

September 25, 1968 ^{71.118.1A-1B}

Dear Stewart:

Last evening, after dinner, I went to Linwood for the express purpose of having another look at Grandma Brown. She is on board, oval in shape, about 18 or 20 inches high in a gold, 1900 frame, and as a result refreshingly small as compared with a square painting.

There is nothing spectacular about her - no fancy clothes or high coloring. However, she does possess virtues - no doubt virtue itself. Her flesh is a clear chalky pink and her ears show full. Her hair-do is most interesting with a two inch diameter cylinder of hair running on each side of her head from back to front high above her ears & perhaps level or just above the top of her head. Topping this, and crosswise of her head, is another similar roll near the back of the head. And back of this top cylinder, ^{there} shows perhaps $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ " of a comb in subdued tones, much like her hair.

Her face has the appearance of being long with narrowing chin, giving her the appearance of being handsomely homely.

Her dress is light mono colored, styled low-cut on her shoulders & with a deep V neck - like a party gown.

But best of all, there is pencilled on the back: Painted by Mr Palmer, 1833, Canandaigua. This was Randall Palmer, who as I recall, died in his early forties. I think he came from Albany or Utica, but the Roy House has a portrait he signed on the back R. Palmer, ¹⁸³⁹ and I know he worked in Auburn.

On the following sheet is some genealogy pertaining to her.

Portrait on board of Mrs William (Ann Maria Failing) Brown, painted 1833 in Canandaigua by Randall Palmer.

- I Melvin Van Alstine ~~II~~ Cornelia Vandenberg, settled Canajoharie.
II Goshen Van Alstine ~~II~~ Mary Elizabeth Schuyler, dau of Philip & Maria
III Martin Goshen Van Alstine ~~II~~ Anna Margaret Schreimbling
3/25/1755 - 12/20/1830 11/27/1802 2/18/1758 - 11/10/1833
II Maria Van Alstine ~~II~~ Joseph Failing
10/28/1785 - 3/31/1833 2/25/1782 - 8/8/1834
IV Ann Maria Failing ~~II~~ William Brown
6/3/1813 - 3/27/1909 Kenilwood, N.Y. 12/28/1801 - 2/24/1873 Cawego, N.Y.
V Emily Catherine Brown ~~II~~ Henry Amos Woodward, Lower Farm,
5/10/1850 - 1923 14/11/1845 - 6/25/1906 Kenilwood, N.Y.
VII Wm Amos Woodward ~~II~~ Marion Hutton
1874 - 3/21/1940 R. Key - 1933 Kenilwood
VIII (William) Dwight Woodward, unmarried, Honolulu Hawaii
4/1/1901 -
He now calls himself Dwight B. Woodward.

Joseph Failing was a tavern keeper

In 1818 Joseph & Maria Van Alstine Failing resided in Homer Village, N.Y.
In 1823 ditto in Cayuga Bridge, N.Y.
In 1826 ditto in Waterloo, N.Y.

The portrait was painted during the year following Grandma Brown's marriage. Her great grandfather Schreimbling was killed and scalped in his own house at Schoharie Creek, then called Fort Hunter. Her grandmother Anna Margaret Schreimbling Van Alstine escaped by hiding in some bushes. Her grandmother Failing was a daughter of Warren Dygert and Mary Herkimer, a niece of General Herkimer.

The Van Alstines were Holland Dutch from Half Moon (Waterford) between Albany & Troy. The Schreimblings were Palatines who came over during Queen Anne's time & settled at Schoharie. The Browns, hailed from North Adams, Mass. and the Woodwards from Connecticut, Ithaca, N.Y., & Sterling N.Y. - and Scrba, N.Y.

Grandma Brown's grandfather Van Alstine fought at Oriskany, Johnstown and Sharon and rode express between Albany & Cherry Valley when the danger was very great, passing within half a mile of Brant's Butlers encampment.

Incidentally I hate these ball point pens with non drying ink.