

613 S. Ridgeley Dr.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90036
January 12, 1973

Dear Joan and Austin:

It was so nice to hear from you again. I'll tell you how we are related and I will enclose a few pictures and I hope in turn you will send me a picture of both of you. Austin and his brother (whose name I've forgotten) are my only living relatives on my father's side. I have part of the family tree on the Prowse side in front of me and I'll try to explain our connection. Austin's grandfather George William Prowse married Florence Baylis. They had one daughter Ethel who was, of course, Austin's mother. My father Charles was William's younger brother, so Austin's mother was my cousin. The other members of that family, Henry, Mary, Georgianna, and Florence had no offspring. As Austin's mother and my sister have passed away I am the only living descendant of that generation.

I didn't meet Ethel until about 1947. It might have been 1946 and at that time her mother was still alive. I liked both of them very much. George Roger Prowse, Austin's great grandfather was a successful business man in Montreal. He owned a range manufacturing factory and supplied many of the large hotels and railroads with their stoves. He died in 1910 and left a fortune of a quarter of a million dollars, which was a great deal for those days. The money was split five ways. Henry received only \$2,000 because it was known that he was an alcoholic. I don't know what Austin's grandfather did with his money but I know that my father promptly lost his. When he died in 1916 he was penniless. The three girls of the family increased their money and when Aunt Florence died in 1958 she left over \$400,000. Ethel, Marian and I each inherited about \$43,000.

The Prowse's originally came from around Exeter in England. I have visited the area twice and was very surprised to notice how many Prowse names appear in the Exeter telephone book. I had the address of the home of Grandmother Prowse in Devonport which is a suburb of Exeter and I went to see if I could locate it. The building was gone and the taxicab driver told me it hadn't been torn down long. I wasn't able to find much trace of the Prowse family because most of the records had been destroyed when the Germans bombed Plymouth during World War II. I did find this notation regarding William Chapman which would be Austin's great, great grandfather-William Chapman, attorney for the Insolvent Debtor's Court, Deputy for granting replevins and Commissioner for taking of affidavits in the Irish Court. 51 St. Aubyn Street, Devonport. I found this in the Plymouth directory for 1830.

I am a widow and have been since 1949. My husband was Professor of Mechanical Engineering, University of California at Berkeley. He died while still a young man. Before I married and after I became a widow I taught in elementary school. I retired some years ago because I really didn't need the money and teaching became more difficult. Now I keep myself busy with volunteer work and bridge.

The picture of the lady in the oval frame is Austin's great, great, grandmother. She was a Prowse to begin with and she married William Chapman mentioned above. She died in 1856 of a ruptured appendix in Lyon, France. The apartment building is where I live. I have the lower front one. The gathering is of my half-brother's 80th birthday. The others are cousins and second cousins on my mother's side. The picture in the restaurant was taken some time ago when I was visiting in Kamloops, B.C. The man on the left is Marian's oldest son. The two girls are adopted children of theirs.

Do let me hear from you. If you ever can get out this way please stay with me. I enjoy company and I am sure I can make you comfortable.

Affectionately,

Charlotta