

William S. Carley

7804 Moorland Lane  
Bethesda, Md. 20814  
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Dear Joan,

Many, many thanks for all the information and the xerox copies. It was most useful and in addition I have contacted Jan Mills for information on the Caauwe descendents through your information.

Now as to the father of Andrew, Mathew, John etc. I have no proof that the father of them was James and their mother Miss Smith. I will give you what information I have that led me to that statement. I would be happy to review any information to the contrary. I would like the truth, if it can be obtained. Jake Carson, who got interested in genealogy through my contact with him looking for information, has contacted a researcher in Ireland and sent I believe \$150.00 for a first effort to see if it was worth going further. That was the last of November. He received a letter saying that the research facilities were closed most of the month of December for Christmas and some other reason. As of this morning he still hasn't heard from them. I hope he has not been taken, but I fear for the worst now!

I have been researching the Carson line and the Carley line plus my mothers side for almost four years, better than full time. My sole information at the start on the Carson side is the enclosed copies of work done by my aunts about the year 1880, judging by the information included on all sheets, Carley, Carson and Warden. From the work sheets you see that they were trying to get the children in the correct birth order as they are not all the same (same names but not in same order). In addition I have 4 letters from Mathew (of Ashe Co) to his niece (Annie Carson) my grandmother. The only names he mentioned was his brother, Andrew, and his son Robert who ~~was killed~~ died in prison in Ohio in the civil war.

Most of my early information was gained from the census, then I found descendents of Mathew and through them and the Phipps who ~~is~~ one had researched thoroughly. I located descendents of John and descendents of Andrew. I really have the least information of Andrew's descendents. (Of course I had information on Robert from whom I descended) I have census data on Smith and a James (both in Stokes Co., N.C. in 1820, 30, Grayson Co. Va., eastern half, 1840 and a James in Carroll Co. (which was the eastern part of Grayson Co) in 1850 but no children at home and no others in Carroll Co index.

I have milked the census of 1850 for any Smith Carson (or a Bessie in case Smith was dead) for all states except the ~~northeastern~~ northeastern states without any success. I fear Smith & Bessie were either dead or missed in the 1850 census or missed in the indexing.

The only thing I can be certain of is the descendents of Robert and that there was an Andrew and Mathew in Ashe Co. I do not have proof of any of the wives names, but there has not been any question of that except one source said the parents of the seven was John with a wife Ann ~~McCullough~~ McIlrath and the John of the seven married to a Hawthorne, ~~if~~ if I remember correctly, which is obviously wrong. Others state the Robert of the ~~fix~~ seven who was actually the Robert oldest son of the seven John.

Now the Robert of the seven actually did not come to America at all, but died in Ireland in 1838, my great grandfather, His widow and children came to Allegheny City, Pa (now Pittsburg, in 1840. Now ~~if~~ seven did come to North Carolina, which I have no reason to doubt, they were <sup>with Andrew</sup> Andrew, Mathew, John, James, Smith, plus two others not named in my aunts work. Incidentally my great grandmother, Mary Warden was dead before they did this, so my grandmother, Annie, had to be the source of information. Allegheny Co Heritages mentions a sister, Jennie.

The enclosed lists a girl who married a McCullough. Now Mathew married a McCullough, and it is possible that they were confused by this. I have searched, not to any great extent though, for a McCullough with a wife, Jennie in the 1850 census. It could be that she was dead before 1850 and with no first name for McCullough, you don't have much to go on.