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FACT SHEET - Lawton and Allied Family Association

Organized in 1936, the Lawton and Allied Families Association has membership of 401. A meeting is held annually on the third Saturday in June. This date was selected by the group as probably most convenient for all: schools are closed for summer vacation and regular summer activities are not in full swing. The date is constant to allow for long range planning of the trip.

Generally there is a social hour planned for Friday night before the meeting. This gives members an opportunity to greet old members, to meet and get to know new members, and for those who are especially interested in family research, to talk with members who are knowledgeable about the family.

One motel is selected as a headquarters, and out of town members usually arrive on Friday to attend the social hour and be on hand for the general meeting at 10 AM on Saturday. The general meeting is followed by a luncheon which ends the reunion.

The purpose of the association is to provide a way for the descendents of some sixty families, related by blood and marriage, to become familiar with their family ties and to create an atmosphere of cordiality among this group of descendents. These family groups have provided leadership and made worthy contributions to their respective communities, states, and country from 1684, and it is fitting that this heritage be preserved and passed to succeeding generations. There have been many members of these families in this century whose contributions to society are outstanding. We have fine young men and women in our circle under thirty years of age today, and they, too, will make worthy contributions. An honorable heritage is an asset and for many, a catalyst for a successful life and career.

By and large, the association has no goals other than fellowship. From time to time, short range projects have been undertaken and accomplished, such as the printing of pamphlets concerning a locality of importance to the family circle or an event of historical significance. One on-going project is the preservation and care of the old Lawtonville Cemetery. Improvements have been made in the cemetery at the Robertville Baptist Church and other cemeteries where our ancestors are buried. A completed project was the placing of a cenotaph in the Presbyterian

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Cemetery at Edisto Island near the grave of William Lawton, the first Lawton to reach the shores of America. The cenotaph cost \$893.60 and was paid for by donations.

The association has the following officers:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer of Cemetery Fund
Custodian of Scrap Book

The officers are elected by the association members at the annual meeting. Prior to the next annual meeting, the elected officers appoint a nominating committee from the membership to do some preliminary work to find a person willing to be President. For convenience in preparing for the annual meeting, the Secretary is generally the spouse of, or a person who lives in the vicinity of, the President. It is desirable for the officers to serve two years if convenient to them. The first year is devoted to the learning process.

The officers are responsible for the preparations for the annual meeting. The location for the meeting is selected by the membership at the annual meeting. Generally, the President makes arrangements with a motel or club for a meeting room, plans luncheon, and plans for the Friday night social hour. He writes the annual letter announcing the arrangements made for the reunion. He and the Secretary, in a coordinated effort, have the letter printed and envelopes addressed and mailed, record acceptances and declinations, and make final seating and luncheon arrangements with motel.

The Treasurer of the Cemetery Account has an account which was originally established with royalties received from the sale of the second printing of Our Family Circle. After the publishing company which made the third reprint of Our Family Circle went out of business, the Reverend Doctor Robert E. H. Peeple purchased the entire stock on hand with his personal funds. He sells the books for \$25.00, \$5.00 of which goes to the Cemetery Account. There are from time to time, gifts to this account. These funds are used for restoration and maintenance of family grave sites in old cemeteries where there are no family members nearby to provide this care. Mrs. Maner L. Tonge (Alice), 166 Clifton Ave., Spartanburg, S. C. 29302, is the Treasurer. She has a committee of three, Tom Lawton, Carrie Lee Kalber, and Mamie Lawton Segars, who decide on the use of these funds. Requests or suggestions on cemetery improvements may be made by anyone in the organization. From time to time members are asked to contribute to special projects, and these contributions are accounted for separately by project.

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There is a registration fee of \$1.00 for the annual meeting. These funds go to the President of the Association, the unused funds going to the succeeding President. There are approximately \$100.00 available each year for paper, envelopes, printing, postage, and other expenses of the annual meeting.

At the annual meeting each year, members have an opportunity to buy the following:

Our Family Circle, by Annie Miller @ \$25 (plus \$1.50 postage, ins., if mailed.)

The Lawton Family of Robertville, by Dr. G. L. Inabinett @ \$2.

Annie E. Miller by Eliz. Lobingier @\$2.

Many members of the Lawton and Allied Families Association are eligible for membership in The Huguenot Society of South Carolina. Life Membership in the Huguenot Society is currently \$100.00. Any one interested may obtain information from Mrs. Edmund Allan Burns, Executive Secretary, The Huguenot Society of South Carolina, 94 Church Street, Charleston, South Carolina.

Members are eligible for membership in the organization First Families of South Carolina 1670-1700. Two sponsors are required. There were five charter members at the 1977 reunion: Robert Peeples, Bob Lawton, Carrie Lee Kalber, Alice Tonge, and Dub Erwin. They will be glad to sponsor members of our group who wish to join. The membership fee is \$50.00 at this time.

The Lawton and Allied Families Association is strictly a non-profit, non-glory seeking organization. Every member has equal status. It is an organization you can be proud to belong to.