

October 21, 2006

Her Majesty The Queen  
Buckingham Palace  
London SW1A 1AA

Dear Her Majesty The Queen,

SUBJECT: EARL VAN BEST, JR.

My name is Gary L. Stewart. I was born Earl Van Dorne Best to Earl Van Best, Jr., and Judith Best. My father abandoned me at four-weeks of age and I was adopted by Lloyd and Leona Stewart. Four years ago, my birthmother decided to search for me and we have reunited. I began a search for my father and I was heartbroken to find that he had died in 1984 without my ever having the chance to meet him. However, I continued searching for family members and have found some relatives and a former high school friend of my father. They have shared the story of my father, being a member of the English Speaking Union, having befriended the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Sandwich, Alexander Victor Edward Paulette, and John Edward Hollister Montagu. The family says that the Earl invited my father for a visit to Hinchingsbrooke in the mid-1950's, a gift for high school graduation. My father's high school friend says that my father had my grandfather research our family roots back to a land grant from the Throne to Henry Best in the 1600's. My father's high school friend says that my father agreed to visit Hinchingsbrooke because Montagu promised to introduce him to Her Majesty The Queen. This visit would have been sometime between 1952 and 1956. Your Majesty, do you recall a meeting with my father, Earl Van Best, Jr. All my research indicates that my father went by the name, "Van", but he may have used his full name, Earl Van Best, in the presence of Your Majesty. I have enclosed a photo of my father from 1962 that may help you remember his face.

With the utmost honor and respect, I thank you in advance for your response.

Respectfully yours,

Gary L. Stewart  
(Formerly Earl Van Dorne Best)

Enclosure (1)