

LAWTON AND ALLIED FAMILIES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION  
JUNE 18-19, 1993  
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

MINUTES

Dr. Robert James Lawton, President, opened the meeting with a welcome to all family members. Dr. Peeples jokingly admonished us, saying, "there are only two ways Christians pray, on their knees, or on their feet" before giving the invocation.

Our Family Tree, the outline of each family's lineage was begun by Dr. Peeples. He also encouraged family members to send announcements of births, deaths, marriages and other notable events to the family Historian, Cora Peeples.

After her lineage was detailed, the President thanked Deanna Wagoner for the lovely table favors from the Clowns' Bazaar, a special market for handicrafts. Deanna thanked the members of the family for their interest in and support of the shop.

Lawton O'Cain introduced herself and raised the issue of the Orangeburg County Road closing in Hampton County, South Carolina. Dr. Peeples remarked that the road is of historical significance because German settlers used it to travel between Salisbury and Orangeburg. O'Cain reminded us that General Sherman marched several thousand troops along the road. That was a good enough reason to close it, someone remarked! O'Cain asked if members of the family would be willing to sign a petition to keep the road open for historical reasons. After some discussion it was agreed the people living in the area near the road would sign the petition.

The President asked officers to give their annual reports.

Marion R. Lawton, Jr. (Russell), Treasurer, reported the family had approximately \$3,470.00 in the bank. The fund is earning 2.9% interest in a money market account and Russell is open to suggestions about how the interest rate might

be improved. Our Family Circle is still available for \$25.00 a copy and Lawton crest notecards for \$3.00 a box, a portion of which goes to the family fund.

Lawton O'Cain reported on the status of the Robert Cemetery fence in Robertville at the site of the original Black Swamp Baptist Church. She has contacted a millwright who can restore the fence using the pieces available for cost plus 10%. A motion was made that Lawton go forward with the work. The motion carried.

The Historian's report was given by Cora M. Peeples. She thanked family members for contributing information to the historical reports and bulletin board information. She provided handouts of the 1992 and 1993 reports.

Jack Boineau, past President of the Edisto Historical Preservation Society, discussed Edisto Island Cemetery restoration. He explained that the Lawton/Seabrook Cemetery is cleaned every two months. The cost is \$25.00 for each cleaning. The current resident of the Seabrook mansion contributed \$500.00 to the Society to start the cleanup project. Thomas O. Lawton, Jr. suggested the family make a contribution to the Edisto Historical Preservation Society. He remarked that the family has designated \$400-\$500 for markers for William Lawton and there was some discussion of a transfer of funds. Dr. Peeples moved to give \$500.00 to preserve the Lawton/Seabrook Cemetery. The motion carried.

Dr. Peeples introduced Ernestine Fellers, President, The Society of First Families of South Carolina. He announced that all members of the family are invited to join the Society. Membership forms are available from Dr. Peeples.

Cora M. Peeples informed the group that the scrapbook collection has been sent to the Caroliniana collection in the library of the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina. The papers are noted in the family Bibliography, Second Edition, dated June, 1993. It was discussed that the first collection of Lawton papers in the Caroliniana collection needs to be catalogued. Tom Lawton noted that by comparison a set of Lawton papers in the Southern Historical Collection of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, is nicely guidelineed (see Bibliography, pg. 9).

Dr. Gerald M. Church presented the Bibliography Committee update. He suggested the first Bibliography from 1986, printed on yellow paper, be replaced in our files by the 1993, mulberry colored version.

There were comments and reviews of a few of the publications and papers listed in the Bibliography. Dr. Church suggested we consider publishing several items in the Bibliography when and if funds are available for a publication program. He read an excerpt from "Old Toney and His Master" as an example of the type of out-of-print document that has historical significance to the family. He believes the book depicts the lives of our families in the Lawtonville area around the 1850's.

The Bibliography Committee is pleased to announce that Kimberly McLaren Hutchison will serve as its newest member.

Tom Lawton reviewed the family Foundation. The Foundation was established in 1989 to receive gifts for document publishing and preservation of the cemeteries. All gifts are tax deductible. Contributions are needed for markers at Edisto, clearing and restoration of cemeteries, and publishing family documents. Trustees of the Foundation are:

- 1) Mr. M. Russell Lawton, Jr.
- 2) Mrs. Don C. Sharp, Jr.
- 3) Mrs. Marion R. Lawton
- 4) Mr. & Mrs. Winston A. Lawton
- 5) Dr. Gerald M. Church
- 6) Rev. Robert E. H. Peebles
- 7) Mr. Lawton Maner

Dr. Robert James Lawton was elected as a Foundation Director.

Dr. Lawton remarked on his eight years as President of the family organization. He reviewed three goals he had at the beginning of his term:

- to develop a Bibliography of family papers
- to make available a trip to England to visit the home of our ancestors
- to establish a non-profit Foundation for gifts and donations.

All of those goals have been realized with the help of many family members. The President was given a round of applause to thank him for his outstanding service to the family.

Thanks were also warmly given to Dr. Milton and Frances Rhodes for the lovely dinner-on-the-river at Doc's Pad.

Our evening at the Summit Plantation in 1991 was remembered fondly and thanks were again extended to Jack Boineau.

The meeting adjourned for lunch.

After lunch the meeting resumed with a report from the Nominating Committee. No one had been found to assume the role of Secretary or President.

New business was asked for and the youngest attendee, Margaret Bower, age 7, and the oldest, Thelma Clark, age 90, were applauded.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

After the meeting adjourned, Linda Lawton Phillips accepted the role of Secretary and Stacey Church Driscoll accepted the role of President for the 1994 year. To acquaint you with Stacey and Linda, a pedigree chart for each is attached.

These minutes were prepared by Stacey Driscoll and Linda Phillips.