

HENRY H. W. MILES, M.D.
1434 AMELIA STREET
NEW ORLEANS 15, LOUISIANA

January 10, 1965

Dear Robert -

Since we are related, even if distantly, and have been carrying on such an interesting correspondence, I hope you won't mind it if I use your first name. I have filled out names and dates as well as I can, but some I don't know.

My maternal grandmother, Betty Beirne Miles was born at "Walnut Grove", Union, West Virginia (Monroe County) which was the home of her father Oliver Beirne.

Since my last letter, I found that there were other volumes of my grandfather's diary, going through 1888. From it, I found further information. It seems that John Burnside was a contemporary of Oliver Beirne. It was Andrew Beirne (Oliver's father) who had befriended Burnside as a youth. The diary reports that John Burnside died in 1881 (about July 15th) at the White Sulphur Springs, West Va. and a notice in the (Charleston?) "News & Courier" stated that he had been "the richest man in Louisiana." The will was made public soon after, and the entire estate was left to Oliver Beirne. Later (sometime in 1883) my grandfather moved to Louisiana where he took over the management of the plantation for his father in law, Oliver Beirne. He lived at "Houmas House", Burnside, Louisiana which was the main house of the plantation. It had been owned at one time by General Wade Hampton of South Carolina. It was not until later, about 1892, that my father left Baltimore and came to Louisiana where he joined his father and then after the latter's death

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in 1899 became the head of the family operation which was called "The Miles Planting Company".

I also came across other data about my father. He graduated from the School of Industrial Chemistry of the University of Virginia on 29 June 1887 and received his medical degree from the University of Maryland on 16 April 1890.

It also turns out that Aunt Sally Miles was the eldest of the family - she was born 25 November 1864 (not 1868 as I had thought). All of the children were born at "Oak Ridge", Nelson County, Virginia.

On my mother's side of the family, my grandfather was the Reverend Henry Harcourt Waters who was born in Port Huron, Ontario, Canada. He was an Episcopal minister in New Orleans. My maternal grandmother was May Carroll, was born in New Orleans but had come from a Virginia family.

My brother, William Porcher Miles, III, was born in 1911 (not 1912 as I had said). He married in about 1937 but I don't know the date. He was divorced in 1947 and his first wife (Sudie Eustis) subsequently was killed in an accident. His second wife was Martha McClelland of New Orleans. She had been married to a man named Spencer who was killed in World War II.

By coincidence, my wife's mother's family came from South Carolina. They were named Herndon and still have relatives in Union, South Carolina as well as some in Charleston.

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My sister May married Dr. Samuel Elmore whose mother was Jane Bacote of Charleston. So, somehow, even though we have strayed far from South Carolina, there are still connections. I didn't know all the details of birth dates, etc., for my sisters' children. However, I'm sure if you wrote to them directly, they would be happy to give any information you needed.

Addresses are:

Mrs. Samuel E. Elmore
511 Connecticut Avenue
Spartanburg, South Carolina

Mrs. Edward T. White
"Walnut Grove"
Union, West Virginia

Nancy (Mrs. White) and her husband live in the old house which was Olin Beirne's and operate the farm which has been in the family for quite a long time. Edward, my brother in law, has been quite interested in family history and wrote a paper for the West Virginia Historical Quarterly (I'm not sure if that is the correct title) on Andrew & Olin Beirne. Also, in the cemetery at Union there are a number of Miles' graves as well as other relatives. If you wrote to Nancy and Edward, I'm sure they could give some information which

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would be useful.

My aunt Nancy Durant died when I was rather small and I recall very little about her. However, you could probably get a lot of information from her son by her first marriage, Beirne Chisholm. His address is:

Mr. Beirne Chisholm
Horseshoe (or Horse Shoe?)
North Carolina (I'm not certain)

As you requested, I am enclosing the chart prepared by Langdon Chenes. The original apparently has been lost - this is a photostat, but it is the only one known to anyone in the family. Also enclosed are the "Family Memoranda" of Charles Fraser and a sheet with notations about the Worley family. These are the only family documents that I know of.

I hope these things will prove of some value. As you will note on the chart, the name Sanders appears rather than Saunders. If this is an error, I would appreciate any further clarification you may be able to supply.

With warmest regards to you and Mrs. Peoples,

Sincerely,

Henry