

WDATA.032 INFORMATION ON JAMES NELSON, WHO MARRIED
MARGARET WOODWARD 3/, DAUGHTER OF THOMAS (REGULATOR) WOODWARD
2/ & JEMIMA COLLINS.

Entered in October of 1991 by Robert R. Hill of Brandon,
Florida. Updated in December of 1993.

Source: My research based on information obtained from the
Fairfield County Museum in Winnsboro, S.C.

Note of Explanation: John Woodward 1/ & Mary Simpson of
Fairfax & Prince William County, Virginia had a son named
Thomas Woodward 2/ & a daughter named Ann Woodward 2/.

After John Woodward 1/ died, his widow was remarried to John
Robertson Sr., who died in Virginia just before January of
1763.

The John Robertson listed below that married Margaret K.
Nelson is thought to have been John Robertson Jr., son of the
above (deceased) John Robertson and his first (unknown) wife.

Now Thomas Woodward 2/ married Jemima Collins ca. 1746 and
they had two sons and four daughters. The wife & mother,
Jemima Collins, appears to have died after the 7th of October
1762, the date her last child, William Woodward 3/, was born
and before January of 1763.

By January of 1763, Thomas Woodward 2/, with his six
children, his widowed mother and her three Robertson step-
children, had moved to Craven County, South Carolina (today's
Fairfield County). Included among those six children were the
four daughters: Margaret Woodward 3/ (b. 1748-1752) who
married James Nelson Sr. in South Carolina. (Now see
following)

JAMES NELSON SR. (1748-1835).

James Nelson Sr. was born in Orange County, North Carolina on
6th August 1748. He was a Revolutionary Soldier (Pension No.
W.9588 in National Archives). This is also confirmed by DAR
records. James Nelson Sr. had a will dated 15th May 1833,
probated 3rd August 1835 in Fairfield County, South Carolina.

Based upon the will of this James Nelson Sr., it was first

thought that he was not the same man that had married Margaret Woodward 3/, but instead was married to Margaret Daniel Turner in 1788.

Updated research by Brent Holcomb of the Equity Files of Fairfield & Kershaw Counties, South Carolina, shows us that he probably WAS the same James Nelson Sr. that had married

Margaret Woodward 3/. Equity files proved that James Nelson Sr. had two marriages, previously unknown. His second marriage was to the widow named Margaret Daniel Turner, who he married in 1788.

The first wife, Margaret Woodward's 3/ birth, is estimated to have been between 1749 and 1752 in Fairfax County, Virginia. It is now estimated that James Nelson Sr. first married Margaret Woodward 3/, between 1767-1772.

Their son Samuel Nelson 4/ (Woodward Generation) was born ca. 1775. Margaret (Woodward) 3/ Nelson appears to have died about 1785-1787.

The Fairfeild County 1790 census record for the household of James Nelson Sr., seems to imply that this first marriage may have produced six children, three sons and three daughters.

This statement is based on the knowledge that James Nelson Sr. and HIS SECOND WIFE, Margaret Turner married in 1788, so any children listed in this 1790 census that was over 12 years old, had to have been by the first marriage to Margaret Woodward 3/ or else there were some Turner children by Margaret's previous marriage. The records to date show none, except for a son William Turner of Fairfax County, Va.

The second wife, Margaret Turner Woodward, died at midnight on the 23rd day or 24th day of July 1845.

The Fairfield & Kershaw County Equity files confirm that one of the sons by the first marriage (Margaret Woodward 3/) was named Samuel Nelson 4/ (Woodward geberation), born ca. 1775.

When the will of this James Nelson Sr. showed his wife was Margaret Truner, and the names of the children were observed,

and it was first thought that he was not the same James Nelson Sr. that had married Nargaret Woodward 3/.

At that time, not knowing that James Nelson Sr. had two marriages and since James Nelson SR.'s wife was named Margaret Turner, and another man named James W. Nelson's wife was also named Margaret, it is was thought that it was James W. Nelson that had married Margaret Woodward 3/ but that too has since been proved wrong.

As stated before, we know of only one child by the first wife of James Nelson Sr. and that was the son, Samuel Nelson, born ca. 1775. We do not know the names of the other children of James Nelson Sr. and his first wife, Margaret Woodward 3/, but we do know the names of his children by the second wife, Margaret Daniel Turner, named in estate papers.

Their children were:

1. Jesse Nelson
2. Mary Nelson m. Henry Kennedy.
3. Catherine Nelson m. Captain John Delaney.
4. Harriet Nelson m. William Shedd.
5. Thomas W. Nelson
6. John Nelson.

Fairfield County court records show that this James Nelson Sr. had a will dated 15th May 1833, probated on 3rd August 1835 and recorded in Will Book 14, Page 362, Apt. 60 File 926.

JAMES W. NELSON

Another James W. Nelson, died on the 7th of September 1842. He died intestate (no will) and the following were named in his estate papers:

Margaret Nelson (widow)
Eliza W. Nelson (daughter)
Margaret K. Nelson (daughter) married John J. Robertson.
Harriet Eliza Nelson (daughter)
Mary Ann Nelson (daughter)
James S. Nelson (son)

Susan Nelson (daughter)
Fergis C. Nelson (son)
William B. Nelson (son)
Samuel Y. Nelson (son)

In the estate files of this James W, Nelson, a notation was made that the son Samuel Y. Nelson (age 3) had died on the 9th of September 1842. Thus his birth was in 1839. Margaret Woodward's 3/ birth of about 1748-1752 would make her between 87 and 90 years old, in 1839 when the son Samuel Woodward was born.

This proves that the wife and mother named Margaret WAS NOT Margaret Woodward 3/, because Margaret Woodward 3/ would have been way too old to be having children. Not only that, her husband James Nelson Sr. had remarried in 1788 to Margaret Turner, showing us that Margaret Woodward 3/ was long dead.

Another point that led to the earlier & erroneous conclusion was that a John Robertson married the daughter, Margaret K. Nelson. Before we saw the middle initial "K," it was first thought that she was Margaret Woodward Nelson and had married a (half) cousin, John Robertson Jr., son of John Robertson SR., who in Fairfax County, Virginia, had married as his second wife, Mary Simpson Woodward, the maternal grandmother to Margaret Woodward 3/.

Just who this James W. Nelson was, is unclear nor has it been established what his connection (if any) was to James Nelson Sr.

I have suspicions that James W. Nelson may have been James Woodward Nelson, a son of James Nelson Sr. and his first wife, Margaret Woodward 3/. If true, he would be a brother to Samuel Nelson, born ca. 1775.

The following was a hand written copy by Ethel Buchanan Sanborn in 1973 of what appears to have been an Application to Administer the estate of James W. Nelson, who obviously had died intestate. It does not appear to have been copied completely. Also notice that his name was listed simply James W. Nelson NOT JAMES NELSON SR.

Administrative Request For Estate of James W. Nelson
of Fairfield County, S.C.

Margaret W. Nelson and her son in law, John J. Robertson, show that James W. Nelson, late of the District and State, died on 9-7 (September 7th, no year given but since this document was dated October 1842, it is believed that the date of death for James W. Nelson was 1842) without a will (intestate) leaving your petitioners Margaret Nelson, his widow; Eliza W. Nelson; Margaret K. (who had previously inter-married with your petitioner, John J. Robertson; Harriet Eliza Nelson; Mary Ann (Nelson); James S. (Nelson); Nancy Jemima (Nelson); Martha Nelson; John T. Nelson; Susan Nelson; Fergis C. Nelson; William B. Nelson; Samuel Y. Nelson--

September 9th (no year given but probably 1842) Samuel Y. (Nelson) died (age 3 years) leaving Margaret, his mother and John T. Nelson; Susan H. Nelson; Fergus C. Nelson; William R. Nelson; his brothers and sister of the whole blood, that no administration of the estate of James W. Nelson had been taken and your petitioners pray that administration may be granted to your petitioners and in duty bound, they will pray (ve sic)-

dated October 24th 1842

Signed by/Margaret W. Nelson (his widow) and John J. Robertson (her daughter Margaret K. Nelson's husband) or her Son in law.

The statement that quote "his brothers and sister of the whole blood" (end of quote) indicates that James W. Nelson or his wife Margaret, had been previously married.

Based on the above document it appears that John J. Robertson, a Son in law, filed with his mother in law (Margaret Nelson) to administer the estate of his deceased father in law, James W. Nelson.

It also appears that James W. Nelson and his wife, Margaret

Nelson had a total of nine (9) children. John J. Robertson, one of the two petitioners, was married to the daughter, Margaret K. Nelson.

Note by Robert Hill: It is thought that this was John J. Robertson 3/, a son of one of the three brothers (John; William & Henry Robertson 2/, 2nd generation Robertsons, who were all sons of John Robertson Sr. 1/, of Fairfax & Prince William Counties of Virginia.

John Robertson Sr. 1/ had remarried the widowed Mary Simpson Woodward, the mother of Thomas (Regulator) Woodward 2/. John Robertson Sr. 1/ had died in Virginia prior to January of 1763 as his widow (Mary Simpson Woodward Robertson and her three Robertson step sons, John 2/, William 2/ & Henry Robertson 2/ moved to South Carolina with Thomas Woodward 2/ & his six children in January of 1763.

Margaret Woodward 3/ that married James Nelson Sr. was one of those six children that came to Virginia with her father, Thomas (Regulator) Woodward 2/.

It was first thought that her daughter, Margaret K. Nelson 4/, (Woodward generation) had married John J. Robertson 3/, but we now know this was not the case.

The children originally named along with the mother and son in law (the two petitioners) are not necessarily listed in chronological order of birth:

One of the sons had a daughter named Isabelle Nelson, b. 1830. One source gives the sons name as Thomas Woodward Nelson but no such son was listed among the files of the administrator's files. Those listed were:

1. Eliza W. Nelson 4/.
2. Margaret K. Nelson 4/ m. John J. Robertson.
3. Harriet Eliza Nelson 4/.
4. Mary Ann Nelson 4/.
5. John T. Nelson 4/.
6. Susan Nelson 4/.
7. Fergus C. Nelson 4/.
8. William R. Nelson 4/. (b. 1873-1924).
9. Samuel Y. Nelson (born 1839?) 4/ died at age of 3 years.

It was noted that on September 9th (1842) Samuel Y. Nelson had died at age of 3 years old, leaving the following heirs:

1. Margaret W. (Woodward) Nelson, mother
2. John T. Nelson (brother)
3. Susan H. Nelson (sister)
4. Fergus C. Nelson (brother)
5. William R. (sic) Nelson (brother)

It is not clear but it appears that the other four children:
Eliza W. Nelson; Mary Ann Nelson; Margaret K. Nelson
Robertson; & Samuel Y. Nelson, had all died by 9th September
1842.

LISTED BELOW IS A GENEALOGY LINE THROUGH MARGARET WOODWARD 3/
& HUSBAND JAMES W. NELSON.

1. Thomas Woodward (1730-1779) married Jemima Collins; 2nd
Elizabeth Stokes May (nee Stokes) "your line is thru
Jemima Collins. Their daughter was:
2. Margaret Woodward, born 1752 in Fairfax County,
Virginia, married James Nelson Sr. He died in 1835,
buried near Old Furman Institute in "unmarked grave." He
had about 130 acres (of land) there.
3. Thomas Woodward Nelson Apparently on 4th September 1976
someone made the above & following listings.
2. Isabelle Nelson (1830-1901) married David Wesley Ruff on
29th September 1858. David W. Ruff was born on 22nd
December 1827. He was in the Confederate Army and was
wounded in the civil war and died at Ashland Hospital in
Virginia on 24th May 1864. They had a son named..
3. Thomas Woodward Ruff, born 21st August 1859, died on
17th November 1935. He married Isabelle Surggert, who
was born on 11th December 1863 and died on 25th December
1950.
4. Blanche Ruff, daughter of Thomas W. Ruff & Isabelle
Surggert, was born on 4th October 1882 and died on 30th
May 1921. She was married to William Mills Estes, born
18th September 1880 and died on 8th November 1954. He
was a son of William Butler Estes & Nancy Catherine
Stevenson.
5. Catherine Estes, daughter of above, was married to Sabie
Dunn Cathcart. Their son was:

6. John W. Cathcart III, married Patricia Ann Rutland who had the following children:

7. Michael Cathcart & Mary Catherine Cathcart.

If the above be true, then we now have three names of children that may belong to James Nelson Sr. and his first wife, Margaret Woodward 3/. They being James W, Nelson; Samuel Nelson and Thomas Woodward Nelson.

END OF DATA.