

12-15-85

Dear Kindred,

I have read and re-read the Will of John Wilcox 1789, but I cannot find anything new or suggestive between the lines. If we had the details of the adminis., appraisals, etc., of this settlement, we might have other clues & maybe not.

Mystery: Why did Hannah Bassell share in this will when she was a co-witness? I thought that was not legal. Did she live in John's family as a member and sleep in this bed and use the furniture willed to her during her lifetime & at her death to go to John's granddaug. Mary Ireland. Hannah was bound to have been related to John and Judith. Was she Judith's dau. by a previous marriage, or a sister of John's or Judith's. She was expected to die before Mary Ireland. Why were Samuel and James not named in this will. James stayed in Virginia & did not go to S.C. and one Samuel moved to Old 96 Dist. S.C. as did Jordan before going to Laurens, then to Hickman Co. Ga., then to Ark. where he died & is buried & Eunice had a marble put.

No, I never saw a reference to one Diastaphus M. ("Dodge") Milam, and do not have any idea whose son he is. Another thing I do not believe John had a son Madison. That name came down through Mrs. Woodhead's family of Milams of Rev. soldier John Milam II. And Rose Pope's records she had from Nancy and Feril Milam who both were Bartlett's chm. never married & lived to near 100 years, died Barstow, Ga. grave markers, left numerous records of their families & said were 6 boys; but never mentioned girls. I believe Susannah was a dau. & now John gives Nancy.

Now about that 1790 census. You give Benjamin 1790 York Co. 1-0-4; & Laurens 1-0-1. This census was taken at different times. York Co. was early & the Milams had not all moved on down into Laurens yet and the women were Judith, Hannah Bassil, Nancy, and probably grandda. Mary Ireland or maybe Ben had married which he had in '86. So he may have moved on into Laurens & Judith, Nancy, & Hannah stayed in York Co. However, I had one record sent me through Rose Pope's sister who said Judith died at Bartlett's.

Now I do not know whether that was before Bartlett moved from Halifax Co. Va to Laurens, S.C., or not. Hasn't it about 1796 he sold & moved?

Now from Court House records of land transactions in Laurens Co. Benjamin did not stay long in S.C. but a descendant said Benz. moved to Pittsylvania co. Va. where one of his chn. marr. a son or dau. (I forget) of Peter Milam & were his ancestors - both. In ~~1790~~ 1800 Bartlett had a son John already married. Thomas had a son John born 1794-95 - the only son known for certain to be Thomas's for he was in court for nonpayment of debts & court record said "John Milam, son of Thomas"; John II Rev. soldier 1776-83 had a son John, which was very confusing. Bartlett's son on Tax list was John Junr. which in those days usage did not mean son of a father both of same names, but just that there were 2 persons of the same name & one was older than the other. The son Capt. John Milam was Rev. soldier, & John Junr was Bartlett's son 1800. Thomas was listed 1800 spelled Millam or Millan also listed 1810. - I see you have it.

The next tax lists of York Co. if available & would show Judiths whereabouts. Yes, I have Thomas 1810 & I think he must have had all his family with him in his household even though Thomas H. Milam gives his birth as 1810.

You mention Isaac Coles receiving pay of John Milam, soldier of the Calvary,

1781 - pd; 1785. This could be John Milam Sr. assessed for someone who would serve and be paid by John Milam Sr.

Or it could be John Milam II, who took a leave of absence and had Coles serve for him & paid by him, but the service would still be regarded as that of John Milam. I wonder what relation Isaac Coles was to Judith who marr. John Milam, Sr.

I am sorry about Laura Pulley, a direct descendant of Bartlett + Elizabeth Swinn Milam has died. She was an excellent researcher + found Coleman's land deed + sale in the Indiant deeds file when a hired researcher I had could not find it. And Laura would not charge a cent - said "No, I do not charge for research in my own family." Too bad the nephew is so selfish.

I'm not doing much now, I've kept growing weaker + going down. Went to new Doctor for tests of over 2 weeks duration, as I decided my heart was not my primary concern but secondary to my blood chemistry. I have multiple myeloma, cancer of white cells of plasma in bone marrow. Have undergone my first series of chemotherapy + do pray it is effective in slowing it.

But am discovering nodes on each side
of my neck which is hot & sore,

Martha Harris has 2 grandsons Austin
Shaw 90 and Lester about 75-80 both going
strong, the last of Belle's clk. living -
not far from me.

No, I do not know of the Pearson of Tenn.
whose dau. was child of Thomas Milam. It
seems from census Thomas possibly had 6 sons &
6 daughters. I believe the Thomas Milam L. Ca. 1800
S. C. moved to Ge. & had among others twin sons
Riley & Wiley Milam ~~was~~ was son of Thomas d. ca. 1830,
but no proof. It seems Wiley Glen Milam in his
records (he d. 1-1-1950) did not prove this. Wiley
Glen's dau sent me his records. He worked with
Rose Pope, who d. long before Wiley Glen, on
research.

Let me hear what you find especially
if inventory etc. on John's estate. I don't
believe he had land. But he once had
640 (?) acres on Bradley's creek, Halifax Co.
which land I was told was sandy, poor soil -

Sincerely,
Vera Ryker

Enclose untidy letter - just one more to go!