

L<sup>a</sup> BRASH FAMILY

READING ROOM

Copy of letter to  
Doug LaBrash of  
Saskatoon 1998

FROM  
Jim LaBrash

30 Prust Ave.  
Toronto, Ont.  
M4L 2M8

416-461-9662

Dear Doug:

Whenever I write to someone about the family tree I always start off with "I'm sorry for taking so long to write," followed by some excuses. Today I'll just skip the excuses!

The furthest back I have been able to document the LaBrash family so far is to Francis and his wife Margaret Leroy. They are the parents of our ancestor Justus. Judging from the ages of their 7 children Francis was likely born between 1789 and 1795. I presently think that Vic Vigrass's account of our family's origins is true. He states that the original LaBrash family came to Canada from France as refugees at the time of the Terror in the 1790's. The family consisted of the father, two sons and a daughter. Later, after the political climate changed, the father went back to France and never returned. He was supposed to have been killed in action in one of the Napoleonic wars.

If we review what was going on in France at that time, Vic's version of our family's emigration makes a lot of sense. The French Revolution lasted from 1789 to 1799 but the period in history known as The Reign of Terror was only the 15 months from April 6, 1793 to July 27, 1794. It is in this brief time frame that the LaBrashes (actually the name was spelled Labreche in those days) emigrated to Canada. Throughout the French Revolution, France was at war with Prussia, England, The Netherlands, and Spain. As well, there was always a civil war within France itself against forces loyal to the monarchy. The farther you got from Paris the more likely people were to favour the monarchy and cities and districts all along the northern and western coasts were controlled by factions opposed to the Revolution. Since this includes the areas (Brittany and Normandy) where most French Canadian families originated, it is logical to assume that our family also lived there and were not supporters of the central government.

In early 1793 the Revolutionaries struck back violently at both external and internal enemies. They set about conscripting 300 000 men for the army but this caused the aforementioned districts to break out in open rebellion. Then in August 1793 the entire able-bodied male population of France was made liable to conscription and a new 750 000 man army was put together. On October 16, Marie Antoinette was executed and the authorities started rounding up dissidents, monarchists and other opponents and putting them on trial. From then on the guillotine did not stop until July 1794 by which time 17 000 heads had been chopped off. An additional 23 000 either died in prison or were summarily shot.

Of the 40 000 executed over the 15 months, 70% were workers or peasants charged with draft dodging, desertion, hoarding, rebellion and various other crimes. We may conclude that our ancestor was either going to be drafted into the army and forced to fight for a cause he didn't believe in or he was going to be rounded up and have his head chopped off.

OUR  
ANCESTOR

Under the circumstances, anyone would have been wise to get out of there were they able to do so and we can be thankful (perhaps for our very existence) that they escaped.

Based on all the available evidence, I have made some educated guesses about these first four Canadian LaBrashes that I will share with you:

- 1) I think that they left France early in the summer of 1793 because chances of them getting safely away after that would have been very slim.
- 2) I think our ancestor Francis was the youngest child and that he was born in 1789.

I have found the baptismal records of Francis' 7 children at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Belleville, Ontario. They were all baptised on March 21, 1830 by Father Michael Brennan. Father Brennan was the first priest of the newly founded Catholic Diocese of Belleville (founded 1829) and presumably while out tending to his flock (or trying to find it!) he stumbled upon the cabin of Francis, his wife, Margaret Leroi, and their 7 children. Upon discovering that none of the children were christened, he apparently lined them up and did the lot! On that fateful day the eldest child Charles, was aged 12 years and 3 months; Mary, was 10 years and 7 months; Jane, was 7 years and 3 months; William, was 5 years and 3 months; Emilia, was 4 years and 4 months; Ann, was 3 years and 6 months; and our ancestor Justus, was merely 4 months and 4 days old. My finding this document was an incredible stroke of luck for up until then the only LaBrashes that we had accurate documentation on were Justus and his descendants. Now we have Justus' parents plus all of his brothers and sisters. Most of the LaBrashes in Canada and also many of those in the U.S.A. are descended from Charles, William and Justus and a good start has been made at assembling these branches. I have also done a lot of research on the second child, Justus' eldest sister Mary but have not turned up anything on the other 3 girls as of yet. I will continue with this topic farther on but let's return to those "educated guesses" that I was sharing with you.

The above information allows us to identify Francis LaBrash as one of the children who came from France and also enables us to build this part of the family tree. BUT, it is equally useful in helping to distinguish which LaBrashes do not belong to this branch which brings me to my next discovery, on that very same day, a few pages farther along in the same Belleville church records. There was another large family of LaBrashes living in the same parish and within the same time frame!!! I don't know what became of this family, they seem to have vanished, because to date I have not found a single living person that I can connect to it. What I did find however, among the records was the death certificate of a Michael LaBrash who died on March 12, 1855. He alone was of an older generation and could well have been the patriarch of this "other" family of LaBrashes.

YOUR  
ANCESTOR  
MY  
ANCESTOR

He was in fact, in exactly the right place and of the right age to have been the other little boy who came over from France in 1793. According to the records he was born in - are you ready for this? - 1786, and would have been 3 years older than Francis.

- 3) I think that Michael could indeed be the older brother of our ancestor Francis.  
It follows then, that the little girl would have been the eldest of the three children - probably born about 1784, for had she been the youngest she wouldn't have been more than 2 years old. Too young for a motherless child to make an ocean crossing in those days.
- 4) Now to the father of these three children - considering that he had young children in 1793 and that he was not too old to participate in the Napoleonic wars, he must have been a young man, and taking everything into consideration I think that he must have been born about 1764. He was able to afford 4 passages to Canada at a time when 70% of France's population was destitute. He was a widower. He may have been a military man.
- 5) They lived in Normandy or perhaps Brittany.
- 6) They may have had relatives (or friends) in Canada who took them in.
- 7) And here's the biggie! Despite much conjecture to the contrary, they may never have set foot in the province of Quebec. The French diaspora in North America was not restricted to Quebec but extended to the Great Lakes Basin and all down the Mississippi watershed right to New Orleans. They may have emigrated from France straight to Ontario.

So there you have it Doug, all of my guesses - educated guesses of course but so far there is not a single shred of concrete evidence to support any of it. All this provides is a possible scenario of what may have happened. Eventually I will have the time to broaden the research to France and follow up on some of these assumptions. In the meantime it might provide those members of the LaBrash family (and there are several) who are also doing genealogical research some assistance.

### A POSSIBLE PROFILE OF THE FOUR LABRASH REFUGEES

The father: age about 29, widower,  
Name: Charles, Pierre and Augustus  
are all good bets, had money

Girl, age 9

Michael, age 7

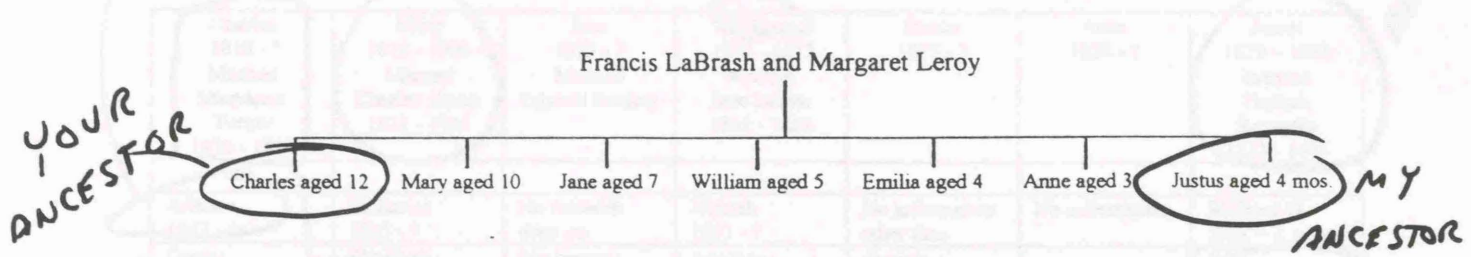
Francis, age 4

I AM IN TOUCH WITH... THIS IS OUR  
HENRY'S DESCENDANTS IN  
NORTH CAROLINA LYONS 184  
COVERING

ABLINE !!  
FOUND AT LAST !!

These are the 7 children baptised on April 21, 1830 by Father Michael Brennan of Belleville. They are verified, both as siblings and as children of Francis LaBrash and Margaret Leroy. There is evidence they were living at or near Trenton Ontario (near Belleville) because some of them - in later records - gave Trenton as their place of birth.

The LaBrash Family in the Belleville/Trenton area of Ontario circa 1830  
( from the Saint Michael's Church baptism records)



Reference to them was next found in census and church records for Northumberland County Ontario. These records are mainly for Seymour Township and cover the period from the mid 1840's to the early 1860's. During this time frame they lived at Percy Boom, Ontario which is on the Trent River, north of Trenton, near Campbellford. At Percy Boom they cut timber, got married, raised families and did some farming. The families all lived in close proximity and all the first cousins grew up there together. Although in the final decades of the century they began to migrate from Percy Boom to new frontiers in Ontario and the U.S.A., the members of this generation remained close to one another. They kept in touch and visited one another throughout their lives and more often than not, when they finally left Percy Boom they did so in groups, leaving about the same time and heading for the same destination.

The family groups and their migrations are as follow:

The family of Charles LaBrash 1818 and Maryanne Turner 1820: Charles and Maryanne both died young (by 1871) and their 6 children, ranging in age from 10 to 29 remained for a while at Percy Boom. Subsequently Charles and Edward moved to Parry Sound, Ontario where they both ran boarding houses and raised large families. Descendants include LaBrash, Hawke and Brint. Many of the present generation live in Ottawa, Parry Sound and Northern Ontario. The two other brothers, Daniel and Henry, went to Michigan U.S.A. and then (Henry at least) moved to North Dakota and raised a large family. Descendants include LaBrash, LaVictor, Gaul, Cook/Plenge, Hoppe and Nelson. Many of the present generation live in the north-west quadrant of the U.S.A. - in Minnesota, Washington State and Alaska. Unfortunately, as is usually the case, I can not find any trace of the girls - Adeline and Harriet.

*LAWRENCE THIS IS YOUR BRANCH OF THE FAMILY*

*NOTE THE TURNER CONNECTIONS*

*I AM IN TOUCH WITH HENRY'S DESCENDANTS IN NORTH DAKOTA (YOUR 3RD COUSINS)*

*THIS IS OUR ADELINE !! FOUND AT LAST !!*

The LaBrash Families at Percy Boom Ontario 1840's - 1880's

The Descendants of Francis LaBrash and Margaret Leroy

|   |  |  |   |                              |                  |   |
|---|--|--|---|------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Charles<br>1818 - ?<br>Married<br>Maryanne<br>Turner<br>1820 - 1871 | Mary<br>1819 - 1906<br>Married<br>Charles Smith<br>1811 - 1905 | Jane<br>1823 - ?<br>Married<br>Edward Bushay | William<br>1825 - 1913<br>Married<br>Jane Lebear<br>1832 - 1882 | Emilia<br>1825 - ?           | Anne<br>1826 - ? | Justus<br>1829 - 1888<br>married<br>Hannah<br>Reynolds<br>1833 - 1914 |
| Adeline<br>1842 - ?   | Catharine<br>1835 - ?  | No research<br>done on                       | Hannah<br>1853 - ?  | No information<br>other than | No information   | William #1<br>1852 - d. young   |
| Daniel<br>1844 - ?  | Elizabeth<br>1838 - ?  | this branch<br>to date                       | Augustus<br>1854 - 1939   | she was<br>baptised          |                  | John<br>1853 - 1894   |
| Charles<br>1848 - ?   | Jane<br>1840 - ?   |  | Mary<br>1855 - 1951   | with the<br>others on        |                  | Jane<br>1856 - 1925   |
| Harriet<br>1850 - ?   | Charles<br>1841 - ?  |  | William<br>1856 - 1947  | April 21, 1830               |                  | Maryanne<br>1859 - 1895   |
| Henry<br>1856 - 1930  | Martha<br>1843 - ?   |  | Peter<br>? - ?  |                              |                  | James<br>1861 - 1919  |
| Edward (Ed)<br>1861 - 1917  | Humphrey<br>1845 - ?   |  | Anorah<br>1860 - 1937   |                              |                  | Matilda (Tilly)<br>1864 - ?   |
|   | Wesley<br>1848 - ?   |  | Margaret<br>1861 - 1949   |                              |                  | Ellen (Nellie)<br>1867 - ?  |
|   | Mary<br>1850 - ?   |  | John A. (Jack)<br>1872 - 1965                                   |                              |                  | Francis (Frank)<br>1869 - ?   |
|   | Justus<br>1851 - ?   |  | Harry<br>1875 - 1925  |                              |                  | Wm. Charles<br>1873 - 1961  |
|   | Anne<br>1853 - 1939  |  |   |                              |                  | Walter<br>1876 - 1934   |
|   | Francis<br>1856 - ?  |  |   |                              |                  |   |
|   | Ellen<br>1858 - 1893   |  |   |                              |                  |   |
|   | Simon Peter<br>1860 - 1947                                     |  |   |                              |                  |   |
|   | Margaret may<br>be Martha ???                                  |  |   |                              |                  |   |
|   | Sidney (Sid)<br>1863 - 1953                                    |  |   |                              |                  |   |

WENT TO PENETANG / MIDLAND FROM PERCY BOOM 1873+

MOVED TO PENETANG FROM PERCY BOOM ABOUT 1870+

THIS IS THE WILLIAM YOU FOUND WHO WAS 46 YEARS OLD LIVED AT WARKWORTH NEAR CAMPBELLFORD MOVED TO PENETANG FROM PERCY BOOM ABOUT 1870

WENT TO MICHIGAN VIA PARRY SOUND  
WENT TO MICHIGAN THEN TO NORTH DAKOTA

WENT TO PARRY SOUND HE WAS CALLED "EDMUND" AS A CHILD

THE PARENTS DIED YOUNG (EARLY FIFTIES) AND SHORTLY AFTER MARYANNE'S DEATH IN 1871 THE CHILDREN LEFT PERCY BOOM AS INDICATED

MY GREAT GRAND FATHER

MY BRANCH OF THE FAMILY MOVED TO PENETANG 1865 - 70 THEN MOVED TO PARRY SOUND DISTRICT (MAPLE ISLAND IN 1877 THEN MUST MOVED TO SASKATCHEWAN ABOUT 1913

ADELINE'S  
AUNT

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The family of Mary Anne LaBrash 1819 and Charles P. Smith 1811: They married in 1834 when she was barely 16 and they both lived to a ripe old age. They farmed at Dartford just north of Warkworth Ontario for nearly 35 years and had 14 children. Then, in the 1860's, they moved with several of their grown children to Waverly, Ontario which is on the Penetang peninsula near Midland. They stayed there and are buried at Waverly. Three of the children, Peter, Elizabeth, and Martha/margaret/Matilda - she was called all three - married and remained at Waverly. The other children moved on as follows: Charles, Justus and Francis went to the U.S.A., Mary (or Anne), Ellen and Sid went to Sundridge, Ontario and raised extensive families in that area. I don't know what happened to Catharine or Jane. Descendants include Smith, Haggart, Quinlan, Clark, Labear/Aber, Christie and Malowney. Present generations have spread far and wide but there are still some living around Sundridge.

Jane LaBrash 1823 and Edward Bushay: I have only recently discovered their marriage records and have no other information on them at this point. They were married Nov.14, 1842 in Seymour Township (which includes Percy Boom) by Rev. William Young a Wesleyan Methodist minister. Witnesses were Francis LaBrash and James Robertson. I think the name was actually spelled Bushey and if there are present day members of this branch of the family they would be under that spelling or perhaps even under the much more common "Bush".

The Family of William LaBrash 1825 and Jane LaBear 1832: They first farmed in Brighton township just south of Percy Boom and then may have moved to Warkworth (about 8 miles away) where most of the family eventually lived and are buried. They had a family of 9 but 6 of the children didn't marry and the three who did produced only 5 grandchildren between them. Anorah, who married George Shaw remained at Warkworth and had 2 daughters. Peter, went to Washington State and had 2 daughters and a son. Most of the others remained in the Warkworth area. John A. and Harry did travel far and wide but they too eventually came back home. John A. (Jack) after an incredible adventure-filled life spent a very lengthy old age back at Warkworth while Harry returned dead, after being struck by lightning while riding his horse in Washington State U.S.A. There are very few Canadian descendants and those I know of still live in the Warkworth/Codrington area. They include the Hazelwood and Dingman families. There is a much larger branch (descendants of Peter) centred in Washington State U.S.A. They include LaBrash, Cohoon, Durocher and Picket families.

Justus LaBrash 1829 and Hannah Reynolds 1833: They were married in 1851 and lived at Percy Boom where their first 6 children were born. In the late 1860's they moved to the Penetang peninsula not too far from Midland Ontario. They settled very close to Justus' older sister Mary Anne and her husband, Charles P. Smith. Their youngest children, Nellie, Frank, Charlie and Walter were born at Penetang and their eldest daughter, Jane got married there and became the matriarch of the large Gendron family of Penetang. In 1877 the family moved again to take up free grant land at Maple Island, Ontario - about 30 miles east of Parry Sound. They eventually owned several hundred acres at Maple Island, including a lot of the shoreline of LaBrash Lake.

XXX

ADELINE'S  
UNCLE

MY  
BRANCH

MY BRANCH

The sons of Justus: John, James, Frank, Charlie and Walter cleared land, established farms and began raising families at Maple Island. Matilda married Will Vigrass and moved to Parry Sound. Ellen married James Gilligan and moved to Mattawa, Ontario where they raised a family of 10. Marry Anne Married Dan McDonald and died young in childbirth. Justus also died at Maple Island as did his eldest son John, (the real eldest son, William #1, had died as a child at Percy Boom). John died at 40 leaving his widow Lucy to raise 7 children. Although they were quite successful at Maple Island, around 1912 James, Charlie, Walter and their aged mother moved out to Saskatchewan and took up farms near Saskatoon. James eventually returned to Ontario. Frank, who had remained a bachelor most of his life finally got married at the age of 60 and he too moved out west - settling at LePas Manitoba. In the end only the children of John and Lucy remained behind in Maple Island. John and Lucy were my great grandparents and my grandfather and father were both born and raised in Maple Island. Because Justus had a large number of grandchildren and many of them were boys who married and carried forth the name, this branch of the family has the largest contingent of descendants with the surname "LaBrash". The present generation is spread all across Canada and down through the United States. Family names include: LaBrash, Gendron, McDonald, Vigrass, Gilligan, McAmmond, Ashdown, Bosley and McCafferty.

#### The Other LaBrash Families of Percy Boom

No sooner had I begun searching records around Percy Boom Ontario for the time period 1840's, 50's, and 60's than I discovered there were more LaBrashes than the 7 verified descendants of Francis LaBrash and Margaret Leroy which I have have just outlined. These "extra" LaBrashes were of the same generation as the children of Francis and they were living among them and even with them in a couple of cases. These "extra LaBrashes had to be siblings or first cousins of the Francis LaBrash children.

These "extra" LaBrashes of Percy Boom are:

Frank b. 1825, Hannah also b. 1825, Colin b. 1832, and two infant children, John b. 1848 and Mary b. 1850. I refer to these two children as "the Orphans" because they were staying at the school teacher, James Carling's house on the day that the 1851 census was taken and I have never been able to find out who their parents were. I still don't know how the "extra" LaBrashes are related to the Francis LaBrash family, only that they most certainly are. I don't know what became of Hannah, Colin or Mary, but both Frank and John "the Orphan" have a great many descendants.

The family of Frank LaBrash 1825 and Maryanne Robinson 1829: I first found this family at Percy Boom on the 1851 census. They were living in the same log house as Charles LaBrash 1818 and Maryanne Turner 1820 and in fact it was Frank who was listed as the owner of the homestead. They must be first cousins; i.e. Frank's father must have been the brother of Francis 1789. They moved a few miles north to Campbellford where descendants still live. I don't know what happened to the

FRANK + HIS FAMILY LIVED IN THE SAME CABIN AS YOUR ANCESTOR CHARLES - IN FACT FRANK WAS THE OWNER



John and Jane LaBrash 1847 but the wife, Jane, is not known. John had eight children: George and John and six daughters. George and John were in Canada and Jane and her daughters were in the U.S.A. The names of the daughters are: Mary, Margaret, Elizabeth, Mary, and Elizabeth.

The family of John "The Orphan" LaBrash 1848 - ? and Jane Pemberton 1848 - ? John was born in Murray Township, Westchester County, New York. John and Jane lived in the village of Seymour, New York north of Hamilton where they raised "four" children. Mary, the oldest daughter, lived in Ontario as well as another daughter. The family includes: The Other LaBrash Families at Percy Boom Ontario 1840's - 1860's

**The Other LaBrash Families at Percy Boom Ontario 1840's - 1860's**

**Relatives of - but Probably not all Descendants of Francis LaBrash and Margaret Leroy**

| Frank LaBrash<br>1825 - ?<br>married<br>Marianne Robinson<br>1829 - ?   | Hannah<br>1825 - ?                                | Colin LaBrash<br>1832 - ?  | Parents Unknown  |
|---|---|--|--|
| Delila<br>1845 - ?  | Single ? or<br>widowed at age 26 ?                | Must be a<br>younger son of                                      | John LaBrash<br>1848 - ?   |
| Merinda<br>1847 - ?   | possible twin of<br>Frank? must be a              | Francis LaBrash<br>and Margaret                                  | Mary LaBrash<br>1850 - ?   |
| Henry (Hank)<br>1849 - 1830   | niece of Francis<br>LaBrash and<br>Margaret Leroy | Leroy  |  |
| Must be a nephew<br>of Francis LaBrash<br>and Margaret<br>Leroy         | no subsequent<br>records<br>found                 | he lived in<br>Seymour in the<br>same cabin as<br>Justus in 1851 | "The Orphans"<br>on the day<br>of the 1851<br>census<br>they were staying<br>with the<br>James Carling<br>family |
| this family was<br>living with the<br>Charles LaBrash<br>family in 1851 |   | no subsequent<br>records<br>found                                | Mr. Carling was<br>the schoolteacher   |
|   |   |  | John the Orphan<br>has many<br>descendants<br>see the family<br>of John LaBrash<br>& Jane Pemberton              |

from research I date that year 1847 of all the children in the U.S.A. also being in this group. Each daughter lived in the United States and was able to provide information about their families. The names of the daughters are: Mary, Margaret, Elizabeth, Mary, and Elizabeth. I have done extensive research on the family group of Percy Boom and have a positive amount of information on them. I have visited the cemetery and met a lot of people from all 4 branches I was not in this group. There are several people going to the cemetery to visit particular graves and we always affectionately know the girls of future generations. I have up all of the project - by the way and collecting them in the time

daughters Delila 1845 and Merinda 1847 but the son, Henry (Hank) had eight children - 6 boys and 2 girls - and has many descendants, mainly in Ontario but also across Canada and down into the United States. The current generation includes LaBrash, Turner, McNalty, Courvoisier, Scott, Bibby and Kristufek.

The family of John "the Orphan" LaBrash 1848 and Jane Pemberton 1852:  
 John was born in Murray Township, Northumberland County which is close to Percy Boom. John and Jane lived in the village of Glen Miller just north of Trenton where they raised their five children. Many descendants live in Ontario as well as western Canada and the U.S.A. Families include LaBrash, Walsh, Depew, Dunkerley, and Stevens. One daughter, Rose, married Jim Neeve and raised a family of twelve in Zion Illinois. This Neeve branch has spread extensively in the U.S.A.

The Family of John "the Orphan" LaBrash 1848 and Jane Pemberton 1852  
 ( Murray Township/Percy Boom/Glen Miller )

|   |   |  |   |                                  |
|---|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Peter<br>1879 - 1946<br>married<br>Harriet Gould<br>1878 - 1956 | Frank<br><br>Married<br>Minnie Atwell         | George Arthur<br>1887 - 1956<br>married<br>Mary Rylott<br>1896 - ? | Minnie Blanche<br><br>Married<br>Edward Walsh | Rose<br><br>Married<br>Jim Neeve |
| Rose<br>1905 - ?  | James (Howard)                                | George<br>1929 -   | Gertrude                                      | Had 12<br>Children               |
| Mary<br>1907 - 1984<br>Burness (Bunny)<br>1910 - 1978           | Hazel   | John Arthur<br>1933 -  | John<br><br>Tom                               | In Zion<br>Illinois<br>U.S.A.    |
| Beatrice<br>1910 - 1969   | Second marriage<br>Minnie Drysdale<br>Francis |  | Margaret                                      |                                  |
|   | Robert  |  |   |                                  |
|   | Jack  |  |   |                                  |
|   |   |  |   |                                  |

Well Doug, that is a very brief summary of the LaBrash families of Percy Boom Ontario. All the people who are descended from these families are related to one another. About 95% of all the LaBrashes in Canada can trace their origins back to these families. I would think, from research to date that over 50% of all the LaBrashes in the U.S.A. also belong to this group. Even LaBrashes living in the United States who are unable to positively link themselves with these families will most often say that their LaBrash ancestors came from Ontario (not Quebec). Furthermore, if by any chance they happen to know where in Ontario their origins lie it is invariably down in the Belleville/Trenton/Campbellford area. I have done extensive research on the 6 family groups of Percy Boom and have a massive amount of information on them. I have met/talked to/written to/phoned a lot of people from all 6 branches. I am not in this alone, there are several people doing genealogical research on their particular branches and we share information. Where the bulk of future work lies is in "rounding up" all of the present-day LaBrashes and connecting them to the tree.

You mentioned that you were planning on doing some of that kind of information-gathering for your branch of the family and if you do I would certainly appreciate a copy.

Well we have covered nearly all of the Canadian LaBrashes (95%) but there is still another 5%. That is because there is one more LaBrash family. This is the family of Joseph LaBrash 1851-1939 who walked from Montreal, Quebec to Belleville, Ontario in the 1880's. His wife and mother-in-law walked up with him. They had lived near the (Molson's??) brewery in Montreal and although they were illiterate they knew that their original name had ended with an "e" so it must also have been "Labreche". I don't know why they walked since by that time the railway between those towns had been in operation for nearly 20 years. George was a rope-maker, woodsman and finally worked in a brickyard. He and his wife had 6 children: Joseph Jr., Emma, Hubby, Louise, Frank and Edward. Most of their descendants with the surname "LaBrash" are descended from Joseph Jr. who had 2 sons, George E. and Lyle (adopted) who in turn had 4 sons each. This family has now been in Ontario for about 6 generations and is quite extensive. There are present generations living in Belleville, Rockland (near Ottawa), Peterborough, Kingston, Toronto, and also in British Columbia.

So far, it seems that this LaBrash family is not related in any way to the LaBrash families of Percy Boom.

The Family of Joseph LaBrash From Montreal

Joseph LaBrash 1851 - 1939 and \_\_\_?\_\_\_ Seymour  
(Montreal, Quebec and Belleville, Ontario)

|  |  |  |                |                |                       |
|--|--|--|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Joseph Jr.<br>1879 - 1938<br>married<br>Emily<br>Craddock<br>1883 - 1967 | Emma<br><br>Married<br>___?___ Cousins | Frank<br>1881 - 1954<br>married<br>Hilda Walsh<br>? - 1983 | Hubby          | Louise         | Edward<br>1890 - 1938 |
| George E.<br>1908 - ?<br><br>(has 4 sons)                                | Dorothy<br>m. Beal                     | Child<br>(died)  | No information | No information | No information        |
|  |  | Child<br>(died)  |                |                |                       |
|  | Emma and her<br>family lived           | Leonard<br>1942 -<br>(unmarried)                           |                |                |                       |
| Lyle<br>(adopted)<br><br>(has 4 sons)                                    | in Toronto near<br>the market          |  |                |                |                       |
|  |  |  |                |                |                       |

Well Doug, I'll sign off for now. I'm sure that this epistle plus the other enclosed information will give you enough to digest for the time being. I may be going out to visit my daughter Sandra in Edmonton this summer, or if not then the summer of '99 for sure. Whenever it is, I will let you know because most likely I will be stopping in Saskatoon.

Your second cousin (once removed)  
Jim LaBrash

*Jim*