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29 October 1987

Dear Cousin Robert,

They say in any group, one will find at least a 17th cousin so I suppose I have enough Peeples blood to qualify.

I am sending you a paper from a pamphlet on cemeteries in Florida. You probably have all these "Rhodes" family but I thought you might not mind seeing this listing.

When I decided to buy the book OUR FAMILY CIRCLE, I seem to remember your saying it may not have any direct line of mine even though Cousin Stella was connected directly. I did not really get into it until recently while working with Mr. Buckner. This is one of the most valuable books I have run across. I wish I had time to index it! There is an Episcopal Minister here (St. Matthews on Waters and across from Daffin Park) who might have bought a copy in the last year. I gave him your address. I hope the South Caroliniana Library in Columbia has one or it is still available when I recover (if I ever do!) from so many valuable books of my family I am buying before they go out of print. I need another bookcase the size of the one that almost reaches the ceiling! It is amazing how much one can accumulate. I just purchased the microfiche of the Huguenot Transactions as far as they have been done. Alice Thly, as you know, had a lobe of her lung removed (cancer) and surgery on her knee. I am trying to fit helping her with the Bruneau line. I was thinking she had the Landgrave Smith line, but she, like me, is a collateral line. Several of our Florida volunteers are most active and I have been spending much time with them. Even though I keep telling one of them that the Peeples line is well documented, he keeps making notes on them. I think he must be hooked on the name! He is the one who visited Dr. Rhodes--he has Adams and Chaires ancestry as apparently does Dr. Rhodes.

We have two members of the Heape family in the nursing home in Beaufort, S.C. John Mitchell Heape and Mary Jaudon had a son John Mitchell Heape II who married Julia Marvin (a landscape architect in Walterboro has the Marvin (Conn.) book.) Cousin Artie Heape, a retired Lt. Colonel, entered himself in the nursing home and can come and go as he likes. His wife died not too long ago and I find him a bit forgetful and mixed up but otherwise in good shape. He used to say he was no kin to William Heape line, even while he was reading from a letter so old it has to be kept under glass in a frame, from John Mitchell Heape and Mary Jaudon after they moved to New Orleans. The letter was to William Heape, his brother! The sad part of my visit over there was that Cousin Artie was not as much help as I hoped to satisfy Mr. Buckner about the Ridgeland John Mitchell Heape shown on census records with Martha as a wife. I have interviewed many of the family from the Marvin-Heape line and I cannot prove this is the man who was the son of John Mitchell Heape and Mary Jaudon. My time is so limited by many factors that I am making slow progress. It is true that the Heape papers Julius Heape and my mother worked on (which were intermingled by Mrs. Romaine Dreyer of another Heape line) into a consolidated Heape history) show identical names to the children of this John Mitchell Heape. My fall has left me less than I used to be physically and so many people involve me in so many other genealogies I find it difficult not to get mixed up.

I suppose you have heard of Jack Ladson who gave the Vidalia Library to the city and has donated tremendous sums to many libraries. Colonial Dames will accept his work so he is a capable person. Jack lost his wife some time back and kept the home in Savannah, telephone and all, but appeared reluctant to live in it without her. He is now back after a very long and complicated illness and I am glad he is emotionally able to live here. His sister asked me to "keep him interested" in genealogy because he needed to be active and was inclined to be disinterested. Jack has South Carolina Norton ancestry and I have the Massachusetts Norton ancestry and his Gibbes line married into the Yeamans-Yeomans-Youmans line so he is interested in this. He had suggested I get an opinion of Dr. Charles Holloman in Raleigh (just before his accident which has left him in such bad shape). I took a copy of his reply to him and hope he will interpret it for me! Over the phone he said he was satisfied we were from Sir John Yeamsn line (the Governor, not Sir John who was the son of Sir Robert Yeamans). Sir Robert Yeamans, knighted by the King, had a son, ~~Robert~~ John, who was a first cousin of our Sir John whose title came from being a landgrave. In the written report he says it is his considered opinion that our first resident ancestor was named Benjamin Youmans who came into North Carolina in 1701, but he believes he came first into Virginia because no North Carolina port could have accommodated the ship on which he came. He also says the Moore family and the Harris Youmans family (and his known predecessors) lived closely together in North Carolina. I asked Joy Hurt to try to see a history of the Gibbes family (which she shares) which Jack said was a large "map" type he had lent to the Atlanta Archives and which he wanted back. I have not heard from Joy since I called her but I hope she will verify from this chart some data we need.

Our Library here has a system which requires they go through a source check for anything one wants on inter-library loan. Even when a book is known to exist only in the Library of Congress (and in Great Britain) and is a number higher than 1000 in the F series ("Family"), they take a hundred years to do anything! They now have a new staff and the new reference librarian worked in Leesburg, Florida, with a cousin (Huxford who married Dr. Brokaw). "Buddy" is from the Yankee Huxfords who did not come South and has spent considerable money and time researching in England and America and really is good at it. I gather this new man must have been good and he appears to be. But for now I am so tired of trying for Vere Oliver's "A History of the Island of Antigua," which gives a history of the Yeamans family and family charts, I finally asked Dr. Stokes to see if he could get a copy if our little group could come up with the money to have that portion copied. It takes four shots to get one page--the book is so large! No one in S.C. apparently has it and Joy Hurt cannot even get it through Atlanta. I had it on microfilm and made a copy of the Yeamsns information but I need a room to use with nothing in it to put it together! When we have our meetings, people churn through material and I take years to get it back together. I am reminded of what someone said when I started doing this research, "The Youmans will sip tea and entertain you with a lot of conversation but they will not work at finding answers!" Some, such as Lucy Glover Yaun, are hard workers but some are not. I think it is odd that every historical source I have written to say they do not have charts and/or genealogies of the Yeamans-Yeomans-Youmans family when it does exist.

As usual, I am writing too much--I am always saying more than I intended. But let me add something about Cousin Davis Heape (descended from William Heape who was brother to John Mitchell Heape) and also on my Davis side through Sarah Davis who married the first Heape (Joseph who married Elizabeth Dill) son, Benjamin born<sup>c</sup>1720 as his second wife.

Cousin Davis Heape is also in the Nursing Home in Beaufort, with a crystal clear mind but a body that has to be turned every 3 hours. I could have

cried when I stopped by to see him. He is in his 90's now and the last of the children still living. It was a Sunday afternoon when I went, not too long before the evening meal. There was a black Pastor in the meeting room and many people were attending. There was NOT ONE SOUL AT THE DESK. I could find NOT ONE PERSON TO DIRECT ME. I finally went to the right wing where there were some people but they did not seem to know anything. They suggested I try a wing which they "thought" was where Cousin Davis was. That is when I found patients in the dining ~~xxx~~ room just sitting around and a room full of worshippers with a sermon I would not interrupt. I finally had to go from door to door until I found him myself! They had put him in a chair and tied him to the back. He looked totally exhausted. Of course, I could not lift him but I could rub his hands (cold from circulation problems I would guess). He said he wanted to be put back in bed and I started again trying to find someone. People walking around said they thought "Colonel Heape" was down the hall to the right. I went to see him and visited a while because he already had company and I wanted to get back to Cousin Davis. After some time, a nurse occupied the little desk for the wing and I told her Cousin Davis wanted to get in bed. She said the doctor ordered that he sit up so he would be hungry; that he was not eating well. I don't know if she ever did anything at all but I realized how the MEDICAL PROFESSION HAS BECOME GOD AND AN OLD PERSON HAS NO RIGHTS TO WHAT BRINGS HIM COMFORT. I realize one needs to exercise but that can be done by manipulative therapy or by a pulsating sheet under a patient electrically controlled. I called a cousin in Beaufort when I got home and got the name of a church which I hope to persuade to find out why a man has to be left in a chair WITH NO ONE I COULD FIND FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME to look in on him if nothing more. Also why are doctors allowed to override the needs of a patient! A still sadder part of this is that a former daughter-in-law in Jacksonville had been caring for Cousin Davis and wanted him to continue to live with her but his family (son, I suppose, or the grandson) moved him to first a Florida nursing home and then to the one in Beaufort. I am told the Nursing Home in Beaufort is one of the very best! God help me if I have to get to one any worse--to be left incommunicado, without a voice in my manner of care, and directed by a doctor who may be lengthening his life but certainly not making that life bearable!

Cousin Artie visits with Cousin Davis and he now understands that they are close kin! But Cousin Artie has so many close friends and family and is kept so busy with visitors, he cannot spend all that much time with him, nor would anyone listen, I am sure, to his wishes about how to make Cousin Davis more comfortable. Cousin Artie is a doll, of course, and everyone loves him--he and my mother were always close, but Cousin Davis is a wonderful man even though he is not outgoing and his family is about all gone. Forgive me for mentioning this but I confess to a motive--if you know a pastor in Beaufort whose church has a committee to visit nursing homes, could they observe to see if I happened to hit a bad day or is this common? I can think of nothing worse than to be tied down, helpless to move and helpless to reach someone, and knowing no one will be coming around every now and then even if just to see if one has died! I am sorry if I sound bitter but where were the workers! At least someone should be at the desk as one comes in so a visitor could find the one being visited!

As always,

*Ruth*