

Walter B. Roberts, Jr.

1299 Black Oaks Ct.
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9/21/01

Dear Dr. Peeples,

Several years ago you were most kind
in a phone conversation regarding my
ancestor Col. Owen Roberts and his parent
(possibly) Jean Robert(s) son of Pierre
Pierre Robert.

The attached letter to Harriot Cheves-
Leland is self explanatory.

I would like to get your advice on
descendants of Pierre Robert who I
might approach for DNA sample.

Cordially

Walter Roberts

I will call you.

Walter B. Roberts, Jr.

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763

Harriott Cheves Leland
Huguenot Society of South Carolina
138 Logan Street
Charleston, SC 29401-1941

June 25, 2001

Dear Ms. Cheves Leland,

I am writing this letter to be copied by you and forwarded to possible descendants of Pasteur Pierre Robert who hopefully may be willing to contact me directly on the subject below.

I am a direct lineal descendant of Col. Owen Roberts (fifth grandson) who married Ann Cattell in Charleston in 1755. He served as a captain in the Cherokee War, and represented the parish of St. Philip & St. Michael in the First Prov. Congress and the 2nd and 3rd Prov. Congresses. He was killed in the Revolutionary War at the battle of Stono Ferry in 1779.

For 90 years, various members of my family have worked on trying to document the parentage of Col. Owen Roberts. The only trace we have found is some "historical" mention that he was the son of Jean Robert (1687-1789) and thus the grandson of Pasteur Pierre Robert (1656-1715). This attribution seems to have started from a book titled: "Charleston, the Place and the People" by Mrs. St Julien Ravenel.

None of our searches for "hard" evidence has uncovered any documentation to substantiate Owen's father was Jean Robert -- although it is an interesting coincidence that Ann (Fraser) Cattell grew up in the French Santee area as did the Robert families.

It seems now our only shot at real evidence is through DNA testing with lineal descendants of Pasteur Pierre Robert, through his sons Pierre Jr. and Jean. I do not believe/know if his son Elias had issue with descendants. I am hoping that there are documented descendants of Pasteur Pierre who would be willing to give us a simple DNA sample for testing at our expense. We would share the results. If we get a "match", hooray! If not we are no worse off than now. And if there is a "match" it might be useful to the donor to have that evidence. The lack of a match would not prove anything to contradict the donor's ancestry since my lineage may well be the incorrect one.

Thank you, Harriott, for your interest in helping with this. And thank you for telling me about the New Yorker magazine article of 3/26/01 by John Seabrook entitled "The Tree of Me" which is about another man's ancestry search using DNA.

Sincerely,
Walter Roberts, Jr.

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- Thuman Lawton
- Robert Peoples

Mrs. Francis Gay
The Huguenot Society Of South Carolina

9/11/99

Dear Francis,

Thank you for your patience in talking to me today on the phone regarding my ancestor Owen Roberts, whose biographical sketch is attached.

My quest is to discover his parentage. I have had professional searches done in the U.K and the West Indies with no success, after exhaustive searches of U.S. sources were equally unsuccessful. The only "hard" clue I have is his grandson says in his autobiography that his grandfather "was of noble birth, from Wales, and had a military education, and emigrated to to South Carolina as one of her Planters." Given his service as artillery Capt in the Cherokee War militia, and later command of the artillery defense of Charleston and then 4th Artillery unit at Stono Ferry, it seems likely he did have some military education. As to being a Planter, he married Ann Frazer/Fraser the widow of a wealth plantation owner William Cattel, thus inheriting a plantation.

Just recently I stumbled on Vol 77 of Transactions of the HSSC, pgs 74 & 75 which indicate that Owen may have been the son of Jean Robert/John Roberts (thus the grandson of Pasteur Pierre Robert). This parental attribution seems based on Mrs. Ravenel's book, Charleston, The Place and The People, D.A.R. Lineage Books, and on "Colonial Soldiers" by Leonardo Andrea. Would much appreciate if you could look at those sources to determine what exactly do they say and are basing this attribution on. On pge 72 of the same Vol 77, I was intrigued by the writer's telling that Jean Robert went to England and bought a royal Barony grant of 12,000 acres in SC, also speculating that he may have taken his son John along and enrolled him in medical school in England. That was 1736 and Owen would have been 16 years old. My speculation is he may have been put in a military school in England by his father at the same time. One other clue for me is Ann Fraser was born in the French Santee district -- could be Owen knew her as a child and thus pursued her when she became a widow about 1754. She was four years younger than Owen (i.e. born 1724). The "Barony" royal grant purchased by Jean Robert might be why Owen's grandson thought his grandad was of "noble birth".

I am attaching Brent Holcomb's report to me so you will know what sources he looked at -- he sent me the THSSC Vol 77 & 78, and "Our Family Circle" by Annie E. Miller (1987 edition with corrections by Robert Peoples) which has info on the Robert line. Please pass on the enclosed check to Barbara Claypool. Many thanks for you interest this mystery.

Cordially, Walter Roberts