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Letter from J. B. Roddenbery to Polks Huxford

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Mr. Folks Huxford
Box 116
Homerville, Ga. 31634

July 16, 1973

Dear Mr. Huxford:

I believe some years ago it was my pleasure to have exchanged letters with you about your wonderful book. But whether I have or not, it's a pleasure now to write you as I do below:

You, of course, knew personally my first-cousin Robert S. Roddenbery, Jr., of Moultrie who was the Roddenbery family historian, and as all of his papers came into my hands after his death in 1971, I have enjoyed reading your and his exchanged on a number of subjects.

Genealogical work is fascinating, and I know very little about it, but as I helped Robert in much of his expenses while was working for 45 years on his family book, and also a Genesis of Cairo book, I was thought to be the one for the papers to be passed to, ~~me~~ to get something done about them. So this was done by his son, Dr. Thad Roddenbery, of Massachusetts, and that's why I have come to read your and Robert's letters.

As your books would come out, they were one of the things that Robert and I talked about that he certainly should keep a good file of them, and he would get them and then pass them to me to read, and then of course when all his papers came to me I have your five books.

But I found a letter in these papers where you announced the Volume No. 6, "Pioneers of Wiregras Georgia." I don't see that book. I don't expect the notice came to me, for if so I would have told Bob to buy it, and as Bob had passed one, I would myself have bought it.

I very much would like to have a complete file of "Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia" so please tell me what your current price is and I will remit. However, your letter was not dated but it clearly indicates that you wrote this notice in the summer of 1970 for I note advance subscriptions must be by September 25, 1970, and Robert was in very poor health then, Mr. Huxford. He had a rough, tough time in the last few years of his life, with his health not good, his centurian father, Robert S. Roddenbery, Sr., keeping batch house with him and his health not good and in hospital for a good while. So I have an idea Robert overlooked buying this 6th volume, and I hope you can tell me you have one, or can find one for me.

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Robert didn't complete either his Roddenberry family book or the Genesis of Cairo, but he had much of it complete. And those interested here, and some with experience, will put them together. And I certainly will send you a complimentary copy when this is done for both of the books, for I think you have done great service to our Southwest Georgia area with your fine books.

As I mentioned, I know nothing about genealogy, and am not going to try to study it, though I'm working every day though I was five years older than Robert, who was 74 when he died. But I'm getting to be fascinated with it and there is a great deal to learn about this.

Your books, ofcourse, are a combination of genealogical work and history. I guess that's the proper description.

You know the one thing Robert didn't get complete and authentic was who were the father and mother of Mary Knight, ~~the~~ wife of George Roddenberry (1758-1850). At first, was thought she was daughter of one Mr. Knight, then it developed she was niece of his, and daughter of another. That doesn't mean anything to me or the genealogy as I see it, for I have just read, securing things through our wonderful Librarian, Miss Wessie Connell, some genealogical books and even the Lamont Family has placed the word "Unknown" ^{to} their ancestor Lamont, ^{going} going back a long time. And with the Lamont's millions, maybe billions it is, and they couldn't trace it, anyone living in the South, with courthouses, churches, bibles, being burned in large number by the ravages of two wars, makes it easy to understand why there is some gaps.

I have read in one of your letters that if a certain courthouse in Georgia had not been burned, you would have accepted or agreed to the request of people thereabout, in writing a book on their area. But with that courthouse burned, there just wasn't enough to go on. And Robert ran into a brick wall in ~~the~~ Carolina and North Carolina with so much missing because of the Yankees burning the buildings down. And I believe, in fact, your letter said they burned down the certain courthouse in Middle Georgia referred to.

I make this comment to show that many a family will have to do without connecting this or that person with anything authentic. So I say again, it's not as would like it, still not too objectionable.

With our genealogical book for our family, we are not concerned, for we have all authentic information back to George, our Revolutionary Soldier ancestor. Robert had a tough job with ~~much~~ of it, but he had more living people to work with. George's youngest son, ^{the} child of his third or fourth wife, lived until 1901, and Robert, Sr.'s father, the centurian who was born in 1862, lived up until last year and he had known that 21st son, who of course knew his father for years upon years as an adult. A rather unusual situation.

Robert Jr.'s father helped greatly in the Genesis of Cairo, for he was born before Cairo was incorporated as a township, and of course his father helped to found it. So most of Robert's books would have been first-hand information except when he went back of 1758, though he has traced through, I think, with a certainty who the father and mother, and grandfather and grandmother of GEorge were. And then back of that, it's tradition to a large extent.

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I think all of this is in one or the other of your books, that is, back through George. And I think I have written what I write in an accurate way, for I would just like to write and confer with you, for I am getting a little interested in this genealogical matter. But I certainly won't attempt to write the book for we have other and younger people here that will attend to that. We must do it in deference and appreciation of Robert, Jr., who spent 45 years in this work, for I have found letters of 1926 and he had worked a few years before then on it.

If you write a 7th book, I want it, too.

With kindest regards, I am,

Yours truly,

J. B. Roddenbery

JBR:N