Dear Ruth Anne:

You talked about Uncle Bill whipping up on his kids.  This corporal punishment was well known in the family back to Cornelius Holliman, your 4-great grandpa.  The story has been passed that his brother, Warren, pulled up roots in Newtonville, AL, about 1841 and moved to Arkansas because Cornelius was so mean to his kids.  If you have read my biographical sketch on John Thomas, "Unbearable Endurance", you will note that he came out of the Civil War in "post-traumatic shock"  (old "shell shock")  and he never got over it.    I've talked to many who knew him.  All report that he was a grim, overbearing parent, and Martha Jane was just like him!   I expect that Bill and the other 5 sons were frequently and unjustly abused and this behavior carried over into their married lives.   My grandpa (James Monroe) was always stern and cold.  He didn't know how to warm up to you.  I loved him nevertheless.  Silas was the same way.  Leland was the kindest of all and Bishop's dad, Ulyss, was very quiet, detached and hard to get to know.   A strange bunch!!!!

I have never found a reference to John Thomas that would support a Christian ethic for him.   I guess that he went to church but I have never seen or read evidence.   I have all the letters that he wrote to James Monroe after grandpa (James Monroe Holliman) moved to Birmingham (about 1921).   I know that John Thomas died in poverty (1930: Great Depression) and Martha Jane in 1931.  During the Depression, grandpa and other brothers plus my dad (Cecil R. Holliman) sent him money.   Times were awful tight then.  All of John Thomas' letters ask for a handout.  Martha Jane's was always begging too.   John Thomas was denied a Civil War pension because he surrendered from the trenches at Petersburg on 15 Feb. 1865.   Otherwise, he would have frozen to death.   This was held against him for the remainder of his life!   My biographical sketch tells it all.

As to MS, I don't have any info that would associate it with Holliman genetics.  I know virtually nothing about Sarah E. Corbett's family background.  If you have any info on the Corbetts, I sure would like to hear.  I have found Corbett grave stones in Mt. Vernon Cemetery just northwest of Fayette.  That's all I know of Corbetts.

What are you doing to treat your MS symptoms ?  I'm very sorry to hear that you have trouble.

I've got more pics for you but I am exhausted tonight.  Spent the day working in my outbuilding, cooking, laundry and clean up.   Have to take Phyllis Anne back to her doc in Roanoke (70 miles) on Wednesday.   First post-op checkup.  She is doing remarkably well and is walking some without her "walker"!

Your brother in Christ,   Doc

(Rhodes B. Holliman, ca 2000)