

From
W M Lawton
May 24, 1938

W, Walter - You
forgot this last
night.

I enjoyed the
evening immensely
Edw

THE LAWTON FAMILY

[Lawton]

On or about 1633 three younger sons of the Lawton family emigrated to this country and settled in Rhode Island.

About 1910 one of the family lived in New York City and said, the name Winborn was used through their various generations as well as the same coat of arms used by us of South Carolina.

On or about 1664 three younger sons were granted land by Charles the second in the Carolinas. Plymouth being the nearest port of vessels sailing for America, one John Lawton accompanied by his brother-in-law David Maybank, a Welchman arrived in Charleston. Cheshire is near the border of Wales. My grandfather and his wife on various occasions visited Mr. Joseph Lawton and his wife at their home in Cheshire near Chester. Mrs. Lawton died at New Brighton, England and kept up their friendship until her death. Their son Sir Charles Lawton became the head of the house but died without issue. The name Winborn made from the river Winn flowing through Cheshire and the Saxon word Born meaning river accounts for "Winborn". In our family it was given to the eldest son in every other generation since before the Revolutionary War. My ancestors settled on James Island across the Ashley river from Charleston, where they always maintained a city home. As the British soldiers burned the court houses and Parish churches during the Revolution and the Northern troops burned them again in the Civil war all our family records were lost. General Alexander R. Lawton of Savannah was a first cousin of my grandfather William Mathews Lawton. He was appointed Minister to Austria by President Cleveland. We have many cousins in Georgia but have lost track of them. After Sherman burned our home on a plantation up in the State owned by my father, Winborn Lawton, a cotton factor in Charleston, we came down the Savannah river to Savannah where General Lawton took us in his home until we had secured a residence where we remained nearly a year, before returning to Charleston.

The enclosed sketch is from the family coat of arms published by the London concern who makes a specialty of genealogical research. Like many other coat of arms an artist frequently embellish them with additional fanciful features but the cardinal points are as here shown.

After the death of Sir Charles about 1880 a cousin named Lawton who had emigrated to New Zealand inherited the property. He was an uneducated Veterinary. He gave his two sons a liberal amount and they came to Charleston. The eldest opened a carpenter shop and the younger bought a doctors diploma in Louisville and moved to Louisiana where he became a planter and sent his three children to college.

Edward P. Lawton of Savannah is with the American Legation at Geneva. He gave me a photo. of the Lawton home near Chester which is now used as a restaurant.

Please
return

WALTER T. LAWTON
1328 PONCE DE LEON AVE., N.E.
ATLANTA, GA.

COVER