

Liverpool, Nova Scotia  
October 29, 1999

Dear Millicent,

I was delighted to receive your letter yesterday with all the informative and interesting material accompanying it. I hope you have not over-taxed yourself --your enclosures represent a great amount of effort and time. I am grateful to you for your thoughtfulness in all that..

I now have a genealogical program installed in my computer. I have been busy over the past couple of months entering all the data which I have collected in bits and pieces. It is marvellous to consolidate it in one location. It is amazing how much organizing of the input the computer does. I owe much of the information about the Farquhar/Younie/Allan/Silvestri etc. families to you and to Mr. McGregor.

It was good of you to track down the Ogilvie family connection. I had not been aware of that. I recall vividly visiting Beatrice Ogilvie when in Elgin in 1961. I stayed at her home and she showed me around the Elgin/Birnie area. I remember that she had worked with a certain medical doctor Bell in Elgin whose sister was in my Congregation in Halifax at the time...small world!

You may remember my great aunt, Sophia Jane Farquhar. She was a nurse in Elgin for many years. I never met her personally but she and her sister Mary used to send me gifts when I was a little boy. I was very impressed to receive presents from somebody who lived on what seemed to be the other side of the world. Neither she nor her sister Mary ever married. Aunt Jane was six feet tall. She was a vital person in the Farquhar saga. It is quite a story!!

My grandfather's first wife, Margaret McDonald (of Rothes), died in a remote farmhouse in Nova Scotia in February, 1889. She left behind her six sons.. Donald 17, James 15, William 13, John 11, George 8 and Alexander 6.. That would be a daunting circumstance for my grandfather. Aunt Jane, at the time, was, I believe working with her brothers in their very fine store in Kensington, London. They had a kind of department store with living accommodations for staff upstairs. Aunt Jane's duties in the family enterprise consisted of managing the feeding and housing of the employees.

Then she got letter from her brother, James, in Nova Scotia indicating to her in frank terms that it was her "Christian duty" to come across the ocean to be the "mother" in the household. She complied with his wish and stayed for ten years. She departed when my grandfather married Mary Agnes Smith who was my grandmother.

I have often felt it was an incredible request for my grandfather to make. Aunt Jane was 31 years old at the time and it meant a huge disruption, surely, in her life. But perhaps such expectations were not uncommon in those days.

I do not know where she received her training as a nurse. She was, I think a mid-wife, and delivered hundreds of babies in Elgin and thereabouts. She was a faithful worshipper at the

"High Church" . She and her sister, Mary, resided at 25 Reidhaven. The current residents there invited Donald and me into the house when we knocked at the door and we were given a copy of the history of the house over the last 100 years or so.

You also noted in your letter that William Farquhar was Sophia Allan's eighth child. In family records in my file I learned somewhere, sometime, that there were two babies who died..one was named Mary..thus, there were two children given that name Mary...and the other baby was a girl for whom I have no name. That explains, I think, William having been detailed as the eighth child. Joseph, the boy born in 1850, died as a small child.

When Donald and I visited you in April you told us about the remarkable family, connected to ours, which included the philosopher who became an educator in Australia..University President, Chancellor, etc., and I think, was eventually knighted. Sometime, at your convenience, do you suppose you could send me a page indicating where he and his siblings fit in the whole genealogical framework?

I am sorry to hear of Dorothy's death. She was so hospitable to Glennis and me when we called on her in 1986 at St. Andrews. When we lived in Montreal I phoned her daughter, Mary, in Sudbury and had a chat. She and her husband had a summer place not far from Montreal. We had hoped that we might get together some time when they were vacationing but it just didn't happen. That would have been around the time we visited Dorothy.

We are in frequent touch with Donald and his wife Kathy and their 3 year old Madeleine. Both Donald and Kathy are physicians..very busy young people. They are Professors in the Medical School in Kingston, Ontario and are engaged in clinical work as well. I will pass on your good wishes when we have our weekly chat on the week-end.

I am anxious to make contact with the cousins in South Africa. It is difficult to get addresses. The last person of our Canadian family to have contact with the South African folks was my Uncle George Farquhar. He died in 1975 and was not very competent in the last ten or so years of his life. Thus, I suppose, the South Africans have not heard from our crowd in well over 30 years.

Please pass on my regards to Mr. McGregor. I must drop him a note before Christmas. He has been so helpful in the search.

With kind thoughts

Yours faithfully