

Government service as officials for the Department of Direct Taxation (Land and Income).

My mother, who though seventy-five, is in remarkably good health and as active as most women twenty years younger, is the centre of our circle and God grant she may long remain so. She comes of an old family, amongst the more recent members of which was her Uncle Jonathan Birch, who while tutor to the sons of Frederick William of Prussia, was also treated by that monarch as a distinguished and privileged friend. His son, Charles B. Birch, A.R.N., not long deceased in England, was a sculptor of some eminence.

The male line of the Birch's has died out from my great-grandfather, but the female side is very extensive and includes Eunice Birch, my mother's aunt, who married Samuel Bagster, the publisher of Paternoster Row, London. She lived to within twenty-three hours of one hundred years.

I am very much interested in the history of the Clan of Irving, which you say Colonel Beaufin is publishing and hope that if possible I may have the privilege of receiving a copy. It is certainly singular that the two branches should be engaged simultaneously on so similar work though I fear that my notes must lack much through absence from the centres where most was done.

It is very kind of you to make enquiries about Millenium Hall for me. I suppose you know the origin of the name? My great-grandfather when he purchased it expressed the hope that it would remain in the family till the Millenium. Alas for the failure of human hopes!

I notice a considerable connection between the Irvings and South Carolina, and it is singular that I have other relations there also. My grandfather Gibbes married a Miss Saffery and another sister of hers married Reverend Josiah Ohear, of Winsboro, South Carolina, where some of the family still reside.

In regard to yourself, I know that your father was Hon. Jacob Æmilius Irving, but who was your grandfather? Was he also Jacob Æmilius? There must have been a splendid confusion of names at that time for you mention a John Beaufain as your father's younger brother and one of the same name existed in the previous generation while Paulus and Æmilius must have been far too frequent amongst the family to make identification easy. I would like, if not too much trouble to know your descent from James Irving the Elder and the names of your own family. Had you brothers and sisters? I notice your eldest son's first name is from his mother's family, but how is it pronounced?