

1319 E. Anderson St.
Savannah, Ga. 31404
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Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples
8 Moon Shell Road
Hilton Head, S.C. 29928

Dear Dr. Peeples:

Word seems to have gotten around that I am researching the Youmans line. I have had inquiries from all over the country. I made a mistake perhaps in putting a note in the GENEALOGICAL HELPER that I wanted information on three members of the family--one being Youmans. But as a result I have had phone calls, visits, and loads of letters. I have xeroxed copies of correspondence the descendants of Thomas E. Youmans who married Julia Emily Manker had with Grant Samuel Youmans who wrote the book YEAMANS-YEOMANS-YOUMANS, A Genealogy. It is out of print but I was able to buy it in xerox form from the publisher. This Mr. Youmans, as you probably knew, organized and funded an international society dedicated to tracing all Youmans. There was a letter among the papers sent me giving my Great great grandfather, Joseph Reid Youmans and Cousin Stella Ihly Henderson's family as the contact on the Levi Dee Youmans line. Bartow Youmans, a great uncle of the lady (Julia) who sent me the papers, had roughly charted the family as Levy Youmans, father of William Youmans who married Mary Peeples. He mentioned Jesse Peeples who married Eliza McCoy as the brother of Mary Peeples. He recommended as contacts:

Levi Youmans: J. Reid Youmans or descendants, Early Branch, S.C. (Later someone told him most of his descendants were living in Savannah, Ga., and truly this may be right to some extent!)

William Youmans, Second: Write Col. W. B. Reemer, Columbia, S.C.

James P Youmans: Write M. C. Youmans, Columbia, S.C.

Robert Youmans, White Lakeland, Florida

Thomas: "My father" covered in Julian B. Youmans Questionnaire)

Two sons died without issue

Mary Youmans, married Russell Stokes, her children marrying back into the Youmans families

Elizabeth Youmans, married James Chisholm: Write J. J. Chisholm, Gifford, S.C.

He had made a note that William and Mary Youmans had seven sons and three daughters. Someone had struck through the "three" and substituted "2." I went back to the charts used by Mr. Barnhill and found that he had two daughters and sons, Levi, John, William, Robert, James E., Thomas, James Peeples, and daughters Sarah and Mary. I have learned that the same name was used more than one time in one family so am no longer disturbed to find this! The thing that interested me very much was that Thomas William Youmans who married Emma Manker (he shown as 5th son of William Youmans) had a daughter Cornelia who married Ben Lewis and another daughter Louisa who married Sam Lewis. I am sure you know J. Curtis Lewis (ex-Mayor of Savannah). Well it turns out he is the son Curtis listed as the second child, or his father. I guess it was his father because the cover letter says "His (J. C. Lewis) grandparents were Louisa Caroline Youmans and Samuel J. Lewis listed on the chart of Thomas E. Youmans."

Another letter in the exchange was from Hall & Connolly, Inc.,
24 Van Dem Street, New York, dated Dec. 18, 1936 to Mr. Bartow B. Youmans,
380 Hardin Ave., College Park, Ga. which states:

". . . as I check from my data you are a son of Thomas and Emily (Mancker) Youmans, grandson of William and Salina (Johnston) Youmans, great grandson of Levi Youmans of the Revolution from South Carolina, and you will find that these records check with the Register of the Daughters of the American Revolution giving the Lineage of Mrs. Lindsay P. Henderson of 219 Abercorn Street, Savannah, Georgia, who was born Estill, South Carolina, November 21, 1902. Her father and mother are both descendants of this line of the Youmans family, and your cousin Iva Youmans of Miami is also a cousin of Mrs. Henderson's mother.

"Mrs. Henderson is descended from Levi of the Revolution through Alice H. Youmans, a sister of Reid Youmans whom you mentioned. Alice H. was born 1846, died 1921, and she married William A. Laurens Ihly of Early Branch, South Carolina. It was not Dr. H. D. Youmans, of Lyons, who gave me this information. I gave it to him in my letter of December 6."

Now this would appear to put to rest the theory that the first known Levi was a British Colonel. The only problem is that Cousin Stella went into the DAR under her Johnston line although she could have put in supplemental papers on Levi Youmans. I have written to the National DAR but they first claimed they had no Youmans listed until I proved Solomon Youmans, son of Harris and Ellender Youmans (first of Craven County, N.C., and then Beaufort, S.C., for 20 years before coming to Georgia, had known credentials as did Harris. I am still trying to find papers on Levi which will erase the "Tory" tarnish if I succeed. I personally do not judge people even if they were Tories. I have always felt that I would need to walk a mile in their moccasins, as the Indian say, to have any concept of their choice. Nor do I black list any who do not agree with me. I may feel, as I do, that I could never understand the Catholic religion but I have many friends who are Catholic. If a person appears not to live up to his family potential, I say he may have had a physical problem I don't know about. But some people do judge and it is because of this that I still pursue the Youmans line.

I now have a list, two pages long, supposedly of all people with the name of Youmans in N. C., S.C., New York, Connecticut, Vermont, Massachusetts, Ohio, Penn., and perhaps others I cannot recall at the moment covering the 1700 and ^{early} 1800's. I also have copied from the St. Phillips' Church Registry (1720-50) about the William who married Mary _____ and whom I believe might be one of our forebears. The names of the children. You probably have this but just in case you don't, I will put it here:

Joseph b. 24 Feb. 1726/7
Abraham b. 15 Apr 1728
Sarah b. Jan. 5, 1730
Anne b. 2 Sept. 1729
Mary b. 12 June 173
Eleanor b. 14 Aug. 1735
Thomas b. 26 May 1737
William b. 18 Feb. 1739
George b. 3 March ~~17~~ 1743

When Mary became a widow she went to Williamsburg County and became a member at the St. Mark's Parish. There was a Joseph Youmans in Charleston in 1800. He, being oldest, may have stayed there.

Since the Black Creek Baptist Church minutes mentioned (in the same time frame as mentioning William Youmans and Mary Youmans) an "Old Mr. Youmans," I wonder if this could have been the Levi Youmans who was his father. On page 49 of "South Carolina Baptists, 1670-1805," by Leah Townsend, PhD, published in 1978 by Baltimore Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., under 1790 is listed Levi Youmans (L) and under 1801 John Youmans as messengers to the Association. This is in the chapter on Low-Country Churches. I don't know what the L stands for. John's name is spelled Yeomans. I habitually write the name Youmans knowing you accept alternative spellings as of the same family.

On my computer print-out called Census Index Report done by the Morman Church, I find:

Youmans, Levi	Beaufort Co., S.C. 102 21010-20010-06	1800
Youmans, Levy	Beaufort Co., S.C. 115 St. Peters	1810
Yeomans & Escott	Charlestown Co., S.C. 208, Charlestown	1758

When I was in the Columbia Archives a week or two back, Brent Holcomb introduced me to a retired civilian from the National Archives whose wife was a Youmans. His name is E. O. Parker and, after Oct. 20, will be living at 5012 Circle Drive, Columbia, S.C. 29206. He has done considerable research on the Youmans line. It was from him that I learned the parents of Solomon Youmans. Mr. Parker says I look just like the Youmans family. He mentioned Sir John's expedition into Cape Fear and apparently believes some of the Sir John family stayed there and may account for the North Carolina Youmans family which, of course, we know came into Beaufort, S.C.

In the book which I bought by Grant Samuel Youmans he gives some ancestry of a Solomon Youmans, but not necessarily an antecedent of the N. C. one. We'd need a bridge to cross from what we have to what he had. He had planned to write two more books but died before he could. I am trying to locate his son, Leonard, who being an only child must have inherited from him. They lived in Minneapolis and I have the promise of the widow of a Youmans there she will try to track him down for me. I hope she keeps her promise. I mentioned his correspondence in which he mentioned my J. Reid Youmans as a descendant of Levi but I cannot find if he ever got in touch with any of his descendants. My parents did live a long time in Georgia but want to Dad's mother's property (which he inherited by its division and swapping Charleston property for the Berkeley County share of a sister). I wish he could have found one of our family because my mother could tell more history from memory than I will ever hope to learn from books. It is possible he did locate some of us for the second book and I would give anything to find the person with the records. I am eternally grateful that my Davis line was so meticulous in keeping records. Also at least one of the Youmans family kept good records.

There was on the Census Index Report a Dr. Alfred Youman of Marlboro District, S.C., in Marlboro County in 1810. I read in a recent S.C. Historical Magazine something about him (he died 1817) which led me to believe he might have come from Charleston.

You might recall my telling you of a visit to Cottageville in which I talked to a Nolan Youmans, an old man. As a result of this, I had a letter from Mrs. Howard Thomas (Virginia "Jennie" Elizabeth Youmans Thomas) of Orlando, Fla., telling me her father was William Robert Youmans b. 1867; d. 1934. Her mother was Martha "Mattie" Virginia Mathis of Hampton County, d. 1975 at 95. Her grandfather was Robert Mitchell Youmans b. 1834; d. 1924, of Early Branch, S.C.

This Robert does not sound like our Robert who "went to Florida." He allegedly married a Lagg. This lady connects with Atticus Youmans, though I can't put it together just now, and I recall my mother's visiting and talking about Atticus. Solomon Youmans also went to Florida to live with a son (no name known) but he came back to Georgia. I really wonder who these are.

I had a call from a man in Swainsboro who gave me a great deal on the Florida Youmans line, one being a Millard Fillmore Yeomans, "progenitor of one of the earliest pioneer families" according to a newspaper article of July 29, 1972, in the Fort Meyers (Fla.) News-Press, he sent me. This means nothing to me just now. He mentioned John Youmans, Sr., with 2 males over 16, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ and 2 females. John Youmans, with 2 males over 16, one male under 16, 1 female, 1 slave. Harris Youmans with 1 male over 16, 2 males under 16, 4 females. Levy Youmans with 1 male over 16, 3 males under 16, 2 females, 1 slave. Solomon Youmans with 1 male over 16, 3 males under 16, 2 females. These were in S.C. 1790 census. He also told me he found in the DAR Lineage Books, that "Levi Youmans, served in the South Carolina Militia during the American Revolution and that he had a son William born 1777. This son William had a son Levi, who married Nancy _____. If the son Levi is my Levi, as he must be, then the Heape records showing that he married Julia Heape, born 1809, are incorrect. It also explains why I have failed completely to document this. Of course, there is a rare possibility that she is Nancy Julia Heape and the family called her Julia! The mother of Cousin Stella Henderson's Alice H. Youmans who married William A. Laurens Ihly, was Mrs. Nancy A. Youmans who died 27 June 1885. Someone said she married Samuel R. Ihly "after 5 April 1900" but I can't recall who said this. The only other Nancy Youmans I have a record of married a Greenbush and is shown in a will in Remselaer County, N.Y., as leaving something to her brother, Levi D. Youmans (no address). By the way, the name Levi is used in the Youmans family originating in New York, coming apparently from a Levik Vincent through an intermarriage. This gets very confusing to an amateur such as myself. Since Levi is a Bible name, I should suppose we had no exclusive license to use it, but it is odd how I find it only rarely in other lines.

The Florida line Mr. Hooks of Swainsboro sent me traces *their ancestry* to Sam Youmans of Beaufort District, S.C., 1810, with a son James Madison Youmans, b. Beaufort District, S.C., 1810; d. Fort Ogden, Fla., Mar. 3, 1888, married in Beaufort Feb. 6, 1834 to Martha Lucenia Josephine Emanuel, b. Beaufort 1818; d. Lee County, Fla., 1892. Ouch! In looking over the list of children, they had a Nancy F. Youmans, b. March 9, 1859, so Nancy must be in the family somewhere! The only Julia Heape I can find is the daughter of Johnathan Heape and she married a Marvin.

Well, I've bored you enough for one day. I pass all this on in the hopes one day, some little fragment might fit the jig saw puzzle you have. I think I have found a genealogist to do some work for me--his name is John Skinner. He won't win a prize for beauty but I was impressed in some work he was doing in the archives for a visitor from Jacksonville. I'll think about it a while before making a final decision to turn him loose on what I have.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth Elsom