

Levi Pennington

People

6-4-1946

Levi Pennington Responding to Dr. Larsell, June 4, 1946

Levi T. Pennington

El TeePee, Woods,
Cloverdale, Oregon,
June 4, 1946.

Dr. O. Larsell,
Professor of Anatomy,
U. of O. Medical School,
Portland 1, Oregon.

Dear Dr. Larsell:--

Your letter of May 31 has just reached me out here where my wife and I are trying to get a bit of rest before the strenuous days of Oregon Yearly Meeting of Friends, which opens on the 13th.

I wish I could give you just the information you desire, but I do not have it here, and you could get it from a better source, I am sure, before I get back to Newberg. Dr. Henry J. (isn't it J. instead of M.? I think his middle name was John) Minthorn's daughter, Mrs. Mary Minthorn Strench is (or at least was last fall) living in Haverford, Pennsylvania, and we had a very pleasant visit with her late in November or early in December. (Haverford is only a small place, and I think she will get a letter without a street address. If there is any question in your mind about that, the letter could be addressed in care of Jonathan M. Steere, Walnut Lane, Haverford, and the Steeres would see that she got it.) I wish I could tell you Mrs. Strench's husband's name, but I do not remember it.

I think one could hardly say that Dr. Minthorn founded Pacific College. He was the first head of Friends Pacific Academy, out of which the college grew; but he had removed to Salem before the institution became a college.

I know little enough about Dr. Minthorn's medical practice. So far as I know your dates are correct. He went to Metlakatla, Alaska, where he was located, I believe, at the time of his death. His daughter, Dr. Gertrude Minthorn, for a long time a medical missionary in India, later was carrying on her father's practice in Newport, but I am not certain whether she was running the sanitarium, though I think she was.

You know, I am sure, that Herbert Hoover was Dr. Minthorn's nephew, and lived with him while Dr. Minthorn was head and Hoover a student of Friends Pacific Academy, along with Hoover's sister and brother and Dr. Minthorn's two daughters, his cousins. The boy Hoover cared for the horses of Dr. Minthorn, who drove to make his calls as he maintained his practice while head of the school. (The story is told, it may be apochryphal, that one night Herbert had forgotten to fill the half barrel from which the horses drank on their return from a drive to make a belated call, and that when Dr. Minthorn discovered this lapse he got Herbert out of bed and made him not only fill the half barrel but carry several more buckets of water and pour them in to run the barrel over, so that Herbert would not forget again. The story has it that he did not forget again.)

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Well, if you will write to Mrs. Strench (air mail if you are in a hurry) I am sure that she can answer the questions you asked of me, and any other question you care to ask about her father. You probably knew of the death of Dr. Gertrude Minthorn now a good many months ago. Mary was out here at that time for several days settling up the estate.

With the hope that you secure all the information you desire, and with the assurance that I shall be glad to help if there is anything that I can do, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.