

DIXON CONTINUES COUNTY HISTORY

5/23/35
The Woodwards.

This family in its traditions go back to the Counts of Flanders who were related to Count Robert of Normandy. When William the Conqueror decided the Conquest of England the Count of Flanders consented to permit some of his retainers to go on this adventurous undertaking. The Normans were successful. King William won the battle of Hastings; King Harold was slain, thus ended forever the Saxon dynasty. William confiscated 40,000 acres of land around Windsor and converted it into a game reserve forest. The guards of these woods were called wards of the woods. Hence the derivation of the Woodward name.

Of course we can scarcely realize it but there was a time when nearly all the Christian world were Catholics. It was so in the reign of the Normans and all the Plantagenet kings. The Woodwards of Warrickshire were valiant retainers of all these kings. One took a flare for letters and learning and was taught

by the monks, and rose to distinction under the great Earl of Warrick, being knighted and given a Court of Arms. "Az a pale between two eagles displayed ar", as it is described in the college of Herald's, London. One became a physician to Queen Mary, known as "Bloody Mary". At his death he was buried with pomp and courtly ceremonies in Westminster Abbey. My cousins, Sallie Woodward, Marion Durham and the writer procured the Epitaph from the tomb many years ago. I have lost mine, but I do remember that his name was John Woodward and the recitation of his many virtues and abilities. Therefore it was not surprising to me that the first Woodwards came to this country with Lord Baltimore and settled near the present city of Annapolis. The cemetery abounds there with their old markers and grave stones. It was from these ancestors that Thomas Woodward the Regulator is descended. His life and early associations with Washington, his courtship with Jemima Collins and his turbulent and praiseworthy life in South Carolina will be the subject of our sketch in your next issue.

—W. W. Dixon.

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THOMAS WOODWARD, THE REGULATOR

It is said that more members have joined the Daughters of the American Revolution through the services of Thomas Woodward, The Regulator, than any other soldier's record in that great war. Perhaps it will not be unentertaining to your readers in this and other states to read a sketch of his antecedents, his early environment, his domestic life, his career as a soldier and his death. His father, Thomas Woodward, was born at Annapolis, Maryland; was of the family that came with George Calvert, Baron of Baltimore, and established the Catholic settlement which was the nucleus from which grew the present commonwealth of Maryland.

Thomas Woodward, the elder, married early and reared a family of children by a first wife. Just who she was I do not know. On her demise he went down into Fairfax County, Virginia, and married the second time, Elizabeth Simpson, a daughter of a Scotch family. By this marriage was one child, a son, Thomas Woodward, The Regulator, the subject of this attempt at biography.

The father went back to Maryland to move his other children to Virginia. He died on the trip and never returned to the young wife and the babe in her arms; nor did the children of the first wife ever come to Fairfax County, Va., but subsequently emigrated, some to Denwiddy County, Va., and others to North Carolina where they lost one "w" of the name and now spell it "Woodard."

Elizabeth Simpson Woodward, the widow, re-married a Robertson, by whom she had two sons, William and John, half brothers of the Regulator.

In the Shenandoah valley there lived a family of some repute and material and social worth by the name of Collins. Washington and Woodward visited this home for what purpose it is not stated. To make a long story short, the Regulator courted and married Jemima Collins over the opposition of parental objections as to his eligibility from the standpoint of property and polished exterior. The Regulator always remained a diamond in the rough. Parson Weenes describes him as a ruthless enemy, a great fighter, a great lover, and an uxorious husband (I have seen this adjective but once in literature and then it was used by Scoll in the "Talisman" in connection with Richard Coeur de Lion).

The Regulator had 4 daughters and two sons by this marriage. The daughters wedded the following: James Nelson, Philip Raiford, James Andrews and Robert Rabb. The two sons were John and William.

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petitioned the Governor and Council of the province of South Carolina, that whereas the province offered 'greater liberality in the matter of religion, better concessions in regard to lands, lower taxes, better protection against the Indians and a more salubrious climate, they solicited the permission to come and settle in the province. The Governor and Council granted the petition.

Thomas Woodward, the Regulator, led this contingent of settlers, among whom were the following familiar surnames: Winn, Smith, Boyd, Pickett, Owens, May, Carr, Jacobs, Wimpey, Henderson, McDowell, Durham, Hancock, Gaither, Stone and others. These people settled in and near Winnsboro. The history of Winnsboro is being managed so capably by Mary Robertson that we will not disturb her equipoise—only to congratulate her for her work and pass on to the task in hand the next chapter, it being: The Regulator and the Regulated.

W. W. Dixon.