

John E. Ladson, Jr.
Vidalia, Georgia

Mrs. Hardin Devant Hanahan
5100 Kesterwood Road
Knoxville, Tennessee

My dear Mrs. Hanahan:

Your most recent letter was received, and I enjoyed it thoroughly. I found it interesting and informative. Both of us seem to be interested in a number of the same lines. I have been doing research on the Ladson, Kenneway, Norton, Fitch, Toomer, Stanyarne and allied lines for many years. I became interested in genealogy when I was in my late teens, and the interest has continued since that time. I think the "fever" is about as rampant now as it ever has been. I envy you of your anticipated trip to England, and I certainly wish that I could take the time off and go along. I would love to visit some of the places mentioned in the various records we have on Norton, Toomer and Ladson. I have recently seen a book on the Stanyarnes, and evidently our branch of this family came from Northamptonshire. I would like to prove the maiden name of Mary Stanyarne, the wife of Thomas Stanyarne. I feel that she was born a Waight, but do not have the proof. (She was daughter of Abraham & Phoebe (Baynes) Waight) REHA

Speaking of "Kenneway", I feel sure that the name is spelled as "Connoway", "Cannaway" and "Conway" for I have definite proof that this is the case. My Ladson line comes down from SAMUEL LADSON, JR. who married SARAH NORTON, the daughter of GEORGE NORTON and ELIZABETH CONNOWAY. The latter is mentioned in a Memorial, and the land mentioned belonged to JOHN KENNEWAY. My ancestor, John Connoway Ladson, born 1748, fought in the Revolution, and upon examining his service record found that he is listed as John Conway Ladson. The will of JOHN KENNEWAY is mentioned in a number of different records, but we have never been able to locate the will. If we could find this will we would glean from it much more information than we have on the Kenneway-Connoway family. I suppose it was lost with the Colleton County records--yet that early it should have been in Charleston. I note one reference to Kenneway Norton that his name is spelled as "Kanway" Norton. I have records found in Charlestown, New England or Massachusetts, and you will see that John and George Kenneway were brothers, that they were Mariners, and that they brought hundreds of

persons to America from England. In the New England records you will find the name spelled as "Kannaway", "Kenneway" and "Connoway". I will copy the New England records for you if you are interested in them. You see the Memorial plainly states that JOHN KENNEWAY had a daughter, ELIZABETH, who inter-married with GEORGE NORTON. From various records I have in my files I can prove that, SARAH NORTON, their daughter, married SAMUEL LADSON, JR., and they named a son, JOHN CONNOWAY LADSON. The latter is my great, great, great grandfather. As I said in a previous paragraph, his name is spelled several different ways, BUT I do have proof that he was a grandson of ELIZABETH KENNEWAY, and a great grandson of JOHN KENNEWAY.

In your letter you refer to the L'Engle line, and you infer that you are under the impression that I have a L'Engle line of my own. Let me say here that you are mistaken, and I have never worked on that line. I am interested in the LAWTON line because it connects with several of my own lines, and my good friend, Thomas O. Lawton, of Allendale, South Carolina has this line as well as a number of lines that connect with my lines. He is a descendant of John Ladson, Thomas Stanyarne, John Norton, Jonathan Fitch, and many others. We have been working on these lines together. He is a very fine gentlemen, and someone you would enjoy knowing. I am sending him a copy of your most interesting letter for his files. You will probably hear from him. My wife and I expect to visit Tom and Bess in about three weeks.

I have no connections in England other than Miss Cohen who did research for me. I have never been very pleased with her work, but she was the only person I knew who was doing research in England. She sent me little "dribbles", and always wanted more money, and everytime I would send her money she would find one more little item. She never really put out for me, nor do I think she tried, but she would look for my names along with hundreds of others who had employed her to do research. Her name is "Cohen", and I have often wondered if she was "from the old country". I will be glad to send you her address if you would like to go by her place. She may have some records that she has already done on some of your lines. I just do not think there is much to her, for it seems to me that she just sends you enough to make you want to send more money. I do not mind paying for genealogical research, but I want to know that the person is really putting in the time for me. I like to have a report, typed up in full, with all the items that she has copied down, and want the researcher to let me make up my own mind whether the items are pertinent or not. I enjoy seeing the ground that has been covered. I obtained her name from an ad she had in a genealogical magazine. Mrs. Norton had a connection over there, and I think she was well pleased

with this man's work. I told her that I would be glad to pay him to do some research on Ladson and Stanyarne, but he wrote back that it would be a year before he could do it. It seems that his duties as Rector of some church over there consumed his time. I wanted to send him to North Hampton in quest for Ladson and Stanyarne information.

I once met Miss Mabel Webber, and enjoyed the lady very much. My cousin, Miss Isabel Ladson, of Charleston, took me by to meet her. She told me a great deal about my ancestry, which at that time I knew little or nothing about, and since then I have wished that she was available for me to see now. When I met her I was too young to care much about genealogy. My brother was going to the Citadel, and we went up there, my Mother and I, to see him. It happened that he was head of his company at Citadel, and Cousin Isabel had driven out there to see the exercises. When she heard his name over the loud speaker she sent her chauffeur to have him come to her car. When he had a minute he came, and it was through my brother, William Ladson, that I met Cousin Isabel for the first time. After that she invited William out to see her nearly every Sunday, and when we were in Charleston we would visit her. She knew Miss Webber and she wanted to know exactly how my Ladson line connected with her own. For that reason she took me by to see Miss Webber.

Do you have copies of all of my Norton research? I will be happy to share it all with you as well as the Ladson work. The Ladson name seems to be a very rare one, and although Cousin Isabel and others claim that John and Francis Ladson came from Northamptonshire, I certainly am beginning to doubt it. I have had work done there, and only two little bits have we found about the name Ladson.. It is possible that they left from Northampton when sailing for the Barbadoes, BUT they may not have been natives of that place. I found where one John Ladson was brought up for selling liquor without a license. I could find no wills, deeds, or such that might give some clue as to where John Ladson came from, or any thing about his ancestry. I feel sure that John Ladson and Thomas Stanyarne were both kin to Abraham Waight and Jacob Waight. Likely Thomas Stanyarne married Mary Waight, but we have no proof.

I hope you can find more information on the Nortons. I wish we knew ~~the~~ maiden name of the wife of George Norton, father of John Norton, the Immigrant to South Carolina. I feel like the JACKSON FAMILY was close kin to George and John Norton, and I would not be surprised to find that George Nortpn married a Jackson. If you find the Nortons in Northampton, then you should find the Ladsons and Stanyarnes there also. Have you seen the book, "A Carolina-Virginia Family"???

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This book has much information on the Stanyarne Family, and plainly says that the family came from Northampton.

I do not think any research has been done in England on the Kenneway Family. You will note that the name is spelled as "Connoway" in Hotten's book. You will find John and George Connoway mentioned in the book as bringing persons from England to America. The relationship of Martha May has puzzled me for a long time. Mrs. Norton and I tried to figure out the puzzle from our notes, but we never could prove for sure just how she came about. She is a dear lady and someone I love very much. I admire her many fine qualities, and also her acute brain.

After reading your letter I do not exactly understand just how your husband ties in with the Ladson, Norton, and allied lines. Does Jack come down from William May?? You stated in your letter that Jack did not come down from Martha May, the wife of William May, but you did not tell me how he did come down. How does he have the Norton line?? If he has the Norton line he also has the FITCH line, and that is another line we have not established back in ENGLAND. You will find him mentioned in "Besse's Sufferings of the Quakers", but Besse does not give much genealogical information on the Fitch Family. I feel sure you will find Jonathan Fitch in same locality as John Ladson, Jacob Waight, and John Norton. They were all closely allied after they arrived in Carolina.

We are happy to know that Emmett Lucas will be coming to Vidalia. I have never met him, but have had a number of letters from him. I hope you and your husband will be near here sometime in the future, and that you will drop by here and visit with us.

Thanking you for your interesting letter, and assuring you of my interest, I am,

Sincerely,

JACK LADSON

March 19, 1964

John E. Ladson, Jr.
Vidalia, Georgia

Mrs. Jack Hanahan
5100 Kesterwood Road
Knoxville 8, Tennessee

My dear Mrs. Hanahan:

The information you sent to me has overwhelmed me, and I will be forever grateful to you. I have several comments to make before I go on further. First, it proves to me that the woods must be full of "jack leg" genealogists over there. Both Miss Cohen and Mrs. Campbell told me there was absolutely NOTHING in the way of a will on the name LADSON in Northamptonshire. Then Miss Ledger repeats the same saying she could positively tell me that there were no LADSON wills in Northamptonshire UNLESS after 1700. She said ALL wills were indexed in her office, or place of business, until 1700, and that she would suggest that I hire her to read very carefully the Northampton and Rutland indexes from 1700 till 1725 hoping to find a LADSON will after 1700 which might throw some light on some of the children of JOHN LADSON yet living at that time in South Carolina. Now you come up with several LADSON wills in Northampton before 1700 which proves her either very ignorant or perhaps uninformed.

I do not understand these people, for, as you say, they take NO directions, and you can send them volumnes of clues with which should be ckecked out for truth, BUT they seem to ignore everything and go ahead on their own sending you nothing in the way of notes or data taken as they go along. In my research I always send a client bits of data taken as I go along, if for no other reason, to show that I have covered the territory. All that I have for my \$48.00 is a list of Ladsons who have died since 1700 copied probably in an hour from the index book mentioned above--plus the one little item from

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Northamptonshire with regard to THOMAS LADSON being an "assesor" on the Estate of JOHN FITCH--but no date even shown to me. She wrote in my last letter that she had heard from Kent and that there were Ladson wills there----but none until ~~after~~ ¹⁷⁰⁰ 1700. She listed three which could not possibly be of any help to me. She said", I am having the LYDD and CHATHAM items sent to you, and hope you will find them interesting".. I know nothing as to what she means with regard to these items, and I have never received them. Where Lydd and Chatham are I do not know and what relation they have on my Ladson research I do not know. I have had four short letters from her and no data except the Fitch-Ladson item. In the last letter she advised that she had exhausted the money I had sent to her, and that if I wanted her to continue to send another check.

I was in doubt as to what to do until I had your letter this morning. It seems to me she should have listed everything that she had consulted and searched so that I would know if I ever went over there what had been done and the sources searched. She has sent me nothing in the way of a typed report as I would send if I were doing work for you. I am astounded to see that my book on the Rutland-Northampton Wills do not show any of the Ladsons mentioned in your letter. I can't understand because it has the Stanyarne, Waights and others shown. That is exactly why I took her to be correct when she said there were no Ladson wills until 1700.

(Norton)
Comments--- I have seen the name "ADAM CLAYPOOL" in some South Carolina material. The Dickerson name is found in earliest Carolina records with Norton. NOTE HE ALSO MENTIONS HIS LAND AT COTTERSTOCK and we have data in my previous work on Norton referring to Cotterstock. He mentioned "my grandson son, JOHN NORTON in 1617 and he mentioned his daughter HANNAH, and note that Georhe Norton mentioned his sister, HANNAH,

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and his BROTHER JOHN and his son JOHN NORTON. Could the grandson be JOHN NORTON of South Carolina?? I do not think so for note that George Norton in 1635 was aged 22---so he was born in 1613. This would leave John Norton, grandson, out as far as being our John of South Carolina, BUT it could be JOHN NORTON the brother of George Norton. It would mean that George Norton of the Barbadoes who died in 1665 not only had a sister Hannah Norton but also an aunt Hannah Norton. This needs a lot of study and more research, but I do think we may be getting somewhere on Norton--and perhaps STANYARNE. The Thomas Ladson who was an "assessor" on the estate of Thomas Fitch is also very interesting because I think John Ladson and Jonthan were kin before they came to Carolina.

The John Ladson of "Benefield" who died in 1681 naming a son, JOHN LADSON, could have been the father of our John Ladson but by that time our John was in Carolina and not living with "the old gray mare" in Benefield. The THOMAS LADSON who died in "Weldon" in 1679 would have died the same year that John came to Carolina----But apparently he died single. He mentioned "his kinsman" John Ladson but did not indicate that this John was in Carolina. This will was signed in 1675---maybe before our John Ladson left England, BUT if this be correct the John Ladson who married Anne Beard and Susannah Moseley in the Barbadoes in early 1660s is NOT our John Ladson. This Thomas was married to a WIDOW who had children by a previous marriage. Note th ~~anne~~ JACKSON as associated with this Thomas Ladson. We know that John Norton and ORIGINAL JACKSON were close kin in some way, and I have always thought that George Norton married a Jackson, a sister of Original Jackson who came with John Norton to Carolina and was in business with him.

I think I will write to the young man you mentioned in your letter, and let Miss Pledger go since she will apparently have to "sub let" my work, and she

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acts only as a supervisor. That I do not need. I will write the young man mentioned and see what he can do with some of the Fitch and Norton items as well as Ladson and Stanyarne.

Please know that I am very grateful to you, and that I hope to meet you in the not so far distant future. My sister married a Nashville boy and we visit them often---or we did before they divorced, but we all are still very friendly. Margaret and I have many friends in Nashville and enjoy visiting there. I also have a cousin in Knoxville---a Dentist or a specialist in the field---Frank Bowyer. I have never known him well since we grew up far apart, and it was our grandparents who were close. I do not even know if I have spelled his name correctly. It may be Bowyer. He is related to me on the Coursey side of the family. That is on my Mother's side of the house.

I will close for this time, but will let you hear from me as soon as I get further information. I will send you the Kent, Lydd and Chatham items if they are of any interest at all. I think I told you that my wife bought me the LADSON Coat of Arms one year back in 1943 for a Christmas⁹⁴. I would have frowned upon it if I had known in the beginning, for I do not think it is in order to buy something that you do not know that you own. Cousin Isabel Ladson of Charleston often told me we had no arms since we were Quakers. but Margaret found one and it is a beauty----says on the back that the Ladsons were "of Kent and Sussex origin". That conflicted with Northamptonshire---so I discounted the fact that they were of any value. But now Miss Pledger says that there were Ladsons in Kent, and that there are several late wills recorded there after 1700.

Many thank again----and I remain---

Sincerely,
Jack Ladson.

(May 26, 1964)