

26 April 1994

Dear Dr. Peeples,

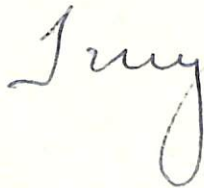
I should begin by telling you who I am in order that you will understand my motivation in writing to you. My line of descent from Landgrave (First) Thomas Smith is: (Dr.) George Smith, Rev. Josiah Smith, Anne Smith who married Edward Darrell Sr., Edward Darrell Jr., Sarah Ann Darrell who married Thomas Ayers, Lavinia Ayers who married John Murphy Sr., John Murphy Jr., Everett Murphy, and Josephine Murphy who was my mother. Additionally, John Murphy Jr. married Laura Mew, whose lineage is mentioned in Annie Miller's book "*Our Family Circle*". That brings me to the purpose of my writing to you.

I have been accumulating information about the descendants of Thomas Smith for several years now, and have managed to get it all into my computer until the past few months. As a result of having established a reputation for myself as a substantial repository of information on this line, I find that I'm overwhelmed by the amount of new information being contributed to me by the new generation of Thomas Smith's descendants. Indeed, just this week I've met two new cousins of this line. It's a lot of fun for me, and I look forward to continuing this effort as an amateur.

I have two questions to ask you, Dr. Peeples. The first is, no doubt, the easier so let's dispense with it right away. Is there an updated edition of "*Our Family Circle*" available for purchase? Secondly, is there any intention to publish an updated edition in the future? I am interested in making a major contribution to a future revision, and solicit your opinion on the best way to accomplish it.

I understand that my second question probably doesn't have an easy answer. I'll appreciate whatever assistance or direction you can give me.

Best regards,



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16 May 1994

Dear Dr. Peebles,

What a pleasant surprise to return home from a trip and find your letter waiting for me. Thank you for including the photograph of the miniature of Landgrave Smith, his pedigree, and the Sponsorship Card for membership in *The Society of First Families of South Carolina, 1670 - 1700*. I've put the Sponsorship Card in today's outgoing mail. I guess I'd better get on the ball though... I haven't got proof of my parents marriage, or a few other minor details.

I'm also be interested in membership in the *Barons of Runnymede*, and the *Hereditary Order of the Descendants of the Colonial Governors*. Any assistance you can give me will be welcomed and appreciated.

I've enclosed \$30.00 as payment for a copy of *Our Family Circle*. You didn't mention whether or not the \$28.50 price included postage, please let me know if I owe you more. I'm sure that your estimate of 30 to 40 volumes being required to update the list of Thomas Smith's descendants is probably conservative. In fact, I'd wager that his contemporary descendants could probably reproduce faster than one person could keep track of them and write about them! I'm constantly amazed at the people I meet who are connected to Landgrave Smith... and that's without a concerted effort on my part.

I think that I can understand how Mrs. Perry and Dr. Salley were confused about the Atkins wills. Some of the information from that era can be quite confusing... especially when one's perception and interpretation is colored by one's desire for there to be a connection. The Mew line included in *Our Family Circle* is a good example of this. There is no evidence of any of the Mew family being descended from the Landgrave Thomas Smith. Not yet, anyway. That information was given to Annie Miller by my great Aunt Vivian (née Murphy) Workman. I'm sure Aunt Vivian was a wonderful person, but she wasn't aware of an 1850 case in the Equity Court of Appeals which positively identifies Ann Rutledge (née Smith) Mew's father as Samuel Smith who died in 1815. I haven't seen anything that suggests either Samuel Smith or his wife Sarah (b. circa 1760, d. 1848) was connected to Thomas Smith. The Bishop Peter Mew information also is incorrect insofar as any direct line of descent is concerned. There may be a collateral line, but I can't find it. My point is that Aunt Vivian may have fallen victim to the same desires of so many researchers: basing a connection with an appealing character upon the flimsiest evidence. I wonder if this ever happened to Mrs. Perry or Dr. Salley.

Regrettably, I'll not be able to attend the Lawton Family Reunion in June. That's the weekend my wife's sister is getting married. I'm always looking for an excuse to go to Charleston. My father and stepmother lived at Kiawah Island until hurricane Hugo, and I used to be able to get to Charleston more often. I do appreciate your kind invitation.

I received an information packet and invitation to contribute to the Medway Environmental Trust from Wendy Wood. They were to have had quite a shindig there one weekend last month. I wanted to attend, but, as seems to be par for the course, business interfered. I hope they'll repeat it sometime in the future. The information packet included *Preserving the Legacy: Medway Plantation on Back River* by Richard N. Coté and Agnes Leland Baldwin. It's an interesting little booklet, and if you've not seen it I recommend it to you.

If you're interested, I can send a copy of the listing of descendants of Thomas Smith and related families which I've found so far. If I don't print the source citations, it runs about 250 pages including an index. I'd be delighted to send it if you'd like to see it.

I'll be looking forward to receiving a copy of *Our Family Circle*, and calculating our degree of cousinship. We're probably eighth cousins once or twice removed.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jerry". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.