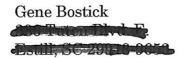
April 12, 1997



Dear Gene,

I am researching my family history and discovered that some of my ancestors were from the vicinity of Estill, South Carolina. Although I have been able to trace my Breland family roots back to the 1500s in Europe, I have had no success with my Bostick family roots.

Jesse Breland was born 27 June 1799 in Beaufort District, South Carolina (in the vicinity of the present day Shirley Community near Estill in Hampton County, SC). He married Mary Bostick who was born in that area around 1802. They married in the early 1820s, and had their first child, Rebecca, before they left South Carolina for southern Mississippi. They had 12 more children in Mississippi, and I am a descendent of their twelfth child, Elisha Breland.

I would be very grateful if you could help me with my search for my Bostick ancestors. I have enclosed a self addressed stamped envelope for your response. Thank you for your assistance with my search for my ancestors.

Sincerely,

Captain Kenneth O. Merkel

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