**y orphan girls' educations**

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| **Susan White** |

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 Hello to both,

This past spring, as I was gathering information about William Henry Holleman, Denise suggested I write about his three daughters' educations.  William was wealthy (confirmed by his itemized estate) and the two guardians made payment for clothes, education, room and board that suggest the value they put even on a girl's education.  Rent from William's land and the hiring out of his slaves provided more money.  Sally, Mary Agnes, and Margaret Amanda went to school in Smithfield at the Oak Grove Academy, and Mary Agnes was sent to Philadelphia for a term when she was 15.  I've unearthed a bit about the teachers they had at each place.

Joel Holleman, the first guardian, and then Joseph Pretlow, the second, turned over the girls' final estate balances to their husbands.  By 1845, each girl had married and settled nearby.

In 1857, William Peters, grandfather of above Sally, finally sold a slave, Jacob, whose wages for hire had provided money earmarked for his own children's education. Sally and her husband Josiah Faison, received 1/13 of the proceeds.  Peters' daughter, Jackey Peters Holleman, was Sally's mother.  I have the record of the sale with the list of the recipients.

As we know, the land in this region had worn out in the years leading up to the Civil War, and the aftermath of the war tore apart the already exhausted economy.  But as I look back to this series of events, I see that I stand on the shoulders of educated women.  Jackey and Sally, her daughter, were given schooling that even in their time was a luxury. I have a letter a friend wrote to Sally's daughter Elizabeth(Mama Bet in our family lore) and in it she mentions how glad she is that Elizabeth's girls are studing piano. Mama Bet's daughter, my great grandmother Betty Florence Heath, sent all 5 of her children to school, and her only daughter graduated from college.  My grandmother, from Sampson County, NC, was a school teacher and I can remember her studying college correspondance courses.  My mom, a child of the depression, went to college for 2 years, and always drilled into my that I would go to college (which I did!).

In writing to you, I guess I'm putting this all together in my mind.  I just wanted to share with you the gift my foremothers gave me.  I could sit down and write an essay, I guess, but I have to sort it all out first.  But I know that despite the history of backwaters and worn out land of Isle of Wight, Southampton and Sussex counties in my life, I own the value of an educated woman!

