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January 20, 1994

Dear Cousin Robert and Miss Cora,

I was very disappointed to hear that you would not speak at the SCV Lee-Jackson banquet (tomorrow night). I am glad that I know since going with the anticipation of seeing you and Miss Cora ~~and~~ would have compounded the disappointment. Though SCV is not as exclusive as some cultural heritage organizations I belong to or am eligible

for, it has a special meaning to me. It and the UDC are the only groups that I know of that are fighting to keep our Southern heritage alive. It is under intense attack from revisionist historians as well as gutless Southern politicians. As I am sure you know, Senator Hollings voted to deny extension of the patent on the UDC emblem (as did about 12 other Southern senators).

Yes I believe that Nathaniel may have traveled over to Hancock County, Ga., to marry Susan Julia Hagood. Gideon Hagood had married Mary (Rabun) Brown of Hancock County and moved there in about 1824. He either took his children or left them with a guardian or with his oldest daughter Elvira Ann (Hagood) McPherson in Barnwell District. I have speculated that Nathaniel met her through her relation to James McPherson who was a cousin (though fairly distant). I found another document in Vidalia which implied that all of the unmarried children, except Yonge Johnson Hagood (later called Francis Yonge Hagood) were minors in about 1827 when the document was written and resided in Hancock County at the time. Harriet Amanda married John W. Rabun of that county. Gideon may be buried at the Powelton Church there which I believe is still active. I have written a genealogy of my great great grandmother's immediate family which I hope to include in a published volume similar to Our Family Circle someday.

You may remember a photograph I once showed to you. I thought it might be my great grandparents Thomas H. and Martha E. Rhodes. You said the dress was postwar and the couple was too young to have been them. I researched the photography studio and found it was in business as early as 1866 in Savannah. I contacted a photography professor at Savannah College of Art and Design and have an appointment with him next Wednesday. We will scan the photos into a computer along with known photos of Thomas and Martha. We will try to alter or "morph" them to see if we can shed any light on the mystery. Of course we can never make any final determination but it will fun and educational to try. There was an article in the latest issue of "American Heritage" magazine about a mystery photo thought

to be Abraham Lincoln. The computer studies convinced some people while others remained skeptical.

I wonder if Capt. McPherson's service in Georgia would make me eligible for a first families organization in Georgia. I have heard that such ~~an~~ ^{an} organization exists. I will check on it.

I will attend FFSC since on April 23. I will see you there as well as in Estill earlier.

Faithfully,

