

August 23, 1998
NOW AUGUST 27, 1998
SORRY.

Dear Mrs. Goforth,

Thank you "OH SO VERY MUCH" for all the wonderful material and for the valuable time you spent getting it for me. And thank your daughter too. I was so excited when it arrived, I sat right down and went through all of it, and was so excited to find some of my relatives there. I am enclosing a paper with the new information I found to add to the history I sent to the Historical Society. It made me cry to think you would do this for me, when my own relatives can't be bothered. But maybe I'm wrong, maybe they just can't remember. I probably wouldn't be able to if I didn't work with it so much. But maybe I inherited a little from my mother. She was 83 when she passed away and had a wonderful mind for dates. I just regret I didn't find out more about her father's family from her.

Now please let me apologize for taking so long to "Thank you". I have always done a lot of sewing. When I graduated from High School, we didn't have a sewing machine, and I made my graduation dress by hand with flat-fell seams. I am quite short 4'6" 10 inches and most of my life weighed 92 lbs, so I always had to make all my clothes because stores didn't sell clothes in my size until much later. And I have boxes of material that I am trying to use up for my great grandchildren. I make shorts, blouses, T-shirts, sweat shirts, shirt overalls and dresses. Not the fancy ones like I did several years ago.

but I try to keep myself busy. And we have had some unusually hot weather for our section of California (The Santa Clara County) thanks to La Niña, El Niño's sister, so the paper said El Niño brought us wet and cold and La Niña Hot and dry. We had weeks at a time of over 100° (102-103) and this is most unusual for us. Usually after two days the fog comes in and cools it off. And since we don't have air conditioning, we sleep with doors and windows open at night, and as soon as it starts to warm up I close all windows and doors and draw all the drapes, to try to keep it cool. And this drives me crazy. I hate it. I like every thing open and light and like to work in the yard. I have had to do all the watering at 6.00 AM. to avoid the heat. And when every thing is closed up, my vision is so poor and can hardly see and it makes me so depressed. And I haven't been able to see to do much. In desperation I have opened up my room some days to see a little to meet birthday deadlines. I have 19 great grandchildren and only 6 are boys; so I have lots of girls to see for. So please accept my apology and I hope to be able to keep up better. I have also enclosed 2 queries that won't make to September's issue, but please use them when you can.

If you read any of my family history you will see my mother and 3 of her brothers were born in Dallas Texas, one ^{4th} brother was born in Harlan, Kentucky (I assume enroute to Alabama) and the rest of the 11 children were born in

Birmingham, Alabama. My dad was born in
 Bella Lending, Monroe County, Alabama. His
 mother's maiden name was Della Watson ~~the~~
 Durdin. Her father's name was Elziah ^{Berry} ~~and~~
 her mother's name, I think, was Jennie or Jonnie
 (maybe Watson), because one of my dad's half brother's
 name was Watson and his brother's name was
 Marshall ~~Cooker~~ Cooker (Watson and Cooker I thought might
 be last names). Elziah also had a brother named
 Sherd Thomas Durdin. Anyway Della married a
 man named Churn. He had red hair and was
 called Pink. That's the only name my dad knew his
 by. Della also had a sister named Annette and
 she married my dad's uncle, ~~(the)~~ and they had
 12 girls. I only know one of them. We were
 very friendly with my dad's cousin Kate. Anyway
 my mother and dad married and my brother
 was born in Alabama and then my folks
 moved to Nashville, Tennessee where my sister
 and I were born. I don't know if my dad worked
 for the Steel company there or the A. D. J. Company
 there. Then they went back to Birmingham and
 my younger sister Mildred was born there but
 she only lived 6 months. We lived in Birmingham
 until I was 10 years old when we came to
 California. With the exception of 2 years we lived
 in Charleston, South Carolina. I had Bronchitis
 very badly, and the doctor recommended a change
 of climate. My dad was working for the American
 District Telegraph Company (ADT) and
 they transferred him to Charleston. After I ^{two} ~~was two~~
 years I was better and we returned to
 Birmingham. ~~One~~ night my dad was on
 night call for the company when the fire alarm

Sounds Oriental
 but isn't. Actually
 it's Scotch
 Churn was Scotch &
 his is Scotch
 with a w
 Oriental.

went open a big department (Regits - probably spelled wrong) but when he got there, there was no fire, but the sprinkling system had gone out and ruined lots of merchandise. ^{The} store sued the company, and because my dad wouldn't lie on the stand, and because there was a fire, he was fired and because of that was unable to get another job there. My mother had 2 brothers in Vallejo, ^{CO.} so we came to California. Of course, the ADT out here wouldn't hire him; so after much time he went to work for the Southern Pacific Railroad. Since he was stationed out of San Jose we moved here and have lived here since. Except for the first two years my husband and I were married - "We lived" was a lumber camp where he worked in a box factory (years ago all fruits and vegetables were transported in wooden boxes made in box factories) in the mountains of Northern California. When I was expecting my first baby I wanted to come home. So we came home a month before she was due. My husband's brother was working for the San Jose Water Company and he got Mike a temporary job there while we were waiting. When she was born the temperature up there was 36° below zero and our only heat was a wood stove (I even cooked on one) we decided to stay here for a while. Then the box factory went on strike and by that time the water company told Mike he could stay there permanently, so we've been here ever since. And now you know my life story. I have 4 cousins in Alabama and 1 in Suffolk, Georgia. A lot of the Johnson family come from Batsburg

2nd husband
with a mother
son.
my sister
married her
brother

Batsburg

South Carolina, some of my second cousins
or in, Alabama, and Georgia but in
spite of all my letters no one sends me
the needed information. I know everyone
is busy leading his own life.

I have enrolled in a computer class
and took my first class last Thursday the
20th. Hopefully I will be able to E-MAIL
you soon.

Thank you again for the wonderful
information you sent me. If you do go to
Lawrence maybe you'll find some more information
for me. You have really encouraged me to go on.

Thank you again
Isabel Andrews
1548 Calmonia Drive
San Jose, Ca. 95118

P.S. I really enjoyed reading the Grundy County
Historical Society Book "The Pettibinders" (What an ideal
name) your daughter must be very talented. And
what a great lady you are to be Editor of
such an interesting booklet. When my children
were in grade school I edited a little school
newspaper. And I did ~~all~~ almost all the work except
gather the news. People had to send it to me. But I cut
the stencil, the principal proof-read it, I ran it
off on an old mimeograph machine you
had to apply the ink to (remember those old things!!!)
Then my father-in-law, who was retired helped me
fold, seal, stamp and put the address stickers on.
I kept those typed up ahead. Then he would drive
me to the Post Office to mail them. I tried to
get the P.T.A. to give him an Honorary ^{Life} Membership.

but they just thought that was funny!! I was serious. In those days when you did a job, you did the whole thing. But I thought it was fun. When I gave it up, after my children went to Jr. High, no one would take the job and the paper died. Such a shame.

Any way I thought your Historical news was wonderful. I have read each of them through a couple of times.

FOR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE JAMES AND MARY ALLEN JOHNSON FAMILY
IMMIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES IN
1849 WHEN JAMES MILES JOHNSON WAS 9 YEARS
OLD. THE 1900 GRUNDY COUNTY CENSUS LISTS
JAMES MILES JOHNSON AS A PAINTER.

MINNIE LOUISE JOHNSON

BORN: JULY 4, 1883 TRACY CITY, TENNESSEE

DIED: FEBRUARY 24, 1909 TRACY CITY, TENNESSEE

BURIED TRACY CITY CEMETERY

MARRIED: HAMILTON

THREE SONS

1. LAFAYETTE HAMILTON

2. JACK HAMILTON

3. JASPER HAMILTON LIVED 4 MONTHS

(MINNIE DIED DELIVERING JASPER)

Born ~~January~~ February 1909

Died June 1909

THE TRACY CITY CEMETERY LISTS THE DEATH OF AN
INFANT SON OF J.M. JOHNSON, BUT NO NAME OR DATES.