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Dear Martha,

We missed you at Sarepta Homecoming this year, and as I am sure you have heard, it was another good one: nice crowd, good program but a little bad weather. Robbie Ray gave me the family information form that you requested, and I have filled out and enclosed it herewith. I now have Daddy's files but am not sure what all you have gotten in the way of copies of some of the information contained therein from Bob. I would be more than happy to share the information. Of course, you might have already gotten what you need through Bob. But I would be very interested in some of the information that you have gathered. I understand you are going to place it in the library once it is finished, which I think is a wonderful idea. I also appreciate the work you are putting into it. As I say, I am much interested in your research and am wondering if you are primarily concentrating on family or if your work would include some of the history of Sarepta. My Grandmother Young, who was born and raised in the Reid/Poplar Springs Community is currently researching history of that area of the county. And though she is not familiar with the Sarepta area, she on occasion runs across a reference to it here and there. She knows of my interest in the history of Sarepta and passes this information on to me. Like I said, I do not know exactly what direction your research is going in, but any of the Sarepta history that you obtain, I would very much appreciate a copy of and would be more than willing to share what I have with you. She did mention that a history of the Chickasaw families is currently being undertaken, and as you probably know, Calhoun County was at one time part of Chickasaw County. I am not positive that Sarepta was included (it could have been in Pontotoc) but if Sarepta was a community at that time, I am almost sure it would have been a part of the Chickasaw County of old. She had suggested that the Yancy family might want to reserve a spot in that book. Anyway, I just wanted to mention it to you. I hope to have more information about it later.

About the actual name 'Sarepta', I have always been curious to its origins, which I figured was probably Biblical. (This also might be something you know about.) But anyway, with a little help, I located a reference to it in the New Testament, the Book of Luke, Chapter 4, verse 26. This was the first reference to it with the spelling that we now know of. However, a history of the town, located in the City of Sidon, can be traced back through the Old Testament with the spelling of Zarephath. When the Bible was translated into Greek, the spelling of Sarepta as we know it was probably adopted according to its pronunciation. But I find it curious. I travel through most counties in the state doing courthouse work for oil companies, and usually get fairly familiar with the small communities of whatever area I am in. And in all my experience, I have never seen another Sarepta. Most counties all have a Antioch or a Mt. Zion, etc. . . but it could be we are the only Sarepta in the state. I wonder how the naming of the town came about. I understand that it is the oldest town in the county. I would appreciate you keeping me posted on your research. Until then, I remain

Sincerely,
T. W. Yancy