Hennepin Putnam Co Illinois
July 20th 1867.

John H Dent Esq
Leonardtown Md.

Dear Sir

Finding your name in Livingstons United States Law Register of 1859 and believing the Dent family all spring from some ancestor who emigrated from England, and the war which has on us and hardly closed now, prompts me to write you these few words and if congenial with your feelings you will please let me know where your Grandfather was born my Grandfather was born if I am not mistaken in Maryland about the year 1755 whose name was John died in 1845 my Father John E Dent was born 1782 in Morgantown west Virginia I my self was born within four miles of same place in 1807. My Father is still living and sorry to say he is