

February 15, 1963

Mr. Thomas I. Ball
4016 Shelbyville Road
Louisville 7, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ball:

This will acknowledge the receipt of your letter of February 1st.

No, I have not carried on any further research on Ball families since I completed the work for Mrs. Loyless and have not, therefore, developed any new data.

As to the understanding from records which you have that Edward Ball had two sons who were named William, I share your opinion that this would be an odd situation. From the records that I have studied on the Balls both in South Carolina and later in Georgia, it is my own opinion that Edward Ball who married Rebecca Jones, nee Baker, in Georgia in 1773, did not as a matter of fact have two sons whose given names were William, unless the name was first given to a son who died in infancy, and then to a later born son. As you probably know, it was somewhat of a common practice, in the period before 1800 and to some extent for a number of years thereafter, where a family wished to perpetuate a popular given name, to name a second child by the same given name as an earlier one who had died in infancy, and by virtue of this practice it is possible that Edward Ball did indeed name two sons William. I have never found record of an instance where two children of the same parent received the same given name except in cases where the earlier born one died in infancy or in childhood.

Your statement that "...William Bartholomew Ball whose mother was the widow of John Brown, married Edward Ball in St. John's Parish, S. C. in 1767...." is interesting. Mrs. Loyless made references to this when I was doing the Ball research for her, and I sought to develop such a record but never succeeded in doing so. Will you tell me what is the source of your information that Edward Ball married the widow of John Brown in St. John's Parish in South Carolina in 1767?

In my report to Mrs. Loyless I included an item from the so-called "Charleston" (S. C.) Ordinary's records which show that on November 4, 1766 Bartholomew Ball, whom I think was a brother of Edward Ball, was cited by the Court of Ordinary to administer the estate of one, John Brown, deceased, as the "next of kin" of the said deceased. In this item I was quoting from the SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE, Vol. XXIII, page 218, which I presume was a correct quotation by the magazine from the original Charleston probate records. If the quotation is correct,

a law permitting those American Citizens who had signed the petition in 1816, and others, to keep their lands ceded by the United States Government in 1817 when Mississippi became a state of the United States.

Under the Act of 3rd March, 1819, William Ball was given a certificate showing the 664 acres he had filed on in 1811 was his free and clear by right of habitation and cultivation, issued by the United State Government 8 January 1820, and was entitled to a patent on this land. The land was first surveyed 7 July 1823 and again 26 October 1824. William Ball was taxed for the first time on this land for the tax year of 1828. Between 1824 and 1828 he sold 283 acres leaving him with 381 acres. I have heard he sold that land bit by bit to sustain his family during those hard times.

"In 1822 the residents of Township 1 South, of Jackson County, petitioned the Legislature to make it part of Green County. The courthouse in Pascagoula was just too far away and Leakesville, the county seat of Green County was closer. Township 1 South was finally changed from Jackson County to Green County during 1824 and remained a part of Green County until 6 March 1910 when George County was formed."

William and Charlotte could read and write. Their religion is unknown but their children were Baptists or Methodist. A favorite family story is that Charlotte Lee and General Robert E. Lee were closely related and he was supposed to have visited for several days in their home during the 1850s while on his trip to Texas.

Their first house may have been made of logs or might have been rough saw. lumber sawed perhaps by hand. Horace McInnis erased the last evidence of their home-site some 50 years ago when he cut down the two huge black walnut trees the house had been built between to furnish cool shade all day.

William and Charlotte lived out their lives on the farm that had been carved out of a wilderness. He was a humble man, almost to a fault. Live and let live - quitely, was his motto. His occupation was farming but success was never his. Where others around him prospered, he struggled. William and Charlotte had a great love for each other, their God, their country and their children. Charlotte was the dominating force in the family. She was a proud, determined and strong-willed lady.

William Ball died prior to the tax date of 1842. He is listed on the 1841 property tax roll but none there-after. He was 75 years old. Charlotte is listed as head of the household on the 1850 census of Green County. She is living in the household of her son James S. Ball in Green County on the 1860 census schedule. She died in 1869 and is buried beside her husband in the William Bartholomew Ball Family Cemetery. *alive in 1870 census*