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Dear Bobby:

Thanks for your memorda on Lawtons, et al. I had worked up a lot of the information through hard research. In fact I had finished my first five chapters -- up to 1817 -- but I shall have to insert some more material on Joseph Lawton. I show him first at Pipe Creek in 1778, when, with Joshua Lewis and John Grimball, he attended the annual session of the Charleston Association, and the church, constituted as "Savannah River, Carolina," in 1775 was admitted to the association. I think I shall have to show both Joseph and John Grimball as founding members. (There were eight.) I wasn't sure about this -- as my best information was that they were not in the area until after 1775.

I am amazed -- and puzzled -- by the interwoven nature of the Black Swamp-Pipe Creek-Mathews Bluff-Lawtonville families. I have tried to establish an 1873-1923 membership list from the surviving minutes of Lawtonville, and even after almost endless hours and weakened eye-sight I am not satisfied with the result. . . too many Minnies, Johns, Maggies, etc. I am convinced on one point: the Peeples, Lawton and Morrison families are excellent breeders.

You think Joshua Lewis tampered with Joseph's faith. I don't agree. My view -- not stated in the manuscript -- is that Joseph was brought into the Baptist faith by the influence of the Grimballs, longtime Baptists in the general Charleston area. Joshua didn't amount to much at Pipe Creek in the beginning. He didn't officially operate until his irregular ordination at Beech Branch was confirmed -- i. e., validated -- by the Charleston Association. He left the community in 1779 as a result of revolutionary activities along the Savannah, and became the pastor at Cheraw, where he died.

Savannah River, Carolina, didn't get moving until the appearance of Rev. Henry Holcombe -- in 1785 -- . Now there was a preacher. He married in the Pipe Creek area -- a Miss Tanner, sister of Robert Tanner (who was also in the Mississippi Migration and who surveyed and "laid out" the town of Woodville, in Wilkinson County). I think Robert married a Grimball. Snafu! Robert Tanner married one of your Robert women -- Providence Robert, fifth child of Peter Robert and wife Anne Grimball. Also, a leader and power-hpuse in the Savannah River Association, taking up the mantle after Holcombe moved on to become pastor of the First Baptist Church in Philadelphia, was one James Sweat, baptized and called to the ministry by Holcombe at Pipe Creek. By the way, Tanner and Sweat were members of the Baptist council, representing Pipe Creek, and Joseph Lawton, for Black Swamp, when Holcombe was called in to defend the impugnties against his reputation

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spread by his enemies as a consequence of his debates with two Methodist evangelists on the issue of pedo-baptism. I can not establish it, but I believe one of them, Hope Hull, set up the first Methodist church in the area -- in 1789 -- at Black Swamp. Anyway, Hope Hull with Bishop Francis Asbury were the incorporators of the Methodist church in Georgia, at Savannah, in 1789. Hope Hull was then a resident of St. Peter's. Except for their presence at St. Peter's in Purrysburg, I have no idea when the Episcopalians were ever, if ever, in the area save for Heavenly Rest, and I have always felt that was in a later period.

Something I have found and which may interest you: Pipe Creek Church moved to Lawtonville at least by 1836, perhaps earlier -- not 1852 as set out in the marker. Further, the church, even though there, continued under the name Pipe Creek until 1884. In 1874 John Lawton moved in a regular meeting for a change of the name to Lawtonville, but the motion -- no hurry, you know -- was not passed until 1884. There is no indication of the discussion, if any, on the proposal.

Another thing: the earliest two post offices in the general neighborhood were Matthews Bluff and Black Swamp, established by the federal government in 1800. Sorry, I made another guff! The post office at Matthews Bluff was set up in 1823 -- with Daniel McKenzie as postmaster -- and it was later consolidated with the post office at King's Creek, in Barnwell District. Black Swamp was established in 1800 -- William H. Lawton, first p. m. Robertville came in 1812; Pipe Creek, 1838; Beech Branch, 1833 -- William H. Brisbane first p. m.; Lawtonville, 1833 -- Thomas Willingham, first p. m., succeeded in 1842 by Edward H. Peeples, who continued as p. m. until 1856 when George Rhodes took over. The p. o. at Pipe Creek was moved to Danielton in 1848, discontinued in 1852, reestablished later in the same year, shut down in 1859 and started up again in the same year, and finally wound up in 1866 -- p.m.'s were John Daley, Alex'r W. Daley, Joseph H. Rushing, and finally, William A. Carter. Brighton as a p. o. was set up in 1849.; Steep Bottom, 1849. Among the first p. m.'s at Robertville, in order of service, were Benj. Brooks, Thomas Polhill, James B. Jaudon, Alexander ZJ. Lawton (1819-1828), etc. It apparently absorbed the p. o. at Black Swamp, of which the only p. m. of record was Wm. H. L. The p. o. at Lawtonville was moved to Estill in 1892 and the name changed to Estill. The p. m. at that time was John J. Rhodes. He was p. m. from 1879 to 1909.

Thanks again for your memoranda.

Sincerely

*Coy*

*P.S. Any details you can give me re death of Leese W. Peeples beyond the bare statements on his grave stone would be appreciated, I know none. W*

Post offices

Post master

* {	Black Swamp	1800	William Henry Lawton (1800-1812)
	Robertsville	1812	{
	Mathews Bluff	1823	
	Beech Branch	1833	
	Lawtonville	1833	
			Benj. Brooks (1812 -
			Thomas Polhill
			James B. Tandon
			Alexander J. Lawton (1819-1828)
			William Henry Brisbane
			Thomas Willingham (1833-1842)
			Edward Harden Peoples (1842-1856)
			<u>George Rhodes</u> (1856 -
	moved to Estill	1892	John Jenkins Rhodes (1879-1909)
	Pipe Creek	1838	John Daley
	moved to Danielton	1848-1866	Alexander W. Daley
			Joseph H. Rushing
			William A. Carter

Brighton 1849

Steep Bottom 1849