

Mrs. Margaret F. Leavell
9045 Gunnison
Dallas, Texas 75231

June 22, 1984

Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples
8 Moon Shell Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Dear Rev. Dr. Peeples,

Your most interesting letter concerning the Milams was such a delightful surprise and so full of information that I must delay writing you in detail for a few more days.

I have been called back to my company to train a new office person, so after a partial retirement, it seems I have a full time job again for a while. I promise that I will answer soon, and although I don't believe I can help you too much, I will try.

I have been writing to several people about my Milams and will give you addresses, etc. then. Maybe they can help.

I appreciate your writing to me and sending me all the data. I get so excited when I find a new clue. This family searching is quite a hobby, and I truly enjoy it.

I just couldn't wait to acknowledge your nice letter.

Sincerely,

Margaret

June 24, 1984

Dear Dr. Peeples,

I have been able to spend some time this weekend on your Milam chart and all the information it holds. It is more Milam data than I have seen in all my research, and to have it all on one sheet is amazing. I congratulate you and Miss Cora, as I know the hours it has taken.

I know you will be successful in getting the proof that John was, indeed, the father of Thomas. I truly wish I could help you; but, as I told you, I have been able to trace only as far back as my John and his wife, Milly Pitts. You know, therefore, how delighted I was to receive all the information you sent me. I hope someday I can reciprocate.

Do you have any more information on Capt. John, his wives and children? To know he was at Valley Forge was exciting news. I was there at a seminar at Freedoms Foundation last May a year ago and toured the beautiful park. It was a heartwarming experience for me to realize what those men endured on our behalf. And, now to learn that my sons and grandchildren had an ancestor there was, indeed, a thrill. I am grateful to you.

On your chart John's birthplace and date were blurred. Is it Lynchburg Co., VA? Is it 15 June 1753? Also, the information at the top of the chart above Martha Gardner and Samuel Milam was cut off. Can you tell me what it says?

I am sending you a copy of another letter I received in response to my "G.H" item. Maybe Mr. Williams can help you. Also, there is a copy of a letter written to Paul Lawton (with whom I'm corresponding) who is searching for the parents of Diatrachus M. Milam, ca. 1820 Laurens Co., S. C. - ca. 1895. I wrote to him when I saw his query in "Puzzlers". We believe Diatrachus maybe in the same line as my John, although we are having trouble with "dates" and "Johns" I have not written to Mrs. Jane Milam, as she said her info was on Bartlett only, and until now I didn't even know who Bartlett was.

Again, I am so grateful you wrote to me, and I hope you will stay in touch. I regret I am unable to help you now, but maybe someday I can. I will send you copies of anything that comes my way that I think may be of interest to you.

Best wishes to both you and Miss Cora, and happy hunting.

Sincerely,



Margaret F. Leavell
9045 Gunnison Drive
Dallas, Texas 75231

9045 Gunnison Drive
Dallas, Texas 75231
July 25, 1984

Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples
8 Moon Shell Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Dear Robert,

It was interesting to note in your letter of June 28 that you descend from the Rev. Pierre Robert, a French Huguenot.

My husband's ancestor, John La Velle, (1675 France-1740 VA) was also a French Huguenot who came to America ca 1715 via England. He settled in VA-York Co. or Essex Co. His son Robert (1718 VA-1797 SC) m ca 1740 Sarah (Coles/Griffin/Marshall) and moved to Bush River, Newberry Co. SC. Do you have any information on the family of Judith Bartlett Coles? I have information from three different sources with three different surnames for Sarah-all unproved-but, if she was a Coles, maybe you have something on her.

Paul Lawton's address is 612-37th Ave., N Ext., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577. He called me a few nights ago, to my surprise, and said he had been in touch with you on his Lawton line-I sent him a copy of your Milam chart, as I was so excited at all the information it contained. I hope you don't mind. My husband's great aunts gave me the information that his Diataphus was a son of John Milam by his first wife Parthenia? Paul has a researcher working on this now. Small world, isn't it? In reply to your question, I quote from one of Paul's letters:

"Diataphus has from the beginning been a complete enigma who seems to have just popped up out of nowhere-and in view of your letter, such an appearance for such a person (i.e. with such a name) seems ~~to be not only very logical now, but also amazingly appropriate.~~ My researcher recently located the name "Diataphus" in a classical concordance of some kind, and it means "nourished by Jupiter". The name Parthenia is obviously and simply a variation of "Parthena", which you perhaps remember from mythology, as the daughter of Jupiter (Zeus to the Greeks). She was Jupiter's only child who was not "borne by a woman", but rather, was his child alone. "Full-grown and fully armored, she sprang from his forehead"-like Diataphus, just "popped out of nowhere."

He writes such interesting letters! It is fun to correspond with him, and I do so hope he is successful in his search.

I will get Capt. John Milam's wife's pension application as soon as I receive the new forms now required. Also, I will write to the societies I belong to for any information on the whereabouts of Mrs. Pulley's papers. I appreciate these suggestions.

Your clarification concerning O. Lee Williams and Jane Milam's info is well received. You are so right-source documentation is necessary-"tradition and speculation are not enough." However, the temptation is so strong!

I will continue my search, and if and when, I come up with something for you I will certainly let you know. I will always be grateful to you for all the information you have given me.

Best regards to both Miss Cora and you.

Margaret

August 19, 1984

Dear Robert,

Your letter telling about the Milam mutual interest you and Paul Lawton share was another instance of finding genealogy ties in the strangest ways.

Also, I continue to be amazed at the records you have accumulated. This is a real inspiration to me. I know I shall never have what you have, but I will keep trying. To know your ancestors helped to found Carolina was a most interesting fact. I appreciate your offer to sponsor my late husband for membership in the Huguenot Society, but I really don't have the proof necessary back to his John LaVelle yet. Maybe someday my sons will be eligible, and if your most generous offer still stands then, they can take you up on it.

The DAR note from the application of Mrs. Wingo of Ripley, MS was most interesting. I will file it and try to write her. I have a pen pal in Pontotoc, MS who has helped me with some of my lines, and maybe she can "run" her down-if she isn't dead.

I will ask Paul for a copy of the abstract of John Milam's 1789 will. What a find! Also, I have sent your chart to Dorothy White in Tulsa. She is another one who responded to my Roots Cellar entry. She sent me a copy of John Milam's military record and notes on his wife's (Polly) pension. I'm sending you a copy of same, but I guess you already have it. Anyway, she will write to you, also. She is looking for the father of her James M. Milam-thinks it may be Coleman-and says the name Ferrill is prominent in her line. Perhaps she may have some helpful info for you. I received the new forms from the National Archives and have requested John's pension files.

Thought you might find the enclosed sheets on my Zinn line fun. Surely wish I had known them. I read in Family Puzzlers of the offer of Miss Connie Andrea (the sister of Leonardo, now deceased) to rent copies of his genealogy files. They are on microfilm at The South Caroliniana Library, and she has copies of them at her home. Guess they will eventually go to the Library, too. Anyway, I was thrilled to get much (35 pages) info on my Zinn and Ardis lines. I am now requesting what she has on Coleman, Ferrill, Gardner, and some others. If they contain anything that I think would help you, I will send you copies. Have you heard of Mr. Andrea? His papers are so thorough. I am impressed and delighted at my new found wealth.

Please tell me about the crest on your stationary. Is it South Carolina's?

Thank you again for your interest and your generous help. I hope as we all work together we will be able to eventually solve many of our Milam puzzles and get Miss Cora into the DAR. I have never really desired to join, but after hearing from you, I am about to change my mind.

Best regards to both Miss Cora and you.



Margaret F. Leavell
9045 Gunnison Drive
Dallas, TX 75231