

Star Route 69, Box 1205  
Ironton, MO 63650  
11 January 1984

Dear Robert Peeples:

It is uncertain just how to address you.....from the way you signed your letter to me it would appear that you are a Bishop of some church, possibly now retired. Lillie Ruth Laird is a Methodist. I am Episcopalian, and have a son who is rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Ironton (the reason I moved to this small community seven years ago from Dallas, Texas).

I am Registrar of the DAR in this area, and as such must have to sign every new application for membership, after having checked the genealogy and lineage. For this reason, I am pretty conversant with the requirements of the National Society. I have been a DAR member for many years, however not on the MANSELL or WHITE lines.

Sorry to have to dash your hopes, but there is no evidence extant that anyone has been able to find that the ROBERT MANSELL, Sr ever had any Revolutionary service of any kind. I have spent hundreds and hundreds of dollars on research of this family, have hired the finest professional genealogists in the East to search, in addition to travelling back there myself. Not only me, but also several of the other descendents with whom I keep in touch and visit, have had the same experience. Believe me, if there were any shred of evidence, I would have used it myself to file a supplemental DAR application to establish another patriot ancestor a long time ago. Mrs. Peeples' lineage would be through ROBERT MANSELL, Jr who was born ca-1780 in Fairfield Co. SC. Of course, this date of birth eliminates him. Personally, I believe that ROBERT MANSELL, Sr. may have been a Tory. And I have reason for this belief. The family story is that he was born in England, but no proof has ever been found. He must have been quite a secretive character.

As to the family of OBEDIAH WHITE, I have done exhaustive research on this family and have never been able to establish the name of Obediah's father with any degree of certainty. It possibly might have been Benjamin or Obediah. The family story is that young Obediah, his father and uncle, migrated to McMinn Co. Tenn from Virginia; the uncle going on into Kentucky. I have also checked all the Kentucky Whites of that era, but nothing conclusive. In the book "Over The Mountain Men" by Anne Lowry Worrell, under Marriage Records of Bedford Co. VA is a marriage of an OBEDIAH WHITE and RHODA ARTHUR on 24 April 1785 by Nathan Shrewsbury. Young Obediah was born in 1799. Nothing more is known of this marriage.

Nothing has been found on the MOORE'S in Logan County, Kentucky. Since Robert Mansell, Jr. had brothers living across the state line in Tennessee at the time of his marriage, the thought occurred to me that Robert Jr. and Margaret Moore COULD have eloped across the line and married in Logan Co. KY. This is my idea, only. But daughter Martha (Patsy) was born in KY according to the federal census of 1830.

Your reference to LUCINDA WHITE, daughter of MARTHA MANSELL and OBEDIAH WHITE, who married JAMES B. SHELL.....according to the records her name was simply LUCINDA, and it was her daughter LUCINDA who bore the BRECKENRIDGE name. And this daughter went by the nickname of "Breckie" according to the family. Also, there are no MITCHELLS that I know of. The names of MITCHELL and BRECKENRIDGE may have been in the SHELL family. They weren't in the MANSELL family.



It would seem that Mrs. Peeple's application for membership in the DAR MIGHT be on the McKenzie line. That is, if her ancestor came to America from Scotland prior to the Revolutionary War, and that he participated in some way. The Patriot Index of the DAR shows 16 McKenzies who were patriots, and on whose records their descendents have claimed membership. Also, there was an Alexander McKenzie in the South Carolina Militia in 1760. I notice that her father's name was Alexander, and wondered if it were possible that he was named for an ancestor.

Also it might be wise to check into the SHELL family. In "Colonial Soldiers of The South" 1732-1774 there are three Shell men listed; one in Maryland, one in North Carolina, and one in South Carolina. Militia service qualifies a Patriot for the DAR, although most of the service was prior to the Revolution itself.

It might be wise to mention that prior to 1819 when McMinn Co. TN was formed, all of that was Indian Lands. No records much of white men were kept, and it is somewhat frustrating to try to get definite information in that area. I have been to McMinn County, have researched there, and visited practically every cemetery. I have roots myself there. Did you know that your families are buried in the Guffey-Shell Cemetery (for the most part)?

I know that this letter will be disappointing to you, and I am sorry that I cannot hold out the hope that you are looking for...but the facts just aren't there. It was nice to hear from you, and I wish you well in becoming a Daughter of the American Revolution.

I do not know Joseph Raymond Johnston. He must have gotten his information on ROBERT MANSELL from Lillie Ruth Laird. And I am the one who furnished it to her. I also did considerable research for her on her BOND line, and established her lineage on the Thannisch family. She and I are related in two different families. I have not kept up a very rapid correspondence with her the past two years, because I am swamped with research and it takes more time than people realize; with very little time left over for social correspondence.

Your Hilton Head Island sounds wonderful.....particularly as contrasted with this miserably cold climate in the Ozark Mountains. We are near the Mississippi River, about 90 miles south of St. Louis.

With Kindest Regards,

*Edna B. Ripley*