

Since Dan wrote a letter May 29 I duplicated hers instead of his. (Even if it is 2 pp over) It will take the place of Daniel's, Tracy's, Tracy's, & David & Nancy.

June 4, 1990 180 N. Maple Avenue, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Our Dear Son Daniel, (Mom & Dad #.)

I just deleted most of the letter I stayed up until midnight last night writing (8 pages) because I read the letter Dad wrote you (early morning while I was sleeping), and he did a better job covering the territory in half the pages. Disgusting! But I'll tell you a couple of things he missed, just cuz I want to.

I had decided to skip the Streiker wedding because I was still exhausted from our last trip to D.C.--but my brother David called Wed. night to say he and Karen would be in D.C. the next night. With the wedding that Fri. morn., we decided to pack fast and take off, after all. We got to Woods' home about 11 p.m. May 17. David and Karen got up early Friday morning and went with us to the temple. It was great to do some sealings together before the wedding and have a little time to talk. Lee and his bride seemed very happy--Dan and I can't for the life of us figure out why he would ask us to share such a sacred experience--we hardly knew them! The only other persons there were Stan and Becky Layton, Bishop Fraze, and his mother. But we were blessed to join them.

Actually, it was the ghosts at work. I would not have come so soon if David and Karen weren't coming and without that wedding invitation. After Dan came home (he had some Elder's Quorum projects to attend), I stayed on a couple of days with Barry and Virginia and was able to do some exciting genealogy gathering (mainly Staley [Stehli] and Simmons names) in Fredericktown MD before returning home.

What fascinates me is how many Bartons, Bartholomews, Stoners, and other of your father's lines are in these same counties with ours. I also keep finding Meachams and Neils, and your Uncle Barry is descended from at least nine joint ancestors with ours.

We just thought we were exercising free agency when our ancestors "zapped" us from the spirit world so we'd fall in love with distant cousins from some of the same counties. For searching the Frederick County wills I had access to the only index to those wills in the world: Barry Wood's unpublished manuscript there in his home--which he wrote before he started courting Virginia and for which he produced four or five pages of typed, legal-sized pages of Staley will extracts (some of your Aunt Virginia's and, of course, our ancestral relatives). Kind of gives you the shivers.

I guess you heard how Barry married Virginia. He was ready to graduate from law school and still had not found a bride. He finally fasted and did some energetic praying. One night he had a dream in which he saw Virginia. So, he was able to recognize her when she showed up at his BYU ward the next Sunday (it was her first Sunday there, having joined a BYU ward so she could enjoy more of campus life).