April 19, 1945.

Brother Alfred J. Moran
Chairman of the State Historical Committee
75 Keap Street
Brooklyn, (11) New York.

Dear Brother Moran:-

"The History of Haverstraw Council #581".

Our History is Brief. On May 30th, 1901, Haverstraw Council #581 came into being, with 50 chartered members, of those 50 members, only one is still an active member. There are seven living, who no longer are members, and the balance of forty-two have gone to their eternal reward. May their souls rest in peace. Haverstraw Council in its 44 years of existence have seen and enjoyed many happy years, and also has had its dark and trying years. Threatened on several occasions with the losing of its charter, we managed to weather the storm, and to get back on our feet again. The loss of our beautiful building, during the depression, left many a heart-ache in the hearts of its members, some got discouraged, and drifted away (sadly so to speak) from its folds, others got together, and like the individual strands wove into a strong cable of unity, that to-day (happy to say) we are once more, a healthy, and going council. We assert, without any fear of contradition that our Order, besides being Catholic is thoroughly American in its inception, in its foundation, in its principles, in its tendencies, and in its end. And while we are anxious to see the membership of our local council grow, we only desire those who are good American citizens, who love their God, their church and their country. If anyone feels he fulfills these requisites we will be glad to welcome him to our ranks and extend to him the hand of true fraternity.

While we are pleased at our success we are not vain enough to chant our own praises; but now that we possess a home, we feel that a new incentive has been given to those who desire membership in our council.

Due largely to the efforts, energy and fighting spirit of our present Grand Knight Leo W. Brennan, during the present term, which is his second, Haverstraw Council has, through his leadership reduced the mortgage on our present Club House 66 2/3 %, and by the time his second term expires June 30th, 1945, he hopes, with the officers and members to clear the entire debt and witness the burning of the mortgage.

We have at the present time 128 members in good standing and 72 members in the armed forces total 200 members and 3 members have made the supreme sacrifice. May their souls rest in peace.

Haverstraw Council takes part in all civic and religious affairs, also sports of all kinds baseball, bowling etc., also our own retreat committee, catholic action committee, and all other committees work for the promotion of true christian spirit, in the hearts and souls of men with one thought in mind that there may be but one fold and one shepherd. Hoping and praying that this terrible world conflict may soon come to an end, that all with the help of God may be returned to their loved ones and trusting for the success of the forthcoming State Convention, I beg to remain

Fraternally yours,

Ch. Historical Committee
Haverstraw Council #581