

Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples
8 Moon Shell Road
Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29928-5444

December 9, 1994

Dear Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples,

I am researching my husbands maternal family of Zills. Through Prodigy I have made contact with Ron Peeples and he has been so kind as to give me your name and address as the source of the book "Peeples/Ante 1600-1962" by Anne Bradbury Peebles. Ron ask me to send his warm regards also. Enclosed is \$27.50 for the book as quoted by Ron Peebles. If more is needed please advise me the difference.

The reason for my interest in the Peeples book is to find the link between a Peebles family and Zills family of Virginia. The only link that I had until my contact with Ron Peeples was the census of 1782 & 1820 Sussex Co. Va. On the census both the Peeples and Zills families were listed and the unbelievable name of a Peeples Zills. Ron has passed on the information that in the book there is a marriage listed between the two families.

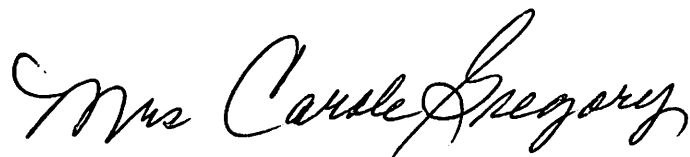
The story related to my husband by his maternal grandfather Arthur Zills is that the original name of the family was Peeples/Peebles. Due to a 'tragedy' / 'disaster' / (depending on which family member I have talked to) a young brother and sister with the last name of Peeples/Peebles lost their parents and were taken in by the Zills family. In time the brother and sister changed their last name to Zills. We aren't sure in what year this all took place. Some in the family claim it happened when the families were on their way to Alabama from Virginia. I have traced the Zills family from present day in Oklahoma to Lawrence Co. Al in 1850. I have had to check each census name by name because in putting together the indexes, the handwritten letter "Z" has been mistaken for G, J, & S. In the 1850, Lawrence Co., Al census there is a William P. Zills age 55 born in Va., wife Pricilla age 46 b Ms., listed also are 8 children the oldest is 21 and listed as born in Alabama. Listed on the next farm is Jesse Zills age 25 born in Al., wife Mary (Lucy) age 33 born in Va. and 2 small children. This Jesse Zills is my husbands gg gf. and William P. Zills is ggg gf. The Civil War stories that have been passed down are being confirmed by the C.S.A. records that I have gotten from the National Archives. These records seem to bear out the fact that William P. Zills was the father of Jesse Zills. The surname "Zills" is very unusual and any that I have found have been related to the Alabama family.

I believe (hope) that William P. Zills is the orphaned Peebles boy and that the "P" in his name stands for Peeples. NO PROOF - just a hunch.

The book may not prove any more than we already know, but the common family names might lead me in another direction to where I can find proof.

Thank you for your kindness and I am looking forward to the book.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs Carole Gregory". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Mrs. Carole Gregory
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Simi Valley, Ca. 93065