

In the first newsletter (Winter 1996), we put out the call for interest in a *Maukonen Get-Together* in 1996. Coming from points in the United States and Canada would have involved a big undertaking at this stage. Yet, there was enough interest expressed by Canadian *Maukonens* to join together this year. This issue of *SANOMA MAUKONEN* features a brief report of that event.



*A group picture from the Canadian Maukonen Get-Together. Missing are Thomas and Senga Maukonen who had to leave before the photo was taken.*

## Canadian Maukonen Get-Together

We can properly use the word "reunion" next year but, for 1996, "get-together" was more appropriate. Many Ontarian *Maukonens* have not seen one another for decades. For some, it was the first time to meet. Was I the only one to feel a bit nervous in anticipation of our planned gathering as we journeyed to Orillia on August 3rd?

The family of Neil Jr. (d.) and Mary offered to host the event in their area. Kirk and Linda (Stephanie and Melissa) arranged for us to use the fellowship hall of St. Athanasius Anglican Church where they attend. Sheryl (Bennett) drew a map for those unfamiliar with the city.

Weather on that Saturday was pleasant enough to set up chairs in the shaded backyard of the church where we began gathering at 10:00. Tables were set up in the hall for the display of pictures and other family memorabilia and for two banks of tables to accommodate the group of thirty attendees during the lunchtime meal.

Even as we were in the process of contacting Canadian *Maukonens* with notice of the get-together, we became aware of a number who had not been on our mailing list. Plans for that day had already been made by some and, so, regrets were expressed. For others, the trip would not be practical this year. Diane (Wise) who is now living in Norfolk, Virginia faxed photos and a note. Jackie Azar (Vancouver, British Columbia) had earlier sent photos with an indication that 1996 would not be the year to

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## It was a thrill . . .

"It was a thrill to find out about other *Maukonens* living in different parts of this continent." That has been the reaction I've had from a number receiving this mailing. Those living in Canada had little idea that we had "cousins" south of the border. The discovery of a cluster of *Maukonens* in Ohio has now opened up opportunities to be in contact with those further afield (even some in Finland).

In September, Ontarian and Floridian *Maukonens* had their first face-to-face meeting. Through an Internet search we found Donna *Maukonen* on the home page of

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## Best Wishes



On August 24th, Kimberly Lenore *Maukonen* (daughter of Ted and Linda; brother Marc) was married to Brent Gilpin at City Centre Baptist Church in Mississauga, Ontario. Kim will continue her studies towards a Bachelor of Education degree at York University in Toronto.

## On the Information Superhighway

Being on the Internet has helped to establish and further direct contact with *Maukonens* and others who might be able to help us con-tact Finns bearing that family name.

It was with great excitement and delight that I found our family name at the web address of a Finnish Geneological Society. There is a *Maukonen* listing. Soon I will write to get the address of the person maintaining *Maukonen* records in Finland.

Other searches have provided e-mail addresses. Some of those are here in North America and I've "spoken" to a few by this means. As well, I have had responses from *Maukonens* in Finland and they have been friendly and interested in the *Maukonens* who emigrated.

For the next half year, my e-mail address will be: frchld@ibm.net

If you have an e-mail address, please send it along and I'll add it to the mailing list.

*continued . . . It was a thrill . . .*

Ligioner Ministries, a well-regarded Christian organization.

E-mail, letters and calls set up a meeting in Detroit on September 20th. Donna was to be in that border city serving at a Ligioner conference.



*Lynne, Donna, and Bret Maukonen*

We had opportunity to share about the backgrounds of our *Maukonen* clusters at lunch time and then again after the conference closed. (*see the sidebar at the right >*) Donna's schedule allowed for us to drive her to the Detroit airport and we had more time to chat and get to know one another better.

## USA - Canada Connection?

Matti Maukonen was born May 1, 1888 in Konnevesi, Huytola. His father gave him the name Matti (no middle name) as a deal with a friend (his friend gave him a coin to name him Matti). He had two sisters (Erikka and another) and three brothers (Wilho and two others). His father was a tailor, and he took this trade also after working for one day as a wood cutter and finding the work too difficult for someone of his small stature. Matti and his father worked together, travelling from home to home wherever their services were needed (mostly country farmers).

When Matti learned all he could from his father, he moved to a large city (Tampere) and apprenticed there. From there he traveled to Helsinki and then on to Toronto, Canada where he had cousins. From Canada he emigrated to Akron, Ohio and met and married Mary Susanna Hill (1918).

Mary Susanna was a divorcee and had one child, Gertrude Kuula (Stenross). After moving to Savannah, Georgia in 1920 and back to Warren, Ohio in 1921, Mary gave birth to Carl Edwin Maukonen on January 15, 1921.

Matti's favorite sister, Erikka, married a man by the name of Kupari. They had two daughters, Aino and Liisa and one son, Anton. Two of Matti's brothers (names unknown) died of tuberculosis after World War I. The other brother, Wilho, remained a bachelor until the Finno-Soviet war. At that time, he was living alone in the family cottage in Konnevesi. The Finnish government moved in a displaced war widow, Aune, and her two daughters. Wilho was in his fifties when he married Aune, and fathered a son and a daughter (Aino Puttonen). Matti's other sister emigrated to Russia with her husband about the time of World War I.

*(This history was taken from correspondence with Gertrude Kuula Stenross, in a letter dated February 25, 1979, and was supplied by Donna Maukonen of Florida.)*

## *continued . . . Canadian Maukonen Get-Together*

make a cross-continent trip. Even though some *Maukonens* could not attend, the quality of response was encouraging and the group who met in Orillia were made aware that those absent were at least with us in the spirit of the event.

There were a few formalities before lunch and sharing of messages conveyed by those who could not attend. Then we moved into the lunch hour and informal conversation as people mingled. The potluck meal showed that our family has a knack for cooking and Margie (Tom's wife) made a nicely decorated cake with the inscription *1st Annual Maukonen Reunion*. Some had to leave immediately after the lunch and do not appear in the photographs.

The concensus was that this first get-together should become an annual event. As we drove away from Orillia on that beautiful September evening, I was feeling something indescribable and more than happy. It had been particularly good to be together with family.

**Send News** - In the next edition (February 1997) of the newsletter, we will have more information from distant points. Please feel free to send news concerning your *Maukonen* household. There's room enough!