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## Vol. 1, Issue 1

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### THE LAWSON LETTER

May 2005

Volume 1,

Lawson Heritage Weekend May 12 - 15, 2005

#### Thursday:

This second Lawson Heritage Weekend began with the early a several Lawsons, intent upon finding public records. While Jim his crew made ready to work on the Lawson Cemetery, Barb I wife), Fran Lawson Romine and Rebecca Lawson headed to M Courthouse to search for vital statistics, marriage bonds and d Although the courthouse party became lost before they return Campton, both parties had some success and parted that eve plans for the next day. More Lawsons arrived at the motel, m the sidewalk and coming in and out of the lobby. Are you a La Hello Cuzin became a refrain often heard through motel doors

#### Friday:

Meeting for a small breakfast at the motel, the group (9 or 10 for the day and went in separate directions, planning to return set up for the next day at the senior citizens center. Jim Laws headed for the graveyard, thought to be the site of Travis and burial, to clean the graveyard and to repair a crypt which had

#### Saturday Morning:

Lawsons arrived early and stayed late! The group, though larg 50), was very congenial and hugs and Im so glad to finally me comments were plentiful all day as people dropped in and out. arrived from everywhere, Alaska, Arizona, California, Michigan South Carolina to name a few states. Ohio and Kentucky show sign-in-sheet most often.

The planned program was wonderful and went off, not without beautifully. As families gathered, Barb, our mistress of ceremon by asking them to introduce themselves, by name and heritag introductions Barb commented that this is such a large projec

group effort and it must be done with respect. It will take time so many people working. What we will be able to do with all the information is to be decided later. We will put it all together but we do not yet know how. Each family circle will be responsible for its own information. William Lawson - 1731 - will be recognized as the point.

Our first guest speaker was Bill Porter, author of **William Lawson - Scottish Rebel**. He made many interesting comments which will be available at a later date. He asks that we not forget Thomas Mallett's research as he was witness to the marriages of Travis and William. Bill has a feeling that Mallett may have married the oldest of the Lawson Rebels female children. Keep your eyes open for proof.

Lunch sandwiches delivered by Main Street Café were tasty and

The afternoon consisted of

- A. Cemetery Clean Up\*
- B. Family Tree Workshops and exchange of information
- C. Battle of Kings Mountain Documentary on TV (Contact Julie and Willard Miller)
- D. Julies trip to West Liberty Genealogy Library -all too busy.
- E. Table with Clan McLaren information
- F. Table with DNA information
- G. Jim Prichard will help you in Frankfort.
- H. Proquest subscriptions at many libraries (Bill)
- I. Individual consultations with people looking for or adding information to our computer database

Robert McLaren, the Director of Genealogy Clan MacLaren of North Carolina and leader of the DNA program for the Clan MacLaren was the speaker of the day. A copy of his speech and his Genetic Genealogy are attached. Robert McLaren also supplied a letter to use to request removal of the name of MacLaren from a marker on the Cullo Battlefield. This letter is included in the attachments and is self explanatory.

After a great dinner, organized by Barb Lawson with a little help from our friends we were entertained - Lawson Style. Brothers Bob, Mike and Hank Lawson were assisted by sister Fran Romine and Ken Bobs daughter. Chris Grigsby joined with voice, fiddle, mandolin. Beginning with Amazing Grace songs included some Scots ballads. Own Grandpa, Brand New Tennessee Waltz as well as original

the Lawsons. Following the Lawson-Grigsby group, Shirley Lay and her sister Carolyn Lawson Farrow arrived and joined the group ending the entertainment with some religious songs.

#### Sunday Morning:

After breakfast we looked forward to Chief Laughing Bear Willi. Unfortunately he did not attend.

Family groups, discussion of future plans and exchange of information continued. Minnie Isbell who lives in the area came by and brought information. She has no access to computer so we worked with her knowledge and Barb found census records. Her father had just passed away and she came only on Sunday. Minnie's visit was so important she was able to supply a great deal of information that had been missing from the wall chart.

#### Cemetery Group Report\*

Barb reports old home remedies for Poison Ivy include Fels Napalm and White Shoe Polish.

Some of Barb and Jim's cousins from Michigan worked all Friday and Saturday and didn't make it to the dinner and entertainment. Connie, Eddie and Barb, and Lillian Lawson worked endlessly to get the site put back together. They went back to Natural Bridge to check on the route to the hospital. Lillian slipped and broke her ankle. They spent the rest of the route to the hospital. Since then she has had surgery, needing pins, but the prognosis is good for a full recovery. Others who were at this site were Gary Shellenbarger, Steven Phillips, June Leto (family), Chuck Rouse and Charles Grigsby.

#### NOTES:

- Bill Porter is interested in reprinting his book. According to him he needs 300 copies committed. The printing will begin. Let Barb know if you'd like a copy at [mjla@ismi.net](mailto:mjla@ismi.net).
- Plans are being made for the Re-enactment of the Battle of Kings Mountain in October. Linda Phillips is coordinating. NOTE from Steve Phillips: The 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain will be on October 7-9, 2005. Re-enactors will portray soldiers, militia, civilians, musicians and colonial troops. The event starts with a wreath laying ceremony on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Accommodations include camping at Kings Mountain. For more information call (803) 222-3209 for campsite availability; Hotels in the nearby area are in Gaffney, SC, the city of Kings Mountain and in Gastonia, NC with prices ranging from

- a night. More from the Phillips family later.
- ❑ Barb has a CD of Photos. Contact her if you want one.

#### ON-GOING RESEARCH:

- ❑ Wayne Williams has said he would do on-line search. We are looking for someone to partner with him on this task. We are gathering Scottish sites to research.
- ❑ Toni Beard is working on a How to Research Tip sheet for lives in Salt Lake City and can find LDS info. Contact her at [ttbeard@msn.com](mailto:ttbeard@msn.com).
- ❑ Working on our Logo and Theme Song
- ❑ Gathering of Land Documents for verification of land homesteaded by Travis and Maysie and doing a search from today back to land grants.
- ❑ Julie Miller is following Roots-web and organizing plans. We have found a couple more to test. Contact Julie at [seashellgram@aol.com](mailto:seashellgram@aol.com) if you are interested in DNA testing (male). Contact Bob McLaren for a kit.
- ❑ Fran Romine is working on Military Research and Family Records. She also is working on a Lawson Family Cookbook. If you do not have the handout contact [fran125@insightbb.com](mailto:fran125@insightbb.com)
- ❑ Historical Marker for the Travis Homestead property/cemetery discussed and vote needed next year.
- ❑ **PLEASE LET ME KNOW OF PLANS YOUR FAMILY GROUP would like to spread the word through the leadership of each group. Perhaps others will get some idea from this group.**  
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#### GROUP LEADERS

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Also I welcome suggestions and corrections

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