



Walker
file by
attached
mailed
8/30/78

August 28, 1978

James Walker
Genology
National Archives
Washington DC

Dear Jimmy,

It was very nice seeing you recently in Washington. The preliminary report which you gave me sounded quite exciting. I am finding myself a little low on energy and realizing that I must get moving on this project and get it over with. I am trying now to concentrate directly on the data which I can use for a script hoping to bypass many interesting but not directly related data.

I think we are on the same wavelength and I would like to state briefly our substantive roles as I see them at this point. I would hope that before too long you might be able to trace the white Jennifers from the time they got off the boat, to the point of acquiring and "willing" slaves through their male and female lines, on into the early or mid-nineteenth century. I think I would then only want to know whether those slaves carrying the Jennifer name got into St Mary's County or adjoining counties. It would be especially interesting if the slave owners were blood related to the black Jennifers, but this is not of absolute importance. It would be of great interest to know if and when sold or "willed" slaves with the Jennifer names got into the Thomas family in St. Mary's County. I have traced John Henry Thomas, William Thomas and others back to the Revolution. They were very prominent in St. Mary's County. There were doctors in the second and third generations. (This is as much as I think we could hope to find) Remember that I have found that Nancy Jennifer (Berry) my grandmother was owned by the Thomases of Cremona on the Patuxent River. I have much data from this point on.

Tom Gardner was a slave holder from whose plantation John ^(Berry)Miles escaped to join the war. If traces of the Miles beginning with ownership by the Tom Gardner's should occur as a "fall out" in the Jennifer search, fine, but a specific search would seem unnecessary at this point.

Finally, I must trace some white and mullatto relatives in Person County North Carolina and nearby Halifax County of Virginia or else my maternal relatives may be jealous of the interesting stories about my paternal relatives. I therefore need census information from 1860 back for a few decades on Drew Harris who owned Tobe Harris and his slave mother _____ Harris.

Tom Faulkner also of Halifax County Virginia, slave owner was the father of Tobe Harris. Tom Faulkner Jr. and his brother _____ Faulkner were children during the Civil War. Tobe Harris spent the first few years of his life in the "big house" with his half brothers and sisters. I would therefore want to get census data on Tom Faulkner Sr. from 1860 back for a few decades. His slaves related to my family would be listed as mullattos for the most part but probably not free issue.

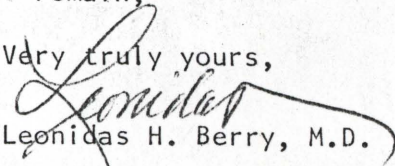
You may recall that I have a photograph of Wiley Jordan born about 1835 or 1840 and died in 1913. He was the father of Betty Jordan Harris my grandmother and wife of Tobe Harris. I do not know the names of the owners of the mostly mullatto Jordans who lived in Person County North Carolina and will not worry about this tracing until and perhaps after clearing up the previous stated goals. Please write your report to me in essay form rather than separate print outs which I still may not be able to put together because of my senility.

This is all for now. I would like for you to use some help if you may see fit.

With best regards to you and your family and hoping to hear from you from time to time at your earliest convenience.

I remain,

Very truly yours,


Leonidas H. Berry, M.D.)

P.S. You may call me collect in the evenings around 9:00 or 10:00 p.m Eastern time at (312) 493-3331)