

Oak Park, Ill., Dec. 1, 1928.

Mrs. F. H. Parker,  
711 Summit Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Mrs. Parker:

Am writing to you in regard to the genealogy of the Ellis and Stow families, which I have been successful in compiling. Perhaps before I go further, I should introduce myself.

I am the cousin of your late husband, Frank H. Parker, being the daughter of Ann Jane Ellis, sister of Laurenda Delano Ellis Parker. My mother married Rev. H. C. Wood, and came west ten years after her marriage. Her sister came west also soon after her marriage to John S. Parker, only the first child (Charles) being born in the east. The Parker and Wood families both lived in Wisconsin, the former in Janesville, and the latter in Mauston. These two families were the only descendants of William Ellis and Sarai Stow, his wife, who came west. We visited back and forth, and I remember that I thought in my childhood days that "Aunt Lonnie" (as we used to call her) was wonderful. I never saw her after that time, for we soon moved farther away from them.

I have been a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools since the death of my husband Dr. Joseph H. Bates, in 1894. Three years ago I retired from my profession, and in looking about for something to interest me that would be mentally stimulating, began to look up my family lineage. I have been working at this line steadily for three years, having access to one of the best genealogical libraries in the country (Newberry Library in Chicago) which devotes one whole floor to genealogical subjects. I am only an hour's ride from this library, so that I have had

a wonderful chance to pursue my investigations.

I have just about completed the line, the families of Ellis and Stow going back to England, and all the allied families the same with the exception of four lines that I am still working, but eventually expect to get. Thomas Davis line one of the hard nuts to crack. We have two ancestors who came over in the Mayflower, and that is doing pretty well, when one considers that of the 100 passengers on the Mayflower, only 22 have been proven ancestors of anybody, on account of incomplete statistics. We come from the same common ancestors as Longfellow, Harriet Beecher Stow, the late President Harding and the illustrious Washburn family, whose lineage goes far back into England, and who has furnished so many noted men in the civic life of the country farther down the line.

This genealogy has cost me quite a bit, not in hiring professional genealogists who charge \$2.50 an hour for their services, whether they can find anything or not, but in trips east visiting places where our ancestors lived, and sending fees to town clerks and Probate Judges for copying records to prove the lineage, for I have positively refused to put into the genealogy unverified tradition, which cannot be relied on. I am writing to find out if anyone in your family cares to know about this find.

I am trying to get money for further research, and am offering these two lines, nearly completed for \$200 "as is", in a carbon copy very legible, and easy to copy from. With the promise that all lines will be added as I find them.

I thought it would be better to let you know about the line and if you do not wish it, it is just the same to me.

Some people are very keen about those things, and others have no wish to know, and I realize that the latter class would be very foolish to spend their money on something of no value to them.

I just wanted your line to know that I had it, but that it had cost much to get it as all worth while things cost. I shall not publish it, for I cannot stand the expense with all it has cost me. I am keeping mine in leather-bound loose-leaf books, the contents being typed.

Let me feel how you think about it, but do not hesitate to answer if you do not care for it.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Bates

P.S. I nearly forgot to tell you that I submitted the Stow Genealogy about two weeks ago to Dr. Billings, who is known and honored for his research work in medical lines, and whose daughter Margaret (Mrs. George R. Nichols, Jr.) is equally interested in the Stow Line with myself, and received from him a letter, from which I quote. He says: "I have gone through most of the data you sent, and find it most interesting and dependable. You have done a wonderful piece of work, and I wonder how you found time and opportunity to do it all. I am sure it is a great satisfaction to you to have this evidence in such good form".

I have been very careful that no mistakes have been made in the dates, but the genealogy is historical and biographical, and contains about 250 pages 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  by 11. When one has read it one will know the ancestors as well as know when they were born, married, and died, and the number of their children. I have three granddaughters for whom I am compiling this genealogy, and I wish them to care for it.

\*

M.E.B.

\* This letter found among his mother's effects (Oct. 1938) induced W. C. Parker to trace his lineage.