

C37-0817-1

Established 1916

Manufacturers

**Am-Pe-Co Rotary Blower
Am-Pe-Co AirWasher-Blower**

American Machine Products Co.

Marshalltown, Iowa

August 17, 1937

Mrs. J.Ramsey Morris
Leamington, Ont., Canada

Good Morning,

Cousin 'Belle' -

The salutation no doubt surprises you. By way of introduction, I am the son of Peter W. Francis, who was born in Renfrew, Ontario, and lived at Muscatine, Iowa, and whom you have met. Father died August 14, 1924, and mother four years earlier.

I appear to be the only one of the Francis tribe interested in its genealogy. Years ago, 1909, I started a correspondence with Aunt Rachel Francis, Pakenham, and was getting a fine start when the older generation could think back, and when there were records in correspondence, etc., but about that time I launched into business that took all my time and it was after Aunt Rachel passed on that I again took up the task of searching the records.

In this way I have made contact with the descendants of Jonathon Francis, your father's father (there are many Jonathons in the Francis family) and of Elisha Francis who remain in Canada.

The descendants of James Francis, who married three times, are mostly in the States.

The Kearneys are scattered over Canada. Marian lives in Toronto.

Arthur VanCamp Francis, father's brother, is still alive and is a pensioned rector living at Edina, Mo. His second wife is dead, and of his family of six children, only two remain.

My writing to you is to learn for my history of the family the date of birth and date of death of your father, and mother who my records show as Minnie Dickson.

My wife's mother was born at Perth, and this summer she and my daughter Jean motored into Canada.

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It is a strange thing, but the second night out they stayed at Leamington!

The route they had had prepared for them did not contemplate a trip along the lake on the way from Detroit to Toronto, and the name Leamington had not come up in our discussion of the trip.

They stopped at Toronto to say 'Hello' to Jonathon Francis, but Margaret Anderson was out of the city.

At Ottawa they spent the night with George Francis, and Graham Kearney at Montreal.

Could I prevail upon you to give me what information you can about Harvey Francis and his family.

If you know of any old records, old letters that are available, I should like to have them, or at least to see them.

I have traced the family back to a little town of Lissacurran, County of Armagh, Ireland, where I am stuck! There seems to be some foundation for the fact the Francis, or Frances, family left Brittany during the religious wars and went to Wales, and then to Ireland, from which point they embarked for Canada.

Your grandfather Jonathon (1820-1888) was the son of James Francis, the son of James Francis who lived at Lissacurran.

It is a strange thing, but on a visit back to Ireland, Isaac Pedlow, the merchant at Renfrew, learned his antecedents lived on the farm next to the Francis place (James Sr was a lumberman) and married a Francis girl, presumably our joint great-grandfather.

May I count on your help?

Cordially yours

Edgar A. Francis

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eaf/bhs

Ed.Note: Created from Edgar's file copy which did not have the letterhead or signature.