February 1st 1964?

2nd

Dear Cousin George:

Many thanks for responding to my Christmas card note so promptly ....... I have been waiting for my wife Joan to finish a roll of film, that she took of the Laughton clan at Christmas time. By the way, we almost phoned you at New Years time when we were all together ...... maybe next year.

To start with, my mother recently made a trip back east with her folks, but prior to her leaving, I asked her to check the telephone books in and around the St. Catherines area for any Laughton's listed, yours of course was one of the ten. I do want to thank you for taking the time to write me a letter, as it has helped me considerable with my quest of the Family. Later I will send you copy of my findings, as you may find it interesting, going back almost 200 years.

Regarding John Hugh Laughton, I knew that he had been married twice, and that his first wife the former Louise VanWick (I believe this is your mother) had presented him with six children. Did you ever have a brother Paul? I knew that you father re-married to a Kate Campbell and had one son Jack. I also knew that your father was a very prominent commercial traveler, keenly interested in educational matters and associated with the Gideons.
Just for my records, could you give me the names of Clairs, Harry's and Fred's wives and the one son of Harry's.

I believe that you have a fair idea of our family, but will give you a little run down on them. Your grandfather came over from the Orkney Islands in 1853 and settled in Walkerton Ontario. His wife the former Katheline Murphy presented him with eight children and I believe your father was the eldest and my grandfather next in line. In 1892, your grandfather John moved his family to Niagara Falls, New York, leaving your father John and David in Canada. As you stated in your letter, David came out west with his bride, the former Minnie McLemon, they have both passed away, but had five children and the oldest, William, veteran of both World Wars is also dead, dying of Cancer in 1947. Not pictured is his son David, now in London England with the Canadian Embassy, but married with two lovely children Diane 17 years old and Bruce aged 15. David was with the Army during the War and married an English girl. He has been posted with the Government in South America and Mexico since his graduation from U.B.C. in Agriculture and Commerce. William had no other family other than his wife Mattie who is still living at the coast.

Picture #1 the remaining brothers and sisters (your cousins) and pictured here are Jack, Irene, Grace and Bob.
Please excuse my letter if it seems a bit vague in spots.... my daughter Patti has been talking to me ever since I started this letter and I keep losing my trend of thought, but to continue.

In the second picture is Dad (Jack) Mum, my wife Joan with baby Kelli and I am holding Patti. I was the only child and have followed in Dad's foot steps, as we are both Optometrists. Dad went to Toronto for his education and I received mine in Oregon (U.S.A.), graduating ten years ago. I expect that Dad will be retiring within the next year or so, as he is almost 70 years old, but despite his age, I still find it hard to keep up with him. Mum and Dad plan a trip to Mexico next month. Joan is a Nova Scotia girl and we did make a trip to that province in 1959, unfortunately we did not know of your whereabouts at that time or we would have called in on you, as we did drop in and see the Laughtons of Niagara Falls N.Y. and Watertown N.Y. (John, one of the twins).

Going back to the first picture again, I might add that Irene, who never married, is a retired telephone operator who lives in Nelson with her younger sister Grace, who did marry, but whose husband has passed away. They had no children.

The Bob Laughtons are pictured in #3 snap and are from left to right, son Bobby and his girl friend, daughter Colleen, Margaret and of course Bob. Bob is a retired C.P.R. baggageman, who has had a bit of difficulty with his heart in recent years. Young Bob
was with the government in Ottawa for awhile, but left that position in preference for the west. He is still young and a bit unsettled.

I might add that besides meeting Aunt Julia, Margaret (now both deceased) and Irene and Charlie Black of Niagara Falls and John E. (Jack) Laughton, who is son of your Uncle William, his wife Mary Jane of Watertown N.Y., we have kept in touch with your Uncle Ed of Manheim Pa. and in fact he said that he had received a nice 60th anniversary card from you, mailed from Nova Scotia. Uncle Ed came up to see us when he retired from the railroad which was perhaps 20 years ago, I was still pretty young at the time. I would have loved to have visited with him in 1959 when we were back that way, but it meant quite a bit of extra driving and time was running out on us.

Before closing, I would like to ask you if you have any knowledge of your grandfathers brother Jerome's (Jerry) family.

My daughter Patti is still after me to let her try the typewriter, so had best close for now, but do hope to keep in touch with you from time to time and all the best to you and your family.

Kindest regards,
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

John, Joan
Patti & Kelli
Laughton

Seanlan
Mr. & Mrs. G. V. Laughton
81, Glengrove West
Toronto, Ontario

Save the Date
I AM SEARCHING FOR DESCENDANTS OF JOHN HUGH LAUGHTON (NOW DECEASED), BUT FORMER RESIDENT OF PARKHILL, ONTARIO. IF YOU CAN ASSIST ME IN MY QUEST, I WOULD BE TRULY GRATEFUL.

JOHN L.
704-5TH
NELSON, B.C.

Dec 63