

Below is a portion of our Ball Family Newsletter No. 7, dated July 1, 1985

I started corresponding with Tom Ball in 1968 or 1970 and in 1981 I wrote him a letter saying I had found what seemed to be a difference in some checking I had done on our Ball family and the account in our book, the identities of William Bartholomew Ball and William Baker Ball, in particular. About ten days later he sent my letter back to me with a short note saying that because of the seriousness of his illness he was no longer doing genealogical research. He said being as I was a genealogical researcher he was challenging me to search the records and find out for myself. I learned later, in 1976 he told his brother, Vernon, of Leakesville his book had some errors in it that needed to be corrected.

I accepted Tom's challenge and started a complete new research of our Ball family beginning in SC all the way thru to the children of William Bartholomew and Sampson Edward Ball. I have researched William Ball and Margaret Sampson and their five sons, William, Jr., Sampson, Bartholomew, George and Samuel; William's brother, Robert, the attorney; Edward Ball and brothers William and Sampson; William Ball, William Bartholomew Ball, William Baker Ball, William Daniel Ball and William S. Ball.

The question in my mind when I wrote to Tom in 1981 was that we may have one William Ball too many and one or two others needed to be shifted around to different parents.

To date I have about 250-300 pages of research in notes, records and references gathered from SC, GA and MS State Archives and County Records, library research here in Houston, the National Archives in Washington, DC and the Library of Congress.

In January of this year I knew I had exhausted my expertise at researching and I did not yet have all the answers and I strongly felt there were many more records and source references out there to be found. I needed professional help so I contacted Mrs. Elizabeth Shown Mills, 107 Woodridge, Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35401, Certified Genealogist, Fellow, American Society of Genealogists, member of the faculty and board of Administrators of the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research of Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama, Lecturer and Author. I have known Mrs. Mills for quite some time and I consider her to be the best in the business.

I sent her a copy of the history of the family in our book and a copy of my research data and asked her to make a study of both and give me her opinion of the account in the book and of my material. To date she has sent me two reports totaling 60 pages which included a 16 page Suggested Research Program that has opened up a whole new field of research for me.

Using Mrs. Mills research guidelines plus the research I had already done, there appears to be several discrepancies in the book's account of our Ball family in SC. I have been unable to find a record of a previous marriage for Edward Ball or a record of any living children by a marriage other than his marriage to Rebecca (Baker) Jones; that Sampson Ball, brother of Edward, did not have a son named William Baker Ball; that William Baker Ball was a son of William Ball born 5-31-1777, no middle name or initial; that Edward Ball and Rebecca had 5 children of whom only William Ball born 5-31-1777, no middle name or initial, and Sampson Edward Ball survived; that William Bartholomew Ball was not the son of Edward and Rebecca Ball; that William S. Ball was a son of William Bartholomew and Charlotte Lee Ball and there was no one named William Daniel Ball in our family at this particular point in time.

The very first thing I learned after accepting Tom's challenge to

try to straighten all of this out was the Revolutionary Records and File of Edward Ball in the DAR Library in Washington D. C. had been closed to anyone submitting an application for membership through the name of William Ball. The reason being, descendants of two different William Balls were each seeking membership under Edward Ball. Applications through Sampson Edward Ball was still being accepted.

Descendants of William Ball, born 5-31-1777 and wife Elizabeth Gray and descendantsof William Bartholomew Ball, born 5-31-1777, and wife Charlotte Lee were the ones seeking membership. The DAR had decided the best way to handle this situation was to close Edward Ball's RW Files until it was determined which one of the two William Balls was the true son of Edward Ball. The DAR, Tom Ball and Mrs. Donna Loyless Hayes asked me to try to get the true facts.

My goal was three-fold, to correct the errors of Tom's Manuscript, to determine which one of the two William Balls was the true son of Edward Ball and to find the parents of the remaining William Ball and determine if his father was a Rev. War Soldier.

I sent Mrs. Mills a copy of Tom's manuscript and included my own research of William Ball, Sr. and his alleged wife Margaret Sampson and their five sons, the history and genealogy of Sampson Edward Ball, the history and genealogy of William Bartholomew Ball, William Ball, William Baker Ball, William S. Ball, Robert Ball and William Daniel Ball.

I have included here parts of Mrs. Mills Summary of her Reports No. 1 for a more detailed and indepth look into our genealogical research problem which deals with an analysis of all of the material I had sent to her and of our specific problem and report No. 3 which is a summary of all of her research on the William Bartholomew Ball and William Ball and suggestions for further research.

The lineage on page one of the first report is my theory but it was made from information taken from a newspaper account in the Greene County, Miss. Herold by Tom Ball, a query in a genealogical magazine by Mrs. Myrtle Loyless and family history notes of Marvin H. Ball, all during the 1950s.

The name William Baker/James Ball, son of Edward and Rebecca, same page, is in error and should be corrected to be William Ball. The same with the name Edward Sampson Ball. It should be Sampson Edward Ball.

I have obtained one of my three goals. It has been proven conclusively with documentation that William Ball born 5-31-1777, with wife Elizabeth Gray, is the true son of Edward Ball and wife Rebecca (Baker) Jones. Research is continueing on the goal of finding the parents of William Bartholomew Ball and Charlotte Lee and if William's father

was a Rev. War Soldier.

As you have noticed, Mrs. Mills' article that is ready for mailing to the DAR is dated 12 July 1985. The reason it has not been mailed is because we were hoping to complete William Bartholomew Ball's parentage and send both of them in at the same time and we are going to keep holding it but I thought I had kept this information long enough concerning the true son of Edward and Rebecca.

The part of this report which is headed SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH TO-DATE, WILLIAM BARTHOLOMEW BALL FAMILY and the rest of the report through page 19 has been sent to the DAR in Washington D. C. Earlier this year, a Mrs. Jean Ball Reitman, 510 L Street No. 1002, Anchorage, Alaska 99501 contacted me to help her with gathering information that she may make application for membership into the DAR. Mrs. Mills, the compiler of this report also sent in some additional information, so Mrs. Reitman should not have any trouble with her application and membership.

Mrs. Reitman's pedigree is Harris Vernon Ball-Jesse Homer Ball-William Moses Ball-James Gray Madison Ball-William F. Ball-Edward Ball-Bartholomew Ball-William Ball.

I sincerely hope that this report will be of great benefit to you and yours now and in the future.

I have mailed about 200 copies of this report to members of our Ball family over the past two years. This cover letter has undergone several revisions, if the first two paragraphs of this page seem to conflict, they do. I am sorry. The DAR really does have a copy of this report.

*RC Ball*