

Carrington, Ga

Feb. 15, 1965

Dear Mrs Farmer;

I agree that the Hamrick-O'Neal mystery seems unfathomable - after all it has been some ninety years since all this took place -

I finished or rather laid aside your material several months ago - I was reluctant to send it, because I never like to deal with anything that might embarrass some one. But I knew that you would like to have something to go on so I sent your file on.

Perhaps old Mr James may be a bit confused. It may be that through the years he has associated himself with legend and fact - until he now feels he is a part of it.

However, at that same time I went to see Mrs Alex Jordan, age 94, who has spent his entire life at Sand Hill. His mind is exceedingly clear for a man his age - when I asked him if he remembered the O'Neals he said that he did and that he remembered there was some unpleasantness in the family - He did not elaborate and I did not press him.

So day I went back out to talk to him. He recalled to old J.M.H. disinherited the O'Neal children, one of the Smith boys married Mr Jordan's sister. But he said that he did not recall ever having discussed the matter with his brother-in-law. He did tell me this little incident - about J.M.H. During his last illness, he was very alert to all that happened around him. Just to the side of the house was a fine well from which the family used water. He had his bed moved into the kitchen for convenience. often he would stand those

attending him for using so much water - all food was prepared upon the fire place and when the cooking was finished he would make the put out the fire - Mr Jordan said that he had often told this for the amusement of others.

Mrs Couch, J.M.H.'s grand daughter, lives at Villa Rica, she told me that when she was a child that Kelley visited them but that was all she remembered. If she knew any more she did not divulge it - Her brother Claude lives in Florida but usually spends the summer months in Carrocton. When he is here we are together a lot - when I see him again, I will find out what he knows about it.

I have the files of the County papers in my possession. They were given me by the family that formerly owned it.

You will notice that the obituary makes no mention of Lee Roy O'Neal or the children by that name.

A grand son and a grand daughter live here but neither of them seem to be able to shed any light upon the subject. They say that the Smith children never knew anything about the O'Neal children after their mother died.

I am sorry that I have been unable to be of more help to you. The invitation still stands to "Join us", we are not "Odd Balls" in this generation.

As for the D.A.R. I'm sure that you would be eligible. My mother belongs so I have never tried to establish the Hamrick line.

I have the Record of Benjamin H. from the Georgia Roster. But I am sorry to say that this is not always acceptable to the D.A.R. Headquarters. I am sure though that I could complete it because he served from N.C.

Let me hear from you again sometime.

Yours truly  
J. (Bud) Hamrick

O'Neal - Broom

Inscription on Tombstone of William O'Neal - Macedonia  
Baptist Churchyard (Carroll Co., Ga)

William O'Neal

Born March 15, 1805

Died March 21, 1870

(These stones are of marble and  
are now very aged in appearance.)

Was a Consistent Member of Baptist Church

Ann O'Neal

Born June 14, 1806

Died Oct 21, 1905 (not age 99)

William O'Neal moved to Carroll Co., Ga from Green  
Co., Ga in 1854. He purchased Land Lot #96 in  
the 5<sup>th</sup> district, (Old Carroston or Sand Hill dist.)

from Samuel Johnson. Book # Page 383

From source material in my library, I would  
venture a guess that this couple were married in  
Warren or one of the older eastern Counties of the State.  
Marriage is not recorded in Green.

One John O'Neal purchased Lot #40 in 1<sup>st</sup> Dist  
Carroll Co., Apr 21, 1827 from Elijah Wallis. Both  
these men were residents of Warren Co., Ga. (No further  
mention)

Ann O'Neal (Name was probably Angela, a name  
often used in the Broom or Broome family). Was  
the sister of Leroy Broom, an early resident of this  
County. Evidently Leroy Broom moved to Carroll before  
he purchased land because his first deed states

Specifies that Fmer O'Neal daughter is to  
receive a Colt. (horse)

I contacted the former Astor at old dump place  
Methodist Church in Mr. Jones who is 88 years old and

Macedonia Cemetery-

It would be an enormous task to search marriage records for the several daughters as they are not cross indexed.

Marriage records of Sons

John J. O'Neal - Emily Harrison

Dec 3, 1857

Performed by David Stepping M.D.

Lawson O'Neal - Sarah Arnold

Oct 29, 1863

Performed by Henry Asbury J.P.

James S. O'Neal

Sarah M. Poole

Performed by James Bryce M.D.

Leroy O'Neal

Emaline Smith

July 27, 1867

Performed by J.B. Milican J.P.

Of course all of the old generation of the Broom family are now dead and the younger ones seem very indifferent to "family trees". I have found only one person who remembers Ann Broom O'Neal, even though she lived until 1905. I own the files of the news papers of that period but at the present time they are in Athens, Ga being micro-filmed by the State University. It is possible that an obituary was carried in these papers and when they are returned to me I will search them.

Leroy O'Neal - Menerva Emaline<sup>(?)</sup> Smith (Hamick)

Leroy O'Neal, son of William and Ann Broom O'Neal, never owned property in his own name in Carroll Co., Ga. As I should say there is none recorded in County records. His wife had some property from her fathers estate, but it went to children by a former marriage.

Sept 4th 1892 -  
Recorded Book A Page 19  
Ordinary's office

Caroline

people spoke of them as Uncle Leroy and aunt Emaline. She passed away first and was buried at Temperance Church. One day uncle Leroy visited her grave and while there beside her grave, he suffered a heart attack and died - I tended the cemetery until a few years ago and I always thought about them when I cleaned their graves. They had a son Tommie and a daughter Gilley - I do not know what became of Tommie but Gilley married a man by the name of James - He was a Nier-do-well and she had a hard life. I don't remember where they moved to when they left here. When I was first married they lived up on the hill not far from my little house. She had children by her first marriage and they cared for the old folks.

Mr James pointed out the graves to me. They are unmarked except for field stones at head and feet.

Menerva Emaline Hamrick Smith O'Neal

Emaline Hamrick was the daughter of James Madison Hamrick -

Children of James Madison Hamrick

Haunah B.	Married	1st Jim or James Wise
		2nd Beecher Smith
Bessie	"	Terrell Smith
Menerva Emaline	"	1st Elbert H. Smith
		2nd Leroy O'Neal
Ann J.	"	Thomas Gray
Susan	"	W. H. Pope
Martha	"	Nathaniel Strepling

Missouri

Jane

James Martin Hamrick "

Joseph Wise

Never married

1st. Mary Smith

2nd Mary Brosher

3rd Frances A. Isler

4th Nannie Barnes

Other son died in childhood.

Emaline Hamrick had three children by her first marriage-

William Elbert Smith. He has descendants still living in this country.

James Smith - died childless

Vienna married Joseph Eady. Descendants in Atlanta, Ga.

Many of J. M. Hamrick Sr. descendants are still in this section - Around Villa Rica. My wife is from Villa Rica and most everyone there thought for years that I belonged to that branch of the family. I admit

that we are all descended from old Hans George Hamerick, German emigrant, and that where ever you strike up with one you will receive a hearty welcome. So on behalf of the American Hamricks, I extend to you a most cordial invitation to "Join the Gang"

Radford Hamrick

## Obituary

Mrs Minerva E. Smith, relic of Elbert H. Smith, eldest daughter of James M. Samuels Sr., was born in Coweta County, Ga., December 3d, 1835; was married to Mr Smith, on the 7th of November, 1856, died with Rheumatism and dropsy at heart, at her residence near Sand Hill, on the 8th of April 1874.

Another one of earth's gems has ceased to sparkle, and shed its cheering and gentle light amid the scenes of life and home. Another pure spirit has been transported from the subterranean abode, into the bright and heavenly chambers of Eden.

To say that she died, would rather do her memory injustice, for she fell asleep in Jesus, a precious woman dying a precious death. Sister Smith was bereaved of her husband in time of our late war, while in defense of his Country's rights. Hence, we may perceive she with thousands of others, had many trials to endure. But being a woman of marked endowments, possessing a mind of much native vigor, she succeeded in rearing, and supporting herself and children in a manner creditable to all. It was not until 1865, under the ministration of the Rev. J. M. Muse, that she embraced Jesus, and united herself to the Baptist Church. She was a consistent member, ever ready to respond to the aid of the Gospel. For some several months before her departure she was in very bad health, gradually growing worse from week to week, until she became confined to her room, finally to her bed. The last few weeks of her illness was attended with much suffering; yet she was patient, willing to suffer as well as to do. All the while she was sick she talked a great deal about dying, and about heaven. She had no fear of death. True she wished to rear her children, but would often say she would commit them to the Lord's keeping. All physical aid possible, was administered by her physician, but all to no avail. Alas! she must bid



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All physical aid possible, was administered by her physician,  
Dr. J. S. W. Brown, but all to no avail, Alas! she must bid  
adieu to this unkindly world. She was conscious to within  
a few moments of her final dissolution, giving instructions as  
to the manner she wished to be interred &c., when the time  
(over)

fully came, she folded her hands across her breast, and gently  
fell asleep. She leaves several children, relatives, and a host  
of friends to mourn their irreparable loss. She was an obedient  
daughter, an affectionate sister, a loving wife, a kind mother,  
a generous neighbor, a consistent Baptist, and a devoted Christian.  
In her the Christian graces united, and shone forth in their  
splendor for about fourteen years before her departure. 'Tis natural  
to weep, 'tis human, but her loved ones left behind sorrow  
not as those having no hope. They saw that the grace that  
sustained her in health, made her patient and resigned during  
her long illness, and was exemplified in her peaceful, triumphant  
death. She is gone; she is at rest.

May the God of all graces bless her children, her aged parents,  
her only brother, her several sisters in this their sore affliction.

W. J. D.

Sand Hill, Ga. May 21st '74

The above taken from the May 29<sup>th</sup> 1874 issue of the  
Carroll County Times—

J. B. Hamrick

(Mr. Jordan thinks that the W. J. D. was a Mr. Dixon.)