

1111 East 51st street
Savannah, Ga. 31404
February 22, 1994

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

Dear Cousin Robert,

Thanks so much for your quick response to my request for a copy of "Our Family Circle". I read it through in one sitting. I have since received a copy of "Two Centuries of Lawtonville Baptist", which required an immediate visit to the cemetery. Since you have been in this genealogy business for a long time, I'm sure you will understand my feeling of awe when I placed my hands on the tombstones of my great-great, great-great-great, and great-great-great-great grandparents. Of course I took many pictures, including one of our mutual grandmother, Elizabeth McCoy Peeples Johnston, to hand down to my descendants.

As yet, I have not found any additional information on the great-grandparents. But as I'm noted for having an abundance of tenacity, I'm sure, eventually, I will prevail. In fact, later this week I plan to go back to the Estil area to search out the old Black Swamp Church Cemetery. I once heard my grandmother mention that someone (?) was buried there under a hugh tree. Who knows, I might be lucky and find Richard (Tyre?) there.

The more I search for information on the great-grandmother, the more sure I become that her name was Sauls. "Uncle Redden" Saul's family is on the IGI at the Morman Library. One of his sisters is listed as "Ila E.", who married Lawrence Culbert Nettles. I vaguely remember "Aunt Ila", and know that she was the link between Grandmother Rosa's family and the Nettles family, which my Aunt Eugenia married into, her husband being Jefferson Coleman Nettles from Ridgeland. There is also a John and Mary Freeman Sauls listed. Could this be the Freeman link?

Also listed was Synthia Ann Freeman, whom Great Aunt Alice named as her mother. Synthia Ann's father was Tom Freeman, whose home, my Aunt Eugenia said, Great Aunt Mary Lou was reared in. No wonder the title of one of the publications at the library is named "Family Puzzles"!

Though this letter sounds as if I'm in the depths of confusion, I'm having the time of my life. Last week I located the mother of Grandmother Rosa's first husband in Laurel Grove cemetery, here in town. The last place I would have thought to look, since I knew that G.F., Bub Lewis George, was from St. George, S.C. I

am so nosy, that when I saw the books listing the burials in Laurel Grove, I had to check it out just to see whom was listed. Imagine my surprise when I found a Great-grandmother, whom I knew absolutely nothing of, except her name, listed. Upon inquiring into her burial place, my mother said, "I think she was buried in Laurel Grove".

My nosiness has slowed my research somewhat, as I find myself reading stories that do not relate to my search. I can't seem to make me past up on any will -"fascinating insights into history".

Now as to the purpose of this letter. My middle grand-daughter will celebrate her 13th birthday on March 7th. She is the grandchild who has jumped in to help with the genealogical search, has even joined her local genealogical club, and has now expressed interest in My copy of "Our Family Circle". So I am enclosing a check with the request that you please mail her a copy, her own copy, of our family book. Could I be so bold as to request that you place the enclosed birthday card in with the book?

Cousin Robert, I am interested in buying a copy of Coy Johnston's book, "William Johnston, etc.". If you should hear of anyone who might be willing to part with a copy, please give them my name and phone number - 912-355-1187.

Thanking you in advance for your help, I remain,

Yours truly,



Geraldine Gavin Ward

Mail book to:

Angel Sheree Ward
5207 Russell Lane
Dallas, Ga. 30132