

ROBERT

11 March 91

Dear Robert,

First, with reference to the 30 December 1655 St. Imier document that you sent to me, you are absolutely correct: It is different from the 3 February 1656 document that I mentioned in a previous letter to you. We have an enigma here, and I do not know how to resolve it, for the following unfortunate reasons:

1. I thought I had a copy of Pierre Robert's 3 February 1656 record of baptism, but I can not find it in my Robert files. I called Tommy to see whether he has a copy, but received no answer at his home or office. Needless to say, I will continue to call until I eventually reach him.
2. As you know, I did most if not all of Tommy's translating, communicating in French, proofreading, etc., when he was corresponding with Monsieur Gobat--back in 1984 and 1985, I think it was. Anyway, I kept copies of all their exchanges of letters, materials, records, etc., and in going through this bundle last night, I was unable to find a thing on Pierre's baptismal record, except that it occurred 3 February 1656 and can be seen at St. Imier. It's a mystery to me why I have all of Monsieur Gobat's other records of the various Robert birth, marriage, and death dates, but not one of Pierre's baptism. Again, I will have to ask Tommy about this puzzle. If necessary, I will write to Monsieur Gobat for a copy (and professional translation) of whatever is at St. Imier.
3. I can make out bits and pieces of your 30 December 1655 document, but I will have to let Danny Wilson and Tamara Abbott, the French teachers at Socastee, translate this "squiggly thing," if they can. My eyes simply are not equal to the task. As you have noticed, I

am using a different typewriter with larger print these days, and I am having to double-space as well. As long as I don't stress my vision, I manage fairly well. Anyway, I will ask Danny and Tamara for assistance with your document on Monday, and let you know what they come up with.

In the meantime, Robert, all I can make out from your document is a bit here and a piece there: (1) I recognize the phrase "at St. Imier; (2) also the word "baptised"; (3) then what looks like "their daughter named Marie"; (4) then what looks like "son of Daniel Calam"; (5) then what I think is the name "Jacob Pétremand"; (6) then what I am almost certain is the phrase "son Daniel Robert and Marie Pétremand." Strangely enough, I do not see the name "Pierre" anywhere in this "entry," and I think I would recognize it regardless of how "squiggly" the writing was. The same is the case for the entry that follows: The name "Pierre" simply does not appear. There is no way for me to be certain, but at this point I am inclined to suspect that your document perhaps might be the baptismal record of some other Robert child--a child named Marie, perhaps a daughter of a sibling of Daniel Robert or Marie Pétremand. Let's just hope that Danny and Tamara will be able to help.

On to other subjects, thank you so much for the information on Gillett Baptist Church and Ruddell, S. C. I already have forwarded this information to Roberta, and am certain she will be most appreciative to you for it.

Thank you also for the Garvin information from OFC, and for the names and addresses of your cousins in Savannah, whom I eventually might contact for additional Garvin data. As for your concern that I might give Roberta these names and addresses, never fear: I told her from the beginning that I would have to be her go-between in all of these "delicate situations." She understands, of course, having had many "doors slammed in her face" over the years. She maintains a very noble, compassionate attitude toward

those who have shunned and spurned her, and I admire her gentleness and her sense of inner peace in this regard. Most people would be bitter and angry in response to such insensitivity, but Roberta says simply, "I understand; I wish it weren't the case, but I understand." Anyway, don't worry about my "walking her" to another potentially "unfriendly door." There hardly is any need for me to do that, since there are "friendly doors" aplenty.

You no doubt will have to remind me about the Lawtonville account from Cousin Florrie's papers, but I will get around to it as soon as I can.

Your schedule for April makes my head spin! Good gracious, Robert! When on earth do you sleep!? You and Miss Cora are veritable "globe-trotters"!

I have not yet sent your Peeples material to Aunts Adelaide and Ella, and probably will wait a few more weeks before doing so. Have I told you that Aunt Ella has leukemia? I'm sure I mentioned that she had been down at St. Vincent's (I think that's the name of the hospital) in Charleston for tests back in February, when she had pneumonia, but at the time I did not know what her real problem was. As things turned out, she does have leukemia, and emphysema as well, even though she never has smoked. Right now she is getting along fairly well, and is being cared for at home. As soon as things have settled down a bit at the house, I will send Cousin Florrie's Peeples material to Aunt Adelaide, and ask her to take it to the HCHS folks.

I had a letter this week from Chuck Milam, just as you said I would. I went through all my Milam records, and guess what? His Jefferson is another "Diatrephus"! I did not have a thing that would help Chuck in my files, so I called Mrs. Brownlee--what else? You know what extensive Milam material she has in her files, but would you believe she had not an iota of information on Jefferson? She does have a few good "theories," however, so I jotted them down and will send them to Chuck one day this week. He has a real job on his hands, but Mrs. Brownlee says she will be happy to

help in any way she can, if Chuck will do a little census research on his end. I will keep you posted on the developments.

It's time to hit the sack, so I will bring this to a close.

Again, Robert, thank you so much for--well, for everything. I am most appreciative of all your time, trouble, and assistance.

Be well, remember me to Miss Cora, and stay in touch.

Yours as ever,

*Paul*