

Houston, Texas
June 25, 1988

Dear Mrs. Ball:

No Ma'am, I have not forgotten you. I have been busy, lazy and on vacation and trying to write the attached Ball Family Newsletter.

How have you been? Fine I hope. I am so glad that you were happy to receive a copy of Tom's manuscript. I have been wanting to send it to you for a long time but wanted to make sure that this was the original or at least Tom's latest revision. I hope that it was OK with you for George Watson to re-arrange the book just a little and to re-type some of the pages that were wrinkled and faded and to renumber the pages. I sincerely hope that my re-researching and finding so much more history and genealogy of our Ball family that it needs to be completely re-vised and re-written is OK with you. Back when Tom was doing his research about the only thing he had to work with was local courthouse records family tradition stories and speculation. About the time Tom quit the research a new wave of interest in family history and genealogy swept the country during the middle to late 1960s and the libraries, county courthouses, state archives and national archives were swamped with researchers of every kind, color and description. As a result The attics and basements and vaults were opened up and the old musty, dusty, rusty records were hauled up to the light of day and with the aid of the microfilm and computer and a re-newed interest which was not available in Tom's day, hundreds and thousands of records were put on computer and microfilm readily accessible and thousands of new historical and genealogical books have been printed and are still being printed.

The number of professional genealogists has almost reached the saturation point. In the 1960s when I started this research the genealogical library would not have a dozen people there. Now the library is crowded to overflowing and a new and much larger building is ready for completion in September. I attended the National Genealogical Society Convention in Biloxi, Miss. in April and 2,441 registered. The normal attendance in the past had been 500 to 600.

Tom, Mrs. A. H. Loyless, Marvin H. Ball and a host of others back through the years have brought us our Ball Family History and Genealogy as we know it to-day. Without their tireless and unselfish efforts, we would not have the knowledge of our ancestors or feel or know of the warm glow of pride and love of family from them that goes with that knowledge.

Attached is a summary of the research conducted by Mrs. Elizabeth Shown Mills of Tuscaloosa, Ala., a professional genealogist, and myself. It leaves no doubt but that William Ball born 5-31-1777 with wife Elizabeth Gray was the true son of Edward and Rebecca Ball and not William Bartholomew

Ball with wife Charlotte Lee as Tom thought. Even the genealogist that Tom worked with, Mr. Leon Hollingsworth, suggested to Tom that they were one and the same person and Mr. Hollingsworth was the best in the business in that day.

I am also sending you a copy of our Newsletter that I put to-gether and mail to all the members of the family that I have listed on my mailing list. I started this newsletter in 1982 and they seem to like it. I hope you do to, and I hope all of this is not too confusing to you.

Thank you Mrs. Ball and you have a nice day.

Sincerely,

RC Ball