

June 1, 2001

Dear Dr. Peeples:

Carmen and I always welcome your letters. They provide valuable family data, make for enjoyable reading and, when you tell of your and "Miss Cora's" activities, we are drawn into the larger family.

The recent Reunion in Mississippi has enabled Carmen to shed some of her labors of more than four years. Officers were elected, for the first time, and she is slowly passing information, etc to them. There was enough interest and responsibility shown by the new officers that she is confident the reunions will continue "on alternate, odd numbered years."

You are aware that Joe Bunch "caught me at a weak moment" when I agreed to speak at the Lawton and Allied Families Reunion. I had read his copy of the Luther "Memories" and found some personal "identification" which "beguiled me." John Hill Luther and Anne Jaudon were assigned, by the Home Mission Board to the Pendleton (SC) Baptist Church. The Pendleton District was the territory out of which my own Pickens County was carved. Also, this is the area of SC where my grandfather ministered for our 50 years. Further, JHL and Anne Jaudon Luther were the parents of Anne Luther who married William Bagby. They became the Southern Baptists' first missionaries to Brazil and they were a preeminent among "mission minded Baptists" for many years.

I need your help as I continue preparing my talk. I have Part I of the Jaudon Family article you prepared for Transaction # 87. Is it possible to get Part II? I do not intend to include a great deal of family lineage, but, knowing it would reassure me. Some information that will be of special help would be an account of Jaudon "plantation life" at Black Swamp (c. 1850-1860) I am deeply impressed with Anne Jaudon, child of privilege, who experienced a life of struggle as the wife of minister/missionary. She was a remarkable lady!

Recently I was searching the Internet for family and SC history. I found an electronic text of a diary kept by "Meta Morris Grimball (Mrs John Berkly Grimball), The Grove Plantation, St. Paul's Parish, SC" It covered the years 1860 - ? Is that part of our Grimball kin? The diary makes good reading; although, I haven't given much attention to it as yet.

A History of South Carolina Baptists, by Joe King, has provoked a question about Elias Robert. At the time Pipe Creek and other Baptist Churches were withdrawing from the Charleston Association to unite with the Savannah Association, Joe writes, "In 1800 Elias Robert was dismissed to the Savannah Church." What do you know about Elias. No other reference is in Joe's book; but, apparently he was of some prominence - else why make that statement??

My talk seems to be developing as an autobiographical pilgrimage showing how others of our family moved westward (not just the 90 to MS.) Some historical perspective (religious, national, etc.) will be added at critical times in the journey. It will be closer to "story telling" as opposed to scholarly. Nonetheless, I'm "in it up to my ears." Perhaps you have some suggestions ? They will be welcomed.!

Carmen has written her summary of the recent reunion. It was sent to others for reactions and corrections. Update your copy to reflect that Joe Bunch is Vice President. The Estill gathering awaits! Fred will not be there (he returned to college to study Spanish. His Priest said, "We are to start a Church for the Spanish speaking people. We do not have anyone who can speak the language. You are the one!") My opinion is that Fred will one day become a Priest.)

Until we meet as Estill -

