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January 9, 1991
Subject Matter:
Alice Chaucer
Thomas Montague
Robert Mills

TO:

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

Dear Rev. Peeples,

I ran across some information that I thought might be of interest to you, regarding your letter to me dated 29 July 1990. There are two authoritative sources:

(1) Sir Bernard Burke's "A Genealogical History of the Dormant, Abeyant, Forfeited, and Extinct Peerages of the British Empire. London 1883. Page 372, and Page 441.

(2) "Castles" by Charles W.C. Oman (An illustrated guide through 80 castles of England and Wales). Pages 39, 40.

BOTH OF THESE SOURCES STATE DEFINITELY THAT ALICE CHAUCER HAD NO ISSUE BY HER FIRST HUSBAND (1) Sir John Phillip, Knt. who died and left Alice (Chaucer) Phillips childless.

(2) Thomas Montague, Earl of Salisbury, slain by cannon ball at Seige of Orleans 3 November 1428. Alice (Chaucer) Phillips was his second wife. He had NO ISSUE BY ALICE.

Thomas Montague, Earl of Salisbury (son of John Montague, 3rd Earl Salisbury, and Maude Francis) Married FIRST WIFE:

(1) Elinor Holland, dau. of Thomas Holland, 2nd Earl of Kent, and Alice Fitz-Alan, dau. of Richard Fitz-Alan and Eleanor Plantaganet, dau. of Henry, Earl of Lancaster). The Smyth-Smith chart of Exeter when studied (as you know) is full of Plantaganet connections and ancestry!! It is the marriage of THOMAS MONTAGUE & ELINOR HOLLAND WHO ARE THE PARENTS OF ALICE MONTAGUE, WHO MARRIED RICHARD NEVILL(E), Earl of Salisbury, in her right. Richard Neville was the 2nd son of Ralph, 1st Earl Westmoreland. There are other sources than the above to prove this.

Other little bits of information that I'm sure you know, is that Richard Fitz-Alan was Earl of Arundel. Also, the Thomas Holland, 2nd Earl of Kent (above) who mar. Alice Fitz-Alan, was the son of Sir Thomas Holland, 1st Earl of Kent (died 26 December 1360) and Joane Plantaganet. As you know, there were many intermarriages among these families....one of which is interesting. For instance: ANNE MONTAGUE, (DAU. OF SIR JOHN MONTAGUE & MAUDE FRANCIS) Mar. (1) Sir Richard Hankford, Knt. (2) John Fitz-Lewis, your ancestor. and (3) John Holland, Duke of Exeter. Ann Montague had issue by all three husbands. By John Holland (Page 432-Burke's Peerage listed above) she had a dau. Anne Holland who married (2) Sir John Neville, Knt. and they (John Neville & Anne Holland) had a son: Ralph Neville. 3rd Earl Westmoreland!! And they wonder why we family historians have such a hard time!!

(continued)

2/A.C.T./Chaucer/Mills

On page 301 in 1974 issue of "World Book", Vol. 3 C-Ch, GEOFFREY CHAUCER, the famous poet, who wrote "The Canterbury Tales" was spoken of as "a close friend of John of Gaunt. I thought that most fascinating, since it is also stated that "Geoffrey Chaucer's father had been but a vintner" on page 40 of "Castles". In Burke's Peerage that is listed as a source...on page 441.. it is stated that Geoffrey is the father of Thomas Chaucer, and grandfather of ALICE (CHAUCER) PHILLIP MONTAGUE POLE (de la Pole). I do not know why it was necessary for them to say in same source that Alice Chaucer "was proved a bastard"....unless it was to help those in power to rid themselves of the powerful de la Pole family at a later date. Alice (Chaucer) Phillips Montague married third husband (3) WILLIAM DE LA POLE, EARL OF SUFFOLK (minister of Henry VI)...they had a son, John de la Pole (and several daughters). John de la Pole married the Lady Elizabeth Plantaganet, sister of King Edward IV and King Richard III (Burke's page 441). Now, you can see the power-struggle this must have caused!! Poor, dear Alice, she never stood a chance...power and rank was dangerous in those days! Elizabeth Plantaganet (wife of John de la Pole) was in direct succession to the crown! (Page 40- Castles). It is also stated there that THIS WAS THE GRAND MARRIAGE that the Chaucers were so proud of..... though I'm sure they were also proud to marry into the Montague family even though there was no issue by this Montague + Chaucer marriage...and the grand-alliance was Chaucer + de la Pole + Plantaganet. It all ended in tragedy for the de la Poles.

Now, for the subject of ROBERT MILLS Born: 12 August 1781-Died 3 March 1855...Son of William Mills (B. 2 Mar. 1750- D. 2 April 1802 and Ann Taylor (1755-1790), daughter of Peter Taylor and Sabina Smith (1699-1728), daughter of Thomas Landgrave Smith II and Anna Cornelia Van Myddogh. Sabina mar. first Thomas Smith (1691-1724)--Son of Thomas Smith (1665-1690) and Elizabeth Schenckinck. See pages 639-640 Biographical Dir. of S. C House of Rep. Vol. II, 1692-1775 (The Commons House of Assembly)...Also, a good source for this are genealogical charts of "Evolution of a Federalist" William Loughton Smith of Charleston (1758-1812) by George C. Rogers, Jr. Mills information comes from pages 119-120 "Some Prominent Virginia Families" by Louise Pecquet du Bellet (Four Vols. in Two). Robert Mills had two brothers and three sisters. Among his sisters was Sarah Mills (the sister of Robert Mills spoken of in the query in "Carologue" you mentioned in your letter. This Sarah Mills (B. 30 Nov. 1787, Died 6 July 1846. Sarah married 7 Dec. 1805 to George Lusher of Bermuda (Born 1781-died 14 April 1820). Hope all this information is beneficial to you.

Sincerely,

Ann C. Tippins