

APPENDIX II

January 13, 1926

My Dear Irene:

Your good letter came a long time ago, and should have been answered before I left Iowa, but we are so very busy getting ready for California I had no time to write to anyone.

I do not know much about the Keenan family but will tell you all I know. If I had asked my grandfather before his death I might have found out many things that I should like to know.

The first of the Keenan's came from Ireland in 1803 when grandfather came to America at the age of three years. The family first settled in or near New York City, but later came to Pittsburgh. There was a very large family. I remember the grandfather's name was Hugh, then Thomas who lived in Pittsburgh and I once visited him, Andrew lived in the western part of West Virginia. Two brothers died in Mobile, Alabama. I think there were three girls. One they called Aunt Kitty Smith, the other married sister I cannot recall at present. Aunt Mary Ann Keenan never married and she was a dear kindly woman. I visited her in Pittsburg. She was then living with a cousin, Sarah Connally, a very wealthy woman, they both died soon after I was there.

Grandfather married Elizabeth Paine but just when or where I do not know, but I suppose they lived somewhere near Greensborough or Whitely. Three children were born. John Paine (your grandfather), Richard, and Mary Ann (my mother). Grandmother they said was a beautiful woman. She died soon after my Mother's birth and mother lived in Pittsburg with her grandfather's family, till she was seven years old. Then her father married again and took her home. I do not know just where John and Richard lived but I think with some of the relatives.

The Paine family, I do not know much about. Grandmother Paine married a man named Enock first and with her husband came to that part of the country in early days and erected their cabin in the wilderness among the Indians. One morning she heard a gun go off and she knew the Indians had killed her husband. She snatched her baby from the cradle and ran to the Fort five miles away. They sent out men from the fort to look for her husband. They found him dead and he had been scalped by the Indians and their home was burned. She married for the second time a man named George Paine, but I do not know just where this was. They had a number of children. My grandmother being one of them, there was one son named Eben and I do not know what the names of the others were. Great grandmother lived to be quite old and I think lived near Bald Hill not far from where your folks lived.

My grandfather, by his second marriage had a number of children, Margaret, Rebecca, James and Hugh. I do not know the date of their births or marriages.

Margaret had one son by her first marriage, Emery Courtney. By her second marriage she had one daughter, Ida Meeker, now Mrs. Ida Outing. Aunt Margaret died in Central City, Iowa, 1908. Rebecca Keenan married Oliver Yusley, she had four children, William, Harl and Hugh, one daughter, Ella who married Thomas Daniels. Rebecca Yusley died in 1907. James Keenan had three sons

Henry, George and Hugh and three daughters, Lizzie, Seida and Victoria. The latter two live in Los Angeles.

Hugh Keenan had four girls, Rose, Maggie, Jennie and Cora and two sons, Edward and Charles.

I wish I could tell you more, but I cannot. It might be you could find out some of the dates by consulting the county records of Wayne County, Pennsylvania and at Morgantown.

I do not know whether you are making a family tree or for what purpose you want them. I wish I could give you more information, but I cannot.

I once wanted to join the Daughters of the American Revolution, but could not find all the things required, so had to give it up. I should like to trace the Paine family, but know so little about them. All I could learn from the folks in West Virginia was that Great-grandfather Paine wrote a great book.

I hope you will succeed in gaining some trace of them. If one were in the Congressional Library in Washington, they could find out a great deal.

I wish you were here to enjoy the balmy California weather. It is certainly very fine and Retta and Belle think it is wonderful and they would like to stay.

Brother Jack took us over to Pasadena to the "Tournament of Roses". It is a wonderful sight, so many floats of every description. There was one immense crowd there. It was the 2nd of January and was so warm we could not wear any coats. We took a picnic dinner and ate in the park;

Monday Jan. 9th, we had a wonderful ride around on ocean drive and visited Redondo, Venice, Ocean Park, and Santa Monica. Then to Santelle, the Old Soldiers Home, through Beverly Hills, and Hollywood where so many of the movie folks live, then through Los Angeles and home.

Did the folks go south this winter? Is Cym living on the farm alone? Give the folks my best regards. I hope to hear from you soon.

Very Sincerely,

Emma E. Courtney

[This letter was written to Irene McCay by Emma Courtney - about Keenan Family. It was found by Louise Harris. Also, several dates were found by Louise about the John P. Keenan family in the Keenan Family Bible published in 1872.]