

IRWIN

~~2301 Preston St.,~~
~~Columbia, S.C.~~
December 8, 1932.

Mrs. Annie Elizabeth Miller,
679 Colloge St.,
Macon, Ga.

Dear Mrs. Miller:

I have recently been reading your interesting book "Our Family Circle." I am related to two of the families mentioned--the Irwin family and the Robert family.

Nathaniel Irwin was my great-great-great-grandfather through the line of his daughter, Mary Irwin, who married Abraham Roach (note page 419). In records prepared by M. R. Clark, M. D., a grandson of Abraham Roach and Mary (Irwin) Roach, the name is spelled "Irvin", also, when used as a personal name, it is spelled "Irving". Abraham Roach was a son of Samuel Roach and ---- (Springs) Roach. I have much information concerning this branch of the Roach family. Abraham and Mary (Irvin) Roach's daughter, Mary Irvin Roach, married John Willis Clark and their son, Michael Roach Clark, was the father of William Dodd Clark who was my father. On page 418 of your volume, referring to great-great-great-grandfather Nathaniel Irwin's will, is stated: "Nathaniel's will was signed Dec. 13, 1793, and was probated Feb. 1794. An interesting feature of the will is the mention of his son-in-law, Abraham, 'brother-by-law', Jacob, sister-in-law, Rachel, and wife, Leah. These names incline us to ask, Have we Jewish blood?" Because of the possibility of creating a wrong impression, it would have been best, in my opinion, to have omitted that question. Insofar as Abraham Roach was concerned, I believe he had no Jewish blood whatsoever. This also would probably apply to all the others mentioned. It appears to have been a custom at that time among British and American peoples, who were not related in any degree to Israelites, to give their children Biblical names such as "Abraham", "Jacob", "Rachel", "Leah", and even "Moses" and "Rebecca". This is no comparison of the merits or demerits of the British and Jewish peoples, both of whom possess many admirable qualities.

As to my relationship to the Robert family--George Washington Clark who married William H. Robert (mentioned on page 268) was my grandaunt. The record in "Our Family Circle" states that her name was "Georgia Washington Clark and was born Dec. 22, 1822"; however, our family records,

prepared by her brother, M. R. Clark (my grandfather), show that her name was "George Washington Clark", and that she was born "December 23, 1822". In records of a collegiate institute she attended her name is also mentioned as "George Washington Clark". I would appreciate if you could convey this information to those from whom you received records pertaining to the William H. Robert-George Washington (Clark) Robert family, which were published in your book. I have other records pertaining to this family. Could you give me the addresses of those who are interested in this line of the Robert family? I will gladly give them additional data.

I have considerable records pertaining to our Clark family, especially John Willis Clark and M. R. Clark. My grandfather, M. R. Clark, was a veteran of the Seminole, Mexican and Confederate wars. In addition he was a physician, a graduate of the Philadelphia College of Medicine of Philadelphia, Pa. In the Seminole war he was a member of the Columbia, S. C., company that went to Florida in 1836. In the Mexican war he was 2nd Lieutenant of the Columbia company (H) and, while serving as Adjutant of the Palmetto Regiment, was severely wounded at Chapultepec. During the first part of the Confederate war he was in Mississippi and during the later part of the war he was in South Carolina. In the Confederate war he was Captain; Major; Asst. Adjt. General of the State of Mississippi; Adjt. & Insp. General of the 3rd Brigade, Army of Mississippi; Commander of the State Camp of Instruction at Brookhaven, Miss.; Asst. Adjt. General C. S. A.; Commandant of Conscription of the State of Mississippi; Inspector of Conscription of the State of South Carolina.

I found much to interest me in your book "Our Family Circle", especially the articles on the Irwin and Robert families.

May I have the pleasure of hearing from you?

Very truly yours,

Thomas W. Clark.

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