

Lauderdale, Miss.
April 27th, 1932.

Mrs. Mildred B. Tallant.

Your letter of the 15th was forwarded to me and reached me this morning. I fear I cannot give you all the data you want but am pleased to give you what I can.

My mother's name was Dorothy Cooley. Her father (my grandfather) was John Cooley and her mother (my grandmother) was Elizabeth White. They were married in Ky. and came to Randolph Co., Mo. when my mother was an infant. My mother was born in ^{Mo.} Ky. in 1816. Her father was murdered in 1845 and her mother died in 1851. My mother's brothers and sisters were: Joseph, Thomas, William, Tolbert, John and Wesley; Martha, Nancy, Elvira, Margaret and Eveline. I saw and knew all of them, but they are all dead long ago.

My mother's first husband was her second cousin, Booley, but I do not remember certainly his given name, I believe it was ~~John William~~ ^{It was John} William. She had three booley boys, Joseph, Michael, John William. My father found her in Ray County, Mo. and married her at old Elkhorn Tavern six miles west of Richmond the county seat. I was born at Elkhorn Dec. 22, 1848. But they moved back into Chariton Co., Mo among some of the booley people when I was an infant. My mother died there May 7th, 1851. My mother's booley husband had a brother Benjamin booley. I remember him well - was at his house when I was a boy about 15 years old. He had a daughter named Dorothy. I have her picture.

My mother never lived in Carrollton, Mo., but after her death my father married again and moved to Carrollton, Carroll County and I grew up there until I was twenty years old. My father, Benjamin E. Kiergan was killed in the war Nov. 30, 1864.

I am not sure but I think ^{for Timothy son of Joseph 3} ~~etc~~ ^{Cooley I think} nick-name "Tink" is for Thomas. I have heard my father speak of him many times but I don't think I ever knew him personally. I believe he was a brother of my mother's first husband.

I never heard of relatives named Marion Paul or Samuel Withrow. I knew a man in Chariton County, Mo. by that name some forty-five years ago but if we were akin we did not know it.

I never, that I know of, had any kin by the name of Roberts or Robbins. But when I was a child of five years we had a neighbor in Carroll County by the name of Robbins. Oh, yes, I come to think of it. This Mr. Robbins had a son Will Henry Robbins, married ^{Mariah} ~~Michaela~~ Cooley, daughter of "Uncle" Johny Cooley in Carroll County. I remember Uncle Johny very well. My Father said he was a distant relative of my mother's people. I remember well ^{My grandfather Miller Cooley was married in Carrollton Mo. in 1843 and had relatives living there.}

the Robbins family. If Will Henry Rob-
bins is living he must be nearly
three or four years old. This part
of your inquiry grows on me and
interest me very much. Will Henry
and ~~Marial~~^{Marial} Booley fell out and got
a divorce (no unusual thing you
know) and he married a young
woman over in Saline County,
Mo. I don't remember her name.
Will, H. and Marial had one child
a little boy (I think). I do not remem-
ber its given name. But its mother
kept and raised it. They parted when
it could not have been more than
a few months old. I left Barroll-
ton in 1868, have been there only a
few times since and only for a few
days at a time so have lost sight
of Marial Booley Robbins and her
child long ago.

I can remember of my father speak-
ing of a James Booley. My impres-
sion is that he was closely relat-
ed to "Uncle Johnie" Booley Marial
Robbins' ^{father} who I mentioned above. But
I don't remember of having heard of

Miller Widow Cooley
(my grandfather) crossed the plains from 5
Missouri to Oregon in 1852.
Settled first in Lane Co. &
in 1861 moved to Curry Co on coast.

This is all I can recall now. But
your letter interests me very much.
Perhaps, if you will go deeper into the
matter - write me all you know, ~~and~~
we can dig some ^{further} important matters
up concerning our kin. I think
we must be related. When we don't
have the records it is hard to
connect such matters up. I have
had an extensive experience in
tracing the ancestry of my other
grandmother, Elizabeth Edwards who
married my grandfather William Kier-
gan. In that research I found many
interesting things, among ^{them I established the fact} that
that my grandmother Edwards was a
cousin to Abe Lincoln's mother - their
mothers were sisters.

Please write me again. Will you kind-
ly tell me who the woman is that my
cousin Joseph Cooley wrote to about
me? I will be glad to hear from you
soon. Address me at 214 North Linden,
Sapulpa, Okla. - With much Respect,
(Over). Arthur M. Kiergan.

P.S. I see I failed to answer your 8th question. No. I never had any Cooley relatives living in Iowa. We were all so far as I know in North Mo., in Randolph, Boone, Chariton, Carroll, Mason and Ray counties.

K.

Please return this letter to me when you have finished taking any desired notes therefrom.

Note: Mr. Kiergan's grandfather was the John Cooley of Howard Co. and he calls the John Cooley of Carroll Co. "Uncle Johnie". (I have written to find out the exact relationship he bears to this "Uncle Johnie" evidently not a first uncle, ^{but a great uncle} He gets but eleven of his mother's brothers and sisters, as you see.

John Cooley (Uncle Johnie) of Carroll Co was I believe ~~the~~ great uncle of Mr. Kiergan.

Sapulpa, Okla.,
May 30, 1932.

Mrs. Mildred S. Tallant.

The first thing I have to do is to write an apology. I did not get your letter of May 6th until I got home the other day. My wife did not forward it as she expected me home any day. Then since coming home I have been both poorly and over-run with matters I could not put off. Did you ever get tangled up that way?

But I appreciate your letter very much. It enlightens me on some points which I am very glad to get. I also have a very interesting letter from Mrs. J. L. Hamil, 229 N. Union St., Lincoln, Ill. saying she had read the letter I wrote you. Her letter is dated May 24, 1932. I doubt if I can give either of you very much light on what you want. But I am pleased to do my best. My

sources of information on the Booley family genealogy is not extensive. Mrs. Hamil says my branch of the family lived near Pertang (Presbyterian) Church in Perm. at a very early date, and later in Maryland. She says we descended from the Hollander Dutch line. She says she has "the Johns, Josephs, Benjamin and Dorothy's a generation back of where my records begin and their early move into Ky." She says it is difficult to trace the family in and through Ky.

And now I have to rely on the record my cousin Joseph ~~of~~ gave you for my own line. Having no complete record of my uncles and aunts I depended largely on my memory and tradition.

My grandfather John ^(he was born in Mo. I think) Booley, I believe moved from Ky. to Mo. and to Howard or Boone county, Mo. I think the record Joe. gave you is correct and I was wrong in my former letter about the place of my mother's (Dorothy) birth. One thing that influences me is that the Whites lived at

that early date in Macon county, Mo. Many of the descendants of Whites now live in Chariton, Randolph, Macon and Shelby counties. But as to the date of my mother's birth, I was correct. I referred to my mother's Bible just now. The record is in my father's handwrite, as follows: Benjamin Kiergan was born Feb. the 8th, 1821. Dorothy (Booley) Kiergan was born Oct. 16th, 1816. Arthur M. Kiergan (my name) was born Dec. 22, 1848. This entry was made at the same time and evidently at the time of my birth.

The record cousin Joe gave you has my father's name spelled incorrectly. It is a Scotch name - you could never get the Scotch brogue on Kiergan but on Kiergan you can. However some of the family spell it Kirgan and one family in Ky. spells it Burgan - a civil war error.

But my mother and most of the older members of the family were evidently

born in Howard county, Mo.

I knew all the 14 uncles and aunts you mention. At Time of writing you before I forgot Elizabeth Ann, Edward Dancasens and had the name of Randolph Harrison wrong. You see he was only ten years old when I was born. We called him "Bud". My mother died May 7th and I went to live with my grandmother Booley (White) for about three years I chummed with my uncle "Bud". He and Drucilla Knedler his wife had one child - a daughter - Martha Jane. Long after I was married I furnished her a home. About twenty years ago she lived in Columbia, Mo. I do not know at this writing who she married or if she is living.

My uncle Washington Talbert Booley married Amanda Finton, not "Linta".

Aunt Margaret Catharine Booley who married Irvin Henry has a son Arthur (named for me) ^{wrote him June 8 - '32.} living at Exello, Mo.

Oliver Ann Booley, born July 20, 1824, married Benjamin Booley her cousin. This is the Benj. Booley whom I called uncle Ben. Booley in my former letter

They had several children one named Dorothy whom I mentioned in my former letter. She died (single) long ago. There was another daughter, Marcy. She visited my home some forty-five years ago - I do not know that she ever married. She was a beautiful woman.

I think this Benjamin Booley and my mother's first husband were ~~unc-~~ ⁱⁿ or possibly brothers - I have no record. they were brothers.

My aunt Martha gave Booley's husband, John Montgomery, was murdered by one Florin who kept store not far from Exeels, Mason County, Mo. This took place when I was about six years old.

My grandfather John Booley was also murdered in his own horse lot in Mason County in about 1845.

My grandmother Elizabeth (White) Booley was not the stepmother of my mother. Grandfather John never married but once.

Now, as to the Carroll Co., Mo. records. I heard of Ruben Booley - dead before I was

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born, but I knew Thos Hardwick Adm.
of his estate. We lived on Wakena Creek
within a half mile of "Uncle Tom's", in
1854.

I heard my father speak of James
Booley ~~etc~~ I ~~don't~~ think he knew him
personally, but I knew John Smart
personally, Adm. of his estate. John ^{wrote her} Smart ^{June 8th} has a daughter living in ¹⁹³² Ohero-
see City, Ark. She ~~is~~ is about 85 years
old. Her name is Mrs. Jno. S. Reed. I had
a letter from her a short time ago.
She has a fine memory and might
be able to tell you something.

I believe this relationship is correct
Since studying your data it seems to
me that Reuben and James Booley as a-
bove, were brothers of "Uncle" John
Booley of Barroilton, Mo. and all of
them 2nd cousins to my mother. We
are certainly closely mixed up in
there somehow.

The Gary Cemetery is 7 mi. S. E. of Barrol.
ton (not N. E.). I went all over it just
last August. Joshua Clements, who owned
the land was the first person I ever
saw buried, in 1853, I think. We lived
within half mile of the cemetery. I have
two ^{half} sisters and half brother buried there.

I believe Nathan Nathaniel
was another brother of James
John
Reuben
etc.

Tom, Jas. and Milt. booley are buried
there. So is "Uncle" John, so is Nathan
(Mat) booley. I knew the Anteburne, Dave
Hardwick (Thos. Hardwick's son), Robbins-
es, and Carps. I did not know the Rif-
fles. I am of the opinion that the
name Riffles is wrong. I believe
the name ^m is Ribbe. I knew Joseph Ribbe
well. He was a Baptist preacher and
our neighbor, and our neighbor at
one time. But I never knew Joe. Ribbe's
wife was. But the booleys, Carps and
Ribbes hung around together in
Carroll Co., Mo. We, as children, were
taught to say, "Uncle Joe. Ribbe".

When you get your genealogy all
worked out I'd like to have a copy
of it. If there is anything you think
I might help you let me know.
I will be glad to hear from you
at any time and to know your
progress.

I am Respectfully your
Friend and "Kin".
A. M. Kiergan.

Over.

1911
12/10

Your note on the will of my grandfather John Booley is plain enough in itself. The attesters - broff, Morris and Reynolds I never heard of, but Joseph Booley was my uncle Joe, and Benjamin Booley was evidently my "uncle Ben." I have written you about Altho he was called "uncle Ben." he was only a cousin tho his brother (whose name I do not know) was likely my mother's first husband. But how that will could have been probated in How. and Co. Mo. when he died (was killed) in Mason Co. is a puzzle indeed. The date of the will, 1844, fits well with my memory of what the family said of his death - 1845. This date is my error doubtless by about a year. I lived with my grandfather in the house in which he died and have been in the house many times where he was shot.

The bondsmen for James Booley, Sec. were evidently my grandfather John Booley and Thomas (uncle Tom) as my father called him was evidently the brother of my grandmother, Wife Booley. But James B. I cannot place but likely was sis. to my grandfather. It would be most natural to associate the close kin. in such a

capacity. It strikes me that this James
 Booley, of Aug. 25, 1829, John Booley and
 Jane Booley were brothers and sister and
 that Thos. ("Tant") White was a brother
 to my grandmother. This latter I know
 to be correct, for my father spoke of
 him often in my childhood as my
 mother's uncle. I think he never mar-
 ried. I have an acquaintance and
 kin. Douglass White, who lives at
 Clarence, Mo. He may be able to put
 you onto something in this con-
 nection - write him enclosing stamp.
 He knows of "uncle Tant" and my grand-
 mother. It is, as you suggest, ^{possible,} that
 this Jas. Booley could have been
 my grandfather's (John) ~~mother~~ father. It
 could be reasonably supposed that my
 grandfather John and Jane were chil-
 dren of James and that Thos. (Tant.) White
 would fit in here being the brother in-
 law of my grand father as he evident-
 ly was.

Let me see if I can make the matter plain-
 er about uncle Ben. Booley the father
 of Dorothy I mention. He evidently
 married my aunt Elizabeth Ann Booley
 or Mason Co., Mo. But she was dead when

before I visited their house which I have mentioned before.

You say: "Perhaps you can find out where Joseph, Michael or John Wm Booleys descendants are". If in this you refer to my half brothers - children of my mother's first husband. These had no descendants - were never married. Joseph died in the army Feb. 8th, 1833; Michael was murdered by the Normans in Eutah, and John W. was axidently killed when twelve years old. I think I mentioned this in my former letter.

I am very much interested in your research of the booley family, and will be glad to help you and to find out all I can.

R.

Sapulpa, Okla.,
June 3rd, 1932.

Dear Mrs. Talant.

In looking over your letter since writing you I think I may have misunderstood you at a point or two. One is about your James Booley who died Sep. 1st, 1835, John Smart Administrator. The fact that John Smart was adms. and Thos. Hardwick filed bill against this estate puts James residence and the whole transaction in Carroll Co., Mo., though you did not say where. Though dead thirteen years before my birth I have heard my father speak of him. This James Booley, your great-grandfather, must have been my great-grandfather also and that he and John Booley of Carrollton were cousins. John Booley of Macon Co. Mo., in that case my grandfather, in that case, would have been the cousin to the John Booley of Carrollton. In that case my mother Dorothy Booley would have been 2nd cousin to the Carrollton John. And my memory is this is what

my father said of our relationship although John of Barroton was called, by all the youngsters of the community, "Uncle Johnny." When you write me please tell me who your grandfather and father were, where they lived and died and when, &c.

I believe Reuben Booley of Carroll Co. Mo. whose ~~est~~ estate was probated April 6, 1834, Thos. Hardwick, Adm., was a brother of John Booley of Barroton, or else a cousin.

Reuben Booley whose estate was probated in Howard Co. Mo. final settlement ~~made~~ ordered Feb. 7, 1836 in favor of Mary Louisa Ann Booley, was evidently another Reuben different from the Carroll Co. Reuben. I remember, as I said in former letter, John of Carroll when I was five years old but I heard nothing of this daughter (evidently) of Reuben of Howard Co. So we have it clearly settled that the two Reubens were not the same, though doubtless cousins. I cannot figure out just who they are. Probably one of them was the

son of our great grandfather James
and the other a nephew of James.
Doesn't it connect up us to dates
and look reasonable?

One other matter: you note a deed
from Wm R. Breed + wife Mary to John
Booley of Apr. 29, 1842. Description given.
We owned land in the same range
and township when I was seven years
old. I have underscored the name
Breed. I am sure this is a mistake.
It should be Wm R. Breel. I knew
him well. Two of his daughters,
Elizabeth and Athelia were my
childhood school-mates. Their moth-
er was a Miss Woods; her brothers
were Alhazen and Alfonso Woods.
They were descendants of a Spanish
family. G. B. Billew married Lizzie and
Nat. Baird married Helia as we call-
ed her. All these Booleys, Barys, Woods-
es, Breels, etc were fine old pioneer fam-
ilies. I have written to Carrollton
for some information and may be
will have word by the time you write
me again.

Respectfully,

A. H. Kiergan.

214 North Linden,

Sapulpa, Okla.,
June the 13, 1932.

Dear Mrs. Tallant.

About an hour ago I received your letter of June 7th, and I greatly appreciate it—it enlightens me on some points and awakens my memory on others. You must not think that you worry me by the length or contents of your letters—never. We are on a very interesting subject. True, we are "hunting for needles in hay-stacks," but we know that both the hay-stacks and needles are there—the hunting is a delightful game, besides the knowledge is useful. I thank you for this good letter.

I am expecting a letter from Carrollton, Mo. in a few days that may give us further data. The old lady (82 years old) I have written to for data is an old childhood play and school mate. She was Miss. Bettie Cary, now Mrs. Benson. She is blind now

and must depend upon others to write² for her, but she has a splendid memory. The young woman who is to do her writing is poorly just now, as a letter from her yesterday states.

Reuben booley. The two dates you give— Nov. 8, 1836, of Thos. Hardwick and Reuben booley evidently of Carroll Co. Mo, and the record from Howard County— show plainly that there were at that time (two dates in the same year) two Reuben booleys, but I am not able to point out their relationship.

Thomas Hardwick. My information is that he came to Mo. from Ky. I remember well the old hewed log house your notice refers to. It is among the first of my childhood memories— past by the location last Sept. and paused to look at it. And the "Hardwick Mill" on "Wakenda Creek". My father, Benj. E. Kiergan, was a millwright and he built that mill for Uncle Tom. Hardwick in 1853. The original name of the

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Creek - the Indian name - was Wa. Kou-
da. When I was a child we call-
ed Wakondaw. How it came in
later years to be Wakena I do not
know. Of the Hardwick boys - Uncle
Louis boys - there were Jeff. Elza,
Jim. + Bill. There was a daughter - Polly
Ann. She first married Thomas Athin.
son, after his death she married Mr.
Jacobs - he re-built the Hardwick
Mill. I knew all these people.

Missionary Baptist Church. I do not
think these people - members were
Missionary Baptist but Separate
Baptists. The meeting house they
worshipped in was about 2 1/2 miles
from where I lived. It was a
"union" house used by anybody.
I have been there many times.
Of the charter members you mention, I
knew John, Joseph Riffe, knew of,
possibly had seen the other Riffes.
I knew the Durl, cannot place John
Booley unless he was my "Uncle John
of N.Y.". The name Mahala Booley I

cannot at this minute place altho⁴
her name is perfectly familiar to
me. I'll dig that out later if you
don't.

Carl ~~Hardwick~~ Hardwick. Let me correct my-
self a little. Uncle Tom. Hardwick
had another son - Carl. He was
an intimate of my father. He went
to Calif. in 1855. and never return-
ed. Next to the last night he spent
in Mo. he spent at our house.

Benj. Cooley. I am now sure we
have dug him out all right ex-
cept I do not know who his father
was. Ben. was evidently a broth-
er to my mother's first husband.
But I do not know the given name
of my mother's first husband - it
might have been Thomas ('Tuck')
One of my mother's brothers was
Tom. Cooley and probably a cous-
in of the other Tom.

Alfred Robbins. Yes, I knew him
well. He was older than Wm. H. Robbins.
I knew his wife too. Will. and Alf were
brothers. But I did not remember that

Alf's wife, Nancy Jane, was a Booley. 5

Nancy Jane Booley - Robbins Anderson.

You say her 2nd marriage was to Mrs. Anderson. Yes. He was stepfather to Mrs. Bettie Benson I have mentioned in this letter. This Bettie Benson was Betty Gary. The widow Gary and Wm Anderson had one son - Willie. We always called him Willie Gary. Anderson and Mrs. Gary ^{parted} and Will was left with his mother. You see, I am "telling tales out of school" but you need not repeat them. I don't think that Anderson and Widow Alf. Robbins had any children.

Aaron Booley. I do not remember him and did not know who the father of Nancy Jane Booley's father was until now you tell me. Nancy Jane must have been an old woman at her death - about 80 - if as you say she died in 1915.

My mother's uncles. I do not know who my mother's uncles were as I do not know who my grandfather's brothers were. But somehow I have

the impression that one of them was James. If this impression is correct then James Booley was the father of my uncle Ben. Booley and of my mother's first husband. This, of course is somewhat guessing. But this impression grown upon me as I study this ancestor riddle.

Eli Booley, etc. No. I have never heard of Eli, or Christopher B. Booley. But my mother, you know, had a brother Jackson. This given name may have (most likely was) taken from an uncle Jackson, and Eli and Christopher may have been my mother's uncles too - likely.

Woods + Breck of Carroll Co. Mo. No. These Woodses were no kin that I know of to the Woods my cousin Adelia Booley married in Mason Co. Mo.

Milton Booley of Mexican war was evidently Bro. to Uncle John Booley of Carrollton - The Times of there living and place of living would indicate it. The chronology agrees.

"Link" Booley— evidently was my
 uncle Tom. Booley. I never knew he
 lived in Carrollton, Mo. but like-
 ly so. This may hitch on; After my
 mother's first husband died my
 mother drifted into Ray County the
 next county seat west of Carrollton
 — They both may drifted together
 from Mason Co. But here is anothe-
 er link. After my Mother's Booley
 husband died she married a Mr. Joel
 Smith of Richmond Ray Co., Mo. Thus
 my father found her the widow
 Smith. The Smith husband lived
 but a few months. His brother
 Payton Smith became my special
 friend in after years — my mother
 had been his sister-in-law. My
 father married my mother at Payton
 Smith's house.

Now, it may be this "Link" — Tom —
 Booley was in some way close
 akin to your Aaron and that for
 a time my uncle Tom B. and his
 son Aaron resided in Carrollton.
 The "Link" (Tom) Booley family whose

names Mr. Yeters gave you are my
 uncle Tom's children - Dave, Jeff, Pres.,
 Geo, and Aaron. You refresh me on
 this. The family lived in south of
 Ballas, Mo. I was never closely as-
 sociated with this family altho I
 knew uncle Tom and was at his
 house once just before the civil
 war. He was living with his 2nd wife
 then about five miles east of Bruns-
 wick, Mo. None of his children were
 living with him then. You or Aaron
 and my cousin Aaron ~~are~~ certainly
 are certainly closely allied. Since you
 awakened my memory on Tom. ("Jack")
 Booley's family much is looming
 up in my understanding. I knew
 of all these Tom Booley children - my
 cousins and have seen some of
 them, may be all of them when I
 was a child. This return of mem-
 ory of the Tom. Booley family will
 account for the discrepancy be-
 tween some of my statements a-
 bout Aaron and "Jack" Booley.

Yeters Graveyard. Yes, my grandmoth-

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er and grandfather Booley were bur-
red in the Teters cemetery. I knew some
of the Teters— children about my age—
little fellows, while I lived with
my grandmother, until her death, but
lost knowledge of them later. I do
not know that the Booley's married
into the Teter family— I expect they
did.

Miller Wisdom Booley and Elizabeth Hill.

I can easily and may be correctly
suppose that Elizabeth Hill was the dau-
ghter of Capt. Hill who kept Hill's
Landing on Mo. River before the civil
war and about five miles sou. E. of
Barrollton. He maintained a river
traffic landing and store. The mer-
chants of Barrollton and commu-
nity center in most of the county got
their supplies through Hill's Landing
I have been there when I was a
small boy. This Mr. Hill (I do not
recall his given name—we called
him Cap.) had a son named John
— as fine a specimen of humanity
as you ever see— tall, slender blond

as delicate as a girl and very intellectual. Just before the civil war began he married the beautiful Beana (Sabena) Robbins, sister to Will H. Robbins. John Hill joined the Union army in the beginning. He came home to see his young wife on a few days furlough. He was supposed he returned to the military post. But he was never heard of again. It was believed after the war he had been murdered in barroll Co. and hence had not returned to the post. My chum, Philip Atkins, married this young widow Hill after the war - she lived only about a year. I stood by her bed when she was dying - a most pathetic sight; beautiful and tender of heart to the last. I knew her from a child - she was my playmate in childhood. John Hill was the delight of all the country. I take that he was your kindred. Possibly I have covered all the points you raised, maybe I have not

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given you any light at all. You see I write from memory as I have but few records. But the data you have given me has been enlightening and comforting. I feel now I have just begun to dig into the booky Family ^{tree} ~~tree~~. I will be glad to hear from you soon, at your opportunity, and I will be pleased to give you any help I can — and I will be more than repaid.

You speak of my writing. I do it rapidly. I ~~use~~ ^{use} to write ~~as a~~ ^{as a} ~~matter~~ ^{matter} hand. Though I have training and long years experience and practice I am not a good orthogra-pher — when I am pulling ahead I pay but little attention to spelling. When I was a young fellow — just out of school — I was too particu-lar. If I received a letter with an "i" ~~was~~ undotted or a "t" uncrossed I was disgusted, but long since I quit that foolishness. I enjoy a good horse sense letter even if the spelling

is bad and the grammar outlandish. I ought to do better than I do - I had eighteen years at school and four years in special course afterwards; and I made practically all of my way with my own hands. I never drank whiskey nor used tobacco, nor dissipated otherwise. I attribute the nearly 84 years of fairly active life to the manner in which I have lived; and yet I am very defective.

While I am at this let me say a little more about my father's family. As I said, I think, in a former letter, my great, ^{great} grandfather Kiergan was born, lived and died in Dundee Scotland; my great grandfather Joseph K. married Emil Francis Marion's aunt; his son William K. was my grandfather. Elizabeth Edwards was my grandmother. She was a cousin to Abe Lincoln's mother, a daughter of Benjamin Edwards and a niece of Ninian Edwards who was three times governor of Ill. Chancellor of the supreme court of Ky. when he was twenty six years

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old, was minister to Mexico, a grad-
uate of Harvard. My great great grand
father Benjamin Edwards was a very
rich planter in Va. In later years
he wrote the constitution of Ky.
His brother John was U. S. senator
One of the ancestors was Jonathan
Edwards born Oct. 5, 1703, m. Sarah
Pierpont, "a woman of strong char-
acter." Of him John Fiske said: "Jona-
athan Edwards was one of the
wonders of the world, probably the
greatest intelligence that the Western
Hemisphere has yet seen." Hist. New
England and Canada. Allen's life
of Edwards says: "He was the greatest
preacher of his age." But alas, alas!
the tricks played on humanity.
Edwards daughter, ^{Esther} married Rev.
Aaron Burr a gifted and learned Pres.
of the College of New Jersey. Of this
family came Aaron Burr, Col. of
Revolutionary army, Vice-President
of U. S. 1801-1805 and who killed Ham-
ilton in duel. This foolish and wick-
ed deed ruined him and all his pros-
pects regardless of his ancestry and gifts.

Pardon me for this note personal, but you would have never known some of these "kin" of mine if I did not tell you.

To return to the booleys, I think I told you that my uncle Benj. Booley had but two children that I know of Dorothy being one of them. But just at the moment of writing that I did not call to mind Mike Booley. He was a Southern soldier of the civil war, died in prison (a mere boy) at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Mo. I was at his grave two years ago.

This letter is shamefully long but I could go on and on — the subject is near inexhaustible as you know.

I might as well fill this remaining space. I have an adopted son whose boy (Nova B. K.) is in the U. S. naval school and doing fine. I have one son ruined by the "flu" and in a hospital — educated; one son in Okla. University four years; two daughters graduates of Edmond State Teachers' College of Okla. and also graduates of Okla. U., A. B. degree. They are teachers. — Please write me soon and freely if you live through this long letter.
Your "Kin" Mike Kirgan.

214 North Linden,

Lawton, Okla.

July the 12th, 1932.

Dear Mrs. Tallant.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 6th and I greatly appreciate it. I receive very few letters so well written as yours. You so clearly state what you want to say. Then I don't have to translate crow tracks in indistinct pencil lines. I have thrown away such communications into the waste and then have a fight to defend my action. One time a young man wrote a short "piece," as he called it for my paper. I corrected it to make it creditable to him and the paper both. He gave me a hot round-up demanding of me to publish his articles "just as he wrote them." I fished his copy out of the waste republished it as he demanded and wrote a nice little note of apology.

94 for having changed a thing. I tell you he howled. I did not publish his howl - I spared him that much. But the episode worked wonders - he never wrote me or the paper another line and after that many who wrote something for the paper would say: "Please correct my piece?"

But what need I to write you all this? I meant to say I greatly appreciate your letters, not only for their correctness and expression but for the information they bring me.

You are a good digger in genealogy. I did not know the name of my mother's second husband was Joel. I suppose I had forgotten it for I had a chance to know as I was, after I was grown, well acquainted with his brother Payton Smith at whose house my father became the third husband of my mother

And I supposed (Joel) Smith and my mother obtained their license at Richmond, Ray County, Mo. I thank you for this history. All I had on my mother's marriages was tradition. I have in her Bible her birth and death dates in my father's handwriting.

This John Cooley was a brother (I think) of my James M.C.T. Cooley

Since you mention that Mahalla Cooley was the wife of Uncle John Cooley and the sister of Uncle Tom Hardwick some of my cloudiness has cleared up. I see why she is associated with him (Cooley) so closely and all of the time in church matters. But we did not call Tom Hardwick "uncle" because he was in the family but because he was old.

I have heard from Mrs. Benson of Wakenda Carroll Co. Mo. & enclose a clipping from Chillicothe and Carrollton papers which will interest you and which she kindly sent me.

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I knew most all the people referred to when I was a child. She writes me other data. She says:

Nathan G. Booley married Mary (Polly) Barry. This Nathan G. was evidently brother to "Uncle" John, and his wife Polly was a full aunt of Mrs. Benson who was Mary E. Barry my old baby playmate and now in the 83rd year. Mrs. Benson says her uncle Nathan G. Booley and aunt Polly had two children - Mahalla and Sarah. ^{John} The latter, ^{Sarah} died young and Mahalla married ^{Nearby Clay Stanley} Bob Stanley of Carrollton. I knew Bob Stanley when I was a small boy. Bob Stanley and Mahalla Booley had one child Blanch who married a Mr. McAdon or McAdow. Blanch is still living (at Carrollton I suppose) and is a widow. When asked the other day she could give no information about the old family. Blanch has a grown son and daughter married. I think we have run ashore her. The Stanleys were a leading house

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I have a little more on Mariah,
daughter of Uncle John Booley. She
and Will H. Robins had two chil-
dren - both died in infancy. The Rob-
ins' parted. Mariah married 2nd time
Henry Marshall - no children. She
married 3rd time Martin Webb - no
children. This Martin Webb was
brother of my sisters father-in-law.
So we run out here.

Mrs. Benson could give me no
line on Reuben or Milton Booley.
Putting the scraps together gives me
the impression that Uncle John,
Reuben and Milton Booley were
Brothers - They seem to run along
the same dates. It is easy that
Reuben could have lived in
Howard County and had busi-
ness relations with Booleys in
other counties.

I can give you no information
about Christopher Columbus Booley
and of Harrison Booley of Clay County,
Mo. But I have no doubt they were
cousins of my mother but through what

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parentage I cannot say. They were likely close akin to her first husband - - Booley. I judge this from the fact she went there (in the vicinity of Blay Bount), and that her 2nd, to Smith took place there and that my father found her there (in Ray^{ts} bo.) close by.

No. My uncle Tom. Booley was the son of John Booley and Elizabeth White, and I have had the impression he was the Link of that line. It is likely there was another "Link" in close relation who was really Timothy. I confess I am stumped here as you say.

All the Booleys I have ever known were short, compactly built.

Yes. My mother's first husband must have been David, or John, or Jesse. But the kink is too hard for me to untie. But I believe you will be able to dig it all out. Suppose you ask my cousin Jo. at Exels mo. to give you light on "Link"? It is possible that Thomas

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Jefferson was the full name of my uncle Tom but I never knew it if so. I hope the "Link" Booley of Beaver, Mo. can give you some light. I never knew him.

I doubt if I have given you any material light— will be glad if I have. My information is very defective concerning the Booley family. I loved them but was separated from them most of my life. Had I been with them more I, doubtless, would be able to unravle most all if it.

I will be pleased to give you any help I may be able to and will be pleased to hear of your progress. I hope you great success. I am not well these days and I feel the weight of 84 active years.

With great respect,

Your Kin.

Arthur Moor Kiergan.

214 North Linden.

Sapulpa, Okla.,
Sept. 22, 1932.

Dear Mrs. Fallant.

I thank you for your very interesting letter and the data of booley genealogy you sent me. They came to me about an hour ago.

I am improving but not well. You think being in bed a month, probably was good medicine for me—may be so but it was a bitter dose as hot as the weather was. It is cooler now and that helps me.

From what you write me you have pretty well dug your booley family line out of the hidden past. You are making good progress.

Now, let me go over my family line a little. In transcribing the record I sent you in my last letter I should have said my grandfather John booley was born

Oct. 8, 1793 and my Grandmother White was born July 26, 1796. If I wrote otherwise it was my mistake. This grandfather as I stated was murdered. He did run the sawworks at Burton at one time and may have been taken there for burial but I don't think so.

Grandmother (White) Booley was buried at the Mark Teter grave yard west of Jacksonville, Mo. as you say. And it is my information and belief that grandfather was buried there too. The Teter grave yard was called the Mark Teter graveyard because it was situated on the land of Mark Teter. I knew some of those Teter people when I was a child. It is not reasonable that dying in the north edge of Randolph Co. his body would be taken away from the home graveyard to Burton some forty miles away when none of the family lived at Burton and none of them were ever buried there, that I ever heard of. I don't think I have this mixed up at all.

As to my mother's ~~death~~ birth³
I must stand corrected since you
call my attention to the short
time between her birth and Uncle
Joseph's birth. I took my data from
my mother's Bible written in my
father's own hand which says
my mother was born Oct. 16, ~~1816~~. There
is no mistaking the figures in this
record though made about 1848
or 1849. How he ever came to make
that mistake I cannot under-
stand. So let it stand in your
data Oct 2, 1814.

No. My grandmother White Booley
was never married but she was
time to John Booley.

Elizabeth Ann Booley died, evi-
dently about my birth, 1848. I never
saw her but I knew Uncle Ben.
Booley, her husband. I was at
his house when I was about
sixteen years old, and I knew some
of their children. He did not marry
a second time.

My younger uncle was ten
years older than I. I toddled
around after him while I lived

at my grandmother's after my mother's death in 1851 - I was about always at his heels, on his side, or on his back. I think I told you that he and Duncy Kneeder, his wife, had one child - Marthy Jane. When she was 15 it fell to me to find a home for her which I did.

My cousin Joe. T. Bookey is certainly ~~wrong~~ ~~again~~ right - our grandmother must have died in the year 1853, for that year my father took me to live with him in Carroll County, Mo. and where I did live till I was 19 years old.

I can give no account of the Albert Bookey Mason, Mo. I do not know what kin he may be to me. Likely, though, he ~~is~~ ^{is} a son of my uncle Tom. He had children around my age. But you say this Albert was the son of Luther Bookey - that puts him in your direct line and knocks our close kin ship out again, and may be not. Isn't genealogy a dream?

I will be glad to know all

you find in your research. I intend to dig in to this matter of my grandfather's burial place, etc. I thank you for the beautiful cards. I did not get the card you sent when on your trip north. I'd have enjoyed the trip with you and company north. I have been to Salt Lake and north to Helena, Mont. etc, but not in Calif. and Oregon.

Will you write me soon? I greatly appreciate your letters. Yours away back yonder
 Cousin,

A. M. Kiergan.

P.S. I do not know positively the location of the Teeter graveyard where my grandmother was buried. But it is west by a little north of Jacksonvill, Mo. about eight miles I think. Close to the line between Mason and Randolph counties. I do not know which county it is in, but I think in Randolph County close to its north line. Yes, keep the date I sent you.

I must write another post script. This Scotch name Kirgou. You ask me to give the Scotch twist to the "r." I dont know that I can do it perfectly, but I'll try. The sound of the k and r are governed by the diphthong "ie." All four letters are pronounced together as one syllable by one impulse of the voice. Hence you hear in the one impulse the sound of the four letters, k-i-e-r. The suppressed or mingled sound of the diphthong gives the Scotch twist. Put the back part of your tongue against the back part of the palate and begin to sound the "k". The "e" will have the short sound as in "ermine" like "er". The "ou" has the short sound of "a." It is all Scotch. Now, as you say, maybe I've got this all tangled up.

I was never in Scotland. I have greatly desired to see the "High-land" and especially old Dundee where my great-grandfather, Michael Kirgou, was born, raised, lived and died. If you had spelled your name Latent I'd understand it, I am at sea. K.