

LAW OFFICES
McNAIR & LAWTON
MEMORIAL AVENUE
ALLENDALE, SOUTH CAROLINA

ROBERT E. McNAIR
THOMAS O. LAWTON, JR.
WILLIAM E. MYRICK, JR.

July 15, 1963'

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Reverend Robert E. H. Peeples
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Dear Bob, Alice, Carrie Lee and Lily:

As all of you know, the only Revolutionary service established for Joseph Lawton was based on biographical sketches of General A. R. Lawton, Colonel A. R. Lawton and Dr. James Stoney Lawton. At long last, I have found some positive proof in Auditor General's Account Book (April 1778 through February 1780). Page 91 shows audited pay bills for detachment of Colonel Bull's Regiment for duty at Purysburgh where Captain William Stafford, Lieut. Joseph Lawton and others received funds from the State. Here Lieut. Joseph Lawton receives 49 pounds and 5 shillings for service from the 5th of July through July 11, 1778. Page 93 of the same volume shows that Lieut. Joseph Lawton received 49 pounds, 13 shillings and 9 pence for provisions supplied a scouting party of Colonel Bull's Regiment in May 1778. This book is in the Archives at Columbia.

Of course, I was thrilled to find the references and came upon it quite by chance. I was disappointed not to find Continental Service listed. However, it may be possible that Colonel Bull's Regiment was attached to the Continental line at Purysburgh, because if I remember correctly, there is an article in one of the early South Carolina Historical magazines on Major or General John Faucheraud Grimke and his Continental troops at Purysburgh. If Colonel Bull's Regiment was attached to Major Grimke, this might give Joseph Continental service also - and as you know, in South Carolina there was frequent transferring from militia to Continental duty and vice versa. But, at last, we do have definite proof that he was a lieutenant.

Bob wrote suggesting that we prepare a Trust Fund Agreement to raise money for taking care of the family cemeteries. Alice and Carrie Lee are also on the present Cemetery Committee and we are planning to do extensive restoration to the Robert cemetery with the present funds just as soon as we can get together. I, frankly, think the idea of the Trust Fund is a

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good one, and Eula Lawton King approached me at the reunion about using the \$5,000.00 already subscribed for Black Swamp as a nucleus. When we do begin the Trust Fund, I would like to see us hit it in a big way with special thought as to the cemeteries which we should cover, etc.

Meanwhile, Bob also mentioned the article that Les Inabinett had written. I feel that if we could publish it in booklet form with the new and inexpensive method of offset printing, that we could sell many copies with at least one or two dollars profit per book. Then these proceeds could be used for the Cemetery Fund.

It has always seemed to me, too, that we should have a monument to Captain William Lawton either on Edisto or at Lawtonville. As you know, his cemetery on Edisto contains no marker and it is most inaccessible. If we decided on Edisto, it would seem to me that the marker should either be in the Presbyterian or the Episcopal churchyards there. I have never quite decided whether he was a Presbyterian or an Anglican. The fact that he was a Trustee of a Trust Fund for the Presbyterian congregation under the will of his brother-in-law, Jenkins, would strongly indicate that he was a Presbyterian, even though he was appointed an Overseer of the Poor by the Anglican vestry. What do you think?

I am delighted that we have finally heard from a descendant of Beulah L. Hughes. That opens up a new field and certainly her descendants and Winborn Lawton's descendants, who are numerous, should be treated in any new book that comes off the press.

One other thought has occurred to me concerning a project for the reunion, and that is that we should ask all members of the family who have portraits, daguerreotypes, photographs, etc., to send a negative and at least one copy to Alice Tonge, our Archivist, together with a history of each so that future generations might obtain copies thereof. This, to me, would be an extremely worthwhile project.

Every year we also seem to have a group which feels that our name might be changed to include other families. Actually, though our precedents go back to 1831 for Lawton family reunions, with the more recent ones beginning some 20 years ago, I would

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like to suggest that we call it the Reunion of the Lawtons and Allied Families, with some spelling out of as to who the allied families are, or perhaps leave that indefinite because we are delighted to have members of the other families interested, whether or not they have a Lawton line and certainly many of the families who don't have Lawton lines but whose lines we have, have contributed greatly to the success of our reunion.

This has been long and rambling, but I wanted to convey these thoughts to all of you.

With every good wish, I remain

Cordially,



Thomas O. Lawton, Jr.

TOLjr/bp

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