

5118 Parkside Drive
No. Charleston, SC 29406
23 October 1991

Dear Rev. Peoples,

You always amaze me with your quick replies! I thank you. You are right about one thing, I definitely am well blessed with more than persistence. Mine is defined like stubborn mule headedness. I wouldn't be myself without it though.

I wish you had not of taken me serious in the statement I made about the wrong side of the tracks. Obviously, I was not successful in the joke I tried to make. I am well pleased in the parents God chose for me. I apologize if I upset you. You always seem eager to find a relative for me to join First Families on, and it would be nice. I really didn't mean anything onward.

You wonderfully shared some of your philosophy with me, and now I'll share an ever favorite poem of mine with you. It has always had very special meaning to me. Perhaps you've already seen it. It's by an unknown Confederate Soldier.

Prayer

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health, that I might do greater things,
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
I asked for riches, that I might be happy,
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men,
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life,
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I had hoped for.
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am, among all men, most richly blessed.

You have already sponsored me into the Huguenot Society some years ago. I am happy and exhalted with that.

I am sorry to hear about cousin Erzell falling and getting hurt. I will write to her, as it has been quite some time since I have. She is a dear sweet lady. She is smart to handle her affairs now so that everything legally can go as she wishes.

Did I ever tell you that our cousin, Dr. Rhodes doesn't live by Quarterman's pond anymore? He put his house up for sale some time before you told me they were my cousins. In fact, his daughter, Betsy was my elder sister, Lona's age. They lived some 4 houses down from us. We lived on Park Place South from '59 until '69 I believe. In fact, Dr. Rhodes was our vet. If I recall aright, our sheppard bit him when he tried to give him a shot once. Sam was a great dog! He pulled my two year old nephew from Edisto River one day when he fell in and his dad's back was turned. We always jumped off the dock with the dog when we were growing up. He was our protector all those nights dad worked late. Anyway, Brian fell in, cowboy boots and all. Sam jumped in, snatched him by his clothes at the back of his neck, and swam him

back to shore against that current! Brian was upset because he lost one of his boots.

I did get off the subject.

I really appreciate your appraisal of my Southern Hearts. It's just what I asked for. It is intended to be the chapter introduction of Henry, before all the dates, heirs, etc. Your suggestions are most welcome. I knew I could count on you. It will help me clear up things. I knew the royal grant was not Henry's. In fact there weren't any for the Blackmon's in SC. I knew it had to be a related line, and not necessarily mine.

Henry's father cannot be proven. The Historical Commission in Darlington says perhaps his father is James. Several other gentlemen have been working on these Blackmon's their lifetimes, and have not found any proof. There isn't any. James did not leave a will. He simply left a deed to his son Jesse, for everything, providing he take care of his mother until death. He didn't even name his wife, nor other issue. I did find her name in the Black Creek Church book. She is Mary. This week I found she may be nee Rhodes, daughter of William and Sarah (Pipkin) Rhodes. Sarah left her will in Wayne County, NC dated 7/24/1792. One of her other daughters was Alie Rhodes, wife of Dr. Andrew Bass, founder of Waynesboro.

This leads me to believe I should purchase this Dur Family Circle you have. The Rhodes genealogy in it could be of some help to me. There were many of them intermarried with my Darlington families, and now perhaps in North Carolina as well.

I wish I could talk about Henry's childhood and parents with some security. On the census, he says he was born in SC. So that puts him here by Dec. 1788. Likewise, he may be related in some form to the Lancaster John Blackmon who caught the attention of historians. James didn't arrive Darlington until after 1800 but prior to 1810. There were several of them, so I can't be sure which one is him before that. Two fit the same profile. One in Lancaster, the other in Columbus Co., NC. The thought that needles me, is if Henry were truly as good and kind as all the news clippings say, then why would his father not bequeath some sort of provisions for him? That one thought makes me think James was not his father. I've gone full circle a million times on that one already.

From what you have said about the Indians, then I can just assume Henry was talking about his ancestors and not himself. I'm sure journalists were the same then as they are now, using excerpts taken out of context to become dramatized. And I do not want you to keep your opinions to yourself. It gives me things to think about that I normally wouldn't. I have learned a lot from you, please don't stop teaching me now! I have tremendous need for your wisdom.

It's really getting late now. Bob is working nights again, and I find myself staying up too late many nights now working on some genealogy or correspondence or some such. Thank you for your honest open comments. I really appreciate it! What beautiful weather we are having!! I hope you and Miss Cora take the time to appreciate the beauty of it! Give her our love.

Sincerely yours,

Kathryn

P.S. After thinking about it, please send me a copy of Our Family Circle by A. E. Miller. The Rhodes genealogy is no longer traceable in the manner prescribed by the Darlington Co. Rhodes genealogy. Check enclosed.