

Washington, Georgia
January 6, 1966

Dear "Half Fifth Cousin":

I have figured and that is what I have come up with - half fifth. I want to apologize for waiting so late to answer your nice letter - in fact in waiting so long since I met you at the re-union. Not too long after we met, my sister, Anne Phelps, who was with me at the time, moved to Mobile. It was she who was so certain that we have a picture of James Jehu Robert - our mutual great great grandfather. I can't remember having seen it and I made a quick search among the million old things in Mother's secretary - old pictures, letters and even some my grandmother received from her uncle who was killed in the War back in 1963 or 64. When you start looking, you start reading, and first thing you know, you have bundled it all up and put back until another time. My father died in the meantime (he was 90), and as I work, I have never had the time to go through it piece by piece. Anne insists that when she comes again, she will find it. According to her, great grandma was no beauty and I'm anxious to see it.

I enjoyed knowing how you come in on the family. In case you are interested, I will tell you how I am descended from James Jehu Robert. His third child by his second wife, Phoebe McKenzie Robert, was named Milton George Robert. Their daughter, Mary Miranda Robert, married Marshall Mercer Sims, and their fifth child, Mary Martia Sims (listed on page 276 of Our Family Circle, married William Robert Latimer. I am their oldest daughter, Mary Wright Latimer (now Mrs. Earle Blue).

Mother has always been quite interested in family history and furnished certain information before the book was published, and she had one of the first copies, I believe. She has added so much to her book, by writing in marriages, births, deaths, etc., that it is quite worn.

* In looking recently through Mother's secretary (my Grandmother Sims who was a Robert) was a great saver and kept simply everything), I found a hand written copy of Rev. James Jehu Robert's will and in it it is shown where he left the amount of \$4,377.66 to your great grandmother, Eliza Jane. I may have this mixed up for she was mentioned several times - its very long, very old and hard to read. You may have a copy of it, but in case not and would like a typewritten copy, I'll make one for you sometime. Its dated Feb. 11, 1852. *He died 19 Jan. 1852*

I don't see how ^{Great} Grandpa James Jehu sent so many of his children to college. Grandpa Robert went to Brown University and one of his brothers was a minister. I barely remember Grandpa for he died when I was quite young, but I do remember his funeral and where I sat!

We live in my Mother's old home which has been known for a long time as "The Cedars". Washington is quite an old town. The home place

was bought I think in about 1818 by my Grandmother Sims' (Mary Miranda Robert) grandmother on her mother's side - she was a Colley - from Anthony Poulain who was a Frenchman. His son was a doctor and we have always understood he was General Lafayette's physician. It has remained in the family since that time. The only part that remains of the original house is our old kitchen, the rest was built later, and then added on to by my grandfather Sims when Mother was a little girl. He had lots of children and lots of lumber and he and Grandmother more or less drew up the plans, so it is very large, very barny and VERY cold in winter. I have a home next door, but as Mother is 85 and Sister Bess (Mrs. DeVaughn) is most 90, I stay with them to help out.

I still had your address that you gave me last summer, and put it in a prominent place where I would see it, but seems I never could get around to writing or to "looking" - with sickness in the family.

Anne and I both enjoyed meeting all of you - everyone was so cordial and friendly, and I hope we have the opportunity to meet again sometime.

If and when "Our Family Circle" is published again, we would like to add to it, and I know of some who would like a copy. I am so glad that I was able to get one of the last since Mother's is so worn.

Some friends of mine from Augusta came to see me recently - they belong to the Huguenot Society - she was a Guillebeau and he a Savage from S. C. They were quite interested in the book.

I was talking with my aunt about writing you, and she thought you might be interested in the book "Avalon" by Anya Seton - I read the condensed book in the 1966 Readers Digest. Anyway so many of the characters in it are mentioned in this write up I have of the royal ancestry of Thomas Smith, Landgrave and Governor of South Carolina. Its too long to copy now. The ones I made, I gave away, and only have the one left.

You'll probably be sorry I ever wrote you - this is such a long epistle. If you are ever over this way, please do come by and see us.

I won't forget the picture and if I'm successful, I'll be glad to send you one.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,


Mary Latimer Blue

John Robert

Sarah Joseph Lawton

Patrick McKenzie + Estlin Morse - Jane Morse + Benj. T. D. Lawton

J.J. Robert + Phoebe McK - JJ Robert + L. Lawton Charlotte Lawton + E.H. Payne

Sarah Colley + Milton G. Robert - Lita Phobus + J.W. Paylor

Mary Miranda + M.M. Simsp. 275 - Robert R. Payne + Margaret Focke

Mary Maria Sims + H.R. Latimer - Robert H. Payne

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