

LETTER FROM ABNER HENDEE TO CALEB, JR. HENDEE

The following is a letter and my transcription from Abner Hendee to Caleb Hendee, Jr. A copy of the original was given to me by Gayla Hendee Stafford in December 1997. She invited me to Danville on a Saturday when she would be visiting a friend, Kathy, for their annual Christmas cookie baking. (Danville is closer to me than is Gayla's San Jose home.) I took my friend Molly, both for company on the drive and to meet Gayla.

Gayla had taken a trip back east this fall to visit her son and family and to see Pittsford, a major ancestral location. She had brought back some things for me and thought a visit was preferable to mailing. Molly and I enjoyed the trip, getting involved in cookie decorating for the first time in years. It was good to see Gayla, and I was thrilled to have the treasures she brought me, Abner's letter being one of them.

I did not know when I first typed this up in January 1998 just who Abner was, nor whether the letter was to Caleb, Sr. or Jr.. I sent my transcription and then-introduction to the Round Robin cousins. I heard back from both Mary and Laurell as to Abner's identity! What a team--Gayla coming up with this, me transcribing it for legibility, and my two RR cousins filling in the gaps!

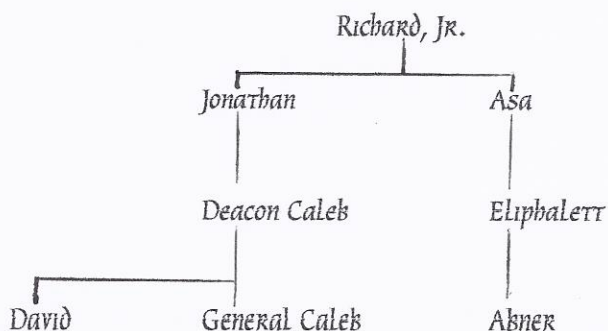
Mary wrote, "The letter was to Caleb, Jr. See bottom of page 16 and 17 of your copy of Caleb's manuscript; particularly middle of page 17. Caleb mentioned the letter of June 15, but did not quote a copy of it--but the letter Gayla got is (copy) the original. Note the reference to envelope. In my file is a (carbon copy) letter written by Lee Hendee dated Feb 17, 1927: 'I have this day received a letter from Mrs. G. Frank Hendee, Pittsford, Vt. enclosing a letter written by Abner Hendee, son of Eliphalet Hendee and grandson of Asa Hendee, who was the son of Richard 2 (Richard 1) by his second marriage. This letter by Abner Hendee was written under date of June 15th, 1834, when he was postmaster at Hebron, Ct. The letter follows--the letter was written to Caleb Hendee, Esq Pittsford, Vt..' and what follows is same as you have transcribed."

Mary continues with "Commentary--Abner was born 1779, married, but had no children--he died 8 July 1852. He had 1 sister, Mary, never married, died 1868, Andover, Ct. He had 2 brothers, Eliphalet, Jr. and Leonard, which one was living, the sister--I don't know--both brothers were married, so maybe the 'old maid' or 'spinster sister' was living in her brother's family in the old family home. Abner, son of Eliphalet b. 1743--d 1825 at Andover Eliphalet, son of Asa b. 1715 Windham, Ct. d 1788 Coventry, Ct. Asa, son of Richard 2 and wife Elizabeth Connant Richard 2, son of Richard 1 and Hannah Elderkin.

"Remember I have the Big Black Book of Hendees--indexed--over 600 HENDEE names and by tenth generation, Hendees were pretty well daughtered out, so there are scores of other names indexed."

As per later confirmation from Mary, we are descended from Richard 2 and his first wife, Sarah Smith.

Laurell kindly sent a family tree, which I will duplicate here. I'm not tracing it down to everyone, as we can figure out our connection easily enough as descendants of Deacon Caleb Hendee, Sr. and his son David (brother to General Caleb).



--Cynthia Hendee Henry January 1998, October 1998, and January 1999

Envelope:

Hebron Ct
June 15th

???

Abner Hendee
Post Master

Caleb Hendee Esqre (?)
Pittsford
Vermont

Around the perimeter of the envelope are other words:

Abner Hendee Letter 15 June 15 1834 _____ 25 same answered
August 1834 _____ 21 Sept 1834 my _____ of _____ National Bank

about Cyrus Royalton _____ I do always

Hebron June 15th 1834

Dear Sir

Since the receipt of yours 26th May I have been to the late residence of my father which is now occupied by my brother and sister a house now 50 years of age. They both say that they have often heard my father say, that Jonathan Hendee the oldest of his uncles & was left with his mother's friends after he came of age came to Connecticut & lived with his father in Windham and afterwards came with my grandfather Asa to Coventry & lived with him some years--when having a family he left him. My brother says he left school about 30 years since at Ellington & the old people there used to tell him the names of a family of Hendees who resided there many years since & some of the names he thinks corresponded with those in your letter & I have no doubts they were some of your ancestors. I think you are mistaken in supposing that our ancesters came to Plymouth at the first landing of the pilgrims. Here(?) I have seen a book containing the history of the first ships and passengers who landed there & the names of them all (the Book is now in the neighbourhood) but there are none of our names among them. My father always told me they first came to Boston about the first settlement of that town. I found a small bag of papers at home left by my grand mother who died at my fathers 40 years since.

Among the papers I find a record of the birth of all her children even to the day & time of the day they were born. I also found the original deeds of the land he bought. I also found a deed given by Richard Hendee at Windham about 100 years since & have inclosed it to you as a relict of the family which please accept from me. In the year 1831 I had a Letter from Cyrus Hendee dated at South Chili New York giving an act (account?) of my uncle Asa Hendees family among other things he says his oldest

brother Asa lived in the state of Vermont in the town of Lownal (Lownad?). Perhaps you know him he must be about 54 years of age Among other things this Cyrus informed me that he had changed his name to Handy because he had in that county found many who belonged to our _____ who had done the same among others he said his father's cousin Barzilla had done the same. I reprov'd him for breaking down the ancient landmark of spelling the name as that would loose all trace of name & family. My sister told me that one of my Grand father's brothers she had understood settled in Randolph or Royalton & that his descendants now lived there of this perhaps you know more than I do. Repeating my position (politics?) I have always been a Jeffersonian Republican from my earliest days & have in many things supported Jackson's administration. But I am decidedly in favour of a National Bank & against the removal of the deposits as I think it destroying the confidence of the community in our moneyed institution & will insure the recharter of the presinct Bank without that care which ought to be excercised in making a Charter for such an institution.

I am not a Mason, but I do dispise this _____tive antimasonry more than any party that ever yet inflicted this Country & I regret that Gov. Palmer who was a native of this town & a man with whom I am well acquainted put himself to the head of such if he could have become Governor of this state by that means.

I shall be pleased to correspond with you whenever your convenience will permit & when you again write your son at Louisville be pleased to make my respects to him.

Yours truly

Abner Hendee

Dear Sir

Hebron June 15th 1834

Since the receipt of yours 26th May I have been to the late residence of my father which is now occupied by my brother & sister who are near 50 years of age. They both say that they have often heard my father say that Jonathan Hender the oldest of his uncles & wife left with his mother friends after he came of age came to Connecticut & lived with his father in Windham and afterwards came with my grandfather Ara to Coventry & lived with him some years - when having a family he left him ^{my} brother says he kept school about 30 years since at Ellington & the old people there used to tell him the names of a family of Henders who resided there many years since & some of the ^{names} he thinks corresponds with those in your letter & I have no doubt they were some of your Ancestors - I think you are mistaken in supposing that our Ancestors came to Plymouth at the first landing of the Pilgrims. Now I have run a book containing the History of the first strip crew & Papingers who landed there & the names of them all (the Boatman in the neighbourhood) but there are none of our name among them - My father always told me they first came to Boston about the first settlement of that town. I found a small Bag of papers at home left by my grand mother who died at my father's 110 years since.

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Yours truly
Abner Howard

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curry

Royatto
there
I do
alwa

Abner Hurd
Post Master

of Lebanon Ct
June 15th

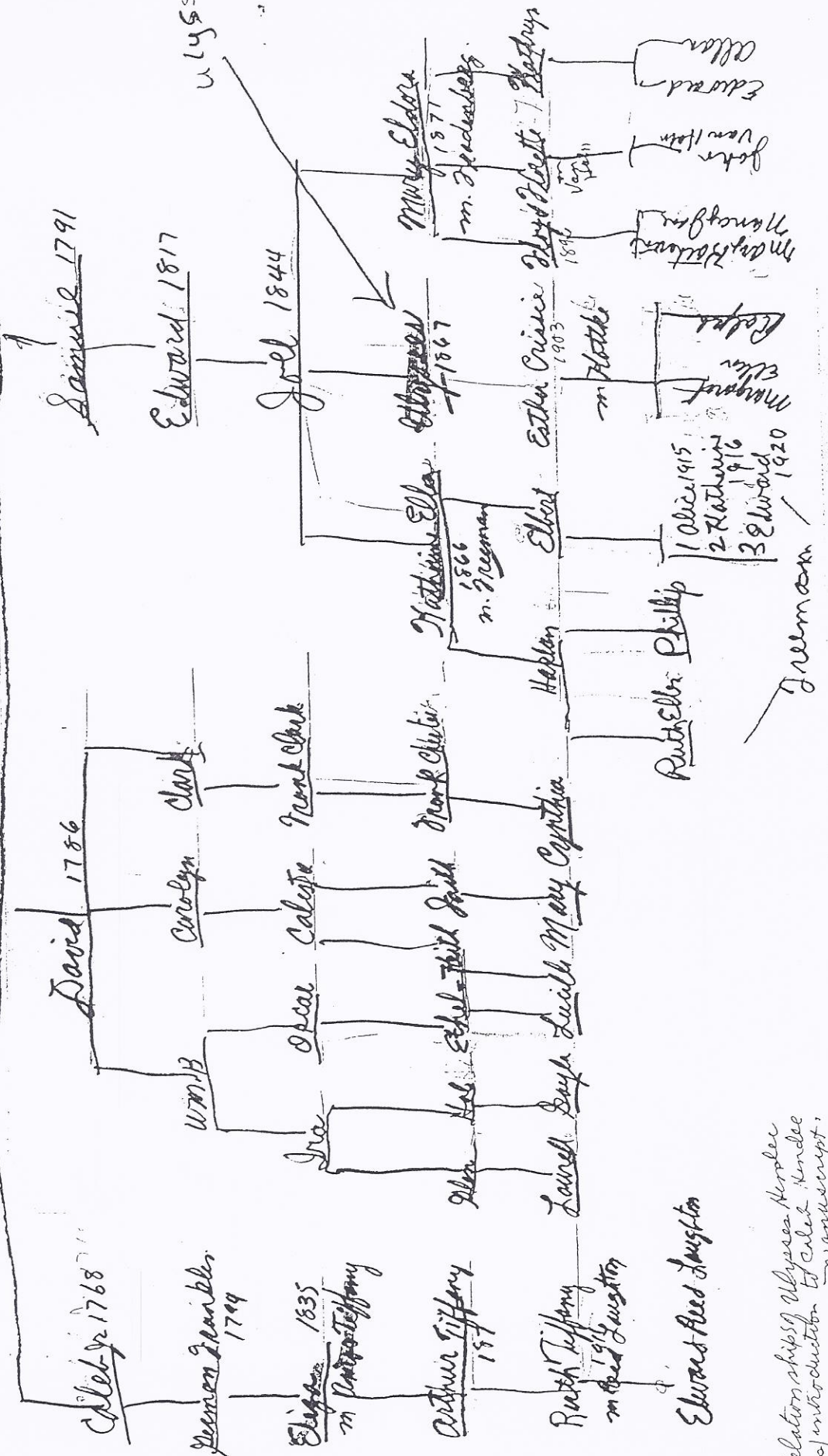
Calcutt Hurd Esq
Ruttsford Vermont

Waltham Mass

Abner Hurd's
Letter 15
June 15 1834
Nov 24 Same
answered 30 August
1834
taken in 21 Sept 1834
my Vows for National
Bank



Caleb 1745



Relationships of Ulysses Hendee as introduced to Caleb Hendee manuscript.

In July 1999, Mary LaBatt sent me this tree documenting the relationship of Ulysses Hendee to other family members. Ulysses was the person who first transcribed the manuscript of Caleb Hendee, Jr. Mary was looking at any possibilities of persons still living who could be contacted, thinking that could happen via the Internet.