

14 Tradd Street
Charleston, S. C., 29401
April 21, 1983

The Rev. Dr. R. E. H. Peeples
8 Moon Shell Road
Hilton Head Island, S. C., 29928

Dear Mr. Peeples:

It was a surprise to receive your personal letter of March 7th. Perhaps you had heard that I called the Huguenot Society asking to see the sources or documentation for your astonishing three generational genealogy of the Michau family which appears on page 137 of the 1982 Transactions.

Lots of people have been searching ever since Dr. Wilson guessed wrong, in print, many years ago. It was natural for me to think you had invented it (the same way people invent coats-of-arms for those prepared to pay). However, Mrs. Burns assured me that all she need do was ask you and the documentation would be forthcoming.

We anxiously await it. Maybe you have discovered new records that would solve our other puzzles.

What do you mean by the remark that you and Sarah Pinckney are defending "the credibility of the Liste"? The Liste says Esther Jaudon and Abraham Michau had a daughter named Charlotte but it does not say, or even suggest, that she is the Charlotte who married Captain Abraham Michau.

What do you mean by your "concern for the honour of Jaudon"? Only sloppy or questionable "genealogical work" (or other crimes) by Jaudon descendants or others can stain the honor of the Huguenots. It is the Peeples-Pinckney "credibility" that I want to see defended.

You imply that I have Bertonneau blood but no Jaudon blood: what documentary sources lead you to this conclusion? How did you discover all these second marriages: in what register or land record? Where, in the records, do you find anyone named "Madelaine Michau" whom you have married to Nicholas LeNud? (He must be rolling in his grave!) How did you discover the last name of Charlotte, the first wife of Captain Abraham Michau? Please don't answer me: just send the documentation to Mrs. Burns to back up your assumptions.

The real problem is that the Society's Transactions go, not only all over this country, but to other countries as well, and people trust it. Our staff does not have time to check every single reference in the articles submitted to them for print: they have to trust the authors to send in their documentation when questions are raised. People elsewhere may not have available the parish registers or will books and so do not yet know that in neither place is there any hint that Madeleine Rembert was ever married to Abraham

Michau or ever had a child by him, or that Pierre Michau ever married a second time, or that there was anyone during this period named "Madeleine Michau Rembert" as you have called the second wife of André Rembert.

When you quote others, like Sellers, Miller, and Stafford, without giving their documentation from early records, you may be perpetuating their speculative errors. Dr. Wilson, for instance, said that Paul Michau was Captain Abraham's "half-brother", but he did not give us his documentation - so, I have to discount it as just another of his guesses.

Because Michau descendants will probably think your fanciful Michau genealogy is fact and begin applying on this "new" line (through Pierre and your created but unnamed second wife as parents of Abraham II), the Huguenot Society needs in its files as soon as possible any documentation you may have for this "genealogy".

When Madeleine Rembert says in her will that Julian Michau IS her grandchild and leaves her money and personal possessions (and possibly land as well) and then you, who did not know these people, come along about two hundred and fifty years later and tell me Madeleine did not know that Julian was NOT her grandchild --- well, who do you think I believe?

Sorry, Mr. Peeples: perhaps my skepticism is due to the fact that I am one of Madeliene Rembert's descendants and, as Dr. Wilson saw, it was not easy to fool her.

Very sincerely yours,


Virginia Gourdin

cc: The Huguenot Society

MILLERS FALLS
EZEQUIAS
COTTON BOUNTY