

Letter # 14

2127 Jackson Place
Chicago, ILL
April 17, 1912

Justus A. Griffi14-16 Rebecca St
Hamilton, Ont
Canada

My Dear Sir,

Just a chat with you without any referring to any memos.

First I wish to know more about the forbears of that New York City Attorney George Griffen - Who died quite wealthy and renowned about 10 years before our Civil War - and the one, whose Coat of Arms you showed me, while in Hamilton. His name in the NY City Directory appears as in my notes I sent you.

I had hoped that I had completed those St. Clair Co, ILL and Brunswick "Griffens" record but they keep adding on an on after I have duplicated the MS and return it to me for copying again and again. But I think, I, have with the assistance of Chas Field Griffen, of Mamaroneck NY - have made a sure connection to John of Flushing, son of Edward Griffith - the first immigrant to this continent. When finally completed may have a carbon, scratched copy for you - if you desire it.

I am now about through searching the records of Capt Jonathan Griffen of Scarsdale - a provincial soldier in the French-English war of 1754-1763 - as also James Griffen, of Boston - at whose wharf that "Tea Party" occurred, which was the beginning of our American Revolution - surely it was our "Griffen" Dock of history and he went as Liet. Of the 6th Mass. Provincial Regt. Co to capture of Louisbursh, Cape Breton Island with the British Navy too—

I wish to hurry up my MS as my wife is getting feebler every day – and I fear serious consequences . We have been married 41 years - but is consumptive - and I well as you report yourself, are not setting any better – We must get our family history in some shape so that those that come after may know something about us and our ancestors.

About 1893 - I commenced hunting up my mothers family - at the request of her youngest brother, Warren W. Thomas, of Plattsburgh NY and as I search I kept track of the "Griffens" too. My grandfather Thomas had 20 children - and it was a long task to find the facts - some 15 or 20 of them scattered all over the US - and I had many researches published in the NY Gen & Bio Record - and also my fathers - Joseph - "Account of the Griffen Family". Happily I have a large number of fathers letters, used copy books, while in Nine Partners, Dutchess Co - Friends Boarding School and diaries - his Geography- old copy - he was a staunch Quaker - and a professor of Higher Mathematics,

Surveying and Astronomical works - and he wrote this "Account" about 1830 - when he was a professor in the Hampstead, Long Island, Academy. The State Archives of NY, Va, Md, and American Archives were not then published - and he must have got his information from traditional mostly oral testimony.

We are just in the midst of a bitter political campaign in these stated - yet I am past taking an active part in it - I voted (at our primary nominations election for Theodore Roosevelt - for President - and he won in ILL - But voted against Womans suffrage - just as my wife and daughters wish me to.

Hoping you may drop me - even a short "line"

Sincerely yours
Zeno T. Griffen