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1908 South 77th St.
Lincoln, Nebraska 68520
January 19, 1970

Dear Cousins:

Your most welcome letter came last week, and I was surely glad to find another member of our far-flung family who is interested in doing research. You're surely right -- if we all combine our efforts we should be able to break through this extremely difficult Behunin-Bohannon problem some time soon. It has certainly been a hard problem for a very long time. I've been all over the country, doing research in many large libraries also, and ~~we~~ still can find nothing on Isaac's parents, except bits and pieces. I'll review for you what we know for certain, and what we can only guess.

I have not seen the old Isaac Behunin Family Bible. My mother copied the entries, but evidently Nellie Cannon of Salt Lake has the Bible, as I understand it -- she is mother's cousin. As I have copied the entries from Mother (3rd hand) they are:

TORR

Albert Behunin borned 1758
Died October 1823
Married Nancy Lords
Borned about October 1760 ¹⁷⁷⁵
Baptized May 24 1896
Endowed May 24 1896
Nancy Lords baptized May 24, 1896, endowed May 24, 1896

8 children
Zelpha born 1798
James born 1800
Isaac born 1803
William born 1805
Albert born 1807
Alphus born 1815
Polly born 1817
Angeline born 1819

The Genealogical Society ran a survey for me in 1965. At that time, they advised me the Temple Records Index Bureau had on file two cards as follows:

Alpheus Behunin, born 1758, endowed twice; once by Elijah C. Behunin (grandson of Alpheus) and once by Isaac M. Behunin (grandson of Alpheus). No record for Albert Behunin. One at St. George, other Manti. Nancy Lords, endowed at instance of Isaac M. Behunin, listed simply as a relative, at Manti

Hauvoo Baptisms File showed a card indicating that Isaac Behunin was baptized for his father, Albert Behunin.

Why do you suppose Elijah C. and Isaac M. had their grandfather's work done under the name of Alpheus? That's a good one.

1800 Census of Oneida County, New York shows Albert Bohannon living at Rome, New York at that time and had:

1 male under 10, 1 male 20-45, 2 females under 10 and 1 female 26-45
The earliest daughter shown in the family Bible, and first child is Zelpha, born 1798. Did they lose a daughter ~~before~~ ^{after} 1800; if so, she would probably be first child in family.

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If we do some calculations of dates from census reports, we find that

Albert Bohannon, born 1755-1782
Nancy Lord born 1769-1774

which coincides with Isaac's Bible listings. They were probably married about 1795. Now, if we do some subtracting, we find that from using Isaac's Bible dates, Albert Bohannon was 40 years old when his first child was born. So, did he have a wife and family before he married Nancy Lords. Isaac also says his mother was born in 1760, making her 38 when her first child was born, and 59 by 1819 when her last child was born. This is not impossible but highly improbable. However, Nancy could have been married before also, and her married ~~xx~~ name could have been Lords, and this could be one reason we've never been able to find her in any Lord records. Incidentally, Nancy is a nickname for Ann, Anna or Hannah.

1820 Census of Oswego County shows

Albert Bohanon 1 male under 10
2 males 10-15
1 male 16-18
1 male over 45
1 female under 10
1 female over 45

1830 census Oswego County shows:

Nancy Bohannin
1 male 15-20, 1 female 60-70

~~Nancy, the first foray was in 1852 when she was 18~~

I don't believe I have the 1840 census, but I have the rest through 1860 of Oswego County. You probably have all this, but just thought I'd review it.

I have no record of the girls Zelpha, Polly and Angeline and who they married. James, William, Albert and Alpheus evidently remained in and around Oswego Co. when Isaac joined the Church and went west. I have a great deal of further information on Alpheus, born 13 April 1815, married about 1834 Mary Ann Corbin, and he died 13 October 1889. Both he and his wife are buried at Sand Hill Cemetary, just south of Pulaski.

You state that the property originally owned by Albert Bohannon now belongs to Calkins and Flemming. According to a very early map I have, this property is in the small village of Selkirk, and I have been told by people in Pulaski that all of that area around Selkirk is now a New York State Park, called Selkirk Shores.

Alphius Bohannon, according to a city directory of Richland dated 1840 or 1860, was a fisherman and peddler. I have almost a complete family group sheet on him and his wife and their 9 children, and I'll send it to you if you do not have it. His son, Edmund (born about 1855) was supposedly with Nancy Lord Bohannon out on the river in the middle of winter, when both were drowned. Reports are that her body was carried into the lake and not recovered until spring. I have had a lady searching the old newspapers in Pulaski, but she hasn't found anything on this story. Josephine Bohannon ~~xxxx~~ Jones' daughter, Mrs. J. E. Chawgo, told my researcher in Pulaski that Edmund was drowned while getting in nets of white fish -- he left 3 children plus one born after his death. Benjamin E. Bohannon was his eldest child.

Sarah Ann Bohannon Eaton died in ~~1968~~ 1935 at the age of 91. I have her full obituary, plus part of her life story from her own scrapbook. I received all of this in October, 1968. Maybe that is what I sent on to Aunt June and you have a copy of it.

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For several years I have had Mrs. H. C. Kinney doing research for me there. She has searched many old newspaper files, but I do not think she is able to go into the town records and search. I have asked her to look into church records, but she doesn't seem able to do that. I have been most happy to get the copies of newspaper articles. They are almost exclusively about the family of Alpheus Bohannon, and so I don't think it likely that any of the other sons of Albert and Nancy stayed around Richland. If we could find who the 3 girls married, it is possible their families are still in the area. There are many Bohannon relatives in Oswego County, but I too have had no answer from any of them in response to my many letters.

There is a Monday Historical Club at Pulaski, Mrs. Charles Blount was president of it in 1965. The Benjamin E. Bohannon family lived at Orwell and were members of the Orwell Union Church there -- most are buried in the Orwell Evergreen Cemetery. I have not been able to get that minister to answer me either. I have written to a branch of our church in that area, but cannot get anyone from there to answer either.

In 1966 Mr. and Mrs. Ira Bohannon of 170 West 5th Street, Oswego, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. They were married in the Congregational Church there in 1916. They have 2 daughters, Mrs. Ralph (Ruth) Fare and Mrs. Richard (Dorothy) Schneider (I don't know where the daughters live and I don't know where this Ira ties in.

I also have the death certificate of Alpheus Bohannon, died age 74 years, 6 months at ~~Richland~~ Richland, occupation peddler. Died 13 October 1889.

Permelia Bohannon (daughter of Alpheus and Mary Ann Corbin Bohannon) married (1) a Mr. Mosher. They had 2 sons -- one Adelbert a Presbyterian minister of Syracuse, New York, and the other is George, head of the Hunter Arms Co. of Syracuse. She married (2) John Bettinger who ran a hotel in East Syracuse. They had two children, William and Grace.

In Sarah Ann Eaton's obituary, it says she became a member of the Baptist church in Pulaski when she was young.

Under date of 19 March 1874, the Pulaski newspaper states the following:
Married -- Jones-Behunin at the residence of Warren Walworth, Port Ontario.

Under date of 15 March 1874, Pulaski newspaper states:
Married by L.B. Cole, Esq. Mr. George E. Jones to Miss ~~Josephine~~ Josephine Behunin, both of Richland.

This is about the only instance I've found where a member of the family other than Isaac used the name Behunin instead of Bohannon.

This is a long, drawn-out letter and I hope it makes sense, and is of some use to you. I surely hope you will be able to go to New York this summer, and by all means look up Mrs. Kinney at Pulaski. She will probably be able to introduce you around and help a great deal. You might like to write to her first -- she has no street address. Perhaps you already know what I've sent, but this should be a review, in that case. Oh yes, one other thing. I have been told that, although Oswego is the county seat, court has also been held at Richland, and it is a good possibility that some of the court records are stored in that town. This is a very unusual situation, but might help us. If I can send you anything that might help you in any way, I'll be most happy to do so.

Sincerely,

Shirley Schuess