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Dear Dan, Kris, Becky, and Janelle,

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Today when all are celebrating the centennial of the statue of liberty, I meditated upon which of our ancestors who came from Europe might have seen that statue as they arrived here in the promised land. Do you know? If not, perhaps now is a good time to review what we know.

First there was Claus Gustav Lind, your mother's grandfather; He was born in Vetlanda, Sweden, in 1864. He emigrated to North America March 26, 1883. He married Anna C. Carlson, born in Sjorngge, Halland, Sweden in 1859; she emigrated in early 1880, stopping in Brooklyn, N.Y. for a year.

Your mother's maternal grandfather was Heinrich Christian Kinne, born in 1854 in Roklum, Saxony. At age 13 in 1867, he came with his parents to the U.S. and settled at Proviso, Ill. and 2 years later moved to Dayton, Iowa. His father was Heinrich Kunne, mother was Magdalene Ziehe. They applied for emigration papers from the Royal Prussian Government Aug. 1867 and sailed on the steamship Herrman. Your great grandfather Kinne's wife was Emilie Henrietta Reichenbach, 1865-1912, who was born at Graefenhainichen, Saxony, Germany. She came here at the age of 12 in 1877 to Fort Dodge, Iowa.

My mother's maternal grandfather was Ephraim Hambujer, born in Prussia in 1826. He went to England in 1852, came to America with his first family at age 33 in 1859. He probably settled first on the lower East side of Manhattan for 5 years.

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Ehphraim Hambujer married Hanchen (Hannah) Darmstadter in Detroit, Mich., in 1865. Hannah was born in Birkenau, Hesse-Darmstadt. It is notable that Birkenau is the town adjoining the infamous Auschwitz, Germany. The date of Hannah's immigration is not known, but it was, of course, before 1865.

My mother's paternal grandfather was Aaron Mandelbaum, born in Gehaus, Saxony in 1837. He married his cousin, Lena Mandelbaum, born in Saxony in 1839. Aaron came to the U.S. at the age of 15 in about 1852. The earliest record of him is in Cincinnati in 1863 where he is listed as a cigar maker. We do not know when Lena came to the U.S., but their first child, Emma, was born in 1868 in Illinois.

As you know, my father's ancestors have been in the U.S. for so long that the only immigrants we know for sure are William White and his wife and son Resolved White, who came over on the Mayflower. The first Grayson was Benjamin Grayson of North Carolina who entered land in Wilkes County in 1779. He might have descended from Virginia Graysons who were there long before. The Grayson side had contributed soldiers in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War.

The substance of this reverie is that not one of our ancestors was greeted by the statue of Liberty as he entered the country, since the statue is only 100 years old.

For what it's worth, that's the view from here on July fourth, 1986.

Love to all,

