Ursula Lomont Version 1 August 1988 Written by Ursula Sockrider

Kenneth Arthur Sockrider and I (Ursula Lomont) were married on May 18, 1940 in the rectory of St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Yoder, Indiana by Rev. Jesse Lothamer, my Uncle. Our attendants were Cletus and Catherine Lomont. I was living in an apartment on Lake Avenue and Kenneth boarded with friends. We continued this arrangement until August 1940 when we purchased a new bungalow on Highland Drive (Hanna Street extended) for $4,000. I cashed my Prudential Life Insurance policy so we had the necessary $400 down payment.

At that time married women were not allowed to work so we had to keep our marriage secret. I was Secretary to Mr. Seaman at Wayne Pump Company in the Collection Department

I worked until in March 1941. John was born June 25, 1941. Judy was born September 18, 1943, both born in St. Joseph Hospital, while we lived on Highland Drive.

We sold this home in 1945 for $6,000 and purchased an old house at 447 East Creighton Avenue, Fort Wayne, so that John and Judith could attend St. Peter's Catholic School just two blocks away and transportation was no problem.



Ursula as a Child 1911



Ursula as an Adult 1928



Ursula as an Adult 1939



Ursula as an Adult 1977



Ursula Sockrider Family 1945

Kenneth and I were divorced in 1959 and I continued to live on Creighton Avenue until May 20, 1962 when I moved to 5005 Buell Drive, Fort Wayne. I sold this home on September 30, 1986. The deal was finalized on December 29, 1986.

Kenneth retired in 1980 as a machinist from Jered Products Company, Troy MI after 18 years of service.

On December 27, 1986 I moved to an apartment at 3340 Cheviot Drive, Apartment 17, where I still live as of August 1998.

Following Data from Lothammer Family Newsletter March 2000

Ursula Marcella Lomont was born June 11, 1911 in a large cement block house on a farm across the street from St. Louis Catholic Church, Besancon, Indiana. She was the fourth child of Justin Peter Lomont and Emma Magdalene Lothamer.

In 1917, Ursula's family moved to the Lomont homestead (where Justin had been born), some three miles northeast of Besancon. It was there that she spent the rest of her childhood.

She attended grade school at St. Louis and high school at St. Augustine in Fort Wayne. However, during her sophomore year, she had to stay on the farm and help take care of her siblings because her mother was quite ill. Still, she managed to make up the time lost and graduated with her classmates. After high school, Ursula completed a 12-month secretarial course at Anthony Wayne Institute in Fort Wayne.

In May of 1940 Ursula married Kenneth Sockrider. She had to keep her marriage a secret because she was employed as a secretary and secretaries, in those days, were not allowed to be married women!

Two children were born: John in 1941 and Judy in 1943. Several years later, she and her husband operated a small restaurant in downtown, Fort Wayne. Later she went to work as a secretary at Essex Wire, from which she retired in 1976 after 20 years of service.

After her children were raised, Ursula did countless hours of volunteer work, assisting the poor and disadvantaged at her parish church of St. Peter's in Fort Wayne, as well as working at the Cathedral Museum. Ursula had a strong and vibrant sense of what it meant to be a Christian and to be involved in her faith community.



Ursula" Lomont, a Christmas picture taken in 1939

Of interest to us and our Lothammer Family Newsletter, Ursula was the one who inherited the family pictures from her side of the family. Her mother's photo album has been an invaluable source for pictures (most of them with names attached to the pictures!) and information from the 1890's and early 1900's, especially for the family of Joseph and Eliza Lothammer, her grandparents. Her knowledge of the family was wonderfully detailed and exact. A question or point for clarification sent to Ursula would always be followed by a quick response, either typed or written in beautiful penmanship.

Ursula was also the "official" historian for her own family, the descendants of Justin Lomont and Emma Lothamer. Their direct descendants today number 176, and for each of them, Ursula had typed up all of the vital statistics. She was more than happy to share the results of her family history with any who would ask for it.

In 1988, at age 77, Ursula, along with four of her sisters, went on the Lothammer Heritage Tour to Alsace and Besancon in France, to experience the places where her Lothammer and Lomont ancestors emigrated. She was very proud to quietly let everyone on the trip know that she was the oldest one making the trip --and keeping up with everyone at that!

After a long illness, Ursula passed away, on September 21, 1999, at the home of her sister and brother-in-law, Monica and Joe Knecht, the old Lomont homestead where she had spent her childhood. She was laid to rest at St. Louis Cemetery, Besancon.