

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.

Volume 2. Issue 3

NEWS OF OUR LFHP

The Lawson Family Heritage Program is pleased to present to our family and friends our new website. This site has been designed and will be maintained by Sherry Hightower.
<http://lawson-family-heritage-program.com/>
It's a beautiful site. Please take some time to look at it. To just say "Thank you, Sherry" does not seem adequate. It truly is a labor of love for our hobby and our family. We will add information, documents and photos, along with our quarterly newsletters.

We are also pleased to announce that we have a "Host Family Tree" site. It is that of Patti Lawson. Patti's research techniques are those, which we highly recommend to follow.
<http://wc.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.p=GET&db=pattilawson&id=I00086>
<http://awt.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.p=GET&db=pattilawson&id=I00360>

We hope that you will take some time to look at what both Sherry and Patti have done for our family program. With these two programs in place, we can now work with our Family Groups to bring each family line up to date.

CHRISTMAS TIME

By: Irene Alice Lawson Cummings

Christmas time fires a glow, feet tramping in the snow
Little children with faces sweet, out from under blankets creep
With their faces pressed against the window pane
Perhaps to see a Reindeer Train,

But grandma says, Santa comes at night
When little children are tucked in tight
So off to bed they slip away
To dream of toys on Christmas Day

The tree is bright with red and gold
With Bethlehem Star of old
Right on the top it reigns supreme
To light the way of each child's dreams

This poem comes from the files of Loretta McCann. It was sent to her from Dolores Baldwin, a niece of Irene. Irene was born Oct 7, 1907 and died in 1998 at the age of 91. She married Charles Cummings. They had no children. The line of descent for Irene is: William, Travis, William (1804), William B. (1820), Jeremiah M. (1863) & Evaline Wilson, Irene (1907)

Kin N' Cousins... we would like to welcome the following members to our family research:

Renee Hawes: William, Travis, John (1791), William (1828), Jasper Green.

Carl Lawson: William, Travis, James (1794), James M (1828), Daniel P. (1864)

Jim (La-Jiness) Lawson: William, Travis, James (1794), James M (1828), Daniel P. (1864)

Edward G. & Lisa Lawson: William, Travis, James(1794), John N, George

Jennifer Sheets: William, Travis, John (1791) & Elizabeth Woods, Andrew Jackson (1831), William L.(1863), Kelly Courtney

Steven Daniels: William, William (1763), William (1799) & Lucy Carter, Ellen Jane & Isaac Swetnam.

Glenn Conrad & Anna Harrah: William, William (1763) Jeremiah (1798) & Catherine McConnell, William B. (1820) & Martha

Patsy Davis, Henry T. 91846) & Mary Henderson, Robert (1830) & Martha Fraley, Laura Belle & Harvey Fraley

MacLaren 2006 TOUR

Gloria Shellenbarger and Darlene Bigornia reported on the MacLaren Tour to Scotland this past July. They went a few days early to allow time for research. Flying into Edinburgh, they caught a train to Montrose, approximately two hours away. They described Montrose as “a very small but beautiful town and far enough north where the days are very long-- in June the sun never goes down.” The overall impression is of the country is that it is very clean, with flowers planted outside of every establishment. Well-manicured lawns show owners’ pride in every nook and cranny and they found hospitable lodging with friendly folks at several Bed and Breakfast establishments.

Gloria and Darlene researched the Montrose Baptismal records from 1696 to 1736 but found no Lawsons. They also viewed the marriage proclamations from 1721 to 1732 with the same lack of results. At the Angus Council for Registry of Births, they were unable to locate any Lawsons but were told that most marriages and births were not recorded at that time and that many marriages did not occur in a church and therefore would have not be recorded.

The research continued in Edinburgh at the General Registry Office. Our intrepid researchers report that during the time period for researching William Lawson, prior to 1747, death records were not required. The search for records of that time is made more difficult by the fact that when a person died, they were often sent back to their family for burial, according to Gloria and Darlene. If you lived as a married person in one place, burial could be quite another, thus adding to the confusion when trying to locate ancestors. The age and handwriting of the documents also makes research difficult. Names are often written phonetically or different from current spelling and sometimes spelled differently, even in the same document. Without information regarding the names of parents, it is almost impossible to locate information from this period.

Once the MacLaren tour began, they visited Edinburgh Castle for a look at the Royal apartments where Mary Queen of Scots gave birth to James VI. They took a number of tours of favorite Scottish sites, including Roslyn Castle, made famous by The Da Vinci Code, and Sterling Castle, where William was imprisoned after his capture and before being sent to Carlisle in England. Of course no trip to Scotland is complete without seeing genuine Scottish Highland Games, Glencoe, a Scotch distillery, and the Isle of Skye.

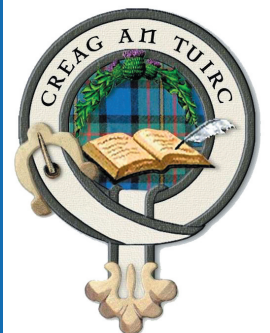
“We were piped onto the Culloden battlefield...and went to the marker where the Stewarts of Appin and MacLarens fought. It was a very solemn day.” Unfortunately, it rained on the group, just as it did that day in 1746, adding to the overall solemnity of the occasion. It was a trip with too many wonderful memories to list them all but one they recommend to everyone.

LOST AND FOUND

June Leto inquires: Has anyone heard of ..Lawrence Simpkins b: abt 1825, married Sarah “Sally” Lawson b: abt 1829, on May 17, 1844 Morgan Co., KY. She finds them in Bath Co., KY 1850 census.... Just listed below them is Nathaniel & Phoebe (Ingram) Lawson & family. Sarah has to belong to one of our families.

A correction has to be made:

Lori A. Lawson has correctly been connected: William, Travis, William (1804), William B. (1838), Benjamin Franklin (1871), William Edgar (1893), Orville Arnold (1916).



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Caledonian Society of Arizona
43rd Annual Arizona Scottish Gathering & Highland Games
February 24-25, 2007
Mesa Community College (just south of Phoenix)

Fran Romine and Barb Lawson will be hosting the MacLaren Clan Tent at this event. Grab your tartan or kilt, and comfy shoes. Bring your friends, family, and grandkids, to enjoy the festivities of our very special heritage.
<http://www.arizonascots.com/games.html>

2007 LFHP GATHERING

Planned by Bill Porter
Natural Tunnel State Park
Scott County, Virginia
Friday Oct. 19 & Saturday Oct. 20, 2007
Camping, family cottages, & dorms available
1-800-933-7275 for park reservations
Other accommodations are available in the area.

After the Kingsport gathering, people asked if we could give more of notice of our next event. They also requested the event to be later in the fall, to take in the gorgeous fall colors that Virginia offers.
For questions, contact Bill.

Tips on Research

In working with Lori Lawson, we realized that there were six men named Benjamin Franklin Lawson born between 1870 and 1880 in the counties that our ancestors lived in Kentucky.

Patti Lawson sorted through each of these names and found that the World War II Draft Registrations from Ancestry.com led her to solve the dilemma as to who each B.F. Franklin was, who were their wives, and where they lived. From this we now have each one correctly placed. Of course, just like the name William, it seems as though every line of our family named one of their sons Benjamin Franklin. And they often used different versions of this name at different times of their lives. From Frank, Bennie, Ben, Franklin, B.F, and of course the complete name Benjamin Franklin was used on rare occasions.

OUR LAWSON DNA PROGRAM

From Julie Miller

A couple of recent DNA tests have both proved and disproved previous research

The biggest surprise so far has been from the results of the DNA test of the line of Rev. Jeremiah Lawson (1773). Starting with a family history book written by Julia Emma Lawson, Jeremiah's granddaughter, we followed the normal methods used by genealogists to find a living descendant of Jeremiah. We followed census, birth, marriage and death records. Patti Lawson found a will, Robert McLaren lead us to historical newspapers online for Missouri, Fran Romine found early Methodist records and information, Toni Beard lead us to books at various libraries in Utah. This family had quite an interesting history and we found quite a bit written about the family. It was an interesting search.

However after the results of the DNA test were returned, we found that when those results were compared to the six matching test results from the Rebel's descendants they do not match. Those of us who had worked on the project and been fascinated with this family and their history did not want to see all this wonderful information just put aside. At the workshop in Kingsport, TN hosted by Bill Porter, we met a charming couple from Texas, Mr. and Mrs. Seborn Thomas, who were of Jeremiah's line. We put together a binder and sent eight pounds of research to the Thomas'.

This summer Roy Lawson, who now lives in Germany, found us. Roy had quite a bit of information on his ancestor, William, who is a grandson of Travis and Maysie through their son, William (1804), and his wife, Mary Dennis. Roy took the DNA test and matches the existing tests. His William (Abt. 1838) was a Civil War prisoner at Andersonville along with his brother, Elihu Green (1840).

This fall, Ed Lawson, of the line of Travis and Maysie, through their son, James (1794), and his second wife, Mary Polly Ward, took the DNA tests and also matches the existing tests. After seeing results from ten Y-DNA tests, which is the male-to-male line test, we decided to step out and see if we could prove all the family stories of "Grandma was an Indian". We followed the same research processes to locate a straight female line descendant of Travis' wife, Martha "Maysie" Simpkins. Ironically we located Diane Becraft in the area near where Travis and Maysie settled in Kentucky. She agreed to be our testee for mtDNA. To quote Robert McLaren who is helping us coordinate the DNA tests: Diane is of Haplogroup H (for mtDNA). This is the most common mtDNA Haplogroup in Europe (at about 40% of the population). Therefore, she does not have a Native America ancestor on her direct female line -- that line is European.

Mark Losson of the same William Riley Losson/Lawson (1859) line as the previous test from William Riley's line has also tested and matches the other nine yDNA tests. We are still unable to say for certain but all indications point to Travis' son, Henry (1810), as the most likely connection for William Riley's line. William Riley's parents are William and Emily Lawson. We find the spelling of William Riley's last name changed from Lawson to Losson between the 1910 and 1920 census. His mother, Emily Cornwell (1837), was born in Kentucky, moved to Missouri where William Riley was born, was widowed, remarried, moved to Indian Territory which is now Oklahoma and died in Texas. Research on this line is ongoing.

Be sure to check the next newsletter for information on the DNA test from the line of Robert who has been thought to have been a possible son of the Rebel.

Tests results can also be seen at: http://carl.lawson.net/Pages/DNA_Project_37%20markers.html

This above link takes you to Carl Lawson's website. Carl has created a chart showing yDNA test results for all the known Lawson lines so when you come across a Lawson family in your research be sure to check Carl's chart to see if you are following the correct Lawson family. Our group is #12 on his chart.

Bill Porter is continuing his efforts for his partial reprint. We have new information to add to the chapter for him titled "The 5 generations of our Rebel". Along with that Chapter, Fran Romine has been diligently working on a couple chapters with him as well.

We have had many requests for information on obtaining a copy of this book. As soon as details are available we know we will let you know.

THE LEGACY PROGRAM

From Julie Miller

Recently I saw information about two items that I would like to let others know about.

The first is Roots Television. This was a new concept for me and I am enjoying the "Where History Meets Heritage" section. This section contains short programs, most less than fifteen minutes.

One video I was especially taken with is the interview with Andrew Carroll who is the founder of The Legacy Project, a collection of letters written to and from soldiers in all the different wars.

Below are some links that I hope you find of interest:

Click here: [Roots Television | Where History Meets Heritage](#)

War Letters - An Interview With Andrew Carroll

Video URL:

<http://link.brightcove.com/services/link/bcpid203711729/bclid296748486/bctid298676162>

Video Description:

Andrew Carroll is the best-selling author of War Letters, Letters of A Nation, and Operation Homecoming. He is also a founder of The Legacy Project.

This video was sent from Brightcove, Inc., the Internet TV service. To learn more about Brightcove, visit: <http://www.brightcove.com>
Brightcove, Inc., One Cambridge Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142



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If you would like to receive our newsletter, it is available on line at one of our members sites: http://www.texashistoryhunter.com/wm_lawson.html Or you can google "Lawson Family Heritage Program".

We will be working this year to put our family heritage together on one HOST SITE.

We have chosen this site to be that of

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The DNA charts are available on line at Carl Lawson's website: http://carl.lawson.net/Pages/DNA_Project_Test_Results.html