

ROBERT

Crystelle Robert Wickett  
2461 Ridgmar Plaza, Fort Worth, Texas 76116  
June 25, 1982

Dear Robert and Cora:

It truly was a dream that came true to have been able to attend the meeting of my cousins in South Carolina. While everyone had a special charm -- good looking and intelligent -- you two head the list.

To say that I was disappointed that we had to cancel our trip to Hilton Head and a visit with you is an understatement. But when we heard the weather report on Monday evening Ruth panicked. Tuesday morning she told me she thought we had better return home. I then began calling to get our tickets changed and could get space on the same flight, but a day earlier. We did, however, find the Robert Cemetery, and had the same weather conditions we had when we visited the Black Swamp Cemetery. The skies opened up and rain fell until we had visited the graves and returned to the car -- then the sun shone until we got out of the airport in Savannah and tried to land in Atlanta. We circled the Airport for about twenty minutes or more before the storm had cleared the runway. We had no problem making connections with our flight home and both Ruth and I were met by our families.

We had a wonderful time in Charleston, but cut our stay one day, which we could have used to good advantage. We missed Martha Burns but could have had a visit on Tuesday, but Ruth thought we could use the time in Hardeeville

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to make rubbings of the Robert Cemetery. We did however, enjoy the Huguenot Church and walking in the area. While I did not realize it at the time, we passed the old Jacque de Bordeau house many times (now Dr. Lining House) and loved it. When I returned home I had to re-read everything I got from the Lawton meeting and some of the Huguenot publications and re-read Jane Gaston Mahler's article "OUR HUGUENOT HERITAGE: HOMES, HOUSES OF WORSHIP AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS" Transactions No. 79 1974, pg. 1-43. I also read about Middleburg (more later).

We visited Circular Congregational Church but it was closed, but did visit the Cemetery. I found a John May buried there but didn't get the date. I have a May line from S.C. I also saw the Grimball tomb, and would like to know how I can find information about those buried there. I am not sure where my Col. Morton Wilkinson was buried, but he was baptised and married there to Susannah Smith, dau. of William Smith.

On Sunday we learned that there would not be a sermon at the Huguenot Church so we drove out to the Middleton Place, which was a wonderful experience since Henry was guardian to Morton Wilkinson and the intermarriage between the Mortons and the Middletons. I am very anxious to find a copy of the genealogy. I know that the marriage of Henry to the Smith brought in the funds to build the Plantation, but would like to know the name of the Smith family. While there we ate at the Tea Room and had an excellent lunch - Middleton Shrimp and Rice. The Manager had lived in Texas and his name is Greg Allen. He told us quite a

lot about Middleton Place. When we left he gave us information that Middleburg is being restored by friends of his - Max L. and Jane Hill who live at 109 Trad Street. If we had been able to stay longer we would have contacted them. He was having dinner with them that evening. He told us that it is a working Plantation and would be opened to the public when they have completed restoration of the house. I will contact them if we make plans for the Ft.W. Garden Club to make a tour some year to Middleton Place to enjoy the landscaping.

In your last letter you asked about the first wife of Grimball. Her name was Mary Sealy Cheney. I will try to find out more about her and perhaps this was her second marriage to Grimball Robert and she could be a Sealy. I have a book written about the establishment of Cheneyville by Robert Tanner and Providence Robert with pictures. He looks like a "Hippie" with his beard but she looks like she has had a hard life. I will write family for more genealogy on the family and will send you a book.

It is hard for me to get back into my routine of every day life for I just want to continue to read and study about our family tied to South Carolina.

Manny Lawton has sent me his speech about Henry Martin Robert, and has called my son Kenneth who lives in Springfield, Va., and works in an office of the Export-Import Bank across the street from Manny's office. They have planned to get together. I did so enjoy my visit with him and his beautiful wife, as well as the other handsome cousins. I fell in love with Camille and our other cousins.

I am so happy that I was able to make the return trip to South Carolina at this time for I know that I was partially prepared to understand and enjoy every minute. Ruth and I appreciate your taking us under your wings and making us feel so welcome.


The address for the Registrar of the National Huguenot Society is attached for your convenience. Miss Vera D. Reeve, 1118 Broadway, Vincennes, Indiana 47591.

Ruth and I turned the TV on and watched a program on Educational TV in the middle of a program about the flora and fauna. A young man was showing plants, lizards, etc. to a young woman and finally they arrived at a river and he said: "This is the South Santee." While we had decided that we would not attempt to find the settlement, we had in fact been there for quite some time. He mentioned the settlement of the Huguenots.

The taped program was very interesting and Cousin Tom gave a wonderful talk. We enjoyed it again in our room in Charleston. We were very impressed with him and his lovely wife. I do hope that we can have another visit. We will share the speech with our Huguenot Society here.

Thank you again for your hospitality and will keep in touch.

Fondly,



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