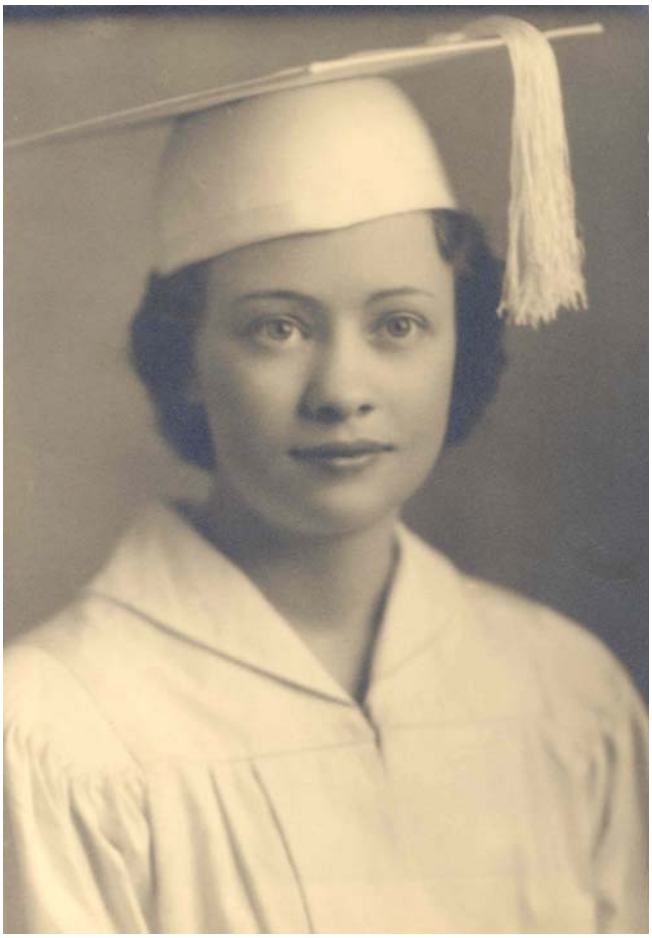
Catherine Lomont Version 1 August 2002 Written by Chris Buysse

Catherine Alice was born in 1915 on a farm at RR #2, Delphos, Ohio. In March 1917, the family moved back to Indiana to the farm where her father, Justin P. Lomont, was born. She attended St. Louis Academy and then St. Augustine Academy, a school for girls taught by the Sisters of Providence. After high school, jobs were scarce, and she worked as a domestic helper for several years at the home of Walter Menge. She then worked at the Bon Ton Bakery in downtown, Ft. Wayne, for one year. When World War II started, she got a job at the General Electric Company. At a YWCA mixer dance, she met Archie Ristau who was in the army and stationed at Baer Field. They wed August 8, 1942 and lived in an apartment in Ft. Wayne. Mike and Pat were born in Ft. Wayne and then Archie was sent to Alaska. Catherine and the two boys lived with her parents for a while then moved to Geneseo, Illinois with Archie's parents. When Archie came home from service, they stayed in Geneseo, Illinois, in a small house at 405 E. Palace Row. They moved to Dixon, Illinois for a short time but then moved back to Geneseo. Archie, Dennis, Chris and Cathy were all born in Geneseo. Archie worked as an electrician. The family moved to Florida where David was born and they lived there for four years. Catherine and the children moved back to Geneseo and Archie stayed in Florida. They separated but as far Catherine knows they were never divorced. Archie passed away in Florida in 1987. Catherine worked at a cigar store and as a waitress for about a year and then got a job with Geneseo Telephone Company from which she retired after twenty years.



Catherine as a child



Catherine as an adult

Catherine and children lived in many houses in Geneseo. I recall visiting when they lived in a big house at 602 N. State St. Grandpa Ristau owned the house and they were there for around

twelve years. Catherine bought a house in 1988 in Geneseo and lives there, by herself, as of this writing.



All seven children, five boys and two girls, attended J.D. Dornall High School in Geneseo.

Michael, born in 1943, graduated from Northern Illinois University in Dekalb with an actuarial degree and worked for several insurance companies. He married Patricia Green in 1965. Mike eventually started his own business at home, Blue Chip Investment company, and Patty retired from teaching in 2000. They now reside in Chesterfield, Missouri. They have two children, Charles and Wendy. Charles wed Colleen Dempsey in 1991. They have a son Thomas and a daughter Elizabeth. Wendy married John Haudrich in 1994. They have two daughters, Clair and Anna. Both Charles and Wendy live near St. Louis, Missouri.

Archie and Catherine at their wedding on 08 Aug 1942



Michael and Family – July 30, 1995

Patrick left high school to join the army but later got his GED. He was born in 1944, wed Judith Harlow in 1964 and they had three children, ToniJo, Chad, and Jennifer. Pat and Judy divorced in 1980. He then married Janice Hyde in 1981 and had a son Robert. They divorced in 1984. He then married Pamela Andrews in 1994. She has two children, Howard and Angela Robinson. Pat and Pam live in Geneseo.

Pat is a heavy equipment operator, working for BlackHawk Construction Co. Pam works at a local bank. Toni Joe married Eric McGowan and they have three children, Kylie. Glen and Eric. They live in Williamsport, Indiana.

Chad married Alicia Johnson in 1998 - lives in Geneseo. Jennifer wed Steven Durick in 1995. They have a daughter, Morgan and make their home in Iowa. Robert Ristau lives in Geneseo IL.

Archie, born in 1946, wed Bonnie Bacon in 1971. They have two children, Heather and Justin, and live in Delaware, Ohio. Archie has worked for several companies in the finance department. Bonnie is a schoolteacher.

Heather married Zachary Ross in June 2000.

Dennis, born in 1948, served in the Vietnam War, never married and is somewhere in California.

Christine, born in 1951, attended Northern Illinois University for one year, married John Andis in 1973 and divorced him in 1979. They have one daughter, Courtney. Christine wed Michael Buysse and had a son, Jacob. They divorced in 1989. Chris works for Lingue Systems, publishers of schoolbooks. She works mainly on the computer. She lives in Moline, Illinois.



Christine and Family – July 30, 1995

Catherine, born in 1952, graduated from Northern Illinois University, wed John Skerke in 1976. They have a son, Robert, and a daughter, Kathleen. A son, James, died as an infant. Cathy and John run a vegetable and grain farm and a retail market, The Red Barn, near Woodstock, Illinois. They live in Crystal Lake, Illinois.



Cathy and Family – July 30, 1995

David, born in 1954, never married. He works in the optical field, making eye glasses in the laboratory. He lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Catherine raised seven children with very little help from their father. They all surprised her on her eightieth birthday by celebrating in July instead of December. Winter is not a good time for travel. They maintain close family ties and have an annual family reunion which most of them attend. Even though it's a long drive, she has always managed to get to the Lomont family reunion.