

March 3, 1955

Dear Cousin Lee,

Your Feb. 27, letter is an encyclopedic of family information and I am extremely grateful to you for the time and trouble you took to answer my queries. Now I'll try to answer yours.

1. My mother's name was Matie (rhyme with weighty) Alona Hendee Telsey.
2. Her father John J. Hendee was a Latin scholar and taught school, first in Michigan and then in Eureka, California, where the family moved when my mother was sixteen years old. She was born in 1856 so that would indicate their removal to Eureka was in 1872. John J. Hendee acquired a considerable acreage of land on the north peninsula which land-locks Humboldt Bay. The land was sandy and almost barren but there was deep water close to shore and he visualized a future harbor site. He cut his land up into building lots and founded the town of Fair Haven across Humboldt Bay from the city of Eureka. For a long time very little development occurred but in recent years, I am told, a sizable industrial shipping point has grown up there, my father inherited from my mother a group of those vacant lots and I now understand that they are of some real value although my brothers and sisters and

I had regarded them as of sentimental value only. My grandfather, Hender died before I was born but I was startled to read in your account that he had died in Michigan. I know my grandmother died in Curate when I was an infant and I always understood gr. J. Hender died there also.

3. My brother Samuel Truman Kelley, Jr. was a mining engineer and was Field Manager of the Wores diamond syndicate's diamond mining concessions in Belgian Congo and Portuguese Angola along the Kasai River. His headquarters which he chopped out of jungle was Talitapa, and was for many years called "Little America". Sam married in Dec. (?) 1928 in Seattle to a widow, Mrs. Mina Johnson. They had one son, John Emerson Kelley, who was born in Africa. John is married and lives at 1141 A Woodland Ave. Palo Alto, California, and just today I had a letter from my Alaska sister, Mrs. Luella Kelley ("McMullen, etc.") James saying that she had recently been in Palo Alto and seen John and "his lovely young wife just after she had come from the hospital with their little daughter. John is a very capable and intelligent young man." After my brother Sam died his widow moved to Palm Springs, Cal.
4. You did me a big favor. On the accompanying pages I will try to be of some help to you.
- Sincerely,
Elliott Kelley

Elbert O. Kelsey
4 Uxbridge Road
Scarsdale, New York

P.S. March 3, '55

The Olin Wood Hendee of Omaha, Nebraska, you mentioned was known to my mother and her California relatives. His wife, "Cousin Ida", taught sign language to deaf and mute children just about 50 years ago. Cousin Ida and daughter, Rhea, visited our family on our ranch in the Mattole River Valley, Humboldt County, Cal. I will remember that their address was 4204 Burdette St., Omaha. In 1921 I met in California a young lady from ^{University of} Nebraska who knew Rhea Hendee. Now you have given me her married name, Mrs. Clayton Sanborn. Yesterday I looked in the Omaha Telephone book: "Mrs. Rhea H. Sanborn, 4204 Burdette St."! It would seem that she, too, is now a widow, or perhaps divorced.