

R.054 DISCUSSION ON JAMES NELSON SR. OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY,
SOUTH CAROLINA.

Entered in December of 1993 by Robert R. Hill of Brandon,
Fla.

Source of Information: My own research, plus additional new
information received from Mrs. Calhoun J. Killeen of McLean,
Virginia, who in turn received information provided by Mr.
Brent Holcomb, a certified genealogist of Columbia, South
Carolina, who did research for her in 1992.

JAMES NELSON SR.

In South Carolina, on the 28th of June 1832, James Nelson Sr.
filed an application to receive benefits for his service in
the American Revolutionary War. (Ref: Holcomb's research to
Mrs, Killeen on page 11 of his information to her). This
application & DAR records show that James Nelson Sr. was born
in Orange County, North Carolina on the 6th August 1748.

Many sources state that he married Margaret Woodward, 3/, the
eldest of four daughters to Thomas (Regulator) Woodward 2/
(1729-1779) & his first wife, Jemima Collins (1730-after Oct.
of 1762) of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Thomas & Jemima Woodward had a total of six children; two
sons: John Woodward 3/; William Woodward 3/ and four
daughters: Margaret Woodward 3/; Priscilla Woodward 3/;
Rebecca Woodward 3/ and Nancy Woodward 3/.

The eldest was the son John Woodward 3/, born on the 13th of
May 1745 (1747?) and youngest of these six children was the
son William Woodward 3/, who was born on the 7th of October
1762 in Fairfax County, Virginia. The four daughters were
born in between these two births, Margaret Woodward 3/, born
ca. 1748-1752; Rebecca Woodward 3/, born ca. 1755; Priscilla
Woodward 3/, born ca. 1758 and Nancy Woodward 3/, born in
1760.

Their mother, Jemima Collins, died very shortly after the
birth of the son William Woodward, because by January of
1763, the widowed father, Thomas Woodward 2/, with his six
children, were in South Carolina.

Going to South Carolina with Thomas Woodward 2/ and his six
children, was his widowed mother, Mary (Simpson) Woodward,
who had remarried ca. 1742 in Fairfax County, Virginia, to
John Robertson Sr., his three half brothers: John Robertson
Jr.; William Robertson & Henry Robertson.

John Robertson Sr. is thought to have died in Virginia sometime after 1756 and before January of 1763.

An analysis of the census records of Fairfield County, South Carolina, in conjunction with the information found by Brent Holcomb, shows that about 1770, James Nelson Sr. married Margaret Woodward 3/ and by 1772, their first child, a son named Samuel Nelson, was born.

The records clearly show that this first wife (Margaret Woodward 3/) must have died before 1788 because James Nelson (Sr.) had remarried in 1788 to a widow named Margaret Daniel Turner.

Margaret Daniel Turner appears to have been the daughter of John Daniel of Fairfax County, Virginia and was first married to Mr. Turner, probably of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Obviously by this first marriage to Mr. Turner, there was at least one child, the son named in the following Power of Attorney, William Turner.

Note the following Power of Attorney made by James Nelson Sr. & his second wife, Margaret Turner. This abbreviated Power of Attorney was provided to me by the kindness of Mrs. Jean Holly Day, of Danville, Indiana. Jean states she left out all the other information that did not relate to genealogy.

Fairfield District South Carolina Deed Book N, Pages 54-55, dated 3rd July 1800.

Power of Attorney. Know ye by these presents that we, James & Margaret Nelson, of the State of South Carolina & district of Fairfield, for very good causes & consideration, us thereto moving have made, named, constituted and appointed & by these presents, do make, order & appoint our trusty and dutiful son, WILLIAM TURNER of the State of Virginia and County of Fairfax, Carpenter, our trusted and lawful attorney for us and in our names and to our use, to ask _____ of & from the Executors or Administrators of the said JOHN DANIEL of the said State of Virginia and County of Fairfax, the sum of money left by the said JOHN DANIEL as a legacy to the said MARGARET NELSON, late MARGARET DANIEL, or other goods & chattels or whatsoever may fall to the share of her, the said MARGARET NELSON of the estate of her father, the said JOHN DANIEL, deceased.

Signed by/ JAMES (N) NELSON

his mark

MARGARET (X) NELSON

her mark

Wit:

William Robertson Sr.

Recently, Mr. Brent Holcomb, who did some research for Mrs. Caloun J. Killeen of McLean, Virginia, found new information from the South Carolina records, proving that James Nelson had the two marriages, the first probably being to Margaret Woodward 3/ about 1770. His second marriage was in 1788 to a widow named Margaret Daniel Turner.

In reference to the marriage of James Nelson Sr. and his first wife (thought to be named Margaret Woodward 3/):

It is thought that the first wife, Margaret Woodward 3/, was born between 1748 and 1752 & died ca. 1785-1787. These estimated death dates are based on these known facts:

1. James Nelson Sr. was born in 1748.
2. Margaret Woodward's estimated birth is listed as about 1748-1752.
3. Samuel Nelson, born ca. 1772, WAS NOT the son of the second wife, Margaret Turner. In a law suit in S.C., Samuel Nelson stated that he was a half brother to John Nelson, son of the second wife, and therefore, he was the son of James Nelson Sr. & his first wife (Margaret Woodward), daughter of Thomas (Regulator) Woodward (1729-1779) & his first wife, Jemima Collins. This proves the two marriages for the father James Nelson Sr. (unknown until Mr. Brent Holcomb's information was received).
4. The belief that the son Samuel Nelson's birth was about 1772. (Ref: 1800 Census).
5. Since it appears Samuel was a son of the first marriage and appears to have been the eldest child, the marriage of James Nelson SR. to first wife (Margaret Woodward 3/) is estimated to have been about 1770.
6. From my analysis of the Census records, it appears that the first marriage of James Nelson Sr. to Margaret Woodward 3/ MAY have produced 3 sons and 3 daughters (6 children). This included the son Samuel Nelson.
7. Regarding James Nelson's first marriage, he and his wife may have had the following events. Allowing an average of 2 years between children, they would possibly have had children born as follows: Starting with Samuel Nelson's birth ca. 1772, then the second child born ca. 1774; the third child born 1776; the fourth born 1778; another or the fifth child born ca. 1780; and the sixth child born ca. 1782.

We know that James Nelson Sr. re-married Margaret Turner in 1788, so the first wife's death (Margaret Woodward 3/) is estimated to have been about 1785-1787. Naturally, these projected births could be off a few years or so, but I do not think they would be off too much.

Based on this knowledge, I estimate that James Nelson Sr. and Margaret Woodward 3/ married about 1770.

Now, let's talk about the 1790 Fairfield County, S.C. census.

James Nelson Sr. and Margaret Daniel Turner are said to have married in 1788. (Reference to the son Jesse Nelson's deposition dated 28th March 1846). Notice that the 1790 Census of Fairfield County, South Carolina has the following:

(Note: The 1790 census was taken for the sole purpose of determining how many males were available to fight with the militia. It does not break down the ages of the males, except for being above or under the age of 16. The ages of the females were not even divided up at all).

Fairfield County, S.C. 1790 Census (Page 21)

James Neilson 2 males of 16 & upward
4 males under 16
6 free white females

This name of Neilson appears to be a miss spelling for James Nelson (not Neilson).

There are 6 males & 6 females in this family. Two males are over age 16. One of them was James Nelson himself, and the other was probably Samuel Nelson, (b. ca. 1772) thought to be the eldest child by the first wife, Margaret Woodward 3/. He would have been about 18 years old in this 1790 census. This accounts for both males over 16 and still leaves 4 males listed as being "under 16" to account for.

We know from the ages given in S.C. death notices, in combination with the will of James Nelson's will that the second marriage produced the following sons:

1. John Nelson, born 1788. We know that his parents married in 1788. Now, accepting the death notice of the son John Nelson's age as "47" when he died on the 20th November 1834, shows that John Nelson's birth was AFTER the 20th November 1788 and he had died in 1834, just before his 48th birthday.

Allowing the normal nine months for carrying a child, this seems to show (to me) that his parents, James Nelson & Margaret Turner, probably married in very early in 1788, say January or February of 1788. So, the son John Nelson's birth, was in late 1788. He appears to be the eldest child for this second marriage between James Nelson Sr. & Margaret Turner in 1788. He accounts for one of the four males listed as being "under age 16."

2. James Nelson Jr., born 1789. Next, a son, perhaps James Nelson Jr. All we know of him was that he died between 15th of May 1833 & July of 1845. His wife was named Margaret---? His birth is said to have been about 1789. If true then he would account for a second son listed as "under 16" in the 1790 census.
3. Jesse Nelson, born 1790. The 1830 census (page 387) seems to have Jesse Nelson's correct age as being between 30-40 years old, indicating a birth between 1790-1800. His birth was on the 16th of August 1790, and thus seems to be listed correctly as being "under 16."

The 1840 census (Page 165) has Jesse Nelson's age listed as between 50-60 years old, indicating a birth between 1780-1790. Mrs. Killeen states he was born on the 16th of August 1790 and died after the 25th of July 1845 (after his mother). This accounts for a total of three of four males listed under "age 16."

The 4th male listed as being "under 16" must have been of an age that was closer to 16.

So, who ever he was, in order to be listed on this 1790 census as "under 16" indicates (to me) that he was born no earlier than 1775 (if his age was 15) and no later than 1788, because that is when James Nelson married the 2nd time and all of the children by this 2nd marriage (up to this time) has been accounted for. Therefore, he was either a son of the first wife, Margaret Woodward 3/ OR a son of Margaret Turner's first marriage.

At this time, it appears that James Neslon & his first wife, Margaret Woodward 3/ MAY have had two sons, including Samuel Nelson. (Not proved).

Now, the 1790 census also shows 6 females living in the house of James Nelson. One was his second wife, Margaret Daniel Turner. From the preceeding information, it does not appear that James & his second wife, Margaret Turner Nelson could have had any daughters by 1790, so it is suspected that Margaret Woodward 3/ may have had as many as 5 daughters and 2 sons, UNLESS some of these five (5) daughters belonged to Margaret Turner and her first husband.

Another possible son of the first marriage to Margaret Woodward 3/ could be the man named Abner Nelson, who witnessed the following deed below. This is based on the fact that the two parties involved usually liked to have their own witness to the signing of the document. We know that Abner Nelson was not a son of Samuel Nelson, but may have been a brother, and another child of James Nelson Sr. and his first marriage to Margaret Woodward 3/.

In this case, knowing that there was trouble between the two half brothers, Samuel Nelson & John Nelson, the other witness, it would seem logical that Samuel Nelson would want his own FULL BLOODED relative to be a witness. (Just speculation).

(Fairfield County Deed Book V, Page 101, dated 8th July 1812).

James Nelson of Fairfield County to Samuel Nelson of same county & state for \$ 200, 195 acres on Mill Creek of Little River, part of 300 acres originally granted to Thomas Woodward on 21 August 1774, and is taken out of the most western corner of said tract of 300 acres.

signed/ James Nelson

Wit:

Abner Nelson

John Nelson

This deed shows James Nelson (Sr.) selling 195 acres of land for \$ 200 to son Samuel Nelson, said land, was **ORIGINALLY** granted to **THOMAS WOODWARD**. It does not say how James Nelson got the land, but the thinking is that Thomas Woodward gave or sold the land to James Nelson and his first wife, Margaret Woodward, who was the eldest daughter to this Thomas (Regulator) Woodward. In other words, Thomas (Regulator) Woodward was the maternal grandfather to Samuel Nelson.

The above deed appears to show James Nelson Sr., who had recently remarried in 1788, was giving up land that was obtained by his first marriage to Margaret Woodward 3/, and was now passing it on to Margaret Woodward's (& his) eldest son, Samuel Nelson.

Note: If we could find a deed between James Nelson & Abner Nelson, I think it would go a long way in proving that Abner was another son of James Nelson & first wife, Margaret Woodward 3/.

The land had once belonged to Samuel Nelson's maternal grandfather, Thomas (Regulator) Woodward 2/ (1729-1779), who at some time or other, cut off 195 acres from the western corner of his 300 acre grant & in some manner, passed it on to his daughter (Margaret Woodward 3/) & his son in law, James Nelson Sr.

This deed was witnessed by Abner Nelson, who I think may have been another son of James Nelson & his first wife, and by another son John Nelson (by 2nd marriage), and who was a half brother to the above Samuel & possibl to Abner Nelson.

Another interesting document is the following:

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, S.C. DEED BOOK N, PAGES 54-55; S.C. ARCHIVES MICRO FILM C301:

Know all men by these presents that we James and Margarte Nelson of the State of South Carolina & District of Fairfield...appoint our trusty and dutiful son, WILLIAM TURNER, of (the) State of Virginia & County of Fairfax, Carpenter, our true and lawfull attorney for us... and to ask for and demand & receive of & from the Executors or administrators of the said JOHN DANIEL as a legacy to the said Margaret Nelson (Later Margaret Daniel) or other goods & chattels or when to give money full to the share of her, the said Margaret Nelson of the Estate of her father, the said JOHN DANIEL, deceased, & by these presents granting to the said attorney sole and full power & authority to take persue and follow such legal course for the recovery & receiving & obtaining of the same... as we the said James & Margaret Nelson, in ovr own persons, ought or could do in and about the same, ratifing and conforming whatsoever our attorney shall lawfully do or cause to be done in and about the execution of the premises by viture of these presents. In Witness whereof we have here unto set our hands and seals the 3rd day of July in the 24th year of the Independence of the United States of American and in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred (1800).

signed by/ James (N) Nelson
his mark
Margatet (X) Nelson
her mark

Executed & acknowledged in presence of
William Robertson Sr.
William Robertson Jr.

Fairfield District) William Robertson Sr. maketh oath that he saw James & Margaret Nelson sign, seal & deliver the within Power of Attorney to William Turner for the use thereby mentioned and that William Robertson Jr. was also a witness to the same.

signed by/ William Robertson

Sworn before me (the) 4th July 1800
L. Delongue (C.F. D.) Clerk of Fairfield District

Comment by Robert Hill: This was a Power of Attorney given to William Turner, a son of Margaret Daniel's first marriage., to obtain Margaret's inheritance from the estate of her deceased father, John Daniel of Fairfax County, Virginia. I wonder if he is the same man that married a

daughter of William Woodward 3/, named Ellen Woodward, who married a William Turner.

Now lets investigate the 1800 Census.

1800 Census of Fairfield County: (Page 219)

James Nelson is listed with the following:

3 males under age 10 2 female under 10
1 male 10-16 1 female 10-16
2 males 16-26 3 females 16-26
1 male 45 & over (James) 1 female over 45 (2nd wife Margaret)

Now it has been proved in the past that the ages in these census records were not always to accurate, and I think the same applied here.

This census was for James Nelson Sr. & 2nd wife Margaret Daniel Turner. Since they married in 1788, any children over 12 years of age (born before 1788) MUST have been by the first marriage to Margaret Woodward 3/ OR the first marriage of Margaret Daniel to Mr. Turner prior to 1788.

The S. C. death notices in combnation with James Nelson's Will shows us that he and 2nd wife, Margaret Turner had the following sons:

1. John Nelson, b. 1788, was age 12 at this 1800 census.
 2. James Nelson Jr. b. 1789, was either 10 or 11 years old in this census, depending on the date the census was taken and his birthdate.
 3. Jesse Nelson, b. ca. 1790, was probably 9 years old, but approaching his 10th birthday.
 4. Thomas Nelson.
 5. Daniel Nelson.
- (Five sons)

The male over 45 was James Nelson.

The 3 males listed as being Under 10, were definitely by the second wife, Margaret Turner (They were probably; James Jr., born ca. 1789; Jesse Nelson; born 1790; Thomas Nelson or the son, Daniel Nelson.

Jesse's age may at first appear to be wrong, (i.e. 11 years old) but remember, his birthdate was in the later part of the year and so he had probably not reached his 10th birthday as yet.

My understanding of this census is that the son listed as being between age 10-16 shows he was 10 or over but no older than 16, so he was born no earlier than 1784 and no later than 1790. It was probably John Nelson, born 1788 (age 12 at

this time).

There was 2 sons listed as being between 16 and 26. So, knowing that these 2 males are over 16, and knowledge that the marriage of James Nelson to wife Margaret Turner was in 1788, means that these 2 males listed as "16-26" were either by his first marriage OR by Margaret Turner's first marriage.

I am inclined to think they were sons of Margaret Woodward 3/, the first wife. This thinking is based on the theory that James Nelson & Margaret Woodward 3/ married ca. 1770, Samuel born ca., 1772, and Margaret's death estimated to have occurred some 13-15 years later (about 1785-87). This would certainly leave room for her to have given birth to five more children, for a total of six children.

If these were sons of Margaret Woodward 3/, then they, plus Samuel Nelson, born about 1772, would indicate that Margaret Woodward 3/ & husband, James Nelson, probably had three sons.

None of the above children in the 1800 census was Samuel Nelson, who was by now a man with his own family and listed in this same census on page 228 (listed later below).

Since the three females listed above are between ages 16-26, they too must have been by the first wife (Margaret Woodward 3/), OR the first marriage of Margaret Turner prior to 1788. SO, it appears that James Nelson Sr. and his first wife, Margaret Woodward 3/, COULD HAVE HAD six children, three sons and three daughters (including Samuel Nelson).

Now remember, the 1790 census shows 6 females in the household of James Nelson, one being the 2nd wife Margaret Turner. That leave 5 to be accounted for. Margaret Turner had 3 daughters by her 2nd marriage to James Nelson. It appears they were all born after 1790. Those three daughters were:

1. Mary Nelson m. Henry Kennedy.
2. Harriet Nelson m. William Shedd.
3. Catherine Nelson m. John Deleny.

Unless Margaret Turner had 5 daughters by her first marriage

living with her, they would all have had to be daughters by the first wife (Margaret Woodward 3/), unless some females were visiting and were listed.

One of the females listed above as between 10-16 was probably by the first wife. Therefore, it appears that James Nelson Sr. & first wife (Margaret Woodward 3/) had three sons (includes both Samuel & perhaps Abner & ?), and at least three daughters.

This 1800 census shows a total of 12 children. We can account for nine of the children by those of the second marriage of James Nelson Sr. to Margaret Turner in 1788.

We know from the will of James Nelson that he and 2nd wife, Margaret Turner, had the following children:

1. John Nelson (b. 1788) m. Rebecca--? (no children).
2. Thomas Nelson (b. ca. 1789), wife named Margaret--?
3. Jesse Nelson (b. ca. 1790-91).
5. Daniel Nelson (b. ?). (5 sons)
6. Mary Nelson m. Henry Kennedy.
7. Harriet Nelson m. William Shedd.
8. Catherine Nelson (m. John Delleny).

This totals nine children. The three daughters listed above, could account for three of these daughters listed in the 1800 census. One being 10-16 and two being under 10. I do not know their individuals births, but if we could get their marriage dates, it would help to identify the dates of their births.

The two daughters listed as being under 10 years of age and the one listed as 10-16 were of the second marriage, leaving three daughters, listed between ages 16-26, and who appear to have been by first wife (Margaret Woodward 3/). We have no names for them.

Now, lets talk about Samuel Nelson & his listing in the 1800 census.

Fairfield County 1800 Census (Page 228)

Samuel Nelson

2 males under 10 2 females under 10
2 males 10-16 1 female 10-16
1 male 25-45 (Samuel) 1 female 25-45 (this was 2nd wife Sarah Perry).

Now in this 1800 census, Samuel Nelson was listed as 25-45 years old, meaning a birth of between 1755 and 1775. Now, based on the previous 1790 census, it was established that his birth was ca. 1774, meaning he was just about 16 years of age at that time and was now twenty-six in this 1800 census.

Assuming his age was 16 in 1790 census, and then adding 10 years to that, means that in this 1800 census Samuel Nelson was either 25 years or, if not already, approaching his 26th birthday.

Now Samuel Nelson's age is properly listed as being between age 25-45. This was due to a required change in the listing of ages in this census, not an error in his age. So, to me, Samuel Nelson was a son of James Nelson Sr. & first wife (I say Margaret Woodward 3/) and was born ca. 1774.

Now on page 9 of his information sent to Mrs. Killeen, Brent Holcomb shows us that Samuel Nelson had first married Catherine (Strother) Lester, a widow of Andrew Lester.

Samuel Nelson stated in a deposition (on same page) that he married her in 1798 when the youngest of her children was only two (b. 1786) and the eldest was 13 or 14 (b. 1784-1785).

In a deposition made by Samuel Nelson, dated 25th April 1817, (located on page 4 of Holcomb's information sent to Mrs. Killeen), Samuel Nelson states that he fed, clothed and schooled these children for "about five years, and some of them much longer and until about the year 1806 or 1807 etc."

To me, this implies that the wife and mother, Catherine (Strother) Lester Nelson had died ca. 1807. The children listed in this 1800 census appears to have been her children to Andrew Lester, and were not the blood children of Samuel Nelson.

Sometime between this date of 1807 and 1815, (probably ca. 1807-1809) Samuel Nelson had remarried again to Sarah Perry, because a land deed, dated 5th July 1815, shows the wife was now named Sarah. She released her dower rights on this deed. I think the female listed above in the 1810 census as "26-45" was the second wife, Sarah Lester Nelson.

One of the reasons for the estimated dates of this second marriage is that it has been found that Samuel Nelson had the following children of his own, which must have been by a younger wife than the first wife, Catherine was (Ref: her age in 1800 census).

Actual Children of Samuel Nelson & his 2nd wife, Sarah Perry that were named in a Equity Suit:

1. Rachel Nelson m. John Nipper.
2. Martha Nelson m. Edward Turket.
3. Granville Nelson.
4. James Nelson.
5. Samuel Nelson.

6. Nancy Nelson m. a Mr. Kelly.

Since the first marriage of Samuel Nelson to Catherine Strother Lester is thought to have been about 1807, it is thought that all of the seven children were by the second wife, Sarah Perry.

The remaining children named in the 1810 census were none of the above seven children, but were instead the step-children of Samuel Nelson, and his first wife, Catherine (Strother) Lester Nelson. It therefore seems to show that Samuel Nelson fed and clother his step-children longer than he stated in the equity suit, dated 25th April 1817.

The 1810 Census for Fairfield County, South Carolina shows Samuel Nelson listed as follows:

Samuel Nelson
(Page 193)

1 male under age 10 1 female under age 10
1 male 10-16 * 1 female 10-16 *
1 male 45 & over (Samuel) 1 female 16-45
He is Listed as having 6 slaves

The children marked by "*" was (in my opinion) the children of Andrew Lester and his widow, Catherine Strother, who had remarried Samuel Nelson (his first marriage) ca. 1798.

Samuel said that at the time of his marriage, (1798) that the youngest child was 2 years old and the oldest about 13-14 years old.

Additional Comments to the above 1810 Census by Robert Hill:

Again, Samuel Nelson's age of over 26-45 fits well. His birth in 1772 would make him about 38 years of age, and due to the required listing for this particular census, he was listed properly as being "over age 45."

Brent Holcomb states that Samuel Nelson married Catherine (Strother) Lester, widow of Andrew Lester, in 1798. In 1798, the youngest child (Stated by Samuel Nelson in his deposition dated 25 April 1817) was about two years old (born 1796), the eldest being 13 or 14 (born 1784-1785) and fed, clothed and schooled them for about 5 years (ca. 1806-07?).

In his report to Mrs. Killeen, Brent Holcomb states that Samuel Nelson had married a second time to Sarah Perry, daughter of Leumel Parry by 1820. Brent shows that Samuel Nelson & Sarah Perry were married by 16th May 1820 (Reference to Page 6 of his Equity Record to you).

While this statement is correct, further investigation of the

records shows they were already married by 1815 & I think they were married before the time of the 1810 census (above). See Below.

Fairfield County, S.C. Deed Book Y, Page 33
dated 5th July 1815

Samuel Nelson to Benjamin Owens for \$ 1150, 195 acres of land on Mill Creek, the plantation whereon I now reside, being a part of 300 acres of land originally granted to Thomas Woodward on 21 August 1774, conveyed by James Nelson to me, Samuel Nelson by deed dated 8th July 1812.

Signed/ Samuel Nelson

Wit:

James Owens

Dower Release by (wife) Sarah Nelson.

The above deed between Samuel Nelson & Benjamin Owens, dated 5th July 1815, (Fairfield County Deed Book Y, Page 33) shows that the wife was now SARAH PERRY and she (SARAH) released her dower. This proves that Samuel Nelson & his 2nd wife, Sarah Perry, were married by this date, some 5 years before that stated by Holcomb in his report to Mrs. Killeen. (Ref: Holcomb's info on page 6 of data he sent to her).

Brent Holcomb says that the first wife, Catherine Strother Lester Nelson, was probably born ca. 1765-1768. If this be true, then Samuel Nelson certainly appears to have first married a woman that was about 6 to 9 years older than he was. If it was true that she died ca. 1806-07, then she was about 41 or 42 years old when she died.

Now lets review the 1810 census information on James Nelson SR., the father to the above Samuel Nelson.

1810 Fairfield County Census:

(Page 187)

James Nelson

1 male 10-16 2 females 10-16

1 male 16-26 1 female 16-26

1 male 45 & over (James) 1 female over 45 (2nd wife Margaret

Comments by Robert Hill: James Nelson's birth is listed as 1748, so he was about 62 years old at the time of this 1810 census.

It appears that by now, all of these children were by the second wife, Margaret Turner, but we are unable to determined just which of the children they were.

Now lets go on to the 1820 Census:

Fairfield County, South Carolina Census.

James Nelson (SR.)

(Page 144)

1 male listed 16-26 2 females listed 16-26
1 male over 45 (James) 1 female over 45 (Wife Margaret)

Comments by Robert Hill:

By this time James Nelson (b. 1748) was 72 years old. We do not know the age of his wife Margaret Daniel Turner Nelson, but she also had to be quite old.

It seems fairly certain the one male child, 16-26 was their son, but which one is unknown. The same can be said for the two females listed as being between 16-26.

Also listed in this 1820 census was:

Daniel Nelson
(Son of James Nelson & Margaret Turner)
On Page 143

1 male listed between 16-26 (Daniel) 1 female 16-26 (wife)
no one else listed.

Comments: This clearly shows that Daniel Nelson and his wife apparently had not been married too long, and suggest that he was one of the younger sons of James Nelson SR. and his second wife, Margaret Daniel Turner.

One of the most important documents found by Brent Holcomb was an Equity Suit in 1847. This suit clearly establishes the relationships of many individuals and names the children of Samuel Nelson & some of their marriages.

Fairfield County South Carolina Equity Bills 1847 Number 13
(copy of pertinent portions enclosed from original at SC
Archives):

John Nipper admr. in right of his wife & others VS Daniel
Nelson, Jesse Nelson & others. Bill for account, and relief
(?). Filed _____ February 1841.
John Z. Hammond C.E.F.D.

State of South Carolina, Fairfield District: To the
Honorable The Chancellors of the said State your
orators & oratrixes John Nipper & Rachel, his wife, formerly
Rachel Nelson, Edwath Turket & Martha, his wife, formerly
Martha Nelson, Granville Nelson, James Nelson, Elisabeth
Nelson (sic), Samuel Nelson, _____ Kelly who intermarried
with Nancy Nelson, Benjamin Kelley, Samuel Kelly, Douglass

Kelly & Sarah Kelly, children of the said Nancy Keyyl by their next friend _____ Kelly, that your orators Granville Nelson, James Nelson, & Samuel Nelson & your oratrixes Rachel Nipper, Martha Turket, Elisabeth (sic) Nelson are the children of Samuel Nelson, deceased, formerly of Richland District in the state aforesaid, that JOHN NIPPER, Edward Turket & _____ Kelly intermarried with the daughters of the said Samuel as above stated & that your orators & oratrixes Benjamin Kelly, Samuel Kelly, Douglass Kelly & Sarah Kelly are the grand children of the said Samuel (Nelson). That the said Samuel during his life confessed a Judgement to one John Nelson, his half brother, under which the said John had all the esyate of the said Samuel (Nelson) sold at Sheriff's sale & bought in the same, taking titles thereto from the Sheriff of Richland District. That the said sale as your orators & oratrixes believe was wholly irregular, fradulent & void, & that the said SAMUEL NELSON during his life, filed a Bill in Chancery at Camden for the purpose of adjusting the accounts between the said JOHN NELSON & himself & for setting aside the said Sale & voiding the Sheriff's totle made to the said JOHN NELSON. That upon the hearing of the said cause at Camden in June term 1826, the followinf decretal order was made.....

AT the sale so made by the said John Nelson, one Daniel Nelson, abrother of the said John, became the purchaser of the said Lands. The said Daniel having as your orators & oratrixes have reason to believe a full knowledge of the nature of the claims of the said John Nelson to the said land or at least had good reason to believe that the said John Nelson had no title thereto & no right to sell the same and colluding with the said John in the purchase thereof to defraud your orators & oratrixes of their just rights

the said John Nelson, who died without children, having been permitted by some arrangement with the other heirs of the said John Nelson, to retain the said lands as his distributive share of the estate of the said John Nelson ... said John Nelson died in the year 1834 intestate, leaving a widow Rebecca Nelson, but no children, that the said Rebecca, his widow, & Jesse Nelson, his brother, administered upon his estate & took possession thereof & that the said Rebecca has since her administration, intermarried with one A. T. HOLMES with whom she now resides in the State of Georgia...

your orator John Nipper has since his intermarriage with a daughter of the said SAMUEL NELSON, administered upon the estate of the said SAMUEL & requested the said JESSE NELSON, who is the sold (sic) administrator of John Nelson, residing in this State, to adjust the accounts of the said Samuel & John

he, as administrator aforesaid, has paid over the estate of the said JOHN NELSON, to John Delleny (?) and Catherine, his

wife, to William Shedd & Harriet, his wife as distributees by virtue of a gift from JAMES NELSON, the original distributee

....

The joint & Several answers of John Nelson and Daniel Nelson to the Bill of Complaint of John Nipper, administrator & others.

.... the answer & say that they believe the Complainants stand in relationship to the deceased SAMUEL NELSON as stated in their Bill of Complaint. They also believe that the said SAMUEL NELSON in his lifetime, confessed a Judgement to his half brother, the said JOHN NELSON, but for what amount or at what time, these defendants are not informed and pray that complainants be required to produce a copy of said Judgement and make it an exhibit with this Bill of Complaints.

(following taken from middle of page numbered 5) These defendants admit that the said SAMUEL NELSON & his widow, the said SARAH NELSON, departed this life about the time stated in Complainants Bill

(Bottom of page numbered 7) made a final division of said estate among the persons legally entitled to receive the same; the widow of the said JOHN NELSON taking one half thereof & the brothers and sisters of the whole blood of the said JOHN NELSON taking the other moiety thereof, under a DEED OF GIFT FROM THEIR FATHER, THE LATE JAMES NELSON, (who being also the father of the said JOHN NELSON) who was supposed to inherit & take said moiety this defendants now having in possession only his distributive part of said estate.

dated 10th July 1841. (Signed by/ Jesse Nelson, Daniel Nelson.

Comments: This equity suit produces some very important genealogical information regarding the family of James Nelson and his son Samuel Nelson, & certainly established the different relationships of the individuals named in this suit.

It shows that James Nelson (Sr.) was the father of Samuel Nelson, and shows James Nelson was married twice.

It obviously shows that Samuel Nelson was a son by the first marriage, and that James Nelson (SR.) was, by his second marriage to Margaret Turner, also the father of the defendants named in this suit, John Nelson & Daniel Nelson and their brothers & sisters.

According to Mrs. Calhoun J. Killeen, Samuel Nelson married

first Sarah Perry, daughter of Lemuel Perry and his wife, Margaret Dougherty. She was the mother of all seven of his children. Samuel Nelson married a second time to Catherine Strother Lester (b. ca. 1765-1768), widow of Andrew Lester and the daughter of William Strother. They had no children. Samuel Nelson died in Richland County, S.C. in 1839.

Next it helps determine the approximate death of Samuel Nelson and names his children. IT also names some of the grandchildren of Samuel Nelson, who was now deceased.

The names of those children of Samuel Nelson & probably Sarah Perry (his second wife) were:

1. Rachel Nelson, b. Richland County, m. John Nipper.
2. Martha Nelson, b. Richland District, m. Edward Turket.
3. Granville Nelson, born Richland County, S.C..
4. James Nelson, b. Richland District.
5. Elizabeth Nelson, b. 9th July 1823 in Richland County, S.C., died 8th April 1896 in Richland County, S.C. She married William Kelly in 1848.
6. Samuel Nelson, born Richland County, S.C.
7. Nancy Nelson, born Richland County, S.C., m. Andrew Gardner Kelly, she died before 5th January 1849.

From this marriage of Nancy Nelson to Andrew Gardner Kelly comes the names of the grandchildren of Samuel Nelson. They were:

1. Benjamin Kelly.
2. Samuel Kelly.
3. Douglass Kelly.
4. Sarah Kelly.

Summary of the above:

James Nelson Sr. born 1748, married first ca. 1772-73 to Margaret Woodward 3/, daughter of Thomas (Regulator) Woodward 2/ & his first wife, Jemima Collins. Margaret's birth is estimated to have been between 1748 and 1752 in Fairfax County, Virginia.

It appears that James Nelson & first wife, Margaret Woodward 3/, may have had two sons and five daughters. One son was Samuel Nelson, born ca. 1772 in South Carolina. Another possible son was Abner Nelson. The names of the other children are unknown.

Margaret Woodward 3/ Nelson is thought to have died ca. 1785-1787 in Fairfield County, South Carolina.