

~~2/12/55~~
57 West Main Street
Sidney, N. Y.

April, 26, 1955

Dear Alice,

My father was very much pleased to receive your letter; he so often speaks about all of you folks and misses going to see Uncle Pierson.

Yes, we have the Comfort Family Bible, in addition to the immediate family records in the Bible Grandma Comfort had written more information relative to births, deaths, etc., of the Comfort family on loose sheets of paper and had placed them in the Bible. She did not leave any information concerning her side of the family and how I have wished that she had.

A relative of Mary Ann Comfort lives in Sidney and has been very much interested in building up the family tree too. Perhaps Milton Comfort would like to get in touch with him - his name and address is:

Clinton Taylor, P.O. Box 471, Sidney, N. Y.

We are wondering if the Rev. M. B. Comfort who wrote the enclosed poem was a relative of the Milton Comfort you mention in your letter?

Mrs. Beulah Krom, 22 Park Avenue, Warwick, N. Y., is a daughter of Gertrude VanCott Comfort (I believe you are acquainted with her). Mrs. Krom's mother died when she was quite small and she was brought up by her grandparents (Andrew & Rachel Comfort). No doubt she could tell you many interesting facts about her grandparents.

I hope the enclosed information will be helpful to you. My father and I have enjoyed looking up the family history again, if we can be of any further help to you, do not hesitate to write to us.

It would be nice if you could visit us while my father is still living, I am quite sure he could tell you many interesting things about your grandparents and greatgrandparents. We have lots and lots of pictures I'm sure you would enjoy seeing too.

Please remember us to the members of your family,

Sincerely,

Grace Kuen

Eugene Comfort

The following are a few of the interesting facts my father related to me about his grandparents:

Great-grandfather Comfort was born and brought up on a farm in Orange County. About the year 1830 he heard that money could be made by "logging", so he moved his family (they had 2 children at this time) to Sullivan County and located near what is now known as Horse Shoe Lake. They were among the first settlers moving into this densely wooded section. They moved into their new location, coming by way of Bethel, N.Y., following a "marked-tree" route. The first thing they did was to build a log hut on a location overlooking the lake. Later another house was built on a different location. A few years later they encountered one of the worst winters they had ever seen. The weather was exceedingly cold and the snow very deep. When a tree was felled it would fall 6 feet down in the snow which made it very hard to get it cut up. They had difficulty that winter to keep going, and this was the year that my grandfather (Daniel A. Comfort) was born.

The wolves, deer and other wild animals were very plentiful; on one occasion during the summer, after a thunder storm, a herd of 25 or more deer came down to the lake to drink and feed on the lily pads.

Great-grandfather was a very hard worker -- one of the many things which he did was to build the first road from their house to where the Mt. Hope school house used to stand, by moonlight,

Great-grandfather was a great lover of music and a very good singer. He held a singing school at Bethel two nights a week and one moonlight night as he was returning from singing school he saw where a deer had crossed his path. After he had gone on for a short distance he heard something behind him and turned around to find a wolf following him. The wolf evidently had been following the deer tracks and had turned off onto his tracks. This particular night he had neglected to carry a pine knot light and so not having a weapon of any kind with him he clapped his hands at the wolf and then ran as fast as he could. At first the wolf was frightened and ran back a short distance and began to howl, soon there were 2 or 3 wolves following him, each time he would clap his hands and they would fall back a few steps and howl only to be joined by more wolves. By this time he was only a short distance (1/2 mile) from home and the wolves were at his heels. They owned a big Newfoundland dog which at the time was in the house with great-grandmother; great-grandfather called to the dog and he evidently heard him because he went into the bedroom where great-grandmother was asleep and made such a fuss that she got up and let him out doors. As soon as he reached great-grandfather he fought the wolves and great-grandfather ran for his life. He had no sooner reached the house before the wolves were there too, however, the dog had saved his life.

When my grandfather and his brother William were small boys, it was their duty to see that the sheep were penned up for the night so the wolves could not get them. One night the sheep were very contrary and would not go into their pen, so, after chasing them until they were tired out, great-grandmother told the boys to let them go and let the wolves get them, sure enough, the wolves did kill several of the sheep.

After spending the greater part of their life in Sullivan County great-grandfather and grandmother moved back to Orange County and bought a farm. When they could no longer work the farm they left it in charge of their son Balden Reeve and went to live in Montgomery. Uncle Reeve lived on this farm until his death a few years ago.

OBITUARIES

Daniel Augustus Comfort

Daniel Augustus Comfort, a lifelong and highly respected resident of the town of Bethel, died at his home near Stevensville (now Swan Lake), Saturday morning, January 4, aged 76 years, 9 months and 14 days. He had been in poor health for several years from a complication of kidney and bladder trouble. He was confined to his bed less than a week.

Mr. Comfort was one of a family of nine children, four sons and five daughters, of Andrew and Rachel Youngblood Comfort. He was born March 20, 1836, on the Comfort homestead at Horseshoe Pond, where his parents settled in 1826, coming from Montgomery, Orange County. On the 10th of October, 1860, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary L. VanKeuren, who survives him with two sons, Pierson E. and Eugene H., and one adopted daughter, Lillian A., at home; three brothers, William, of Liberty; Reeve B. and Andrew, of Montgomery; two sisters, Mrs. Hannah M. Soules, of Middletown, and Mrs. Ophelia R. Judson, of Passaic, N. J.

Early in life Mr. & Mrs. Comfort united with the Presbyterian Church at Bethel, and through all these years he had been an earnest and consistent Christian. He was a devoted husband and father. His many kind deeds to the poor, the sick, the stranger at the door will long be remembered. Their home was open to all.

The heartfelt sympathy of the community goes out to the family and to those who stood by him and so faithfully attended him in the home where the vacant chair can never be filled. The funeral services were held at his late home January 6, at 2 o'clock, and was largely attended. It was conducted by Rev. Williams, of Stevensville. Interment was in the VanKeuren cemetery. There were several floral tributes, which showed the high esteem in which he was held. Six of his grandsons acted as pallbearers.

Mary L. Comfort

Mrs. Mary L. Comfort died at her home between Stevensville and VanKeuren's Corners, in the town of Bethel, on Tuesday, August 17th, aged 81 years, 11 months and 16 days. Had she lived until Sept. 1st she would have been 82 years old. She had been ill with a complication of diseases for some time. The deceased was the eldest daughter of Peter C. and Angeline VanKeuren. She was born September 1st, 1838. Her paternal grandfather, William VanKeuren, a native of Dutchess county, came to Sullivan about 100 years ago and located in the town of Bethel. Later he purchased a tract of land at VanKeurens Corner three miles north of White Lake, and lived there many years, dying in 1859, at the advanced age of 83 years. He had many children and divided his land among them a short time before his death and the place since known as VanKeurens Corner. One of his many sons was Peter C. The portion that fell to him was the eastern part of the VanKeuren tract along the west branch of Mongaup stream, near the McIntyre farms and bridge. Here Mary L. VanKeuren passed her early days, attending school at Dist. No. 2, in the town of Bethel.* At the age of 25 she married Augustus A. Comfort, a son of Andrew Comfort, another early settler in the town of Bethel. Mr. Comfort engaged in the lumber business and had a saw mill on the Miller Brook. He also owned a farm there. This was their home for 50 years and the spot where she died.

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Mary L. Comfort - Continued.

Augustus Comfort died some years ago and she continued to live there with her adopted daughter, Miss Lilly Comfort. Her youngest son Eugene, who recently sold his farm to the north of the old homestead, had taken up his abode there and was with his mother at the time of her death. Her eldest son, Pierson Comfort, resides on the Lamb farm near Stevensville. She also leaves numerous grand children, children of these two sons, also one sister, Rebecca, widow of John O. Whitlock, and two brothers, Robert and Samuel VanKeuren. They all live at Mongaup Valley. Funeral service was held at her late home on Thursday afternoon, August 19th, at 2 o'clock, Rev. L. J. Champlin officiating. Interment in the VanKeuren cemetery near the old homestead of her grandfather.

* I believe mother was born at Trumansburg, N. Y. and came to Sullivan County at about the age of 17 years. Her father owned a farm overlooking Cayuga Lake and many, many times she used to tell us about going down to the lake and playing on the sand bar known as Cowbar Point. There is a girl scout camp located there at the present time.

E.H.C.

P.S. - Mother was blind at the time of her death.

Daniel Youngblood Born - January 23, 1771
Hannah Sinsabaugh " April 23, 1779

CHILDREN

William Youngblood Born - November 1, 1800
Daniel C. " December 25, 1802
Maria " August 28, 1804
RACHEL " August 20, 1806 Died - November 3, 1898
Josiah " June 21, 1809
Marcus " March 3, 1812
Myron " July 4, 1814

Andrew Comfort)
Rachel Youngblood) Married - November 30, 1826 (Both buried in cemetery just outside
Montgomery, Orange Co., N. Y.)

CHILDREN

Mary Ann Comfort Born - December 19, 1827
Ruth Ellen " January 11, 1831
William " December 7, 1833
DANIEL AUGUSTUS COMFORT March 20, 1836 Died - January 4, 1913
Hannah Marie " November 25, 1838
Rachel Ophelia " August 14, 1841
Balden Reeve " September 17, 1843
Andrew Jr. " October 28, 1847
Gertrude VanCott " November 18, 1851

Daniel Augustus Comfort)
Mary Lucky VanKeuren) Married - October 10, 1860 (Mary L. VanKeuren Comfort died 8/17/ ^{born Sept.}

CHILDREN

Pierson Elsworth Comfort ^{Born} July 28, 1861 -(Baptized 3/20/67 - Married 9/19/83)
EUGENE HOWARD " February 4, 1868 * Family Bible Record
Lillian Augusta Pope " (Adopted) Dec. 1, 1877

Eugene Howard Comfort)
Minnie Luella Brown) Married - January 2, 1893 - Still living
- Died December 16, 1932
Place of burial - Prospect Hill Cen
Sidney, N. Y.

CHILDREN

Louis Brown Comfort Born - November 1, 1894
Hazel Mae " March 14, 1896
Emma Grace " June 16, 1901
Mary Electa " July 29, 1906

Louis B. Comfort)
Lena N. Haskins) Married November 29, 1919

Children

Howard Glenn Comfort Born - September 22, 1920 (Has 3 children) Is at present a Major
Donald Everett " April 13, 1923 (Has 4 children) U.S. Army
Is at present a M/Sgt. in U.S. Army

Hazel Comfort)
Daniel R. Sherwood) Married - October 1, 1917

Have one son - Francis Eugene Sherwood - Born October 16, 1918

Francis is married and has 2 children

Continued on next page

Mary E. Comfort) Married - April 20, 1930
Wilburt E. Haynes

No children

E. Grace Comfort) Married - May 24, 1942
Frank P. Kuen

No children

Family Bible Record of Violet Comfort - Born: Nov. 2, 1886
Died: Dec. 17, 1887