



# LAWSON FAMILY HERITAGE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

The LFHP newsletter is published four times a year by the Lawson Family Heritage Program and is dedicated to research on William Lawson, Scottish Rebel, thought to have been born in Montrose, Scotland, June 26, 1731, and his descendants. William died in Scott Co., Virginia, Jan. 16, 1826.

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## **ENGLISH PRISON RECORD OF “JACOBITE” WILLIAM LAWSON LOCATED, OTHER NEW INFORMATION UNCOVERED**

Fran Lawson Romine

November, 2005

Part of the history of William Lawson, Scottish Rebel, is well known to his descendants. We know about William's arrival in America in 1747. Unfortunately, the story of his life before he arrived here has been a mystery.

What is presently known of William's story begins in the aftermath of the Jacobite Rebellion in Scotland in 1746. In that uprising, Prince Charles Edward Stuart, the “Bonnie Prince Charlie,” elicited the support of the Scots against the ruling Hanoverian King, George II, in an attempt to restore the Stuarts to the British throne. Prince Charles' rebellion ended when he suffered a disastrous defeat at the Battle of Culloden on April 16, 1746. On that cold and rainy Saturday, the Scotsmen who were his allies were brutally massacred. The Duke of Cumberland (1) commanded the victorious British forces, and in the days that followed the battle, he cast an ever-widening net throughout the countryside to apprehend the Scots. Many were killed outright but many men, women, and even children as young as six or seven years of age were imprisoned on charges that were often simply suspicion of treasonous activities.

While there has been much speculation as to William's role in the uprising, original Eighteenth Century documentation about his life in Scotland has been elusive. Despite knowing that William arrived in America the year after the defeat of the Scotsmen at the Battle of Culloden, researchers have had no evidence of actual events which transpired in England to cause William to be shipped to the colonies against his will.

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I recently obtained copies of key British documents that shed light on some of the missing details of William's story. These documents are prison records from 1746 related to the Jacobite Rebellion and describe William's imprisonment, sentencing, and involuntary banishment to the colonies.

William's descendants have long known that William arrived in Port North, Potomac, Maryland, on board the ship *Gildart* on 5 August, 1747, and he was sold as an indentured servant for a "good sum of tobacco." It is thought he was born in Montrose, Scotland, on June 26, 1731.(2) A book published in Scotland in 1928, *The Prisoners' of the '45*, reports the following reference for William Lawson: Soldier (Scots Fusiliers, Capt. Monk's Co.). A deserter.—J. R. Stirling; P.R.3621-3.(3) No research has yet yielded any details about his conduct leading to the charge of desertion or whether he actually participated in the Battle of Culloden. Desertion was extremely commonplace at every phase of the Jacobite Rebellion in the Prince's army because many soldiers were coerced into fighting. One need not have fled a battle to be called a deserter; the label also applied to soldiers who were captured half a mile or more from their camp or quarters.

According to *The Prisoners of the '45*, William's "home or origin" was "Durham," his "ultimate disposal" as a prisoner was "Transported," and his "prison career" listed confinement in Clackmannan, Stirling Castle, and Carlisle. Other secondary sources confirm William's residence as Durham and his status as a Jacobite.(4) While current researchers (5) have not yet located information explaining his move from Montrose to Durham, there is no question that the person identified in this book is William, the Scottish Rebel.

It is thought that "Durham" in these secondary sources refers to the parish of Kirkpatrick-Durham in Kirkcudbright County, Scotland. Clackmannan, where William was first imprisoned, is in the vicinity of Durham. On May 4, 1746, about two-and-a-half weeks after the Battle of Culloden, he was at Stirling prison and still in Scotland. William arrived at Carlisle Prison in England in mid-August.

My recent review of the copies of the original British documents from the Jacobite Rebellion papers in England provide information about William's imprisonment at Carlisle.(6) The document was handwritten on August 19, 1746. Following the uprising, the British sentenced "common men" using a punishment system based on the precedents established after the Jacobite Rebellion in 1715. They divided the prisoners who were not "gentlemen or men of estates" into groups of twenty and required them to draw "lots" [sic]. One in twenty would go to trial and face probable execution while the other nineteen were allowed to petition His Royal Majesty, King George II,(7) for a pardon with the condition that the prisoners agree to be transported to the West Indies or American colonies and never return to British soil.

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These historical prison records list 180 prisoners in Carlisle who were sorted into nine groups of twenty on August 19, 1746. William Lawson's name appears on the seventh group of men listed. The original document, signed by Philip Carteret Webb, reads: "In obedience to an order of Council made the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 1746, for the Rebel Prisoners Drawing lotts to the intent that every 20<sup>th</sup> man on whom the lott should fall should be appointed for Trial..." He also wrote: "Part of the said prisoners did not arrive at Carlisle until Monday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of August, and the rest of them only a few days before..." Next to one name in each group is the notation: "The Lott fell on this man."

Under this system, if a man refused to draw, his lot was drawn for him in his presence, and he could not escape his fate, as determined by the draw. Most on whom the lott fell were executed, although direct evidence of guilt was often lacking and the only evidence consisted of testimony of other prisoners who may have been coerced or given leniency in exchange for their testimony.

A review of these British documents shows William was part of a lucrative transaction involving Richard Gildart, a successful slave trader who was the mayor of Liverpool and a member of Parliament. Gildart was the namesake and owner of the *Gildart*, the ship on which William was transported to Port North, Potomac, Maryland, which landed in the colony on 5 August, 1747. Recently obtained copies of the original correspondence between Gildart and John Sharpe, Treasury Solicitor for the Crown,(8) shows that Gildart made the following offer: "I would undertake to transport the whole of them or a part of them from here to America at 5 pounds per head for all that are taken on board at my expense to be provided with provisions and bedding and they to be at my disposal on their arrival in America."(9)

Gildart ultimately contracted to transport 219 of a total of 412 men imprisoned at Chester and Carlisle. The Crown paid him five pounds per head for transporting them. Gildart unsuccessfully requested another five pounds per man if he had to provide cuffs and shackles, but the British government refused to pay this additional money, thereby forcing him to provide these items at his own expense.

Once in the colonies, Gildart sold the shiploads of prisoners into indentured servitude for a period of seven years in exchange for tobacco grown in the colonies. He had a profitable market in England and on the Continent for the tobacco he received as payment for his human cargo. Gildart was the second largest trafficker of slaves to the Colonial Chesapeake area and was one of four predominant buyers of Chesapeake tobacco in the 1740's.(10) In 1747, when he transported William and the other prisoners, he was part of a well-organized network of merchants dealing in tobacco and slaves,(11) which he likely used to dispose of his prisoners from Carlisle and Chester. Further research in this area is needed.

The above information regarding William is well documented in primary sources and provides critical missing pieces of the story of how William came to the

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American colonies in 1747. The primary historical sources that I have reviewed also lend support to the secondary sources about William. For example, many of the names of the prisoners in Carlisle who were transported on the *Gildart* and the *Johnson* who appeared in the prison records that I reviewed are the same names that appear in Bill Porter's book, *William Lawson – A Scottish Rebel*.(12)

Information contained in the 1928 book, *The Jacobites of the '45*, is consistent with information compiled by David Dobson in *Directory of Scots Banished to the American Plantations, 1625-1783; The Original Scots Colonists of Early America, 1612-1783; and Scots on the Chesapeake, 1607-1830*. Many consider Dobson's numerous compilations to be the authoritative sources for information regarding early Scot immigrants to America, and Dobson references the same original papers of the British Public Record Office currently being reviewed by the author of this article. In *Scots on the Chesapeake* and other works, Dobson reports the following information about William: "WILLIAM LAWSON, Res. Durham, Jacobite, tr. 24 Feb. 1747 fr. Liverpool to Va. On *Gildart*, arr. Port North Potomac, Md. 5 Aug. 1747. (P.2.335) (PRO.T1328)."(13)

*The Prisoners of the '45* identifies another William Lawson in the Jacobite Rebellion.(14) His home or origin was Perthshire. He was not transported to the colonies and cannot be confused with William Lawson, Scottish Rebel (1731). The Perthshire man was a "Tenant of Stralachlan" and served in Strathallen's regiment. He was not imprisoned in Carlisle; his "prison career" is described as "1.2.46 Stirling, 7.2.46 Stirling Castle, 13.2.46 Leith." The "ultimate disposal" for this man was "Discharged."

Research regarding the Jacobite papers is ongoing (15) in an effort to learn as much as possible about William from the primary British documents with the hope that they will give up some secrets and yield additional clues that may help identify his parents and family in Scotland. They also help us paint a much broader picture of the process this sixteen-year-old boy endured before he reached the American shores.

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- 1 The Cumberland Mountains of Kentucky were later named in his honor.
  - 2 Bill Porter, *William Lawson – A Scottish Rebel and Other Pioneer Families of Southern Appalachia*, Rev. Ed. (Overmountain Press, Johnson City, Tenn., 2001). 2-4
  - 3 Sir Bruce Gordon-Seton & Jean Gordon Anson, *The Prisoners of the '45*. (University Press, Edinburgh, 1928). 334-335
  - 4 David Dobson, *The Original Scots Colonists of Early American, 1612-1783*. (Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, 1987). 83
  - 5 This research group is comprised of the following members of the Lawson Family Heritage Program: Fran Lawson Romine, Julie Miller, Barb Lawson, and Toni Beard.
  - 6 Public Record Office (hereinafter "PRO"), TS20, 44/6. Copy on file with author.

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- 7 King George II was the second Hanoverian king on the British throne; William Augustus, the Duke of Cumberland, was his son.
- 8 PRO, TS20, 18/1
- 9 PRO, TS20, 18/2
- 10 Lorena S. Walsh, "Liverpool's Slave Trade to the Colonial Chesapeake: Slaving on the Periphery," A Paper Prepared for the Conference on Liverpool and Transatlantic Slavery, Merseyside Maritime Museum, Oct. 13-15, 2005. [www.hslc.org.uk/downloads/walsh-paper.pdf](http://www.hslc.org.uk/downloads/walsh-paper.pdf). 6
- 11 Walsh, 11
- 12 Porter, 2-3
- 13 Dobson, 83
- 14 Seton, 336-337
- 15 Fran Lawson Romine located the microfilm and, with the help of Julie Miller, has reviewed thousands of handwritten British documents relating to the Rebellion with more to be reviewed. Toni Beard and Barb Lawson have also participated in this research, which is ongoing as of 11/22/05.

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### **BILL PORTER, AUTHOR OF *WILLIAM LAWSON – A SCOTTISH REBEL*, TO HOST LAWSON FAMILY HERITAGE WORKSHOP, 2006**

The Lawson Family Heritage Workshop: 2006, has been scheduled by Bill Porter for Friday and Saturday, Sept. 1-2, 2006, and will be followed by the annual Lawson Reunion on Sunday, Sept. 3, at the Fairview Community Center in Sandy Ridge, Virginia.

The first two days of the workshop will be held in Kingsport, Tennessee, not far from the Rebel's gravesite in Scott County, Virginia. Plans are underway and possible activities for Friday include visiting the Rebel's gravesite, research in nearby Scott and Russell counties in Virginia, and entertainment on Friday evening. There will be an all-day workshop on Saturday with plans to visit the famous "Carter Fold" on Saturday night. The Fold continues the legacy of the original Carter Family, legendary country music pioneers, which included Sarah Carter, a descendant of William Lawson, Scottish Rebel.

There are several motels in the Kingsport, Tenn. area. The exact location of the workshop will be announced later. However, since the date and location are now set, it's time to begin planning for this exciting event and mark next year's calendar. According to Bill, "We plan to make this event very exciting." Watch for more details in next newsletter. (Visit the Carter Fold at [www.carterfamilyfold.org](http://www.carterfamilyfold.org))

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## LFHP NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ON THE NET

Carl Lawson, who has no known kinship to the descendants of William Lawson, Scottish Rebel, has very generously offered to post the LFHP newsletter on his website where it will be accessible to the world wide web. The newsletter can be accessed and read or printed off at [www.carl.lawson.net](http://www.carl.lawson.net). Thank you, Carl, from all of us. This is a very kind thing for you to do and allows a much greater audience for our newsletter.

## LAWSON DNA UPDATE

Since the last newsletter, I have received generous offers from about a half dozen Lawsons to help fund a DNA test for William 2's line. We still need four more people to cover the costs of this test. If we have ten donations the cost for each will be \$17.20 each. No one from the LFHP has been tested since the last newsletter.

The tests completed from the Travis group have allowed us to work with others in the Lawson Surname project who have had the DNA test done. It has been a big help with our research to be able to go to Carl Lawson's website [http://carl.lawson.net/Pages/DNA\\_Project\\_Test\\_Results.html](http://carl.lawson.net/Pages/DNA_Project_Test_Results.html) and quickly check the DNA chart and the DNA of the person we are corresponding with. If they fall in a group other than R1b, then we can say with confidence that they are not of our Lawson family.

Researching your family is very time consuming without chasing the wrong family. Barb and I were recently contacted by someone who was hoping to connect to the Rebel. We were able to look at Carl's website working chart for DNA and quickly see that that person was of another Lawson group. We do need tests from other sons of the Rebel besides Travis to have a full and accurate picture. Please consider a donation for this effort which benefits our whole group. Julie Miller [seashellgram@aol.com](mailto:seashellgram@aol.com)

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Now that we've found you, we don't want to lose you! For those of you who are receiving this newsletter by e-mail, please be sure to notify Barb Lawson of your new email address if your email address changes. She can be reached at [mjla@ism.net](mailto:mjla@ism.net).

If you are receiving this newsletter by US mail, please write and let Barb know if you move or start/stop using a post office box. It is important that the LFHP group continue to be able to maintain contact. Write Barb Lawson, POB 573, Brighton, MI 48116.



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**



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## LATEST LAWSON BOOK ACQUISITION

I'd like to send a big "Thank You" to Charles Berry of Ohio for the copy of Emma Lawson Rankin's book, *The Summit, Lawson & Rankin Families*, (1935-38). Emma was a granddaughter of William the Rebel's son, Jeremiah Lawson. Charles was kind enough to post on a message board that he had a copy of the book. He promptly replied to my inquiry about the book and offered to send a copy. When I told him of our LFHP group he made the copy and DONATED it for our use, saying it was a gift from a Rankin descendant to a Lawson descendant. As some of us have been searching for the early Lawson researchers and their work, this is a great gift to our Lawson research group. Thank you, Charlie!

Julie Miller. [seashellgram@aol.com](mailto:seashellgram@aol.com)

## 2006 SCOTLAND TOUR WITH CLAN MACLAREN

If any of you are interested in taking a tour of Scotland, there is a tour being planned by the Clan MacLaren. The tour is July 18 to 30th, 2006. The cost is \$2147.00 per person, plus airfare, which is estimated to be about \$978.00 per person. Deposits are due in December. If you would like to read about the tour or want further info see their website at: <http://www.clanmaclarena.org> or write to: Caledonian Travel, 2563 River Knoll Dr, Lilburn, GA 30047

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Eager to find new information on William Lawson and descendants, intrepid travelers Barb Lawson, Fran Lawson Romine, and Julie Miller flew to Salt Lake City on September 10<sup>th</sup> to meet up with Toni Beard for a week of research at the Family History Center. The group stayed in a beautiful 3-unit condo in the mountains at the Snowbird ski resort and drove down to the city every morning after being lulled to sleep by the mountain stream outside their windows and even endured an early snowfall on Sept. 13.

Along with several other focus topics, the group researched a number of sources in North Carolina, seeking a link to William Lawson and possibly a Travis connection. We were not able to make any direct connections but did determine that the Travis name was common in the area in the 1700's and feel there is a need to continue the NC research in the counties along the Yadkin River. These include Montgomery, Rowan, Iredell, and Anson, although there may be others. With four people searching, we were able to cover a lot of ground and felt that even eliminating possibilities allows all of us to narrow our search in the future.

We reviewed several of David Dobson's books including *Directory of Scots Banished to the American Plantations*, *The Original Scots Colonists of Early America 1612-1783* and *Scots on the Chesapeake 1607-1830*, which contain information on William as noted in the beginning article of this newsletter

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regarding William and the Carlisle papers. We reviewed a number of colonial Virginia and Maryland resources as well as miscellaneous material on Scotland. Our research is ongoing and we will be updating you in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

### **GLORIA SHELLENBARGER REPRESENTS LFHP GROUP AT GATHERING OF CLAN MACLAREN**

My husband, Gary, and I drove the 19-hour trip from Michigan to Laurinburg, North Carolina, along two-lane country roads and through small towns in Ohio, enjoying the leisurely drive, when we came upon some piles of "black dirt" dropped by a farmer just leaving the road. What we thought was dirt was actually dropped by the pig farmer as he moved pig manure to another part of his farm. We realized that only when we were unable to get rid of the smell. When we arrived in Laurinburg next morning, I went into the motel to change clothes for the AGM meeting while Gary went to wash the car...three times! It required two more washes after we got home to get rid of the smell. In my defense, however, I had no way to avoid having the piles "hit the fan" without hitting the farmer.

After the general meeting, I left for lunch and, in my absence, the group decided to hold the 2006 AGM in Alma, Michigan, and I was appointed commissioner for the Central East area. I was pleased with the honor and look forward to working to prepare for next year's meeting. We had a Pig Picking dinner on the patio of St. Andrews Presbyterian College on Friday night and the college bagpipe band played for us.

The Chief of Clan MacLaren did not arrive until Saturday morning. Seems he was stopped at customs because they thought his bagpipe was some kind of terrorist instrument. Chief Donald and his wife, Maida, have been married for 26 years and have 5 children. He is in the British Foreign Service, based in the Republic of Georgia (Russia). On Saturday morning, we all went to the Red Springs Highland Games where the MacLaren tent was the honored tent since the chief was attending. The MacLarens were represented by more than any other clan when we marched around the parade field, some wearing period costume and the men out-dressed the ladies.

On Saturday night, dinner was again at St. Andrews College where the son of Steve Quillen, president of the Clan MacLaren, attends school. David entertained with bagpipes. A silent auction raised about \$1,000. The chief was given a painting of the Balquidder area and an afghan with the MacLaren crest on it. (It is a very nice afghan and available to order for \$65, incl. shipping. Contact me for information at [gshell2@charter.net](mailto:gshell2@charter.net) ) I gave the chief 2 bottles of Michigan wine, which he called "grog."

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I will long remember the complete feeling of family and connection from the gathering and am looking forward to the next meeting in Scotland where we will gather next July.

### LIGHTWEIGHT TARTAN FABRIC AVAILABLE

Gloria Shellenberger discovered MacLaren lightweight tartan material made of cotton available in North Carolina for \$17.00 per yard. It is also available in a cotton & polyester blend fabric. The material is the Modern tartan weave but if enough of the MacLaren-associated families would like any of the other colors, these can be made. Other possibilities include Ancient and Weathered colors of browns and creams. Gloria also said if we get a minimum of 150-yard order, the price would be \$16 per yard, plus shipping, and dropping to \$14 per yard, plus shipping, with a 200-yard minimum. Gloria is willing to coordinate ordering through her to ensure our minimum requirement. This fabric would be ideal for ladies' summer garments such as a jumper or shift to wear to the games and display the plaid in modern dress as well as making period dress or to tailor men's garments for casual summer wear. Samples are available. The representative plans to contact Chief Malaren in Scotland for samples of all the clan's tartans and will ask the mill to make those available. For information, contact Gloria at [gshell2@charter.net](mailto:gshell2@charter.net) or call her at (231) 796 9247. She can also get prices on having garments made.

### TONI'S TIPS

Good documentation includes both keeping track of your research plans and the results.

#### **Three Primary Purposes of Documentation**

- The first purpose permits someone else to retrace your steps in order to check the information for accuracy. If you have sufficiently documented your research and someone were given your family history files they should be able to continue your research, not spend time repeating what has already been done
- The second is to save time so that you don't constantly re-check the same genealogical sources over and over and over again. Including a research log in each file allows you, at a glance, to see what you have looked at and what you were looking for when you looked at that source.
- Third, your documentation may lead you or someone else to records of other ancestors. The extra two minutes it takes to write down the source information is well worth the time and effort. It should include enough information so that anyone can easily locate the source you used and quickly find the specific information you refer to in that source.

As we do research we need to understand the difference between a primary source and a secondary source.

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-Primary sources are records that were recorded at the time the event took place. Records such as birth and death certificates, christening and marriage records, births and deaths written in a family Bible that were recorded at the time of the event are considered primary sources. Records such as letters or journals that were written by someone in attendance at the event with first hand knowledge of what happened would also be considered a primary source.

-Grandpa telling stories he heard from his father about great-grandpa would be considered a secondary source unless it was something grandpa's dad personally witnessed. Because we aren't sure if Grandpa's memories are right what he said should be recorded with a note about who the source of the information was. I have found in all family lore that there is some truth in it. Documenting what was said will help you recall the family lore and help weed out fact from fiction.

-Census records would not be considered a primary source, they are a secondary source. We have all had the experience of finding inaccurate information in census records. They are a good source, just not a primary source.

-Every effort should be made to find primary sources. We should depend on secondary sources only when our best efforts have been unsuccessful in finding a primary source.

### REGARDING PERSONAL INFORMATION

We have discussed a column in our newsletter regarding illness, births, and deaths of our family members. We have decided not to print this information in the interest of safeguarding our family. Since our newsletter is posted on the internet, we feel providing personal information such as this might be subject to abuse. If your family would like to let others know such information, contact your family group leader to pass it on to the rest of your family group.

### LAWSON FAMILY GOLD MINE

I was courtesy copied in an email from Barb Lawson to Lori Lawson with information about Lori's ancestor, Franklin Lawson. His father was David Lawson. I'm a direct decedent of David Lawson, so that got my attention. Franklin Lawson would have been my Great-Grandmother's (Chloe) Uncle, so I asked my Grandmother (Velma) if she had an Uncle Frank. She said yes, her mother spoke of an Uncle Frank that was a preacher in Middletown, Ohio. The more I thought about it the more it bugged me. I finally realized "wait a minute" there is a huge cemetery in Middletown, OH where he may be buried, and this is what got the whole thing started. My line is: William (1731), Travis (1766), John (1791), David (1835), Daniel (1862), Chloe (1890), Velma Agee (1918), Phyllis Moss (1941) and myself Nancy Hutton (1962).

I visited the Woodside Cemetery on Route 4 and Fourteenth Streets in Middletown, Ohio. I originally requested information about B. Franklin Lawson. A young lady in the office pulled up a screen on the computer and (Rev)

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Benjamin Franklin Lawson was listed along with 130 other Lawson's. She asked if I'd like a copy of the list and I immediately said yes. The printout she provided gives the name of the deceased, Service number, Garden Location, Lot Number, Spot Number, Sex, Age at Death and Service Date. The listing was in alphabetical order, so I went home and retyped the entire list into an Excel Spreadsheet. Once that was completed I was able to sort the list by Garden Number and Lot Number, thereby putting people buried together next to each other on the list. This allowed me to figure out who was married to whom and most likely their children. I then compared the cemetery list to my Family Tree Maker database, seeing whom I knew for sure was related to me. I next took the cemetery list service date (year) and subtracted their age at death to get an approximate birth year. I then checked each individual against my Family Tree Maker Social Security Death Index CD (1937-1995). If the individual was listed, this gave me the state they obtained their social security number (SSN), the actual SSN, the day, month and year of their birth and either the day, month and year or month and year of their death.

Once I'd gone through the entire list and my database I annotated the individuals I knew were related to me. I then went back to the cemetery with the list of where they were buried and was able to find each grave and take a picture of the headstone.

I plan to return to the cemetery and get an individual sheet for each Lawson buried in and on the cemetery list. The individual sheet has additional information for each person buried. The information available is the Funeral Home that performed the service, place of birth, place of death, Next of Kin, whether they were cremated, whether they were a Veteran, Cause of Death, Mother's Name, Father's Name and Spouse's Name. Obtaining this further information should give me more leads as to where to look next, i.e., census records, etc.

So needless to say, there are "Gold Mines" out there where you least expect them. I've lived in this area for 15 years and had never thought of looking at the Woodside Cemetery.

Nancy Hutton, Monroe, Ohio

Follow up from Barb Lawson:

These have proven to be two different men. Lori Lawson is looking for B. Frank Lawson (abt. 1872) who's mother was Nancy Lawson (abt. 1846), and their family lived in Lewis County Kentucky into the 1920's, while Nancy Hutton's descendants were in Wolfe county, and later several descendants moved to Middletown, Butler Co. Ohio.

### **Research Bequests**

by

Fran Lawson Romine

You've heaved dirty old deed books heavier than you are around cramped quarters in small town courthouses, nearly gone blind peering at microfilm hoping a name would pop up, pored over old and crumbling newspapers trying to find an obituary of someone whose name is vaguely familiar, and questioned every

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relative who will still speak to you. You got deeper and deeper into Genealogy, even though you weren't even sure you could spell the word correctly. And now what?

What happens to all your notes, notebooks, scraps of paper, and old photographs you're certain were your great-grandparents when you go to that Great Family Reunion in the Sky? Have you ever thought of a research bequest? There are many places anxious to have your research (or copies of it) where it will be cataloged, protected, and made available to the generations of researchers yet to come who would have to retrace your footsteps. Would you want them to go through that?

There are a number of options you might want to consider so you can direct your families/executors of your wishes. In Kentucky, the Kentucky Historical Society will accept such files as will many of the county libraries and college or university libraries. The genealogy sections of county libraries where your ancestors lived are often the first place other researchers will look. The Family History Center in Salt Lake City is another option with a number of other private historical societies eager for donations of Family Files just like yours.

Don't be concerned if it's not in some fancy notebook or book form. Some of these libraries have expandable files to place the material in. It would be to your advantage, however, to pull those pages scribbled in a steno book, take all the 3 x 5 cards you filled out when you were determined to get organized, and gather up all the loose notebook paper pages, make copies of them and stick them in a notebook or expandable file. Label them as to the family you've been researching, add your name and family connection and any other personal information you feel important, and you're ready for a Genealogical Research Bequest. Better still, if you have a scanner, scan those pieces of paper and pictures onto a CD or DVD and donate the disc. If you can't do it, bribe a grandchild to do it for you.

Talk to other family members to see who's interested in receiving your valuable files to continue your work and which ones look at you like you're the one in the family who's "teched in the head." Do NOT leave it to them! Leave in all the in-laws and outlaws, moonshiners, and stories that make the lists of people come alive as real people who lived real lives and make you understand some of your own quirkiness. That's what makes family histories. You might want to contact the libraries in the counties your ancestors lived in or the state historical society and see what their requirements are. At the end of this newsletter, we've included an example of a Codicil to your will that might be used or just use it for ideas and type it up to suit yourself. Just remember you have something very valuable in those jumbled files and it is extremely important to find a home for them when you leave them behind.

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## GENEALOGICAL CODICIL TO MY LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

To my spouse, children, guardian, administrator and/or executor:  
Upon my demise, I am requesting that you DO NOT dispose of any of my genealogical records, both those prepared personally by me and those records prepared by others which may be in my possession, including but not limited to books, files, notebooks or computer programs for a period of two years if I have not made prior arrangements for passing on custody of said records. During this time period, please attempt to identify one or more persons who would be willing to take custody of the materials and the responsibility of maintaining and continuing the family histories.

\*\*\*\*\*

I have discussed this with \_\_\_\_\_ whose address  
is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
and this person has agreed to accept these materials and make them available for future research. If that person cannot or will not accept the records and make them available to others, I suggest that you contact the following persons regarding the assumption of the custody of these items or others as may be identified:

(1) NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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I wish to donate any or all of my research and genealogical materials to the following organization :(Name of historical society, county library, genealogical society, etc: ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact  
Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Please remember that my genealogical endeavors consumed a great deal of time, travel, and money. Therefore it is my desire that the products of these endeavors be allowed to continue in a manner that will make them available to others in the future.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_