November 2013

Our last news went out in September and welcomed "Miss Lake" who has since been named and become the subject of some wonderful family pictures - a few of which we can now share. Her name is now official - Victoria Isolde Balfour Hicks-Lake. Her parents, Paul and Ann Lake of Kingston, Jamaica, have taken her to visit her great grandparents, and her grandaunt, Jenny Hicks, has sent us the snapshots.

On her visit to Villa Pimento at Runaway Bay from Kingston, Victoria sits in her mother's lap as they listen to great grandmother Isabelle play the piano.

Proud dad, Paul Lake with newly born, Victoria. Great grandmother, Isabelle Hicks, holds her pride and joy.

Grandaunt, Jenny, hugs her new niece.

Great grandfather Ken Hicks cuddles wee Victoria.

Grandfather Michael Hicks could not be more proud.

In mid-October, our son, Mark, and his wife, Regan, received great news from daughter Ryleigh's fourth grade teacher. She wrote, "I have selected Ryleigh as our Student of the Month for the character word Responsibility! She does such a wonderful job staying on task and taking care of business the way I expect on a daily basis. She is a great example of how to stay organized and give her best in my classroom. I am incredibly proud of your daughter, and I can't say how happy I am with the way she performs for me. Ryleigh is the model for responsibility, and I would love for you to be here to see her get this honor Friday morning at 8:30." So, that is what the picture at the left is all about. The following week Mark and Regan received another message about Ryleigh - she was to be honored for being a straight A student.

Needless to say, but I will anyway, Phyllis and I could not be more proud of our eldest grandchild.
At the end of September, there was another happy family event - this time in Victoria, British Columbia. Amanda Renee Bourke, elder daughter of Debbie Dougall Bourke, took as her husband Steven Richard Parnham. The wedding took place in Victoria and was like a mini-family reunion. Amanda has shared some of the wedding photos which tell their own happy story.

Family members pose for the camera after the wedding ceremony. Left to right are Philippa Roxburgh, bride’s aunt from Miami, Florida, Christine Rorrie, bride’s aunt from Victoria, Steve, the groom, Amanda, the bride, Debbie Dougall (Bourke), bride’s mom, Kaiden Bourke, bride’s son, and Jen Helliott of Victoria, bride’s cousin once removed.

Lisa Rorrie Thier is a cousin of Amanda, and her wedding to Eric in Jamaica last February was the subject of a previous newsletter this year. Next to Lisa is the bride, the bride’s sister, Zoe, and their cousin from Miami, FL, Nicola Roxburgh.

Bridesmaids: Left to right: Karen Parnham (sister-in-law), Morgan Johnston, Amanda Bourke (Parnham), Zoe Bourke, Jane Silletta & Katie More.

Now bride and groom, Amanda and Steve cut the traditional ‘Jamaican ice box cake.”

Genealogy tidbit: Amanda’s grandfather was Allie Dougall, a grandson of James Dougall of Lesmahagow in Scotland. Allie’s father was William Dougall whom we think James named after his younger or brother in Australia.

The photographer caught this classic shot of Steve and his groomsmen - left to right: Chris Chalk, Joe Broadfoot, Cory Frey, Steve, Chris Steeper & Ryan Wilson
In October, Phyllis and I had a surprise visit from Philip and Victoria Lord.

Philip and Victoria live in Worthing, England. Their two daughters are Hannah and Leah.

Scott and Philip enjoy an evening together in Nashville. Back in England, Philip and Victoria are fans of the television show, NASHVILLE, so enjoyed seeing Nashville landmarks as seen on TV.

Victoria is studying one of the plaques that are so important at historic sites. She loves genealogy and is one of the original seekers of that sort of information on the jamaica Dougall side. She was instrumental in documenting much of the background stories on the Hart and Lord sides of the family when she and Philip lived in jamaica. She was fascinated with the Dougall family materials from australia.

Anne-Marie will be five years old this month. She enjoyed meeting her Uncle Philip and Aunt Victoria. She loves gymnastics and soccer but maybe even more, swimming. She's pretty good with jigsaw puzzles, and is learning to read.

Genealogy tidbit:
Philip's father, Jim Lord, was a brother of Isabelle Hicks, and first cousin of Dick Dougall. The grandfather of Isabelle, Dick and Jim was George Dougall, middle son of James Dougall from Lesmahagow in Scotland.
One of the members of the extended Dougall family is Frank Dougall, youngest offspring of Thomas Waddell Dougall. You may recall that I reported a few times that I had spoken with Frank by telephone. He is just a few years my senior, and would be the second cousin of my father, his siblings and cousins in Jamaica. His daughter is Linda Dougall Thompson, and she has made some snapshots of her dad available.

News from THE TWOKS
Xiani Kolac, elder daughter of Lorna Marie Dougall Kolac, writes: "Apologies for not being in touch! I still love hearing all the family news!"

"I have been touring with The Twoks - as we speak I am heading home after a wonderful show at Wave Rock Weekender in WA. It was magnificent! The wave rock out at Hyden is extremely old and beautiful - a big red rock which looks like a wave.

"Tomorrow I am off to NYC! I am going over there with my boyfriend, Mark, and his sister. My sister, Meg will be meeting up with us over there. The Twoks are going to record for a day over there and I hope to see as much live music as I can while I am there. It is a trip to recharge the creative batteries.

"Mum and Dad are super well. They just did a trip up to Darwin, Katherine and Kakadu. They had an absolutely wonderful time. So that's all the news on our front. Oh, and here's the latest little video The Twoks did - it's on an international live music video platform which is exciting! http://youtu.be/3mVQI16Qzao

"Hope you are doing well and look forward to the next newsletter as always. Xiani"

At the end of the video, Xiani does a neat interview. Enjoy.

Genealogy tidbit:
Frank is a grandson of William Dougall of Lesmahagow in Scotland. His mother, Margaret, was from Glasgow, and married Thomas Waddell Dougall when he visited his father’s people back in 1908. William was the first of three Dougall brothers to migrate to Victoria, Australia, while James headed on his own to Jamaica.

Draffin Marshill was an interesting topic just after distributing the last issue of the newsletter. Donald Cochrane in Dunedin, New Zealand, was toying with an old photograph from his grandfather Dykes album - he reckoned it had been taken in the early 1900’s and he thought I would like to see it. He had just looked at a video I had given him of the Dougall 2006 reunion in Scotland led by Norman Hall and Fred Sieber. Donald sent me a scan of the photo in his grandfather’s album which I worked on with PhotoShop - and sent back to him for comparison with some shots I had taken along side Ken and Elizabeth McLaughlin. It was amazing how little the old tenant farmer Dougall homestead had changed in all that time - about 100 years. The property was a caravan site and seemed to be in amazing condition. While quite large, it appeared logical that in the 1850’s it could not support Thomas and Mary Dykes with 10 adult offspring - which helps explain the exodus of William, James, John and Thomas.
Sarah Ward is connected to the Dougalls because we are all descendents of Andrew Dykes (born 1757), whose daughter, Mary, was the mother of William, Thomas, John, Helen, James et al of Lesmahagow. Sarah is very much a Dykes family member. She was born in Kenya in 1967, was married, and lives in Australia. She has been of outstanding help when we were transcribing all the material from the collection of William Dykes Dougall (by the way, he and Frank, the fly fisherman, were brothers). A few months back, I received a message from Sarah with some family pictures to share. Without printing all 19 pages of the genealogy report on Andrew Dykes descendents, suffice it to say we all come from the same tree. So let’s follow Sarah’s description for these photos from the 80th birthday of her aunt, Alison Dykes.

She wrote, “To give you a quick Dykes family tree:
1) Andrew Dykes m Hester Alison = Margaret (Meg), Thomas (Tom), John, Alison, Andrew (Tano) - dec. and Maren
2) John m Barbara = Stephen, Sarah (me) Alistair & Isabel
Alison m John (dec.) = John, Neil & Dennis
Others are married and have children but they weren’t at the party since they all live in UK!
3) Stephen m Sally = Benjamin, Olivia, Lachlan & Malachy
Sarah m John = Cassandra, Madeleine, Shantelle & Alycia
Alistair m Christy = Harriet, Hillary (twins) & Frances
Isabel m Grant = Rebekah, Gabrielle & Samuel
3 ii) John m Gillian = Nicholas
Neil (still single)
Dennis m Vana = Tano & Abby.

The family photo below was made at Christmastime, 2010 when the Wards and Dykes got together. Sarah is in stripes in front, center.
Had notes from Steve and Annette Dougall from Melbourne:

"Annette and I are both well, or at least reasonably well for a couple of old folks, both still working and all of that stuff... Our grandson, Zac, is now well over 2 years old, walking and talking, in a fashion. Very lively little feller he is too. Annette gets to mind him most Tuesdays while his mother goes to a class, so we see him regularly which we both enjoy. Annette’s eldest daughter surprised us all by marrying her long time partner a couple of months ago and has now announced she is pregnant, so we will have another grandchild early next year. So far I have avoided changing nappies and as long as that keeps up I am happy....!!

"We spent a couple of days with my brother, Ian, and his wife, Diane, recently. You know them as Melinda’s folks, so it was good to get some first-hand feedback from Diane’s time with you all. As much as anything, it brought back great memories of our visit, over 2 years ago now. Seems like yesterday! I also saw Shane, Melinda’s brother, while in Bendigo to see my Mum and sister. A good part of living back in Victoria is having more family closer to us. My Mum is in decline, sadly, she hardly recognises me and struggles to remember lots of things but at least she is not in pain or feeling unwell. Its an unfortunate part of how some of us age. I am so grateful we were able to move Mum and Dad to Bendigo before Dad passed away just before we visited your part of the world.

"Diane gave us an update on Melvin and Melinda in Alabama USA. We gather they are all doing fine. We are not sure if and when we will get back to see them, but hope they might be out here one day. We are heading to Hawaii this November for a couple of weeks and hope to go to Italy next year with Annette’s sister and husband. Seems your search and updating of the family is continuing. We appreciate your keeping us in touch. Just wish we could provide more substance relating to the historical side of things."

Shortly after receiving this note, I sent Steve a link to a movie trailer – the movie was MUSCLE SHOALS – and it talked about places and people we had seen when they visited – it wasn’t two years ago, was it? Well the movie is about the record industry and my late cousin on my mom’s side, Jerry Wexler, was featured. So, Steve and Annette commented: “Hi Dick...thanks for the video....looks good....its such a weird feeling the way all that intertwines with our trip to the States, the way we connected with yourself and Phyllis, it’s almost surreal - and then to see the place in a movie and get a pictorial indication of some of the people that have been through the place. We certainly appreciate you keeping us informed about it all.

“As far as the fires are concerned in the area around where Melinda’s folks live, it’s all settled down to a controlled degree now. The main firestorm was about 20 miles west of where Ian and Dianne live. We have another family connection from Annette’s side living right in the centre of it all, as with most things Dougall, we work on the theory that no news is good news!!!! As we haven’t heard from or about anyone all must be ok...”

Bryce and Marie Chesson live in Manly near Sydney, and my impression is that they are not close to the Blue Mountain area – still, our concern is that they are OK.

Our Dinwoodie cousins have been in touch. This recent picture of Helen Donaldson at Poindle was taken by Catherine Anderton on a recent visit. As far back as the 1990’s, Helen and I had tried to piece together the story of our great grandfather, James Dougall, and it is the publishing of what little we knew in the 2003 issue of the Narrative of the Dougalls of Jamaica that her cousin, the late Helen Hall, and her husband, Norman, started the questionnaire that led to the Dykes connection and then to the Cochranes in New Zealand, and eventually, to all our present Australia connections. Helen lives alone in a tiny community called Poindle that is as far north and west in Scotland as you can go.

Then, one of Catherine’s brothers, David, and I have been corresponding. He is under contract to an advertising and public relations firm in Saudi Arabia. We not only enjoy talking about our common interests in the world of advertising and PR, but also about current events. He is able to visit his wife and offspring between contracts. He has sent snapshots taken this year in Bournemouth, England of his son and daughter, Mark and Lauren.
Spoke with Pat and Jean Lord in Kingsville, Ontatio, Canada. Jean is having a difficult time breathing, but she does have her appetite. Her lung specialist agreed to prescribe a miracle drug, pretazone (uncertain of the name/spelling) and this was a major help at the outset.

Tiffany Lord is now living in Seoul, South Korea. We chat now and then on Skype and that is really neat. She teaches young children to converse in English. I asked her if her inability to speak Korean impacts her lessons and surprisingly, she told me that her children already speak English fluently.

Christine Morrison reports: turned 60 in September - how time has flown. We had a party of about 50 friends and the family too of course and I was busy getting loads of dancing music together - lots of reggae, jump-up, and oldies but goodies from the 60's, 70's and 80's and even same from the 50's! Most came with their dancing shoes and we had lots to eat, drink and celebrate. Reminds me of a Dougall Family reunion in our White Rock backyard back in 2005. I plant to bloom beautifully.

Maryon Benson and I chat by e-mail frequently. Maryon enjoys receiving e-mails and she often replies with a neat story about "old times" in Jamaica - and these are so fascinating I have been keeping them in special file in her honor.

Maryon Munn Benson has fun with visitors from Oregon - Rosie and her mother, Maggie Smith. The laughs are all at Jamaica jokes.

Maggie is Jean Lord's sister.

Kevin Dougall talks about his plans. Responding to me via FACEBOOK while on the ferry from Victoria to Vancouver, Kevin wrote: Prior to a couple months ago, I didn’t really have anything I felt worthy of reporting other than the regular grind of a fiber optic technician in Halifax, which I am not passionate about. Now, things have changed, and I have found and pursued something I am passionate about. Yoga. Before I tell you about my new passion, I’d like to share with everyone that I have moved from Halifax to Saskatoon and am absolutely loving it. After 9 years in Halifax, I felt stagnation in all aspects of my life, and decided to move to Saskatoon to pursue my passion of yoga and study under a Vinyasa guru, Ryan Leier of One Yoga.

I am still working full time as a fiber optic technician, as it does pay my bills, but I practice and study yoga in my free time and plan to eventually start teaching yoga - once I complete the necessary training and certification. I have just completed the first half of my training in Vancouver, and will be returning in April of 2014, to finish part 2 and receive certification. In the meantime, I will be practicing teaching in Saskatoon with a mentor to discover and refine my unique style that will ultimately define me as a teacher. I’m really excited to teach all ages and all levels, and hope to inspire students, as I was inspired by my teachers.

I am also getting involved in various ways, which I won’t get into at this time as my ideas are still in planning stages, and I’d rather share my actions then my ideas. So stay tuned for news on that.

Mom and Dad are doing well and are still living in the GTA (Greater Toronto area). I have been away for 10 years now and am sure they don’t share all their health/personal troubles with me. I have decided to go back home after my training for an undetermined time to properly reconnect and spend quality time with them. This has been an intention of mine for so long. In my early 20s, I wanted to be away from family and do some exploring of my own, but in recent years, the disconnect from family has been bothering me more and more. They both have a lot to teach me and are such wonderful souls, it is hard to be away.

I’m currently single and have nothing to report about women. I still don’t understand them HAHA.

My family, know that I care about my roots and love you all dearly. Although I don’t make regular contact, I read all the news circulated. I am happy to hear many family members are progressing well in life and some have been married recently. There seems to be new family members every time I receive news! I think its time for another reunion. (DICK says, “I second the motion.”)

Finally, if anyone is travelling to the Saskatoon area, please contact me for dinner, coffee, anything! I am on Facebook, and will be creating a page for my yoga practice/teaching within the next few weeks/months. Feel free to contact me anytime. I am always interested in what the family is up to.

Bless you all and hope everyone is in good health. Love and light,

Kevin Dougall