

grandfather (David) lived among his children.  
Merrett says he faintly remembers Rachel and  
"Hode" Long visiting his grandfather when he  
was real small. But we know nothing about  
them other than that.

The "Harold" I underlined with red is the  
one you wrote to at Greenfield.

Mrs. Laura Eggman (past 80) is the only one  
left of the family of David and Thankful Caviness.  
She lives at 305 S. Walnut, Creston, Iowa. I  
don't know whether or not she could give you  
any information.

Ah-yes! David and John came to Adair  
County from Fairfield at an early day. We  
understand there are several bearing that  
name in the Fairfield community yet.

Surely hope this will help a little in your  
quest for information regarding your ancestors.

Yours truly,

Mrs. M. D. Caviness  
(J. M. Caviness)

Orient, Iowa



3119 Vilura Pkwy.  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310  
April 18, 1965

Dear Mrs. Caviness,

I enjoyed your letter very much and much appreciate receiving the genealogical information. Since writing the letter to Harold, I have been checking through the Iowa census records and had discovered Alfred and Kirby and was wondering what the relationship was. With your information I have been able to deduce that the mother of Alfred and Kirby's wives was living with Alfred in 1860--her name being Rachel Osburn and was 70 at that time (if Alfred gave the census taker the correct information). She was also born in North C. Also since writing your son, my mother put me in contact with a Mrs. Leigh C. Anderson, 1120 Lincoln Ave., Ann Arbor, Mich., a descendant of Alfred who apparently has a lot of information which includes all the material gathered up by a Dr. Leon Caviness--also a descendant of Alfred and now deceased. You may be acquainted with these people as that may be the original source of your information. I received a lengthy letter from her a few days after receiving yours. She says her plans include assembling the information she has in three-hole folder form and then leaving it to each line of the family to add to it as much as they wished to do. She is interested in getting additional information on the Iowa members of the Caviness family and checking the accuracy of the data that she has on the Kirby part. I intend to write her and tell her that I will attempt to provide her with this information but will have depend people like yourself to obtain it.

on

My father and mother have retired on their farm south of Mount Ayr and will be celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary April 25. Their names are Mark and Ilah Elliott and she is a granddaughter of Rachel. I think I overheard some member of the family say that their was to be a picture of them in the Creston paper which you probably take. We have three sons--10, 14, & 15 years of age. I have worked for the Soil Conservation Service for several years and have been the watershed planning engineer for the State the past two years.

I must close. Thanks again for the information!

Sincerely,

*Loren S. Elliott*  
Loren S. Elliott



*Harold Caviness*

3119 Vilura Pky.  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310  
March 31, 1965

Dear Mr. Caviness,

I have undertaken tracing some of my family genealogy and quite interested in finding out more about the Caviness branch. My great grandmother Rachel Melinda Caviness (wife of Hosea Long) was the daughter of Kirby and Esther Caviness. I have a minimum amount of information. According to the information I have, Kirby and Esther were born in North Carolina, at least he was a descendant of the French Huguenots, resided awhile in Plainfield, Ind., as Rachel was born there in 1840, and moved to Jefferson County, Iowa, about 1850. Also that Rachel had a sister--a Mrs. A. J. Smith of Ames, and a brother--J. S. that resided in Greenfield.

I am wondering if you are a descendant of J. S. and, if you are, if you could provide me with additional biographical information on your family or put me in contact with any other member of your family that is interested and may have recorded some of the Caviness genealogy. It would be helpful to me if I could find out when Kirby and Esther died (within 5 or 10 years) and where they were buried.

I will very much appreciate any information that you can provide and be glad to exchange any information that I dig up elsewhere if you are interested.

Sincerely,

*Loren S. Elliott*  
Loren S. Elliott