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~~State, Mississippi~~  
Nov 16, 1983

Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples  
8 Moon Shell Road  
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29928

Dear Rev. Peeples:

With reference to your letter of November 11, 1983; to Mr. William A. Durr of Forest, Mississippi; I am prompted to write to you regarding the Durr families of South Carolina (Charleston District) and the Central District of the State of Mississippi.

Mr. William A. Durr's interest has been concentrated toward tying together the lines of kinsmen from Early South Carolina to Early Mississippi. The Durr families of Scott, Smith and Lincoln Counties of Mississippi are related to the Roland (Rowland) families of this area by marriage. Mr. Durr has been a very close kinsman and friend for a lifetime. Through many years of observation it is my judgement that the Durr families are and have always been men of high standards of integrity, closely knitted in family ties, civic minded people with a very strong love of God and Country. In the State of Mississippi they have served with honor and distinction in Government Service. Men of the Durr family have served as U. S. Marshalls, State Senators, Leglistors, Tax Assessors, Educators, State Police Officers, Clergymen, Military men and Officers. Mr. William A. Durr, your latest correspondent, is a retired Tax Assessor of Scott County, Mississippi. He is a well respected member of his community. They have been baptist church workers since their arrival in Mississippi and it is my belief they first settled in Mississippi in the year of 1843. William Durr's great grandfather left Colleton County, South Carolina in the year 1842 with the objective of homesteading in the State of Texas. A young daughter fell from a wagon and was killed. This accident took place in Lincoln County, Mississippi in 1843. The families settled there. Later some of the family members did migrate on westward to Texas.

This week we have completed research and have tied together the lineage of kinship from Michael Durr Born 1745 - died 1794 to John Durr born 1772 - died Nov 1820 to Jacob Durr born 1794 died about 1859. (In the year 1820 this Jacob Durr is found in the U. S. Census of Barnwell County, S. C.) to Jacob Durr, Born 1815 in Charleston District, South Carolina died in Smith County, Mississippi in 1887. To Michael Durr born 1835 died 1904 in Scott County, Mississippi to Arthur Jacob Durr born 1871 died 1929 to William A. Durr of Forest, Mississippi. Mr. Durr is a kinsman of your early forefathers.


Mr. William Durr's grandfather Michael Durr served as an officer of CSA for the duration of the Civil War. He never owned slaves. The Durr family established Durr plantation in Smith/Scott County, Miss., in 1848. The plantation was a homestead grant to Jacob Durr and remained in the family until the year 1903. Michael Durr, son of Jacob Durr, married Martha Ann Roland, sister of my great-grandfather in Scott County, Mississippi in 1859.

Of interest, to me, the Roland (Rowland) family migrated to Mississippi Territory from Robeson County, North Carolina in the year 1815. The Town of Rowland, North Carolina was named for one of our early family members. Rowland (Robeson County) North Carolina is located on the border of North and South Carolina and is not a great distance from Colleton County, South Carolina. I have wondered if perhaps there were ties among the families prior to their migration to Mississippi. Lumberton is the County seat of Robeson County and we have visited there and have accomplished some research there.

Mr. William A. Durr has been very interested in connecting his forefathers to military service during the American Revolution. His interest is to finally aid his daughter in securing membership in the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Do you have any information within your manuscripts which would reflect military service of men of the Durr surname. We are sure we can get membership for his daughter through the Roland lineage but I would like to secure it through the Durr lineage, if possible.

It is our fervent prayer that the recent communication with you, as well as other early kinsmen will generate lasting friendships. May we hear from you?

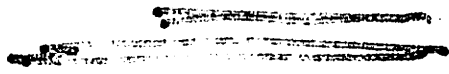
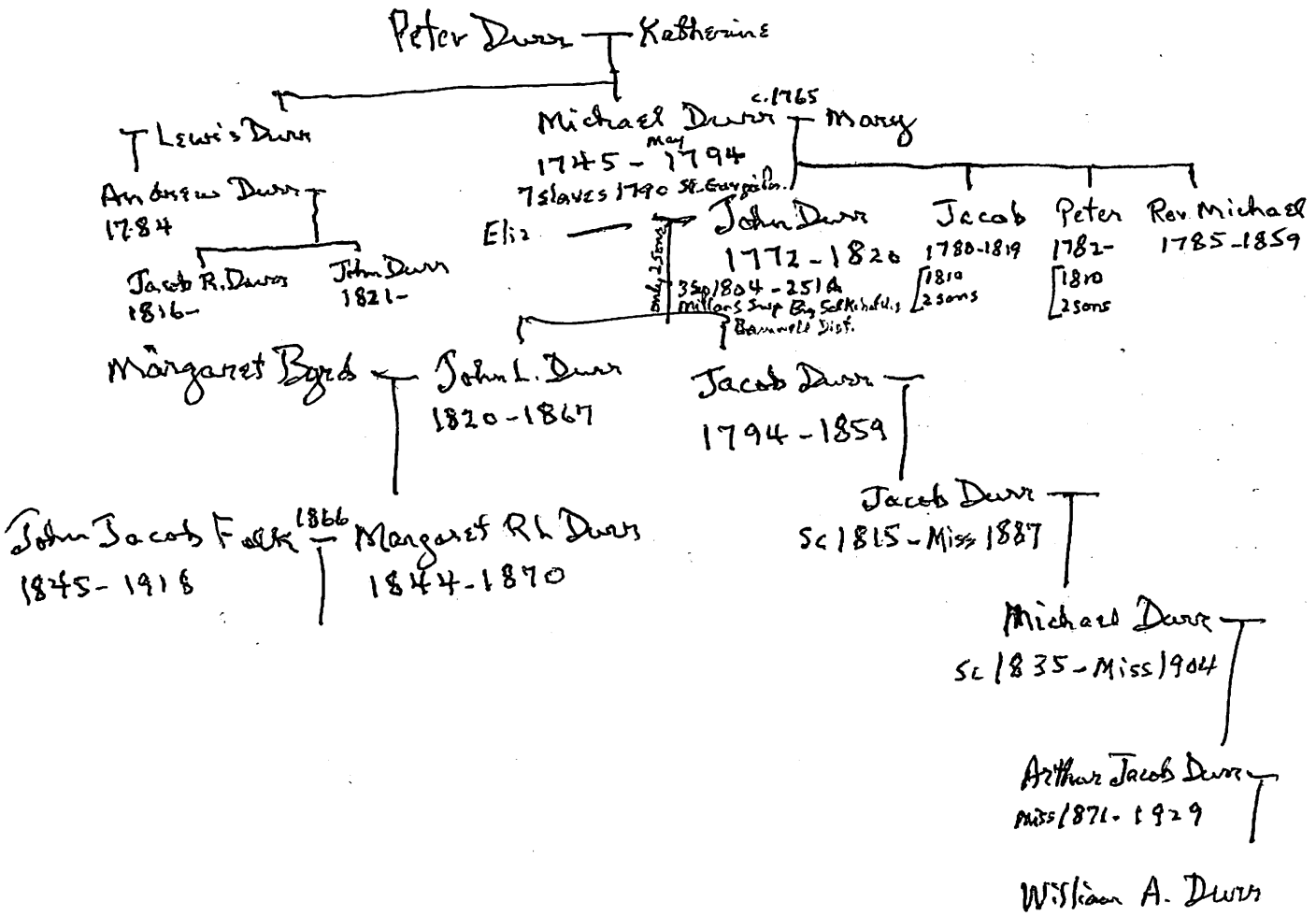
With Kind Personal Regards,



Howard William Roland

~~Star Rt., Box 5~~

~~Highway 33002~~



Kerry G. Durr  
 Rt 3 Box 49  
 St. George's, SC 29477

Lowell L. Watnock  
 P.O. Box 158  
 Oxford, Fla. 32684

Edward L. Greene  
 634 W. Michigan Ave  
 Fresno, Cal. 93705