

Notes from talk by The Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples given at the Lawton Family Reunion in Estill on Saturday, June 17, 2006

Robert pointed out that there is information that the name Robert originated in Wales, but that is not true. The name means bright with honor. Thomas Lawton wrote an article which was published in the Huguenot Transactions that gives the origination of the Robert name. The word Huguenot means French Protestant.

The Ravenel list, 1696, which lists the early Huguenots in Carolina can be found in the Huguenot Transactions, which are housed at the Huguenot Society. Marie Petremand, daughter of Pierre Petremand, was the wife of Daniel Robert. Their son was Pierre Robert. Their son Pierre Robert, Jr. was married to Judith deBourdeaux.

Robert mentioned some family connections to other Huguenot names. Pierre Robert III married Mary Lynch, and they had several children. A daughter Anne married John Horry, who is buried at Trinity Church in Columbia. Francois (OFC says Evereaud) Purcell deBourdeaux married Catherine Fresne and married a DuBose and lived in Grenoble. They fled to Canterbury, England. He owned the Lining House, the oldest house in Charleston and much of the area in Charleston on the west side of King Street. He died in 1699. (I am sketchy on details here about who owned the Lining House and also the boundaries of other property owned in Charleston.)

Madelaine Robert, the third child of Pierre Robert, Jr. and Judith deBourdeaux, married second on 3/7/1749, William Gough, of Beaufort, S. C., who started the St. Helena's Parish Register, which was published in the SC Historical Society Magazine. (This bears verifying.) Capt. Peter Robert, second child of Jacques Robert and his wife, Sarah Jaudon, married Anne Grimbball, daughter of Paul Grimbball and his wife Mary Stone and half sister to Joseph Lawton, left South Carolina in 1803 and moved with his family to Wilkinson County, MS.

Dixon Plantation was located on property that is now known as Long Island, Folly Beach, SC. There is a cemetery there where Elizabeth Smith Dixon, mother of Elizabeth Dixon, is buried. There has been talk of developing this island. (Should something be done to stop the destroying of this cemetery??) John Robert, founder of Robertville, owned Cotton Hill Plantation. Dr. George Mosse founded the First Baptist Church in Savannah, GA. He is buried in a plantation cemetery around Robertville, but the grave has not been found. Pleasant Hill Plantation was owned by John Robert, but the house was burned by the Yankees. The University of South Carolina Caroliniana Library on the Horseshoe in Columbia has the story of the Hite family. Call ahead and ask that they get records together. They also have the Lawton collection, but it is all in boxes. Laurel Hill Plantation was owned by Benjamin Nathaniel Robert, and the site is located in the Savannah Wildlife Forest Preserve.

Cousin Cora announced that all of Robert's papers are being moved to the Heritage Library at Hilton Head.