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27 December 1980

Dear Rev. Peoples,

Several years ago you were kind enough to correct some errors I had made in my "editing" of some Lawton-Flournoy letters which were published in the Huguenot Society Transactions. I am in the process of finishing two projects which will eventually be published in the Transactions. I am writing you at this time to request your help in preventing similar errors from creeping into these articles.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could answer a few questions and later read the section of my manuscript which deals with the

Lawtons. I know of no more knowledgeable authority to consult. Will you help me in these matters? Not only will I be appreciative, but your efforts will be appreciated by all those who will read these writings, now and in the future.

First, please allow me to briefly describe my projects and genealogical/historical "problems."

I am finishing an article on the Barksdale family, focusing on the descendants of Thomas and Sarah (Legari) Barksdale. The article will be fairly extensive, using 1900 as a "cut-off date." I have based my research on the research of Mrs. Gardin (Davant) Hanahan

who has graciously helped me. From such an excellent point of departure I have expanded (and in some cases corrected) the information. Obviously, the Barkedale - Stoney - Lawton connection is central to my studies.

My second project, not as ambitious in scale, is publishing and editing the letters of Elizabeth (Lawton) Smith (wife of Dr. Sidney Smith) written to her sister, Sarah Asena (Lawton) Flournoy, from whom our family descends.

I have several questions, which, if you can answer, will prevent me from making unnecessary errors.

The questions are (if you will forgive this form)

- 1) Elizabeth (Lawton) Smith (1807-1845) daughter of William Henry Lawton, headed most of her letters "Gravelhill." I assume this was the Smith home and I assume it stood/stands in the Blackowamp/Robertville area. Am I correct or was "Gravelhill" a community?
- 2) Was Dr Sidney Smith a physician and, if so, where did he study?
- 3) In one letter from Elizabeth (Lawton) Smith to Sarah (Lawton) Flournoy several references (unclear to me) are made by Mrs. Smith.

Please allow me to  
quote from this letter  
(date illegible, c. 1841-1845):

"Brother Maner I believe  
intends removing the  
house over to his place [.]  
his son William intends  
going back .... to Virginia  
for the purpose of  
getting married [sic] to A  
Miss Green living there [.]  
his father intends  
putting [sic] him up at  
[Miss] Barnwell's place  
to live... "

The house which "Brother  
Maner" Sawton was  
planning to move to his  
property was the house  
on "Ma's pineland  
place." Obviously, "Ma"

was Catharine (Maner)  
Lawton, recently deceased,  
widow of William Henry  
Lawton.

4) Do you know if this  
house still stands or  
any history involved  
with it?

5) The letter also refers to  
William Lawton, "Brother  
Maner's son," about his  
forth coming marriage  
to "Miss Green" living  
in Virginia.

A) Did he marry her?

B) What was her full  
name & date of  
marriage?

6) Mrs. Smith refers to  
putting him (William  
Lawton) "up at Mrs/Miss  
[illegible honorific]  
Barnwells." Do you know  
which Mrs. Barnwell &  
where she was?

7) The letters refer to Southwood Smith. Tom Lawton's records describe him as "Dr." (as was his father's title). Was Southwood also a medical doctor, and, if so, where did he study?

8) I inherited letters from Mrs. Julia (Smith) Morecock to her first cousin (my uncle, generations removed) Robert Maner Flounoy - They were all written in the 1850's from Marietta, Georgia.

I have no dates for Julia - birth, death, etc, nor do I have the first name of the worthy Reverend - Morecock. Do you have this information?

Changing topics and  
regarding my Legare -  
Barksdale project:

9) I am having infinite  
problem with the Barksdale-  
Polhill connections. Our  
late Cousin Carrie could  
only trace her Barksdale  
ancestry to Hannah  
Barksdale. Born in 1732,  
Hannah married (1) John  
Miller (2) Nathaniel Polhill,  
(3) Benjamin Stirk (4) Rev.  
Alexander Scott.

Hannah's first husband,  
(John Miller) made his  
will, in which he referred  
to his brothers-in-law,  
Charles and Thomas Barksdale,  
definitely placing Hannah  
as a daughter of Thomas  
and Sarah Legaré.)

Barksdale. But Mrs. Martha Burns "once asked Miss Carrie [Kabler] if she was descended from Legaré and she said 'No.'"

Can you explain this confusion?

Any help you can give me on any of the fore-going questions will be greatly appreciated

Yours sincerely,  
Michael W. Berry.