

TUCKER AND HOWELL
ARCHITECTS
RHODES-HAVERY BUILDING
ATLANTA 3, GA.

April 22nd, 1965

Dear Cousin Robert,

Please forgive me for not having answered your most interesting letter of March sooner. I trust that you received my postal acknowledging your good letter.

After returning from our delightful Charleston trip, I immediately "dug into" some Income Tax returns, which, as you know, wait for no man to file (unless the reason is rare), and my one-track mind was replete with this deal. - At last, these taxes are (I hope) satisfactorily filed.

The trip of my Wife and myself to Charleston was a great treat, as you had said you thought it would be, although it was not a hundred per cent success in a sightseeing way from my personal viewpoint, in seeing all of the "musts" which you mentioned in your letter. This was mainly on account of the fact that we went with four charming intimates of ours from Atlanta who all had quite positive ideas about what they wanted to see in Charleston during our brief two-and-a-half day stay there.

Luckily the first day our friends wanted to see the Middleton and Magnolia Gardens (which consumed that day). - They were both at their peak of blossom, and they were both breathtakingly beautiful. We were told that Charleston has had excessive rainfall this Spring, and perhaps this was why all of the azaleas, shrubs and trees were magnificent during our visit, luckily. - As one reads an expression of the Reverend Founder of Magnolia Gardens there, God must indeed live there, as the Founder hoped He would. For it rivals one's image of Heaven, doesn't it?

The next day (Saturday) our friends were especially anxious to do the downtown Historical Tour of the City, after debating between it and a Plantation Tour, and this Tour was most delightful and fascinating (in case you haven't taken it). During this Tour I tried to get into the French Huguenot Church, as I especially wanted to see the plaque honoring Rev. Pierre Robert there about which you wrote, but the Church was locked. But fortunately we did get into old St. Philip's and St. Michael's. - All of us were "bowled over" with the old Russell House.

On Sunday, our friends and my Wife departed from Charleston at about noon for Atlanta by car, which left no time for sightseeing Sunday. I flew home in the P.M., as I do not like long automobile drives, and even if I did, the car would have been too crowded with six people and their baggage. So shortly after lunch at our Inn Sunday (the King Charles - very nice) I 'taxied' alone to the Huguenot Church again. But Alas! The Church had I presume been locked after morning Services, and no one seemed in evidence. I guess I'll have to be happy to have seen the outside of the Church -- for the time being, anyway.

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My plane trip home from Charleston was only about an hour and fifteen minutes in the air, most of it at about two miles altitude. Nearly the whole trip was above 'sunkist' banks of clouds which resembled cotton candy at the Fairs, through which one could occasionally see the green earth below, and it was all so fresh and beautiful that I could not help but think of the antithesis in the grizzly man-made Headlines which we are now having. - So, I hope to 'fly Delta' again.

Back to Charleston, we drove by the corner of East Bay Street and Longitude Lane, where there are now insignificant buildings, but I imagined Landgrave Thomas Smith's fine town house with drawbridge there, which you described. - But unfortunately we did not get by the Charleston Library Society on lower King Street to see the colored likeness of the 2nd Landgrave. -- However, we did drive to the old and the new Citadel, and I was especially interested in seeing the old Citadel. This is on account of the fact that we own a portrait of William Erwin (NOT the Doctor) of Erwinton Plantation, which I think you and your Wife saw on the Reunion House Tour last Summer. - This Ancestor died while he was a student at the Citadel, so I wanted to picture him there. The old Citadel, as you may know, is in process of being demolished.

As Caro and I are so anxious to see Medway, and Goose Creek, and take the Ashley River Plantations Tour about which you wrote, and I must see the plaque to Rev. Pierre Robert and the 2nd Landgrave's colored likeness, we'll just have to get back to Charleston before too much time lapses, and I hope stay longer.

The personal relics of the 2nd Landgrave which you saw last Summer -- the crystal decanter used at his baptism, his eyeglasses, his mortar and pestle and his metal seal, all sound fascinating. And I was interested in your detailed account of your findings relative to the 2nd marriage of Pierre Robert, Jr., with Judith deBourdeaux, and of their descendants.

As I consider "Our Family Circle" a remarkably well-conceived and well-written book, I shall see that your letter is placed in it, to make it entirely correct. I do thank you so much for all of the information in your letter.

IN this line, would it be possible for me to get a copy of the family Tree (photostat or otherwise) which was exhibited by you at the Reunion last Summer, which I presume now stands corrected as outlined in your letter to me? I would love to have a copy. Please advise me about this at your convenience.

I hope that you and Cousin Cora are "resting on your laurels" after your excellent services as Officers of the Lawton Family Association for a long term. --- Those jobs must have been interesting, but de-
manding.

Its nice that you could stay with the Strains, at Savannah Beach. - When I met Cousin Eleanor at the Reunion, I thought she was lovely.

Over

I would like to meet Mr. Strain.

It's too bad that you and Cousin Cora don't plan to come to Atlanta soon, but the invitation from Caro and me to visit is permanent. -- Perhaps you'll be coming here next Fall, or Winter?

Caro and I have no plans to visit Hilton Head Island, but we thank you for your kind invitation and we shall certainly let you know if and when we come there.

With kindest regards to you and Cousin Cora, and again thanking you for your letter,

Most sincerely yours,

Albert (Howell)