

Mrs. Joseph A. Hall
P.O. Box 478
Clay Center, Kansas
May 5, 1952

Mrs. Frank H. Davenport, Jr.
Chadron, Neb.

Dear Mrs. Davenport:

I am one of those persons deeply interested in family history, & am working toward the publication of a VanBenthuyzen genealogy. As you are a VB descendent, will you kindly send the data asked for herein, to help in completing our records of your family? A letter came from your aunt, Mrs. Denny, several weeks ago, & while she did not give your address, I am hoping it is Chadron, having noted that your son was born there. I wrote Mrs. Mead again, asking for your address, but as yet, have had no reply. I have had contact with a few Omaha people (all distantly related) & I have wondered about them ever since the flood started. We in Kansas had the same experience last summer & while we ourselves were not in the flood, it was within 40 miles of us, & we afterwards were in much of the flooded territory. Believe me, we all were horrified at the conditions we saw. The things we saw were just unbelievable, & I can't help but wonder why another such tragedy must have come so soon.

But I am writing about family history..... Perhaps you never have known of your connection to a family with a name like VanBenthuyzen (accent of thigh), so I will give your lineage very briefly.

- 1. Paulus Martense VB was settled in Albany, NY in 1654, where he married Catherine Van Kleeck. Both had come from Holland.*
- 2. Marten Pauluse VB married Feitje Boorsboom, in Albany in 1696. He was one of the 15 original settlers of Schenectady, NY.*
- 3. Catalina VB, b. Schenectady, 1700, m. 1719, Isaac Truax who in 1782 was the oldest man at a dinner given in Schenec. In honor of George Washington (age 92).*
- 4. Peter Truax b. 1723, m. Jacoba VanSantvoord.*
- 5. Catalina Truax b. 1751, m. 1770, Adam Conde, your revolutionary ancestor whose brother was a British loyalist.*
- 6. Alida Conde, 8th of 9 children, b. 1788, M. George Mead. We have no dates of death for this couple, nor do we have George's birth date.*
- 7. Adam Conde Mead (1811-1869) m. Isabella Groat (1820-1907).*
- 8. John Groat Mead, oldest child, m. 2nd(?), Mary Dexter.*
- 9. Hudson Dexter Mead (1868-1902) m. Nora O'Melia Blake.*
- 10. Hudson Dexter Mead m. Mary Esther Magill*
- 11. Gloria Jane Mead Davenport*

I have spent far more than spare times at genealogical correspondence for more than 3 years. People all over the U.S. have been wonderfully co-operative, which has added greatly to the fascination of this project. Mr. Alvin S. VanBenthuisen, Brooklyn, NY (my mother's 3rd cousin) has accumulated much early history of the family, in 45 or more years. I'm getting what data I can from the living. We hope to get a book published in 1952. But in sending data you are not obligating yourself to buy one of the books.

We have been to the Black Hills twice – did not dream we had relatives so close there. We like Rapid City very much.

You are just 2 months younger than our only daughter-in-law, who is expecting to present us with a grandchild any day now – time was up last Tuesday. We are all so anxious. Your son is just getting to the most adorable stage!!!

Your helpfulness in sending data will be very greatly appreciated. Best regards to you all!

Most sincerely,

Edith McIntosh Hall (Mrs. J.A.)