

166 Clifton Avenue
Spartanburg, S.C.
August 11, 1962

Dear Cora & Bob:-

If you knew of all the company and confusion of small children we have had the entire summer, you would not think me neglectful in taking such a long time to answer your letter of June the 28th. At last the past Wednesday our son Jim and his family left enroute to Wright Patterson AFB in Ohio. For the first time since the last of May we are settling back into our quiet routine.

The young fellow that I mentioned at the University South Caroliniana Society as an excellent prospect for a speaker on genealogy and records in the Carolinians Library- that is for a speaker at our next Lawton reunion;-

Mr. E.L. Inabinett, Librarian
The University South Caroliniana Society
University of South Carolina
Columbia, S.C.

Cousin Lily Stafford

I do hope he will be available. You might mention in writing him, that it would be nice if he could display some of the material from the Lawton papers that Tom Lawton was responsible in having turned over to the Caroliniana Library. You remember the will that Cousin Lily Stafford had was from that collection- the will that you read to the group. Cousin Lily visited the Library again after the reunion and said she found the collection of Lawton papers "fascinating and containing information on almost every conceivable subject. Not all are yet ready for examination, but three boxes are ready. We spent about two days on these boxes. Everything there interested me, but we had to make selections, for lack of time. Read some by titles only, some closely. As I had found the will of Sarah Lawton, the year before I wanted to find the will of Joseph Lawton, and did find it in Box 111. In fact there were two wills, first one dated Nov. 16, 1811, the second will dated Apr. 15, 1813. I wanted a copy of the first will because of information it contained about my great-great-grandmother, Thirza Eliza Lawton Polhill. His sixth bequest was to his daughter, Thirza, then living in Mississippi Territory. I never heard my father or any of the relatives speak of the Polhills; as living anywhere except S.C. or Ga. Father said the Polhill plantation near Robertville was named ROSE HILL. Cousin Carrie Lee had shown me a typed copy of some paper she has which mentioned the Thomas Polhills as going to Miss. along with Joseph J. Lawton's family about 1810. This will is proof that the Polhills did go there. Now Thirza Eliza Lawton Polhill died Dec. 3rd 1811 about two weeks after the first will was made. Reasoning from this fact I believe she must have been buried in Miss. If my reasoning is correct, it explains why her grave is not in the old Robert cemetery." End of quote.

I didn't intend to quote such a lengthy quote but it all seemed so interesting. I would send on her letter but haven't yet answered it.

Your idea for compiling a First-Three Generations chart compressed to one page to distribute to each family on the mailing list is splendid and I know will be accepted with much pleasure..... I think Cousin Florence Lawton got the family genealogy a bit scrambled at times. At least some of the data she gave me- I finally filed as I couldn't fit it in with data on hand.

his 2nd ch. Sarah (m. John
Seabrook) was b. 1739;
he m. the 2nd time c. 1743-44

As to your questions; According to my data Capt. Wm. Lawton (1723-1757) was the immigrant ancestor- coming to America in 1745. Parents of William Lawton (1723-1757) 3rd wife Mrs. Mary (Sams) Grimball, (d. 1804) Widow of Paul Grimball- daughter of William Sams & Susannah (Harrilson) Sams Winbom (Mary (Sams) Grimball was the third wife of Paul Grimball)- see S.C. Historical & Genealogical Mag. Vol. XXIII (April 1922) page 39.)

I'm glad you are enjoying the Stafford Memoirs and can copy them as convenient. They are most interesting and contain much valuable information.

Your mother, Bob, visited Mama at The Point recently and I know Mama enjoyed her visit. Mama Tonge recently on Aug. 2nd celebrated her 91st birthday. She is responsible for my knowing so much of the family history. We had to change our plans to visit The Point as we usually do at or near Mama's birthday but plan to gondown soon.

Know Cora will have a wonderful trip out to World's Fair. Maner wanted to fly out space available, while Jim was here but they didn't get around to it. So now I expect he will not have chance to take in the World's Fair. Of course I'm not eligible to fly in the States 'Space Available'.

I am concerned about the old family Floyd cemetery and what is to become of it now that the chemical company has taken up the options on the old plantation sites in Camden County and plan to erect the hugh plant on the site of the cemetery & plantations. I'm hoping the old stones will be removed to the beautiful old cemetery at St. Marys. The Floyds were so closely associated with St. Marys that I feel that would be a fitting place to place the old stones. So sad that they must be disturbed after so many years.

Forgive such a lenthly letter. Why don't you and Cora visit us and we can run over to Columbia and look over the Lawton Papers. We would love to have you.

Let us know if we can be of help in plans for next years Lawton Reunion.

Love,

Thio