

March 1, 1987

Dear Cousin Robert Peoples,

Recently, a cousin gave me a copy of your article on the Grimball Plantation Journal. Then, another cousin gave me her copy of Kith and Kin on loan, and I saw where Carolyn Harrell referred to your work. Now, I have your address from the Reunion papers mailed to me, so I want to write you and thank you for everything you've done to make public the details of family history as you have.

My mother Lucille Willingham and my father David Buckner of Ridgeland, S.C. met and married in Rock Hill, S.C. Apparently they were unaware that they were cousins. However, they shared double lines of descent from Pierre Robert, Jr. and single lines from Elias Jaudon and Sarah Chouin (Mrs. Willingham, and later Mrs. E. G. Jaudon). They ^(my parents) were divorced, and I later discovered the kinship links when reading a copy of Our Family Circle given me by the late Mrs. A. M. Graham (Ellene Estes Graham, granddaughter of A. Broadus Estes and wife Cornelia Willingham)

of Rock Hill. Dad had told me his maternal grandparents were Howell Wall and Grace Perry, and that he and she were both (Dad and his mom) one of seven children. The list, on p. 207, ^(Our F. Cir.) said that they ^(Howell + Grace Wall) had 7 children, but listed only five. The date of birth, however, given for the child Elizabeth, is the same as that of my grandmother, who was Martha Secilia Wall. This date appears on her tombstone in Ridgeland Town Cemetery, where she rests beside her husband, my paternal grandfather W. O. Buckner. Only one of the children of this couple remains alive. He is Walter Vernon Buckner of Shulerville, S.C. He is now 78, but his mind has failed just a bit recently. I knew my grandmother's sister, Great Aunt Cora Wall Beach, and I attended the funeral of her daughter, Lt. Comdr. Grace Beach of the U. S. Navy Nurses Corps, in Ridgeland many years ago.

The reason I'm writing you this is in the hope that if the Miller genealogy is ever again republished, that the names of Eugene Wall and Martha Secilia Wall may find their places along with their five siblings.

my father David had never heard of the family book and never mentioned any of the Robert, Jaudon, Chovin, or other ancestors to me, but had mentioned the Walls, Perrys, Heapes, and Buckners. He was the youngest child, and didn't know much family history, but I later learned that his oldest brother, Wm Bert of N. Augusta, had told his children about the "Landgrave," and possibly others. It has been just over a year since I learned that my double ancestor Sarah Chovin was a Robert descendent, but I already knew Dad's ancestor E. G. Jaudon was one, and that mother's double ancestor Sarah Lawton (Mrs. Joseph Lawton) was. This came as a bit of a whammy, to mean that my two brothers Graham and Eugene and I go back to Pierre Robert Jr. five ways. It was Virginia Gourdin who enlightened us, and I'd certainly like to meet her.

For your information, I'd like to enclose a few articles of my more immediate family history, for kinship's sake, for identity's sake, and for a bit of acquaintance. My late uncle Thomas Lawton Willingham, Jr. was the 6th Tom Wham in an unbroken line of Tom's. The first four were Thomas

Henry's. But the fourth married his ^{father's} first Cousin, Mildred Lawton. Great great grand father Lawton (Col. Winborn Joseph) left no sons to carry on his name, and Thomas and Mildred named grand father Thomas Lawton Willingham. When he was 14 his father died. He obtained degrees from U. of Ga. at Athens, and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, and served several South Carolina churches as a minister of the Gospel. (Swift Creek, near Hartsville, Graham, near Sumter, Wateree, in Camden, and Park, in Rock Hill, were the main four that I know about). I knew him, and I loved him. After mother's only brother Tom died in 1951, Granddaddy called me "namesake." I was indeed named Thomas Lawton Buckner, after him. My older brother was named for my own father, David.

I hope someday to meet you, dear Cousin, if it pleases God, and if so I can thank you in person. I've wanted to attend a Lawton Reunion, but so far I've been unable. My guess is you're descended from Benjamin F. D. Lawton and Jane Mosse, and from their daughter Charlotte, who married Edward Peebles.

I know of several other minor corrections

to Our Family Circle. I would like to obtain a personal copy of the latest revision. I own no copy at present, although my brother Eugene does. I am divorced. I have a son, 18, Tom L. Jr., who resides with me here in Cary. If you can obtain a copy for me, I'll gladly reimburse you.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas L. Buckner (b. Feb. 28, 1942)

117 N. Lake St
Cary, N.C. 27511
ph. 919-469-5761

May 26th, 1987

Dear Robert —

Long time no hear — you haven't answered my last letter of some time past but I expect you've been too busy as usual! At least, I hope that's the case and that this finds you & Cora both real well & happy.

Well, Hilley & I are planning to come to Reunion this year and are looking forward to seeing you all again. Wish we could come early and have about a week down there like we did the last time but no can do this time. Do hope you two and we can have some time together, however, we will stay 'til Sunday — hopefully 'til that afternoon.

Am just sick over the news of Martha Bailey Burns — bless her. I do hope the good Lord will be most merciful and either heal her or take her home to himself shortly, to receive the greatest healing of all. Poor Alice has had her hands so full — do hope they'll soon find someone to take over Martha's job. Sad —
 There's not much news here tho' ever

had a busy spring. Our Elders had double total hip replacement back in April and is doing well - thank the good Lord. She will have to be on crutches however, until July. Then this fall she'll probably have to have surgery on her right ankle and be back on crutches again for about four months. Please you & Cora keep Camille, Jr. in your prayers - we'll appreciate it.

Emily and family come home from vacation during Holy Week for a nice visit. They accompanied Hilary & me to Harston Salem to attend our lovely and meaningful Moravian Sunrise Service. The weather cooperated and we enjoyed a precious time of worship and fellowship together - then they returned home from there. Since their return home, Gary has learned that he must have gall bladder surgery - probably around 10th of June. So pray for him, too, please.

We've enjoyed a beautiful spring this year and I'm praying that we'll have a nice summer - that it will not be a repeat of last year's. Hilary

is seriously thinking of retiring at the end of this year and that will probably mean a move for us - possibly into the mountains west of I-77 near the Virginia line. Ever since he was ill a year ago he's had some breathing difficulties from time to time - humidity seems to affect him. He finds he breathes easier up there - Also Charlotte has become too big; traffic is horrendous and taxes on our home have almost doubled plus everything else is so expensive. So it looks like we would fare better up there. Anyway, we are looking into it. Hope that, with the Lord's help, we'll make the right decision for it's rather a traumatic one to be making at our ages!! Besides our children, we hate to leave our wonderful church here.

Spent a week recently at my cousin Ethel's in Lake Murray - love the peace and quiet and pace of

life there! Ethel had a lens trans-
 plant in Feb'y and it was time
 for her to get her new glasses
 so I took her down to Columbia
 where we spent a couple of days -
 worked at S. Carolinian Library
 for a day and a half to no avail.
 Need to go to Archives and to S. C.
 Hist. Soc. in Charleston - it's so
 difficult finding data for the
 early years and that's where I am
 on all lines. Am probably going to
 have to give up on some of them
 and, in time, no doubt, will have
 to stop my genealogical work.
 Feel it's good for me in lots o'
 ways, tho' - keeping my mind active
 and alert!

Ethel in I may come down to
 Beaufort to see if we can find any-
 thing on our Meggetts and some
 other lines later in the summer,
 the good Lord willing.
 Guess I'd better close for this
 go round - Looking forward to seeing

you two dear Ones before long.
Much love to you both in God bless-

Devotedly,
Camille
—#—

Two weddings in our family to record with Raceton happenings:

Lynn Willingham Izlar, daughter of Dr. + Mrs. H. LeRoy Izlar, Jr. of Durham, N.C. to Mr. Alfred Robert Cordell, Jr. on Saturday the twenty-fourth of January nineteen hundred eighty seven in Winston-Salem, N.C.

(This was Lynn's second marriage - divorced from Douglas McCarry, sorry to say, and took back her maiden name.) Bob Cordell's Father, Dr. A. R. Cordell, is from Union, S.C. originally best lives in W.-S. and was married to a friend of my sisters'. DeWitt died several years ago.) Lynn was Granddaughter of late Dr. + Mrs. H. LeRoy Izlar -> Camille Beepnead Willingham Izlar.

(over)

Laurel Annette Seibels, daughter
of Mr. & Mrs. John Page Seibels of
Columbia, S. C. was married on Satur-
day, May 23rd, 1987 to Steven Carpenter
Justice of Atlanta, Ga., son of Dr. and
Mrs. Wm. Harold Justice of Indianapolis,
Indiana.

Laurel is the granddaughter of the late
Calder W. Seibels and Mary Page Seibels;
Gt. granddaughter of ^{late} Bertha Willingham
and John J. Seibels all of Columbia.

Sorry I don't have any clippings
to send you of these marriages.