

SMITH

October 5, 1997

Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples  
8 Moon Shell Road  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Dear Dr. Peeples,

This is a letter of manifold thanks. The first thanks is for your buying *Wooden Ships - Iron Men*. The second is for sharing with me that you enjoyed it. The third is for inviting me to talk about it at your 36th anniversary meeting. The fourth is for putting me so at ease that I was able to—to my surprise—give a half-way decent talk. And lastly, the very pleasant and enjoyable companionship of you and Miss Cora at dinner, which Valerie and I enjoyed very much.

I am in awe of your knowledge of so much of our colony's early history, especially the genealogy of it. If I knew half of what you know, I would get up from my typewriter only long enough to occasionally go make speeches to help sell all the books I would be writing.

On the subject of genealogy: Awhile back, after seeing the review on my book in the Atlanta newspaper, Bette Coachman Hochman wrote me the following:

"I am trying to find more information on Capt. Tomas Paine married to Mary Lucia Bellinger."

I responded with the following which I found in the five volume *The Descendants of Thomas Smith, 1st Landgrave of South Carolina*, compiled in 1903 by Barnard Heyward:

"While going through the about 400 pages, one by one, scanning for names of Valerie's ancestors, two familiar names jumped out at me from the a page: Lucia Bellinger and Thomas Paine, Capt U.S.N., so I jotted down the following, thinking it may be of interest to you. I am keying it in narrative form to keep it to one page:

- Margaret b 4/1/1720 (the only date shown on entries of interest to you) dau. of Thomas Smith, 2nd Landgrave, and Mary Hyrne married Benjamin Coachman. (Valerie is descended from another dau., Mary, and James Screven) 1706-1758 } m. 1736
- Their dau., Margaret Coachman, married Burnaby Bull Bellinger. They had three daus: Sarah, who married ? Davidson, Lucia, who married Capt. Thomas Paine, and Harriet, who married William Hunter.
- Lucia Bellinger and Thomas Paine had three children: dau. Margaret, who married ? Wheat, son Edward Tatnal, and dau. Julia Bickley.  
Harriet Bellinger and William Hunter had, according to the compiler's record, nine children: Harriet Ann, James Bellinger, Margaret Bellinger, Alexander Nichols, Sarah Cecil, who married Andrew Low, Elizabeth Isabella, Edward Tatnal, Alexander, Frances Harriet, who married Thomas Scarborough."

I received the following response:

“What you copied says Margaret b 4.1.1720 m Benjamin Coachman.

“I (and several others) can find no evidence to prove this marriage. No documents have been found to either prove or disprove this except the old volume you referred to and a large old Smith Chart compiled probably about the same time using, it appears, some of the same data, done by Francis Simmons Holmes.

(1763-11 Feb. 1841)

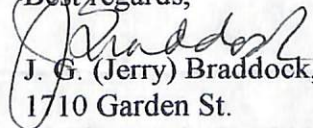
“What we do know is that a Margaret Coachman was born and according to her obit in the Savannah Advertiser she died 11 Feb. 1841 in her 78th year which would have put her birth at abt 1763. Here is the rub - if by chance this is true the only known Benjamin at that time was married to Sarah <sup>update</sup> (Smith) Hill, dau of Thomas's <sup>son</sup> brother George. Their marriage settlement was signed in 1758 and they had five children between 1760-66. (possibly six ?)

“I believe, until further proof can be found, that they were her parents. Margaret even names her 1st. child after Harriet her sister and her second after Sarah - her mother. Something else that seems like strong evidence to this theory is a marriage settlement between Harriet Coachman [sister to Margaret] & William Scott. B. B. Bellinger [who m. Margaret] & Chas Glover [m. another sister, Ann] were witnesses.

“Sorry to do this to you. I guess needed a sounding board because “the several others are trying desparately to find another Benjamin that they think married Margaret and I am convinced there was no other Benjamin.”

Any information you have that I can pass on to that lady to help her resolve her problem will be greatly appreciated.

Best regards,

  
J. G. (Jerry) Braddock, Sr.  
1710 Garden St.  
Charleston, S. C. 29407

Margaret Smith <sup>?</sup> - Benjamin Cochrane  
 18 Apr 1720

Sarah Smith <sup>b. 1758</sup> - Benjamin Cochrane  
 1730 -  
 m. (1)  
 Charles Hill

1750  
 Ann  
 1760-1791  
 ?  
 m. c. 1780  
 Charles  
 Glover  
 1756-1817  
 c. Ann b. 1782

Benjamin  
 m.  
 Rebecca  
 Singleton

Harriett  
 m.  
 Scott

Sarah  
 -1793  
 m. 10 July 1777  
 Charles  
 Dupont  
 1. Sarah Eliz  
 b. 1 May 1778

Margaret Cochrane - Burnaby Bull Bellinger  
 1763-1841  
 c. 1759 -

Sarah  
 m.  
 William  
 Davidson

Lucia  
 m.  
 Capt.  
 Thomas  
 Paine

Harriet  
 m.  
 William  
 Hunter