

Dear Cousins, I trust you are having a blessed Christmas & Happy New Year -

SEASON'S GREETINGS
LAWTON

The year 1980 has been a glorious year. The beautiful Christmas week ^{of 1979} was spent in Philippi, West Virginia with loved ones. One of my grandsons, Alan Lawton Myers, and Catherine Groves were married in the lovely chapel of Alderson-Broadus College. Frank, Lois, and Max came over from Richmond.

A few days later, when I returned to Richmond, there was "snow on the mountain." Then in January, 24 inches of snow; in February, 24 inches of snow; another 24 inches was promised for March. However, only six inches fell. All this in Richmond. Then I was off to Spartanburg for robins had begun to sing and violets bloom there. I reached Spartanburg in time to see the towering apple trees and other fruit trees burst into marvelously loaded branches of beauty and fragrance. Many, many other spring flowers were in abundance, flowers we had planted, Sam and I, over the years. A joyous welcome awaits all who come to Spartanburg. And I was comforted with the love our Heavenly Father extends.

The last of May, I flew to Pensacola, Florida for the week end to see another grandson graduate from Bible College. He is W. Max Lawton. In a few days I went back to Richmond and saw another grandson, David Myers, graduate from high school.

We were all back in Ridgecrest in time for Foreign Mission Week and our lovely day of Fellowship and Prayer for Nigeria which ~~day~~ has now become a tradition. There were two Nigerians and many missionaries and their families. A total of forty-five registered beside the nine of my family who were already there. Summer conferences are always great at Ridgecrest. Many friends from all over the world come. I was especially pleased to see so many of my former students and co-workers ~~active~~ active in serving the Lord. It was a true joy for a small bus load from Richmond to come by my cottage for Christian greetings. Some were from First Baptist Church, Richmond where I attend, others were from the Baptist Book Store, Richmond, where my son Frank is manager.

Do you know if Gerald Lawton is our Cousin? He attended Wake Forest College & married Alice Stuart. They are missionaries to Indians in New Mexico and are from near Anderson S.C.
My love to all the cousins. Hope to see you next time -
Love, Alice Stockton Lawton

It was in the early part of July that I had a severe heart attack. Both my children came and several grandchildren. Mary Elizabeth stayed in the hospital with me for a solid month and then in Ridgecrest for another month. I can certainly say lovely things about Mission Memorial Hospital in Ashville for they were wonderful to me. We all felt so definitely the presence of the Lord. We could realize one miracle after another. Nine churches and many, many friends and loved ones were praying continuously. Someone said, "It's like the missionaries when they have a birthday people all over praying for them." And for me it was not just one day it was many days. Their prayers are still being answered. My recovery has been slow, indeed. Except for the Xrays, the EKG's, and the gracious Divine presence one would never know. How grateful we all are for our Father's tender mercies. After awhile, I was able to ride so off we went again. This time to West Virginia to see another grandson, Roger Myers, get married to Drema Golden, in a most beautiful wedding.

Now, both Roger and Alan are studying in medical college ^{W.V.A} and David in Erskin College, South Carolina.

In October, we made a hurried trip to Spartanburg to sort of wind up things. Frank owns the place there now so I'll be coming back along. That dear place in Spartanburg- I'll always cherish it. I lived there nearly forty years. I've had such wonderful neighbors. My doctor, my lawyer, my preacher all lived right there. But after all, we've always said, "Retire at Ridgecrest." I guess the time has come because, hereafter my permanent address is: Ridgecrest, North Carolina 28770 Telephone: 1-704-669-8963

Of course, I'll have to spend the icy months away, but "Come spring, and robins, and violets" I plan to be in our dear little "Rustic Royal" at Ridgecrest. *I did not get to attend the Fayettevian Reunion!* Yes, I have had some disappointments this year, I did not get to attend the National Church Conference of the Blind or the state meeting of the Aurora Club. I did not get back to my Sunday school class or my W.M.U. Group in Spartanburg First. I did not get to spend Thanksgiving with my niece, Mary Lou Simpson, in Laurens as I've done so many years. I did get a wheelchair so now I go sailing down those long halls at First Baptist, Richmond. Isn't it grand?

Don't feel sorry for me about the wheelchair, just be glad they all want me!

Sincerely, Alice S. Lawton