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My dear Elizabeth,

I was delighted to receive your letter and especially glad to know of your interest in the family. I am enclosing a quick run-down on the ones that I know of and it has taken me fifty years and hundreds of dollars to find out this much. Just this past year I have found some of this material and have not written it up as yet. I plan to do so this winter and I'll send you a copy.

My problem was that nobody knew the names of the ancestor in ~~Virgi~~ North Carolina. My Aunt Bessie and Ida racked their brains and all they could come up with was that an ancestor had fought in the battle near Norfolk during the War of 1812 and had died soon thereafter. His three small sons were brought to Georgia by two maiden aunts and settled near Columbus.

There are no federal records of the soldiers of the War of 1812, but various States have some records. My daughter, Betty, was at Duke University at the time I pressed her into service and she found a published book--no index--listing the soldiers according to county. She and her boy-friend spent several afternoons turning pages in the 500 page book. They finally found one James Bruce and one Spencer Jackson in the same platoon from just north of Durham. I spent hours in the capital of Caswell Col., looking at all tax records, will, deeds, etc. and I found one James Bruce, son of Alexander Bruce that I thought must be he. That was in the 1940's. I was not satisfied, but I knew no where else to turn.

Our Library was taking a magazine called Georgia History and Genealogy. Last summer on reading one of them I found an article headed "North Carolinians Who Moved to Georgia." Among the items: excerpts from a will showing that James and Spenner Jackson Bruce had inherited land from their father, James Bruce of North Carolina. I then paid a researcher about \$200 to cover everything she could find out. To date, I know nothing back of George Bruce in the Revolution and his land.

I don't know who the first Bruces were in America. I do know that one George Bruce and one Edward Bruce were the first ones in Virginia. I had always hoped to trace our ancestor back to this George Bruce, but so far, no luck. Maybe you can some day.

I hope you and your parents can come for a visit while I am here some day. I go to Alexandria, Va. to spend the Christmas and New Years holidays with my two daughters and their families. You have four cousins in Alexandria and Annapolis: Liza Alexander, 18, a sophomore at Duke; Lucy 12 went to school in Scotland last year, but at home this year; Keith Novak, a senior at Duke and Kirsten Novak, a junior at University of West Virginia. They all do outstanding work at school and I'm sure you do also. The parents of Liza and Lucy own a home on Sea Island and usually spend August here. Hope your parents can bring you up sometime when they are here. I think you and Liza are the same age.

Please give my love to your Mother and Father and tell them I'd like to see them. My love to you,

Paula

Outline of Bruce Family.

George Bruce- born probably about 1740. Fought in Revolution from North Carolina. Had land grant in North Carolina about 1780. Married one Susannah Barnes. Had several children. Among them: James Bruce ~~and Spencer Jackson Bruce~~. George Bruce died in 1807 leaving land to his various children.

James Bruce : Married in North Carolina and had several children. He volunteered for War of 1812 in which he was wounded and died soon thereafter as a result of the wound. He ~~was~~ died about 1815. Among his children: James and Spencer Jackson Bruce who moved to Georgia near Columbus.

James Bruce: Married Annice Barnhill from South Carolina. Lived on a farm which is now incorporated into Fort Benning. He had a number of children and several of the boys fought in the War between the States. He died about 1880. Among his children was James Lafayette Bruce.

James Lafayette Bruce: my grandfather, married Nancy Ann Rodney. He fought in the War with Lee in Virginia, so I have been told. He seems to have had a good education because when he settled down he started teaching school. He was induced by his Rodney relatives to go west soon after the War. He got as far as Mississippi with the family, but there my Father, Edward Cecil Bruce, became ill and they decided to return to Georgia. For awhile they were near Columbus--Cusseta, I believe it was. Later, they moved to Rochelles, Ga. and James Lafayette started in the lumber business. I think he never made very much, but he sent two daughters, Ada and Ida, to college and my Father went to school in Atlanta where he learned pharmacy (very different from today--he mixed instead of counting pills) and optometry. I saw my grandfather once or twice and he was a very good looking man with a sense of humor. He had a cane that had an insertion that if you looked through you could see the Battle of Lookout Mountain.

Edward Cecil Bruce- my father and your great-grandfather started out as a druggist, 1st in Rochelle and then Hawkinsville, Ga. He was married in 1900 to Lucy May Dixon, of Thomasville, Ga. They moved in 1904 to Brunswick, Ga. where he owned a store on the corner of Gloucester and Newcastle St. It became the best pharmacy in town and had all the hospital business. About 1914 he was told that his health would not permit him to work so continuously indoors. He sold the store and went into other businesses--a lumber mill near here, a cotton gin in Douglas, and he bought East Beach. He died in 1923 at the age of 46, but he left enough for the family to live on thereafter--to send all of us to college. Besides your grandfather, James Robert, he left, Edward Cecil, Jr. who is an excellent business man and Charles Dixon, in the real estate and insurance business--very successful both of them.