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Mrs. Ruth C. Naylor
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Dear Mrs. Naylor:

I don't believe I ever thanked you for your kind response to my query last fall about the Landon family, and for the sheafs of information you sent. Since I'm a college teacher, I'm afraid that correspondence that is not absolutely essential has to take a low priority when I'm teaching, and I'm appalled to realize how much accumulated. I'm only now getting around to answering it. Thank you very much for your help.

At the time I wrote to you I was also writing to Landons in the Washington and Baltimore telephone directories, but the only ones who replied were from Connecticut or Long Island, except Leonard C. Landon, of Oxon Hill, Md., who phoned me to tell me that he's descended from Ezekiel Landon, who, Mrs. Viola Landon told me, was a brother of your ancestor, Lancelot. He's very interested in knowing more.

What I'm sending is not so much fact as speculation and theory based on scattered facts. First of all, through Mr. L. P. Dryden of Hyattsville, a distant relative of mine, I have the following information. Apparently, the first recorded Landon on the Eastern Shore, that is, in Somerset County, was Henry Landon, who first appears in the tax lists in the household of Elizabeth Waters in 1730 and 1731. (Elizabeth Waters was born a Littleton.) Henry was listed in successive tax lists from 1732 to 1753, as head of a household in Annemessex Hundred. He appears to have died 1753/54. The names of several of his sons match those in the Waters and Littleton families, and it looked as if he may have married a Waters, perhaps a daughter of Elizabeth Waters, but she did not name any Landons in her will; in fact Henry witnessed it, 20 Apr. 1752. He probably simply admired the family and liked the names, like Littleton.

Henry's family can be reconstructed, with approximate ages, from the tax lists:

1. John Landon, b. c1735; living 1783 in Great Annemessex Hundred; he may be the same John who in 1798 was a tenant on Isaiah Tilghman's land in Great Annemessex Hundred; he apparently died by 1800.
2. Isaac Landon, b. 17 Mar. 1739 (Coventry Parish baptism); in 1783 in Nanticoke Hundred; removed or died by 1800.
3. Richard Landon, b. c1741; removed to North Carolina; in 1777 Thomas Walston, of Somerset Co., Md., in his will, bequeathed to his son Joshua Walston a parcel of land, 104 acres, in North Carolina on the south side of the Pamlico River, near Richard Landen's.
4. Henry Landon, b. c1742; in 1783 in Great Annemessex Hundred; possibly died by 1798; the Henry Landon who in 1798 was a tenant on part of Jesse King's land may have been the younger Henry Landon, your ancestor (the elder Henry's son?).
5. Arthur Landon, b. c1743; in 1783 in Rewastico Hundred; removed or died by 1800; since Ezekiel Landon (b. c1802?) named a son Arthur, maybe Ezekiel's and Lancelot's mother, Dolly, was a daughter of Arthur.
6. William Landon, b. c1744; not in 1783 tax list.
7. Littleton Landon, b. c1745; d. c1795/1800; listed in 1783 in Manokin Hundred; about 1795 (I don't have the exact date) he apprenticed his son Ephraim to Elijah Broughton to learn the trade of a carpenter and joiner until Aug. 6, 1799, when Ephraim would be 21.

8. Joseph Landon, b. c1746; in Great Annemessex Hundred in 1783; d. by 1800.
9. Esther Landon, b. c1747.

Of these, John, Henry, and Joseph were in Great Annemessex, perhaps the most likely to have been ancestors of your line and of mine, both of which were in the lower part of Somerset County. Of course, Littleton was not far away in Manokin. I don't know where Rewastico was located, the area where Arthur lived. Of course, in the last decade of the eighteenth century there could have been some moving about, relocating.

On the enclosed chart I've hypothesized some connections. Your ancestor Henry Landon I assigned as a son to the elder Henry. I assigned Ezekiel Landon (1778-1845) as a brother of your Henry because of the Ezekiel who was reportedly brother of your Lancelot. Ezekiel (1778-1845) is buried in the Christian Cemetery in Williamsport (Deercreek Twp.), Pickaway Co., Ohio, with his (presumed second wife) Mary (1797-1884). Of course, the Ohio Ezekiel could be from elsewhere, but it looks very much as if he's from Somerset Co.

In my family there has always been a tradition that my Jesse Landon had a brother, Zorobable, who served in the War of 1812, and who received a bounty land warrant for land in Illinois where Quincy is now located, but never claimed it. According to his military record in the National Archives he was born in 1788. Last year I exchanged letters with a lady in Lake Charles, La., whose ancestor was George Walston Landon (1790-1863), who, with his brother Babel, migrated from Maryland to Ohio in 1819. By several marriages George (who settled in Brown Co., Ohio) had sons named: Richard James (1812), Samuel (1814), George Washington (1819), Joseph E. (1833-1902), Robert Jefferson (1838), William Powell (1841), and John (1853). Like my Landons, they were Methodists. The son named Joseph led me to assign George as a son of the elder Joseph Landon. A Zorobabel Landon is buried in Deercreek Twp., Pickaway Co., Ohio. A problem is that he was born about 1783. I suppose that a difference of four or five years is not an insurmountable obstacle. Surely Zorobabel Landon must be a unique name, esp. one from Maryland. A Babel must be a nickname for Zorobabel. In any case, I'm theorizing that Zorobable and George of Ohio were brothers of my Jesse Landon. It would appear that Ezekiel, Zorobable, and George Landon all migrated to Ohio about the same time

As for the Thomas Landing I assigned as brother of Jesse, I made the assignment theoretically because Jesse's son Thomas is the only other early Thomas I know of. Thomas Landing settled in what is now Pocomoke City, and his descendants are still there. So much for theorizing and speculation.

My ancestor Jesse Landon was in Great Annemessex Hundred in 1810. His daughter Margaret was reportedly born in Kingston. Her son Thomas George Ward was born at Jamestown (Manokin). After his father died, Margaret removed with her children first to Baltimore, where her brothers had also moved, then to Washington, D.C.

I hope that what I have written may be entertaining if not highly informative. Thanks again for your response. I hope that you have recovered more fully from your accident of three years ago.

Sincerely,

Matthew H. Lewis

*P.S. I appreciate the work that you and
your associates have done for the
Md. Genealogical Society*

