

Greetings!

In the past two years, some interesting things have taken place that have drawn the attention of Maukonens to one another. This first newsletter will tell you about these events and, I hope, involve you in a meaningful way.

I'll have to ask you to excuse me if most of the content of this newsletter pertains to my experience. It will explain why I have generated it and will give you opportunity to hear about others who bear the name "Maukonen."



A Lap on the move with his reindeer

SANOMA

This is the Finnish word for "tidings" or "message." I grew up in a household where English only was spoken. The title for this newsletter may not impress Finnish-speaking people but we do the best we can . . . don't we?!

Let's start somewhere near the beginning . . .

I was on the bridge of the passenger ship "Canadian Empress" waiting to depart Montreal on our upbound trip to Kingston, Ontario. The head office of St. Lawrence Cruise Lines had been good about sending maritime journals and newsletters for the attention of officers.

I was reading one called the Great Lakes Log and on the back page saw "Maukonen" in the obituary section. It literally took my breath away. We're such a small family and I did not expect to see our family name in an American publication. But there it was . . . Waino Maukonen of Conneaut, Ohio had passed away. I shared the information with my immediate family and planned some day to contact the Maukonens in Conneaut.

We had been invited by one of the passengers who lived in Cleveland to attend a Cleveland Indians - Toronto Blue Jays game. My wife, Lynne, and I drove from our home in Port Colborne (on the north shore of Lake Erie) across the Peace Bridge in Buffalo, New York and followed the south shore of Lake Erie westward. When we arrived in Conneaut, I looked up the Maukonen name in the phone book. My first call was to Jane (and Darrell) Maukonen who suggested that I contact Gertrude Maukonen. We stopped by her place with the intention of leaving a note but were delighted to meet her and to spend about an hour in conversation in her home. We had to continue our trip to Cleveland but that meeting would become part of an ongoing contact.

Back in Canada . . .

That same year, I became aware of the address of some Maukonens living in Orillia, Ontario and sent off Christmas cards to try to establish contact. We really had been out of touch for a long time and I didn't know what to expect. This Christmas I received a newsy, two-page letter from Kirk Maukonen. He expressed a wish to be included in a family tree and for our families to meet.

Things are coming together

It really appears that in such a short period of time Maukonens are discovering and rediscovering one another. Talking with my sister Elaine (Mrs. J. Salo), she and I are of the opinion that the Maukonens listed on page two are somehow all related.

When I was travelling on the Great Lakes and on my two trips to Finland, I failed to find any Maukonens in the obvious places. It was quite amazing to think that some were just a short distance away in Ohio. Now we're seeing an increasing number including one family in Germany. We want you to share your family story in future editions. Please feel free to call or write. Our address is at the bottom of page 2.

Is this all?

Darrell Maukonen sent me a book prepared by Halbert's Family Heritage Publishing. Using a computer network, their search involved over 220 million name and address records. In the list of countries where they looked for Maukonens, Halbert did not include Finland(!) so we may have to do some searching ourselves. Through their method, they provided the following names:

Mr. Darrell Maukonen
Conneaut, Ohio USA

Mr. Anthony Maukonen
Mrs. Deborah Maukonen
Ashtabula, Ohio USA

Mr. Joseph Maukonen
Painesville, Ohio USA

Ms. Donna A. Maukonen
Canton, Ohio USA

Mr. Edwin O. Maukonen
Conneaut, Ohio USA

Gertrude Maukonen
Conneaut, Ohio USA

Mr. Larry Maukonen
Medford, Oregon USA

Mr. Christopher E. Maukonen
Casselberry, Florida USA

Miss Donna J. Maukonen
Sanford, Florida USA

Mr. Douglas E. Maukonen
Oviedo, Florida USA

Mr. Kenneth A. Maukonen
Oviedo, Florida USA

M. Maukonen
Sanford, Florida USA

Mr. Donald O. Maukonen
Reno, Nevada USA

Olga Maukonen
London, Ontario CANADA

Elaine Salo (nee Maukonen)
London, Ontario CANADA

E. A. (Ted) Maukonen
Mississauga, Ontario CANADA

H. Bret Maukonen
Port Colborne, Ontario CANADA

Agnes (Daisy) Maukonen
Mr. Thomas Maukonen
Severn Bridge, Ontario CANADA

Mr. David W. Maukonen
Scarborough, Ontario CANADA

Mr. Eric Maukonen
Kitchener, Ontario CANADA

K. Maukonen
Kitchener, Ontario CANADA

Mrs. Mary Maukonen
Orillia, Ontario CANADA

Kirk Maukonen
Orillia, Ontario CANADA

Terry Maukonen
Orillia, Ontario CANADA

Sheryl Bennett (nee Maukonen)
Orillia, Ontario CANADA

N. Maukonen
Richmond Hill, Ontario CANADA

S. Maukonen
Hamilton, Ontario CANADA

Mr. Victor Maukonen
Toronto, Ontario CANADA

Mikko Maukonen
Geesthacht, GERMANY

I have not placed the names in any particular order and have not included the names of spouses. That was just for economy of space. Though I would like to include street addresses, I want to respect the privacy of individuals and of families. If your name is listed above and if you want others to know your full address, phone number and other family particulars, please return the enclosed form. When more first-hand information comes in, I will compile a fuller, more organized listing.



Coat of Arms of Finland

Reunion

It may be strange to call it a "reunion" because many of us have not yet met one another. Nonetheless, "Maukonen" is such an uncommon name (we're a rare breed!) that, surely, we must be related somehow.

It would be good to have a "Maukonen" get-together in 1996 even if only a few families are able to make it. I don't want to volunteer someone else to host it.

Port Colborne is somewhat central. What do you think? Are you interested in a family get-together? When and where?

You can express your feelings on the form to be returned to our Port Colborne address.