

Jack Ledston, Vidalia, Ga

1100 Westwood Road,
Knoxville, Tenn.
Apr. 7, 1964

Ledston
Dear Mr. Ledston:

I am sure I should not have wasted even one day after receiving your address from Mrs. Norton, but I've had some sort of intestinal bug, and it has left me with a vast weariness, which does not add to the malleability of my wits, so when I finally did get up yesterday I confined myself to a strictly copying job. I find this very soothing! There is a sense of accomplishment, with a minimum of effort and it is a job that is being under usual circumstances. So I've added Peyre to my condensed notes.

Perhaps I should introduce myself—we may have had connections in a former generation. For forty odd years there has been battling around a carbon of a genealogy of the James Davant family and with it a carbon of a letter my grandfather (Thomas St. Davant) of Roanoke, Va. wrote to Gen. A. P. Lawton requesting information on the Davant family. I know not if this genealogy was the result of this letter—it is the same information I got from Cousin Elizabeth Law thirty years ago—and she said she had corresponded with Granddaddy, also. I think Gen. Lawton was a railroader (I don't know why his name and even the year of the letter, 1915, have stuck in my mind all these years. I probably have the letter, but I took a peek at my Davant file and decided it would be of little use to spend time looking. One of the things I seriously meant to do was go through the four files and discard the letters which were purely personal and extract the meat from others, but as you know this would be a monumental undertaking, and I have yet to do the essentials from my notes.

Mrs. Norton says you know who I am, from a genealogical standpoint—she letter she wrote her daughter (who goes to our church and is a very dear friend of ours) said something about your wife being a D'Ungle descendant. I remember many years ago I got all the information I could along that line for a Mrs. LeBoir in Jacksonville. Do you have that information? I did not find much about D'Ungle, but I could at least some the Johnston line of his wife. This is one of the families I first hope to trace in Scotland. But I have a fair amount, and clear line of descent from the beginning in N.C. at the time I did this work for Mrs. LeBoir (I think that was her name) my husband's grandmother was alive and remembered the marriage—I think—at any rate know I have an outline of what she told me in my Elizabeth-Johnston notes. If you do not have this, I shall be very happy to copy it—and see what I might have left of the notes I made for Mrs. LeBoir—I have certainly already benefitted from what you have had done on the Norton line.

How did I get off of introducing myself? My grandfather was vice president of the RR until the year before his death in 1921. He was born in Gillisville and grew up there till he was 15 or 14, when his mother, sisters and younger brother and he all fledged up at Fort Mill. At the close of the war Granddad was 16 and Col. Springs got him a job with the RR as telegraph and ticket agent. Every time I think about Granddad I sort of swell with pride. He must have been a smart man, for his education must have been extremely meagre, yet he went from one job to another—always much better than the last—from Columbia to Augusta to Memphis to Knoxville to Roanoke—from the merest nobody to vice president of a large railroad in less than thirty years. He surely place too much dependence these days on formal education! Granddad was an omnivorous reader, and he had Mr. Sam Claggett for his rate clerk (rates were Granddad's specialty, and he said that he represented Mr. Claggett's brains—Mr. Claggett stuttered and couldn't express himself) My father was his oldest son, Tom—the only son for 6 daughters after them my grandparents had five more sons. Granddad was determined to make Daddy a railroader—Dad wanted to

his worthip of work done for him. He told me privately that I was the first person he had seen do this work, besides himself of course:-the law how to place names in the gaps. I don't think I had enough experience to really do very good at this, but I hope I had the feelings. I have to think it really wasted this talent has seen and I have never lost my interest, and if I had gone to it as a profession I might have been better. The few families you will see I great com. it out once-I wish I had his cards; but he said speaking like I treaded on lead ashes and brought first to life. He to put myself on the back at all, and. This however is my theme now. To bring to life these long dead ancestors of ours.....in we represent.

My husband, Jack Fanshan and I are off April first on a two months trip to the British Isles. I am going specifically to revitalize my imagination. I sometimes think Jack is being a little-restrain my ardour. He keeps bearing down on the cold, and the discomforts. I am certainly aware that these may disturb me as much as his, but I lived through many Charleston winters, and it can't be much worse-and it is almost spring over here. (I have Forsythia and Bush Jasmine in bloom in the house-and the latter is in bloom outdoors, and crecus and winter acornite besides) I expect to miss my comforts but think the rewards will outweigh the troubles. I thought Jack would get a bang out of sketching the places we go.

I shall surely go to Kenilworth-and I think whoever copied the will of John Norton of Cottestock County, Northampton misplaced the comma-should be County Northamptonshire Mrs. Norton-I made the same mistake in some early notes I made. Perhaps the records for this village were not destroyed as were those at Kenilworth-I shall certainly find out. It seems sort of unusual that this first John does not mention his son George, but it is not hard to understand how the many years since he left may have made the elder think his son dead. You notice that in George's will he calls his brother of Millinworth, while the brother says Kenilworth-so apparently the communication has been slight through the years. I notice from here too that I tend to feel more affection, and closer to family in Charleston than they do to me. They have filled their lives with other friends and interests, but to me, I stay in the same close relationship as when I left Charleston thirty years ago. Guess I should be grateful that I have kept my closeness over all that time.

Can you give me information on something which is bothering me. Do you have any notion of what the various registers expect in the line of pay for using the registers? I have been told this is expected, but not what the pay scale might be. I have some money contributed by other members of the family that I expect to use for this purpose. And for examining wills too, which costs a fee per will. I can imagine it is may run up to quite a sum.

Can you give me other sources which may show up on the reports your geneol. list sent you which will give me a clue where to look? I am going to enclose a list of the names I am searching information on with me to England. But I knew that I am a babe in arms when it comes to coping with the many sources I shall find there-any help before I start will be appreciated.

Now-another entirely different matter. I have been intensely interested for years in trying to establish the background for 'Artha Day, wife of William Day'. Now it turns out that she is not Jack's mistress after all, but I still keep trying to prove she was Artha Norton. Mrs. Norton says you are interested in this line-she says Conaway, but that is one way I've never seen it spelled-Conaway, yes, and Hinnaway, and but all the early records are of John Conaway, and he was important enough-to be spelled correctly. I saw a reference which you may not have-wherever it was who reported the deeds from St. Bartholomew's Parish must have indeed been weak on spelling! An interesting writing. Misc. Rec. 1749-51 p. 421 tract of 450 acres granted to John Conaway 15 Jan. 1711 in Colliton County bounded W on the freshes of Edistee R., N on John Galt, Ireland's Savannah and swamps, E and W on impassable swamps, bequeathed to his daughter, Elizabeth by will dated 1 Sept. 1713 conveyed and sold to Daniel Henrick formerly of New York by George Norton and Elizabeth his wife, which was the reputed daughter

Pro. CT. Misc. Rec. 1765-9 p. Martha May of Edisto Island, widow, administratrix of the unadministered goods of Kennaway Norton late dec'd...whereas Kennaway Norton died intestate and letters of administration were issued to Sarah Norton his widow who sold the goods and chattels and received her rights and intermarried with one Josua Eaton of the same place, planter and died and whereas Kennaway Norton's unadministered est. by said Josua and Sarah Eaton, also late dec'd have since been granted to Martha May... whereas it appears upon true account that goods etc of Kennaway Norton agreed to by me, Martha May, the balance of £ 610 after deducting one third of said Sarah the widow) is due from said Josua Eaton to estate of Kennaway Norton. Whereas at special request of Martha May hath been paid to me with which I am content. Quit claims all estate of Josua Eaton 7 Apr. 1764 Prev. 25 Mgt 1765 Wit. David Adams. Sworn before Wm. Edings.

St. Philip's Reg. gives burial of Mrs. Charity Russell 1787

And of course you have the various Norton deeds, including the one of George Norton whose wife Elizabeth agrees to sale "notwithstanding the mistake of the scribe in not mentioning my name in the within conveyance... 12 Jan. 1735 George is then of ~~Switzerland~~ Cranville County, but deed of Thomas Gereing and Jane of Berkley Co. to George Norton of Colleton County 30 Jan. 1735 and from Jenathan Norton and Maryann his wife, etc. is also to George Norton of Colleton County 12 Jan. 1735/6, making one think the copyist might have made this mistake in doing so many deeds regarding land in Granville Co.

Perhaps some of this will be new to you. I don't know how else Martha May could be kin to Kennaway Norton, unless she was his mother, and I've seen no records except for wife Elizabeth for George Norton. Does one next guess that Christopher Keen d. 1768 was also Martha's son, making three marriages? I can't figure this to be so, for John May was old enough to have a son in 1765, hence b. about 1745 or earlier; Keen before that brings it very close to George and Elizabeth Norton... but not impossible, Hardin.

Fordon the thinking on paper. I hope these notes do someone some good-I get right interested in Martha, and have long wanted to get her placed. Even if no longer ours, I wish her to be hung on the tree in the proper branch! After Miss Webber telling me Sarah Bailey who married Ralph Bailey was dau of Daniel and Martha Seabrook, Jenkins in the last five years I've found positively that she was the dau of Joseph Jenkins and Elizabeth Evans, and this really messes up our big direct line chart, in inelible ink! Along with the lovely Townsend line also went the Mays.

I hate to think of reading all this!

Any suggestions in regard to work in England will be appreciated.

Sincerely,