

The Lucke Family Newsletter

November 1998

Volume IV, Number 2

♥ Congratulations ♥

♥ **Regina and Craig Carey** are the proud parents of their 3rd child, **Julia Diane**, born in August 1997. Regina is Diane Erhard's daughter, Clement's granddaughter, #2 Frank's great-granddaughter.

♥ **Peter and Christine Lucke** are the proud parents of their 2nd child, **Jennifer Catherine**, born on November 26th, 1997. Peter is Peter's son, Clement's grandson, #2 Frank's great-grandson.

♥ **Peggy (Magee) and Gerry Smith** are the proud parents of their 1st child, **Emma Kathleen**, born on September 1st, 1998. Peggy is Bob and Anne Magee's daughter, #10 Margie's granddaughter.

☺ **Fr Richard Hoerning**, son of Virginia Ferguson, grandson of #5 Elsie, celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood in May. Following Mass at St Anthony of Padua RC Church in East Northport NY, where Fr Rich is Pastor, there was a parish party and a dinner/boat ride on LI Sound.

✠ Rest in Peace ✠

Please pray for these deceased Family members:

✠ **Leo Francis Lucke**, son of #3 Leo, died on August 13th, 1997, in Brooklyn.

✠ **Susan Lucke**, daughter of Bob Lucke, granddaughter of #8 Bill, died in August 1997, in California.

✠ **John David Connelly Sr**, former husband of Liz Magee, died on March 1st, 1998.

✠ **Robert Michael Magee**, son of Bob and Anne Magee, died of pancreatic cancer on May 22nd, 1998, in Stamford, CT. Just last year, Bob and his wife Barbara adopted **Sarah Lijun**, who was born on February 13, 1996, in the Fujian Province of China. She arrived in the US with her new Family on May 25th 1997.

✠ **Joseph Vincent Bond Jr**, son of #5 Elsie, died on September 2nd, 1998.

The Lucke 31

With this issue, we begin the stories of the children of **The Thirteen**. There were 31 of us. We begin here with stories about #1 **Mary's** children (**Mary Dorothy** and **Rita**) and #2 **Frank's** children (**Clement**, **Agnes**, **Cecilia** and **Gertrude**).

The stories of both these families began similarly. Shortly after their weddings at St Benedict's church they moved to Park Place. The Mullers lived at 1351 while Frank's family was at 1353. The 6 children were all baptized at St Benedict's, and later went to the parish school at St Matthew's. On the following pages we have printed remembrances shared by various family members. If these stories bring other memories to you, please send them along to us and we will print them in a subsequent issue.

So that others can start planning ahead: the next issue will include stories of the children of #3 **Leo** (**Mae**, **Edward** and **Leo**), #4 **Beatrice** (**Margaret Mary** and the **Twins**) and #5 **Elsie** (**Ginnie Ferguson**, **Joe** and **Ken Bond**). Subsequent issues will be devoted to the children of #7 **Carl**, #8 **Bill**, #10 **Margie**, #11 **Anna** and #13 **Jack**. After that, on to the NEXT generation.

The Internet

We mentioned in the last issue that we're considering a **Lucke Family Webpage** on the Internet. We could include all the stories from previous issues, as well as birthdays, addresses and other items of "news". We suspect that many of you use the Internet and have email; please send your email address, as well as your comments or suggestions about a **Webpage**, to arccyc@aol.com.

Biographical Data

Mary Dorothy Muller was born 28-Jan-1911, Brooklyn, NY, Baptized St Benedict's, married to **Daniel Crossan**. in Little Flower RC Church, Brooklyn NY, died 22-Jan-1965, Brooklyn, NY; Mary Dot and Dan did not have any children.

Rita Martha Muller was born 4-Jul-1915, Brooklyn, NY, Baptized 11-Jul-1915, St Benedict's. Rita never married. Rita resides at 135 Centre Avenue, East Rockaway NY 11518. Her phone # is (516) 599-4256.

Clement Francis Lucke was born 23-May-1911, Brooklyn, NY, Baptized 28-May-1911, St Benedict's, married **Madeline Brewi** 22-Oct-1938. Madeline died 10-Mar-1970; Clement died 1-Aug-1983. They had four children: **Diane Mary, Peter Francis, Paul Clement and Cecilia Anne**.

Agnes Mary Lucke was born 10-Feb-1913, Brooklyn, NY, Baptized 16-Feb-1913, St Benedict's, married **Edward Wilson** 15-Nov-1941, in Little Flower Church. Edward died 1-Mar-1967; Agnes died 10-Apr-1996, Newburgh, NY. They had three daughters: **Mary Agnes, Ruth Ann and Kathleen**.

Cecilia Anna Lucke was born 14-Mar-1915, Brooklyn, NY, Baptized 21-Mar-1915, St Benedict's, died July 1916, Brooklyn NY.

Gertrude Elizabeth was born 25-Dec-1918, Brooklyn, NY, Baptized 29-Dec-1918, St Benedict's, married **Lawrence Joseph Keeley** 7-Jun-1941. Lawrence died 7-Feb-1970. They have three sons: **Lawrence Francis, Kenneth Robert and Donald Edward**. Gertrude resides at 300 Solomon Avenue Apt 311, Clifton Park NY 12065. Her phone # is (518) 383-2807.

Mary Dorothy Muller Crossan

When Mary Dot and Rita were children, their father (John Muller) built a huge dollhouse in their backyard where the girls played with life-size dolls. Rita remembers that everybody thought that Mary Dot was very beautiful, while Rita was "plain." (I always saw Rita as vivacious and perky and fun to be with!) One time, Mary and Rita went to see Eddie Duchin perform. He winked at Rita who was very surprised. Rita says now: "I guess I was cute looking after all, but I didn't know it. I was some dummy!"

My earliest memory of Mary Dot was at her wedding to Dan Crossan. I remember her looking so elegant! After the Mass at Little Flower Church on Avenue D, in Flatbush, the reception was held at the Muller's home on East 43rd Street. Lloyd and I were in awe of all the "big folks" having such a great time. I think it was the first wedding we had ever attended. Mary Dot and Dan moved to Boston, and I seldom saw her until years later. She separated from Dan and returned to Long Island to live with Rita, in East Rockaway. Mary Dot was losing her vision and Rita was taking care of her as best she could. Shortly after, Mary Dot was taken to Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn where she died in 1965.

(Contributed by Bob Campbell)

I remember Mary Dot mostly from visits to Aunt Mary and Uncle John. My mom and dad went to her wedding and I recall them talking about how lovely it was. One thing that stands out very clearly in my mind is being at Aunt Mary and Uncle John's house visiting with my mother and father; I must have been about 13 at the time. Mary Dot and Dan had been to see the musical *Kiss Me Kate* on Broadway and they came back to the house afterward and Mary Dot was waltzing around the living room singing "*Wunderbar*". She seemed quite glamorous to me that night.

The next and last time I saw Mary Dot was at Uncle John's funeral in Mineola in 1958. Uncle Frank and Aunt Mamie were there as well as Dottie and Frank Gucker. My dad, my brother Ed and I drove down. Mary Dot came in looking very vivacious, and she hugged me and told everyone I had always been her favorite cousin. What I remember about Mary Dot is her being very cheerful and friendly

(Contributed by Liz Magee)

Rita Martha Muller

After graduation from Bishop McDonnell High School, Rita's first job was at Metropolitan Life, as a "comparer." Later, she worked for the LIRR in Brooklyn. She was an avid Brooklyn Dodger fan. One day the Dodgers' pitcher, Whitlow Wyatt, came in to buy a ticket and asked her for a date!

The Mullers lived in Flatbush near us, so we saw them often. Rita was Lloyd's Godmother and always made a big fuss over her. I remember a picture of Rita, Betty Magee and Lloyd in our backyard on East 32nd Street. Lloyd was wearing her ballet costume and they looked so happy! Rita loved going to Broadway shows. She gave both Lloyd and me tickets to our very first shows. Mine was to Charlie's Aunt with Ray Bolger singing "*Once in Love with Amy*".

Rita had many friends and went on exciting vacations. She went to Bear Mountain many times with a group of girl friends. They had fun canoeing and swimming - and plenty of men friends as well! Rita loved to travel. She went to Europe several times, to the British Isles and to Italy. In her later years, she went to Elder Hostels and took interesting courses. One was Gourmet Cooking, which became a new hobby for Rita. She also loved visiting Botanical Gardens.

The Mullers bought their first home, in Mineola, in the 50's. Rita's Father took up gardening, which he taught to Rita. After his death, she became an avid gardener, and in turn, she taught me. After Aunt Mary's death in 1961, Rita sold the Mineola home and moved to East Rockaway. At about 60 years of age, she bought a yellow Volkswagen Beetle and took her first driving lessons. Although she never became a great driver, this move gave her a great deal of independence to get around. Although she a "little lady" and was never athletic, she loved to bowl. Her 10-pound ball went right to the headpin but never got all the pins. Her nickname was "*Miss Nine Pins*."

After working for Sperry's for several years, Rita went to work at Hewlett Library. Always an avid reader, this job allowed her access to many books and information about literature. One of her favorite subjects was Elizabethan England. At her 10th Anniversary Party at the Library, she disguised herself as a Policeman and sang "*The Passing Policeman*." Nobody guessed who it was!

Rita always did what she could to help those less fortunate. She volunteered at the Foundling Home for many years, helping feed children with Cerebral Palsy. For years she has sponsored Foster Children with Catholic Near East Association. Rita has a special fondness for animals. She had several parakeets; she had a "mutual admiration society" with Pepper, who was my Mother's pet; now she has a dear friend, Mikey her cat. Another of Rita's hobbies was photography. She took pictures wherever she went.

She was also the "caretaker" of the Lucke Family Album, which she always brought along to the Family Picnics.

Shortly after my Mom's death in 1981, Rita retired and moved into my home, where she lives now. One of Rita's happiest recent memories was her 80th birthday party at East Point Inn in East Rockaway. About a dozen of her closest friends (most of whom didn't know each other) joined Lloyd and me for a wonderful celebration. It was great to hear the stories each one told about their fun days with Rita! Unfortunately, things have gone steadily downhill, healthwise, for Rita ever since. She has Parkinson's Disease and severe arthritis and is permanently bed-ridden now. On the very positive side, she has a wonderful Home Healthcare Aide, Melissa, who takes care of her every need.

(Contributed by Bob Campbell)

We Magee kids more or less took Rita for granted because she was so often with us. I recall her working at the Long Island RR. That was how she became interested in travelling, which she did often. I remember thinking that it was a rather exciting job from the way she spoke. When I was in high school she took me to see the play Auntie Mame which is now one of my favorite movies. Rita and I went shopping for my wedding dress in New York and I recall her being at my shower. Around 1962, Rita came to visit John and me in Fairfield for a weekend. Tom (my son) and Patty Anne (Bob and Anne's daughter) had received First Communion on the same day and we had a lovely get together with all the Magee kids and their children and my Dad.

When my daughter, Anne, was in the fourth grade Rita invited her to spend a weekend with her in East Rockaway. Anne recalls that the train tracks ran along side the apartment. Anne remembers Rita taking her to the World's Fair and having a great time. Rita came to visit John and me one summer when we had a cottage at Fairfield Beach. My daughter, Anne, was about 10 at the time and Rita brought her Anne of Green Gables. Anne absolutely loved it (she was an avid reader even at that age) and eventually read all of the L M Montgomery series. Anne is now a writer of children's stories (she's had about ten books published); Rita got her started.

Rita attended many Elder Hostels. While attending one at the University of Bridgeport, she visited Anne and Chuck in Fairfield. Their daughter Sarah was a baby. Anne remembers the visit as being very pleasant. Rita was at many of Bob and Anne's children's weddings. My brothers and their wives always enjoyed her company on her frequent visits to their homes.

(Contributed by Liz Magee)

Clement Francis Lucke

My father could best be described as a quiet, gentle man. He never contributed much to discussions, yet he was well liked by those who knew him. "People watching" was a true enjoyment for him. I remember that, at his grandson Michael's high school graduation ceremony at St Patrick's Cathedral, "Grandpa" was gone. Where was he? At the corner watching the many people walking past.

My father was a hard worker. He was a milkman until his retirement; after that, he worked at a job in Manhattan until his death. He loved the convenience of "The City," refusing to move to North Carolina with us because he wouldn't be able to walk to the stores and his church, and take public transportation. My mother told us that he never missed Sunday Mass, even while playing semi-pro baseball in the South. Although Catholic churches were few and far between, he always managed to attend Mass!

(Contributed by Diane Lucke Erhard)

My Father was a wonderful enigma. He was the kindest, gentlest man I have ever known and yet he transmitted to me strength and courage which always made me feel safe and warm. It was the secure feeling that, no matter what, he was there for me, and for all of us. To this day, when I think of him, I get that same feeling of strength and gentleness and love. I consider him one of the greatest blessings of my life.

(Contributed by Cecilia Lucke Guerand)

When I think about my grandfather, a smile always passes across my face. There are two distinctive aspects that I remember fondly. The first is that he loved to go to the racetrack, not to bet, but rather to enjoy the people and surroundings. A few times my family met him there, and I remember seeing the pleasure on his face as he sat watching the people go by. The other aspect I remember is that my grandfather often came to our family Sunday dinners. He would take the bus from Marine Park, Brooklyn to Rockaway Beach, Queens. Our dinners usually didn't end till about 8 pm. However, this did not stop Grandpa from taking the bus, even though my parents offered him the quick 15-minute car-ride home. So the grandchildren would walk down the block with him to the bus stop and wait with him, all the while playing games or just talking. He would then board the bus, and we would wait till the following Sunday to see him again. Clement Lucke was a truly special man who touched my life dearly. I was only in the seventh grade when he died, but he left a lasting impact on his young granddaughter!

(Contributed by Ann Erhard)

I remember the many family get-togethers in Brooklyn that Uncle Clement and Aunt Madeline graciously hosted. He always called his sister Agnes (my Mom) "Dolly". When Grandpa and Grandma (Frank and Mamie) brought Agnes home, Clement took one look at her and thought that she was a doll. So she was "Dolly" ever after.

(Contributed by Mary Agnes Wilson Dorney)

Agnes Mary Lucke Wilson

A	Agnes	M	mother	L	loving	W	wise
G	gift	A	always there	U	understanding	I	interested
N	notable	R	rosary in hand	C	caring	L	light-hearted
E	Eddie's sweetheart	Y	years of fond memories	K	kind	S	strong
S	special			E	ever in our hearts & thoughts	O	offerer of sweets
						N	never forgotten

Our Mother was a beautiful, loving person who instilled in us a love of family and faith. What a gift she was! She and Dad enjoyed their life together in Barryville, NY running *Wilson's Service Station & Taxi*. We became a part of that life, helping in the gas station and even driving taxis. It became a "family affair." Mom was an excellent cook and Dad an excellent hunter. As a result, parties were always going on in our home with family and friends enjoying good food, animated conversation and warm friendship.

I often marveled at Mom's strength and courage. Dad died when she was only 54. Shortly after, she returned to work after a long layoff. The same strength and courage was seen during her last years as she struggled with physical deterioration. She just wouldn't give up. Mom's mind was always sharp as a tack and her mind-set moved along with the times. She was always full of questions. In later years this kept her mind active and up-to-date. Mom had a love of the Blessed Virgin Mary and said the rosary daily. Despite what the rest of us were doing, when it was "time" her rosary beads came out.

Mom was always there when we needed her and had words of wisdom to pass on. The day before she died, she spoke to my sisters and me about loving each other and not fighting. Although we had frequently quarreled throughout the years, we have heeded her advice ever since.

Over the years, Mom's trademark was always having hard candy around for others to delight in. At her wake, we had a dish for all to enjoy. I thank God every day for the gift of my Mother - her wisdom, her love and her friendship. I miss her deeply yet I rejoice knowing that she is where she deserves to be - with her God in heaven.

(Contributed by Mary Agnes Wilson Dorney)

When Agnes Lucke vacationed in the country years ago, she was "picked up" by Eddie Wilson. He ran a taxi service and gave mom and her friend a "free ride." Grandma Lucke thought that Agnes was moving to the "wilderness" when she married Eddie and left Brooklyn.

My Mother was a loving, caring, beautiful lady who was always ready to listen and to help whenever needed. From the birth of our children to my several hospital stays, she was always there. When she lived with me in later years, she was a great "sounding board" when things went wrong or when I was having a bad day. And she was great company after the girls moved out and my husband and son were engrossed in whatever sport was on TV! Mom was a wonderful influence on my children (Theresa, Elizabeth and Michael) and they each had a special relationship with her. We had a small dog, which Mom wasn't crazy about. Little by little, as she was dog-sitting, she and Tippy became very good friends.

Mother was a very good friend and I miss her terribly. I remember her smile and dedication to the Blessed Mother, and thank God for allowing us to share her for so many years.

(Contributed by Ruth Ann Wilson Donovan)

Here's the story of how Mom and Dad met. Agnes went up to Barryville from Brooklyn with a friend. They were taking a walk when Eddie Wilson came by in his taxi and offered them a ride. The friend said "I know him and he's okay. We can go with him." She heard that Eddie was a Merchant Marine and had "been around" so Agnes said she married him "for his money."

When we were young, Mom and Dad had many "venison parties" from the deer that Dad caught. According to Dad, you had to cook the venison in real hot grease. Well, of course, grease splattered all over the stove and Mom was the one who had to clean up the mess.

My best memories of Mom were when I was in my 20's, single and working in NYC. We took a vacation together each year and traveled all over: Maine, New Hampshire, Nova Scotia (her first plane ride - and we got stranded in the airport for hours). One year we flew to Lancaster PA which took us 10 hours when it would have taken 4 or 5 hours if we drove. She always said she wanted to go to Italy. When I got married, she said "There goes my trip to Italy!"

I have great memories of the time Mom came to live with us. She alternated between Ruth Ann's house and ours. That's when I really got to know her as "a person" rather than as "Mom." We talked about everything and we enjoyed watching my daughters (Danielle and Christina) growing up. We both loved to cook and she taught me all her old recipes. Every time I make coleslaw I think of Mom because it is her recipe. Mom had a great memory. She never missed birthdays. And we knew that she would have the answer when we couldn't remember something. Mom's faith in God, which was instilled by her Mother and Father (Mamie and Frank) helped her enormously during her last years, when just getting out of her chair was a great effort.

(Contributed by Kathleen Wilson Scofield)

I remember how Grandma used to play with me when I was really little. I remember saying the rosary with her; she's the one who taught me all my prayers. When I was sad, she would always be there to make me feel better. I miss her a lot and I will always love her.

(Contributed by Danielle Scofield -age 14)

My Grandma was a very loveable person. She always made me laugh. She couldn't do much for herself so I used to help her. I would cross her legs for her, help her with her exercises and comb her hair. I brought her juice too. Although she was very holy, we always had so much fun! After Grandma died, I was heart broken. I miss her hugs and kisses, her voice, getting up early to sleep in her bed with her. I know that she is happy where she is now and that she knows that I love her very much and miss her.

(Contributed by Christina Scofield -age 11)

Gertrude Elizabeth Lucke Keeley

Gertrude Elizabeth Lucke was born on December 25, 1918 at 5AM at the home of her parents, Frank and Mary Cramer Lucke, in Brooklyn. Throughout the years, Gertrude has always enjoyed her Christmas birthday and considered it a special blessing. Gertrude was a delicate-looking baby and her parents were quite concerned and very careful with her. They had lost 16-month old Cecilia before Gertrude was born to what was then called "suffocating bronchitis." Cecilia died in her father's arms. When Frank and Mamie finally put Gertrude down, she took right off and walked across the room.

After the family moved to East 48th Street in Flatbush, Gertrude and her siblings took a small shuttle trolley, that they called "The Dinky," to St Matthew's Parochial School. The ride cost three cents. The conductor was a very pleasant man known to the children as "Irish." He never scolded them when they had peanut fights on the trolley! At Church Avenue, the children transferred to a larger trolley to continue on to school. Gertrude's parents wanted her to have a home lunch rather than a packed lunch at school, so she had lunch every day at the home of her best friend, Catherine. The Lucke family paid Catherine's mother 50 cents a week for the lunches. Gertrude received First Communion and Confirmation at St Matthew's. Her Confirmation name is Jeanne.

Gertrude attended Bishop McDonnell Memorial High School during the depression years. Her mother felt very strongly that Gertrude should attend a Catholic high school, even though it was a hardship for the family. Tuition was \$5 a term and there were also bus and subway expenses. Gertrude recalls selling her bicycle to pay for tuition. While in high school, Gertrude and her group of girlfriends went to a party and met a group of boys, including Lawrence Joseph Keeley. After graduation from high school, she went to work for the Telephone Company as a teletype operator for \$12 a week. Her job was near 5th Avenue and she often went to St Patrick's Cathedral for Mass.

In 1941, Gertrude married Lawrence Keeley. Her sister, Agnes, was her Maid-of-Honor and Larry's brother, Jack, was Best Man. The couple lived in Frank and Mamie's home on East 48th Street in Flatbush until they learned they were going to be parents. Then they moved to East 46th Street and Avenue D. They attended St Therese of Lisieux (the Little Flower) Parish. In 1943, Gertrude's first son, Lawrence Francis, was born. Gertrude remembers being very proud to show her new baby to an insurance man who was paying a call. The man's comment was that her son would grow to be tall because he had big feet! During the war, Gertrude's husband served in the Navy on an ammunition ship near the Aleutian Islands. Gertrude and Larry's second son, Kenneth Robert, was born in 1947.

In 1949, the Keeley family moved to the small town of Barryville, NY, in the tri-state area. Larry worked as a mechanic in Eddie Wilson's gas station. Gertrude liked country life, but there were some adjustments for a city girl. One evening a herd of deer ran around the house and frightened Gertrude who was home alone with the children. Another time a herd of cows from a nearby farm got loose and began to graze all over the lawn! There was an apple

orchard on the property and Gertrude remembers making lots of applesauce. In 1950, the family welcomed their youngest son, Donald Edward.

Gertrude and Larry bought a home in the neighboring town of Shohola, Pennsylvania in 1953. It was close to the Delaware River, the Shohola Brook, and the Erie Railroad. The family were members of St Ann's Church in Shohola. The years in Shohola were busy ones for Gertrude as her three sons grew and became involved in many school activities. The family stayed very close to Agnes and Eddie, and their three girls. In their later years, Frank and Mamie Lucke moved to Shohola to be close to their daughters. After Mamie's death in 1965, Frank was cared for in his daughters' homes until his death in 1968.

1970 was a year of stress and change for Gertrude. Her youngest son, Donald, had recently left home after his high school graduation and enlistment in the Marine Corps. Her husband, Larry, died that February after a lengthy illness. Gertrude then went back to work at the Telephone Company in Middletown, NY, an hour's drive from her home. She began as an operator, but was later trained to be a customer service representative. In the winter, when the road conditions became treacherous with ice and snow, Gertrude often stayed in Middletown with her niece, Ruth Ann Donovan (Agnes' daughter) and her family. Gertrude has very fond memories of her winter evenings at Ruth Ann's home. In 1982, Gertrude retired from the Telephone Company.

In 1984, Gertrude moved to a townhouse at 24 Lexington Drive in Clifton Park, NY, just outside Albany, near her son Larry, his wife Fran, and their family. She had lived in Shohola for 31 years. Recently, Gertrude moved to a senior citizen's apartment complex in Clifton Park. She is enjoying her parish of St Mary's and its activities. Gertrude has 6 grandchildren and is looking forward to the birth of her first great-grandchild in November. (The baby will be the child of Michael and Elizabeth Keeley, grandchild of Larry and Fran Keeley, great-grandchild of Gertrude, and great-great grandchild of #2 Frank.) On Christmas Day 1998, Gertrude will be celebrating her 80th birthday!

(Contributed by Carole Keeley)

I remember the delicious icebox cake Aunt Gertrude used to make - chocolate cookies and whipped cream (and very low on calories!) Another special treat was that she always enclosed some coins with our birthday cards. The Keeleys had TV before we did, so we went to their house on Sunday evenings to watch the shows.

(Contributed by Mary Agnes Wilson Dorney)

When Aunt Gertrude worked for the Telephone Company she traveled to Middletown from Shohola. Since we lived nearby, she usually came to our house when it snowed. Many times we had to push her car up the hill into the driveway. Our children would dance and entertain her and enjoyed her company.

(Contributed by Ruth Ann Wilson Donovan)