

SOUTHERN HISTORICAL COLLECTION, UNIVERSITY OF N.C.

Accession No. 2812

States } Tenn.
 } Ark.

Date May 1952

Dates 1899, 1952

Name of Collection STROTHER-KILGORE
PAPERS.

No. Items 3

Given*)
Deposited)
Lent for copying) by Mrs. Lasha L. Thompson
Lent for filming) P. O. Box 1123
Other terms:) Alexandria, Virginia

Date & method of arrival: Received by mail May 4, 1952.

PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTION: ^{L.} Typed copies of two letters from Gabriel Kilgore to his brother-in-law Solomon Strother. One letter was written sometime before the death of G. L. Kilgore's sister, Annis Kilgore Strother Payne, who died June 3, 1897. The other was written December 1899 from Columbia County, Ark. Both contain family news and inquiries about relatives.

Solomon Strother's first wife was Lydia Kilgore; his second was Mary Payne.

Filed with the two Kilgore letters/copies in a letter from Mrs. Lasha L. Thompson, 1952, explaining the family relationships.

SUBSEQUENT HISTORY

File 1
1 folder

P.O. Box 1123
Alexandria, Va.
2 May 1952

Dear Mr. Patton:

Enclosed herewith are copies of previously mentioned letters from Gabriel Kilgore. They have been copied from copies, however, I believe they are exact copies, as to spelling, form, etc.

Relative to the fragmentary letter I believe I wrote you that we arbitrarily dated this as prior to June 1857 since it contains greetings to my great, great grandmother, Annis Kilgore Strother Payne; she died 3 June 1857. However, it could have been later since her brother might not have been notified of her death.

These letters were written to Solomon Strother who married first Lydia Kilgore, sister of Gabriel; following her death two years later, he married Mary Payne, daughter of Gideon Payne, my great, great grandfather, by his first wife.

As you doubtless know, considerable material on Thomas Kilgore, the settler, and his descendants, is contained in Goodspeed's History of Tennessee, including Robertson County. I understand the court records at Springfield also contain various data. Kilgore's grave, in the Villines graveyard near Cross Plains, is marked by a monument erected in the 1920s which refers to his Revolutionary War service. I believe his name is included with other Tennessean soldiers who participated in the Battle of King's Mountain listed on a memorial at the State Capitol, Nashville. However, since I have been away from there for so many years my memory is rather vague on this score. Worth Ray's Tennessee Cousins also contains information relative to Thomas Kilgore, Sr. The Lea Family in Nelson Co., Va. by R. F. Lea and Everhart-Miller and Allied Families by Allie Everhart-Miller both make reference to Thomas Kilgore, Jr. and his wife, Phebe Lea. Their marriage bond is a matter of record with the Register of Deeds, Yanceyville, N.C. You have probably checked there since the Kilgores came from Caswell County. And of course you have also probably checked with the State Department of Archives and History at Raleigh.

If I develop additional information relative to the Kilgores I will be glad to forward it on to you. I will also appreciate it very much if in your research you should obtain any information I do not already have.

Respectfully,



(Mrs.) Lesba L. Thompson

COPY

"To my old sister, Annis,^{*} say that I still remember her with the warmest Emotions and if we never meet again on Earth I hope we shall in another and better world and to my old brother Gideon, I hope no insult in saying old give my best respects and say that I would be more than glad to see him and all his family. At any rate he might write a line now and then I want to know all about the family for truly I know nothing. In short give my best respects to Charles Yates and the Randolphins. Tell Annis Our old father is still well and hearty and walks about very smart for a man of his age now 98 years old. Though when anything ails him he thinks he is going to die and I believe when the time comes he will meet it like a philosopher. He is a devoted believer in the new doctrine of spirit manifestation. It, the belief he now has, has done some good for him. Converted him from skepticism to a belief in immortality. Writing nowadays has become a burden to me. Not being in the daily use of it my hand has become stiff and as I very much wish let Frances Gunn and her family hear from us I would be glad if you would send this letter to her and Mr. Gunn and say to them that we never hear from them and think they ought to write to us. To her, Mr. Gunn and their family we present our best Love and respects. What I have written is for them as well as the rest. Betsey Griffin is living in Mississippi with her son William. But I learn she expects to come this fall and live with Ann who lives in Hemsted county in this state. Ann and her husband, Dr. Griffin is doing well. He is a gentleman in every sense of the word. He is elected to the legislature of this state for his county Democrat. Solomon, write as soon as you receive this. Your most obedient servant.

/signed/ G. L. Kilgore"

* [Annis Kilgore Strother Payne, who died June 3 - 1857]

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"Dec. 27th 1859
Columbia County
Arkansas

Dear Solomon

Sir: I have bin Thinking of you for several days for some cause I suppose it must be from having just passed another Christmas and with me on all such occasions I am sure to let my mind run back to times and scenes that have long since passed and the actors with me on such festive occasions long, long ago, and you of course, come in for a good share of my long ago days but now Alas never I fear to return sad mementoes of the past and shall we Solomon never again pass another Christmas together. I fear not and if we should would it be like the Christmases we have spent together, I trow not. Old age the destroyer of youth and youthful feelings has bin at work with both of us. At least it has will me and I expect it has in some degree with you but I hope old age has delt kindly with you. I'm surrounded by the best of friends, a plenty to live on, good health and a good and pleasant country yet that buoyancy of sports ans energy of youth is lacking I feel it sensibly But I hope Solomon after we have lived here as long as we can in any wise enjoy our selves we shall be at once ushered into a state of being far superior to this and then and there meet and know all of our friends that has gone before us. Such is my hope and belief for I do believe in the Eternal Progration of things and that this life is only an Embryo state and that the rose will not be fully blone in this mode of being but will be fully expanded and in full bloom when our next reunion takes place. But enough of this prosing and now for a few words on other matters. I have lately removed from Union County to this county not that I disliked Union by no means but the old woman and me was left by our selves no white person but our selves on the place. Dawson had located in Magnolia, the county site of Columbia and the old lady was anxious to be near some of the children and I was a little so inclined too so we sold out and have settled $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Magnolia on a very pleasant place for which I paid \$6.00 per acre we are still by our selves but near Dawson's I shall still farm for a living and I hope with good luck to still be able to make for us a good living. The other children are scattered to and fro not so far off but what we hear from them. They are all in (letter torn) and doing very well. Now Solomon I want you to write to us often. Matilda sends to you her best love and respects and wished you to write about her people in that country. She never hears from any of them. I want you to write about all our old friends Charles Yates, God bless him, give him my best respects, Dick Randolph, Billy and George with all the balance of our friends. To my old friend and brother Gideon Payne I desire to be most respectfully presented. Tell him I hope his days will be (illegible) out so we shall once more meet. If none of you will come and see us I still think I shall once more revisit the county and scenes of my youth and if I should do so, I should feel that one of the main attractions was gone if I did not meet Gideon. Tell him to come and see us. It would add years to his life to travel and see new scenes. Take the Railroad and he could be here in a few days and if he delights as much in travel as I do I think it would add years to his life. Now Solomon write soon. I close by requesting you to receive my sincere regard for your self and family.

/signed/ G. L. Killgore"

COPY