Jane Francis Muldoon as the first born, whereas according to the birth record just quoted she was the second child.

Who did Margaret Francis marry- that is, what is the first name of Mr. Best, and where there any children? I note that she lived to be 82, and you perhaps have visited with her.

I learn from your letter that Jane Francis (Muldoon) married Elisha Muldoon - first time I've seen his name- and four children. The only one I had heard of is the Maggie mentioned above.

Children, according to your data:

- (1) Margaret - spinster
- (2) Christena - spinster - missionary in China
- (3) Rachel - spinster
- (4) Mary, married a Mr. _____ Best (first name unknown)

You say that they "lived at Athens, Ont" do you know if they are still living there. Do you (know) is(if) Rachel is still living, and how she may be reached? If Margaret is living at Boisswain with here nieces named Brown- where do the Browns come into the picture.

Of course, I have good record of the Samuel Francis issue- my grandfather.

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Mary Francis Haskins- did the daughter Rachel marry? Is she still living and where?

James Francis- I have just about completed this issue down to date. James had seven children.

Of the Jonathon Francis family I am enclosing a separate sheet with the information I now have.

What more can you tell me of the Eleanora Francis Holmes family?

Peter Francis was a bachelor and died at the age of 27 of asiatic cholera, so Uncle Arthur recited.

I am very glad to get the information about Christianna Francis. Uncle Arthur has insisted that there was no such person. Aunt Rachel Francis wrote me once about her niece (unknown) Hanna who was a nurse, but I never did get her placed. You say that she married a Joseph Hanna, and the children are:

(1) Rachel, spinster - deceased. No children- whom did she marry? Tell me about her.

(2) William Hanna- merchant, Port Carling. I am writing to Fred Hanna whom I take to be a son.

(3) Joseph Hanna- Victoria, B.C. Is he still alive? What about his family?

(4) John Hanna- writing Fred about him.

Of Elisha Francis I have meagre information and am sending you a copy of what I have, thinking that you may be able to add to it.

Stuart Francis, son of James Francis, your uncle, who married Minnie Fletcher, living on a farm near Maitland, is known to have written a history of the Francis family which was in the possession of his widow, to the knowledge of your Aunt Rachel who told me that she would not give it up. Having died without children the rest of us have wondered what became of this document. Do you suppose that you could get trace of it? Referring to Rachel's letter of March 17th, 1903, this is what she said: "I never got the history that Stuart wrote, although he told me I was to have it finished. I asked his wife for it after his death, she made some excuse, she said she had not got it." Stuart's widow lived at Brockville.

You will be amused at another reference: "George and Jonathon Francis are still keeping bachelor's hall. I don't (know) why they don't get wives."

This will be plenty for this time. I hope I have not wearied

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you, and that you will find many clues that will refresh your memory and enable you to add to the general information.

Perhaps you knew Alex Fraser of Renfrew. In writing to him one time, for he was a schoolmate of father's, he had another old schoolmate, Arthur Graville, who has a hobby of genealogy, send me the data he had about the Jonathon and Elisha Francis families. I see that you were married to Joseph Anderson July 28, 1908-- I was married the month before, on June 24th.

I await your reply

Edgar A. Francis

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