

Holly
8 Boileau Avenue
Easton, Pennsylvania
September 19, 1958

Mrs. Paul Halstead
Sunset Hill Road
New Canaan,
Connecticut

Sent to Holly K. Karpovich
by Effie McCallum

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Dear Mrs. Halstead;

I must apologize for not having written sooner, but I have found that after returning from vacation it has taken all this time to catch up with my other work, thus leaving time for genealogy. It was very kind of you to offer to help me try to find more about my Holly ancestors. As I told you I have been trying for some years now to solve one Abraham Holly, but have been very unsuccessful to date.

My mother was born Winifred L. Holly on March 16, 1890 in Port Chester, New York, the daughter of Alexander Newman Holly (b. April 6, 1858 and d. April 19, 1924) and Anna Maria Guernsey, his wife. Alexander Newman Holly was the son of William Henry Holly (b. June 7, 1812 and d. Jan. 24, 1892) and Margaret McQueen. All of this information I have from the family bible in my possession which belonged to the above mentioned William Henry Holly.

The father of William Henry Holly was David Holly whose dates I do not know but who married Sarah Webb (b. Sept. 28, 1791 and d. Dec. 10, 1876) the dau. of William Webb and Susanna Weed. That David Holly was the father of William Henry Holly et. al. is proven by the Stanwich Congregational Church records; the probate records in Stamford of the estate of William Webb; and the will of Jane (Webb) Miller sister of Sarah (Webb) Holly recorded in the Stamford, Conn. probate records. The Stanwich Cong. Church records show the baptisms of some of the children of David and Sarah Webb Holly, ie. "Elizabeth daughter of David Holly and wife of William Edwards;

Nelson and Theodore adult sons of David Holly; and Susan, daughter of David Holly." The fact that Nelson, Theodore, Susan and Elizabeth Edwards were brothers and sisters of William Henry Holly is proven by the will mentioned above of Jane (Webb) Miller and my mother even knew these people. The children of David and Sarah (Webb) Holly were thus:

William Henry Holly - Portchester, N.Y.
Maria m. Jonathan Marshall
1429 Susan m. Richard Hennessy
Elizabeth m. William Edwards
Theodore m. Clara Miller, Greenwich, Ct.
Nelson - Norwalk fisherman
Sylvester - unheard from for 9 yrs. in 1885. A fisherman

The father of David Holly I have been unable to find. As passed on by the family the father of William Henry Holly was Abraham Holly, but this is proven wrong and should be David as shown above. I feel that Abraham was the father of David Holly. In a book called the "Holly Family" by one Charles Moses Holly (Stamford Library or Town Hall have it) and under Abraham Holly #124, page 65 it shows:
" ABRAHAM HOLLY born April 17, 1746. He served through the War of the Revolution and was pensioned."

This is written in the original script of the author but a later script has added the notation "... and died. He had a son named David who married a Webb of Darien and died Dec. 12, 1855. He had issue of Sylvester, Nelson and Theodore all living in 1873. He died in 1828 ae. 81 years." ^(see) The death in 1828 is undoubtedly Abrahams' and this is proven in the Darien Cong. Church records. Thus I am able to prove that the facts in the notation are correct, but it has been passed down verbally in the family that Abraham was 17 years old when he joined the Revolution as a tailors' apprentice. Since there was an Abraham Holly (#190 page 76 of the same book) born Feb. 11,

1759 who could have entered the War at 17 yrs. I question whether or not the notation was put under the right Abraham. I feel that Abraham #124 is correct since he had a son named David after his father and since all of the other facts in the notation I know are correct. Especially in view of the fact that family hearsay on the father of William Henry Holly was proven wrong, I tend to discredit the story of 17 yrs. etc. As you can see then I would like to have stronger proof as to which Abraham Holly was the father of my David, since the notation mentioned above is not in the original script or I would accept it. It is interesting to note that David Holly the Father of Abraham #124 was married in the New Canaan Cong. Church where my wife and I were married some 200 years later.

From my research I have determined that there were but two Abraham Hollys of the right age (excluding Abraham Holly Sr. the father of Abraham Jr. #190) to be the father of David Holly. One of them was of Stanwich and the other of Darien-New Canaan. The Bedford Cong. Church records (Westchester County, N. Y.) indicate that one of the above Abraham Hollys married Bethia Ambler* (Joshua ⁵, Stephen ⁴, John ³, Abraham ², Richard ¹) and had at least three children ie. James, Sarah and Lanson or Lawson. This Abraham Holly does not appear in the Westchester County Land Records. It is most probable that this is the Abraham Holly of Stanwich since after the Stanwich Congregational Church started (where he became a member) he disappears from the Bedford Cong. Church records. Note proximity of the two also. The fact that the Stanwich Cong. Church burned and

* See the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, Vol. 64, p.344

a good portion of its' records lost may account for the fact that we do not have a record of Davids' birth or baptism there, assuming he was born after the move to the Stanwich Church. We must also note that it is the Stanwich Cong. Church where the children of David Holly were baptised ie; Nelson, Theodore, Susan and Elizabeth.

On the other hand, we have the above notation in the "Holly Family" by Charles Moses Holly which states that the Abraham who died in 1828 was the father of David. This death is recorded in the Darien Cong. Church records and the other Abraham was of Darien-New Canaan not Stanwich presumably. Further Sarah Webb who married David Holly was of Darien which in those days of restricted travel would seem to indicate the Darien-New Canaan man.

This is nearly all I have been able to find on this line and would need only one item showing which Abraham Holly fathered David. I do not of course rule out the possibility that neither Abraham is right but in view of the family stories passed on and because of the "notation", I feel that Abraham ? is the best bet to work on. I have not had the time to do anything with the Stamford Land records so would venture that that would be the best untouched source left. I probably will not be up to New Canaan before November, so if you are able to hit on anything I would of course be anxious to have a letter from you. Again let me express my appreciation for what you are doing and would be glad to pay for any expenses you may incur in this matter. I wish I were in a position to be able to offer more.

Sincerely

David B. Tilley
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