

3 June, 1978

Dear John:

It is easier to return from Greece bodily than it is mentally. Physically I know that I am in Miami, because it is hot, mentally I am still chasing ewes up the slopes of Delphi.

However, I have had time to do more than just look at the material you sent while I was away. Tomorrow I start work on the mars. I have all I need in that department.

The Vernon Mills material appears to provide a clue to the relationship of John Puller Smith and Willis Golder Smith in an unexpected way. If you refer to the Leeds Manor map of 1817 you will find that Capt. Joseph Smith had 673 acres adjoining 102 acres Turner Dixon purchased from the Marshalls. In the division of the Turner Dixon estate this land including the mill, fell to William Dixon, who soon died. George B. Dixon sold part of this 280 acres containing the mill to James Morehead (34a 1r 37p) 2 Nov. 1832. The remainder he sold to Maria Willis (248a 3r 28p) on the same day. Maria Willis died 5 Oct. 1835 and her executor James Keith Marshall (probably her great nephew) put her land up to auction. It was bid in by his brother, Edward Carrington Marshall. End of the story of that land.

However Capt. Joseph was, I am nearly certain, the father of Willis Golder Smith and the brother of John Winn Smith (1745-1811) They were sons of _____ Smith (ca. 1720-?) and his wife _____ Golder, who lived near Fredericksburg. Hence the name Golder appears in both families. In the division of the estate of Captain Joseph Smith, Willis Golder Smith's share was 96 acres adjoining Morehead's Mill on Thumb Run. Willis Golder Smith, (1777-1820), married, 1805 his first cousin Sarah (Gally) Smith (b: 1779). He was dead before 1832 when Morehead bought the mill from the Dixon estate. His son Willis Golder Smith, Jr. died in 1832, also before the sale. However the eldest sons of W.G. Smith Sr. were James, Joseph and John, one of whom probably inherited the tract adjoining Morehead's Mill. The house at Vernon Mills could not have been built by Willis Golder Smith. and was certainly not built before 1832.

T. TRIPLETT RUSSELL TO JOHN K. GOTT

all the information you have sent me. Referring again to the tax map enclosed, I cannot place Brown's Lane, principally because Ada is not specifically located. I assume that it follows one of the lot lines into Hacker's, but which one? The entrance seems to be from the east, but on the tax map it shows from the south on a road by the church. Can you locate approximately the old chimney on the tax map. of which I am sending two copies, one to return with comment. Possibly the "lower house" was one of the outbuildings of "Eastwood" and the chimney marks the site of the manor house.