

X 12-23-26

Chadron, Nebraska.

Dec 20th 1926.

Rt. Rev. Geo A. Beecher,
Dear Sir;

Your letter of Dec 14th has been in my hands for some time, and the delay in my answer has been caused by the time taken to secure a picture of Mother to send you, one of which I enclose, one that we have had taken the past week, and it is a good likeness of her.

The films which you found in the envelope with the notes were put in by mistake, and I was at a loss to know what had become of them, am glad that they are not lost, if you care to have a print from them, do so, and then I would like them returned to me.

The film showing Mother and the small boy (Who is my Son, Hudson) was taken about 10 years ago, and the other one showing Mother and the large boy (Who is also the same boy) was taken about 4 years ago.

I certainly will take pleasure in helping you in this matter, if I can be of any assistance, you may call on me at any time, will do the best I can.

My parents came to Sioux City in 1870, and took passage on the Steamboat "###" "Miner" afterwards re-named "The Black Hills", for Yankton, Dakota, Ter.

The Captains name was Tim Burleigh, who afterwards was often at our home in Bonhomme.

Mother was born at Argyle, New York, May 5th 1840. Her Mothers name was Harriet Boutwell, who died in Oct 1841.

Her Fathers name was Herbert Dexter, who died in Nov 1841. No record of his birth. My Mother was their only child.

My Mother and Father were married in 1867, ## in Conneticut, and came to Otsego, Michigan, where I was born Aug 26th 1868, no other children.

Mothers full name is, Mary Eliza Dexter-Mead.

Fathers full name, John Groot Mead.

I can remember some events which happned in the then, unknown West, as far back as 1874, and the Black Hills gold excitement in 1876, the Pioneer days in Western Nebraska in 1882, the Indian War in 1890.

If any of this is of any value, you may have it.

Please do not hesitate to write me regarding this undertaking at any time.

Sincerely,

Hudson D. Mead

Chadron, Nebraska.

March 18th 1927.

Dear Bishop Beecher,

Your letter of recent date arrived during my absence from the City, which is the cause of delay of my answer, Am glad to receive the letter and to know that you are able to make a story out of the material furnished by my Mother.

First of all- In writing you regarding my Mothers Parents, for some reason, she did not seem to care to give me details of her ancestors, but later she told me some additional facts which you will kindly substitute for those which I submitted.

This is her story--

My Grandmother was Lucy Carpenter, she married Elija Dexter, they settled in Cambridge, N.Y, I presume that is where my Father was born, his name was Clark R.Dexter, Mothers people came from Scotland, they settled in Argyle, N.Y,a Scotch settlement. their names were Boutwell. My Mothers name was Harriet. My Father died aged 24 yeas, My Mother followed him 1 year later, I was about 1 year & 5 months old, I suppose I was born at Argyle in 1840, May 5th.

I note what you say about the Steamboat-- Mother says that she cannot remember any unusal incident connected with the early day Steamboats on the Missouri, other than that the coming of the Boat to the landing at the settlements along the river was quite an event, which usally brought the entire population to the landing to meet friends or relatives who were expected, or to watch the Negro deck hands unload supplies, humming Negró melodies as they run up and down the gang plank.

Mother has trird hard to find a picture of an old Yankton Indian Chief named "Strike the Ree" he was born while the Lewis & Clark Expedition was camped among the Indians somewhere near Yankton, So.Dak, he was wrapped in an American Flag and Baptised by a Protestant Missionary who was with the party, they said they would make an American out of him, and they did, for he was always a friend of the Whites.

Mother has found some articles and pictures in her scrap book, which she thought possible would interest you, One regarding the last buffalo hunt of the Yankton Indians in 1872.

Mother was well acquainted with the Trumbos, and Major and Mrs Gassman, the Indian Agent, at that time.

I also weãl remember the last buffalo hunt of the Pine Ridge Sioux Indians in 1882, we were living at the Agency at that time. They went into Montana, and what is now western So.Dakota, and returned in the Fall loaded down with buffalo meat and robes, they also brought back with them 2 buffalo calves, and they pets around the Agency until they got ugly and had to be killed, they used to come around our store in the winter and try to get into the horse barn, I suppose it was hay they wanted.

This the best I can do to supply further data, and hope it will help in a small way.

Very cincerily yours,

Hudson D. Meoe

Mother wishes me to convey to you her very best wishes.

I am sending these articles to you for your pleasure to read them, thought possibly they would interest you.

Will be pleased to have you return them at your convenience.