

Phoebe Sarah Lawton (nee Willingham)

1858

Born 7 July 1808 at Robertville, daughter of B. T. D. & Jane (Cass) Willingham, married
13 Nov. 1823 at Lawtonville, Thomas Henry Willingham, Jr. (23 Dec. 1798 - 7 July
1873) son of T. H. & Sarah (Cham) Willingham. They settled in Savannah,

where he was a cotton merchant until 1828 when ^{Thomas becomes} they ~~settled~~ their
handsome Silver Hill Plantation house three miles east of Lawtonville.

~~There~~ ^{Three} ~~of~~ their thirteen children were born Postmaster of Robertville and
and their handsome Silver Hill Plantation house was built some three
miles east of Lawtonville. In October 1833 Thomas was appointed first Postmaster
of Lawtonville where he was to serve for almost fifty years as deacon of Lawtonville
Baptist Church with his beloved brother-in-law and friend, Edward Hardon Peoples.
In both their homes no day was ever begun without the family gathering for
prayer at which a chapter of the Bible was read.

Phoebe Sarah (Lawton) Willingham died at her Silver Hill Plantation home 4 Feb.
1862 and her widower married her first cousin, Louisa J. Lawton (30 years 1814 -
26 Dec 1897). In Feb. 1865 U.S. troops burned Silver Hill Plantation while

the family refuged in Georgia. It was rebuilt shortly thereafter and when
the Southern Railroad ^{drove its tracks & built a station there} after 1890, it was officially

named Lena, S.C. in honor of a lovely granddaughter, Allene Lawton (17 Feb. 1885 -
19 Jul 1943) who later married Dr. DeLoay Weyman (31 Jan 1876 - 24 Jan 1936) and
built a home nearby. Deacon Willingham died 7 July 1873 at the home of his son near
Allendale and was buried beside his wife and several of their children in
Lawtonville Cemetery. His handsome plantation home was a prominent landmark,
site of many happy family reunions, until it burned in 1930.

Their thirteen children were:
The Willingham family has been extensively documented by A. E. Miller, Our Family
Circle ¹⁹¹¹ by Anne Willingham Willis, A Family History, 1946; by Calder Willingham Payne, Descendants of
Benjamin Lawton Willingham, 1976; by Catherine Elizabeth Lawton Gubild, Descendants of E. Deacon
Milo Lawton, 1978 and Carolyn Lawton Harrell, Kith And Kin, 1984.