

8 Moon Shell Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928
19 Nov 1984

Dear Mr. Hart,

Your regards have been delivered to John & Nelle who are life members of our Historical Society, John Gettys being Chm. of our Founder's Day Committee to celebrate 28 Sep 1663 when Captain Wm Hilton first saw our Island and fixed his name on the headland from which the entire Island takes its name. John told me that your grandfather moved to York after the War of Northern Aggression, bearing the distinguished name of George Washington Seabrook Hart, very much a part of Our Family Circle, p. 107, which surely means we have several bloodlines in common. My grandparents appear pp.285 & 361; we have both Grimbald & Seabrook connections although I don't have the blood of either. I joined the Society of First Families of S. C. on descent from Landgrave Thomas Smith and would like so much to have you as a member of same if you will allow me the honor of sponsoring you. Actually, our cousin Camille Crouse has often quoted you as one on whose scholarly research we can depend.

Thank you most sincerely for replying to my letter to York Co. Probate Judge. In talking with John Gettys I learned that the York equity records had been preserved and filed, some not now as accessible as formerly to casual researchers. Only recently have members of the JOHN MILAM (1725-1789) family learned of the existence of his 3 June 1789 Will, DAR records having shown him as "dying in Va. 1788" or "after 1790" (both obviously now shown as erroneous). The will proves at least five children, at least 3 of whom had children born in Laurens Co subsequently. We are all aware of WPAs copying records in the 1930s, their typescripts are so easily read, but "somewhere" those original records which WPA copied must still be filed, at least on microfiche, and because of various "missing" records in Laurens Co equity files, in the case of the MILAM family it is vital that whatever estate settlement papers remain, their contents be studied.

I am deeply sensible, Sir, that I don't really know what I am asking of you, especially since you describe yourself "an amateur genealogist", an appellation which fits me also, but would it be possible for you to send me, at my expense, copies of whatever OTHER Milam records ANTE 1830 are in York Co files?

It transpired that John Milam's Executor, son Thomas Milam (Va.1757-Ga.1823) resided Laurens Co SC 1790-c.1819 where his son Coleman Milam (Va.1781-TN 1869) married (apparently) a daughter of James Leake (do you know who has Leake family records?), served in SC Militia War of 1812, emigrated to Franklin Co TN by 1830, was mustered in Capt. Cherry's Co. of Cherokee War Spies 31 Oct 1837, settled in Hardin Co TN ante 1850, dying there 1869. Coleman Milam was gr₂-grandfather of my wife, nee Cora McKenzie, whose paternal gr₂-grandfather was significantly named Francis Marion McKenzie, born NC 1819. The Swamp Fox had many admirers, especially among those who fought with him for freedom.

It will be a pleasure to hear from you, Sir. With every good wish I have the honor to remain

Faithfully,

Robert +

Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples

Nov. 24, 1984

Many thanks for your most interesting letter. I found no other Milams in York county records.

For some strange reason, my mother's family is also included in OUR FAMILY CIRCLE (p. 416 ff.). She was Marie Moore Hart, son of Walter Bedford and Annie Lee (Adickes) Moore.

I have Grimball and Seabrook blood, butnot a trace of JENKINS. My friend Sophie (Seabrook) Jenkins of Wadmalaw says that is hard to believ, but true.

Sorry not to be able to help with the Milam family, but, as you know, they left York County. I certainly appreciate your offer to sponsor me for membership in the Society of First Families, but do not come from Landgrave Thomas Smith, nor any other such notable, as far as I know.

Joseph E. Hart, Jr.
3 Kings Mountain St=
York, SC 29745