

July 29, 1995

Dear Reverend Peeples,

Thank you so much for your kind letter. I am glad you enjoyed the presentation. I found it to be exciting to research and a pleasure to give. Hopefully it provided some of the same to those who were there.

Thank you, too, for the record from the Swiss church from 1655. I can interpret a part of it, but I totally lose track about the third line. There seems to be a baptism of the child of a David Calame in the first part--possibly a cousin of Daniel, since his aunt Marie married a Calame. Can you translate the rest? What does it say about Daniel Robert? It is so fascinating to have this type of record from 340 years ago.

As I was getting things put together for putting my presentation on paper, I ran into a problem. You probably already know all of the answers, so I would like to pick your brain for a little while. It has to do with the will of William Lawton.

*A few-year-old  
would not  
have gotten  
this!*

WILLIAM LAWTON, Edisto Island, St. John's Parish, Colleton County, planter. Wife: Mary, use of my plantation during her life. Sons: Josiah, 1/2 land purchased of Mr. James Cuthbert; William, other half said land; Joseph, land where I now live; Jeremiah and Winborn. Daus: Sarah and Mary. Mentions: residue of estate to my children; possible unborn child; sons Josiah and William to have charge of shares of Sarah, Jeremiah, Winborn and Mary who are under 19 years and unmarried. Exors: wife; son Josiah; brother Isaac Rippon; William Maxwell. Wit: John Mikell, John Fry, John Frach.

D: 9 Oct. 1757. P: 9 Dec. 1757. R: nd. p. 507.

The birth date of Joseph Lawton is October of 1753. Yet, what the will is saying is that in 1757 only his children Sarah, Jeremiah, Winborn and Mary are under 19 years of age. His son Joseph, then, was born in 1738 or before. <sup>William</sup> He did not marry Mary (Stone) Grimball until at least 1750, for her husband, Paul Grimball, did not die until late 1749 or early 1750. Now, if there is no young Joseph Grimball by the time of William Lawton's will in 1757, was he born afterward? Is he that "possible unborn child" of the will? We know by Susannah Winborn's will in 1778 that indeed Joseph Lawton was born to her daughter Mary. Of course, if Joseph was born to Mary (Stone) Lawton after the date of the will--late 1757 or 1758--we would be hard put to say he was the Joseph who got the land grant on the Black Swamp in 1772. He would be around 14 years old. And he would have been only 16 when married to Sarah Robert. Something is not congruent here. Can you help me?

Another question, as I try to pin down the land records of the Robertville area. I finally got my hands on the land records. I see that the other people named as joining Joseph Lawton and my Peter Robert were Henry Gindratt (earlier Jacob Kittles), Abraham Brelow, Joshua Stafford (earlier David Chaney). The land seems to have come earlier from a James Pace adjoining a Thomas Daniel. Are there records that do a better job of pinpointing where these other men were in relationship to what we know as landmarks today?

It was a real pleasure to visit with Miss Cora while you went to Robertville. I hope to visit with you two again someday, though Hilton Head seems a half a world away from far West Texas. May God bless both of you.

Sincerely,

*Fran Hoerster*

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