

Office  
of  
W. Henry Liles

Wadesboro, N. C.

Miss Mary Kittrel Liles,  
3722 Third Ave.,  
Los Angeles, Calif.

My dear Cousin Mary:

No doubt you have concluded that I have been swallowed up or passed away for not having answered your most interesting letter of several months ago. I want to say that I enjoyed your letter immensely and have had it read to me more than once.

I believe with your efforts and with our help, including Mrs. Dunlap of Ansonville, that we are going to complete this Liles tree one of these days, but isn't it bewildering? I just had a letter from Mrs. Dunlap stating that she wanted to go to Calvert County, Maryland, that she had found out that several members of the Liles family made their wills in Calvert County around 1700. It may be a useless trip, but she is anxious to go, and I wish so much you were here to go with us, for I feel like that when you go after anything, you go to the bottom of it.

My eyes have reached that stage now and have been for several months where I can't read at all. I can write my name, but that's about all. I think I will go to Baltimore within the next month with the view of having one of them operated on, but I don't know. My left eye which was my bad one doesn't seem to get any worse, but my right one now seems to be ripening right rapidly. I can't afford to have both of them operated on at the same time, and if my left one is not ready for an operation, I expect to have it needled, which will hasten the maturity of the cataract.

Mrs. Dunlap tells me that Ephriam Liles, Jr. who was born in Anson County in the Pee Dee section migrated to the Chester or Fairfield district and was the father of Aromanus. You, no doubt, remember that the South Carolina folks traced their family back as far as Aromanus and went no farther. She said that Ephriam, after living in South Carolina, moved to Twiggs County, Georgia, and died there. Now what Ephriam this was, why none of us know. I am going to Raleigh next Monday and have asked Mrs. Dunlap to go with me. Am not sure that she will go, however. She has never looked through the records in Raleigh particularly for the Liles family. I want her to go through all the records we have in Raleigh before going out of the state.

That was quite a coincidence you had with the librarian in Los Angeles. Yes, I remember Miss Rena Haire quite well. Her brother married a Huntley girl here who is a distant relative of mine on my mother's side. I will tell you a little incident in connection with Miss Haire who was considered a very brilliant girl in her youth. She graduated at Meredith College at Raleigh, N. C., a Baptist Institution, and then went to Louisville to complete her course in preparation for a missionary to China, and on her way to the coast, if my recollection serves me correctly, she met Mr. Wilde and dropped her missionary ideas and got married and has lived in California for a great many years. She was back here once since her marriage on a visit. I remember her father making a right funny remark one day. He said he had two children, a boy and a girl. His girl had too much religion and his boy didn't have any and laughed heartily at his own remark. Her father died some three or four years ago of cancer of the tongue.

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#2

I am looking forward to the Liles reunion in August with a great deal of pleasure, and I certainly hope that you can be with us, for it will not be complete without your presence. I have just written to Cousin Sallie Husbands of Moultrie, Georgia, and asked her to get all the information she could of the Alabama and Georgia Liles. She and Cousin Mollie Pettijohn of Heflin, Alabama, are very much interested in our family tree. As you know, she took W. D. Teal's adopted son to Moultrie to rear, and she reports he is getting on very nicely. When we begin to search around on this Liles name, I find it is spelled in ten different ways, and they seem to be all over the country. Most any section you may chance to enquire of has some of them. After all it seems to be a right prolific family and well scattered throughout the United States spelt one way or another. I thought that book I referred you to, dedicated to the sons of the Revolution of California was a very interesting book. I enjoyed it very much and feel sure that you got some valuable information from it.

The depression seems to have hit harder here this year than it has at all. In fact, nearly every kind of business was found in the "red" at the end of 1931. We had two textile plants here that did real well in 1931, but most every other kind of business had a deficit. We have had no bank failures in our county at all except the little bank at Lilesville which did not amount to a great deal. Still it was right hard on the Lilesville and Pee Dee communities because it had all their spare change deposited there. Our two banks here seem to be in a strong and sound condition, both of them with over a million dollars deposits now, but are being forced to stay in a liquid condition owing to the uncertainty of economic conditions. With five cent cotton staring us in the face, I see no chance for improvement in the cotton belt until the price goes higher. To produce cotton in the most economical way in this county we cannot make it for five cents a pound, and it looks like that that is all we are going to get the coming season. The United States now has a carry-over of thirteen million bales which is enough to supply the world without the production of another bale, and I see no chance for any improvement in the cotton belt until the price of cotton improves, and that is about the only farm product from which we can derive any cash. My brothers and I have farms in Bladen and Sampson Counties, and we are diversifying between tobacco, peanuts, and cotton, but tobacco and peanuts are not much better, if any, than cotton when it comes to a sale.

I enjoyed looking over your schedule of teachers' salaries in California and showed it to some of my teacher friends here. They all with one acclaim said they would like to be in California if they could get a job, but I expect you people have two applications for every opening. At least, it is that way here with the low salaries we pay as compared with the salaries in California.

I saw Blanche Palmer of Rockingham a few days ago. She had been up to see Mrs. Dunlap, the genealogist, and stated she was making wonderful progress on her Hinson line. She wants to go with Mrs. Dunlap to Calvert County, Maryland. I had a letter from Blanche Ward of Pee Dee stating that she went over to see Need Liles's Bible but did not get any information. Of course, you knew Cousin Sallie Liles passed sometime ago. Sister Mary went to the funeral from here. I was sick at the time or I would have gone. I imagine it makes it very sad for Cousin Henry's family. I have not seen them since her death. William H. Lyles of Columbia, the father of Mary E. Lyles, also died a couple of months ago. I saw an account of his death in the papers. I also saw where his will was probated. Judging by the conversation with Mary E. you

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#3

would have thought her father was a millionaire, and no doubt he had been a very rich man, but when his will was probated, they only gave his net worth as twenty-seven thousand dollars; so the depression must have gotten him as well as most everybody else through North and South Carolina.

At your leisure, please write me what progress you are making on the family tree and tell me all about yourself. Anything you would have to say would be of great interest to me.

With all good wishes and kind personal regards, I am

Fondly yours  
*W. Henry Liles*

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WHL:CLM