

### **1920 Letter of Aaron D. Gunn**

The attached letter was sent to me by Dennis S. Gilman in the early 1990's. It was written by Aaron D. Gunn of Lancaster, NY to Spencer C. Gunn of Albany, NY in January 1920 to describe the original arrival of Moses Gunn in Shaftsbury/Bennington, Vermont. The author of the letter was the grandson of Aaron and Philinda Stratton Gunn, through their son Spencer Clay Gunn. The recipient was a great-grandson of Aaron and Philinda Stratton Gunn through Spencer Clay Gunn and his son Cornelius Gunn. The repetition of names can be quite confusing.

The author makes reference to his activities during the Civil War. He served 1862 - 1865 in the 140<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Pennsylvania Infantry.

William V. Gehrlein  
Lewes, Delaware  
May, 2015

Letter Written by Aaron D. Gunn in 1920



S. C. Gunn, Albany  
Dear Weyland  
Your postcard due  
I need and glad  
to hear from all of  
you or yours as the  
Southerner would have  
it. Here it is. What  
do yours come down  
hard to fight tomorrow  
late. But post the same  
must declare it by  
wishing you a happy  
Christmas and prob-  
ably 1920.

Source: Dennis S. Gilman.

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You ask some hard questions. The papers you send me several years ago I think would solve your questions more than I can. I speak of the publication that printed a pile up in the Albany Times. The ones you sent me I blamed George of destroying them. If you can credit them let me read them

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once more we might dig out some connecting links that would show the travels of those 4 brothers from the Scotch land. If our grandfather was here with us again after a long absence would we fly them with questions? We wait until it is too late. All I can do is to give my idea of where the birth place

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he sloped on to Vermont  
soil. We was a young  
man not married  
and he left his fel-  
lows at Burlington  
for some reason probably  
the rum ashore of funds  
The others went on to  
Albany. They all started  
for Albany when they  
left Canada.  
Why did he go right  
through Burlington and  
go to an insignificant  
small locality to build

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is. But my ideas are  
based on facts that  
I know to be true.  
I know that my grand  
father immigrated to  
the U.S. and  
sloped foot first on  
Vermont soil in a  
road on the east  
shore of Lake Cham-  
plain. And that  
he was traveling  
with other relatives  
Now we know by this  
from what country

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up a home simply  
them land was pretty  
cheap. He married  
here, and his ears after  
a long time was cocked  
towards the ~~then~~ great  
west. Yes and they  
are a going to build  
us a canal to go west  
on. He waited for  
the canal and away  
west with his family  
of 4 boys and his wife.  
Also another family  
named Gunns and

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a girl that wanted  
to go west too. She went  
with the Gunns family  
and died with small  
pox shortly after they  
the land but not.  
She was buried on  
the Gunns cemetery lot  
not far from West  
Peimbrook. I think she  
never had a head stone.  
Have he and mother  
tell her name and  
have seen her grave.  
Now then there were

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Gunn's many of them that came to this country the land of the free and they did not all of them land in Canada. By accident I run on to several families not related to each other that landed at Baltimore. They string out along the first coasted in Canada road built in U.S. That pike was made from Baltimore to Custer

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Several of these families stopped in South west Penna and cleared off the heavy oaks of that region and built homes. Father and talked to several of the old heads of Gunn families. I was there in 1861 and enlisted in the civil war from that part of Penna. These Gunks when the subject was talked all that I remember

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speaking with clained  
scotch decent.

Yes there was that  
great Kentucky Dr  
John G Gunn. He  
was in his medical  
work that he too was  
of the scotch.

I honestly do not be-  
lieve that another  
ex prean government  
ever had G Gunn  
unless he or they were  
stray sheep.  
Well this is the best

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that I can do and  
hope it may aid you  
to convincing the head  
ones of your ~~of~~ Andrew.  
There was my fathers  
Brother Cyrus G  
Gunn who graduated  
in the State Normal  
of Albany. Why did  
he go that entire length  
of New York to get into  
high school. But of  
them in this end of  
the state. He must  
had some advantage

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with relatives for his  
living for he was a  
poor boy. We borrowed  
the money of a brother  
to put him through  
that Albany hospital.  
We thought the Williams  
high and then came to  
this village. its high  
Took compassion here  
and died (age 22 or 23).  
Was so high thought of as  
a man and teacher  
that a society placed at  
his head the largest slab

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that was ever grounded  
to date in the Lancaster  
Real Cemetery.  
Hope this finds you  
all in good health.  
Thanks for the photo  
Write at your convenience.  
Hope you may get into  
the City. A. D. Gunn  
You surely belong there  
Love to all  
A. D. Gunn  
Lancaster N.B.  
Jan 17 20