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Dear Robert,

Thank you for your quick response to my letter of 27 February. I must have given you the wrong impression in the first paragraph of my letter. My reference to being the son of "William Lawton and Katharine Bell Maner" should have read "William Lawton MANER." My father was the youngest child of Samuel Perry Maner and Emma Jane Connor Maner. As a result, and in spite of the many marriages between Lawtons and Maners, I have neither Lawton nor Robert blood. My direct Maner line derives from William Lawton, Samuel Perry, John Seth, Cap't. William, and back to John of Surry County, Virginia.

You mentioned the Maner research of the late Mr. John L. Stone of Washington. I have copies of his series of articles on the Maners published in The Sylvania (Georgia) Telephone in 1968. Although I have documentation for many of his statements, I cannot accept everything he said because he had no references.

I have found records that prove William Maner and John Maner began acquiring land in 1755 on the Savannah River, now McCormick County, SC. Then in June 1770 William Mainer(sic) was granted 700 acres of land "in Granville County on a creek, commonly called Cypress Creek, waters of Savannah River within a few miles of Black Swamp bounding on all sides on vacant land ..." A memorial for the same tract, dated 14 August 1770, spelled his name "William Maine." In March 1772 he was granted an additional 700 acres adjoining the first grant. The record on the memorial for the latter grant was signed "John Fenwick DS del'd 17 June 1772 to William Maine (sic) Junr"; this being Cap't. William Maner who was 18 years old at the time. William Sr. died in 1774 and I'm guessing that the slabbed unmarked graves in Bostick Cemetery, Black Swamp, are his, his wife Mary's, and another family member. So, you see, Maners were in the Black Swamp area at least as early as 1770.

The William Maner discussed in the above paragraph migrated with his brother John and maybe their father, William, (son of John Maner of Bertie County, NC). They came from a location on the New River, Onslow County, NC (near present day Jacksonville). William (son of John) had been living in Onslow Precinct since about 1728, maybe earlier. John Maner died in 1729.

I agree with you that OFC is laden with errors. Samuel Maner was born in North Carolina but not in Bertie County. His brother William probably was born in South Carolina. William and Jane Aseneth May were married in the Black Swamp area or maybe Savannah; refer to the attached account from an article in The Georgia Genealogist.

Can you tell me from what record(s) came the information about John Maner (1676-1729) having two daughters, one who married Solomon Alston and the other James Fairchild? In all my searching I have found no mention of John and Elizabeth having daughters. His will mentioned three sons only; William, Henry, and Jacob. And where did you find Elizabeth's birth and death years, "c.1685-1715/29"? I would love to obtain documentation of those facts. I am enclosing a copy of an indenture, from Surry Co., VA, court records, that sets John Maner's birthday as 25 December 1676. OFC p. 537 says he was born in 1665.

Also, I have reason to believe that the Maners and the Staffords did not go from NC to SC together. The Maners made the move in late 1754 or early 1755. John May, Mary Stafford May's husband, owned property and lived in Pitt Co., NC. He died late 1763 or early 1764 because according to the tax list, Mary May, widow, was living in his brother Benjamin's household in 1764. Here again OFC (p. 504) is off base. It is true, however, that the Staffords lived in New Hanover Co., NC, and that they probably left from there to go to SC. Probably in 1768. New Hanover Co. Court Minutes, April Term 1768, Wilmington, Tuesday 5 April 1768, has this entry!

-William Stafford was excused as a grand juryman at this court "he being obliged to leave the province..."

Thank you for giving me the names of Mrs. A. B. Simpkins and Mrs. Cone E. Bond as two persons I can contact for Maner information. I have written to Berrien Sanders, Jr. already. I'll also talk with Tom Lawton again. He has already been helpful.

I appreciate your offer to sponsor me for membership in the societies you listed. I don't believe I'm qualified for most of them, including the one of most interest -- The Huguenot Society of SC. I am already a member of the South Carolina Historical Society.

Your invitation to attend the Lawton and Allied Families Assn. reunion is most gracious. I would indeed accept were it not for a long planned trip to Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. We leave 30 May and will not return until 19 June.

Because of your heavy commitments, I certainly do not expect a reply to this letter any time soon. I do hope, however, that sometime in the not so distant future we can meet. I am most grateful for your response to my initial enquiry.

Cordially,

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Alfred W. Maner