

Horace Resley Coudy (1862-1949)

Letters Regarding His Ancestors and Relatives

Compiled by Ted Hine – April 2004

The following 3 letters were written by Horace R. Coudy to his grand-daughter Betty Hulburd-Hine in the 1940s. Fortunately she saved them and they were recently discovered among her collection of family history papers and photos.

In the letters he discusses some of his relatives and ancestors. Much of the information he provides is all that is know about these individuals.

In the first letter (September, 1943) he discusses feeling alone since by then he had outlived his wife and all of his 4 children. (In 1943 Horace would have been 81 years old.) The reference to Harriet is to Betty's sister and that to Bud is to her brother. All three were living in or near New York City at the time and thus far from Horace's home in St. Louis.

The second letter (April, 1946) discusses, among other things, his Seward ancestors and provides just about all that is know about his father, Matthew Coudy, who he indicates was born in Maryland to parents who had immigrated from France (with a stopover in Ireland).

In the third letter (October, 1946) he provides just about all the information that is know about his wife, Harriet Varner Shipley-Coudy and her family.

The last document is a typewritten page in which Horace summarizes his Seward ancestors.

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Sept. 18- 43

My Dear Betty.

Received your sweet letter
some time ago, but just put off
replying first the heat had me
nearly down, could not do any
thing but sit around and suffer
till I got quite sick + I worry
all the time about my dear
little girl, is she getting along
any better? wrote Harriet in
July but have not heard from
her, took a bad cold last
Sunday and was in bed Monday
+ Tuesday, am not over it yet.

Yesterday I was looking at
things which are in my trunk
+ found a Book belonging to my
Grandmother Seward, it was
given to her by her Brother
Alonzo Slayback in 1828. and
published by the American Tract

Society, it is quite a relic.
my Grandfather Col. Israel
Seward, was an Uncle of
W. H. Seward, Secy. of State, in
Pres. Lincoln's cabinet from 1861
- 1869. W. H. S., + my Mother were
Cousins, this book I have belonged
to your great-great-Grandmother
quite a relic, I have also a book
of daily readings given to me in
1872. when I was 10 years of
age by an old friend of my
Parents. I am going to send them
to you look them over and if
you don't want them dispose
of them in some way. I have no
one left but your girls + Bud.
and I won't be here much longer
"We mightly pitch our moving Tent a
days march nearer home" give my
love to Bud + Kirt and plenty for
yourself. your devoted Grandfather

— St. Louis 4/19/46

Dear Betty,

Your sweet letter received, and I was so happy to hear from you. I also received a card from Harriet in Mexico, for which I was glad. Things here are just about the same, one routine, I am just about as lonely person as can be found. Spent yesterday with Uncle Lee, he is helpless had a cataract removed from his left Eye three year ago, and his sight is gone and the right Eye is very bad. Since Aunt Edith passed away last Aug. 3rd he has just about given up. He cannot go out alone, I take him for a walk but the weather has been so bad. Uncle Upton and family are well at present I am enclosing are sending by Parcel Post some few things I have, such as Uncle Elmer, Norman + Harold's Photo's when they were young, I have no one left to give them to look them over and destroy when I am gone - also Pictures of Dats.

my G. G. Grandfather on my Mother's side (Caroline Seward) was Col. John Seward

an Aide de camp to Gen Geo Washington for
 whose capture the ^{British Govt.} offered a 20 Pound reward
 this information was furnished me when
 I applied for membership in the S. A. R.
 of which I am a member. - my G. F. Father
 Col John Seward was in the Mexican War
 & my Grand Father was Col. Israel
 Seward. my G. F. married Margaret Slayback
 of Lexington Ky. a sister of Col. A. W. Slayback
 who when I was a young man was a member
 of the Law firm of Broadhead, Slayback and
 Hauesler, the leading Legal firm in Missouri.
 my Mother's Cousin Wm. H. Seward was a
 Candidate for President, but was defeated
 by Abe Lincoln for the nomination, after
 Lincoln's election he appointed Wm. H.
 Seward Secy. of State (he was my 2nd
 cousin - Hazels - 3rd H. W. + Yours + Bud's 4th)
 W. H. S. suggested to buy Alaska from Russia
 in 1867 and the U.S. paid Seven Million
 and it was called "Seward's Folly", but in
 3 years \$45,000,000.00 in Gold was taken
 from the country (Alaska). I am sending
 you photo's I took in Sept. 1939 at Hillboro
 Ill. of my G. F. + G. M. + adjoining

3

are the Monuments of my Great G. F. +
 G. Grand Mother all in excellent Condition
 Several years ago Aunt Aggie made a
 special ^{trip} back to locate and see where
 the family ancestors were laid away
 and found them all laid away in
 Vermon, Sussex County N. J. where my
 G. G. Grand Father + G. Grand Father were
 born.

My Father's family came from St. France
 French Huguenots, and when they were
 expelled from France, by the Catholic's
 they all went to Belfast Ireland for
 a short time + then to U. S. they
 settled in Hancock Md. where my
 Father was born, his Parents died +
 he was raised by Relatives till a
 young man, he + his Bro. Oliver
 came west to see what they could do
 + went by River to Vicksburg Miss.
 then north to Alton as Boats did not
 land at St. Louis, to small a town.

4

they heard of an academy to be built in Hillsboro - "Hyman Academy". So they decided to try for the contract, missed the Stage Coach which made two trips a week. So they walked, only 40 miles grass taller than heads. Arrived in Hillsboro in due time then had to go on to my S. Father's Isaac Seward, who was in charge of building. Father often told us when he went up to house, mother a young girl of about 16 was a riding pale; any way they built the academy - (Still standing saw it in 1938) Abe Lincoln always stopped at S. F. on his way from Springfield to Vandalia which was then the capital of Ill. mother said he would drive up in a Buckboard, - dashboard cut out so his legs could reach around the horse's neck - he'd jump out throw her up + catch her in his arms. Uncle Oliver married a Hillsboro girl and passed away some years later, in the coach on his way from Springfield

where he was a Legis⁵⁷ later from his district, later his Widow married Judge Rice - Grand Children still living in Hillsboro Father + Mother married in 1848 moved to St Louis bought half a block of Land. built a home, went into contracting business and later built eight more houses, when I was 12 yrs Father retired, passed away Dec 31st 1883 - I went to send a Telegram to Uncle James at Hancock Md. and when I returned Mother had a Telegram stating Uncle James passed away at 10 am. Father at 12 noon - 1 hour apart. Father 70 - Uncle James 80

could write a Book Betty but am too nervous

your devoted

Grandfather

Look over what I mail you by Parcel Post - I have no one here to leave them to, I'm all alone

H. R. Coudy

April 19, 1946 - Page 6

M.R. Conely.
5555 Enright ave 12.
St Louis mo.

Family news

ave



Mrs. E. K. Hine
Greenbrook Road and Woodland Ave
No Caldwell
N. J.

St. Louis ¹⁰⁷ 10/24/46

Dear Betty -

Your sweet letter received yesterday and how it cheered me, thought I had lost my last friends - eight years last night Grandmother was taken to St. Luke's Hosp. and never returned - passed away at 7:30 ^{AM} Oct. 25th. eight lonely and sad years for me, but God has sustained me through it all. am happy to hear you are all well, and had a pleasant trip out West. every day is the same to me, friends all passed away, today Mr. Reptegrove Pres. of the Cotton Belt Ry. was laid away. had a stroke - a good friend of of mine gone to his reward. So Bud has joined the Marines, was it a sudden desire of his? When I met Grandmother her Father was dead and she and her mother were living with a married sister and her husband. they came from Pittsburg Pa and her Father was a Steamboat Captain that all I ever knew. when we married she was 17 years and I was just 21. we lived happy for 55 years and six months exactly the night she

(2)
 passed away. ap. 25. 1883 - Oct 25th 1938
 what a wonderful woman she was
 I no more about the Seward family
 only that the carving on the monuments
 give the information I gave you -
 I am enclosing a clipping from the Globe
 which speaks of the V.V. Parade and
 Ball, of which you and No nan were
 maids in former years. I see by this
 that my mother's Cousin C.E. Playback
 was the person who started it.
 my Grandfather Israel Seward
 married Margaret Playback of
 Lexington Ky. and they settled at
 Hillsboro Ill. in 1819. well that's
 about all it is 6 pm. raining and I
 have to out and find something to eat.
 pretty tough Eh? that is my life I
 hope it won't be long.

Love to you all

Grandfather

W.R. Couder

October 24, 1946 - Page 3

H.R. Candy.
4555 Emright Ave.
St Louis Mo.

Contains
family
account



Ans.
2/28/47

Mrs. E. K. Spine
Greenbrook Road + Woodland ave,
North Caldwell
N.J.

HORACE R. COUDY

I am the great great grand son of Col. John Seward, born 1730- died 1797, of Sussex County, New Jersey, and Mary Swazey of Long Island, New York.

I am the great grand son of Col. John Seward (of the War of 1812) who was born in sussex County, N.J., and his wife Mary Butler, also of New Jersey.

I am the grand son of Israel Seward of New Jersey, born 1795, and Margaret Slayback of Lexington, Kentucky, born ^{Wanda} 1798 -- married in Hamilton, Ohio in 1817.

I am the son of Mathew Coudy (born 1813) and Mary C. Seward (born 1827)

My two sisters are members of the St. Louis Chapter D.A.R. on this same line of descent;-- Mrs. A. H. Eilers
Mrs. B. P. Corneli

John Seward served as Captain, 2nd Regiment, Sussex County, N. J., Lt. Col. February 28, 1777 and Colonel of same regiment.

He was at the battles of Ft. Washington, White Plains, Princeton and Flatbush.

He was so obnoxious to the Brittish that a price was put on his head.

Official register of the officers and men of N.J. in the Revolutionary War. Page 355, by Wm. S. Strayker, Trenton.

D.A.R. Lineage book year 1900, page 301. National No. 33828 (of his own sister)
