

2

modest Book almost finished. Hope to finish it soon. Should be out getting a whole pack of lawyers but hate publicity, don't really like to get out of the house much and peoples re-actions can be rather weird anyhow.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK...WILL WRITE A VERY CHEERFUL LETTER SOON AND CATCH YOU UP ON SOME OF THE MORE CURRENT NEWS....like, Jeannie, my daughter, just bought her wedding dress...Jerri Lynn came down and got me out of jail...the children seem to think there is no way they can possibly do anything to me for what happened...self defense...but a money fight is what they may be under rating....I really don't see how they could possibly have the nerve to deny the things he did anyhow...

Miss. Ala. State Fair tomorrow for my two children. I promised to take them and really must no matter how I feel. I hate me when I don't feel my best and don't want my negative slump to rub off on you....by the way, I never found an easy way to do an Index for a Book which is what I was working on day before yesterday....I hate an INDEX... It's not fun....I always loved research and finding new things much better that stuffy old writing anyhow....

Oh, you had a lovely birthday...I got small things from the children and cards but my Birthday present from Edward and Grace Key (he wrote the two Key Books) <sup>Family</sup> was \$10.00 and I put \$43.00 or rather \$42. and some odd cents with it and bought a beautiful set ..candlesticks and centerpiece ~~on~~ <sup>bowl</sup> on marble, cut glass crystal with tear-drops around the base that matched the candlesticks..brassplated and with a royal crest and crown design..very elaborate scroll work but delicate.... it's an older set I found and loved atthe Antique shop but not quite antique.....it goes with my antique glass collection and the family glass antique pieces...actually, I was in jail you see on my birthday..the 26th...my husband died in the Hospital on the 25th so, I was late in celebrating... A belated happy birthday to you, dear Robert Earl and may you have the happiest day of your life, each and every day of the year. Glad you have a lovely girl to make your life even happier....write again later, couldn't wait to send my love dear Cousin, Always, Mary

Dear Robert Earl,

You'll never know how proud of you I was when I received the "Turnage Family History" and the "Turnage Photo Album".

Congratulations, darling!!!

Well done!! You made it!

I came home from town shopping and that was the sweetest thing I've ever seen in mail. Keep up the good work!!

you'll hear from me again  
in a few weeks. Everything  
takes money these days.

I paid for the "Turnage  
Photo Album" but not the  
"Turnage Family History" so  
am enclosing \$20<sup>00</sup> to  
pay for the "Family History"  
and whatever you choose  
to do with the other \$10<sup>00</sup>  
is up to you. I wish you'd  
buy yourself a sack of  
hamburgers or at today's

prices, a couple!!!

Just to say we love  
you and appreciate you -

My Love,

Mary Luther Ward Campbell  
P.S. The Bank knows of the change of address:  
P.S.S.

Robert Earl -

Due to the growth  
in this area the U.S.  
Post office has changed  
our address - ~~We~~ HAVE

Not Moved - they assigned  
us the following address:

Route 9, Box 21  
Meridian, Miss. 39305

Loving you - Keep up the good  
work - Mary

6 MAR. 1986

1-

Dear Robert Earl,

My type writer ribbon is about gone. Really enjoying your 2 Turnage Book publications.

Did anyone tell you that Robert Ray Turnage, son of Rudolph Turnage and Jennie Vee (MN) Drby Turnage of Meridian, Miss. was killed in an accident? He was on his motorcycle and died very soon afterwards, here in Meridian. He was buried on March 1st and I believe he died the day before. I know he was buried that day for sure. I had been in the bed with the flu for almost 10 days but watched the funeral procession pass the house. Rudolph buried his son at his home, not at Meehan Cemetery. Stephens over

Funeral Home handled the services. I thought you'd like that for your records if no one had given you that information.

When my daughter, Jean Panette and her husband, Bennett Joseph (Ben) Dubson left Guilford after he got out of the Navy, they returned to Middletown, New York where his family is. They are buying a home near his parents. They were married Dec. 8, 1960 but I'm sure you have that date. Jean recovered from her complete hysterectomy finally but still yearns for children. They will try to adopt later. She's working again as a legal secretary. Just a little family news, some pictures and hoping if you have a minute, you'll write. Take care of yourself,  
 Always my love, Mavis

Hello-o-o Cousin,

Will answer your welcome letter that came in today and extend congratulations on the new books and photo albums. Proud of your dedication and success, dear Robert Earl. Looking forward to receiving my copies of your first Turnage book and the Turnage Photo Album. I've only paid for those two but will want a copy of all the others later, you know. Just great to hear from you.

Glad you wrote when you did. My 11 year old daughter and I are moving out to Dallas, Texas for awhile in March and will drop you a letter from there so as not to lose contact. Always thrills me to hear from you. I have two daughters, one married and one single; a 19 year old son, Joey Allard stationed in the Nave there; an Aunt (Rene Ward) and my friends and cousins, Edward and Grace Key Sr., he wrote the two "Key Family Books", you remember. All in Texas.

Saw Rudolph Turnage and his wife and family the other day. He is not looking well and she is in a wheel chair, totally helpless now. Both in their 70's I believe. Since they have always been active in all re-unions, you have probably met them at one time or another. Hear Ma Mattie Turnage is doing well, about 93 this summer I think. Received a letter and invitation both Thanksgiving and Xmas from her daughter, Billie Rachle Caudill, Chunky, Miss. but we stayed quietly at home. Had children and families home on and about Thanksgiving and just my 11 year old, Jo-Ella and I for XMas. My oldest daughter, Jerri Lynn (MN) Daniel Borgman re-married after being divorced 2 years (for your family records) to Russ Brown. He was with the F. B. I. for 10 years (her first husband was also with the F. B. I. if you remember) and also in banking accounting. They are setting up their own business in private assistance accounting in one of their properties near their ranch. They seem very happy together. Their son, my grand-son, Robert Borgman, is really growing. Time flies so rapidly. All other children are fine. My son, (eldest) and his wife have a new baby boy, named Jason and I'm over-joyed. My second daughter and her husband, Bennett Dubson returned to Middletown, New York near the home of his parents and just bought a new home there. She's still working as a legal secretary and loves it.

As for myself, I've been sitting at home pinching pennies for the up-coming move to Dallas and little else so cannot share with you any personal happy news as you shared your success with me in your letter. Even though you are forever busy and happy that way, remember I love you and share the Turnage and Woodham families pride in you and your accomplishments. Keep up the good work and stay happy!

As Ever,  
Mary Campbell

To a very sweet Cousin,

Dear Robert Earl,

Hello dear one!! Would love to hear from you - even a note. It's been so long. Really enjoyed the current "Turnage Family Tribune". One of your nicest. Our family is so fortunate to have you and your dedication to family history. Apologies for not writing sooner but for awhile my nerves were rather shot and I've been something of a hermit. Better now. Stay busy - my youngest son Jay is in the Navy now, leaving only my 11 year old daughter Jo-Ella at home out of my 7 children, all repairs - this house is so old & the acre of yards - cutting, abundance of flowers and hedges all fall to me now. House so big seems with some sewing of clothes and such I stay busy but find some leisure for reading and watching color T.V. Couldn't resist a large color T.V. though temporarily it shrinks the budget. Always



think of you most frequently during black berry season - your favorite and black berry cobbler are just around the corner. Will do battle with the red-bugs - HA!

Sending \$10.00 on my sadly overdue membership fee. I'd you'll check your records though you'll find that quite some time ago I paid for my copy of the "Turnage Photo Album" but have not paid for my copy of "The Turnage Family History". I'll want that too later even though I do not anticipate attending this year's annual re-union. Perhaps in 1986. Will mail you a small donation for the copying machine in June. I have always admired your efforts tremendously. So happy that you're still "hanging in there", Robert Earl. Keep up the good work. Please do not take offense if I make a

suggestion. How well I know  
it does take money to do  
what you are accomplishing.  
I worked in research for  
awhile. The family coat of  
arms for the Turnages was  
pictured in the newsletter  
put out by "Turnage Family  
America". Though I do not  
correspond with them, they  
always mail me a copy.  
Wouldn't it be a great fund  
raiser if you offered copies  
(even if only on paper) and  
detailed explanation of arms.  
I'd love to have that and  
bet many others would too.

Soon another sultry  
Southern summer. "Cold beer,  
pickled pig feet, cheese and  
crackers" Blackberry cobbler,  
watermelon that's cold & juicy.  
Barbecues at twilight!

Hoping to hear from you -  
my affection and Love Always,  
Mary Ward Campbell  
Rt. 5 Box 11B  
Meridian, Miss. 39301

Are you  
taking good  
care of  
yourself?  
Hope  
so!

21 Dec. 1982

Dear Robert Earl,

Thinking of you and hoping you have wonderful holidays and a very happy XMas. Miss hearing from you and wonder often exactly what you are doing.

I've been staying quietly at home and gluing me back together. All of the pieces left fit fairly well but some few seem missing. Never answer the door any more. Even the children must have a secret pass-word... or almost anyhow. Feels good to just relax and stay home and not see anyone at all. Someday, I'll feel inclined to re-join the human race I hope. Did get out and enjoy a little research a couple of weeks ago. Putting the finishing touches on my second book, then for a brief addendum (addendum) and through.

Bet you have been working and up to your ears in research and recording. Take time to eat properly and squeeze the girls....well-l-l, relaxation is good for you and you need proper nourishment.

About a month ago, DeeDea Turnage Mitchell and family all came in to MaMattie's and we all got together. She gave me Mrs. Staley's address and I got their Newspaper. Wanted to see if it was anything like yours and what they had to say pretaining to the family. The Newsletter is similiar to yours and enjoyed MaMattie's picture in there and those of DeeDea, Billie Rachel, Martha, their families; and other kin I knew who attended the last re-union.

Feels peaceful here since the Grand Jury returned the "No True Bill" and dropped the Murder charges against me. The family of my deceased husband is fighting for his money though, and I'll be relieved when that too is in the past, then I can totally relax. Hate dissention, violence, publicity, and haggling, not to mention publicity. Wish I were there to give you a hand with that typing! Do write when you have time. Again, Happy Holidays to a very special person...

Missing you...

Mary Luther

1/

Oct, 1982

Dear Robert Earl,

Rather under the weather with some sort of horrid virus but could not wait another day to at least drop a note and say hello and IT WAS WONDERFUL HEARING FROM YOU..SUCH A LOVELY long letter and I'm so happy for you to hear you have been doing so well and having such wonderful success in your work and research....know the old money pinch though. Many things in genealogy can be done with no or very little money but with a little money most of it can be done so-o-much faster...like spending two minutes instead of 45 in hand copying documents and \$1.00 or less to machine copy them. I do hope you get the money for those much needed machines. Howard and Cece?? Never met or heard from them except thru MaMattie and them...had too many personal problems. Wouldn't live with my husband for the last couple of years and his idea of a rippin good time was to come out, park the car in the woods, hold me at gun point and the children for hours, kidnap my baby, break my jaw, also extensive but good dental work that took weeks...when he caught me asleep, I was sick in bed with radiation side effects, and hand-cuffed me to the bed for hours, the noose he put around my neck was tight; the whip marks on my back took 3 weeks to heal...the authorities took X-rays and pictures that time...the double bladed axe he stood over me with still lives forever in slow motion in my dreams.. always lifting toward me over and over...all the other things he did to me for over 5 hours weren't very nice you can bet. I could go on and on but why bother....self defense but heres the clincher....\$50,000.00 estate involved..Will made out years ago before pot and alcohol got his mind...to me. HOWEVER, his lawyer won't even discuss the affair (Will)...said on phone that he would do everything he could to get me convicted...if convicted, he said that legally I would not get one penny. So-o-, it's a money fight actually not really important that I did everything legally and in every other way to avoid what happened....his distant kin here have his lawyer and really if you want me to be honest, I'm too sick to actually give a ----. God knows what they will come up with for that kind of money....YES, I still work in Genealogy when I can...2nd

Meridian, Miss.  
March of 1982

Dear Robert Earl,

I'm tired but want to get this on off to you so forgive mistakes. Haven't heard from you in ages. Hope this finds you well and in the best of spirits.

I'm doing as well as the Doctor's think possibly under the existing circumstances and the children are fine. My older children have been coming home frequently lately. I have three married and settled and 2 daughters grown and working besides the 2 at home with me.

All of my children loved the work I did in Genealogy. That's the main reason I enjoyed working and writing their family histories of ALL family lines for each of them. They do share another of my hobbies though...very avidly...that's the family treasures, heirlooms, ANTIQUES. I have many antiques of many kinds, glassware, furniture, Books, and many other things though not a lot of any one thing...some of a lot of different kinds of things. The family picture collection goes to my eldest daughter (she's the one out in Texas who has worked for the F.B.I. for several years)..she gets all of the older Albums. I didn't have a great number of pictures on the Turnage family line (making those I did have and do have even dearer) and sent you some of those older ones. Also lent you some of the more recent ones which by the way, I don't have copies of the older or newer ones that I lent to you. Luckily, I thought to keep a list of all of the pictures we sent to you. Jerri Lynn wasn't too happy when I let you borrow those. However, I assured her that you weren't trying to rob the Turnage families and relations of their few older treasured pictures but were trying to preserve them for the future. At any rate we both thought you'd publish by last June as you said you intended doing at that time and that you would return all pictures shortly afterwards. It's been almost a year and I do have to have those pictures I lent to you back now. I'm heart-broken for you that you could not get enough backing to publish as I know it meant so much to you and it would have meant a lot to me and many other family members also. If you'd like, you can make copies of the pictures I lent to you before you send them back to me. Some were awfully dim though but I didn't know if you could use them or not. If you don't want copies, just return them. As to the \$30.00 I mailed in last year for the "Tribune", the "Turnage Booklet", and the "Turnage Photo Album", you are welcome to keep the money. I did receive one "Turnage Newsletter" during the last year since I paid my membership fees last May. It's a very treasured one and worth every penny of the \$10.00 to me! I always loved your work. Maybe even that very small amount will in some little way help with what you are doing or what you did do. Are you still working in Genealogy???

I really must have the pictures back though. Jerri Lynn considers them and the Albums a part of her inheritance. We don't have many Turnage pictures anyhow. The last of this letter may help explain why the decision that I must have them now.

2

A little news..haven't seen much of MaMattie and family lately...been since XMas holidays. However, DeeDea phoned a few days ago; she was in for the School Spring holidays. She invited us down to MaMattie's for dinner; also invited us to go up to West Point, Miss. to visit with Cousin Willie and Wesley Turnage and their families. Had to turn both invitations down though. Really didn't feel up to it. Good days come and go. These Radiation side effects last for several years afterwards and sometimes for a life-time; thats after the actual treatments. Have felt more like myself the past few weeks but still not moving any amountains.

Cousin Rudolph Turnage and his wife (Rudolph is the son of Elisha (Elijah) Arthur Turnage Sr.) moved into their new home a couple of miles from me...they moved in from Ala. where they have lived for the past several years and stopped for a visit. Really enjoyed seeing them..they are both dears.

Talked to Sue Skelton Compton briefly the other night. She is doing fine and family.

So-o I spend my spare time labeling Antiques here at home and older pieces, writing down their histories for the children, etc. It is an endless ~~task~~ (too tired to correct) task, it seems. Of course I have small collections of everything from perfune bottles; some old needlework, lovely old glass; old marble pieces; (even an authentic collection of "Indian" artifacts); old shoe horns. I collect everything and I do mean everything. We have some few pieces from Great GrandMother Susan Turnages estate, some pieces (variety) from Grandmother Mary Ida Turnages estate (you see the pictures go along with the other things actually), of course my Mothers estate. My present husband bought in some nice pieces from his Mothers and also his Uncles estate (though his Mother is alive, shes literally a living vegetable) and his Uncle is deceased. He let me keep those even though we are seperated...besides Antiques and Genealogy bore him literally to tears. This old place is very large and old and I don't believe I'll finish sorting and noting things for the next 4 months. The children have already taken many things with them. However, I am also re-finishing some Antiques and near-Antiques and did you know that is a very tedious ART??? There was a wee bit of restoration work required on some few things. It's hard sortin out the JUNK from the interesting, the near-Antique, and the true Antique. Haven't even started on the Books. In Books, anything prior to the earlisst 1920's you know is Antique or old...value depending on kind of Book you know...have quite a few over 100 years old..a few of them the most desirable kind. Of Course I collect Antique Snuff Bottles too, don't ever doubt it. Have some lovely furniture bought during the World War ll also. Furniture, alas, must be 100 (some few pieces acceptable at 90 yrs.) years old to "Antique". Have some family pieces in the Antique group. Glass-ware must be only 50 years old and Silver is another story...good general rule of thumb.

Don't wantto bore you but have done little new in Genealogy in some time...so-o just sharing what I have been doing. Since you owe me three letters, I wonder often why you so quietly dropped out of our "Correspondence" but

3'

rather supposed it was because you were so busy with your work OR you'd totally despaired and GIVEN UP your work. Have missed you. Wishing you the very best of everything always. If you have a few minutes, drop me a line when you return the pictures. Even if you still intend to publish at a future date, I'd rather you return the pictures now. That will make that daughter of mine most happy...she's a lovely but very firm minded young woman. And I will feel much better to have them to go along with the other family items to pass on to the children...all of that was only mine to love and enjoy for this generation; to care for and to give to my children.

I'm exhausted. Have to take the children (my youngest two) into the Dr. tomorrow. Then home...also expecting two of my daughters in next month and many things I would like to have done before they get here...we spend hours going thru things these days when they come in.

I have the most charming "near-Antique" ironing board (Wood of course, with wooden legs) that I want to re-finish and of course I have the Old Flat-Iron also. One of the many things that will be "Antique" within the childrens lifetime that aren't quite Antique now.

Hoping to hear from you,  
Mary.

*I want to work some more in these  
"General Home" records later - will send  
on anything to you (as always) that  
you'd find interesting -  
thing to bed while I can still find it -  
My Love as always -*

30 JAN. 1982

Hello-o-o-o-o Cousin Robert Earl,

Have missed hearing from you? Whatcha been doin?? When are the new Books due out. The last letter I got from you was full of too many disasters, dear one. You must forgive me but I've had my share of ups and downs goin' on here. Viruses for the children, ice storms, (I'm fine though...just my nerves are kinda fragile at this point).

Haven't done any research in weeks but hope to soon. Didn't have long in Jackson at the Archives and worked in the Civil War. Copied all of the Turnages who fought in the Civil War.

Other than Carmel Turnage, my Great Great Grandfather from Leake County, Miss., there were two other Turnage men who enlisted in Leake County, Miss. One was Elisha Turnage (probably the son of Elisha Sr. and brother to Carmel) and the other who enlisted from Leake County, Miss. was B. Turnage. WHO was B. Turnage, do you know??? Also, do you know if that Elisha (above) was Carmel's brother...he did have a brother named Elisha Jr. for sure. Wish you would help me there if you could.

How are things with you at present? Did you get all of the finances straightened out? I asked Billie Rachle for a copy of Howards Newsletter but she said she did not have one. Don't see them very often but then winter keeps us all rather close. Are you feeling well? You never did answer my last letter but then I took it for granted that you were "Tail over Tea-Kettle" (as the old saying goes) trying to get everything straightened out. Well-l-l good luck anyhow, I think very few of us truly ever catch up or get straightened out in this World and rather wonder at times if the next World will be as hectic!

DO WRITE...I MISS YOU...even though I know you are so very busy with so many things. May this tiny missile find you happy, content, and well.

My Love,  
Mary Luther.



I

Meridian, Miss.  
October, 1981

Dear Robert Earl,

I've been going thru all of the cards and letters I received while in the Hospital and right after I got out. Really enjoyed re-reading yours. Some of my mail went from the Hospital to my daughter in Long Beach, Miss. & she held some of my mail until she came to visit recently.

I always liked your letters and even more so the past couple of months. Don't stop writing just because I'm well!!

I finally got around to "family history", a few days ago and find it as tantalizing as always and as challenging. However, since I did nothing but research since very early spring until the last week of July (when I went to the first Hospital) I find a mountain (small but quite a respectable small mountain) of notes; Census reports; Alder Directories listings; Alder State Tax lists; some sheets, pages & pages of alder cars; etc - Civil War records not even worked up with data & recorded properly; AND NOTHING IN PROPER ORDER or written up properly in the several Manuscripts I've done. It will take me a couple of months at least to put everything in order on the several family branches and in the several "Manuscripts". I love this type of work and am "happily" back to eagerly looking forward to "getting everything

in order THEN I can go back to research.

My daughter, Julie Ida, has me off 10 copies of some of the Manuscripts (includes several branches of the family tree - both Maternal and paternal), which I had combined into a rather crude Book (quite a thick one) and I must index that or rather all 10 of those, finish the charts, etc. I have 7 children - a copy for each of them - my "working" copy and will have 2 copies left over. I newer material I researched this past spring and summer will go into a second (#2) book when completed. I have 2 extra copies of Book #1 to complete along with mine & the childrens 8. I'll never publish but we sure do have some lovely & complete private records and that expense I could afford.

I kept a carbon copy of all of the data I sent to you earlier and as of work if (and I know there are other "turnage" items & a few Woodham) I find anything I have not sent to you, then will mail you a copy.

Hope this finds you very happy and content, Robert Earl and very very busy with your work. May you always have and receive more new material than you can keep "worked up" - I know this makes you happy! You have always been very dear and very special to me as a person. So write to me when you find a few minutes. Missing your letters. Feeling great & hope you are too!!!

My Love, Mary Lether. - turn over -

just wrote to Lillie Lackle (Turnage-Caddie) and hope to see her in a few days - we usually write fairly often since I don't have a phone.

Oh yes - tried to phone you while I was in the Hospital just to chat & glad you did get your phone in. He, but that cuts down on your working time though - will all be callin' you! A telephone is a wonderful "aid" for research though, huh?

Have to stick something in the electric oven for supper - quiet here now but the children will be in from school soon. Also have that huge "antique" (it has the old fashioned tall claw-feet too) bath-tub ready to crawl into. Will write more later.

Thinking of you often -  
M

24 July, 1985

Dear Robert Earl,

A quick note to send love and affection and the promise of a longer letter in the near future. This has been and is a memorable summer.

House guests and guests and company comin' and cousins and family and children coming and ~~have~~ loved it but seems of have time for little else so am just relaxing and enjoying it while it lasts. Enjoyed your letter so very very much and was so happy to hear from you and that you are reasonably well though still neglecting yourself shamefully as always for the love of your work in family history. Please take care of yourself and forgive the short letter this once I simply had to say — — —  
"Thinking of you often, keep up the brilliant work but please take care of yourself!" My love & best always, Mary Campbell