

RELIC

From: RELIC
Sent: Saturday, December 02, 2000 5:03 PM
To: Wilson, Donald L
Subject: FW: Huff Letter

-----Original Message-----

From: RELIC
Sent: Saturday, December 02, 2000 4:40 PM
To: 'DHunter528@aol.com'
Subject: RE: Huff Letter

Darlene - You've done a fine job on this reply. I like your style.

On the identification of "Greenville," I need to point out that there seem to have been at least two places with the same name in Prince William County. The one owned by the Latham family is described as in the vicinity of Woolsey, off Shelter Lane in the far northwest corner of the county. The other "Greenville" is described in "Prince William, the Story of Its People and Its Places" (1941), p. 166, as located in the Groveton area on the west side of the Manassas Battlefield, near the intersection of Balls Ford Road and Featherbed Road. The Civil War period house, owned by Rev. Alexander Compton (b. ca. 1812; d. 1860/70) from 1838, was burned shortly after the war. Members of the Wheeler family are buried in the cemetery there. The post-Civil War house has not been studied. (No historic site file.) I wonder if this might be the house later owned or leased by the Catts family? RELIC has a family file on the Compton family with some details on its members.

Since we don't have a copy of the obituary of G. Henri Catts the notes about the family's ownership of "Greenville" are ambiguous. He probably died in 1887 (the date his will was probated). If the family had owned the farm for 170 years then, that takes you back to 1717! That doesn't fit the history of either of those two farms. Neither had been connected to the Catts or Legg family prior to the Civil War, as far as I can tell. His "Greenville" may be a third property with the same name. The Catts name does not appear in Prince William County until the 1800s. People named Legg do appear in Prince William at least by the 1750s, so the news article probably refers to property owned by them. You will note that the farm that Samuel Catts bought in 1843 was formerly owned by members of the Legg family, no doubt his wife's kin, probably why he bought it.

Have checked a few scattered years of land tax lists and learned that:
1828 - Catts, Samuel, [obtained from] of Legg, fee [simple], [res.] Alexandria, 333 1/2 ac. on Little B[ull] R[un], 15 mi. NW [of courthouse at Brentsville], worth \$12/ac., \$666 in improvements, total \$4001, tax \$3.21, "By deed from E. Legg."

This is the only land that Samuel Catts is shown as owning through at least 1846. In 1826 and 1827 Eli Legg is shown as owning it, obtaining it from "Leggs Trustee." In 1826 "Buildings added" is reported in the remarks column.

The fact that no deed from Eli Legg to Samuel Catts appears in the deeds index probably means that the book in which it was recorded is lost or damaged. The land that Catts is buying in 1843 is probably part of the same tract. He appears to be settling claims of other members of the Legg family, even though he had been paying tax on the land since 1828.

The location of the farm reported on the tax lists is on Little Bull Run, sometimes called Catharpin Run, is in the area between Groveton and Haymarket. It looks to me like a third "Greenville."

Ron Turner's abstract of the 1880 census, "Prince William County Virginia 1880 Census" (1996) p. 39, shows (Gainesville District, family 239):

Catts?, George H., wm 43, farmer, Va;
Elizabeth H., wf 83, mother, Va;
Brown, Margaret, wf 50, at home, Va;
Reynolds, Benjamin, wm 60, farm labor, Va;
Jeffries, John, wm 16, farm labor, Va;
Odenick, Alice, bf 20, cook, Va;
Odenick, Eno, bm 2, cooks son, Va.

RELIC

From: RELIC
Sent: Wednesday, December 06, 2000 4:50 PM
To: Wilson, Donald L
Subject: FW: Huff Letter

-----Original Message-----

From: RELIC
Sent: Wednesday, December 06, 2000 2:06 PM
To: 'DHunter528@aol.com'
Subject: RE: Huff Letter

Darlene - It's fine if you want to do additional research.

Yes, the road from Haymarket to Antioch Church is present-day Antioch Road. It is parallel to Little Bull Run. I'm thinking now that the Catts property is probably on the west side of Haymarket, along Little Bull Run. That location is still quite different than the other two Greenvilles.

I'm confident that the Elizabeth Catts whose obituary says she died 8 Jan. 1881 is the same person as is shown on the death register as 8 Jan. 1880. We have found other errors in the registers. Births and deaths during the 19th century were recorded by the tax assessor when he came to call the following spring. When he visited the Catts house in the spring of 1881 he asked who died there during the previous year (meaning previous calendar year). No doubt her son misunderstood, thinking what was wanted was the immediate 12 months, and said she died on 8 Jan. (meaning 8 Jan. 1881), while the assessor assumed he meant 1880. The date the report was filed will give you an idea of when the information was collected. Therefore the "official" death register could easily be off by one year. (Note: We now have the Alexandria Gazette 1784-1900.)

I'll leave it to your discretion as to when it's time to stop. Generally I don't go beyond answering the question that was originally asked in the letter. (You don't know how much other research the patron has already done.) You can ask in the reply if that satisfies her needs. If you find extensive information that is not requested, you might summarize what is available. In this case, she was asking where Greenville was located, and we are trying to accomodate her.

Thanks. Don

-----Original Message-----

From: DHunter528@aol.com [mailto:DHunter528@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 05, 2000 8:29 AM
To: Relic2@pwcgov.org
Subject: Huff Letter

Don - Thank you for your email on the Huff research. You added several interesting facts. I looked yesterday at Chinn but couldn't find all the material I wanted. If you don't mind, I would like to do some additional research on this on Thursday when I am at RELIC

The material on the three Greenville farms is most interesting. The deed from C. C. Dulany to Elizabeth H. Catts in 1867 (Prince William Deed Book 26, pages 765-766) gave one of the boundaries of this 25 acres as the road leading from Haymarket to Antioch Church and one being corner to Harrison, Catts & Clark. Would the road be approximately the current Antioch Road?

To add to the theory of three Greenville Farms are the birth places from birth records-- Prince William County Virginia Birth Records 1853-1896 by Turner.

Page 21 Edgar V. Catts, son of John E. and Ann, born Nov 1859 at Greenville
Sarah A Catts, daughter of John C [sic]/Ann, born Jun 1855 at

Greenville

Page 25 Felicia C. Compton, daughter of Alex/Felicia, born 20 Sep 1856 at Greenville

Page 65 John W. Latham, son of Thomas/Sarah, born 23 Jan 1857 at Greenville
several other Lathams born at Greenville

In Prince William County Virginia 1860 Census, page 22 showed John E. Catts with a Haymarket PO, page 28 showed Alexander Compton with PO of Groveton, and page 80 showed Thomas Latham with a Haymarket PO.

I found the deed from Eli Legg and Jane his wife of Washington DC to Samuel Catts of Fairfax County Virginia (Prince William Deed Book 11, page 30-32). It was dated 16 September 1826. However it gives no description of the land nor acreage. That was supposedly listed in a deed from Thomas Swann to James Legg and James Legg to Jesse Timms as a trustee. You found that Samuel Catts was taxed for 333 1/2 acres of land on Little Bull Run from 1828 to at least 1846. I had spotchecked the 1853 Prince William County Land Tax and found that Samuel Catts, residence Alexandria, had 477 acres in fee that "joins B. E. Harrison", 18 miles NW of the courthouse [Brentsville].

I had also found Samuel Catts obituary in the Alexandria Gazette 29 July 1863, page 3, column 3. He died 28th of July 1863 at his residence, West End, Fairfax County. He was 73. He had kept a hotel for 50 years at West End. Baltimore Papers please copy.

One other question that your research triggered. Elizabeth H. Catts was listed in the Prince William County Death Records as dying on the 8th of January 1880. [The actual death record does say 1880]. You found an Elizabeth H Catts living with George H. Catts in the 1880 census(1880 Prince William County Virginia Census ED 125, page 38, family 239). This is interesting because the census listed those persons alive and living in the household as of 1 June 1880. However, Obituary Notices from the Alexandria Gazette 1784-1915, page 53 lists an obituary for Elizabeth H. Catts in the paper of 10 January 1881, page 2. Chinn Park does not have copies of the early Alexandria Gazette. Also listed is an obit for John E. Catts, in the paper for 31 December 1900, page 1 [related?]. I'd like to look at these obits.

Part of the reason for this long email is to ask--how extensively does a volunteer at RELIC research to answer a letter? I'm hooked into wanting to know the answers to this myself but I could be working on one letter for a long time at this rate.

I am planning on being out at RELIC after 10 on Thursday morning (I have a staff meeting at Chinn from 9-10).

I have learned a great deal with this research. Thanks for giving me the opportunity.

Darlene Hunter

RELIC

From: RELIC
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2000 10:11 AM
To: 'DHunter528@aol.com'
Subject: RE: Huff Letter

Darlene - After I sent a reply re the second draft of your letter I found the following sentence in a memo you sent me that was not included in your final draft. This might be important to add. It makes it clear that a probate for Samuel Catts' estate should be found in Fairfax County. The "Baltimore Papers please copy" suggests he had family in the Baltimore area.

"I had also found Samuel Catts obituary in the Alexandria Gazette 29 July 1863, page 3, column 3. He died 28th of July 1863 at his residence, West End, Fairfax County. He was 73. He had kept a hotel for 50 years at West End. Baltimore Papers please copy."

Thanks. Don

If you'd like to include some of this information in your response, that would be fine. When you are finished, we'll print it out here on Library letterhead for your signature. (The margins of the first page will have to be adjusted to fit on our letterhead: Upper margin of 2.1 and left margin of 2.25)

In the running head, please change "RELIC Room" to just "RELIC". Otherwise, everything else is fine. You can sign it, adding your professional initials if you'd like, followed by "RELIC Volunteer." You can sign it on your next visit here.

Thanks for all your work on this. It's very good to have you helping us out. See you soon.

Don

Donald L. Wilson, Virginia Librarian
Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center for Genealogy and Local History (RELIC)

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www.pwcgov.org/library/services/relic

-----Original Message-----

From: DHunter528@aol.com [mailto:DHunter528@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, December 01, 2000 11:05 AM
To: Relic2@pwcgov.org
Subject: Huff Letter

Attached is my reply to the letter written RELIC on 13 October 2000 by Barbara Huff, 8160 14th Ave #B, Sacramento CA 95826 (original and SASE in pending file on bottom shelf of bookcase in workroom).

This is in Word 97. I was not sure if you wanted me to sign my name. If so, you are welcome to sign "Darlene L. Hunter" to the letter.

Hope this works to send it this way. If not, I will either send it by courier or bring it out to you.

Darlene