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F E R G U S O N

B A R B E R

S T I N S O N

This study is undertaken to show the ancestry, so far as it has been possible to determine, of ESTHER HEPBIZAH FERGUSON, wife of Dr. Wm. J. STEVENSON, This couple is buried in Old Catholic Presbyterian Churchyard in the SE section of Chester County. Their gravestones:

DR. W. J. STEVENSON/ born 4 February 1815/ Died 24 February 1866

E. H. STEVENSON/ wife of DR. W. J. STEVENSON/ born 19 November 1826/  
Died 15 January 1909

Some of their young children are also buried here, viz:

ISABEL JANE/ daughter of Dr. WILLIAM J & ESTHER FERGUSON STEVENSON/  
born 14 October 1857/ Died 15 December 1862/

ELIZABETH C./ Daughter of WM. & E. H. STEVENSON/ Died 10 Aug. 1856/  
age 2 years/ 6 mos./ 1 day/

MARIAH F. STEVENSON/ Daughter of WM. J. & E. H. STEVENSON/  
Died 27 April 1855/ aged 3 yrs/ 8 mos/ 14 days/

The descent of ESTHER HEPZIBAH FERGUSON ( FERGUSON) STEVENSON on her FERGUSON ancestry, shows that she was daughter of JAMES FERGUSON and his wife MARY (STINSON) and grand daughter of SAMUEL FERGUSON and his wife ISABELLA ( BARBER.) ISABELLA BARBER was the daughter of Samuel BARBER.

WE BEGIN WITH BARBER.

F E R G U S O N

The first white settlers in Chester County, or what is now Chester County, came here in the 1740's and settled in what is now called the Rocky Mount area. The first land grants known in that section were made ca. 1742, however, since it took at least a year or so to make the grants after the land was located and platted by the surveyor, it may have been that the earliest settlers were here by the late 1730's.

While the first settlers were few, Braddock's Defeat in Virginia in 1755 and the ensuing raids and massacres of the white settlers there brought streams of new people into the Piedmont from what is now West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

In this very early period there was not a clear and definite boundary line between North and South Carolina. Many land grants which later fell into Lancaster, Chester and York Counties in South Carolina, were made by the Governor of North Carolina & at the time of the original grant, thought to be in North Carolina. The boundary was finally definitely set in 1771/1772, when the line between the two states was surveyed and the demarcation established by order of GEORGE III, King of England.

There are many deeds now of record in Chester and other counties which prove this, and many North Carolina deeds and wills, filed in N. C. which attest the same.

Item: ANSON COUNTY N. C. EARLY WILLS..

WILL of DAVID FERGUSON ( Ferguson ) which was signed 22 December 1761 names  
Wife.." if she has a child"

Sisters: MARY...SARAH...JANE.. Extrs are PETER KULP & SAMUEL NEELEY  
Wtns : ROBERT McCREARY & ROBERT WALKER

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This document above shows FERGUSONS, CULPS, NEELEYS, etc. in this area as early as 1761.

Though this was filed in Anson County N. C. all the participants involved lived in Chester County and in the Fishing Creek area. I have further research if you should want it on this family ( sisters ) of DAVID.

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DAR material states that SAMUEL FERGUSON was born in Ireland which is probably true. We know that his brother was JAMES FERGUSON, given a commission as Colonel in the British Army, and that he, COLONEL JAMES FERGUSON, was killed at the Battle of Williamson's Plantation, also called the Battle of HUCK'S DEFEAT... It is quite possible that SAMUEL had other family members living in this area...that they came down from Pennsylvania or Virginia, having come through Philadelphia or other ports .

I have searched in depth for father of SAMUEL FERGUSON but had no success.

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The intestacy of COL. JAMES FERGUSON, brother to SAMUEL, is found in the old CAMDEN, DISTRICT records . It was not filed until 1785, and SAMUEL FERGUSON ( presumably his brother ) and ROBERT FERGUSON were Bondsmen to the administration to MARY (X) FERGUSON the widow. No other heirs are mentioned.

SAMUEL FERGUSON

Will

Sg. 31 May 1817

Proven 13 November 1817

SAMUEL FERGUSON, " of Big Rocky Creek, Chester District  
and State of South Carolina.."

" very old and weak.."

File # 20-305

Names in his will:

ISABELLA ... " beloved wife... " negros..household goods..stock..etc."

SAMUEL.....Son...a minor.." till SAMUEL comes of age..."

MARGARET FERGUSON...a Daughter.." as Margaret is incapable of caring for herself"

JOSEPH FERGUSON...Son .. " negro named Tom.."

AGNES McKEOWN...Daughter.. " One negro named RATCHEL.."   
Daughter

MARY...No surname...One negro named ALY Jnr.

ISABELLA BAILEY...Grand daughter... Negro JEAN

JAMES FERGUSON...Son and Sole Executor

MALINDA MORGAN )

MARY MORGAN )

) Grand daughters " a bond for \$ 400 which I have on  
) their father.."

Gard. Jamieson  
Zach. Hicklin/  
William Robertson

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Papers in this file show that:

JOSEPH FERGUSON went to MERIWETHER Co. Ga.

MARY FERGUSON wed WILLIAM FERGUSON and both are buried in HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCHYARD  
in Chester County, S. C. Viz:

MARY FERGUSON/ wife of WILLIAM FERGUSON/ 22 January 1796/ 20 Sept. 1870

WILLIAM FERGUSON/ Died 22 Oct. 1874/ aged 80 years/ 8 mos/ 22 days/

ISABELLA BAILEY, the grand daughter/ wed by 11 Oct. 1819/ JOHN HEATH

GEORGE McKEOWN gave receipt for the share of AGNES McKEOWN

TURNER MORGAN, father to MARY & MALINDA MORGAN, gave receipt for their share.

Continued next page.

JAMES FERGUSON, son of SAMUEL, ( other records prove he wed MARY STINSON)

JAMES FERGUSON according to his tombstone which is near his father's in CATHOLIC PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHYARD, died 5 May 1850, aged 68 years/ 8 mos/ 5 days/ A Ruling Elder 30 years at this church /

This JAMES, born 1 January 1782, was the eldest child of his parents, who were wed ca. late April or early May of 1780.

The Scotch-Irish pattern of nomenclature was to name the first son after the paternal grandfather. Thus it is probable that the father of SAMUEL was named JAMES. However here it might be well to remember that in 1780, at the Battle of HUCK's Defeat, SAMUEL had lost his brother, who was also named JAMES, so this eldest son may have been the namesake of his brother JAMES.

Also buried in CATHOLIC is MARY (STINSON) wife of JAMES FERGUSON

MARY FERGUSON/ Died 16 Dec. 1843/ aged 54 years/ 2 mos/ 1 day/

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There is no will or estate file for this JAMES in Chester Court House, and he may have divided his property prior to his death, thus have left nothing to divide. I will check the deeds next week & see if he sold his land.

In the Mary Strange papers, there is given the following data:

MARY STINSON wed JAMES FERGUSON, son of SAMUEL FERGUSON & ISABELLA BARBER

To them were born nine children: 7 girls & 2 boys

Eldest daughter Isabella married JASON HICKLIN

2nd dtr. ELIZABETH married a MR. STERLING

3rd dtr. AGNES married a Mr. COLEMAN

4th dtr. KATE married a Mr. GRAFTON

5th daughter MARY ANN married a MR. HINDMAN

6th dtr. HEPZIBAH married DR. WM. STEVENSON

7th dtr. JANE married a Mr. HALL

WILLIAM, the first son of JAMES & MARY ( STINSON) FERGUSON married a MR. WADE

BARBER FERGUSON, the second son & last child married three times but I have no record of his wives or his family.

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NOTE: LKC : The MARY STRANGE papers were records accumulated by the late mrs. MARY ( WYLIE) STRANGE, noted historian on Chester County history and families.