

**C35-1026-1**

Established 1916

Manufacturers

**Am-Pe-Co Rotary Blower**

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

***American Machine Products Co.***

**Marshalltown, Iowa**

October 26, 1935

Mrs. Lou Francis,  
6614 Dover Street  
Oakland, Calif.

Good Morning,  
Cousin Lou:

There, I know I have surprised you. I am the son of Peter W. Francis, Muscatine, Iowa (father died in 1924) a first cousin of your own Peter.

I have your name and address from Nita Francis, daughter of Alex Francis who is so seriously sick.

Some years ago I started to learn all I could from your husband's Aunt Rachel Francis, at Kilmarnock, Ontario, and from other sources about the early Francis Family. This is a hard trick, but I have succeeded in tracing the family back to Lissacurran, County Armagh, Ireland, where lived James Francis, the father of James who settled in Canada in 1822, and whose name Peter's father bears, altho he was not the first born of the eleven children.

We have scattering information that leads us to believe that the Francis family originally came from Normandie and that, during the religious persecutions in France, the family moved into Wales, and thence to Ireland. Uncle Arthur, Rev. A. V. Francis, whom you may remember (now living at Edina, Missouri) asserts that the James - who came to Canada - married a Rachel Stuart in Glasgow and that she was a member of the Royal line of Stuarts. It is no doubt from here that the name 'Stuart' is found so often among the male members of the family.

What I am interested now is getting information about

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Peter's brothers and sisters (except Alex) which I believe are, in order of birth: Mary, Stuart, Will, Rachel, Peter, (Alex), and James.

Aunt Rachel Francis told me that Stuart Francis had written up a history of the family, and that his widow had it at the time of our correspondence, but would not give it up. I have not been able to find anyone who knows anything about this document. It certainly would be a 'great find' - did you ever hear about it?

May (Mary?) married to a John Lewis - family history indefinite.

Stuart married Minnie Fletcher-- Uncle Arthur was his best man and recalls what a great wedding it was- somebody filled his overshoes with water and set them out to freeze, which they did! Understand they had no children.

Will married twice, and Alex thought Mrs. Fred Gee, Philomath, Ore., could supply information.

Rachel married a George Whittaker- had no children of their own but adopted a girl called Nora who married John Lewis, son of Mary Francis Lewis, above.

Peter Francis married Lou Cox- two children, Lillie and Charles. Additional information please.

Alex married Rachel E. Fletcher.

James, or Jimmy, the youngest was scalded to death at the age of five.

When writing, please take each family separately and supply information regarding children to date. If you have the dates of births and deaths for your brothers and sisters in the Francis family, and descendents please supply.

Now, another matter about which I have conflicting information is the fact about Peter's father's wives. Did you ever hear your husband tell about him being married more

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than once? Alex claims that he was married three times and that his (and Peter's) mother was Esther Humphrey, the first wife. If married later, who were the wives and our (are) there any other children? Uncle Arthur asserts he married a Christiana somebody and that she died and was buried in Indiana when the family were on their way from Canada to meet father James at Denver.

If you have any old letters that throw light upon the subject I should be glad to have them. Provided there are no other claims upon them. I am also interested in collecting the early US and Canadian stamps but would like to have them on the envelopes-- do you have any that you want to get rid of?

Nita told me that Uncle Peter was in the overland freighting business from Nebraska City to Denver for Overton Brothers. Would there notebe (*not be*) a lot of old papers in connection with this business that would have revenue stamps upon them?

This has been a pleasant letter to write and I hope that it has not tired you, and that it will be possible for you to furnish the information that I should like to have.

Cordially

*Edgar A. Francis*

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