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Dear Lionel,

It was a great pleasure to speak with you in November. As far as I can remember, our last meeting was at our house in Te Atatu North after Mum's funeral in January, 1973. I may be mistaken about this.

I have had a desire for a long time to know more about our forebears. I had a few documents here but I did not work them out. I mentioned one day to my neighbour that I wanted to know Auntie Vera's year of birth. As my neighbour, Robin, had knowledge of how to do this she soon

came up with the date.
Some while after this I was at the dentist and in the magazine that I picked up - North + South April 2003 I think, was an article that told how to get military records of the dear ones. So I sent off my request and lo the documents arrived.

Also in 2003, members of the Tocker family were making a pilgrimage to Christchurch for the 90th birthday of Ray's uncle. He is the youngest and last generational member of a family of seven children of whom Ray's father all was ~~an~~ number four. Our daughter Catherine and her daughter Dana aged about 9 months at the time

accompanied us, also Ray's four remaining sisters (& fine). All of this was a complete surprise to Uncle Harry who with his wife Ruby was expecting a small family luncheon with their two daughters and their children.

Well, prior to travelling to Christchurch I was inspired to try to find out where in Christchurch our grandfather's Drapery business was. The council was unable to help me but suggested that the Church might be able to help me with a home address.

Anyway through the Cathedral archives I was sent the Baptismal Records of the children.

Even then I did not seem to have what I needed. Then

out of the blue my neighbour brought me the shipping documents of her grandfather when he came as a nine year old with his parents and siblings to New Zealand.

Well, more time passed and I was looking through my box of photographs and came across this wonderful family group that I knew to be the Frost Family of Masterton. I knew the names of them all except the two little girls but did not know who was who.

Over the years Auntie Vera had regular holidays with her Aunt Ellen and Uncle Ernest Frost but I wasn't aware that Ellen was Theresa's sister (or maybe I had forgotten).

Well, I wasn't sure what to do next. Then I recalled

that in 1954 I accompanied my Dad and Auntie Vera to the wedding of Mary Frost who was the daughter of Jim and Mabel Frost and granddaughter of Ellen + Ernest.

I had met Mary's parents several times as they had all come to live in Auckland apart from the eldest daughter Celia who was married to Les and remained in Carterton.

Mary is about our age, I knew her married name looked in the Auckland phone book, there she was. I got in touch, she remembered me, and she and her brother James, who now lives in Brisbane have given me the information on the Hennessey family.

I have tried through the

Thames Catholic Church and the Auckland Catholic Diocesan Archives to get a copy of ours Grandmothers Baptismal Certificate but was unable to do so as the archivist was unable to find Theresa although she came up with other Hennessys. However, Trish, the auckland archivist came up with a copy of the Death Certificate which is enclosed. The Dale's address (from memory) was No. 6 Selwyn Road, Epsom.

Mary and Michael Connare who celebrated 50 years of marriage in 2004 now live in Birkenhead and have a family of six daughters. When Ray and I celebrated our 50 years of marriage 29/10/2005 we had a wonderful luncheon at

a restaurant near Waimauku. It is called "Beesonline" just north of Huapai where one of our bridesmaids and her husband live. Our other bridesmaid travelled from Takapuna to join us.

I had always been interested in the Somes family and the Dales stay in Waimauku.

a little while before our "Big Day Out" in Auckland I looked in my Auckland phone book, saw a number of Weightmans, phoned the first one - answer phone, tried the next and found Ken. I told him my story and he invited us to come to 84 Taha Road, Waimauku after our lunch.

He and Rae made us

very welcome, showed us an account of the Wightman family that your Aunt Ada had written. The arrival of the Somes family in Wainuiomata was also mentioned in Ada's account.

who Ken, now aged 78 years was the son of George and Elsie Wightman lives in the family home which has had some alteration. He and Rae escorted us further out and pointed out to us where the Dale family were on that farm. It is now a vineyard and lifestyle block. While we were on the ~~block~~ road we saw a schoolboy walking up and also a lady with a pony and trap, and a dog leading the way.

It was an idyllic day and Ray and I enjoyed every moment of it.

My next step was to try to find Colleen, yourself and Rick. I was so happy that day when you answered your phone.

Auntie Elsie had written to me when Douglas died. I do not know what happened.

When Auntie Elsie died I had a phone call from Rick followed by a letter from him. If ever Rick should be in touch with you I would be very pleased if you would put him in touch with me too. I did enjoy our brief contact in 1990 but of course as we sold

our farm in 1994 Rick would no longer have our address.

Thank you for your introduction by phone to Megan and your dear little daughter Caitlin.

I hope that you will enjoy all this information that I am sending you and hope that you can figure it all out.

In our phone conversation Mary Comrane, (nee Frost) told me that the Hennessey family moved from Thames, N.Z. to Christchurch.

If ever Ray and I should ~~are~~ be in the Opotiki area I would like to visit the Somes farm. Would you give me an idea of how

to find it - the address if you can recall it.

Our daughter Catherine Elaine trained at the Diagnostic Laboratory in Auckland, at the same time studying at the Auckland Institute of Technology. In due course she worked at Waikato Hospital as a senior technologist in charge of tuberculosis and respiratory diseases (microbiology).

Catherine & her husband, Rodney started an air conditioning business (for cars) in Hamilton about 1994 and Catherine now is pretty fully engaged in that.

Their daughter Dana who is soon to be 4 years goes to Day Care. Ray and I see a lot of her and I go with her to her

swimming lesson each week.
Alison Maree achieved her Law Degree at Auckland University and then studied journalism in Auckland.
She is now a Media Officer in the Ministry for the Environment and lives and works in Wellington.
Catherine will be 37 in April and expects her second child in August.
Alison will be 36 in November. She spent about 2½ years overseas, in London working and on various excursions. Before going overseas she was a reporter on the Dominion newspaper in Wellington.
Cheers now, Kind regards and love to all.
Barbara. (B Jacks)