

after him. She has a houseful now
20 people. & no adequate maids. One young
girl & 2 young men to help! The domestic
situation in Canada is deplorable one
cannot get any help. Yet Mr. J. Elliot
Prof. Pennington & Co. says in the early
season he gets girls @ \$14 - a month.
Reason why - "tip" that is demoralizing. I
wish Law could stop it. It could. It has
done so for years in Italy relatively with
Government officers etc.

We are all well. Frank is in N. S. (Sunday)
Gouverneur & he, last climbed Liberty near
the Shuswap 4000 ft. I couldn't spare time
to go. & the fam. wouldn't have allowed me
on top of the treacherous rocks. But he
will. Yes. In working hands. Any "book"
spells hard work! You know that. In
up at 6. at work at 7. finish at 6.
occasionally a bicycle ride. I have
65 out of my 125 pen-&-ink drawings
done. Many maps already complete,
but my 12 water-color must yet be done.

P.S. Pass on my hearty

scratching I haven't time to read it over & correct it

Blair N.H. July 26th/14

Dear Mr. Drace

I meant to write to you
yesterday, but in the press of work. I
let it slip!

I have (Sunday) written to Dr. Robinson
& told him to spell the name

Louisa

Laurel! but I was sure - pretty nearly
sure it was 'e' But at last came a
letter Sat. night from Mrs Tallant
who is now in Canada N.Y. saying
Cousin M's name was spelled
Loue a French woman's name

Marie Louise

& that she always spelled it Louisa.
Is that O.K. now - no thanks
to Mrs. Sullivan. Cousin Mary
Tallant said she would have responded.

ed sooner, but my letter chased her
from point to point. I sent it to
Phila. She is very good & wants to
help you all she can. She mentions
Miss Soule being near you in N. &
says that lady is in possession of
as much information as herself.
Well, I'm glad if you have been
helped - my share is, indeed, little.

I hope some time you will meet
Cousin Mary Tallant she is a quiet
but intellectual person - related to us
only by marriage you know. But a
readily distinguished hantrocheter.

You ask about Arthur. All I can
say is, the poor boy is perfectly hap-
py here, & perfectly so - That
means all one can expect!

Of course psychologically, his case is a

study - The brain is never completely up-
set, I think, in any abnormal individual.
Arthur is abnormal, some corners of
his brain are "arrested" at say a 15
year old point! In other respects his
learning, and his intelligence remain
possibly intact. It is very peculiar. In
my sister's case - a case of prenatal
arrested development, resulted in a not
wholly imbecile individual. But she
is as nearly the completely idiotic char-
acter as one could find. That is probably
due to the entire destruction of the right
lobe of the brain, or rather its atrophy. The
direct result is a paralysis in part of
the whole left side. Arthur's case is
one of insanity ("dementia praecox") which
physicians say is incurable. Still he
is now where he ought to be outside of
that terrible asylum with its noisy
decented inmates. Cousin Lucy Davis
is greatly interested in him & so long
as her house was empty could look

I told Dr. R. the various botanists had
led me "a dance" of it! But that was
in the text. I have yet to battle with
my miserable memory of names, & I lose
no end of time yet, with Leprousus. Occa-
sionally, for example, my specimen, or
sketch, or tracing is labeled with the wrong
name, & I have to make it a 7th Ed. one!
Still I am absorbed & interested in the
work & my drawings are being splendidly
reproduced. I hope to get them by Oct
1st or earlier. I wish you could see the
wonderfully fine geological maps which have been
sent to me as an assistance in mapping out
character of soil. I shall put in 1 or 2
maps showing geological conditions in U.S.
& one showing the Thermal conditions. These
will help one to understand the principles of
distribution. In several - many - of my drawings
I have entered the initials of coll. of the
Spec. I used. Your own initials among them
you see in taking liberties! But the credit

is due the collector. On a sep. page I
give the name in full. This includes some
strangers to me but also E. F. Williams. W.
Drane. M. L. F. Dr. B. Judge Churchill etc.
I find this is the best way to establish
the authority of my leaf-tracings they
are absolute.

We all send love to you & Mrs Drane,
wish I could wheel around & see
you & the McMillans. But I'm
nailed down.

Slowly political conditions are being re-
vealed. & Washington will hear from
its "policy" next November. I agree ab-
solutely with Mr. McMillan on that
point. My friend from Orijaba Mex. was
up here in June at his brother's farm. You
ought to have heard what he had to say!
Whew!

Cordially yours

Ferd S. Mathews

The Rev. Cyrus Pierce, was my mother's
Aunt Harriet Pierce's husband. The Pierce "Lot"
in Prospect Hill Centry is next my grandfather
Coffin's Lot - Nantucket.

You will be interested to learn that she taught
in Geo. B. Emerson's School Boston. I think I
have heard of that before. Is Mrs. Tallant is right.
I know positively that Mrs. Owen was in Water-
ville N.H. with her sister Caroline Tallant,
in 1868. I was a very small boy then, but
I remember her interest & work in botany at
that time in that place. I remember my mother's
interest in her "findings" & also the indifference
of my own Aunt Mary Davis (mother's sister) who at
that time had no use for botany, but later developed
a passion for "hunting down" the "brown fern".
I suspect the "persistence" Mrs. Tallant speaks of was
a characteristic Coffin as well as Hussey trait.

L.S.W.

of many of the large or celebrated trees
in N. E. and when I wrote my book on
the Subj. (it was intended for children or
young people), she gave me an account
of several remarkable or celebrated specimens.
Mrs Owen was also, as you know, ^{quite nearly} rela-
ted to Mr. Batchelder of Manchester
thru descent from Hugh Tallant.

She wrote me that we were mutually
tho more remotely related to him thru the
Rev. Stephen Batchelder who came over
from England sometime in the 16-30's.
Mrs. Owen broke up her house in Springfield
& sold it about 5 or 6 years ago.

She had moved to Plandome with
Auntie from Brooklyn early in 1911.
I enclose the last letter & postal recd
from Cousin Maria, also Auntie's
letter notifying me of her mother's de-
parture. I have written to Springfield
& asked for the plate taken from her
photograph. - L. Selinger Mathews -

Notes in reference to Mrs Maria L. Owen.

Date of birth I don't know, but it was in
February 1822. so she was a little
over 91

Father's name I'm not sure of, but think it
was Henry Tallant

Mother's name was Nancy Coffin

Mrs Owen was a direct descendant thru
Henry Tallant of Hugh Tallant the
early New England settler who came
from Ireland. He is celebrated in
one of Whittier's poems.

Nancy Coffin was my grandfather's
(William Coffin) elder sister. She had
died before I visited Nantucket as
a boy in 1868. I don't know the
date of her death or that of her
husband.

Both are buried in the Prospect Hill
Cemetery in Nant. next to the lot belong-

ing to my Grandfather.

I first met Cousin Maria in 1868 when I was a little boy. But I still remember her as she looked then - small, a bit old-fashioned, precise, & perhaps old-maid-like. At that time she was deeply interested in botany, (August 1868), and was staying for the summer in Waterville N.H. not far from where my cottage now is, among the greater Southern White Mts. At that time I remember her showing me a number of specimens lately gathered among which was Cornus Canadensis, Tiarella Cordifolia etc. etc. all were, of course, Canadian in character.

Mrs Owm was related - thru the maternal branch of her grandfather Coffin to Benj Franklin, and David Webster. I know little about the history of her life in Springfield, or when she was married to Dr. Owm. I met Dr Owm

only twice and that was about 17 years ago - not long before he died.

Mrs Owm had a gifted son Walter (an architect) who designed the very beautiful Art Museum in Springfield. He died not long after his father.

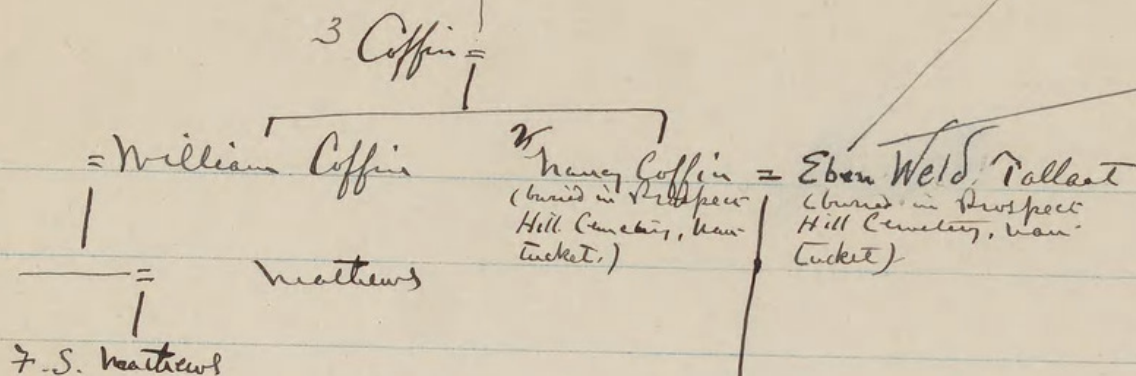
Mrs Owm had one ^{younger} brother Henry P. Tallant one sister Caroline Tallant. Both attended Dr. Ezer. E. Hall's Church, and the former was married by Dr. Hall. The sister was for many years Secretary to Dr. Hall. (You will remember perhaps our Roxbury House was next door to Dr. Hall's)

Mrs Owm was remarkably "up" in the fleshy fungi! I always, in visiting her in Springfield, had the good fortune to eat some of the mushrooms she collected, - if it was in the season! She seemed to know them all, and gave me a succinct and graphic description of the poisonous ones which I was to avoid - But I often told her. I should decline to eat any except those she gathered. She also knew

Benj. Franklin
Daniel Webster

Early New Eng. settler, from Ireland
Hugh Tallant of Whittier's
"Sycamores"

Weld family of Roxbury,
Mass.



Varillas L. Owen = Maria Louise Tallant
(first Mary G. Tallant) (dearly interested in botany in Aug., 1868 -)
Walter L. Owen (died) gifted - designed the beautiful little Art Museum in Springfield.
Amelia Owen = James Sullivan
Henry P. Tallant (attended 2nd & 3rd Hall's Church Married by Dr. Hale)
"Caroline Tallant" (attended 2nd & 3rd Hall's Church)
= Mary G.

"Caroline Tallant
(for many years secy
to Dr. Hale).

2. Nancy Coffin descended from Tristram Coffin and others of the early settlers of Nantucket.

3. Coffin 1st Pres. of the trustees of the Coffin School. Miss Owen began her schooling there and probably finished it at the school of her uncle Rev. Cyrus Pierce.



Mathews, F. Schuyler. 1914. "Mathews, Ferdinand Schuyler Jul. 28, 1914."
Maria L. Owen letters to Walter Deane

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