

A HEARTHLINE BOOK · SPECIMEN

Stone Walls and Pine Country

*The lines behind an invented family, from a Vermont hill farm and
a Swedish parish to the Wisconsin woods*

Every name, date and record in this specimen is made up to show how
a Hearthline book reads.

Your People, in One Breath

You come from a Vermont hill farm and a Swedish parish, and the two met in the pine country of central Wisconsin. On your father's side, a family of stone-wall farmers left worn-out upland ground in the 1850s and followed the road west that half their neighbors took. On his mother's side, a young couple left Värmland in the famine years at the end of the 1860s with one child and a trunk. Their grandchildren married in 1921. Everything below says how we know each part of that, and where the paper runs out.

PART ONE · YOUR FATHER'S FATHER

The Pell Line

The Pell line resolves to your grandfather, Amos Pell, and it is a line of people who moved when the ground told them to. They were upland farmers, then pine-country farmers, and for one generation loggers, and at every step the records follow them closely enough to name the farm.

What they left

To be from the Vermont hills in the 1840s was to be from thin soil and stone. Families had cleared the uplands a generation earlier and walled the fields with what the plow turned up. When the wool money gave out in that decade, a great many of them went west, and Wisconsin, a state from 1848, was where a good share of them went.

Josiah and Clarissa

Josiah Pell was born about 1818 in Windsor County, Vermont. The 1850 census, the first to name every member of a household, lists him there with his wife Clarissa and three children. By 1860 the same household, with the same children at the right ages, is in Waushara County, Wisconsin. We read both census pages ourselves. The ages

and the order of the children match from one to the other, and that is how we know it is the same family and not another Pell of the same name.

His father's name is another matter. The family tree you gave us names him Ezra Pell. We found no record that says so. A Vermont probate record names an Ezra Pell with a son Josiah, but it gives no age and no place of residence for the son, and the county held at least two other Josiahs of about the right age. So the tree carries Ezra as Josiah's father, and this book carries him as unconfirmed.

WHERE THE PAPER STOPS

Above Josiah, the line stops. No record we read names his parents. The Case File at the back of this book lists what was searched and what would settle it.

The winters in the woods

Josiah's son Henry spent the winters of the 1870s in the logging camps upriver and the summers on the farm. We know this from a county history of 1882, which names him among the camp foremen, and from his own obituary, which says the same. We do not know what he thought of the work, and neither record says. The family remembers that he never went back to the camps after his marriage in 1879. That is tradition, and we give it to you as tradition.

What this line hands down

A readiness to leave when staying no longer makes sense, and to build again where you land. Every generation of the Pell line did it once.

PART TWO · YOUR FATHER'S MOTHER

The Lindqvist Line

The Lindqvist line can reach back further than the Pell line, because the Swedish church kept a record of every household in the parish, year after year, and those books survive.

Värmland, 1869

Karl Johan Lindqvist and his wife Maria left their parish in western Värmland in the spring of 1869 with a daughter of two. Sweden had three bad harvests running, from 1867 to 1869, and Värmland was among the provinces that lost the most people to America. The parish household roll records their departure in the margin, with the word *Amerika* and the date. We read that entry on the page.

The name on the other side

In Wisconsin the family appears as Lindquist, spelled the American way, from the 1870 census on. The daughter's age, the parents' ages, and a second child born in Wisconsin in 1870 all fit. We are confident, but no single document ties the Swedish entry to the Wisconsin family. The link rests on everything matching and nothing contradicting it. It is supported, not proven, and we say so.

The Legends We Checked

The family has long said that the Pells came over on the *Mayflower*. We looked. The tree reaches only as far back as Josiah, born about 1818, and no record we found connects him to any seventeenth-century passenger. We cannot say the story is false. We can say that nothing in these lines supports it, and that the real family, the one that cleared two farms and walled one of them, is worth more to you than the ship.

The Family Case File

- **The Pell line stops at Josiah Pell, born about 1818.** Searched: the 1850 census, the town land records, the probate district's indexes, and two town histories. What would settle it: a Vermont probate file or deed naming Josiah as heir. Next step: the probate court's original files, which are not online.
- **The Lindqvist crossing is supported, not proven.** Searched: the parish household rolls, the 1870 and 1880 censuses, and the passenger departure index. What would settle it: a Wisconsin church record that names the Swedish parish of birth.

- **Loose thread: a third Pell child disappears between 1860 and 1870.** A daughter, Lucy, is ten in 1860 and absent in 1870. No death or marriage record has been found for her yet.

Walking the Lines

Start in Windsor County, Vermont, where the stone walls Josiah's family built may still stand in second-growth woods. The town clerk's office holds the land records. Then go west to Waushara County, Wisconsin, to the township where the Pell farm appears in the 1860 census. For the Lindqvist line, the parish church in western Värmland is still in use, and the regional archives in Karlstad hold the household rolls.

A Note on What We Know

This book states 212 facts about your family. We read the document behind 131 of them ourselves (62 percent). Another 58 (27 percent) rest on an index or a secondary source that we could check but did not see in the original. The remaining 23 (11 percent) come from the family tree or from family memory, and the text says so each time. Where a fact is uncertain, the sentence tells you. Where a line stops, the book says where and why.

The Family Against the Century

1818

Josiah Pell born, about this year, in Windsor County, Vermont.

1848

Wisconsin becomes a state.

1850

The Pell household is counted in Vermont.

1860

The same household is counted in Waushara County, Wisconsin.

1869

The Lindqvists leave Värmland for America.

1921

The two lines meet in a marriage.