Research material: Owen D. Young, Ancestry, Early Years

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I think came - 173 e - the same morning -

He was writing in the warm room.

We were going to the same place.

Lived a whole year.

Blowed to the wind.
general story? he needed it—
he was a commissary—how come?

v. h. had been a m. e.

can it be politics—what

they did. they cause

a cotton factory—suffering claim yet

be seen—sleeper leave gone in

the making of the v. b. of today

in yellow gold

hurricane and hurricane
volley live his friend companion

near from her thousand

a tumble—soon

to manhood—how about charles

l. manhood—how about charles

a fly been dead—12 yrs came

in 1874 another boy. he skidded down

been p.m. but it Kemp - a hindered

recollected kin to the name my

left to lenburn—a name she

had read in a book. she had read

a name she wrote
Wanted him -
Now came East shipteed -
13 - pelley air bpepe of Arkansas
In 5 day wooding Kansas - 9
In of the light - upscakeby
- as yet -
Wanted mine - came came & paid
shown with catalogue -

How it happened -
A. Fuller - house - little boy - lit up shell
out - lets it - r. peice 2 acs 25c each
no money - he? corner - house the quickly
are not fees - Uncle & teacher said
something to dele - that bated with - T. H.
He comes to preach a % is all to en.wikipedia
I come of 2 enplane time
pensless while it gone - 2 lost
very walked to stchele. A.T. 2 precableys
A letter of the report and from the money can't afford. Have you for writing in the end yet? For left by J. P. E. in a box of Dr. C. W. B. A. S. S. I. L. C. 1820 for the Pa. Lehigh College. See MS. for facsimile.
nurse came after. Many new engaged - in Ireland. We came. The wedding.

an exercise that you find - to an arm-flap - laund. -

siney curry - brand leathers -

pellet 2 weeks - split 2 inches -

flat outside - beautiful model -

my careful wait - I thought. -

correct with - keenly honest -

fall in best friend - great to me -

muti-lim. - in - consider -

mind of my relations - great man

we went to be president - brought home

see syndromes
(Correction) Abram Van Horn did not come directly to New Jersey to Otsequago as I have intimated in the notes, but came first into Montgomery Country, then to Fort Plain. He had been many years in these settlements before he tried out the facilities of the Otsequago Creek and built his mill. Then too, he brought his mill stone through the woods from Esopus fully a hundred miles to the southeast. Naturally he had to break his way through the Indian trail and in some places fairly good wood roadsmade the journey from Esopus not as difficult as it sounds today.

(Note on Early Settlement)

We credit the first Youngs with having settled in Green County which lies south of the Queen Anne grant - Schoharie. From there they made their way to the westward to the Palatine Bridge - Canajoharie. They were rapidly settling. It was a river country - the beautiful Mohawk. They had come from the land of the Rhine and could see in these rich valleys and sunny slopes the possibility of building for themselves something not unlike what they had left behind. They were a sturdy, patient people with a profound faith in the soil. They were not afraid to attempt the long tasks of civilizing it to their uses.

Stretching along the river where they settled, running westward was Palatine Bridge, Fort Plain, St. Johnsville, Herkimer, G, Frankfort - all towns well enough known today to those who have the good fortune to travel the Mohawk trail.
Just how long they remained at any one point is not known. By 1750 they were at Fort Plain where there was a goodly number of the Palatines already gathered. Fort Plain had long been a village of the Mohawks so that they were not in a wild tract. However leading from Fort Plain southward along the valley of a turbulent little stream, the Otsquago Creek, was a trail much travelled - the trail leading to Cooperstown southward. And it was not long before the Palatines were travelling this trail spying out the hilltops above it, rounded, rolling hilltops, inviting to settlers.

They were people who knew what they wanted these German Palatines. Peter Young and his family knew that they had found their place to settle when they reached the hilltops above the Otsquago.

There were others with them at that time and it was not many years before east and west and north and south there were appearing fertile fields, orchards. Here the Youngs had settled was a center for meeting, for trade, for school, for church. They probably called it Otsquago but it was not long before the natural correction had come and the town was known as Squag in and is now ship what was to be the town of Starksville.
Young Memo:

Began to look up the ancestry. The only book of interest I found is, "Benton's History of Herkimer County."

According to this the first notice of Youngs on the German flats was when a patent was given in 1752, called Young's patent. It was for fifteen thousand acres and there were eight patentees - four of them Youngs. Theobald, Adam, Frederick; Andries - all probably. I do not find in "Benton" any further reference to Youngs in the early days of the County, although in 1723, according to "Benton" there were a number of families on the German flats.

The first immigration of these people from London was according to Benton in 1608 when forty one persons were sent over by the British Government. Probably most of them went to Ulster County. The second immigration in 1710 was large, fully three thousand. The numbers that arrived, many died on the way, were almost as great as the inhabitants of New York City at that time. The immigrants had expected evidently to go to a grant which Queen Anne had signed for them, in what was called Stirraie. But the Governor sent eleven hundred of them to a plantation on the Hudson that had been bought from the Livingstons. Livingston was to virtual these people and he cheated them apparently in every way. (See Benton, Page 35)

accepting labor without work - without good pay.

There was a first colony came over in 1722 and it was part of this country apparently with a few of the previous immigrants that were
dissatisfied where they were—that went on what was known as the German flats on the south side of the Mohawk River, near Little Falls, about 1725. This first patent the names of ninety two persons that know Young. The discontent of the people on the Livingston planation was such that they began to scatter. They said—(See Page 47 of Benton) that they came to settle on land of their own. They would never consent to cultivate other peoples lands. They preferred the wilderness and they certainly got the wilderness in Herkimer County. Apparently they would not stay on the Livingston planation, they couldn’t consent peacefully to live together all of them. And some sixty families went west to the German flats.

For thirty five years or so these people lived in quiet, but in 1757 five years after the Young patent was granted, of which I have already spoken, there was a new tax on what is now Herkimer. It seems to have been the determination of the French by the Indians to destroy the Palatines as they had tried to destroy them in the old country. A second attack happened in 1756. The Palatines seem to have taken part in the Revolutionary War. I find no mention of a Young, at least in Benton.

In 1791 the first settlement was made in what is now Van Hornesville by Abraham Van Horn. Abraham Van Horn was a Dutchman—not a Palatine. He came from New Jersey and into the wilderness of Otsequago Creek, though I believe he had stopped at Fort Plain, possibly trying out the country. This Otsequago Creek
It is in the town of Stark, being a township in which both Stark and the village of Van Hornesville are located. The Creek flows south into the Mohawk. Benton describes the country of Stark as a "hill country" years of the Adirondacks.

Van Horn built houses, mills, began clearing the land. Must have been rough work. There seems to have been no roads at first, though later a corduroy was built through to Fort Plains and in the enthusiasm for roads which work out in the '40's, it is probable that one came through from Cooperstown. (All this will have to be looked up)

Just when the Youngs came into Van Hornesville I have not as yet found out. The Southworth letter in files says that Van Hornesville or Herkimer County Youngs came from Adams—was one of the of the Young of the Youngs' patent named Adam, but in anything that I have had from the O.D.Y. family there is no mention of him. They are all Peters or Jacobs and the first one mentioned must have certainly been on the scene as early as the date of this fact.

Since in the letter in envelope, signed by O.D.Y. giving his family tree to the New England Genealogical Society he runs back to a Peter Young—this generation. Note his letter saying that he should have been named Peter. Find no material of importance either at Miss Russell's office or at the library.

Be sure to get speech at opening of W.M. Park. Russell has promised it.
Benton says in speaking of Van Horn's settlement in 1791 that he opened the wilderness — build houses, built mills. He notes that there is a mention of four mills — the mill stones being brought through the woods from Esopus. A. Van Horn came from New Jersey in 1731, settled first in Florida in Montgomery County. Afterwards in Fort Plains. Came to Van Hornesville in 1791 so that he has really twenty years of trial of the German flats and ought to have known what he was doing when he undertook the settlement of Van Hornesville.

Evidently must get the head of Genealogical Societies to figure this thing out.
In June 1889 he graduated—graduated with flying colors. The announcement came to him on May 29, 1889, a letter from Mark Hollister—

"Your will find your Regent's card enclosed. You have been chosen valedictorian of your class. Please prepare the address as soon as convenient for my inspection. If you are present at the examinations I will hear you rehearse then."

There is a later letter from Hollister which seems to show that he kept up his friendship with the boy, was written just about the time the first year at St. Lawrence was ended and it tells Owen that he, Hollister, was about to buy white kids and a high collar. It would intimate, I fancy, that he was to be married. This might be a pleasant episode.

"Dear Owen:

I send you a testimonial and hope you will be successful in securing your position.

I start for Clinton this morning (to get white kids and high collar) I wish you were going with me. If I can be of any further help in securing a position for you please let me know and I will gladly do it.

Sincerely yours
(Signed) A. M. Hollister."
Home: Riverside, Conn.
Office: 30 Church Street

Home: Van Hornesville, N.Y.
Office: 120 Broadway
OWEN D. YOUNG

Great Grandfather - Jacob Young

Great Grandmother - Magdalene Reese

Grandfather - Peter Young

Grandmother - Magdalene Smith

Father - Jacob Smith Young

Mother - Ida Brandow Young
Born in Town of Springfield, Otsego County, March 10, 1859.
Owen D. Young (There is no middle name).

Van Hornesville, Herkimer County, New York.  October 27, 1874

Jacob Smith Young
Born - December 10, 1931
Died - January 16, 1906

Farmer - none except that he was a good farmer and a good man.

Ida Brandow -  John Worden Brandow  -  Catherine Conine

None - except Who's Who.

Name unknown
Earliest paternal ancestor among the German Platinates sent to this country by Queen Anne.
Probably about 1709
First settled in Greene County, New York. Later to Palatine Bridge in Montgomery County then Tryon County and about 1750 or 60 to the southern part of Herkimer County where I was born.

Ancestry arranged backwards as far as records will permit.

Father  -  Jacob Smith Young  -  Ida Brandow
Peter Young  -  Margaret Smith
Jacob I. Young  -  Eve Van Horne
Jacob A. Young  -  Maiden name unknown
Peter Young  -  Maiden name unknown

They were all farmers and outside of local town and county office held no position of public importance.
Jacob I. Young served in the war of 1812 - and -
Jacob A. Young served in the Revolution.

All of them attended local schools only, except myself. I attended the district school in Van Hornesville, East Springfield Academy, East Springfield, New York; St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York; Boston University Law School, Boston, Mass.

St. Lawrence University.  1894

St. Lawrence University  A.B.  1894
Boston University Law School LL.B.  1896
Union College  (Honorary) LL.D.  1922

In Boston, in 1896, with Charles H. Tyler, practice of the law was begun.

Lecturer in Boston University Law School  1896 to 1903
Practicing Law in Boston  1896 to 1912
(Continued)

Vice-President, General Electric Company. 1913 to 1922
Chairman of the Board, General Electric Co. 1922 to –
Chairman of the Board, Radio Corporation of America, 1919 to –
Chairman of Executive Committee, New York Evening Post. 1922 to –

No other business enterprises except instrumental in organizing the Radio Corporation of America. Became first Chairman of its Board of Directors.

Law practice largely confined to corporation work and especially to questions relating to organization, financing and operation of electrical public utilities.

Phi Delta Phi 1894
Beta Theta Pi 1894
 Theta Beta Kappa 1910

Union Club of Boston
Metropolitan Club - New York
Lotus Club - New York
Greenwich Country Club
Bankers Club - New York
India House - New York
Mohawk Club - Schenectady
Mohawk Golf Club - Schenectady

June 30, 1898, at Southbridge, Mass.
Josephine Sheldon Edmonds
Charles Sidney Edmonds - one of the organizers and always associated with the American Optical Company.

Charles Jacob Young - Radio Engineer
John Young - deceased
Philip Young
Josephine Young
Richard Young

Daughter unmarried.

John Young - Killed by accident Hood River, Oregon, August 20, 1922. Age 20 years.
CHILDREN OF C. J. YOUNG:

NAME:  
   John Peter  
   David Whitman  
   Niels Owen  

DATE OF BIRTH:  
   December 1, 1924  
   December 15, 1925  
   April 5, 1930
Excerpt from Mr. Young's letter to Mrs. L. B. Roberts, under date of January 6, 1925.

There is a striking similarity in the Christian names of your ancestors and mine. That may or may not mean something. There is every evidence that my own people came originally from the Palatinate province of Germany at the time of the Huguenot movement in France, and that their immigration from their old home was for exactly the same reason. In seeking religious freedom, they went to Holland and either because they did not like the country or like their reception, they left for London in large groups, and in the time of Queen Anne presented a good deal of a problem to the London authorities. Seeking freedom of worship, speaking a strange language, they congregated together in great groups in London without work and with great suffering. At last, Queen Anne dispatched them to America. They were probably settled first in Greene County on the Hudson and then dividing into two divisions, one went to Pennsylvania and the other to Schoharie. A smaller group founded the village of Palatine on the Mohawk River opposite Canajoharie. They
came into that country in the early part of 1700 and many of
them fought in the early Indian wars, in the Revolution, and
in the War of 1812.

It was a custom apparently in my own family to
alternate the name of Peter and Jacob as the name of the
oldest son. These names run way back through the Palatine
records to the earliest settlement and continued through to
my father whose name was Jacob, and mine should have been
Peter. I carried on the program by naming my oldest son
Jacob, and he in turn who now has as his oldest a boy of
four weeks is naming him Peter. Other sons in all the
families were named usually John, Daniel, James or David,
and these names still survive usually in the offspring of
the younger sons.
Dedication of D. A. R. Monument - Van Horneckville, N. Y.

October 31, 1926

Bits of local history crop out in many of Mr. Young's speeches, as this on the early economic life of Van Hornesville.

"People here were so inaccessible that they had to make practically everything they needed. We had to make our own plows here in Van Hornesville; we had to make our own clothes; we had to make our own candles; we had to grow our own foodstuffs -- yes, we even had to make our own whiskey, in that distillery below the mill, and it was there that a woman, long ago, set fire to the distillery one night and justified her act by saying that she had had a vision of a little child crying "hunger! hunger! hunger!" because the grain was being used for making liquor.

"They called her crazy then, but it has developed in later years that she had far more sense than they had. The inaccessibility of this village compelled the people to supply themselves with practically everything. Then came the good roads and later communications. Then sources of supplies sprang up along the lines of the railroads and most of the activities of our people in making things for themselves, with the exception of working the land, disappeared.

"We do not now grow our wheat; we do not now bake our bread. The only thing that we still make for ourselves are buckwheat cakes."
One of the enterprises in Van Hornesville is the small nursery.

"I wanted Mother to have flowers during the winter and so we built the nursery and we took a man in the town who never had any knowledge of gardening and settled down for three months to study in a nursery. He came back the most enthusiastic now he is constantly studying and improving himself, and making more and more of the greenhouse. This is of course part of the community building that is in his mind." I think.

I speak of the carpenter shop and how delighted I was with it. He is so appreciative about the men there - such fine people doing such fine work. Laughs about Dick who lives with Margaret on the hill and never stays down with us. Says in the evening, "Well, I guess I'll go up to my house."

Margaret showed me a desk that Dick built. Young laughed about it. He said, "Dick and I are having a contest over that desk. I tell him who it belongs to. I say, "Here I furnished the lumber - I furnished the teacher and now you send in a bill to Jim Hagen for your time. And you say the desk belongs to you. I think it belongs to me."

Evidently relishes this situation. He goes back to his mother. Says he thinks that it was the rise in the curve of interest that keeps her so well. Has all her strength in tact. I have already noticed how light she is on her feet; how fresh, fun loving. I say, "Yes, there is another thing and that is satisfied affection and pride. Great help to health." And I speak
of the diploma and honors which she has framed - twenty-eight of them was on her walls. And how she refers to them casually - 

I refer to Hagen's uneasiness about the dairy not making money. Says that he always gives away the fine increase instead of selling it. Perhaps there is another side to that.

He said, "Of course he is right. It should pay - it must be made to pay. But you see in the past, before Hagen, Mr. Titlow directed things. And he had his own way and sometimes it was not exactly economic, but it was much more important to me that he had his way and be happy. I would not have discouraged his ardor and interest by criticising him, even though I might think that this particular act was not the best from an economic point of view. Something much more important than that."

Here of course you have this wider view which characterizes him in all his relations - something much more important than the balance sheet. Perhaps it is a form of Lincoln's old legal policy, that they stuck out as he was trying to win.

The point of strict management - he lets many things slide, but he wins the community spirit. Says it is important that they do not depend on him - that nobody gets into the habit saying, "If it fails, Owen will make it up." The part of the building of the community is to build self-reliance and the steady self-respect which taking care means, taking care of your own part of a matter, I mean.
We talk of his mother. He saying that she was pleased that I sent a copy of "The Footsteps." I told him how remarkable I thought she was; my first look at her - the resemblance in structure of face - her ability, liveliness of mind, etc.
In providing the agricultural course the farm and greenhouse on the school property will be utilized, giving the institution the status of a small college of agriculture.

"This will be an experiment station in education and will demonstrate that we can provide a type of education better than can be provided by anyone else, said Mr. Young. "I don't believe any city committee can afford to do as much as we can do here."

Mr. Young placed emphasis on the point that construction of the needed addition will be brought "only by the will of the people as expressed in the vote. I do not want to build unless I know the children are coming to school. The present structure is large enough for this village."
When he comes home he wanders noiselessly around to the kitchen door; he goes in and sits on the wood-box as if it were yesterday; he looks at the raisin can through the half open pantry door; he looks at the cat purring in the sunshine on the doorstep. It may not be the same old wood-box; it may not be the same old raisin can, and, it is hoped that they are not the same old raisins; it is not the same old cat. There are not the same old faces. Some of the older ones have gone and some of the younger ones have come. But still it's home.
Approximately thirty years ago I was graduated from an old academy in these hills to the south of the Mohawk in a course which, I take it, was not unlike your own. Thirty years means that a generation lies between us, and yet I studied the same problems in arithmetic which you have studied, I struggled with the same unknown quantities in algebra with which you have struggled; I learned the same axioms and theorems in geometry; and I triumphantly wrote the same Q.E.D at the end of the problem which you have written. I studied the same geography. The world's physical and political conditions have changed but little in these thirty years. The population has increased slightly; exports and imports have grown into larger figures, ships have moved somewhat faster across the seas, but for the most part my geography was the same as yours.

My history was not unlike your own. It is true that it did not contain the story of the wise and peaceful administrations of Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Harrison; it did not contain the story of the panic of the 90's or the great industrial revival of the early years of the new century; it did not contain the blustering but not unattractive figures of Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Bryan. For the most part your history was the same as mine. The languages remain unchanged. All Gaul was divided into three parts, then as now. German was learned with admiration and without prejudice; French was then as it is now, the polite language of the people of the world.
Thirty years ago the conditions were very different from what they are today, not only in the world at large but in this country; even here at home. The owners of farms still lived on the farms and worked them. The owners of industries still managed their own small plants and knew most of their workmen by their names. A generation ago we were just beginning to hear that the struggle between labor and capital would mean social revolution. Before that we had largely thought of the employee as the hired man who ate at the same table with his employer, who rode to church on Sunday afternoon, and, if he were faithful and competent and attractive, probably married his employer's daughter before the term of his services ended.
I was born on a New York State farm, in a remote agricultural district, fifteen miles from the railroad. I worked on that farm until I was twenty-one years old. Out of doors we had no power except man power and natural horse-power, and indoors nothing but the grinding drudgery imposed upon my mother for unconscionably long hours every day. There were no milking machines; there were no milk separators; there were no power churns; there were no power pumps; there were no silage cutters; there were no washing machines; there were no vacuum cleaners, there were no electric flatirons; there were no electric lights; there were no telephones; there were no automobiles; there were no radios. The weekly and semi-weekly newspapers were the communicators of intelligence. Muscles of human beings and of horses were the generators of power, and operated through the greater part of the year every day to the point of exhaustion. These are the recollections of my youth. For the last twenty-five years I have operated that same farm, and I do today.
"My earliest recollections take me back to the side stoop of a remote farmhouse of these southern hills, touching off firecrackers one by one from a few live coals on a dust pan my mother had generously furnished me. And then I recall leaving them to run across the open fields and lie breathlessly back of the stone wall while the Salt Springville band came riding by in chairs on a lumber wagon playing "Marching Through Georgia." I hope that the thrill of the Fourth of July has not passed either from the younger or the older children of today. That thrill was the first blossom of patriotism. I confess that it meant less of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the scenes of the Revolution than of the Civil War. The memories of that great struggle were still fresh in the minds of all, and Sherman's march and Lee's surrender meant more to me then than Lexington and Concord and Bunker Hill and Oriskany and Saratoga and Yorktown. During all my youth the Fourth of July orators talked of the Blue and the Gray, and Sherman's march and Sheridan's ride. We either met amidst the flower strewn graves of our heroes or by the Soldier's Monument to glorify our liberties and to reconsecrate our devotion."
It is not necessary for me to describe to you a farm kitchen on Monday morning, with the steaming boiler on the stove, washtub in the way, milk cans coming in, hungry men clamoring for breakfast, - and one lone woman trying to deal with that difficult situation. If one ever pays the price of a quick reaction, the woman of the farm does it on Monday morning after a restful and cheerful Sunday. I never speak of this without a deep and reverent desire to salute her for her patience, fidelity and efficiency.