

Tory party were some he was very anxious to catch. He ordered his men not to fire, but to strive to capture the entire party that they were following very closely. The old Captain rode at the head of his company, and had crossed Little Dutchman's Creek when a Tory turned in his saddle and fired. The bullet struck Thomas Woodward in the chest, and he fell from his horse, dead. He died as he had lived - a champion of justice.

At his death, his step-son, Benjamin May, took command of his old company. His sons, John and William, served their country in the Revolution.

The body of the gallant old Regulator rests in the Woodward family cemetery, near the Anvil Rock. His headstone is inscribed, "Thomas Woodward, the Regulator, killed by Tories, May 12, 1779."

References: The South Carolina Regulators - Richard M. Brown
History of the Old Cheraws - Rev. Alexander Gregg, D. D.
A History of South Carolina Baptists - Joe M. King
Thomas Woodward, the Regulator - R. Means Davis

FAIRFIELD COUNTY REGULATORS

William Ackary, Enoch Andrews, James Andrews, Sr., James Andrews, Jr., Alexander Daley, Mark Davis, Jacob Frazer, William Frazer, David Gibson, John Gray, John Grigg, William Hill, James Jones, Francis Kirkland, William Kirkland, George Lewey, George Lightner, David McGraw, Edward McGraw, Jr., Enoch McGraw, William McGraw, Moses Matthews, David Moore, Averheart Neates, William Nettles, James Owens, John Owens, Thomas Parrot, Barnaby Pope, John Roden, James Russell, Bryant Ryley, Phillip Shaver, Richard Taylor, Thomas Trapp, Henry Wimpey, John Woodward, Thomas Woodward.

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We would like to thank Mr. William F. Roberts, Route 4, 104 Hedgewood Terr., Greer, South Carolina 29651 for sharing the following article on the Roberts with us.

Genealogy is much like a disease, the main symptom being an intense, close to insatiable curiosity about your ancestors. How did they live? Why did they settle here? Where did they come from? What did they believe? My curiosity began after the death of my grandmother, Martha Clark Roberts (1892-1976). Who were the Roberts' of Chester and Fairfield Counties?

My father Talton Clark Roberts (1922-1964) had taken me to visit our Chester relatives, who we called Uncle Elbert (John Elbert Roberts, Sr.) and Aunt Jessie (Jessie Wages Roberts). Actually they were the brother and sister-in-law of my grandfather, James Wade Roberts (1890-1958). I remember as a small boy from the city of Greenville, South Carolina being amazed at the huge old unpainted house, with lights that hung from the ceiling by a cord; the animals; the watermelons; the wood cook stove; the outhouse; Uncle Elbert's chewing tobacco; his catfish stew; Aunt Jessie's cheerful greeting when we drove up; the pears that never seemed to get soft enough to eat; and the people, lots of people - it was a big family. I remember, too, when Aunt Jessie and Uncle Elbert moved into a new house, near the 'old home place'. This house had lights, an electric stove and plumbing, just like my house in the city. And I remember one very sad trip made by my father and me when my best Chester friend, Uncle Elbert's and Aunt Jessie's son Troy Wages Roberts, was killed in an automobile accident.

James Wade also started his married life with the intent of farming. Martha Clark Roberts had inherited some land on the Chester-Fairfield border and it was on this ground that they started. Somewhere around 1920 the family moved to Greenville, South Carolina, where James Wade started work for a tire recapper. It was likely that the family planned to return one day, because they never sold their land. However, Greenville became their home and the land in Chester became known as the 'old home place'. It was one of the sites we visited when I was a boy.

James Wade and Martha Clark Roberts had the following children: James Arthur, born in Fairfield/Chester; Margie Lee, born in Fairfield/Chester; Charles Franklin, born in Fairfield/Chester; William Morrison, born in Fairfield/Chester; Talton Clark, born in Greenville; Mary Halsel, born in Greenville; Eugene White, born in Greenville.

James Wade and Martha Clark Roberts' son Talton Clark Roberts was my father.

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Martha Hawkins, Monticello, Arkansas sent the following article for our files, but it contained so much information of interest to our members that we decided to print it in the Bulletin. Many thanks, Martha.

THE DUMAS CLARION, Wed. July 25, 1979 - 75th Anniversary Issue.

David Oscar Porter, a pioneer of Southeast Arkansas and a Dumas leader until his death Jan. 2, 1939, had a prominent role in the growth of this city.

Born in Chester, S. C. March 23, 1852, Mr. Porter was the third of a family of four children of W. A. Porter and Martha Cherry Porter, natives of South Carolina. Mr. Porter's father was a wheelright by trade and manufactured buggies, carriages in Landsford, S. C. He died in 1853. When he was nine years of age, David Oscar Porter came to Arkansas with his mother and family. He was educated in South Carolina and Monticello. He remained with his mother in Monticello until he was 25. She then moved to Arkansas City to make her home with her oldest daughter and her husband and lived there until her death in 1886.

At the age of 25, Mr. Porter became manager of a plantation for W. A. Blakemore somewhere near Old Arkansas Post. He managed the plantation for four years and then took charge of a plantation for Quilling and Goza for two years. After this, he rented a plantation for himself and ran it for a year and then became manager of Dr. Taylor's place at South Bend where he remained until going to Arkansas City for seven years, and during that time - in 1889 - he was elected as one of the aldermen of Arkansas City.

In 1893, Mr. Porter came to Dumas. He bought considerable amount of farming land and town property in and around Dumas. As the town grew, he sold some of the farm land and town property, dividing the town property into lots and opening up streets to the town. He retained most of his property on Main Street, and the first farm he bought west of Dumas which is still in operation. His home place is on the original site where he built his first home shortly after coming to Dumas. In the early years here, he served as Sheriff of Desha County. Later, together with his farming and business interests, he was associated with the late Gus Waterman in the Mercantile Business in Dumas.

So it was that David Oscar Porter took a very active part in the business life and building of Dumas, seeing it grow from a very small settlement to thriving business center. He was ill only two weeks before he died in 1939, at the age of 86.

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Troy had been a few years older than me, but I had liked him. More than that; I had respected and trusted him. I was young and naive, while Troy had been bold and he had known lots more than city boys.

When we would visit, there was always a time set aside to catch us up on family happenings. This bored the boy in me and I tried to find something more exciting to do, which was usually easy. Now, I wish I could remember some of those conversations.

When I started looking into Roberts' history, I discovered that I was blessed, or cursed, with having two great-great grandfathers with the Roberts surname. I also quickly learned that my Roberts ancestors left very little in the county and state records to mark their passing through this life and the memories of them were diminished in their descendents.

The manuscript that follows is an outline of the little that I know about my two great-great grandfathers, William Roberts and Elbert Roberts. It is incomplete and I'm sure it has errors. I hope, however, that it will be read by those who are interested and that maybe we can piece together a complete history of them. Not to glorify them or to increase our present status, but because we want to know.

William Roberts

William Roberts was probably born around 1827 and he probably died in 1858 or 1859. He married on 4 March 1844 a girl named Jane Halsell. Jane was born on 16 November 1819, she was the daughter of Peter and Sarah Combest Halsell. (This is the family for whom the community of Halsellville is named.)

William and Jane had six children. Leroy, born 17 December 1844; Sobaski Combest, born 3 February 1847; Peter Albert, born 26 February 1849; Abigail, born 1 July 1853; Elizabeth, born 3 January 1856; Wade Oscar, born 19 May 1858.

These births were recorded in the Halsell family Bible, which is now lost, but which was kept by Miss Maggie Harris, who passed this information to relatives, in her own handwriting, prior to her death.

William and Jane struggled to raise their children. William was a farmer but he never owned land in Chester county. Jane, like most women of that time, was uneducated. Jane did inherit 1/17th share in the estate of her Aunt Mary Halsell in 1859, however, this was probably after William's death and the inheritance was not enough to help her greatly. On the 1860 census, she lists herself as a farmer, with \$100 in personal property. By 1870 only Abigail and Elizabeth were listed at home with her.

As an indication of the struggle this couple had, in 1846 William was arrested for trading a pair of shoes for a bushel of corn from a slave of Mr. Francis Land. William's grandfather-in-law, John Halsell, who was a shoe maker by trade, posted bond for him. William was found guilty and fined \$92.15 for his offense.

Both William and Jane may have been buried at Bethlehem Baptist Church near Blackstock in Chester county, South Carolina, but if they are there, there are no remaining markers for them.

My problem is finding the parents and brothers and sisters for William Roberts. On the 1850 census he stated that he was born in South Carolina. He may have been born in Chester or Fairfield counties, but I doubt it. There is a possibility that he was born in Edgefield county, but this is only a hypothesis. Jane Halsell Roberts' uncle was Thomas Halsell. Thomas had moved to Edgefield county and it is possible that Jane Halsell met

William Roberts while visiting her Uncle or that William moved to Chester county on the recommendation of Thomas Halsell.

William and Jane Halsell Roberts' son Wade Oscar was my great grandfather. He would marry Catherine Sara Roberts the daughter of Elbert and Mary Ann Long Roberts.

Elbert Roberts

Elbert Roberts, my great-great grandfather, was born in 1827; he died on 7 April 1914. He was married to Mary Ann Long (born 4 March 1834). They are buried at the New Hope Methodist Church in the Armenia Community of Chester county, South Carolina.

Elbert and Mary Ann had the following children: John, born ? ; Jane, born ? ; Catherine Sara, born 15 February 1858; Obediah, born 11 June 1860; Francis, born 1 October 1865; Margaret, born 1869; Laura, born 1870; Winifred Louise, born 13 May 1871; Robert W., born 9 March 1876.

There is a possibility that Elbert was married prior to his marriage to Mary Ann Long. The 1880 census list a granddaughter named Addie aged 12 years old. This child may be a daughter of a child from Elbert's first marriage.

Elbert was literate and that gave him an advantage. He chose farming as his occupation, and like all farmers his fortunes rose and fell based on the weather and insects and the fickle marketing systems that are a part of farming. He did have some land, but by the time of his death he had sold most of it or lost it when it was collateralized for a crop loan. In his later years he lived in a house built for him and Mary Ann by their son Robert. He was well liked and referred to by the nickname of "birdie" because he could make bird sounds.

Elbert had at least one brother named Moses. Moses, too, was a Chester county farmer; however, he did move for a time to the state of Georgia. Nothing else is known of Elbert's family. It has been reported, but not confirmed, that his mother's maiden name was Estes.

Elbert and Mary Ann Roberts' daughter Catherine Sara Roberts was my great grandmother.

Wade Oscar Roberts and Catherine Sara Roberts

Wade Oscar Roberts was born on 19 May 1858. He died on 20 May 1925. His parents were William and Jane Halsell Roberts.

Catherine Sara Roberts was born on 16 February 1860. She died on 17 November 1944. Her parents were Elbert and Mary Ann Long Roberts.

Wade Oscar and Catherine Sara were married in December 1878. They had 12 children. Peter Oscar, born 19 November 1879; Eunice, born 24 December 1880; Mary, born 26 January 1882; Martha, born ? ; Laura Viola, born 21 February 1888; James Wade, born 5 January 1890; John Elbert, born 5 March 1892; Lula Bethany, born 23 June 1895; Samuel Boroughs, born 15 April 1896; Margaret Evelyn, born ? ; Estelle, born 26 November 1900; Marion Douglas, born 19 August 1903.

Their son James Wade Roberts was my grandfather.

James Wade Roberts

On Christmas Day in 1912 James Wade Roberts married Martha Lee Clark. She was the daughter of Talton Elam Clark and Maggie Pamela Robinson. Their marriage was witnessed by Elbert and Mary Ann Long Roberts. It was performed at the Beaver Creek Baptist Church.