

The Citizens and Southern National Bank

Cable Address "Citsouth"

Augusta, Georgia
June 10, 1939

My dear Cousin Florie,

I have been wanting to write you since early last fall when I first began work in the bank here. However, many things do happen and we often cannot do things as punctually as we should like. Still, I trust that this will find you enjoying much better health since I hear that you have been ill.

Although I believe you have little reason to be interested in the Rhodes family and their ancestors, knowing your skill as a genealogist I am enclosing a rather rough (which I hope you will excuse) copy of several epitaphs which I copied in a family plot near Beaufort, S.C. last fall. So far as I know, if these people were members of a branch of my Rhodes family, they apparently have no descendent living. I should like very much to have your opinion on this subject. I might say in reference to the Rhodes family that we have postponed our reunion this year on account of the polio epidemic. However, I trust the Lawton's will continue and that I shall have an opportunity to attend.

And speaking of the Lawton family, I have never been able to determine the direct ancestors of our Capt. (?) William Lawton who married Mary Winborn and became the father of Joseph Lawton (of Mulberry Plantation) who married Sarah Robert. I have corresponded with Mrs. Harry Rake of 14 Gray St., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. who was able to augment the information I had already as to the early Lawtons of England - but still neither she nor I nor anyone else can definitely place the father of Capt. Wm. Lawton. I had hoped that he might have been one of the 21 children of John Lawton and Anne Montague but Omerod's History of Chester accounts for all 21 of them; which

(over)

almost definitely stifles all hopes. At present, I am anxious to correspond with our cousin, Walter Lawton, whom Mrs. Roake mentioned as a serious genealogist. Please send me his address as soon as convenient.

Genealogy is a very trying hobby which doesn't work well in one's few leisure hours. However, what is to be known I want to know and what is to be found I'm willing to look for. You are considered as having a vast knowledge of our complicated family and its collateral lines. I hope you have recorded as much as is practicable and some day I should like to become more intimately acquainted with it. I realize that you are somewhat professional in your approach to genealogy and carefully guard all the information you have. I, too, try to hang on to any little discoveries I make but I sometimes wonder if we wouldn't be far more sensible if we made all information available for future generations.

If you can definitely place our Capt. (?) William Lawton in the family of William Lawton (of Lawton Hall) and his wife, Hester Longueville (Longville), please let me know as I am especially anxious to get this straight. I presume that the ancestry of Gov. Thomas Smith (Landgrave Smith) of S.C. in 1693 has never been solved, even by Cousin Junie Miller. And speaking of her, is she alive still? If so, what is her address?

With best wishes for your good health and sincere regards to all members of our large "family circle", I remain,

Sincerely, your cousin,
Robert E. H. Peeples

P.S. Hope you'll recall me as Bobby Peeples, formerly of Estill!