

The following letter was written by Matthew J. Shoecraft to his nephew, Milton Nye Shoecraft, my great grandfather. I have the original letter which was given to my mother by my grandfather Emerson Strong Shoecraft. Milton Nye Shoecraft married his cousin Delainah Miles Shoecraft. The closing statement, "God bless your cousin and dear wife my dear sister's daughter...", is therefore referring to one person, Delainah Miles Shoecraft.

Chuck Shoecraft

Oneida, May 2 of 1901

My Dear Nephew,

Enclosed, I send you the genealogy of the Shoecraft family in America. You will see by reading carefully, that you and I and all your uncles and aunts on your father's side recon(sic) from Jacob Shoecraft\_\_son of the original Peter and brother of John Shoecraft.

Your father & myself, as you will see are sons of your Grand Father, Joseph Shoecraft & your Grand Mother Sarah Calkins\_\_ I have not given the dates of the births, of any of your Uncles & Aunts, simply stated their names in order of their ages\_\_ I propose to continue the record by simply stating my own name, adding "son of Joseph Shoecraft and Sarah Calkins, his wife", then giving date of birth & time of marriage & to whom married - then add names of all my children, date of birth;(sic): From this, any of my children after your Aunt Jane & myself have departed this life can continue this record- You can do the same only you can state your father, Peter Shoecraft, son of Joseph Shoecraft & Sarah Calkins his wife & your mother Carolin Francis Nye.(give date, if you have it, of birth & death of your Father & Mother\_ Then give names of your own family, who your wife's maiden name was, that will show she was daughter of Martha Miles, the daughter of Joseph Shoecraft & Sarah Calkins his wife. Then those coming after you can continue the record - X (shifts to a new page)

X

I wish I could see you once more this side of the "River", but it is not very likely I can show,- Life is brief at most, but when one passes 82 it can't be very long till the messenger will call & it is all important to be ready when the call comes\_ O(sic), how it grieves me that I could not realize the great fortune, which I came so near obtaining- In my other letter to you I stated what I had calculated to do for all my relatives, making them all truly comfortable, so far as money would they do. But let us all lay up treasures whose moths & rust do not corrupt, but whose dishonest men can - never cause, unless due repentance made before death overtakes them.(sic\*) God bless you my dear cousin & your dear wife my dear sister's daughter & your dear family\_ Let us hear from you on receipt of this.

Your Affectionate Uncle  
M. J. Shoecraft

The following is a transcription of the hand written genealogy by Matthew J. Shoecraft - born approximately 1850. You may notice some differences between the information in this letter and the information in the Shoecraft Family Tree genealogy pages. The letter is hand written and quite old, so that it is possible there are some errors in interpretation. Also, as you have no doubt noticed, when someone documents their personal understanding of family history errors often take place in the writing. I have chosen to transcribe the letter as accurately as I am able and to place it here in that form. Where I have become convinced that the information in the letter is incorrect in some form, I have made those corrections in the data base from which the genealogy pages are constructed.

Chuck Shoecraft

Genealogy of the Shoecraft family in America\_\_\_\_

Peter Shoecraft of German ancestry came to America prior to the time of the American Revolution, which led to the final separation of the American Colonies from the government of Great Britain and the establishment of the American Republic;

Either just before or just after he came to America he married an English lady by whom he had two sons, only children, whose names were John and Jacob, John being the elder son\_

They were born in Ulster County, N. Y. and both served as soldiers in the war of the American Revolution and both received pensions from the government for their military service\_ The two brothers were very much attached to each other and a very friendly relation existed between them during their whole lifetime and from the two brothers a numerous family may be reconed(sic)\_ Peter Shoecraft, their father, being the progenitor or forefather of all who bear the name of Shoecraft in America\_ The following is a brief statement of the two brothers John and Jacob and of their families;

John Shoecraft was born in Ulster County, N. Y. Dec 13, 1755 and died at Penfield, Monroe County, N. Y. April 14, 1833\_

Elizabeth McKee, his wife, was born in Scotland in 1755 and died in Penfield, Monroe County, N.Y. Dec. 19, 1842. They were married in Cambridge, Washington County, N. Y. and had seven children, viz;(sic)

William Shoecraft born Dec. 25, 1786 & died at Norwick Con. 1865, his wife's name

was Roxanna, they had no children\_

Sally Shoecraft was born Oct. 29, 1788 and died Aug. 9, 1846, her husbands name was William Harris\_

James Shoecraft was born Dec. 13, 1790,

John Shoecraft was born Nov. 15, 1792. His wife's name was Laura\_

Mary Ann Shoecraft was born July 19, 1795. She married a man by the name of Lyman Fox\_

George Shoecraft was born Aug 25, 1797 and died in 1798\_

Peter Shoecraft was borne June 1, 1799 and died Dec. 3, 1874\_ John Shoecraft and Elizabeth, his wife, father and mother of the above named seven children, moved with their children, all but one, George, above named who died when a tiny child, from Ulster County to Penfield,

Monroe County, N. Y. in June 1807. Where they resided up to the time of their death\_ The names of their grandchildren will be found in the records of their respective families\_\_

Jacob Shoecraft, son of Peter and brother of John Shoecraft, above named, was born in Ulster County, N. Y. May 10, 1759 and died July 27, 1836,

Caroline Sammon, his wife, was born July 9, 1755 and died Jan. 9, 1834. She was own cousin of Jacob and Frederick Sammon, whose tragic suffering & history may be found in the 2nd Vol. of Stone's life of Brant, who figured so conspicuously in the early part of the American Revolution\_\_ Jacob Shoecraft and Caroline Sammon, his wife, had six children; two sons and four daughters\_\_

The sons names were Joseph & Matthew; Joseph being the elder son, was born May 19, 1787 and died July 3, 1866, his wife's name was Sarah Calkins, who was own cousin to David & Francis Pruyne, who married sisters being daughters of Jacob Shoecraft & Caroline Sammon, Sarah Calkins mother's maiden name being Mary Pruyne & aunt of said David and Francis Pruyne\_

Sarah Calkins, wife of said Joseph Shoecraft, was born Oct. 16, 1796 and died April 25, 1876\_\_

Matthew Shoecraft, son of Jacob Shoecraft and brother of Joseph above named & being the youngest child of Jacob's family was born May 30, 1795 & died Aug. 25, 1875, his wife's name was Hannah Dillenbeck who was born Aug. 1, 1797 and died

Nov. 20, 1874.

The names of the four daughters of Jacob Shoecraft and Caroline Sammon, his wife, are as follows Viz;(sic)

Polly, who married David Pruyne\_

Rachel, who married Francis Pruyne & brother of David Pruyne\_

Sally, who married a man by the name of George Huffstater\_

Sarah, who married a man by the name of Abram Snyder\_ The names of the grandchildren of Jacob Shoecraft & Caroline Sammon, his wife, will be found in the records of the respective families of their six children above named\_

Jacob Shoecraft Caroline his wife, having resided awhile in Dutchess County, N. Y., moved from there to Herkimer Co, N. Y. from which place soon thereafter, several of their children with their families, moved to the northern part of Oswego County, N. Y. to which place Jacob and Caroline, his wife moved in 1828 and resided in the family of their elder son Joseph Shoecraft up to the time of their deaths\_

The names of the children of Joseph Shoecraft & Sarah his wife, are as follows, commencing with the oldest and continuing in order, down to the youngest. Viz;

Mary\_ Caroline\_ Peter\_ Daniel\_ Matthew\_ Warren\_ Sally\_ Henry\_ Amos\_ Rachel the 1st\_ both Amos and Rachel died in infancy\_ Rachel the 2nd\_ Martha\_ Francis\_ William\_ Simon\_ & Virilla\_