

# SAWYER LINES

Newsletter of the Sawyer Family

*"A culture that does not respect their dead will soon fail to respect their living"*

Editor ~ Robert Sawyer

August 2003

## *Resurrected "Sawyer Lines"*

After eleven years of lying dormant we are attempting to revive interest in our family heritage. This mini issue will "test the waters" and see if there is enough enthusiasm amongst our clan to send stories (old or new), current family events, share information about other Sawyer Family Reunions and revive our own Sawyer Reunion.

*If you are interested*, we will need to hear from *you* --- if you don't respond, then that's what you want.

At the end of this newsletter will be a questionnaire and a genealogy chart, to update what has taken place since the 1990 charts were filled out. Since our roster is very outdated it will be necessary for you to check with your relatives and see if they received a copy of this newsletter. If they didn't, please make copies and send to them or send us their name and address and we will mail the newsletter to them.



Old John's Headstone  
Near Batesburg, S.C.

*Pictures from  
Sawyer Reunion  
In Monetta, S.C.  
May 2003*



*Tom Sawyer and Robert Sawyer*

## *A Trip to Remember*

Early this year Ken Sawyer called and said that he had found out about a Sawyer Reunion, in South Carolina, based upon John Sawyer – our John Sawyer. Well this was interesting but all things concerned I didn't see how we could attend and told Ken so. If you know Ken you understand that it didn't stop there. After several more urgings, Charlene also became quite interested so the decision was made to attend the reunion the first Saturday in May. After several rounds of e-mails with two of the three "main players" (Stephanie Scott, of Aiken S.C. and Mike Sawyer, of Sebring Fl.), we began to set our plans to attend at Monetta, South Carolina.

Saturday started early and ended after midnight, but what a blast !! We met Tom Sawyer, and his wife Debbie, the other part of the main trio, and as many of our other "cousins" as we could work in. The reunion itself was great, we received a framed photo of "Old John's" headstone for traveling the furthest, what a treat and thoughtful gesture. Then we were invited to Tom's house, on some of the original "Sawyer" property, near Monetta, where we visited a family graveyard and searched through some mighty rough underbrush for another. Later we drove to within a couple of hundred yards of "Old John's" grave, but could not go to it as it's on private property and it was too late to obtain permission. Sunday morning we stopped by Stephanie and Bobby Scott's winery (the first in South Carolina) on our way to Charleston for a brief vacation before returning home.

We left Monetta with a strong sense of "belonging" as everyone there made us feel as though we had known them for years and we were "family". We do plan to return in 2005.



*Tom and Debbie Sawyer*



*Zach Sawyer, Mike Sawyer and Bobby Scott*

## ***“Our” Bastrop Reunion***

We came back home energized and enthusiastic to get our genealogy chart completed in the same format as Mike Sawyer’s and add ours to his (more about this below). For a genealogy notebook to be of real value you must have the entries backed up with resource information so we decided that we needed to get to Morehouse Parish and Ashley County and document as much as possible. After several quick discussions with Kathy and Chris Hooper (my sister and brother-in-law who now live in Richmond, Virginia) they were “on board”. But we would have only a very short window in mid July.

So Tuesday, July 15, Charlene and I, along with our granddaughter, Robyn Danae Sawyer (now 15 years old) were on the road to Monroe to meet Kathy and Chris Wednesday morning (they drove straight through from Richmond in their motor home). About noon Wednesday we descended upon Carol Costello at the Synder Museum in Bastrop, armed with a computer, scanner, printer, cameras and more questions than even she could answer. Next morning we were back, but she was ready for us, because she had gathered more personal pictures, data and stories than we could handle by closing time. Then we went searching for our Grandmother’s (Irma Roberts Sawyer) homestead and our Grandfather’s (Robert Rushing Sawyer, Jr.) homestead. Between my notes and bad memory, we finally located both and took a GPS reading, we won’t lose them again!

Thursday and Friday were spent at the Hamburg Library and Courthouse trying to solve several of those genealogical mysteries that make this endeavor interesting, rewarding and baffling, all at the same time. When the library and courthouse closed each day, we spent the rest of daylight running all over searching for significant cemeteries and photographing scores of headstones, just like we had good sense. Boy, the July’s up there are no better than Houston’s, two minutes in a cemetery and you are wringing wet.



*Robyn Danae Sawyer, Carol Costello,  
Charlene and Robert Sawyer*

*Chris Hooper, Carol Costello  
And Kathy Sawyer Hooper*



## **Some random thoughts:**

***Two great lunches at the Sawyer Café (Mack Sawyer’s old pharmacy in Hamburg)  
Meeting Jeff Sawyer Foote at his pharmacy and off on another unexpected side story  
Way, way too much to do in such a short time, even with five people busting it all day and evening  
Got to get back there as soon as we can  
Must mend a “major” transgression with a very, very special person  
Letting Danae see what “nuts” the other four of us really are and what a “wild and crazy” Sawyer family she belongs to***

## ***Mike’s Genealogy Notebook***

Mike Sawyer has compiled quite a genealogy notebook. He has 631 individuals, starting with “Old John”. That’s a huge accomplishment, especially considering that John was born about 1730. All of us reading this newsletter are descendants of John through George (his second child), to William Early (George’s tenth child) to Henry Issac (William Early’s fifth child). But the interesting thing is that Mike’s research lists Henry Issac’s twelve children ..... and goes ***no further***. That’s where our reunion started !! So we have spent a good deal of the summer working on our own genealogy notebook, starting with Henry Issac, and it now has 610 individuals. The forms that we have been working from were filled out in 1990, so there are numerous marriages, births and deaths that need to be updated. Also there were many of your siblings who did not complete a form, so we don’t even have a complete listing of each family member’s name.

We have included blank genealogy charts in this newsletter. ***Please take the time to fill in as much data as you can and return them to us as soon as possible. We very much need your help and knowledge. As each day passes, a bit more of our history and ancestors are lost.***

Our goal is to have our Sawyer genealogy notebook as complete as possible by late October. We plan to take a copy and present it to Carrol Costello at the Synder Museum, along with a copy of Mike’s (with his permission), so that a complete Sawyer historical lineage will be a part of the Sawyer historical records of the museum and available for everyone researching Sawyer lineage.