

United States Court of Appeals

Fifth Judicial Circuit

P. O. Box 8

Ackerman, Mississippi 39735

James H. Coleman
Judge

April 2, 1979

Miss Julia Faucette
R. F. D. # 1, Box 309
Blair, South Carolina 29015

Dear Cousin Julia:

It is always a cause for rejoicing to receive a letter from you, to hear from all the family members, and to learn of what is going on in Chester and Fairfield.

I, too, am sorry that in recent years I have not been able to attend the family reunions as I would like to do. For several years the chief cause of this was my Mother's condition. She has been gone a year now and suffered so excruciatingly for over four months, including the loss of both legs at separate times, that to think of it is to bring tears.

My brother, Boyce Coleman, and I sat about restoring the old family home. It looked real well from the outside, but when we went into it we found that the foundation in this ninety three year old house was almost totally gone from invasion by beetles and the like. The result of this is that we took it entirely down and my brother is going to build a new home on the same identical spot, thus hoping to keep the place alive for another fifty or seventy five years, although it cannot be so for us at our age. Boyce has lived in Pascagoula since 1943, and has made a lot of money in the automobile business, but like most Colemans he is longing to get back to his native surroundings, although I have warned him that the place he left is no longer here. There are only three people left in Fentress who were my elders when I was growing up there as a boy and young man. This, of course, has to be the history of the human race, but it is hard to be reconciled to it.

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This has been an unusually heavy and burdensome Court year. I now have sixteen months left to serve before I can retire on full pay, and if I can make it for that length of time my present plans are to leave it to others, having done, I hope, my part through some very difficult years.

By and large, we are all doing well, especially, I am glad to say, the grandchildren who are growing up much more rapidly than I could imagine. Tommy is very busy in the law practice, in my old office, and is making a big addition to his home on Fairfield Farm, necessitated by his large family. The road was paved through that section of the farm last year, and it certainly makes a great difference in the beauty and satisfaction of the place.

Margaret has not been doing so well because she has developed palsy, from which her Mother suffered, though she lived to be nearly 105. She is very sensitive about this, does not like to have it mentioned.

Things are going right well on the farm. We made a good crop last year, whereas drought and other factors caused some severe but not insurmountable losses in 1976 and 1977.

I am continuing my interest in Coleman family research at every opportunity. I located a real expert in Columbia, Mr. Elmer O. Parker, who has done some exceedingly valuable work and made some very important discoveries which I had never had the time to follow up on.

For example, Mr. Parker made a very comprehensive study of the confiscated land records and there is no record of any Coleman lands being confiscated for participation on behalf of the King in the Revolution.

Moreover, he found a map in the Colonial records showing the lands of Clement Mobley, Jr. on Sandy Fork of Beaver Creek, joined on the east by Charles Coleman, who, in turn, was joined on the east and the north by Francis Coleman.

He also found a deed from John Waggoner (Hans Wagner) to Samuel Mobley dated June 3, 1774, to 150 acres on Little River, stating that John Waggoner was a miller. There was another deed from Thomas Meddor to Samuel Mobley, December 17, 1770, to 100 acres on the north branch of Beaver Creek.

Cousin Jennie I. Coleman mentioned, as appears in my book, the Hamptons taking over the Mobley lands. Mr. Parker found the deeds from Edward Mobley, Clement Mobley, Samuel Mobley, and Benjamin Mobley to Richard Hampton, 1782. The lands were on Beaver Creek and Little River. These deeds were recorded at Charleston, hence we had never run across them in our researches at Winnsboro and Columbia.

Another important discovery by Mr. Parker concerns Charles Coleman (not our Charles, but Charles of the "Wateree" section of Fairfield).

In Charles' Revolutionary record he found that Charles was a blacksmith and was the grandson of Cader Coleman. He was at Gates' defeat at Camden, 16 August, 1780, and escaped with a wagon and horses belonging to his grandfather, Cader Coleman. His other grandfather was Abraham Gibson. His mother was Ruth Gibson.

Charles Coleman died April 6, 1842. His children were:

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Harriet M. Coleman, who married M. A. M. Leggo,
died 1844;

James B. Coleman, born 1800;
Malinda W. Keith;
Charles S. Coleman;
Joseph R. Coleman;
Judith B. Simpson;
Sarah Ann Simpson;
Jane B. Smith;
John A. J. Coleman, born 1818.

Charles Coleman was an armourer in the Regiments of
Colonel Richard Winn and Lt. Colonel David Hopkins.

A copy of the family bible is in these records.

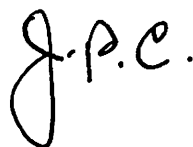
The DAR records, quoted at page 375 of my book (furnished by Cousin Etta Rosson) says that Charles married Elizabeth Gibson. The affidavit of James B. Coleman, made in 1855, in the Revolutionary records says that he married Ruth Gibson. I am sure that the Indian Springs, Georgia, Colemans must be descended from this group, but I have not had time to "line it up".

Well, I guess this is enough Coleman history for this time.

Please let us hear from you as often as possible.

With much love to you both,

Your cousin,



James P. Coleman