

Franklin Tenn.
Oct. 4th 1904

Dear Cousin Mary:

You will be surprised to hear from me, but would not if you would but know how often mother and I talk of you and cousins Mat and Beck. Mother is the last one living of her father's family and has no relative of her generation save you three cousins, naturally she thinks a great deal of you all and regrets that she

never sees nor hears from you. Cousin Mat sent her an Athens paper containing the obituary of Cousin Rob Mason, and she wrote to her at once. We would so love to see her and Mary, we have asked them to come but they never have done so, and Mary has passed through Franklin from a visit to cousin Kate Moore. Won't you sometime make us a visit?

I am very much interested in an effort to trace the Greer family; can you help me in my researches? Am sorry I

did not take this interest during Aunt Eliza's life time for she could have told me a great deal which would have been of much help to me, Mother does not remember but little of the history of the older members of the family and all of our records were destroyed in the burning of our home. Did our branch of the Greers come from North Carolina? There are a number of Greers and Griers in Mecklenburg and Caharrns Cos. N.C., did our ancestors first settle there? In the state records of N.C., the name of Robert Greer appears

“as a soldier in Capt. Walsh's Co. [Captain Walsh] in the 8th Reg. N.C. Troops, enlisted Sep 28th 1776.” Also “John Greer in the 10th N.C. Regiment 1779.” “Wm Backingham [William Buckingham] volunteered July 1778 and died Nov. 25th 1778” (supposed to be Buckingham). Are they, or either one of them, our ancestors? Great-grandfather, Gen. John Greer, was of the earliest settlers of Fayetteville, Tenn., and mother thinks he came from N. Carolina. Will you please give me his history as you know it. Was he in the War of the Revolution? There is no mention of him that

I can find, was he “General” of Militia? There is honorable mention of Alexander Greer in Draper’s “Heroes of King's Mt.,” he served under Robertson and [Sevier?] and was in after years a Colonel of Militia and died in Bedford Co. Tenn. in 1810. Was he a brother of my Great-grandfather? General John Greer married Mary R. Buckingham (my mother was named for her) Jan. 10th 1797. Can you tell me anything of her and her ancestors? I have heard Aunt Eliza say she (great-grandmother) claimed to be a

lineal descendant of the House of Buckingham of England, in those early days, such claims were undisputed there are many Buckinghams in Virginia, could you give me a clue to follow?

I regret to know so little of the Greer connection; of the Judson, I have authentic written and published records, by Puritan father and son, since 1634. They figure largely in Colonial history of Massachusetts and Connecticut, my Great-grandfather being also

a Captain in the Revolution, many of my great-uncles and cousins were officers, and there are 52 of that name of father's line – mentioned in Revolutionary History. The Judsons also served with honor in the French and Indian Wars.

How is Cousin John and his family? He wrote me some time ago that he was a semi invalid. Is cousin Sallie and the children with you, if so give them mother's and my kindest remembrances. I remember meeting Cousin Sallie

in New York in 1876.

Mother joins me in love to yourself.

I hope, I have not taxed your patience with so many questions and hope that you will answer them at your earliest convenience.

Affectionately, your Cousin Salita Judson Johnston