

Decision Day
May 20/80.
8.30 AM.

124 BROCK N.,
MONTREAL WEST,
QUEBEC. H4X 2G2.
514-481-7608.

Dear Grace + Norman: This note warrants some fancy note paper. It is just to say how happy we are that you seem to be looking forward to our holiday too.

Our Air Canada flight leaves Dorval, Montreal at 10³⁵ Tuesday AM. June 17th and arrives 12.16 Winnipeg airport (Winnipeg time). We hope to have a compact car, probably Tilden Rent a Car, waiting for us to pick up. I like to plan ahead, hence I'm fussing! So with luck we will be at Binscarth "Hold Fast" just in time for supper. (Return flight is Sat. July 12th).

Today our minds are in a turmoil as we go out to vote on Rene's useless question. There will be a lot of yes but... and no but... votes I fear, as this will settle nothing. However we have muddled our way through before. Let's hope + pray again.

I guess every time we look at the weather across Canada. Where is Rainmaker?
affectionately Elizabeth



★ Chinese colour woodcut, XVII century, from "Ten Bamboo Hall". Design contributed to benefit the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). ★ Gravure sur bois chinoise, XVII^e siècle, de "Ten Bamboo Hall". Composition offerte au Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (UNICEF). ★ Grabado policromo chino en madera "Ten Bamboo Hall", siglo XVII. Contribución al Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF). ★ Китайская цветная гравюра на дереве, XVII век, «Зал десяти бамбуков». Работа передана Детскому фонду Организации Объединенных Наций (ЮНИСЕФ) в благотворительных целях. ★ 中国采色板画，十七世纪，采自“十竹斋”笺谱。图案赠给联合国儿童基金会。



April 3rd 1980

124 Brock N.

Montreal West

Quebec

H4X 2G2.

Dear Grace and Norman:- Many thanks for your nice long letter, so easy to read, not like my scribble. I have written back to Terri, asking if she would or could stop off in Montreal on her way west when her course at Dalhousie finishes. We would be happy to pick her up at airport or station and have plenty of room here as the children have all moved out.

Thanks too for the snapshots of yourselves and Terri. I will try to include a few of us if I can find any. Lionel mostly takes transparencies and he's too tight (I won't say 'Scottish' with a name like O'Neill) to have them printed except the occasional one which he is learning to develop + print himself.

One must believe that the world is a small place! I have a friend whom I knew at McGill and have kept in touch with over the years, who now lives in Ottawa. Her husband comes from near Winnipeg and had Orkney connections, so we were discussing our trip and our contact with you. It turns out that his sister knew Grace, growing up in Minnedosa (?)

I have just found a few snaps, can't seem to find any colour ones of the 2 boys. The eldest ^{boy} is 32 and living in Ottawa and the youngest, 26, is at McGill in law. Both are over 6' the youngest 6'4 and eldest 6'7.

Must dash now as Lionel has come home + wants lunch.

Spring is here at last, only we have had no winter, and very little maple syrup!

Best regards, affectionately,

Elizabeth.

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His name is Earle Whimster! Does it ring a bell?

Now to our plans: Toward the end of June sounds great for us. I thought we would fly out and rent a small car in Winnipeg. So that if we come by air we can get ourselves to Bismarck under our own steam. Our eldest daughter Bonnie and her 14 year old girl are heading west too, probably by train after school closes. So we thought, after we had visited with you (if this was your intent) we will meet them and tour the province a bit. Bonnie wants to take a boat trip on Lake Winnipeg and visit the Icelandic settlement and Prov. Park. They would also like to spend a few days on a farm ranch where there would be riding and other young people. Our granddaughter (only one) is a city girl and we would like, and Bonnie would like, her to get to know and like the country. They will probably not be more than a week doing their thing and then will return to Montreal. Our plans are a little more flexible and extensive, probably touring north-south-east & west of Winnipeg. We sent away for the Vacation guide 1980-81 and have earmarked a few farms which we might look into when we get there. One is MacQuinn C & E. Stables on #10 near Riding Mountain gate #. (7 in booklet): Lucky R. Ranch, W. Dulean on highway #2. Pleasant Oak Farm & Ranch, Carleton Place, John Hinkel. Valley View Farm from Miami off #23, Morden, Lorne & Virginia McKenlie.

Original

However that's the way it is. Carl has his own one-man business in graphic arts and so can't take too many holidays. They will be going down together later in July to our cottage at Tadoussac on the mouth of the Saguenay River. It is an old stamping ground of my mother's family who were Quebecers, and we inherited a summer cottage there from her. My two other sisters have cottages there and a cousin from Buffalo, it's quite a gathering of the clan, once a year. We will include a few pictures of the lower St Lawrence and Saguenay in our slides of the Outney's to show you.

I will make a few photocopies of some of the information I have accumulated as you may be able to correct or add to it.

On the strength of all this ancestor digging I have joined the Quebec Family History Society and have been asked to become a member of the executive. I hope to learn how to do a proper job of recording and filing the data.

Every day when we watch the T-V news I hope they will say "rain fall in Manitoba today" but so far nothing much has fallen but dust, & gather. Cool here, but moist air makes it not so pleasant.

Must turn in, so long for now! Elizabeth.

Forgot to add; we are non-smokers, non-drinkers except sometimes, we eat everything and sleep ^{anytime} anywhere. Lionel likes to talk and make things, he bakes a lovely loaf of bread; I like to worry and make plans.

June 2nd 1980

Dear Grace and Norman:- Back to the plain typing paper! Thanks for your letter of the 23rd May with addresses and phone numbers of Marion MacTaggart etc. I have located, I think, Marion as a sister of Sandy + Duncan MacTaggart, children of Agnes Rannie, who was a daughter of Jane Jessie Rannie (Scarth) of Shapinsay Orkney. Not too many dates here except for Jane Jessie 1845-1893. Anyway we would be happy to call her and either visit then or more probably on our way home. We would like to stop at Neepawa to say hi to Terry's mother and let you know from there what the plan is.

Nonie has phoned the MacTagners and plans to start their week on the farm-ranch on Saturday 21st at supper time. She hasn't bought her rail ticket yet but I think they will arrive at St Lazare either early Friday or Sat morning. She will take the Super continental out of Toronto.

On receiving the brochure from the Lord Selkirk Tour, they decided that it was not quite their cup of tea, not caring for bridge, lounge bars and the rest of the cruise picture. So that

you can see that we are rather flexible and are happy for you to make suggestions as to itinerary or sights to see.

Nonie's husband Carl would like Nonie and Leah to return to Montreal about the 2nd or 13th of July. We had hoped they would stay a bit longer and explore with us,

124 BROCK. N.
MONTREAL WEST.
QUEBEC.
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Feb 10th 1980.

Dear Norman and Grace: Yes Terri wrote to me and next day your most welcome letter arrived. I had worried that the letter to Terri at Christmas had been badly addressed and gone astray. I had no idea how old she would be when I ~~was~~ wrote, nor if she was interested in distant cousins, just a name and address in Robert Macrae's guest book in Oakney!

First let me put you straight, I am not Pileans Scarth Stevenson's daughter but his youngest brother, Dr James Stevenson of Quebec City (known to the family & sisters as Baby Jim.). My mother was a Quebecker whose grandfather an officer in the British Army had taken his retirement at his last posting in Quebec. Anyway we were brought up there as Dad, though educated in Montreal, had gone to Quebec as first medical + surgical intern at the local Protestant hospital there. Uncle Pileans' (Lance) two sons are dead (Ben was killed in the war II. and 'Pill' died a couple of years ago. The two girls Mayonie and Katherine are married and have families. Katherine was the one who started me off on the Scarth connection hunt beginning in 1977 when she phoned me to know what I knew of the Scarths as she was writing a family tree for her

children. I didn't have much information other than the fact that there was such a connection in Outbony and others in the "West". However I promised to find out from my sister who is the family historian and official keeper of the records, passed on by Dad. She sent me a whole raft of stuff mostly letters from Dad and Madge Bell + Agnes Scarth Mainland in England. However she did have a rudimentary family tree which I built on and which I will include in this letter. It is sketchy but at least shows where we come in. I can now extend it to include your family, as you can see I only went as far as your mother + father. Dad used to refer to your mother as "my cousin Cecil" so I always thought she was a male cousin.

As regards Peggy Hugessen, she is still around, but when "Heegie" died about 5 years ago she sold her house in Westmount and is now living in an apartment, 4501 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal. I haven't seen her lately but must call her one of these days. Her youngest son James is Associate Chief Justice of the Quebec Supreme Court and quite a lad with a growing family. He went into his father's law firm here, only one other of Peggy's sons survive and also lives in Montreal.

I see quite a bit of Lois Scarth Nicholson Whitehead my aunt Ethel's daughter. She is the one who married her aunt Freda's husband and caused quite a stir some fifty years ago. She is now living in

a senior citizens home quite near us so we have her over to Sunday dinner now and then. She says that she enjoys our noisy Sunday dinners. Our children, at least 3 of them, usually come home for dinner once a week. Our eldest son lives in Ottawa. We only have one married, the eldest daughter and she has one child a girl of 14. Our youngest son James Aidan is in 3rd year law at McGill and will take his 4th year to qualify for a National degree. (both civil (Quebec) and common law.) He and Tami should get together! He is 27 years old, 6'4" and sometimes a reddish beard! He took his BA first and then worked 2 years before entering law. Our youngest daughter is working and studying fashion merchandizing for which she has a flair judging by the 'outlandish' (by our standards) get up she wears sometimes. And that's our family. Dad lived with us until he died in 1958 at aged 82.

Lionel, retired 2 years ago from teaching but I still work as a real estate agent for Royal Trust, which gives me something to keep me out of mischief and away from nagging Lionel and incidentally gives us enough money to take a long vacation and see some of the world. Which we have been doing regularly since the youngest was old enough not to want to come with us.

In 1968 Leonie took Aidan and two of his School chums out to B.C. to canoe in the Burrum Lake district. We had a Ford Station Wagon then and they drove across Canada with 2 red canoes on top of the car. Our youngest daughter Kathy and I went out by train and met them in Vancouver and then we drove back with them. We camped on the way home and spent one night in Riding Mountain Prov. Park, which we loved. We stopped to shop in Winnipeg but that is all we saw from the Trans Canada Highway.

The Seventies saw us flying over to England to explore Scotland Wales and Ireland too. Mostly on our own just poking around and staying at bed and breakfast places and taking public transportation. Last year, because of my interest in the Scythians, we had a chance to join a group of Britons for 2 weeks in Oubney. It didn't take much digging once we got there to find no one in Birscaith, it had been let out for the summer to a group of archeologists. However we have some colour slides Leonie took of the house and woods. As I also had the Maeraes family name the rest was easy and we were made welcome at Grindley for a memorable dinner. Our group, or troupe, was billeted in Birsay on the West coast north of Scava Brae.

Last but not least we would simply love to meet you, just say the word, avoiding if possible the referendum date (late May or early June). We would fly or train out and rent a car there. Adieu Elizabeth.