

3-22-1890

Stephen D. Lee Papers

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Agricultural and Mechanical College,

OF MISSISSIPPI.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT:
General S. D. LEE, President.

Copy, June 14th 1890
Agricultural College, Miss. Mch 22 1890

Mr. H. O. McDowell,

My dear Sir,

Yours of 20th received. - It is all a "tempest in a teapot" caused by the article of Burkitt imputing "outrageous speculation" on party or parties connected with the College and volunteering to give details. Certainly you can not blame me for trying to correct such a charge against the College.

It was and is my duty to ferret out such matters and have them corrected especially when the offense of details is made.

Now it appears that the charge was groundless, as you say it was a mistake in connecting Mr. Watson's name with the transaction.

The trade was purely between your son and the two Okaloosa boys - a boys' transaction which was clos-

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before the furniture dealer (Evans) was brought in, so he had nothing to do with the matter. It was a trade of the bays and one of them brought him it. It is true also that the new mattress was not offered him to price.

Irby and Evans was the firm of students the 2^d hand furniture was brought from. Irby was in the business last year. He returned this year and remained till the furniture was sold and then Irby drew from college. Young Watson then entered the business. He is now out, as Mr. Watson felt so hurt at his name being drawn in, and with any profit for the time he was in.

Capt Burkitt's letter shows that he indicated you suspected something wrong about the camp (Please read it)

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This is where I say you were mistaken as I fully explained.

And now, Mr McDowell, I thank you for your kind letter of course the article will hurt the college, and Capt B. declines to correct

It is hard to sell 2^d hand furniture at any price. This I know is a fact. The parties who buy know this, hence they cannot afford to pay much. I am very sorry for what has occurred, for I feel that injustice has been publicly done the college. The whole transaction was a trade of boys from Okalona. If any speculation was had it was by the two boys against your son. This clear now. I do not think they intended any speculation. Capt B. seizes up on every stăw to hurt the college. I was in hopes he would correct

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when the matter was brought personally to his notice, but he fails to do so. My letter to him is courteous, but earnest. He once before in case of the Johnson boys made specific charges. They were shown to be incorrect. He made no "amends". He is so prejudiced against the college, that he can't do it justice or make corrections.

Be assured, I feel you are a friend of college, as also your son, but it was unfortunate you spoke before B. I regret you did not write me for I would have taken pleasure in seeing you. Your brother is my personal friend. I enclose some papers which may throw some light up on the matter.

With kindest wishes for you & your son,
Yours truly,
(Signed) S. D. Lee