



DAR Museum  
1776 D Street, N. W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) - 628-1776

MANER

18 August 1981

Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples  
8 Moon Shell Road  
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina  
29401

Dear Cousin Robert:

Thank you for your informative letter of 13 August 1981. As I hope you know, your corrections and additions to my work are always greatly appreciated. I was particularly pleased that you corrected my Matilda/Rebecca (Jaudon) Polhill error. It is so important not ~~the~~ inadvertently transmit the error of past scholars, such as Cousin Annie Miller.

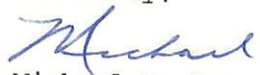
I was in Savannah briefly last weekend and spent some time with a connection of ours, Dolly Tison, at the Ownes-Thomas House. She mentioned that her daughter, Lawton Tison, had visited you and was immensely impressed with your wealth of information. I was in Savannah, considering accepting the job as Assistant Curator of the Owens-Thomas House. I was very favorably impressed, but as luck would have it, when I returned to work Monday, I learned that I have been, in a sense "promoted" here - I am now Curator of Collections at the DAR Museum. I suppose that decides me against the Savannah job.

My next editing project involves the Smith letters I have, written from Julia (Smith) Morcock to my uncle, Robert Maner Flournoy. I would appreciate any information you could give me about Julia. I have checked the cemetery records for Cobb County (Marietta, Georgia) and Julia was not buried there.

Do you know anything about the Bell family of Beaufort District? We have a miniature in our collection which is labeled "John G. Bell/1827." According to the donor, Mrs. Lionel K. Anderson (Charlotte Louise OConnor) "John G. Bell (owned) large raice plantations in Beaufort, South Carolina... great-great-great uncle of donor on maternal side of family, setmning from Landgrave William Smith..." Of course, it was Thomas Smith. I am enclosing a copy of Mrs. Anderson's ancestry. Do you see any possible connection with the Bell family?

Thank you for the compliment about my improved editing abilities. That means a great deal to me.

Sincerely,

  
Michael W. Berry

411 Second Street, S.E., #204  
Washington, D.C. 20003  
9 September 1981

Dear Cousin Robert:

I hope that things are going well for you and Miss Cora. It was only recently that it dawned on me that I know your cousin May Day Taylor quite well. I have met Mrs. Foulke quite often, but have many more daily business dealings with Mrs. Foulke's daughter, May Day Taylor, who is very active in the Dolley Madison Chapter. They are both very charming people.

I recently came across some information on the Maner family which rather perplexed me. It conflicts with the information that I have on the family. My source was great aunt Mattie Cook (Flournoy) Flournoy, who visited uncle William Maner Lawton and aunt, Susan (Maner) Lawton at Garnett, South Carolina about 1900.

Do we descend from the John Maner (p. 161) who "settled in the Province of Georgia in 1758..."? The information seems to imply that this John Maner was the grandfather ( seems unlikely ) of our Captain William Maner. I will be interested in your thoughts on the subject.

In the letter I have from Julie (Smith) Morcock, written in 1858 to Robert Maner Flournoy, Julie Smith makes reference to "Poor Cousin Frank Maner - he had so much trouble getting a wife, and now to loose her so soon after. I pity her poor babes..." Is that William Francis Maner, son of John Seth Maner? (OFC, p. 544)? Do you have any additional information besides what is given in Our Family Circle?

I am also working on Reverend Mr. Morcock. By going through the census records of Beaufort County, I realize that this is a South Carolina family, rather than a Georgia family as I had suspected. I am trying to discover his correct (and full) name (W.A., or W. J.).

I inherited a great many of the papers (and possessions) of Uncle Robert Maner Flournoy, son of Reverend Robert Flournoy and Sarah Asena Lawton. I have his memoirs, his correspondence with his Lawton cousins, a letter asking Miss Mattie Corbin\* to marry him, and a final letter, dated 1859, from Carroll Parish, Louisiana, announcing his murder. According to family tradition, a neighboring planter was mistreating a slave and Robert intervened, to be stabbed in the quarrel.

Thank you for all of your help, encouragement, and support: past, present, and future.

*\*she appears to have been  
from the Black Swamp  
area - I think.*

Sincerely,

*Michael*  
Michael W. Berry

371 East Paces Ferry Road, N.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30305

8 March 1977

The Rev'd Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples  
Hilton Head Island, So. Car. 29928

Dear Sir,

Please accept my thanks for your corrections to my notes which were published in the Transactions of the Huguenot Society regarding the Lawton-Flournoy letters which I have given to the Huguenot Society. I fear that my research into my Lawton ancestry has been rather superficial, for my main interest has been in my late grandmother's Flournoy ancestry, which has not been as well studied as has the Lawton genealogy.

My statements concerning "Uncle Alec" and the 1785 date came from notes written by my great aunt, the late Mrs. Osborne Rodgers Flournoy (nee Mattie Cook Flournoy) of Fort Valley, Georgia, long time regent of the D. A. R. In the preface to her notes, she stated that as a girl she had visited the brother of her grandmother, Sarah Lawton Flournoy, near Garnett, South Carolina. The gentleman would have to have been a son of William Henry Lawton and Catherine Maner. Do you know which one he was? Aunt Mattie did not rewrite the notes her great uncle Lawton gave her until many years later, so perhaps confusion resulted from the passage of years. Was not the 1785 date accepted as accurate for many years?

Perhaps you can shed some light on another set of letters which I have inherited. They were written from Marietta, Georgia in 1853 by "Julia Smith," and addressed to her "Dear Cousin" and several Lawton relations are mentioned - Mrs. Frank Maner, etc. They were written to the son of Sarah Asena Lawton and Rev'd Robert Flournoy - Robert Maner Flournoy, consoling him over his rejection by Miss Mattie Corbin. Was this Julia Smith a

daughter of Dr. Sidney Smith whom Aunt Mattie records as having married a sister of Sarah (Lawton) Flournoy?

There does exist a portrait of Rev'd Robert Flournoy and Aunt Mattie wrote that she saw a picture of Sarah Lawton Flournoy at her uncle Lawton's. Do you know anything about a picture (portrait, I suppose) of Sarah Asena Lawton? Do portraits of any of her immediate family exist to your knowledge?

Of late while doing some research (unrelated to genealogy) I came across the name of Alexander Lawton, U. S. Ambassador to Vienna in 1889 at the time of the Mayerling tragedy. How does this gentleman fit into the family?

In the latest issue of the Transaction of the Huguenot Society there is an excellent article on the Porcher family. According to Aunt Mattie, one of Sarah (Lawton) Flournoy's sisters married Philip Porchair (sic) Would this have been Porcher? I presume it to have been, as I inherited an antique rosewood box, inlaid with mother-of-pearl, the center escutcheon engraved "P. Porcher." From what little I know of antique styles, I would date the box about 1830-40.

A few years ago when I was twenty-one years old (I am twenty-three now) my aunt Robert died and left me trunks and trunks of papers, silver, furniture, journals, etc. all from the Flournoy-Cook-Winship-Lawton side of the family. Needless to say I have spent the last two years trying to preserve the documents in the most appropriate manner, where they would have the most relevance to scholars and family historians.

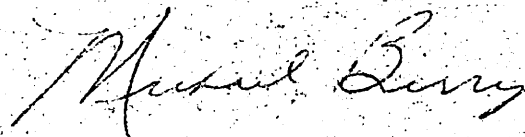
Among the things which came to me was the large mahogany sideboard of William Henry Lawton which was, (once again, according to Aunt Mattie) made on his plantation in South Carolina. Authorities tell me that it is a Southern regional piece, probably made by a skilled craftsman on a plantation. Let me correct something - it is mahogany veneer over a heart of pine skeleton. I have been able to trace the sideboard in estate inventories beginning with that of the Rev'd Robert

Flournoy in 1834 in Houston County, Georgia. At least I know that the provenance is accurate to that point. I also have a little music book in which Sarah Lawton composed little tunes in her own handwriting.

A tradition exists that Sarah Asena Lawton was educated at the Moravian Academy in North Carolina. Is there any basis for this belief?

Sir, I hope that you will forgive this lengthy letter, but my interest is sincere in the history, even though some of my earlier comments were inaccurate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael West Berry". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Michael West Berry