

9 August 89

Dear Robert,

Without carefully re-reading and analyzing my Rippon information beforehand, I wrote to you in response to the latest Rippon information you sent to me. You should by now have received this letter, and I am afraid that it contains some errors, which I want to correct.

As always, your last letter contained so much useful and interesting data that I sent it to Tommy so he could run off a copy for his files. He has not yet had time to return the letter to me, so I will have to rely on my memory in order to address the items I need to ask you about.

The first item concerns Mrs. Leila Miles' Rippon information, a copy of which you just recently sent to me. Mrs. Brownlee has a copy of this information too, and when I called her today, she brought to my attention a significant error: According to Mrs. Miles' information, Isaac Rippon married as his first wife (06/03/1766) Joanna "Slapter" (now known to be Staples), widow of John Sealy. If you will refer to Moore's Wills, you will see that John Sealy's wife's name was Hannah, not Joanna (Moore, 1740-1760, p. 5). Mrs. Brownlee said she thought that Isaac Rippon married not John Sealy's widow, but rather, Joseph Sealy's widow--so I checked, and sure enough, there Joseph was, in Moore's Wills (1760-1784, p. 81), and his wife's name was Joanna. Joseph's will was probated 09/23/1763, so 06/03/1766 is a very logical date for Joanna to have married Isaac Rippon. What do you think?

The next item concerns my theoretical "second Isaac Rippon," and I am afraid that the proof I thought I had to verify him has slipped through my fingers, now that Mrs. Brownlee has straightened me out on John and Joseph Sealy. What I need to ask you about is a bit of information I think was in your last letter--the one Tommy has now. Correct me if my memory fails here. What I think I recall your saying is this: Joanna, widow of Isaac Rippon, married in 1765--but you did not name the husband. I do remember referring to this in my letter to you--the fact that you did not say whom Joanna married after Isaac's death. You can easily see my specific point of confusion: How could Joanna, Isaac's widow, have married again in 1765, if she and Isaac didn't marry until 06/03/1766? My memory is probably not in focus here, so--HELP!

In the meantime, here are some data from Mrs. Brownlee--none of it to be considered "gospel" yet, but definitely to be kept in mind until Mrs. Brownlee can research further and send us copies of her sources.

1. A John Clark was one of the founders of Rhode Island.
2. William Tilly and his wife Mary seem to have originated in Rhode Island, their names appearing among some church records there--the Baptist Church, I believe.
3. The Sealys also appear in the Rhode Island picture--all tangled up with the Tillys.
4. Mrs. Brownlee strongly suspects that there is a stronger Lawton-Sealy-Tilly link than we have as yet been able to discover, or imagine.

So much for now. Remember me to Miss Cora, and stay in touch.

*Warmly, as ever - Paul*