

February 3, 1976

Dear Dr. Peoples,

Thank you for your letter, I am interested in the Mole family history and have some information but unfortunately it doesn't tie in to yours.

We are descended from Frederick Mole (born 1778, died 4-14-1842) who married Mary Magdalene Vann. From one source I have she was born 1786 and died in 1854 and from another she was born in 1787 and died 4-17-1856. We are descended from their son Jacob who married Sarah Ann Green and was a rice planter on the Coosahatchie River between Coosahatchie and Gillisonville. This was near a place that used to be called Mole's Landing in a section that was called "The Stool Farm" at the turn of the last century. Sherman's army camped at Gillisonville and burned everything in the vicinity except the Baptist Church. I don't know whether Frederick Mole also lived there or whether Jacob was the first Mole to live at that site.

Our family tradition is that Frederick was born on a ship coming over from Germany but

that the name Mole was French and was derived from de Mole. There is a town in eastern France named Mole and tradition, or perhaps inference, is that they came from there. Some areas on the border have changed hands between France and Germany several times, perhaps this led to the family coming over from Germany rather than France, or perhaps they were descendants of Huguenots who had left France due to the persecutions, or perhaps they just ~~came~~ went down the Rhine to a German port.

Getting back to your problem, Frederick and Mary Mole had, in addition to our ancestor Jacob, a son Richard who one source indicates moved to Florida; a daughter Riah who married Edgar Brunson; a daughter Susannah who married a Sauls man; perhaps another daughter, un-named, in my sources, who married a Lightsey; and a younger son William Frederick who married Mary Ann Breland. William Frederick was born in 1822.

I do not believe the Mole who was mother to Mahala Elizabeth Platts could have been from

this immediate family. My father has tried unsuccessfully to trace the family tree to a common ancestor with several Mole families in the Barnwell area. We have assumed these families to have come from some of Frederick's relatives. After all, if he was born on the ship he had to have some family with him. However, if our tradition that we are French and the name came from ~~de~~ de Mole and <sup>the</sup> Moles further upstate came from John or Henry Maul perhaps this is why we haven't succeeded in finding a common ancestor. There is a Henry Mole in Barnwell ~~who~~ who runs Mole Funeral Home, perhaps he could shed some light on this.

To further confuse the issue, I have seen copies of an old map (I don't remember the date but it was well before the Revolution, I think) that showed a settlement called Moles on the Salkahatchie River. I have seen this map in a book and a large copy on the wall in the museum at Charlestown Landing in Charleston.

Sony I didn't have any positive information for you, but if you come up with anything you think may

be of interest to me, please let me know. I will write further if I find out anything else.

Sincerely

Joseph F. Mole, Jr.

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