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Dear Gillian,

7th JANUARY 1998.

I trust this finds you in good health, as is the case with me. As promised, I set out hereunder some further particulars about the Thomson/Rodger side of the family, which may be of interest. Firstly, however, I thought it of some interest that my grandparents, Samuel Thomson & Mary Andrianna Stewart Rodger met & were married in Barrow-in-Furness. Samuel Thomson was employed there as a railway carriage builder ~~there~~, because of lack of work in Scotland, & Mary, for the same reason, as a school teacher. Seems such a coincidence that Maggie & William Gardner were there roughly 20 years later. They also left from Barrow for Australia in 1879. Seems they never went back to Scotland before departure. All their children were born in Australia. I do not have the dates of birth of my aunts & uncles or cousins, but would be able to find out some of them for cousins if required. I still hope the following will be of interest. (Only maintain xmas card contact with cousins) The first generation Australians of Thomson family are:-

1. JOHN WILLIAM THOMSON (ALWAYS KNOWN AS WILL)
(I HAVE HIM AS WILLIAM JOHN)

MARRIED AINES

- THEIR 3 CHILDREN (ALL LIVING)
1. BERYL (MRS MCBURNIE) (82)
 2. STEWART (80)
 3. DONALD (76)

2. JANET ANDREWINA ^{THOMSON} (ALWAYS CALLED JEAN - DON'T KNOW WHY)

MARRIED ARTHUR MORRIS

- THEIR 4 CHILDREN (2 DECEASED NOW)
1. NORMAN (DEC)
 2. HEATHER (DEC) (MRS LEWIS)
 3. MILTON (73) } APPROX.
 4. ELAINE (69) }
(MRS WALKER)

3. MARY ELIZABETH THOMPSON

MARRIED JAMES PAYNE

HAD 1 CHILD - RONALD (73) APPROX.

4. SAMUEL LEWIS THOMPSON

NEVER MARRIED (ALWAYS LIVED IN FAMILY HOME IN NEWCASTLE)

5. FLORENCE ISABEL

MARRIED PERCY BROOK

HAD 1 CHILD - JUNE (DIED OF MENINGITIS WHEN 12 Y.O. ABOUT 2 YEARS OLDER THAN ME)

6. ROBERT RODGER THOMPSON

MARRIED OLIVE MARGARET HUNT

HAD 3 CHILDREN: 1. ELIZABETH JEAN (DIED IN HOSPITAL WHEN 14 DAYS OLD - KILLED IN ACCIDENT ON DAY WAY TO COME HOME)
BORN 10 JULY 1931

2. RODGER WILLIAM - NEVER MARRIED
BORN 27 OCTOBER 1932

3. JOHN ROBERT (BORN 14 DECEMBER 1938)

MARRIED JULIE TUFFEE 1962.

JOHN VANISHED IN JULY 1970.

HAD 4 CHILDREN: 1. KERRY JANINE BORN 7 OCT 1963
2. LYNETTE ADELE BORN 15 JANUARY '65
3. DEIDRE LOUISE BORN 13 JUNE '66
4. ANDREW BRAD BORN 22 MARCH 1970

(JULIE HAD ANOTHER SON - CRAIG: BORN 14 DECEMBER 1977) SOME DATE AS JOHN (COINCIDENCE) + ALSO BEARS SURNAME THOMPSON.

WE TREAT HIM AS FAMILY, OF COURSE (FATHER UNKNOWN TO US)

Kerry has a daughter Amanda now 9 y.o. who so far is unborn + Edie only great grandchild. Deidre is also married - no children yet.

All my cousins (except June-dec) have children and some of them have children etc. so the family goes on. As all my cousins live interstate, we don't see much of one another. They all live in New South Wales, mostly near Sydney or Newcastle, except Don, who lives in Adelaide, South Australia.

As I have no children, I must find someone

* EXCEPT PASSING THROUGH OR ON HOLIDAYS.

To keep ~~of~~ up the contacts with both the Thomsons in the U.K. & yourselves in Canada. Dad & I are the only ones who seem to have had any knowledge of the family, why cousins often spell my name, Roger, not realising the family significance. I have met my U.K. relatives on previous trips overseas, but somehow never got to your part of Canada.

If any of your family are ever over our way, they are most welcome to come here. I live with my old friend Max Fisher and we were business partners in our coffee lounge/cafe. We live in the sub-tropics of South East Queensland. It is a most attractive holiday area with beaches a plenty & sub-tropical rain forest on the nearby ranges & known as the "Sunshine Coast". At this time of the year our temperatures average min. 20°C - max. 30°C & in winter average min. 10°C - max. 20°C.

Of course this varies a few degrees either way. A cold winter day can be 3°C min to 14°C max, but this is rare, and a ^{extra} hot day can be 24°C to 38°C. At the moment it is mid summer and we generally go for a swim each day. (15 minutes walk to beach if we don't take car).

We have a grapefruit and an orange tree in our backyard, also 4 clumps of bananas & a mango tree. There some small paper (paper) coming up. Frangipani & bouganvillea & almost all, except real cold climate flowers, grow well here. We do not have many deciduous trees here, as they do down south.

Any visitors from Canada would be most welcome ^{as well} ~~and~~ sure, around the family in N.S.W. & South Australia.

I do hope that all goes well for you in 1998, and ~~no~~ ^{no} doubt I will contact you again later in the year,

Kindest regards,

Rodger.