

November 23, 1998

Dear Tommy,

*Robert -
This is just FYI. Peter - Paul*

Do you remember when I mentioned to you the other day a William Lawton from New England who had a Mott connection, and at one time seemed to me to be a possible candidate for our CWL? Well, it took me a while to run down my information on this William, but I finally found it, and here is what I wrote down on him--all of it from Tony Fusco's Lawton Issue, Vol. 1, #1, p. 10:

In this booklet there is a record of a Sarah Lawton (born 1679, died before 11/15/1733), daughter of Daniel Lawton (born about 1645, died 06/28/1719) and Rebecca Mott (born in Sept. of 1648, died before 1719). This Sarah Lawton married a Lawrence Clark. Both families had for at least three generations been inhabitants of Portsmouth, RI. Sarah had a brother named Thomas Lawton (born 03/01/1666, died before 1719) who had a son William Lawton (no date of birth or death given). William Lawton on 09/05/1712 sold to a man named Jacob Mott a tract of land which he had inherited from his great-grandmother, Mary Mott (no dates). William then seems to "vanish" from the Portsmouth, RI family scene-- or at least he does not appear again in the Lawton genealogy. Although no dates are available for him, I assume that he was at least 21 years of age when he sold his land in 1712, thus born about 1691. Although 1691 is a bit too early (or is it?) for him to be considered a candidate for CWL, we may need to "check him out" just to be sure, when time permits.

We never did follow up on this William Lawton, so do you think we need to do so now--and if so, how? I will do all the correspondence, etc., if you tell me whom to contact.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter that I received today from Robert, as well as a 1938 record he sent to me that probably is of little, if any, value.

On another William Lawton, different generation, did William Henry and Catharine Maner Lawton have two sons named William Henry who both died young? I should have known about this before, but for some reason I obviously didn't do my homework very thoroughly until last night, when I was going through some photos I took this summer at Bostick Cemetery.

Apparently, the first William Henry was born in about August of 1798 and died 07/18/1799, at the age of 11 months. He is buried with three of his siblings, who also died young, one of them Catherine A. Lawton, who died in 1810, I think, but the stone is difficult to read in the photo.

The second William Henry died 09/03/1817, but there is no date of birth on his stone.

I will type all of this up and send it to you sometime this week. Right now I must close and grade a set of essays--and I would rather take a beating than do so.

Take care, and stay in touch.

*Greene -
Paul*

11/23/1998

Dear Tommy -

I'm sorry I don't have an extra larger photo of the small stone to the rear right of William Henry Lawton's monument, but the inscription on it is as follows:

In memory of
four children of
William H. &
Catherine Lawton.

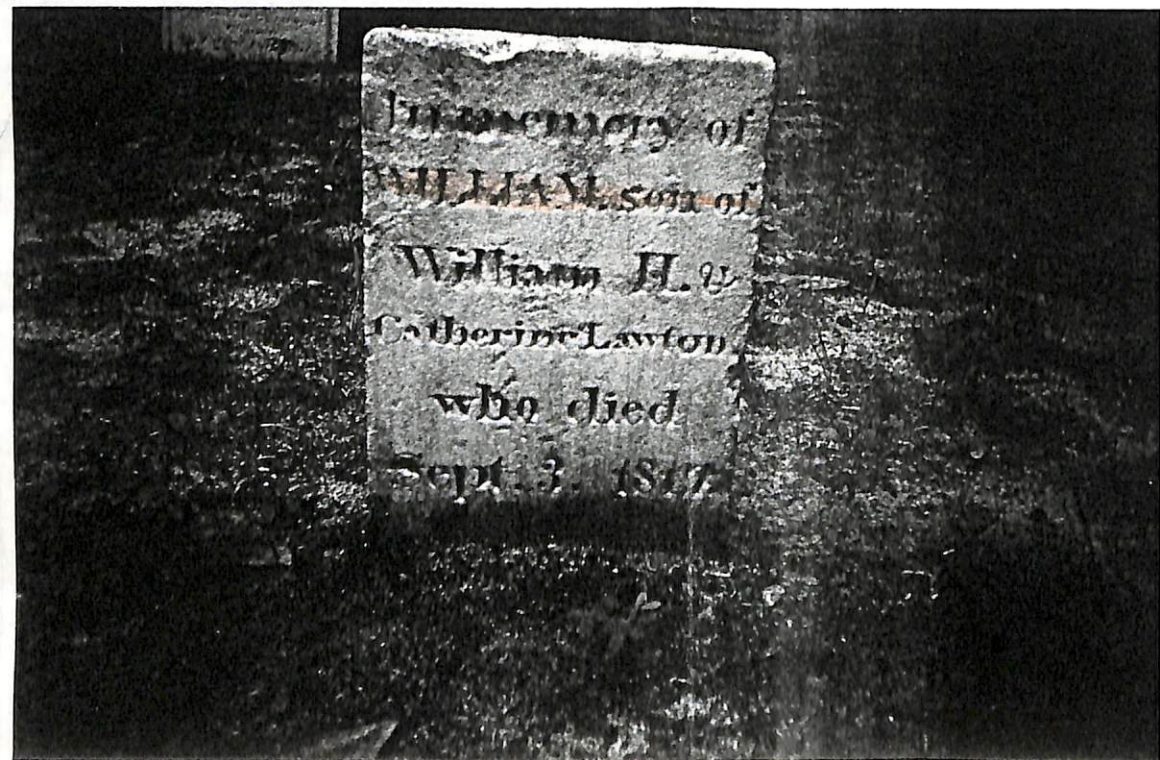
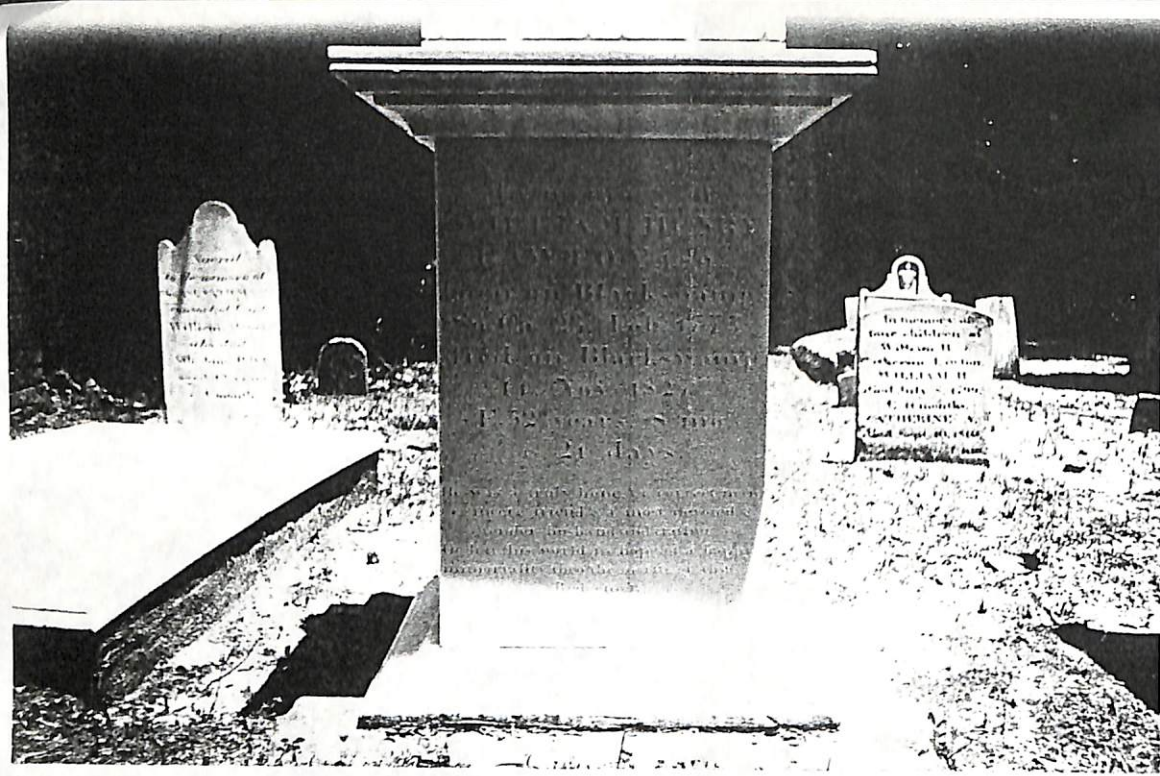
William H.
died July 8, 1799.
Æ 11 months.
Catherine A.
died Sept. 10, 1810
Æ. ? & 1 mo.

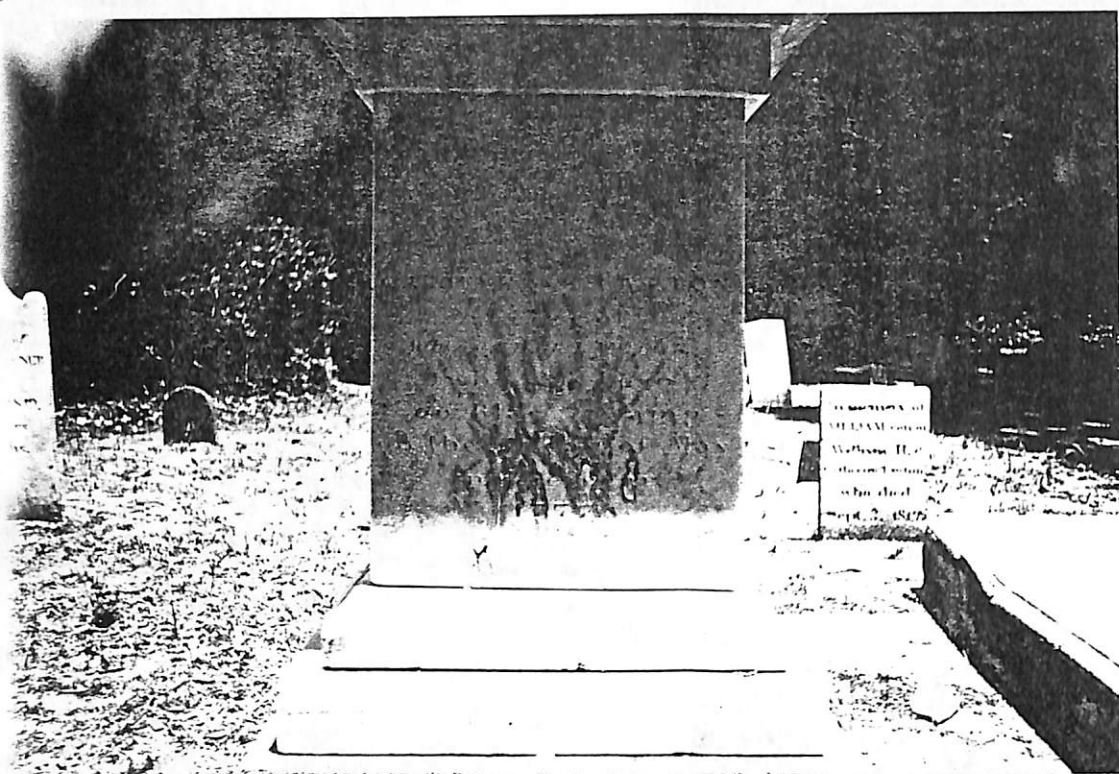
} This apparently
was the first
William Henry
Lawton, Jr.

There are two more names under the ground, so we need to find out what they are. I will make a point to do this over the holidays. I can't believe I haven't taken care of this before!

← This apparently was the second William Henry Lawton, Jr. - died Sept. 3, 1817, age unknown - but I'll bet his date of birth or age is below the ground. Here's all kinds of proof, that Joseph Maner Lawton wasn't the oldest son (or child) of of WH and CM L.

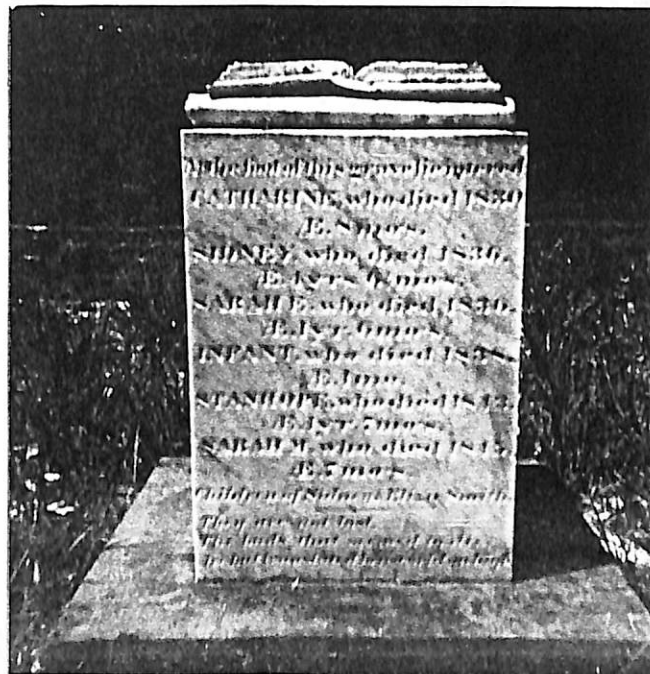
We need to raise and re-set these stones! Family history is being lost!





This is a shot of the stone of the second William Henry Lawton, Jr. - the one who died Sept. 3, 1817, age unknown.

No doubt the need to have a son named William was great, since WH and CML tried 3 times - very understandable, since his grandfather and her father were named William.



↗ I'm including these photos just for the sake of completeness - Eliza Lawton, the first wife of Dr. Sidney Smith (1800-1856), my gg-g'father, whose second wife, Mariah King (1820-1856) was my ancestress, these the parents of Walter Watson Smith (1849-1926), my g-g'father. Eliza Lawton Smith obviously "birthed herself to death" - six children buried beneath this stone with her, and she had several who lived to maturity. Imagine: Born c. 1807, dead at 38, with 8 or 9 children!

Robert-

Do you know the names and dates of the other two children buried here?
The next time I'm at Bostick, I'm going to dig around and clean this stone.
PS - Many thanks for the 1938 letter/history of the Lawton. I ran off copies and am returning your original. Patu-Lane

