

4945 Sansom Street

Phila; Pa. 19139

March 27, 1985

Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples
8 Moon Shell Road
Hilton Head Island, S. C. 29928

Dear Sir:

About five years ago my cousin, Mrs. Viella Lawton Durham, contacted you regarding information about my grandfather and her great-grandfather Brister Lawton. You very graciously replied with a delineation of the descendants of Robert T. Lawton, the slaveowner of Brister Lawton, and owner of "Blockade House Plantation" near Sylvania, Georgia.

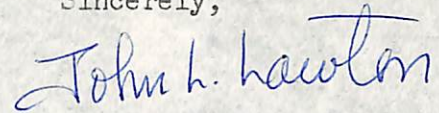
We have excerpted much of your letter and reproduced it for distribution to our family when we meet at the Ramada Hotel, Capital Plaza, Atlanta, Georgia on June 28, 29, 30, 1985. I hope you will consent to this, for I am certain they will find your letter as interesting and informative as Mrs. Durham and I did.

I was especially curious about the names of Robert T. Lawton's children since, either by accident or design, some of those given names reappear in my immediate family. For example, I have a sister Rosa, and brothers Thomas and James. My father, who died in 1977 at the age of ninety-eight, told me many times that his mother Hester nursed Walter Livingston, and named her own son H. Walter Livingston Lawton. H. Walter Livingston Lawton also told me that he came North, when still a young man, to Absecon, New Jersey to work for Walter Livingston. Many things heard in my early years now have added meaning.

This year is the first year of our family being nationally organized, and we felt compelled to make a public statement of appreciation to you, though long overdue. On behalf of the family, "Thank you." Thanks again for your

interest. May God bless you in your endeavors,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John L. Lawton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent horizontal line above the "n" in "Lawton".

John L. Lawton, Ph. D.

P. S. I enclose a copy of the first page of your letter as reference.