

Decatur, Georgia
March 4, 1963

Dear Father Peeples:

Thank you for your letter of February 23. I am not a Lawton, but our lines connect often and I feel very close to, and interested in, this family. I have made several efforts to attend the Lawton reunion in Allendale but have not, as yet, been able to do so. This year I regret I will have to miss it again, as I will be in California with my son and his family at that time. I, therefore, will have to leave the "Sams family" entirely in Laura Sanders' competent hands. Laura is a grand lady and entirely too modest about her part in the Sams genealogy. I would not have consented to attempt it had she not encouraged me with promises of her help, and it would never have been completed without her bountiful help. I am sure Laura has written you that we employed the services of the genealogist in England who helped Mr. York Wilson (recently deceased) with his book, and I believe a talk about our English line, taken from his letters, will be most interesting to any Sams connection.

I have roamed around South Carolina in various sections, and particularly around Allendale and Barnwell. Mrs. Pippin (a Lawton and Sams) carried me to see the little Smyrna Church where my grandfather was ordained a Baptist minister (I am not, however, a Baptist, but Presbyterian) and also to see an old Erwin home (another of my direct lines from that section).

A long time ago, when I was very young (and I mean a long time, as I will be 66 this summer), I remember hearing my aunt and my father discuss their early life in South Carolina - especially the period when they lived in Barnwell District - the home of their grandfather, Rev. Hansford Dade Duncan. I particularly was impressed by the name "Darling Peeples" in their conversation and the fact that this name, Darling, had been given to a boy - not a girl. I did not know then, as I do now, that Darling is a family name. Our Family Circle is in the Atlanta Public Library and we also have a copy of Mrs. Miller's first book, South Carolina Pioneers and Their Families, I believe is the name of this first one. It has been a long time since I reviewed either. I believe the Duncan and Peeples connect - is it possible that you are also a Duncan descendant? I am working currently on Duncan and Jennings - both families having come from Fauquier County, Virginia, to South Carolina.

I shall write to Rev. Walter Birt Sams, and I appreciate your sending his address. I believe, however, I will find that he is of a line of Sams that came to Virginia direct from England and then scattered throughout the United States more rapidly than did our South Carolina family. I have corresponded with a number of Sams from this Virginia line - also with a Mrs. Sams, wife of the deceased Dr. Sams who was president of Mars Hill College (a Methodist Minister) when the Sams reunion was held there years ago. She has sent me some material on the family from her husband's records. They believe it is possible that their earliest proven ancestor, John Sams, was the same John Sams as given in the Sams genealogy (son of Robert, I). If this were the case, they would descend from a second marriage to an Agnes Blackwell or Warren (they seem to be confused about her name). There may be more than one Virginia line of Sams who came direct from England; however, I have not been able to establish a connection. I am always open to conviction, however, and enjoy hearing from all Sams. There is a Walter Sams family in Athens, Georgia; they are related to the Fayetteville Sams and to a Mr. Sams in Richmond, Virginia, with the Coca-Cola Bottling Company there. I have corresponded with all of these. If, however, Mr. Walter Birt Sams is related to the Barnwell family, through the Sams family, he must be related to us.

Now, about the interesting Stanyarne family, which at present has descendants only from daughters of the line. The male line died out very early in South Carolina. I believe ^{we} can claim to be "cousins" even if we have to go back to the immigrant, Thomas Stanyarne, for a common ancestor. I had hoped Mr. York Wilson's book (a chapter of which he wrote me would be devoted to Stanyarne) would give more enlightenment on the second generation of Stanyarnes. I have asked Laura Sanders to check this for me, as she has access to his book. Mr. Wilson had research done in England on this line but he was disappointed at the results. I notice that your line is from the only daughter, Mary, who married John Ladson and I presume you have much more data on the Ladson line than I have. My line descends from John Stanyarne, I, brother of your Mary - then John Stanyarne, II - next his daughter, Elizabeth (who married Francis Hext, Senior) and then their daughter, Elizabeth Hext (who married William Sams of Datha Island, South Caroline). I believe your line connects with the Sams line through Norton. I will look this up and send to you. I do not have a direct Fitch line, but I am enclosing what little I have for you to review. I shall be happy to send you my photostat of Thomas Stanyarne's will - wasn't it wonderful that it was finally located! Perhaps you have a copy, but, if not, let me know - it is interesting to read, if you can. Also, I am enclosing my Stanyarne notes (I do not have copies, as I have never typed it in final form. I have never felt it was as complete as it could be), and I will have to ask that you return this, and the attachments, after you have made any notes from it that may be of interest to you. I shall appreciate very much your making any additions and corrections to this wherever you can.

I work with the Federal Government and so my "research time" is limited. I want to return to work on the Stanyarne family as soon as possible. I picked up some data in Columbia, S.C., when I spent a week there delving into old Sams records, checking and verifying my references in the genealogy. I believe there is more Stanyarne material there if one had the time to search the records. I believe I have some Chaplin Bible records, sent to me by reason of some marriages into the Fripp family (another direct line of mine) and I shall send these along for whatever interest they may be to you when I find the time to "dig them out" of my papers. I am in no hurry for the return of the enclosed material - I would have been glad to copy this for you but I do not have a typewriter at home at present and, of course, it would be too much typing to do at my office on personal work.

Thank you for enclosing one of your church bulletins - I enjoyed "Plant More Than Peelings" and shall pass it on to my children. The 13th verse from the 13th Chapter of Corinthians is on my mother's cemetery marker - I read it very, very often.

With the best of wishes in your research,

Sincerely,

Lula Sams Bond

Mrs. C. E. Bond
1226 Clairmont Road
Decatur, Georgia

PS. Do you have an Erwin line or a
Daniel line? Yes No