

WILLINGHAM

Christmas 1981

Dearest Cousins —

Am ashamed of myself for not writing you all long ago as I wanted to do — but I wanted to write you a long letter and at leisure and kept putting it off hoping ^{for that} kind of opportunity that just never came! So — please forgive me — it's been a hectic year.

Hiley and I loved meeting you two dear ones and thoroughly enjoyed the Reunion. Am hoping like everything that we can make it in '82 — have always wanted to visit Savannah, Beaufort and Hilton Head and this would be my opportunity if we can do it. Everything's getting so expensive. Will you clue me in when you have the chance on where we might stay for several days that would not be prohibitively expensive and that we could make day trips from to all those places? Surely would appreciate it — when my cousin (Ethel St. Dominic) and I go to Cedar we stay in a private home where we also are given a light breakfast — and it's so much nicer than those stale, cigarette, smelling motel rooms!! She and I made a very quick trip to Cedar in Oct. — only staying two days. While at Augustus Society met two men by chance who turned out to be cousins of mine — George Forster and Edwin Nicell. I think Edwin might help me straighten out my elusive, mixed up Cedar line that I'm trying so desperately to clarify if possible.

And, when I got home and looked thru my new copy of OF to I was really thrown for a leap when I came to the Addenda in the back on Joseph T'hem, etc. That was all new to me and I'm not completely convinced of it. The only one of those three Cousins living is Cousin Pasalie T'hem in Mexico and she is senile now and doesn't remember anything for Leaden Payne has questioned her. Bob Hillingham's Aunt (by marriage) was also one of them and her son in Tenn. has her papers in a trunk on his back porch Bob says !! Anyway - they never documented it. I just can't accept that Winningham and Willingham were interchangeable but perhaps that's my ignorance - for they did do seemingly funny and unreasonable sounding things back then. Think I could spend an indefinite length of time in Chain to research these things til I've done all I know to do and have looked into all available sources. Guess that would take a longer life time than I've got !! While at the Salley Archives in Orangeburg, S.C. showed me a rare book he has (handwritten) and I guess only one of two or possibly three in existence (my cousin David Matthe-Jensen at S.C. Hist. Soc. told me that they have one) It was a property tax list of landowners before 1770 - or thereabouts - in the Chain area and on it was one Edward Willingham ! Who RE? Oh - so many mysteries to be solved - I expect it will be in the millennium before many of them are known!

When I arrived home I found I had two copies of The Proprietors of Caroline instead of the one I bought but I'll just pay you for the second one and give it to Ethel if you'll let me know how much I owe you for I don't remember the price. And - I didn't have the copy of the old Willingham Home Place in Lena that I had

perchance so please save me one of these! Can't imagine what happened to cause this mixup -

Expect this Christmas will be a rather sad and subdued one for us as Thilly's sister Ruth died of cancer last Sunday. Now Thilly is the only child of his immediate family - he lost his older sister, Lib, to a brain tumor twenty-eight years ago, then his only brother, Jess, died of lung cancer twenty-two years ago - and six months later his wife also died of cancer and their only child also succumbed to it some years later! So sad - do hope Thilly never has it and I don't believe he will for he never smoked cigarettes as all of them did.

Our oldest daughter, Camille, will have double hip surgery next month. She developed rheumatoid arthritis twenty-eight years ago following the mumps. The Lord has so graciously healed her of the arthritis about a year ago but not before it completely destroyed the cartilage around her hips - thus the acute need for surgery unless He chooses to sovereignly perform a replacement miracle which He might do - P.T.L.!! Anyway, please hold her in your prayers that His perfect will may be performed in her. Thanks so much -

Do hope this finds you both hale and hearty and all set for the most blessed of holidays. Believe your dear Matthew had a

birthday on the first - our daughter Emily's
birthday (36th) also and that of my Grand-
mother, Ollie Trannamaker Izlar. Would
love to meet your Mother when we get
down that way next spring, I hope!

Anyway, Happy Holidays and the
enclosed is just a small remembrance
in appreciation of all you've done for me
and helped me with - I really appre-
ciate it. God bless - we love you all.

Devotedly,
Lemille
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