

Dear Cousin Calla,

One of the most difficult reports that I was finally able to secure was that of our great great grandfather, Joseph Cook. I knew that he was in the French and Indian War and I knew that he was in the Revolutionary War and was associated with George Washington but I could find no military record until a genealogist in Boston, going through old papers for obituaries, found the obituary of Joseph Cook, who died at the age of 102 years. He evidently had been a body guard for Washington as he was with him in all the battles of the Revolutionary War and on account of his personal services, had no military record.

We have every reason to be proud of our ancestry and also of the fact that we have been able to learn so much about it.

I was sorry that the report in the Gowdy Genealogy was handled as it was. It is rather outstanding for a man to be a 33rd Degree Mason but most any man of good character who is willing to spend the money can become a 32nd Degree Mason. I don't suppose another addition of the Gowdy Genealogy will be published until a sufficient number of new generations have arisen to make such a publication desirable. I was embarrassed by the laudatory account of myself, which I never saw until I received a copy of the book.

Calla, my hair has been white, but for some reason that neither I nor my physician can account for during the past eight months, dark hair of my natural color has appeared at my temples and more less in all of the hair of my head. Neither I nor my physician can account for it in any manner. It is just one of the peculiar freaks of nature which happen now and then.

I received the songs written by Norma and Gertrude played them on our piano. Unfortunately, I have no music ability but I do have a love for music. I have a grand piano, which I have lately had gone over to see that it is in good shape, and I gave a grand piano to each of our four children.