

Marshall University

Marshall Digital Scholar

0236: Fred B. Lambert Papers, 1809-1964

Digitized Manuscript Collection Materials

December 2020

MS 76 Box 5 Notebook 15 - Isaac Smith and his descendants

Fred Bussey Lambert

Follow this and additional works at: https://mds.marshall.edu/lambert_papers

Recommended Citation

Lambert, Fred Bussey, "MS 76 Box 5 Notebook 15 - Isaac Smith and his descendants" (2020). *0236: Fred B. Lambert Papers, 1809-1964*.

https://mds.marshall.edu/lambert_papers/348

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Digitized Manuscript Collection Materials at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in 0236: Fred B. Lambert Papers, 1809-1964 by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact zhangj@marshall.edu.

MS 76
BX 5
NBK 15

Isaac Smith
and
His Descendants.

MS 76
BX 5
NBK 15

OFFICE OF CLERK CIRCUIT COURT

Botetourt County

FINCASTLE, VIRGINIA

ROBERT D. STONER, CLERK

R. L. HOUSMAN, DEP. CLERK

March 6, 1946.

Mr. F. B. Lambert,
Barboursville, W. Va.

Dear Sir:

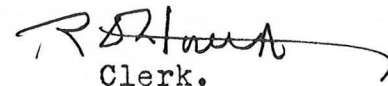
We enclose you herewith a certified copy of the marriage bond of Isaac Smith and Mary _____ 1783.

Because I cannot positively say what is the name of Smith's wife, I have made a tracing of the name for what it might be worth to you. Mr. Kegley calls it Sewell. I cannot see that many loops in it. A few years ago we sent our bonds to Richmond for indexing and they interpreted it as Level. The more I look at it the less I care to hazard a guess as to what it is.. The first letter is quite definitely like the S in Isaac Smith's name, and I can find no "L" for comparison.

Sorry I can't help you more, but I think the tracing will show you what we are up against. We have no provisions for photostating and are not allowed to send a document out of the office without order of Court.

Very truly yours,

A.


Clerk.

2

KNOW all Men by these Presents That we Isaac Smith and Charles Ellison are held and firmly bound unto the Commonwealth of Virginia in the sum of Fifty Pounds Currency. To the Payment whereof well and truly to be made, we do bind ourselves our Heirs Executors and Admrs. jointly and severally firmly by these Presents.

Sealed with our Seals and Dated this Twelfth Day of August 1783 & in the Seventh year of our Independence.

THE CONDITION of this Obligation is such That WHEREAS there is a Marriage shortly intended to be had and solemnized Between the above bound Isaac Smith and Mary Sevee of this Parish. If therefore there be no Lawfull cause to Obstruct the said Marriage then this Obligation to be Void or else to remain in full Force and Virtue.

Sealed & Delivered in
the Presence of

Isaac ^{his} S S Smith (SEAL)
mark

C Ellison (SEAL)

A copy - teste:

R. S. Turner Clerk
Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Va.

What I find on this book on
Isaac Smith
Kegley's Va. Frontier
i. n. 481

Isaac Smith m. Mary Sewell.
in Botetourt County - 1780.
(Mary Sewell?, so says clerk)

Same p. 453 - He was listed as
being in Capt. ~~Frazier's~~ Pryor's Com-
pany (~~Frazier's~~) Pryor's Com-
pany, 1783, Revolutionary
War, from Botetourt County
1 horse, 2 cattle, no slaves
(He is claimed to have ^{or tithables}
m. a Miss Summs about
1770. This bears out the
contention that he was
married twice.)

Same p. 477 - Isaac Smith was
listed as being in Capt. May's
Company with 1 horse & 2
cattle. No slaves or tithables.

Larkin Smith is not found in
this book. No Goffs.

Summer's Annals of S. W. Virginia
p. 372

May 8, 1783, at a court
held on this day Isaac
Smith was listed as
serving on a grand
jury from Botetourt
Co., Va.

The Smiths

By Wyatt Smith

Isaac Smith was first of my generation to come lived in the narrows of New River. He m. twi. He was a Capt., I have heard in the Rev. army. Had several sons & many daughters. He was my gr. gr. grandfather. My gr. grandfather was Benj. Smith. Part of the family came to Raleigh Co., I think, & Benj. Smith is said to have come from there to Logan Co., Wm. Smith (Crawley Bill) was son of Benj. S. & my grandfather was C. in Logan Co. & came to Guyandotte, ran hotel there & died there.

Isaac Smith

m 1 (

m 2

Simmons, about 1875,
in Augusta? Co?
Hutchman?

One of Benj. Smith's sons was father of Judge Charles W. Smith of Mercer Co., W. Va. long dead. Judge Charles

of Judge ~~John~~ Ajax Smith, now
of Mercer Co., born & reared there
Ajax lives at Bluefield.

A few years ago, possibly now,
Wm. Smith, a grandson?
probably of Isaac Smith lived
in Raleigh County. Isaac Smith
had numerous sons. One of
these Smiths m. Thomas Napier,
Mrs C. W. Kerr, was a Napier
descendant.

Another son of Isaac
Smith m. (Margaret) Bloss, probably
Valentine Bloss.

Another one f m. Anderson
Dugess of Logan County.

(See Clyde Willman) I think
I descended from the Kuch-
man woman. See Mrs. W. F.
~~Gay~~ Kahler of Jefferson Ave.

See phone book

n. 481 - Kegley's Va. Frontier. (at W. & L. ^{Litton}

Isaac Smith m. Mary Sewell

1783

- In Botetourt Co. Va

Benj Smith probably m. twice
m. — Strallon, sister of
Major Dick Strallon. My father
said she was b. in Ireland
~~She was w~~ The family
was & is well known in
Logan Co. Mrs. James
Nighbert was Vicie Strallon

Wm. Smith ^{↳ Crawley Bill} m. Mary Ann
Butcher. He lived on
Crawley Creek, at
Chapmansville. She
was dau. of Joshua
& Sallie Clark Butcher.
They lived near Chap-
mansville, I think.
Joshua Butcher was
a gunsmith.

Wm. Smith & wife
were my grandparents
their children

1. John Butcher Smith
never married. Lived
with a sister in
Guyandotte till he
d. at 70+

2. Martha Jane Smith

m. James I. Dingess, Lived
in Logan Co. He was proba-
bly a son or gr. son of
Anderson Dingess, member
of the Logan Wildcats, etc
Large family. A dau.
Roda m. Ramsey? lives

~~3. S~~

in Logan yet. Her dau.
~~was~~ Miss Mary Lois Wilson
lives in Huntington, a
dau. of Roda's husband
James Wilson, P. M. of
B'ville.

3. Sarah Ann Smith

m. Rev. W. Dyke Garrett.
Lived on Big Cr. Were
married 67 years. Big
Cr. is below Logan.

They had a numerous family
of children. One is

Mrs. Scott Justice of
Huntington.

Miss Ida Rose Garrett,
See Telephone. Works
for Fred Perry.

Albert Garrett, Logan Co.

Peter " Home place

m. 2. 7. 7.

4. Albert Emmet Smith

m. Sallie ~~Watt~~ Watt, dau.
of Geo. Wm. & Flora

Ann Roseberry Watt,
of Putnam Co. She
was dau. of Robert
& Sallie Owens Roseberry
of Mason Co. & a
gr. dau. John &
Roseberry, a Rev.
soldier, probably
from Pa. He has
a D.A.R. marker at
Pt. Pleasant.

They lived on Main St.,
Children

Albert Emmet Smith Jr.
d. Single at 28

Mary Louise Smith

m. Homer Holt Ballou
(Dick) Both dead
Two children

Albert Watt B.
of Charleston
Mrs. Allen Hawkins
(Louise Holt B.)
of Charleston

10
3. Matt Smith

m. Margaret Cox of Weston,
dan Joseph B. & Catherine
Sulley Cox of Weston.
All of her grand
parents (4) b. in
Ireland

No children.

4. Thomas Philip Smith
"Tom Philip"

m. Terzah Jones of Guy
andotte, dan. of
Richard & Maud Math-
er Jones, dan of
J. W. Mather of
Guyandotte & Emma
Burles, dan of
Benford Burles,
father of Lewis Burles
& Laidley

† Tom & Terzah are
divorced. A dan
Betty lives with her
father Tom in New
York. She m. 2.
& he remained single.

5. Robert Owens Smith d. in infancy

6. Flora Ann Smith

m. Eugene Johnson. Divorced

a son. Jean Ashley

Johnson m. Eugene

Kelly Slutz of

Washington, D.C.

A.B. Randolph Macou

A.M. Marshall College.

7. Warren Chilton Smith

Not m. Lives at 1236

Ave., with a sister

Mrs. Flora Smith Johnson

She is younger (No 6)

than Warren.

8. Winifred Ada Smith - d.

Single in 1932, at

about 30. Graduate

of Mt. de Chantal Academy.

(All)

See Mrs. Scott Justice on
Garrells.

On Wythe see R. D. Wiley of
Gwin Mill,

also Mrs. Fred M. Jaynes

2807-1st Ave. Ph. 29787.

Wall Smith

Crawley Bilko children (I left out
3 daus.

Emily Cordelia Smith

m. Geo. S. Page, See
Nighbert S. Page &

Mrs. Wm F. Kahler

Mary Alice Smith m.

Hamillon W. Stewart,

Guyandotte,

Children

H. Carlisle Stewart
at P.O.

Mrs. Charles Nepper.
(Mary Alice S.)
Huntington

Burgess Smith S.,
Cleveland, O.

Linnie Smith m. Lewis S. Wigal
son of John F. ———
Wigal

Call Mrs. Bendt Franke
daus. Lewis Wigal.

(See Mrs. Mayne Carroll)
on Tom Carroll.

Clyde Willman

Isaac S., a Rev. War soldier (.
see Johnson Hist. of New River)
came ~~from~~ ^{to} Montgomery Co.,
just after Battle of Yorktown.
Came from Madison Co. Va.
(settled in Narrows of New R.
in Montgomery Co.) Hingess,
Smith's etc came from

m.

Children:

Benjamin m. (Elizabeth Hinch
Children: - 1822.

Crawley Bill

Judge Smith, father
of Ajax Smith

~~Sally~~ Susan Hingess

Ezekiel m. Susan Hingess
(Montgomery Co. Record.
dan. Peter Hingess
Feb. 2, 1821.

Children: - 4 Boy 1 m.

French Smith

Anderson "

Hingess "

Paris "

Gertrude " m.

Wm Anderson
Hingess, son of
D.

Ezekiel went to
Burlington, Iowa,
built first log cabin,
then moved to Mad-
alene Mts., Seguin,
Texas, about 1834-5.

He was b. April 9, 1809

d. 1888, at
above place.

William m.

Senatorial. Served from
Mercer Co. 40 yrs. in Va.
Assembly

Wife Garland Smith Alley

Jasper Texas,

A descendant of French
Smith

(Olyde Wellman has letter
from above.)

Eg

Margaret Smith, a dau. of
Isaac Smith m. ~~Hall~~
Valentine Bloss Sr.

Hannah Smith m. Thomas ^{Franklin} ~~Maple~~

Nancy Smith m. William Garre
Feb. 12(?), 1824

Benz. Smith m. ^{Burnwell S.} Martha Stratton
April 14, 1817

Jacob Stallin
m. 2. Elizabeth Hinchman
— — 1822
Jos. Barrett

Benjamin? Garrett m.

Smith?

Children:

Gr. fa. of
Mrs. Eustace
(Anna) Adkins)
da. of Wm
Garrett &
sister to
Mrs. John Burgess

Holliver Garrett & he was
a first cousin to

Rev. Dyke Garrett.

This means that the
father of Dyke & Benj.

were brothers. (Mrs. John
Burgess,
was dau.
of Holliver
& there were others

Isaac Smith, in some way was
related to the McComas,
& died in Cabell Co.

See in Johnson's Hist an
acct. of a Garrett & a
McComas being brothers-in-
law. (See Note Eschsch
(Bloss & Benj Blosses.)

(Isaac Smith bought a lot
in Shepherdstown, in 1772.)

Isaac Smith

From David E. Johnston

"A History of the Middle
New River Settlements."

p. 45-2

The Smiths of New River

"This family is here designated
as of "New River", otherwise it
might not be known to what
family of Smiths reference is
made, and hence, they are
styled "The Smiths of New River".
Isaac Smith was a soldier of
the American Revolution, and
served with the corps of LaFayette
at Yorktown. He lived in
that part of Rockingham County
now embraced in Madison.
The territory in which it is
supposed and believed that
he was born was then Angus
County, and was still Angus
when, in about 1790, he
married Miss Simms. After the
battle of Yorktown and return
of the Virginia militia to their
homes, Mr. Smith, together with
several of his neighbors, and
relations, in the year 1791,

passed over the Alleghenies into the New River Valley. Mr. Smith was brother-in-law to John Peters and Larkin Stowers, and they, together with Christian Peters, and Charles Walker, and others, came to New River. Smith settled on the Long Bottom on New River, nearly opposite the place of settlement of John Peters. Among the sons of Isaac Smith were: Ezekiel, Benjamin, and William, the latter born, in 1774. Ezekiel went to Texas before the war for its independence, was captured by the Mexicans and kept a prisoner for five years. His son, French C. Smith, a man of talent, and brilliancy, followed his father to Texas, and became a prominent figure in that State, having been the Whig candidate for Governor, but was defeated by General Sam Houston, the Democratic candidate by a large majority.

Benjamin Smith lived in the County of Mercer, and had several sons - among them Theodor who went west, - Thomas, and Allen. Mr. French W. Smith of Bluefield and Judge Charles W. Smith of Princeton, West Virginia, are the grandsons of Benjamin Smith.

Captain William Smith married a Mrs. Neal, whose maiden name was Dingess, a daughter of Peter Dingess, a Revolutionary soldier, who served in Brigg's battalion of Montgomery County artillery - in Lafayette's corps at the battle of Yorktown.

"Opposite p. 454 will be seen the photograph of Cap. William Smith, taken when he was a very old man. He lived to about the age of eighty-four. Mr. John B. Smith of Willowton, in Mercer County, is a son of Mr. Benjamin Smith, and was a heroic and devoted soldier.

No. 179 - Same

"Captain William Smith, who was born in the County of Rockingham, Virginia, in 1774, came to the New River Valley, with his father and family when a small lad. He had often before, as well as after, 1837, been honored by his fellowmen. He was the Presiding Justice of Mercer County for twelve years, and although not a man of letters, without education in the common acceptance of the term, only able to write his name and that mechanically, for he could write nothing else, but his high sense of honor, coupled with his great native ability and common sense, commended him to the favor of his fellow citizens, who not only honored him by keeping him in the Office of Justice of the Peace and making him the presiding officer of the court for a long term of years, but the court had his portrait painted, framed and hung over the judicial bench in the Court House, where it remained

2

until the destruction of that building on the 1st day of May, 1862.

"Captain Smith was several times elected to the House of Delegates of Virginia, as the representative of the County of Giles after the formation of Mercer. He was the candidate for the Legislature twelve times and was elected six times"

n. 175- "The first settler at the place where the town of Princeton is located was French C. Smith, who was the a son of one Ezekiel Smith who went to Texas in the early thirties, etc - The rest of this paragraph is a repetition.

n. 84- See this for some Smiths & other settlers.

n. 175- Who was John H. Smith of Princeton?

n. 29

2
p. 84- Among those who came
(west of Alleghenies, after the
surrender of Cornwallis) were
1782-3-4-5, and located in
the New River Valley were
John & Christian Peters, Chas.
Walker, Isaac Smith, & Larkin
Slowers, & a little later
John Kirk, & Peter Dinges, &
James Enmons, Charles Duncan
(All Rev. Soldiers) Even
some French & Bush sold
came.

Peters, Slowers, Walker,
& Smith came from Rock
ingham Co., Peter Dinges
from Botetown Co., James
Enmons & Chas. Duncan
from Stokes Co., N.C.
Duncan & Enmons had
first removed from Fauquier
Co. Va. to Stokes Co., N.C.
John Peters & his bro.,
Christian P. came in 1785.
The former located on the
New River, on farm on
which Charles H. French

the latter on Peach Cr. where
Peters town is. He gave the name
Chas. Walker settled on New River
opposite mouth of Wolf Cr.

p. p. 19? ^{or 21?} 35? Gives full acct. of
The Sandy Expedition.

p. 264 - An acct. of Gen. Jenkins'
death.

p. 71 - Sept. 23, 1779. "Capt. Wm.
Smith's old farm" was
located on East River about
"about one mile below the
mouth of Five Mile Fork
thereof."

p. 111 - Oct. 7, 1773; Major Robert
Crockett and fifty others,
among them, ---, etc.,
and John James, Reuben &
Richard Bailey, William Smith,
and John Peery, sent a
petition to the Governor of
Virginia, informing him of
the defenseless condition of
the border, and asking for
assistance, & stating the will
of the Indians & John Davids

on the 8th day of March, 1792, and that of Gilbert on the 24th day of July, 1792, and the capture of Samuel Lusk at the same time.

p. 171 - Capt. Wm. Smith held a commission as a Justice of the Peace of the new county, also Capt. C. H. A. Walker, (Mercer Co. formed from Giles & Tazewell) Capt. Wm. S. signed the petition. March 1837 - Mercer formed.

p. 176 - Capt. Wm. S. defeated for House of Delegates. Question - Was he the same Mercer Co

GARLAND SMITH
Lawyer.
Jasper, Texas.

March 9, 1932.

Mr. Clyde Anderson Wellman,
Huntington, West Virginia.

Dear Sir:

Sometime ago I was furnished with a copy of a letter written by you to Mrs. Dowdy, of 140 Drexel Avenue, San Antonio, Texas, with reference to the descendants of French Smith. Mrs. Dowdy is my father's sister, and a daughter of French Smith.

I am very much interested in your letter for the reason that it contained a lot of information about my ancestors which I had previously known nothing of. I do not know whether my aunt ever answered your letter or not. She is very old and is not accustomed to writing. She is the sole survivor of twelve sons and daughters of French Smith and wife, Elizabeth Smith, nee Hector. My father's name was Guy French Smith. He was the youngest member of the family. He was born in Gaudalupe County, Texas, January 10, 1853, and died in Jasper County, Texas March 30th, 1906. He left surviving him only three sons, to-wit: James Madison Smith, Marvin Smith, and the writer. Madison is the eldest and Marvin the youngest. Madison lives here and Marvin in Port Arthur Texas. We are the only descendants of French Smith bearing the name of Smith. We are each married. Madison has no children. Marvin has a son and a daughter, named Marvin Herbert and Mabel Lorene, respectively. I have only one child, a daughter, named Garland who is nineteen years of age.

French Smith died in Guadalupe County, Texas in 1881, and

22

his widow died in 1888. He was born in Virginia on April 9, 1809,, if I can remember correctly. He only had four children who married and leftn children--two sons and two daughters.

If you do not have this information ~~xxxxxxx~~ already I will be pleased to give you all that I know of the tribe in this section. I have never lived near the Smith branch of the family since 1896, when my father moved from Uvalde County to this county. French Smith and his father settled in Guadalupe County and quite a large family of his collateral kindred live in that section of the State. I was born March 22, 1882, within a mile of where my grand-father settled in Guadalupe County in 1836. My father was also born on the old homestead, which now is known as the Darst Creek Oil field. Mrs. Dowdy and her sister's children still own considerable acreage out of the old homestead.

I have an old Daguerotype picture of French Smith which I keep on my office desk which I will gladly send you to look at or make a copy of, if you so desire. It is the only picture of him that I have. From all accounts, he was rather an unusual character and a man of keen wit and intellectual endowments. He was a "free lance" in politics, and a close friend and admirer of General Sam Houston. He was amont the minority that were opposed to secession. I am told that he made a speech in Seguin about the beginning of the civil war, in which he predicted that the South would be in the ascendancy for the first two years of the war, that they would then begin to fail, and the North would win during the fourth year of the war.

26

I shall be pleased to hear from you, and to answer any questions that I can. I am expecially anxious to get a line on my relatives in that part of the country. I am,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Garland Smith.

Gonzales, Texas.

October 30, 1929.

Mr. C. A. Wellman,
Huntington, W. Va.

Dear Mr. Wellman:

To-day your letter to Mrs. Dowdy, of San Antonio, was sent me that I might reply and give you such information that I may have.

I have two letters from your grandmother, written in 1916, to which I have replied. She had me direct her letters in care of her son, Grover. I never rec' an answer to my last. As I noted from your letter, she is still living. Since I have made two delightful visits to W. Va., in 1920, again 1927, and on ~~xxxxxx~~ the latter trip (Auto), had breakfast in your city. I visited in Princeton and Bluefield, W. Va., also Peerisburg, Va. Stood over the graves of Peter and Mary Din-gess, at Cakdale. Now, whether these were the graves great, great Grandfather and wife, or Dr. Peter, his son and wife, whose name was also "Mary", my relatives could not say, as no dates were given.

The information you are wanting is relative to great grand-father Ezekial and his descendants--and I am degiressing--but when I get to discussing my forbears I never know where to begin, nor stop. I could write pages, and indeed, have quantities of data which I am compiling in a family record.

Certainly you will want to know who I am. I am the grand-daughter of Paris Smith, Ezekial's son, who came to Texas from Burlington, Iowa in 1840 and settled in Sequin. Uncle French

and their father came three or four years earlier.

Ezekial was a Min prisoner and was in captivity about two years. He arrived home, Seguinn, from the City of Mexico Nov. 25, 1844. I have a news-paper copy of a letter written his wife from Tampico, Apr. 1843, which is very interesting, and well written. He was sixty-three years old at the time of release. He died in 1854, and his wife, Ssannah Dingess, died in 1845. She was seven years his senior.

My grandfather, Paris, was the first Alcalde of Sequin. During the days of the Republic, the Mayor, or Governor of a town, was designated by the Mexican title. He was a Government Surveyor in Texas, as he had been in Virginia and Iowa.

You may not know, but Ezekial and sons, Paris and Dingess, built the first log huts, or houses in Burlington, Iowa, as did Ezekial build the first house in Princeton, W. Va.

I think you are correct in regard to Uncle French having been Sam Houston's opponent. French was a brilliant man, and had it not been for whiskey he could have had a wonderful political career. He was said to have been the "brainiest" man in Texas at this time.

Of course these brothers have long since passed away; and of their children, Mrs. Dowdy (Cousin Ann Eliza), alone remains of Uncle French's family; she is eighty-one. Of grandfather Paris' family, the youngest child Jennie (Mrs. Happle): She is seventy-nine. My mother, Theresa, will be ninety-two this December.

Of Uncle Dingess' and Anderson's families I have lost track.

Uncle Dingess may have a son living, but his youngest daughter passed away recently. I will go back to our grand grand, grandfather, Peter Dingess.

I have the record from the Port of Entry at Philadelphia and I find he landed on September 16, 1757, from Rotterdam, Ship "Brothers", Wm. Muir, Captain. Recently, at one of our port cities, I went there on an Amsterdam vessel; and in an interesting conversation with one of the officers, I found the name "Dingess" was quite common in Holland.

Your Grandmother wrote me--and I also notice in one of your letters-- that Peter I died in 1800. In a letter I have from my Great Grandmother to her daughter, Paris' wife, she says: "tell Paris his Grandfather is quite feeble". This letter was written in 1835. Are you sure she died in 1800? If it was he, he would have been then about ninety-five years of age. But possibly she referred to Isaac, who would have been near the same age, as he married in 1770. What?

Do you know if Peter's wife, Polly was the daughter of Thos. Smith and Phoebe Dunbar? Phoebe's second husband was Who? Wm. Anderson: hence, the Anderson name in the family. One record says Polly Dingess was Smith; the other, Anderson.

Another question: Was it Dr. Peter who was an early American Journalist? Some years ago, a young girl friend student in the Class of Journalism in our State University was attending a lecture, and as she said, not paying much attention until she caught the name "Dingess" as being a successful journalist in the early nineteenth century. She wrote to me, and I replied requesting her to interview her professor and send me data.

30

By that time, the Professor said it had passed out of his mind and he could not recall the source of his information.

We, you and I have a relative, Mrs. Roy Thomas, of Everett, Washington, a descendant of Dr. Peter Dingess who is now touring the east, and expects to visit the Virginias. I am sure she will be in Huntington or Logan and she may, possibly, find you.

Should I hear from her again before she reaches your state I will remind her of you. She has never lived in Virginia. Oklahoma is her original state.

Give my love to your grandmother, who is an own cousin to my mother. Tell her I was awfully disappointed in that I did not hear from her anymore.

On my next visit to Virginia I shall certainly visit in Logan; also Huntington.

I am getting along in years--nearly sixty-four--and this letter would attest to the fact, from the length of it, that I am a garrulous old woman; so now I am going to close.

Would like to hear from you.

Sincerely, your cousin,

(Signed)

(Mrs. Stuart) Carrie W. Johnson.

Gonsales, Texas.

(COPY).

GARLAND SMITH
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
JASPER, TEXAS.

JANUARY 27, 1946.

Mr. F. B. LAMBERT,
BARBOURSVILLE, W. VA.

DEAR MR. LAMBERT:

I AM DUE YOU AN APOLOGY FOR DELAYING SO LONG TO ANSWER YOUR LETTER OF JANUARY 3RD. I WAS ILL WHEN YOUR LETTER CAME, AND I HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY IN THE OFFICE SINCE I CAME BACK TO WORK.

I HAD SOME CORRESPONDENCE WITH MR. CLYDE WELLMAN SOME YEARS AGO ABOUT MY ANCESTORS. HE FURNISHED ME MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FAMILY HISTORY THAN I KNEW ABOUT THEM, MYSELF.

MY FATHER, GUY FRENCH SMITH WAS THE YOUNGEST CHILD OF FRENCH SMITH AND ELIZABETH HECTOR SMITH, HIS MOTHER HAVING BEEN A HECTOR. MY GRANDFATHER SMITH WAS BORN IN VIRGINIA IN 1809 AND DIED IN GUADALOUPE COUNTY, TEXAS, IN 1881, ONE YEAR PRIOR TO MY BIRTH. MY FATHER WAS BORN JAN. 10, 1853 IN GUADALOUPE COUNTY, AND DIED IN JASPER COUNTY, TEXAS ON MARCH 30, 1906. MY FATHER MOVED FROM GUADALOUPE COUNTY WHEN I WAS ONLY TWO YEARS OF AGE, AND I NEVER DID LEARN MUCH ABOUT HIS REMOTE ANCESTORS, NOR EVEN ABOUT HIS NEAR RELATIVES, ASIDE FROM HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

EZEKIAL SMITH, I AM INFORMED, HAD FOUR SONS AND ONE DAUGHTER--GERTRUDE. THE SONS WERE PARIS CHARLES, FRENCH AND DINGESS.

✓ MRS. H.H. WEINERT, OF SEQUIN, TEXAS, CAN GIVE YOU MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MY FAMILY THAN I CAN. I AM ENCLOSING TWO LETTERS WHICH I RECEIVED FROM MR. CLYDE A. WELLMAN IN 1932 WHICH WILL GIVE YOU A LOT OF INFORMATION THAT YOU MAY, OR MAY NOT ALREADY HAVE. PLEASE RETURN THEM TO ME.

ALL OF FRENCH SMITH'S CHILDREN ARE NOW DEAD. A NUMBER OF PARIS SMITH'S DESCENDANTS LIVE IN, OR NEAR SEQUIN, TEXAS. FRENCH HAD

32

FRENCH HAD THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN, WHO LIVED TO MATURITY:

1--ALBERT GALLATIN SMITH, A SON, WHO NEVER MARRIED. DIED IN 1909.

2--WILLIAM ORGETRI SMITH " " " " " 1916.

3--ASTYNIX SMITH " WHO DIED IN 1893 OR 1894
HE HAS ONE DAUGHTER LIVING IN SAN ANTONIO, AND HAD ANOTHER, *who*
LIVING IN KENNEDY, TEXAS SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

4--ANDROMICA, DAUGHTER, WHO MARRIED A TADLOCK. SHE HAD A SON--
J.B.TADLOCK, WHO NOW LIVES IN GONZALES, TEXAS.

5--ANN ELIZABETH, WHO MARRIED _____ DOWDY. SHE HAD ONE SON. SHE, HER
SON AND HUSBAND ARE ALL DEAD.

6--GUY FRENCH SMITH--MY FATHER. HE LEFT THREE SONS--JAMES MADISON
SMITH, THE ELDEST, WHO DIED WITHOUT ISSUE, IN 1939. MY YOUNGEST
BROTHER, MARVIN SMITH, LIVES IN PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS.

I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION YOU COULD GIVE ME, AND
WILLING TO PAY YOU LIBERALLY, FOR IT.

IN 1938 A GRANITE MONUMENT WAS UNVEILED AT THE GRAVE OF EZEKIAL SMITH
IN SEQUIN, TEXAS, AS A HERO OF THE MEXICAN WAR: HE WAS ONE OF THE
MEIR PRISONERS WHO DREW A WHITE BEAN, AND GOT BACK TO TEXAS.

Explain.

Black bean remained in prison

I am,

Very truly yours,

Garland Smith

GONZALES, TEXAS.
OCTOBER 27,

MR. GARLAND SMITH,

MY DEAR COUSIN:

I SHALL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO EXCUSE MY NEGLECT IN RETURNING THESE PAPERS SOONER. I BELIEVE I HAVE A VERY GOOD EXCUSE:

FOR SOME WEEKS PAST MY HUSBAND HAS NOT BEEN SO WELL; THE OTHER HALF IS, I HAVE JUST BEEN TOO LAZY TO CONCENTRATE ON LETTERS WRITING, OTHER THAN TO MY CHILDREN, BUT I DO APPRECIATE YOUR SENDING THIS, AND THANK YOU.

THE UNUSUAL PART OF MR. W'S ACCOUNT OF THE FAMILY HISTORY, I HAD SENT MUCH OF IT TO HIM. IN 1929 HE WROTE YOUR AUNT LIDA (COUSIN DAUGHT) TO US FOR SOME FAMILY HISTORY, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THEIR LIFE AFTER LEAVING VIRGINIA. SHE SENT THE LETTER TO ME, AND I TOOK OVER THE CORRESPONDENCE.

AS I WROTE YOU, I HAD BEEN IN THE VIRGINIAS IN 1927, AND WAS IN OAKDALE AND VISITED THE COUNTRY WHERE PETER'S WIFE WAS BURIED. COUSIN WILSON STRALEY, WHO IS MY GRAND-MOTHER, DORCAS' GREAT NEPHEW HAD HAD THESE GRAVES RESTORED AND MARKERS PLACED. A FEW MILES OUT FROM THIS LITTLE HAMLET IS THE HOUSE OF PETER'S SON, DR. PETER DINGESS. A PART HAD BEEN TORN AWAY; WE TOOK A "SNAP-SHOT" OF THE REMAINDER, AND I BROUGHT AWAY A PIECE OF WOOD FROM THE STAIR-WAY. A COUSIN WAS WITH US FROM PRINCETON, A DAUGHTER OF NAPOLEON FRENCH.

MY STRALEY RELATIONS, WHOM I VISITED IN '20 AND '27 LIVE WITHIN A BLOCK OF YOUR GRANDFATHER'S HOME PLACE; AND GREAT GRANDFATHER EZEKIAL(S HOUSE HAD BEEN TORN DOWN ONLY TWO OR THREE YEARS BEFORE MY VISIT IN 1920. HOW MUCH I COULD TELL YOU OF THESE VISITS: TELL ME IT WAS "HALLOWED GROUND". IN UNCLE FRENCH'S YARD WAS A WONDERFUL SPRING WHICH, FOR MANY YEARS, SUPPLIED THE THEN, SMALL TOWN.

DID I WRITE YOU IN MY OTHER LETTER THAT I HAVE THE SMITH-ANDERSON-DUNBAR PAPERS? ISAAC SMITH, EZEKIAL'S FATHER,

AND POLLY (DINGESS) MUST HAVE BEEN BROTHER AND SISTER. IF SO, WE WERE NEVER TOLD THAT EZEKIAL AND SUSANNAH WERE COUSINS.

YOU WILL JUST HAVE TO COME TO GONZALES TO TALK ALL THIS OVER.

I, TOO, HAVE A CHILD, IN HOUSTON, TEXAS, VICTOR. HE LIVES AT 1818 W. ALABAMA. HE IS LAND MAN IN THE FEDERAL LAND BANK. SOME TIME, WHEN YOU ARE IN HOUSTON, WOULD BE GLAD FOR YOU TO SEE HIM. THEN, TOO, MY DAUGHTER THERESA'S SON WALTER KLEIN, IS THERE. HE LIVES AT #1528 MARYLAND: HE IS WITH THE WILLARD BATTERY CO. BOTH FINE BOYS OF COURSE.

I DID NOT GET TO GO TO SEQUIN. AM SORRY TO HAVE MISSED IT. AGAIN THANKING YOU AND HOPING TO HEAR FROM YOU AGAIN, I

AM,

SINCERELY,

YOUR COUSIN,

(SIGNED)

CARIE JOHNSON.

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

MARCH 21, 1932.

MR. GARLAND SMITH,

JASPER, TEXAS.

MY DEAR MR. SMITH:

YOU MUST PARDON ME FOR THE DELAY IN ANSWERING YOUR LETTER OF THE 9TH INST., IN WHICH YOU INQUIRED FOR SOME INFORMATION REGARDING OUR MUTUAL ANCESTORS. TO BEGIN, I SHOULD TELL YOU WHO I AM: MY FATHER, STILL LIVING AT 66, IS ROBERT WELLMAN, SON OF LABAN T. WELLMAN AND SARAH ANN (DINGESS) WELLMAN. HIS MOTHER IS STILL LIVING AT LOGAN, W. VA., IN HER 89TH YEAR. SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM ANDERSON DINGESS--WAS THE FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN IN WHAT IS NOW LOGAN COUNTY, W. VA.--BUT AT THE TIME OF HIS BIRTH, KANAWHA CO., VIRGINIA. HE WAS BORN IN 1806. HIS WIFE GERTRUDE WAS HIS OWN FIRST COUSIN, AND THE YOUNGEST CHILD OF, EZEKIAL SMITH'S FIVE CHILDREN WHICH CONSISTED OF FOUR BOYS AND ONE GIRLS. SHE WAS BORN IN WHAT IS NOW MERCER COUNTY, W. VA., BUT FORMERLY GILES COUNTY, VA. IN 1811. HER FOUR BROTHERS WERE PARIS (I BELIEVE THE ELDEST), DINGESS, ANDERSON AND FRENCH, THE LAST OF WHOM WAS BORN IN 1809 IN GILES COUNTY, VA. NEAR THE PRESENT SITE OF PRINCETON, THE COUNTY SEAT OF MERCER COUNTY. IN FACT, FRENCH SMITH GAVE MERCER COUNTY AT THE TIME OF ITS FORMATION, THE LAND ON WHICH THE COUNTY SEAT OF PRINCETON WAS ESTABLISHED.

EZEKIAL SMITH WAS BORN IN 1784, ON NEW RIVER, NEAR WHAT IS NOW PEARISBURG, VA. THE PRESENT COUNTY SEAT OF ~~MERCER~~ GILES COUNTY. IT WAS THEN MONTGOMERY COUNTY. THERE, HIS FATHER, ISAAC, HAD MIGRATED FROM WHAT IS NOW MADISON COUNTY, VA.; BUT AT THE TIME IT WAS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF CULPEPPER COUNTY, VIRGINIA. THEIR HOMES ON THE WESTERN SLOPES OF THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS REALLY A PART OF THE FAMOUS VALLEY OF VIRGINIA.

I HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO GO FARMHER BACK THAN ISAAC. THERE WERE SCORES OF SCHMIDTS OF GERMAN EXTRACTION WHO TRICKLED INTO THE SHENANDOAH ~~XXXXXX~~ COUNTRY WHEN IT WAS BEING SETTLED, FROM EARLIER HABITATIONS IN PENNSYLVANIA. THEY EVENTUALLY BECAME KNOWN AS "SMITHS" I DON'T KNOW, BUT I FEEL THAT THE ORIGINAL NAME OF OUR SMITHS WAS SCHMIDT. THERE WERE SMITHS FROM THE TIDEWATER COUNTRY WHO WERE OF ENGLISH EXTRACTION.

THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA WAS SETTLED BETWEEN 1720 AND 1770, LARGELY BY GERMANS COMING DOWN FROM PENNSYLVANIA.

EZEKIAL SMITH, YOUR GREAT GRAND-FATHER, AND MY GREAT GREAT-GRANDFATHER, MARRIED SUSANNAH DINGESS, WHO WAS BORN IN 1774^{8?} IN THE JAMES RIVER COUNTRY IN WHAT IS NOW BOTTETOURT COUNTY, BUT THEN A PART OF "AUGUSTA"--AS ALL WESTERN VIRGINIA WAS KNOWN AT ONE TIME--WITH THE COUNTY SEAT AT STAUNTON, VA. THUS, HIS WIFE WAS SEVEN YEARS OLDER THAN EZEKIAL. SUSANNAH DINGESS, WHO MARRIED EZEKIAL IN 1801, WAS THE DAUGHTER OF PETER DINGESS, AN IMMIGRANT FROM GERMANY WHO LANDED AT THE PORT OF PHILADELPHIA IN SEPTEMBER, 1751. HE WAS THIRTEEN YEARS OLD AT THE TIME; AND, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HIMSELF AND AN UNKNOWN SISTER HIS ENTIRE FAMILY WAS WIPED OUT BY SCURVY ON THE LONG VOYAGE FROM ROTTERDAM, ON THE SHIP "BROTHERS".

EZEKIAL SMITH MIGRATED FROM LOGAN COUNTY, VA., IN 1832, WITH HIS THREE SONS, PARIS, ANDERSON, AND DINGESS. THEY WENT TO BURLINGTON, IA., WHERE THEY BUILT THE FIRST LOG CABIN IN THAT TOWN. FRENCH SMITH WHO MARRIED AN ELIZABETH HECTOR, A NATIVE OF GREENBRIER COUNTY, THIS STATE, REMAINED IN MERCER COUNTY. HIS DAUGHTER GERTRUDE, ALREADY MARRIED TO WILLIAM ANDERSON DINGESS, ALSO REMAINED IN THIS SECTION TO TAKE UP A LARGE BOUNDARY OF LAND AROUND WHAT IS NOW DINGESS, W. VA., ONCE AN IMPORTANT COMMUNITY ALONG THE NORFOLK & WESTERN RAILWAY. THEY ARE MY GREAT GRAND PARENTS.

THE SMITHS--FATHER AND THREE SONS--REMAINED IN IOWA TERRITORY UNTIL 1836 OR 1837; THEN EZEKIAL, WITH DINGESS AND ANDERSON, FINALLY JOINED BY FRENCH MIGRATED TO TEXAS AND SETTLED ON THE GUADALOUPE RIVER. PARIS, THE ELDEST SON, REMAINED IN BURLINGTON UNTIL 1840--TO REJOIN HIS FAMILY IN TEXAS THAT YEAR. PARIS SMITH WAS THE FIRST ALCA DDE OF ^{Sequin} SPAIN, NOW THE COUNTY SEAT OF GONZALES COUNTY, I BELIEVE.

EZEKIAL WAS CAPTURED BY A ROVING BAND OF SANTA ANNA'S MEN IN 1842. HE WAS ONE OF THE FAMOUS MEIR PRISONERS WHO WERE HELD CAPTIVE IN MEXICO UNTIL 1844, RETURNING AFTER WITHPSTANDING THE TERRIBLE DECIMATION TO HIS SEQUIN HOME IN NOVEMBER THAT YEAR. HIS WIFE DIED THE FOLLOWING YEAR--THAT IS, IN 1845. HE LIVED UNTIL 1854.

EZEKIAL SMITH LEFT BEHIND IN ADDITION TO HIS DAUGHTER GERTRUDE A NUMBER OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THIS SECTION WHOSE DESCENDANTS RU INTO THE HUNDREDS AND ARE SCATTERED ALL OVER SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA AND EASTERN KENTUCKY AT THIS TIME. ONE HIS BROTHERS--WILLIAM--ALSO MARRIED ONE OF THE DINGESS GIRLS, ELIZABETH BY NAME. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE VIRGINIA LEGISLATUPE FOR ~~XXXXX~~ FORTY YEARS. BENJAMIN, JAMES, AND JOHN ALSO WERE BROTHERS. HIS SISTERS WERE, MARGARET, WHO MARRIED VATTINE BLOSS, A PIONEER FAMILY IN THIS SECTION WITH MANY PROMINENT DESCENDANTS IN THESE PARTS; AND HANEY, WHO MARRIED THOMAS FRANKLIN NAPP

PETER DINGESS, YOUR GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER THROUGH YOUR GREAT-GRANDMOTHER SUSANNAH (DINGESS) SMITH, MARRIED A MARY SMITH. SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF THOMAS SMITH, WHO MARRIED PHOEBE DUNBAR. PHOEBE MARRIED A SECOND TIME--A MAN NAMED WILLIAM ANDERSON. THUS THE NAME ANDERSON IN THE FAMILY, WHICH I HAVE FOR PART OF MY NAME. IT IS SAID THAT PETER DINGESS' WIFE, MARY SMITH, WAS A SISTER TO ISAAC SMITH THE FATHER OF EZEKIAL. I HAVE NOTHING AUTHORITY FOR THIS RELATIONSHIP; BUT IF IT BE TRUE THEN THOMAS SMITH WOULD BE A STILL MORE REMOTE ANCESTOR OF OURS'. PETER, AND MARY DINGESS ARE BURIED IN OAKDALE IN MERCER

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ COUNTY, THE FORMER DYING IN 1809. I HAVE A COPY OF HIS WILL, AS PROBATED. HIS SONS WERE PETER, JOHN AND CHARLES. CHARLES DIED IN 1835, NEVER HAVING MARRIED. I ALSO HAVE A COPY OF HIS WILL, AS RECORDED IN GILES COUNTY. ONE OF HIS DAUGHTERS-- NANCY--MARRIED JOHN BRIGHT, WHOSE SON WAS JOHN MORGAN BRIGHT, A FAMOUS CONGRESSMAN FROM TENNESSEE FOR YEARS, BEING A PROMINENT FIGURE IN WASHINGTON, D. C. IN THE "RECONSTRUCTION DAYS".

IT WOULD SEEM THAT MRS. DOWDY, YOUR AUNT AND MY GRANDMOTHER MRS. LABAN T. WELLMAN, OF LOGAN W. VA. AND A MRS. JENNIE HAPPLE OF GONZALES, TEXAS, ARE THE ONLY GRANDCHILDREN OF EZEKIAL LIVING TODAY. MRS. HAPPLE IS A DAUGHTER OF PARIS SMITH.

YOU SAY YOUR FATHER'S NAME WAS GUY FRENCH SMITH. THAT COMBINATION RUNS ALL THROUGH THE DINGESS AND SMITH LINES IN THIS SECTION. SOMETIMES, THEY USE ONLY GUY OR FRENCH.

I HAVE AN ABUNDANCE OF INFORMATION ON THE FAMILY CONNECTIONS; BUT BELIEVE WHAT I HAVE WRITTEN WILL GIVE YOU SOME UNDER-STANDING OF THE FAMILY BACK-GROUND. IF, AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE, YOU SHOULD DESIRE SOME SPECIFIC INFORMATION, JUST WRITE ME. WE ARE RUNNING IN THE ADVERTISER AT THE PRESENT TIME AN ABSTRACT OF THE EARLY RECORDS OF CABELL COUNTY, WHICH FROM 1809 UNTIL 1826 INCLUDED THE AREA NOW COMPRISING LOGAN COUNTY. EZEKIAL, BENJAMIN, HAMES AND JOHN, ALL BROTHERS AND SONS OF ISAAC SMITH, APPEAR QUITE FREQUENTLY IN THESE RECORDS AS HOLDING IMPORTANT COUNTY OFFICES WITH BOTH THE CIVIL AND MILITIA ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE DAY. IN FACT, ISAAC, WHOSE DAUGHTER MARGARET BLOSS, SPENT MOST OF HER LIFE--AND DIED WITHIN TEN MILES OF HUNTINGTON, IS BURIED IN THE COUNTY. THERE IS A "SMITH CREEK" ABOUT TEN MILES FROM THE CITY, IN THE VICINITY OF ISAAC'S BURYING PLACE, AND I SUSPECT IT WAS NAMED FOR HIM.

VERY SINCERELY YOURS,
(SIGNED) CLYDE R. WELLMAN.

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

JUNE 2, 1932.

MR. GARLAND SMITH,

JASPER, TEXAS.

MY DEAR MR. SMITH:

BY THIS TIME YOU NO DOUBT, HAVE CONCLUDED THAT I AM ABOUT AS RUDE AND DISCOURTEOUS AS THEY MAKE THEM. I HAVE NO EXPLANATION TO MAKE FOR MY LONG DELAY IN ANSWERING YOUR LAST LETTER, ESCEPT UP HERE IN WEST VIRGINIA WE HAVE BEEN IN THE MIDST OF ONE OF THE HOTTEST PRIMARIES IN THE HISTORY OF THE STATE; AND AS EDITOR OF THE DEMOCRATIC ORGAN IN THIS SECTION, I HAD TO BE IN THE ~~MXDXXDXX~~ THICK OF IT. WE HAD A LOCAL CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR WHOM THE ADVERTISER WAS BACKING WITH ALL ITS MIGHT, BUT THE "INTERESTS" RAN IN ANOTHER CANDIDATE WHO DREW STRENGTH FROM OUR OWN, WITH THE RESULT THAT WE WERE LICKED TO A FRAZZLE. WITH THE FIELD BROKEN UP BY SIX CANDIDATES, THE "POWERS THAT BE" PUT OVER THE MAN THEY DESIRED.

IN YOUR LETTER YOU SUGGESTED THAT I SEND YOU A BIT OF PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT MYSELF. WELL, I AM FORTY-ONE YEARS OLD, BORN HERE IN HUNTINGTON, THE SON OF ROBERT L. WELLMAN AND MARTHA WALKER WELLMAN. MY FATHER, THE SON OF LABAN T. WELLMAN AND ANN DINGESS WELLMAN, WAS BORN JAN. 1, 1866. MY MOTHER, THE DAUGHTER OF MATHEW AND CATHERINE WALKER OF RICKBRIDGE COUNTY, VA. WAS BORN HERE JUNE 20, 1868. BOTH PARENTS ARE LIVING, AS ARE ALL OF THEIR SEVEN CHILDREN, OF WHOM I AM THE ELDEST. MY MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS ARE BOTH DEAD. MY GRAND-FATHER WELLMAN DIED IN 1903, WHILE HIS WIDOW, MY GRANDMOTHER, THE DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM ANDERSON DINGESS AND GERTRUDE SMITH DINGESS, STILL LIVES AND MAKES HER HOME WITH HER YONGEST SON, GROVER C. WELLMAN, AT LOGAN, WEST VA.

MY GRANDFATHERS, ON BOTH SIDES, FOUGHT IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY, GRANDFATHER WELLMAN BEING A LIEUTENANT IN THE SIXTEENTH VIRGINIA

40

CAVALRY; AND MY GRANDFATHER WALKER FIGHTING WITH THE EIGHTH VIRGINIA CAVALRY. MY GRANDMOTHER WELLMAN, STILL ALIVE, IS THE MOTHER OF NINE BOYS AND ONE GIRL, ALL OF WHOM ARE YET LIVING. MY FATHER AND HIS TWIN BROTHER ANDERSONS ARE THE OLDEST OF THE CHILDREN, ALL HAVING BEEN BORN AT THE OLD WELLMAN SETTLEMENT ON BIG SANDY RIVER, IN WAYNE COUNTY WEST VIRGINIA.

I GRADUATED FROM MARSHALL COLLEGE IN 1908. FINISHED LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST VIRGINIA IN 1912, BUT NEVER PRACTICED, BECAUSE I WENT FOR A VAGABONDAGE TOUR OF THE WEST AS QUICKLY AS I WAS OUT OF SCHOOL AND BECAME IDENTIFIED WITH THE NEWSPAPER GAME: IT WAS MORE TO MY LIKING THAN LAW, AND I HAVE BEEN IN THE GAME EVER SINCE. AT ONE TIME I WAS AN ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF THE CLEVELAND NEWS, AND LATER SERVED WITH THE CLEVELAND LEADER. I HAVE BEEN EDITOR OF THE ADVERTISER SINCE THE FALL OF 1920, TAKING UP MY DUTIES IN THE MIDST OF THE JAMES M. COX CAMPAIGN AND THE EPIC FIGHT FOR THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS. IN MY ROVING I DID NOT TOUCH TEXAS, BUT SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME IN THE FOLLOWING STATES: MINNESOTA, NORTH DAKOTA, MONTANA, IDAHO, OREGON, CALIFORNIA, NEW MEXICO, AND ARIZONA. THE ONLY TIME I WAS EVER IN TEXAS WAS TO ATTEND THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION IN HOUSTON, IN 1928. THERE IT WAS MY HAPPY EXPERIENCE TO RENEW AN ACQUAINTANCE, ALMOST FORGOTTEN THROUGH TWENTY-TWO YEARS, WITH MRS. ALBERT STERLING. SHE WAS A MARTHA ALLEN, OF NEW YORK STATE WHOM I MET WHILE WE WERE BOTH STUDENTS AT MARSHALL. SHE HAD GONE WITH HER FATHER, AN OIL MAN, INTO THE SOUR LAKE COUNTRY AND I HAD LOST ALL TRACK OF HER. SHE CALLED ME AT THE LAMAR HOTEL WHEN SHE SAW MY NAME AS ONE FROM WEST VIRGINIA ATTENDING THE CONVENTION. ALBERT AND HIS WIFE HAD ME AS THEIR GUESTS FOR A DAY AT GALVESTON, WHERE I MET ANOTHER BROTHER--JOHN. THEY ALL APPEARED TO BE MUCH INVOLVED IN COTTON, REAL ESTATE, CATTLE, OIL, AND SHIPPING AT THE TIME; BUT I HAVE SINCE LEARNED THAT THEY HAD GREAT FINANCIAL REVERSES WHICH HIT THE GOVERNOR ESPECIALLY HARD.

41

IN 1915 I MARRIED MISS MARY VIRGINIA WERTH, DAUGHTER OF JOHN AND CORA MINTER WERTH, NATIVES OF HENRY COUNTY, VIRGINIA. WE HAVE TWO CHILDREN, THE ELDEST BEING BETTY GENE, NOW THIRTEEN, AND MARY ELEANOR, WHO WILL BE FOUR NEXT MONTH.

UNDER SEPARATE COVER I AM RETURNING THE VOLUME OF TEXAS HISTORY WHICH YOU SENT ME. THE CHAPTER DEALING WITH THE ILL-FATED MIER EXPEDITION WAS READ WITH INTEREST. I AM ENCLOSING A FEATURE STORY TAKEN FROM THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS CONCERNING THE SAME EXPEDITION, WHICH YOU MAY KEEP. IT WAS SENT ME BY SOME OF OUR MUTUAL RELATIVES IN GONZALES.

I WAS GLAD TO LEARN THAT YOU CONTEMPLATE A TRIP THROUGH THE VIRGINIAS. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT A SINCERE AND CORDIAL WELCOME AWAITS YOU AT THE WELLMAN HOUSEHOLD.

TRUSTING YOU WILL FORGIVE ME FOR ALL DISCOURTESY AND SEEMING INDIFFERENCE, I BEG TO REMAIN,

VERY SINCERELY YOURS,

(SIGNED) CLYDE A. WELLMAN.

P.S. I JUST DUG UP A PAGE FROM A RECENT SUNDAY EDITION WHICH INCLUDES A PICTURE FROM WHICH YOU MAY GAIN SOME IDEA OF WHAT KIND OF LOOKING FELLOW I AM.