

Bell Collection, PANB MC files

Morehouse Papers. Set I. = G. MOREHOUSE. For E.W. Bell; to file (D.J. Bell, M.D.2/18/34.)

(A letter from George Morehouse, son of Daniel & Jane (Gill) Morehouse, to his son, J.H. Morehouse.)

Queensbury, Saturday,
Dec. 22, 1862 or 1863.

My dear Son:

In my last letter which I hope you have received before this I promised a Memories of our family which I now sit down to draw up from what I learnt from my late dear father and I have no doubt if I had had the thoughtful and inquiring mind that you are blest with I might have been in possession of much more. Our forefathers are originally from England, from the Shire of York. My father's grandfather emigrated from England to the State of Connecticut and there settled in the County of Fairfield about 75 years before the Revolutionary War. I have forgot the name of the parish but I believe that it was Norwalk as I have more than once heard him say that the family always attended Divine Worship at the Norwalk Church. They were Episcopalians from the first. My Great Grandfather had two sons to whom at his death he left each a good farm. The eldest Joseph Morehouse was my Grandfather and had a family of four sons and two daughters, the daughters married respectably both of them Doctors of high standing as members of society practitioners in medicine. These Doctors both moved into the State of New York on the North River somewhere near or at the City of Albany the capital of that state. The name of one was Galatia, the other Sturgess. I have never heard how Sturgess succeeded in life but about a year before I was married old Valentine Harding went to see his relations near Albany. On his return he told me that he had found out near Albany some of our relations, that he was introduced to a pretty and well educated young lady a Miss Galatia and finding that he was from New Brunswick she directly asked him if he knew a family of Morehouses, he said that he did, that he knew them. This young lady had a fortune left her by her father of \$14,000, so I see the old Doctor succeeded in his craft. She was an

only child. Harding pressed me hard to go and see her and marry her. I have entered pretty fully into the history of Miss Galatia as the day may come when you might make some inquiries about her and probably see her.

I have before said that my Grandfather Joseph had one brother, his name was Daniel married but without children. My father was the oldest son of his father and the childless uncle when he was born requested him to be called Daniel after him and told his father he would adopt him as his child, educate him and make him heir to his property. He sent him to a good common school until he was nearly eighteen years old and then entered him as a student at Kings College (this was its name before the Revolutionary War broke out but the Yankees in hatred of everything that bore the name of kings since changed it to Yale College). He had only been there six months when the war broke out - when that happened the country all rose in sedition against the King's Authority. What they called Minute Men was elected in each parish, their duty was to go through the parish and command the inhabitants to turn out under the penalty of ten pounds and do the duty of soldiers for three months; well my father and all his family were loyal. His uncle paid the fine ten pounds for him and to his astonishment at the end of three months another order was issued by the parish authorities to him again for three months. This he thought too much proud and overbearing imposition and refused to serve or pay and his uncle had given him a fine young horse for his own particular use. Well what do these rebellious thieves do but seize the horse, saddle and bridle, and sold it for the ten pounds fine and costs - this was beyond bearing, he told his friends he would not stay but would join the British Army at New York. This was the first of December (I believe) in 1774 that is the fall after the breaking out of the war which happened on the 19th day of April, 74. It must have been in 1774 as I have heard my father say that the first battle he was in was the Battle of Bunkers Hill near Boston. Well he had a distant relation by the name of Lockwood whom the rebels both robbed and oppressed; he determined to flee to the British Army. They made up their plot first of December and set out by night but dare not travel on any of the roads, every mile of the roads were watched by their Minute Men. They had to travel by night and through forests and fields and although you will see by looking at any atlas that they only went a short distance from New York but took them until Christmas Eve before they arrived almost starved to death and very narrowly escaped being taken by approaching the road to ascertain where they were.

Thus was he cut off from all his hopes of a college or liberal education and all his hopes in this world on that score destroyed. My poor father was then a few weeks over 18 years of age. Him and Lockwood both applied to Colonel John Greaves Simcoe who then commanded the Queen's Rangers for commissions but he told them there was nothing then in his power as all of the commissions of his regiment was filled up, but said if they would enter as volunteers he would give them the first that fell. My father accepted the offer, Lockwood having money to support himself declined and got a commission in the Prince of Wales's Regiment and soon after was killed in battle. My poor father having but little money found he could not clothe himself as a volunteer (they have to wear the same cloth as an officer), he was enforced to enlist. The Colonel immediately made him Sergeant and in about six weeks after made him Sergeant Major of the Queen's Rangers. He served the seven years war in that capacity or until about a year before the termination of it when there were six companies of Dragoons raised and attached to the Rangers and the Colonel having the appointment of the Quarter Masters of each Troop of Dragoons made him one of these Quarter Masters. This gave him the same pay and allowance as any other of that rank of Quarter Master in the army and the same half pay forty pounds sterling per year. The Rangers was with Lord Cornwallis in the south and were taken prisoners with his whole army at Yorktown in the State of Virginia 19th October 1781 - this ended the war, peace was made and in October 18th 1783 my dear Father and Mother landed at ST. JOHN (then a complete wilderness), they came up to stayed there a year and then moved to this place - they seen much suffering and privation in their struggle to settle but far less than many others.

I have had a bad cough a few days but it don't affect my breathing but think it will be better shortly. Uncle John is very poorly, can't speak, has not spoken for 5 days. H. is to be married New Year's Day, I wish you could be here, they go off after lunch the same day. I wish you many happy returns of the Season.