

2 August 1961

Dear Mr. McWhorter,

As you would well know, I'm downright excited over your original will finds. We may have had most of them, by bits and pieces and abstracts - but - the ORIGINALS - that's something for which in my wildest moments I never dared hope - and now I know how a cat feels when handed over a bottle of cream. I've been lapping at Barrys since I got home from the post office today (haven't even digested the rest of those interesting other-families pages yet, so happily have I been reviewing the Richard Barry Sr. family in light of such wonderful finds).

I'm real thrilled to place Jemima Alexander, wife and widow of Jonathan - she was a mystery as far as I was concerned and I'd been convinced she didn't belong to Andrew Barry in spite of his first wife a Jemima, after the abstract of Andrew's will from your Miss Mabel White with no dau. Jemima. Guess the will was so hard to read Miss White simply missed Jemima. Now, in spite of the order of the children named in will of Andrew, I'm guessing Jemima was by 1st wife, and probably that William P. Barry also, who m. 1831 Araminta Sample, and who surely had died, no issue, by Andrew's will 1844. The rest I now guess to be by 2nd wife - hardly time for more in 1st marriage, from 1796 to 1799, and yet as I remember (haven't Hopewell Ch. book with me) Jemima is called on gravestone a wife, mother and there's something about an infant just born, which, I figure, could allow her a dau. Jemima and son William P.

As near as I can juggle, looks like Jane Barry's will 1861 & 1862 just about covers all living members of the family, who, with what the other wills give and sundry other oddments, are coming out real good to fill in the whole picture. Few minor mysteries - like Paronet being, surely, Frances A. Beatty - and evidently Thomas was a Beatty, since no last name in his mother's will, and he must have died between 1849 and 1861. I'd guess Mary (Barry) Irwin Flinn's son Dr. Wm. M.B. Flinn died before 1861, too - or Jane wouldn't have omitted him, good as she was about getting in children of dec'd kith and kin - and evidently Mary (Barry) Irwin Flinn died before 1836, since Hugh didn't mention her and did her son (her only child, evidently). I gather Eleanor (Barry) Torrence didn't have any children of her own.

Sounds quite right, that Hugh, Ann and Jane ended up with the tanyard business, with nephews Franklin Lee Monteith and Richard Barry Monteith in helping - and maybe Jane Sophina Monteith's husband A.A. Alexander was working with them too, what with Jane Sophina inheriting from Aunt Jane after her Monteith brothers had died. I think (drat this not having any books handy) in King's book on Mckbg. Signers there is indication that children and grandchildren of Jane Sophina Alexander ~~were~~ were right there on the same land when King did his book. Oh me, that Bible Hugh left to sisters Ann and Jane - wonder if any Monteith-Alexander descendants still have it. I have Mr. King's address and could ask him who are living descendants around there - or did I hear he had died? I can't remember - but guess I'll try a letter anyway. Looks like if a Bible though, extant around there, he'd have had records from it for his Barry section, for goodness knows he didn't come out so well on the family ramifications. Bless him, guess he took what he got and did the best he could with it. The Elliott business just has to be right - there's just no other way to figure Jane Barry's will, same amount to them as nieces and nephews - surely really 1st cousins once removed but "cousins" as far as kinship and Jane probably either loved them dearly or felt sorry for them (if they didn't have so much themselves).

This is mainly a rehash - but I couldn't wait to tell you how thrilled I am that you found the originals of the Barry wills, and the wonderful addition of the Ann Beatty will, which is grand help - proving she did have 2 marriages. Always thought we'd done wonders with this family - and now I'm sure we're on top with it.

More later - many, many thanks for all pages - and, to return to the present, I'm so happy your hospital check was OK.

All regards,

Mary Byrum