

May 3, 1995

Dear Paws -

Greetings, and my very best wishes to Hanna and you.

Enclosed are the documents you requested. Do you recall ever receiving a Certificate of Confirmation from Peter Mueller? I'm so good at hiding things I'm sure I feel myself! Anyway, the replacement Certificate should meet any inquiry at your end.

Also enclosed is a booklet written by my late Aunt Gussie and compiled and distributed by her daughter, my cousin, Elaine. Aunt Gussie never really finished the booklet but put forth sufficient information to give one some idea of the kind family. Anyway, it's a side of our family I don't think you know that much about because Grandma died when you were a young fellow.

Aunt Gussie's work is somewhat a story of my mother's father (Oley Lind) and her mother (Augusta Wison). They were, of course, my <sup>grand</sup> grandparents, and your great-grandparents.

The page of comic strip characters is a copy of an original which I possess (somewhere!). As you can see, Oley Lind had at one time owned a grocery store in Essex, Connecticut. One of

my uncles, either Norman or Lloyd, enjoyed drawing cartoon characters. I'm sure Aunt Myrtle could solve the puzzle if she saw them.

Just to make sure you catch Aunt Cussie's explanation I'll give you a brief explanation: As you recall your American history, the Irish and Scandinavians immigrated to the United States during a similar time period. Not knowing English as a language, the Scandinavians were at a disadvantage right away. So, it was not uncommon for the Scandinavians to look to the English speaking Irish as mates. Today, when you look at the membership lists of Irish and Scandinavian organizations you will see Irish surnames among the Scandinavians and vice versa.

Anyway, "Grandpa Lind" (what he is referred to in the family) came to the United States and married a widow by the name "Mrs McBinty" (Irish).

She had a daughter, Mamie, and a son, John. Aunt Cussie will refer to him as "Vincent" but I remember him as "John". I recall his being at the cottage many years ago and getting a terrible sunburn. I somewhat recall Mamie. Before Mrs. McBinty died, Grandpa Lind and she had two children - Lawrence,

who was beloved Shanghai and Jenny. According to Aunt Jenny, I was her favorite. She was important to me also. Most of all, she was important to my mother - very close. My mother never seemed to get over the loss of Aunt Jenny - her half sister. Aunt Jenny (Jennie - Jenny - Aunt Jen) never married - she could have but chose not to. She worked at Cutler-Hammer and long before I ever heard of Dutchess County would visit Sylvan Lake for vacation. She visited people by the name "Carpenter" and my father thought it was probably the family Carpenter Road is named after. Anyway, that is another story.

Following the death of Mrs McBinty, Grandpa kind remarried - a Swedish girl and my grandmother - Augusta Wiern. They had twelve children of which my Aunt Cussie was the eldest - and Aunt Myrtle the youngest.

Getting back to Aunt Jennie - as Mrs McBinty was Roman Catholic my Aunt Jen was raised Catholic. One time she said to me, "If I was a Protestant, I think I would like to be a Presbyterian"!

I know Aunt Cussie tried to be as accurate as possible, but minor errors do occur. For instance, her account makes my Cousin Gary three years older than me - actually Jim is older than he. Much of Aunt Cussie's information came from questionnaires she sent out to her remaining (Cousins?) + sisters.

I suppose of my Cousins, Elaine's daughter Sharon will be the keeper of the kind history. You must remember her - she spent an evening with us years ago during a camping trip in Massachusetts not far from Pine Hill when she lived with her parents. Recently, Aunt Myrtle told me she had given Sharon the Dad to Grandpa Lind's, Mt. Cemetery plot.

Well I hope you find Aunt Cussie's account of the kind history informative if not interesting. You come late so you never get to know so many of the relatives mentioned. However it is a large family and scattered about.

Love to both you and Hanna,

Boyz