

DATA.075 A DISCUSSION ON THE WOODWARD GENEALOGY, WHY IT IS BELIEVED TO BE WRONG, AND THE ACTUAL FACTS, BASED ON THE EVIDENCE FOUND IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA AND S.C.

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A BRIEF GENEALOGY TO MY HILL-WOODWARD CONNECTION

Thomas Woodward, known in South Carolina as the "Regulator," was my fifth great grandfather. The youngest child of his and his first wife, Jemima Collins, was Reverend William Woodward, (b. 7th October 1762-d. 23 July 1820), who married Nancy Elizabeth Barrett.

William & Nancy (Barrett) Woodward had among their children a daughter, Jemima Woodward, who married Thomas Hill (1780-1824), a son of Moses Hill & Savilla Roden. This establishes my Hill-Woodward connection.

Now the Woodward genealogy that seems widely accepted is very briefly stated as being....Abraham Woodward, of Ann Arundel County Maryland, and his 2nd wife Priscilla (Ruley) Orrick had a son named Thomas Woodward, who was said to have married 1st Margaret (Waters) Izams and 2nd to Elizabeth Simpson.

Thomas Woodward and Elizabeth Simpson were then said to be the parents of Thomas Woodward, later known as the Regulator. This article is intended to show this genealogy to be wrong and to present the supporting evidence, showing the error of this genealogy.

GENERAL COMMENTS

For quite some time, I have been trying to find out all that I could about the parents of Thomas Woodward, known in South Carolina as "The Regulator." At first, this genealogy appears to have been well established and generally accepted by a wide range of individuals as well most genealogical records, especially in South Carolina.

After a closer look at the evidence at hand, there appears some conflicting evidence. This confliction was first noted by Mrs. Anne B. Willis of Clarksville, Maryland, who called it to my attention, and as research continued other problems in the "generally accepted" genealogy appeared.

Now I wish to state honestly and clearly that I have had no desire to change the so called "generally accepted" genealogy

of the Woodward Family (relating to the Regulator) but to gather all of the honest facts and for no other reason.

I was as surprised as anyone when this matter was first brought up by Mrs. Willis and I am sure that many of the descendents of the Regulator will be disturbed by the following article, but I can only ask them to review the evidence presented and then ask them to produce any other evidence that will support their theory that Thomas Woodward (son of Abraham) and said to have married Elizabeth Simpson, can still be considered the parents of Thomas (Regulator) Woodward.

THE PROBLEMS FOUND AND IT'S SOURCE

The very first time that I became aware of a problem with the Woodward Genealogy was when Mrs. Anne B. Willis, of Clarksville Maryland, asked me to note the birth, marriage and death dates of Thomas Woodward, son of Abraham and of Ann Arundel county Maryland and those of the Regulator, and then explain how this Thomas Woodward, of Maryland and a son of Abraham Woodward, could possibly be the father of the Regulator, as was widely accepted.

I was astounded by such a question, who's answer was (at least to me) obviously clear and long accepted. Why on earth would anyone question the stated facts on this genealogy.

Mrs. Willis pointed out that Thomas Woodward, son of Abraham, did not marry Margaret (Waters) Izams until 1778, which was just one year prior to the death of Thomas (The Regulator) Woodward, who was killed in South Carolina on May 12th 1779.

To compound this, she pointed out that the Regulator was supposed to have been the son of a SECOND WIFE (Elizabeth Simpson) of the above Thomas Woodward.

I was absolutely shocked when these facts were revealed to me and then and there decided to try and tackle the mission of at least having the true facts available for others to understand what certainly appears to be a serious error to this Woodward genealogy of the Regulator's family line.

How could this Thomas Woodward, son of Abraham, be considered the father of the Regulator. Who originated this idea and how?

The acceptance of this statement seems to have possibly originated from no one other than a grandson of the Regulator named Thomas Simpson Woodward. This Thomas Simpson Woodward was the son of the first born child of the Regulator and his 2nd wife, Elizabeth Stokes Mays, who had some Indian blood in her veins. The father of Thomas Simpson Woodward was also named Thomas Woodward, who had married Mary Howard.

Thomas Simpson Woodward was orphaned at an early age and despite the efforts of his mother's family members (the Howards) to take care of him, he ran away, and often hung out around military posts, hearing wild stories and tales and thus himself became quite an adventurous person. He learned the ways of the Indians and traveled as far north as Delaware and southward into Florida and westward to into Arkansas and Louisiana.

When Thomas Simpson Woodward became an elderly man, for reasons not clear, he wrote a series of letters to friends, telling them of his adventures and about his life and that of his family. In the mid 1850's a newspaper in Montgomery Alabama printed these letters as a series of articles, and later they were printed into a book entitled "Reminiscences of the Creek-Muskogee Indian Nation."

On page 124 of that book, Thomas Simpson Woodward gives a brief genealogy of the Woodward Family as follows: "And near Annapolis, my great grandfather, THOMAS WOODWARD (father of the Regulator) was born and raised in Maryland."

It is here that lies the basis for Thomas Woodward, son of Abraham Woodward, to be suspected and claimed as the father to Thomas (Regulator) Woodward.

Continuing on with quote from page 124 of the book "Reminiscences".....He raised a family of children by a first wife-she died, and he went into Fairfax County Virginia and married my great grandmother, ELIZABETH SIMPSON, the descendent of a Scotch family-and Simpson is my middle name." (End of Quote).

It is obvious that Thomas Simpson Woodward states that his great grandfather (father of The Regulator) was named Thomas Woodward, was born near Annapolis Maryland, was married twice, the 2nd being to Elizabeth Simpson. This Thomas Woodward and 2nd wife Elizabeth Simpson were then named as the parents of Thomas (The Regulator) Woodward.

On page 125 of the same book, Thomas Simpson Woodward states the following, "My grandfather (meaning the Regulator) was a Captain in that service, and was a much older man than General Washington."

Now history states that George Washington was born in February of 1732. If Thomas (Regulator) Woodward was born about 1719, as suspected, then this would seem to support the statement made by the grandson above. A birth of 1729 would certainly make the Regulator older than George Washington, but it would only be by about 3 years and does not seem to support the statement made that he was "a much older man than General Washington."

Now one of the problems that is bothersome is that Thomas Woodward, (The Regulator) is listed in most cases as having been born ca. 1729 in Fairfax County Virginia. Leonardo Andrea, in his genealogical studies on the Woodwards, seems to feel that his birth was between 1715-1719 and this compiler agrees with a birth of ca. 1719.

Mary Elizabeth Boulware, in her article entitled "Thomas Woodward, Champion of Justice" states that Thomas Woodward was approaching the age of 60 when he resigned his commission from the military service in January of 1779. This seems to imply a birth of 1718 or 1719 and supports Andrea in his opinion.

Now accepting this birth of either 1719 OR 1729 makes it absolutely impossible for the Thomas Woodward, of Maryland and a son of Abraham Woodward, to be the father of Thomas (Regulator) Woodward for the following reason..

Another cause of concern lies in the fact that Thomas Woodward, son of Abraham, was said to have remarried after the death of his 1st wife, (Margaret Waters Izams) to ELIZABETH SIMPSON, the daughter of a Scotsman.

(Reference: "Reminiscences of the Creek-Muskogee Indian Nation," page 124-125, by Thomas Simpson Woodward.

"Annapolis Maryland Families," by Robert H. McIntire, page 782, copied from Parish records, does not show a second marriage of this Thomas Woodward (son of Abraham). It shows that this Thomas Woodward (son of Abraham & 2nd wife Priscilla (Ruley) Orrick) was born on 10th March 1732, WHICH IS AFTER THE BIRTH OF THOMAS (REGULATOR) WOODWARD, who was born ca. 1719 (or 1729?).

It also shows that, this Thomas Woodward and his wife Margaret (Waters) Izams did not marry until 21 February 1778, which was just a year before the Regulator was killed. THIS THOMAS WOODWARD COULD NOT BE THE FATHER TO THE REGULATOR, as is often stated.

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ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT THOMAS WOODWARD, SON OF ABRAHAM, WAS NOT THE FATHER TO THE REGULATOR.

Once the above data was called to my attention, I knew there was a real serious problem to the widely accepted genealogy, regarding the parents of the Regulator. Now how could the grandson of the Regulator make such a statement and not be true, well in my opinion there is an explanation and I shall try to explain to the reader.

First of all, the mother of the Regulator was said to be

Elizabeth Simpson, part of a Scotch Family of Fairfax County Virginia. She is said to have remarried John Robinson after the death of her husband, Thomas Woodward.

(REFERENCE TO WILL OF THOMAS SIMPSON, in Prince William County Virginia, WILL BOOK C, Page 16, dated 13th October 1734).

In this will, Thomas Simpson names his 2nd wife Ann, his daughter MARY WOODWARD, mother of his grandchildren, THOMAS WOODWARD and Ann Woodward. (This grandson is Thomas Woodward, later to marry Jemima Collins, move to South Carolina and later known as "The Regulator").

NOTE THAT THE MOTHER OF THE REGULATOR WAS NAMED MARY SIMPSON, NOT ELIZABETH SIMPSON, HOWEVER IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT SHE COULD HAVE BEEN NAMED MARY ELIZABETH SIMPSON AND CALLED OR SIGNED HER NAME AS "ELIZABETH" BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO EVIDENCE TO PROVE THIS.

THE PROBABLE CAUSES FOR THE ERROR IN THE WOODWARD GENEALOGY AND RELATED STATEMENTS MADE BY THOMAS SIMPSON WOODWARD IN THE BOOK "REMINISCENCES OF THE CREEK-MUSKOGEE INDIAN NATION."

It is known that Thomas Simpson Woodward wrote his original letters containing the Woodward genealogy as an elderly man. It is the belief by this writer that his memory was not as good on the facts as he thought, or perhaps a lot of the information was being passed on down to him by second parties or family members and that he became confused with his maternal great grandparents (The Simpsons) with those on the paternal side of his family, The Woodwards.

The fact is Thomas Simpson Woodward is partly right when he stated his great grandfather was named Thomas but it appears that he was actually referring to his MATERNAL great grandfather Thomas Simpson, a Scotsman.

Data from family descendents of Thomas Simpson and also his will shows that Thomas Simpson was married twice. His second wife (Ann) is named in his will but the name of his first wife, and the mother of Mary Woodward (mother of the Regulator) remains unknown. Her surname is very strongly suspected to be Baxter.

(Note: Information on the Simpson Family was provided by Mrs. Thomas Meeks, of Woodbridge, Va.)

Thus Thomas Simpson may have been married to Elizabeth Baxter and many years later the great grandson (Thomas Simpson Woodward) got them confused with the great grandparents on the paternal side of the family line, meaning the WOODWARDS.

This could account for Thomas Simpson Woodward stating that his great grandfather was THOMAS WOODWARD when actually it was THOMAS SIMPSON. The mother's name could have been mixed up with his maternal great grandmother, who's name may have been Elizabeth Baxter that married Thomas Simpson, thus her name WOULD HAVE BEEN Elizabeth Simpson, or he may well be right on the mother's name, IF she was named Mary Elizabeth Simpson. (Again no proof of this has been found).

Additional supporting evidence to the above Mary Simpson being the actual mother of the Regulator comes from information in two Indentures in Fairfax County Virginia dated 8th November 1756 in Fairfax Deed Book D, Pages 351-352 and 9th November 1756 in Deed Book D, pages 352-354 BOTH Indentures between Thomas Woodward (also signed by wife Jemima Woodward (Jemima Collins) and John Robertson (who remarried Mary Woodward, mother of the Regulator.

In the first Indenture, it states that the land (100 acres) was part of 4023 acres "taken up by and patented by THOMAS SIMPSON, deceased, and willed and bequeathed TO HIS DAUGHTER MARY WOODWARD, who is now espoused to the said JOHN ROBERTSON." (End of quote).

This data shows that it was Mary Simpson, who married a Woodward, and was the mother of Thomas (Regulator) Woodward. It also shows that Mary (Simpson) Woodward remarried to John Robertson and not Elizabeth (Simpson) Woodward as is often stated, unless it was Mary Elizabeth Simpson.

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THE FATHER OF THOMAS (REGULATOR) WOODWARD, WHO WAS HE? (NOT THE THOMAS WOODWARD, SON OF ABRAHAM WOODWARD OF MD).

Thomas Simpson Woodward, along with many others, has stated that a Thomas Woodward, of Maryland, was the father to the Regulator, and we must admit that possibility BUT, if so, it certainly was not the Thomas Woodward, who was the son of Abraham Woodward, of Ann Arundel County Maryland. We have so far been unable to locate ANY Thomas Woodward in Maryland that would fulfill the requirements necessary in order to be the father of the Regulator. Instead, a closer look at the evidence will support that the father of the Regulator was probably named JOHN WOODWARD.

An investigation into records in Fairfax County Virginia and the adjacent counties, reveals only one male adult by the name of Woodward during the time between 1720 and 1740. That man was a blacksmith by the name of John Woodward.

On the 21st day of October 1732, this John Woodward sold all of his possessions, livestock, tools BUT no land to a John Mercer. (Reference Prince William County Deed Book B, Page

426. dated 21st October 1732).

This writer believes that he had become heavily indebted, sold all of his possessions to pay off those debts. It is believed that if John Woodward had owned any land this would have been the very first thing sold off and the reason why no land was sold was probably because he was not able to. It is believed that this may be the same land that Thomas Simpson gave to his daughter (Mary Woodward) and mentioned in his will. It is felt that she was married to this same John Woodward.

Another clue to the father of the Regulator being named John is that one of the customs of these times was to name the first born male child after the paternal grandfather. Thomas (The Regulator) named his first son, JOHN WOODWARD, and his 2nd son was named William Woodward.

It was not until the Regulator remarried to Elizabeth Stokes Mays (ca. 1765 in S.C.) that he named a son (Their first child) Thomas Woodward.

CONCLUSIONS REACHED ABOUT THE PARENTS OF THOMAS WOODWARD, KNOWN AS THE REGULATOR, THE DATE OF HIS BIRTH.

It is believed by this writer that Thomas Woodward, known as the Regulator was born ca. 1716-1719 and not 1729 as is generally accepted. He was born in Fairfax County Virginia.

Despite the fact that no proof has been found to connect the father of the Regulator to the Woodward family of Maryland, it is believed to be true.

After considering all of the evidence gathered it is the opinion of the writer that the father of Thomas Woodward, known as the Regulator, was named JOHN WOODWARD and not Thomas Woodward. It is believed that the father was the John Woodward, who was a Blacksmith in Prince William County Virginia, that had to sell all of his personal possessions to one John Mercer, ca. 1732.

The mother of the Regulator was named MARY SIMPSON and not Elizabeth Simpson, although the possibility does exist that she was named Mary Elizabeth Simpson and went by the name of Elizabeth. This is doubtful as her own father, Thomas Simpson, calls her Mary in his will. It was Mary Simpson Woodward, who remarried to John Robertson and not Elizabeth Simpson as tradition has it.

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