

2 January 91

Dear Robert and Miss Cora,

Happy New Year a few days late! I enjoyed talking with both of you over the holidays and look forward to continued contact with you during the coming year.

Enclosed please find copies of the following items:

1. A copy of the letter I wrote to the Office of Emigration in London, requesting information on one possible lead we have never pursued in our quest for Capt. William Lawton--the Thomas Lawton of Middlesex, who was transported to Carolina in February of 1724. I will let you know the outcome of my "probe."
2. Copies of six pages from my copy of the Cheshire section of Domesday. I thought you would be interested in the references to Lawton and "Millom."
3. Copies of some of the old photos I have managed to identify from King's "trove," and/or have been able to obtain from various other sources. As I mentioned to you over the phone, please let me know if you hear of anyone who would like to have copies of any of these photos, as I am most eager to make them readily available for this and future generations.

I spent the better part of my Christmas vacation "piddling" with my research, but came up with nothing extraordinary. I no doubt will devote my summer vacation to the same pursuit. I just wish that I were financially able to devote all my time to ancestry. It is the one thing that never ceases to delight and entertain me. Six more years and I can retire from teaching, though, so perhaps then I will be able to immerse myself completely.

I was reading back through your magnificent "Grimball Plantation Journal" the other night, and want to commend you again for an absolutely superb research endeavor. How you compressed so much into so few pages boggles my mind! Is there by any chance a photo copy of this "Journal" available? If so, how might I obtain one? I would love to have samples of the handwriting of our ancestress, Mary Stone, to go with the single sample I have of Capt. William Lawton's handwriting. What should I do--write to the Georgia Historical Society? If so, is there any person in particular I need to contact? Please advise.

On another subject, what did you ever do with Cousin Florrie's papers? For years now I have been meaning to get down to Hilton Head as you said I should, and look through this material, but I am all but "manacled" to my menagerie, as you know, and it is difficult for me to be gone even overnight. Besides, as I told you over the phone last week, my vision is so poor now; on dark or unfamiliar roads I am a highway hazard. Maybe this spring or summer I can manage a trip by bus to visit you. Is there any Greyhound service to Hilton Head from this direction? I will check this week. In the meantime, how much Sams information is contained in Cousin Florrie's material? My Sams research is more or less complete--at least as complete as I think it ever will be--so my primary interest in that line now would be miscellaneous personal papers (letters, diaries, etc.) of my gg-grandparents, Miles Brewton and Caroline Matilda (Oswald) Sams. Are any such items in Cousin Florrie's files?

Exams will be upon me in about two weeks, so genealogy will have to take a "back burner" until March or April--unless something startling and irresistible turns up, that is, in which case I will simply "burn candles at both ends." I hate this time of the year. There is never any time for anything except school! I am already longing for June, and January has hardly begun! I can already tell that the next five months are going to be looooooonnnnnngggg ones!

Oh--one other thing I've been meaning to tell you for months, and even forgot to tell you over the phone last week: Did you know that when you wrote to me last summer about a possible get-together when you were in Myrtle Beach for a convention, you forgot to tell me which motel you would be in? I kept hoping that you would call and come by for a visit, but I never heard from you. Do you have any convention plans here for the coming year? If so, do please let me know in advance--particularly where you will be staying.

In the meantime, please stay in touch--and Happy New Year to both of you once again.

Also, please keep me posted on any ideas you might have on possible avenues of research for Capt. William Lawton. Mrs. Brownlee and I are now "scraping the bottom out of the bucket" for anything we can find. If the London "probe" on Thomas Lawton turns up nothing, we will have no idea where next to direct our attention.

Be well, and let me hear from you as time permits.

Fondly,
Paul