

Ray Thomas
Rt 3 Box 198
Smoaks SC 29481

Ross-Maris Williams

Woodland Way
Abbeville, SC 29620
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Dear Dr. Peeples:

Belatedly, many thanks for the valuable Platts material you sent me last summer. I am enclosing a copy of what I put together as a first draft, and when the family responds to my questions, and I update this, I will send you another copy.

* We were missing the John Platts/Susannah Mole generation completely. My aunt, Louise Barnes, had seen their tombstones (at what you call the Brant Cemetery and she calls Old St. Nicholas) but didn't know that they were David Holbrooks Platts' grandparents. What a find!

I am also enclosing a foul copy of material from the Hiers Genealogy and a copy of my letter to the Stuttgart Archives asking for information on place names and family names. If you have information on where these places might be, I would like to know as I don't have much faith in getting a response from the archivist.

I find much to question about the Platz/Blatz line, I must confess. Why were all of the births of all of the children in the immigrating generation found in Emmingen except those of Jacob and John, the ones we can trace back to in SC? Why the Blatz name? The name Platt was in existence even earlier than that in the Rhineland Palitinate region, so it is reasonable to assume that the Platz name could have been a corruption of Platt rather than of Blatz. I know that Milton Rubicam is supposed to be the expert, but I don't trust this information as completely as I wish I could.

You asked me to be on the lookout for John Howard and his Inman wife, but I have not found them among the Kirkland/Clarke, Brabham/McPhail, McMillan/Kearse, Baker/Geiger, Varn or Miley connections nor in the history of the Lutheran Church "in the Saltketchers" or among "The Neighborhoods Adjoining Buford's Bridge" in Mizpah: A Family Book.

1200 I did run into a John Jacob Folk (11/4/1783-12/23/1878) and his wife Elizabeth Adella Breland (7/18/1836-10/25/1906). Are they your ancestors? John Jacob Folk donated the land for Bethel Lutheran Church about 1856. Bethlehem lasted until 1906, and was on Hy 61, 3.8 miles east of Bamberg. George W. Folk (1856-1920) is listed as a son (his father would have been 73 years old when he was born; maybe that's why the father donated the land for the church) and Herbert Folk (no dates) is listed as a grandson. This information comes from A History of the Lutheran Church in South Carolina.

Mispah includes quite a number of Folks who married into one branch or another of our family, and I'll be happy to share information on

any of them if you're interested.

I have also enclosed a copy of some family information Aunt Louise gathered from Azilee Platts Cook. Whose descendants are these? The given names are uncannily close to those of my grandfather Shellie Platts' sisters and brothers: Susan, Addie, Frank, and Carrie, so I'm sure there must be a close connection.

Finally, my husband's family is stuck at his greatgrandparents, Allen Cornelius Williams (1848-1927) and his first wife Harriett Elizabeth Cone (1839-1881). His second wife was Mary Elizabeth Barnes (1862-1897). If you have any leads on these people, please let me know. They were probably from the section of Hampton County that was previously Colleton County, but I'm not exactly sure.

I hope this finds both you and Miss Cora well, and I wish for you both a healthy New Year.

Thank you again for your valuable information.

Best wishes,

Rose-Marie

Rose-Marie Williams

Oh! Last summer, following your directions, on the way to Vainville from Columbia, I turned left at Ulmer and followed a farm-to-market road going where I couldn't tell. I rounded a bend, went down a hill, and there at the bottom of the hill was a pretty little creek. I stopped, got out, and experienced a peaceful feeling that I only later understood. Back in the car and further down the road, I met a man and stopped and asked, "What was the name of that branch back there?" "That's Pretty Creek," he said, and I knew that I had been home. Thank you!