

WDATA.01 A BILL OF SALE BY A JOHN WOODWARD OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA TO JOHN MERCER, OF STAFFORD COUNTY, VA.....FOR HORSES, CATTLE, HOGS, TOOLS, MONEY AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS.....DATED 21 OCTOBER 1732.

(FILED IN PRINCE WILLIAM. CO DEED BOOK B, PAGE 426 DATED 21 OCTOBER 1732).

Entered in February 1989 by Robert R. Hill of Brandon, Fla.

NOTE:...THIS JOHN WOODWARD IS SUSPECTED TO BE THE HUSBAND OF MARY SIMPSON AND THE FATHER OF THOMAS (REGULATOR) WOODWARD.

KNOW ALL MEN, by these presents, that I JOHN WOODWARD, of the County of Prince William, Smith (Blacksmith) for and in consideration of the sum of SIX HUNDRED POUNDS of Tobacco, to me in hand paid by JOHN MERCER of the County of Stafford, Grant? the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have bargained and sold and by these presents, do bargain and sell unto the said JOHN MERCER all and Sundry the Horses, Cattle, Hogs, Tools, Money and Household Goods mentioned and contained in the Schedule hereunto annexed, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all and singular the said Horses, Cattle, Hogs, Tools, Money and Household Goods to the said JOHN MERCER and his heirs and assigns forever to his heirs and their own proper use and behoof. IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 21st day of October 1732.

JOHN WOODWARD (LS)

Sealed in the Presence of us, the above JOHN WOODWARD, having first delivered to the above named JOHN MERCER, a Pistol hereby to pay the said JOHN MERCER in full and Peaceable possession of the thing, above mentioned.

CATESBY COCKE
JOHN GREGG

The Schedule or Inventory of the Horses, Cattle, Hogs, Tools, Money and Household Goods aforesaid to the above BILL of SALE....

2 feather beds
2 bed spreads
4 blankets
2 rugs
(2 horses
(one whole horse (branded) DP on the fore buttocks and the
(other a black horse
1 branded cow & calf bought by the said Woodward of John
Graham

11 hogs marked with a slit in the fore ear and a slit in the near ear, the under side of the _____ ear chopped as low as it is (possible??)

6 hog chains

1 Smith's Bellows

1 anvil weighing 3 lbs 2 oz-4??????

1 _____ not legible

7 hammons (josted?) and 1 sledge hammer

6 dishes

12 _____ Iron pots ???

7 chairs, 7 poles???, 3 hand vicarson files, one weighing 113 pounds)

(SIGNED) JOHN WOODWARD

Witnesses:

CATESBY COCKE

JOHN GREEG

In (open?) Court confirmed and held for Prince William County the 12th day of March 1734, JOHN MERCER, Gentleman, presented the above Bill of Sale from JOHN WOODWARD with the schedule or Inventory (amount) which was proved by the oaths of the witnesses hereto subscribed and on the _____ of the said MERCER admitted to record.

(SIGNED) JOHN CROSBY (C.C.)

NOTE: The generally accepted genealogy states that the father of Thomas (Regulator) Woodward had returned to Maryland to get the rest of his children by a first marriage, but died suddenly and never returned to Virginia. There has been no documents found to support this claim. I submit that this was the father of the Regulator, but who became heavily indebted (went broke) or deserted his wife and family.

I think he had to sell all he possessed and left in disgrace. He apparently died as his suspected widow (Mary Simpson) remarried to John Robertson, as will be seen later.

Note that in these times, land was the most valuable commodity a person had and it would appear that he would have sold land to pay for this indebtedness.

It is my contention that John Woodward could not sell the land he lived on as it was actually the inheritance of his wife Mary Simpson, who had inherited the land from her father (Thomas Simpson, see his 1734 will), and her dowery rights protected her land and he could not sell the land.

Robert Hill

Oct 1986

Additional Comments: It appears that John Woodward, who was a blacksmith, may have got himself in debt and was forced to sell his possessions. It is believed that his wife was Mary Simpson, who's father Thomas Simpson still owned the land that Woodward was living on, however in his 1734 will, Thomas Simpson left the land to his daughter Mary (Simpson) Woodward, the wife of John Woodward. (She is called Woodward in the will, indicating that she was still legally married to John Woodward. If John Woodward had died, Mary had not yet re-married to John Robertson.

John Woodward disappears after this transaction and is not heard from again. Tradition has it that he returned to Maryland to get his children by a previous marriage but the records from both Maryland and Virginia do not support this theory.

It is believed that for some reason, he had left his wife and two children behind and went back to New Kent County, Virginia, and died very shortly afterwards. Mary Simpson, the suspected widow, later remarried to John Robertson.

JOHN WOODWARD IS THE SUSPECTED FATHER OF THOMAS (REGULATOR) WOODWARD OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA AND LATER OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY, S.C.

END OF DOCUMENT.