

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

18 June 1970

The Reverend Robert E.H. Peeples
Folly Field Beach
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29928

Dear Reverend Peeples:

I am puzzled by your geneology of the Miles family of South Carolina, beginning on page 231 of the 1965 issue of the South Carolina Historical Magazine about what you say of Margaret Miles, one of the children of Thomas Miles and his wife Mary. She was baptized April 4, 1722 and married first James Hartley and second Robert Williams. [You say her will was written* May 8, 1770 and probated January 12, 1771.]

wished to give to her ^{son, Mrs. James & Margaret Williams} and gr. ch. James & Margaret Williams. Indenture between Robert + Margaret (1st party) and Robert Philip, CT planter regarding 29 slaves she

I could not find this in the published compilation of South Carolina wills now extending to 1784. I found that of her husband Robert Williams written in ^{3 Oct 1771} 1772 and probated in 1776 when she was apparently still alive. Is this a typographical error for 1790 and 1791?

I am studying the American painter Henry Benbridge (1743-1812). One of his acknowledged masterpieces is "The Hartley Family" conversation piece painted, supposedly, in 1787.

The old lady is Margaret Miles Hartley Williams, and it also include her daughter Sarah Hartley, the wife of William Somersall (died 1788) and her granddaughter Mary Somersall Ward (1775-1813), the wife of Colonel John Ward. Another grand-child, the daughter of another daughter by "Mad Archie" Campbell, is also shown. *Margaret Philip Campbell, daug. Margaret Philip (Mrs. Archibald Campbell)*

I do not see how a lady who died in 1771 can be painted in 1787. Have you come across the names of Margaret Miles daughters so that I can identify another group of miniatures of them?

Looking forward to hearing from you I am

Sincerely,

Robert G. Stewart
Curator

Dr. James Hartley m. 10 march 1785 miss Perry

Dr James Hartley m. Eliza Ledson at Stone on Thurs. last. (SC Gazette, Thurs. 1 May 1788)
24 Apr 1788