

Pineville, Mo. 10/16 - 1902

Mr. W. H. Sa Valley;

Dear Sir:

I wrote to you several months ago, and enclosed a stamp for reply. I think you must have forgotten it. I expect to bring out in 1903 a book, "The Greene Tree and its Branches." The "Greene" tree being the genealogical tree of the house of John Greene of Quindesset, who came to America in 1635. The branches are allied families, not which the Greens married repeatedly, the Drings, Nichols, Peices, Shagbills and Matthews. The Dring branch starts with Magdalena 1 of her birth was probably not far from 1600. His son, in France, married Marie Sa Valley, when father, Peter Sa Valley, is about your great-great-grandfather I suppose. During the last Huguenot persecution, about 1741, Peter Sa Valley, at least one son, his daughter Marie, her husband Magdalena King's, and six children, left France for Rhode Island, where they could enjoy liberty of conscience. They all lived for a time at Narrivick. From this place Marie and her family moved to West Greenwich in 1753. Three years later, in 1756, Peter Sa Valley died.

The Sa Valley family is centuries old, a good and noble family, one branch of it uniting with royalty itself. I wish to know of this Peter Sa Valley, twice over my great-great-grandfather, and your ancestor above. He was born 16 —, can you fix the date? I can approximate it, if you know his age at death. Do you know what part of France, or what town he lived? Do you know his wife's name? Either she, or Marie's mother-in-law was named Suzanne, the French form of Susan. Do you know whether she died in France, or in Narrivick? The gravestones, even if but marked with initials and date, as they often were, would tell the story. Do you know how many children, aside from Marie, came over with Peter Sa Valley, and their names? Are there any relics in the family yet in existence of Peter Sa Valley? And in particular, is there an old family Bible or record of he and his children? I would like to have the latter copied, to help to determine certain family names, given by Marie to her own children. Are there a painting or picture of Peter Sa Valley in existence, or any tradition of his characteristics and appearance? His daughter was dark, black-haired and dark-eyed, very energetic and olivine, with blue French remarkably and nobility of countenance.

If you would like the genealogy of your family preserved in the book I am writing, it will be given to you for nothing. I think in that case, that I would like a clear picture of yourself, to be used in illustrating the text; as a leading son of that family, I expect to see a good many illustrations in that way.

May I ask if the bones of Peter Sa Valley lie where it can be readily photographed? There is a charm about those old, old graves with their made headstones, that weaves its spell about us. I have a picture of those Huguenot refugees, his daughter and her husband. The French form of Peter is Pierre. Can you tell me whether the Peter Sa Valley himself wrote or called it - Pierre or Peter? Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain, Very truly yours, (Miss) Sora S. Sa Marie.



