

Buracker & Boraker

Family History Research Newsletters

Number 20

February 1983

Letter from William Boraker Dated 14 January 1884

THE following letter was written to **Amos Thompson DeWitt**. He is an ancestor of Mrs. Ruth Henry of Collinsville, Texas who kindly sent this typewritten copy:

Crawfordsville, Ind.
Montgomery County,
Jan. 14, 1884

Dear Nephew:

I received your kind letter and was glad to hear of it. If ever I meet you I will be your father. I would like to have all your pictures and your father's and mother's if you have them.

Amos, I will have to see your **Uncle Daniel** and your **Uncle Abram Karshbarger** and I will see them some time after this.

My eldest boy is married and has two children. His name is **Isaiah**. My oldest girl, **Martha Jane**, is married and has got two children. **Elizabeth** is married and has got two children. **Martin Van Buren Boraker** is single. He works the graded roads and he gets 55 dollars a month. He

was a bookkeeper. **Thomas Jefferson Boraker** got charge of the County jail. He has had it for four years.

Amos, if I ever get able I would like to come and see you all and stay about three months with you hunting and fishing.

Prices: wheat 85 cents, corn 55 cents, pork 6 dollars, butter 5 cents, eggs 25 cents, chickens 2.50 per dozen, good horses is worth from 125 to 175. Fat cattle is worth 4 cents a pound on foot.

I have not seen your **Uncle Daniel** or your **Uncle Abe** since I got your letter, but will see them soon. I will have to write to you. I want you to tell me all about your hunting and fishing and what you are doing, farming or trading in stock?

Your **Uncle Ely Mount** lives in **Atica** 25 miles from here. They are all well. Tell the girls to write to me.

It has been 25 below here this winter. Amos, when nice weather comes I will send you all their likenesses.

My love to you all. Nothing more.
Write soon and do not forget.

-- **William Boraker**

My comments: Both **William and Daniel Boraker** were the sons of **Henry and Mary Ann Brooker. Amos Thomas DeWitt** is William's "nephew" since he is the son of William's sister **Sarah Ann Boraker** who married **Charles DeWitt**. Both William and Daniel would be uncles to Amos, hence: "your Uncle Daniel."

"**Uncle Abram Harshbarger**" was the husband of Lydia, a sister of William, Daniel and Sarah. Why isn't "aunt **Lydia** mentioned? Because she died on 17 March 1861, 23 years before this letter was written.

William says his eldest son was Isaiah. **William and Lucinda's** six children were: Isaiah, Mary A., Sarah, Martin V., Thomas J. and Martha Jane. Isaiah was born about 1849 and married **Sarah E. Rolt** who was born about 1853. William says Isaiah had two children. They were both girls. The first was named Matie M., born around 1878. I don't know the name of the second girl, but she was born on the 7 March 1882.

"Elizabeth has two children." Was William referring to his sister or aunt? Both were called Elizabeth.

"**Martin Van Buren Boraker** is single." That statement clarified a discrepancy in dates for me. One record said he was married to **Margaret E. Randdell** on 1 Jan. 1877 and another said 1 Jan. 1887 – an obvious error, but which one was correct? If Martin was single in 1884 – when William wrote his letter – then 1887 is the correct date for his marriage. That would tie in with the birth dates of his two children, the first being born on 1 Jan. 1888 (Mary L.).

In reference to the letter from **Daniel and Nancy Brooker/Boraker**, dated 13 February 1878 (see Newsletter No. 19), Mrs. Ruth Henry wrote the following comments:

"As to **Billy Monroe**, I think that he was a brother of Solomon Monroe and a son of Moses Munro. Solomon was the grandfather of Charles H. DeWitt who married Sarah Ann Boraker.

"I suppose that **Aunt Sally Harshbarger** was the mother of Abram. I do not know of any relationship of **John Blankenship** to the family."

VIRGINIA: Gradual progress in our research is still being made. In the Virginia Rent Rolls for Frederick County, we searched for **Michael Porocker**. He was not on the list for 1759. The next list is for 1764 where "**Porucker, Michl**" is listed with 350 acres. He again appears on the lists for Dunmore County as follows:

1774 Michael Porrocker – 200 acres,	
value 5 shillings	
1775 Poroker, Michl. – 200 acres,	
value 5 shillings	
1776 Poroker, Michl.	- - - - -
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It is certain that Michael was in Frederick-Dunmore County as early as 1755, because his name appears as "**Michael Porough**" with other Page County (formerly Shenandoah County) names as a delinquent in the militia of Capt. William Bethel's company. The record is in Frederick County Deed Book 18, page 13.

OHIO: The tombstones inscriptions for Champaign County are not being published. Many of the **BUOKER** line are listed. Additional gaps will now be filled with this information.