

## CAPTAIN THOMAS WOODWARD, THE REGULATOR

by

Jo Ann Cooper Killeen

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**GOAL: To prove the father of THOMAS WOODWARD, b. 1729, Virginia.**

1. MY 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). The 1729 birth year of **THOMAS WOODWARD** has been questioned by some researchers who believe he was born prior to 1729. 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. <sup>1 & 8</sup>

After removing to South Carolina in the 1760s, **THOMAS WOODWARD** later became known as Captain **THOMAS WOODWARD**, The Regulator.

2. SOURCE: **WOODWARD'S REMINISCENCES OF THE CREEK, OR MUSCOGEE INDIANS**, Contained in Letters to Friends in GEORGIA AND ALABAMA, Pages 124-127, by General Thomas Simpson Woodward, Published in 1859:

"Wheeling, Winn Parish, LA.,  
December 20, 1858.

"J. J. Hooper, Esq.

"Dear Sir:--A few days back I wrote you a letter, in which I promised, as early as possible, to give you a little sketch of my family, my age, and also the little wars I was engaged in my younger days. My name is not as common as Smith, but it is to be met with in all the States of this Union, as well as in many parts of Europe. Whether the name is Norman, Saxon, or German, originally, I do not know. But the name seems to have been derived from the occupation followed by those who bore it, at an early day. Woodward, one who protects the forest. My early ancestors of the name 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.

*(Note from Jo Ann Cooper Killeen: The great grandmother of General Thomas Simpson Woodward, author of the December 20, 1858 letter, was Mary Simpson, daughter of Thomas Simpson and his first wife of Stafford/Prince William County. Mary Simpson married \_\_\_\_\_ Woodward. No documentation has been found on an Annapolis, MD, Thomas Woodward living in the Stafford/Prince William County area at*

*the time Thomas Woodward was born in 1729; nor has documentation been found that a Thomas Woodward of Annapolis, MD, married an Elizabeth Simpson.)*

“Thomas Woodward and Elizabeth Simpson had one son, and called him Thomas, who was my grandfather. The old man returned to Maryland to move his other children to Virginia; he died on his visit to Maryland, and never returned, nor did his Maryland children ever get to Fairfax, but some years after their father's death, some of them went to Dinwiddy county, Virginia, and some to North Carolina; the North Carolina branch of the family has lost one letter in the name--they spell the name with one W, instead of two. I could name many of the older ones of most of the branches of the family, but it would take up too much time, as well as room, for a paper of this sort. My great grandmother remained a widow for some years, when she married a man by the name of Robinson, and raised two sons, William and John, both of whom I have seen, as well as their mother. My mother carried me and my sister to South Carolina when we were small children; the old lady was then living, and from what I have learned since, she was then about 112 years of age--she died two years after.

“It has been said that Robinson neglected my grandfather's education, and he was suffered to grow up very much in the way that one of his grand sons has since. At an early age he showed some inclination to become a soldier, and was in the French War, and a part of the time with Gen. Washington, who was then a Major or a Colonel. My grandfather was a Captain in that service, and was a much older man than Gen. Washington, and from what I have been able to learn from Parson Weems and others, the old man was looked upon as a good fighter. He married at an early age, a woman by the name of Jemima Collins, and they had four daughters and two sons, John and William. His wife died while he was in the service. At the close of the French war he was ordered on the frontier of South Carolina, leaving his children in Virginia. While in South Carolina, he became acquainted with my grandmother, who was his second wife. And it is the blood of that grandmother which courses through my veins, that in early life tempted me to quit what the world terms civilized and christian man.

“I will now give you as accurately as I can the true history of that branch of my family. At the very earliest settlement of South Carolina by Europeans, and at the time those tribes of Indians that inhabited the lower parts of the Carolinas and Georgia, viz: the Sowanokas, Uchees, Yemacraws and others, a European, either of French or Spanish origin, by the names of Silves, (I think the name was originally spelled Silvester, but pronounced Silves,) came to Beaufort, S.C., took an Indian woman for a wife, and raised a family of children. About the time Silves's eldest daughter arrived to womanhood, an Englishman by the name of Thomas Stokes came to the country and turned Indian trader. Stokes took the daughter of Silves for a wife, and raised four children by her, two sons and two daughters, and one of them was my grandmother--her name was Elizabeth. She married one John May. The other daughter, whose name I have forgotten, (although I was much better acquainted with her than I was with my grandmother,) married a man by the name of Joiner.

“The two sons were Thomas and Silvester. They were both Whigs in the American Revolution, and in a skirmish with some British and Tories, at the old ridge, not far from



the line of Edgefield and Lexington Districts, S.C., they were both badly wounded, and escaped at the time, but were necessarily forced, from their wounds, to go to a settlement to have them dressed. They were betrayed and taken prisoners by the British, and if not hanged at the same time with Col. Haynes, they were just before or after.

"My grandmother raised three children by John May, two sons and a daughter, when May died. She then married my grandfather, and settled in the Fairfield District--they raised three sons and three daughters--my father was the oldest of the young set of children. My grandfather, after marrying my grandmother, moved his mother and two half brothers from Virginia to South Carolina. When the Revolution commenced, he raised among the first companies, if not the first, that was raised in South Carolina. He was killed on Dutchman's Creek, in a fight with the British and Tories, on the 12th of May, 1779. My half uncle, Ben. May, took command of his company. My father, who was rather young at the commencement of the war to take the field, after his father was killed entered the service--his two own brothers being too young.

"As many of the children and grand children of these men are now living, and know but little of the old stock, I will here give a list of the names of my father's family that served in the Revolution, and to a man I believe, were at the battle of Eutaw, except my grandfather and two grand uncles, Tom and Sil. Stokes, who were then dead.

"My two half uncles, John and William Woodward; my half uncle, Ben. May--(my half uncle, Tom May, was a cripple, and never served.) Now for the son-in-laws, or those that married my aunts. The oldest first: James Nelson, Phillip Raiford, Robert Rabb, James Andrews, Phillip Riley, William McMorris, William J. Augustin, Reeves Freeman, and Thomas Woodward, who was the youngest of the crowd, and my father. I have seen many of my grandfather's old company; they were said to be good fighters. But I have heard the old ones say that my uncle Ben. May and uncle William Woodward were looked on as being the most daring men of that day.

"My uncle William Woodward represented Fairfield District in Congress for several years, and the same District has been represented by his son Joseph, since, and it is his son William that represents Sumter county, in the Alabama Legislature. My mother was a Howard; her father was Nehemiah Howard, a Virginian by birth, and of an English family. My grandmother Howard was Edith Smith, and descended from a Welch family; it is said her father settled Smithfield, on Neuse River, in Johnson county, North Carolina. My grandmother Howard died in Milledgeville, Ga., very near one hundred years of age. I remember to have seen her mother when I was a small boy; it was said she was over a hundred years old; she was then a widow Edmonson. There were nine brothers of the Howard family, and five sisters; they all lived to be grown and raise a family of children, except three--two uncles, one of whom was killed by a horse, and the other was drowned. My youngest aunt of that family was accidentally burned to death. My mother was the ninth child, and the first of the family that died a natural death. Maj. James Howard, late of Macon county, Alabama, was the next child to my mother, and was the last of the fourteen children to die, which was some two or three years back.



"I think I have wrote enough to satisfy you that I have had, and yet have, some relations, though I seldom see any of them; the balance I write now will be little things pertaining pretty much to myself.

"Not long after the close of the Revolution, my father left Fairfield District, S.C., and went into Union District, and taught school; several of the Howard family went to the school; among them was my mother, and the children younger than herself. The school continued for some ten years, and at the close of the school my father gave my grandfather Howard to understand that he wished to marry his daughter Mary. It was objected to by the whole Howard family, except John and Ben. Howard. My father returned to Fairfield, and my grandfather Howard moved to Georgia. My grandfather Woodward had a large property in land and negroes for the time in which he lived, and after his death and the close of the war, the heirs set about a division. There was soon a split between the white and Indian children. My father took a few negroes and left for the Cherokee nation. On his route he called at my grandfather Howard's who had then settled in what is now called Elbert county, Georgia, and within six miles of the head of Savannah River. My father tried a second time to get the consent of my grandfather, and through the influence of the two brothers, John and Ben, the matter was arranged. My father settled on Savannah River, between the mouths of two creeks, Lightwood Log and Powder Log, and in Elbert county...from what I can recollect of my father (who died in March, 1800) and other things, I am satisfied that I will be sixty-five years of age on the 22d February next."....

#### COMMENTS:

a. Some researchers believe THOMAS WOODWARD, son of ABRAHAM WOODWOOD of Annapolis, MD, was the THOMAS WOODWARD who removed to Virginia and married Mary Simpson of Prince William County, ca 1726. Sources listed in Paragraph 3, below, will show that ABRAHAM WOODWARD's son THOMAS was born on 10 March 1732, married Margaret (Waters) Ijams on 21 Feb 1778, and died Apr 1799 (20 years *after* Captain/The Regulator **THOMAS WOODWARD** died in Fairfield County, SC); therefore, he could not have been the father of The Regulator.

b. Other researchers believe that the father of **THOMAS WOODWARD**, b. 1729, VA, was JOHN WOODWARD, blacksmith, the only WOODWARD in the Prince William County area. Sources listed in Paragraph 4, below, prove JOHN WOODWARD was in Prince William County in 1732.

c. It is suspected that the Elizabeth Simpson referred to in General Thomas Simpson Woodward's letter dated 20 December 1858 was Elizabeth Baxter, who is suspected to have married her first cousin Thomas Simpson (father of **MARY SIMPSON WOODWARD**). The Baxters removed from Cecil County, Maryland, and settled in Virginia. Elizabeth Baxter is suspected to be the mother of **MARY SIMPSON WOODWARD**. Thomas Simson/Simpson and his first wife (Elizabeth Baxter ?) named one of their sons Baxter.



d. There was a THOMAS WOODWARD, b. 1707, in Richmond County, Records, 1704-1724, p. 84. Indenture. 11 Aug. 1715. Nicholas Muse, planter, of one part, and WILLIAM WOODWARD, of the other part. WOODWARD agrees "to bind my Son THOMAS WOODWARD unto Nicholas Muse and Mary Muse, his wife, of the longest liver of them, until he comes to the Age of Twenty one Yeares xx the said THOMAS WOODWARD being eaight Yeares onto the 14 day of Febuary before the date hereof." Muse agrees among other things "to learn him to read the Bible and also to learn him the Trade of a Carpenter and Cooper in the last Two Yeares that he hath of serve. Signed WILLIAM WOODWARD, Nicholas (X) Muse. Wit: Richard Claxton, James Sandie. Rec. 7 Sept. 1715. (No further information on this Thomas Woodward.)

### 3. WOODWARDS IN MARYLAND:

As indicated in paragraphs (1) and (2) below, the THOMAS WOODWARD of Maryland (son of ABRAHAM WOODWARD) was b. Mar. 10, 1732 and married Margaret (Waters) Ijams on Feb. 21, 1778. Margaret was the widow of Thomas Ijams and the daughter of Mordecai and Rachel Waters. Ch. of THOMAS WOODWARD and Margaret (Waters) Ijams incl: Nicholas, b. Apr. 8, 1781; *q.v*

(1) *Colonial Families of the United States of America, Volume III*, Pages 632-633: <sup>6</sup>

"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 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** (Captain Thomas Woodward, The Regulator, d. 12 May 1779; this Thomas Woodward, d. Apr 1799).
- VI. Priscilla, m. William FARRIS.
- VII. Mary, m. \_\_\_\_\_ RIDGELY.
- VIII. Henry.
- IX. Elizabeth, d. 1758, unm.
- X. Eleanor."

(2) *Annapolis Maryland Families*, Page 783: <sup>7</sup>

"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.*" Daughter: Elizabeth (?).

**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).

#### 4. PARENTS OF CAPTAIN THOMAS WOODWARD, THE REGULATOR:

\_\_\_\_\_ (?) **WOODWARD** and his wife **MARY SIMSON/SIMPSON WOODWARD.** <sup>2</sup>

FATHER: It is believed by Certified Genealogist Jean Holly Day, researcher Mr. Robert Hill, and this researcher that **JOHN WOODWARD**, blacksmith, Prince William County, VA, was the husband of **MARY SIMSON/SIMPSON** and the father of Captain **THOMAS WOODWARD** (The Regulator) and his sister **ANN**. We know that **JOHN WOODWARD**, the blacksmith, was in Prince William County in 1732 and he is the only adult male **WOODWARD** we were able to locate in the Prince William/Fairfax County area where the Simson/Simpson family lived (deeds and a bill of sale, below). <sup>3</sup>

*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."

*Orange County, Virginia, Deed Books 3 and 4, 1738-1741, Page 97, Abstracted and Compiled by John Frederick Dorman:*

Paul Howell vs. James Thurston.

Court of Prince William County, 18 Aug 1732. Action of trespass upon the case between Joseph Guess and James Thurston. Jury, Walter Williams, William Thompson, Thomas Lilard, Michael Scandal, John Maden, **JOHN WOODWARD**, Richard Nelson, John Champ, Patrick Lynch, John Gladin, Thomas Hopper and John Garner find for the plaintiff 480 pounds of tobacco against the defendant and Paul Howell his security. John Maden, foreman. Costs 428 pounds of tobacco between June 1732 and June 1733. Paul (H) Howell assigns his right to the judgment to Vallentine Barton, 22 Oct. 1735. Wit: Jas. Tatham.

Howell was compelled to pay the judgment.

Summons to James Thurston, 20 Aug (1736), returned by G. Marr, Deputy Sheriff, 8 Sept. 1736, copy left.

Dismissed; agreed.

*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, 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.)"

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 LANCELOT, JOHN, GEORGE, and SAMUEL. Captain **THOMAS WOODWARD** (The Regulator) and his first wife **JEMIMA COLLINS WOODWARD** named their first son **JOHN**. It was the custom at that time to name the first-born son after the paternal grandfather.

b. MOTHER: **MARY SIMPSON WOODWARD**, daughter of Thomas Simson/Simpson and his first wife (suspected to be his first cousin Elizabeth Baxter) of the Sandy Run, Aquia and Chopawamsic Creek area of Stafford/Prince William County, VA. <sup>2</sup>

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. His beloved grandchildren **THOMAS WOODWARD** and **ANN WOODWARD** are included in his will, below. <sup>2</sup>

*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 WOODWARD** in case her mother in laws 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...." (second wife)

5. **MARRIAGES OF CAPTAIN THOMAS WOODWARD:** Married 1st Jemima Collins and 2nd Elizabeth Stokes May. <sup>1 & 11</sup>

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

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

**Margaret Woodward, b. ca. 1748-1752, VA; d. bef 1788, Fairfield County, SC; married James Nelson, Fairfield County, SC. Ch: Thomas and 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, the household of Captain **THOMAS WOODWARD** (The Regulator) may have included his six Woodward children, his widowed mother (**MARY SIMSON/SIMPSON WOODWARD ROBERTSON**), and his three Robertson half brothers. <sup>9</sup>

b. Second Marriage: Captain **THOMAS WOODWARD** (The Regulator) married 2nd Elizabeth Stokes May (Widow May). Children: <sup>11</sup>

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 General 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.

6. SOURCE: *Thomas Woodward, Champion of Justice*, article written by Mary D. Boulware, Genealogist.

"....When the Cherokee Indian War ended and peace was restored to the Back Country of S. C., there was an influx of settlers coming down from Pennsylvania, western Virginia, and North Carolina. With this wave of immigration also came an undesirable element, composed of horse thieves, Indian traders, drunkards, and immoral men. These outlaws banded together, maintained contact with their own kind in other colonies, and congregated into communities, terrorizing the scattered settlers, and becoming a scourge to the Back Country. They dwelled in their own settlements with their women and children. Often times young girls of respected families were abducted. In the summer of 1767 a wave of crime swept the back country.

"The following was carried in the GAZETTE of July 27, 1767 - 'The gang of villians from Virginia and North Carolina who have for some years past in small parties under particular leaders, infested the back parts of the Southern provinces, stealing horses from one and selling them to the next, notwithstanding the late public example made of several of them, we hear are more formidable than ever as to numbers, and more audacious and cruel in their outrages. Tis reported that they consist of more than 200, form a chain of communication with each other, and have places of general meeting, where in imitation of councils of war, they form plans of operation and defense, and alluding to their secrecy and fidelity to each other, call their places, "'free mason lodges.'" Instances of their cruelty to the people in the back settlements where they rob or otherwise abuse, are so numerous and shocking that a narrative of them would fill a whole gazette, and every reader with horror. They at present range in the forks between the Broad, Saludy, and Savannah Rivers. Two of the gang were hanged last week at Savannah, viz, Lundy Hart and Obadiah Greenage. Two others, James Ferguson and James Hambersam were killed when these were taken.'

"Travel from the back country to Charleston was difficult. A trip from Fairfield County on the rough roads and trails required a week's ride on horseback, or



from two to three weeks by wagon. Thus the time and trouble involved in making a trip from the interior to the capitol left the back country virtually without courts or law enforcement. County Courts were non existant. Justices of the peace had only slight judicial power, criminal trials were held in Charleston.

"Out of desperation, respected law abiding men of the back country organized a Regulation. Small planters and leading men alike joined the movement to rid the country of the lawless. Between the Broad and Catawba Rivers the Regulators were activated by Thomas Woodward, Barnaby Pope, and Edward McGraw.

"Thomas Woodward was a large man, of commanding presence, was very active, and possessed great physical strength, as verified by an incident related by his grandson, Hon. Joseph A. Woodward. Captain Woodward together with a part of his company were in pursuit of a band of Tories, who took refuge in a stoutly built log cabin on Little River. This presented a problem as to how to dislodge them. The Captain after consulting with his men as to the best plan of attack, ordered them to be ready. He rushed for the door, and with one powerful kick, broke it from its hinges, sending it into the middle of the floor. Shots were fired from outside and within. The affray ended with the surrender of the Tories.

"Tradition says it was here that the old Regulator received his only wound prior to his death. His weapon was a rifle with the barrel sawed off so that it could be wielded with one hand. As he charged the door, he was holding it in front of his chest, a bullet fired from inside split on the barrel sending bits of lead into his chest.

"Another demonstration of his daring courage and physical stamina - Thomas Woodward led five Regulator-Rangers on a grueling, fast paced scout, beginning in late December. He and his men reached Bethabara, North Carolina on Jan. 17, 1768. There they aided in the siege of the outlaws in the Hollow, crossed the border into Virginia, proceeded to Augusta County and took custody of four Negroes stolen in S. C. On Feb. 29, after riding hundreds of miles the Woodward party arrived in Charleston with the Negroes and two horse thieves.

"Thomas Woodward's first house built in Fairfield County was at a place called the Muster Field Spring, the remains of which could still be seen in 1866. There was a racetrack near the old homesite. Major Benoni Robertson and Billy Simpson were the race riders.

"Captain Woodward moved out on the public road near Anvil Rock. Here he constructed a frame house, which presented an imposing appearance in the days of the log cabin. People came from miles around to view it. It withstood the passage of Cornwallis and his troops through the county, but was laid waste by Sherman's torch.

"He is said to have been the first subscriber to a newspaper in the District. Upon its arrival his neighbors would gather to hear the news read.

"At the start of the Revolution, as he had done with the Regulators, he rallied the patriots of the Little River-Cedar Creek area, and was their leader. He and his men took part in the 'Snow Campaign' against the Tories in 1775. He was elected to the 1st Provincial Congress of 1775.

"Nearing the age of 60, he resigned his commission in January 1776, but later that year led volunteers against Indians and Tories. He was 'a terror to evil-doers and the dry bones of Tories shook at the very name of Woodward.' During the war he served as a justice of the peace.

"On his final campaign, he had gathered together some men of his company who were at home, and was in hot pursuit of a band of Tories. In the 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"

## 7. CAPTAIN THOMAS WOODWARD (THE REGULATOR), THE MAN: <sup>12</sup>

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.

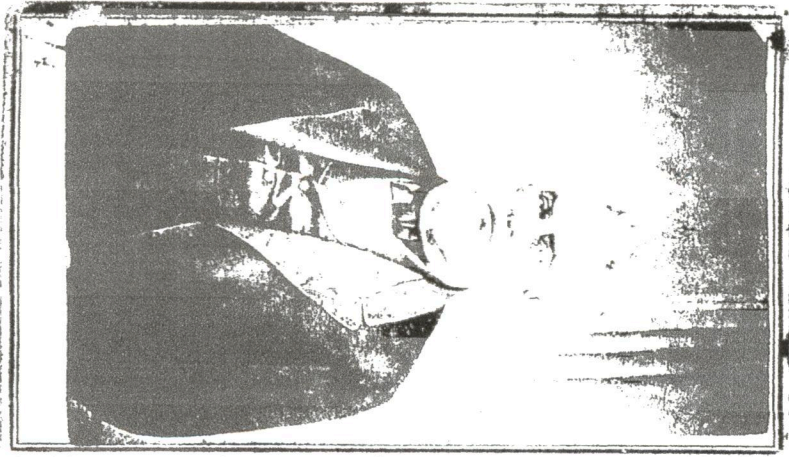
He was a justice of the peace and a leading citizen of Fairfield County, South Carolina. <sup>9</sup>  
He was elected to the 1st Provincial Congress of 1775.

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. <sup>1</sup>

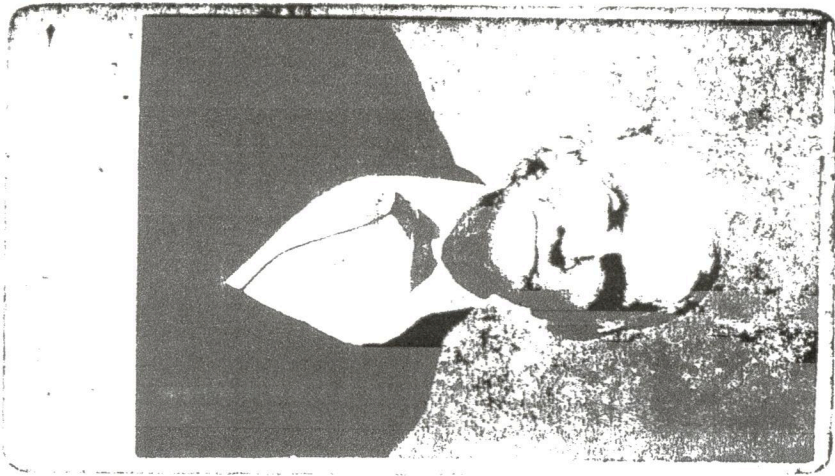




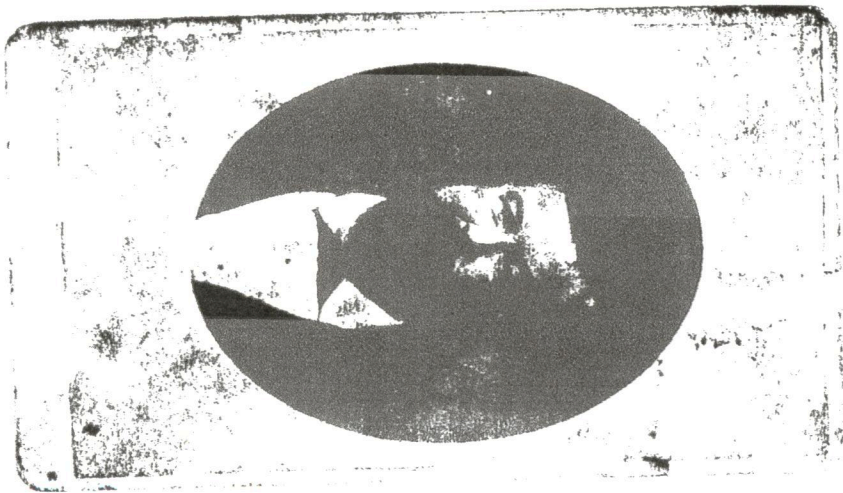
Yours truly  
W W Woodward



Judge William Ross  
Peterson



"Longfellow"  
John Peterson



Thomas  
Woodward



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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### SOURCES

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*Prince William County, VA, Deed Book A, 1731-1732 and 1732-1735*, April 19, 1732, Pages 197-198.  
*Orange County, Virginia, Deed Books 3 and 4, 1738-1741*, Page 97, August 18, 1732, Abstracted and Compiled by John Frederick Dorman  
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12. I am indebted to Certified Genealogist Jean Holly Day (Mrs. William Day, Sr.) and Mr. Robert Hill who shared their years of Woodward/Simson-Simpson/Baxter research with me; I thank Mr. Brent H. Holcomb, Certified Genealogist, who researched my Nelson family, thus making my connection to Captain Thomas Woodward, The Regulator; and Genealogist Mrs. Mary Boulware, Fairfield County, SC, for her dedicated research on the Woodward and other South Carolina families.