

C34-0425-1

Established 1916

Manufacturers

Am-Pe-Co Rotary Blower

Am-Pe-Co AirWasher-Blower

American Machine Products Co.

Marshalltown, Iowa

April 25, 1934

Good morning, Alex

Glad to get your letter of the 22d - I was afraid that the infirmities of 'Old Age' might have you down so that the use of a pen would be like ploughing in a heavy field, but I see that you have gone 'modern' and use a typewriter in a way not to be snickered at -- more power to you. Reference to the garden also indicates not only a love for the beautiful, but ability to take care of your flowers and plants. You would have a fine time with my wife in our garden -- that is my wife's hobby and she knows the subject so well that she is looked upon as the flower expert of the city. We have a yard 90 x 180 and it is quite nicely laid out with rock garden, some formal garden effects, native wild flowers, shrubs, and ferns - Just now there must be five or six hundred daffodils in bloom although they are suffering from lack of rain (we have had no rain for months) and the dust storms that have been coming our way has about ruined everything. Tulips are coming through, but are the May blooming kind - they are all over the place, but look the best, I think, planted with the shrubbery. I and much interested, always have been, in wild flowers and native shrubs, so between the two of us we are much engaged and contented with working these lovely Gifts of Nature. In addition I am a stamp collector, another hobby that brings much pleasure as well as relaxation from the cares of business-- so, if you have any old stamps around and want to get rid of them I will be glad to have them. (I make this invitation to all my correspondences.)

Just see what your reference to gardening has done - used up a lot of space and words. Wish you could see the garden-- none of us will ever live long enough to do all of the things we would like. My wife keeps fussing all the time about the days not being long enough at this time of year!

Now to get back to the beginning of your letter-- I am glad to know that you still have pleasant memory of me. I feared once that Nita was 'off' me (as the slang has it) since she did not answer my last letter, but I'm glad to know that she intends to write again; I am all anticipation.

Edgar Francis to Alex Francis 4-25-1934

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A.V. is now 83, and father would have been 81 this year had he taken care of himself, so you and he were born in the same year.

From what information I have obtained I will try to refresh your memory with geneological facts to see if it will not aid in giving me more information that will fill out the gaps.

Your grandfather was James Francis (1784-1875) who married a Rachel Stuart (of Royal Blood, says A.V.) and below is the list of your uncles and aunts in the order of their birth:

Margaret Francis (1811 - 1893)
----- Best

Jane Francis (1813 - 1899)
----- Muldoon

Samuel Francis (1815-1885)
Lydia Marinda Wood My grandparents

Mary Francis (1816-1852)
Eli Haskins

James Francis (1818-1895)
Christiana ----- Your parents, I believe

Jonathon Francis (1820-1888)
----- Carswell

Eleanora Francis (1822-1898)
----- Holmes

Peter Francis (1824-1898) Bachelor

Christiana Francis (1826-1884)

Elisha Francis (1826-1891)
Margaret Ann Ferguson

Rachel Francis (1830-1909) Spinster

I do not have anything further about Margaret Francis than shown above. Jane Francis has a daughter Margaret who was a missionary in China for many years, but was back in Canada at the

time of Rachel Francis' death in 1909, and in a letter to father spoke of going west.

As to grandfather's descendants I have a very good record.

As to Mary Francis (Haskins) I have no further facts.

And as to James Francis, I must depend upon you for information. A. V. Claims that the Christiana Francis mentioned a little further down in the list did not exist but was your mother. About this I will quote from his letter: "Christiana Francis (1828-1884) was Uncle James Francis' wife. Uncle James was one of the '49ers' who rushed to California for gold at that date & never returned, but sent from Denver- in early 50's-money and directions for the family to come & join him. How many in his family, I have forgotten but do know that the eldest then was Stuart Francis; there was Peter and others-- but they started on the long trek and on the way (somewhere in Indiana) Aunt Christiana took sick and died. They buried her there and Stuart (the oldest) took charge of the prairie schooner & children & chattels etc., and moved on with the caravan reaching Denver, after months of weary trekking, indian fights, etc., safely with his brothers and sisters. His father was gone-- he never could trace him; so he, with friends helping, went into business of freighting and transporting between Denver and Council Bluffs, Iowa. He became a big scout and had charge of the caravans. When I was a boy of 12, Stuart came to visit us; stayed, visiting between Kilmarnock, Pakenham & Renfrew, but mostly at our home, all of one summer. He had wonderful things to sell; gave your father and me indian arrows (with dried blood stains) which he had pulled out of bodies on the great plains, after indian fights. Also some indian scalps with hair tufts 18 inches long. Stuart was a magnificent fellow 6ft. 2 in- straight as an arrow, with big drooping mustacheos (red hair). The last time he came to see us I was 17 and it was a bitter cold winter. He bought a fine horse & cutter. He had brought us 3 or 4 fine Bufflao skins. In January we went down in cutter to grandpa's at Kilmarnock & visited (he & I). The he took me to a farm near Maitland where he married a Miss Fletcher & I was best man. We had a big party (all night dancing & celebrating) at the Fletcher farmhome. He took his wife out west-- Colorado-- then later he bought a ranch in Nebraska- also his brother Peter- or Duncan-- came there and also got a ranch. Now at this ranch place your father and mother visited Stuart & the others. You ought to know about that & also remember the many things your mother told about

them".

Now this ought to be right 'down your alley'-- what about it, and what can you add?

I have some information regarding Jonathon Francis, but it is not complete.

Nothing more about Eleanora Francis.

Peter Francis died when a young man, a bachelor.

Christiana Francis, 9th child of James & Rachel Francis, whose existence A. V. is inclined to doubt, is definitely listed in an old foolscap record I have, sent father by cousin Margaret Muldoon, made by some one a long time ago but upon which she (I think it is her writing) has made a supplemental record of the deaths.

Of Elisha Francis I have quite a bit of information.

Rachel Francis, your youngest Aunt, and I had quite a good deal of correspondence back in 1908 and before from whom I obtained some interesting facts-- I am only sorry that when I had the opportunity I did not take advantage of it to get information that was possible at the time.

This information should be interesting to you and Nita and I hope you can help me in obtaining more and complete information about your father's descendants.

Vic must have a fine family and surely does not lack for entertainment. I would be a fine thing to get the Francis clan together-- your party of 22 must have been a lot of fun. When business-(-in this democratic prosperity!-) evers gets responsible enough to warrant I might find myself down in the state where "the hens lay eggs as big as beer kegs" and look you up-- that is a pleasure for the future.

We took our daughter, Elinor Jean (our only child) to Red Oak last Sunday where she will be the librarian-- this leaves us all alone-- you recognize the experience and our thoughts-- to our flowers, and stamps.

I did not know that this was to be so long a letter when I

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started-- must stop and will be waiting to hear from you and Nita.

Cordially & affectionately

E. A. Francis

E. A. Francis

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