

21st January 1988
1 Evans Road,
MUTARE. ZIMBABWE.

My dear Rob,

I do apologize for taking so long to reply to your kind letter which I received last November. Thank you for writing to me - even though the news was so sad, I appreciate your thoughts and sentiments. Please accept my deepest sympathy on the passing of your Dad. My memories of him are happy ones, he was a very fine man.

Out of all your 'Tiny Granny's' children it was my Mum who kept in touch with the family and I seem to have taken over from her now it is great to find, in one of the younger generation, a kindred spirit in you.

I am enclosing a family tree for you. Hope it will be of interest. Some of the dates may not be too accurate.

I will try, to the best of my knowledge, to give you the known addresses and a little background.

First of all - your own Granny (my Auntie Matt) - was a wonderful lady. Always looking on the bright side and always ready for a laugh! You say that your Dad was never very talkative - well then, he certainly took after his own father, who was the quietest man I have ever known! He was also most kind and generous. There are ire years between my sister Thelma and myself, which was about the difference between your Dad and Tommy. So Thelma knew your Dad better than I did - but Tommy and I were great friends, when we were young. I am enclosing some more old photographs for you. The one taken in the studio in Johannesburg is when your Dad first joined up in the S.A. Army. The other two were taken in the garden of their home at Mazelspoort (where my parents took us for our school holidays!) From left to right (of the boys standing) Bill, George and Bob sitting in the chairs are your Granny and Granddad with Tory between them. The other photograph has Bob and Bill sitting George standing behind them and Tommy kneeling on the cushion.

I am sorry that there is a blank space around your name on the 'family tree' I don't know who you married or if you have any children. And I have lost touch with Tommy. I send him a Christmas Card every Christmas - but never hear from him. Of course I have been using his old address (Wilgehof, Bloemfontein) and now your Mum tells me that he lives in the Salvation Army Home - I wonder what has become of his second marriage and all his children?

My sister Thelma Deal lives in Harare, her address is 5 Key West, 33 Ceres Road, Avondale, Harare. She is alone now - all three daughters live in RSA. Joan Rush worth, her eldest, is in Johannesburg, Mary Pollution - Durban and Phyllis Moore and her husband Tommy are farming near Barberton.

Joan - 19, 15th Street, Greymont 2195. Johannesburg.

Mary - 20B Violet Place, Flamboyant Park, Malvern 4093. Phyllis - P.O. Box 824 Barberton 1300.

My only son, David (Small) has been married to Sue (Suzanne] for one year now, They both work in Johannesburg and have bought a piece of land at Halfway House (Mid-Rand) . Their address is P.O. Box 2288, Halfway House. 1685. David works for SAFTO.

Uncle Tom was a dear old fellow - appeared to be a bit absent minded yet he was a great historian and could remember dates of battles and treaties etc. etc. His daughter (first marriage) Doreen lives in Johannesburg and Pat (now Piveteau) lives here in Mutare with all

Uncle Alex and Auntie Violet are now in their 80's - I think Uncle Alex is about 84 years old. They live in Harare - 4 Brinkworth AvenueCotsld Hills, Mabelreign, Harare. They keep very much to themselves these days just pottering about in their garden and so on.

Uncle Bill (W.J. Wilson) lives in Durban with his daughter Rina and her family. He is now 80 year old and has been plagued with heart trouble for years but he carries on and on - really marvellous. I popped in to see him when I was in Durban over Christmas and he had just come out of hospital again, this time having had a clot removed from his arm Their address is 14 Blackwood Place, Durban North 4051. Uncle Bill's son, Bernard lives in Cape Town.

Auntie Margaret is well but going blind - she lives in the Barbara Burrell Blind Home, Sarah Bain Drive, landau, Bulawayo. Her elder daughter Marion (Chantilly) lives at 11 Beneath Way, Alexandra Park, Harare. They are all a super part of the family. The younger daughter Vivienne (Tidwell) lives in RSA - 19 Duiker Avenue, Sunward Park, Boksburg. 1460.

By this time, I hope you are not bored out of your mind - but just some news of myself - then I will stop!

I have worked for the same firm (The Wattle Company - was the sister Company of the Natal Tanning Extract Co. Ltd., in Pietermaritzburg) for over 30 years. I retired (as Private Secretary to the General Manager) at the end of last year and have been asked to come back for the time it takes me to get organised i.n order to emigrate to RSA. That, I might add takes about 2-3 months in Zimbabwe!) I have decided that it would be best for me to live nearer David - but NOT in Johannesburg. I was divorced 24 years ago and brought up my two children on my own. My daughter Janet was tragically killed in a motor accident when she was 21 years old. David completed his schooling here and then went to Cape Town University (B Com) then obtained a Diploma in Marketing - he worked in Cape Town for a while then moved to Johannesburg moot two and a half years ago.

Through all these years - I could never have managed without the support of my dearest friend Eric Knight and his wife who passed away two years ago. Now Eric and I are going to be married - the emigration laws are so complex in this country that it is best that we emigrate first and then get married. Eric's son Jonathan and his daughter Barbara, both live in Durban. Jon is married to Ingrid and they have two children - Julia (7) and Matthew (4).

We have not decided exactly where we want to settle, but as we are both on pension - we the time in the world to make up our minds- We think that, initially, we will go to Durban - buy an Autovilla and tour around the country then maybe we will find a place to settle! However that will only be in two or three months time. Jon's address in Durban is 1 Camelia Avenue, Glen Anil, Durban North 4051.

I apologize for the quality of the photostat - but as with all equipment in Zimbabwe (and everything else for that matter) our photostat copier has seen better days and we cannot get the toner or spare parts.

Perhaps I should have mentioned (in case you don't know) that your Great Grandparents immigrated from Scotland in about 1908 and, as far as I know, all the children (with the exception of Margaret and John,)were born there. The family lived in Livingstone (then Northern Rhodesia). Your Granny was married quite soon after they arrived - but it seems that she lived in Johannesburg first and then moved to Bloemfontein during the early years Of their marriage, I think I'm not too sure about those early years.

That's the lot then! Eric joins me in sending salaams to all your family.

Love,
Jean