

10-12-84

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Peoples

Will try to comment on your observations of 3 generations of Milams 1725-1869, and make some conclusions of my own based on documented research. Genealogy is like laws - not worth a foot unless proven facts.

I am so glad the Carolina Genealogist published John Milam's will. I wish I'd had this 30 years ago when aged and experienced researchers were trying to solve this puzzle of John's demise. But using my own books which I have purchased over the years from the Virginia Tax Lists 1782-85 which were published to replace the destroyed 1790 census I find in Halifax Co. 1782 Dudley Milam 3 whites, 0 blacks - 6th name below Bartlett. Guinn 4 whites, 0 blacks (no doubt close relative of Eliz. Guinn Milam, wife of Bartlett Feril Milam), 5 names below Guinn John Milam 4 white, souls - 0 slaves. 5 names below John was Benjamin Milam 1 white, 0 black, and 2 names below Benjamin was John Milam, senior 4 whites, 0 blacks.

Then in Halifax Co. 1785 was Bartlett Guinn 5 whites, no dwelling (agent probably), 1 other dwelling. 72 names below Guinn was Bartlett Milam 10 white souls, 1 dwelling, 0 other building. Next to Bartlett was Benjamin Milam 1 white soul, 1 dwelling, 0 other Bldg. 2nd name below Benjamin was Thomas Milam 3 white souls

o dwelling, 1 other building (which means Thomas owned no home), but probably had a wife & one other person in his household, but had <sup>one</sup> another building, a barn or something like that. Then about 100 families from Thomas was Grace Chumley ~~5~~ <sup>5</sup> white souls, 1 dwelling, 2 other bldg. & next to Grace (who was Grace Milam (Myron) married Chumley in Mannikin Town, Goochland Co, Va in 1750's) was James Milame 1 white soul, 1 dwelling, other bldg. The known sons of Samuel & Martha (Gardner) Milam were John 1725, Thomas 1727, and Archibald 1729. Known sons of John who moved from Brunswick Co. where John II was born to Halifax Co. (John Milam <sup>who left a</sup> pension file from Madison Co. Ala. to National Archives) were Samuel, Bartlett, John, Benjamin, Thomas, and James. No doubt there were girls too Grace and Nancy must have been 2 of them. Grace had another child Daniel <sup>Chumley</sup> possibly who was married in family near Grace.

In hired researcher in Halifax Co., I was told that the land on Bradley Creek (or maybe forks of Bradley Creek altho a section, if memory is right) was just sand and very unproductive. Therefore I have felt that maybe John left that region since he was not listed in the 1787 tax list and neither was Samuel ever listed in this tax list, nor John II, 1787

I felt they left Halifax Co. and first possibly went down into North Carolina where Adam Melan left a will in Warren Co. naming sons Lewis, John, Relling, Drury, and James who most all later moved to Tennessee.

Adam surely could have been a son of Thomas who married Mary Adams & left will Bedford Co. Va.

filed Mar. 27, 1795 (which book I have) naming wife Mary and Solomon and Rush, but there were several other children, also I have read

that Mary Adams was related to Dr. Benjamin Rush the doctor of fame at Valley Forge in Gen. Washington's time and Archibald Melan's son Moses Scott Melan (Rev. soldier)

mar. Elij. ("Patti") Boyd & moved from Bedford Co. Va. to Madison Co. Ky on County warrant named a son Benjamin Rush Melan - killed at Alamo, Tx.

San Antonio. I have copy of letter written 1802 by Moses Grandson naming Moses children. Jordan is thought to be a son of Thomas but so far not proved.

Now John's will 6-3-1789 giving "bed and furniture to Hannah Basdell" during her lifetime & to gr. dau. Mary Ireland at her decease. Hannah made her mark "H" in one of the 3 witnesses of John's will which proves she was not a legal heir as that is against "conflict of interest" law in wills. But she must have been very close to the family - possibly a sister to John or a daughter of Judith by a previous marriage. There was only one such family named in all Va tax lists: Beverley Basdell 1782

Pittsylvania Co. 3 whites + 3 blacks.

Then in N.C. Mecklenburg Co. Reuben Bassdill  
1 male 16+ up, 3 males under 16, 3 free white females,  
0 other free persons, 3 slaves. only family named Bassdill

in N.C. I am now reminded that one  
correspondent years ago sent me a record

that Benjamin Milam left Laurens Co. S.C.  
after 1790 and "went back" to Pittsylvania  
Co. Va. where other Milams lived and married  
in to family of Peter Milam - son + dau. of each.

If you look at a map, you will see that  
Mecklenburg Co. N.C. and York Co. S.C. have a  
common border and Reuben Bassdill and  
John Milam could have been neighbors  
and Warren Co. N.C. had a common border  
with Brunswick and Mecklenburg Counties  
Va. (I am confused now - was John<sup>III</sup> born at Lynchburg, Va. <sup>or Brunswick</sup>?)

John<sup>III</sup> married 3 times - once to a Clardy (several so named  
families in Halifax Co.). I'm sure John, Sr. must have  
been living in York Co. S.C.

In the 1790 census of York + Laurens Co. I  
believe Benjamin Milam<sup>2<sup>am</sup></sup> + <sup>-am</sup> are one and  
the same and Judith the mother was living  
with Benjamin and the slave was the  
regro girl willed to Judith 1789.

The 1790 census of Thomas over 16 and 2 white  
males under 16 + 3 females could not have  
been Coleman and John for I have Tenn  
census 1850 of all Milams in state + John 1830

was born 1790-1800. He was in Franklin Co. 1830  
 + b. 1830-40 with Coleman b. 1840-50. 1850 John lists  
 his age as 55, wife Mary 50, Sally 18, Malinda 15,  
 Mary 13, Saminda 12, Margaret D. 10 John b. Va. &  
 Mary b. S.C. - Giles Co. TN. They had one boy already  
 gone - I think this was either Ashford B. or  
 James Morrow who were in Hardin Co 1850.

William A. (Allen?) was in Wayne Co. TN.  
 1850 <sup>age</sup> 35, Caroline 29, Martha 11, Susannah 9,  
 Mary 6, Sarah 1, D.N.C. + wife D. TN. (That  
 should have been D.C. as birth place, but Coleman not  
<sup>I think</sup> listed 1810.

Coleman had Thomas F. (Farrel) or Ferrel  
 or Feril (?), ~~1810~~ <sup>1814-15</sup>, William A., Elizabeth  
 marr. Saxson or Sanson - I have big original  
 sheets photo of Census - Hardin Co. I examined the  
 original 6/6, Charles ~~Saxon~~ Sanson -  
 was transcribed "Sanson", but could have  
 been "Saxson". both 32 he b. <sup>TN</sup> ~~N.C.~~ + she ~~b. TN~~ <sup>(I think error)</sup>  
 Sarah Milam 13 (Elij. could not read or write)

The 2 in bracket as born 1820-25 I don't  
 know if Ashford B. b. 1830 or James Morrow  
 b. 1821 or 22. I have his Bible records from Snowball,  
 Ark. In 1880 Searcy Co. Ark. Calf Creek Twp. on  
 P. 486 J. M. Milam 52 - farmer b. Ala. fa. b. D.C. mo. b. S.C.

Julia L. (White) <sup>D.R.</sup> (2 wife) 40			
Frederic D. 18	Tenn	Ala.	Ala.
Thomas 16			
Nancy E. 6	Ark.	"	"

James M. Milam d. 1901  
Athens, Ark. Pope Co. I believe  
he had 15 chn. and  
~~James~~ Cornelius (nearly) had 30  
by 2 wives.

On page 298 Cornelius (Coleman) Milam, (James son) <sup>v.R.</sup>  
 28 farmer Tenn Tenn Tenn. <sup>v.R.</sup>  
 Jerusha A. 33 wife Ark. " " (nee McDaniel)  
 Mary A. 7 dau. " " ark.  
 Wm H. 6 son " " "  
 Martha J. 4 dau. " " "  
 Susanna 2 " " "  
 Harriet J. 1 " " "

Gardner Co. 1870 Tenn.

#28 James M. Milam Tenn. (This is James Morrow, Jr.  
E.A. 27, M.E. 6 F., M.J. 4 F., Wm M. 1/2 male. (This wife  
died & he gave chn. away in Tenn. came to Ark. & mar. again,  
reared a family & d. in Okla.)

#127. Rufus Milam 34 Ala.

Martha 33 Tn. James. 4 Tn, Belle 2, Wm. Bowen 14,  
Francis Bowen 10, Mary Jane 7. (These last 3 were  
Martha Poindexter Bowen Milam's chn. by her husband  
whod. in Civil war, mar. Rufus Kendrick (or Kindred) Milam  
oldest son of Thos. F. & they divorced after moving to Ark. 1880

(Rufus &  
Frank Milam  
& Harris paid  
moved  
together  
1880.)

at time Wm + Martha Harris are said to have moved  
in same caravan. Then Rufus called "Buck" went back  
to Coffee Co. Tn. & mar. widow Betty Meeks who had child already  
& they had 1 called "Memphis Appeal Avalanche"  
came back here, then moved back where he  
died & Betty asked for pension on his dad. (which I have papers of)  
again. I don't know what became of Bowen  
children. I have never found out. Martha moved to Texas  
near Paris ←

As I started to say Coleman had 5 sons & 3 daus.  
 by 1840. ① Thomas F. <sup>1870</sup> 2. Wm A. <sup>1815</sup> Elizabeth 1818,  
 Ashford <sup>1820</sup> or James Morrow 1822, <sup>1822</sup> Pleasant  
 Coleman John's son was born 1820-25, to Martha  
 1824-25, Pleasant Coleman (?) 1827-28 Georgia, Albert G.  
 1829 Tenn, Sarah 1832-33 Tw.

Pleasant Coleman Milam went to Mo., married, then  
 went to Lapile Twp, Union Col. then to La. where he  
 died young. I remember hearing that one of Thomas  
 Milam's brothers went down near Texarkana and  
 I asked Belle Harris Shaw's daughter & sons if they  
 knew any names they remembered their  
 Grandma Harris speaking of and Etta who was not  
 very bright said "yes, she spoke of Brother Thomas,  
 Brother William, Brother Pleas, and Sister Sarah."  
 I asked her if she remembered hearing sister  
 Elizabeth & she said "No."

#159 Sarah A. Milam marr Stewart Gammell (Gammell)

was 52-1870 - Sarah A. 38, Alva. 12, Columbus ~~10~~, 10

Noah 7, Willis 4, Eliza 2, Lucy Milam 2.2,  
 Now Lucy was 1 in 1850 living with James James  
 family living 1 house from Coleman Milam.

I wondered if she Lucy (Nancy L.) was dau  
 of Albert G. living with Martha & Wm C. Harris  
 who were next door to Thomas F. Milam, & his young wife  
 died? Milams had T. B.

(Bro. to Margaret  
 Salina's Mead)

1870

#15 J. C. (Jesse Coleman) Milam 21, Nancy 17, Martha 12 - This was Ashford & Rosa's son.

#157 Andrew Holt 40-Tn. Matilda 34 (nee Milam, but I forget where I found her), Sarah 12, Louisa 10, Martha 6, Mary 3. John Milam 12. I think this John was James Morrow's son as several of their 15 chn(?) were "farmed out" for others to rear.

#19 Thomas Franks 34 Tenn. Clarissa 38 (She was a Milam, but I don't know whose?) John 27, William 13, Amanda Milam 19. This last was Coleman's dau. next to Rachel the youngest.

I did have Rachel the youngest of those 6 chn. of Coleman's by his last wife. Imagine a man fathering 6 chn. after 63 years old.

1. Jesse L. (bet Lorenzo), Frances J. (Jane), Dickey Ann, Doreas C., Amanda C. and Rachel.

Bartlett Milam went from Halifax Co. Va. to Laurens S. C. 1796 when land recorded sold.

I don't know any wives of J. Coleman Milam but thought one may have been a white as Thomas named 2nd dau. Malinda White & was always called White. Coleman probably had 14 chn.

Did you find a record as you stated "1830 census Franklin Co. Tenn. : Mrs.

James Morrow Milam 1st. Doreas Rebecca Harris, full blood Cherokee Indian; and Julia L. White.



Elizabeth (Talbot, widow of Thomas) Milam,  
next door to her step-son Coleman Milam."

I have an Elizabeth Milam near Coleman  
and John in Franklin, but no definite  
proof she was Thomas Milam's wife. I also  
think Thomas was born after 1757 as he  
had no Rev. War record that I could find.

Of course many may have served & not been later  
listed as 2 times in records destroyed the  
militia records, all but Continental Line  
which was few besides the many; and then  
the British 1814 burned the Capitol & more lost.

But her nor Eliz. neither seem to have applied  
for a pension, and if Eliz. was eligible & if she  
in Coffee Co in 1850's & on pauper list, she  
should have. Now I have "hear-say record"  
that Thomas Milam died in or near Berntow, Ga.

1825. I think Thomas must have had about 10 chn.

I believe the Thomas Milam b. ca 1800 lived in  
Ga. died in 1830's leaving wife & children among  
whom were twins Riky & Wiley <sup>was son of Thos.</sup> Wiley was g. fa. of  
Wiley Blen Milam of Ga. d. 1-1-1950 & searched so long  
for his gr. gr. fa. to prove his line. But I have  
copies of his daughter's records her father left  
and no proof was given. I was so-so surprised  
for I felt sure Thomas Jr. was their <sup>(uncle)</sup> father & Thos. Sr.  
g. fa. of Thos. Jr. & Elizabeth.

I have about 60 pages of his line, but no proof of anything beyond the twins + siblings).

In 1830 Elizabeth had an ~~older~~ <sup>younger</sup> female and 2 young boys 5-10 and 15-20 with her.

She had 2 families between her + Coleman.

I don't have census of S.C. but I believe those McBrides tie into Milams somehow, but no

proof. John Saxton lived in Franklin Co. Tn. 1830

and I believe I found where Jesse Saxton lived

in family with John Milam in 1860 - Giles Co. Tn.

but would have to look it up as memory may be wrong. In 1830 Jesse Saxton was in Bedford Co. Tn,

which joins Franklin Co.

Thomas and some of his children left Laurens Co. S.C. between Dec. 1819 and

census of 1820. I bet he left with John T.

in 1819, <sup>John T.</sup> left in Madison Co. Ala., but I do not

know if he went directly to Ala. 1819 or went in "relays"

Master Roll of Capt. Benj. Cherry - The <sup>in roll</sup> both is not Jesse Saxton, but that is an old fashioned S, I bet. There are 2 Bells -

John M. T. + Thomas G. I sure would like to know the relationship to my James Bell b.

1775 in N.C. Jr. of my Margaret (Amanda) Bell Milam b. Mar 24, 1815 wife of Thos J. Milam.

I bet Charles & James Saxon or Saxton were sons of Jesse of Bedford Co. just across Franklin Co. line.

I wonder if "Willy" was William Milam "Willie" or Wiley who could be Coleman's nephew, son of Thomas II.

I see James Smith. He was grandson of my Jeremiah Smith & Margaret (Montgomery) Smith grandparents of Margaret Amanda Bell Milam who was dau. of Margaret Smith & James Bell. (I have 1823 will of Jeremiah Smith naming wife & chn.)

Do you have records of the land lotteries of Ga.? They were 1803, 1806, 1819, 1827, & 1832. Maybe Milams went to get in on lotteries starting 1819 as they were a big drawing card to settlers. Be in state 1 year & draw up to 400 acres of land. These are in office of Sec. of State, Atlanta, Ga. 30303 I think. I got them on my gr. gr. fa. Geo. Bosley for 1806, I believe it was. They went from Louisa Co. Va to Ga., 1803. Jackson Co. Ga.

There was another Co. of Volunteers in 1837 - Joseph Motley Carter's group mustered in at Ross's Landing. He was son of James Carter from Halifax Co. Va. son of John Carter. My line John & Mary - Carter - to Rev. soldier James Carter & Amy Motley (dau. of Joseph Motley <sup>Rev. Soldier</sup> & Martha Ellington)

Pittsylvania Co. Va) → Susannah Carter Pendergrass b. 1825  
 Tenn., and Jason Pendergrass (son of James + Nancy -  
 Lendergrass) <sup>N.C. Penn. 1820</sup> → Jane Pendergrass Hoyle + James  
 Milton Hoyle (son of Thomas Hoyle + - Cooper dau. of  
 Nancy) → Susan Emaline Hoyle Milam & Lucas  
 Coleman Milam (son of Thomas I + Margaret Amanda  
 Bell Milam) → Joseph Lafayette Milam & Henrietta  
 Burcham Milam (dau. of Abijah Burcham & Susan Hiley  
 Crossland) → Vera Estella Milam Ryker -  
 I have my Carter line back complete to  
 Giles 1637 Henrico Co. Va. friend of James Crows  
 who willed Giles, his wife & chn. most of his  
 property when his "neck was stretched" because  
 he lost on side of Bacon's rebellion - Bacon  
 another of my relatives on cousin's side -  
 Abigail Smith whose mother was a Bacon in Eng.

Did you quit this a mile back? But I have tried  
 to answer all your questions to the best of my  
 knowledge. I have so much research proved but unorganized.  
 I worked on the farm, widow with a big herd of cattle, cut  
 + baled my own hay + fed + cared for cattle until I  
 have'nt killed myself - broken down like the "old  
 one horse shay" went along for years + broke all at  
 once. Nov 78 - Sept. 9. And am so slow, I just  
 wonder if I will ever get my lines written up  
 for printing. I have a nephew Dr. Carl Max Milam

retired University <sup>Pres.</sup> (Pres.), but I think <sup>he</sup> could <sup>not</sup> care less for genealogy. His sister's dau. teaches law at University of Ark. May raise registered Arabian horses now.

I hope you can make some sense of this. Maybe Georgia archives will turn up something on Thomas Milam or records of S.C. revealed will of John Milam, Sr. Since Thom. was administrator of John, he should know importance of a will, especially if he had any property in Georgia. John II, named all his chn. He had a son Hilary who was muscular & was a "fighter". When I got this will Mrs. Lawton was happy to add dau. Cinderella to her list <sup>of John's</sup>, she did not have. But I feel he had children <sup>who</sup> moved away that he did not name - just a theory & no proof. Coleman had land, too, when he died.

A new book of Cemeteries of Garden Co. Tex. has just been compiled, but for the few names I could recognize, I rather pay a researcher as busy it - expensive!

Crime! Crime. Listening to news. A man murdered about 7 miles so. of me - Rufus "Bo" Soller just south of Mt. Hope Community off 23 highway. Murdered by escaped murderer-criminal from Calif. Tues. last week & buried in his barn. Grand Sat. & John Johnston

the murderer caught yesterday at Del City, Okla.  
 & bringing him back from <sup>to</sup> Booneville, Ark.  
 Two other murders in this section of Ark. hold tonight.  
 I live here alone, I ~~had~~ sold 98 head cattle  
 in Aug. or practically gave them away - not  
 enough to pay production cost. But I am on  
 cane or crutch part of time.

Best wishes. I have my trial set for Dec. 6 -  
 Preacher - so-called - says my cattle in his melons  
 destroyed 12,000 - 140 tons. I don't think a one mine.  
 A man bought 1200. From 1200+ acres where farmers are  
 pasturing & planted terraces to melons without  
 fencing his  $\frac{3}{8}$  mile from 1100+ a. My land was  
 fenced but ~~one~~ 2 of his dead trees fell across my  
 fence at north end, but no sign of cattle crossing  
 it. He has lied & lied. I have 368.15 a. this hill land  
 & he thinks he'll "rip me off". I hope my St. Smith  
 lawyer can defeat the dirty 20B. I did not see  
 more than \$100<sup>00</sup> at most damage -

Sincerely,  
 Vera -

Sorry this is such a mess. (But had 2  
 strokes & 1 heart attack).