

4.13 Maria C. Card; Joanna DeBevoise



Normandy Wild Willie
Haywood Community College
Clyde, North Carolina

Philippians 4: 19

“My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.”

John 14: 27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Ombra Mai Fu

Maria Christiana (Rupalje) Baccus

Maria C. Card (My Aunt Rite)

1883-1966

July 17, 2021



During my senior year in high school (that would be in Spring of 1963!), our class took a trip to Washington, DC and New York City. Since we were in NYC on Saturday night and Sunday morning, I got special permission to attend church with my Aunt Rite, who lived in Queens County on Long Island. During that service, one particular piece of music stuck in my head, and I've remembered the tune for 58 years. I've remembered the TUNE, but NOT the title and NOT the words! I've heard the tune several times over the years, but with NO WORDS, even with computers and Google, how could I ever find it? Well on Thursday, July 17, 2021, I finally found a way. We were watching old movies starring Jeanette McDonald and Nelson Eddy (fantastic duets, great harmony!!), and in the middle of "New Moon" from 1940, I heard the TUNE. I Googled "New Moon 1940 Soundtrack", and I FOUND IT! No wonder I couldn't remember the words and title—it's in ITALIAN! It was "Ombra Mai Fu," by G.F.Handel in an opera from 1738. Picture this: George Washington was only 5 or 6 years old!

How is that for a story? I can't remember what I did yesterday, but I've remembered that TUNE with NO TITLE or WORDS for 58 years! **Some problems and questions take longer to solve than others! NEVER GIVE UP!!**

Aunt Rite (Maria Christiana Card) was one of my father's aunts, from Long Island, NY. I don't know where she got the name "Rite," but from my earliest memories of her, she was "Rite" for me! She had only one daughter named Anna Dorothy who had no children, hence no grandchildren of her own. Aunt Rite bought my first bicycle, she wrote letters of encouragement to me throughout my childhood, and she contributed to my education fund by frequently sending me checks for \$100. Aunt Rite visited us in Florida a couple of times, and on our summer visits to New Jersey, we sometimes visited Dad's relatives on Long Island. On my senior class trip to Washington, D.C. and New York, I was given special permission (and careful instructions from Dad about how to navigate in the BIG city of New York!) to visit her and attend church with her that Sunday morning. She was always supportive, encouraging me to study, and proud of me for getting good grades in school.

Family Genealogist (My Cousin Anna)

Joanna (DeBevoise) Lott

1881-1977



**Joanna De Bevoise
our family genealogist!!**

Joanna DeBevoise was also officially known as Mrs. C.V.Lott, but to me and to many others, she was "Cousin Anna." She lost her husband of only 10 years in 1931 and never remarried, remaining a widow with no children of her own for over 45 years. When I, at the age of about 10 years (about 1955 if my math is right!), asked my father, "Where did we get this strange name of Rapalje?", he immediately sent me to Cousin Anna in Forest Hills, NY!! In those days, we cut open a brown paper bag and wrote on the inside to outline my first ancestral history, which I still have today.

With Cousin Anna's help, the Annals of Newtown by James Riker, and information that she had about the family tree, she was able to connect the dots for me, all the way back to Joris Jansen de Rapalie and his wife Catalina Trico who brought the Rapalje name to this continent! We have come a long way in genealogy since the brown paper bags that we used in 1955, and I delight in the

resources that are now available to us on the internet. Nevertheless, I am so thankful for the early start that I had in genealogy, thanks to my Cousin Anna. Like I said, we have wonderful resources available today via internet, but most of the "people resources" that I interviewed, especially Cousin Anna, are gone now -- gone but not forgotten!!

By the way, Cousin Anna warned me that there were OTHER stories out there about the Rapalje family and how Joris Jansen and Catalina came to America, but, she cautioned us, don't believe them! The single best resource, by far and away, is the *Annals of Newtown* published in 1852, by James Riker.

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