

AN OLD LETTER FROM ONE HOLLINGSWORTH TO ANOTHER

(Miss Annie Hollingsworth, Ontario, Canada, wrote to Mr. Samuel Hollingsworth in Toronto, making inquiries about his ancestors. Below is a copy of one of the three letters he wrote in response. Miss Annie was of the Leeds County family from County Wexford, Ireland, and Samuel was born in Rathfriland, Co Down, Ireland.

42 Garrard W.
Toronto, Canada
19th Sept. 1908

Dear Miss Hollingsworth,

I understand my daughter and you have been carrying on a correspondence with a view to see if we are related. She asked me to write you thinking I might be better able to solve the problem than her.

Well I don't know that I can throw much more light on it than I told her. I often heard my father speak of a section of our people that went down south in Ireland and settled in County Wexford. I think they were two uncles of his, and so far as I remember their names were Tom and Sam. But in those days, correspondence was very much more difficult to carry on than it is today, there were no such cheap postage, the rate then would be 6 pence or 12 cents for local letters and besides there were no railways in Ireland at that time, hence visiting friends at a distance was out of the question and as time went on and the Old Folks dropped off, the young ones never having seen each other took no interest in one another and in time almost forgot that each existed. However, I am about certain that we are the same connection. The names you quote are common ones in our families, Samuel & David & Robert & William etc. The Sam's being very much in evidence in almost all our families. There is a Sam and that was the name of Professor Hollingsworth and by the way there was a strong resemblance between him and us. (NOTE: He refers to the late Dr. Samuel Hollingsworth (1848-1898), Methodist Clergyman and later Principal of Dublin's Wesley College, born in Gorey, son of Peter and Hannah (Cope) Hollingsworth of the Wexford county family. Editor.) So much so that a few years ago when I was in Dublin and calling on people in business I was taken for him by mistake. You say your people are Episcopal, well our people are Presbyterian, but it is easy accounting for the change or difference. In the South of Ireland Presbyterians are very few, scarcely any and I can quite well understand a Protestant family going from the North and connect with the Protestant Church in the part they settled in and Prof. Hollingsworth connecting with the Methodists to do so through the Primitives which were originally a branch off of the Episcopal brought about by the preaching of the Wesleys.

I am very sorry I haven't a photo of myself singly but I enclose one of my wife and self. You can look and see if there are any traces of resemblance between me and your people. I have always been credited of being a Hollingsworth, that is, I resemble them more than I do my mother's side.

Another thing our party are all great loyalists and Conservatives. I never met one yet of our party that wasn't. Our forefathers came to Ireland with William III and after the Conquest of the country by his armies they settled down on lots that were granted to them. County Down is in the North of Ireland; a part of the City of Belfast is built on it.

A cousin of mine is Chief Officer on the Oceanic S.S. of the White Star Line. He is always glad to meet namesakes and show them kindness if any you know are crossing. If I can assist your father to find trace of the one he wants I shall be glad to do so.

Sincerely yours,

(NOTE: Underlining ours.)

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Samuel Hollingsworth