

1226 Clairmont Road  
Decatur, Georgia, 30030

The Rev. Robert E. H. & Mrs. Peeples  
Folly Field  
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

Dear Cousins:

How nice to hear from you again, and how disappointed I am to write again that I cannot attend the Lawton & Allied Families Reunion. I will not go into the numerous reasons - except to say that my responsibilities must come before my desires and pleasures.

I do hope Laura will be feeling so much better by the time of the reunion that she will change her mind and be with you. We now have some interesting pictures of the Parish Church where our Sams ancestors worshiped and, also, a picture of the original record of the baptism of "Bonum Sams" - written "Bonnam" in the record, but undoubtedly should have been "Bonham." I know Laura will bring along her copies of the pictures if she does attend.

Yes, I did write to Rev. Walter Birt Sams, and he is definitely a member of our Sams line. He was interested and referred me to his sister, who did send me some data about their family (too late to include in the body of the genealogy, but some of it was included in the last Quarterly for 1963, as an addition). A Mrs. Robert Sams of Atlanta is compiling material for a Sams and Allied Families book, which she hopes to carry forward to the present generations; therefore, all of the contacts I have had will be of help to her. She is particularly interested in the Pope family and has recently spent several weeks in South Carolina - you probably have met her.

I am most interested in your work on the Miles family, as I have always felt the name in our Sams line - "Miles Brewton" - came originally from a Miles/Brewton connection. Have you found a blood connection with the early Brewton family? I tried without success, but I had a limited time to spend on my efforts. I am very glad to have the additional data about the Fitch family. As I have mentioned before, I do not have a direct Fitch connection but I am interested by reason of a number of indirect connections.

There is a mistake in the Sams Genealogy - a stupid one on my part, but one that I believe will be of interest to the Lawton family. The only excuse I can offer for this error is that the item (which undoubtedly proves my mistake) was found by me after we had completed the first part of the genealogy. I was working on my Godfrey line (my mother's family as well as a Sams connection) when this error "slapped me in the face" and I have wondered why some member of the family has not mentioned it to me. In the first part of the genealogy I state that Elizabeth was the elder daughter of Robert Sams (which seems to be correct) and that she may have been the eldest child of Robert and Bridget (Barnwell) Sams. I now believe that Elizabeth must be Robert's child by a previous marriage. I did indicate in the genealogy the possibility of a previous marriage. The record I found later proves that Elizabeth Sams was married to William Singleton at the date of his will, March 25, 1735. John Barnwell's will, dated May 4, 1724, states that Bridget was not married; hence, Elizabeth, if born after this date of May 4, 1724, (and certainly she was if a daughter of Bridget) would not have been old enough to be the wife of William Singleton in 1735. That his wife, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Robert Sams is proved in other records.

If, therefore, Elizabeth was a child by a previous marriage of Robert Sams's - possibly Paul Grimball called Robert Sams "brother-in-law" in his will not necessarily for the reason I had believed and indicated in the genealogy (because of their having married Barnwell sisters) but possibly by reason of:

1. Paul's third wife being a sister of Robert's first wife - or
2. Robert's first wife being a Grimball.

I believe the knowledge that Robert's daughter, Elizabeth, was undoubtedly by a previous marriage will be of interest to the Lawton family, as it was mentioned in the genealogy that "Lawton family records indicate William Sams, Sr. married a Susannah Harrison and their daughter, Mary, married first Paul Grimball as his third wife and had issue." \* See below:

I did not intend to write such a lengthy letter, but I thought some member of the Lawton family might be interested in the above.

Thank you for the invitation, and with best wishes for a successful and enjoyable reunion.

Sincerely,

Lula

(Mrs. C. E. Bond)

(1703-1780)

\* Susannah, daughter of Jean Carrière, m(1) John Stone by whom she had one child: Mary Stone (1720-1803) who m. Paul Grimball as his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife; Mary m (2) 1751 Captain William Lawton (d. Oct. 1757) by whom she had one child; Joseph Lawton (1753-1815); Mary m. (3) Samuel Fickling but they left no surviving issue.

Robert E. H. Peoples +