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Letter with attachment: Helen B. Russell to Ida M. Tarbell, January 10, 1931

Russell, Helen B.

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January 10, 1931

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I am sending you all the information I have in my files about Mr. Young's ancestry. The letter deals, I think, for the most part with a collateral branch of the family, but there may be some helpful material in it, nevertheless.

I mailed the references I had culled as to the early history of that section of New York to you yesterday.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
120 East 19th St.
New York City
The Young Family.

My dear Hamilton:

It is a matter of surprise to me how little people in general know about their immediate ancestors. I have always felt an interest in knowing what sort of people went before me in the family, and what sort of experiences they had in life; and, having gleaned a few facts in connection with some of them, I will write them down in order that you and your children may have in this knowledge. According to my information, which is in parts imperfect, the first "Young" to appear on the scene in America was Adam, who came up to the Otsego hills from what was then known as Stone Arabia; but, as at that time (previous to the Revolution) all of Palatine was called Stone Arabia, his starting point is uncertain. However, he obtained the land now (1917) comprising the farm owned by Lewis G. Young, and occupied by his son John L. - A brother George(?) younger than Adam, accompanied him, who it is said, (Peter told me this) carried some young apple trees, with which to plant an orchard. Adam's wife I presume to have been Polly Crain, said to have been the sister of a Sea captain, which would indicate that Adam was the first of the family to come to this country. The sequence of events awakens the conjecture that Adam and his brother were among those Palatinites whom Queen Anne sent here, and who settled, in part, in Schoharie County, some moving thence to the hills South of the Mohawk. It all points that way, but I do not know that to be the fact. Sometime you or others may come across some records which will demonstrate the truth or the opposite of my conjecture. That farm has been held in the Young family ever since. My grandfather was one of a family of six sons and one daughter, and as their mother's name was Hannah Eniskern, I suppose their father to have been the son of Adam, named Jacob.

Of these six brothers, the eldest was Jacob, who married Eva Van Horne, and who reared a large family on the farm now owned by W. J. Moyer, and, in your knowledge owned and occupied by William H. Young, known to you as "Uncle Wick".
The children of Jacob Young were Peter, James, John, William H., Mary, Thomas and Anne (twins), Jacob, Philip, Eva, Eliza, Daniel and Eleanor. I have not attempted to give them in order of age, but Peter was the oldest and Eleanor the youngest.

Peter mar. Margaret Smith and had children - Smith, Aaron, Eliza and Cyrus.

Smith mar. Ida Brandow and had two sons, Worden (deceased) and Owen D. who married Josephine Edmonds and has four children; Charles Jacob, John, Josephine and Philip. Aaron married and had two children Peter and -

Eliza mar. Seneca Herkimer and had two sons; Warren and Robert who was a physician and died in January 1917, having a daughter Olivia who is married and has a child.

Cyrus went West when a very young man, married, and has prospered in the State of Iowa, removing a few years ago to Alberta, Canada, where he has a large farm near Edmondton, on the shore of Beaver Lake. He made a visit to the East in the Spring of 1917 and I saw him at the home of Owen.

Thomas was the father of Augusta (Hause) Jane, John T., Sarah and Florence.

Sarah lived and died at Uncle Wick's. Philip died in Illinois and was twice married. Children by the first marriage were; Barney, Phila and Walstein. Phila is living in DeKalb, Ill., married a Mr. Taylor and has one daughter, Mrs. Morehead, who has six children also, living in DeKalb. Mary married Daniel Smith of Orleans Co. and had several children - Anne, Helen, Francis, Servis and Charles - the last is now living. I do not know about the others.

Daniel married a sister of Mrs. Levi Wiles and left no children.

Eleanor married Walstein Moyer, banker of Canajoharie and had four children - William J., Harold, Lewis (named after my grandfather), and Ella who died at about five years old. Their home was in Chicago in their later years.

John went West and I do not know about him.

Jacob died in early manhood. WM. H., Eva, and Eliza never married.
These are the descendants of Jacob, eldest of the six brothers. The other five were, Lewis, George, Daniel, John, and David.

My grandfather, Lewis, married Eva Ostrander when he was 21 and she 16. She had lost her father, and like many other girls, went out spinning, at which she was very quick and skilful. Her mother's maiden name was Phillips, and they came from the neighborhood of Kinderhook or Ghent. There were several girls in the family: Anne, Katrine, Lany, Peggy, Mary who married Mr. William Brown and was the mother of Peggy Brown Overocker Shimel, grandmother of Viola Countryman Van Horne; and one brother, Philip, two of whose daughters were, Mrs. Henry Eklar, (Maggie) and Eliza wife of Daniel Springer. Maggie had two sons, Philip and Leverett; and Eliza had one son, Wallace. My grandfather's mother heard that her son, Lewis, was going to marry Katrine Ostrander, and said "If it had only been Eva yet". So you see there was not much of confidential relations between mother and son at that time. Well, he bro't his pretty little black-eyed bride home, and the mother showed her where she could put up her bed which she had bro't with her. So, with mother-in-law and sister-in-law looking on, she made up her nice bed as good as any of theirs. The young couple remained there a year and then took up land now known as the "home farm" by Owen Young. They had a tiny house on what we call the "buck place" of which now no trace remains except the doorstone, which was there a few years ago. The cold spring still flows and some boards of the barn were built into a new barn on the other portion of the farm, by Smith Young, who kindly wished to preserve something of the old buildings. Ten children came into that little home; Sarah, or as she was called, Sally, Philip, John, Lucy, Peggy, Mary, Henry, Caroline, Biona, and Amanda. Six died unmarried, Philip, John, Lucy, Peggy, Mary and Amanda, and sleep with their parents in the old Otsquago Cemetery. A marble shaft records their names.
Sally married Andrew Ward and died at Stockbridge, New York, where she is buried. Lewis P. father of Arthur and Fred Young was her son, brought up by his grandfather Young and known by his name. Henry married Phoebe Robinson and died at Fly Creek, N. Y. where he is buried, leaving two daughters, Lucy Young and Clara Y. Sprague. Caroline married Dr. J. D. Munn and sleeps beside him in the beautiful cemetery at Springfield Center, N. Y. Bianca married Charles Buckingham and both are buried at Richfield Spa. Bianca's son was Claude. You are Caroline's grandson. Philip was a lawyer in Utica, a man of great promise, but did not live to fulfill that promise. He was engaged to be married to Clarissa Dean of that place, and died of consumption at her home. She wore mourning as if she were his widow.

Of this family, Henry's daughter, Clara, had two daughters both dying in infancy. Lewis P. left two sons, Arthur dying childless and Fred, who has two, a son and daughter. Caroline left a daughter, Eleanor married to J. B. Southbridge, had one son, Hamilton who has three children, Alden Dayton, Jean Hamilton and Constance Pauline. Bianca left one son, Claude. Of the other four sons, brothers of Jacob and Lewis, George had the old farm, and it has remained in his family. George was twice married, had four children by his first and seven by his second wife, who was Hannah Bromer. The seven children were: Alfred, Lewis Y., Alanson, Norman, Adam, George and Adial who died young. Alfred married Sarah Wood and had several children of whom two survive—Nellie Young, a teacher in Chicago and Jennie Reynolds of Lansing, Mich., has a daughter. Lewis Y. who is the only survivor, married Lydia Guywits and had four children Celinda, John L., Ida and Adial. Celinda died in her teens and Adial in infancy. John L. married and has four or five children. The eldest, Hazel married a Fikes, and the eldest boy, Algy, is in the National Army at Camp Devine. Ida married J. W. Wiles, has four children, Bessie, Lydia, Ben, who was a lawyer in Syracuse married with four children Barbara, John, Edith and Ben Lewis, Jr. Edith married Claude Nieman of St. Johnsville.
and has a daughter, Margaret Jane. Mae is a teacher. Alanson left one son, Charles and was twice married. Norman married Hannah Wigley and had two daughters. The oldest Ella is the wife of Calvin Fox, at Starkville. Emma died in childhood. Adam married Margaret Shaull had two sons.

George married Helen Miller and left one daughter, Ada.

George's (brother of Jacob) first wife was a Mattice, and had four children - Jacob who married Esther Hocklin, Abram, Sally, Smith and Celinda married John Eckler left one son, Lewis D.

Daniel Young removed to Orleans Co. early in the last century, and had a good farm and home there. I was there as a child and remember the house and peach orchard well. The house was built of cobblestone and was quite handsome. His wife, Aunt Katherine, was a notable manager and used to send to market much dried fruit. I was told she sent 60 bushels one year. They had a numerous family. The eldest son, David lived on a fine farm in Orleans Co. and had two sons, Daniel and Frank. David's third wife was Elma Ward, sister of Ben Ward. I saw them married - my first wedding.

David became blind before he died. Other children of Daniel were; Nelson, Eben, John W., and Charles. Nelson left a daughter Clara and Eben left a daughter Ida.

John Young married Peggy Warner and lived on a farm, now sold, on the Kyle. His children were; Urial, Harrey, John D., Orange, Katherine, Maria and Dolly. Urial married Martha Monk and left one daughter, Mrs. Rose Wormuth. Harrey married Sophia Eckler and left one son, Lyman D. who married Hatti Devoe, and whose son Lester married Carrie Ball and has three children, Ruth, Gordon and Helen.

John D. Young, M.D. married Rhoda Smith of Starkville and practised there many years. There were three daughters. Orange married Henrietta Lunn and left two sons, John D. who married Della Egan and has a daughter, Marian, about seventeen, lives in Herkimer and Dr. Will Young who married Mary Parley and lives in Starkville.
I know so little of the others that it is useless to write it.

David was the youngest of the six brothers and the first to die. He left children - Daniel, David, Almira and Eve. All married and all dead. The only grandchildren of David that I ever knew were - Lucia Tennant, daughter of Eva, and Doolutha and Josephine Pears, daughters of Almira. Lucia married and had children Della as she was called was a teacher in Rochester to the last of my knowledge.

Eleanor Munn Southworth,
Stuyvesant, New York.

October 11, 1917.