

The Vincent Tin Horn

A Newsletter for Our Vincent Family
December 2006 Volume 14 Numbers 2 & 3

August 19, 2006 73rd Annual Vincent Family Association Reunion Picnic

by Michael Vincent, Secretary / Treasurer

On August 19, 2006 the Vincent Family Association held it's 73rd Reunion and picnic at Taconic State Park in Copake Falls, NY. It was a partly sunny day with a sprinkle once in a while. Every one arrived in good spirits and ready to see and talk to other family members. Once again a hearty **THANK YOU** to Bob Booram for arriving early and sweeping and preparing the pavilion for us. While everyone got reacquainted the picnic portion took place. Dave Vincent brought his famous grinder again for everyone to share. There were plenty of good things for everyone to enjoy. Pastries, cookies and brownies for dessert, veggies for dipping and salad and all the other good munching food were consumed. After the barbecue, the annual business meeting was held. Mike Vincent started the meeting off and Sheridan Vincent and Mike were reappointed President and Secretary-Treasurer respectively

Sheridan reported on the status of the 4th edition of the Vincent Family book and is still working on the completion. He told us that the new edition would probably be twice as thick as the third edition. He also talked about the DNA testing that he has been in discussion with Donald G. Vincent of Glover, VT. He explained the cost which can range from \$150-\$300 dollars and can be only administered to males with the surname of Vincent. As far as the reunion and picnic it was discussed with the group and we decided to hold again next year at Taconic State Park again on the third Sat. of August, which would be August 18, 2007. We talked about the book Barbara Knickerbocker Beskind was writing called *Quiet Powderkeg*.

Quiet Powderkeg is an autobiography that celebrates the early history of two families, the Knickerbockers and the Vincent. The origins of both, once veiled in mystery, are now revealed by long hours of research and discovery. The Knickerbockers' proud heritage comes to life in sharp contrast with the Vincent Family, who were themselves, people struggling for their own religious independence. The Vincents were Walloons, who were these early immigrants to America, and why is it so important to know about them?

After the reunion Bill Vincent looked on the Internet and found it had been published. Look in this current publication for the information.

We passed the hat for donations and received \$56.00. Along with subscription donations we received a total of \$198.00 will be deposited to our account. Mike thanked everyone for their donations and thanked them for coming. We then broke up to assemble for the reunion picture that was expertly taken again by Sheridan.

The reunion and picnic is always a good time to catch up on family business. Sheridan and I are hoping to see more people attend the reunion. Don't forget the date for next year, Saturday, August 18, 2007. SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

Attending the Reunion Picnic were Bill and Fran Vincent, Granby, CT; Sheridan Vincent, Rochester NY, Mike, Dan, and Kelie Vincent, Pittsfield, MA; Rosemarie Burch, Newburgh NY; Gerald and Diane Shafer, Newburgh, NY; Debra Vincent, Wingdale, NY; Marie Vincent, Lake City, FL; David and Catherine Liz Vincent, Patterson, NY; Robert W. Booram, Ghent, NY; Betty Rundell, Chatham, NY; Bob and Cammie Harris, Guilford, CT; Lester and Virginia Harris, Marion, CT; J. Wesley Vincent, Deltona, FL; Ron, Mary Lou, and Ronnie Vincent, E. Amherst, NY; and Bob Vincent, Lennox, MA.



From the Sheridan's Desk

Greetings and a wish for the best of everything as we approach 2007. Starting with another apology for the delay in getting this issue of the Vincent Tin Horn to you, I am noting and wondering where all of the time is that I am supposed to now have in "retirement". The being "self-employed" and involved in our photography gallery is taking up more time. Seems like there is always something going on. Hopefully the double issue will let us catch up on the news of the family.

I do appreciate the contributions of Mike and Bill Vincent for this issue. Secretary/Treasurer Mike wrote up a nice summary of the reunion picnic shortly after the event, and past-president Bill, has written up a wonderful recollection and narrative of time and discussion he had with his grandfather telling tales of calico Indians. Thanks to Mike and Bill for their efforts. I hope it will cause others of you to think about writing a brief narrative or story about Vincents that we can all share and enjoy.

Mike mentioned Barbara Knickerbocker Beskind's book *The Quiet PowderKeg*. I see from Amazon.com that it is due to be published in May 2007.

I noted recently that our website at www.vincent-family.org has had more than 11,000 visitors since I put it up. I get periodic notes from people researching the family, but find I am falling behind a bit in replying. More often than not, I can usually find some new bit of information or clue; but today I had an email from South Africa and had to plead ignorance.

Our winter has been very nice, the warmest December in Rochester on record and with only 4 inches of snow in December compared to the normal average of 22 inches, we are doing just fine.

You will note some changes in this edition of *The Vincent Tin Horn*.—mainly to help me simplify the process of getting it prepared and printed. By printing on standard size paper, it is one less fold that I will need to make. I am also planning to use a thinner paper stock to help with the weight for postage and cost of printing. Please get back to me if you have any concerns or there are issues during the mail delivery.

It was suggested by Bill Vincent that we again consider the option to distribute the newsletter electronically on the Internet, so please note the special request below. For those who continue to enjoy having a paper copy delivered, we will still make it available by mail. The mailed version will continue to be black and white, another concession to reduce costs. If you download the online version it will be in color, so you could print it with your color printer.

The article on the DNA Study of the Vincent family is very interesting. There is a lot to learn here and we hope to have more information and articles in future as we learn more about the technology and what it can tell us about our families. Don Vincent has volunteered in be a focal point for us on this.

So sit back, enjoy the double issue and Have a Comforting, Safe, Healthy, and Prosperous 2007!

Please Note: e-mail Notification of New Issues

Rather than having a printed and mailed copy of the *Vincent Tin Horn*, it is possible to view and download each edition of the newsletter from the Internet at our website www.vincent-family.org in the Newsletter section. Send me your email address along with the request to svincent@frontiernet.net and I will notify you when there is a new issue. This will save the cost of printing and mailing. Also, **please** be sure to let us know when your mailing or email address changes. When issues are returned with no forwarding address it is a sad loss. Thank you.

The Vincent Tin Horn is a newsletter of the Vincent Family especially for descendants of Charles Vincent of Yonkers, New York. It is published several times annually.

The Vincent Tin Horn is mailed upon request. Costs for the publication and incidental costs to the Vincent Family Association. are covered by donations. **An amount of \$8 annually is suggested.** Donations should be directed to Mike Vincent, Secretary-Treasurer and checks should be made out to him. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please send your request and mailing address to Mike or Sheridan Vincent.

Also, please notify us of address changes or if you would like to have your name taken off our mail list or if other relatives would like to receive *The Vincent Tin Horn*.

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Check out our website at www.vincent-family.org, where you will find this edition in a color version as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file.

Dorothy E. (Vincent) Glasser (VF#3202) 1916-2006

Mike Smith passed along the following obituary from the *Troy Record Newspaper* 25 July 2006.

TROY - Dorothy E. Glasser, 90, formerly of Seventh Avenue in Troy and Bridal Path in Colonie, beloved wife of the late Alfred M. Glasser Sr., entered into eternal life on Monday, July 24, 2006, at the Van Rensselaer Manor in North Greenbush. Born on February 19, 1916, in Alcove, she was the daughter of the late Reuben and Estelle Martine Vincent.

Mrs. Glasser was an admissions clerk for nearly 30 years at Albany Medical Center Hospital in Albany until her retirement in 1980.

She had been a communicant of St. Theresa's Church in Colonie, the Credit Woman's International Club of Albany County and the H.B. Kuhn Senior Citizens.

Devoted mother of Alfred Martin Glasser, Jr. of Valdosta, GA, Edna Villarama of Troy, Joan Glasser of Cohoes, Mildred Black of Troy, and the late Yvonne Penrose; sister of the late William and Arthur Vincent, Anne Havener and Mildred O'Rourke. Also survived by 14 grandchildren, several great grandchildren, several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a granddaughter; Barbara Moylan.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Mass of Christian Burial on Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory Church in Troy. Calling hours will be private at the convenience of the family. Interment will be in the Alcove Cemetery, Alcove.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted by the family to the Morris-Stebbins-Miner & Sanvidge Funeral Home, 312 Hoosick St., Troy, NY 12180, 518-272-3930.

Mabel T. (Ericson) Vincent 1910—2006

23 July 2006 *The Argus-Leader*, Rock Island, IL.

Mabel T. Vincent, 96, of Cambridge, died Saturday, July 22, 2006, at Hillcrest Home, rural Geneseo (Illinois). Funeral services will be 11 am. Wednesday, July 26, at the Cambridge (Illinois) Chapel of Stackhouse-Moore Funeral Services. The Rev. John Vidakovich will officiate. Burial will be in Rosedale Cemetery, Cambridge. Visitation will be 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to Cambridge United Methodist Church or Cambridge Academic Foundation.

The former Mabel Ericson was born Feb. 9, 1910, in rural Bishop Hill, daughter of August Godfrey and Lulu Johnson Ericson. She was educated in rural schools and graduated from Galva High School. Her marriage to **Fred W. Vincent (VF#3012)** took place on Dec. 10, 1931, in Cambridge. He died March 10, 1992. Mabel was a homemaker, and she and her husband had farmed in the Cambridge area until retiring.

She was a member of Cambridge United Methodist Church. Her special interests included bowling, crocheting, playing cards, gardening and playing the piano for dances. Mabel had won many blue ribbons for baking at the Henry County Fair. She enjoyed her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include a daughter, Janice Reed, Cambridge; a son and daughter-in-law, William F. and Susan Vincent, Punta Gorda, Fla.; four grandchildren (and spouses), Tammy (Bryan) Horberg, Cambridge, Karey (Josh) Fryer, Ferndale, Mich., Kristen Vincent, Tampa, Fla., Ryan Vincent, Orlando, Fla.; and three great-grandchildren. Her parents, her husband, three sisters and a brother preceded her in death.

A video tribute may be viewed and condolences expressed by visiting Mabel's obituary at www.stackhousemoore.com

A 55th Annual Vincent Family Reunion in Illinois

Darrell Vincent (VF#4048) passed along an email and photo following the 55th Annual Vincent Family Reunion for the descendants of Martin Luther Vincent (VF#1093) in Cambridge, Illinois on August 13, 2006. He mentioned that more than 54 people enjoyed a fine day of games and food as we see from the "good looking bunch" in the photo below. Sorry we missed it.

My DNA—We are Related.

Sheridan Vincent

In the last issue of *The Vincent Tin Horn* I mentioned that Donald George Vincent (VF#2918) was working to lead investigations into the DNA catalog of our Vincent Family. As a part of that, I had an interest in attempting to confirm an unproven link in the line of Michael Vincent, who died 1875 in Cattaraugus Co., NY. After more than 30 years of searching, I have found no proof of a presumed relationship with Ambrose Vincent (VF#14). By the process of elimination and other assumptions, I felt that "our **Michael Vincent**" was the grandson of **Ambrose Vincent** by Ambrose's son Michael. Since Don is a descendant of Ambrose Vincent's son, Stephen, it seemed an ideal opportunity, given his interest and that he had already had tests run.

The bottom line is Don and I have exact DNA Marker Matches using 25 markers that tells us that there is an 85% probability that our most recent common ancestor occurred 8 generations ago. The probability goes higher approaching 95% if we go back 12 generations. We can easily conclude that we are of the same Vincent family.

This is fascinating stuff, with all kinds of other potential clues; one being the origin of the Charles Vincent family. We are of a halotype of R1B1c. A halotype is a set of results that characterize the Y-chromosomes, by comparing DNA results with other people. Science data and genealogical data are considered in drawing conclusion on the "origin" of the family. In our case there is evidence that the family has English, Anglo Saxon roots going back 2000 or more years. Of course, it is possible that the family had reason to be mobile and move to Mainland Europe in the intervening generations, but we wonder how common that was. As there is more opportunity to gather more data from people who have the DNA test run, especially those with the surname of Vincent, we can find any distinguishing characteristics of the various branches. Hopefully, there will be interest from Vincent's now living in England and Europe so that this can be sorted out.

Theories of the family origin have included English (with Jerry Vincent's publication that the English indentured servant Charles Vincent in Maryland was the same as the Charles Vincent who was later found in Yonkers, NY), Walloon, and Huguenot. The 1900 US census listed at least 15 European countries as birthplaces for Vincents. The family name did get around.



“BIG THUNDER” AND THE VINCENT CONNECTION

William F. Vincent
Granby, CT

Basically, our Vincent family has been pretty quiet throughout history. Nobody seemed to have achieved great public notice and we don't seem to have any notorious murderers, famous politicians, *etc.* lurking in our genealogy records. Fay Vincent, the former Commissioner of Baseball, may be the exception. Also, there's Charlie Vincent, the chicken thief of the early 20th century (that another story!).

It all started back in New Amsterdam in the 1630s. The Dutch West India Company wanted to settle the upper part of the colony (New York). The Company granted huge tracts of land to certain persons (usually the rich and well-connected) who would guarantee that they would have the land settled. When the British took over the colony, the land grants were confirmed and the owners, called “patroons” in Dutch, kept their ownership. One would not be too far off the mark to translate “patroon” into the English “Patron” but a better translation would be master. Feudalism in a slightly different form had found its way to the New World!

Following the Revolutionary War, many small farmers from the Hudson Valley found themselves with land that was too small to support their families or had played out. Also, much of the infrastructure of the local towns in Dutchess County (court houses, schools, churches) had been destroyed by Tories or Royalists (one Charles Vincent being one of the most notorious of these!) Charles and his brothers had to leave the area quickly towards the end of the war and go to Canada. Our Canadian cousins for the most part descend from them.

The patroons took advantage of this and offered leases to these farmers if they would move North onto these tracts of lands. The system sounded pretty good originally but as time went on, the farmers realized that they hadn't done a good job in reading the fine print in their leases. They had been led to believe by the agents of the patroons that eventually the land would be theirs after so many years. They were less than happy when they realized that they would never have a free title to their land and would be tenants forever! They found themselves in a feudal system here in the United States – a system their ancestors had escaped from when they left Europe. As the years wore on, they began to chaff badly under this system and tried to address the problem with one of the patroons – Stephen Van Rensselaer III but didn't get very far. He wouldn't even talk to them! When Stephen (commonly called the “good patroon”) died in 1839, his very large land grant, which was called Rensselaerwyck (Dutch for Rensselaer Manor) was split between his two sons. These guys weren't so “good” as their father and promptly sent out rent agents and sheriffs to collect the rent money owed to them.

With that action, all hell broke loose in upper New York-literally! The problems first started in the town of Berne West of Albany. Deputy Sheriff Adams attempted to serve eviction notices on a number of tenants who were in arrears – one of them

being a Paul Vincent (the very first farm he stopped at that Sheriff Adams stopped at). Right from the beginning, Adams was greeted by a mob carrying pitchforks and clubs. He wasn't able to serve a single notice of eviction to any of the farmers and literally ran with his tail between his legs! Later agents ended up getting shot or tarred and feathered. This situation got nasty really fast.

By 1844, the situation had reached fever pitch. The anti-renters had become well organized and were regularly thwarting the efforts of the sheriffs and rent agents to collect rents. In order to disguise them-selves, they would put on one of their wife's calico dresses, an Indian headdress and war paint as they were well aware that to take arms against the local sheriffs and magistrates could be construed as treason under New York law.



A woodcut of the era shown the calico Indians skirmishing with local New York militia

As a small child, my grandfather, Frank L. Vincent, used to take me for walks in back of our summer home in Hoag's Corners (town of Nassau), NY. Grandpa used to say to me: “This is where your great grandfather, Orrin Vincent, rode as a ‘vigilante’ dressed up like an Indian”. When I would ask him why my great grandfather did that, he used to say he “didn't know”! Maybe my grandfather didn't know or maybe the “conspiracy of silence” that started during the Anti-Rent Wars and was known to continue for many years thereafter was still in his mind. In other words, people just didn't “talk about it” for many years later for fear of retribution.

Big Thunder and The Vincents

The little village of Hoag's Corners was a much more bustling place in the 1840s than it is today thanks to several dozen mills along the Tsatsawassa Creek which ran through the village. Orrin Vincent worked as a mechanic in these mills and probably migrated up from down the Hudson Valley when he was a young man. His gravestone indicates that he was born in 1817. Hence that would have made him 27 years old when the Anti-Rent Wars came to a head in 1844.

There is a great deal of family legendary evidence to show that Orrin was indeed one of the so-called “calico Indians”. His son, Lafayette Vincent, had a war bonnet and calico dress hanging in the closet of his kitchen which had belonged to his father. When asked by his granddaughter, Eleanor Vincent, he would refuse to answer her questions concerning where they had come from and what they were used for. Perhaps this was another example of the conspiracy of silence concerning activities around the Anti-Rent



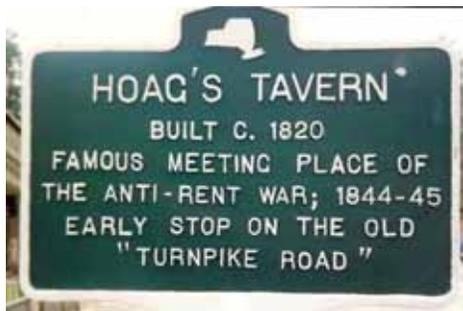
Orrin Vincent's grave marker (1817—1899) in the Larkin Cemetery, Hoag's Corners, NY



Vincent family homestead on the site of "Big Thunder" (July 4, 1844)

Wars. Lester Harris, another grandchild of Lafayette, who is now in his 90s, confirmed to the writer the presence of the war bonnet at the 2006 Family Reunion.

Much of the activities of the Anti-Rent Wars centered around Hoag's Corners. The tavern in the center of town was a focal point where the leaders of the rebellion would meet. An historic marker now stands in front of the tavern which has been unfortunately left vacant.



Historic marker in front of Hoag's Tavern

Several hundred yards from the tavern was the local church. The local citizenry had pulled a small cannon up into the belfry of the church which could be fired off to warn the population of the approach of sheriffs or militia. There's a whole other story about that cannon and what happened to it. The story also involves the Vincents!

On July 4, 1844, a huge rally of the calico indians was held a mile or so down the road from the village center. As luck will have it, the house on the property where the rally was held became the home of my grandfather and the place where my father (Merton John Vincent) was born in 1901. A historic marker now stands in front of the house.

In back of the house, there is a natural amphitheater formed by a large mountain. A whisper can literally be heard hundred of yards away! No question about it – it was a great place to have a meeting of a large number of men. Tradition has it that they rode around on their horses, whooping like Indians and having a fine time of it while their families picnicked along the edge of the field. This is the very same field where my grandfather would take me for a walk and tell me about my great grandfather dressing up as an Indian.



"Big Thunder" historic marker in front of house

For several years in the 1990s, the local residents of the area would dress up as calico indians and have a reenactment of the event. Unfortunately, this writer didn't know about this and never had an opportunity to attend this event. I would have loved to have dressed up myself and played the part of my great grandfather in the reenactment. I may well have been the only direct descendant of the original calico indians to participate.



Some local residents of Hoag's Corners dressed up in period costumes for the "Big Thunder" reenactment

When I visited the family homestead several years ago, the present owner was gracious enough to show me around. It looked in much better shape than it had when I was a child and another family lived in it. In the kitchen was a display case with coins

that had been recovered with a metal detector from the fields where the original event had occurred. Most of them were pennies, dimes and half-dimes (the silver equivalent of a nickel). None of them dated after 1844 so they were obviously lost by the original players in “Big Thunder”. Maybe one of these coins had even fallen out of the pocket of Orrin Vincent! Who knows?

The present owner, when she was renovating the house, found a photograph inside one of the walls which she sent to me hoping that it would be of my family. The picture was probably taken around 1905 and shows my Uncle Ray and my Aunt Jenny (Genevieve). The dog is Rex. I would definitely not be here today if it weren't for Rex. My father, when he was 3 or 4 years old, wandered too close to the Tsatsawassa Creek after a storm and fell in. Rex dove in, grabbed him by the collar and pulled him out!



Jenny and Ray Vincent and good old Rex about 1905

References

Christman, Henry, *Tin horns and Calico, a Decisive Episode in the Emergence of Democracy*. New York, Holt, 1945.

Christiansen, Candace. *Calico and Tin Horns*, New York, Dial Books, 1992. This is juvenile fiction: Hannah's parents think that she is too young to be involved in their resistance against their unfair landlord, until the sheriff's posse comes after her father and his fellow rebel farmers and Hannah is able to sound the warning signal.

Maldwyn-Ellis, David. *Landlords and Farmers in the Hudson-Mohawk Region, 1790-1850*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 1946.

For the article to the right-

Goebel, Julius, Jr and Smith, Joseph H. *The Law Practice of Alexander Hamilton — Documents and Commentary, Volume III* (New York: William Nelson Cromwell Foundation by Columbia University Press, p. 351 ff.)

Another Situation—Vincents and Their Land with a Touch to the Famous.

Bill Vincent's recollections of conversations with his grandfather and his research gives a very interesting discussion of the Anti-Rent battles in Rensselaer County. It shows how significant an issue it was for the people in the early 1800's who were trying to farm the land. With an agrarian economy, the 19th century saw the shift from wealthy landowners to independent farmers owning their own land; the shift had many contributing factors. If we rewind another 45 years, there was even more to the story.

In the 1700's the Vincent's often leased their land from families that had been granted large properties by the Kings of England in the 1600's. While there were opportunities to buy land evidenced by Michael Vincent (VF#15) who amassed quite a fortune in land holdings in Dutchess County. His brother Ambrose Vincent, leased land in Beekman, Dutchess Co., until 1774 when he was purported to have been given a land grant by New York's governor in Columbia County, where he is found paying taxes in 1779 for property valued at 150 pounds.. It is Ambrose's great-grandson, Orrin Vincent in adjacent Rensselaer County, who is the subject of Bill Vincent's narrative.

I learned of another case of contentious land dealings this past summer. I was using Google books, the amazing online capability to search specific text in books that Google has scanned and put online. I was searching on the common Vincent family names, in this case “Levi Vincent”. One of the references was to a book on the *Law Practice of Alexander Hamilton*. I bought a used copy online; it is quite the scholarly discussion of early land issues with the Van Rensselaer family holding in the Claverack District, just south of the Rensselaerwyck region that Bill Vincent references. The Claverack district made up much of present day Columbia County where Ambrose Vincent resided with his family. After the Revolutionary War, there were decades of litigation involving the tenant “squatters” and the Van Rensselaer family. It turned nasty in 1791 when the Columbia County Sheriff Cornelius Hogeboom was murdered by men disguised as Indians; 10 men were eventually arrested, but all were acquitted in the trial.

Alexander Hamilton, who died in 1804 in the duel with Aaron Burr, was an attorney represented the land owners in Columbia County. He had also married into the Schuyler family, another landlord family. The book details several legal actions against the tenants— in late 1799 Levi Vincent (VF#55), son of Ambrose Vincent, was one of 24 persons named in documents pleading to evict the squatters. Following long legal proceedings it eventually was resolved by involvement with the New York State legislature that the tenants could purchase the land for the market value of between \$7 and \$11 per acre by an agreement on 17 March 1804. Levi Vincent and his brother Michael Vincent (VF#56) were amongst the tenants in the final agreement. Although they did not register the deeds at the time, Columbia County deeds in 1832 and 1834 by heirs of Levi and Michael Vincent describe the properties in the Town of Austerlitz to be one-half mile west of the meeting house in the village of Spencertown and that their properties were adjoining.



2006 Vincent Family Reunion Picnic

Bagging a Tom

Passed along at the reunion picnic– from the *Putnam County Courier* newspaper, 11 May 2006 with the caption below:

Dave Vincent, from Patterson (NY) and also a member of Carmel's Oasis Sportsmen's Club, didn't follow the normal rule of getting out in the field before daylight, sleeping through the early alarm clock sounding. After his wife finally roused him up at 9:30 am, Dave wandered out to his favorite wild turkey hunting grounds in Pawling, couldn't get a shot at a larger tom, but managed to bag this 18 lb. tom that sported a 9" beard and 7/8 inch spurs. Dave still has another tag to pursue the "Big Fella" as the spring tom season continues through May 31st.



Remember the Date

The 74th Annual Vincent Family Reunion Picnic

**Saturday, August 18, 2007 at 10 am - 3 pm
Taconic State Park at Copake Falls, NY**



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**Postmaster
First Class Mail.
If undeliverable, please Return to Sender**