

LAIRD ARCHER

Fayetteville, Ark.  
July 29, '56

Dear Mr. Relander:

The enclosed copy of a letter to Mrs. R. B. Williams of Richmond, asking her to bring your letter of July 1 to the attention of the DAR ladies who once entertained me under the pleasant illusion that I was a descendant of the General who left their organization his fine old home--not far from Archer Hill site of a battle in which his forces had been successful--is self explanatory. I hope that it will produce some results that may help you on your search.

You have my hearty sympathy in your battle to get a book published in this day of TV diversionary interest and high cost of publications, in which effort I also have some experience.

Sorry that I am not able to accept the honor of being connected in any way, so far as I know, with the General you have in mind.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,

Laird Archer



LAIRD ARCHER

Fayetteville, Arkansas  
July 28, 1956Mrs. R. B. Williams  
1824 Hanover Avenue  
Richmond, Va.

Dear Friend:

As long as ten years ago, perhaps, when I was back in this country from Greece on a speaking tour, you took me to a D.A.R. appointment not far from Richmond in between our college engagements, where to my surprise the D.A.R. ladies welcomed me as a possible descendant of General Archer who had bequeathed for the perpetual use of that organization his fine old home and where our meeting that day was held. Could it have been the General of that name about whom the enclosed letter from Editor-Historian Click Relander inquires from Yakima, Wash.? At any rate, would you mind referring the letter to those ladies if you still have some contact with them—with my compliments and good memories of their hospitality—asking them kindly to write Mr. Relander whether his General is the same as theirs or not?

I'm sorry to say that I can trace no connection with my own family, the paternal side of which all came from New England—although I have ample Southern connections on my mother's side.

Having been drafted as an "idle" retiree to head Red Cross disaster services in this county, I have been rushing around on a disaster preparedness survey of some forty-six towns and communities, hence have neglected Mr. Relander's letter.

I continue to hear now and then from Mr. Crowther in the New York office, recently with the good news of Mr. Miller's recovery and return to full time duty but with the unhappy news of the closing of the Richmond office after all these years. I also hear, of course, from Greece where at the moment my good friends, Editor Mark Ethridge of the Louisville Courier-Journal and writer-wife, Willie Snow, are touring the islands on the yacht of candymaker Flocca with three other American couples and a former member of my staff as the guiding spirit and with the experience of such hospitality and friendliness that it belies entirely all the tourist fears of untoward incidents arising from feeling over our failure to oppose British policy on the Cyprus question<sup>and</sup> resulting in many hotel reservation cancellations in Athens. I have urged the Ethridges to make their experience known in publicity. Somewhat weary of dealing with Middle East crises in speaking tours over the Southwest, I did six lectures this spring to University groups here on the excavations of the ancient Agora with great enjoyment—and as a result have an invitation to attend the dedication in September of the Rockefeller-American School million-dollar restoration of the ancient Stoa of Attalos in Athens. Perhaps if I can sell a book we can go; manuscripts on two are with possible publishers—a novel of Russia and Greece and a post-war diary and sequel to my little "Balkan Journal" of 1944.

Now that you have some leisure from the NEF activity, perhaps you can persuade your husband to make a vacation trip west and let us welcome you on my wife's ancestral hill here above the University of Arkansas. With all best wishes to you both, Sincerely