

Dear relative,

greetings again from the family club (Sukuseura). This is our third Christmas letter. Good two years of family club is behind us. Our reunion in June 2001 was in honor of Robert's 150th birthday.

How has the club got started? Not bad. Let me put it in numbers. Our count for founding memberships is 132, mostly families. The number of founding members is 327. And we can have more. All in all, the whole family is over 1500 people. However, we do not collect members and membership fees to count numbers and income. We want to keep in touch and know who we are. We maintain a family tree. Pertti Neva-Juoni has recorded our whole family. We have also started the preparations for the 2005 family reunion. It will exhaust all our assets, but that is what the membership fees are for.

Events along the year:

In January we celebrated Helmi Myllymäki's 90th birthday. She had a wonderful party in Kankaanpää. Her "own" choir sang with her -and she isn't the oldest member of the choir! In midsummer (late June) The Järvenpääs' had a cousins meet. In July, Uno visits us with his brother Paul and sister Joan. They had a reunion on their mother's side and dropped by to see us also. Uno joined in the board meeting at Johannes Hakamäki's saw mill office. Just a few days ago we received the sad message that Helvi Luopa (nee Hakamäki, Robert -> Anselm -> Helvi) passed away at the age of 85.

Board and PR:

The board has had two meetings so far (by the time you read this, the 3rd meeting has been held). The board: Markku Kotomäki (chm.), Liisa Hakamäki (sect. / treas.), members Maija Ala-Heikkilä, Meeri Järvenpää, Taisto Kotomäki, Pertti Multisilta, Kalevi Myllyluoma, Pertti Neva-Juoni and deputy members Kaija Auressalmi and Heli Juhala. Contact people by families: Ritva Lehtonen (Antti-Oskari Mäki-Panula), Laimi Teikari (Nestori Ylikoski), Hannu Järvenpää (Aleksandra), Pertti Multisilta (Juho), Kalevi Myllyluoma (Adolfina), Markku Kotomäki (Matilda), Pertti Neva-Juoni (Elina), Jussi Hakamäki (Anselm). The American contact is Sheryl Yourshaw (Antti-Oskari-> Urho -> Uno -> Sheryl) takes care of the "Maki-family".

Our information flow is not as good as it could be. We now have a new plan that includes e.g. home pages. If you feel like wanting to participate, please contact us. For you who want to help out, there's surely something to do. I guarantee, you get to know the family. Next year we start preparing for the Finnish reunion. You want to help out and/or you have ideas. Contact us: Maija Ala-Heikkilä (+358 50-362 8135) (reunion) or Markku Kotomäki (+358 40-865 4049), e-mail: alavakkuri.hakamaki@suomi24.fi.

Our family changes: for changes, contact your own contact person. We collect the family tree acc. to Finnish law 529/1999 18th §, genealogy.

Membership and terms:

The membership fee is always for **two years**. Paying the fee for ten years (5 times the biannual fee) makes you eligible for lifetime membership. Those who have paid their membership by the end of Year 2002 will be considered founding members. Family membership (=household) is 20 EUR,US\$,CAD / 2 years. One person membership is 10 EUR,US\$,CAD / 2 years. Bank connection: Suupohjan Osuuspankki (SOP) 473060-273959.

Please give your address, telephone number, e-mail address. For family memberships, give names of your family members. If possible, please also indicate how you descend from Robert and Albertina. Especially from abroad, the bank transfer doesn't work. You can send a letter or an e-mail to me or Pertti. Kindly mention when and how you have paid the fee. People in US and Canada. Please get in touch with Sheryl Yourshaw

I ask you to give a copy of this letter to all our family members you know and who have not received it. Please read the invitation on the back side.

On behalf of the whole family club we wish you a Peaceful Christmas time and Happy New Year 2004.

Markku, Liisa, Maija, Meeri, Taisto, Pertti, Kalevi, Pertti, Kaija ja Heli

Maki Family Reunion Finn Creek, Minn 16.-18.7.2004

Greetings to all you dear cousins from your American family. Amazingly it has already been over two years since seeing you at the 2001 family reunion in Karijoki. How time flies! We are now preparing for the next family reunion here in the USA.

The reunion will be held on July 16-18, 2004 in New York Mills, Minnesota, which is a little country town, not significantly different from Karijoki, where many immigrants from Finland settled – including Robert's son Matt Maki. We gather at Finn Creek, an open air museum and former Finnish homestead, designated as a historical site.

Friday evening we gather to welcome those traveling from a distance. Saturday is the main event. We generally begin with coffee and visiting in the morning and then a meal at mid-day. We try to organize a few activities to encourage mingling and entertain, such as volleyball and horseshoes, for the afternoon as well as picture taking time. Saturday late afternoon is also when we hold an informal family meeting. Sunday we meet for breakfast and a church service (private or at a local church) followed by a meal before we go our own ways. People attend for any part that they are able, though Saturday and Sunday are usually well attended.

We chose this site because it is economical and a large part of the family lives within driving distance (which hopefully encourages attendance) and also, because the Finnish culture our fathers brought to this country is still tangible in this area of the country. Our meeting isn't fancy – the hall that we use is, well... I warn you, it is not modernized and can get very warm in the middle of July. But the heat doesn't dampen our spirits. We come to have fun together and get to know each other better and we always leave blessed by the time spent. And so we invite you to join us. Come and get to know your American side of the family and help us get to know you. We would love to see you there.

Yours truly,
Sheryl Yourshaw

With the invitation above, Sheryl invites us to the reunion in USA. We have planned in the club to organize a common trip, if there's enough interest. Want to join? Our schedule is the following:

- Preliminary interest by end of Feb. 2004. Based on the preliminary enrollement we will decide how to organize, arrange and make inquiries. We will get in touch latest end of March.
- By end of April, binding booking, and signing fee. Later we will have also the schedule, other payment schedule and terms of cancellation. There may be a chance to join later, but earlier is better.

The exact schedule hasn't been even thought about yet. However, we need to be there in good time prior to July 16.-18. We consider two alternative schedules: two or three weeks. The duration depends on the interest. During the two week visit, there's time to tour Minnesota and Michigan. In three weeks, more can be seen, e.g. some of Canada. The country is huge. It takes two days to drive from Minneapolis to New York or Toronto. Our idea is to fly to Chicago or Minneapolis abt. 12. tai 13. July. It is worth while to rent cars about 4 people per vehicle. One person knowledgeable in English per car would be great.

How much? The guestimates below are for one person travelling mostly alone, and for two people in a group of four, staying in 2 bed rooms. We can't assume being lodged by our relatives, at least not always.

Cost frames	2 weeks 1 person:	2 weeks, 2 people:	3. weeks (add), 2 people
air fare:	1000e from 800 to 1200	2000e from 800 to 1200	---
Rental car	ca. 450e compact car	ca. 300e half of mid size	ca. 300 e
Hotel (guest sometimes)	ca. 600e av. 60e/night	ca. 700e av. 70e/night	ca. 350e (5 nights more)
Living	ca. 500e	ca. 1000e	ca. 500e
Total	ca. 2500e	ca. 4000e, or 2000e / person	ca. 1000e, or 500e / person

Your own spending determines how much money you will need. The exchange rate now is good. What will it be next summer? Most goods are deceptively cheap and they know how to sell in US. Buying is made easy.

How to enroll for the trip? Contact me by end of February, preferably by letter or e-mail: Markku Kotomäki Öljymäentie 25 28360 Pori, 040-869 4049, markku.kotomaki@nic.fi