

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

December 15, 1964

Dear Mr. Peeples :

I have delayed answering your letter because I wanted to go through some old papers left by my aunt, Miss Sally Miles and also wanted to go through a diary kept by my grandfather, William Posner Miles. The original volumes of this diary which was kept from 1870 through 1874 were given by my mother to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for their historical archives. However, I have a typed copy of the diary which gives some specific information about family matters.

The diary mentions (in 1870 when it begins) that there are 3 children. These were my father, the eldest, ^{NO - see next letter} born in 1866, Sarah Beirne (Sally) born [probably - but I'm not sure] in 1868 and Elizabeth Beirne (Betty) born in 1869. Then there are specific dates given for the births of the next 3 children. Nancy was born Sept. 6, 1870; Susan, on January 6, 1872 and Margaret Melinda (Linda), on April 6, 1873.

My grandfather mentions in his entry of July 4, 1874 that he was "52 years old today".

There was a seventh child, a still born boy, on October 21, 1874 and next day Betty Beirne Miles died after convulsions and a hemorrhage. Exactly what the

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cause of death was, I do not know. Clearly, however, it was a complication of childbirth, probably eclampsia.

My father, William Porcher Miles, Jr. received his medical degree from the University of Maryland and interned for a year in Baltimore. However he never practised medicine but moved to Louisiana where ^{he} operated a large sugar plantation which had been left to his mother's family (the Beirnes) by a bachelor planter and merchant named John Burnside. (There is a long story about this - briefly, however, it seems that when Burnside came to Virginia from England as a youth he was befriended by Oliner Beirne, my grandmother's father, and then many years later, having moved to Louisiana he remembered his old friends in his will.) My father died in October 1936 just a month or so before his 70th birthday.

My mother, Harriette Waters, was born in April 1885 and is living and in good health.

There were six children (the second died in infancy)

as follows:

- (1) William Porcher
- (2) Elizabeth Beirne (died at 18 months)
- (3) Henry Harcourt Waters
- (4) May Carroll
- (5) Nancy Beirne
- (6) Oliner Beirne

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My older brother, William Porcher, died in 1959 at the age of 47, leaving 4 children. All the rest of us are married and all have children (2 to 5 in each family). I don't want to bore you with a lot of unnecessary details — if you should wish any further specific information I will be very happy to supply it.

Your information about my father's sisters is correct except for 2 details: Betty was born, not in 1881 but in 1869. Also you were not aware of Susan, who married a man named Pierson and had 3 daughters

- (1) Suzanne (now Mrs. Mc^{Carter} ~~Casty~~)
- (2) Betty (now Mrs. Parsons)
- (3) Emily — now dead.

I am necessarily vague about my aunt Susan (who died about 1950, I think) because I never really knew her. She lived for many years in Paris and did not keep in touch with us. If you want further information about her, you could write to her daughter,

* Mrs. Betty Parsons who is a well known person in the art circles of New York. Her address is: 24 West 57th Street, New York, N.Y.
(this is the address of the Parsons Gallery)

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One other branch of the family lived in Baltimore. Francis Turquand Miles, one of the brothers of my grandfather, was, I believe, a physician there. My grandfather's diary mentions the name of his brother "Frank" fairly often — and does not mention his other brothers. Francis Turquand Miles had at least one child — a son, Lewis Wardlaw Miles ^(born 1873), who lived also in Baltimore where he was at one time Headmaster at the Gilman School and later a professor of English at the Johns Hopkins University. My father and Wardlaw Miles were good friends (as well as being first cousins) and "Uncle Wardy" was one of my childhood heroes. He was a remarkable man, intellectual, charming and yet very human. He was, also, a winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor in World War I, losing a leg in the process. He is dead now but his widow is living and I am sure would be glad to correspond with you. (Maybe you already know her — but in case you don't, I'll give her address.)

Mrs. L. Wardlaw Miles
Bayard Lane
Princeton, New Jersey.

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There were 4 children of that marriage :

- (1) Frank
- (2) Samuel (killed in World War II)
- (3) Sarah
- (4) Jeanie

Frank, Sarah and Jeanie are all married — but I haven't kept up with them and don't even know where they live now.

If there are any further details of my father's branch of the family which I might be able to furnish, please let me know. This communication has become quite long and I don't want to burden you with a lot of unnecessary trivia. When your work is published I would very much appreciate it if you would let me know the address of the South Carolina Historical Magazine and the title of your paper so I can get a copy. I feel somewhat ashamed of knowing so little of the people and the place from which I came and would be greatly interested in reading your study.

Sincerely,
Henry H. W. Miles

P.S. — enclosed are two additional sheets with bits of information which may be useful.