

8/30/1981

Dear Mr. Furman:

I have not heard from you for some time regarding the Bratton family data that I had proposed and promised to send you. Did you receive the data?

I received a letter last week from Mark B. Fahey, Brattonville, in which he stated their staff is currently involved in trying to determine if "Historic Brattonville" is interested in family history, this is not a function of the Commission. It is not a archives nor a genealogical library, therefore we compare notes and I will send you the information."

I have quoted him verbatim. Some time ago he mailed me a batch of material for my review and comments, and determination as to its validity and value. In addition has referred many researchers to me for my help, and an answer.

I have not vocally rejected or complained about their actions, but have inwardly objected to the idea of performing this job for them. It has not only involved a great deal of my time and effort, but has involved many costs also. I wouldn't mind this so much if they had also shared some of this so called data with me. I have yet to receive the first bit of helpful data from them. When you next wonder who the Bratton experts really are.

I continue to purpose my help to you, if I can indeed be of help.

My research continues, and I have had some very excellent finds lately.

Sincerely,

Bill Shelton



10/29/1981

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

I owe you an apology. I did not realize that you were not the repository for a great accumulation of original Bratton Family data. I suppose that I had taken for granted that you would have most of early records concerning the early families of that area, or that they would be retained in the files or archives of the County. Little did I realize that the County would have surrendered their old historical treasures to the State Archives.

I am truly sorry that I did not understand your position and appeared to be so impatient and so uninformed.

I guess I just assumed that your activity would be able to audit the family sheets of the Colonel William & Martha Bratton family and tell me where I was wrong and what was missing. So you think the State Archives could and would do that for me? Or would I be better off to check it out with Mrs. Sobel B. Kirkwood?

I have recently received a great deal of information relative to General John Bratton which includes his military records from the time he was private until he became a Brig. General in CSA.

You state that you would be pleased to have any material that I wished to share with you, and we are talking about a sizable accumulation of data. Of course I will gladly share it all with you, due to the many documents and papers comprising my Bratton files, with more piling up every week. This will have to be a winter time project for me.

My filing system has not kept pace with my receipt of material. In the Spring, Summer & Fall I travel extensively doing my research, etc. Then when we get into the winter months I try to get my materials organized and properly filed.

In order that you might know what I have, I will prepare a listing and submit it to you. Are you also concerned with Shelton data?

Does your facility operate specifically to assist researchers on a regular basis?



What would happen to your records if the Historical Society should close its doors, etc. I belong to about eight historical societies, several very alert and active, several could care less whether they existed or folded. It's such a shame that in so many cases we could care less about the propagation and preservation of our heritage. Our society is becoming so polluted with unheirables that will be lucky to survive.

Again let me say that I am sorry for the misunderstanding on my part. You have been very kind and most gracious in your help to me, and I do sincerely appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Bill Shelton



10/18/1981

Dear Mr. Ephraim:

Please excuse my delay in acknowledging the Shetter data which you were so kind to send me. Thank you so very much for all this good information, I do appreciate your kindness.

I have just returned from a two week research trip to Virginia relative to the Bratton ancestors. I would not say that I am overly happy with the results of my efforts. New Bratton data is extremely hard to come by.

I have found some miscellaneous type data, now probably as you and I are concerned, and now to the current crop of Brattons who are researching. This data I will pass on to these younger families hoping they will be able to fill in the blank spaces, and several of them are interested enough to give it a real honest effort.

I have recently received some military records from the South Carolina Archives pertaining to John S. Bratton (Brig. Gen. CSA) of your area.

The Manuscripts Division, Univ. of S.C., is sending me some data relative to General John Bratton, and they advise me that you have many Bratton family records. I have also received some data from the Univ. of the South, Swann, Tenn.

At this point in time I do not know just what Bratton data you possess, and I do not want to duplicate data that you already have.

I do want to share my data with you and others. While I have made every attempt to collect all Bratton data, most of what I have pertains to the Brattons of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia, but still of the same original Bratton family, from whom the Southern Brattons descend.

I am open to suggestions from you and others



as to how to proceed.

I think I mentioned to you that Mr. Fairley had advised me that they did not intend to setup a research facility at Brathensville, so that apparently leaves you alone in that area.

Are you aware that the Univ. of South Carolina has a collection of 3926 manuscripts of the Bratten family covering the period 1802-1930. This would certainly be interesting to see.

Thank you kindly for being so considerate and helpful.

Sincerely,

Bill Shenton

P.S.

Could I join your Society in some capacity?

WJ