

Dear Robert,

Thanks for your letter of September 13th and the drawing of a plan of the second home of Jacob Levi Solk. The plan is a valuable and highly appreciated addition to my collection of Solk data.

During the period of 1935-1969 I made an exhaustive search for data relating to the children and descendants of Joseph Bendavis (1700-1735), son of John and Mary Wart Bendavis. As you doubtless know, - according to Joseph's will, the mother of his known children was Bar-thema, a Negro woman (perhaps a quadroon or an octo-oon) who lived with him. The names of these children (not named in order of birth) were: - Brand, James, William, John, Thomas, Mary, and Elizabeth. In his complaint asking for a division of property, James mentions himself, his brothers, and his sisters as children of Joseph Bendavis. I have further information concerning each of these.

Brand Bendavis married (1) Ursula Jennings, (2) Bertina Wolf, and (3) Mary Frye who survived him as his widow. He made his will in 1788 and died in that or the following year, leaving his estate to Mary for life or widowhood. - (See later about Mary and her last two husbands.) His home plantation was on the Cannon Bridge Road leading from Orangeburg to the South Edisto River, and beyond into the present Bamberg County, being situated a few miles above the said river. Much information concerning him and his children doubtless was lost when records in the courthouse at Orangeburg were destroyed during the War Between the States and otherwise.

The total number of Brand's children is not known. Salley's History of Orangeburg County shows that many pages of the church records (births, marriages, and deaths) were lost. His will is mentioned in a complaint filed in the ~~the~~ Lexington County, S.C., Chancery and Equity Court on 18 December 1811, but only two of his sons (Joseph and Benjamin) are mentioned in the complaint. In addition to Joseph, the 1790 census records show William and John. Besides these four sons, there doubtless were other children (daughters, and perhaps sons who died young). Joseph (died 1791) married Ann Salley who after his death married <sup>MSL 25 Feb 1797 P 15 Mar 1797</sup> (1) John (not Joseph) Robinson and (2) James Daniel. Benjamin married Elizabeth Salley (sister of Ann Salley). William and John married (names of wives not learned) and had issue. Joseph, John, and William were living close together at the time of the 1790 census for Orangeburgh District (South Part). They were not identified as free white persons, but shown (without detail) in a column headed "All other free persons". They apparently lived near to the plantation home of their father. — (The Joseph Bendaris listed in the 1790 census for Dorchester County - St. Georges Parish was a son of Thomas and Hannah Heaford Bendaris and a first cousin to Joseph the son of Brand.)

The complaint mentioned in the preceding paragraph states that Brand Bendaris left his estate to his wife, Mary Bruye, for life or widowhood. Soon after <sup>his</sup> death she married Charles Jones, by whom she had a number of children. He died and before 1811 she married George Bouknight. When Mary married Charles Jones she terminated her widowhood and forfeited the estate of Brand Bendaris. However, she and her two succeeding husbands retained possession of some of the slaves belonging to the estate and which should have descended to Joseph

and Benjamin Bendavis. Both of these brothers, who were to inherit equally when Mary died or remarried, had previously died and their heirs brought suit for recovery of the slaves. The complaint states that when Joseph and Benjamin died they then had and left the following named children.

Joseph's children: - James, Ursula (wife of Phillip Jennings, Jr.; - listed in the 1790 census), William, Elizabeth (wife of Conrad Zeigler), and Mary (wife of Jacob Zeigler, - known as "Polly" among members of the Zeigler family). - The complaint shows the names of Elizabeth and Mary's husbands in reverse order. It also mentions the women as "now the wife" of their respective husbands, though Mary had died seven or eight years prior to 1811. - (There was no daughter by the name of Ann.) - All of these children except Mary (died leaving no issue) are mentioned in the will of their mother. Of the other children: - James evidently married Ann Catherine - and died before 11 February 1827, leaving his widow and a number of children who (the children) were given bequests by the will of their grandmother; and William married Elizabeth Zeigler (daughter of Michael and sister of Jacob Zeigler). The will of Mrs. Ann (Polly) Bendavis - Robinson - Daniel mentions her stepdaughter Ann (Daniel) Zeigler and her daughter-in-law Ann Catherine ( - ) Zeigler as daughters of the testatrix. This evidently was <sup>only</sup> a term of endearment arising from a strong bond of affection between the three said persons.

Benjamin's children: - Susannah (wife of William Horn) and Mary (wife of Joseph Cuttner/Cutrier).

After the 1790 census James Daniel moved from Fairfield County to the present Orangeburg County and settled between the forks of the Edisto River. After the 1810 census he acquired and lived upon lands near Midway, in the present

Bamberg County, and near to the lands of Jacob Zeigler and James Erwin. In 1793 he was granted 7,000 acres of land on Sinkers Creek in that part of old Orangeburgh District which later became Barnwell County. Documented evidence indicates that before his marriage to Mrs. Ann Bendavis-Robinson he deeded this land and a number of slaves to Michael Zeigler in trust for his daughter Ann Daniel who soon thereafter became the wife of Jacob Zeigler. On 18 January 1806 Michael Zeigler deeded the land and slaves to his son Jacob. — The late Mrs. Paul Jones Zeigler told this writer that she once saw this deed "for thousands of acres of land". — After Jacob's death, in response to an order issued on 13 January 1840 the land was sold for \$7,000.00 and the proceeds, after the widow had received her one-third share, were equally divided among Jacob's ten living children. The slaves, then numbering 51 Negroes, were sold on 31 December 1838. Some of the records in this connection were destroyed during the War Between the States or otherwise, but those which were available to this writer furnish proof of the foregoing. I hope that this letter and my previous one of recent date will satisfy your mind as to the true parentage of Jacob Zeigler's second wife (Ann Daniel, only daughter of James Daniel by his first wife who probably was a Miss Erwin).

Michael Zeigler left only ten children surviving him. He did not have a son named George. During the early years of my research I erroneously included him in a list of Michael's children. He was a member of another Zeigler family who settled in old Barnwell District.

You show the name William Bendavis Zeigler for Jacob's second son. What is the source of this information? All Bible

records of which I have knowledge and all of his descendants with whom I have communicated mention his name only as William. If his mother was a daughter of Joseph Bendavis - (which she was not) - it would have been more appropriate to give the name Joseph Bendavis Zeigler to Jacob's seventh son. Michael Zeigler had a brother William, and my thinking is that Jacob's second <sup>son</sup> was named in honor of him. Conrad Zeigler (whose first wife was Elizabeth Bendavis) had a grandson whose name is recorded as William B. Zeigler, the "B" probably being the initial for Bendavis.

Please excuse the lateness of this reply to your letter of 13 September 1984, and write to me again soon.

Sincerely,  
Earle.