

VA.061 THE WILL AND ESTATE OF THOMAS SIMPSON OF VIRGINIA,
DATED 13TH OCTOBER 1734, ALSO A DISCUSSION OF THE THOMAS
WOODWARD 2/ FAMILY AND THEIR CONNECTIONS TO THE SIMPSON AND
ROBERTSON FAMILIES.

Source: Court records from Prince William County, Virginia,
information from Mrs. Jean Holley Day and my own research..

Compiled in 1986 but entered in 1991 by Robert R. Hill Sr.
of Brandon, Florida.

WILL BOOK "C" PAGE 16
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY VIRGINIA
ABSTRACTED WILL OF THOMAS SIMPSON (DATED 13TH OCTOBER 1734,
PROBATED 15TH FEBRUARY 1735)

WILL OF THOMAS SIMPSON

In the name of God, AMEN, I Thomas Simpson, of Prince William
County, carpenter, etc.....

Item....Unto oldest son William Simion (Simpson) 123 acres of
land where on he lives on both sides of Sandy Run.

Item....unto my son Baxter Simson (Simpson) 200 acres
adjoining to land aforesaid of son William.

Item....UNTO MY LOVING DAUGHTER MARY WOODWARD, 100 ACRES OF
LAND where she is now seated (living), lying on North side of
Sandy Run.

Item....unto my daughter Ann, after her mother in law
(meaning her step mother) decease....a cow and calf, bed,
bolster, rug and 2 blankets. (She was left no land).

ITEM....TO MY BELOVED GRANDCHILDREN, THE SON & DAUGHTER OF
MARY WOODWARD, THOMAS AND ANN WOODWARD, one ewe a piece.

Item....to ever loving wife Jane (second wife) my plantation,
three children not of age, Baxter, Thomas, Ann...(he made
provisions for Ann to be raised by MARY WOODWARD IF (2nd
wife) Jane dies before she becomes of age.

(signed) Thomas (x) Simson (Simpson)

Witness: his mark

Thomas Ford

John Robertson (later 2nd husband of Mary Woodward)

Mary (x) Evans

her mark

END OF WILL

DISCUSSION OF THE SIMPSON-WOODWARD-ROBERTSON FAMILIES.

This Will seems to show that the mother of Thomas Woodward 2/, later known in South Carolina as "The Regulator" was MARY (SIMPSON) WOODWARD and not Elizabeth Simpson, as has been previously stated and accepted.

Supporting evidence is the fact that the said mother of the Regulator (Elizabeth Simpson) was said to have married a John Robinson (Robertson) 4/ but land deeds and this Will shows her name was MARY SIMPSON, not ELIZABETH.

(Reference to an Indenture in Fairfax County Deed Book D1, Pages 351-352):

In this indenture is stated...Quote: "By Thomas Simpson, deceased, and willed and bequeathed by the said Thomas Simpson to his daughter Mary Woodward, WHO IS NOW ESPOUSED TO THE SAID JOHN ROBERTSON."

This provides proof that Thomas Simpson Woodward 4/, author of the papers leading to the book "Reminiscences," had some confusion in the naming of his paternal great grandparents.

It also has been suggested that he was confused and while his intentions were to discuss the paternal great grandparents (The Woodwards) he was actually taking about the maternal side of his family, the SIMPSONS meaning Thomas Simpson and his first wife, Elizabeth Baxter Simpson.

Another possibility is that he confused his maternal great great grandmother (Elizabeth Baxter Simpson) with his maternal great grandmother, Mary Simpson, daughter of Elizabeth Baxter Simpson.

What ever the reason was, General Thomas Simpson Woodward 4/ appears to have been wrong in his naming of his great grandparents on the Woodward side of his family as Thomas Woodward 1/ & Elizabeth Simpson.

Another important clue is that Thomas (Regulator) Woodward 2/ and Jemima Collins named their first son, JOHN WOODWARD 3/. I think they were following a custom of those times by naming him after the paternal grandfather, the blacksmith in the area that was named JOHN WOODWARD.

CONCLUSIONS:...Thomas Simpson and 1st wife (probably his cousin Elizabeth Baxter) were parents of Mary Simpson, who married an unknown, BUT SUSPECTED John Woodward 1/ and they in turn were the parents of Thomas (The Regulator) Woodward 2/ and a daughter Ann Woodward 2/, who until now was unknown. Later Mary Woodward married a second time to John Robertson Sr. 4/, who died in Virginia before 1763.

Thomas (Regulator) Woodward 2/, was born in 1729 and died on 12th May 1779 in South Carolina. He was first married to Jemima Collins, who died in late 1762 (after 7th October 1762). They had the following children and all of the children were born in Virginia. They are listed in the order of their births, based on information by Thomas Simpson Woodward 4/.

1. John Woodward 3/, born 13th May 1747, married in S.C. to Esther McDonald. John died 26th May 1817. He is named in a Virginia deed with his parents.
2. Margaret Woodward 3/, b. ca. 1748-52, married James Nelson Sr. ca. 1770. She died ca. 1785-87.
3. Rebecca Woodward 3/, married Philips (Raiford) Jr.
4. Priscilla Woodward 3/, married James Andrews Jr.
5. Nancy Woodward 3/, married Robert Rabb. Nancy was born ca. 1760.
6. William Woodward 3/, the complier's family line. He was born on October 7th 1762 and was the youngest child of Thomas & Jemima Woodward. William married Nancy Elizabeth Barrett in S.C. and he died on the 23rd of July 1820. His mother apparently died very shortly after his birth because the father and children were in S.C. by January of 1763, and Thomas 2/ was a widower.

Thomas Woodward 2/, the Regulator, had been sent by the government to South Carolina in the late 1750s on a temporary basis but by January of 1763, he made a permanent move to S.C. and in January of 1763 he was in South Carolina, having brought with him his six children, his widowed mother and the three Robertson half brothers, John 5/, William 5/ & Henry Robertson 5/.

Thomas Woodward 2/ received three (3) land grants in Fairfield District in 1763, probably because land grants in S.C. were based on the size of a family. Since his widowed mother, his six children and his three Robertson half brothers had accompanied him to S.C., he was granted considerable land.

Very shortly after moving to South Carolina, Thomas Woodward 2/, remarried a widow with some Indian Blood by the name of Elizabeth Stokes Mays.

The wife Elizabeth Stokes May Woodward had by her first marriage, the following children:

1. Sarah May married a Riley.
2. Benjamin May.
3. Thomas May.

Thomas (Regulator) Woodward 2/ and his 2nd wife, Elizabeth Stokes May had the following children, ALL born in Fairfield County, S.C.:

1. Thomas Woodward 3/, b. ca. 1764-65, married Mary Howard and they were the parents of Thomas Simpson Woodward 4/, who wrote the papers leading up to the book known as "Reminiscences." Thomas Woodward 3/ died on 23rd March 1800 in Georgia.
2. Lucy Woodward 3/, born ca. 1766, married William J. Augustine after April 1802. He had his name legally changed to Augustine J. Williams.
3. Elizabeth Woodward 3/, born ca. 1768, married William McMorries Jr.
4. Henry Woodward 3/, born ca. 1771, wife Elizabeth ???
5. Joseph Woodward 3/, born ca. 1774, wife named Nancy.
6. Jane Woodward 3/, born ca. 1776, married Reeves Freeman.

THE ROBERTSON FAMILY

Started compiling in 1986, additions and corrections made and entered in May of 1991 by Robert R. Hill Sr. of Brandon, Fla.

Source of Information: Data furnished by Mrs. Shirline Robertson Harris of Little Rock, Arkansas and combined with some information I had obtained from Fairfield County Museum in 1985.

ROBERTSON GENEALOGY (AS I UNDERSTAND IT)

1. John Robertson 1/ resided in Edinburgh, Scotland.
2. William Robertson 2/, son of John Robertson 1/, married Christina Ferguson and came to Chesterfield County, Virginia in the late 17th century (i.e. late 1680s). He appears to have been the immigrant. He had two sons, John 3/ & William 3/.
3. William Robertson 3/ (son of William 2/) born ca. 1680 in Scotland, married Sarah Tannes. He came to America with two sons, John Robertson 4/ & James Robertson 4/.
4. John Robertson 4/, son of William 2/. John 4/ was born in 1710. He married twice, 1st to Annie_____? and 2nd to a widow named Mary Simpson Woodward. There were three sons: John Jr. 5/, William 5/ and Henry 5/. The 2nd wife believed to be their mother.
5. John Robertson Jr. 5/ born between 1742-1752 in Virginia and died in Fairfield County, S.C. prior to 1807. Another John Robertson is listed as having died on 17th January 1811. Is this a mix up or a son John 6/?

FAIRFAX COUNTY VIRGINIA (DEED BOOK D1, PAGES 351-352)

INDENTURE BETWEEN THOMAS WOODWARD & JOHN ROBERTSON.

Indenture made on November 8th, 1756, THOMAS WOODWARD of the county of Fairfax, planter, for 5 shillings sterling, sells to John Robertson of the aforesaid county, planter, 100 acres

in County of Fairfax. on the North side of Sandy Run, being part of a larger tract, containing 425 acres taken up and patented by THOMAS SIMPSON, deceased, and willed and bequeathed by said THOMAS SIMPSON, to his daughter MARY WOODWARD, who is now espoused to the said JOHN ROBERTSON.

(signed by) THOMAS (X) WOODWARD

his mark

JEMIMA (X) WOODWARD

Witnesses: her mark

Thomas Ford

Joseph Jacobs

Thomas Withers Coffey

END OF INDENTURE

This particular John Robertson was John Robertson 4/ and this indenture is very important to both the Woodward and Robertson researchers. It shows that Thomas (Regulator) Woodward 2/ and his first wife, Jemima (Collins) Woodward signed the deed and was selling to his step-father, John Robertson 4/ and his own mother, Mary Simpson. It also proves that it was Mary Simpson that married John Robertson 4/ and that they had married prior to November of 1756.

Researchers of the Robertson family have listed the John Robertson 4/ that married Annie_____and then Mary Simpson as being born in 1710 and dying in South Carolina on the 17th of January 1811, indicating the age of 100 years old. I think this is partly wrong.

I am of the opinion that the birth in 1710 was John Robertson Sr 4/ but the death in 1811 in S.C. was his son, John Robertson Jr. 5/, who was one of the three Robertson half brothers that came to S.C. with Thomas (Regulator) Woodward 2/.

John Robertson Jr. 5/ is believed to have been born between 1742-1752 in Virginia and died on 17th January 1811 in Fairfield County S.C. He would have been between 59 and 69 years old when he died in 1811.

These same researchers have listed the birth of Mary Simpson as 1710, while the Woodward researchers give a very close but slightly wider range of 1708 to 1710. We have not been able to determine her death date in South Carolina. Some of the researchers say she lived to be 100 years old but I have serious doubts and no record of her death in S.C. has yet been found.

END OF DOCUMENT.