

Memo  
April 30, 1999

Mar. 20, 1999  
55 magazine St. # 39  
Cambridge

Dear Peter: I'm so energized by our conversation of the other evening I can hardly sit still! It probably cost you a fortune... I've enclosed a draft of the Whitlock material as it currently appears in the Thompson Volume which I've been working on, with quick revisions to include what you've passed on to me so far, and some on the Thompson descendants of Betsy Whitlock, which is my line. This is a work in progress, as you know, and I have not really penetrated as far west as Eau Clair yet so there are big gaps in what I know so far about them after they hit MI & WI. There is no substitute sometimes for really going over the ground... anyone who'd trek to Lenox from BC clearly is a believer in this of the highest order. I've also sent you what I have on Hannah Whitlock Baldwin, and my Baldwin line. If Hannah Baldwin is indeed a sib of John<sup>1</sup> of Fairfield, as I believe likely, then Betsy and Dr. Thad would have been 4th or 5th cousins to each other. Like calling subliminally to like.

What I've been doing with the couple of working days since our talk is giving the clue regarding Peter Van der Burgh a full court press. If he is referred to as "my cousin" by John the Absentee, he sure isn't a cousin on the Whitlock side of the family. I don't think in this late a time period that John would really be referring to a cousin of his wife Eleanor's as *his* cousin either, brother yes but cousin ... and her ancestry is purest Fairfield Co. and is pretty exhaustively covered in Families of Old Fairfield, and they ain't Dutch. So that kind of focuses attention on the lovely miss \_\_\_\_\_ who became his mom. God what I don't know about Dutch genealogy could fill volumes, but I'm a pretty quick study and have the NEHGS library to hand, so I'm pretty hopeful that this is a solvable problem in the relatively near future. All this time I've been thinking that I'm looking for a nice English girl who's an Episcopalian living in Fairfield Co. or possibly across the line in Westchester. Now she may be a nice Dutch Reformed girl from Dutchess or Putnam.

The Vanderburgh guru is a fellow named Bill Powers, whom I have yet to speak with, and the resident expert on Dutch genealogy in general is a development staff member down at the library who can give me some pointers sometime next week. I've been reading up on the Dutch for the last 3 days, which is sort a violation of a small private rule of no genealogy in languages I don't really speak, but I'm getting the hang of it. Can hardly wait to see the French stuff which you alluded to, it will seem like a vacation to be back on some familiar linguistic ground.

After 3 days of beating on various Peters VdB I have 4 candidates in Dutchess Co., all 1st cousins to each other, of whom I am hopeful. There is a possibility of one more Peter to fit into this same family group... if the pattern of naming holds up. The Dutch, bless their little Germanic hearts, are very regular in this sort of thing. They all descend from Henry VdB & his w. Magdalena of Poughkeepsie, and all are born between 1745 & 1763... though I think the youngest Pete is not really a good

candidate. I can't see a conservative guy like John the Absentee turning over the residue of his worldly affairs in Lenox to someone who would have been his "kid cousin".

There is a second cluster of VanderBurghs, who are collateral to the Dutchess ones over in Schaghticoke, and there's one Peter there who is a possibility. I have more hope of the Dutchess group though, because of proximity both to Lenox and to Fairfield county, and also because the Dutch mission to the Stockbridge Taconics and Housatonics originated in Dutchess. I'm hoping that Bill Powers will be able to hand me a clue to which of these Vanderburgh families is the most likely, which would save a ton of time... but I do have some inklings already.

Henry & Magdalena of Poughkeepsie are the founders of the Dutchess<sup>VABs</sup> and had 11 kids: Hester b. 1711, Anna Maria b. 1713, Richard b. 1715, Henry b. 1717, Stephen b. 1719, John b. 1721, Peter b. 1723, [thus a contemporary of John Sr. of Lenox, not impossible as a candidate for "my cousin" but not a really hot prospect in my book], Susanna b. 1725, Magdalena b. 1727, James b. 1729 & William b. 1731. William's kids are I think a bit too young, so for the moment they are out. Hester is I think a bit too old to be Mrs. John Sr., as she's about a decade older than my estimated age for John and she m. a cousin Johannes Lewis, ditto Anna Maria who m. Baltus Van Kleeck. Both of these ladies might have been widowed, but what little I have on them so far does not seem to indicate anything of the sort. Susanna m. her cousin Richard Lewis and is ancestral to president George Bush, besides being pretty heavily researched her kids are not VanderBurghs by name and they are too young to be Mrs. John Sr. Her husband's line does not hold out any temptation, his mother is an older Anna Maria VanderBurgh sister of Henry, Sr. and his father was an Irish immigrant named Thomas Lewis, without sibs. Besides they are too old. Magdalena b. 1727 is a possibility, as she's about the right age to be Mrs. John Sr. but she married a Clear Everitt in Poughkeepsie in 1744, by which point John Whitlock Sr. of Lenox is already hitched or just about to be. Further Magdalena is a pretty distinctive name, and doesn't make an appearance anywhere in the Lenox Whitlock descendants nor in the Thompsons, not proof with which to eliminate her utterly as a candidate but.... all this predicated on the simplest interpretation of "my cousin Peter VanderBurgh", to wit, that a first cousin is indicated, and that the unknown Mrs. Whitlock is herself a VanderBurgh. My gut says its not going to be this easy, and that cousinship with Peter VanderBurgh comes through Mrs. John Whitlock Sr. being a sibling of one of the wives of one of the sons of Henry and Magdalena.

Henry II so far is a good possibility. He married a Sarah VanKleeck, from an old Dutchess family, and was squeezing out pups in Poughkeepsie between 1740 and 1762, making him a contemporary of John Sr. Henry had kids, Magdalena & Henry (twins), Aeltjie, Trintje, Hester, Sarah, John, Peter b. 1755, Richard, Elizabeth, Susanna, & Rachel. Birth order is a bit uncertain on these as my sources conflict a bit. Henry II and his 3 sons were also UEL, who split to NB in 1783, and afterward some of the sons tended to waffle back and forth over the border post Revolution, eventually most of 'em winding up in Ontario, a very similar fate to John the Absentee and his kids. Peter b. 1755 m. Neiltji [a.k.a. Nelly] Dutcher, and at

the moment is my hottest prospect for the Absentee's agent. I have a Peter in the 1790 census [1-2-1-0-0] living in Poughkeepsie beside a John L. Van Kleeck, and while I believe this to be the same man I am not positive yet. I also like this cluster as Henry is a name which shows up after, but not ever before, in the Lenox Thompsons, and its variant Harry/Harriet is used both by Betsy Whitlock Thompson and her brother John the Absentee, and makes no appearance in this Whitlock line before. If Betsy's mom is a VanKleek [or close kin] this would make Henry II an uncle to John Sr.'s kids through both wives. So I'm gonna lean on the Van Kleeks hard and see what gives.

The next s. of Henry & Magdalena VanderBurgh is Stephen, brother of Henry II and I have yet to explore his line at all, so we save him for later, no one else seems to have been following up on him either so he may have died young. In second place for connectable families is John VdB, b. 1721. He m. a woman called in the records Elizabeth Low. She *could* be English, or what I think is a bit more likely, she could be a Louw [and variants] which is another Dutch of Dutchess family. John has a s. Peter b. 1745, which makes him a close contemporary in age to John the Absentee. I haven't got anything yet on this Peter, but the Louws are added to the list of explorable families alongside the Van Kleeks. Ditto for degree of relationship.

The next is Peter b. 1723... IGI has this Peter b. 1723 marrying an intriguing candidate called enticingly Elizabeth Masarole and having a son Peter by her. No dates. Masarole/Mazarole is a very rare name, and the only other contemporary one listed in IGI is a John Mazarole, in the latish 1700's, who is located on Long Island. This geography has possibilities for a tie to Fairfield Co. and NYC [original home of the Van der burghs]. There was a lot of traffic back and forth across Long Island Sound so I have to add them in as well, though I'm not too sure there's much satisfaction to be derived. Other, more reliable sources, list the wife of this Peter b. 1723 as Elizabeth Tabor a Cape Cod/RI/ LI family [I have another Tabor line]. In the 1740's there was a migration of Cape Cod families into the Sharon CT/eastern Dutchess Co. area. This clutch I'm probably going to need Bill Powers help to untangle, so I'm not holding my breath.

The last son of Henry & Maggie is Col. James b. 1729. He cut a pretty wide swath throughout the Rev. in Dutchess and was noted as particularly ardent for the American cause. He was married twice, first to the lovely Margaret Noxon. Her family seems to be situated in Ulster Co. Not impossible, but not exactly courting distance for John Sr. who's looking for a nice girl ca. 1742-45 within a convenient distance of Ridgefield, and not an area easily reachable by either boat or overland from Fairfield during this time. Margaret is the mother of all of Col. James' children apparently. Col. James married again in 1767 to a woman called Helena Clark, and she has more potential for a tie to Fairfield Co. Clark is a name which is found in Fairfield and Helen is a name which is used in the Thompson descendants of Betsy. He had no issue by her so far as I can determine but the jury is still out on that. By Margaret Noxon Col. James has a son named Peter, b. 1763, who may be a candidate for our agent, but he's trailing the field based on age... and political persuasion.

Dear Peter: just a quick note of Thanks, your package just arrived in the mail about ten minutes after I had hung up the phone talking for the first time with Bill Powers, the Vanderburgh expert. He and I will get together next week sometime to compare notes regarding this Peter VdB who is selling the Absentee's land in Lenox... hope to have news soon.

This has been a busy week of research for me, as I have reworked my section on my Whitlock II line [John of Fairfield] in light of our conversation, which led to rechecking what I had on John of Essex, which led to more rewriting and so it has gone.... please feel free to critique anything which I have sent, as I'm really only in the preliminary stages of this genealogy. It's wonderful to talk genealogy with someone who's actually working on some of the same folks. Will send Xeroxes soon of stuff which is referenced in my write-up, but I suspect that you may well have some of it. Admittedly some of it is kind of oblique to the Whitlocks in particular, but I tend to study communities as a whole oftentimes.

Its going to take me weeks to absorb what you've given me in this mailing!! I can hardly wait to sit down with it...

regards and many thanks... will be in touch soon.

All of this is based on the idea that Peter Van der Burgh the agent is a first cousin. It gets a lot more complex if we start figuring in step-cousin, second cousin etc.

So that's what I've got so far, with the VanKleeks leading the field followed closely by the Low/Louws, Clarks (and just possibly the Dutchers), trailed by possible Masaroles and Tabors with the Noxons bringing up the rear. I think my work's cut out for me in the near term. I'll turn my attention to some of the more tenuous Whitlock problems later, but the VanderBurgh clue is too tantalizing to put down at the moment and I thank you enormously for pointing me in that direction. The identity of John Sr. of Lenox's wife, who is my direct ancestress, has been a real headbanger for too long. Just to have a clue to chase is a relief. And I'm getting the hang of both Dutch and early Poughkeepsie, which isn't a bad thing.

I'm hoping to take a little field trip out to Springfield or Pittsfield in the next couple of weeks, certainly before summer. I'll keep you posted regarding what I find. If you have any further thoughts on this or a critique please let me know. You might want to lean on the Vanderburgh Bible Record from the Canadian side and see if anything shakes loose. I'm even more at sea when one of my folks slides north into Canada than I am plowing through Dutch Reformed Church Records and Dutchess County [black hole for genealogy though it is at least its a familiar, and to me accessible, black hole]. Somehow in all of this I'm smelling Sharon, CT and the odious Oblong. O well.

Many thanks, keep in touch and so will I. Enjoy the enclosed.

regards —  
Jana