

LAWSON FAMILY HERITAGE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



LAWSON FAMILY HERITAGE PROGRAM

Researching American Descendants
of
William Lawson
(b.1731 Montrose, Scotland)

Our Logo

Our Lawson Family Heritage Logo was designed by Nancy Lawson, of California. She descends from John Lawson (1791) and Nancy Banks, his first wife. Nancy's degree is in Photography from the Art Center in California. Nancy is also the sister to Jim Lawson.

This is what our new logo represents.

- The Background is the Ancient MacLaren Tartan
- The upper flower is the Flower of Scotland, the Thistle
- Creag An Tuirc is the MacLaren Motto and from Robert MacLaren you can see some views of it at <http://www.stronvar.co.uk/balquhiddier/vilkirk.htm>. It is a large hill that overlooks the glen. Here is where the Clan lit the fires warning of invaders in the glen.

- The Belt around it will remind us of the belted kilt
- The quill and book represent an old journal, or perhaps our Granny's memoirs from a time long past

We would like to extend our thank you to Nancy Lawson for this beautiful Logo.

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DNA Progress

By Julie Miller

DNA Progress - July 2005
After hearing Robert McLaren's talk at the LFHP workshop in May 2005 and discussions with him, the plan was formulated for the most effective DNA testing plan. The goal is to have tests done on the lines of at least three sons of William, the Rebel. as well as three tests of each line of the grandsons of the Rebel.

At the current time, three tests have been done from Travis/Maysie Lawson's lines. The status of these tests follows:

Jim for Travis' son John - results of all 37 markers have been posted.

Bob for Travis' son William, William's son Elihu - results of the first 12 markers have been posted and we are waiting for the results of the balance of the markers which are expected any day now.

Jerry for Travis' son William, William's son Jeremiah -

tests submitted - no results received yet.

Since Jim's test was the first completed his results are being used as the baseline for William, the Rebel. At the first 12 markers, Bob's test is an exact match.

You can see all the results for the whole Lawson DNA project at:
http://carl.lawson.net/Pages/DNA_Project_Test_Results.html

Since there are now tests completed for three descendants of Travis, our efforts need to be focused on finding direct male descendants of the other sons of William, the Rebel. There is a volunteer for the line of William II. Financial assistance will be needed for this test. As we discussed at the workshop, if ten of us share the cost that would be \$17.20 each. Willard and I will take the first share. I'm hoping to find more of you who will take a share. A couple of people at the workshop offered to take a share so if just a couple more LFHP members will volunteer, we will have the costs covered and can proceed with this vital link. If you can help please e-mail me at: seashellgram@aol.com

Please keep your eyes open for info on descendants of the Rebel's sons, Jeremiah and Robert. In the line of Travis, the legend of a "grandmother was an Indian" is heard in every line. There is a DNA test for direct line females only which will show the markers



for Native Americans. There are a couple of ladies in our group who have been tracking possible candidates. So far each line that has been researched is interrupted by a male ancestor. If anyone knows of a female through female line descendant of Travis' wife, Maysie, please e-mail me.

As you can see, the pool of qualified candidates is very limited and it will require many eyes on the lookout to find them. .
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Kin N' Cousins

A warm welcome to the newest members of our Lawson Family Heritage Program:

Jan Peterson of Washington, descends from Joseph P. (1794) and is part of Wayne William's Family Group

Harley S. Little of Jackson, Ohio also from Joseph P. (1794)

Miles Nicholas Crawford, Charleston, W.V., Descends from John Lawson (1791) & Nancy Banks, and is part of Steven Phillips Family Group.

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LOST & FOUND

Looking for the marriage bond or contract for **Elizabeth Godsey Lawson** (ca 1795) to her first husband Clinton Godsey in Va. Her second marriage was to James Ratliff, of which we have documentation.

Contact Joyce Ratliff at joyree@infinet.com

Maysie Disrobed – Not Wearing Buckskin

There have been several reports of the existence of a tintype of Maysie Simpkins Lawson (wife of Travis) dressed in buckskins.

Photography was invented in the 1830's, daguerreotype in the 1840's and the tintype in the 1850's. Tintypes became very popular during the Civil War and many soldiers sent tintypes back home. Because of the time line for the advent and development of photography, the tintype some have seen would not likely be a picture of Maysie unless she were presented as a very old woman. We ask anyone who remembers seeing such a picture to consider who else might have been presented this way. It would most likely date to the 1860's after Maysie's death. Please advise of other possibilities. (Fran Lawson Romine)

David Lawson (Travis 1766, Jeremiah 1809), sent us a list that he had in a file. It contains about 200 names of people who registered when they purchased the book "Our Family" by William Everett Lawson, and also a list of names from a family reunion that followed that time frame. Susan Reese (Travis 1766, Henry 1810) has volunteered to take on a task to look for any of these people, or their descendants. This could prove to be very interesting.

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James Lawson Family June Leto

Several of the group have been in contact via email, and we exchanged info. on our research as well as some really wonderful family pictures.

Our family tree is growing bigger every day. I have been busy moving my family research from LDS PAF.5 on to Family Tree Maker. We hope in the future we can make these available on line, nothing specific as of now!! June

LFHP RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Some interesting things are being found by Ruby Dutton, of the family group of John Lawson (1791), on early history of the Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina areas.

Ruby has found a great historical map of the Chesapeake Bay area which is the area where the Gildart landed in 1747 with William Lawson, Scottish Rebel, on board. Ruby is also researching info on the plantations in that area in hopes of finding the planter to whom William was indentured. If you have resources which would help, please contact Ruby at: dutton@tidalwave.net .



A list of prisoners on the Gildart can be found online at: <http://www.foyco.com/gen2/z0000671.htm>. This info is also in Bill Porter's book on pages 2 - 3.

Carl Lawson who has no known kinship with our line of Lawsons, has an interesting website where he has posted early tax rolls, land records, and other information from public documents that reference all the Lawsons in the area at the time, including William Lawson, Scottish Rebel, and children. Click on the Genealogy button of Carl's website: <http://www.carl.lawson.net/Media/LawsonsVariou s%20Counties/Russell.html>. And where was Travis Lawson before he showed up in Floyd County, Kentucky, in 1810? Thanks to Carl's information, **we now know Travis was in Russell County, Virginia in 1809.** More on this next time.

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Pension Application of William II Provides New Information

Originally thought to have left his papers with an uncle on the Yadkin River, the Pension Application (File S10969) of William Lawson II provides additional information. According to this application, William II entered the military for his

first tour of duty during the Revolutionary War from Franklin County, North Carolina, in the fall of 1779. He served three months as private in Captain Levary's Company, Colonel Sewell's North Carolina regiment. The record states **"this applicant got a discharge signed by Col. Sewell and Captain Levary but this applicant left it in North Carolina he being very young when he left the Army and went from there to his Uncle's on the water of Adkin and put the discharge in the hands of some of his friends and never got it anymore, nor did he again apply for it. He remained there at his uncle's until the spring of 1781 when this applicant again substituted for another tour of three months...this applicant with the balance of the company commenced the march from there Montgomery County North Carolina as he thinks..."**, indicating he spent the year from the spring of 1780 to the spring of 1781 at his uncle's. A letter appended to the copy of his pension application and signed A. D. Hiller, states that **"he went to his uncle's home in Montgomery County North Carolina."** (See A.D.Hiller letter at the end of this newsletter) The pension application further states: **"this applicant got another discharge which he also left in Franklin County North Carolina with the same friend he recollects had the first discharge."** He was allowed a pension on his application executed December 12, 1832, at the

rate of \$20 per year. He died January 30, 1852.

The developing map of North Carolina shows **Montgomery (1778), Rowan (1753), and later Iredell (from Rowan 1788) counties all were created from the parent county, Anson.** All are on the Yadkin River. We now know William entered the service the second time in Montgomery County, most likely from the home of the uncle on the Yadkin. This suggests some areas for further research. Bill Porter has put forth a possibility that William, the Rebel married Rebekah Travis in North Carolina. The 1800 census of North Carolina show Josiah Travis in Rowan County and in Montgomery County we find Charles, Henry, and John Travers. Now keeping in mind that enumerators often misspelled names, further research regarding the Travis/Travers family in this area is indicated.

It has been thought that William Lawson II may have participated in the Battle of King's Mountain. Since he entered service for the first time in the fall of 1799 and served for only three months, he would have been discharged well before the battle of King's

Mountain on October 7, 1780. He did not enlist for his second three-month tour until the spring of 1781, well after the battle. If anyone has records that support the case for his being there, please contact me. The entire application is too lengthy to print in its entirety but I will be glad to email a transcribed copy. These



details suggest the need for additional research in Franklin and Montgomery Counties, North Carolina, and raise the question of the identify of both friend(s) in Franklin County with whom he twice left his discharge papers as well as the uncle he visited in Montgomery County.

Fran Lawson Romine
Fran125@Insightbb.com

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ON THE ROAD AGAIN...

Jenny Beam (Travis 1766, Henry 1810) has just returned from her visit to Scotland. I'm sure she'll have lots to share with us.

Eight Days With Barb & Fran

Barb Lawson and Fran Lawson Romine took to the road the week of May 20th, 2005, for further research in Kentucky. We

met Miles Nicholas Crawford, author of *Three Forks of the Kentucky River* (Miles is a descendant of John Lawson (1791) & Nancy Banks) in Beattyville, Ky. for two days of taping Miles' memories, scanning his photos and other memorabilia passed down and around in his family. Barb and Miles visited Breathitt & Lee County, the area of Canyon Falls on Lower Twin Creek. This is the area where John Lawson, with his second wife Elizabeth Woods lived as he followed his son

William Banks Lawson to Breathitt County. They lived on Bowman Land until the purchase of land on Mill Creek in 1869. At this time, John and Elizabeth had disappeared from the area. A visit was then made to the Crawford/Bowman Cemetery in the Canyon Falls area and the original home sites of their Lawson and Bowman ancestors. We spent time researching records in Wolfe County but much early information was lost when the courthouse burned in the early 1900's.

We prepared Lawson Family Heritage Notebooks with information designed to give a starting point for those seeking genealogical information and placed them in the libraries of Morgan, Menifee, Breathitt, and Wolfe Counties. One

was also placed in the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort, KY. (Two more will be placed in the Filson Historical Society and Louisville Public Library; one has been placed in the Mormon Family History Library in Salt Lake City.) Librarians have agreed to update the notebooks with subsequent issues of the Lawson Family Heritage Newsletter in order to keep research current.

While placing the books, we found an interesting Lawson "paper" at the Menifee Co. library in West Liberty which gave us an entirely new theory, that William married the daughter of the planter to whom he was bound and they went to North Carolina. Unfortunately, there was no documentation of that.

We visited Charlotte Grigsby at the old Lawson farm. Charlotte went through land records of Morgan County and was able to get several surveys that date from 1828 to 1839 and appear to be for land warrants on the Blackwater. She also found several old deeds for Travis and "the Lawson Boys". One shows John S. Dennis sold William Lawson 100 acres for \$1, leading us to wonder about John's relationship to Mary Dennis. We'll try to use those later to find locations of the land.

Barb traveled to Lebanon, KY. to spend the day with

Jim's Aunt Dallas Lawson Gribbins and record her family recollections as well as obtain copies of old family pictures. Dallas recalled a story about her grandfather, Jasper Green Lawson, who traveled to Oklahoma to act on a claim of Indian heritage; her story has been confirmed by Miles Crawford who stated he has information prepared by his mother regarding the trip but we will present more on this later. The information is sketchy at this point but it is assumed they traveled to Oklahoma to make a claim on the Cherokee Rolls prior to the distribution of funds in 1910 for those who could prove to be of Cherokee descent. It is further speculated that they either arrived too late to do so or the claim was rejected.

We spent time in Frankfort obtaining vital statistics records and visited the Kentucky Department of Transportation where we



were able to obtain copies of detailed maps, some quite old, which give good detail of where the counties overlapped during the name changes and indicating the Lawsons didn't move but the county boundaries did. 1937 Highway Department maps of Morgan, Menifee, and Wolfe Counties have dots throughout the county that show where houses were at the time. We wondered how much it had changed from the time our ancestors lived there.

A day at the Filson in Louisville researching records of Montgomery County, VA and time spent trying to organize our "finds" completed the eight-day venture. We are still transcribing all the notes and tapes from Miles, and Barb is sorting all the photos she scanned.

Miles has written another book entitled "*Wild, Bitter and Sweet*", which the Owsley County Historical Society is printing along with the reprint of his first book. We will let you know when they are available to purchase.

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Julie and Willard Miller traveled to Louisville to spend some time at the Frazier Historical Arms museum. They were particularly interested in the tableau prepared by the British Royal Armory to show the Battle of Culloden. The lifesize figures are part of the British Royal Armory tableaus representing the most important battles in

British History which include the Battle of Hastings, Charge of the Light Brigade, and several others.



Four from the LFH Group (Willard and Julie Miller, Fran Romine and Rebecca Lawson) attended a Seminar in Frankfort at the KY History Center on Researching Virginia's Records from Your Home. The speaker, (Barbara Vines Little) recommends you "google" The Library of Virginia (<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/>); The Virginia Genealogical Society (<http://www.vgs.org>) and/or DeedMapper (<http://www.ultranet.com~deeds>) or use the addresses provided.

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.HOW-TO ADVICE FOR GENEALOGISTS

Find It – File It by Toni Beard

Here are a couple of important tips to remember when doing research.

-Remember to list the census years that you find your family listed in the notes and sources on your computer and paper files. List them as they appear on the census even if the names are spelled incorrectly.

-Document where you find information. For census records list the city or township, county and state and any other information that would help someone find the same information you found. When documenting a book, list the library found in, call number and page number. If your information was found on microfilm always list the number of the microfilm and the library where you found the microfilm.

-If at all possible copy, scan, or print the information you find during your research. There are machines that make copies from microfilm. Ask at the library if you need assistance. Copies of books, microfilm, etc. should be filed in your organized paper files.

-If you find information on the internet always write down the website address. It should be written as a source and explained in the notes

on your computer. Any websites that are loaded with information



valuable to my personal research I save in my "favorites" folder on the computer. It makes it easy to find again.

-Information given to you by word of mouth is a good source for family history research. Always make sure to note the person that gave you the information and any other comments they make. Always note that it is from word of mouth and not a written source. Remembering who said what and what we do in fleshing out truth needs to be noted on the computer.

-If you need assistance organizing computer or paper files I am more than glad to help. Please email Toni at ttbeard@msn.com.

RESEARCH TIP

When requesting military pension applications for service prior to WWI, there are two types of records available: the "full" file and the "select" file. For example, the Pension Document File I had for William Lawson II was only six pages; the full file was twenty-three. Select files are often the ones available online and are generally selected because they contain the most information pertaining to the military service record. The full file often contains any correspondence the agency had regarding the pension application such as those who requested copies. (The

first request for the file of William II was 1912). This correspondence may provide important genealogical clues because the files are usually ordered by descendants/family members. When ordering the Pension Document File from the National Archives (<http://www.archives.gov/>), the Select records cost \$14.75; the Full file costs \$37. Other than ordering from National Archives, there are only five sites in the country where one can obtain the full records. One is at the public library of New Albany, Indiana, across the river from Louisville. *Fran Lawson Romine*

UPCOMING EVENTS

228th Anniversary of Battle of King's Mountain

There is one William Lawson listed on the roster for the Battle of King's Mountain and it is unclear if this is the William Lawson born in Montrose, Scotland, in 1731. It has long been thought that William Lawson, Scottish Rebel, was a participant. The 225th anniversary of that battle will be celebrated on October 7-9, 2005 at King's Mountain National Park. The park is near the border of North Carolina and South Carolina, just off I-85.

October 7 – Hundreds of reenactors will bring the past to life. Museum renovation will be complete and brand new exhibits will

tell the story of the battle. 11AM is the wreath laying ceremony. 3:00 PM guest speaker and arrival of Overmountain Victory Trail marchers.

October 8 & 9 - Reenactors will be portraying soldiers, militia, civilians, musicians and colonial tradesmen. Explore the camps and enjoy living history programs, weapons firing and more.

No fee to see the event. Donations are welcome.

Visitor's Center – Books, tapes and various other items are on sale. A 27-minute film can be seen about the battle.

Battlefield Trail – One and one-half mile self-guided loop around the battlefield. Along the way you will see the burial site of British Major Patrick Ferguson and many other historic monuments.

Hiking and Horse Trails – There are 16 miles of trails at the park.

Lodging and Camping – If you are interested in camping at the park, call (803)222-3209

Local hotels and motels all within 10 miles are available at King's Mountain, NC, Gastonia, NC and Gaffney, SC. A partial list would include:

Holiday Inn Express
100 Woodlake Parkway
King's Mountain, NC
Call (704)734-0014
Room from \$55



Fairfield Inn
1860 Remount Rd.
Gastonia, NC
1-877-MARRIOTT
Rooms from \$59

Hampton Inn
1859 Remount Road
Gastonia, NC
1-800-HAMPTON
Rooms from \$55

Courtyard by Marriott
1856 Remount Rd
Gastonia, NC
1-800-MARRIOTT
Rooms from \$74

Holiday Inn Express (Outlet
Mall)
834 Winslow Avenue
Gaffney, SC
(864)487-5337
Rooms from \$55

Hampton Inn (Outlet Mall)
Gaffney, SC
1-800-HAMPTON

Airports – Charlotte, NC or
Greenville-Spartanburg, SC.
Car rentals are available at
both locations.

For additional information
write King's Mountain NMP,
2625 Park Rd. Blacksburg,
SC 29702 or call (864) 936-
7921. You can also contact
Steve and Linda Phillips by
calling (864) 595-1048 or e-
mail to
stevenjp@bellsouth.net.
We live 30 miles from King's
Mountain.

Please let us know if you
plan to go to King's
Mountain so that we may
plan to meet during the
event. Thanks
Steve and Linda Phillips

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Clan MacLaren Society of NA, Ltd. 2005 General Meeting

The 24th Annual General
Meeting of the Clan
MacLaren Society of NA will
be held in Laurinburg, NC.
Activities begin Thurs, Sept.
29th, and continue to
Sunday, Oct. 2. Contact
Charles G. Lawson for
tickets or information:
cglawson@charter.net
(931) 455-2925. From the
MacLaren Standard, the
"MacLaren Name has been
Re-instated on the Culloden
Battlefield Marker.

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SCOTLAND

Jacobites of Angus 1689-1746

Author David Dobson tells us
that the county of Angus or
Forfarshire (where Montrose is
located) made a significant
contribution to the Jacobite
army of 1745. In October,
1745, David, Lord Ogilvy,
raised a regiment in Angus on
behalf of the House of Stuart
and about 500 of them took
part in the Battle of Culloden
in April, 1746. The Hanoverian
monarchy sat on the throne of
England and this government
wanted to identify each
individual "rebel," court
record, jail record,
transportation order, and
whatever documents were
drawn up regarding the
Jacobites. As a result, records
were produced in greater detail
than would ordinarily have
existed regarding the
"common"

man's participation in such an
uprising. Although William
Lawson is not listed, there are
five entries for Lawsons in the
book. We do not know of any

connection to our William
Lawson but one might assume
the possibility of some familial
connection between Lawsons
who were in that particular
county at that particular time.
The following names might
suggest parishes for further
research in Scotland.

1. LAWSON, JAMES,
servant to Sir John Ogilvy in
Caldhame, Kirriemuir, soldier of
Ogilvy's Regiment, 1745.
[OR34]

2. LAWSON, JAMES, born
1725, workman in Wester Coull,
Lintrathen, soldier of Ogilvy's
Regiment 1745, prisoner in
Carlisle, transported
from Liverpool on the *Veteran*
5.5.1747 to the Leeward Islands,
liberated and landed on
Martinique 6.1747.

[P. 2.234] [OR 34] [PRO. SP.
36.102] [LPR220]

3. LAWSON, JOHN, laborer
in Airniefoul, Glamis, soldier of
Ogilvy's regiment 1745. [OR34]

4. LAWSON, PETER,
miller in Bridgend of Lintrathen,
soldier of Ogilvy's regiment
1745, prisoner in Blackness.
[OR35][LPR220]

5. LAWSON, THOMAS,
ploughman in Woodend,
Kirriemuir, soldier of Ogilvy's
Regiment 1745. [OR35]

OR= Muster Roll of the
Forfarshire or Lord Ogilvy's
Regiment, A. Mackintosh,
[Forfar, 1914]

P=The Prisoners of the '45, Sir
Bruce Gordon-Seton and Jean
Gordon Arnot, [Edinburgh
1928]

PRO=Public Record
Office, London

SP State Papers

LPR= A list of Persons
concerned in the Rebellion, the
Earl of Roseberry, [Edinburgh
1890]

(Fran Romine Lawson)



The following letter was attached to the pension application of William Lawson II. Unfortunately, we couldn't scan it into the newsletter but it is typed exactly as it appeared.

October 19, 1939

Mrs. Malcolm Smith
Appalachia
Virginia

BA-J/AWF
William Lawson
S. 10969

Dear Madam:

The data furnished herein were obtained from papers on file in claim for pension, S.10969, based upon the military service of William Lawson in the Revolutionary War.

The date and place of birth of William Lawson, and names of his parents are not given.

While a resident of Franklin County, North Carolina, William Lawson enlisted in the fall of 1779 and served three months as private in Captain Levary's company, Colonel Sewell's North Carolina regiment; at the expiration of this service, he went to his uncle's home in Montgomery County, North Carolina. While there he enlisted in the spring of 1781, served three months in Colonel Dudley's North Carolina regiment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed December 12, 1832, at which time he was aged sixty-eight years, and a resident of Scott County, Virginia.

He died January 30, 1852.

The papers on file in the claim contain no discernible family data, other than the reference to his uncle and shown above. The name of his uncle was not stated.

In order to obtain the name and address of the person who received the last payment of this pension, you should apply to the Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, Records Division, this city, and furnish the following data:

William Lawson
Certificate #23397
Issued January 17, 1834
Rate \$20.00 per annum
Commenced March 4, 1831
Act of June 7, 1832
Virginia Agency

Very truly yours,

A. D. Hiller
Executive Assistant
to the Administrator

REMINDER: If you received this Newsletter by snail mail, a contribution to your group leader toward the cost of mailing would be appreciated.