

905 Meadowlark Lane
Stephenville, Texas 76401
January 1, 1984

Dear Cousins,

How delightful to find some more "White" kin with whom I may exchange bits of family history. The White name is almost lost in Texas. My great grandfather, Thomas Richard White, who came to Texas in a covered wagon in 1867 had 8 children (3 girls, 5 boys). Only two grandsons had sons of to carry on the White name. Only one grandson & two granddaughters are still living - but several of us greats. My grandfather, James Thomas White was born in Athens, Tenn in 1863 & died in 1934. My father, Thomas Olon White was born 10 April 1892 & died 13 Feb 1967. I have one sister - Enough of me -

I'm sending two sheets, one on Obekoh & one on the James B Skill family. Each should answer some of your questions. I have been corresponding with Ann Guffey since 1977 and most of this is from her. Her husband was Obekoh's descendant. Bill Guffey of Athens, Tenn, brother to Ann's husband, Charles, read my letter and began writing & we corresponded until his death in August 1981. Bill was a writer and he wrote so many nice letters about our family history which I've kept. I've meant to type them and Jerry

them for my 2 sons and 3 grand children -
 and shall do so soon. Bill also wrote up some
 very interesting stories of historical and family
 interest for the local paper. He sent me a
 copy which I mounted, then had ^{two} zeroed
 for my family etc and returned Bill the
 original and a zero copy in a binder -
 He was very thrilled with that. Some of
 these stories tell of the Countyship of James
 Shell and Luania White, ^{in James} Another of the
 "Mae" or "Crock" McKenzie that married Nancy -
 If you would like, I'll have these 3 zeroed
 and send you. Not all his stories mentioned
 family, but each was very interesting as you
 knew Bill longer and appreciated the story
 of Civil war history and growth of Athens
 Tennessee. The Whites, Lamass, Bonds, ^{father's} ^{side}
 and other families on my mother's side,
 Bradley, came from Tenn. also.

Through Ann Huffer, I met a double
~~great~~ cousin (Bond & Mansell) -
 Mrs Edna Bond Ripley
 Star Route 69 Box 1205
 Inonton, Mo. 63650

Edna has the Mansell family very
 complete, and it is probably through that
 line or the Whites that you may get in
 the D.A.R. I am not a member but can
 prove eligibility through Bond, ^{grandmother} Bradley,
 Austen, Lamb (my mother's side)

I think you may find the Lucinda and Breckensidge in the Whites - I've seen the others and the names do not appear there -

If you learn anything about the Whites other than what I'm sending, I would be happy to share in it. I have the Thomas Richard White family complete and will share that if you want that much.

Ann sent me pictures of the tombstones of James and Lucinda Shell & James Shell's mother & the Guffeys & ^{Whites} and pictures of the family back to 1911. The family home burned so all old family pictures and probably the family Bible was burned. The County Court house burned twice, destroying many records.

Since James Shell's father was a Cherokee Chief, you might get records that way.

The tombstones were put up for Obediah and Patsy White ~~did~~ before Bill Guffey died. I contributed to the cost and so did Edna Bond Ripley. The typewritten sheet you have is one I typed from what I got Bill Guffey to write and a little I added on my own.

Later investigations Bill and family did caused some changes in dates about their records. Joe Johnston lives about 25 miles from me. He has copied a lot of my records, but we haven't compared in about two years. His mother Luna is a granddaughter of Thomas Richard. Luna was born Mar 24, 1901, married Dec 26 1942 and Joseph Raymond Johnston was born July 22, 1944 - A shock to everybody. Joe never married (I doubt he ever dated a girl) - takes care of his cows - & mother.

I helped get him started on family history and the bug really bit him. I guess I'll need to go to Santo and see what he has found.

Bill says one of the Whites was Governor of Virginia. Another moved to Chicago and became wealthy as his land was bought for city expansion. There seemed to be no travel between Chicago & Tenn, Texas & Tenn, or elsewhere according to records. Those were years of great financial difficulty after the Civil War. I know the Whites in Texas had it rough. My mother came to Texas from Southern Illinois in 1910 to teach school. Met my father & married. They moved to Denton in 1926 to educate their 2 daughters. I graduated from College at age 17 and went to East Texas to teach where I met my husband. Now well I remember the Depression days - I helped pay my grand father's burial expenses in 1934. I had been buying them clothes, food & medical help. I married May 26, 1934 John Vester Laird. He died of Pancreatic Cancer 9 Feb 1976.

I taught school 28 years, reared 2 sons and am looking after all my property and spoiling my grandchildren in addition to serving as president of Brownwood District United Methodist Women 4 years and am in second year as Treasurer of same district. I also complain of the usual aches & pains of 70 years - I've rambled too much -

I was so happy to hear

Love,
Lillie Ruth Laird