

MATTHEW M. WISE  
315 Sunset Road  
Salem, Virginia 24153  
16 Oct. 1980

Mrs. Harwood J. Naylor  
1501 Round Hill Road  
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Mrs. Naylor:

Nearly a year ago Mrs. Viola Ford Landon of Fairmount sent me your name and address, and I am only now getting around to following up her suggestion that I write to you. I'm also descended from the Landons of Somerset County. My ancestors were Jesse Landon and Margaret Mitchell (married in Somerset Co. - license 22 Jan. 1801). According to family tradition Jesse died at Pocomoke in 1815. Jesse and Margaret had four known children: (1) Josiah (Joseph) Landon (1802-1875), who married (license Somerset Co. 9 Dec. 1830) Alice Gibson; (2) Thomas (b. c1804), who married (lic. Som. Co. 14 Jan. 1829) Anna Maria Dise; (3) Margaret Ann Landon (reportedly born Kingston, 26 July 1806; died Washington, D.C., 17 June 1880), who married (lic. Som. Co. 14 Oct. 1824) William A. Ward. (10 Aug. 1804 - c1845); and (4), supposedly a twin of Margaret, Matilda Landon (26 July 1806 - Feb. 1888). Josiah moved to Baltimore before 1850, maybe before 1840. Thomas Landon was living next to his sister and her husband, the Wards, in Somerset Co., in 1840. Since a son of Margaret was reportedly born at "Jamestown" in 1837, they were probably living there in 1840. Between 1840 and 1850 Thomas moved to Washington, D.C., and reportedly after her husband's death, Margaret Ann Landon Ward also moved, first to Baltimore, by 1850, then shortly thereafter to Washington. Her son, Thomas George Ward (1832-1914), was my great-grandfather. His daughter, Hattie Jane Ward (1865-1936) married Joseph A. Wise (1869-1947). Their son, Joseph Montgomery Wise (1895-1965), was my father. I was born in Washington in 1921; since 1953 I've lived here in Salem, where I teach at Roanoke College.

Mrs. Viola Landon told me that you were compiling (or had already compiled) a history of the Lancelot Landon family. I can't ask you to send me a copy of your history (if it is completed), but I wonder if, in your researches, you happened on other Landons in Baltimore who might be of my family. Josiah (Joseph) Landon had sons George Wesley Landon (born 1839/40), Josephus Washington Landon (born 1843/44), and (step-son) Thomas (Rogers) Landon (born about 1850; d. probably about 1925). Or perhaps you knew from the beginning all the lines from Lancelot and didn't have to search for his descendants.

Mrs. Viola Landon said that Lancelot was brother of Ezekiel Landon. According to the 1850 census they were the same age, both born 1799/1800. I wonder if some information I have received might be helpful. I know the early Landons left practically no records and are very difficult to trace. According to family tradition, my Jesse Landon had a brother, Zorobable, b. 1787/88, who went west. I've recently learned that a George Walston Landon (1790-1863), of Brown Co., Ohio, born in Md., reportedly had brother Zorobable Landon (c1782/83-1855), who lived and died in Deer Creek Township, Picaway Co., Ohio. In the same township there was an Ezekiel Landon (1777/78-1845). It's pure speculation, of course, but I wonder if this Ezekiel could have been another brother of Jesse, and if your Lancelot and Ezekiel could have been sons of still another brother. None of these, of course, is the ancestor of Governor Alfred Landon of Kansas, who came from upper New York state, I believe, or Pennsylvania. Incidentally, I wrote to him not long ago, but received no answer.

I would be interested in hearing from you and exchanging information, if you think I could be of any help.

Sincerely,

*Matthew M. Wise*