

Rhodes

B7 Oyster Shell Road
Savannah, Ga. 31410
August 17, 1992

Dear Cousin Robert and Cora,

I am back again a bit sooner than I expected. There are a few new items that I think you might be interested in and I need your help on something.

I went to the Ladson Library in Vidalia this past Thursday and Friday. I found a few items of interest. Copies are enclosed. I spoke to Jack Ladson on the telephone. He sends his regards to both of you.

I was able to examine the microfilm of the 1870 census of Jefferson County, Florida. I was looking for Aunt Emma Rhodes. To my delight and surprise I found her living in Monticello, Florida, with Aunt Virginia and nieces Laura and Julia. So Aunt Virginia also went to Florida but apparently moved back to Charleston later. She is listed as head of household at 31 years and keeping house. Laura is 8, attending school and listed as born in S. C. Julia is 6 and is listed as born in Florida I think though the writing was hard to read. Emma is listed as 27 years old and teaching school. This is the first that I have found in the census on Aunt Virginia.

Another mystery has been solved (or become more of a mystery). Enclosed is a paper from the Court of Equity Records of Barnwell District. It names the children of Nathaniel and Susan Hagood Rhodes. As you can see one of them is named Julius. This leaves one wondering who the Harriet was that was listed in the 1850 census.

In these same equity records I found a document showing that Gideon Hagood's will was contested by James McPherson. His wife, Elvira Ann Hagood, you may remember was excluded from the will because she was of independent circumstances. It seems that all of Harriet Yonge's children were entitled to a part of the estate by a premarital agreement. It appears Grandfather Hagood was a rather poor man who married a well to do woman. What is of special interest to me is that this is the first documentary proof that I have found of the marriage of Nathaniel H. Rhodes and Susan Julia Hagood.

I have enclosed a page from a book, Allendale on the Savannah by Alexandria Easterling Lawton and Minnie Reeves Wilson. This is a very good book but what interests me about this page is that it says that there is a portrait of my great great great grandmother Harriet P. Yonge Hagood in the possession of the Iverson Brooks Lawton family. There

is also a portrait of my great great great Aunt Elvira Ann Hagood McPherson Estes in the possession of Mrs. Don Sharpe. I would like to contact the owners of these portraits and arrange a visit to view them. I am not sure how to contact them. I suppose I should call Mrs. Sharpe in Allendale. You have mentioned her to me once before. Do you personally know her and the Iverson Brooks Lawton family? Perhaps you could send them a letter of introduction for me. If you think I should just call Mrs. Sharpe, I will. I will follow your advice on this.

I received the material needed to join the Magna Charta Barons. There were no documents of proof included so I assume that my membership in the Society of First Families of South Carolina through Edmund Bohun has served as proof. I have sent the papers and a check already. I copied some material in Vidalia that I will need to join the SAR and I will complete that application very soon. There was one book there on S. C. patriots that includes Thomas Cater and says that his daughter married Thomas Rhodes.

I will soon start my search for our Rhodes ancestors in England. There was a lengthy, mostly handwritten, booklet in Vidalia describing a search for a Rhodes family. It seems that Jack Ladson's mother was a Rhodes. This booklet mentions John, Dr. Nathaniel H. Rhodes and our Thomas Rhodes. It speculates that they are of Swiss German origin from upper S. C. By the way, I donated a copy of our history book to the Ladson Library.

I will stop for now. Please advise soon concerning Mrs. Sharpe and the Lawton family.

Faithfully,



