

# United States Steel Corporation.

71 Broadway, New York,

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

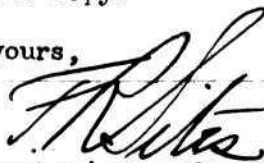
July 22, 1925.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,  
120 East 19th St.,  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

You have had previous advices concerning the interest taken by Sister Mary Theodora, Mother Superior of St. Mary's Convent, Peekskill, N.Y., in the subject of family history. A copy of a letter to Judge Gary, dated July 16th, is enclosed. Judge Gary desired you to have this copy.

Very truly yours,



Secretary to Judge Gary.

SAINT MARY'S CONVENT,  
Peekskill, N. Y.

July 16, 1925.

Elbert Gary, Esq.  
71 Broadway,  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Cousin Elbert;

I shall be very glad to send you duplicates of all the photographs I may collect. I have been much interested in reading Miss Tarbell's biography, but I think she did not do full justice to your colonial ancestry on the Vallette-Mott side. Every line of ancestry goes straight back to the colonial period and links up with the earliest days of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Haven.

The group of Puritans who sailed from Old England in 1630 on the Mary and John, landing at Dorchester two months after, were a remarkable company, and according to competent historical judges, were among the very best of all the men who came over in the immigration of that period. However much one may disagree with them in many points, one can not fail to admire their readiness for adventure, both physical and spiritual. They came out definitely organized with a definite purpose in view. When they found that their brethren in the Massachusetts Bay colony were not democratic to suit them, they set out on the Connecticut trail to Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield, taking two weeks to make their journey. I have gone over a part of this road and my imagination still arouses a thrill at the courage and endurance of our fore-fathers. Some of them fought in the Pequot war, and some of them were present when the representatives of Windsor and Hartford met in January, 1639 and drew up ordinances, which are said by historians to be the first example "a written constitution by distinctly organized law and government with powers defined."

The Massachusetts historical collection for 1798, Volumes 5 and 6 has an article on the settlers of Windsor from which I take the following. "Some of the first settlers of Windsor were gentlemen of opulence and education. The right of settling there, they purchased of the Old Plymouth Company in England, and they paid the Indians for the soil. They had sent men the year preceeding their removal to make purchase of the natives whom they looked upon as the only rightful proprietors."

Among these men in our direct line of ancestry were Deacon John Moore, Biggot Eggleston, and John Bissell. Then of course in the Rhode Island Colony Adam Mott's name is mentioned in the early records of the Town meetings, and in the New Haven Colony, Deacon John Hall's name is prominent. One of Deacon

John Hall's descendants was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

In May 1732, Joh Bissell and sixty others said to have been representatives of good standing from various parts of the colony, presented a petition to the Assembly. As a result, the New London Society for Trade and Commerce was organized. I suppose it is impossible to tell with our little knowledge of the laws of heredity, how much of your organizing power, and your reputation for justice and fair dealing is due to these sturdy colonial ancestors.

I expect to carry on this hobby of the study of my ancestors for the rest of my life in my spare minutes, and I do feel for the sake of posterity we ought to get the facts put together in some accessible shape, and I have started the preparation of the material.

I am enclosing the proposed title page and shall be glad of any suggestions. A great many of these extracts from the publications of the Massachusetts Historical Society and from various sources could be copied outright under the head of historical notes. Very few people would have access to this material and fewer still would have the time or the patience to plod through the dusty tomes to extract the little notes that concern us.

Affectionately yours,

(Signed) Fannie.

Sister Mary Theodora,  
Mother Superior, C.S.M.

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THE ANCESTRY

OF

JEREMIAH VALLETTE AND ABIAH MOTT

With a list of their descendants to 1925 A. D.

Compiled and edited by one of their great-grandchildren

"If I have done well and as it is fitting the story, it is that which I desired; but if slenderly and meanly, it is that which I could attain unto."

II Mac. 15:38

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