

Saturday, Jan. 10th

Dear Creighton,

How are you? It was nice seeing you at Mr. M<sup>C</sup>Leod's again this past week. He looked so well, I thought. We probably tired him out too much when we went to church and then over to the Steeles' home for a visit, but he enjoyed it all.

The plats don't seem to retransfer well enough, so I may have to bring them down to show you. They're very, very interesting, along with these deeds. They are very difficult to read in the original, and these are xerox copies of xerox copies, so please excuse the poor legibility. As these are all public records from the Historical Society, RMC office, and so on people have made notes all over them. Item #9 deals with the purchase of the land by Wm. M<sup>C</sup>Kenzie Parker from Elizabeth Lightwood's estate in 1829.... I have the plat for this sale. #1 are the court records concerning Sarah Parker and her children obtaining the land after her husband died....date, 1834. I have an old plat copied, dated 1771, showing the lightwood house on the land (poor quality). Lots of the pottery pieces I've been finding in that field were dropped by these people.

I've given Mr. M<sup>C</sup>Leod many of these documents, but I can't remember which ones, or when. As you said, he likely has misplaced them. Anyway, if you're interested, I'd love to share

2.

with you any or all of the things I've collected about the plantation over the past years. As you know, it fascinates me, and Mr. M<sup>C</sup>Leod has been so generous and hospitable and loving to me concerning my "study", as unprofessional as it is. He has more than opened his home to me. *And his heart.*

Best to you. Hope this finds you well, and that I can see you again down there soon.

Best regards,

*Don Orth*

P. S. Siege Train was edited by  
Warren Ripley - good book.

August 19, 1985

Dear Creighton:

It was so nice to have talked with you the other day. I feel so very fortunate to have Mr. M<sup>C</sup>Leod allow me to stay at his plantation - he'll never know what a thrill it is to me. I'm very flattered he shows me such friendship and hospitality.

All these materials are a matter of public record. If you are interested in more references I think I can give them to you if I can find them (our things are not quite unpacked from our recent move here). Mr. M<sup>C</sup>Leod has many of these papers there, but as you said, he may have misplaced them or even lost them.

Thanks so much for the Down By the Riverside book reference. I'll try to read it as soon as possible - sounds very interesting!

Write me if you need any more ideas on the plantation. Mr. M<sup>C</sup>Leod delighted in these things I found and I hope you will too. Best regards to you. Hope this finds you well and happy.

Sincerely,

*Don Orth*

P.O. Box 640  
Erwin, TN 37650

*I want to follow up  
on this research - I  
will when I have the  
time. Best to you.*

OCT 9 1987

DEAR CREIGHTON -

I COPIED THESE PAPERS AT  
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY TODAY.

THEY CONCERN ONE OF WM  
WALLACE MCLEOD'S SLAVES WHO  
DIED ON SULLIVANS IS. WM  
W. WANTED \$2,000 COMPEN-  
SATION. BEST TO YOU.

Don Orth



June 21, 1990

Mr. Don Orth  
Box 640  
Erwin, Tennessee 37650

Re: McLeod Plantation

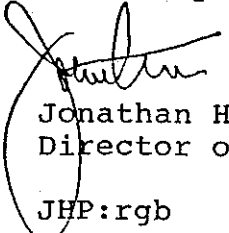
Dear Mr. Orth:

As you may or may not know, Historic Charleston Foundation has received by devise from the will of the late Mr. William McLeod a one-third, undivided interest in McLeod Plantation. The Foundation is currently working towards a goal of perhaps acquiring the entire tract, but there are many other charitable beneficiaries to work with in order for this to occur. We, of course, are not only interested in the preservation of the house and the slave row, but possibly in its future interpretation as well. Martha Zierden has told me of your interest in the property, the extensive archaeological artifacts that you have collected, and some of the research which you have done.

Would you be interested in providing us some information on these artifacts and on what research you might be willing to show us concerning the property? We, of course, would give full credit to your work if that were done. We are most concerned that we have been unable to find documentary research materials on the property, and these would be crucial for any possible future interpretation. I hope that we can work with you in this regard, and appreciate all you have done thus far to study this important site.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jonathan H. Poston  
Director of Preservation Programs

JHP:rgb

CC!  
(AW)

6/25/90

Dear Mr. Poston:

Thank you for your recent letter. Yes, I too am very hopeful that Mr. M<sup>C</sup>Leod's plantation will be kept as intact as possible, including all the land presently associated with the place. I have collected probably close to 10,000 artifacts from the field opposite the slave cabins, and have identified most through the efforts of Martha Zierden at The Charleston Museum, and through various books, etc. I would be glad to share with you any information I have found regarding the place, but could not do it proper justice - at least as much as Mrs. Zierden could do, as she knows (professionally) so much more than I do regarding the artifacts/historical documents.

If I can help preserve the continuity of the plantation, please let me know. Could you tell me exactly what type of things you are looking for? Best to you.

Sincerely,

*D.F. Orth, DDS*  
Donald Orth, DDS

P.O. Box 429  
Erwin, TN 37650



July 6, 1990

Dr. Donald Orth  
Box 640  
Erwin, Tennessee 37650

Re: McLeod Plantation

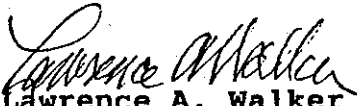
Dear Dr. Orth:

Your recent letter to Jon Poston has motivated the Trustee Committee charged with the responsibility of working out a plan for the McLeod property to ask that I write you and advise that their ultimate goal is to preserve intact as much of the property as possible. The exact details for accomplishing this are several months away, but one idea that has considerable Committee support is to present the house and supporting outbuildings as a museum. If this were done, the pre-Columbia, Colonial, and Civil War periods would need to be explained as would the period it operated as a flourishing sea island cotton plantation.

Your collection of artifacts would be a very important part of any interpretation of this property. In your letter you state that you would be pleased to make available any information you have that relates to the property, but I do not read this as an offer to donate your collection and notes. I hope that you stopped short of that because you had little or no information as to what might become of the site. If that is the case, I hope that you would agree to donate the artifacts to Historic Charleston Foundation so they could be returned to their place of origin. Historic Charleston Foundation is a tax-exempt, educational corporation and donations qualify deduction for income tax purposes. You may want to discuss this with your tax advisors as any value you establish for such donated property should afford you an equivalent tax deduction.

We welcome your interest and input and trust that you will give serious consideration to our suggestion that your collection of artifacts "come home."

Sincerely,

  
Lawrence A. Walker  
Executive Director

LAW:bg