808 Southern Railway Bldg., Atlanta, Ga., November 11th, 1932

Mrs. J. L. Beeson,

Milledgeville, Ga.

Dear Mrs. Beeson:

Mrs. Winifred L. Moore suggests that I write you - and if any further apology for my lack of ceremony is necessary, possibly the fact that I am a Tarpley will fill the bill.

My Tarpleys came to Oglethorpe County, Georgia, from some point (to me unknown) in Virginia about 1805. They apparently were:

Joel - married with two young sons and perhaps a daughter - Joel later in 1825 married a second time, this time Rachel Bradshaw in Oglethorpe County,

John - who married Polly Johnson in Oglethorpe in 1810,

Joseph - who married Emeline Stewart in 1817,

Nancy - who married Jesse Bell in 1812,

Polly - who married Thomas Howard in 1806, she is elsewhere called Mary.

And perhaps:

Coleman - ) Who with Joel in 1827 participated in the Augustine-) Cherokee Land Lottery in Oglethorpe County.

It is my assumption that all these Tarpleys (since all of them seemed to have been near the same age, judging from their marriages) were brothers and sisters.

Joel - my great-great-grandfather had the following children: John Coleman (My great grandfather), Robert W., William H. and George C., Minerva Tarpley Landrum, Louisa Tarpley Farris, and Martha Tarpley Jenkins. George C. died while a child in Oglethorpe as did a sister Catherine whom I note I failed to list. John Coleman, Robert W. and Louisa died in Henry County, Georgia, where their descendants for the most part still live. William H. died in Fayette County where his descendants now are. I do not know the final fate of Minerva and Martha, or their descendants.

John also moved to Henry County: His children were: John Wesley, James (the eldest), David, Joel or Joseph, Matthew Coleman, Elizabeth and Joanna. John Wesley and Matthew Coleman didd in Carroll County, leaving descendants there. Descendants of either James, David or Joel are now living in Hampton (Henry Co.) Georgia, I am not certain which of the three they descended from. Elizabeth married a Harper and died in Henry County. Joanna married a Johnson and moved to Louisiana where presumably she died.

In 1786 Mark and Joel Tarpley owned adjoining land on Rocky Comfort Creek in what is now Jefferson County, Georgia, but if either of these was the father of my Joel, they must have subsequently returned to Virginia - for my Joel's two oldest sons state in the 1850 census that they were born in Virginia.

I have the Richmond County, Virginia, birth records showing the birthdate, among others, of your ancestress Mary Tarpley (daughter of James and Mary Tarpley) Oct. 30, 1740. My g-g-f, Joel's, probable birthdate is between 1770 and 1780 - his oldest child was born in 1802. So you see I have one missing link between my Joel and the Richmond County Tarpleys.

Mrs. Moore tells me that you collected the data which showed the marriage of Mary Tarpley to John Camp of Halifax County, Virginia. Do you mind writing me from what course you had this information?

I am practically certain that your Mary Tarpley was closely related to my Joel Tarpley, most likely an Aunt - or at the worst a cousin, and if you can locate for me in Virginia Mary at the time of her marriage to John Camp, it would give me a new jumning off place to hunt for my Joel's point of taking-off in Virginia for Oglethorpe County, Georgia.

Will you please give me the benefit of your Tarpley data?

I feel that there is a Coleman line mixed up with my Tarpleys, and that the possible Mother of the Oglethorpe County Tarpleys was Anne (Coleman) Tarpley, a widow living near Joel in 1820, and of about the right age to be his mother. Her name may have been Joanna.

I will appreciate your writing me.

I rather think I have the Tarpleys in Virginia back to about 1650, although while then in York County they were known as Tapleys, which I am inclined to believe is the original name.

Very sincerely,

Robert E. Tarmey.

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