

Letter to Julia Estelle Morton Reid from Halsey Stevens

Contributed on familysearch By deannaperez1 · Feb 18, 2014, 5:35 AM · 0
Comments

5 February 1959 Mrs. James Reid Farmington, Utah Dear Mrs. Reid: My cousin, Winston G. Churchill, of Longview, Illinois, has forwarded to me your letter of January 3rd. I think there can be no doubt that your father, George Wesley Morton, was really Otho Stewart Martinie, brother of my grandmother, Alice Irene (Martinie) Churchill. The records I have, copied from the Martinie family Bible by the late Warren Martinie, of Crawfordsville, Indiana, in whose possession it was, indicated that Otho Martinie was born on November 2, 1853, while your record gives the date as November 24, 1853. I have not seen the Bible entry myself, and do not know its whereabouts at present, but I shall try to locate it and find out whether the date has been miscopied. But the other information you give in your letter fits the situation completely. Otho Martinie moved with his father's family to Morocco, Kent County, Indiana, and to Champaign County, Illinois, where he was a druggist at Fithian. He had had training, I believe, at the Hahnemann Medical College in Cincinnati. He disappeared from Fithian about 1874, two years before he married your mother in Mankato, Minnesota. Otho Martinie was said to be tall and thin, with dark hair (like most of the Martinie's of that generation); I do not know what color his eyes were; the Martinie men generally had brown or gray eyes. Somewhere I may have a photo of him among my mother's things; when I have time to go through the pictures, I shall look particularly for this. Then you say your father was 'not too strong.' You describe the entire family with the possible exception of the eldest son, Charles William Martinie (b. 1847); the others were my grandmother, Alice Irene, who died in 1886 at the age of 42 [37]; John Allen (b. 1852, d. 1854); and Ethelbert Calvin (b. 1855, d. 1884). I am enclosing a chart of the ancestors of Otho Stewart Martinie, so far as I have been able to work them out. The majority of my research was done in the 1930's and early 1940's; since then I have been remote from sources and have had little opportunity to work on genealogical matters. During the coming summer, when I shall not be teaching at the University, I may be able to pick up the threads again. At any rate, I have a fair amount of material on the Martinie and related families. The immigrant was Ernest Frederick Julius Martinie, said to have been a 'lieutenant' in the Hessian army at the Battle of Trenton (though I have doubts) [research has proven that this rank and battle were not true]; taken prisoner, he was paroled to Carlisle, Pennsylvania until after the Revolution. He married a Pennsylvania German girl, Susannah Louderback, lived for a short time in Virginia (where he appears in the census of 1790), and then settled in Kentucky, first at the Forks of Elkhorn, and afterward near Lacey, in Henry County. In 1940 my wife and I found the graves of E.F.J. and Susannah Martinie, in the very remote location and in poor condition. The gravestones read as follows: E. Martinie, Born May 1752, departed this life September 25, 1832, aged 81 years Susannah, wife of E. Martinie, Born in 1750 Departed this life July 12, 1838, Aged 89 years Ernest and Susannah had two sons, Jonathan (1781-1863) and David, b. January 2, 1783, d. August 9, 1829. David married Cesea Stewart, and they had 10 children, all born in Kentucky

between 1807 and 1826. Ninth of the children was David, b. February 12, 1824, d. near Arlington, Kentucky, January 12 (14?), 1893; m. at Whitehall, Kentucky, November 26, 1846, Mary Jane Triplet, b. Poplar Plains, Fleming County, Kentucky, November 11, 1830, d. Port Royal, Henry County, Kentucky, September 4, 1857. The five children of David and Mary Jane were Charles William (1847), Alice Irene (1849), John Allen (1852-4), Otho Stewart (1853), and Ethelbert Calvin (1855). Calvin died unmarried; Charles left two children, and Alice Irene, my grandmother who married John Wesley Churchill, left three, my mother being the oldest, my uncle Clarence Churchill (rather of Winston) the youngest. Let me tabulate the available data that proves for me that George Wesley Morton and Otha Stewart Martinie were the same: GWM b. Henry County Kentucky November 26, 1853 Father: David Mother : Mary Triplett (She died when he was young) Was tall, thin, dark, not strong Connected with Illinois Was a Druggist Left home at 17 Had a Good education OSM b. Henry County, Kentucky, November 2, 1853 Father: David Martinie Mother: Mary Jane Triplett Was tall, think, dark not strong Lived in Illinois Was a druggist Disappeared around age of 21 Attended Medical College My grandmother lived in hope that she would someday find her missing brother. About 1884-5, her father, David, inherited some property in Kentucky. I have not been able to trace this, but was told by my mother only a few days before her death 1936. He turned his interest over to his children, Charles and Alice Irene; they advertised unsuccessfully for Otho, and eventually hired a lawyer and sold the property for \$150 plus the lawyer's fee. This must have been between March 15, 1883, and August 1, 1886. There is no way for knowing, without a search, whether the property involved was in Henry, Fleming, or Ballard, Kentucky; and I have not been able to discover from whom it was inherited. After my grandmother's death, my mother continued to look for some clue as to her Uncle's whereabouts, but always without success. She told me that at one time her Uncle Charles, had indicated he knew where his brother was living, and she had an idea that it was at or near Galena, Illinois; which you will discover on a map, is in a direct line between Champaign County, Illinois, and Mankato, Minnesota. Apparently, my mother never had any idea as to why her uncle disappeared and never communicated with his family. I assume from your letter, that you also have no inkling as to the reason. There is a great deal of satisfaction in having come close to a solution of an 80-year-old mystery, and to have discovered a new set of cousins. Congratulations on your tenacity in pursuing the search so long! I only wish that my mother, your first cousin, could have lived long enough to share the discovery. Last summer my wife and children and I drove through Farmington on the way back from a summer in the northwest; we had been in Seattle for several weeks (where I taught at the University of Washington); and then camped in Glacier and Yellowstone. Had I known then of what is contained in your letter, it would have been a pleasure to meet you and talk with you about the Martinie family. Perhaps we shall be back that way one day; in the meantime, I shall try to collect what information I have and put it into shape for your records. In the meantime, I should be glad to receive information on your father's family to incorporate into my notes on the Martinie family. Sincerely yours, Halsey Stevens Copy to WGC