

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 30, 1993

To: Lucille Dickinson  
Tom Lawton  
Robert Peeples ✓

From: Gerry Church ✍

Re: Presentation from the Bibliography Committee to the  
Lawton and Allied Families in June

President James Lawton has asked us to make presentation of our second edition a major part of the program at the reunion this year. As I understand it, we will not have a guest speaker. Rather, we will have a presentation from the Bibliography Committee and a presentation about our Lawton Family Foundation.

Accordingly, please give me your comments and criticisms about the following ideas for a presentation.

- (1) Hand out copies of our new bibliography (printed on Mulberry colored paper in honor of Mulberry Grove Plantation).
- (2) Read through the bibliography (not each item because it is too long for that) giving folks a chance to comment on items listed. Probably Robert Peeples and Tom Lawton would do most of the commenting since they know the most about the subject.
- (3) Call attention to page 9 where we list Theodore DeHon Mathews, Old Toney And His Master. Comment on the life of Mathews and his relationship to the family. All I know is what appears in the Dougherty County history and that he was a brother-in-law to Jane's great, great grandfather Alexander Benjamin Lawton. What else?
- (4) Hand out photocopies of the first 8 pages of Old Toney. Explain it is not fiction. Rather it is a history of the extended family. Notice that Mathews left Dougherty County and returned to South Carolina in the year 1854. His tale is of the years 1824-1827 but he says in his Preface that he has changed the dates. Assert that he simply subtracted 30 years from his current time so the dates 1824-1827 are really 1854-1857 because those are the dates when he returned to Lawtonville and needed something to do so he wrote a book about his family. Would that make sense?
- (5) Read through the material in the Table Of Contents giving everyone present a chance to attempt to find parallels between the descriptions in the Table and what we know about the real people in the extended family at the time. I'm sending you copies in advance so you can be thinking about that. For example, he writes about the Williston family. Is that the Willingham family? In Book II, Chapter III, he starts writing

about Rev. Alfred Orton, the abolitionist, and his connection to Massachusetts. Is that Dr. William Henry Brisbane, the abolitionist, and his connection to Wisconsin? Brisbane was well known to Mathews because they were brothers-in-law. Mathews might know something of Boston, Massachusetts, because he was named for Bishop Theodore DeHon who came to Charleston from Boston. Probably there are other interesting parallels I can not see because I don't know all that much about it. Others who know more could see more.

(6) Make the point that one of the good things the Bibliography Committee could do for the family would be to arrange publication of certain materials that are important to our history but are not available in print. Old Toney would be one. There are others, and we should mention some of them. In order to do such publishing we need money to pay the cost, so that is one project we might be able to start if people would give to our family foundation that Tom is going to talk about.

(7) Would that be the end of our presentation? Anything else?

Please let me know what you think about this idea. It seems interesting to me but it may seem dull to someone else. Since time is getting short perhaps you would be good enough to phone me if you wish to suggest something for me to work on.

Thanks

cc: James Lawton