

202 Oakwood Drive,
Gulfport, MS 39501
June 13, 1983

Dear Mrs. Ball,

Several months ago I received a telephone call from Annette Armbruster advising me of Toms death. I would like to express my belated sympathies to you and his family. Although I never had the pleasure of meeting him in person I felt as if I had known him through our many letters over the years.

During her conversation she mentioned that some of Tom's material on the Ball family was missing and that you thought there was a possibility Tom might have loaned it to persons during the later years of his life and that it was not returned. She was wondering if he had sent me any.

I have conducted a cursory review of my Ball information as well as letters received from him. I know I have nothing which he requested that I return to him. Actually he sent me very little in the form of documents or manuscript material. Most of his information was in letter form where we were discussing a particular point at issue. Actually some of his research and narrative history regarding the Ball family was obtained from persons other than him.

Shortly before his death Annette sent me a copy of The Ball Family which he had done which she made from a copy Tom had given her. Also Mrs. Ella Vivian Ball Bufkin of Long Beach, MS permitted me to copy Ball material in her possession which she had gathered. She said that much of her information had come from Tom years ago. Also Mrs. Donna Loyless Hayes of Austin, Texas, has sent me Ball information as have others and it appears that some of this may have originated from Tom.

My interest in the Ball family originated from the fact that William David Cochran, who was my wifes great-grandfather, had married Susan Ball. Since I am trying to prepare a history on the Cochran family I was interested in the ancestors of Susan Ball. As you may recall she was the daughter of James Sampson Ball whose father was William Bartholomew Ball and so on. Tom did send me some information as to the family of Susan Ball such as parents and other children.

I have most of my material on the Ball family broken down by families; however, due to incomplete information on some families and questions, on my part, as to genealogical lines my Ball information is in some what disarray. Actually I have not conducted any active research on the Ball family for better than a year which was about the time that I sent Tom the information regarding county boundries in south Mississippi, in particular Jackson and Greene Counties.

I doubt if I have been much help to you. If you could advise me as to what type of information you are missing or about what particular period it would cover I would be most happy to review what I have again to see if I have anything which may be of interest to you and send you copies of same.

I never expect to try and do a book on the Ball family and the information I have compiled is for my own use in connection with the Cochran family. If you should ever publish a book on the Ball family, based on Toms efforts, I would be most interested in purchasing a copy of same. Should you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact me.

PS- I am sending a copy of this letter to Annette since she called me.

Sincerely,

W. D. Cochran