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Reply-To: thecollective@pasco-isp.com

Subject: Rev. Theodore Romeyn

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This is taken directly from a book called " History of Bergen County":

REV. THEODORE BAYARD ROMEYN--The romeyn (also spelled Romaine and Romain) family of Bergen County, New Jersey, from which Rev. Theodore Bayard Romeyn descends, traces its ancestry to one Giacomo De Ferentino, an Italian gentleman who settled at Rhongham Manor, Norfolkshire, England, in the early part of the thirteenth century, and married an English lady, Isabella de Ruchan. They became the parents of two sons, one of whom was Peter. The story is that Peter was sent to Rome to be educated and that on his return to England he took the surname Romaeyn (Peter the Roman). He married a daughter of Thomas de Leicester, and many of his descendants became noted men in England. Among these was Jan Romeyn, who went from England to the Low Countries (Holland), and settled in Amsterdam, where he married and became the father of several children, three of these being Claes Jansen, Simeon Jansen, and Christoger Jansen. Claes and Christofer sailed from Rotterdam, Holland, to Brazil, with an expedition commanded by Prince Maurice of Nassau. Soon after the arrival of the brothers in Brazil, that country was ceded to Portugal, and the two Romeyns then sailed for North America. Records do not agree as to the exact time of their arrival in this country, but is was probably about 1661. They settled first at New Amersfoort, Long Island. In 1678 Christofer married Grietie Pieters Wyckoff, and settled in Monmouth county, NJ. Claes married (it is related) may 2, 1680, Styntied Alberts Terhune, and in 1690 went to Hackensack, NJ, where he bought four Indian fields between the Saddle river and the Hackensack river, called in his deed Wierimus, Pasack, Gemaghkie, and Marroasonck. These four tracts were north of Paramus, on the east side of Saddle river. He did not locate on these lands, however, but returned to New York City and located in the Greenwich district of the city, where he died. His children, who inherited all his lands, divided their holding into farms, and eventually released or sold them to actual settlers. Claes Jansen's children of the second generation were: Gerrebrecht; Elizabeth; Lydia; Albert C.; Jan Class (or Jan Claes), of whom further; Rachel; Sarah; and Daniel.

(II) Jan Claas (or Claes) Romeyn married, in May, 1690, Jannetie Bogert, of Hackensack, and resided on part of his father's lands. He was a member and church master of the "Church on the Green" in 1715. His children were: Nicholas, of whom further; John; Christina (died young); Roelof; Rachel; Isaac; Angenetie, Christina, and Ursula.

(III) Nicholas Romeyn, son of Jan Claas and Jannetie (Bogert) Romeyn, was baptized at Hackensack, NJ, in February, 1699, and married (first) in 1726, Elizabeth Outwater, who died in 1732. He married (second) Rachel Vreeland, who died in 1761, her husband surviving her until 1763. Sons of Nicholas Romeyn were: Rev. Thomas Romeyn, of whom further; and John Romeyn.

(IV) Rev. Thomas Romeyn, son of Nicholas and Elizabeth (Outwater) Romeyn, was born at Pompton, NJ, March 2, 1729, and died October 22, 1794. He received his early education in the public schools of his native district, and then entered the College of New Jersey (now Princeton), where he studied theology, and from which he was graduated in 1750. After preaching a few times on Long Island, he went to Holland, in 1752, for ordination, and one thought he had in mind was to learn the correct spelling of the name. Upon his return he settled at Jamaica, Long Island, where he remained until 1790, when he went to Fonda, New York, where he died, and was buried under the pulpit of his church. He married (first) June 29, 1756, Margaretta Frelinghuysen; she died at Jamaica, December 13, 1757. He married (second) Susanna Van Campen. Children: Rev. Broadhead; Benjamin; and Rev. James Van Campen, of whom further.

(V) Rev. James Van Campen Romeyn, son of Rev. Thomas (I) and Susanna (Van Campen) Romeyn, was born at Minsink, Sussex County, NJ, November 15, 1765, and died at Hackensack, June 27, 1840. He attended Schenectady Academy in 1784, studied theology under Rev. Theodoric Romeyn (his uncle), and was pastor and preacher in several places, serving last in the Reformed church of Hackensack and Schraalenburgh from 1799 to 1833. He was a member of the board of trustees of Rutgers

College. He married (first) Susanna Maud Van Vranken, of Schenactady; (second) Elizabeth Pell, who survived him. Children: Susan; Harriet; Anna; Maria; Rev. James, of whom further; Anna; Eliza; Caroline; Theodore; and Sarah.

(VI) Rev. James Romeyn, son of Rev. James Van Campen Romeyn, was born at Blooming Grove, NJ, September 30, 1797, and was graduated from Columbia college in 1816 and from the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick, NJ, in 1819. He declined the Doctor of Divinity degree bestowed upon him by Columbia College. He as pastor of several churches, and o f the old "Church on the Green" at Hackensack from 1833 to 1836. Hew as also a trustee of Rutgers College in 1842. He married Joanna Bayard Rodgers, Daughter of John R. B. Rodgers, MD, of Columbia College, NY, and they were the parents of two children: James R.; and Rev. Theodore Bayard, of whom further.

(VII) Rev. Theodore Bayard Romey, son of Rev. James and Joanna B. (Rodgers) Romeyn, was born at Nassau, NY, October 22, 1827. He received his early education in the public schools of Hackensack and other places, and then entered Rutgers College, from which he was graduated in 1846. He then began his theological studies in the Theological Seminary in New Brunswick, graduating in 1849 and receiveing from Rutgers College the degree of Doctor of Divinity. He was pastor at Blawenburgh, NJ, and at Hackensack, and was the author of the "History of the Reformed Church of Hackensack."

Rev. Theodore B. Romeyn married Amelia A. Letson, daughter of Johnson adn Eliza (Shaddle) Letson, who died October 22, 1897. He died at Hackensack, August 29, 1885. Children: Mary A., deceased; and James A.; a sketch of whom follows.

JAMES AUGUSTUS ROMEYN--One of the notably successful business men of Bergen County is James A. Romeyn, of Hackensack, NJ, editor and owner of the "Evening Record," which for many years was the only daily published in the county.

James Augustus Romeyn, son of Rev. Theodore B. and Amelia A. (Letson) Romeyn (se preceding sketch), was born at Blawenburgh, Somerset County, NJ, May 15, 1853. His maternal grandfather was a trustee of Rutgers College and a liberal contributor to its support and endowment, and he was also president of the Norfolk & New Brunswick Hosier Company, and of the New Brunswick Rubber Company.

James A. Romeyn received his early education in the schools of his native districk and prepared for college at the academy at Lawrenceville, NJ, and at Rutgers Grammar School, at New Brunswick, NJ. He then entered Rutgers College, in 1872, graduating in 1876, after which he began the study of law in the office of Bedle, Muirheid & McGee, in Jersey City, supplementing his work in the office with a course of study in the Columbia Law School. In 1879 he was admitted to the New Jersey State bar, and at once began practice in Jersey City. Here he continued to successfully engage in general practice until 1890, part of the time alone and part of that time engaging in practice in partnership with John Griffin (now a vice-chancellor), under the firm name of Romeyn & Griffin. In 1890, however, he left the legal profession, which, after eleven years of successful practice had beome distasteful to him, and four years later, in 1894, he became editor of the "Evening Record," an independent daily newspaper published in Hackensack, the only daily publication in Bergen county. Mr. Romeyn entered upon the work of editing his paper and upon his work as a journalist with characteristic energy and earnestness, and with the firm conviction that this work was of as great importance as that of any profession. He has thrown his whole influence and that of his publication upon the side of good morals and the public welfare, and no questionable paragraph has ever found a place in the columns of his publication. He made his paper one of the most influential in this localit, and successfully maintained the high standards which he set for himself and his publication when he first became editor and owner of the "Evening Record." This work he carried on for seven years.

Mr. Romeyn is a man of recognized ability and untiring energy and has always taken an active part in local public affairs. For eight years he was member of the Hackensack Board of Health, and for seven years, 1888 to 1895, served as treasurer of the Hackensack Hospital. Along with his work as editor of the "Evening Record," he has been interested in real estate and insurance, and has opened an office at No. 195 Main Street, Hackensack, NJ. Fraternally, he is a member of Pioneer Lodge, No. 170, Free and Accepted Masons, and he is also a member of the Holland Society fo New York; the Rotary Club of Hackensack; the Real Estate Board of Hackensack, of which he is president; and also is a member of the New Jersey Bar Association of Bergen County. His religious affiliation is

with the Reformed church of America.

Mr. Romeyn married (first), June 3, 1884, at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Flora M. Cochran, daughter of John C. Cochran, who married a Miss Baumgattner. Mrs. Romeyn died in 1891. Mr. Romeyn married (second), November 14, 1894, Susie B. Conover, daughter of John N. and Margaret (DeWitt) Conover. to the first marriage two children were born: Theodore Bayard, born December 20, 1885; and Katherine Cochran, who married John Van Ost, now a residen of Hackensack.

(Candis Binkley)

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