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Chain of Title (ascertained as of July 1989) of the 200 acre plantation where Captain William Lawton lived when he died in October 1757 on Edisto Island (This tract was adjacent to another tract of 460 acres he owned)

1. Benjamin Wilmon (or Wellman, or Wilamon) was granted a tract of 300 acres on Edisto Island on 14 May 1707. This fact is recited in the William Tilly Memorial and in the Joseph Lawton deed of 1774 to John Hanahan.

However, the above grant, nor the plat referred to of this tract in the Joseph Lawton to Hanahan has not been found. One grant to Benjamin Wellman of 200 acres on Edisto Island on 20 May 1697, is found in Salley, Warrants for Land, etc. p. 574

- 1a. NOTE: In the William Tilley Memorial of 21 May 1733, he mentions that Isaac Willman sold a 100 acre portion of this tract unto Mathew Crese.

Leah Townsend states that the Baptist Congregation bought in 1730 of Mathew Creece (or Crees) a tract of 100 acres adjoining the Church lot (two acres had been given by Ehpriam Mikell in 1726 which was put in the hands of trustees Charles Odingsell, Joseph Sealy, Sr., William Elliot, Sr., John Sheppard and Samuel Screven) for use of an Antipedobaptist Minister as a glebe but states that this deed has not been found. See Townsend, South Carolina Baptists 1670-1805.

Note when Joseph Lawton sold this 200 acres in 1774 he gives as the Southern Boundary "By the 100 acre part of said three hundred acres now belonging to the parsonage of a Baptist Congregation."

2. Thomas Grimball surveyed this tract to Wimmiam Tilly by deed of Release on January 1732-33 (see #3) but this deed has not been found.
3. William Tilly made a memorial on 6 January 1732-33 for "one tract of land containing 300 acres lying in St. Paul's Parish, Collecton County, granted unto Benjamin Wellman by a grant dated the 14th day of May 1707 at the yearly rent of 1 shilling per 100 acres, butting on the North and Northwest by creek coming out of North Edisto River and on Lands of WILLIAM FRY, to the south west on lands of HENRY BOWER conveyed to the said WILLIAM FRY and JOSEPH PARMENTOR, to the south east on land of HENRY BOWER conveyed unto the GRIMBALL dated the 5th day of January 1732-33. N.B. 100 acres of this tract was sold by ISAAC WILLMON unto Mathew Crese."

Memorials, Vol. 5, p. 298, South Carolina Archives

William Tilly came to America at age 22 in 1721 from Salisbury England. He was called to the ministry at Charleston and was ordained soon after 1731 at Edisto Island (later Euhaw Church). By his first wife he had one son, William, later a member of the Charleston Church. The Rev. William Tilly died at age 46 on April 14, 1744, and was buried on Edisto Island. The Rev. Isaac Chandler preached his funeral sermon. (Italics TOL'S)

His will was made on April 2 and recorded April 21, 1744. It mentions his son, William, and brother, Joseph of Warminster, England. Executors of his estate advertised his estate for sale on April 30, 1744. (S.E. Gazette).

The will mentions JANE PALMERTER (PARMENTER ?) of Port Royal, ELIZABETH SLACK of Edisto Island, Mrs. Hutchinson of James Island as devisees. They were probably members of his scattered congregation. MATTHEW CREECE as one of the glebe for the Baptist. See Townsend, South Carolina Baptists 1670-1805, footnote page 38.

- 4. William Lawton on 10 June 1744 recites that he purchased from the Executors of William Tilly on the 14th and 15th day of April, 1744. (See Memorial Book 7, pp. 436, of South Carolina Archives)

200 acres of land in Colleton County, being part of a tract of land containing in the whole 300 acres and butting and boundang, etc., as appears by a plat thereof which was granted to BENJAMIN WILMON at the yearly rental of one stilling Proc moneh for every 100 acres.

on Edisto Island, etc. bounded
South: on the remaining 100 acres
West: on lands of ARCHIBALD CALDER
North: on a creek out of NORTH RIVER
East: on land formerly belonging to JOHN FRAMPTON

- 5. Captain William Lawton in his will of Ocotber 9, 1757, recorded October 15, 1757 in Will Book 1767-71, page 507, Charleston County Probate Court.

- 6. Joseph Lawton, Planter of Granville County and SARAH, his wife conbey 200 acres to JOHN HANAHAN merchant of Edisto Island, by deed dated 10 December 1774 and recorded on Dec. 1774 in Deed Book U-6, Dharleston County, R.M.C. Office.

RECITATIONS INCLUDE: WILLIAM LAWTON, a late planter of Edisto by his will recorded in the Office of the Secretary of the Province left the following land to his widow Mary Lawton, NOW MARY FICKLING, wife of SAMUEL FICKLING for life, and then to his son JOSEPH LAWTON. MARY FICKLING had released her interest on 10 December 1774 to her son JOSEPH LAWTON... that WILLIAM LAWTON became the owner of same by divers conveyances of the land was originally granted to BENJAMIN

WILMON as per original plat etc.

200 acres, more or less, formerly part of a 300 acre tract:
Bounded:

South: by the 100 acre part of said 300 acres now belonging to the PARSONAGE of a BAPTIST CONGREGATION, pricked off the original plat and distinguished by a line running South west 33 degrees.

West: land then of ARCHIBALD CALKER, now EPHRIAM MIKELL

North: on a creek out of North Edisto River

East: lands formerly of JOHN FRAMPTON, now of JOHN SEABROOK (JOSEPH LAWTON'S BROTHER IN LAW, HUSBAND OF HIS HALF SISTER SARAH LAWTON SEABROOK) as per plat, etc.

RESERVATIONS IN DEED: Savings and excepting the ONE QUARTER OF ACRE, MORE OR LESS, within the tract of a certain burial place and graveyard "WHERE THE FAMILY OF LAWTON AND THEIR OTHER KINDRED HERETOFORE HAD BEEN ACCUSTOMED TO BURY" This reservation (CAPITOLS TOL'S) is mentioned with the right of ingress at least six different times in this deed.

(William E. Seabrook, Esq. a descendant of SARAH LAWTON SEABROOK, wrote Thomas O. Lawton, Jr on March 24, 1857 that Captain William Lawton and at least one of his wives are buried in the brick enclosed cemetery in an area now known as Hanahan's on Steamboat Landing Road, Edisto Island.

Cousin William subsequently took me to the cemetery and I was probably the first of the Lawtons in a number of generations to visit it.

It is important to note that among the graves still marked are those of Sarah Lawton Seabrook (d. 1798), her husband John Seabrook (d. 1795), William Seabrook (Sarah's son, named for his Grandfather Lawton; his mansion where he entertained Lafayette still stands, not far from the cemetery).

1774 ALL OF THIS TENDS TO SHOW THAT SOMEONE OR OTHERS WHOM JOSEPH LAWTON DESCRIBED AS THE OTHER NEAR KINDRED OF THE LAWTONS IS BURIED IN THE CEMETERY BEFORE 1774. Since this cemetery was on WILLIAM TILLY'S PLANTATION, COULD IT BE HE?

7. There are no doubt other conveyances after the Joseph Lawton to John Hanahan deed in 1774, but we should note that the Presbyterian Church on Edisto Island through a judgment against JOHN JAMES HANAHAN RECEIVED A DEED FROM W.C. BOWEN, Sherriff of Charleston County on May 5, 1878, Deed Book N-14

page 131, of:

a plantation of 214 acres, more or less bounding: North and West by lands of Constantine Bailey; South by Public Road and East by road leading to the Steamboat Landing.

Mrs. Eugenia O. Hanahan on 17 October 1879 released her dower to the Church, Deed Book D-18, P. 87.

8. The 200 acre tract was divided into small parcels and sold mostly to black land owners. One of them was William Campbell Jr. who purchased 20 acres from other heirs in 1955. The deed refers to a plat by J.O. Taylor, made in 1882, recorded in Book C-2, page 494, Berkeley County.

And a kindly black owner, _____ Washington, owned a parcel near the cemetery in 1989.