

Copy of letter from Louisa Restieaux Kent, daughter of Robert
Restieaux, to her son

Danvers, Dec. 22 ¹⁸/87

My dear son

Your letter received with pleasure, and read with interest. In return I will answer your enquiries as correctly as I can. As near as I can ascertain my father was born in ¹⁷/72, his home was Norwich Eng. His father was a surgeon dentist, and died when your grandfather was quite young, as near as I can ascertain it was about the time of the threatened invasion of England by the French, at the time the Alien Act was passed, he started to leave the country, and was found dead in the road, money and watch in his pocket. His wife's name was Madaleine, he left four children, William, John, Robert and Louise. Your grandfather was educated at a boarding school, his vacations were passed in the Bishop of Norwich's family, who was his guardian. I never heard him speak his name, he always called him the good Bishop, and he bound him apprentice to a stay maker in London, he was a parlor boarder, was to have such and such privileges, if he was sent over such a distance he was to have a horse etc., well there was trouble, the name's name was Larridy, and your grandfather wrote to the Bishop and he came promptly to see that he was righted, well your grandfathers two brothers were going to Holland, whether he was going with them or not I do not know, but he was shipwrecked and brought to Canada, went from there to Halifax and stayed four years, his sister married a French Count. I have forgotten his name. Lewis Bagot was Bishop of Norwich and of St. Asaph, he died in 1802. Your grandfather left London before his majority, so he must have

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been under guardianship until or about 90, within a few years I found in a biography a Bishop of Norwich by the name of Horne; who died in ninety two, now from the character given him, I think he must be the good Bishop, your grandfather used to speak of, still I am very sure of hearing him speak of Lady Bagot as petting him etc., still, thinking it over I may be mistaken. You can easily ascertain who was Bishop from 82 to 90. I once asked your grandfather, why he did not tell us who ~~we~~ were he said, "you would be dissatisfied with your position in life." I also asked him, the last time I saw him, if he had any message to send to his grandchildren, in a feeble voice he replied, "tell them to live so as not to disgrace their ancestors." Dear Robert do pray be very careful, and judicious, in inquiries; consult with George, begin with finding which Bishop is the right one. The doctor who attended your uncle Robert, said that he saw the name of Restieaux, on a sign in a town near Paris. I could mention several other incidents, but nothing that could help you in dates, and so at present I will say no more. There is no money sure yet if I had the means I would try to find out who I am, certainly they were educated people. My health is poor I am feeble, cannot rise from a chair without assistance, I cannot remember at night what has occurred during the day, so I have done for you today, what if I had postponed until tomorrow, might never have been written. Kate has written to me from Florida, and I have replied to her, ~~and~~ I am very sorry she is alone among strangers, I am in the same case. Robert Sears, is very kind and attentive to me, and I leave the future with him who doeth all things well. Dear Robert that you may be successful is the wish of your

mother

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L. R. Kent

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Copy of letter from Robert R. Kent, son of Louisa Restieaux Kent, to
L. Madeleine Restieaux, daughter of Thomas Restieaux, concerning
-- their grandfather, Robert Restieaux. --

My Dear Cousin;

Apopka, April 26, 1896

Yours of 21st ult received, and I will cheerfully give the
story of Grandfather as nearly as I can recall it.

In looking over my letters I find one from my mother written
to me while in London giving me her knowledge of his history for
my guidance. Instead of copying it I will lend it, but please
return it to me as its one of the last she wrote me. Grandfather
told me many annectotes of his early life, at times when I was
living in E. Boston.

After he left Lani~~y~~ he was a Midshipman or some sort of
officer in the Navy. He told me of being in the North Sea in a
terrible storm being ordered aloft, he lost his foothold and saved
himself partly by holding on the foot rope with his teeth - he said
they never ached, but when he thought of it - and his escape.
He was tried for treason in Halifax. A cartel of French prisoners
were brought in and he became acquainted and conversed with them.
He defended his own case and was put under bonds. He afterwards
made some arrangement and left quietly. By his direations his land-
lady burned all his papers when he was arrested or they would have
identified him and that he did not wish. He spent a winter in Maine
working as a tailor. In Halifax he made considerable money at his
trade, as stay or corset making was a new fashion he had all he could
do at great prices. In England he worked for the Nobility. His
destination was Baltimore but meeting Catharine Goss in Boston he
married. When my Mother was a little girl, he came home much ex-
cited and said he thought he had seen his Mother - but he could find

(cont.)

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no trace of her, afterward. Grandmother used to coax him to write to the Bishop, but he would not as he would have to address him by his Church titles and that he considered contrary to his religion.

I intended while in London to look up the whole matter but after four days searching Cannon Fanar thought it would be useless, as nearly a century had elapsed and the Bishop and all concerned - gone, and to add to that difficulty a smart man who had covered up his tracks adroitly for so long it would be nearly an impossibility. It was a great disappointment to Mother. Have you ever heard the story of your Grandmother Restieaux's early life? It is very romantic.

Hoping that what I have written may be of interest, want of time forbids my writing or enlarging the narrative at present. Many little anecdotes very interesting to me as a boy will hardly pay to write. With kind regards to your Mother and Sister I am

Yours affectionately

Robt. R. Kent

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Joshua Baylis	Born Married July 18, 1768-Elizabeth Bradty Died
Elizabeth Baylis	Born Married Apr.13, 1782-Samuel Wicks Died
Nanny Wicks	Born January 22, 1787 Married Died
Nathanil Mason Savage	Born February 28, 1793 Married Died
Johathan Bradlee Bellows	Born July 2, 1798 Married Died
Robert Restieaux	Born Married Dec.25,1798-Mrs.Catherine Bellows Died August 30, 1840 February 5, 1861
Catherine Bellows	Born Married Dec.25,1798-Robert Restieaux Died August 30, 1840
Louisa Restieaux	Born November 9, 1799 Married Mar.7, 1819 - Henry S. Kent Died February 4, 1894
William Restieaux	Born June 10, 1802 Married May 28,1826-Elizabeth Lincoln Sept.16,1830-Betsey Chase Died Feb.28, 1886
Catherine Matilda Restieaux	Born January 30, 1804 Married Died November 27, 1816
Robert Restieaux Jr.	Born June 22, 1806 Married Dec.11,1831-Susanah B. Walker Died Dec.13, 1838
Elizabeth Charlotte Restieaux	Born April 26, 1809 Married June 2, 1832-David J. Collier Died February 12, 1850
Thomas Restieaux	Born January 24, 1813 Married Apr.3,1838 - Eliza Ann Green Died August 18, 1887

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Eliza Ann Green	Born August 16, 1816 Married Apt.3,1836-Thomas Restieaux Died January 23, 1905
Edward B.W.Restieaux	Born September 24,1832 Married Feb.18, 1857-Rebecca Wyeth Died March 19, 1878
Eliza Ann Restieaux	Born August 19, 1838 Died March 2, 1885
Catherine Restieaux	Born June 26, 1839 Died November 1, 1843
Thomas Green Restieaux	Born Jan.28, 1842 Died April 27, 1843
Isabel Matilda Restieaux	Born May 1, 1843 Married Sept.4,1866-Charles Henry Lawrence Died October, 1926
Charles Henry Lawrence	Born July 31, 1843 Married Sept.4,1866-Isabel M. Restieaux Died July 15, 1884
Thomas Restieaux	Born December 28,1846 Married Oct.29,1878-Fidelia E. Smith Died March 22, 1895
Lizzie Madeleine Restieaux	Born July 12, 1853 Died May 7, 1925
Joseph W. Restieaux	Born February 9, 1858 Died ?
Susanne Restieaux	Born July 24, 1859 Died ?

Children of Charles Henry Lawrence & Isabel Matilda Restieaux

William Henry Lawrence	Born Sept. 4, 1868 Married Sept.7,1920-Mrs.Alice Gertrude Emerson
Ralph Restieaux Lawrence	Born February 28, 1873 Married June 17, 1922-Reba May Bush

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Ray Orchard
Apopka Fla. Dec. 26. 1896
Orange Co.

To L Vernon Briggs Boston

I received your
Circular yesterday and
reply. Am a direct
descendant of the Kent
who was presumably
the first of the name
to settle in Massachusetts
descendants now living
on original place of
settlement. Can probably
furnish you with names
of eight generations of
the owners of the estate

but should like to know
before furnishing the same,
further particulars of the
assign & scope of your
intended publication.

Yours truly,
R. R. Kent

This page was copied from the L. Vernon Briggs's Manuscripts at NEHGS. Five boxes held misc. letters/notes as it pertained to the book written on the History of Shipbuilding published in 1889 or Kent Genealogies (1898).

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