

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH
SEWANEE, TENNESSEE

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

January 3, 1963

Dear Mr. Peeples:

I was so delighted to receive your letter today. I was so discouraged when I wrote you, I felt perhaps the task was hopeless... now I feel better and think perhaps we will be able to accomplish something and I shall be extremely happy if I can be of help.

I have been going through the books our small University Library has on South Carolina and Dr. McCrady (our Vice-Chancellor whose family has long been associated with Charleston) has been of some help in lending me Edward McCrady's "South Carolina In the Revolution" (the Library copy is in our Archives and cannot be taken out). I know it is a very unsatisfactory way to proceed, but I have been going through the books I can find, page by page, trying to find references to the Miles family and have come across the following:

History of the Old Cheraws, by Gregg (p. 616) relates the story of people from Wales who settled in Pennsylvania near Philadelphia and formed what was called the Welsh Tract Church (Baptist) some of them migrated to the Pedee section of S.C. and from the record of Samuel John, the pastor, is found:

..."In 1709 were added..... and from Pennepek David Miles and Alce (Alice?) Miles"....

Ibid, p. 619:

..."We had many meetings in order to compromise matters, but to no purpose till June 22, 1706 when 25 deputies met at the house of Brother Richard Miles in Radnor...."

The South Carolina Back-Country (Woodmason), edited by Richard J. Hooker (p. 180) refers to a "Mr. Miles" who was imprisoned for burning the house of an infamous person; petition was filed by responsible citizens and Lt. Governor Bull pardoned Mr. Miles. (I have written the S.C. Historical Library and am informed that the first name of this Mr. Miles is not recorded). The account may be found in 72 S.C. and Am. Gen. Gaz. Dec 17, 1768.
the

History of Old Cheraws, p. 411 there is a list of those from the Pedee who took part in the Revolution:

..."Miles, William, private in 1782".

South Carolina During Reconstruction (Simkins & Woody) p. 354:

"South Carolina writers on religious subjects stood well among their Southern associates. In addition to Bachman, there were _____, _____, James Warley Miles, an Episcopalian.....

In McCrady's South Carolina In the Revolution, p. 711, there is a reference to John Miles hung at Camden by Cornwallis.

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If you think this sort of research would be helpful, I shall be more than glad to go through everything our Library has and send you what I am able to find.

I am today writing my mother and hope she can give more detailed information. Unfortunately, my mother and her older, invalid, sister seem to be the only close ^{living} relatives I have descended from the Miles family. My great-grandfather, Alexander Miles, served as an officer in the Confederate Army and I would like to know to whom I might write in Washington and perhaps get further information about him. My mother says as a small child she can remember sitting on her grandmother's knee and listening to stories about the experiences of her grandfather (Alexander Miles) during the Civil War; she also remembers hearing her grandmother tell about riding to Columbia and waiting outside the Governor's office for two days to get an audience with him and recover her favorite slave, taken away by the Union Army (according to the story, she got him back!) She also related visiting her cousin, Robert E. Lee, but how the relationship comes about my mother is not sure. She was such a small child and only vaguely remembers these as stories often repeated when she was growing up. We are also related to Francis Marion and the Meigs family in Georgia. Your reference to Aquilla Miles having once lived in Georgia interests me.

Mother also says that all our family's silver was buried so the Union troops would not get it and it hasn't been found to this day as far as we have been able to determine. If I could ever pinpoint where our family's property was at that time, I think I would like to do some digging!!!

Please forgive this messy typing. College opens today and I am trying to type this and answer a stream of questions at the same time. I am hoping this coming summer to spend some time at Ward, S.C., and Edgefield, S.C., and perhaps get some names and dates. Also, my stepfather is at present in the Veterans Hospital in Columbia and by the greatest coincidence there is an old gentleman in the room with him who has done a lot of research on Aquilla Miles, in fact he said he helped a lady recently establish her eligibility for DAR membership through this particular line. He is the one who told me that Aquilla Miles definitely had a son named Alexander and he seemed to think my great-grandfather was the son of the first Alexander Miles. The old gentleman's name is Leonardo Andrea and he taught for 50 years in the public school system in Edgefield, S.C. He was so ill at the time I saw him, I didn't press him for more details, but you might be able to write him and secure further information.

I do thank you for taking time to wade through all this and I shall send you any further information I may be able to get and if you will let me know whether to proceed going through what books we have here, I shall be glad to follow your advice. I don't want to waste the time if it won't be of help to you.

Thank you so much and I do wish you well in getting the Miles genealogy in order. I shall certainly be eager to have information about

(over)

P. O. Box 175
Sewanee, Tennessee

December 4, 1963

The Reverend Mr. Robert E. H. Peeples
Folly Field Beach
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Peeples:

I have been advised by The South Carolina Historical Society in Charleston that you are compiling the genealogy of the Miles family.

I am writing to inquire if you can help my mother and me in reconstructing our family history. The original records were in a family Bible which burned many years ago. My mother and her sisters were quite young at the time and no effort was made then to get information about our family while there were still those living who could furnish it. We now find ourselves with few close living relatives and I am the only grandchild on mother's side of the family. The scant information we have is as follows: My great-grandmother was Frances Ward (from around Ward, S. C.) who married Alexander Miles. (We understand Aquilla Miles had a son named Alexander and we wondered if this could be the same family?). Frances Ward Miles and Alexander Miles had the following children: Mattie, Osee, Fannie, Florence, and a son. (These were the only ones my mother could remember). Their daughter, Florence Miles, married Homer J. McVeigh and they lived in Florence, S. C. Their children were: Ethel McVeigh Hicks, Olive McVeigh Jackson and my mother, Blondelle McVeigh Scroggie. My mother married Robert Brown Scroggie and shortly after I was born in Columbia, S.C., they moved to Elberton, Georgia, where I was reared.

Alexander
Miles

This isn't much to go on, but we would deeply appreciate any assistance you may be able to give us. I am enclosing a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your convenience. Thank you.

Very sincerely yours,

Florence Oates

Florence Scroggie Oates (Mrs. James C.)

P. O. Box 175
Sewanee, Tennessee

January 10th

Dear Mr. Peeples:

I have just heard from my mother and, after conferring with her sister, she has the following information to offer:

Children of Alexander and Frances Ward Miles:

Mattie - married George Meigs; Meigs, Georgia.

Osee - married Cadara Martin, lived near Columbia, S.C.

Fannie - married Willie Cottingham, lived in the Columbia, S.C. area.

Florence - married Homer J. McVeigh and lived in Florence, S.C.

They had a son, but mother said she never knew him and had never known his given name. He had always been referred to only as "Bubber".

It seems ^{that} ~~and~~ Alexander and Frances Ward Miles are buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Columbia (where my father and grandfather are also buried); my grandmother, Florence McVeigh, is also buried there and her sister, Fannie Cottingham also. I am writing the Custodian of the Cemetery to see if he will check their records and get the dates from the markers for me. I don't know whether he will do it or not, but it is worth trying. If he doesn't reply, I will go to Columbia next summer and get them myself.

Mother talked with Mr. Andrea at the hospital since I wrote you last and Mr. Andrea seems rather certain that Aquilla Miles is the grandfather of Alexander Miles (my great-grandfather.) If this is so, it will certainly simplify my search. I would give most anything if we could get Mr. Andrea's history of the family of Aquilla Miles but I don't know whether or not to

try to negotiate this with him at this time because he is so ill. I think I will have mother talk with him and try to determine if he feels well enough to get this together for us and what his fee would be.

I will let you know when I have anything further. Thank you so much for anything you can do to suggest avenues which I might follow.

Sincerely yours,



Mrs. James C. Oates

MRS. JAMES CEDRIC OATES
MISSISSIPPI AVENUE, SEWANEE, TENNESSEE 37375

April 22, 1964

The Reverend Mr. Robert E. H. Peeples
Folly Field
Hilton Head Island, S. C.

Dear Mr. Peeples:

I haven't had time to do any more research in our Library, but I did write and secure the following information regarding my great-grandfather's Confederate Army Service:

i.e.
born
c.1828

MILES, Alexander. Age 34. Pvt., Co. G., 24th Reg., S.C. Inf. Enlisted April 15/62, Columbia, S. C., under Capt. John H. Pearson. On last available roll Aug. 31/64 as present. Not on paroles of Co., May 1/65.

Kennedy!

I have written Washington for a copy of his service record and hope through this to get his father's name. Mr. Andrea said that Aquilla Miles definitely had a son named Alexander ~~and that he had~~ ^{who also had} a son named Alexander and Mr. Andrea said he was fairly certain this was our ancestor. If he is correct in this, it should not be too difficult to establish. Have you the names of Aquilla Miles' children? I wonder if there is a record of the childrens' births in St. Peter's Parish? If you can think of someone to whom I might write to check on this for me, I would appreciate it.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Florence

MRS. JAMES CEDRIC OATES
MISSISSIPPI AVENUE, SEWANEE, TENNESSEE 37375

May 6, 1964

Dear Mr. Peeples:

Thank you - thank you- thank you - for the wonderful information in your last letter. I am sure it will prove to be of tremendous help in our research.

Unless I have misinterpreted the information, it would seem as though there are (at least) three Acquilla Miles! Mother said that Mr. Andrea seemed quite positive that Acquilla's son Acquilla was Alexander's father. I still haven't heard from the search I requested to be made in Washington and am keeping my fingers crossed that Alexander's father's name will be on file there. If I can just determine that his father was Acquilla, the rest should be coasting!

Am sorry I have not answered your letter before this but have just returned from my step-father's funeral. I asked Mother if Mr. Andrea was still in the hospital, but she said he was not and if he went home, I imagine he is with his sister in Edgefield.

No, I don't plan to hire someone to dig the information for me - I think it's more fun to do it myself. I shall not give the information you gave me to anyone except my mother and I shall ask her to guard it also.

By the way, who is, or was, Margaret Miles?

I have been thinking that if Acquilla Miles listed his son Acquilla in his will which was probated in 1801, and my great-grandfather Alexander was 34 when he enlisted in the Confederate Army in April 1862, as far as time is concerned,

it is highly possible we are on the right track.

I shall send you anything else I discover and I do wish
~~you~~ you lots of luck in your work. I do hope I can be of help.
Mother and I both appreciate your great help to us.

I am presently struggling with a badly strained back
and when I feel up to it, shall go to the stacks in the Library
and see what other reference books I can find. Unfortunately, most
of the ones I am most interested in are in the Archives and you
can't check them out. Some evening I plan to go over and study
them at the Library.

Best wishes.

Florence

Excuse this messy typing but
I did it hurriedly and
with "at least" one interruption
per line!

MRS. JAMES CEDRIC OATES
MISSISSIPPI AVENUE, SEWANEE, TENNESSEE 37375

June 20th, 1964

Dear Mr. Peeples:

I have received from the General Services Administration in Washington, photostatic copies of my great-grandfather Alexander Miles's Confederate service record. In addition to the information I had gotten from the S.C. records, Alexander Miles was captured by the Union Forces near Nashville, Tennessee, on December 16, 1864, He was transferred to the Military Prison, Louisville, Kentucky, ~~on~~ ~~at~~ during the five days ending Jan. 5, 1865; he was then transferred to Camp Chase, Ohio, where he was paroled on May 2, 1865. The information, unfortunately, does not give any of his family so I still don't know who his father was although mother insists that he is the son of John Miles, Aquilla Miles's son. I am going to write Mr. Andrea and ask him if he knows and just hope he will give me the information. Incidentally, his address is: 4204 Divine Street, Columbia, S.C., in case you wish to get in touch with him.

I had hoped this summer to get to Ward, S.C., Columbia, etc., and do some research but since writing you last I have injured my ~~back~~ and at the same time developed bursitis in my left hip. I was in the hospital in Nashville and at home for three weeks, and at the moment am wearing a brace which is extremely "hot" and I am not anxious to get off this cool Mountain in hot weather! If it does develop that I do learn anything, I shall surely let you know. I am so anxious to fill in these gaps, but it does appear I shall have ~~to~~ to personally go to Columbia to get the information. I did not get any response from the S.C. Department of Vital Statistics.

One of the Deans for whom I work, Dr. John M. Webb, and his wife are at Hilton Head on vacation. I gave him your name in case he ran across you there. His wife's father was an Episcopal Priest whose last parish was in Asheville, N.C. Her maiden name was Farnum. I believe they were originally from Minnesota.

I hope you are well and that I shall have more information for you later.

Sincerely,

Florence Oates

P.S. Forgive this messy typing - this isn't my typewriter and I've had a bit of trouble getting accustomed to this one.