

Son of Wm H. Lawton &  
Sarah Belling Queen

Joseph Manen Lawton

Was B: Sept. 29, 1844 on his mother's estate "Lansy Hill"  
in Mecklenburg Co. Va. Eldest of 5 - His mother died  
when he was 8 - The youngest child soon followed her  
in death. In due course he entered the Citadel in  
Charleston, S.C., leaving there in 1863 to enlist in the  
Patrician Charleston Light Dragoons, Co. R-4<sup>th</sup> S.C.  
Cavalry, which fought in the Civil War.

His father outfitted him beautifully - His  
Saber is still treasured - He served with great  
bravery under Gen. Wade Hampton & a Comrade and  
Coy. wrote of him that "at the battle of Cold Harbor he  
led a charge of men who had seen 3 yrs. of hard  
service turned back." He <sup>was</sup> captured in that "terrible  
Cavalry fight, June 2, 1864, at Travillian Sta. Va."

Imprisoned at Point Lookout, Maryland, he & a  
no. of his Comrades attempted to escape in the dead of  
winter by sawing the bars & endeavoring to swim the  
icy waters of the Chesapeake. The negro sentinels discovered  
them & forced their surrender. From the exposure, he never  
fully recovered & died from the effects Aug. 17, 1885.

After the war he entered the U. of Va. to study  
law but it was distasteful to him so he returned to his  
father's plantation in Abbeville S.C.

Here during the terrible day of reconstruction  
he helped organize & became leader of the local K. K. K. In  
time the Federal authorities sought him for arrest but he  
eluded them & fled across the line into Tenn, on to  
Memphis - Here on the public streets he encountered his  
Coy. Col J. Wharton Green - he himself a returned Conf.  
Veteran -

Green was alarmed at the encounter & warned Lawton  
of the hue & cry for his apprehension - it had even reached  
Memphis. He urged him to go over into Ark., then a wild  
frontier state, and assume another name. This he did,  
living in that state for 3 yrs. as "Mr. Phuramen." (over)

Here, as times grew more tranquil, he settled on his plantation & sent back to S.C. for his wife & 3 daug., Estelle, Mary Balling & Carrie.

It was thus that for 2 generations this branch of the family of Lawton had their lives in Ark. for he sent for his bro. "Johnny" who came over with his own family to live & die in the State of Ark.

Maner Lawton was of tall & slender build, erect as an arrow, coal black hair & hazel eyes - which his black eye brows, made his eyes appear black, a full mouth & a swarthy complexion, which evidenced his mother's Indian blood.

He married Sarah Sophia Gilliam, Dec. 11, 1867 in S.C. His daughters inherited his looks & coloring. His sister Ann was also dark & the 2 were styled the "Black Lawtons" while the twin bro. & sister were the "White Lawtons".

Portraits of his letters as a prisoner are still preserved.

Note: The Lawton family has inter-married so many times through the years with the S.C. families of Maner, Bostick, Robert & Stafford, that nearly all the descendants are related by blood or marriage -

P.S. By me. This is Robert Gilliam Lawton's family here in Schneepost - Bob's father died in Pine Bluff Ark. last summer or fall.  
R.J.