

Covey

April 15, 1994

Reply 8-23-94

GMTA 205

Dear Raymond,

Thank you so much for your letter and information on the Hatch line. I have hit a dead end there but the names of Sarah's brothers and sister may help. I had looked through the Hatch Genealogy which had nothing on my Sarah.

I'm glad you are working on the early Covey lines. I've been uncomfortable with those lines and have always felt Mrs. Quiet's book was a good or bad example of much to publish. I certainly would like to correspond with you on those lines and when you are ready to publish, put me down for a copy!

My descent is from Walter to Edward (wife Hannah Northrup) to Byron (wife, Fidelia King) to Harrison (wife Mary E. Garrett) to Alice Bell Covey who married Amos Yahnke. Alice and Amos are my paternal grandparents. Byron moved to

Keokuk County, Iowa about 1850 and  
the family stayed put there. (and  
left good will, etc)

Good luck on your  
research trip. I'll be very interested  
in your finds.

I have nothing on Amos or  
Sarah. I followed my direct line  
and then moved on to other lines.

Sincerely  
Janice

Covey

9MLTX201

11 April, 1994

Janice Yahnke  
216 E. Orlando St.  
Orlando, FL 32804

Dear Janice:

Since reading your query in *Covey Cousins* about Sarah Hatch, I've kept my eyes peeled for anything of interest on her. So far, I haven't come up with anything concrete, but I do have a little data that might help identify her. From the Dutchess County tax lists:

Richard Hatch in Southern Precinct 1745 and 46.

Nathaniel Hatch in Southern Precinct 1753-57.

Nathaniel Hatch in Beekman's Precinct June, 1759.

Isaac Hatch in Southern Precinct 1753.

Isaac Hatch in Beckman's Precinct 1754-56.

Isaac Hatch in Rumbout Precinct Feb, 1759-Feb, 1763.

Malthia Hatch in Southern Precinct 1755.

Apparently was "Schoolmaster" Hatch in Beekman's Precinct in 1756 to Feb, 57, then Malthia Hatch in June, 1757.

Malthia Hatch in Southern Precinct Feb, 1758-June, 1765.

Nathaniel Hatch, Jr. in Southern Precinct Feb, 1758-June, 59

Benjamin Hatch in Southern Precinct June 1758-June, 65.

Benjamin Hatch in Southern Precinct 1770-71.

Benjamin Hatch in Fredericksburgh 1773 and 1775.

Mallathiah (various spellings) Hatch in Southern Precinct in Feb and June 1760. Malthia is also in these same lists.

Mallathiah Hatch in Southern Precinct in Feb and June 1761; no Malthia in these lists.

It may not be possible to separate the Malthia, Malthiah, and Mallathiah listings.

Timothy Hatch in Southern Precinct in June, 1768.

Timothy Hatch in Fredericksburgh 1772 and 1779.

I'm afraid that these listings are not much help yet. However, I also gleaned a little more information from the LDS Nauvoo Baptisms that Quist failed to report:

Covey, Benjamin baptized 8 Aug 1844 for his uncle, Joseph Hatch (Sarah's brother).

Covey, Benjamin baptized 8 Aug 1844 for his uncle, Jonathan Hatch (Sarah's brother).

Covey, Benjamin baptized 8 Aug 1844 for his aunt, Abigail Hatch (Sarah's sister).

Hatch, Abigail baptized 9 Aug 1844 for her father-in-law, Joseph Jarvis.

Hatch, Abigail baptized 9 Aug 1844 for her mother-in-law, Mary Ann Jarvis.

Hatch, Abigail baptized 9 Aug 1844 for her brother-in-law, Stephen Duclo

Hatch, Abigail baptized 9 Aug 1844 for her niece, Esther Duclo.

Hatch, Abigail baptized 9 Aug 1844 for her first husband, Joseph Jarvis.

While this still doesn't identify Sarah's parents, it sure gives us a lot more to work with and offers a positive identification if a Sarah Hatch can be found with some of these brothers, sister,

in-laws, and husband. I'll still keep an eye peeled as I go through the records. I hope that at least some of the above is new to you.

In looking through back issues for your query, I also noticed one where you asked if anyone is working on the early Coveys. I wasn't at the time the query was printed, because I was concentrating on getting Benjamin<sup>5</sup> Covey's descendants sorted out, but now I am. Since Quist made such a horrible mess out of the Covey line, I'm redoing everything I can on the first four generations from original records. In fact, I'm going back to New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island next month in my motorhome and will spend a couple of months looking for records that are not in the LDS library.

In the meantime, I've ordered everything of interest in Dutchess County at the library and have gone through all of it except the court records, which are still coming. I have also ordered everything of interest in Stonington, Connecticut and have gone through all of it that has arrived. The same goes for Westerly, RI. I haven't started on Newport, RI, but will order some films tomorrow. I also have contacted the Seventh-Day Baptist Church in Riverside, California and am told by the historian there that they have all of the Church history in their library. I'll be going out there soon to straighten out Quist's version of the Covey family history in the Church. What I've seen so far in the records does not agree with her interpretation.

Eventually, I plan to publish a revised version of the first four generations of the Covey family and extend it to the descendants of Benjamin<sup>5</sup> (James,<sup>4,3</sup> Hope,<sup>2</sup> James<sup>1</sup>). Quist gave his line short shrift and horribly garbled what little she did give. Perhaps it's better that she didn't make a mess out of any more of it. My descent is from Benjamin<sup>5</sup> to Luther H.<sup>6</sup> to Rhoda,<sup>7</sup> who married Seth Porter in Sandy Creek, NY. I have a great deal of additional (correct) information on Benjamin's line to include.

Quist says that James<sup>4</sup> was the first Covey in Dutchess County, but there were a heck of a lot more Coveys in Dutchess County than she knew about, and James sure as heck wasn't the first there. According to the county tax records:

Hope (probably Hope<sup>4</sup>) Covey and Hope Covey, Jr. first appear in the Southern Precinct in February, 1748. Hope, Sr. last appears in June, 1748, but the tax records for 1749-52 are missing, so he could have remained there until early 1753. This is probably the Hope that Quist has moving to Farmington, CT, so he may have left Dutchess County for there, or he may have died in Dutchess County.

Hope, Jr. is still listed as Jr. in 1753, and his assessed valuation is the sum of his and his father's in 1748 (£3). He is listed thereafter as Hope (no Jr.) until June 1766. I don't know if he died or moved on.

Joseph<sup>4</sup> Covey also first shows up in February, 1748, immediately following Hope and Hope, Jr., and also last appears in June, 1748. He also may have been there as late as early 1753.

John<sup>4</sup> Covey also first appears in February, 1748, but not adjacent to the above Coveys. He last appears in February 1762. He may be the same John Covey who was the victim of an armed assault by Dennis Kelley on 14 August 1753 in Rombout (Ancient Document No. 3058).

James<sup>4</sup> Covey does not show up in the Dutchess County tax lists until February, 1761, 13 years after his brothers. He is listed until June, 1768 and James, Jr. is first listed in that same list. He is listed as James, Jr. until 1771, then as James until the lists end in 1779. This may or may not imply that James, Sr. was alive until 1771.

In the process of checking these records, I found a couple of Coveys that I can't account for: One was a Sarah Covey, a single woman of Pawling, who was carrying the bastard child of Samuel Burdick in March, 1776 (Ancient Document No. 9947). I have the court records on order, but I don't expect to get much out of them about who she was. The Coveys and Burdicks were neighbors in Westerly and Stonington, and intermarried.

The other is an Amos Covey, who showed up in the Northeast Precinct tax list in 1774, immediately followed by Benjamin Covey (presumably Benjamin<sup>5</sup>, my ancestor). This may imply that they were related, but there is no mention of Amos in Quist, other than in a tax list extract. Amos does not show up again until 1799, the last year of the lists.

While looking for your query, I noticed a few reference to an Amos Covey who could be this Amos. I haven't had a chance to check this out yet. If you have any information on Amos or Sarah, I'd be glad to receive it. Also, if you would like to correspond on the early Coveys, I'd be glad to. It's remarkable how you review, and sometimes revise, your "facts" when you put them into writing - at least I do.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Porter

Covey

G.N. 180200

10 April, 1994

Dear Rita:

Sorry I took so long to respond to your renewal letter. It was buried under a heap of "works in progress." The Covey research continues apace. I'm concentrating on the family in Dutchess County and am doing a clean sweep of the records in Stonington and Westerly to see if I can clean up the mess that Quist made of these areas, e.g., her claim that James<sup>4</sup> received bounty land for French and Indian War service from Connecticut in Philipse's Patent in Dutchess County. He was a tenant of Phillipse, but he sure as heck didn't get any bounty land there (nor did anyone else). Her so called documentation refers to James (probably James<sup>5</sup>) buying the land he was leasing after it was confiscated by the State of New York from Beverly Robinson after the Revolution.

There were a heck of a lot more Coveys in Dutchess County than Quist knew about, and James sure as heck wasn't the first there. According to the county tax records:

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I'm working on James<sup>3</sup> in Stonington, Connecticut, but have more films coming before I can trace his real estate dealings after 1755.

In the process of checking these records, I found a couple of Coveys that I can't account for: One was a Sarah Covey, a single woman of Pawling, who was carrying the bastard child of Samuel Burdick in March, 1776 (Ancient Document No. 9947). I have the court records on order, but I don't expect to get much out of them about who she was. The Coveys and Burdicks were neighbors in Westerly, and intermarried.

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If you or any of your subscribers know who Sarah and Amos were, I'd be glad to find that information.

A while back, one of your subscribers, a lady if I remember correctly, asked if anyone knew who Sarah Hatch was. Since then I've had my eye out for anything that might be a clue. So far, I haven't come up with anything concrete, but I do have a little data that might help identify her. From the tax lists:

Richard Hatch in Southern Precinct 1745 and 46.

Nathaniel Hatch in Southern Precinct 1753-57.

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While this still doesn't identify Sarah's parents, it sure gives her a lot more to work with and offers a positive identification if a Sarah Hatch can be found with some of these brothers, sister, in-laws, and husband. I'll still keep an eye peeled as I go through the records. I'll also look up the lady who inquired and send her a copy of this information.

One last thought - with all of those Coveys in Dutchess County, some of them besides James must have had children and grandchildren. Can anyone shed any light on this subject?

I'll enclose a check. If I missed an issue for being late, please send it to me. Thanks.

August 30, 1993

Rita Wilburn Ackerman  
4055 E. Hartford Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85032-2220

Dear Rita:

Just received my copy of *Covey Cousins*. Sorry to hear of your computer problems. The only solution is to save your work often as you go along, so you only lose what you've done since the last save when the computer decides to go out for lunch. It beats retyping all hollow. (I've got a lot of room to talk; I just spent three hours on this letter and didn't save it until I was ready to review it. As my dad used to say, "Do as I say, not as I do.")

I was interested in the piece on Hiram J. Covey, because I've been concentrating the last few months on the descendants of Benjamin Covey, Hiram being his grandson. Actually, I don't have as much as I'd like on James Covey's family. I'm missing at least three of his children who were listed in censuses.

James moved from Sandy Creek, Oswego County, New York to Brighton, Livingston County, Michigan about 1837 or 38 along with other members of Benjamin's family. He moved from there to Eaton Rapids, Eaton County Michigan between 1840 and 1850. Hiram J. was 9 years old in the 1850 census and was 21 years old when he enlisted in the army in August 1862. Both of these ages are consistent with a birth year of 1841, not 1844. Also, Eaton is not in Livingston County, but in Eaton County. I suspect that these are merely typos or that Hiram was getting a little forgetful by the time he replied to the questionnaires. I would think that he was born in 1841 in Brighton.

Haig also mentioned a Dioclesian Covey, who was born in Sandy Creek, in the June issue. I found that interesting, because I had run across Dioclesian, age 20, living with Ann Eliza Toncray in Brighton in the 1850 census. She is another of Benjamin's grandchildren by way of John Yarrington and his wife, Rhoda Covey. Since the June issue, I ran across Dioclesian twice again in the Genesee County, New York deed index.

This was too much for my curiosity "bump." I had to check him out, so I got the deeds and his military service records. The deeds were of no use other than to tell us that his wife's name was Elizabeth M. Covey and that he and a Chloe M. Philips bought and sold a piece of land. I have no idea who Chloe was.

Dioclesian's military records were no help either. He enlisted 21 Aug 1862 in Alexander, which is in southern Genesee County, just north of Livingston County. He gave his age as 33 years, 11 months. His birth place was Sandy Creek, and his occupation was carpenter. He had brown eyes, black hair, and light complexion, and was 5 feet 4-1/2 inches tall. He enlisted in Capt. Newman's Co, 22nd Battery, N.Y. Artillery, which later became Company M, 9th N.Y. Heavy Artillery. He deserted 14 Jan 1863 at Ellipse Fort, also called Fort Bayard, D.C. There was no point in looking for a pension file with that record.

I think that he might be one of James' missing sons, but I can't prove it. He definitely doesn't fit into Luther's family. One of my research tools is to draw up a table of all census and other data and try to reconstruct a family. This has worked very well, particularly with pre-1850 censuses. I'm enclosing my reconstructions of four Covey families as they stand today. They are subject to revision as I add new information. Henry Covey's does not include Isaac B. Covey, who is very probably his son.

Luther H. Covey's reconstruction reflects a second wife, Hannah, that I just discovered, but I don't have her maiden surname. They were listed in the 1850 and 1855 censuses in Cayuga County, New York. She is identified as his wife in 1855.

There were two Egbert Coveys in Sandy Creek in the mid-1800s. Egbert E. Covey married one of my great aunts, Sarah Ann Porter, daughter of Seth Porter. He identified himself as the cousin of Alvin Skinkle, who was probably the son of Henry Skinkle and Mary Covey, another of Benjamin's daughters. I've been trying to find his relationship to Benjamin for years.

I finally got his Civil War pension file and, fortunately, there was a problem with his second enlistment, which required him to write some declarations to get his pension. The pension was ultimately denied, but one of his declarations contained a copy of his father's family Bible with all of his children listed. I'll enclose a family group sheet for his father based on that information.

The relationship to Benjamin is still a mystery. His father was Elias F. Covey, who is not in Quist, and is not listed in any census index that I can find, nor is he in the IGI. I have a notice of Elias F. Covey's death on 19 Oct 1887 at the home of his son-in-law, Milo P. Moors in Sandy Creek, but can find no other trace of him. Milo was Egbert's brother-in-law and assisted him with his efforts to obtain a pension.

There is another problem with Egbert's mother. She is listed as what appears to be Lucy Ames in the pension file, but she is listed as Eliza Reid in Egbert's entry in the Sandy Creek Death Register. I haven't resolved that one yet.

The other Egbert is probably Luther H. Covey's youngest child. I discovered him in Richland, right next door to Sandy Creek in the 1855 census. He was a farmer, living among the Trumbulls, and had apparently married Julia A. Trumbull and was living with her parents. His older sister, Millinda, had married James Trumbull, and his mother, Anna Vredenburg, was buried in the town of Richland. His oldest son was named Luther Simeon, presumably after Luther H. Covey and Simeon Trumbull. His second daughter was named Anna, possibly after his mother. He does just fit into Luther's reconstructed family. He was a boatman in 1860, and his entire family were listed as paupers. I have no further record of him. I'll toss in a copy of his FGS too.

Luther's brother, Benjamin Covey, Jr., and Benjamin's wife, Elizabeth Hedger (*not* Hedges), also lived in Sandy Creek from about 1820 to their deaths. As far as I have been able to determine, they had no children.

Another stray is Hinley(?) Covey. He showed up in the 1840 census with a wife (both in the 20-30 age bracket) and a son under 5 years of age. I can find no trace of him before or since, and he doesn't fit into any of the known Covey families. It's possible that the name could be Hawley, but was interpreted as Hinley by the indexer. I'm going to blow up the listing and try to make out what the name is.

I believe that the *H.* in Luther's name stands for Hawley, but haven't been able to prove it yet. There was a Luther Hawley, who was contemporary with Benjamin Covey, Sr. in Dutchess County. Rhoda, Benjamin's wife, may have been Rhoda Hawley. Luther, their first child, may have been named Luther Hawley. Luther named a daughter Rhoda and a son Luther H. Rhoda married Seth Porter and named a son Luther Hawley Porter. At one time he went by the name of Hawley Porter (in a census). He named a son Hawley Porter.

*Hawley* was probably pronounced *Hah-ley* by the easterners and tended to become spelled *Holley*. Luther H. Covey, Jr. is reputed to have used that spelling (by one of my cousins). Rhoda Covey is buried in the same graveyard as some Holleys, but the Holley burials are not contemporaneous with hers. They are considerably later. The above mentioned Luther Hawley was listed in Salisbury, Connecticut in 1790, but is not heard from by that name since. A Luther Holley founded a prosperous family there after 1790.

These are just excerpts from a large body of research, presented in brief form. I do have documentation to back up my work. In fact, my goal is to recheck everything on these Coveys back to James, because Quist did such a poor job on our branch of the family, and I have found enough errors and inconsistencies to mistrust her work on earlier generations. Most of my work so far has been on Benjamin's descendants, but I'm beginning to focus on his ancestry.

I was going to write a couple of other letters tonight, but your article impelled me to write this instead. I wonder if you have anything in your files on Dioclesian, either of the two Egberts, Elias F., or Hinley/Hawley. I have also come up empty-handed on the families of Agrippa Martin and Eliza Covey and of Alvin Skinkle and Mary Covey. Both girls were Benjamin's daughters. The Martins were in Sandy Creek in 1838, and the Skinkles were in Rochester, according to Benjamin's probate file.

If you would like to correspond further on any of these families, I'd be happy to go into greater detail and share whatever I have with you.

Yours truly,

Raymond J. Porter

GNLTC186

August 21, 1993

Donald P. Avery  
3712 Bent Branch Rd.  
Falls Church, VA 22041

Dear Donald:

I thought that I'd make one last try to patch things up. We have too much sharing to do to stay angry. I've already apologized for anything that I said that may have offended you, but I'll do it again. My intent is only to get at the truth, and I sometimes let zeal overcome diplomacy. As the song says, "What can I say after I say I'm sorry?"

Anyhow, to get down to business, I have been very busy since I last wrote to you. I obtained both Benjamin Covey's and Egbert E. Covey's pension records from NARA. They were both interesting. Egbert E. served three times in the Civil War, but there was a mix-up on his discharge from the second hitch, and he was accused of desertion. He made several declarations in an effort to secure a pension. It appears that the pension people decided that he didn't desert, by denied his pension on the basis that the bounty that he received for his third enlistment from other than the United States was in excess of that to which he would have been entitled to, had he faithfully performed all prior contracts of service.

Several things are of interest to us in his file. One is that on 8 Dec 1905, after over two years of bureaucratic delays, he made a declaration in which he included a copy of his father's family Bible. I'll include a copy of the declaration; the whole file is about 3/4" thick, so I won't copy all of it. This declaration lays to rest the question of his parentage, I think. I still have a problem with his mother: the Sandy Creek death register has her name as Eliza Reid. Perhaps Elias remarried. Her name is poorly written, but it could be Lucy Ames Covey. Ames will come up twice more in this letter.

I have been unable to come up with any trace of Elias F. Covey in the census indexes, The AISI index, or the IGI, which seems strange to me. I do have an extract of the *Sandy Creek News*, dated 12 Jul 1888, which states that he died 19 Oct 1887 at the home of his son-in-law, Milo P. Moore. Milo witnessed Egbert's original declaration for a pension and also wrote to his Congressman, John H. Ketcham, on Egbert's behalf. It did no good. The bureaucrat that replied to Congressman Ketcham's inquiry revived the desertion issue and said that two late Acts, which would have entitled Egbert to a pension based on his honorable discharge from his last enlistment, gave Egbert no relief, because of the excess bounty issue. Things haven't changed much in Washington in the last hundred years.

On the other Egbert Covey that I think may be Luther's youngest son, I have found nothing new since I last wrote to you.

I did get the two Genesee County deeds for Dioclesian Covey that I mentioned in my last letter. They were of no use, other than to identify his wife as Elizabeth M. Covey. He and Chloe M. Phillips bought and sold a piece of land, that's all. I have no idea who Chloe was.

I also got his military records from NARA; no help there either. He enlisted 21 Aug 1862 in Alexander, which is in southern Genesee County, just north of Livingston County. He gave his age as 33 years, 11 months. His birth place was Sandy Creek, and his occupation was carpenter. He had brown eyes, black hair, and light complexion, and was 5 feet 4-1/2 inches tall. He enlisted in Capt. Newman's Co, 22nd Battery, N.Y. Artillery, which later became Company M, 9th N.Y. Heavy Artillery. He deserted 14 Jan 1863 at Ellipse Fort, also called Fort Bayard, D.C.

Dioclesian doesn't fit into my reconstruction of Luther's family. He could fit into Henry's, but Henry was in Ancram in 1820 and 1830. As far as I can tell Benjamin, Jr. had no children. The two Egberts were too young to be his father. This leaves James as a possibility, and Hinley, who we haven't discussed before.

Hinley is another of my recently discovered, previously overlook-in-the-census Coveys. He is listed in the 1840 census index, and Benjamin, Jr. is not. I've been assuming that someone just garbled Benjamin's listing. After finding the second Egbert, I decided that I'd better check out this goofy Hinley listing. Sure enough, I was bit on the butt again! Both he and Benjamin, Jr. are listed. He and his wife are in the 20-30 age bracket, and they have a son under five years of age. That eliminates him as the father of Dioclesian, but still leaves the mystery of who the heck he was. I hesitate to suggest that his name could be construed as Hawley lest I be accused of advocating the Hawley theory. The way that the left sides of the letter are bold strokes and the right almost nonexistent could allow the second letter to be an *a* and the third to be a *w*. Just a wild theory. I'll blow it up on a 16-mm machine and see what I see.

I stopped writing this to make a census reconstruction of James' family. Fitting Dioclesian in would be a strain, but it could be done. I'll include a printout of the latest Covey reconstructions, with the caveat that they are working hypothesis and subject to errors and change.

While on that subject, Henry's family reconstruction is also included, but I haven't put Isaac B. into it yet. Is there any evidence that he was Henry's son, other than that he lived in the same area? William H. is covered, because Salome went to live with him after Henry died. I guess that the fact that Isaac was born in Columbia County and that he named a son William H. lend credence to the theory.

On to Luther H. and Anna! The mystery is solved, but of course it opens another mystery or two. I found Luther H. in the 1855 New York state census. He was married to Hannah Covey and living with Elijah and Nancy Ames (second time Ames comes up). Note that Elijah had been in Cayuga County for 30 years; his entire life. Nancy and Hannah had been there for 19 years, which implies to me that Hannah was Nancy's mother and Elijah her son-in-law. Luther had only been there for 13 years, which gets us back to 1842, but still leaves us in the dark for 1840. I'm guessing that Luther knew Hannah's family in Sandy Creek and that he married her after her husband died. I have no clue as to her maiden or married names. She must have died before Luther showed up in Michigan in 1860.

I'll enclose a copy of the census listing and a blow-up of their listing. See how nice I am, even when you're not speaking to me. (That's a joke, Don; don't take it wrong.) I also made you a copy of Henry's listing in the 1855 census for Monroe County, which I don't imagine you have.

In my last letter, I brought up Henry's 1850 census listing and William H. Covey's 1860 census listing. I still haven't been able to recheck Harriet's age because I had to order the film. My prior extraction was done at the Regional Archives, and I haven't been back there. I made a blow-up of the William H. listing in question. I still can't get more than Julian out of Julia Ann's listing, and I still think that her age is listed as 43. After carefully comparing the digit in question with several other 4s and 5s on the page, I think that it more resembles the way he wrote 4s. There is also a faint line on the film that might be the missing stem of the 4. I did miss the 300 300 on my previous extraction. Enough on that subject.

I've been avoiding bringing up Benjamin Covey's pension file because I'm afraid I'm treading on a sensitive area, but it has to be done sooner or later, so here goes. I obtained a copy of his complete pension file; well almost complete - I'm missing a page, which we'll get to. The file contained Elizabeth's claim for a widow's pension and both bounty land warrant files. I'm sure you must have all of this in your copy of the pension files, but I'm going into detail just in case you didn't order the complete file.

To dispose of the bounty land issue first, our Benjamin did swear that he was a resident of Orange County in 1851 and 1855. I have no idea why he did so, because he definitely was not a resident in either year. He is listed in the 1850, 1855, and 1860 censuses in Sandy Creek. I can only speculate that either he was referring to his residence at the time of his service, or that he was required to reside in the county where he served from in order to get a warrant and lied about his residence. I find the former more likely, but I don't understand why he traveled to Orange County to make the claims when he could have done it in Oswego County. I did a little research in the Sons of the Revolution Library last Saturday, but could find no requirement for living in or applying from the county where he served. There's no doubt that this is the same Benjamin Covey that lived in Sandy Creek.

As to his service from 26 Aug 1812 to 4 Jan 1813, this appears to be another bureaucratic blunder. When the Pension Office requested a report of Benjamin's service from the rolls from the Third Auditor's Office of the Treasury Department, the report correctly stated he served from 7 Sep to 14 Dec 1814, but his name was misspelled *Corey*. This didn't affect the issuance of his 1855 bounty land warrant, but it did throw a monkey wrench into Elizabeth's claim.

At no time in either bounty land warrant claim or in the widow's pension claim was any service other than 7 Sep to 14 Dec 1814 claimed by Benjamin or Elizabeth. Her original declaration was made in Oswego County 27 Jun 1873 and was witnessed by Calphorna W. Ames and Lucetta Hedgar [sic]. This is the third occurrence of Ames in connection with the Covey family that I've found in the last week or two. Seems like a mighty big coincidence or the families were connected somehow. Lucetta Hoselton Hedger was Leonard Hedger's wife. Apparently she couldn't spell the family name very well, but the terminal letter is very clearly an *r*. A copy of her signature is enclosed.

I have nothing in my copy of the pension file to indicate where the Pension Office got their information, but on 30 Aug 1873 they sent a letter to Elizabeth's lawyer saying that it appeared that he served under a different Captain from that alleged by claimant and asking for additional proof of service. The orchestra has started playing, and the comedy of errors has begun. It's fortunate for us that it played, or we wouldn't have the genealogical information that is in subsequent declarations.

Several declarations were made on 20 and 21 Aug 1873. Calvin Parish's, which you have, cites valuable family information, but states that he lived near the Coveys, presumably in eastern Columbia County until about 1920, when the Coveys moved to Oswego County. This doesn't square with Benjamin's statement that he was drafted 29 Aug 1814 from the town of Wallkill, which is in present day Ulster County, a Hell of a way from Boston Corner. I guess we overlook that one.

Elizabeth's declaration contains a statement. "that no children of theirs are now living." Later she states that the Bible page listing her and Benjamin's births and their marriage "contained the whole family record." Her declaration was witnessed by Lucretia Hedger Porter, one of my co-relatives, and Lucretia's daughter-in-law, Ellen Ackler Porter. (I'd have to look up Lucretia's relationship to Elizabeth.) These two statements, taken with the census records, tend to support my theory that Benjamin had no children. The "now living" phrase might imply that there were formerly some living, but I think that it is just legalese to state that there were no children who could testify. The other statement implies that there were no children to list in the Bible.

Dr. Bulkley's declaration contains nothing of genealogical interest, but the second page of my copy shows the top of another page that begins with "Benjamin." I've enclosed a copy. Unfortunately, that whole page was not copied for me, so Leonard and Electa Hedger's declaration is incomplete in my copy. It ends after the first page where it says "the death of the said." and presumably should be followed by "Benjamin." If you have a copy of the missing page, I would appreciate it very much if you would send a copy of it and any other missing pages of that declaration to me.

Now the comedy enters the second act on 2 Oct 1873 with a memo to the Chief of the Bounty Land Division requesting Benjamin's service in his 1855 land warrant file, and a form letter to the Third Auditor requesting information on Benjamin's service under Captains Dunning and Burch. Both were answered on 3 Oct. I'm amazed at the efficiency of the bureaucracy then. It'd take weeks for a reply now. The reply from the Chief of the Bounty Land Division gave his service correctly, but gave his name as Corey. The reply from the Third Auditor gave his name as Corey and appended Benjamin's service under Capt. Dunning to Corey's service under Capt. Burch.

The Pension Office on 7 Oct 1873 took exception to the reports on Benjamin Corey and sent another memo requesting the service of Benjamin Covey, not Corey. The Third Auditor replied on 13 Oct 1873 that Benjamin Corey served under both captains, and that caused the Reviewer to report on 18 Oct 1873 that there was a discrepancy in the spelling of the name on the application and in the military service records. This led to a letter to Elizabeth's lawyer on 20 Oct 1873 for proof of Benjamin's identity.

Once again, Elizabeth Covey, Leonard Hedger and Electa Hedger made declarations on 27 Oct 1873, and her lawyer made another on 30 Oct 1873. Elizabeth's is interesting only in that she swears that Benjamin was a resident of Sandy Creek when his 1855 application for bounty land was made, contradicting his sworn statement of residence, unless that statement applied to his residence at the time of his service. Both declarations said that he applied for bounty land in 1865, but it was not issued until after his death. Actually, the application was made in 1855, and it appears that it was granted in 1856. I can't imagine it taking until after Benjamin's death to be issued. Copies of the pages with the Hedger's names and signatures are enclosed.

Finally, her pension was reviewed on 25 Nov 1873 by someone with some sense, and a brief was issued with the correct spelling and the correct service. It's hard to believe it could happen in Washington!

I have enclosed copies of every page in my copy of the file that contains the name Hedger. In no place does the name Hedges appear, except on the index card. I didn't include them to gloat, but only to get at the truth. If you're embarrassed at having made a mistake, don't be; most people make the same mistake. Hedger is a very uncommon name, but I have the advantage of having researched for several years records where many of them lived. I made the same mistake at first, too, but finally realized that the name really was Hedger. I hope this silly name thing isn't what has you not writing to me!

That about wraps up my news, but I have some questions I'd like you to answer, if you'll write. These are in addition to the questions in my last two letters. The first concerns the *Book of the Wilders* that you cite. I borrowed a copy of a book by that title from NEHGS, but it contained no Coveys, and the information in it was so general and lacking in detail that you couldn't have gotten to information from it that you have. I wonder if there was a later edition of the book that was updated with more information. I've enclosed a copy of the title page; the edition was in 1878. I hope that there is a later edition or a different book by the same name.

I'd also like to know where you got the death records of Luther, Jr.'s children so I can obtain them for my files.

I've about exhausted my leads on Benjamin Covey's descendants and am beginning to work on his ancestry. I want to verify what Quist has. I'm also curious why Elias F. Covey doesn't show up anywhere in the census record or the IGI. If it weren't for having an independent record of his death, I'd be suspicious of Egbert E.'s Bible records. I have nothing on Agrippa Martin's family and probably won't have, from the looks of things.

Well, this pretty well wraps up all of the loose ends of our previous collaboration. I felt that I should not leave all of them hanging loose, but this will be the last time that I bother you unless I hear from you. It was fun while it lasted.

August 16, 1993

Susan Templeton  
18420 Doris Ave  
Livonia, MI 48152-1908

Dear Susan:

Thank you for your recent letter. I've been going to write to you for some time, but haven't known how to start. Since you've read my letters to Ruby, that gets me over the introduction; you already know what we've been discussing.

So far, most of my research has been on the descendants of Benjamin Covey. While not finished by any means, I've kind of run out of steam in that direction and am beginning to turn my attention to Benjamin's siblings and his ancestry. I had a good thing going with Donald Avery, but I blew it by disagreeing with some of his research. Too bad; I had a lot of questions that I wanted to ask him. I hope you aren't thin-skinned, too. There's bound to be differences of opinions and conclusions. Discussion of these is necessary to get at the truth.

You didn't say whether you are interested in Luther H. Covey, but I assume that you are because he is an ancestor of Grace Sherman. No doubt, you've seen our discussion of, "Who the heck is Anna" in the 1850 census. Well, I found out that she was Luther's second wife Hannah \_\_\_\_\_. They are listed in the New York state census for 1855 as husband and wife, still in Mentz, Cayuga County. I'll enclose a Xerox of the listing. Ruby might be interested in it, too.

They are living with Elijah and Nancy Ames. Note that Nancy and Hannah were both in Cayuga County for 19 years, while Elijah was there for 30 years; his entire life. This implies to me that Hannah was probably Nancy's mother, that the family (surname unknown) moved to Cayuga County when Nancy was six years old, that her father died before 1850, and her mother married Luther before 1850.

I haven't a clue as to what family Nancy and Hannah belonged to. Luther may have known them in Sandy Creek, and that may have been what led him to move to Cayuga County about 1842 (to marry the widow). I still don't know where he was in 1840, but I'm still looking.

I note that you have Luther's mother as Rhoda Holley, no doubt as a result of Donald Avery's theory about her being buried in the same cemetery as some Holleys in Dutchess County. There's a very good chance that her name was Hawley, not Holley. That was one of the things we were discussing when he broke off our correspondence. I'll not argue the point here, and I could be wrong. Just be aware that there is a lot more evidence that her name was Hawley and be on the look out for any Hawley/Holley/Holly who could be her ancestor. My guess is that she was related to Luther Hawley, who was in Dutchess County about the time she was born.

I am still wondering about Luther's age at death. His death certificate gives the date of death as 18 Feb 1868, age 94 years, 18 days. The Cemetery Records of Oakland County, Michigan, Volume III, give the same date, but give his age as 93 years, 14 days. I asked Ruby about this, but she didn't reply to this question. Do you have any information that would resolve the large discrepancy?

I don't know if you are interested in Luther's brother, Benjamin. Donald and I disagreed on his history, too. I have since gotten the military pension records of his and of Egbert E. Covey, who Donald thought was his son. I have proved conclusively through the Sandy Creek Death Register and Egbert's pension records that Egbert E Covey was the son of Elias F. Covey. In fact,

census records and the pension records suggest that Benjamin had no children. The whole discussion is lengthy, and I won't go into it unless you're interested.

I suppose that you noticed that I found another Egbert Covey in Richland, who I think is Luther's youngest son. I haven't figured out what happened to him yet.

I mentioned Dioclesian Covey to Ruby. I got his Civil War military records (he deserted) and a couple of deeds in Genesee County. None of it gave me any clue as to his ancestry.

I also picked up a Hinly Covey in the 1840 Sandy Creek census. He and his wife were in the 20-30 age bracket, and they had a son less than five years old. I had seen the name in the census index and thought that it was a garbled entry for Benjamin, who was not in the index. After overlooking the second Egbert in the index, I thought that I'd better check this one out. Sure enough, he was there. I can't tie him to anyone yet. Both he and Dioclesian could be James Covey's sons, but I have no evidence. Neither fit into the reconstruction of Luther's family that I made. There is no change in that reconstruction since I last wrote Ruby.

That's about all that's new in the Sandy Creek Coveys. Which gets me down to your family group sheets on the earlier generations. You didn't mention whether they were taken from Quist or from original research. I am interested in knowing, because I am starting to work in that direction, and I am not taking anything Quist says as truth until I check it out for myself. She has so many errors and inconsistencies in her book that I cannot trust anything in it.

So far, I have been unable to verify any of her citations for James Covey's family in Dutchess County, but haven't gone very far. The Dutchess County Historical Society informs me that Frederickstown went into Putnam County in 1812 when Putnam County was formed and that I need to look there, rather in Dutchess County. I have also been unable to locate the Columbia County marriage records that she cites ambiguously.

I am also very skeptical of her frequent mention of Stonington, Connecticut. I have been unable to find any record of any Covey in Stonington, or in New London County for that matter. Perhaps they were there and left no record of their passing. I'm not prepared to say at this point.

I hope that you have done some research in these areas and can point me in the right direction. If not, we can work it out together (if you can put up with me, that is).

I'll be looking forward to a long letter from you about where you are in your research.

Sincerely,

Covey

GN25A181

June 30, 1993

Ruby Templeton  
29920 S. Milford Rd.  
New Hudson, MI 48165

Dear Ruby:

Thank you for the material that you sent me. It was very interesting and helped greatly in filling in some of the gaps in my research. I found the Fuller information particularly interesting, because I hadn't a clue as to Nelson Fuller's ancestry. It never even occurred to me that he and Hiram's wife were brother and sister, although I knew that Hiram went back to Dutchess County to marry Hannah. I wish that the sheet that you sent me included the children of Nathaniel Fuller; it would have been nice to have that information as a citation. By the way, where did you copy that information from?

I am puzzled by your belief that Nelson married Hiram's sister. The only reason that I am even aware of Nelson Fuller is that Laura Covey, daughter of Benjamin Covey is listed as one of Benjamin's heirs in the administration of his estate in 1838. He died intestate, and his estate was divided among his children. Twice in his estate papers, Laura Fuller wife of Nelson Fuller of Michigan is mentioned as one of Benjamin's children. I don't think that there is any question about who Laura Covey Fuller was. While Luther had daughters who could conceivably be Laura Fuller, there is no evidence to support such a thesis. Laura was born after Benjamin's first wife, Rhoda, died, but she is still listed as one of his children, so she has to be Elizabeth's daughter. There are no heirs listed that are not Benjamin's children, and none of Elizabeth's children from her previous marriage shared in his estate. I'll copy the list of heirs for you in case you don't have them.

The obituaries are very interesting and useful. The Benjamin, father of Arthur Covey is, no doubt, the oldest son of James Covey, another of Benjamin's children. James moved to Michigan about the same time as several of Benjamin's children, but moved on to Eaton Rapids shortly after arriving in Michigan. James was still in Benjamin's household in Ancram in 1820, was married about 1822 to Lorinda -----, was living in the town of Richland, Oswego County in 1830, then moved to Michigan, presumably with or at about the same time as his siblings; about 1837. His son, Benjamin, was born about 1823, in New York. I don't know if it was in Ancram, Richland, or somewhere else, because I don't know when he moved to Richland.

I thought that the obituaries would clear up the exact date of Hiram G. Covey's marriage to Margaret. The date is given as 11 Nov 1855 in the History of Oakland County, but is 10 Nov 1855 in the marriage returns of Oakland County. I thought that the question was settled when I read his obituary, but the score was evened at two to two when I read her obituary. I guess the jury is still out on this one.

Lucille Richards FGS on Hiram provided some needed dates (the ones you added), but she is wrong about the children being born in Dutchess County. Hiram married Hannah in Dutchess County, but he was back in Sandy Creek before 1830, and his first five children were born there.

The Fuller FGS also was valuable, because it filled in data that I could not get from the censuses. I did not have Laura Covey's death date, so didn't know which children in the 1850 census were hers and which were Amanda's. I also didn't have Amanda's maiden name. Again I wonder where these people got their information for citation in my book. The names Viscount Nelson and Hannah Laura are new to me. I have never seen them before. The Fullers that you cite must

have had a family Bible or something to get these full names. I'm a little afraid to use them without a verified source.

There are a couple of questions about Luther, Sr. that have been bothering me, and that you might be able to clear up. The first relates to his age at death. His death certificate says that he died 18 Feb 1868, age 94 years, 18 days. The Cemetery Records of Oakland County, Michigan, Vol. III give the same date, but give his age as 93 years, 14 days, a considerable difference. Do you know which is correct?

Do you know where Luther and Luther, Jr. were in 1840? I have searched high and low for them, but cannot find either. Donald Avery proposes that Luther, Jr. is listed in Genesee County as Luther Holley (no Covey) in 1840. I am reluctant to accept this, even though the ages of Luther Holley, his wife, and his children fit Luther's family.

Also, in 1850, I can find Luther, Sr., age 75, living with an Anna, age 54, in Cayuga County, but no Luther, Jr. anywhere. I can't be sure that this is our Luther. The age is right, but the Anna is a mystery. His wife, Anna, died in 1837. This Anna is exactly the age of his first daughter, Helen, but the name is wrong unless Helen was going by the name Anna. I never did find out what happened to Helen.

I mentioned Dioclesian Covey in my last letter, but you didn't pick up on him. Since he was born in Sandy Creek about 1830, he may have been one of James Covey's children. I can't fit him in anywhere else. I've sent for his Civil War military records to see if there is some clue there. I may have to get his pension records, if he lived that long, to get any genealogical information.

In rummaging around in my census indexes, I found, much to my embarrassment, a second Egbert Covey in Richland, Oswego County. I don't know how long I've been overlooking him. My only excuse is that I haven't done any census research in Richland township until recently. In any event, he was living cheek by jowl with the Trumbull families in Richland in 1855. It is apparent that he married Julia A. Trumbull, daughter of Joseph Trumbull, who was the brother of James Trumbull, who married Millinda Covey. James and Joseph were sons of Simeon Trumbull and Elizabeth Rising.

Egbert's children in 1860 were: Luther Simeon, age 9; Caroline, age 7; Anna A., age 4; William, age 2; and Maria M., age 3/12. With names like that and living with Millinda's in-laws, there is no doubt that he is Luther's youngest son. He fits into that slot in my reconstruction of Luther's family.

Speaking of reconstructions, I'll enclose the latest versions of Luther's and Benjamin's families. I have dressed it up a little, and there have been some minor changes as a result of recent research. Benjamin's family is complete, but there are a lot of missing persons in Luther's. Can you supply any of the names? (Don't tell me Laura Covey Fuller. Ha-ha.)

I'll throw in a little tidbit that I got from the Dutchess County Historical Society. It's a copy of the original newspaper with Rhoda Covey's death notice in it. The paper is still in good condition and not brittle. I found the little aside at the end interesting, although the notice doesn't add anything to what was in the extract.

Also, I have copies of the Trumbull family records from the Connecticut State Library, and have come up with nine family group sheets as a result of these and census research in the last couple of weeks. Let me know if you are interested in the Trumbulls (if you don't already have this information).

I'll be looking forward to your reply and our continued cooperation on the "Covey puzzle."

Covey

GNL 180

June 28, 1993

Donald P. Avery  
3712 Bent Branch Rd.  
Falls Church, VA 22041

Dear Donald:

It's been over two months since I last wrote to you and no reply. I hope that I didn't offend you by disagreeing with some of the information that you sent me. If I did, I apologize; I'm afraid that I'm too direct and lacking in tact. I would sure hate to lose your assistance in sorting out the Covey puzzle. It gets more interesting and complex by the day. Since I last wrote you, I have had time for several good, productive research sessions, and I have another bunch of films, records, and books on order. On the chance that you're not mad at me, I'll try to bring you up to date on my findings. Writing this stuff down forces me to review my findings and ensure that they are logically consistent (or something).

As usual, I don't know where to start, because I have several subjects to discuss. I guess I'll just jump in on Luther Covey, Jr. I don't know if you have his census data for 1830, because you didn't send me a Census History on him. As I mentioned in my last letter, he was in Salisbury, Conn. in 1833, so I looked at Litchfield Co. in 1830 and found him. A copy of my incomplete census history on him is enclosed. Notice that I ordered some of these forms from Netti Schriener-Yantis; I was very impressed by them, as well as her FGS forms, which I also ordered.

This listing raises more questions than it answers. Who in the heck was he living with, and why is he the head of the household in which there is a woman 40-50 and another 70-80? Who is the male 15-20 years old? It's not his wife's family, and there were no Coveys in Salisbury in 1820, although there was a Randal Covey in Winchester, Litchfield Co. then. Henry was back in Columbia Co. by 1820.

Oops! I just found Luther's marriage date on your FGS, which was 18 Apr 1830; before the census. I also checked Henry, and she was gone from his family in 1830, so something's fishy here. She should be in the 20-30 age group. Either I copied the census listing wrong, or there is an error in it. I suppose these could be some of Julia Ann's Bird relatives. Luther's listing is on the same page as Henry Bird and James Bird and a couple of pages after the listing for Eliphalet Bird, so the family might be that of Julia's grandparents, Isaac and Rhoda Bird. I haven't made any effort to trace the Bird family (and probably won't; there's a limit). It could also be some of his Hawley/Holley ancestors or relatives; Newman Holley is listed on the preceding page.

I checked the Salisbury deed index from 1739 to 1843, and there were no Coveys listed, although there were hundreds of Holley listings from Luther Holley and his descendants. Apparently they dealt in real estate among their business interests. Despite there being a Luther Hawley in Litchfield in 1790, I found no Luther Hawley deeds.

I extracted the Luther Holley listing in 1840 that you say is Luther Covey, but I can't accept it without reservations unless I can find some corroborative evidence. I have found none so far, except that the ages of his family agree exactly with the census listing. That's one point in your favor.

I did order four rolls of Genesee Co. deed indexes in an effort to prove it one way or another. In short, I found no relevant deeds for a Luther Covey or Holley. I did find something else that I wasn't looking for. Do you remember my asking who the heck Dioclesian Covey was. Well he showed up on page 10 of the last issue of Covey Cousins. Then he showed up again in the

Genesee Co. deed indexes, where Dioclesian Covey *et al* received a parcel of land from Abiah W. Ensign, then Dioclesian Covey *et al* later sold a parcel to Charles \_\_\_\_\_. The *et al* frequently implies settlement of an estate, so I ordered the deed records. It won't be here for a couple of weeks.

I also ordered his Civil War service records from NARA in the hope that it might give us some information. He was born in Sandy Creek according to Covey Cousins, so he has to be one of ours. He could be James' child. Anna was 52 in 1829, so it's unlikely he's Luther's. Benjamin, Jr. had no children listed that age.

Speaking of Henry (a while back, since I inserted a few paragraphs), your census history on him started with 1840. I located him in Salisbury, presumably living near his Bird in-laws, but the census listing is sorted alphabetically, so there is no way to view his neighbors. I completed his census history from 1790 to 1860 and will enclose a copy. We do disagree in 1850 and 1860.

I have an age of 9 for Harriet, which would make her Luther Jr.'s, daughter Harriet, but where the heck is the rest of her family?. I also differ in Julian's listing in 1860. I was conscious that this was supposed to be Julia Ann, but I couldn't get more than Julian off the film. I also copied 43 as her age, rather than 53. I suspect that you may have fixed the spelling to what you thought it should be and adjusted to age to fit. I also failed to record a change to family 300. Again, I'll look once more at the film.

I copied Henry's son, Isaac B. Covey, in Monroe Co. in 1850, age 30, and his family. I also found an Eliza R. Covey, age 25, in Monroe county, apparently working for the Rick family. Do you have any idea who she is; another of Henry's children?

I verified your listing of Luther in 1850 in Mentz, but still haven't found him in 1840. Anna is exactly the right age and birthplace to be his daughter, Helen. She was born 5 Aug 1795 in Mass., and would have been 54 in June 1850. She's the only one I can fit in that spot. There is another way to get a further look at this listing: the NY state census. I haven't been able to locate the 1845 census for Cayuga Co., but will get the 1855 census and see if they are still there. That NY state census comes in mighty handy. More on that below.

I did find a Luther Covey in Franklin Co. in 1850, and thought I might have located Luther, Jr. It turned out that this Luther was 25 in 1850. Forget that bright idea.

While rummaging around in the census indexes, trying to find all of the Coveys in any place likely, much to my embarrassment, I found two Egbert Coveys in the 1860 index. My first reaction was, "What's going on here? Was he listed twice in the census; once in Sandy Creek and once in Richland?" I decided I'd better check this out, and lo and behold, there was a second Egbert Covey, almost certainly Luther's youngest son! I had the 1855 census for Richland and found him there also, living among Simeon Trumbull's family. From the location of his family, I'm fairly certain that his wife was Julia A. Trumbull, daughter of Joseph Trumbull. Joseph was the brother of James Trumbull, who married Millinda Covey.

I had already obtained a copy of the Trumbull family records from the Connecticut State library, and this set off a flurry of checking censuses for Trumbulls in Oswego County. This resulted in nine Trumbull FGS's as well as one for the new Egbert. The proximity of Richland to Sandy Creek may explain why Anna is buried in Pulaski. She probably died at her daughter's. It hadn't registered with me that she is buried next to Luther S. Trumbull, who died 14 Jun 1902, age 73 yrs. These burials are at the bottom of the page, and I don't have copies of succeeding pages to see who else of interest might be buried near her. I'll have to write to Sandy Creek for the remaining pages.

Egbert was a farmer in 1855, as I said living cheek by jowl with the Trumbulls. In 1860, he was no longer living among the Trumbulls, his occupation was boatman, and his entire family was notated as paupers. Boatmen in Oswego county worked the canal boats on the Oswego River. Apparently he wasn't doing so good. His children in 1860 were: Luther Simeon, 9; Caroline. 7;

Anna A. 4; William E., 2; and Maria M., 3/12. With names like that, there is little doubt that Luther Covey, Anna Vreedenburgh, and Simeon Trumbull are ancestors.

I have no idea yet what became of Egbert and his family. I've ordered the 1865 census film for Richland, but won't get it for a couple of weeks. If he's still there in 1865, I'll read the 1870 census to try to find him, etc.

Evidently the other Egbert applied for a pension and was denied, if we are to believe his obituary. I ordered his pension records and asked that they copy the entire file. We may find something to give us a clue to Eli Covey and Eliza Reid. So far, they are a complete mystery.

I've also sent for indexes to War of 1812 pension records. Both Benjamin Covey and Seth Porter were pensioners. We may find something in them to straighten out the mix-up between Benjamin Covey in Orange Co. and Oswego Co. (Maybe not, if they are merged at the Archives.) This will take months to get the indexes, then order the records from NARA.

On the off chance that the Dutchess County Historical Society had microfilmed the original death notice of Rhoda Covey, I wrote to them for a copy. They still have the *original* newspapers in good condition, and they copied the masthead and the notice for me. What luck! The notice doesn't contain any more genealogical information than the extract, but there is an interesting human interest aside. I'll enclose copies assuming that you don't have them. I've also written to the historical society to see if I can hire someone to research several questions on the Coveys, Hawleys, and Vreedenburghs. I'll let you know how it comes out.

If you don't have copies of the Trumbull family records and want them, let me know, and I'll send them to you

One of the tools that I use to reconstruct families prior to the 1850 census is to make a table and try to follow each individual through successive censuses, eventually identifying the individuals and deducing their birthdates. The latest version of Benjamin and Luther Covey are enclosed. I thought that I had Benjamin wired, and everyone was accounted for in every census, except the unknown female and Son 7. While pulling things together today and checking against you and Quist, I realized that James was married before 1830, so another male is unidentified. He doesn't show up until 1830 in the 20-30 age group, so he isn't Benjamin's. Perhaps he's Elizabeth's.

Luther is coming along, but there are still five of his children unidentified. Dioclesian doesn't fit, as mentioned earlier. We'll probably never know who the four unidentified daughters were. Those that lived were probably married long before 1850, and we'll never know to whom. There is some hope for the son born about 1806, but no luck so far.

That's about it for now. Lots of irons still in the fire. Lots of rechecking to do, but things are coming together fairly well. Again, I hope that I haven't offended you and that you will continue to write.

Yours truly,

Raymond J. Porter

June 24, 1993

Mrs. Mary Lou Davison  
 Dutchess Co. Hist. Socy.  
 P.O. Box 88  
 Poukeepsie, NY 12602

Dear Mary Lou:

Thank you very much for the copy of Rhoda Covey's death notice. While it didn't add any more genealogical information than was in the extract, it does add something to my book. The part about being lost for several weeks adds a touch of human interest.

I am aware of Mrs. Quist's book on the Coveys; we have a copy in our local Family History Library. Mrs. Quist was a member of the Anaheim Stake, which is just a few miles from here. Unfortunately, her coverage of the Benjamin Covey line is very incomplete and contains several errors. I have spent quite a bit of time tracing Benjamin's descendants (of which I am one) and correcting the errors in her book. I have made very good progress, but still have much work to do, particularly in tracing Benjamin's ancestors and identifying his wives. I realize that Quist has Benjamin's ancestry, but I'd like to verify as much of it as I can myself.

I wonder if I might hire you or someone in your organization to look up some things for me, since it's likely to be a long time before I can get to Dutchess County to look them up myself. I did do some research at the Allen County Public Library this Spring on Dutchess County and found some interesting information, but I need much more. Specifically, I am looking for:

1. Benjamin Covey's birthdate, presumably in Frederickstown, per Quist.
2. The name, ancestry, and marriage date of Benjamin Covey's first wife, Rhoda. I believe that her name was Hawley, because Benjamin and Rhoda named their first child Luther H. Covey (contrary to Quist).

Luther H. married Anna Vredenburg (spelling varies). They named their second child Rhoda, no doubt after Luther's mother, and their fifth child (second son) Luther H. after Luther. Rhoda married Seth Porter, and they named one of their sons Luther Hawley Porter. He, in turn, named one of his children Hawley Porter

From Hasbrouck's history of Dutchess County, among the signers in the Northeast Precinct of the "Articles of Association" in July 1775 were Benjamin Covey, Luther Hawley, and Josiah Hawley. This about two years after Benjamin married Rhoda. While I have no evidence of a connection between Luther Hawley and Rhoda, I find it interesting that she named her son Luther H., that two of her grandchildren were named Luther H. (one explicitly Luther Hawley), and that one of her great-grandchildren was named Hawley. The name does not appear in Benjamin's background.

There was also a Luther Holley in the town of Dover about this time, who went to Salisbury, Connecticut. There are several Holleys buried in Spencer's Corners, but they are from a considerably later period. One of my cousins uses the presence of Holleys in the Spencer's Corners burying ground as evidence that Rhoda's name was Holley, but he was unaware of the Hawley connections mentioned above. It's quite possible that her name was Holley, but I find it more likely that it was Hawley.

3. The name, history, and marriage date of Benjamin's second wife Elizabeth. Census information suggests that she was a widow, that they were married about 1811, when she

was about 40, that she brought at least one child to the marriage, a son who was 10-16 in 1820, and that she and Benjamin had one child, Laura, after their marriage. I assume that Laura was Benjamin's daughter, because she is named in Benjamin's estate. Elizabeth's son is not mentioned, nor are any of her other children, assuming there were some.

4. Any information on Anna Vreedenburgh/Van Vredenburgh/etc., who married Luther H. Covey ca. 1794. Their first (known) child was Helen Covey, who was born 5 Aug 1795. Since they named their second child, Rhoda, presumably after Luther's mother, it's possible that they named the first after Anna's mother. Similarly, they named their second son Luther H. Covey; their first son, Hiram, may have been named after Anna's father. Neither Helen nor Hiram are in Luther's ancestry, and I believe that Hiram might be a Dutch name. Of course this is all speculation, with no evidence to support it.
5. Mrs. Quist cites Columbia Co., NY marriage records as the source for the marriage of Benjamin Covey, Jr. and Elizabeth Hedges (sic), 19 Oct 1806, in her LDS Marriage Entry submission. I was unable to find any Columbia County marriage records at the Allen County Public Library, nor have I found them on LDS microfilm. Are you aware of any such records and where I might locate them? (Elizabeth's name was Hedger; her family moved to Sandy Creek, and there are numerous references to them by that name there. They were of Dutch extraction.)

The above list is lengthy, and I would not expect anyone to do the necessary research without compensation. Please advise me what the charge would be, and I will send a check. Thank you for your assistance.

Yours truly,

Raymond J. Porter

B. cond  
6-19-93

# Dutchess County Historical Society

P.O. BOX 88  
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK 12602

June 15, 1993

Raymond J. Porter  
13662 Loretta Drive  
Tustin, CA 92680

Dear Mr. Porter,

The copies from the newspaper Political Barometer are the best that could be made. The paper is tan with age though not brittle. It was a small newspaper almost tabloid size as you can see from the masthead and only 4 pages.

Rhoda and Benjamin are buried in Dutchess County. Are you aware of the books Ancestors and Descendants of Walter Covey, Dutchess County, NY 1750-1834 by Mary Lancaster Quist, 2 volumes. Your library may have it or can get it for you on inter-library loan.

Thank you for your \$10 check. It is appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Mary Lou Davison*

(Mrs.) Mary Lou Davison  
Genealogical Researcher

enc.

9/25/2017

June 6, 1993  
XXX 0, 0000

Ruby Templeton  
29920 S Milford Rd.  
New Hudson, MI 48165

Dear Ruby:

Thank you for your reply to my letter and for the research that you did on my behalf. It's always nice to hear from a new-found cousin. According to my reckoning we're fourth cousins, if you are the daughter of Josephus Templeton and Grace Long; you didn't include that part of your pedigree. In any event, their children are my fourth cousins. I'm also descended from Luther H. Covey through Seth Porter and Rhoda Covey. I've been concentrating on straightening out the mess that Quist made of our branch of the Covey family the last several months. My goal is to independently document this line without depending on Quist. There are so many errors and inconsistencies in her book that I can't trust anything in it.

I haven't started verifying Benjamin Covey's ancestry, because I had to prove that Luther, Sr. was indeed his son, and not the Luther in Quist's book. While I haven't found any direct evidence that proves the relationship, such as an obit for Luther, I believe that I have a very good circumstantial case. In the process, I've been trying to reconstruct the families of as many of Benjamin's children as I can. This has been going fairly well, but I still have a long way to go.

The Porters lived in Sandy Creek for about a hundred years (c. 1810-1910), so I have done a great deal of research on that area. One of the things that I found on my last research trip there, last fall, was a gravestone inscription for Anna Vredenberg/Vredenburgh/etc. She died probably in or near Sandy Creek 17 Apr 1837, age 60y-1m-15d, and is buried in Riverside Cemetery in the village of Pulaski, just south of Sandy Creek. I have no idea why she was buried there instead of in Sandy Creek. Perhaps she was staying with relatives in her last illness. The cemetery listing is from a manuscript list in the Sandy Creek Library. They have not been published.

I'll enclose rough group sheets on Benjamin, Sr. and Luther, Sr. and their family reconstruction based on census data that I have been working on. Benjamin's reconstruction is fairly complete, but there are a couple of clinkers in it: the female 16-26 who showed up in 1810, but not before or after, and the male 10-16 who showed up in 1820, but not before. I suspect that he might be Elizabeth's from a previous marriage.

Luther's reconstruction is far from complete. The first five children are identified, but the last six are just numbers in the census. I'm a little suspicious of some of the later children because of Anna's age. They may be grandchildren. The ages in parenthesis are my best guess based on their ages in several censuses or on known birthdates.

I've been trying to figure out who Dioclesian Covey was. He was living with Ann Eliza Toncry, John Yerrington/Yarrington's daughter in Oakland County in 1850, age 20. About the time your letter arrived, I received the latest issue of "Covey Cousins," which mentioned a Dioclesian Covey, who was born in Sandy Creek about 1829 and served in the Civil War. He was too young to be Luther's. Do you know who his parents were? He could be James Covey's son, I suppose, but I haven't even started on James' family reconstruction.

It's getting late, so I'd better sign off for now. Sorry I took so long to answer your letter. I got buried in work for the last two weeks, but am getting back to my genealogy now. I'd be glad to correspond further on the Coveys if you are interested.

Covey

5/21/93

May 21, 1993

The Dutchess County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 88  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12602

Dear Sir:

I have a copy of my 3-gr. grandmother's death notice as extracted from the *Political Barometer in Marriages and Deaths ...*, Collections of the Dutchess County Historical Society, Volume IV. It is on p. 31 and reads:

P. B., Tues., June 18, 1805. On the 12th ult. Rhoda wife of Benjamin Covey of Gallatin, County of Columbia, in the 52d year of her age. (Survived by husband and ten children.)

I wondered if you have the original newspaper on microfilm and could print out a copy of Rhoda's death notice for me or have it transcribed. I would be happy to pay whatever charges are involved as the original could contain valuable family information. A check good for up to ten dollars is enclosed.

Also, I would like to receive information about the society and a membership application. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Raymond J. Porter

~~FRANCIS~~  
COVEY

GNL 2/2/68

May 21, 1993

Ruby Templeton  
29920 Milford Rd.  
New Hudson, MI

Dear Ruby:

I got your name and address from a copy of Hiram Covey's family group sheet that you had sent to Donald P. Avery. I hope it is still valid - if you're reading this it must be.

The reason for writing you is that you cited "Old obits saved by Frances Covey Sherman Butterfield" on your FGS. Hiram was my 2-gr-uncle. I am descended from his sister, Rhoda, who married Seth Porter. Hiram's father, Luther H. Covey, was 94 years old when he died in New Hudson in 1868.

Frequently, when persons that old die, the newspapers do a write up on the passing on of the old settler, etc. I have written three times to the Oakland County Genealogical Society to see if they had a collection of old obits with Luther's in it, but they apparently do not answer letters, even those with a SASE and a check in them. I find this strange, because most societies are very helpful to those who write.

Anyhow, I wondered if Frances Butterfield had a copy of Luther's obit in her collection. If she's still alive, I would appreciate it if you would ask her or send me her address so I can ask her.

Also, do you know if the Oakland County Genealogical Society has a collection of obits or if the newspapers for 1868 are available on film? I may have to hire a local researcher to look up Luther's obit for me.

Thank you for your assistance. A SASE is enclosed for your reply.

Yours truly,

Raymond J. Porter

April 25, 1993

Donald P. Avery  
3712 Bent Branch Rd.  
Falls Church, VA 22041

Dear Donald:

I was pleased to find your letter waiting for me when I returned from my trip to Fort Wayne. Unfortunately, I had to spend a hectic week catching up at work, then another trip to Seattle on business. I've finally found an afternoon when I can devote the attention your letters require. Knowing me, it'll probably run into the evening, and maybe tomorrow. We have so many things to discuss that I hardly know where to start.

First off, let me thank you for all of the "goodies" that you sent. They are very helpful and are immensely appreciated. I particularly liked the picture of Luther, Jr.'s family. Too bad he wasn't in it; that would have been something! Henry strikes me as a handsome Dutchman. I wonder if this is Anna Vredenburg showing through. On the other hand, he looks a lot like his mother, so that is probably not true.

Too bad you missed that monograph on the Vredenburgs, but it probably didn't contain Anna, anyhow. I have checked out a couple of books with no luck, and I have a feeling that we're out of luck.

I was surprised to hear that you are a Porter. What a coincidence! After thirty years of searching, I doubt that I will be able to offer anything new. I imagine that in that time you have discovered that Porter was a pretty common name in the early days, although it is not too common now; dilution of our English heritage, I'm afraid. I'm descended from Robert Porter of Hartford and Farmington, and I'm pretty sure that there was no Lebbeus in that line. I have several hundred of his descendants in my database, and I think that I have the complete line well past 1742.

My bibliography runs over forty pages, but I printed out the portion of it that relates to Porter families. You might find a book or two that you've missed. I've also copied a listing of Porter lines taken from *The Ancestors of Jermain and Louise Porter*. They might point you to a line that you haven't explored. I wouldn't ignore the possibility of his parents coming from Northern Ireland. There was a tide of immigration from Ulster in the early 1700s, and several Porter families came from Ireland.

What's next? How about Hawley/Holley/Holly? I wouldn't close my mind to the possibility that Rhoda was a Hawley. I spent a good deal of time at Fort Wayne trying to connect her to one of these families, whatever the spelling. In the Process, I found quite a few references to all spellings, but Hawley was the more numerous by far. I even found a book on the Hally family. One branch of the family pronounced it like Hawley, another pronounced it to rhyme with Sally. I suspect that Hawley is the older form, and it got changed through the phonetic spelling of the day to Holley and Holly.

To get down to specifics, I checked the IGI before I left and found a Rhoda Hawley, born 29 July 1751, Farmington Twp, Hartford Co, CT, father Samuel Hawley, mother ?. I also found a Rhoda Holly, born 17 Jul 1766, Stamford, Fairfield, CT, father Francis Holly, mother Abigail Webb. These were the only Rhodas born anywhere near 1753. The first is a possibility, but the birth year is off a little. I copied the newspaper extract from Reynolds, and it says Rhoda was in the 52nd year of her age. This should imply that she hadn't reached her 52nd birthday yet, but who

knows how precise the newspaper was being. Also Rhoda may have understated her age, as women will do. The gravestone inscriptions you sent didn't add anything on her, but once again Quist screwed up; apparently she didn't know the meaning of ult. and interpreted her death date as 12 June.

The problem is getting this Rhoda connected to Benjamin, even if we can get around the apparent discrepancy in birth dates. If we do, I have a ready-made genealogy on her all the way back to 1647 from the *Hawley Record*. Unfortunately, that book does not contain a Luther Hawley, and I suspect that this is not our Rhoda, no matter how seductive she appears.

At the beginning of the Revolution, the "Committee of One Hundred" drew up the "Articles of Association," sometimes called the "Revolutionary Pledge." One of the first acts of the Provincial Congress was to endorse these Articles and to circulate them through the counties for signatures. In the Northeast Precinct of Dutchess County, the articles were signed by Benjamin Covey, Josiah Hawley, and Luther Hawley, among many others. There were no Holley/Hollys, but there was a James Covil that may have been James Covey. Now this is exciting information! Here we have, in the same township, Benjamin Covey and a man that could have been Rhoda's father or brother and the one after whom the Luther H.s were named. These names are on p. 103 of Hasbrouck's *The History of Dutchess County, New York*. There were two Van Vredenburgs on p. 111, but I didn't copy the intervening pages, so I don't know what district they were in.

On p. 127, John Holly and Samuel Holly are listed as having served in the Continental line from Dutchess County. Their residence is not given. On p. 148, Joseph Covey, Walter Covey, and Jesse Fuller are listed in the Third Regiment, Dutchess Co. Militia. On p. 166, Walter Covey, David Fuller, and Isaac Fuller are listed in the Seventh Regiment, Dutchess Co. Militia.

On p. 280, there is a somewhat confusing account of the early settlers of Dover Plains, about halfway down Dutchess County. The time period is what is confusing, but it appears a Luther Holley took over the store and blacksmith shop and for some years was a successful merchant. About 1799, he removed to Salisbury, CT. I thought that this might be the Luther Holley mentioned in the biographical sketch that you sent, but that Luther doesn't appear to have left Salisbury. I fail to make any connection between the Milton Holly buried at Spencer's Corner and the John Milton Holley who was born 7 Sep 1777 in Salisbury. The former was born in Apr 1776 and died in Mar 1777; surely you're not suggesting that the same Luther was the father of both.

Apparently the Josiah Holly that is buried at Spencer's Corner was a Town Supervisor from 1788 to 1792 and from 1794 to 1796. He could well be the Josiah Hawley mentioned above, who signed the Revolutionary Pledge. As far as that goes, the Luther Holly buried at Spencer's Corner could also be the Luther Hawley who signed the pledge; they were both old enough in 1775. They could both have changed the way they spelled their name.

Here's one more item from Dutchess County. In the *Commemorative Biographical Record of Dutchess County, New York*, Vol. 2, p. 609, there is a biographical sketch of Cyrus F. Hawley, the proprietor of a large dry-goods store at Millerton. His family was of English origin and were early settlers of Hawleyville, Fairfield County, CT. Cyrus was born 24 March 1846 at Amenia Union, Dutchess County. His father, Harmon Hawley, was born about 1809 at Hawleyville. This family probably arrived too late in Dutchess County to be related to us, but it's one more place to look.

It might appear from the above that I was trying at Fort Wayne to prove that Luther was Luther Hawley, but I assure you that I looked just as hard for Holley/Holly as I did for Hawley. I just found more Hawleys. I don't care how they spelled their name, so long as I can find Rhoda's ancestry.

I found a Name Index to Everts & Ensign's *History of Columbia County, New York* which made it easy to find all of the mentions of Covey, Hawley, Holley, Holly, Lamphear, and Lamphere. There were seven Coveys, 15 Hawleys, eight Holleys, three Hollys, seven Lamphears, and two

Lampheres; there were no Vredenburgs or variations. Some of these were the names of subscribers to the book. Benjamin Covey and Luther Hawley/Holley/Holly were not mentioned.

The Hawleys were early settlers of the town of Austerlitz from Massachusetts. There were some Holleys in Ancram, and Joshua D. Covey was Collector in 1823. Egbert E. Covey, George W. Covey, and Jennings Covey are listed among those who served in the Civil War. Other than that, there was much of historical interest, but nothing of genealogical interest to us.

Having mentioned Egbert E. Covey, I suppose I should address that subject. He is not Benjamin Jr.'s son. His death is recorded in the town records of Sandy Creek, where his father is given as Eli Covey and his mother as Eliza Reid. His birthplace is recorded as Salisbury, CT, but his obituary, a copy of which is enclosed, gives it as the town of Northeast, Dutchess County. I don't know which is correct. He married one of my great-aunts and is buried in the same cemetery as Benjamin, Jr.

According to one of his obituaries, his cousin was Alvin C. Skinkle, who I assume was the son of Henry Skinkle and Mary Covey, Benjamin, Sr.'s daughter. I believe the Skinkles lived in Monroe County, but I haven't checked it out. What bothers me is that in order for them to be first cousins, Eli would have to be Benjamin's son. Chances are, he's a second or higher cousin; there were several Elishas and Elijahs in James Coveys descendants. I don't have the complete index for Quist here, but I'll check it at the Family History Center for an Eliza Reid, who married an Eli...

Egbert doesn't fit into Benjamin, Jr.'s family. He was born in Nov 1835. There were no males of that age in the 1840 census in Benjamin's family. There was a male 6-10 in 1830, and a male 16-20 in 1840, presumably the same person. I have not identified him. There was also a female 16-20 in 1830, who remained 16-20 in 1840, or are two different persons. You have an error on the census history that you sent me, or you decided there was an error in the census. I just rechecked my copy of the 1830 census. There was also a female 6-10 in 1840. She probably is Melissa Hedger (clearly spelled with an *r*), age 16, who is listed after Betsy Covey, age 62 (not 60). The Coveys may have been raising one or more of their nephews and nieces.

While I'm picking on your census history, I might as well finish it. We agree on 1790 and 1800, but Benjamin, Jr. was married and out of the family by 1810. I have not found his family. The two males 16-26 are Joshua D. and Alvin. Since Benjamin, Jr. is not in the family, I suppose the entire 1810 entry should be erased. Also, the "2" in the last box in 1820 belongs two columns to the right - "Number of persons engaged in agriculture." The box should contain a zero. The other person engaged in agriculture is 16-20, too old to be Benjamin's son. He's probably a farm hand. You didn't have anything in 1830; it's 0-1-0-0-0-0 1-0-0-0-0-0=0-0-0-1-0-0-1-0-0-0-0-0. And, of course, Electa Hedges in 1860 should be Hedger. Depending on the outcome of the discussion of who was actually in Sandy Creek in 1820 below, the 1820 census information may or may not apply to Benjamin Jr.

Both Hedgers are clearly Hedger in the original censuses if you are looking closely at the terminal letters and not reading the whole word as you are used to seeing it. I got trapped the same way at first, but after literally dozens, possibly hundreds, of occurrences of Hedger, I became a believer. I'm enclosing copies of a newspaper article written by one of my Hedger relatives and a sheet taken from the cemetery records of Sandy Creek. I have many more examples, but if these don't convince you, more probably wouldn't either. What appears as black lines on the copy are pink highlighter on the original.

I can find neither Benjamin, Jr. nor Henry in the 1810 census in New York or Massachusetts, but I do have Henry in Columbia County in 1820 and 1830. I have added these years for Henry and 1790 and 1800 for Benjamin, Sr. to your Census History of Henry and will send back a copy. I have not done any census research in Livingston and Monroe Counties, New York, so your information is new to me. I was thrown at first by Harriet's statement that Henry was in Geneseo, Livingston County. I too thought that she was talking about Michigan, and said, "wait

a minute, something's wrong here; Luther in New York and Henry in Michigan." But I looked at my map and figured out that she was talking about Livingston County, New York, as you apparently did also.

That Harriet living with Henry has me bugged. At first I thought that it was his sister, but his sister was still in Ancram in 1851. She is also six years too young to be Henry's sister, Harriet, and her birth place is given twice as Connecticut. Since her mother is from Connecticut, I'm beginning to wonder if they didn't set up housekeeping in Connecticut first, perhaps near Salome's hometown, and were there in 1810. By 1820, Harriet would have been old enough to be married or on her own, so she doesn't show up in the 1820, 1830, and 1840 censuses. It's a theory worth looking into. She could also be the widow of a son.

Henry's sister, Harriet, appears to have moved to Sandy Creek in 1855. She is listed in the state census as head of household, age 61, born Massachusetts, along with Smith Barlow, age 21, boarder, born Columbia, and A.C. Skinkle, age 2?, born Columbia. They had all arrived in the county two months previously. This is the Alvin Skinkle who was Egbert E. Covey's cousin. Harriet is not listed in the 1860 census, and I don't know if she moved or died. Do you have anything on her death?

I'll enclose a rough FGS I prepared for Henry based solely on census data. The only slot that Julia Ann fits into is the oldest daughter slot. (I didn't know about Harriet when I drew up this sheet, so there's no slot on it for an even older daughter.) The next daughter wouldn't have been born until 1815-1820. I'm a little suspicious of all those little tikes at the bottom of the sheet; they might be grandchildren, especially since four of them don't show up in 1840. Either that, or they had a Hell of a death rate.

Back to Benjamin, Jr. I'm puzzled by your extract of his bounty land application. The three affidavits are fine, except for putting Orwell into Orange County. Orwell is the next town southeast of Sandy Creek in Oswego County. There is a village of Orwell in that town. The first paragraph is what has me concerned.

The original application in 1851 was from a Benjamin Covey, age 60, of Minisink, Orange County. The supplemental application in 1855 was from a Benjamin Covey, age 64, of Orange County, Wells Corner P.O. The two applications are consistent with each other as to name, age, and residence. What bothers me is that this Benjamin was apparently born in 1791, while our Benjamin was born about 1783.

There is a town of Minisink in Orange County, on the New Jersey border. There is also a town of Walkill in Ulster County on the northern border of Orange County. There is no Wells Corner on my modern map, but it could have existed in 1855. It's reasonable that he was drafted from Walkill in 1814 and lived in the town of Minisink in 1855. The problem is that our Benjamin certainly was not living in Orange County in 1855; he was right in Sandy Creek, Oswego County. Given the discrepancy in ages and residences, I suspect that two different people's files have been combined. It wouldn't be the first time; I have two Samuel Rogerses, Revolutionary soldiers, that I can't separate the records on. I've made a note to get the National Archives film for this one.

There is one problem in Calvin Parish's statement: he says that Benjamin moved to Oswego County in 1829. I have him in Sandy Creek in the 1820 census. There's one way out of this, but I don't even want to think about how it would have happened. Do you remember my saying that Benjamin, Sr. may have lived in Sandy Creek? Well, here is my extract of a deed from James Covey, son of Benjamin, Sr.

JAMES COVEY/Freeman Davis

13 Jun 1848; Rec 2 Nov 1848; 49:564. GS Film 1011784

James Covey and Lorinda Covey of the Town of Eaton Rapids, Eaton Co, MI, grantors; Freeman Davis, grantee. Grants for \$120.00 part of a certain farm formerly owned and occupied by Benjamin Covey, the father of James Covey, being the 10.57 acres in lot -- allotted to James

Covey on the partition of said Benjamin Covey farm, including the whole interest of James Covey in said farm as one of the heirs of Benjamin Covey, bounded as follows:

Beginning at a point in the center of the crop road leading from the Orwell to the Ridge road 18 chains 54 links E of the W line of lot 94, running thence N 16 chains 78 links to a stake, thence E 6 chains 18 links to a stake, thence S 16 chains 78 links to the center of the said crop road, thence W along the center of said road 6 chains 18 links to the place of beginning

The operative phrase here is "owned and occupied." None of the other heirs used this phrase when disposing of their shares of Benjamin's estate, so I don't know if James was mistaken, or Benjamin, Sr. actually did live there. It's interesting that I never found any deeds to him or to or from Luther, Sr.

While were on the subject of deeds, here's another one that goes along with Harriet Covey in the 1855 census.

Asahel N. Harding/HARRIET COVEY

28 Jun 1855; Rec 30 Jun 1855; 69:271. GS Film 1011804

Asahel N. Harding, Lournon? C. Harding, and Dolly Harding, grantors; Alvin C. Skinkle and Harriet Covey grantees. Grants for \$130.00 0.75 acre in lot 51, bounded as follows:

Beginning on the W line of lot 51 and at a point 9 chains and 46 links from the S end of land deeded by Wm. Moore and wife to Louman C. and Asahel N. Harding and running thence S77°35'E 3 chains 19 links to the W line of the land of the Watertown and Rome RR Co, thence S12°25'W along said line 2 chains 54-1/4 links to a stake, thence N77°35'W 2 chains 71 links to the W line of lot 51, thence N2°15'E along said line 2 chains 58 links to the place of beginning.

Apparently, she was there to stay. She had sold her and Alvin's shares of Benjamin's estate in 1852. She was living in Hudson in 1852. Apparently Freeman Davis ended up with Benjamin, Sr.'s farm.

I have often wondered why Benjamin, Sr.'s estate consisted of a farm in Sandy Creek, and thought that maybe somehow he owned the farm that Luther farmed. This affidavit putting Benjamin, Jr. into Sandy Creek in 1829 deepens the mystery. I have a deed to James Covey in 1825, but I don't have one to Benjamin, Jr. until 1837. Granted, land was often sold on time payments then, and a deed wasn't written until the full amount was paid. This is still pretty late for Benjamin to buy his farm if he was in Sandy Creek in 1820.

Luther, Jr. and Hiram were selling off land they jointly owned in 1833. I never did find a deed recorded for the purchase of that land. Maybe Benjamin's never got recorded either. The fact that Benjamin bought land in 1837, about the time of the mass Covey emigration from Sandy Creek may or may not be significant.

Luther being in Cayuga County does throw a kink into things. I thought that when Quist said he was later of Cayuga County, she was still talking about Luther, Jr. and never followed it up. I just did a fast study on Cayuga County Coveys, but didn't come up with a satisfactory explanation why Luther went to Port Byron. Perhaps one of his children was there.

According to Quist, Benjamin's brothers, Kingsbury went to Moravia and Walter went to Scipio, Cayuga County. I found no Covey in Cayuga County in 1800. Edward, Jonathon, Kingsbury, Walter, and Walter, Jr. show up in 1810, with no township given in the index. Kingsbury moved to Ohio in 1812 according to Quist, and he doesn't show up in Cayuga County again. Walter was the "Mormon Pioneer, of whom the book was written." Edward, Jonathon, and Walter, Jr. were his children. He died in the town of Venice (which was formed from part of Scipio in 1823) 17 Jan 1834. Jonathon probably went to Ohio.

Elisha (another of Walter's sons), Walter, and Walter, Jr. are listed in the 1820 census. They all remained in Scipio/Venice and died there. All of these people lived in southern Cayuga County,

and I could not find any connection to Port Byron. There may be a connection later in Quist; I only have copies to page 135. Both volumes are in our local FHL, though, so I can check for a connection later.

Quist said that Luther was in Port Byron, which is in the town of Mentz, as did Harriet in her Petition for Administration.. The Luther there in 1850, age 75, is the right age to be our Luther, and undoubtedly is. The Anna, age 54, would not fit into Luther's children, except in Mellissa's slot, but she could be the wife of son number three, who was 10-16 in 1820 and gone in 1830. Who he would have been and where they would have lived is another mystery. There were no antecedents in Port Byron. I'm afraid that this one is going to be a tough one to solve. If they moved there between 1840 and 1850, we don't even know what name we're looking for. A search of Cayuga County deeds might turn up something, and it might be worthwhile to comb the census records of Salisbury. I think we have pretty well covered Livingston and Oakland Counties in Michigan.

Well, I've spent three days writing this as usual, what with pulling out records and cogitating. I guess I'd better wrap it up for now and get this in the mail. Say hello to Nancy for me.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Porter

Oops, I forgot to mention Luther, Jr. and Hiram. You are right, of course, about Luther, Jr.'s birth place. I have no excuse. The next three or four children on Luther's FGS are wrong too.

It looks like we have Hiram's family pretty well wrapped up. My unanswered letter to the Oakland County Genealogical Society concerned obituaries for Luther and Hiram. I notice that Ruby Templeton cites old obits. I think that I will write to her. I'll also enclose bios on George Button and Philip Marlatt, in case you don't have them.

Rec'd ~ 4-1-93

3712 Bent Branch Rd.  
Falls Church, Va. 22041  
March 24, 1993

Dear Raymond...

I am awestruck by your diligence, which is much more concentrated than mine, which is pretty good. I agree that Quist is the pits, but useful things can be mined from that book, which is completely unevaluated.

The P. in Donald P. Avery stands for Porter! My mother was one and that line gets frustratingly lost and thirty years effort by me and a diligent cousin in Connecticut have not been able to break it. It goes Francis Worthington-Acors Sheffield-Henry Charles-Lebbeus and stops there. Lebbeus was born in Colchester Conn in 1742 and died in Southampton Long Island. He was a teacher. We have developed all kinds of stuff on his family but we come up blank on his ancestors. The general line of migration was from Long Island to New York City, to Western New York state, thence to Wisconsin and Indiana.

On Vreedenburgh I made a classic Genealogical Fatal Mistake. On my only trip to the NYGBS in NYC I came across a monograph by some guy in Illinois on the family and as I was pressed for time I said, "Well, I'll get that in Washington..." where of course, it is not. I'm glad you nailed down Anna, at any rate. A lot of them are Old Dutch from new Jersey.

As far as I can tell the Wilders at Sandy Creek are not my line.

Your cousin is Nancy Waters Avery who is one of the three children of Heil Waters and Frances Wilder mentioned in the Wilder Extract enclosed.

March 27

I would put Luther Jr. down as born in Mt Washington c 1804. rather than Sandy Creek. Hiram in his vanity bio that he moved at age 12 to Sandy Creek in 1814, and Luther Jr. shows as born Mass in census.

I had better make a note of what I am sending you to remind myself: 1. Bio sketch of John Milton Holley, Hist of Litchfield Co. Conn: 2. Photo of Luther Jr's family, 3. extract from the Book of the Wilders. 4. extract on Millinda Covey. 5. two FGS on Hiram Covey, one from Ruby Templeton in New Hudson Mich. 6. FGS on Henry Covey and census history. 7. FGS on Benjamin Covey Jr., extract from war of 1812 Pension record, and copy of discharge and census history. 8. Coveys and Holleys in Spencer burying ground. 9. Alvin's letters of Administration and the document on Benjamin for Alvin.



Benjamin Covey Jr.

War of 1812 Pension Record. National Archives

Treasury Document : Served in Capt John Dunning's company  
New York Militia 7 Sept -14 Dec 1814.

Application for added bounty land dated 28 March 1855:  
Benjamin a resident of <sup>Orange</sup> Orange County, NY age 64. Service  
with Dunning as above. Wells Corner P.O. Orange Co.

Affidavit of 17 April 1851. Benjamin age 60 resident of  
the town of Minisink Orange Co NY .Drafted at the town of  
Walkill 29 August 1814<sup>?</sup> and discharged 8 December.

Added service Capt Asa Burch's company NY Militia 21 August-  
21 October 1812.

Affidavit of Calvin Parish age 72. Orwell, <sup>Oswego</sup> Orange Co NY  
dated 20 August 1873. Has known Benjamin Covey and his wife  
for 66 years. First acquainted with them in Boston Corners  
Berkshire Co Mass, since incorporated into Columbia Co NY.  
He went to school to Elizabeth Covey in 1807 at 6 or 7  
years of age. Mrs. Covey had been married to Benjamin about  
a year. In 1829 Benjamin and wife moved to Oswego Co NY  
and he moved there to Sandy Creek in 1834. ceded 1853

Affidavit of Elizabeth Covey of Sandy Creek dated 20 Aug 1873.  
86 years old. Married Benjamin October 19, 1806 at Liconake  
near Copake, Columbia Co NY by Daniel Toncry JP.

Affidavit of Leonard Hedges age 76 and Electa Hedges age  
79 residents of Sandy Creek. Elizabeth their sister. Includes  
title page from family bible with legend: Benjamin Covey  
Jr. born in the year 1783 May 5. Betsy Covey was born July  
the tenth, 1787. Married the 19 of October 1806.

*Walkill in present Ulster Co  
Minisink Ford is in present Sullivan Co*

Millinda Covey, daughter of Luther H. Covey Sr.

From family and bible records of the Connecticut State Historical Society, Hartford. Vol 15, p. 198-200.

Family record of Simeon Trumbull, from Mrs. Frances Trumbull Ellis, Pulaski NY 1938.

Millinda Covey was born in Mount Washington Mass Wednesday November 17, 1797: She married JAMES Trumbull at Sandy Creek September 6, 1814. She died Monday May 3 1841.

WHO WENT TO MICHIGAN AND WHEN???

JAMES COVEY (Laurinda) was an original landowner in Brighton Township , Livingston Co Michigan as of May 27,1835, (Later moved to Eaton Rapids where Laurinda (or Lorinda) died Dec. 9,1850).

John and Rhoda Covey Yarrington, or Yerenton, arrived in the Fall of 1836 according to a bio of their son Reuben who was born in Sandy Creek March 15,1818. They settled in the town of Green Oak.

Nelson and Laura Covey Fuller were in Green Oak township by 1838, probably earlier.

Their nephew Hiram you know.

But Luther Senior is another story. See Harriet Covey's list of her brothers and sisters on Alvin Covey's death where she applies to administer the intestate. As of Feb 8, 1851 she is in Ancram, Luther is in Port Byron, Cayuga Co NY, Henry in Geneseo in Livingston NY, Benjamin in Sandy Creek, Eliza Covey Martin in Pulaski, and James in Michigan. Laura C Fuller and Mary C Skinkle are dead.

To further complicate things a Luther Covey shows up in the 1850 Census in the town of Mentz, Cayuga Co NY, age 75 and born in Mass, and with him "Anna, age 54, b Mass". Who on earth is that, or is it the wrong Covey?? *MAYBE HELEN? ANOTHER DAD, R. 1796?*

The Mary Pennell Luther is living with next door to Hiram in 1860 is Hiram's daughter/his granddaughter.

I cant find Luther in 1840 either, so he may well be hiding out elsewhere.

WHERE IS AN EGBERT???

The only one I have is Egbert F. son of Benjamin Covey Jr.. He was b circa 1839 and died at Sandy Creek September 2, 1913. A Civil War vet, but I have not pulled his file at the Archives.

HEDGER/HEDGES

"Hedges" is the name used in Benjamin Jr's War of 1812 Pension file , my extract of which is enclosed. Used by Leonard and Electa Hedges of Sandy Creek who say they are her brother and sister.

## HOLLEY/HOLLY/HAWLEY

See the frequent use of Holley in Luther Jr and his various descendants as listed in The Wilder book, attached. In the 1840 Census in Leroy, Genesee Co NY where his kids were born he is :Luther Holley".The taker missed the Covey entirely.

In early genealogical commentaries on this group the three spellings occur overlapping, but the Holleys of Litchfield county Conn are quite consistently Holley/Holly.

A lot of this seems to come together in the Spencers Corner burying ground where, as I mentioned, the Holleys and Coveys are buried cheek to jowl in one corner. The names in alphabetical listing are enclosed. Salisbury Ct is just down the road a few miles from it. Note that in addition to Benjamin and Rhoda Covey there is Milton Holly, son of Luther and Sarah. Luther Holley married Sarah Dakin, whose father was minister of the church that no longer stands to which the burying ground was attached. Milton preceded the birth of John Milton Holley, described as the first of six brothers born in Salisbury September 7,1777, the year Milton died.

Luther Holley is not only a very distinctive name - it is the only one occurring in my look at Holleys past - but Luther was also a Big Cheese in the area as you will see enclosed and his sons were even bigger cheeses in some cases. My theory is that Rhoda Holley Covey was his sister. He was born in 1751 and, according to her stone at Spencers, she was born about 1753.

No Hawleys listed at Spencers Corners.

CNLTR 156

March 21, 1993

Donald P. Avery  
3712 Bent Branch Rd.  
Falls Church, VA 22041

Dear Donald:

Just a quick note, lest you think me a complete idiot. I was pretty groggy when I finished your letter at 3:00am Saturday. I spent the weekend down at our office moving computers and getting them hooked up. I came home this evening and started cleaning up the mess I'd made while writing the letter I sent you and found a few embarrassing bloopers.

In concentrating on Luther and Benjamin's family I completely forgot that Hiram's daughter Mary E. married George Pinnell/Pennell. I still wonder why he was living with his granddaughter, rather than his son; we'll never know. Please delete and ignore any mention of Mary E. being Luther's daughter.

On page 3, when discussing the name Holley, I left out an *e* in one occurrence of the word.

In doing some last-minute editing, I carelessly deleted part of a sentence in the second paragraph from the bottom of page 4. It should have read, "I suppose that Anna's father could have been named Hiram." There were Hiram's in the Hedger family, too.

In that same paragraph, I compounded my stupidity about Mary E. being possibly Luther's daughter. Please delete that sentence. I just rechecked Hiram's 1830 census listing. Both Hiram, Jr. and Juliet are listed in Hiram's family, so the young children in Luther's listing probably aren't Hiram's children living with their grandparents.

I'd better quit now. If I get started again on the Coveys, it'll turn into another marathon of research and writing. I have a lot of work to do to get ready for my trip to Fort Wayne next Friday. I'm driving so I can take cameras and lots of research material with me.

Yours truly,

Raymond J. Porter

March 20, 1993

Donald P. Avery  
3712 Bent Branch Rd.  
Falls Church, VA 22041

Dear Donald:

You're darned right we have some productive exchanging to do on the Coveys; so much so that I hardly know where to start. Let me start off by apologizing for the delay in answering your letter. We went away for a three-day weekend, then I went into the hospital for two days for an angiogram that turned into an angioplasty. Everything came out fine. I got out this morning and couldn't wait to start this letter. It may take me a couple of days to finish it, because of organizing and revising my Covey notes. (Would you believe <sup>four</sup> four days; read on.)

I am descended from Benjamin through Luther, Sr. and his daughter Rhoda, who married Seth Porter, probably in Sandy Creek, New York. Before we're done, I'll give you the whole descent. I've been working on the Sandy Creek Porters and their relatives for years and am about to write a book on them.

I discovered that Rhoda Porter was Rhoda Covey in 1989 and immediately found her baptism in the IGI, which led to Luther and Anna Vreedenbergh. Incidentally, the spelling in Covey Cousins was the editor's, not mine. I vacillate between Vredenbergh, Vreedenbergh, and Vredenburgh. I guess it depends on what reference I last looked at. The last I looked at were the Linlithgo Church records, so today she's Vreedenbergh.

Next followed the censuses for Mt. Washington, Ancram, and Sandy Creek. Then Mrs. Quist's book led me to Benjamin's administration records and a wild ride into fantasy land. I won't even begin chronicling the errors and inconsistencies in her work. Suffice it to say that I won't accept anything that she said about Benjamin's ancestry until I document it myself.

From the forgoing, I had put together a pretty good picture of Benjamin's and Luther's families, and I was convinced that Luther was Benjamin's first child, who stayed behind in Mt. Washington when Benjamin returned to New York before 1800, then moved to Sandy Creek before 1820.

Luther and Hiram were in the 1830 census in Sandy Creek and disappeared in 1840. I assumed that Luther's wife had died and that he had moved in with his brother Benjamin, Jr., because someone the right age to be Luther showed up in Benjamin's family in 1840. I had a few deeds in Sandy Creek that didn't do a lot to clear things up, other than to tell me that Luther, Jr. had moved to Salisbury, Connecticut. I'll get around to the deeds in this letter or a later one.

Last fall, I planned another research trip to New England and especially to Mt. Washington, Columbia County, Washington County (for other relatives), and Sandy Creek. In my preparations, I wrote to the Berkshire Athenaeum for information on where to find records in Berkshire County and for a copy of their card on Hiram Covey in their Elmer Shepard collection.

Not only did they reply with the information I requested, they researched their files and sent me everything they had on the Coveys. Bless them. I did visit there on my trip and couldn't get into the genealogy room the day I was there, but I'm getting ahead of myself.

The Elmer Shepard card didn't add anything new to what was printed in *People who Moved to Michigan*, except a reference to "Oakland Hist opp 218." They also sent me a copy of your submission to the *Berkshire Genealogist*.

Well, this really started the wheels spinning in my head, and it dawned on me that Luther might have gone to Michigan at the same time that Hiram did. Instead of having to build a big circumstantial case (which I had already written up) for Luther being the son Luther mentioned in Benjamin's administration papers, all I had to do was show that he was in Michigan when the list of heirs was drawn. It turns out that he was there, and Mrs. Quist was all wet when she put Luther, Jr. in his place.

I obtained a copy of the Hiram Covey biography in the *History of Oakland County*, which I'm sure you have from your article in the *Berkshire Genealogist*, which convinced me that Luther was there in 1838. Unfortunately, he didn't show up in the 1840 or 1850 censuses, either in Livingston or in Oakland Counties. He did show up in 1860 in Oakland County, apparently living with George W. Pinnel and his wife Mary E. and next door to Hiram. I haven't figured out why he was living with the Pinnels and not Hiram. (Possibly his daughter; see below.)

I found Hiram's and Luther's deaths in *Cemetery Records of Oakland County, Michigan* at the State library of Michigan and sent for their death certificates. At the time that I wrote the query, I had not received the death certificates and said that Luther was "probably" the son of Benjamin, Sr., because I couldn't definitely place him in Michigan in 1838 from the census data. I was hoping that Luther's death certificate would name his father; it didn't. Since you know that he died in New Hudson, which I've only found on his death certificate, I assume that you also have copies of the certificates. If you don't, let me know, and I'll save you the cost of copies. Luther's certificate is No. 1 in Book 1: we barely made it into the records. Rhoda Covey's husband, Seth Porter, died a month before they started keeping death records in Sandy Creek, and I went through Hell proving that he was his father's son for the SAR.

I spent several days in the library at Sandy Creek (they give me a key and let me come and go as I please) and found Anna Vreedenberg's burial in the Riverside Cemetery in Pulaski, a village in the town next to Sandy Creek. Why she is buried there instead of Sandy Creek remains a mystery. Her inscription reads, "ANNA/WIFE OF LUTHER COVEY/DIED/APRIL 17, 1837/AGED 60Y'S 1 MO/& 15 D'S." Her calculated birthdate is 2 Mar 1777. I thought that I had a census listing with one foreign born in Luther's family, so I assumed that it was Anna. I cannot find that listing now, so I'll have to leave her nationality indeterminate.

Since I can't prove that Luther was in Michigan in 1838, I have to fall back on circumstantial evidence to conclude that he was the Luther mentioned in Benjamin's administration papers. The fact that Anna died in 1837 and the whole Covey clan, except Benjamin, Jr. moved to Michigan about that time is pretty compelling evidence. Taken with census data from 1790 on, his position in both lists of heirs in his father's administration papers, and the obvious impossibility of Luther, Jr. being Benjamin's son, I feel safe in concluding that Luther, Sr. is indeed Benjamin's son.

This letter seems to be going off in all directions at once. To get back to Berkshire County, the researcher there also sent me a copy of "Inhabitants of Mount Washington, Mass (Tauconnack Mt.) in 1786" from the *Berkshire Genealogist*, Vol. 10, No. 2, p. 59. This list of debtors to the estate of Benjamin Osborne lists Benjamin Covey, which is the earliest date I have for him there.

They also sent me the birth records of James and Harriet Covey from the Holbrook Collection. When I visited Mt. Washington, I went to the town clerk's office and had her Xerox the original birth records. You don't have these on your FGS, so I'll give them to you: Harriet was born 5 July 1793, and James was born 1 Mar 1795, both to Benjamin and Rhoda Covey.

I also visited the County Recorder's offices in both Pittsfield and Great Barrington. There were no deeds recorded in either place by a Covey. There were a number of squatters in Mt. Washington, and it appears that our Coveys were among them. I did copy the incorporation

papers of the Town of Mt. Washington, which include a plan map of the lots granted to the original proprietors. It's interesting, but there are no Coveys mentioned in the text nor on the map. It is my understanding that there were a lot of charcoal burners in Mt. Washington. Perhaps Benjamin and Luther were among them.

Which gets me back to Luther and Anna. Apparently they took Helen and Rhoda to Linlithgo from Mt. Washington to be baptized and, perhaps, to visit relatives. I've suspected that Anna was from there, but can't find any evidence to support that thesis other than the fact that she was Dutch and probably went to her home church to baptize her children. The very next entry in the baptismal records is for a Squire Brown and Lucretia Vreedenbergh, parents of Samuel, who was born 31 Aug 1798 and baptized the same day as Helen and Rhoda. it's a pretty good bet that Lucretia is Anna's sister, but I can't prove it.

I have copies of three versions of the Linlithgo church records: the original records (GS Film 0017737), A copy made from the original and "later compared to the originals" (GS Film 1016564), and another copy in tabular form (GS Film 0534291). The originals are written in Dutch; the copies in English. The baptismal records not only show the date of baptism (4 Nov 1798), they also give the birth dates (geb on the originals for geboren). In all three copies Helen was born 5 Aug 1795, and Rhoda was born 12 Jul 1797. The date for Helen agrees with what you have, but Rhoda's does not. The year is clearly 1797 in the records. Helen is listed first in the records, which supports her being the oldest.

Rhoda died 25 January 1884 in Sandy Creek. Her obituary gives her age as 86, which agrees with the church records; she would have been 87 in July, 1884. In the same issue of the Sandy Creek News (31 Jan 1884), there is another item that takes on special significance in light of your remarks about the Holleys. "Mr. Holley Porter of Three Rivers Point was called to this place to attend the funeral of his mother." This is almost certainly Rhoda's son Luther Hawley Porter.

He was listed as Luther H. Porter in the 1850 census and was living in Seth Porter's household with his wife, Phebe, and one son, Charles. In the 1855 state census, he is listed in his own household as Hawley Porter, with wife Phebe, son, Charles, and son, William. Apparently he started going by his middle name; he is also listed as Hawley in the 1860 census. I have no further listings on him until he returned home for his mother's funeral. Apparently he removed before the 1865 census. I have often wondered if he was named after his grandfather, Luther H. Covey.

Now it appears certain that he was; the only question is whether the name should be Hawley or Holley. It seems unlikely that it would have been misspelled the same way twice in different censuses. I've assumed that Holley was a corruption or nickname for Hawley. Now I'm not so sure. Were all of the Holley names in the cemetery spelled Holly, or were some (or all) Hawley? Did Luther, Jr. always go by Holley, or did he change from Hawley as his nephew did? Have you just settled on Holley as the most likely spelling, as I have had to do with the Hibbards and several other lines?

Regardless of the spelling, from the naming patterns that we both have I strongly suspect that Benjamin's wife was Rhoda Hawley/Holley and will begin to pursue that line of research. I had thought that she might have been a Hedger, from all of the Hedgers that showed up in Sandy Creek related to Benjamin, Jr. His wife was Elizabeth Hedger. The family was from Columbia and Dutchess Counties and are supposed to of Dutch stock. This is the correct spelling of their name. I have dozens of references to them in my records. Everyone seems to want to change it to the more common Hedges, which is probably of English origin. You have it misspelled on your FGS for Benjamin Covey.

Speaking of your FGSs, I sure like the form that you use. Leave it to a pro like Netti Schreiner-Yantis to come up with one with adequate provision for citing your sources. I'm using one put out by the LDS Church. It's nice in several ways, but it sure falls down on documentation. Its biggest advantage is that you can put 11 children on one page. The trouble is that every time I

put a family into my computer, I have to go back and find all of the sources for my information. This has become a major pain.

The enclosed printout for Luther and Anna is what I had before I got your letter. As you can see, things go to heck after they moved to Sandy Creek as far as any records of their children. These are all that I could identify from the 1810, 1820, and 1830 censuses. I doubt that there were any later, because Anna was about 43-48 when the last one was born. That's about the limit. There may have been others born and died between censuses that never showed up in them. There are at least three "holes" where other children would fit in if you assume the normal two years between children. There are a few "stray" Coveys around in the Sandy Creek records, but I can't tie them to Luther.

I have no idea what happened to Helen; she was <10 in 1800, 10-16 in 1810, and gone in 1820 - either married or died.

Rhoda was my 2-great-grandmother, and I have very complete information on her and her descendants.

Millinda probably was actually Mellinda, but the only record that I have of her is the tiny index card on GS Film 0002877. I haven't gotten around to ordering the referenced Bible records, and I suspect that you haven't either from what is on your FGS. The information on the card is contradictory within itself as to Millinda's birth, death, and age at death. Since the 1797 birth date conflicts with the well-established date of Rhoda's birth, I've used 1799 based on her age at death. This fits her nicely into the slot between Rhoda and Hiram. I have copies of the cemetery records for almost all of the cemeteries in and around the town of Sandy Creek, but I could find no record of James Trumbull's or her death. There are several Trumbull families buried there, but none connect to James and Millinda or his parents.

The cemetery records and death records in Oakland County, Michigan sure don't agree very well. Luther's age at death is off by over a year between his death certificate and his gravestone. Hiram's death date only varies by one day between his death certificate and his gravestone.

It doesn't look like either one of us knows when Luther, Jr. was born. he was 16-18 in the 1820 census, and I arbitrarily placed him two years after Hiram; he could just as well have been born in 1805 or 1806. Your 1805 looks like another approximation. He was gone by 1830.

It appears that the first daughter, Helen, might have been named after Anna's mother, and the second daughter, Rhoda, was named after Luther's mother. This is only speculation on my part, but it fits established naming patterns. The pattern breaks down on the sons, though; the second son was named for Luther, and the first for God knows whom. I suppose that Anna's father could have been, *named Hiram* The wheels are still spinning, even as I write this. (It is the morning of the third day that I have been working on this letter - you wouldn't believe the number of references I've checked as I write.) At least two of Luther's children were young enough to have made the trip to Michigan with him; a daughter (No. 9 on my FGS) and a son (No. 11). There may have been more. ~~The daughter was 10-15 in 1830, which barely gets her under the wire to be Mary E., wife of George W. Pinnel, age 24, born New York. It's a long shot, but I'm penciling her in on my rough FGS as a possibility.~~ The son could be one of the Coveys that I can't account for in Michigan. There's a Dioclesian Covey living with John Yarrington's daughter, Ann Eliza Toucra(?) in 1850 in Livingston Co. that I can't connect to his parents, but he's only 20 years old; too young to be Luther's last son, unless Anna managed one more at the age of 53 - not too likely.

You probably have much more on the Coveys in Michigan, than I do. As I said, the bright idea that Luther went to Michigan just hit me last Fall and I haven't had time to thoroughly research the Michigan branch. I've done some census research in Livingston and Oakland Counties, but obviously need to do much more. While I was on my research trip last fall, I made a flying, one-day, side trip to the State Library of Michigan and grabbed what I could find in a few hours on the Coveys, Porters, and Suttons. I didn't have time to really study their collection. I did find:

*Cemetery Records, Oakland County, Michigan*. Vol. 1. Pontiac Area Hist. and Gen. Socy. Page 67 has some Coveys that I can't connect; E.J. Covey's wife and children.

*Cemetery Records of Oakland County, Michigan*, Volume III. Pontiac, MI:DAR, 1926. I only copied p. 238?, which has Luther and Hiram's records.

*History of Oakland County, Michigan*. Philadelphia: Everts. 1877. Copied pages 214-220, 226.

*Michigan State Census for Oakland County, 1845*. Oakland Co. Gen. Socy. I copied p. 105, which lists Hiram, but need to recheck the listing of males over 21. The LDS does not have this on film, so I'll have to wait 'til I can get to Fort Wayne.

*1860 Federal Census and Mortality Schedule, Oakland County, Michigan*. Oakland Co. Gen. Socy.

*Oakland County Genealogical Society Surname Directory*. Vol. II, 1986. A member lists Hope Covey and Racel Covey, who m. Theodosius Lanphere - not much use.

*Marriage Returns for Oakland County, Michigan 1836-1884*. Oakland Co. Gen. Socy., 1989. This one came from our local Orange County Calif. Gen. Socy. Lib. in Huntington Beach. It contains three of Hiram's children's marriages: Hiram G., Julia, and Leanory (Leanora?). There is also a Nellie Covey from Mt. Morris, NY that I can't connect.

Incidentally, don't bother writing to the Oakland Co. Gen. Socy. I wrote them a letter on November 28th and enclosed a check to cover research fees. I haven't heard back from them yet. A second follow-up letter on February 14th also remains unanswered.

I am going to Fort Wayne for a family gathering in about a week, and you can bet that I am going to spend a few days in the Allen County Public Library studying several of my lines. I spent a week at the NEHGS library in Boston last Fall and worked my tail off for very little new information. I hope that Fort Wayne will be more productive. It probably will be. The problem at NEHGS was that I was trying to break through long-standing dead-ends by brute force, and I had already about exhausted everything they had. The stuff I'll be looking for in Fort Wayne will be new research.

Well, it's 12:30am, and I just finished rechecking all of my sources and getting Benjamin, Sr. into the computer (I did take three hours off for work and an hour for dinner). Some interesting facts developed in the process. Where I had any independent facts, I used what I had to show you what I had, not that I am disputing you if our facts don't agree. Where I had nothing original, I fell back on you or Quist. My goal is to remove all reliance on Quist.

To begin with, I used Hawley for Rhoda's name, because that's the way it was spelled in Sandy Creek; I could be convinced to change it to Holley. I wouldn't be surprised if it were Hedger, considering the number of them related to Benjamin, Jr.'s wife and living in Sandy Creek. Hiram, Lucretia, and Mellinda show up in the Hedger line. Maybe they're all common Dutch names.

We have a few disagreements on birth dates, partly because mine are based on extensive census research and age charting, and partly because of the birth records that I have from Mt. Washington that you didn't have. When I got done, everybody fit nicely into the family in what I think is the correct order, except Laura. There's no way she could be Rhoda's daughter, either with your date or mine. There's no way she could have been born before much 1810, and Rhoda died in 1805. I just realized this about midnight, as I was entering her into Benjamin and Rhoda's family. Also, I had settled on about 1804 for Mary's birth, but moved it to 1805 on the supposition that Rhoda might have died in childbirth. I'm not stuck on this one; it's just a possibility.

I threw in a printout of what I have on Hiram without going over it, just to show you what I have so far on his family. There's nothing new there; it's all from the Oakland records.

I also researched Benjamin Covey, Jr.'s family again and rechecked the censuses. (I have printouts of all Sandy Creek state and federal censuses from 1820 to 1900 in my files.) I'm beginning to think that they had no children of their own. A few children show up in the censuses, but there is no continuity and no antecedents for them in the family. It's late, and I'm too tired to go into his census extracts in this letter; maybe later.

I haven't gotten around to putting Luther, Jr. into the computer, but I will. I'm certainly interested in learning more about his line. I did a lot of looking for Coveys in Salisbury and came up dry. The same for Stonington that Quist keeps citing without sources.

Speaking of his line, your wife is my fourth cousin, once removed. Say, "hello" to my cousin for me, even if I don't know her name yet. My descent is through Rhoda, who married Seth Porter; their son, Van Rensselaer Porter, who married Eliza Rogers; their son, Clarence James Porter, who married Mary Sutton in Michigan; their son, Clarence James Porter, Jr., who was born in Waterloo, Indiana and married second Mary Irwin in Chicago. I was born in Chicago, 11 Nov 1925 and married Winifred Carlisle in 1946. It's too late to print out my FGSs this time. Incidentally, there were several Wilder families in Sandy Creek. Any connection?

I do have a quick question before I sign off. Do you have anything on an Egbert E. Covey, born Nov 1835 in Northeast Center, Dutchess County, the son of Eli Covey and Eliza Reid? He is not in Quist's book, and I haven't found anything on his ancestry. He married one of Seth Porter's girls, Sarah Ann Porter.

I'm sorry to have taken so long to answer your letter. If I had known that pulling my scattered notes together for presentation would have taken so long, I would have dropped you a note acknowledging your letter and let you know that I was working on a reply. You asked how deeply I wanted to go. I think that this tome is your answer; I want to go as deep as it gets. Hope to hear from you soon. I'll be out of town for about a week and a half for my trip to Fort Wayne about the first of the month.

Just for a parting teaser; Benjamin, Sr. may have lived in Sandy Creek at some point. It's in the deeds we'll talk about later.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Porter

Rec'd 3-11-92

3712 Bent Branch Road  
Falls Church, Va. 22041  
March 6, 1993

Dear Raymond:

You and I have some productive exchanging to do on Coveys. I caught your query in Covey Cousins. My wife descends from Luther through Luther Jr..

This is an extremely difficult line to establish as you undoubtedly know. Quist is misleading in a big way because her habit of including unexamined narratives led to treating Luther Jr. as Luther Sr. and ignoring the Senior's existence. I actually reconstructed Luther Sr. based on supposition but it is clear from your query that you have some solid evidence of this family. As you'll see from the FGS, I got Millinda from a piece in the Connecticut Historical Society and replaced "female" with her. The piece of evidence you are looking for is a deposition by Alvin Covey mentioned in Quist a copy of which is enclosed. This connects all the Covey children of Benjamin in a way very helpful to your inquiry.

Holley  
It does not help, however, with Benjamin's wife Elizabeth (last name unknown) as I believe she was his second wife. His first wife, Rhoda, is buried with him in Spencer's Corners Graveyard in Dutchess Co. N.Y.. I believe she was probably Rhoda Holley, although I have no direct proof. The H. Stands for Holley. Luther Holley Covey Jr. in fact often went by the first name Holley and named his son Henry Holley. Luther Holley was a prominent man in the Salisbury Conn. area just below Mount Washington.

Spencer's  
Corners  
My wife and I visited the Mount Washington area a couple of years ago. The geography adds to the difficulty. Mount Washington Town itself is simply a mountain with a flat top and unbelievably remote from anywhere. Within 30 miles of it lie Ancram, Columbia Co NY, where Benjamin lived and near Linlithgo where Luther and Anna baptised Rhoda and Helen, Dutchess County NY where Benjamin, Rhoda and Alvin are buried, and Salisbury Conn where the Holleys come from. There are no Coveys graves in Mount Washington. In the Spencer's Corners graveyard mentioned above the Coveys and the Holleys are buried next to each other in the corner of quite a large cemetery, another sign of relationship.

I look forward to your data on Luther H Sr. and especially Anna, his wife. She has a name spelled many ways in addition to your spelling, Vredenburgh, Van Vredenburgh, Vreedenburg, to name a few I have seen. We visited the cemetery where Luther Sr. is buried and I have corresponded with a relative in that area. Your query tells me to write to the Livingston and Oakland Co Michigan genealogical societies which I will do after I get information from you.

My own guess is that Anna was born in Columbia County NY as there is evidence of people of that name there I have to know from whom you descend but from the data in the Query I would guess it is Hiram. What became of Helen and Rhoda?? Luther Holley Covey Jr. Married his first cousin, Julia Covey, and is buried in Penfield, Monroe Co NY. On his stone I found my first lead, because he is named as "Jr.". His daughter Harriet married Elias Wilder and their son Henry Bird Wilder is the father of my wife's mother.

Based on Alvin's deposition I have spent a lot of time tracking the children of Benjamin with Limited Success. This you will see from the FGS.

On Luther Sr. I have quite a bit on Hiram and the note on Millinda reflected in the FGS. Also quite a bit on Luther Jr. .For now I am sending along my family group sheets on Luther Sr. Luther Jr. and Benjamin, and a copy of Alvin's deposition. I can send more, but how much more deeply do you wish to go?

Looking forward to hearing from you.



Donald P. Avery

Covey

GNLTA 123

November 28, 1992

Oakland County Genealogical Socy.  
Box 1094  
Birmingham, MI 48012

Dear Sir:

In researching my Covey line in Oakland County in our Orange County California Genealogical Society library. I ran across mention of two early Coveys in your Surname Directory, Volume II; they are on p. 44. These may be my relatives, but cannot be ancestors because the line of descent would have been through the Lanphere line. I wondered if you had any pedigree charts submitted by persons in the Covey line.

My great-great-grandfather, Luther H. Covey came to Lyon Township, Oakland County in 1839 in company with his son, Hiram Covey, and Hiram's family. Luther is not mentioned in the *History of Oakland County, Michigan* published in 1877, perhaps because he died in 1868, but Hiram is given a full-page write-up with portraits. The family left Sandy Creek, NY in 1837, just after Luther's wife, Anna Vreedenbergh, died. They went to Brighton, Michigan before moving to Lyon Township in 1839.

Luther was 93 years old when he died on 17 February 1868. Frequently, when people this old die the newspapers will carry an article or obituary on the person. While 1868 is pretty early for newspaper files, I wondered if you might have mention of his death in your collection. Also, Hiram Covey died 23 October 1888. Would you have anything on his death?

I think that I know who Luther's parents were, but I cannot prove it. Now that I've traced him to Oakland County, I'm hoping that I can find something there to break through a long-standing dead end. Can you tell me if the DAR bible records for that area are on microfilm and whether they are indexed?

I have enclosed a SASE and, to save correspondance, I have included a check good for up to twenty dollars to cover any research or copying costs. Please fill in the amount of the charges. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Raymond J. Porter

Covey

GALTHER

November 27, 1992

Oakland County Clerk  
Pontiac, MI 48053

Dear Sir:

Please send me copies of the following death records:

Luther H. Covey, died 17 Feb 1869

Hiram Covey, died 23 Oct 1888

I would appreciate it if you would include all available information as I am attempting to trace my ancestry through these persons. To save correspondance, I have enclosed a check good for up to thirty dollars to cover costs of the records. Please fill in the amount of the charges. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Raymond J. Porter

Covey

GNLTR 115

July 25, 1992

Berkshire Family History Association, Inc.  
Box 1437  
Pittsfield, MA 01202-1437

Dear Sir:

I believe that I am descended from Luther Covey, who was listed in Mt. Washington, Berkshire County in the 1800 census. There was a Benjamin Covey listed in the same location in the 1790 census. I have not been able to establish the relationship between Benjamin and Luther, but a Benjamin Covey and a Luther H. Covey showed up in Sandy Creek, New York, where I have a number of ancestors. I believe that Luther was the father of Rhoda Covey, who married Seth Porter.

I have not been successful in locating any records of Mt. Washington in the LDS microfilms, but did run across a file of the *Berkshire Genealogist* in our local genealogy library in Huntington Beach, California (Orange County, California Genealogical Society) some time ago. I copied part of the Winter, 1988 edition because it mentioned the Berkshire Athenaeum, which sounds wonderful. It also had an article on a card file from the Elmer I. Sheppard Collection, which contains information on a Hiram Covey, who is probably a relative.

In getting ready for a research field trip this October, I ran across the copy in my Covey notes and realized that a visit to Mt. Washington and the Athenaeum are probably my only hope for finding any record of these ancestors, so I plan to stop there on my way from Boston to New York. If any one in your organization can advise me where to look for birth, marriage, and death records and deeds for Mt. Washington I would sure appreciate the assistance. I will be at the NEHGS Library in Boston before coming to Berkshire County, so if any one knows of sources that I should pursue there, that information would also be greatly appreciated.

Also, I should have sent in a membership application nearly three years ago, when I first ran across your publication, but I kept putting it off. Since my copy is from 1988, the membership rates may have increased, so I'm enclosing a check good for up to \$20.00 to cover membership and a copy of the card on Hiram Covey, if the offer is still good. I would also like to find out which back issues are available and their cost. A SASE is enclosed. Thank you, and I look forward to meeting some of your members in October.

Yours truly,



Raymond J. Porter