

from Mabel Maven

I received your letter with great sadness, telling of the loss of my dear cousin John. I am very touched to know of your valued care for him, in his last days. It must have been so difficult for you and all those who worked for his comfort in an almost impossible situation. I was not aware that he had bone cancer besides MS.

Most of John's close family have already passed on and he is sure to be in a better place with them and as you say, will be free from all his pain. You could not have done more for him.

On my table I have a letter half-written to John which will now never be completed. It is now discarded. I regret not having despatched it to him earlier.

As we are a small family I would, on their behalf send our sincere gratitude to the Nursing Home and hospital staff, to you yourself and to those closest to John at his passing.

I am endeavouring to contact another cousin Maureen Watmough, but am having a problem tracing her. Her phone number is unavailable.

John's good friend Miles Rutledge rang me from Lancaster yesterday after hearing of John's death. He was hoping for any news which I might have about the celebration of John's life in a few weeks' time. I hope to follow this up but my hearing is poor on the phone so I need to write to people.

Thank you for your kind offer to send some of John's possessions to me, mainly books of poetry and a bible. I would like to have the Bible if it is not too much trouble, but please keep the poetry books for yourself and his friends.

John was never happier than when he was off on another adventure. I remember him going to Antarctica and wondering how he would survive the climate. As it was he received the accolade of having an island named after him, I think this proved his resilience!

He also enjoyed regular trips around home territory and would often arrive at my house in Bradford where he knew he would get a good meal before heading home to Halifax or York.

It was always delightful for our families to spend Xmas together and the atmosphere was really joyous with all the lights and the smell of Christmas dinner being prepared. Then being sent out for a long walk out of the way!

My daughter Heather has contacted my brother's family in Australia and you may hear from his sons regarding the memorial service. Their name is Collinson.

Heather was kind enough to type out this letter for me and probably easier for you to read than my handwriting!

Thank you again for taking the time to write such a lovely letter to me. I really appreciate it and wish you all the very best. We hope the memorial service goes well. John will be in our thoughts on 4th December.

Yours affectionately

Mabel Maven

Letter dated 11-28-16 from Mabel Maven sent by Mabel's daughter Heather through email to Marge Osborne, upon news of John's death.