



Season's Greetings, friends and family! Welcome to my *fifth* Cottingham Christmas Letter, a tradition born in 2015 when I didn't like how I looked in the family Christmas card and felt the need to put out a cool five paragraph essay on the topic. Let's dive in!

Evan kicked off 2019 with a brand new job at GE Aviation located in Piedmont SC. When she wasn't hustling as a Lean Leader, she somehow found time to move into a new home and also plan a wedding! We were all so excited to celebrate her and Cameron's engagement in June and are looking forward to welcoming Cam to the crew (and the Christmas card per mom's strict matrimony rule for photo inclusion) in 2020!

Carrie and Matthew have, for the second year in a row, elected to live their lives 2000 miles and \$600 dollars away from the rest of us. Can't blame them, though, because their Salt Lake City-and-beyond-adventures are the daily source of my envy. On the weekends, you can find Carrie dangling from a cliff or singing with her church's choir. There is no in-between. In addition to receiving a promotion at his job this year, Matthew had the achievement of 37 days on the slopes. Pretty impressive for a guy with a full time job (which he's obviously pretty good at, hence, promotion). An additional highlight for the Buse fam was when Ben joined them and some friends driving the 71 mile White Rim road through Canyonlands National Park for a weekend of four wheel drive adventuring.

As far as the rest of his year, Ben spent 5 months "studying" abroad in Paris, France and had a front row seat to some of the more memorable Parisian events from his home near Sacré-Cœur (he swears it was he who put out the Notre Dame fire). He's currently rounding out his senior year at our great state's flagship university and we're so proud of him for accepting a job following graduation with Sonepar in the DC area. I have now just realized that Ben was halfway through his senior year of high school in my first letter and now I'm feeling nostalgic and sad. Ah, the passage of time.

As for your favorite Cottingham, I moved to Atlanta in February for my last leadership program rotation before accepting a job here in August supporting GE Power's Quality organization. Between friends' weddings, work and major cultural events (shout out to Mardi Gras and the Indy500) I never stayed still for long and can't wait to conquer a few more states and countries in 2020 – catch me in Thailand celebrating NYE before anyone else!

The highlight of 2019 for Mom was her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration with the family in Clearwater, Florida featuring matching t-shirts, unicorn floats, and temporary tattoos of her face. Theme nights pitted country against country in tournament style games featuring signature cocktails and culminated in our denim clad family performing "Country Roads" at a karaoke dive bar. She was also thrilled to welcome Beth and Bill Powers to spy on Cameron's big ask on the beach surrounded by candles sneakily arranged by his future brothers-in-law.

Per Dad, 2019's highlights include travel with Mom to Barcelona and Paris to see Ben where he led his son closer than was probably advisable to some of the more riotous parts of the Champs-Élysées. I would imagine that was one of the lowlights for Mom. He also accompanied Ben on a boy's trip to Ireland followed by a pilgrimage to the land of our ancestors: the Village of Cottingham, East Riding of Yorkshire, England. Beers were consumed at Cottingham pubs, hair was cut at Cottingham barber shops. Selfies were taken, duels were had, land was reclaimed. Still no word on why they ran us out 300 years ago.

Thanks for following along this year and for keeping me in the business of writing this letter. I am shamelessly flattered that folks actually read it. In closing, I'd like to provide some thoughts on the 2020 election:

Just kidding.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year!

Love,  
Haley and the Cottingham Family

