

MRS. E. W. LAMONS
605 DRAPER ROAD, S. W.
BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA 24060

Lawton

Friday, Oct. 2, 1987

Dear Robert,

Your letter was most interesting and contained many things about our family which I did not know. My sister, Alice, is more the genealogist in our family. I plan to xerox your letter and the enclosures and send them to her.

Hugh found out, I have forgotten how, that I am descended from the Lawtons of South Carolina and brought me "Our Family Circle" and some other books and I xeroxed pages in them to send to my sisters.

My Aunt Philoclea is very much alive and active. She lives in a retirement home in Atlanta but visits her sister, Florida McLendon, in ~~the~~ Lexington, NC, and also goes to DAR conventions etc. My aunts, Philo and Florida are the only surviving members of my father's generation. I am going to send Aunt Philo a copy of the pages of "Our Family Circle" which list Grandfather's children and grandchildren and let her correct the errors and then I will send them to you.

I plan to write to Dr. Lawton in Waynesboro and send my \$3 to get the annual notice of the reunion, minutes, etc. Don't know that I will be able to go, but I am interested. I would like one copy of the book, "Our Family Circle," when you revise and correct it. I cannot speak for my sisters as to whether they want to order a copy or not.

Thank you for offering to send me an application for membership in the First Families of South Carolina but I don't believe I will join anything else at this time. I am deeply involved in the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities and am President of our local branch at this time. We operate and administer the affairs of Smithfield Plantation House in Blacksburg. It is a late 18th Century house built by Col. William Preston. At the time it was built it was the only really handsome house in the area, everything else being log cabins. It is amazing that it has survived as it is clapboard. It was acquired from the fifth generation of Preston descendants in 1959 and restored. We open it to the public three days a week, have a resident curator and many activities there. The central APVA in Richmond is the owner. Being president of the Montgomery County Branch keeps me busy.

I hope we will meet sometime. I am an active Episcopalian, on the vestry of our church here and have been Senior Warden. A lot of people don't approve of women in this office. I am not an ardent "women's libber" but but did not see why I shouldn't take it when asked. Since my husband's death I have needed to keep busy and have.

Thank you again for your interesting and detailed reply to my letter.

Sincerely,

Dorothy