Dear Gram,

I hope I manage to get this letter to you before you send your Christmas cards so maybe we can have some two-way correspondence. I should have gotten it off a week or two ago, but I am busy and have always been terrible with sending out holiday cards.

Everyone is doing well down here. Cindy has been in college for 2 years now and should be in nursing school for 2012. She has been working part-time at a hospital for a year now Karyn is in middle school but is being home-schooled as a virtual student which means she attends all classes and submits all work via the internet. The school district puts a heavier workload on the virtual students as compared to the in-school students, but she likes it and is doing well. Her reading and vocabulary is three grade levels above the normal 6th grade curriculum and she is an avid reader. She seems to be “right-brained” as she is very artistic and only mediocre with mathematics. Robert III is in 2nd grade and doing very well in all subjects, especially mathematics. He loves sports and is on the local wrestling, baseball teams as well as a neighborhood football team. He is a social butterfly and never stops talking, a very nice kid.

I am single-handedly running my HVAC contracting company, employing temporary labor as needed on construction jobs. I cover all of the service myself, which is what makes it so difficult for me to leave Florida. It is difficult if not impossible to find someone competent and trustworthy to work for you only when you go on vacation. We are going to the Smoky Mountains for Christmas again this year, everyone loves it up there. We rent a luxury cabin on top of a mountain near Bryson City, N.C., it is beautiful. Last year we had a white Christmas, which will be hard to top this year.

I am going to send you a couple of pictures, but I don’t know which ones yet. I have been using Ancestry.com and have traced our family tree back to the time of Christ. Our great-grandparents are from all the royal families of old Europe. Kings and queens are commonplace in the tree; there are also popes, saints, Roman emperors, you name it. I attached two examples, one from your side and one from Grampa’s side. Eight of the 106 Mayflower passengers are my great-grandparents (I think they are from your side and Grandpa’s side). Pretty amazing, there are thousands of lines yet to be traced. It would make a wonderful hobby for someone. If anyone in the family would like to work on it or see it, let me know. I have traced out over 4,000 ancestors so far. My father’s side goes nowhere; it ends with those great-grandparents coming here in the 1870’s.

I hope you and everyone else is well, I never hear from anyone, so I guess no news is good news. I sure would like to come up for a visit. I am holding out faint hope for a visit in January or February as they are the coldest months and my service work will be at its slowest. We’ll see what happens.

I was wondering if you recalled the story behind the particular Purple Heart medal you sent me. I know there were two of them. If I remember correctly the one I have, which has his name on the back of it, was posthumously awarded and Grandma Freda received it with some kind of certificate signed by JFK. The one that you still have, if I remember correctly, was awarded to Fred when he was wounded earlier in the war and has no name on the back of it. Is that correct? Sorry to be a pain, but I am all about the details in most everything I do.

One interesting note: DNA analysis has proven that our line of Starks are not related to General John Stark (Revolutionary War) nor are they related to the man who was knighted in Scotland for saving a prince’s life (from a wild boar). Our line ends with Aaron Stark (1608-1685).

John "Mayflower Compact" Alden (1599 - 1687)

is your **10th great grandfather**

[Joseph Alden (1624 - 1697)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1932421160)

Son of John "Mayflower Compact"

[Sarah Alden (1665 - 1713)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1932400792)

Daughter of Joseph

[Mary Crossman (1691 - 1726)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1792706997)

Daughter of Sarah

[Mary Ann Cary (1726 - 1754)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1788172316)

Daughter of Mary

[Mary Polly Cary (1745 - 1795)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1782866921)

Daughter of Mary Ann

[William Stark (1765 - 1833)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1782836523)

Son of Mary Polly

[Hiram Stark (1800 - 1867)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1782807145)

Son of William

[William Marion Stark (1838 - 1916)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1761041497)

Son of Hiram

[Robert Harris Stark (1874 - 1940)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1760059833)

Son of William Marion

[Alton Robert Stark (1912 - 1999)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1609696544)

Son of Robert Harris

[Roberta Lois Stark (1939 - 2005)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1609591900)

Daughter of Alton Robert

[Robert Patrick Campbell Jr](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1609578947)

You are the son of Roberta Lois -

King Charles V DeValois (1337 - 1380)

is your **19th great grandfather**

[Charles DeValois (1368 - 1422)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1796736896)

Son of King Charles V

[Catherine DeValois (1401 - 1437)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1796733323)

Daughter of Charles

[Jasper Tudor (1431 - 1495)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1796729717)

Son of Catherine

[Helen Tudor (1455 - 1535)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1796703916)

Daughter of Jasper

[Stephen Bishop Winchester Gardiner (1483 - 1555)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1796695372)

Son of Helen

[Joan Stephen (1513 - 1560)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1796683055)

Daughter of Stephen Bishop Winchester

[Thomas Borden (1537 - 1592)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1796671682)

Son of Joan

[Matthew Borden (1563 - 1620)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1796641252)

Son of Thomas

[Joanna Borden (1612 - 1691)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1796631613)

Daughter of Matthew

[Samuel Gay (1639 - 1718)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1783235605)

Son of Joanna

[Samuel Gay (1663 - 1753)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1783218189)

Son of Samuel

[Samuel Gay (1687 - 1772)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1783181071)

Son of Samuel

[Samuel Gay (1715 - )](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1783131362)

Son of Samuel

[Samuel GAY (1747 - )](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1783109425)

Son of Samuel

[George Gay (1777 - 1840)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1783057832)

Son of Samuel

[Ahira S Gay (1816 - 1892)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1764159716)

Son of George

[Louisa Gay (1856 - 1938)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1760716809)

Daughter of Ahira S

[Lewis Foster Fassett (1886 - 1962)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1609830375)

Son of Louisa

[Lois A Fassett (1914 - )](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1609619300)

Daughter of Lewis Foster

[Roberta Lois Stark (1939 - 2005)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1609591900)

Daughter of Lois A

[Robert Patrick Campbell Jr](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/25137661/person/1609578947)

You are the son of Roberta Lois -