



from ELLIS FREENY

14 Oct. 97

Don,

I found these letters
in my files.

The Peter Perkins Pitch-
lynn letter, written Jan 12,
1835 is a masterpiece.
I don't know who it was
written to.

If it is not a part of
your PPP Collection - it
should be -

I am working on a
tree book of my family, with
special emphasis on the -
Maytubbs & Pitchlyns -
My mother's maiden name
was, "Sophia Maytubby Pitchlyns"

Sincerely
Ellis Freeny



Oklahoma State University

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA, 74074
MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES 502
(405) 624-5678

October 25, 1978

Mr. Ellis P. Freeny
The Oklahoma Cattleman's Association
2500 Exchange Avenue
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73108

Dear Ellis:

I have been out of town for the last two weeks and am only now having an opportunity to catch up on my correspondence. I certainly appreciate the copy of the Bryan County Star containing the account of Indian Customs by Jennie Epperley. I found it to be a very interesting piece, especially because of her relationship to the Pitchlynns.

You will remember at the Westerner's I mentioned to you a copy of a Peter Pitchlynn letter supplied to me by Mr. Poland in Ft. Worth that corrected an error of mine in Peter's biography. Find attached a copy of that letter. Poland's address incidentally is Mr. Dan G. Poland, P. O. Box 2026, Ft. Worth, Texas 76101.

It will be a pleasure to talk with you again at the next meeting of the Westerner's.

Sincerely,

W. David Baird
Chairman

WDB/mlp

Enclosure

Dan G. Poland

INVESTMENTS

P. O. Box 2026 Fort Worth, Texas 76101

7/6/76

Mr. W. David Baird
c/o Department of History
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, Ark.

Dear Mr. Baird,

Being a direct descendant of Peter Pitchlynn's little sister, Kizzia, I read with great interest and enjoyment your book, Peter Pitchlynn, Chief of the Choctaws. However, I am afraid you may have secured for yourself many a future headache, as the book certainly establishes you as the foremost living authority and final arbiter of matters concerning Peter and his family.

My great-grandfather, Peter Pitchlynn's nephew, and my father were both amateur genealogists and have passed the disease along to me. It has always been accepted in our family, perhaps because of an ancient letter written by Peter Pitchlynn, that his mother, Sophia Folsom, was the daughter of Ebenezer Folsom. (I am enclosing a copy of the letter which you may have for your files if you like.) I note, however, that on page 6 you state that John Pitchlynn's first wife, Rhoda, was the only daughter of Ebenezer and that Sophia was the daughter of his brother, Nathaniel. Of the two footnotes to these statements, Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. VII, does credit Sophia to Nathaniel on page 364; but, H.B. Cushman's History of the Choctaw, Chickasaw and Natchez Indians says on page 333, "He married Sophia Folsom, the daughter and only child of Ebenezer Folsom", so even the sources cited seem to disagree.

It has always been my understanding that Nitka, Ebenezer's full-blood Choctaw wife, died after the birth of Sophia and that he then placed her in the care of her uncle, Nathaniel, and headed west to Arkansas Post, there to marry again and raise a large family, the descendants of which cover large portions of Arkansas and Louisiana today. If this were true, people who saw Sophia raised in the household of Nathaniel along with his other

two dozen half-breed children might naturally assume that she was his if they were not familiar with her personal heritage, and I wonder if this could not account for some of the references to her as Nathaniel's daughter.

I hope you realize that I am not trying to be argumentative, but have, I'm afraid, the failing of all genealogists of being hyper-meticulous concerning even the most minor and academic of details concerning our lineage.

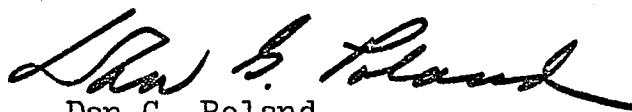
If you have seen any documents establishing Nathaniel as Sophia's father, I would very much like to get copies of them and would be happy to pay any reasonable amount for Xeroxs if you have them in your files, or if not, would appreciate greatly your telling me where they are located so that I might obtain copies. At any rate, I am enclosing a self addressed envelope and hope that I won't be asking too much of your time to give me your thoughts on this matter in light of the enclosed letter from Peter Pitchlynn. (Isure wish I knew who "Dear Sir" was.)

If I might impose a little further, I wonder if in your research you came across any additional information regarding John Pitchlynn's relationship with Gideon Lincecum's mother, aside from his mention of it in his autobiography?

And finally, you mention that Sophia, Peter's mother, eventually moved to Oklahoma and died there. Do you happen to know where she died and if she left a will?

Again, I enjoyed your book immensely. It was both informative and entertaining, no small feat for a book dealing with a lesser known but (of course I think) very deserving character in our history. And what a picture of the times...I didn't realize they were all such high-binders.

Sincerely,


Dan G. Poland

encl.

Jan. 12th. 1855.

62. A great while ago a white man by the name of Ebenzar Tolson, it is said, came into our Nation East of Mississippi and married a Choctaw woman, by her he had a daughter, who he named Sophia, he left her when an infant, but she grew up and married one John Mitchlynn a white man also, their first born was a boy and they named him Peter and it is him who is ^{now} writing you this letter.

When I was a little boy my mother use to tell me that my Grand father had gone to the west of the Great River Missis- sippi and that when I became a man I must go & see him, but one evening (I recollect the time well) a letter ca- to my father in which it was said my grand father was dead. My good mother wept, although she had never abhorra from her father any of those parental affections and cares which she probably merited - after this I never heard any more about my grand father until I grew up to manhood. I was then told all about him by my father who had been his companion in the woods, in war, in frolic & mischief, I was also told that I was just like him in principle & temper - wild, frolicsome & fond of women but yet strictly just & honest and very liberal and too good to his friends, in all these they to me I was up and down old Ebenzar.

My father died on the 2^d of last May. My mother is yet living but she is still in the old country - but calculates on moving over to this country next year and will settle probably near me - I am now thirty years old and have four pretty little children - I will give you their names - 1st Levinia, 2nd Malvina, 3rd Lycurgus and Leonidas. Two girls & two boys. I will now give you the names of my mother's children.

(3)

Probably your best chance would be to write on to my mother
to purchase them for you, but negroes are very high in Mississippi
from the last account I had from there. If you think proper to
write to her, you can direct your letters to Plymouth Mississippi
If there is chance of buying cattle & sheep cheap in your section
of the country I will probably purchase some.

Peter N. Pitchlynn

P.S. Please excuse the singular manner in which I have
introduced my self to you. Present my love to all my relations

Mr. Noah Wall sends his love to you & all his relations
in your section of the country.

P. N. Pitchlynn.

(2)
2) Those that are living - Mary, Rhoda, Thomas, Eliza, Elizabeth
Kiza - I have lost three brothers & one sister. Mary, Rhoda and
Eliza are married - The 1st to a part Choctaw like my self & the
two last mentioned to white men - Among them they have 8
children - My brother Thomas is also married, he married a
white lady, she has one child by her. Elizabeth Kiza are not
grown. My mother's children are all very white except my self & Rhoda
we show the Choctaw in our black eyes & hair. I am the only
one of our family who has moved to this country - all the rest
are in the old country - My mother would never speak English
yet she understood it well, but her children, she encouraged to learn
the English language & never allowed them to speak a word of
Choctaw. Consequently none but my self have learned the Choctaw
language perfectly - We have all been sent to school & have a smat-
tering knowledge of books &c. I guess I have said enough about
my self & people. I could tell you more but as you are a stranger
to me and probably may care but little to know about Indian
relations, I have thought it prudent to say no more on the subject
But this much however you will find in me and every one of my
family - an independent spirit but yet extremely kind and affec-
tionate to our friends & relations. We are proud of our Indian blood
and when any exceptions are taken to it our blood boils & a blush
is our glory - I once saw an uncle of mine, the only one I ever saw
who thought it worth his while to visit us - his name was Will's and

Gilcrease Museum
Peter Pitchlynn Papers
File 165 - 4026.3366
August 21, 1835

Plymouth Aug 21 1835

Dear Brother

Yours of the 14 & 21 July have come to hand; the contents carefully examined. I am truly sorry to hear of your indisposition. A man should at all times be careful of himself in guarding as much as possible against exposure, and more especially one who has the care of a rising family and whose all is himself, but I hope before this you are restor^d again to good health.

I am pleas^d with the flattering description which you paint of the health of your country & sincerely hope you may fully realize your most sanguine wishes in that respect, but I still fear when the country becomes settled for a time, and farms begin to open, that the causes for sickness and disease will be more prominent and cases of attack more frequent & fatal, for this is much disease in decaying vegetable matter.

I am verry much please^d with the idea you convey with respect to the liberality of your laws and in fact they are much more liberal and republican than I anticipated---but as the time for the arival of the male is near at hand I must devote the remainder of my present writing to family concerns.

[torn] am sorry to say that I cannot write anything that will be gratifying to you. In the first place health which we should all prize above all earthly treasury or amusement. Your mother is at this time verry sick confied to her bed with chills & continual fevers. She has been ill 8 or 10 days, but she has such an aversion to medicine that we could not prevail on her to take any until today. Doct' Jones came over & left some medicine for her which she took. I hope she will soon be better. My William is also verry [page 2] sick with chills & fever. The little fellow is a mere skeleton. The rest of the white family enjoy reasonable health. [torn] several of the negroes are & have been sick. It has been reasonably healthy about Plymouth this summer, have had some few cases of fever but confied entirely to new comers.

As regards your mothers business and the management of your fathers estate. I am at a loss what to say to you. You are no doubt in possession of the fact that Tho^s & Sam^l are the administrators to the will. But what they are doing or what they intend to do I am unable to say, for they have never mentioned to me the matter the first time. They have now the whole estate in their possession and have not (so far as I have been able to learn of their proceedings) yet taken an inventory to make the necessary record in court whereby the heirs might see what had b[torn] of the estate if anything should go wrong, which I am truly fearful will be the case. I sincerely hope it may [torn] be the ruin of them booth, for I am sure their knowledge of such

important transactions as the settlement of [torn] an estate is not sufficient
to keep them clear of the [torn] difficulties which lie in their way, without
advisors. And I fear the advisors which they have selected are such as
[torn]ful but very little or no interest for the [torn] like the good Book
describes Satan sucking daily whose substance they shall devour. So far as I
am able to adv[torn] and assist them I would do it with the utmost pleasure
but they keep a loof from me entirely. I am not consul[torn] in the matter.
And there are some who I have every reason to believe feel an interest in the
well fare of the family and in fact I have heard them express themselves
freque[torn] in such terms that I am perfectly satisfyd that they [torn] [page
3] [torn]arm friends to say the least (and may feel more than friendship
[torn] some members of the family for aught I know) who would be willing
and pleased to give them any advice or assistance in their power if applied
to.

I know you have given them good advice but if they will not be
goverened by it they must trust to the consequences. It [torn] my wish to lay
aside [torn] thing of a unpleasant nature and to act in concert for [torn]
general good and prosperity of the family, and to live as a band of Brothers
and members of the same earthly family, to meet upon a level and part upon
the square.

And may that Supreme Architect of the universe arm [torn] with the
Gavel of faith that we may batter down the wild [torn] of our hearts so we
may thereby become worthy [obliterated by seal] [torn] that house not made
with hands eternal in the heavens by squaring our actions with all men and
keeping our passions within due bounds. So we may live in peace with the
world, and have that peace which the world can [illegible] [torn] nor take
away and after our course is finish^d below [torn] down to our graves in peace
and be eternally sav^d with [torn] never ending salvation.

[torn] joins with me in our warmest respects to you and your family.

Truly Yours
C. H. Howell

[verso]
Plymouth Mi
Aug 22
Col. P. P. Pitchlynn
Eagletown C. N.
A. T.

Ellis Freeny
3023 Northwest 160th Street
Edmond, Oklahoma 73013
405-715-0374

24 Oct. 05

Dear Don,

The enclosed copies of two letters from
C. H. Howell to his Brother-in-Law P. P.
Pitchlyan in 1833 and 1835 may be
of interest to you - It could be that you
already drew them.

Amola acer ma is
Good luck to you in Choctaw -
and best regards -

Ellis Freeny

Gilcrease Museum
Peter Pitchlynn Papers
File 129 - 4026.3340
May 23, 1833

Mississippi
Loundes County

Plymouth Bay May 23, 1833

Dear Brother

I am happy in the information I received by your kind letter of Feby 19th and rejoice to think you like your country so well; But I am sorry to hear it get the character of a Sickly Country. I for my part, always, love to live in a healthy place; But it is possible that a few years residence, in that country may season you to the climate: so that Sickness, may not be so pravelent.

We are all in good health, in this part of the Country, and are in hopes so to continue. The Town of Plymouth, is improving, as fast as could be reasonably expected: There are a considerable number of Log and frame buildings, a carrying on in it. The Steam Boats, have visited us several times, this winter. We have one Store, and one grocery, in town, and a young man by the name of Carver, is teaching School. Betsy and Kiaaiah, are going to school, to him. I am in hopes, that you, and your family, are in good health. As for Mary, and Eliza, I hope to see them, in a short time, in this place: As Samuel Garland, intends coming back soon. Father, has moved part of his property into the Chickasas;

[page 2] and intends to settle himself, amongst them for some time, he still keeps part of his property at the old place, and Thomas generally stays there with it; But he intends removing it all, towards fall. Rhoda, and the Children are in good health. And Rhoda is desireous, to know if Old Granney is yet alive and in good health. She als complains that she has had no information from her Aunt Eliza and Edmonds Mother, Send by the first opportunity, an account of these; as well, as, all our Other friends.

I hope you will inform me in your next, whither Like Moses you have ascended to Pisga's top, to view all the kingdoms of the Earth, And to Look down on the Surrounding scene, with those sensations of rapturous pleasur, which always fills the mind of a true philosopher when he views the wonderous, and Beautiful works of an all Creating hand. Such a view of the Surrounding hemisphere, as might be obtained, from the top, of such mountains as you describe: must surely fill the mind, with the most Sublime meditations, and insenseably draw our Ideas, from Earth, to heaven, and cause us, at Least by the power of Immagination, to traverse the Celestial region, And with the velocity of thought pass from the Earth to the the Sun,

and from thence to Saturn, Then after Visiting that Belted knight, with his Satellites around him, Visit the

[page 3] frozen regions of Herschillim Sidus, Then mounting on the Back of a Comet, Ride triumphant through Boundless Systems of unknown worlds, Viewing their relative positions and magnitudes, the manners, customs, shapes, statures, &c of their Different inhabitants. Then after passing the Commeterial foci visit the Different worlds, on that part of its Orbit, untill you come into the vicinity of Venus, when you will undoubtedly be in the Spirit, of paying your adoration, at the beloved Shrine of that goddess. Before whome, all Animal existence, bow with the most profound adoration even the gods themselves, according to Antient Mythology bowed with humility before the Loving goddess. But why should the fly meet Death in a cup of honey; and man meet destruction in a round of pleasure. It is Because we are not formed for an eternal Duration here, but to seek a place of happiness which is prepared for those who Love and practise Mercy and Justice, But how to describe it, whither as a Christian heaven, or as a Turkish or Chockta heaven, would in me be presumption, Seeing every sect, nation, or age make a heaven of their own, They are only agreed in this, that there is a heaven of happiness. And so let us act here, that we may meet in happiness here after.

Calvin H. Howel

P.P.Pitchlynn

[verso]

Colonel P. P. Pitchlynn
Politeness of Sam Garland