

MEMO from conversation 1/29/84 with Rev. Harold Blankenship, missionary to North Africa, who spoke this date at Azalea Baptist Church, St. Pete.

He is staying in the Mission Home of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church during his furlough from the mission field. Phone no: 345-1109.

Harold Blankenship said that before her marriage his mother's name was Sams. She told him that her father's name was V. W. Sams, and her grandfather was Benjamin Josiah Sams, who had four sons: Jake, Bill, Jim, and John.

Harold Blankenship had no information about the parents or siblings of Benjamin Josiah Sams, but I wondered if he is not the "Uncle Ben" my grandfather, Riley A. Sams, said was one of the brothers of his father Abram A. Sams, along with another "Uncle Bill" (William). If this connection is correct, it takes our knowledge of the family history back, not another generation, but to other brothers of my great grandfather, and establishes a connection with the C. Oscar Sams, who was a former president of Mars Hill College and Carson-Newman College. C. Oscar Sams was the son of Jake Sams, who was the oldest son of Benjamin Josiah Sams, who was possibly the brother of my great grandfather, Abram A. Sams. Many members of this original family came from the Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee area, where there is a "Sams Gap" on the map where some of them lived.

H.S.