

LAW OFFICES
LAWTON & MYRICK
(FORMERLY McNAIR, LAWTON & MYRICK)
MEMORIAL AVENUE
ALLENDALE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29810

THOMAS O. LAWTON, JR.
WILLIAM E. MYRICK, JR.
WARREN L. DEWAR, JR.

TELEPHONE
584-2385
AREA CODE 803

December 21, 1968

William E. McLeod, Esquire
325 Country Club Drive
Charleston, South Carolina 29400

Dear Billy:

Yesterday while waiting for an appointment in Columbia I had a most unusual and rewarding experience in the Archives. One of the attendants took me back in the stacks - which aren't open to the public - in order for me to check an early card index for the Charleston Equity Records in the 1785-1800 period on one of Mother's lines, and I glanced at the opposite shelf and noticed several hundred boxes of Charleston Equity Records from the 1800-1865 period. When I inquired about indices for them, she stated that she didn't think they were indexed; so I asked to see the contents of one box just to see what it was like. She told me to take my pick, and I pointed to the 1804 box. Imagine my shock when the first file in the box was a case entitled "Winborn Lawton and William Seabrook vs. Joseph Lawton and Peter Robert".

From this case involving the disposition of slaves left by Captain William Lawton to his widow Mary for her life and then to his son Josiah, I learned Captain William Lawton's daughter Mary, who has been previously unaccounted for, was in March 1804, the widow Mary Russell, of Charleston; that she was the whole-blood sister of Winborn Lawton, and that their mother was MARY WINBORN. Thus, Captain William married three MARY'S; Mary Clarke, Mary Winborn and Mary Sams, the widow of Paul Grimball.

In this file (designated Equity Bills - 1804 - No. 30) there is an original document entered into evidence where Captain William Lawton witnessed a Deed of Gift in 1751, when his wife-to-be Mary Grimball gave one of the slaves to her son Thomas Grimball. I was happy to see his original signature, but only wish that I

Mr. McLeod

Page 2

December 21, 1968

had had this data before I wrote my article and before the cenotaph was erected. This is one of the hazards of writing anything, even if it makes research more interesting when luck comes along.

Later when I found that there is an index of sorts to this material, I saw one for the case of Winborn Lawton vs. J. Cuthbert (Charleston Equity Bills - 1824 - No. 12), but by then I had to rush off to keep my appointment; so I didn't have an opportunity to check the file, which I hope to do later.

The family joins me in all good wishes for you and Rose.

Sincerely,

Thomas O. Lawton, Jr.

TOLjr/nmm

cc: Mrs. Maner L. Tonge
The Reverend Robert E. H. Peeples ✓