

GEORGIA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

STATESBORO, GEORGIA

Department of History

402 Catherine Ave  
Statesboro, GA 30458  
17 May 1989

Rev. Dr. Robert E.H. Peeples  
8 Moon Shell Road  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Dear Robert:

We apparently have a problem here. Neither Frank nor I have any remembrance of the copy of The Peacemaking General and our initial search was hampered, of course, by our not knowing exactly what we were looking for. Was it inside the book or separately inside the wrapper of the book? Was it one sheet or several? Was it flat or folded? If we cannot find it here, is there some way that we can secure another copy for you? We are very sorry if we have been at fault and will correct our error if at all possible.

The Brisbane diaries came in last week on microfilm and I have been trying to glean every mention of the Robert family. One of my questions to you is answered. On June 10, 1850 WHB wrote: "Heard that the Roberts had arrived in Lebanon....." A week later his entry was: "Mr. Jehu Robert & his wife & W.H. Robert & Furman Robert have come to see us & spend tonight with us. It is quite a treat to have some of our kinsfolk with us...." We should have found Jehu Robert's will in the Beaufort Court House but it was terribly crowded and difficult to work methodically. I thank you for its details. I have found nothing to indicate that Joseph T. Robert owned either land or slaves in South Carolina and, with your help and the WHB diaries, have eliminated the attribution to Robert about selling his slaves, buying them back, and later emancipating them. That was Brisbane who did that and, in the process, he became a poor man.

In general, the diaries indicate that there was much visiting back and forth between the Robert family and the Brisbane family in Ohio and in Philadelphia and that various members of the Lawton family stayed at the Brisbanes as they traveled in the Cincinnati and Philadelphia areas.

You may schedule "A Botanical Rivalry: Stephen Elliott, William Baldwin, and Louis and John Eatton LeConte." for 2 November 1990 but you must remember that Betty and I will be 72 years old by then and the infirmities of age may interfere. I shall do it if I can. Hopefully I will have the manuscript of Elliott's biography finished by then.

My lawn needs mowing and there are multiple gardening tasks waiting but I must get through this microfilm before we have to return it. Probably I have most of the Robert references since the Robert family are in Portsmouth, Ohio by 1851. WHB attempted to visit them early in 1852 at Dr. Robert's invitation. I start today with the entry for Jan. 1, 1854. By the late 1850s the Robert family will be in Iowa and the frequent visits will cease. These people amaze me at their capacity to travel by steamboat, railroad, and horse.

Sincerely yours,

*George*