

21 Aug. 1984

Dear Paul,

I wrote you a letter yesterday and then realized that I had no address. Today your letter came giving an address, so here I go again. This letter is mainly in response to the copy of Dr. Peeples' letter to you(17 Aug.)

I see that he already has most of the information which I wrote yesterday, except a census reading for Thomas Milam in 1810. There may also be a reading for Coleman Milam. I was not looking especially for Milam when I originally copied Thomas. As time permits, I'll check this census again. (We don't have an index.)

I have been suspicious of the year of birth given for Coleman Milam, mainly because of the 1800 census figures for Thomas. On the census of 1790 there were two males under age 16 and on the census of 1800 there were two males age 10-16. Seems to me to be the same two. In 1800 Coleman Milam would have been age 19, so where is he? Dr. Peeples states that he repeatedly stated to census takers that he was born 1781. There are only two census records that he would have been listed with an exact age--1850 and 1860. He supposedly died 1869.

* Investigation of the 24a. of land sold by Coleman Milam in 1816 shows that in 1794, one Caleb Davis sold 126a. to William Rodgers.(Deed Bk. E, p. 457) How Wm. Rodgers lost or disposed of this tract is not recorded. By 7 Feb. 1811, Charles Little, who owned a large amount of land in neighboring tracts, sold to James Leake 180a. containing the above 126a. The deed was witnessed by Thomas(X)Milam. (Deed Bk. J, p. 215) On 8 Sept. 1816, James Leake sold 150a. of the above land to one John Leake(his son, I suspect), leaving 30a. It was the tract of which Coleman Milam sold 24a. on 1 Oct. 1816. Since there is no recorded information as to how he got the land, we can only speculate that he may have received it as a wedding gift. In which case, his wife must surely have been a daughter of James Leake.

It is interesting to note that in Laurens Co. records, Thomas Milam consistently signed his name by mark. Could a man who signed by mark have been "sole" executor of a will?

1811 seems to have been the last date of which there was evidence of Thomas(X)Milam in Laurens Co. land records. And, of course, the 1816 date is the only entry I located for Coleman Milam. The mention of Franklin Co. TN is new to me. The query previously cited says Coleman died in Hardin Co. Handy Book for Genealogists states that Franklin Co. was created in 1807 out of the earlier cos. of Bedford and Warren. Hardin Co. was created in 1819 out of "Western District"--Indian lands, I suppose.

There is proof thus far that Thomas(X)Milam lived in Laurens Co. SC 1790-1811; his wife's name was Elizabeth; he had a son John Milam who was certainly of age in 1817. Coleman Milam lived here and was certainly of age in 1816. Both Coleman and John Milam probably married here. There is no evidence at all that Thomas(X)Milam died here.

20 Aug. 1984

Dear Paul,

Last Friday(17), I received your envelope of interesting--
as usual--material.

I remember one Laurens Co. man who was taken prisoner by the Japanese on Bataan, I think. His name was Luther Prather and his family lived in the community in which I grew up. He died while a prisoner and it was not until sometime in the 1950s that his remains were returned to Laurens Co. for burial. I have been trying to locate a sister of Luther's to tell her of your uncle's book.

Dr. Peeples writes an interesting letter. I'm sorry he was expecting to hear from me directly. As you know, I don't want to become involved with any "Merry-go-round" correspondence on the Milam family. Separate sheets contain the small amount of information I've been able to locate on Thos./Coleman Milam. Also enclosed is the page from GGM which contains the material Mrs. Pulley mentioned on John Milam, son of Thos. I have not made an effort to locate the original record yet. It's not likely there will be more information than is in the published account.

Thank you for the copy of John Milam's will from York Co. It is very important that the loose probate records and all loose papers be obtained if possible. Thomas Milam as executor was required by law to make detailed returns to the Judge of Probate concerning the income and expenditures. Final settlement papers and payments to the heirs contain much genealogical information. If I remember correctly, there is another entry for John Milam in Will Book B index. Note at the bottom of the typescript will: Case No. 60, File No. 300. This is reference for finding the loose papers.

Amory, Ms. is in Monroe Co. and is "next-door" to Pontotoc Co. Seems to me that in the space of 50 years Mrs. Lantrip should have run down all these people in Monroe and Pontotoc. The widow of John Milam who died in Ala., was living in Monroe Co. Ms. in 1855--guess she died there. Is Mrs. Lantrip from this same family from which I think you are??? I not surprised that no one has heard of "Diotrephes". Evidently, his own grandsons didn't know of him; and they lived in Laurens Co!

Today's mail brought the material from Mr. Ed Milam and I say "Hooray!". At last it seems someone is making an effort to consult original records. Hope he keeps it up. Haven't really taken time to compare and try to straighten out all this recent material. There are a few variances.

I've been into the early 1840s records again. Can't believe the number of people of the Reedy R. and Saluda R. area who were mortgaging their lands and personal property--furniture, horses, cows, everything! I wonder if we'll ever know the reason. Probably not---

MB

If there is proof here that Coleman Milam was son of Thomas, it probably would come from the reams and reams of what I call "obscure" records; i. e. records that are not or are partially indexed. Court records, etc. Even there, I doubt that he would be identified as "son of". There was only one Coleman Milam and identification was not necessary. John Milam was identified in the records of 1817 as son of Thomas simply because by that time there were quite a number of men by name of John Milam.

Thanks again for all the material you've sent. With all that's been going on, you must have had no time to sleep.

Sincerely,

Mildred B.