

November 13, 1959

Mrs. Cleo Barry
3492 East McKinley
Fresno 3, California

Dear Mrs. Barry:

I was very interested in getting your letter of October 29, 1959 and I believe I have some information that may be of interest to you.

Strangely enough, I, too, have been interested in the origination of my, so to speak ~~our~~, family. In the summer of '58 we drove north to Canada and on our return we stopped overnight in Yakima, Washington. I chanced to look at the telephone directory and found that there was a Mrs. Caughell in that community so, after dinner that evening, I called on her and found that she was a widow who knew something about her husband's family background. She married him in Bellingham, Washington and from her knowledge of the family, they had come from Michigan but originally from St. Thomas, Canada. Incidentally, my knowledge of the family name carries back, also, to St. Thomas, Canada.

She told me that, a number of years ago when her husband was alive, they visited St. Thomas and met a gathering of the Caughells. She was not able to establish, however, a direct line back to the original family.

Enroute back to California I stopped at Salem, Oregon, where I had known that there was a family by this name. Incidentally, we pronounce it as if it were "Call" and they pronounce it as if it were "Caug-hell", with the emphasis on the first syllable. She, too, accompanied by her husband, who is now deceased, visited St. Thomas, Canada, and experienced the same meeting as the Yakima Mrs. Caughell. She had been in correspondence with a Flora M. Sinclair, who had prepared a paper on the Caughell family, a copy of which I'm furnishing you. It develops that the Caughell family in Salem is related to the Caughell family from which this Sinclair person came.

In about 1951 or '52, I spent a night in Fresno and, as I always do in a strange town, consulted the telephone directory and found 4 or 5 Caughells listed. I picked one at random and visited that evening and found a very elderly lady who told me that she was the mother of the Caughells that were in this family. Possibly, as I read your letter, you are a part of that "tribe". Unfortunately, she was not able to tell me much beyond the fact that the family had come from Livermore to Fresno in the early 1900's as I recall it, and there seemed to be no connection between her husband's family and mine.

I have made a family tree, so to speak, which I have labeled Chart A, from the data contained in the Sinclair Report and in reading your story I see the common names of Jacob and George A. listed, as shown on my Chart A. Furthermore, in reading the Sinclair Report, Page 6, you will note that it makes reference to a "George A. and Darius, the two latter having died in Fresno, California, where George A. left a thrifty family of seven children. Charles and Augusta are also there." You will note on Chart A, at the bottom, I have put some dates, 1790 to 1830 and 1830 to 1860, and those are taken out of the Sinclair Report, in so far as I could guess, in reference to the War of 1812 and the Civil War.

Now with respect to what I know about my immediate family, you can look at Chart B. My earliest knowledge concerns our paternal grandfather, Peter and his brother James, both of them sea captains, and a younger brother, Benjamin. It's rather interesting to note back on Chart A how many times those names appear and on the basis of the fact that my great uncle, Benjamin, was born in 1840, it seems unlikely he was the son of John Caughell and Elizabeth Seeley but rather, since Peter is the oldest, they might be the sons of Peter listed in that generation.

Incidentally, I expect to visit St. Thomas, Canada, early next summer and hope to be able to find some record of my grandfather's father, which will establish which one of these brothers in the period of 1790 to 1830 it is that I have shown. If I am successful then that will carry my line back to the Dutch family who arrived first in 1766.

I'm also attaching a varifax of an article that appeared in a Northern California newspaper, which disclosed to me for the first time what happened to Benjamin Caughell, my great uncle, and over Admission Day of this year, I took a trip to Fort Bragg and found the cemetery and actually saw the tombstone exactly as the story describes it.

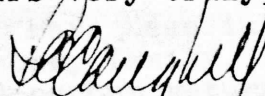
I have in my possession, a City Directory of San Francisco for 1861 and it shows Captain Peter Caughell and Captain James Caughell living here at that time. Furthermore, I have pages out of the family bible which indicate the marriage of Peter Caughell to Mary Bergen in 1858 and I believe, to the best of my recollection of stories my father told me, that they were married in San Francisco so it means that he and his brothers must have migrated from St. Thomas, Canada, to San Francisco some time in the late '50's.

My grandfather, Peter, died before I was born and while I don't know the birth and death dates of my great uncle, I do recall seeing him as a very small boy and he as a very old man. His family - William, Fred, Alfred, etc. were located at Gold Beach, Oregon. All of them are now dead except Clarence

and Elizabeth. If you are interested in establishing any of the dates' relation to that family, you may write to Clarence at Coquille, Oregon, where he is County Assessor. The children, Charles, Jack, Darwin, etc. are widely scattered, the first two being in Los Angeles, and the exact whereabouts of the others is unknown to me.

This seems to be about the extent of my research and knowledge of the family and I would be greatly interested in receiving, from you, the results of your study, which you so kindly offered to make available if I wished it.

Yours very truly,



R. C. Caughell
10 Marina Court Drive
San Rafael, California