

LETTER FROM FLORA ANNETTE GRISWOLD TO MARY/MATIE ALMA HENDEE KELSEY

by  
Cynthia Ann Hendee Henry  
September 16, 2015

In August 2015, John Hendee emailed several Hendee cousins regarding information he had acquired from the family history materials of Lee Wayland Hendee, stored on microfilm at the Library of Michigan in Lansing, Michigan. Lee was the long-time Secretary-Treasurer and Historian of the Hendee Reunion Organization, Genealogy & History Committee. Cousin Derek Stafford was instrumental in obtaining these microfilm materials and making them available to John, and John spent many hours working through these documents.

One of the items was the second page of the "Dear Mrs. Kelsey" letter! This was an exciting find and completes the cycle of research on that document, a letter sent to Mary/Matie Alma Hendee from Flora Annette Griswold. Many thanks, John and Derek!

Below are:

- My introduction and transcription regarding the reply from Cousin Mary LaBatt to my correspondence with her on page one of "Dear Mrs. Kelsey"
- Photo of Mary LaBatt and her family Mary traces from Caleb Hendee, Sr. to David Hendee to Caroline Amy Hendee Harrington to Calista Mathena Harrington Otto to Ida Faith Otto McMullen to herself (Mary Elizabeth McMullen LaBatt).
- Mary LaBatt's original letter to me
- My transcription of Flora's letter to Mary/Matie Alma Kelsey (page one done in 1996 and page two in September 2015--latter still with omissions and likely errors) One website refers to Flora as "Flora Annette Hendee Griswold." It is Google Books Daughters of the American Revolution Lineage Books. Therefore, I made the decision to transcribe the second initial in Flora's typed signature as an "H" for "Hendee."
- Page one of "My Dear Mrs. Kelsey" from the files of my grandmother, Jennie Florence Seitz Hendee
- Page two of "My Dear Mrs. Kelsey" from Lee Hendee's microfilmed records, as obtained by Derek Stafford and then located and sent by John Hendee
- Family tree on back of page one of "My Dear Mrs. Kelsey," drawn by Jennie Florence Seitz Hendee
- Gravestone of Flora, interred with her parents, Samuel Paine Griswold and Elvira Lois Hendee Smith Griswold They are buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Pittsford, Vermont. It seems Flora did not marry.
- John Hendee's findings pertaining to the Clausens, referenced by Flora
- Online information on Theophilus Harrington, referenced by Flora
- Relationship Calculator provided by John Hendee showing my relationship to Judge Theophilus James Harrington, my 3<sup>rd</sup> great grand uncle
- Family tree showing relationships of some of the relevant people in this document and in the 1955 letter from Elbert Olin Kelsey to Lee Wayland Hendee Other relationships can be sorted out from Flora's letter.

Italics are my insertions.

Mary refers to "Caverly." Flora refers to "History of Pittsford." These are the same reference, a book by A. M. Caverly, History of the town of Pittsford, Vt.: with biographical sketches and family records. It was published in 1872 and can be read online.

LETTER TO "MY DEAR MRS. KELSEY"  
and Reply from Mary Elizabeth McMullen LaBatt  
by  
Cynthia Ann Hendee Henry  
Fall 1996 and April 1997

The following is a letter in the papers passed on to me by Jennie Florence Seitz Hendee, my grandmother. I have only the first page, which also has names and a family tree on the back. Although it appears that the letter is nearly over at the end of the first page, we are deprived of a signature. When I first wrote this introduction in fall 1996, I had no idea who Mrs. Kelsey was, the author of the letter, nor why Grandma Hendee had the original. I thought that perhaps the author could be identified by locating the "seven lines of the D.A.R."

However, as great good luck would have it, I have received additional information through my correspondence with Round Robin Cousin Mary LaBatt, a woman of 80, but in my same generation also as a descendant of David Hendee, our nearest common ancestor. I sent her a copy of the "My Dear Mrs. Kelsey" letter for her own files and in early spring 1997 received the following reply from Cousin Mary;

"Reply--Mrs. Kelsey must have been Mary (*Matie*) Alma Hendee--daughter of John J(*ackson*)--he a son of Rev. David--and indeed they lived in Jackson, MI. Mary Alma was born in 1856, and her father moved to Calif. ca. 1862 to teach school. Mary Alma married Samuel Kelsey in Calif. One of her daughters married a McMullen (no relation to my ancestor) and had a daughter (*Jane Hendee McMullen Behlke*) (I do have more information on her) and a son Paul McMullen who lived in Calif. Paul, born 11 Jan. 1932, graduated Whitman College--1953--his address 1953 was 949 Isaac Ave. Walla Walla Washington. The writer of the letter--a granddaughter of Solomon Hendee, was Flora Griswold. She was born 1856 in Vermont (*gravestone says 1857*). She is buried in Pittsford cemetery (*Evergreen*). And I think her materials were the source of much (at least the beginning) of Lee Hendee's records. I have enclosed copies of "stuff" from History of Rutland--which Mrs. (*Miss*) Griswold quotes. And that is different than Caverly's work. The letter apparently was inquiry concerning DAR lineage. Date of letter? Maybe around 1905 or 1910. DAR organized 1890."



Four-generation photo with Mary LaBatt in the middle 2011

"Dear Mrs. Kelsey" letter  
From Mary LaBatt

Reply: Mrs Kelsey must have been Mary Alma Hendee - daughter of John J. - he a son of Rev. David - and indeed they lived in Jackson, mi. Mary Alma was born 1856 & her father moved to Calif. ca 1862 to teach school - Mary Alma married Samuel Kelsey in Calif. one of her

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daughters married a McMullen (no relation to my ancestor) and had a daughter (I do have more information on her) and a son Paul McMullen who ~~lived~~ lived in Calif. Paul born 11 Jan 1932, graduated Whitman College - 1953 - his address then was 909 Duane Ave Walla Walla, Wash.

The writer of the letter - a grand daughter of Solomon Hendee, was Flora Griswold she was born 1856 in Vermont. She is buried in Pittsford, Vt. and I think her materials were the source of much (at least the beginning) of Lee Hendee's records. I have enclosed copies of "stuff" from History of Putland - which Miss Griswold quotes and that is different than Casely's work. The letter apparently was inquiry concerning DAR lineage. Date of letter? maybe around 1905 or 10. - DAR organized 1890.

see above  
Paul McMullen b Jan 11, 1932, graduated Whitman College 1953 - his address 1953 was Walla Walla, Washington

My Dear Mrs. Kelsey,

The letter you wrote to Frank Hendee of Pittsford (*Vermont*) some little time ago, he has sent me to reply to. I have much Hendee data in fact nearly all of the connecting lines, have been years collecting it with much other material of interest. My Grand-father was Solomon Hendee of Pittsford a son of Deacon Caleb and a brother of Rev. David Hendee, (Baptist preacher father of Dr. C. K. H.) (*This is parentheses is handwritten in, I am sure by my grandmother, Jennie Florence Seitz Hendee, and refers to Clark Kendrick Hendee, my great grandfather. Cynthia Hendee Henry.*)

I have seven lines in the D.A.R. Deacon Caleb is one of them, you will find in your history of Pittsford the Rev(olutionary service) of Samuel Ellsworth. I have also used that line as well as many others of the Cousins here.

I visited at your home in Jackson, Mich. when quite young, with my mother on our way to Minneapolis visited at John Hendees, I think then you lived on a farm out of the city. I remember of going out and digging sassafras root and having a very pleasant visit.

I can tell you but little of the Harrington line. Rev. William came to Pittsford from Clarendon (*Vermont*). His wife was Amy Briggs, they had 17 children, Theophilus, James and William, three brothers settled in Clarendon in 1786 from Rhode Island. Which was the older I do not know, but Theophilus Harrington was born in 1768, he was a Judge in the Rutland (*Vermont*) Co. Court three years and was a Judge of the Supreme Court ten years, was the Judge in slave time who made the speech when a man who was trying to claim his escaped slave and applied for a warrant for the extradition of the negro, asked the Judge what more evidence he wanted made the reply, "a bill of sale, sir, from God Almighty". This speech was quoted every where in the world, on his monument erected by the State of Vermont is this, "he sleeps on the hill--nor a slave ever trod."

Nor claimant brought bill from Almighty God." I am looking over the history of Clarendon (*Vermont*). I find William Harrington was a younger brother and a Baptist minister and Judge of the probate three years, 1811 to 1813. if you write to Clarendon for a letter to be delivered to some member of the Harrington family, you might be able to get the history of the family and their Rev. war record, it is not in the Rev records of Vermont as the war was over before they came there.

I do not know that you care for more than one line, if not you will find the war record of Samuel Ellsworth who was Father of Caroline Hendee, in the history of Pittsford which is very good and is accepted in Washington. I would like to hear from you again and all (*beginning of second page*) about yourself and family. Have heard nothing about the Hendee family for years. Frank Hendee is a busy man and finds little time for looking up things that do not pertain to business. I told him a number of times \_\_\_ \_\_\_ to write you, then he came to see me and wanted if could \_\_\_ your letter, which I have done in my shaky manner . I see in my \_\_\_ delineator that Mrs. Paul E. Clausen of Ferndale, Calif. \_\_\_ first prize in the building contest, do you know her?

I am very cordially yours,  
 Flora A H. Griswold,  
 Brandon, Rutland Co., Vermont.

Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> 1925

Where you see D.A.R., it means  
 Daughters of the American Revolution

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*Reprints preacher  
to father of  
Dr. C. H. H.*

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I visited at your home in Jackson Mich. when quite young, with my mother on our way to Minneapolis visited at John Hendees, I think then you lived on a farm out of the city, I remember of going out and digging sassafras root and having a very pleasant visit.

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My Claimant brought bills from Almighty God. I am looking over the history of Clarendon and find William Harrington was a younger brother and a Baptist Minister and Judge of the Probate three years, 1811 to 1813, if you write to Clarendon for a letter to be delivered to some member of the Harrington family, you might be able to get the history of the family and their Rev. war record, it is not in the Rev. records of Vermont as the war was over before they came there.

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 so as to write you, then he came to see me and wanted I should send  
 your letter, which I have done in my steady manner. I was in my office  
 yesterday that Mrs. Paul B. Clauson of Ferrisville Calif. was first prize  
 in the building contest, do you know her.

I am very cordially yours,

Frank A. Griswold,

Branton, Rutland Co., Vermont.

Oct. 20th., 1888.

Where you see D. A. R. it means  
 Daughters of the American Revolution





Notes from Cousin John Hendee on Flora's references to the Clausens:

- The 1910, 1920, and 1930 US Censuses list a Paul E Clausen, born abt 1896, dairy farmer, in Pacific, Humboldt County, CA (Ferndale is also in Humboldt)
- The 1940 Census shows him living in San Francisco, but list his 1935 address as rural in Humboldt County.
- The 1917 WWI Draft Registration Card shows Paul Edward Clausen, b 23 Aug 1895 in Ferndale, living in Ferndale.
- The 1942 WWII Draft Registration Card shows Paul Edward Clausen, b 23 Aug 1895 in Ferndale, living in Fruitridge (near Sacramento).

That's all I have and I have no idea how any of this Clausen stuff relates to Hendees or Kelseys...

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"Brief history of Clarendon Springs, Rutland County, Vermont" ([online link](#))

#### JUDGE THEOPHILUS HARRINGTON

Judge Theophilus Harrington came to Vermont in 1785 from Rhode Island and became a member of the Ira church. He was a plain dirt farmer, not a lawyer, but served on the Supreme Court of the state and made the famous decision in a case involving ownership of slaves in a free state, an account of which follows:

A Southerner whose escaped slave had been captured in Vermont while in flight to Canada applied to Judge Harrington for a warrant of extradition and having made out what he considered a 'prima facie' case, "rested." But the Judge intimated that the title to the slave was not satisfactorily established. After three attempts to make the title clear the claimant asked,



"Will your Honor then be good enough to suggest what is lacking to make a perfect title?"

"A bill of sale, Sir, from God Almighty."

The slave-owner lost the case and returned to the South, and the slave was free.

Upon Judge Harrington's monument is chiseled the following inscription:

"He sleeps on the hills  
No slave ever trod,  
Nor claimant brought bills  
From Almighty God."

Relationship Calculator

Calculate relationship between

Cynthia Hendee  
Birth - 1944

Theophilus Harrington  
Birth - 27 Mar 1762 in Coventry, Kent, Rhode Island, USA

Relationship (1)  
Theophilus Harrington is  
3rd great grand uncle  
of Cynthia Hendee

Nearest common relative(s)  
James Harrington and Mary Dwinell  
Marriage - 1753 in Coventry, Kent, Rhode Island, USA

Path

Name	Relationship
Cynthia Hendee	self
Frank Chester Hendee	father
Frank Clark Hendee	father
Dr. Clark Kendrick Hendee	father
Caroline Harrington	mother
Elder William Harrington	father
<b>James Harrington</b>	<b>parent</b>
<b>Mary Dwinell</b>	<b>parent</b>
Theophilus Harrington	son

Civil Degree: VII      Canon Degree: 6

View Relationship Chart...      Close      Help

This tree is to show how I relate to the main characters in two letters and my introductions: Flora Annette Griswold to Mary/Matie Alma Hendee Kelsey and the 1955 letter from Elbert Olin Hendee to Lee Wayland Hendee. There was not room to include the two responsible for obtaining these documents for us:

- Derek John Stafford traces from Caleb Hendee, Sr. to David Hendee to William Briggs Hendee to Ira B. Hendee to Hal William Hendee to Gayla May Hendee Stafford..
- John Robert Hendee traces from Caleb Hendee, Sr. to David Hendee to William Briggs Hendee to Ira B. Hendee to Royal Dale Hendee to Ralph Dale Hendee.

---Cynthia Ann Hendee Henry  
September 2015

