

13 May 1990

Priscilla Blackburn

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Dear Jamie,

It was so nice to get your letter. I should have answered sooner but it seems so hard to get set down to write. There are so many things needing to be done. Then I was gone from May 2 - 7. Had a nice trip to Nashville. I would have liked to been able to go to records in the capitol.

My cataract surgry helped my eye. Last June I had the other eye operated on. The first one needs some lazer treatment to clear the part of the cataract that was left in as a cushion for the lense implant. I am well and stay very busy with my gardening. It seems you do not know Frank died July 8, 85.

21 May. I'll try to answer your questions first. I called Orla and ask her some questions. She didn't know too much. She said of aunt Lucy and Ruth, but didn't remember which was which. Suppose it was aunt Lucy had a baby befor marriage then married a man that was not good to the boy. One of them had a baby by Csection and doctor told her to not have another. When she was pregnant the second time the Dr. would not operate so she died. Aunt Lucy Cooper was named after the Aunt Lucy then named her son Hollis after the cousin Hollis. I never heard Grandmother ever mention a brother. Orla had told me some time ago that she did have a brother.

The summer of 1938 Aunt Leona and Unele Monroe came to visit grandma in Greenville. Aunt Amanda and son Charley came from maybe Dora, Mo. I'll put in some pictures. Mother coresponded with Sarah ( Mrs. Thaniel) Rieger, Dora, Mo. Sarah was Aunt Amandas daughter.

I have a faint memory or think I saw Grandpa Smith. I was six years old when he went to Cal. I think they came to Grandmothers before going.

Lemuel was never interested in keepin up with the family except to believe Grandpa Wakefield was part Indian. Grandpa always said he was Irish. I will send the Wakefield names coming from England. The Indian part of the family was the Linville family. I think Betsy Linville's mother was the Indian. They said Betsy was six feet tall and very slim. She wore five or six petticoats so she wouldn't look so thin.

I never heard the name Whitfield. I knew the name of Margaret O'Dell and that her mother was Catlett but didn't know her first name. She was Dutch. Thats all I know.

I don't know if Leona wakefield Bloodworth would care to corespond but you can try. Orla keeps in touch with her. Will give her address. Mrs Vern (Leona) Bloodworth, 2618 W. San Migual, Phoenix, Ar. 85017. She and Latt Bennett are the oldest living members of the wakefield family that I know of.

Yes, I would like to have a copy of Grandpa Gifford's pension application. I would like to correspond with Kathy Hale Barton.

*Thanks For the Smith family pictures. I did not have any of them, and for the family record*



June 8. I have taken too long to get this ready to mail. This is

the busiest time of the year. It's harvest time and planting time I have canned almost 30 qts. green beans, frozen strawberries, harvested my potatoes and onions. Corn is ready now, blueberries are ripe. cucumbers are about ready for pickles. My corn isn't going to be worth much it has been so dry. Wish we could get some of the rain that others are getting too much of.

It is too hot and dry to do much outside now so I'm getting started to some much needed sewing. I make almost everything I wear.

I have some things of mothers I ask George if he would be interested in having. A towel Jane Johnson Wakefield gave mother for a wedding present. She knew she would not be alive when mother married. A pair of pillow cases Aunt Leona made for mother with name crocheted. These things do not mean as much to a man as to a woman. Since he doesn't have a wife he said perhaps it would mean more to you to have them, if you wanted them. George and his wife separated about 9 yrs. ago and he has not remarried. They have a son Timothy Wade eleven yrs. old. He has been with me this week during the day.

I have just looked at the family list you sent me. I always thought grandma Gifford was born in Georgia. She said she never knew when she started to chew tobacco. As a baby her parents worked in the tobacco barn and put her down on the floor, as babies will put things in their mouth she put tobacco stems or pieces in her mouth. She talked about them crossing the Miss. River and living I think in the area of St. Geneve near enough to the river to feel the breezes from the river. She spun and wove the material for her wedding dress. I have seen her weave blankets and rugs on the loom. Yes I saw her card wool, spin it into thread and weave or knit with it. She taught me to knit when I was small. I have many memories of both my grandmothers. Grandma Wakefield was a student of history and loved to read and study the Bible. She also read the newspapers to keep up on happenings of the world. ~~None~~ one came to her home and left without hearing the Bible read and discussed. There are so many things I could tell you but you would be bored.

I think I am ready to mail this conglomeration. You may not want everything I am sending. The picture of Grandpa & Grandma Gifford is from an old copy of them perhaps a hundred years ago. A friend ran off several copies for me. My picture is yellow. I think it copied very well.

*Your Great Aunt Priscilla*