

March 19, 1985

Dear Mrs. LaMaster,

I was surprised and delighted to receive your letter. I do not know Mrs. Joe Carroll in Campbellsburg, and am wondering who she is and how she knew about me. In my great-uncle's later years I took care of his affairs and took him to the bank in Campbellsburg. Perhaps Mrs. Carroll learned about me through the people at the bank.

Uncle T's father was Abraham LaMaster, brother of Walter. I am sending you the information I have. My mother, Martha Godby, is 89 years old. (I am 69 -- will be 70 in June.) Her mother was Mary Letitia LaMaster, sister of T.W. (Uncle T) LaMaster. Mother has the dates of birth and death of members of the family. I could send this to you later if you would like to have that information.

In 1976 Mother saw in the paper an article by Bartlett (Mrs. Paul) LaMaster. Mother wrote to her, and the enclosed copy of a letter from Lillian LaMaster Hollingsworth was in reply to that letter. After receipt of that letter Mother wrote to Mrs. Hollingsworth but did not hear from her anymore.

When attending a Tobacco Sale in Carrollton about four or five years ago, Mr. Key Smith saw Mother and me with T. W. LaMaster. Mr. Smith asked if we were related to Mr. LaMaster. Mr. Smith had been working on the genealogy of the Tyler side of the family. He and my mother had a long conversation and figured out they were about 9th cousins. Later he gave Mother the enclosed information. Mr. Smith is about 60 years old or a little older, I believe. His address is at the bottom of that page.

When Mother was a girl she and her grandmother (Abraham's wife) often walked from the old LaMaster home, crossed the railroad, and visited Aunt Kate. Many times I have heard my grandmother speak of W. B. LaMaster. Mother said she believes my grandmother at one time spent some time at the home of her Aunt Kate and Uncle Walter.

I do not know David LaMaster, but I knew his grandfather, Herbert Craig LaMaster. Herbert died in 1982, I believe. He had two sons, Gordon and Van Laroy. (His mother -- i.e., Van Laroy's mother -- spelled the name Laroy with an "a" as she liked it better that way.) I saw Gordon and Van Laroy only once or twice when they were children. They are both living.

My grandmother, Mary Letitia, lived in West Palm Beach, Florida (later in Tampa) more than sixty years. She died in Louisville at the age of almost 93. (In 1967.) Her sister, Evelyn, lived in St. Augustine, Florida for many years and died there in 1950. My great-uncle, T. W., died in September 1983 at the age of 97½.

My mother has a cousin on her father's side who has been working on the family history on that side of the family (Waldrop) for a number of years. He suggested that I refer to the book, "Cavaliers in Dixie." I have not done so, but when I do I will also look up the part about Hugh LaMaster. The Filson Club in Louisville has the book. Mother has looked at the book and found the account of the death of Hugh LaMaster (her grandfather Abraham's brother) in a battle of the Civil War at Mount Sterling.

Leroy Vance LaMaster (T. W.'s brother) was in World War I and was killed in France a few days after the Armistice was signed in November 1918. It seems that he and some others did not get the word about the Armistice. They were pitching a tent, and a hidden grenade blew up. A buddy who survived let the family know how it happened.

My son, Gregory Small (by my first husband), lives in Austin, Texas. I remarried in 1977 and lost my husband, George Ferree, in April 1982.

I hope to hear from you again.

Sincerely,

*Martha Ferree*

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