

The Alice Lawton Family Bible

Roger Lawton and Rachel Christine Fulk

Family bibles can be genealogical treasure troves. Usually passed down from generation to generation, family bibles record vital statistics such as birth and death dates; marriage, christening, and burial details; and sometimes other personal and family information. An example of the records that can be found in a family bible appear below from the Alice Lawton family bible.

Roger Lawton was given the Lawton family bible when his great-aunt, Mary Brooks Lawton, moved into a retirement home. Mary had known that Roger was interested in genealogy and would appreciate the significance of the bible that had been given to her by her grandmother, Alice Brooks Lawton, who was the bible's original owner. The bible was published in 1859 and has Alice's name embossed on the front. Alice's baptism date is recorded within it—April 24, 1859. It is likely that the bible was given to Alice as a gift at her baptism, and, beginning in 1859, became a family bible as the Lawton family began to record family members' vital statistics within its pages.

Roger transcribed the handwritten entries of the 158-year-old volume. The book itself is in deteriorating shape, with broken binding and loose pages. Also, much of the ink has begun to fade. Roger tried to stay as close as possible to the original spellings. He was happy to see that his ancestors were literate, but did note, from his examination of the bible, that many of the entries are spelled using phonetic or strict spelling rules. For example, a word that has a long vowel in it is spelled with an "e" at the end, such as "dide" instead of "died." In photographing the bible, Roger had help from his seven-year-old grandson, Lane Morgan Bookwalter. Lane was happy to be a part of the bible's preservation and understood its significance to the Lawton family. The Lawton family bible has offered not only a connection to past generations of Lawtons but to future generations as well.

Notes

1. For more examples of records available in family bibles and links to family bible collections, see Duane R. Bogenschneider, "Genealogy Resources: Family Bibles," Genealoger, <https://www.genealoger.com/index.htm>; Barbara Cline Hutchinson, Family Bible Website, <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~familybibles/>. Ancestry.com also provides family bible records under the category, "U.S., Select Family History and Bible Records Index."

Family Records in the Alice Lawton Family Bible

Marriages

George and Alice Lawton
Married July 31, 1849
At Matteram church
Lankshire county, England
Formerly Alice Brooks of Geo Cross
X X X X X X
Oliver & Maggie Lawton
Married March 1876 Phila.,
Formerly Maggie Martin
X X X X X X
Sarah Emma Lawton
Seely A. Van Tramp July 22nd 1885

Births

George Lawton Born March 10 1828
Alice Lawton his wife Born September 22 1828
Elizabeth There dawter Born May 31 1850
William Henry there Son Born June 8 1852
Oliver Frankling Born February 1856
Charles edward Born July 5 1858
Albart Lawton born July 12 1860
Sarah Emma Lawton Born June 14 1861
Harry Lawton Born June the fourth in the year of our lord 1864
Mary Ann Lawton was born July 6 1866

Births

George Lawton
Born March 10 1828
Alice Lawton His Wife
Born September 22 1828
Elizabeth their dawter

Born May 31 1850
William Henry there son
Born June 8 1852
Oliver Frankling
Born February 8 1856
Charles Edward
Born July 5 1858
Albart Lawton
Born July 12 1858

Baptisms

George Lawton baptised Septmber 1858
Alice Lawton Baptised April 24 1859

Oliver Lawton Baptised
187th Christadelphian
37th Market St Phila.

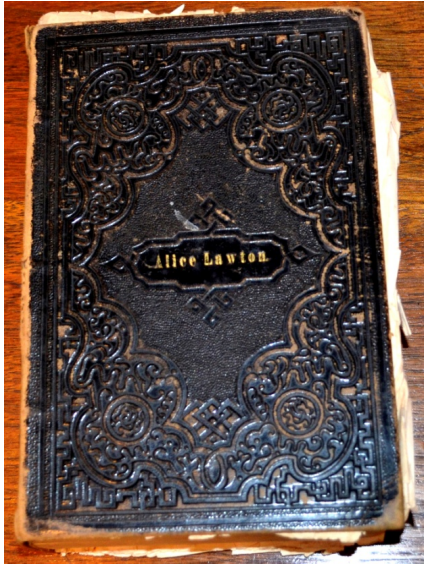
Emma Lawton was Baptised on November ____ 1880
by J.W. Wilson
Church of God or Christodelian
Corner of 8th & Locosh St

Deaths

Elizabeth Lawton dide May 1 1858
William Henry Lawton dide July 8 1855
Charles Edward Lawton departed this life Septmber 7 1859
Albart Lawton departed his life July 30th 1860
Maryann Lawton infant dawter of geo and Alise Lawton departed this life August 28, 1861

Deaths

Gone but not forgotten
“Alice” Wife of George Lawton
Died December 1882
 A loving wife, and kind mother
 we sadly morn our loss.
George Lawton, Died February 10th 1893
Seely A Van Tramp died Feb 27th 1911
Oliver Franklin Feb 17th 1928



Alice Lawton family bible (Photo by Lane Morgan Bookwalter; courtesy of Roger Lawton)



Roger Lawton and his grandson, Lane Morgan Bookwalter, who is photographing the family records pages of the Alice Lawton family bible so that the records could be proofread for this article (Courtesy of Roger Lawton)

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[Family Records](#)