

B7 OYSTER SHELL ROAD  
SAVANNAH, GA. 31410  
DECEMBER 22, 1989

DEAR DR. PEEPLES,

VACATION IS OVER AND I AM BACK TO WORK AT MY WORD PROCESSOR. BELIEVE ME YOU WOULD NOT WANT TO READ THIS IN MY POOR HANDWRITING.

I HAVE ABOUT COMPLETED ALL THAT I CAN ON THE APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN FIRST FAMILIES OF SOUTH CAROLINA. UNFORTUNATELY I USED ONE OF THE FORMS TO WRITE IT ALL IN INSTEAD OF THE WORKSHEET PROVIDED. I NEED ANOTHER FORM, PREFERABLY TWO SINCE THE BLANK ONE THAT I HAVE HAS BECOME A BIT WRINKLED FROM LONG STORAGE. SHOULD I WRITE TO THE HEADQUARTERS IN CHARLESTON FOR THIS? PLEASE ADVISE.

I HOPE THAT WHAT I HAVE WILL BE ENOUGH TO SATISFY THE GENEALOGIST. IF NOT I WILL HAVE TO SHORE IT UP WHERE IT IS WEAKEST. I PLAN TO USE MY BIRTH CERTIFICATE TO SHOW MY CONNECTION TO MY FATHER. I WILL USE THE SMITH FAMILY HISTORY TO CONNECT MY FATHER TO MY GRANDFATHER. I WILL USE THE RHODES FAMILY BIBLE TO CONNECT MY GRANDFATHER TO MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER. I WILL USE MY GRANDFATHER'S LETTER TO CONNECT MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER TO MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER NATHANIEL HENRY RHODES. I WILL USE THE BOOK OUR FAMILY CIRCLE TO CONNECT NATHANIEL HENRY RHODES TO THOMAS AND MARY CATER RHODES. FROM THERE BACK I WILL USE THE MATERIAL YOU TOLD ME TO USE FROM THE SCHM. DO I NEED COPIES FROM THE SCHM OR CAN I JUST LIST THE ISSUE AND PAGE NUMBER ON THE FORM? DO I NEED TO COPY THE MATERIAL FROM OUR FAMILY CIRCLE OR CAN I JUST LIST THE PAGE NUMBER? PLEASE LET ME KNOW ABOUT THIS.

I HAVE FOUND OUT SOME MORE ABOUT THE FAMILY OF NATHANIEL HENRY RHODES AND JANE ISABELLE GRACEN. NOTE THAT THE SPELLING IS GRACEN AND NOT GRAYSON AS IN MY GRANDFATHER'S LETTER. I GOT A LETTER LAST SUMMER FROM A MRS. I. VANCE (MARJORIE SKINNER) SCOTT IN NEWINGTON, GEORGIA, ABOUT THE RHODES FAMILY ARTICLE THAT I WROTE FOR THE HISTORY OF SCREVEN COUNTY. IT TURNS OUT THAT NATHANIEL HENRY RHODES WAS HER GREAT-GRANDFATHER. HERE IS THE INFORMATION THAT I HAVE SO FAR.

\* NATHANIEL HENRY RHODES WAS BORN IN SOUTH CAROLINA ON APRIL 12, 1834, AND DIED IN GEORGIA ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1918. ISABELLE GRACEN RHODES WAS BORN IN SOUTH CAROLINA ON MARCH 29, 1838, AND DIED IN GEORGIA ON MAY 20, 1908. THEY ARE BURIED IN THE LITTLE HORSE CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY IN SCREVEN COUNTY, GEORGIA. ALSO BURIED IN THE PLOT IS "INFANT SON OF NATHANIEL HENRY AND ISABELLE GRACEN RHODES, 1872." HERE IS WHAT I KNOW ABOUT THEIR OTHER CHILDREN.

1. SARAH JULIA "SALLIE" RHODES FRIES BORN JANUARY 11, 1859, AND DIED AUGUST 18, 1944. HER HUSBAND JOHN G. FRIES WAS BORN ON JUNE 22, 1859, AND DIED ON APRIL 5, 1927. THEY ARE BURIED IN THE ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH CEMETERY AT BAY BRANCH IN SCREVEN COUNTY, GEORGIA, WITH THEIR PICTURES ON THEIR HEADSTONES.

2. ANN RHODES--I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND NO INFORMATION ON ANN RHODES.
3. EMMELINE (EMMA) RHODES CLEMENT WAS BORN ON JULY 12, 1865, AND DIED ON MAY 28, 1908. HER HUSBAND, JOHN LAWRENCE CLEMENT, WAS BORN ON AUGUST 31, 1862, AND DIED ON JANUARY 31, 1899. THEY ARE BURIED BESIDE HER MOTHER AND FATHER IN THE LITTLE HORSE CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY IN SCREVEN COUNTY, GEORGIA. ALSO BURIED IN THE PLOT WERE THEIR INFANT CHILDREN, A SON IN 1891 AND A DAUGHTER IN 1893.
4. VIRGINIA ISABELLE (BELLE) COHEN BORN ON MARCH 12, 1868, AND DIED ON SEPTEMBER 19, 1941. SHE WAS MARRIED TO A MISTER COHEN. THIS WAS THE GRANDMOTHER OF MARJORIE SCOTT IN NEWINGTON. SHE TELLS ME THAT MR. COHEN IS BURIED ALONGSIDE HER GRANDMOTHER AT THE BAY BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH IN SCREVEN COUNTY, GEORGIA. I DO NOT REMEMBER THAT FROM MY VISIT TO THE CEMETERY. I WILL CHECK AGAIN. SHE SAYS THAT MR. COHEN, THOUGH JEWISH BY BIRTH, WAS RAISED IN THE METHODIST CHURCH.
5. ROBERT H. RHODES WAS BORN IN OCTOBER, ~~1870~~, ACCORDING TO THE 1900 CENSUS OF SCREVEN COUNTY. I WILL ADD SOME MORE ON THE CENSUS LATER IN THIS LETTER. IT IS PROBABLE THAT HIS SON, NATHANIEL HENRY RHODES, IS THE ONE THAT YOU HAVE AN OBITUARY FOR FROM THE NEWSPAPER. THE AGE WOULD BE ABOUT RIGHT.
6. SAMUEL E. RHODES BORN JANUARY 11, 1873. I DO NOT KNOW THE DATE OF HIS DEATH BUT HE IS BURIED IN THE HILLCREST ABBEY MEMORIAL PARK IN SAVANNAH. THIS ACCORDING TO THE OBITUARY THAT YOU HAVE. I DO KNOW THAT HIS SON TRUMAN RHODES IS THE FATHER OF ESTHER RHODES JOHANSEN, THE WIFE OF THOR JOHANSEN, A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE. I HAVE BEEN MEANING TO VISIT THEM AND SHOW ESTHER THE FAMILY CONNECTION. OTHER CHILDREN OF TRUMAN RHODES ARE TRUMAN, JR. AND CASH RHODES. IF THERE ARE MORE, I DO NOT KNOW. MORE ON SAMUEL E. FROM THE CENSUS LATER.
7. ELIZABETH G. RHODES (BESSIE) WAS BORN IN SEPTEMBER, 1875. SHE WAS MARRIED TO A MR. PRYOR AND WAS LIVING IN OLIVER, GEORGIA, AT THE TIME OF HER DEATH ABOUT 1970. I MET MRS. PRYOR IN MY EX-MOTHER IN LAW'S GROCERY STORE A TIME OR TWO. BEING VERY OLD AND FORGETFUL, SHE KEPT THINKING I WAS CHREIGHTON, HER BROTHER IVY'S SON. I CAN PROBABLY FIND OUT WHERE SHE IS BURIED AND HER EXACT BIRTH AND DEATH DATES.
8. IVY WINBORN RHODES. I DO NOT KNOW THE DATES OF HIS BIRTH OR DEATH. HE WAS A PHOTOGRAPHER IN STATESBORO, GEORGIA, AT ONE TIME. THE DATES SHOULD NOT BE TOO HARD TO FIND. MARJORIE SCOTT WROTE TO CHREIGHTON ABOUT SOME FAMILY MATTER AND HE DID NOT REPLY SO I DO NOT THINK I WILL CONTACT HIM.

NATHANIEL HENRY RHODES SERVED IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY. FOLLOWING IS A RECORD OF HIS SERVICE:

ENTERED AS A PRIVATE ON APRIL 30, 1862. DID EXTRA DUTY AS MECHANIC IN QUARTERMASTER DEPARTMENT AUGUST-OCTOBER, 1862. TRANSFERRED TO PRITCHARD'S BATTERY, GEORGIA LIGHT ARTILLERY IN 1863. TRANSFERRED TO COMPANY D, 1ST REGIMENT, ENGINEERS TROOPS IN OCTOBER, 1864. HE WAS DISCHARGED AT NEWBERRY, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON APRIL 26, 1865.

THIS WAS FROM A ROSTER OF CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS FROM GEORGIA. I AM NOT SURE THAT IS THE TITLE. MARJORIE SCOTT HAS A PICTURE OF A REUNION OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS FROM THE SYLVANIA PAPER TAKEN ABOUT 1900. SHE IS TRYING TO IDENTIFY NATHANIEL HENRY IN THE PHOTOGRAPH. NAMES DID NOT ACCOMPANY THE PHOTOGRAPH.

MARJORIE SAID SOMEONE LONG AGO HAD A SMALL BOOK OR PAMPHLET ON NATHANIEL HENRY AND ISABELLE RHODES. SHE HAS BEEN TRYING TO LOCATE IT.

HERE IS WHAT I HAVE FROM THE CENSUS.

THE 1900 CENSUS SHOWS NATHANIEL HENRY RHODES LIVING IN SCREVEN COUNTY AS A CARPENTER WITH HIS WIFE ISABELLE, 62 YEARS, DAUGHTER BESSIE, 24 YEARS, SON IVESON, 20 YEARS, DAUGHTER EMMA CLEMENT, 34 YEARS, GRANDDAUGHTER MABELLE CLEMENT, 11 YEARS, GRANDDAUGHTER JOHNIE CLEMENT, 1 YEAR AND GRANDSON RALPH CLEMENT, 6 YEARS.

THE 1900 CENSUS SHOWS SAMUEL E. RHODES FARMING IN SCREVEN COUNTY WITH HIS WIFE OF 6 YEARS MARY E. AND THEIR CHILDREN, BERNARD E., 4 YEARS, ELIOT T., 2 YEARS AND MAMIE S., 2 MONTHS OLD.

THE 1900 CENSUS SHOWS ROBERT H. RHODES AS A FARM LABORER IN SCREVEN COUNTY WITH HIS WIFE OF 7 YEARS, SUSSANAH, 26 YEARS OLD, SON ROBERT H., 6 YEARS OLD, SON NATHANIEL, 4 YEARS OLD AND DAUGHTER EULALIA, 2 YEARS OLD. I BELIEVE THAT THIS NATHANIEL IS ONE FROM THE OBITUARY THAT YOU CUT OUT OF THE SAVANNAH PAPER.

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I HEAR FROM COUSIN ALICE IN MULLINS THAT THE REUNION WILL BE ON EASTER SUNDAY IN 1990. T. W. AND I WILL SURELY ATTEND. THERE ARE SOME OTHERS THAT WANT TO COME. HOWEVER THE THE DESCENDANTS OF STEPHEN P. AND LAURA E. SMITH RHODES HAVE BEEN MEETING AT MAGNOLIA SPRINGS NEAR MILLEN ON EASTER SUNDAY FOR A GOOD MANY YEARS. EASTER SUNDAY IS NOT THE BEST TIME FOR SUCH EVENTS. T. W. AND I WILL BE IN ESTILL AFTER FIRST ATTENDING THE DINNER AT MAGNOLIA SPRINGS. WE WILL BRING WHOEVER WE CAN. I AM FILLING OUT SOME PAPERS FOR COUSIN ALICE. I WILL DISTRIBUTE SOME TO MY OTHER AUNTS AND COUSINS AND HOPE THAT THEY WILL RESPOND TO FILL OUT THE NATHANIEL HENRY AND SARAH JULIA HAYGOOD RHODES BRANCH OF THE FAMILY.

IN OTHER FAMILY NEWS, I ATTENDED IN OCTOBER THE FUNERAL OF MY UNCLE MAURICE DICKEY IN WAYNESBORO. HE WAS THE HUSBAND OF MY AUNT, VADA LEE RHODES DICKEY. ON DECEMBER 16, I ATTENDED THE FUNERAL OF MY THIRD COUSIN, STEVE ROBBINS, THE SON OF MARION H. ROBBINS AND THE GRANDSON OF ROSA AGNÉS RHODES ROBBINS. GOD BE WITH BOTH OF THEM.

I WILL STOP FOR NOW. I AM TRYING TO DO SOME MORE DIGGING BUT THE SOURCES ARE GETTING SCARCE. I WILL LET YOU KNOW IN APRIL, IF NOT BEFORE, WHAT I FIND. I HOPE THAT YOU ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS AND HAVE A HAPPY 1990.

FAITHFULLY,

*Clayton*  
CLAYTON

P. S.

Just received your interesting letter. Sorry to hear about the death of the First Family genealogist. If you think Christian Rhode will be glad to hear from me, maybe I will contact him. Right now I am snowed in on Wilmington Island and assume you are on Hatteras Head.

*Clayton*  
12-23-89.