

June 1, 1997

Batts, Inc.
2100 N. Franklin
Zeeland, MI 49464

Re: The Batts Family

Dear Mr. Batts, President:


I have been working on the Batts Family Tree for my grandmother who is Jeanette Batts Berends, daughter of Harm Batts, grand daughter of Holwyn Batts and great grand daughter of Harm and Hiske Batts. Throughout my research I have talked to numerous cousins and last week I talked to a John Batts of Hudsonville, Michigan who advised that the founder of the John Thomas Batts Company was also a cousin. However, he was not sure just where he fit in. I am hoping that a relative of the original founder of your company is still working there and can help me unfold this mystery.

I know John Thomas Batts had a son Harold who took over the business upon his death. And, I know that Harold had a son John H. (Jack) Batts who assumed the presidency in 1959 when his father died. I am not sure if Jack Batts is still president or even if the company is still in the hands of the original Batts family after the 1993 venture with Mexican manufacturers. If it is, I would greatly appreciate hearing from someone in the Batts family so that I can identify which branch of my family tree they belong on.

I realize this is a busy company and that you are a busy person, but any information you can give me as to the father of the founder of your company, John Thomas Batts, and/or his grandfather or great grandfather would really help out my research.

Thanking you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,



Julie Uhl
4546 Sutton Place
Grandville, MI 49418
(616) 531-8274 JHB PRONE!

Encl. Copy of the Batts, Inc. homepage on the internet.

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August 15, 1997

Mr. John H. Batts
2565 Frederick Dr., S.E.
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Dear Mr. Batts:

Please do not throw this letter away. I am your cousin. I need your help in determining how distant. I had no response to my last letter, but please give me a chance to explain what I am doing.

My grandmother is Jeannette Batts, 82 years old. She is the last living child of Harm and Hermina Batts. That is why I took on a project to do a family tree for her. Her grandfather was Holwyn Batts and he had 4 other brothers that we know of that immigrated to the USA in 1881 and 1882 with their parents, Harm and Hiske Bats. Albert, Jan or John, Lammert and Maarten were Holwyn's brothers.

In gathering information from the Lammert Batts family, I kept hearing that a cousin was the person who started the hanger company, (otherwise known as Batts, Inc.) in Zeeland, Michigan. But, no one knew how they were related. I am looking for you for help. I know John Thomas Batts developed the company, he had a son Harold who was your father and your legal name is John Harold but go by Jack.

Now, here is the information on our family. Jan or John Batts died at age 30 single. Albert, born 9-22-1856 married Geeske or Jessie and had Harm, Jacob, Holwyn, Harry, Hiskje, Herbert, Martin, Peter, Hattie Andrew and Lammert. Maarten or Martin, born 3-19-1859 married Pieternella Visser and had Harm, Emma, Hattie, John, Louwiena, Anna, Holwein, Jacob, Louisa and Martin. Lammert, born 11-29-1861, married Mary Stelma and had Harm or Harvey, Margaret, John, Hattie, Fannie, Holwyn, Hercil, Peter, and Albert.

As you can see, with all of the brothers naming their children after each other, it gets very confusing as to who is who. Do any of the above families look familiar? Do you know the name of the John Thomas Batts' parents who developed the Wishbone hangers? This may tell us which family you belong to. After hearing from so many Batts families that your their cousin but they never were told how, I have raised alot of peoples curiosity. If you could take a moment to respond to my letter, I would greatly appreciate it and so would the cousins you don't know you have yet.

Sincerely,



Julie Uhl
4546 Sutton Place
Grandville, MI 49418
(616) 531-8274

P.S. I tracked you down through the Batts Corporate Background page on the internet.