

Levi Pennington

People

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Levi Pennington Writing to Mr. Weatherford Jr., September 28, 1946

Levi T. Pennington

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September 28, 1946.

Mr. J. K. Weatherford, Jr.,
Attorney at Law,
Albany, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Weatherford:--

Your feeling of hostility to joint ownership of real estate is a thing that is easily understood and easily shared. Under ordinary circumstances I should not want to be a party to it; but present circumstances seem to be a bit out of the ordinary. In confidence I think I may explain the situation a bit, though it should not go farther, as Mrs. Henderson is insistent that she does not want any publicity about it, at least until she is dead.

She has been devoted to the cause of temperance for many years, as you may know. I have not known about this nor about her until my return last February from a long auto trip that took my wife and me to New York, Florida, California and back home. At that time Mrs. Henderson decided that I was the one that she wanted to carry out a plan on which she had been thinking, she says for twenty years and I know for a number of years, for I saw the plan in outline in writings of hers dated a good while ago. This plan was to leave all that she had in the hands of one person, the whole to be used to forward the cause of temperance in any way that that person might see fit.

At first she talked of a will, and she has framed up such a document two or three times to my knowledge, but in a form that was far from regular. It might have passed the courts, though I should think it extremely doubtful.

She solved the matter as far as her savings account is concerned by making me joint owner of that account, so that at her death, if I outlive her, the money will come into my hands, without any legal strings to it at all, though of course to be used by me in the cause to which she has devoted so much of her life. She did this to my very great surprise, and without any such suggestion on my part.

In addition to the savings account there is this residence of hers. Again she proposed a will, and when I came to Albany Thursday, it was with the understanding that she was to confer with me and Mr. Williamson about a will. It was his suggestion, though I had thought of the same thing, that instead of the will this joint ownership deed be made. Mrs. Henderson was anxious to avoid all legal complications, even to the probating of a will.

Perhaps Mr. Williamson has explained all this to you, but I wanted you to know that I am not a man seeking anybody's money or possessions for my own benefit. If Mrs. Henderson's plans carry, it will mean considerable extra work for me, without any remuneration.

Sincerely yours,