

CHAPLIN

June 7, 1960

Dearest Aunt Olive and  
Uncle Peto,

Hope you are both feeling fine and that you, Unc Peto, will forgive me for not mailing you a birthday card. I had good intentions but just didn't get to a card shop in time. Anyway, hope your birthday is (or was) a pleasant one and that you'll have many many more.

I got quite interested in finding out about my great-grandmother Mary C. Rhodes and looked through an old judgment book covering the years 1782-1868 but found no record of a divorce. Too, considering she was only 16 when she married great-grandfather James Peto Chaplin, there is a possibility she had never married before. I kept wondering where the Smith came in.

X I did find a record of Mary C. Chaplin and James Peto Chaplin filing a petition in order to have the Will of Mary Chaplin's brother, Robert J. Rhodes, declared null and void. There seems to be quite a lot, or rather was quite a lot of ill-feeling between Mary Chaplin and the half-brothers and sister. It does seem strange that Robt. Rhodes left all of his estate to half-brothers and a half-sister and not to his only sister, Mary C. Chaplin. In the Will he

names quite a long list of negro slaves. I didn't copy them as the handwriting is hard to read. I saw the original Will and it was signed with an X mark. You will note in her attack on the Will that she mentions it was not proper in his own handwriting.

Robt. Rhodes evidently died a rather young man since he predeceased his father. He left no heirs as you note other than his one sister, father, and then the half-brothers and <sup>half</sup> sister. Since there was a second-marriage in that generation, and all of the children had the same father, could Mary (Rhodes)

... of her step-father and that it could have been "Smith". Maybe, I'm just getting things more confused. Anyway, I thought you might like to read the contents of the ... to have the Will declared ... it is a copy of ... of Mary Chaplin's brother.

The case was appealed from Court of Ordinary of Chatham County to Superior Court and the Will was revoked.

Am still remembering what a wonderful visit we had with you and do hope it won't be long until we can come back.

There are quite a lot of other Charlin names on the record book but I haven't had a chance to see the nature of the case, nor whether or not it is some of our family. Back in those days all types of cases were listed in one book, regardless of whether divorce, property, real estate, etc. Think it would be interesting to see what other matters were brought to Court.

Mus stop now and finish my work here before going home

Love to both from all,

*[Handwritten signature]*