JOSEPH MANER LAWTON (Grandson of Joseph Maner Lawton, Sr. and son of
William Henry Lawton (1821-1893) and Sarah Ann
Bolling Green, his 1st wife.)

Joseph Maner Lawton was born 29 Sept. 1844 on his mother's estate,
"Berry Hill" in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, eldest of five children.
His mother died when he was eight, the youngest child soon following
her in death. In due course he enrolled in The Citadel, the Military
College of South Carolina, leaving there in 1863 to enlist in the
patrician Charleston Light Dragoons, Co. R, 4th S.C. Cavalry. His
father outfitted him beautifully; his Salingen Sabre is still treasured.
He served with great bravery under Gen. Wade Hampton. A comrade and
cousin wrote of him that "at the Battle of Cold Harbor he led a charge
when men who had seen three years of hard service turned back". He was
captured in that "terrible cavalry fight 2 June 1864 at Travillian
Station, Virginia".

Imprisoned at Point Lookout, Maryland, he and a number of his com-
rades attempted to escape in the dead of winter by sawing the bars and
endeavoring to swim the icy waters of the Chesapeake. Negro sentinels
discovered them and forced their surrender. From the exposure he never
fully recovered and died from the effects 17 Aug. 1885.

After the war he entered the University of Virginia to study law,
but it was distasteful to him and he returned to his father's plantation
near Abbeville, S. C. Here during the deplorable days of "reconstruction"
he helped organize and became leader of the local KKK. Federal authori-
ties sought him for arrest, but he eluded them and fled to Memphis,
Tennessee. There on the public streets he encountered his cousin, Col.
J. Wharton Green, himself a Confederate veteran.

Col. Green was alarmed at the encounter and warned him of the hue
and cry for his apprehension which had already reached Memphis. He
urged him to flee into Arkansas, then a wild frontier state, and assume
another name. This he did, living in Arkansas for three years as "Mr.
Plummer". As times grew more tranquil, he purchased a plantation and
sent to S. C. for his wife and three daughters: Estelle, Mary Bolling
and Caroline. He also persuaded his brother, John Goldwire Lawton, who
had married Caroline Gillam, sister to his own wife, Sophie Gillam, to
settled in Arkansas and for two generations this branch of the Lawton
family lived in that State.

Joseph Maner Lawton was tall and slender, erect as an arrow, with
coal-black hair and hazel eyes which appeared black because of his
heavy black eyebrows. He was full-mouthed with a swarthy complexion
which evidenced his mother's Indian blood.

He married Sarah Sophia Gillam on 11 Dec. 1867 in South Carolina.
Their daughters inherited his looks and coloring. His sister, Ann,
was also dark and the two were styled the "Black Lawtons" while the
twin brother and sister were the "White Lawtons".

Photostats of his Letters, written while imprisoned in Maryland,
are still preserved.

NOTE: This Joseph Maner Lawton is not to be confused with his wealthy
uncle, Joseph Maner Lawton, Jr. of "Cypress Vale","Hamilton
Ridge", "Boggy Gut", Thornhill" and "Greenwood" Plantations, who was
also known as "Black Joe" or "Devil Joe" (2 Feb. 1825-27 Apr. 1884),
nor is his brother, John Goldwire, to be confused with their uncle,
John Goldwire Lawton (1823-1870) of "Gravel Hill" Plantation, S. C.

(From family records, copied by the Rev. Fr. Robert E. H. Peeples.)