

Thomas Booth (Gladys Kears) ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
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September 10, 1977

Rev. Dr. Robert E.H. Peeples  
8 Moon Shell Road  
Folly Field Plantation  
Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29928  
Dear Mr. Peeples,

You don't know me, but I am a grandson of Jacob Weissinger Folk, brother of your grandfather Ellison Capers Folk. My grandfather had eight children, Vinona (Nonie), married Jasper Dunham Peeples, Owen Weissinger, married Juanita Carter, Mearl Elizabeth, (my mother), married William George Clifton, (my father), Eula Lee, married Jacob Martin Williams. William Ellison, married Minnie Frampton, Reba Catherine, married William Thomas Mosley, Erma Anna, married Edison Sauls (I) and Joe Shynbarek (2), and Jesse Carl, married Virginia Garris. My mother was also married twice. To Eugene Mosley, the second time.

The reason I am writing you is I would like to know the address of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Booth. My cousin, Harold David Williams, said he had heard from you that Mrs. Booth had undergone serious surgery and still faced more. I am real sorry to hear this. I thought something was wrong inasmuch as I had written to her to her New Jersey address and the letters came back. She wrote me such a nice letter thanking me for my efforts in supplying her information, I thought it would be nice to let her know of my gratitude for the tremendous efforts they must have put into this book. You should know inasmuch as you have done a lot of it yourself. So I have heard. I would also like for you to send me Joseph Earl Steadman's address too if you have it. I would like to find out about aunt "Mellie's" family. I would like to know about your family too. I would like to know the full names, date of birth, death, marriage, and place of burial, of your grandfather, grandmother, father, mother, brothers, sisters, their spouses, and children, right up to the present date. Also of your aunt and her children. Now cousin Robert (if I may have the honor of addressing you so), I know this is asking a lot of you, but it is the only way to find out. I have seen a copy of "The Folks Of America" John Frances Folk and Family Associates. It is basically the same as the copy you sent my uncle Willie (William Folk) several years ago, but it only came down to, and included Jacob Levi Folk (our great-grand-father), Jesse Cornelius Folk (our great-great-uncle, and Ella Zenobia Folk (our great-great-aunt. These are the only children of Levi Folk to reach adulthood. I have a burning desire to try and bring the Levi Folk branch (our branch) up to date as nearly as possible. I know it is going to be an almost impossible job, but I am going to try. It may be that you already have a lot of this information. If you do please let me know. Help me if you can. I will appreciate it. It is such a pity that Mr. and Mrs. Booth have not been able to complete their work. Maybe some day they will.

Now let me tell you something about me. I came to Charleston at the age of nineteen years in 1931 and with the help of my uncle William Folk secured a job with the Gulf Oil Co. I worked for them seven years and invested ten per cent of my salary in company stock. Soon I had enough capital to enter the oil business. In the meantime I met and married a girl from Barnwell county, named Willa Lou Wall. My life was one of complete happiness. She bore me three beautiful children. Barbara Jean, Frances Carolyn, and James Henry Jr. After fifteen years of happiness and five of torment my wife divorced me and left me a broken hearted man and I have remained so until this day.

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I went and made my home with my mother and sister Rebecca Mosley Blackmon. Shortly there after my dear Sister died of cancer at age thirty-five. Mother and I continued to live with my brother-in-law for three more years until he remarried. Then I made a home for mother and I. In the meantime I had given my home, which was paid for, to my exwife, along with adequate support for my children. I put the two girls through college. Barbara, Furman University and Carolyn, University Of South Carolina. James H. Jr., elected not to go to college, inasmuch as he failed by two points to gain entrance to the Citadel. He went to work for the Southern Bell Telephone Co. and today he has a good position. His present title is Supervisor of Business Accounts. I am real proud of my children. They are all happily married and are raising families of thir own. And I might add, are good Christians. My girls are very active in thir Church. Barbara teaches at Citadel Square Church School and Carolyn teaches at Springfield Elementary Public School. I know that my children love me, but they have built thir own busy little world around them and there just doesn't seem to be any room in it for me. However I forgive them. Perhaps it is possible that I am a bit selfish, having loved my mother so dearly.

I retired in January 1974 after major surgery. Soon thereafter (August 1, 1974) mother died. I have lived alone since. I can't do much driving on account of my diabetic condition. I fall asleep easily. I have plenty of time to give thought to the true values of life, and my boyhood days. I remember Uncle Ellison, Aunt Mellie, and vaguely, Uncle Gus. I remember Aunt Janie very well. In fact she has visited in my home. She used to come to Charleston to visit her grand-daughter, Jean Bishop, one of her son Leon's daughters. Jean taught school at North Charleston while her husband went to the Citadel. She was also a very good friend of my sister Rebecca. After Rebecca died, I lost all contact with her. When Leon died, his wife closed up her fine home and went to live with one of her daughters up north some where. Leon only had the two girls. I knew Jean but I did not know the other one. I guess I will have a time trying to find out about Aunt Janie's family. Also about Uncle Gus's. But I will try. I apologize for getting into my personal life, and for the errors I have made in this letter, but you know I only have a grade school education. As always I do the best I can with what I have. Help me if you can, and with the help of GOD, from WHOSE BOUNTIFUL HAND I have received so many BLESSINGS and am ever grateful, and thankful, I shall succeed. I have tryed to instill it into my childrens minds that ours is a "Proud Heritage" and of "Royal Blood," and that they should always conduct themselves accordingly. My earnest prayer is that they will, as I have, always keep "GOD FIRST and FOREMOST" in all of thir endeavors, and HE, knowing what our needs are, will sustain and keep us always. Dear Cousin, I hope I am not boreing you, but this is something I could talk about on and on.

I must close now. Please favor me if you can, and may GOD'S richest blessings be yours for always.

Sincerely yours,  
James Henry Clifton

*James Henry Clifton*