

~~Orange Hill, Alabama~~  
~~Huntsville, Alabama~~

July 20, 1983

Dear Bob:

I so much appreciate your letter. Thank you for your "kind words" on the two big events in our lives in 1983. There's a third one coming up before the year is out--we're expecting another great grandchild in the fall!

I treasure my copy of Transactions 87. ( I am, indeed, a member of the Huguenot Society of S.C.) Your Grimball Plantation Journal article is very fine indeed, and I took the liberty of referencing it in Kith and Kin, as well as Tom's scholarly work on Robert. You two are amazing! How fortunate our family is to have you constantly studying and tracking down facts, and documenting and publishing them for all of us to use and enjoy. Thank you!

Was pleased to know of your and Cora's interest in the Alabama DeWitt and Roper families. I went first to the Historical Collection in our Huntsville Library. (It's quite good for Alabama and Tennessee Valley Genealogical information.) As you know, there is no 1820 U.S. census index, but in the partial census for 1820 in the library, I found no DeWitts or Ropers listed. I'm sure, too, you've found the three DeWitts listed in the 1830 Wilcox County index, as well as three Ropers listed in 1830 (Benjamin in Pickens, James in Lauderdale, and John M. in Lowndes). In the 1840 census (p. 321) James DeWitt is listed in Wilcox County with 1 female and 2 children. In the 1850 census of Wilcox County (p. 353) Agness DeWitt is listed. There are a number of Ropers listed in the 1850 Alabama census, including William M. Roper (p. 362 of Index) in Madison County (Huntsville).

I'm enclosing a copy of some pages from A Glance into the Great South-East, or Clarke County, Alabama (1540 to 1877). It does look as if the DeWitts mentioned may be directly related to your James F., doesn't it? I asked if the book could be sent to you on Interlibrary Loan, and was told it could not. Perhaps you can find a copy elsewhere.

About the Ropers: I think if you will write Mrs. Nolen Roper, c/o Roper's Florist, 2008 Whitesburg Drive, S.E., Huntsville 35801, she'll be happy to answer questions about the family. The family is one of Huntsville's oldest and most respected. A Roper ancestor owned and farmed and raised flowers on property not far removed from the young town of Huntsville. About fifteen years ago, Roper descendants sold some of the property and Medical Center Hospital was erected on the spot. Family members have continued the florist business, and they have other business interests throughout Huntsville. Mrs. Nolen Roper manages the shop now, and when I ~~called~~

called her this morning, she said she'd be glad to "talk to the other Ropers and try to get answers " to questions you may have. There seem to be a number of Roper descendants of those first Huntsville Ropers throughout Alabama. I hope she can put you in touch with the ones who could be helpful.

I had a call from my editor. She tells me I'll be receiving a computerized printout for proofreading Kith and Kin before the end of the month. We oldtimers just have to "get with" all these new-fangled ways of doing things, don't we ?

Best always to you and Cora from both of us.

Fondly,

*Chadley*  
Mrs. Glover Harrell

Glover Futch Harrell

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