

George Rhodes Family Reunion Held At Old Lawtonville Church

ESTILL, S. C., June 25.—Historic old Lawtonville Baptist Church (founded in 1775), Estill, S. C., was the gathering place for many of the descendants of George Rhodes (1802-1881), signer of the Ordinance of Secession (1860) and a deacon for more than fifty years in that old church.

The Rev. C. W. Jones preached a memorial service, keeping in view the fact that Sunday was also Father's Day. The church was beautifully decorated by Mrs. D. I. Peoples, Jr., and Mrs. Alice R. Ellis. F. W. Ellis, D. I. Peoples, Jr., and B. T. Youmans (all Rhodes descendants) served as ushers.

Immediately following the service the scene changed to the old Rhodes plantation site, some three miles south of Estill. Guests were invited to register by Mrs. J. M. Strozler and Mrs. Terrel Lee Youmans. Some 225 registered in the specially prepared register by Mrs. Marguerite Ellis Hall, Savannah. Meanwhile, pages carried the baskets to the square table surrounding a large tree, inside the square of which table the dinner committee headed by Mrs. Mamie P. Peoples and Mrs. Alice Rhodes Ellis, laid out a magnificent meal. The mess call was sounded by Milton Rhodes and the feast began. The blessing was asked by J. E. Rhodes. After dinner many found seats under the giant trees, and availed themselves of the opportunity of becoming acquainted with their cousins from other sections of the South. Others viewed one of the two remaining Ordinances of Secession, which is now in the possession of Mrs. Elizabeth Rhodes Morrison of Augusta, Ga. The other original hangs in the Smithsonian Institute, while the third original was burned by Sherman in Columbia.

Inside the old Rhodes home (which was built after Sherman burned the original home during the war, while Hon. George Rhodes and his family were refugeeing in Macon, Ga.) Robert Epling Howard Peoples, historian for the Rhodes Family Association, had prepared an interesting exhibition of relics which included family coats-of-arms, photographs, the gold pen with which George Rhodes signed the ordinance (loaned by Mrs. Annie Lou Rhodes Morrison), an antique portable writing desk and Confederate money, music was furnished by Miss Alice Rhodes, assisted by Robert E. H. Peoples.

At 2 p. m. the formal program began with a welcome address by Jeter E. Rhodes, master of ceremonies. A response was given by George T. ("Dusty") Rhodes of Augusta, Ga. Miss Alice Rhodes then played a musical composition, "Happy Thoughts," by another George Rhodes descendant, Mrs. Julie May Roberds Allen. The guests were then invited to make themselves comfortable and the historian, Robert Epling Howard Peoples, read a complete account of the life of George Rhodes, which included a history of the early Rhodes, Lawton, Robert and Landgrave Smith families of South Carolina, whose progenitors arrived in America in 1775, 1753, 1786 and 1684, respectively. This was followed by a hymn, "Faith of Our Fathers," by the entire group.

Mrs. Elizabeth Mobley Johnson, Charleston, S. C., read a tribute to our fathers and this was followed by the business of the day. The association accepted the invitation of Julian E. Rhodes and Miss Carrie Belle Rhodes (ill and unable to be present) to meet at the same place on Father's Day next year. The following officers and committees were elected to serve next year: Mrs. D. Ira Peoples, general chairman; Mrs. Annie Rhodes, co-chairman; Jeter Rhodes, master of ceremonies; Mrs. B. T. Youmans, publicity chairman; Miss Winnie May Lawton, secretary; Mrs. Mamie Paul Peoples, dinner chairman; Miss Alice Rhodes, music chairman; Robert Epling Howard Peoples, historian; Mrs. Julian Rhodes, property chairman; R. W. Ellis, building chairman.

Mrs. Duncan I. Peoples, Sr., general chairman, thanked her committees for their co-operation and pledged her effort toward effecting a larger and better reunion next year. The association accepted the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Lawton to attend the Lawton reunion on August 5. Inquiries were made concerning the publication of a family history and the program was closed by the singing of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." Many guests then departed to Lawtonville Cemetery to pay their respects to the dead.

Out-of-town guests included: Winborn K. Rhodes, Jr., James W. Rhodes, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. J. Romig Johnson and "Blackie" Charleston

ley, Mr. and Mrs. Butler M. Rhodes, Russel B. Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. DeSaussure Rhodes and DeSaussure, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ramsey and Althea Ann, Mr. and Mrs. George T. Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Rhodes, Evelyn D., Katherine E. and Nancy V. Rhodes, Harriette, Joan and Patricia Youmans, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Youmans, of Meggett, S. C.; Mrs. Zallee Rhodes Sibley and Messrs. Anderson C. and Jack Sibley, Daytona Beach, Fla.; Mr. and Mrs. William D. Chisholm and Mrs. Wilder Grammar of Columbia, S. C.; Miss Cornelia Morrison Rhodes of Vivian, La.; Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Willets, Mary Ellen, Charles William and Arthur Winter Willets, Mrs. Elizabeth Rhodes McAllister, Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Ficken and Carl, Jr., of Augusta, Ga.; Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Rhodes of Madison, Ga.; Mr. and Mrs. Stoney Lawton Peoples, Batesburg, S. C.; Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Ellis and Sinclair Ellis, Mrs. Effie Rhodes Morrison, Mrs. Ruby Morrison Fuller, Betty and Bobby Fuller, Mrs. Augustus Owens, Miss Mary Bell Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Morrison of Savannah; Mrs. May R. Rhodes of Allendale, Mrs. Miriam O. Ramsey and Carol Ramsey of Statesboro, Ga.; Mr. and Mrs. George Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Rhodes, George E. Jr., L. Thomas and Ernest Rhodes of Charleston, S. C.; Mrs. Carrie M. Rhodes, Mrs. Mrs. Lyman Rhodes and Mrs. Benita Rhodes Rivers of Charleston, S. C.; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Steadman and Herbert, Jr., of Spartanburg, S. C.; Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Ellis, S. R., Jr., and Charles Richard Ellis of Industrial Gardens, Ga.; Mr. and Mrs. Claude R. Ashley, Mrs. J. M. Eadon, Misses Ada Rhodes, Elizabeth and Daisey Leona Eadon of Jesup, Ga.; and Mesdames Sarah Julia Rhodes, Fries Bessie Rhodes Wiggins, R. J. Barger, J. N. Williams and M. A. Fries of Savannah.

Pooler Baptists Have Revival Starting Today

STATESBORO, Ga., June 25.—Rev. Carl Anderson of Statesboro, pastor of the Pooler Baptist Church, announced here today that beginning tomorrow there will be revival services at the Pooler Church, to continue through July 1, with Rev. L. Bert Joiner of Lake Wales, Fla., as the guest speaker.

According to Rev. Anderson this growing church at Pooler has just completed a large Sunday school room which has accounted for the attendance at the Sunday school doubling within the past year.

BEAUTY COLLEGE GIVES DIPLOMAS TO GEORGIANS

Among those receiving diplomas from the Florida Barber and Beauty College, of Jacksonville, Fla., under the supervision of Charles Scott Shoemaker, were the following: South Georgia Young Women, Winifred Crosby, Brunswick; Pauline Bostick, Camilla; Inez Adams, Dewey Rose, Evelyn Rozier, Folkston; Thelma Davis, Pelham; Effie Oldag, Pidcock; Ruth Boulware, Cordele; Vera Hopkins, Waycross.

The Florida Barber and Beauty College has been in business for the past quarter century and hundreds of the best-known and most successful barbers and beauty operators in the Southeast are graduates of this school, according to Mr. Shoemaker.

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Rhodes Family Reunion To Be Held on June 16

Estill, S. C., May 4 — The descendants of George Rhodes (1802-1881), signer of the Ordinance of Secession of South Carolina, will gather for their second reunion on Sunday, June 16, at Estill.

At 11 a. m., they will attend services at Lawtonville Baptist church, in Estill, where he was a deacon for more than 50 years.

Immediately after the services, they will adjourn to the old Rhodes homesite, about three miles south of Estill where a basket dinner will be enjoyed in the shade of ancestral oaks.

More than 250 members of this old Carolina family are expected.

The descendants of George Rhodes' brother, Nathaniel, and his half-brother, Thomas Wright Rhodes, are also invited to attend this reunion. The committee requests that all families concerned, who have lost a member or have had new one added to their chain since the 1938 meeting will please notify Miss Charlotte Peebles, Estill, S. C., giving names and dates and naming grand-parents, as soon as possible so that the program may be completed.