

March 18, 1931.

Miss Martha R. Collier,
405 South Sycamore St.,
Petersburg, Va.

My dear Martha:

Yours of March 13th received yesterday morning, but my time was taken up for the day, so I am replying today hastily.

About four weeks ago Mr. Floyd Holloway, Clerk of the Court of York County, at Yorktown, Virginia, wrote me that there was a cupboard or sideboard in existence that formerly belonged to Thomas Vines and his wife, who was Sarah Williamson, and that it was in the possession of Mrs. B. L. Brockwell, 232 North Market St., Petersburg, Va. I immediately wrote Mrs. Brockwell regarding the information that I had and she replied very promptly and sent me a photo of the cupboard, together with its history. I will not repeat the history, as you can get this from Mrs. Brockwell. However, perhaps you already know of the sideboard.

About six years ago my son, Mr. Durward Cuthbert Collier, and myself became interested in knowing more of our family. We wanted to know just who we were. I had no family record any further back than Robert Collier and his wife, Martha Booker Collier, who were married on May 1, 1806, in Putnam County, Georgia. He removed to Upson County, Georgia, in 1822 after the Indian treaty in that section.

Robert was the first Representative-Elect and the first State Senator-Elect in the Georgia General Assembly from his county. He held each office two terms.

He owned more than thirty plantations, had nearly one hundred slaves and died about 1852. His wife did not die until 1876. I own the family Bible. His descendants are scattered and are progressive and the best of citizens; for instance, William Vines Collier organized the Muscogee Cotton Mills, of Columbus, Georgia, before the Civil War, and is buried in Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta, Georgia. Isaac Cuthbert Collier, his brother, was connected with Thomas Hardeman's cotton warehouse, Macon, Georgia, and died at the age of nineteen before he was married, and is buried in the Hardeman lot, Rosehill Cemetery, Macon, Georgia. Sarah Collier married J. Q. Evans, of Columbus, Georgia, and her descendants are Judge Evans, Attorney General of the State of Alabama at Montgomery, Dr. Isaac Cuthbert Evans, the leading physician of Columbus, Georgia, and a daughter by the name of Sallie residing at Seale, Alabama; another daughter, Sarah, married in Meriwether County,

Georgia, and her descendants are the Parhams, Dunsons, Truitts etc., of Lagrange, Georgia; another boy, Robert Marshall Collier (my grandfather) married Amanda Greene, whose father, Thomas Bass Greene, was born in Bath County, Virginia, and came to Georgia with his father, James Greene, along about 1782-85. Thomas Bass was my great-grandfather.

Robert Marshall was one of the largest cotton planters in middle Georgia and died in 1896, and he and his family are buried at Piedmont, Georgia. He freed ninety-six slaves and then after Sherman's march to the sea, the stragglers from Sherman's army ransacked his plantation and carried away everything; so he had to start over; but he made another fortune after the Civil War and owned about twenty-five plantations when he died at The Rock, Upson County, Georgia.

My father, Isaac Cuthbert Collier, was the son of Robert Marshall. He was a large planter, owned many plantations, and finally purchased everything around Piedmont, Georgia. I still own these properties. They were once very valuable, but you know now the conditions of large plantations. We still own and operate them under the corporate name of I. C. & J. C. Collier, Inc.

I have never myself lived on the farm since I was twelve years old. I was the only child of my parents and they sent me away to school and I established myself in the mercantile business and along about 1900 became a cotton manufacturer.

Robert Marshall had many children. Likewise his father, Robert Collier, had another son by the name of Efford Cobb who went to Texas and has descendants in almost every city of Texas.

I learned six years ago who my great-great-grandfather was and also from whom I descended by personally going into the Society Library, New York; the Library at Richmond; the Library in Atlanta. My son also visited the libraries of London and then went to the cemetery at Stone, Staffordshire County, England, completing the knowledge that we have of the Collier family. I have not compiled any of my data secured during the past three years. I am sending you herewith enclosed a copy of what we secured five or six years ago, which is the same copy that I sent to Mrs. Brockwell and also to Charles Henry Collier, of Richmond, Virginia, who now resides at Everglades, Florida, being connected with Barron Collier in his enterprises in Florida.

During the past two years I have been trying to find out what became of the descendants of the first Isaac Collier that came to Virginia about 1650 and who married Sarah Lockely, a sister of John and Edward Lockley, of London, England. This Isaac died in 1688, and I will visit Virginia endeavoring to find his will and other records to connect up the various branches of his family.

I made a copy of your life and returned you the original very promptly and have not had time to study it out. I am referring to it again at this moment.

You start with Charles Collier and state that he died in 1735. You should have started with the Isaac

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he married Mary . This is where you are wrong.
Robert Collier married Mary Strangs on February 3, 1570.
He is the one that is buried at Stone, England. My son
visited this cemetery. Robert had a son named Charles,
another one named John, a daughter named Mary, and another
son named Isaac, whose son, Isaac, Junior, came from En-
gland to America and settled in York County about 1650.
Isaac, Junior, married Sarah Lookley. Up in your section
you call them Lookkeys. We had a Lookley Collier residing
near Athens, Georgia, that died two or three years ago.
You have Lookey Colliers in York County, Virginia. As
Lookley is a common English name, I feel that the Virginia
name should be spelled Lookley and not Lookey. In Virginia
you have Myhills and Hensforde and Vines and Colliers, all
of whom are related. These same families came to Georgia
in 1780-85, and we have the same families still scattered
through this section.

If you will read your record, it brings in the
Thomas Colliers, which is not in mine. They belonged to
us, and I am getting up the various branches with a view
of bringing them all in, but have not done so because I
have not completed the various branches.

I am a Major in the Forest Cavalry Corps,
C. V. A. I am a son of C. V. My membership is in Rich-
mond, Virginia. I was given this honorary place by
Colonel William Armistead Collier, and was met with him
at Charlotte, N. C., in May, 1929. I know his daughter,
Alice. (Mrs. Nealy) personally, and his son, Thomas, who
is a lawyer. General William A. Collier died in the early
fall of 1929.

I know of Robert Thomas Collier, of Petersburg,
who, I understand, is deceased. I had a great aunt named
Edith. I have a daughter named Evelyn. I have a daughter
named Elizabeth.

We have had Guthbert in the family for many
generations. I am trying to connect this up. I haven't
it yet very clear.

Williams Vines Collier, whom I have mentioned,
has an adopted son named Elnes along about 1860. He was
a doctor and died in Atlanta, Georgia, along about 1890.

The Stewarts, of Georgia, are connected with us.
They reside in Collier and Morgan Counties. The Parkams,
of Lagrange, Georgia, are connected with us. Likewise, the
Hills. I personally know Wyatt Collier Bates, of Shreve-
port, Alabama. He was a grandson of Wyatt Collier.

The Coat of Arms that I am using is the correct
one. There were two in England. The other coat belonged
to the other Collier family.

I enclose you herewith a copy of the Collier line
down to my great-grandfather Robert, who married Martha
Marshall Booker on May 1, 1806, as before mentioned.

There were two different families of Colliers
that came into Virginia along about 1650 or earlier and in
my opinion Cornelius Collier belonged to the other family,
but I know that you are a descendant of Isaac Collier, whose

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who died in 1771, because you have eyes just like my grandfather, Robert Marshall Collier; his son, William Stafford Collier, deceased; his grandson, William Stafford Collier, Junior, of Atlanta, Georgia, now deceased; and John Howard Collier, of Texas, an old man about eighty-four years old, who is still living. You doubtless remember that I mentioned this to you, but I did not say much because it was the first time I had ever met you and I did not want you to think that I knew everything.

You are a descendant of Robert Collier, of Stone, Staffordshire County, England, who married a Miss Doddington, and who died in 1505. You are likewise a descendant of Thomas Vines and his wife Anne, and your ancestor was one of Isaac Collier's and Anne Vines' sons, and I would say that your ancestor was Charles Collier, who married Susannah Smith.

Isaac Collier, who married Anne Vines, had a brother named Charles, who married Judith Harrison; and he was the son of Isaac, Senior, who came to Virginia in 1650, and settled in York County. This Charles, as you will notice in the copy, that I sent you, was an older brother of Vines, who married Sarah Williamson, was an ensign and lieutenant in the French and Indian war in 1758, removed to Wilkes County, Georgia, now Oglethorpe, in 1780, and died in 1795.

He was not buried at the old Farm church, as stated in my article which was written about three or four years ago, however, but, as I have since learned, in the family cemetery on the old Collier plantation near Lexington in Oglethorpe County, which was lost for a long time. I have purchased one-half acre of land that the cemetery is located on and my wife, D. A. R. Regent at this place, has ordered a Government marker, which is now being made by the Government at Washington.

You will read the different children of Vines, some of these children settled in south Georgia, some in north Georgia, some in West Georgia, and some in Alabama.

I am sending you this copy and hope to bring you more when I come on to Virginia to study out the various branches of the Isaac Collier family, who came to America in 1650.

When I was a merchant back in 1892 to 1900, I used to trade in Petersburg, used to buy shoes from Mr. W. A. Ruffin, used to buy trunks from Seward Trunk and Bag Company by the carload, used to go through Petersburg on my way to New York, but did not know then that I belonged to the Virginia Colliers. I was too busy making a start in life. After I became a cotton manufacturer I used to sell merchandise to the Petersburg Dry Goods Company--a small amount--but a lot of merchandise to Quinn, Marshall & Company, of Lynchburg, and two or three large jobbers in Richmond.

There is a Martha Collier, my first cousin, and her brother, Robert Marshall Collier, that reside on Briarcliff Road, Atlanta, Ga. There are many Vines Colliers

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one in the drug business at Saint Petersburg, Florida, one residing in Washington, D. C., one residing in New York City, a branch of our family residing in Kentucky. I met one of them who was a clerk in the Sinton Hotel in Cincinnati, a very bright chap.

Dandridge Spotswood, who is connected with the Booker family of Virginia, sent me clipping of the marriage of a Mary Boling Collier. Was she the young lady that I met at your home?

I was on a boat about two years ago coming from New York to Savannah and met a Mr. Howard W. R. Riers, who gave me much data regarding the Colliers--the Bookers--the Greeses. I also had a salesman in my office just before I wrote you who was traveling from Petersburg for the Petersburg Steel Company, who gave me your name. He formerly resided at Petersburg.

I failed to mention that Captain J. D. Eggleston, of Hampton, Virginia, whose father had to me on the Booker side, gave me a great deal of my data regarding the Virginia Colliers.

Evidently you have a genealogist to get up your record, and they all work for money.

Now, answering your letter in detail, Judge A. R. Sibley's wife, of Marietta, Georgia, and her sister, Mrs. William Byrd Tate, were Colliers, and gave me a part of my data.

Vines Hicks Collier, of Mearnsville, Georgia, deceased, and Greene Hardaway Collier, of Piedmont, Georgia, deceased, and their father, Williamson Collier, clearly show that we are all connected with the Williams, Hicks, and Hardaway families, as these families came into Upson at the same time as my great-grandfather, Robert, did.

I sent Mrs. Brockwell the will of Isaac Collier and of Vines Collier; and, when I come to Virginia, I will get the will of Thomas Vines in York County.

I know quite a few of the Epps family here in Georgia, and they all resemble the Epps that I called on the day I was in your city last November.

I am not sending to Mrs. Brockwell a copy of this letter at all. The reason I sent her a complete copy was because she sent me a small line of data which was not correct. She stated that she belonged to the Collier family that branched off from Thomas Vines, and I wanted to get her to correct her data.