

April 8, 1941

Dear Pearl and Miller,

It was such a treat to hear from you, that I meant to answer right away, but you know how such things go. I suppose I'll have to get busy and clean. Sometimes I wish we lived in a tent, but I suppose it would have to be cleaned, too. I am still bothered with that water eczema over my hands and dirt and water both irritate it, so hard. Do you remember how Father's hands cracked and bled? Mine are the same, so it may be an inherited tendency.

I am glad your boys have jobs. Scranton is such a dead town anymore, that nearly all the young people have to go away to get work. So many go to N.J.. There seems to be little trouble getting work there, but rents etc, are higher.

Would there be any chance of you, Pearl and Ruth coming up for a visit this summer? I would like so much to have you come, and Norma is so anxious to see Ruth. I know she wrote asking her to come. We did not know Gene was working, so she thought they might both come. I do wish you could. It has been so long since you were here, and ten years since we were down there.

I am enclosing a typewritten copy of the family history, as far as I know it. A great deal of this came from "A Compenduesac (?) Of American Geneology" published by "The American Institute of Genealogy", so it is authentic. Bit typed it for me and left a space for you to put your family in. These generations just bring it down to Mother. Her mother and father would be the 1<sup>st</sup>, and her grandparents, James P. Patterson and Sally Bransford, the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The part about Robert Bransford is copied from the book and it seems to be badly mixed up. But we are direct descendants of Charles Brandone and Princess Anne Plantageuet. She was a sister of Henry VIII, and a granddaughter of Edward III, I think that is mixed up also, I think she was either great granddaughter or great, great. But she was a daughter of Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester as I have verified by histories and encyclopedia. Edward's son was the first Duke of Gloucester but I am not sure whether Thomas was his son or grandson, and I am too busy to spend any more time in research now.

But we are descended direct from King Edward III thru Anne, Here is another funny one, Everyone who came from England in the early days has to swear fidelity to the Church of England, John III who married Judith Ammonette was imprisoned in VA for allowing a Baptist minister to hold services in his house. Our G.G. grandmother, Lucy Hatcher was the daughter of a Revolutionary soldier, and I think a descendant of Edward Hatcher, who came to America in 1635. He became a member of the House of Burgesses of VA and later took a prominent part in Bacon's Rebellion in 1676. I found a Robert Smithson, 23 years old, who came to Virginia in 1635, but I could not find anything to link him to our family.

Will you let Violet copy as much of this as she wants? Bit is too busy to make more copies, now, and I promised to send Vie a copy of some of it. She has part of it.

How is Verner? I am so sorry he is having such a time, for that is such a terrible pain. I hope he is better, but he should be careful to follow the doctor's orders. I have not heard from them for a long time. I hope Henry is well again soon. I can appreciate how you missed him about the fires. I've had to take care of ours ever since Christmas, and it was quite a job. Will had a heart attack Christmas Day and he has not been down cellar since, and I missed him.

The doctor warned me to take care of him, and our cellar steps are terrible, so we did not let him go down at all. He always took care of it when he was at home.

I had a letter from Tom Carnifax, and his father, Uncle Charles has been dead almost two years. Lon (Lou?) Patteson, a son of Mother's Uncle Henry Patteson, had written me that he was living in Florida, where he visited him two years ago. He gave me his address and I wrote him. Tom answered the letter.

Bit and Rosalie were up week before last, and Dill came up for them at the weekend. Rosalie is about as fat as Chester was, and so happy. She rolls around the floor, and goes anywhere, I never saw a baby get around rolling before. She pivots by balancing one her stomach and using her big toe to propel her around. She is so cute, We miss our other little folks so much, but they are well and happy, and that is all one can ask. They were here last Easter, so Bit and Dill are bringing Rosalie up Friday so we will not be too lonely. Ruth was here for a weekend about a month ago, and Norma is going back with Bit and Dill Sunday, and to visit Ruth also for about a week. I'll miss her. She says to ask you if Ruth cannot come for a visit even if you and Pearl cannot. Do write soon

Lovingly Margaret

I've written Mary, Cousin Floidie, and Violet about having descendants of a King, I have not heard a word from any of them since. Hope it does not have that effect on you.

Robert Bransford (1620- 69) “ colonel of horse under Right Honorable William, Marques of Newcastle in the service of King Charles ye first,” and Dorothy his wife, daughter of Lady Vaughn, widow of Sir William Vaughn, Knight of Terracoyd Co. Carmarthen, England, “who had also lands in Newfoundland and America”, lineal descendant of the celebrated Charles Brandon, Knight of the Garter, Duke of Suffold (died 1545) son and heir of Sir William Brandon, Jr. Knight Standard bearer to King Henry VII, and who was singled out and slain in personal combat by King Richard III, at the battle of Bosworth Field, Aug. 21, 1485. His father, Sir William Brandon, Sr. Was knighted by King Edward IV at the Battle of Tewksbury, May 4, 1471. This Wm. Was the great grandson of King Edward III, by the arriage of his granddaughter, Anne Plantegenet, daughter of Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester to Wm. Bransfor, Lord Hourchier, who was the grandson of Sir John De Bransford, of Bransfor Manor, Worcestershire, England—the founder of the family.

Generations down to the present—

7 <sup>th</sup> generation back:	Robert Bransford	Born: 1620	died 1669
6 <sup>th</sup>	John I	1668	1741
5 <sup>th</sup>	John II	1698	1768
4 <sup>th</sup>	John III	1725	1809
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Benjamin	1769	1845

John I was a wealthy Planter of Barbados. Married (Jan 26, 1698) Jane Wood daughter of Rev. Alexander Croke, M.A., and widow of Wm. Wood.

John II married Mary Kingsford, daughter of Wm. Kingsford, Raq., sone of John Kingsford, Mayor of Canterbury, Eng. Came to Va. From “Honey Hill” near London. He was a member of the first grand jury impanelled in Orange Co., Va.

John III (1725-1809, married Judith Ammonette.

Benjamin, Planter, Cumberland Co. Married Lucy Hatcher, daughter of Frederik, Member of Cumberland Co. Company during American Revolution

<u>Name</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Date of Marriage</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
James F. Patteson		6-9-1795	11-5-1816	11-26-1862
Sally W. Bransford		7-5-1796		5-20-1862
1 Lucie A.J. Patteson		9-15-1817		
2 Henry Patteson		12-25-1818		
3 Peter Patteson		9-1-1822		
4 Robert A. Patteson		9-22-1830		
5 Frederick Patteson		3-8-1832		
6 Sarah E. Patteson		8-12-1834	8-8-1851	4- -1858
George W. Carnifax			11- -1860	
1 Charles Carnifax				
2 James Carnifax				
3 Nannie Woodson Carnifax	Snow Hill	7-1-1854	3-8-1876	6-20-1911
Thomas Henry Smithson	Alderson, WV	6-15-1852	2-19-1914	
1 Blanche Lucy Smithson	Alderson, WV	2- 10-1877	9-28-1898	2-11-1936
W. Franklin Davis				
2 Emory Keyser Smithson	Sugar Hill, WV	9-9-1878	bachelor	6-16-1913
3 Mary Willie Smithson	Sugar Hill, WV	12-14-1879	8-7-1901	
John Henry Bransford				
4 Henry Woodson Smithson	Sugar Hill, WV	5-18-1881	1906	
Beasie Atwood				
5 Verner Lisle Smithson	Sugar Hill, WV	12-16-1882	11- -1922	
Violet McGuire				
6 Elizabeth Lcendenning S.	Sugar Hill, WV	6-27-1884		4-9-1905
7 Margaret Rucker Smithson	Sugar Hill, WV	12-17-1887	8-16-1910	
Wm. Charles Miller		1-1-1886		
8 Lewis Miller Smithson	Sugar Hill, WV	7-2-1890	6-11-1917	
Pearl Barrickman				
9 Charles Osborne Smithson	Sugar Hill, WV	8-31-1892		6-24-1911
10 Banct Given Smithson	Sugar Hill, WV	10-22-1895		8-20-1911

*Letter from Margaret Rucker Smithson to Lewis Miller Smithson and wife Pearl Barrickman. Transcribed by David Smithson, copyright David Smithson, 2003.*

*David & Nancy Smithson  
 HC 82 Box 227L  
 Marlinton, WV 24954  
 smithson7.at.sunlitsurf.com*