

CAPTAIN THOMAS WOODWARD (THE REGULATOR)

by

Jo Ann Cooper Killeen

1. MY PATERNAL ANCESTOR: **THOMAS WOODWARD** was born in 1729 in Virginia (VA). He died on 12 May 1779 while fighting the Tories at Little Dutchman's Creek, Fairfield County, South Carolina (SC). Some researchers who believe he was born prior to 1729 have questioned the 1729 birth year of Thomas Woodward. However, on the 1772 SC Muster Roll Call, Thomas Woodward gives his age as 43 years old (b.1729) and his place of birth as VA. ^{1 & 8}

After moving to South Carolina in the 1760s, Thomas Woodward later became known as "The Regulator" and "Captain Thomas Woodward." To differentiate between Thomas Woodward born in Virginia and a Thomas Woodward from Annapolis, Maryland (MD), Thomas Woodward of Virginia shall henceforth be referred to as **Captain Thomas Woodward** or **Captain Thomas Woodward (The Regulator)**.

2. PARENTS OF CAPTAIN THOMAS WOODWARD: _____ **Woodward** and his wife **Mary Simpson Woodward**. ²

a. FATHER: It is believed by many researchers that **John Woodward**, blacksmith, Prince William County, VA was the father of Captain Thomas Woodward (The Regulator) since John Woodward was the only Woodward in the Stafford/Prince William County area during that time as proved by deeds and a bill of sale, below. ³

Prince William County, VA, Deed Book A, 1731-1732 and 1732-1735, Pages 192-197: "March 13, 1732. Denis McCarty of Parish of Hamilton County of Prince William to John Minor Jr., Gent. of Parish of Washing. County of Westmoreland...for 79 lbs. sterling...522 a. and 26 perches....granted to Denis McCarty by deed dated March 25, 1727....in a line of land given by will to Denis McCarty by his father Daniel McCarty Esq. on north side of road leads from main road down to Owsely's Mill....line of John Hereford. Deed of lease and release. Denis McCarty Wit: **John Woodward**, John (his mark) Wheeler, Humphry (his mark) Price. March 31, 1732 rec'd. of John Minor sum of 29 lbs. sterling. At court **April 19, 1732** release from Denis McCarty Gent. to John Minor was proved by oaths of wit. with receipt endorsed."

Prince William County, VA, Deed Book A, 1731-1732 and 1732-1735, Pages 197-198: "Denis McCarty of Prince William is bound and indebted to John Minor of Westmorland in sum of 158 lbs. current money and dated March 31, 1732....condition that Denis McCarty sold to John Minor 522 a. and 26 perches on upper side of Accotink Cr. Denis McCarty Wit: **John Woodward**, John (his mark) Wheeler. At court **April 19, 1732** this bond from Denis McCarty Gent. to John Minor was proved by oaths of wit."

Prince William County, VA, Deed Book B, Page 426, dated 21st October 1732, Bill of Sale by JOHN WOODWARD of Prince William County, VA, to John Mercer of Stafford, VA:

“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 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 of 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, 5, 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.)”

The above JOHN WOODWARD appears to be the only adult male Woodward in the Stafford/Prince William County area of Virginia and thus suspected to have been the husband of Mary Simpson (daughter of Thomas Simpson) and father of Thomas Woodward and his sister Ann (Source 2).

In addition, it is to be noted that Captain Thomas Woodward (The Regulator) and his first wife **Jemima Collins Woodward** named their first son John – which was the custom at that time to name the first-born son after the paternal grandfather.

Some genealogists believe the **John Woodward**, blacksmith in Prince William County, VA to be the same John Woodward, b. ca.1692, Blisland Parish, New Kent County, VA, son of George Woodward. It has been proved that George Woodward, Wimbleton/Blisland Parish, James City County, VA had sons Lancelott, **John**, George, and Samuel. ⁴

b. MOTHER: **Mary Simpson Woodward** (daughter of **Thomas Simpson** and **his first wife** who is suspected to be his first cousin Elizabeth Baxter) of the Sandy Run, Aquia and Chopawamsic Creek area of Stafford/Prince William County, VA. ²

Thomas Simpson and his first wife _____ (Elizabeth Baxter ?) had five children: Three sons--William Simpson, Baxter Simpson, and Thomas Simpson, Jr.; and two daughters, **Mary Simpson Woodward** and Ann Simpson. ²

Thomas Simpson's beloved grandchildren **Thomas Woodward** and Ann Woodward are included in his will, below. ²

Prince William County, Virginia Will Book C, 1734-1744, Page 2, Abstracted and Compiled by John Frederick Dorman, Will of Thomas Simpson dated 13 October 1734: "Pages 16-17. Will of Thomas Simson, dated 13 Oct. 1734.

"Thomas Simson of Prince William County, carpenter,....

"Unto my oldest son William Simson....

"Unto my son Baxter Simson....

"To my son Thomas Simson....

"Unto my loving daughter **Mary Woodward** one hundred acres of land where she is now seated and lying on the north side of Sande Run....

"Unto my daughter Ann Simson....I further leave my daughter Ann to Mary Woodard in case her mother dies before she comes of age....

"Unto my beloved grand children the son and daughter of Mary Woodward, **Thomas Woodward** and Ann Woodward, one yew a peace....

"Unto my ever loving wife Jane Simson...."

c. REFERENCES AND COMMENTS:

(1) *Woodward's Reminiscences of the Creek, or Muscogee Indians, contained in letters to friends in Georgia and Alabama*, Pages 124-127, by John Simpson Woodward: ⁵

Since the publication of *Reminiscences*, family members and other researchers have published articles based on the letters written by Mr. John Simpson Woodward of Louisiana. Mr. Woodward's letters were written in the late 1850s, and by that time, he was in his mid-sixties. In a letter dated 20 December 1858, he wrote "I am satisfied that I will be sixty-five years of age on the 22nd February next" (b. 1793). Mr. Simpson was not born in South Carolina nor did he live there and in his letter he said he seldom saw any of his family. Since court documents have since proved some of his information is incorrect, it is believed he confused some of the family names. For example, he wrote that Thomas Woodward married Elizabeth Simpson when, in fact, Thomas Woodward married Mary Simpson, daughter of Thomas Simpson. Mr. John Simpson Woodward wrote:

"...My early ancestors of the name (Woodward) came from England, and settled in Maryland, under George Calverton, Baron of Baltimore. And near Annapolis, my great grandfather, Thomas Woodward, was born, and raised in Maryland. He raised a family of children by a first wife – she died, and he went into Fairfax County, Virginia, and married my great grandmother, Elizabeth Simpson, the descendant of a Scotch family – and Simpson is my middle name. Thomas Woodward and Elizabeth Simpson had one son, and called him Thomas, who was my grandfather...."

Comment: Documents referenced in this report prove that Captain Thomas Woodward's mother was **Mary Simpson**, not **Elizabeth Simpson**.² It is suspected that the Elizabeth Simpson referred to in Mr. John Simpson Woodward's letter dated 20 December 1858 was **Elizabeth Baxter**, first cousin of Thomas Simpson (father of Mary Simpson Woodward). Elizabeth Baxter is suspected to be the wife of Thomas Simpson and the mother of Mary Simpson Woodward. Thomas Simpson and his wife named one of their sons Baxter.

(2) *Colonial Families of the United States of America, Volume III*, Pages 632-633: ⁶

"ABRAHAM WOODWARD, gentleman, of Annapolis, Md., b. 1686, in England; d. there before 1st Mar. 1744; came to America and settled in Annapolis in 1738; m. (firstly) 11th July, 1707, Elizabeth FINLOE, dau. of James FINLOE; m. (secondly) 25th Aug. 1717, Priscilla (RULEY) ORRICK, b. 1693, dau. of Anthony RULEY, Gent., and Rebecca, his wife, of Anne Arundel Co., Md., and widow of James ORRICK.

ISSUE BY 2D m.

- I. William, b. 6th Dec. 1716, d. 1790.
- II. Rebecca, b. 15th Jan. 1722.
- III. Martha, b. 8th Dec., 1726.
- IV. Abraham, b. 5th Jan. 1729.
- V. Thomas. (**This Thomas is not Captain Thomas Woodward.**)
- VI. Priscilla, m. William FARRIS.
- VII. Mary, m. _____ RIDGELY.
- VIII. Henry.
- IX. Elizabeth, d. 1758, unm.
- X. Eleanor."

(3) *Annapolis Maryland Families*, Page 783: ⁷

"ABRAHAM WOODWARD, b. abt. 1685; d. Jan. 26, 1744; m. (1) Dec. 3, 1707, ELIZABETH FINLOE; m. (2) Aug. 25, 1715, PRISCILLA (RULEY) ORRICK, q.v., b. 1690; d. 1733. Ch. (WOODWARD) incl: a. William, b. Dec. 6, 1716; q.v. b. Rebecca, b. Jan. 15, 1723. c. Martha, b. Dec. 8, 1726. d. Abraham, b. Jan. 16, 1730. e. Thomas, b. Mar. 10, 1732; q.v. f. Priscilla, b. Feb. 27, 1739; m. William Faris, q.v.

"THOMAS WOODWARD, b. Mar. 10, 1732; d. Apr. 1799; m. Feb. 21, 1778, MARGARET (WATERS) IJAMS, dau. of Mordecai and Rachel Waters, and widow of Thomas Ijams. Ch. (WOODWARD) incl: Nicholas, b. Apr. 8, 1781; q.v."

COMMENT: The above Thomas Woodward shown in *Annapolis Maryland Families* is the same Thomas Woodward shown in *Colonial Families of the United States*; therefore, he cannot be the Thomas Woodward born 1729 in VA. Captain Thomas Woodward (The Regulator) died on 12 May 1779 in Fairfield County, SC, and the above described Thomas Woodward, b. Mar. 10, 1732, died April 1799. The Thomas Woodward of Annapolis, Maryland lived another 20 years after the death of Captain Thomas Woodward (The Regulator). ⁶

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3. MARRIAGES OF CAPTAIN THOMAS WOODWARD: Married 1st Jemima Collins and 2nd Elizabeth Stokes May. ^{1 & 11}

a. Captain Thomas Woodward (The Regulator) (b. 1729, VA; d. 12 May 1779, present day Fairfield County, South Carolina) married **Jemima Collins**, ca. 1746-1755. ¹ Jemima was born abt 1730, birthplace unknown; she died in late 1762. Children:

John Woodward, b. between 1746-1755, VA ⁸; d. 26 May 1817, SC; married Esther McDonald, SC.

Margaret Woodward, b. ca. 1748-1752, VA; d. _____, Fairfield County, SC; married James Nelson, Fairfield County, SC. Ch: Samuel.

Rebecca Woodward, b. VA, married Phillip Raiford, Jr.

Priscilla Woodward, b. VA, married James Andrews, Jr.

Nancy Woodward, b. ca. 1760, VA, married Robert Rabb.

William Woodward, b. 7 Oct 1762, VA; d. 23 Jul 1820, Chester County, SC; married Nancy Elizabeth Barrett, SC.

COMMENT: South Carolina land grants indicate that early in 1763, Captain Thomas Woodward (The Regulator) brought his six Woodward children, his widowed mother (Mary Simpson Woodward Robertson), and his three Robertson half brothers (William, John, and Henry) to South Carolina. ⁹

b. Captain Thomas Woodward (The Regulator) married 2nd Elizabeth Stokes May (Widow May). Children: ¹¹

Lucy Woodward, d. aft 12 Aug 1802, m. William J. Augustine

Henry Woodward, d. 1803, Fairfield County, SC.

Joseph Woodward, d. aft 12 Aug 1802

Thomas Woodward, b. Fairfield County, SC; d. bef 12 Aug 1802, m. Mary Howard (their son Thomas Simpson Woodward was the author of letter in *Reminiscenses*).

Elizabeth Woodward, b. Fairfield County, SC; d. aft 12 Aug 1802, m. William McMorries, Jr.

Jane Woodward, d. aft 12 Aug 1802, m. a Freeman

Sarah Woodward, b. Fairfield County, SC; d. aft 12 Aug 1802, m. a Riley.

COMMENT: Elizabeth Stokes May and her first husband had three children: Benjamin May, Jane May (m. Mr. Freeman), and Thomas May.

4. CAPTAIN THOMAS WOODWARD (THE REGULATOR), THE MAN:

It was said Captain Woodward was a large man of commanding presence to whom people turned to in times of stress.

He served in the French and Indian Wars.

In the 1760s, he became a leader in the Regulator Movement in the area between the Broad and Catawba Rivers in South Carolina.

He was a justice of the peace and a leading citizen of Fairfield County, South Carolina. ⁹

He was elected to the 1st Provincial Congress of 1775.

On 17 June 1775, Thomas Woodward became a captain in the Rangers under Colonel Thomson. He and his men took part in the "Snow Campaign" against the Tories in 1775. He resigned his commission on 30 January 1776 but later that year he led volunteers against Indians and Tories. On 12 May 1779, he was killed by Tories on Little Dutchman's Creek in Fairfield County, SC. ¹

The body of Regulator/Captain Thomas Woodward rests in the Woodward family cemetery, near the Anvil Rock (Rockton) on present day Highway 34 between Ridgeway and Winnsboro, Fairfield County, South Carolina. His obelisk is inscribed, "Thomas Woodward, the Regulator, killed by Tories, May 12, 1779." A Fairfield County, South Carolina historical marker detailing Captain Woodward's contributions to the State of South Carolina and his Country stands just outside the Woodward family cemetery on Highway 34.

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Highlighted Names are Direct Ancestors
of
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SOURCES

1. *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*, Page 1013, by Bobby Gilmer Moss.
2. *Prince William County, Virginia Will Book C, 1734-1744, Page 2, Abstracted and Compiled by John Frederick Dorman, Will of Thomas Simpson dated 13 October 1734:*

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3. *Prince William County, VA, Deed Book A, 1731-1732 and 1732-1735, Pages 192-197:* "March 13, 1732. Denis McCarty of Parish of Hamilton County of Prince William to John Minor Jr., Gent. of Parish of Washing. County of Westmoreland....for 79 lbs. sterling....522 a. and 26 perches....granted to Denis McCarty by deed dated March 25, 1727....in a line of land given by will to Denis McCarty by his father Daniel McCarty Esq. on north side of road leads from main road down to Owsely's Mill....line of John Hereford. Deed of lease and release. Denis McCarty Wit: **John Woodward**, John (his mark) Wheeler, Humphry (his mark) Price. March 31, 1732 rec'd. of John Minor sum of 29 lbs. sterling. At court April 19, 1732 release from Denis McCarty Gent. to John Minor was proved by oaths of wit. with receipt endorsed."

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4. *Woodwards of Colonial America, Volume I, Some Descendants of Lancelott & Elizabeth (Cocke) Woodward of Blisland Parish*, Pages 20 and 4, by J. Gary Woodward.
5. *Woodward’s Reminiscences of the Creek, or Muscogee Indians, contained in letters to friends in Georgia and Alabama*, Pages 124-127, by Thomas S. Woodward of Louisiana.
6. *Colonial Families of the United States of America, Volume III*, Pages 632-633, edited by George Norbury Mackenzie, LL.B, 1966, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore.
7. *Annapolis Maryland Families*, Page 783, by Robert Harry McIntire, 1980, Gateway Press, Inc., Baltimore, MD.
8. Genealogical Records 1955 South Carolina DAR (SC-DAR 929.5), A Brief History of Thomas Woodward, “The Regulator,” and his Family, by Mrs. B. H. Rosson, Jr., State Chairman. Some information in these records has been proved to be in error.
9. *SC Census 1800*, John Woodward, 45 or over, 29 slaves (for identification of correct John Woodward).
10. *The South Carolina Regulators*, Pages 40, 41, 120, and 211, by Richard Maxwell Brown.
11. *Woodard/Woodward Wills, Inventories, and Administrations, Woodward’s of Colonial America, Volume III*, Page 6, by J. Gary Woodward. Will of Elizabeth (Stokes/May) Woodward (second wife of Regulator/Captain Thomas Woodward), written 12 August 1802, Columbia 1, South Carolina.

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