

Byington

GARAGE SERVICE

C. H. CHADBURN,
MANAGER



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500 GUESTS

Minneapolis, May 24, 1936.
"MINN"

Mrs. Effie Clark,
3937 Avery St.,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Madam;

This evening I have called upon your brother Clifford R Byington, at his home at 4343 Girard Ave No.; and he has referred me to yourself as knowing more about our common interest in the Byington lineage than he does. Inasmuch as he is expecting you to be here on a visit soon, it seemed best for me to introduce myself in advance of your coming, so that we might hope to make more progress after you should arrive here.

My interest is purely outside of any money motive. It began because my father's middle name was Byington; and after he died, in 1909, I learned of his descent from Mercy Byington, who had married Zachariah Hitchcock, in Connecticut, before the Revolutionary War. In 1790 there were but 17 families bearing that name in the nation; of these 12 lived in Connecticut and five in York State; so it is possible that your own people are in common descent from the Immigrant John Byington, my Mercy's grandfather, who settled in Branford, Connecticut.

Though they are few in number, relatively, they are, in so far as I know, a fine lot of folks. Your brother is the second whom I have met; the other was from Canadian ancestry and did not look at all like your brother. He

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was pug-nosed, round-eyed, rather stocky and in skin-texture seemed to be a trifle rough. I "guess"--an old Yankee expression, you know-- that your own forbears are of the descent from John of Branford.

Well; I am presuming to enclose a form of Family Record, partly prepared as for the immediate family of your own grandfather; and if you will be so good as to fill it out from data which you may have in your home or easily available to you there, then, when you come to Minneapolis, Mr. Clifford can let me know and I should like to have an opportunity to spend a while at his home where we can perhaps make considerable advance in an interesting subject.

To me it is not simply a matter of having something to point to with pride, nor to dread to look into for fear of finding skeletons in closets. It is rather a search for peculiar traits, such as tend to persist as family characteristics, "unto the third and fourth generation" and thus become, in one sense, our fate. Certainly the truth, no matter what it is, can harm nobody when faced squarely.

Without making this longer, let me suggest now that, if you care to do so, I should appreciate having your completed Family Record for your Grandfather Byington returned in advance of your visit here, if you find it practicable to get it ready that soon. Let me know whatever you can of the Byingtons as far back as you have any information or traditions; and I hope that you will take increasing satisfaction in our study as time goes on.

And thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

F R Barnes.