

7 Pitt Street
Charleston, So. Carolina
April 21, 1938

My dear Cousin Florrie,

Your letter was here when I arrived back in Charleston after a short Easter visit to Estill. I trust you will therefore understand and pardon my apparent delay in answering it and thanking you sincerely for the photograph of my great-grandfather, George Rhodes. You know, Aunt Mamie, Aunt Rosa, Cousin Alice (Rhodes Mobley) Ellis and I are arranging a reunion of his descendents on June 19th at his old homestead. It's quite a job getting in touch with so many people but we are enjoying it. By the way, Thomas Rhodes, father of Hon. George Rhodes, had two uncles and some aunts who came to South Carolina a few years before he did, John and Nathaniel Rhodes being the two uncles. Do you have any information concerning their families or those of the aunts? George Rhodes was reared by his aunt, Mrs. James Pringle of Charleston. Do you know the whys and wherefores of that situation?

From your letter I am unable to understand whether or not we are descended from John Lawton who married Anne Montagu or from his brother, William Lawton. In our family tree I believe one Joseph Lawton married Sarah Robert. His father was Capt. William Lawton who married Mary Winborn. Are these two William's the same? Unfortunately, I have not the names of the 21 children of John Lawton and Anne Montagu but I can give you the names of all the children of Hester Longville (daughter of Sir. Edward Longville, Baronet, of N.S.) and Wm. Lawton, of Lawton Hall in Cheshire. They are:

1. John Lawton, of Lawton, who married Anne Montagu; 21 children.
2. William Lawton
3. Thomas Lawton
4. Ralph Lawton
5. Clare Lawton, who married Wm. Trafford of Swithamley, com. Strafford.
6. Hester Lawton, who married Richard Church of Tunstall, com. Salop.
7. Philisia Lawton, who married Fr. Hollinshead of Whillot, in com. Cest. One daughter, Frances, married Peter Broke.
8. Margaret Lawton, who married Charlwood Lawton of Northton (wonder what Lawton family this is?)
9. Elizabeth Lawton, who married James Chetham of Mellor, com. Derby.
10. Catherine Lawton, who married John Bowyer of Turnhurst, com. Stafford

I know nothing of the previous family of Wm. Lawton but have quite a bit concerning the family of his wife, Hester Longville. Please show me the exact descent from these two to Joseph Lawton and Sarah Robert in your next letter.

Cousin Florrie, although I sincerely enjoy the small amount of looking around I do in the field of genealogy, I probably shall never attempt it as a profession. However, I have in my possession a very valuable book of genealogy which is probably otherwise non-existent in America. It is absolutely authentic and therein I have found the above information. It was published at Oxford in 1775 and traces a great many families back to the 1300's. Because of its rarity and in consideration of the cost of it, I am loathe to give
(over)

away the great store of information contained therein. What do you advise me to do? From it I can trace our ancestry back to 1400, showing our relationships with some of the greatest houses of England.

I am sending you herein a list of the 17 children of Hon. George Rhodes and his two wives: Thirza Evelina and Eliza Jane Robert. I wish you'd write me any personal information you have concerning George Rhodes, other than his signing Secession Ordinance and being 50 years a deacon at Lawtonville. Do you happen to know anything concerning his ante-bellum plantation home, the number of slaves he owned, etc.? I have been requested to write a paper on his life to read at the reunion and although I have a great deal already, I should like some personal details.

Well, Cousin Florrie, I am unusually busy at present because of the Dramatic Society's play, "She Stoops to Conquer" in which I am playing the role of Sir Charles Marlowe. It will be given in the Dock Street Theatre Friday and Saturday nights as part of the Azalea Festival. Sunday afternoon I'm singing in the St. Matthew Passion by Bach at St. Philips Church and Monday I'm leaving for Philadelphia, for a vocal audition at the Curtis Institute of Music. However, I shall be back here by Friday or Saturday and hope to have another letter from you by that time.

Sincerely,

Bobly Peoples

Robert Epting-Howard Peoples