

SMITH

July 7th, 1997

Rev. Dr. Robert E.H. Peeples  
8 Moon Shell Road  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Dear Robert,

I have to thank you for so many things, where should I begin? Thanks so much for your most informative and thoughtful letter of May 24th. Along with the OFC book of our family and postcard of the grand Dr. Mosse, your extra lineage accounts of the Stanyarnes, Ladsons, Chaplins, Nortons, Barnwells, De Bourdeauxs were welcomed. I cherished the invitation you honored me with to join The Society of First Families of South Carolina, 1670 - 1700! It was most thoughtful of you and I shall remain forever grateful. Just the other day, I received the application for membership in the mail and will be documenting my Lawton and Robert lineage in the very near future.

I can't tell you how much I've enjoyed reading the OFC book. I've spent hours and hours going through it and no doubt will enjoy it over and over again as I try to piece together family origins from my past.

I'm glad I didn't heed your suggestion of not bothering with "Landgrave Smith" portions of the OFC as I found out some interesting facts. Most importantly, I'm also a direct lineal descendant of the I & II Landgrave Thomas Smiths!

Of course you are aware of my Livingston heritage, but beginning with ROSA LAWTON's marriage to Walter Livingston (my great great grandparents) I descend to the Landgrave Smiths via the Singleton and Dixon ladies as follows:

Rosa Lawton was the 2nd daughter of:

Robert Themistocles and Harriet Charlotte Singleton  
(OFC page 242)

Harriet Charlotte Singleton was the 7th & last child of:

Thomas Benjamin Singleton and Elizabeth Anne Robert  
(OFC page 241)

Elizabeth Anne Robert was the 2nd daughter of:

John Robert and Elizabeth Dixon  
(OFC page 149 & 239)

Elizabeth Dixon was the 2nd child of:

Capt. Thomas Dixon and Elizabeth Smith  
(OFC page 148-9)

2.

Elizabeth Smith was the 5th child of the 2nd marriage of:

2nd Landgrave Thomas Smith (Jr.) and Mary Hyrne  
(OFC page 77 & 84)

2nd Landgrave Thomas Smith was the 1st son of:

1st Landgrave Thomas Smith and Barbara Atkins  
(OFC page 21 & 43)

I'm so proud. You can imagine my surprise and delight when I put this all together. Of course without our chance meeting and your patience, I might have never had all this revealed to me.

Another nice surprise I came across. I recently was granted membership into the National Society of Sons of the American Colonists. I recently received their membership roster and much to my delight, I found your name among its membership. I believe you documented your descendency to the 1st Landgrave Thomas Smith.

What a fine heritage we are a part of. When you get a chance, I'd love to know what other hereditary and/or genealogical groups you and Cora are associated with.

You've inspired me to document my family's history and genealogy from the Rosa Lawton - Walter Livingston marriage to the present. As I probably already related to you, starting with Walter there's been only one Livingston male born for the last five generations! I have five first cousins. I'm the only one of six in my generation to have children. There's an outside chance that one of my cousins might have married and had children. He's Benjamin Livingston Brayton. A son born to my Aunt Louise by a 2nd marriage. For some reason, they do not keep in touch with anyone in the family. But I'll be able to track him down and hopefully make his acquaintance. We've never met. Can you believe it?

I have two inquiries about our family that maybe you can help me with. I know we have many family members that have military backgrounds. Do I have any direct relations that were officers or participants in the War of 1812 and also the same inquiry about the Civil War? I'm trying to research my John Ashe relations and have a hint of such, but I need documented proofs.

Secondly, where can I get documentation/proofs of Benjamin T.D. Lawton's short trek and stay in Natchez, Mississippi around the 1809 timeframe that you mentioned to me in conversation and in your letter?

Also, there's an organization that I only know a little about called the "Order of Colonial Lords of Manors in America" that's an invitation only membership. They invite only descendants of Lords of the Manor, Patroons, Seigneurs, or similiar systems of colonial landholders to join. It's very exclusive and pretty much a New York metropolitan area

organization. Do you know anything about this group? I can't make any inquiries to anyone I don't know for fear it might not be appropriate. I'd imagine descendency of a Landgrave would qualify. Do you know anyone from a southern descendency that's a member? The reason I'm asking is, have you ever thought of starting/founding an organization that honor hereditary Landgrave descendencies? Thus honoring the southern heritages of our many families? With your knowledge and ties to the Lawton family reunions and such, it might offer opportunities for membership to many in our family. It's just a thought. In my mind, I guess the First Families of SC serves much the same purpose.

By the way, I'm a direct lineal descendant to all the three Livingston Lords of the Manor and various Schuyler, Van Rensselaer, Van Cortland Patroons of New Netherlands, etc. I'm still researching my dutch ancestry.

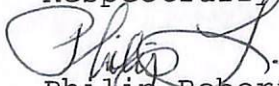
My Robert, I've gone on and on. Sorry. Thanks again for sponsoring me in the 1st Families of SC and introducing me to the Huguenot Society of SC. I have those membership papers from Mrs. Barbara P. Claypoole and will fill them out in due course.

My wife and I are interested in knowing about your ministry. What faith and church are you the Reverend of?

My wife is very strong in her Christian faith and in enjoys teachings that involve translating the bible verse by verse from the original greek. We are Christians that believe we are saved by grace and are dispensationalists. We are the happy parents of two great kids - Emery my daughter a honors graduate of Lafayette College currently finding her way through the business world and my son Philip Robert, III (Rob) who's currently a junior at Duke University planning to spend his entire academic year in Scotland attending the University of Edinburgh.

Sara and I hope to see you and Cora at a future Lawton & Allied Families Assn. Reunion and we want to thank you for all your good wishes and sending your love. Good bless you both and we send you our love.

Respectfully & faithfully your cousin,



Philip Robert Livingston, Jr.  
"Si je puis..." Livingston Family motto

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