

March 30, 1987

Dear Cousin Robert,

Thank you so very much for the letter you recently sent me. This letter is certainly unique in my experience. It made me want to go out and purchase a typewriter, and I confess it made me want to trace the lineage of my great grandmother Josephine Heape Buckner. As for my other Buckner Heape ancestor, Benjamin, whose widow sold food to the Continental Army, I believe he was the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Heape, Episcopalians of St. Andrews Parish, and that he was baptised Jan. 30, 1720-1, according to the Parish Registry. But the Adeline Buckner Lowell Langford Bible record our family has records his birth date as 1726. Also, the Registry records the burial of another Benjamin Heape in 1748, but I suspect he was an infant or child. (The Bible record is possibly 5 or 6 years wrong, since this is one of the most ancient dates in the Bible.)

Thank you for the news of the Perry-Jandon reunion. I'd certainly like to attend one of these. After hearing from you I received an invitation to a Buckner family reunion to be held on John's Island on May 12, the first we've had in 20 years (since Uncle Guy died). His son Guy Leonard, Jr. is hosting it this year. Some of us are pretty thrilled

about this. I hope to share with some of them some of the enlightening information you sent me about Landquane Smith. Possibly, we'll get some new information about some of the lines, but I'm not certain. However, Sharon (Mrs. Laurens Cook), a daughter of Leonard's, has been working on some of the history for us. And I found a record of a Howell Wall who served in the Cavalry from Beaufort District in the American Revolution. He was married to Rebecca Vernon and was listed in the 1790 Census. Since Dadi's only surviving sibling is Walter Vernon Buckner, presently of Shulerville, I believe our Howell Wall who married Grace Perry must be a descendant (possibly a grandson) of the earlier patriot by the same name. It would be interesting to find the missing generations. Our Bernard Buckner is sort of like Captain William Lawton in the sense that he appeared in the Carolina low country before the Revolution, but no one seems to know ^{from} whence he came. My hunch is that he probably descends from John Buckner who was in Virginia in earlier times, as was your Captain David Peebles. A retired minister who owns a jewelry store in Siler City, N.C. (an early Buckner settlement) has a lineage chart for Katherine Ferrers who married John Buckner and emigrated to Virginia around that time, and her pedigree

contained several generations of Bernards, her
forebears in England. So - another hunk.
(overname)

Dear Robert, allow me to ask you, and I beg your
indulgence since I do not have my copy, nor of
Annie Miller, are you descended from ^{two} ~~two~~ ^{two} ~~two~~
Charlotte Lawtons? (I have some excerpts - my brother has a
copy.)

I was in High School in Park Hill with a Patry
people. She was about a year ahead of me.
She was a lovely girl. The studied voice
and performed solos in the chorus concerts.

Thank you for sending me the invitation to
join "Frat Families." I met with my son and
I were shopping for him a car, as he is
scheduled for graduation in a couple of months
and has already joined the Army, having
orders to report to Ft. Hill, Oklahoma in
July. The salesman, Bill Quinn, a young
man from Georgetown, D.C., told me that he
his mother was a Bill, and that he
is a descendant of the first governor of
South Carolina. I am presently divorced
and my only child Tom Lawton, Jr. resides
with me here in Cary. This week he
is on Spring Break and he's in South
Carolina at his mother's. She has re-
married since divorcing me, but I have

so far remained single. In the matter of the society membership, I beg your leave to decline for the time being. It is not with any relish that I do so and I hope you are not disappointed.

I enjoyed your telling me about visiting Cousin Ellene in Tuxon. I'd been going there on visits since early childhood. Mother visited there in the 30's, before her marriage. Ellene's only daughter, Helena Glover now owns the place. She is a psychologist, lives in Florida, but is about to retire, and she retreats there in the summer. "Papa" Willingham's family in Georgia was enormous, his father being the oldest of 17 children. By the time I was born, however, we were isolated from them through age, generation, geography, and circumstance. Now Cousin Margie Smith and I are friends, and we've been savoring old reunion photos of the family in Tipton - meeting on the occasions of Cecilia Baynard Willingham's birthdays in her old age. And we have the Bible copy listing births of 17 children, and of course we're very proud of it and all the other momentos. But to me, growing up in Rock Hill, Cousin Ellene Graham was in the stead of all of this to me. She understood, and she cared. When she died, both my brothers and me, and all

our wives, attended her funeral near Tryon.
(Incidentally, her son Alex D. Graham, of Columbia,
and I share the same birthday - Feb. 28th).

I can't remember if I told you that Uncle
Walter Buckner married Beatrice Chaplin. Well,
I've recently gotten my copy of the new
Reynolds Family Book (which you contributed
so much to) and now, based on some more
things Camille has told me, I've learned that
Aunt Bee and I are cousins on my mother's
side. What a delightful surprise! She's
been my favorite Buckner Aunt. She kept
me one summer in Georgetown before I started
to school in Camden in the first grade
after my parents separated. (My two brothers
and I spent four childhood years at the
home which Mother (Margaret Carrington)
Mayfield operated in Camden. We always atten-
ded Grace Episcopal Church, where we sat
with her on Sundays. In the summer, she
sent me and Graham to Camp Gravatte. (It
was a bit sad, but I never ^{in my faintly} once attended
church with my own parents. My Dad, though
he married a minister's daughter, was not
particularly religious, though neither was he
irreverent, and mother didn't go either,
apparently because she chose not to go alone.

Mother Mayfield did not herself reside at the children's home, though she regularly visited - almost twice daily - in jeans, floral hats, kid gloves, and perfume, and, always, in a Cadillac. But she lived to her very nineties - a most unusual person. When I was emancipated from the home, at the age of 10, she made me promise her, when she came to me for a private good-bye, that I would upon reaching manhood enter the Episcopal ministry. I didn't keep my "promise," but I served two years in the Army, as a lieutenant, and in Vietnam I taught English classes during off-duty hours at Vietnamese Community School. I was employed four years as a Counselor with the Alston Wilkes Society while married, and I earned a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the Dept. of Education at U. S. C. in Columbia. However, following my divorce in 1973 I have mainly been employed as an electrician. However, one of my friends, whom I recruited in grad. school to employment with Alston Wilkes, has recently left the society to enter - you guessed it? - the Episcopal ministry.

So, dear Cousin Robert, I'll leave you for
a while with this, but do please convey
my greeting and kind regards to Miss Cora,
and if God is Willing, I hope some day
to meet the two of you - possibly at the
Lawton Reunion?

With loving and sincere closing good wishes,
Thomas Buchner always!

~~115 N. Lake St.~~
~~Lawton, Okla.~~