Holiday Greetings to All the L Relatives,

It is time (12/4) to finish this newsletter and get it in the mail. The first and last pages are left until last, strangely enough. Even information about the 1993 Reunion is not included. But, it will come later in a separate mailing in late January. To compile the information I have about it and put it into some kind of meaningful form seemed like too much right now. It is a first-of-the-year project.

In order to keep this newsletter to fewer pages (52¢ postage instead of 75¢), I decided to do the extra mailing for the reunion. It will go to all on the mailing list. That letter will be devoted almost entirely to the Reunion: Over 300 Years in America. (continued on page 15)
 Queries

Lucretia Arthur, 400 South Colfax Street, La Habra, CA 90631, has offered copies of all the queries which have been in The Lounsbury Tree since the first issue. She and Bill have them on computer. Thanks Lucretia and Bill. Ed Note: It would be helpful to send Lucretia a self addressed stamped envelope to help make her job easier and less costly in case there are many requests.

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Bill Arthur found these three Reuben Lounsbys in their records. Lucretia wrote: "Possibly the latter could be the Reuben Roy Payne is looking for. Surely there are more, 'Lounsberry, Lounsbery, Lounsbury' (by B. Clark, G.K. Dennis and M. Lounsbury) shows a Ruben K. Lounsbury, born 14 September 1904, Harpersville, NY, but he would be the wrong time frame." For the three Reubens referred to above, please see FAMILY LINES, the line sent by Lucretia, elsewhere in the newsletter. (page 7)

In the same letter Lucretia wrote: "John Freund is right; Newman and Eliza, James and Rebecca are in Scrub Oak" (also Scrub Oak). See GRAVE STONE DATA COMMENTS by John Freund elsewhere in the newsletter. Lucretia adds: "We have had outstanding luck searching cemeteries and photographing the old stones, the highlight being the Old Northport or Huntington Historical Cemetery (depending on who you talk to) Long Island where we located my 6th great grandparents, Alexander Bryan, 1682-1758 and wife Ruth 1688-1748."

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There is a query within a letter from Betty Lounsbury, Excelsior, MN which appears on the FAMILY LINES page elsewhere in The Tree (underlined). If anyone can help Betty with her search, contact her at 25990 Birch Bluff Road, Excelsior, MN 55331. (see page 7 for that letter)

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Ann Peavy, 31 Peach Tree Lane, Hendersonville, NC 28739-1368 is still searching for Latitia_________. She wrote: "I do wish someone else came through Michael, Isaac, John, Richard", so that I would find who Latitia_________ is. I spent a lot of time in Salt Lake City trying all sorts of things, like next neighbors - no luck. I keep trying." Anyone who may be able to help Ann, please contact her at the above address.

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Nellie Gifford, 2201 Fredrick Street, Boise, ID 83705 has this query: "I'm interested in any relatives of Isaiah Lounsbury b 19 July 1850 in

(continued next page)
Queries

Nellie Gifford query continued from previous page---

Worcester, MA, m Mary Ann Pomeroy 10 January 1868. He died 22 Oct. 1927 at Minidoka, ID. Mary Ann was born 7 Mar 1847 in Steuben County, NY. Her father was Nelson Pomeroy.

In an earlier letter (3/5/'92) that Nellie had sent to Mrs. Martha Lounsbery, she had this additional information: 

"My mother was Nellie E. Lounsbery; her father was Isaiah H. Lounsbery; her mother was Mary Ann Pomeroy. My father was Morgan A. Vaughn.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Ruth Lounsbery Galyen, 13978 S. Carus Road, Oregon City, OR 97045 sent this note/query: "I am interested in the Canadian branch of the Lounsbyrs. I have learned that a George Burwell (possibly Burwell George) Lounsbery, son of George Lounsbery, was born about 1785 in the Midlands, England, and died about 1875 in Selkirk, Ontario. He had seven sons and perhaps one daughter. One of the sons, George Ransom Lounsbery, married Margaret Winger, and had two sons and three daughters. Their son, John, was my grandfather. He was born June 24, 1863, in Selkirk, Ontario; died March 16, 1960, at Coquitlam, British Columbia. He married Elizabeth Cornelie Dixon on June 18, 1887 at Brandon, Manitoba. They had twelve children, eight sons and four daughters. Their oldest son, William Ransom Lounsbery, was my father."

(An excerpt from a letter from Shirley)

Mrs. Shirley L. Charette
223 Conewood Ave.
Reisterstown, Md. 21136-3006
July 21, 1991

In the last newsletter there was an interesting letter from a Floyd L. He mentioned about Bristol Co. Rehobeth, Mass. I come from Bristol Co. & so does my whole family. My brother (Frederick) lives 6 minutes ride from Rehobeth. I'm trying to link up my grandfather Calvin. He was born in 1872. I think, not necessarily in Montrose, NY, where my father was born. I thought if I worked backwards, I could find something. I know he was born in N.Y. When he came from N.Y., he lived in Rehobeth for awhile. My father had relatives named Holder and Milda. Myrtie. They came for a reunion at my mothers house in 1937.

I am going home to Taunton, Mass. in Oct. and I will go to the courthouse, and see what I can find out about Patience Davis. Being born in Swansea Mass., married in Rehobeth, all the records would be in Taunton, in Bristol Co.

I'm typing this letter, because sometimes its a little easier on my arthritis. Don't work too hard.

Sincerely,
Shirley L.

From the Mailbag

Something additional about the Sarah Chipp Lounsbery home in Stone Ridge (Ulster County, NY): There has been reference to her and her home several times in the newsletter following her death in February 1998 (refer to The Lounsbery Tree #10, May/June 1998). The home was in realtors' hands for two years or more, both for sale and rent, at one time a sale price of well over 1 million dollars. Then the price was lowered to $800,000 or so. Gradually, it began to look more and more run down. Then, about a year ago or less, the trim was painted white; it looks beautiful.

It has been sold or rented lately, probably sold. When coming by it--my family lives down that way--this past Thanksgiving evening, there were bright lights throughout the house, lamps in the windows; it looked so inviting. It really looked brilliant. That must be the answer to an electrician's van in the yard once before when I came by. The barn is still in great disrepair, but still standing.

It's gone, folks! Maybe to a L family?? Doubtful! No reflection on any of the wealthy Ls, however. Often, I could visualize that home as a L...y museum/library; two Richard Rooms, a Thomas Room, a Michael Room, John Room, Henry Room, and a Mary Room--all six children. Oh, the one Richard Room would have been called Richard and Elizabeth Room. Each would be full of collected works on the L family genealogy, history, pictures, etc. A beautiful parlor/library with a magnificent fireplace, to sit and browse while doing research. A dining area for food and fellowship. Doesn't that sound great? Well, maybe in the next life. In the meantime, I'll scout around through some friends to find out who lives there.

Some of our readers, Marie Lounsbery and friends, and some others have been fortunate to meet Sarah Chipp Lounsbery and see her historic home (built in the 1700s). Remember, George Washington slept there!

Another person who visited Sarah is Sara Louise Lounsbery DeLong, Box 683, Trumansburg, NY 14886. She wrote this account in February, 1992: 'In The Tree you tell about 'Sara(h)'. I must say that she was most friendly when I called upon her about ten years ago. Several lady friends of mine and I went to Stone Ridge on (continued on page 11)
From the Mailbag

Gravestone Data Comments

Some of the gravestone data given by Lucretia Arthur in Tree #15 and by Mary Ellen Havens in Tree #17 relate to the same families. The different Lounsbery branches are represented in the graveyard at Shrub Oak, Yorktown, Westchester Co, NY. One is the line of Gideon (Gideon, Henry, Richard). Gideon was born in Stamford, CT, on 7 Aug 1761, and married Margaret of there in 1779. They settled in nearby Bedford, NY, but had some of their children baptized at Stamford. Gideon was still in Bedford in 1800, but apparently moved to Yorktown by 1807, where Margaret died on 28 April 1807 Gideon of Westchester Co bought 166 2/3 acres in Delhi, Delaware Co, NY, for $ 1100 from two Philadelphia men. One of the witnesses to the deed was John Lounsberry. Gideon lived briefly in Delhi, but returned to Stamford by 1811 where he married Abigail Bishop. The marital agreement calls him "formerly and now of Stamford and formerly of Delhi". He died in Stamford on 19 March 1825.

Gideon and Margaret's third son Zabdi (misspelled as Edward) was married to Margaret (or Peggy). They are listed in the 1850 census in the town of Cortlandt, just west of Yorktown, aged 63 and 65 respectively, which is consistent with the ages at death on their gravestones. He was a distiller by trade. His will is in Westchester Wills Book 41, page 196, per Eardeley. I haven't followed up, and don't know whether or not there were children.

The James who died on 20 August 1841 was Gideon and Margaret's eldest son James, baptized at Stamford on 20 June 1780 (Eardeley). Both Mary Ellen and Lucretia show an age at death of 61 y 7 m, which is consistent with this baptismal year, but Lucretia missed the death year as 1847. James' wife was Rebecca Neman, who was 76 in the 1850 census at Carmel, Putnam Co. She died on 22 Feb 1862, aged 88 y 6 d, and is the second James listed by Lucretia. Stephen C. was their third son. He was married to Lydia Ann Kirkham, and lived in Putnam Co. He was Stephen's younger brother, who married Eliza Neman. His age at death should read 76-9-21 rather than 76-6-21, as he was 44 in the 1850 census and 75 in 1880 at Carmel, Putnam Co. Eliza's age was 43 in 1850 and 72 in 1860, so her age at death was 78-9-21 rather than 78-6-21. These misreadings show how easily one can be misled in reading numbers on old gravestones, especially from photos. The angle of the light, erosion, and the growth of lichens can confuse the observer, who needs to feel the inscription to verify the visual impression.

The second family line is that of John (Isaac, John, Richard). Daniel (Robert, 30, was living in Yorktown in 1850 with his wife Alice (Cornverse), 21, son Eugene, 2, and parents John, 57, and Charlotte (Putney), 53. Daniel's will, probated on 12 June 1861, is in Wills Book 43, page 570 (Eardeley). James who died on 20 Aug 1874 was John's next younger brother. His wife was Julia Ann Teller. His will, probated on 26 Sep 1874, is in Wills Book 43, page 570 (Eardeley). Their son Harrison Teller, the first to Mary Ann Wilsey, who died at the age of 34 y 1 m 27 d, not 54-9-27. Three of their four children died young: Emma, Wilsey Augustus, and Mary Emma. In this case Mary Ellen Havens' source appears to be in error. Harrison married second in New York City in 1825 Mary Jane Vories, and died there in 1892. Presumably he was buried by his second wife in some other cemetery.

The article above was sent by John Freund to clarify some information which appeared in previous issues of the newsletter. We are grateful to John for the information and to Lucretia and Mary Ellen for their understanding of the clarification.

The following was sent by Judy Reid, 170 Linwood Ave., Port Colborne, Ontario, L3K 5K2, Canada.

WHERE DID YOU FIND THAT WILL?

A most exciting thing has happened. In answering a request for information, on the early HERRIT, HULSTERS, FLEMELLING and HIGGINS families, Mrs. Bynum of Michigan sent along a will which had been submitted for administration.

It was the will of Robert Lounsberry, who died in the town of Alexander (sic) in the county of Genesee, State of New York, and was registered at the town of Batavia, Genesee County, 27 December 1821.

The will was dated 20 July 1811, when he was of the Township of Bainsborough in the County of Lincoln and Province of Upper Canada.

In it he mentions his wife Elizabeth, and his children Nancy, Townsend, Deborah, Isaac, John, Caroline, Ebenezer (Ziba), Rudolphus, and Julilla. He leaves his land in Bainsborough to his son Townsend and Isaac, 600 acres in Darlington (sic) (District of Cambridge) to John and 200 in Burford to Rudolphus, as well as 100 pounds to each of his four daughters. The will was witnessed by Jacob HIN, John MCCULLOCH, and Charles FANNING Jun. His wife Elizabeth, John HENRY and Townsend LOUNSBURY are names as executors. Both Lounsberry and John Henry declined.

How many of our early wills are registered outside the country? This helps to explain why there are so many gaps when trying to trace ownership in the title of the early land records.

Submitted by Corlone Taylor B350

THINK REUNION 1993--AUGUST 13-15 AT BOLIVAR (ALLEGANY COUNTY) IN SOUTHWESTERN NEW YORK.

A CHANGE IN LOCATION FROM WHAT WAS IN THE LAST ISSUE OF THE TREE. WATCH FOR THE SPECIAL MAILING IN LATE JANUARY WITH ALL DETAILS.
Doris (Mrs. Robert H.) Lounsberry writes from 47895 Pintail Lane, Squaw Valley, CA 93675: "... Life is so full of interesting things, we lose track of some. I was back east in Plattsburg, NY for the first two weeks in July '92 for a family reunion. I, my two brothers and two sisters were together for the first time in 25 years. I have two daughters and their families back there, too. A great time! ...Bill Lounsberry from Lockport, NY, my husband's brother, had cardiac surgery October 14. He's recovering nicely." Ed. Note: Our families do get spread so far apart sometimes. It is great to get together, even moreso after 25 years. It must have been a great reunion.

Louise Wright, Medusa, NY 12120 writes: ... I have kept busy answering letters and meeting with people who come to do genealogy on the Town of Rensselaerville ancestors. Our Historical Society has collected facts from ledgers, diaries, etc. on families who lived here, so we have been of some help. They also share what they have so we can add to our files. Three people stopped here one day, they were from Arizona, and after talking awhile, it turned out we were 4th cousins."

June L. Wilson, 4903 Palmer Park, Colorado Springs, CO 80915-2170 states: "My connection to the Lounsberry surname is through my great grandmother who was Ann Elvira (Eliza) Lounsberry b 5 Mar. 1847 in Ira Caugha (sic) NY." Anyone having any connection to Ann Elvira may want to contact June.

John H. Lounsbury, 1950 La Mesa Lane, Decatur, GA 30302, a frequent correspondent, sent copies of these awards he recently received: "Peace Through Strength Victory 'Leadership Award' for successful adoption and implementation of a National Strategy for Peace Through Strength. Also, an award from the Republican National Committee for "extraordinary patriotism and commitment to the Republican Party and the values that make America the greatest nation on earth." Another one: "The Presidential Trust commissioned John H. Lounsbury to serve as delegate from the State of Georgia." Congratulations John for your many awards!

Louise L. Nye, Box 84, 3817 Preacher Street, Jasper, NY 14855 reports her Lounsberry connection: Her father is Albert Lounsberry, son of James Lounsberry. He lives in Greenwood, NY; children are Glenn James, Myrtle Louise, Evelyn Marie, Kathleen Lucy (deceased) and Robert William. Anyone wishing to contact Louise about her lineage—the address is above. I'm sure she would like to hear from you.

Ann Lounsberry Rampke, P.O. Box 571, Molalla, OR 97038 sent the editor a long article about I.R. Lounsberry—a "Radio Wizard." She received it from someone else, and since I.R.L. is not of her immediate family, she sent it to be shared in case others might be interested. It is too long for the newsletter, but here are a few identifying facts: The article appeared in the Lockport, NY Union Sun and Journal, October 7, 1929; there is a picture of I.R.; he was the "Dad" of WMAK; he expected perfection of TV; he experienced meteoric rise in the radio industry; Vice President and Director of Sales of the Buffalo Broadcasting Corporation; helped develop radio from its infancy. He was born in Oshkosh, WI in 1899, served in the Navy, and worked in the Kalamazoo Research Laboratories. He married Mabel Bredemus in NY. They have one son, Frederick Leroy, who resides in Buffalo in 1929—The story about his role in the development of radio and its impact on society is very interesting. Anyone who can relate to the I.R. Lounsberry story is welcome to write to the editor for a copy. In the right family, it could be a cherished bit of family history.

Fern Lounsbury Riemann, 6405 West Park Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139 sent this brief statement about her family: "I am the daughter of Howard T. Lounsbury and Agnes E. Mason Lounsbury, Murry Hill, Youngsville, PA. Born 4-19-41 at Arcade, NY, Fern Joyce Lounsbury. I have three children: Donald G. Reiman Jr. b 8-11-67; Sheryl Lynn Roth b 6-15-70, and Gary D. Reiman b 1-19-69. Donald Jr. and Sheryl Roth both live at 103 W. Cheyenne Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80906. I was married 4-4-60 to Donald G. Reiman Sr. at Kingsland, GA. He grew up in St. Louis and is a St. Louis city firefighter. I'm sure that Fern would like to hear from anyone who is a near or distant relative."
**In Memoriam**

Laura M. Lonsberry died on June 15, 1992 after a few months stay in a nursing home. She is the mother-in-law of Trudy Lonsberry, Rte. 3 Box 1839, Cibolo, TX 78108. In a note about her mother-in-law's death, Trudy wrote that she, her mother and aunt visited the cemeteries at Lonsberry, NY while on a trip. She remarked about the beautiful scenery in that area.

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Pansy Lonsberry Mallette died April 15, 1992 in Punta Gorda, FL at age 78 after being ill for seven years. She was a sister to Hazel B. Lonsbury Ranucci. Hazel reported that she(Hazel) had a broken hip in 1991 and a fractured leg in 1992... "otherwise I'm good."
That shows the right spirit, Hazel. Hazel may be contacted at 6878 Sand Hill Road, Apt. 9, East Syracuse, NY 13057.

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Barbara Sauve' sent the obituary of Ruth Lonsbury, left. Barbara did not know Ruth but thought the obituary might be of interest to others, perhaps a family member. She received it from her mother, Ruth Longwell. Both Barbara and Ruth are contributors of information for the newsletter.

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Earl A. Lounsbury (obituary at the left) is the editor's first cousin. Earl's picture appears in the Lounsbury photo of the reunion in 1991 on page 12 of The Lounsbury Tree #16 Nov./Dec. 1991 issue. He is seated at left with his brother Raymond, in the top left photo. His wife, Eleanor Lounsbury may be contacted at 28 McIntosh Drive, Middletown, NY 14940.

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William G. "Bill" Macdonald who produces the graphics for The Tree wrote in January 1992 that his father, Lorne John Macdonald, died on the 29th of October, 1991 at age 85. He was born the 27th of October, 1906 at West Lorne, Ontario.

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Ed. Note: I know the readers would join me in expressing our sympathy to the families of those who are no longer with us.
Whenever possible, it would be helpful if a photocopy or the original obituary is sent for use in the newsletter. That would alleviate the possibility of errors in transcription from a letter, etc. Appearance of obituaries helps the genealogist with his/her records. They can also provide information to some distant relative. So, please send obituaries. We will try to use all of them.
FAMILY LINES

died: 30 Dec 1811
marr: Sarah Leaton
issue: Isaac b 21 Dec 1757, d 4 Apr 1851
Ruben
Mary married ---Baldwin/Balding
Hanna married ---Heusen/Hewson
Charity married Henry Sloot
info: Marian L. Hagopian, 6221 Woodbury Drive, Magalia, CA 95454
LOUNSBERRY TREE 812, pg 1= Schoharie Co., New York Genealogical
Records by Charlotte Taylor Luckhurst

LOUNSBERRY, LOUBSBERRY, LOUBSBURY, pg 42= John served as a Pri-
in the Revolution."

Vicki Palmer, 136 West 800 South, Orem, UT 84058
Charity's husband, Henry Sloot; Sarah's surname & birth year

Richard[4], Henry[3], Gideon[3], Gideon[2], Gideon[3], Reuben[5]

Reuben......born: 1824, Westchester Co., N.Y.
died: 1867, Greene, N.Y.
marr: Angelina Burrows/ Boroughs
issue: two died young
Eugene
Julia
Judah
Alice
Gertrude
Eveline
Harriet

info: LOUNSBURY, LOUBSBERRY, LOUBSBURY, pg 34= Two small children
were buried in plot of Reuben in Cemetery on hill above
Greene on road that goes to Coventry. After Reuben's death
Angelina married his brother James. Oscar Lounsberry re-
counts that Reuben wore boy's boots size four. He peddled
medicine around the nearby towns. When Reuben sat on the
seat of the wagon his legs dangling, his feet couldn't reach
the footboard. They had a store. He was told Reuben
died from eating six pears which gave him cholera morbus."

September 2, 1992

Dear Al Lounsbery,

Thank you for the prompt reply to our subscription with the copy
of Newsletter 215 (May/June 1991). It is very interesting and filled
with family information. We are interested in finding our connection
with the earliest generations of Lounsberry's. Here is what we have
to date:

My husband, Alfred Eton Lounsbery (b. 1921, Superior, WI)
Father: William Cotton Lounsbery (b. 1880, Brooklyn, NY
(d. 1977, Amston, CT); m. Genevieve Mae Eton (b. 1882, Cresmond, WI)
issue: 5 children, Elizabeth, Virginia, William Jr., Franklin B. and Alfred S.

*Grandfather: Paul Lounsbery (b. 1841, Morrisania, Bronx, NY
(d. 1926, Chelsea, Mass); m. Elizabeth Anderson (b. 1846, Troy, NY)
issue: 7 children: James, Ralph, Charles, Joseph, James, William C. and Paul Jr.

Great Grandfather: Isaac Lounsbery (b. 1799, N.Y.;
d. 1844, Morrisania, Bronx, NY
m. Martha Ann Fuglsey (b. 1805, West Farms, Westchester,
City or Bronx, CT.
(d. 1869, West Farms, CT)
issue: John, George, Isaac, Charles, Martha Ann, Moses,
Andrew, Virginia and Paul (Ivan)

Great Great Grandfather: John Lounsbery and Mary Whitt--no dates or place
names known.

Paul Lounsbery and his twin sister, Virginia were only three years old
when their father, Isaac L died in 1835. Isaac was a blacksmith on
Jouenuneer Morris's estate, Morrisania. After he died, Martha Fuglsey L
took her 9 children and went to live with her father, John Fuglug at
West Farms, NY. It was at this time that they lost touch with the Loun-
sbury relatives around Morrisania, and therefore, don't know about the
earlier generations. We would appreciate any information or clues to
aid in further research.

Sincerely,

Betty Lounsbery

* Our cousin, Ruth Ayresather has just compiled a marvelous family
history--370 pages about all of Paul L and Elizabeth L's descendants.
She also edited and published all of Paul's Civil War letters to his
family. It is very carefully done as well being interesting reading.
Received a letter today from my sister-in-law, Elizabeth Lounsbery, Crum
of Jouenuneer Morris, N.Y. She told us she too had subscribed to your newsletter
and sent me your letter to her. I too subscribed after Dr. Hennesey
told her and then me about your newsletter!

Also read Ruth's family history after I had sealed this letter to you
and I found we have the following about John Lounsbery and Mary Whitt:
There were 4 children: Isaac (1894-1895) Susie (1896-1896)
William Stranau of Port Morris, N.Y; Mary Lounsbery who married
John Thropson; and Benjamin Lounsbery (no information about)

Ruth's history also has information about the brothers and sisters
of Paul Lounsbery which I have not included in this letter in the
interest of brevity.
Dear Mr. Lounsbury,

I am interested in uncovering the story of your family's ties to the Lounsbury family. I decided to research your family tree and found an entry for Mr. Floyd Lounsbury of East Haven, CT, who also resides in the same town as me. I believe we may have a connection.

I have been trying for a year to find out more about the Lounsbury family. I have only recently uncovered some information that you might find interesting. I am Ed Lounsbury, a descendant of Robert Lounsbury, son of Elmore Lounsbury, and grandson of Smith Lounsbury, son of Timothy Lounsbury, son of Richard II.

I am interested in learning more about your family line. I have spent a great deal of time compiling and researching my family tree, and I would love to get more information from someone with a similar background.

I am particularly interested in hearing from family members who are interested in attending the 1993 reunion on August 13-15 in Bolivar, New York ( Allegany County). We are planning an exchange of information: family lines, history, stories, pictures, and much more. If you are interested, please contact me.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Ed Lounsbury
735 Gaskins Way
St. Bragg Co., KY 4237

Sept 28, 1992
FAMILY LINES

Elizabeth L. Crum
32 Thelma St.
Roelyn Heights, NY 11377

Aug 20, 1992

Dear Mr. Baum insulation,

I received a copy of your Baum insulation newsletter on August 15, 1992. I would like to thank you for it. Please let me know if there are more children in the Baum insulation family.

I was born in Baum insulation, Wisconsin, my father was William, the seventh child, and fifth son of Paul and Elizabeth Anderson. Baum insulation, Wisconsin was born in Western, County, NY, moved to Brooklyn, NY but spent the last five years at 3620 6th Ave., Brooklyn, NY.

I have one cousin left of that family from Baum insulation, a sister and two brothers. We can trace our family back to Isaac Baum insulation, but it's sketchy beyond that. I should very much like to go to the reunion next year, although I am past 80 years of age. Best wishes,

(From Paul) Elizabeth L. Crum

85; My husband died in 1982 after 53 years of marriage.
Local boys made good as governors

But who were the Lounsburys?

By Karen Strutin
THE NEWS-TIMES

RIDGEFIELD — The Lounsbury brothers gave the town the pride of having produced two governors. They gave some beautiful buildings to the town. Governor Street is named after them.

But they left their hometown very little information about their lives and personalities.

Even Town Historian Richard Venus, who seems to know a bit about everybody, doesn’t have much to say about the Lounsburys.

“As far as anecdotes, I really don’t have any,” he said. “I don’t know anybody that does.”

Phineas and George Lounsbury were prominent businessmen who each served a term as governor — Phineas in 1887 and George in 1898.

Phineas was a soldier in the Civil War, a partner in a successful shoe company and president of Merchants’ Exchange National Bank of New York City.

George, his older brother, had studied to be a priest but quit because of a throat ailment. He was president of the First National Bank of Ridgefield, which later became part of Union Trust.

Photographs of the brothers show mustached men with strong features and large, kind eyes. Phineas sports a vast stomach and a chin tipped up with pride. George is less imposing, with slightly hunched shoulders.

Town Hall records show that George, who was born in nearby Pound Ridge, N.Y., on May 7, 1838, was 66 when he died Aug. 16, 1904.

Records are more complete for Phineas, who was born in Ridgefield on Jan. 10, 1841. He died June 22, 1925, at 84. The death certificate describes him as a widower and a banker. Astonishingly, it does not mention his term as governor.

The Lounsbury’s parents were Nathan and Delia Scofield Lounsbury. There were four other children in the family — Matilda, William, Sarah and Ann Eliza.

Other evidence about the brothers can be gleaned from their houses.

Phineas, who is generally considered the more ostentatious of the two, lived in Grove Lawn, which is now the Community Center on Main Street.

According to a center brochure, Phineas saw the Connecticut State Building at the 1883 World’s Fair in Chicago and was so impressed that he duplicated it on Main Street.

The pamphlet says the house was run by 14 inside servants and 12 more for the gardens. Phineas lived there with his wife, Jenny Wright, whom he married June 12, 1867.

The town acquired the elegant three-story building from Lounsbury heirs in 1945. The Veterans Memorial Community Center Inc. has been renting it for $1 a year since 1953.

During the week, the center is a meeting place for local organizations. On weekends, it is often used for weddings and other receptions.

Recently, the center’s board of directors mounted a campaign to un-
officially include the words Lounsby Mansion in the building's title. The directors say it will make the building more marketable for parties.

George lived on a farm on what is now Lounsby Road. Though the farm has been partially divided, the house remains.

His obituary in The Ridgefield Press said: "It is no exaggeration to say that he wielded a greater influence over his fellow townsmen than any other single person and the quiet, unobtrusive way that this was done made it all the more effective.

"He always retained an interest in the common people, with whom he mingled freely and whose welfare he was deeply interested, as he often showed in many practical ways, unknown to the general public."

George Lounsby Rockwell, who was related to the Lounsburys, mentioned this quality in his 1927 book, "History of Ridgefield.

"The neighbors of George E. Lounsby can testify that he was always ready to help the unfortunate," Rockwell wrote. "It was his custom to drive about the town after night-fall, choosing this time to hide his identity while aiding the needy."

George, Rockwell said, graduated from Yale in 1863 and later taught Latin, Greek and Hebrew at preparatory schools. He was an ordained Episcopal minister, but a threat to his life forced him to quit.

The book does not explain how the threat ruined a career in the ministry was no hindrance to a politician.

He married Frances Josephine Whedon in 1894.

George was elected state senator in 1895 and 1897. The following year, he was elected governor.

Phineas gave the town its first freestanding library and he donated land and money for a school on Bailey Avenue.

His Ridgefield Press obituary describes him as "a product of the Puritan tradition. He was born a farmer's son and brought up on the hard labor of the farm. The Bible was the mainstay of his reading and strong religious feelings marked him for life."

In a book celebrating town's 1908 bicentennial, Phineas described his youth. "At the age of sixteen I left for the first time my parental roof and the only girl I thought worth knowing and went to New York to make my fortune, which I had fixed at $10,000."

When Phineas died, his estate was valued at close to $1,000,000, according to The Ridgefield Press.

Sylvio Bedini's book, "Ridgefield in Review" notes Phineas had owned The Press, a weekly, in the early 1900s.

"He discovered one day that a liquor advertisement had been used against his orders. He thereupon sold the paper immediately to Samuel Keeler -- a Democrat."

According to "The Encyclopedia of Biography," published by the American Historical Society around the turn of the century, Phineas "received a thorough academic education and entered a business career with the organization of the firm of Lounsby Brothers, a shoe manufacturing company in South Norwalk.

In 1874, he was elected on the Republican ticket as a state representative. He was discussed as a gubernatorial candidate in 1882 and 1884, but he didn't run until 1888. The encyclopedia says "his popularity with the people was substantially demonstrated at the polls."

But Peter Bartucca, manager of records and legislative services with the Secretary of State, said records show that the situation was more complicated. Phineas ran against a Democrat named F. Spie- ce Cleveland, Bartucca said.

Cleveland won more votes but lacked a majority. So the election went to the Republican-dominated state assembly, which elected Phineas, he said.

The encyclopedia describes Phineas' most important law as the "Incorrigible Criminals Act."

It allowed long jail sentences for people convicted of the same crime twice.

When Phineas left office, The Hartford Times, although a Democratic organ, wrote: "While our political preference did not favor his election to the chief magistracy of the state, while we had, in the outset, some doubts as the probable methods of his official course, we may frankly say at this time that we are satisfied that he has been one of the best governors Connecticut has ever had."

* * * * *

From the Mailbag

Sara Chipp Lounsbery home -- continued from page 3

"Old Stone House Week," I called Sara(h) and asked if we could visit her. "Yes, of course," came the answer. I think there were six of us who made an afternoon call. We were invited in! Wow! What a place! We sat before the big stone unlit fireplace. Sara(h) enjoyed a cigarette and a glass of some kind of beverage and we visited awhile. Just what we talked about I'm not sure, but we stayed maybe an half hour. When we left, by the front door -- a Dutch door -- I stopped and turned back to bid goodbye. Sara(h) Lounsbery was on the inside and Sara Lounsbery was on the outside. Someone took the picture. I have it. Right now, however, it is in an album which is loaned to a genealogist to get some pictures. Well, I want to tell you! It was great -- more in retrospect. She, Sara(h) was most friendly. Not accustomed, apparently, to having visitors. But that house! I wish the Lounsb---ys could own it for a family museum. I could put in maybe 25%. Let's look at it."

Note: I'm afraid it is too late, Sara, but it is a very noble ambition. Maybe someday some Lounsb---ys will be able to at least visit it like you did.

William G. "Bill" Macdonald, Rural Route 5, Langton, Ontario, Canada, No. 100 sent the editor, sometime ago, excerpts from "Annals of the County, No.2: fifty Years of Municipal Government -- 1790-1840. Compiled by Janet Powell and published by the Grimsby Historical Society, 1951 reprinted 1965. There are many interesting facts: Smithville settlers; the first settlement in South Grimsby about 1790. By Richard Griffin; some L names appear: Robert Lounsberry, one of the early settlers around Smithville. In 1826, there is a reference to Townsend Lounsbury who was an overseer of roads. One of the lot owners is Townsend Lounsberry. His name along with several others appear on the maps (1791-1811). Write to "Bill" directly or to Al Lounsbury for a copy if you are interested.
When informed of your newsletter, I was surprised and pleased by the amount of interest in the Lounsbury name. I wasn't aware of how many people—of all of us presumably descendants of Richard—were researching Lounsbury ancestors. Is anyone currently working on a definitive genealogy of Richard's descendants? Has anyone traced his origins? Perhaps these questions are already addressed in the back issues of your newsletter.

One final note before I close. As the father of young children, I have had ample opportunity to watch Walt Disney's old animated feature films, several of which list a John Lounsbury in the credits as an animator. I've always thought that he must be somehow connected to the family.

Sincerely,

David N. Morehouse

*************

Clarence Lounsbury, 60 Birs Mill Road, Vinnetown, NJ 08088 sent considerable materials in 1991—notes about LS (variant spellings) listed in the Burlington County Library: marriages, wills, etc. Anyone interested in research in that area may contact Clarence or the editor for a copy. The material is rather lengthy to include in the newsletter.

*************

Marian L. Hagopian, 6221 Woodbury Drive, Magalia Ca 95954 sent in 1991, information about the diaries (1868 and 1877) of Franklin D. Lounsbury. The photocopy cannot be reproduced effectively for the newsletter, but anyone interested in that name for that period may contact Marian.

*************

Arthur C. Lounsbury, 98 Hill Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2H 2L4 sent photocopies of two 8"x10" photos of the John Winder/Mary Agnes(Marlatt) Lounsbury in 1872. The photocopies are quite clear but would lose clarity if reproduced again. If you are interested in that family, please contact Arthur. There is also a photo of Thomas Elmer/Sarah Jane(Marlatt) Lounsbury in 1874.
This record was sent by Alton and Corabelle Lounsbury in 13 February, 1992. Questions about it may be directed to them at P.O. Box 54, Scio, NY 14880. Thank you for sharing it.

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**FAMILY HISTORY**

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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>John A.</td>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>Mary A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Emma</td>
<td>William</td>
<td>Mary A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Handwritten notes on the page]
For the second year in a row the weather did not cooperate one bit for the Sullivan County, NY reunion near DeBruce. 1991 is memorable because of the rain, tarps over picnic tables, rivers of water coming off the tarps, etc. It was fun all the way, and spirits were not dampened even though the people were. This year, August 1 was a button-up-your-jacket day, unseasonably cool/cold, no swimming, and lots of huddling, waiting for the hot food and beverages. Attendance was down (about 65) but not the spirits. We are looking forward to August 7, 1993 with a good warm, sunny day. Here's who attended--from the guest list.

LOUNSBURY 1992

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1
NOON TILL ??

MONGAUP POND STATE PARK

Sandra Hamilton
Mike & Young Korotky
Kaye & Paul Chared
Amy M. Drake
John Dunn & Harold Hindsy
Krista Conk, Matthew, first name
Robby Dunn, Matthew Dunn, Krista Dunn, Gene Dunn
Jeff Lounsbury, Susan Michael, Elizabeth, Paige
Mario Cuomo (someone's joke)

Drew Lounsbury, Kim, Jason, and Christopher
Jim, Joyce, Jill, and Mason
Lou and Judy Press
Jack and Mary Beth Pease
Josh

Joan Dunn, Harold Lindsay
Holiday Greetings continued from page 1...

Aren't the logos on the front cover superb? We owe so much gratitude to William G. "Bill" MacDonald for his creativity, patience in making revisions, and expertise in this area. As you will notice, the reunion logo has been modified; the location of the reunion has been changed from what was in the last issue. Only slightly as a result of a planning meeting on October 10 with about 14 people in attendance. It was a mini reunion in itself in Smithboro, NY. Also, notice that all spellings of the L name which are on the mailing list and in John Freund's data base (over 3200 Ls) are on the logo. We hope we didn't miss any. Many, many thanks Bill and John for providing the information and design for the logos.

The Reunion Committee will meet again on March 27 in Smithboro. If anyone else would like to get in on the planning, please let the editor know.

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SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

No one needs to renew a subscription with this issue. All renewals will be in June. Check your mailing label to see what year your subscription expires. All subscribers will receive the May-June '93 issue before a renewal is due. Watch that issue for information about renewing. The editor will have to find a more effective way of reminding people when to renew. When it was time to revise the mailing list for this issue, 70 had not renewed. That meant sending a reminder post card to them; about 50 have renewed since. The remainder will be deleted from the list, at least temporarily.

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THE LONDESBOROUGH BOOK by David Neave

All 8 copies of the book mentioned in the last newsletter are gone. There are three people on a waiting list for a copy if more are available. Since a few more people do want a copy, it will probably be practical to order some more. They have to be ordered from England. If you would like a copy, please let the editor know as soon as possible. Check the last issue, #17, page 11 for details.

Some L families will be having the regular annual reunions in addition to the BIG '93 Reunion in Bolivar, NY, August 13-15. Would the secretary or another contact person, please send information to The Lounsbury Tree, Al Lounsbury, 212 Nelson Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 by April 1, 1993? Please include the following information to go in the next issue: Day, date and time; place or location with brief directions; contact person with address and phone; what to bring, e.g., tableware, dish to share, photos, etc, and any other pertinent information.

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TIPS ABOUT SUBMITTING INFORMATION FOR THE L TREE

There are a few tips which will be helpful to the editor when someone sends something for the newsletter:

1. Be sure your name and address (we have several Ls with the same name) are on the copy. If it doesn't appear on the front in some form, just write it on the back.

2. Give the source of the information your are sending if it is not your own research. By doing that, the editor can try to give credit to all responsible for the research. Of course, getting permission to use other peoples' research is also important.

3. The editor apologizes for the mispelling of the L name. It is so natural to type it like my own name that I don't always catch a different spelling. No special apologies for other misspellings; they just seem to happen. Amateurism!

4. Not to be picky, but having the person's name, address and date at the top of a letter is very helpful in keeping track of correspondence. Also, leave at least a 3/4" margin on each side. Very helpful when photocopying. Avoid using a highlighter, underline instead. Highlighting something does not come out too well when photocopied.

5. When sending a newspaper clipping (except obituaries), especially interesting stories, family history, etc. try to get permission from the author and the newspaper editor to use it in The Tree. Let the editor of The Tree know that and it will save time and phone calls for the editor in order to get that permission. Usually, there is no problem in getting permission but it is courteous to ask.
January. Think about your plans to attend.

Details: In a special mailing the end of

near the Pennsylvania border.
New York State, east of Allegany State Park,
location: Bolivar, New York--Southwestern

Date: Friday-Sunday, August 13-15, 1993

Reunion
Family
National

The Lounsberry Tree

c/o Albert Lounsberry,
212 Nelson Avenue,
Saratoga Springs, NY,
12866, USA

From the editor. Thanks for all
happiest New Year
and the
the best of holidays
Wishing you