

Adum, Georgia

February 8, 1993

Monday night 6:10

Dear Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peoples,

Thank you so much for your letter of February 6th in reply to my letter to you concerning my South Carolina ancestors - Gowers, Greaves, Harrisons, Godleys, Hagels, Deans, Baynard, Abneys, Popes and Malphrus. The letter came in today's mail and I will acknowledge same promptly - mostly to thank you. My sister, Bessie Leigh Dean Dent, (her husband, Ira Dent was a Methodist minister, but no longer active), was Regent of the Altamaha Chapter of the DAR for six years, having been a member for 25 years; my other sister, Louise Dean Shytrine, retired school teacher of 30 years, deceased 1989, was a member of the DAR, also, but I have only just joined. My two daughters, Carson, and Jammie Dean, and my granddaughter, Lauren, and my niece, Deana Shytrine Davis, all joined at one time, about four months ago. We went in on my mother's line, John Gibson, of Currituck, N.C. About ten of us (DAR's) went down to the Radio Station in Jeep and each of us gave a

(over)

2/ 'minute' spot telling of some phase of American history. It will be aired during American History month. I spoke in Williamsburg, Va.

My mother's brother, Charles Ellis Gibson, of Waycross was a member of the S.A.R. My sister's husband, Ira Dent, is a member of the S.A.R., also. Ira hails from Douglas, Georgia.

You spoke of George W. Dean in Douglas, Georgia, who collects Dean material. Ira and my sister know him and have already composed notes.

You said old Sheldon Church was on an acreage given by Landgrove Bellingers family made McCann Sewell of Jessup, a widow, married a Bellingier. I consider their home in Jessup, the most beautiful in our county.

I must say it is not my gr gr grand-mother, Mary Harrison Gowen, buried there at Sheldon. It is Mary 'Pally' Keating Gowen, wife of Lt. James Gowen, R.S., thus she would be my gr gr gr grandmother, Mary 'Pally' Keating Gowen, mother of Wm K. Gowen who married Mary Harrison, daughter of Elizabeth and Lt. John Harrison of Prince William Parish, Beaufort District. Lt. John Harrison died about 1809 and his

3. widow, Elizabeth Harrison, is shown on the 1810 Prince William Parish, Beaufort Dist, S.C. as Head of the House with 23 slaves, Her son - in - law, Wm K. Gowen, is listed on the same census with 21 slaves. Wm K. Gowen and his wife, Mary Harrison, both died on the same day in 1820, leaving four children; Ann Gowen who married Joseph Hazel of Beaufort; Wm W. Gowen (from whom I descend) married three times 1. Rebecca Greene 2. Elizabeth Chevelier 3. Emily Mungazer. - I descend from William and his first wife, Rebecca Greene; Barney and James Gowen. (I do not know where Wm K. Gowen and wife, Mary Harrison, are buried).

I thank you so much for the name and address of Alex S. Hopkins of Atlanta concerning the Greens. I shall write to him, soon. Incidentally, I attended the funeral of one Alex Hopkins of this county. He was buried in Camden County at old Burnt Fort where my Dad was born in 1880 and where two of my Grandmother's brothers are buried - 2 twins, Andrew Godley and Brown Godley (Brown was Sheriff of Camden County once). Grandmother's sister, Mary Rebecca Godley, married Houston Brown, who, also, at one time, was Sheriff of Camden County.

(over)

4  
Alec had a brother, Walter Hopkins, living  
in Atlanta. Their mother, Mrs. Alva Hopkins,  
Sr. (now Lorraine Brinson y Savannah) still  
owns property here in the county. They are now  
drilling for oil on her property (made front page  
of this week's local Press - Sentinel). I will  
be sure to mention that you referred me to him.

I think I shall do as you suggest about the  
Hazel family. I am now 72 and I can write  
from a chair better than I can walk up and  
down stairs.

There is a family history book on the  
Malphrus family, but I have not been able  
to borrow one as folks do not want to  
lend rare books. One lady here in Adams  
has one but she will not let it leave  
her house and I haven't been able to go  
see her, as yet. I was told by the Hilton  
Head Malphrus family (landscape business)  
that the Malphrus Family came from  
Switzerland. Thank you for the address  
of the Ridgeland, S. C. Library. I shall  
write them, also.

I am sorry my Abney line and Pope  
line did not match the Barnwell Baynard  
line of Hilton Head. I do so with I  
could get my Dean - Abney line in

5. Edgelyield worked up. It has been a long frustrating effort. I would deeply appreciate any future help you might give me on these two families, should you learn of anything.

I have a picture of Otis and Mildred in my 50 year old album. He is tall and lanky while Mildred was short and petite. It is a small world, isn't it? Mildred's brother Carey Bronnen worked until he retired at the American National Bank.

I remember visiting the Rhodes Historical Society house in Atlanta back in 1955. It was a big brick structure and Mary Bryan was in charge of the records. in grey. sub phone not in the phone book

you speak of no Godley's in the 1790 S.C. census. Nathan Godley, Sr., of Beaufort Co., N.C., left a will dated 1791, and he told of two of his sons, Nathan Jr. and Benjamin going to Effingham Co., Ga. I believe they went to S.C. instead. I believe Benjamin Godley, who married Mary Pape, was a son of Nathan, Jr. I correspond with a Godley descendant of Newport news, Va. all my Godley kin live in Camden Co., Maryland co-authored Coppen Co. Sisters bro

The place I was born, Charlton County, Folkston, Georgia, was named after Dr. Folks of Waycross. My mother, when a child living in Ware County, played with the Folks children.

(over)

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If I follow through on all the leads you gave me, I will, indeed, be busy for quite awhile. It was wonderful of you to take time to write to me.

Thank you, again, for all the info you sent.

most sincerely,  
Hazel Dean Overstreet  
(Mrs. Jim)

5175 Odum Hwy  
Odum, Georgia 31555

Phone 912/586-6634

P.S. In the same mail today, a letter arrived from Bruton Parish Church, P.O. Box B P, Williamsburg, Va. 23187-3520, concerning Benjamin Harrison, (the father of the 9th President and grandfather of the 23rd President), who was signer of the Declaration of Independence and worshipped in that church. Our family history relates Mary Harrison Gowen was a relative of these Harrisons. This letter verified, only, that Benjamin Harrison worshipped in that church.

H

Delayed mailing until 2.1.93 (Monday)

Edum, Georgia  
January 28, 1993  
Thursday afternoon  
4:40

Mr. Robert Peeples  
8 Moonshell Road  
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29928

Dear Mr. Peeples:

Mr. Mike Taylor called me this morning about 10 o'clock, giving me your name and address in response to a letter I wrote to the Chamber of Commerce at Hilton Head concerning a bit of the Island's history.

I was at Hilton Head with my two daughters, Carson Odum and Jimmie Beem Overstreet, in February of last year (1992), for a week, my youngest daughter, Jimmie Beem, who is now in Paris, working, was taking a week's re-fresher tennis instruction course and my eldest daughter, Carson, was doing some art sketching, leaving me free to be on my own. I went sightseeing. I love history so it was I stopped at the old graveyard there at the forks of the road, going into the town, and saw the tomb of "Barnard".  
At the time, I had no idea this name was remotely in my family history and

(over)

I did not take notes. I will relate how this name has surfaced.

I happened to have two books on the "Abney" family which Mr. John Hensell of Houston Texas, wrote on this family, he being a descendant. I do not know Mr. Hensell, but I have corresponded with him and bought his books, as my grandfather's grandmother was an Abney of S.C. my grandfather, Rev. Emory Franklin Dean, a Methodist minister for over 70 years, (born 1853, died 1946, age 93) left us written "Fragments of Family History" in which he said his grandmother was Charity Malenia Abney, born 1800 in Edgfield, South Carolina, and her father was an English doctor. About 1821, she married Abel Dean, and they had ten children, 9 boys and one girl, namely: William, Andrew, Susanna, Jefferson, Marquis Lafayette, Albert, Walter, Simon, Franklin and Thomas \* (I descend from Marquis Lafayette called Mark)

They came to Georgia in 1840 and settled in Carroll County and when that county was redivided, they were in Haralson County.

My grandfather's father was Marquis Lafayette Dean (called Mark). He was born 1828 in Edgfield District, S.C. He was 12 years old when he moved to Georgia with his parents in 1840.



On the 1840, 1850, 1860 and 1870 census records of Georgia, Absolom Dean and his wife appear. Absolom died in 1861. His wife, evidently, had nicknames for she is listed variously as "Elizabeth M.", "Absoloma", "Maloney", yet my grandfather said his grandmother was named "Charity Malenia Abney Dean" and her father was a doctor.

She died in 1870; however, she is listed on the 1870 census as age 70, living with her son, Simeon Dean, listed as age 35 and single. Simeon Dean, <sup>her son,</sup> was

Sheriff of Hardson County in 1866 and bought part of his father's estate. He later married Sarah Blackstock and had nine children. One of his sons,

Pierce Dean, moved to Tyler, Texas, and Simeon and his other children, (all but William, who remained in Georgia), followed Pierce Dean to Texas. Simeon Dean and wife died and are buried in Hawkins, Texas. I correspond with his granddaughter, Reba LeRoy, who lives in Memphis, Tennessee. Simeon died in 1929. He was born in S.C. 1835. He fought in the Civil War. (over)

4

Grandfather said the Dean Family were was related, distantly, to Thomas Jefferson and John Hancock. I set out to prove this and have had difficulty doing so as I am missing a link in D.C. Hancock-Grandfather's mother was Martha Watson Andrews, born in N.C. and moved to Georgia, age 12 (in 1844). Her mother was Martha Hancock, who married Larkin Andrews.

Grandfather said his grandmother's father (John Hancock) fought in the Revolutionary War and contracted smallpox from which he nearly died. He was put in a hospital of 100 men all of whom died but two, the story goes that the grandfather (soldier) prayed to God to spare his life and promised to serve him if his life was spared. He was one of the two who survived. He later became a Methodist minister.

When my cousin in Texas (Colleen Kenyon) and I set out to prove this story (her grandfather, John Sherman Dean and my grandfather, Rev. Erory Franklin Dean, were brothers), Colleen hired a professional genealogist, Mr. Jonathan Butcher, of Cary N.C. and he went to Washington and got all the Hancock Revolutionary soldiers files (there were many) and found

3, they had been mixed. He sorted them out finding affidavits proving the story of ours as related by my <sup>great</sup> grandfather.

It seems John Hancock (Martha's father) was born in 1760 in Aumberland County, Virginia. His father was John Hancock, born 1735 and died 1763, leaving a will in which he named his wife, Martha, and four children, Samuel, \*John, William and Ann. He mentioned his father, Samuel, living on some of his land in N.C. \*(I descend from 'John')

The wife, Martha, after the death of her husband, took her small children, and moved to Bute County, N.C. (now Franklin) and it was from Bute County, John Hancock, enlisted in the war, age 18, in 1778.

He marched with Gen. Ash through the Carolinas towards Savannah, planning to ward off the British who had captured Savannah.

They encamped at Brier Creek, Georgia (below Augusta, near present day Lybronia) for the night and it was here the British from Savannah were marching towards the north, surprised the Americans and captured many of them in a surprise attack. John Hancock, my great great great grandfather, was one of the ones captured. He was put (over)

6  
- in a British Prison of War Ship in the Savannah Harbor where he remained for six months, nearly dying of starvation. He was transferred to Washington Island where he contracted the smallpox and was placed in the hospital of 100 men where all died but two. (all of this is in his Rev. file).

The British coerced him, with threat of death to join them, but when he was able to reach he made his escape near Augusta and rejoined the Americans (General Green) who were at Ninety-Six.

John Hancock, after the War, was walking through his fields one day (he had 11 slaves) and was reminded by God of his vow. He went home, told his young wife, they knelt in prayer and he dedicated his life to serving God. He became a Methodist preacher and was ordained by Francis Asbury Nov. 25, 1793. Hancock Meeting House was mentioned in Asbury's Journal. (From Garrison's History of Methodism in <sup>the</sup> N.C.). John Hancock died July 10, 1835. He died, having never received a pension. His files reflect his services were not enough to warrant a pension (Capture, imprisonment, etc., evidently was not counted).

7. Though John Hancock is my great great great grandfather, I have not linked him as yet with the 'John Hancock', signer of the Declaration of Independence and Governor of Massachusetts, eleven times. In my research, I did learn the illustrious John Hancock was the son of a minister, but his wealthy uncle, a shipowner and merchant, adopted John and when the uncle died, the nephew inherited all of his wealth, making him the richest man in America!

I ~~do know~~ <sup>learned</sup> one William Hancock, born in Derbyshire, England, was a shipbuilder, and came to Virginia in it's early history to get trees for shipbuilding. He was massacred by Indians and so it was two of his sons came over. One Simon Hancock who married the widow Sarah Gaze, ~~she~~ had many children - two <sup>of them being</sup> William and Robert. William's son, Samuel, married Robert's daughter, <sup>his cousin,</sup> ~~Joanne~~ <sup>Joanne</sup>. Their son, Samuel, the carpenter, had a son, Samuel, who was the father of John Hancock, Sr. (1735-1763), who was the father of John Hancock, R.S. and methodist minister (1760-1835) from whom I descend. (over)

8 - In searching Thomas Jefferson's history, his father was a surveyor and land owner. Jefferson's mother was Jane Randolph. He <sup>Jefferson</sup> married a widow. I connect Abney with his family.

The name Abney was formerly de Abney or D'Abney. Whether this is the family connection, or not, I do not know, (Silas Deane went with Jefferson + Franklin as an emissary to France).

I only know my great great grandmother was Charity Malenia (Elizabeth M.) Abney Dean and her father was Dr. Abney (first name unknown) of Edgefield District South Carolina. I have not learned her father's name but the Abneys came to S.C. from Virginia before the Revolution.

I set out to find out the names of <sup>both</sup> Dr. Abney (Charity's father) and her husband's (Absalom Dean's) father in Edgefield. I have not yet been able to learn either Dr. Abney's first name or Absalom Dean's father's name. (you can't believe the letters I have written trying to do so)! One Absalom Dean fought in the Revolution but was killed.

So it was, I was studying the two Hensell "Abney" books and on page 20, I found:  
"Mary Abney born about 1710 married John Barnard of Albemarle County, Virginia,"

9, whose lands lay in what later became Fluvanna Co., Va. in 1777 and owner of lands on Mechanic's Creek which joined lands of Bennett Abney, Jr. and others; married May 2, 1729 and had issue

He went to South Carolina with rest of family prior to the Revolutionary War.

Abraham Abney, born @ 1714, physician

Nathaniel Abney born @ 1753 in Halifax Co., Va., was also a physician, but was killed in a duel with another physician in 1788. Left a will proved Nov. 11, 1788.

William Abney, with at Edgefield, S.C., 1811 married Barshaba Page. (As you read you will learn of my interest in the Papers of Wilton Head, also

Another Nathaniel Abney, born Apr. 4, 1734, in Va. died Dec. 1806 in Edgefield, S.C. went to S.C. @ 1769 and settled on Saluda River. Enlisted in 3rd S.C. Rangers in the Revolution and later commanded a company under Maj. Williamson at Fort 96.

married Isabella Madison, born Sept 17, 1740. on Apr. 15, 1758 and had 12 children. Patrick Henry, Episcopal Minister was Isabella's guardian and forbade her marriage but she eloped and married anyway. (Give me liberty or give me death!)

Nathaniel Abney's son, Joseph, born @ 1780 in Barnwell, S.C. came to Liberty County, Ga (about 30 miles from where I live) died and left will about 1808 (Died records, Book F, page 22, Liberty Co., Ga.) His brothers Paul & Nathaniel of Spartanburg, S.C. inherited his property. I have no record of a marriage for (over)

Note three Pope marriages money - rope

Nathaniel and Isabella Madison Abney had:

1. Sarah born @ 1759 m John Carson
2. John 1761 will in Edgefield 1812
3. Martha 1763 m 1. Rachel Lark  
2. Susan Pope \$  
3. Susan Kern Willis
4. Mercy 1767 m Wm Spurgens
5. Lydia 1770
6. Azariah 1775 m Mary Pope \$ (I think he was a doctor)
7. James 1777 m Massah Abney
8. died died baby
9. Joel 1782 m Elizabeth Pope \$
10. Ann 1783 m Mr. Young
- 11 Isabelle m Dr. Wm Flucker (1783-1855)

I mention all of the above names trying to point out several things - the Abneys, Adams etc, were in Virginia but came to South Carolina. Several were doctors, but I can't say which, if any, in my line.

The Mary Abney, born @ 1710 who married John Barnard, set me to wondering, could this be a connection to the old tombstones on Hilton Head Island? I do not know. I had never thought of an Abney connection until I read this page 20 of John Benelli's book on the Abney Family and the name John Barnard made me think of the tombstone on Hilton Head.



11 I had long sought the Pope connection on Hilton Head, (the Squire Pope history) <sup>on my grandmother's side</sup> and I wrote Governor Campbell for info on the Popes of S.C. I told him how I was connected to the name "Pope", not knowing anything about the Popes except this:

my father, Emory Fuller Dean, born 1880, the second child of Rev. Emory Franklin Dean, 1853-1946, Methodist minister, and his wife, Maybelle Pope Godley, born 1855, at Port Royal, S.C., her parents being Ann Elizabeth Gowen and Thomas Means Godley. Thomas Means Godley was born on Cat Island, S.C., a son of Benjamin Godley and Mary Pope Godley. Thomas Means Godley (my great grandfather) had a sister named Mary Pope Godley who married James David Brown. They had three children and Mary Pope Godley Brown died at the birth of her third son, named James Pope Brown. James David Brown fought in the Civil War and later re-married and had 5 children. He is buried at Burnt Fort, Camden Co., Ga., where my <sup>two</sup> <sup>brothers</sup> <sup>are</sup> <sup>buried</sup>

Benjamin Godley, the planter, and his wife Mary Pope, are on the S.C. census records

12/ as being on St. Helena Island.

When I visited Hilton Head, we, also, visited Beaufort Bluffton, Charleston, etc.

It was in Bluffton we found a huge old wooden house with a marker, built about 1850 as a summer home for Squire Pope. I tried to inquire from the Postmaster, through letters about the Pope house at Bluffton, but got no answer. It (the house) was on Calhoun Street and not far from the old Episcopal Church there that dated to 1790, I believe, or earlier.

I learned from the Governor's office (through the archives) about the Papes on Hilton Head Island. They <sup>the archives</sup> sent me some crossed pages from the history of the Islands I did not know, at the time, of my connection to the Pope family other than my grandmothers name, Maybelle Pope Godley, and her aunt, Mary Pope Godley Brown and her grandmother Mary Pope Godley, wife of Benjamin Godley, planter of St. Helena. (The Godleys came from <sup>Virginia</sup> ~~Virginia~~ <sup>County Beaufort; N. C.</sup> ~~Virginia~~ <sup>to be in</sup> ~~Virginia~~ <sup>+ St. Helena</sup> ~~Virginia~~)

I wrote a Real Estate agent for info on Cat Island where my great grandfather was born in 1833, but she called me and said that was impossible <sup>that</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>my</sup> ~~my~~ <sup>gr</sup> ~~gr <sup>grandfather</sup> ~~grandfather~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>born</sup> ~~born~~ <sup>there</sup> ~~there~~~~

any relation to the 'Squire Pope' of Hilton Head, through, possibly, the Godleys? Now, I have the Abney 'Popes' which comes in on Grandfather Dean's side - his grandmother being Charity Malenia (or Elizabeth M.) Abney, (daughter of Dr. Abney of Edgelyfield, S.C.) who married Absalom Dean (1800-1861) about 1821 and had 10 children and moved to Georgia from Edgelyfield, S.C. in 1840. (So, I am interested in both Grandfather's and Grandmother's lines). My father's line

Mr Taylor said you knew everybody and was kin to everybody! There were lots of "Peoples" in Camden County who were good friends of my grandmother and her parents (she Godley)

Our family history relates quite a bit to South Carolina so it seems.

Ann Elizabeth Gowen Godley's parents were William Gowen and Rebecca Green Gowen. Rebecca Green's parents were James Willow Green and Mary Lavinia Green of Colleton County, S.C. (James owned 5,000 acres in S.C.)

When Rebecca died, Wm Gowen married Elizabeth Chevelier and had one child, Elizabeth died and Wm Gowen took his seven children and moved to Camden County about 1854, Thomas Means Godley followed his

~~no~~ houses were on Cat Island <sup>(prior to)</sup> until they began developing it and building, there recently.

I assumed if Benjamin Godley was a Planter perhaps he was employed, or either a friend of the Means Family (Means Plantation shown on 1825 map of D.C.) as he <sup>Benjamin,</sup> named his son (my great grandfather), Thomas Means Godley and, perhaps, they were on Cat Island as planters and lived there <sup>when the baby was born.</sup> (digging out history can become baffling, can't it?)

This letter has become too lengthy, I realize, and I am probably baffling you with all of this when I only started out to find out if the Abney (D'Abney) (Abney) family of Virginia (who came to D.C.) could be connected to the ~~Barnard~~ <sup>Barnard</sup> tombstone family I noted last February in the old graveyard there on Hilton Head Island.

The bit about the Pope Family came to mind as I read Hersell's books, noting the Abneys married into the Pope family of South Carolina, so, naturally 'curiosity killed the cat,' <sup>(over)</sup> my curiosity got aroused again, wondering if my grandmother Dean (who was Marybelle Rose Godley, born 1855 at Port Royal) was

Ann Elizabeth Gowen

sweetheart), to Camden County and they married, but they went back to S.C., and that is where my grandmother, their first child, Mayebelle Pope Godley, was born in Port Royal <sup>1857</sup>. They returned to Camden County, Georgia, when my grandmother was a five month old baby and lived at old Burnt Fort on the Satilla River where they had several more children. William Benjamin Godley (1857-1963) who lived to be 106, and was President of Kingsland Bank for 12 years, Mary Rebecca Godley who married Houston Brown <sup>who</sup> was Sheriff of Camden County, Andrew and Brown Godley, who were twins, Uncle Brown was, also, Sheriff of Camden County, and Thomas Godley. <sup>My</sup> Great grandparents are buried at St. Mary's.

The reason Wm Gowen (my great great grandfather) came to Georgia was to be near his two brothers, Barney and James Gowen.

The history of that is that they were all sons of Wm Keating Gowen and his wife, Mary Harrison. They both died in Prince Wm Parrish, Beaufort District, S.C., on the same day in 1820, leaving 4 children, Ann, Wm, Barney and James. Barney and James were 13 and 8. I descend from Ann Gowen had married Joseph Hazel of <sup>Wm.</sup> <sub>over</sub>

16 / St. Helena or Beaufort and remained in S.C. at the death of her parents and so did my gr gr grandfather, Wm. Gowen, who had married Rebecca Green. (He later came to Ga. in 1854).

Their grandmother, Elizabeth Harrison, wife of St. John Harrison, who lived in Prince of Wm Parish, Beaufort district, S.C., was Head of the Family on the 1810 census of that district, with 23 slaves. (Her husband, John Harrison had died in 1809). Her son-in-law, Wm K. Gowen, was listed as Head of House in the same district, with 21 slaves, on the same 1810 census, same Prince William, Beaufort Dist.

Evidently Elizabeth Harrison moved soon thereafter to Glynn County, Ga. where, I think, possibly, two of her sons had moved to, William Harrison and Thomas Harrison for she went to S.C. and got the two minor orphan grandchildren and brought them to live with her in Glynn County. It is said her plantation was named Oatwell, I have not been able to locate Oatwell in Glynn County. There is an Oatland Plantation on St. Simons Island, Glynn County, which was owned by James Harrison whose wife was named Martha (not Elizabeth) but who had a son named John and a daughter named Mary,

17. I do not know if James Harrison was a brother of Lt. John or not.

Some seemed to think their father was possibly Amos Harrison as he is listed as living in S. C. Census with his son, Henry Harrison, on one of the census records.

Elizabeth Harrison left a will in Glynn County, Ga. in 1837, naming her grandchildren, Ann Hazel, Wm Gowen, Barney and James Gowen. Barney and James, by this time, were grown.

She died the same year, 1837, at the home of her grandson, Barney, in Camden County. Barney never married, but he accumulated quite a bit of property.

James Gowen married. In 1839, James Gowen was employed by the largest slave owner in Georgia, Pierce Butler of Darien, as overseer for his Hampton Point Plantation on St. Simons Island (my niece, Deane Shipton Davis has built a house on an acreage there). It is said Pierce Butler sold 500 slaves in Savannah.

It is said Mary Harrison Gowen was related to <sup>two</sup> Presidents of the United States, (through the Harrisons), William Henry Harrison and his grandson, Benjamin Harrison.

I learned they descend from Benjamin Harrison planter, land owner, owner of a mill in Virginia and signer of the Declaration (over)

of Independence who was struck by lightning, along with one of his daughters, and both were killed.

I wish I could prove this. I tried to locate <sup>his</sup> grand father, Lt. John Harrison's grove, on Hilton Head Island. There was a Harrison Island where now, I believe Rose Plantation is, but my inquiries fell on deaf ears. No one seemed to know of a Lieutenant John Harrison dying in S.C. in 1809 nor where his grove is.

With boundary changes, I have not been able to locate where Elizabeth Harrison lived in 1810 in Prince William Parish, Beaufort District, with her 23 slaves nor where Wm K. Gowen lived with his wife, Mary Harrison, when they both died in 1820 on the same day. I wish I knew where they were buried. I would love to visit their groves if they are marked. <sup>take picture</sup>

Wm K. Gowen was a son of Lt James Gowen, R.S. of S.C. <sup>whose</sup> wife, Mary (Polly) is buried on the road from Puryburg to Port Royal at an old church graveyard. The name of the church escapes me at the moment but we



19. turned in there on our trip to Charleston and Hilton Head. (It has come to me "Old Sheddow church yard")

Forgive me for writing such a lengthy letter, when I start, it seems, to tell the whole story, I keep writing and writing!

My question, originally, was to find out if the Barnard tombstone had anything to do with the Abney family who came from Virginia to P.C.

Thanks if you have any info you think might help me. And I would be most happy if you have any info on the Popes, the Means, the Godleys, the Hazels, the Gowers and the Greens, plus the Abneys and Deans.

most sincerely,

Hazel Elizabeth Dean Overstreet  
(Mrs Jim)

5175 Adam Highway  
Adam, Georgia 31555  
Phone 912/586-6634

P.S. I was delighted, also, to find a Malphrus family on Hilton Head. On my mother's (over)

side, (Gibson), I descend from the Malphrus family. John Malphrus came from South Carolina to Georgia. His son, John Hall Malphrus married Sarah Ellis, and their daughter, Mary Malphrus, married James Joyce Leigh, son of Lionel Leigh, who, also, came from S.C. (from Va.) to Georgia and were members of Jones Creek Baptist Church in 1810, church located across Altamaha River, about 20 miles from me.

James Joyce Leigh died in 1839. His widow Mary, later married Elder Elias Knight. The daughter, Emily Bethany Leigh married John Ellis Gibson, and they were parents of my grandfather, Judge Henry Gilbert Gibson, and his brother, Rev. Wm Owen Gibson. My grandmother, Mary Malphrus Leigh Knight raised my grandfather, as

John Ellis Gibson married second a widow, Rebecca Williams Donaldson, and had three more sons, Stephen, Charles and Madison (Stephen and Charles lived on Youngs Island, Gregg, S.C.) Madison was Sheriff of Bryan Co., Ga. John Ellis Gibson was killed in the Civil War June 10, 1862, on James Island, S.C. and buried on the battlefield near Charleston. Thus leaving my grandfather, Henry and brother, Wm Owen orphans, to be raised by their grandmother, Mary Malphrus Leigh Knight.

21  
2nd P.S. I have a book "Pen Portraits of Camden County, Ga." which mentions the following:

Robert Jeyner Peoples married a daughter of  
James Alex Mills and  
Annie E. Conner

Lillie Mills Sutton Peoples wrote the article on  
her family

Anna Mills Peoples (sister of James Alex Mills)

children:

Georgie

Alex

Julia married a Fleming  
lived at Peyton  
near Woodbine

Bertie

Ethel

Hart

Mildred Brannen of Jessup married a Lt. Peoples  
from Estill, Ga. She met him at Ft.  
Stewart, Ga. She worked in the bank in  
Jessup (seven miles from where I live). I used  
to play tennis with them 50 years ago!  
Mildred died but her brother, Carey, still lives  
in Jessup.

