

R.076 UPDATED VERSION OF R.16, THE ROBERTSON FAMILY OF  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, S.C.

Updated & Entered in August of 1994 by Robert R. Hill of  
Brandon, Fla.

Source for Information: My research in the S.C. Archives,  
Court records & lands deeds from Fairfax County & Prince  
William Counties of Virginia, Data from Robertson  
researchers.

JOHN ROBERTSON 1/

John Robertson 1/, Bailie (Justice of Peace) of Edinburgh,  
Scotland.

WILLIAM ROBERTSON 2/

William Robertson 2/, Son of the above John 1/, a merchant  
and Bailie of Edinburgh, Scotland. His wife was Christina  
Ferguson and they came to Chesterfield County, Virginia about  
1680. They had two sons, John 3/ and William 3/.

WILLIAM ROBERTSON 3/.

William Robertson 3/ is said to have been educated in  
Scotland and came to Prince William County, Virginia ca. 1680  
and was known as "Scotch Will." His wife was Sarah Tannes.  
They had two sons, John Robertson 4/ and James Robertson 4/.

JOHN ROBERTSON (4/

John Robertson 4/ is said to have been born in Scotland in  
1710, but that does not agree with the statement that his  
father came to Virginia ca. 1680 unless he came later by  
himself. John 4/ died in either Fairfax of Prince William  
County, Virginia sometime after 1758 and before January of  
1763.

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Note by R. Hill: There was a letter dated 28th April 1924  
from Julia J. Robertson to Miss Ruth Ellis Roach, no address  
given, that states the following: Quote:

"Reference to Application 200276"

Charlotte, N.C.  
April 28, 1925

"My Dear Miss Roach: Your letter came while I was out of town, hence the delay in answering it. It is quite interesting yo hear of an entirely new branch of the family. My father tried to find the Henry Robertson family and even wrote a letter of inquiry to Kentucky as he had heard that your grandfather (Henry) was a Baptist minister in Kentucky. Father wanted to write a sketch of each branch of his family, but this information comes too late as he passed away nearly two year ago. But there is no doubt about our families being the same. My father, Thomas Ross Robertson married Mary Coza Johnston. He was the son of William Ross Robertson and Elizabeth Caroline Rabb, his wife. He was the son of Thomas Robertson and Harriet Ross, his wife. Thomas was born October 6, 1790, and was a brother of your grandfather, Henry. The other brother and sisters of theirs were Nancy, Sibella, George (1), Benoni, William, George (2), half. The first George died young. The second george's descendants moved to California, the to Hawaii. One of them edited a newspaper in Hawaii."

Note by R. Hill: The following William Robertson was a son of John Robertson & 2nd wife, the widow, Mary Simpson Woodward. Her name was not Elizabeth, but Mary, as proved by court records. The letters continues on:

Quote: "William Robertson, of Revolutionary fame, was borb in the part of Prince William County, Virginia, which was cut off to form Fairfax County. Your dates from the family Bible will enable me to correct some of mine, which differ slightly from yours. Bible records ought to be the most authentic. He and his wife, Nancy Hawley, are buried in the private Robertson graveyard on what was his land near Winnsboro, Fairfield County, S.C. His tombstone says "Captain" but records in the office of the Secretary of State of S.C. say "soldier" in the Revolution. He was known to have been in the battle of Eutowa Springs, S.C. and some small skirmishes. Tombstone records have to be sworn to in the D.A.R. which I did in his case but did not claim captain as sometimes that tole is only honorary. Has your Bible the date of William & Nancy's marriage? It must have been about 1775 as they had two children when they moved to S.C. in 1778. The D.A.R. will ask for dates. Henry was the youngest."

"John (Robertson) was the father of William. John married Elizabeth Simpson, who was a widow Woodward, John being her second husband. Her Woodward son was named Thomas and he happens to be my ancestor on another line. He was known as Thomas Woodward, the Regulator, in Colonial days, and was also a captain of cavalry Rangers. You see he was the half brother of William Robertson and they were closely associated. William had brothers John, James, Thomas, Archibald, Sister: Martha and Ann. Let me know if there is any more information I can supply to you, if I have it."

"Sincerely

Julia J. Robertson"

End of quoted letter:

This letter was notarized by W.K. Curry, Notary Public

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Info from R. Hill continues:

John Robertson's 4/ (son of William 3/) first wife is known only as Annie. I have been unable to find any list of children or dates for this marriage, unless they are the ones listed above. John Robertson 4/ married a second time to a widow, Mary Simpson Woodward, widow of a John Woodward, who was a blacksmith. NOTE HER NAME WAS MARY, NOT ELIZABETH AS HAS BEEN OFTEN STATED.

John Woodward 1/ and Mary (Simpson) Woodward (1710-1824), were the parents of Thomas Woodward, "The Regulator" (1729-1779) and she was the daughter of Thomas Simpson and his first wife, believed to have been Elizabeth Baxter. John Woodward (first husband to Mary) was still alive in 1732 when he witnessed a law suit.

The exact date of this second marriage between John Robertson 4/ and the widow Mary Simpson Woodward is unknown but it was after the 19th of February 1734, when Thomas Simpson wrote his will and still addressed his daughter Mary as Mary Woodward.

That will was proved on the 19th of February 1734, so apparently the marriage was after that date. John Robertson 4/ was a witness to that will and a Thomas Robinson (Robertson?) also signed some of the estate papers.

By the second marriage to Mary Simpson Woodward, John Robertson 4/ became the step-father to Thomas Woodward and his sister Ann Woodward.

Many Robertson researchers say that John Robertson & family moved into what is today's Fairfield County in 1778 but John Robertson 4/ had died prior to January of 1763 in Virginia.

Family tradition passed on down to me says that Thomas Woodward, (1729-1779) who's wife (Jemima Collins) had died in Virginia, came to S.C. with his six children, (John; Margaret, Rebecca, Priscilla, Nancy, & William) along with his widowed mother (Mary Simpson Woodward Robertson) and his three half brothers, William, John & Henry Robertson. This is also based on information that was found among the Woodward research.

This does not agree with the information in the above letter, which states that the son William Robertson came to

S.C. in 1778. The first definite record of this particular Robertson family in South Carolina was a land grant made in 1778 to a John Robertson, who was probably the son John 5/, south of the settlement of today's Winnsborough.

#### MOVEMENT FROM VIRGINIA TO SOUTH CAROLINA

John Robertson Sr. 4/ died in Virginia between 1760 and January of 1763. About December of 1762 or January of 1763, the widow Mary (Simpson Woodward) Robertson, along with her three Robertson sons (William 5/, John 5/ and Henry 5/) came to South Carolina, along with her son by the previous marriage to John Woodward 1/ (deceased) named Thomas (Regulator) Woodward 2/ and his six children (John 3/, Margaret 3/, Rebecca 3/, Priscilla 3/, Nancy 3/ and William Woodward 3/).

The youngest Woodward child and son, William Woodward 3/ was born on the 7th of October 1762 in Virginia and this proves that his mother (Jemima Collins) was alive at that time, but she died shortly afterwards. Woodward information says that Thomas came to South Carolina as a widower along with his six children and his widowed mother and his three Robertson half-brothers.

Land deeds show that the family was in South Carolina by January of 1763. This clearly shows that Thomas (Regulator) Woodward's first wife (Jemima Collins) had died between 7th October 1762 and January of 1763.

When the Woodwards and the Robertsons came to South Carolina, they came to an area that was then known as Craven County, South Carolina, which later became known as Camden District and in 1785 was split up into counties of Fairfield, Chester & Kershaw. They lived in the area that then became known as Fairfield County (established in 1785).

We have very little information on the lives of the Robertson family other than to say that the widow and mother, Mary (Simpson-Woodward) Robertson must have lived to be very old. Some researchers say she lived to be over 100 years old, but this writer has found no proof of this statement.

Now of the three Robertson sons, only two, William 5/ and Henry 5/, are we able to obtain a glimpse of their lives, but the son John 5/ is somewhat of a mystery. There was a John Robertson that apparently died in Fairfield County in 1794 and may have been the son, John Robertson 5/. More research on this will be required.

#### WILLIAM ROBERTSON 5/

Note: Before going on any further, I would like to ask the readers to note the letter above from Julia J. Robertson and

then compare that information into the following data. There is a slight difference in the two reports.

Robert Hill

William Robertson (Sr.) 5/, oldest son of John 4/ and his second wife, the widow Mary (Simpson) Woodward, is said by Robertson researchers as being born in Prince William County, Virginia in 1748. I believe he was born earlier unless he was not the eldest son. Regardless, he and his first wife, Nancy Hawley, are said to have married in 1771, probably in South Carolina. They had seven children.

1. George Robertson (the 1st) 6/ (6th generation) married Nancy Worcester of Virginia. He died in 1803. The descendents of this line are said to have lived in LaGrange, Georgia.
2. Benoni Robertson 6/ and his wife, Ruth Ann Mickle, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Crown) Mickle of Longtown, had seven children. Some of these married into the Ashford, Cook, Ha(y)good, Jones families of Fairfield County.
3. Nancy Robertson 6/, married a Mr. Jenkins and moved to Tennessee.
4. Sabilla (Savilla?) Robertson 6/, married James Shedd and moved to Tennessee after her first husband, William Bryant died.
5. William Robertson Jr. 6/, had three wives, Mary Barnes, daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Dixon) Barnes, was the mother of Jonathan, Benoni II, and Dr. Thomas T. Robertson. The second wife was Ellen Woodward, daughter of William and Nancy (Barrette) Woodward had nine children. One daughter Cynthia, married Robert E. Ellison. His third wife, Elizabeth Barnes, was a sister of his first wife.
6. Thomas Robertson 6/, married Harriet Ross, daughter of Abner and Mary (Whitaker) Ross of Longtown. The Rabbs of Winnsboro claim to this couple as their ancestors. His second marriage was to Mrs. Eliza (Jones) Neil, widow of Hugh Y. Neil.
7. Henry Robertson 6/, the youngest child, married Elizabeth Applewhite and went to Kentucky.

William Robertson's 5/ second wife was Catherine McDowell, who became the mother of his eight child:

8. George Robertson 6/, named after his half-brother, who had died in 1803.

William Robertson's 5/ other two marriages were to Mrs. Anne Watson and Mrs. Lucy Hancock were without issue.

William Robertson 5/ is known to have fought in the Revolutionary War at the battles of Eutaw Springs and Hanging Rock, under General Sumter's command.

After the war, he served as a Justice of Peace in Fairfield County and was known as "Captain Squire Billy" until his death in 1824.

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JOHN ROBERTSON 5/, SON OF JOHN ROBERTSON SR. 4/ AND MARY SIMPSON WOODWARD, MOTHER OF THOMAS (REGULATOR) WOODWARD.

The one item located that positively identifies John Robertson 6/ is the will of his brother Henry Robertson 6/, dated 30th of August 1791 and proved on the 13th of September 1791 (Fairfield Will Book 1, Page 127). In that will, Henry Robertson 6/ named his brother John Robertson 6/ as the "whole and sole executor."

As has been stated previously information on John Robertson 5/ is rather scarce but a review of the Minutes of the Fairfield County Court records seems to indicate that perhaps this was the man known as Captain John Robertson.

The following was taken from the Minutes of the Fairfield County Court:

On Monday, 8th of May 1786, Captain John Robertson was selected to serve on the grand jury. For some reason he, along with five other individuals, did not show up in court and a charge was made against them, however, his name was, for some reason, later removed from this list.

He and William Robertson, probably his brother, did serve on the grand jury the very next day, 9th May 1786.

On Tuesday, the 15th of January 1793, John Robertson, was one of three men appointed by the court, to see that Mrs. Elizabeth Austen (sic) make a division of her late husband, Drurey Austen's estate, so that a proper division, agreeable to the will, could be made to her and the other heirs.

On Tuesday, the 14th of January 1794, a Citation for the estate of "John Robertson, deceased," was returned and properly certified by Hannah Robinson (Robertson) and John Thomas Robinson (Robertson) and a letter to administer the estate was granted by the court. Based on the last two items above, it appears that John Robertson 6/ died between 15th January 1793 and 14th of January 1794.

On Wednesday, July 16th, 1794, the courts granted the administrators of the estate to sell the personal estate of John Robertson, deceased, anytime after the 1st day of November 1794, and ordered them to give 15 days public notice of the sale and to hold the sale, allowing enough time to provide an account to the courts by the January Court term for 1795.

On Friday, the 24th of July 1795, a law suit between David Read Evans and the Administrators of the Estate of John Robertson, deceased, was presented to the courts. Hannah Robertson and John Thomas Robertson, administrators of John Robertson's estate, were the defendants. A decree for the amount of 7 pounds 5 shillings, 1 pence was granted by the court, along with the cost of the suit and a Stay of Execution for three months. It is not clear which of the two parties won this case.

This is believed to have been the widow (Hannah) and a son, John Thomas Robertson 6/. Up until this time, there has not been found any listing of his children.

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HENRY ROBERTSON 6/, SON OF JOHN ROBERTSON 5/ AND MARY SIMPSON  
WOODWARD.

The Will of Henry Woodward 6/ is filed in Fairfield County Will Book 1, Page 127. An abbreviated version of that will follows:

Will of Henry Robertson 6/ was proved 13th September 1791, Administration granted to John Robertson 6/ (brother).

Henry Robertson 6/ of Fairfield County, being sick and weak of body. My 250 acres of land whereon I now live (is) to be divided in two parts, and one part to be sold in order to pay my debts. The other half of my lands I lend to my wife, Elizabeth Robertson during her life, and after her decease to be equally divided among my five children: William Robertson 7/; Hannah Robertson 7/; Elizabeth Robertson 7/; Mary Robertson 7/ and James Robertson 7/. My brother John Robertson 6/ my whole and sole executor. 30th August 1791.

Henry (X) Robertson 6/

Witnesses:

Philip Raiford

George (x) Harson (sic)

Daniel (x) Harrison

This brief version of the will tells us the family of Henry Robertson 6/.