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December 2013

“Happy Holidays”

Dear family and friends,

It is this time of year again. Time to write our annual Christmas letter. It came so quick or I am getting old. In January, it was a little mild, but when February came it was winter wonderland. We had a snow blizzard called Charlotte. Lots of schools, jobs, and stores were closed. The children like it because there was no school for a few days. I was not able to get out of my front or back door because the snow was covering half of my doors. During this time, I was recovering from my back that I had injured.

After recovering from the snowstorm, it was the beginning of spring. Time to cut the grass and plant the flower garden. I did not plan a vegetable garden this year because the animals harvested more than I did the year before. I travelled to New York with my sons Ken and Greg and my grandson, Malachi to see Kenya and Nairobi perform in a dance recital. Their group won first place. They both did very well. They also performed in Connecticut several times.

I attended Kenneth Jr.'s graduation from Granby High in June. Now he is attending the University of Connecticut (UConn) where his parents Ken and Rose graduated from. Kenneth is majoring in Psychology. During the summer, Kenneth worked as a camp counselor at a summer camp. Early in August I stayed at Ken and Rose's home so I could drive Kenya every day to dance camp while Ken and Rose went away for a few days. It was fun and relaxing to stay with Kenya, Nairobi, and Malachi. We took walks and got homemade ice cream. Malachi is a senior now. He recently received his driver's license. We are looking forward to next year's graduation and college for him.

Jeff and Linda is busy with work and taking Jordan, their youngest son, to his sports activities. Jordan is also a senior in high school. He just turned seventeen and is looking forward to graduation next year. I hope his graduation won't be the same time as Malachi's because I will be split between the two, looking forward to it. Marcus, my oldest grandson, is doing very well and loves his job. He travels a lot to the west coast with his job.

Greg still performs each year in the classics of Shakespeare. This year, in August, Greg performed in *The Winter's Tale*. He portrayed Polixenes and did a wonderful job. It was very enjoyable. My friends, Dr. Gerald and Mariam Putterman, make sure that I get to see Greg perform. We always have a wonderful time traveling to West Hartford to the University of St. Joseph to see the play in the courtyard.

In July, Greg travelled with me to Greenville, NC to the C.M. Eppes class reunion. My sister, Catherine, from Washington DC, came down and joined Greg and myself. We rented a car and Greg drove us around to see places where we once lived. The class alumni were very enjoyable. We spent six days in North Carolina and visited some friends and family members who still live there.

In August, I had the cataract removed from my left eye. The right eye was done many years ago. Marvin and DeÉtta stay busy, but they take the time to be with their mothers. Sometimes Marvin and I go shopping. He has good taste. In October, my sister Peggy and Jimmie, her husband, went to Maryland to see relatives who we haven't seen in many years. We had a wonderful time and looking forward to getting together much more in the years to come. My relatives are related to us on the Lofton side, our maiden name.

We also attended the Big E (Eastern States Exposition) in Springfield, MA. Thanksgiving was at Ken and Rose's home in Granby, CT. As always, we had a wonderful meal and good fellowship. Lillie Day, my youngest sister from Florida, visited with me for a few days. It was good, but short. Several times during the year, I had lunch with Barbara Johnson and Grace Sun, my longtime friends from Yale University where we all worked some years ago. We try to do it close to each of our birthdays. In a few days, we will be celebrating Christmas at my home in North Branford, CT. Looking forward to seeing all of the grandchildren and family members. Many blessings to you and to all in the New Year of 2014.

Love,

Thelma L. Mouning