

4 September 1976

Dear Robert,

Thank you so much for your very interesting letter. I am, indeed, grateful to you for your information on the Ladson-Stangorue families and your comments on their origins in England. Your opinions, based on sound research, are the kind of thing I want so much to have, for they make me feel so much closer to those in whose direct line of descent I fall than, for instance, a mere list of names would do.

I am interested, too, of course, in the Smith family and am glad you outlined the Smith ancestry in England and just how the gap occurs in tracing the family back to Edward I. Enclosed is a chart of my Landman-Smith descent in America (with all its cousin marriages!). Since I am descended also from Elizabeth Schenck's second husband, William Smith (through their son John), there are three Smith families in my background: the Landman-Smiths, the Boston Smiths, and the Schenck (Wm.) Smiths. I do have a copy of Our Family Circle; so glad I have it for without it I would not have been able to trace my Smith and Waring lines. Will suggest to some Boyle and Waring cousins, however, that they might like to have a copy.

As you suggested in your first letter to me, Smith family descendants could find

a great advantage in forming some sort of organization, however loose. Someday our Family Circle should be revised - errors corrected and lines left out included. (What fun it would be to work on that!) By chance, I've discovered that Mary Soule (through her father) and my husband, Knot, are both descended from the Ligon family of Virginia (with a common ancestor in the emigrant, Colonel Thomas Ligon). This family is formally organized, complete with officers and several volumes of genealogy, tracing them quite firmly back to the Blantafenet Kings. This could only have been done because enough family members wanted to do it, the American family lines as well as those still in England. Do you think it would be possible to interest Smith Descendants in such an organization?

Mary Soule and I have found that we have several ancestors in common, as well as the two sons of the 1st Landgrave Smith. We are both descended from 1st son James Moore, ~~son~~ Robert Daniel, the Rev Archibald Stobo, James Bullock, and Benjamin Waring and son Joseph Norton. Night before last I talked with her on the telephone and told her how much I appreciated her sharing your information with me and giving me your address.

Do you happen to know why so many Smith family members use the name Burgh as a middle name? I have noticed it in several different generations and different family lines.

I happen to have a portrait of Susan Elizabeth Ladson (who married John Rutledge Smith - her dates 1778-1857). She was painted ~~late~~ late in life - an old lady in apparently Quaker dress. The Rutledges were Episcopalians and the Smiths, I believe, by this time were, but I've wondered about the Ladsons in view of Susan Elizabeth's very Quaker look.

Have been busy getting my own children into school and starting a year of teaching again. Unfortunately, here in Pensacola I have not been able to find a position at high school level (English) as I was able to do when we lived in Fort Walton Beach. Am teaching 7th grade in a nearly all Black school, so it's more a discipline challenge than anything else. But I'm grateful for the job I do like teaching, but it has changed so radically as integration has become a fact.

I envy you and Miss Cora your opportunity to live on Hilton Head Island.

That seems ideal to me! Please give Miss Cora my regards, and I shall hope to hear from you from time to time. I so much appreciate your sharing family information with me.

Yours sincerely,
Jane