

~~105-112 Colleton~~
~~May 20 1983~~
~~FORESTVILLE MISSISSIPPI 390~~

NOV. 7, 1983

REV., DR. E. H. PEEPLES
8 MOON SHELL ROAD
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S. C. 29928

DEAR DR. PEEPLES,

I HAVE FOR SOMETIME BEEN INTERESTED IN THE HISTORY OF THE DURR FAMILY.


I HAVE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM SOUTH CAROLINA, WHERE I VISITED WITH A MRS. ELLA BELL KIZER WHO LIVED IN ST. GEORGE, S.C.; SHE INFORMED ME THAT YOU HAD DONE SOME RESEARCH ON THE DURR FAMILY.

I HAVE A WILL PREPARED FOR A MICHAEL DURR IN 1793 IN COLLETON COUNTY, S. C.; HE LISTED FOUR SONS BY THE NAMES OF, JOHN, JACOB MICHAEL, AND PETER, I ALSO HAVE A WILL OF JOHN DURR IN COLLETON COUNTY IN 1824, HE NAMED TWO SONS AS JOHN AND JACOB DURR. SINCE MY GREAT GRANDFATHER WAS NAMED JACOB DURR, AND WAS BORN IN COLLETON COUNTY IN 1815, I AM OF THE STRONG OPINION THAT HE WAS THE GRANDSON OF THE MICHAEL DURR OF 1793.

I WILL APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENT ALONG THIS LINE, ALSO SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY RECORD OF THE FAMILY OF JACOB, PETER AND MICHAEL, OF THIS FAMILY I WILL APPRECIATE HEARING FROM YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE 1850 CENSUS OF MISSISSIPPI SHOWS THAT A JACOB R. DURR WAS IN COPIAH COUNTY MISS., AND WAS THE FATHER OF LEVI AND LEWIS DURR. SO FAR I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONNECT JACOB R. AND JACOB DURR, I THINK PROBABLY THEY WERE FIRST COUSINS.

I SINCERELY HOPE THAT I WILL HEAR FROM YOU SOON. THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER.

SINCERELY,

W. A. DURR

Forest, Mississippi
November 26, 1983

Dear Cousin Robert.

This will acknowledge receipt of your most informative and deeply appreciated letter with regard to the History of the Durr Family. I take particular interest in the fact your grandmother was Margaret (RL) Durr and was born 1844 the daughter of John L. Durr.

The late Michael Durr (d. 1794) had a son named John Durr. At this point it is not clear to me as to the relationship of your grandfather John L. Durr to John Durr whose Will I have a copy of and is dated 1824.

I believe your records are very accurate. Since I have received your latest letter, I have found on microfilm, in the Archives of History, Jackson, Mississippi, records which prove my great-grandfather Jacob Durr was a son of Jacob Durr who was the son of Michael Durr (1745-1794).

I was born February 12, 1912. My father's name was Arthur Jacob Durr, born 1871--died 1929). My grandfather was Michael Durr, born 1835--died 1904. He served in the Civil War. The Durr families in this area were mostly Methodist by religious preference. Some were Baptist. In early times Mississippi was so very rural and there were not many churches of differing denominations. Conceivably, folks attended and associated themselves with Churches close to their places of residence.

I wish it were possible in the near future to have a general gathering at a convenient location; for all concerned and connected to our early ancestors, to have an old time gathering and family reunion. I am fastly approaching 72 years of age. I don't recall ever having a general re-union. I would be willing to work untiringly to help make it possible. My father died in the year 1929 and I am sure you can recall the effect of the great depression days that followed. I was 17 years of age at the time of my father's death. I finished High School in the year 1930. Immediately after completion of High School I secured employment through the Civil Service Commission and was employed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers of Mobile, Alabama. Some time later I served with the Corp here in Mississippi in Flood Control Surveys and prior to World War II I was transferred to Galveston, Texas and served there for several years. In the year 1946 I then transferred from the Army Engineers, or War Department, to the Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service here in my Home County, of Mississippi. In 1967 I retired from Civil Service with 30 years of service. At that time I was 55 years old and too young to retire. I was persuaded to run as a candidate for County Tax Assessor and was elected and re-elected 3 times. At age 67, four years ago I again retired.

Continued

I trust we may remain in touch, and it is my fervent prayer that we may meet one day. In early September just passed; we visited any number of good folks down in Colleton County, SC and we are anticipating another visit there again soon.

With Kindest Regards and the Best Wishes I am

Sincerely Yours,



William A. Durr

~~12 Cedar Street (Rt. 5)~~
~~Forest, Mississippi 39074~~

~~112 Cedar Street~~
~~Forest, Miss. 39374~~
May 24, 1984

Dear Cousin Peeples,

I was so glad to receive your letter along with the additional information on the Durr and Carr family.

About a month ago I learned, through a Carr descendant, that the Durr and Carr family are related.

The Carr family holds a family reunion each year at Carr's Church which is about twelve miles south of here, in Smith County.

In 1981 a Mrs. Loraine Carr Bruner, of 10244 Kenlee Drive, Baton Rouge, La. 70815 compiled a 250 page book on the Carr family and descendants. I recently ordered one of her books on the Carr family for \$20. Her book states that, based on 1850 census, that Elizabeth Ann Carr married Jacob Durr who was a son of Michael and Mary Durr about 1803. I have always thought that I was a descendant of this Jacob Durr. However, on receiving your information compiled by Mrs. Parker, I am of the opinion that I came from the John Durr family since he had a son by the name of Jacob who was executor of his will in 1824. His wife's name was Elizabeth.

My grandfather was Michael Durr, born in 1835 and died in 1904 and is buried about five miles south of here in the High Hill Church Cemetery. He served in the civil war. His father's name was Jacob Durr and was born in South Carolina and married Levisa Smith. So far, I have been unable to establish any proof as to who his father was or when he died or where he is buried.

The Mrs. Parker that you wrote has been dead about four years. Her husband is a doctor and has remarried.

My wife has known this family since she was a young girl. Mrs. Parker has a son who lives in Hattiesburg, Miss., by th name of Hugh Parker. We talked to him, Monday, May 21, of this week. He promised to go through his mother's records and let us have all of the information on the Durr family.

I think it would be great if we could get enough of the Durr connections to meet at some special meeting place and get to know each other.

I had a very nice letter from your good friend Edward Greene who has moved to Lake Jackson, Texas, P.O. Box 77566. *P.O. 2427*

Your letter and information was greatly appreciated.

This letter is with kindest regards and best of wishes.

Sincerely,

W. A. Durr

Jacob Durr T Levisa Smith

Michael Durr T
1835-1904

Arthur Jacob Durr T
1871-1929

William A.
1912-