

MILAM Family Records

CORA MCKENZIE PEEPLE: NS DAR No. 690253

R. 3, Box 34
Cecil, Ark. 72930
1-17-72

Dear Myrtle,

Did I write you once before?
If I did not, I surely meant to.
Mr. Luther White has called
me asking about his grandma
Harris, saying he'd a letter from
you asking about her, and that
you had a letter of inquiry from
a Kinsman in So. Car. Dear me!
Myrtle, I do hope this will be a
break-through on our Milam
line. Yes, your great grand-
mother Martha Milam Harris,
wife of Tom H. (or C. The census gives (William Coleman Harris)
Louis Creek in the Milam plot at
D. which I believe correct) Harris,
was a sister to my gr. gr. fa,
Thomas Ferrill or Farrell Milam;
both children of Coleman Milam
of Ca. 1781 in Va., probably Halifax
Co.

I have been researching our Milam
for nearly 12 years now. Goodspeed's
History of N.W. Ark. 1889 gave
biographical sections of all
Thomas F. Milam, Sr.'s children.

(over)

Thomas F. Milam, Orderly
sergeant in Confederate Army
died at a Van Buren hosp.,
Mar. 14, 1862 after he & sons
Lucas Coleman (my grandfather) & Thomas
F. Jr. had enlisted in Arbuckle's
Division at Ft. Smith Nov. 10, 1861.
Thomas F. Jr. missed each
roll call after Dec. He is
buried in Conf. Cemetery there on
Van Buren; but we can't find
grave or record of location.
If we could locate, would
put a Gov't tombstone and
grave marker. I have tried,
also, to get state to clean up
the cemetery. Jacobs promised
to investigate, but nothing
was done. Maybe if you
have time, you could
ask about records, as
there should be records of
burials there. No one else
in the family will help me in
any way and think me crazy for
being interested in dead people, espe-
cially Curtis. I have Mama nearly 94 to
take for and am tied down & can't
do any personal research - just write!

but I did not find the Harris' family included. Maybe it was because Martha was not able as the cost was \$25.00, so Papa said, for each biography and then that entitled each donor to receive a book. Your library has this. Go see Mrs. Swinburne, a Crawford Co. Historian and a good one who has many old books in her possession. She has two books which discuss the Milams. I have been told that she has one book which definitely says Coleman Milam was son of John Milam. This would be John Milam, Jr. b. at Lynchburg, Brunswick Co. Va. Dec. 24, 1753, I believe as I'm hurrying from memory - John, Jr. was a soldier in the Rev. throughout the Rev. War, and was at Valley Forge & crossed the Delaware with Washington's group when they took Trent's Town, N. J. (Trenton, N. J. now.) John was a pensioner and in his pension application gave exact birthdate, places of residence & Rev. service. He carried his Bible with him during the war & wrote his stenoary (?) or diary in the fly-leaves. I am told this

Bible is preserved somewhere.
 John, Jr. died in Madison Co. Ala.
 1837 or 9 - His entire War record
 may be had from the National
 Archives, Washington, D. C. for
 a dollar or two. I have Coleman's
 War of 1812 service in S. C. but
 he took Bounty Land for service
 and did not give much personal
 info. except proof of military
 service. Also served 1839 in Indian War in Florida.

Thomas J. Milam was b. 1810 in
 Laurens Co., S. C. but Coleman was
 not in 1810 census of Laurens Co. S. C.
 I believe Coleman Milam was son
of Thomas Milam, younger brother
to John, Jr. who were sons of John
Milam, Sr. other ^{known} sons were Samuel,
Bartlett, Ferrill, Benjamin, and James (C)
John Milam, Sr. was son of Samuel
Milam and Martha Gardner who
were married in Augusta (?) Co.
Ga. Sept 8, 1724 & John was b. 1725.
Other ^{known} ^{b. 1724 - d. 1771} sons of Samuel & Martha
were Thomas ^{who marr. Mary} Adams, relative to Pres. John Adams,
and Archibald ^{b. 1729} who marr. Mary
Dilson, who were parents of
Moses Scott Milam who married
Elizabeth (Patty) Boyd in Bedford Co. Va.
& were parents of Benjamin ^{Road} Milam
of Alamo fame. Moses S. Milam
was also a Rev. soldier & took bounty
land in Ky. where he moved about

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1795. I have a copy of a letter
written by Moses' grandson 1890
giving all his ^{Pres.} children.

Samuel Milam, Sr. had a brother
John & both are on record in Va.
1715, when their name was spelled
Mileham. Later the eh were dropped
as they were silent in pronunciation.

I have found no one who
has a record of their passage
into Va. But Hatten's List of
Persons of renown gives
one John Mileham who
died in Elizabeth City, Va. 1623.
Since women & wives were
brought into Va. 1619, this
John could have had a wife
& chr. Then there were a
John and Benjamin Mylom
in Mass. by 1623. I have a
list with birthdates of all their
chr. This is from Pope's work.
Thomas Milam & Mary Adams had
a son Benjamin Milam who marr.
Elizabeth Jackson, dau. of Jarvis &
Mary Jackson. He became a
Rev. prisoner of the British & when
the Continentals stormed Guilford
Court House, N.C. June 16, 1781,
the British cruelly shot hundreds
of these Continental soldiers (prisoners)
among whom was Benjamin Milam.
He & Eliz. had 7 known chr. An older
sister of Eliz. Anne Jackson had

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married a John Milam whose
will of 1779 proves him to
have been a very wealthy
man with his estate inventoried
at £400,000 which counting a
pound (£) at \$5 would be \$2,000,000, today.
I have the marriage of some of their
chrs. which says, dau. of Lenke, or
son of Anne Milam.

I think ^{son of John, son of Samuel} ~~son of John~~ Coleman Milam was son
of Thomas ^{by his 1st wife}, Jan 1785 Halifax Co. Va.
Tax list Thomas Milam had 3 in family -
no dwelling, but one other building.
I believe he was a widower then
with 2 chrs. & had a slave caring
for his chr. living in this other
building. June 12, 1786 he marr.
Elizabeth Talbert (TALBERT) in
Halifax Co. Va. In 1790 he was
in Laurens Co. S.C. with bros. John,
& Benj. & he had 2 sons - 16 & 3
females in family. I have him
1800 & 1810 & he had a very large
family. Coleman sold ^{his 24 a.} ~~his 24 a.~~
of land on Duncan Creek ^{Laurens Co. S.C.} to Oswald
Beavers in 1819 for \$72. I have a
photostat copy of the deed he gave.
That was the same year John Jr.
removed to Madison Co. Ala. from
Laurens Co. S.C. Ala. has no 1820

census, but I do not have the
 Top lists. But I believe ^{Thomas} Coleman, & John, Jr. removed ^{from Franklin Co. Tenn.} and
 this wagon train west; but no
 proof as of yet. But if they went
 through any Indian lands, they
 had to have passports, records of
 which are preserved. So all
 possible proofs have not been
 researched.

The first census I find of
 Coleman was in Franklin Co.
 Middle Tenn. 1830. Page 80.

2 males - 5:1m. 5-10; 1m. 10-15; 1m. 15-20
 and 1m. 40-50, the last being Coleman
 & the eldest son being Thomas, Jr. my
 gr. gr. jr. who mar. Margaret
 Amanda Bell, dau. of James and Margaret
 (Smith) Bell, in 1831 in Franklin Co. Tenn.

The 2nd boy was William A. Milam
 who was married in 1840 & living next
 door to Coleman in Coffee Co. Tenn.

Coleman's females ¹⁸³⁰ were: 1 f. 5-10
 (Martha); 1 f. 10-15 (Elizabeth b. 1818);
 1 f. 30-40. I think this was Coleman's
 2nd wife, as no wife released her
 dower right in his deed which he
 painfully(?) signed COLEMAN, 1819
 Afterwards he signed with an "X"
 and witnessed. In 1840 Coleman's
 wife was dec'd & he had another
 dau. 5-10 which would be Sarah
 living with Elizabeth & Charles

1850 7
Sansum both 32 & Sarah 13,
but should have been 18,
as she married a Hammill
very wealthy at that time but
old enough for her father - I
have census of her family 1870.
Hardin Co. Tenn

I have ¹⁸⁵⁰ census of Harris &
Milam in Hardin Co. E. Tenn.
where they moved 1841 or 2. Martha
& ^{Harris} Wm had 4 chn. ¹⁸⁵⁰ there. Eliz. ^{Red} Mo.
chn. Alfred P. Milam, 21 was ³⁰
living with Martha. Ashford,
and Rosa Milam lived near.
I think both were sons of Possibly
Coleman who had a new wife
younger than most of his chn. &
was rearing a new family. He
had by this last wife Jane who
was possibly a sister to Wm H.
Harris & dau. of John & Jane Harris,
as they lived almost next door
to the ^{John} Harris family; son Jesse L. Milam
& 5 daughters - Dickey Ann, Amanda,
Rachel, Dorcas C. & ? (I forget
the other). Was this lady a dau. of No!
one of Coleman's children by
Jane? I have written Hardin Co.
many times, but could locate only
one Mrs. Milam who never answered
my letters.

I forgot to say 1st. name
below Coleman, 1830 was
Wm McBride

1M-5; 1M 20-30; 1 f. 20-30, this
woman, I believe to have been
a Milam. Old McBrides moved on
to Hardin Co.

3rd name below Coleman was
Elizabeth Milam

1M 5-10; 1M 15-20; 1 f 30-40; 1 f 60-70 (Elizabeth)
Evidently Thomas was dead now
& Eliz. had a dau. or dau. in-law.
& her 2 sons with her or the older
son could have been hers.

Opp page 79 was John Milam

1M 5-10; 1M 30-40; 3 f-5; 1 f 10-15; 1 f 30-40.

Thomas definitely had a son John,
as did John Milam, Sr. who had
a John Milam, III. who died in Pontotoc
Co. Miss. Thomas's John got into
court in Laurens over a debt
& records said "John Milam,
son of Thomas, Boyce! they cleaned
him out - took his bed, dishes, cook
pot, and even his pig trough.

He lived about 150 years too
soon. Today he could pay on
installment & buy himself rich.

I talked with the Shaws
who grew up with Aunt Martha
in their home as she died 1922,
I believe. But they did not know

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The names of her brothers &
sisters. Etta said she remembered
Grandma spoke of a brother
Pleasant and sister Sarah. I found
one Pleasant Coleman Melton who born Ga. 1828
married in Mo., moved to Wood Co.
Ark. & died in La. as relatively
a young man. I wrote his
great grand dau.; but we could
prove nothing. In 1850 he gave
his birth ~~to~~ place as Ga.
& age 22 -

I know this is rambling,
but it is full of years of
research and several hundred
dollars invested in research -

What I want is this lady's
name who is a double cousin
to Martha Harris's children.

Sincerely,
Vera Melan Ryker

Tues Morn.

Dear Myrtle,

Mr. White sent your letter on to me yest. As soon as I found she was Fannie (McKenzie) Miller's niece, I knew she had to be a McKenzie for Fannie was the only daughter of Obe and Mary (Dewitt) McKenzie. So this morn. I called Jim McKenzie in Oark and he told me she is Cora, his brother Alec's daughter and that her mother was a Shelby. I do not know whether her mother was grand daughter of Sarah ("Sally") or Ellen of Ellen. If she said double cousin, she was mixed up. Where the double comes in is that the 2 Shelby men and the 2 Harris girls were brothers and sisters. You remember Bradley who marr. Gertrude Dean and Millard Shelby who marr. Bessie Bearden? These boys were grandsons of one of these couples, I can't say which. I might manage to get Millard's address in Kansas City and find out. I do know these boys' mother was a Pruitt and sister to Sam Hudson's wife and James Monroe Milam's widow, the latter Butha Milam, still living but blind for many years. Bradley Shelby lives in Calif.

(over)

(Jane Harris married
Shalden, Grandfather of Leon
& Curtis Shalden as her 3rd
husband.)

Bradley told me once when I
was just a girl of about 13 or
14 that he was my cousin. I
laughed at him; but he said
that his great grandma was a
Milam. If I had become serious
then and gone to see Aunt
Martha Harris, I could have
got Coleman Milam's entire
family; wives, children, parents,
and maybe grandparents.

But I doubt if this girl
can help me unless she is
willing to hire researchers
to seek for records of
this family. She could try
her.

Vera