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2465 Winchester Drive,
Muskegon, Michigan
December 8, 1963.

Dear Sister Mary James--dearest Alice,

Many times through the years I have thought of you and Joan. I know that she is Mrs. Lester Curtis but I could never find out where she lived, Seneca Falls or Waterloo, or Geneva. I knew that she came to see Mrs. Mason when she died and someone else whom I cannot remember, and I thought, how loyal Joan is to her family though she has been out of Auburn for so many years. I always remember her wonderful smile. And you are very vivid in my remembrance, too, with your black curly hair and demure ways, it only seems natural that you are a nun. And Gregory so handsome and popular always. Mother used to take Harry and me to your home on John Street, so often, to see your Mother. I remember it all so well. And your Aunt Margaret. I am sure she must have gone straight to Heaven for her deep devotion. I recall your father very well, too, and am sorry to hear that he died a few years ago. I have been away from Auburn 28 years the 13th of this month and when some I cared for have died it has not always been possible for me to go. I suppose it really does not matter, but, sometimes, it seems if we could just be there it would help a little anyway.

If this letter seems confusing to you now, please bear with it, as I believe when you finish it, it will be more clear. Having hardly any immediate family of my own, I have loved my relatives perhaps more, and have a few favorites among them who have been so wonderful to me (and a few good friends) and I am so thankful. Mother died when I was ten, that very same month, and her parents, whom you recall as Aunt Lizzie and Uncle Jim Nolan, took me and brought me up. She was their only child. We lived on Parker street. I am really TWO generations older than my actual age because I lived so closely with my Grandmother and a great deal of the time I did not go to school. But I was tutored at home, and recovered enough to go to Old Auburn Hi and graduate.

My grandmother and her sisters were very close and all their large families and I knew them all, it seems. She used to tell me her life in Ireland, her young life in America, and then about her Mother (our great grandmother) My Grandmother was born in 1850 just after the Great Famine and I have great allegian to the County Kildare and great admirations for The Shaws and all their decendeants.

I havent been back to Auburn too often but in recent years, I think. I guess I really left a piece of my heart there. I never have time to see many I would like to, but I do manage to see some of the closest and dearest.

Last July I went back to the funeral of Elizabeth Loughman Kelly. When Mother was about six, my grandparnts took and brought her up. She was then called Lizzie and was about 2. 70 when she died.

She left a daughter and 5 grandchildren. She seemed like my family and I do miss her. At that time I did get over to see Helen Mason Lewis. We had such a good visit. Helen is so natural and sweet, a bit on the shy side, but just a darling. Helen and her sister, Margaret Heieck, used to come to our house so much (of course the boys rarely came) and their grandmother lived only a few blocks from mine on Fitch Ave. Her Mother and Father always stopped in to see us when going to see her grandmother Aunt Ann O'Hora. It seems that our Mothers, yours and mine and Helen's and Helen Conboy Kinsella were all about the same age, and close in friendships. Helen Kinsella is an angel and I do not think that I could ever tell you how kind and thoughtful she has been to me.

When I was at Helen Lewis' she told me that she had a wonderful letter from you, and looked for it, but she could not locate it. She told me about Joan being over to see her Mother and so on. So, yesterday I received a letter from Helen and she enclosed your letter to her. She asked me if I wanted to write to you, and then later she asked if I would write and tell you about our family for her. I didn't have to read far into your letter to realize your deep feeling and your desire to know them better. It gave me such a warm happy feeling, I am sure that you will not care that Helen sent your letter to me. I was SO GLAD to hear from you, even if indirectly.

John and Margaret Shaw lived in Knockree, County Kildare, near Carlow and not too far from Dublin. I understood her maiden name was Keating but Elizabeth Nolan Carráil says it was Donohue. They used to go to Church in Athy. Walk 4 miles. O yes, I heard every detail, I think. If they could not go to Mass they had to remain in their room the rest of the day. So no excuses. They had 7 daughters, no sons. Mary, Bridget, Sara, Ellen, Ann, Elizabeth and Margaret. I know Mary and Bridget were the older ones and Eliz 6th and Marg. 7th but I do not know the sequence otherwise.

BRIDGET went to Australia and oblivion. My grandmother told me that but I never heard any of the others ever speak of her.

MARY married a British soldier named James Blowes, and went to India, and she and two infants are buried in Benares. I used to have that paper around but do not know where it is at present. I suppose Mary was crossed out of the family Bible because in those days even to speak to a British soldier was a heinous crime. I have a picture of our great grandparents and pretty good, too. The remaining five daughters came to Auburn. After John Shaw died (he would not cross the ocean) Grandma Shaw came to Auburn and lived with her daughters until she died at 87, of old age. I think it was 1896. My grandmother told me that she would walk from Parker to Bradford street and back and forth so you can see the stamina those people had. I also have a letter that Grandma Shaw wrote to my grandmother from Ireland before she left and it said something about 'why should I be afraid when I am coming to my own'? I always get a heart tug when I read that.

SARA, I think she was next. She married John Gagan, and wore your grandparents. He died young and she had to support mother, Margaret, Catherine and Mother-in-law (I never knew her given name) and I think there was a Joan. Most came to my grand mother's wake in 1931 and all had pure white hair.

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So well but I never saw him again. There is a John Mason in Auburn now whom I met at a wedding. He is married to an English girl and I see his name in the Auburn paper from time to time. I think Joan would know about him. I often wonder if he is Matt's son. Your grandfather may have been Matthew and not John but that is the way I remember it.

ANN married William O'Hara, he was a blacksmith. They had 8 children, John, Sara Chapman who lived in Syracuse all her married life, Edward, Elizabeth Morey who lived in the home on Fitch Avenue, and she died two days after Mrs. Mason. Her daughter Marion Morey Canizzo and her husband and 3 live there now. Nellie (Sister William Marie who was MY Godmother and taught most of her life at Nazareth in Rochester, and Anna (Sister Marciana) who was a nun for 65 years and died just a couple of years ago, and Mary who married Joseph Keenan and had no family. She was a redhead and one of my favorites. Ann was Helen Lewis grandmother. Helen sister Margaret Heleck lives in Southfield, Michigan but that is near Detroit and all across the state from me. I am right on Lake Mich in western state Michigan, right across from Milwaukee. I am nearer to Chicago (175 miles) than Detroit.

ELLEN married James Dempsey a widower with three children, I only knew Lucy and Christina (Mother's age) one of Lucy's grandsons is Fr. Charles Major of the Syracuse diocese and is the image of Lucy. Ellen, like my grandmother, had one daughter, Margaret. She married Edward Conboy and had 9 children. She is 87, not too well, has been in the hospital several times this year, is there now. She is a gallant lady I think. She has three or four Great grandchildren. Her children are Helen Conboy Kinsella, Frances who died young but is still remembered, Mildred Emery who was in my classes in old St. Mary's then Phil, whom you say was in yours, Phil has 7 children, the Reverend Michael F. Conboy who was ordained June 2, 1962 and is at Holy Trinity in Webster, NY. We went back for his First Mass and dinner. It was simply wonderful, over 200 at the dinner. That is a special and separate story which I shall tell you at another time. He is tall, handsome and a real Irish type with blue eyes and black hair and rosy cheeks, but most of all, completely dedicated to His service. Phil is with the State Department of Corrections in the Auburn office and quite a civic figure, also active in Cath. circles. He is past Grand Knight, Past Exalted Ruler of the Elks, present State VP of Elks and I don't know what all. I very often see his picture in the Auburn paper which I have taken since almost all the time since I left. The next of Phil's is Martin, a Navy career man living in Cal. and 5 sisters Margaret, Mary, Marcella, Maroia, down to Maureen in Ill. Phil's brother Joseph is Captain of Police in Auburn, and Charles is an electrician in the Fire Dept. Catherine is an RN, married Dr. Vincent Bull of Syracuse, and then the twins, Marion Yurco, and Virginia Cornell. Virginia lives next to her Mother and is a widow, lost her husband at 49, two years ago. All have families..

I remember that I used to go up to the Conboy home on Bradford street, they had a big house, and lots of children, 6 or 7 then, and lots of excitement and how I loved it. Aunt Ellen lived with them. She was a large woman, full of fun, and hospitality. She always seemed to get great enjoyment in having the children around her. For the most part the Conboys are extroverts and interested

in so many things. So that is how you and I are related to the Conboys, in the same degree.

ELIZABETH, married James Nolan, and Mother was their only child. She was always called Lillie. I have never had a nickname and have always resisted one. Mother was Mrs. Conboy's bridesmaid. There was just Harry (Henry J. Lozon, Jr) and me. He died at 9, of typhoid, 18 months after Mother. You mention being at someone's deathbed in approx. 1915. Mother died in 1913. She was ill Tues to Sat in diabetic coma. It may have been her whom you saw since she would have been unable to take anything to drink or food. Poor Mother was 37. My father was a policeman and when he was not at home, we would talk in the evenings and I would love to comb her long black hair. I remember her well. So do many others who often speak of her to me when I am in Auburn. Father died in 1923. I lost them all before I was 20.

~~Elizabeth~~ married Daniel Nolan (no relation to my grandfather) They had 4, Margaret Alnutt, William (married, no family) Jack who died in the 1918 flu epidemic after one day illness. His widow remarried and lives in Cleveland, and I hear of her once in awhile thru Ruth Alnutt Siddall. And also Elizabeth Nolan who married Leo Carroll. She is 72, looks much younger despite a cancer operation. She is a widow and lives with her daughter and two grand children. Rather they live with her. Her son, Jim, who had been a seminarian at Holy Cross at Notre Dame was one of the first pilotx killed in WW2, even before the fire broke out. I think he was in a training program. Margaret Nolan Alnutt had 7 and Ruth is the eldest and her next sister is Evelyn. Ruth is an RN and a rethead and we have always been close. She has 4 and 10 grand children. She and her husband went to Cal this summer. Guess they want to live there when he stops working but she is only 57 so I think they are not going very soon. Her oldest son was killed in Camillus when he was home on his first visit after navyboot training. Ruth was terribly hurt, compound jaw fractures, and I dont know what all, but she has recovered quite well. We are godparents to Jim her other son. She has two girls. If you care to know ore there is 56 more and one of her brothers had 13 children.

I just looked over your letter and wanted to add that when Mother died, Lucy Major and Margaret Mason (Helen's Mother) came and bathed Mother as they did in those days before burial preparations, and I vaguely recall that Sr. Gregory was in the City. I wonder if your Aunt Margaret Gagan may have come to. It is quite a tribute to the original Margaret Shaw that there are so many Margarets in her decendants isnt it?

When I am in Auburn, I am asked "how do you remember?" But Sister Mary James remembers, too.

Nowdays it seems, that you are not supposed to talk about the old and precious days, or anything that might "date" one. So many are unable to recall things I know they know.

I have writton at length out of love and it has been a joy to write this letter because I knew that if I had wanted to know those

things about the wonder^{ful} Shaws, I know you would have been eager to tell me. I do not type very often and have made quite a few mistakes but I do not think you will mind, that you are more interested in the content than the typing, and otherwise I would not have been able to write so much.

Years ago Helen Melvin Pike who was an executive in Girl Scouting in Philadelphia, (Germantown) told me that she happened to show you her memory book and you saw an item in about me and told her that we are related. Helen and I started in the first grade together and though I was out of school from time to time we graduated from Hi together. She lives in Union Springs, Married late in life, has a boy 14. I shall be writing to her in a few days and she will be delighted to hear of you.

I am well and hope you are. I have lived in 8 states and many cities since I left Auburn. I married in 1930. Bill was born in Auburn too though he was in Chicago with his parents and returned to Auburn when we married. He works for Continental Motors corp. makers of all type air craft engines. Unfortunately we have ~~xxxxx~~ no children but we do not understand all the whys and wherefores of life. We came here in 1943, were away a year or so in the late 40s, but returned in 1950.

I am so glad you remembered me as I have often thought of you and Joan. If there ~~are~~ any questions, ~~because~~ to ask, ~~and~~ if I can I shall gladly answer you.

Please give my love to Joan and keep a big share for yourself and if I can find her address I want to see her when I am able to come east again.

Most sincerely, your cousin,