

Margaret Fraser Sparkman
P. O. Box 947 Huntsville, Alabama
October 26, 1961

Dear Mrs. Lay:

I have intended coming over to see you and it seems that my time goes on by and I do not get the things done that I would like to do but am still going to come over but it will have to be later on this Fall. In the meantime, I would like to ask you a few questions.

I have been working a great more on the family connections and for a while had dropped the Caldwells as was working on a another line more intensively however never do let any details on any connection go by when I run across it in making a search. In the write up that Jack Boozer wrote on John H. Caldwell, he mentioned that he was prominent during the Civil War and rose to be a Colonel. I have checked all the records that we have here and do not find him listed. If you have this record or the record of his service in the Civil War, I would appreciate having this information for my records. We do not have a great deal in our Library on the Civil War and therefore am unable to get too much here. But you knew you would have his records. Or could tell me who would have this information.

Since I last visited with you, I have given up my work and have more time to devote to searching etc. and have more information regarding the Caldwells as well as other lines. However, do not have near all, I hope to be able to get as it is a never ending search. Wish that members of the family had left more regarding their families with their children and so on down the line. I do have the parents of John M. Caldwell and his wife Emily Garrett Bell.

John M's mother was Lucy Cabiness and his father was David Calhoun Caldwell. Emily's father was Capt. Henry Bell and her mother was Elizabeth Gee. Believe that with the information I have been able to find here and by correspondence, it could be worked out on either side with a competent person working on the lines but this would have to be done in Virginia. I believe that your grandfather then was named for Capt. Henry Bell. When I can find the opportunity to run over for a day, will bring all this information with me and maybe with this additional information, you may think of some more that you have that you did not know you had in your possession. It is all most interesting and time consuming.

Hope to hear from you soon and to also see you real soon.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Margaret F. Sparkman