

The Life Of The First William M. Woodward; Doctor,
Minister, and Congressman, by Wm W. Dixon

There hangs on the brick wall of the old Woodward Baptist Church in Chester County a marble tablet bearing this inscription:

Sacred
To The Memory of
Elder William Woodward
Who departed this life in the year of
our Lord, 1820, on the 23rd day of
July; Aged 57 years, 9 months and
18 days.
This tablet
is erected to his memory by this
church, which he planted by his in-
strumentality through the indulgence
of a kind Providence, A. D. 1789.
He was also the means of planting
some and building up many of the
Neighboring Baptist Churches,"

The subject of this sketch is the second son of Thomas Woodward, the Regulator by his first wife, Jemima Collins. When his father, Thomas Woodward, was killed by Indians and tories out here on Dutchman's creek on the 12th day of May, 1779, though second in command, he was only seventeen and relinquished his claims to his father's stepson, Ben May, a one-eighth Indian of great courage and ability, who was captain thereafter. He fought in the Revolutionary war and mentioned for gallantry in the reports of the battle of Eutaw Springs. He served as a Colonel of a regiment in the War of 1812. We find in the U. S. Census for 1790 that he was a large land and slave owner. He became a member of Congress from this District after the Revolution, studied medicine, became a doctor and also an ordained Baptist Minister, and his services were none the less appreciated when he would accept nothing for preaching.

It is worth noting that this man of such versatile parts and piety married a French woman, Elizabeth Barette, an emigrant or refugee from France to the Island St. Martinique. She was well read in French philosophy. (Rosseau, Voltaire and Victor Hugo) and it affected her to this extent that she never joined any church, though her husband was a preacher. Otherwise, she must have been a wonderful woman, because she attended entirely to the plantation operations and the large number of slaves while her husband practiced medicine, attended to his Congressional duties and preached on Sundays. I once could enumerate her children, but recollection now fails, except as to her son Joseph, who succeeded his father in Congress, her son John whom Calhoun thought the brightest man in private life he ever knew; a daughter Nancy, a daughter Mary and a daughter Ellen. The daughters naturally took the religion of their father and for some reason the sons took the skepticism of their mother, and I don't think there has been a male of the name of Woodward of this union who has ever been connected with any church, unless it be the descendants of Congressman Joseph Woodward of Alabama.

The Woodward of Fairfield County, South Carolina.

Thomas Woodward, "The Regulator", and his family were of ancient origin- of an Anglo-Saxon family, and of Celtic blood, and came by the name so simplified into "Woodward" because of the fact they were daringly courageous in battle, and in the hunt.

An early English king because of his love of the hunt designated Woodward men to be his hunting companions and later- to take care of the Royal Hunting Forests. History says a barrister ancestor of "The Regulator" was executor of the will of Paul Bunyan.

The first of the Woodward line to come to America with a brother on the ship with Lord Baltimore in 1634 was Thomas's ancestor Abraham Woodward. The line of Abraham, and his arrival with brother is not noted in the files of the U.S. immigration bureau I am informed from Washington. One brother remained in Maryland, Abraham having first settled there near Annapolis. The father of Thomas "The Regulator", and son of Abraham, went into Virginia where the son, Thomas was born. Here the son "The Regulator" had birth and his birth was said by some members of the family to be about 1729, others say 1711/ The first Thomas married a Scotch girl, Elizabeth Simpson who lived to be 114 years old, . Thomas and Elizabeth were the parents of "the Regulator", who married early in life in Virginia- Fairfax County, Jemima Collins.

Thomas Woodward I, having died, his widow married John Robertson, and they had three sons as in the family records of Miss Julia Robertson, of Charlotte, who has done much research in Robertson history. It is said the Robertson half-brothers and their mother came to South Carolina in 1778, to Fairfield County.

Jemima Collins, wife of Thomas II died before the Revolution, and Thomas married the widow Elizabeth Stokes May, who had May children. She had in her veins Indian blood (see children listed at end of paper) A grandson by the second wife, Thomas Sylvester Woodward, admired and lived with the Indians a while and wrote a book called "Reminiscences of the Creek and Muscogee Indians" in which he tells the names of the husbands of his aunts- all having fought in the Revolution .

Thomas Woodward, "The Regulator", was an early Indigo planter, and an important man in the state and his name is mentioned with such men as William Moultrie, etc. Early in life he showed a love of soldiery. He went into the French and Indian Wars and was captain under George Washington. It is said he had a brilliant mind, and was a constant reader of books, but left his schooling for military service. He was a lover of land and the outdoors, an excellent engineer and later in life studied the law. He was in the Continental Congress in 1775 and was asked to investigate and give his opinion on the controversial border line between North and South Carolina. He mollified the feelings of the people nearest the line of dispute, and drew the scale of the proper line and his speech before the congress with drawings and suggestions was accepted as the plan for the final decision, and the line as he declared right

stands today in acceptance.

Woodward raised one of the first companies in the Revolution, and outfitted it as a company of Horse Rangers under Colonel William Thompson, of Union. He was made captain. It is said he never recognized danger and was a devout patriot

from early boyhood doing many services for the good of district and state and country.

Woodward defended Charleston against the British under Sir Peter Parker, and was in other battles. As prisoners before and after the Revolution sent by guards from Fairfield and other parts of the district to Charleston to be tried for their crimes never reached Charleston because of being released en route by their friends and fellow criminals, Woodward headed with other prominent men in the district - an organization called "The Regulators" to try and punish thieves and murderers. Being a Royal province, the governor had the "Regulators" put in chains and said they were defying the law, and the men were imprisoned a short while in Camden prison. Soon they were released, and this movement was the beginning of district courts in the state.

After the most active part of the Revolution there were many depredations on cattle and homes, especially was this true where the head of the house was still absent, at the front lines. Woodward with others in small battle with British and Tories in Longtown section was killed by them on Cedar Creek on May 12, 1779. His monument is conspicuous in the Woodward family cemetery near Rockton, Fairfield County. (Our cousin, Woodward Dixon, said he was killed as he pursued for miles the enemy and ran over onto his own land, which was later owned by a descendant of his and land known as The Tidwell Place.

Dr J.C. Buchanan, Senior, said Thomas Woodward held in his land grants and possession 25,000 acres, and 15,000 acres are registered for his son. John.

John Woodward took the captaincy of his father's company when the father before his death in bad health from battle exposure - history says - resigned and in failing health actively engaged in small protective assaults on the British and Tories in the district. It is said that John Woodward, barrister, and planter, was considered the most brilliant man in his district.

The descendants are legion, but today there is not a male descendant by the name in Fairfield County.

Mr. John Nicholson has a full history of the brilliant other son of Thomas and Jemima Woodward - William, minister, Congressman and lawyer.

John Woodward married Esther McDonald, daughter of Daniel McDonald of Fairfield and Lancaster Counties.

Thomas Woodward, 1st wife, Jemima Collins had:

John Woodward	married	Esther McDonald
William Woodward	"	Nancy Elizabeth Barrette
Margaret Woodward	"	James Nelson
Nancy Woodward	"	Robert Rabb
Rebecca Woodward	"	Philip Raiford
Daughter	"	James Andrews.

Thomas Woodward, 2nd wife, widow Elizabeth Stokes May had:

Thomas Woodward	married	Miss Howard
Son		
Son		
Elizabeth	"	Wm. McMorris
Lucy 1774-1848	"	Wm. J. Augustine
Daughter	"	Reeves Freeman

Lumpson
(Thomas ~~Salvester~~ Woodward mentioned Philip Riley as a husband of one of his aunts- perhaps one married twice). The second wife with her children moved to Georgia after her husband's death. I met an Episcopal minister years ago- a descendant of Elizabeth Stokes May and Thomas Woodward)

These are references on my D.A.R paper.

Thomas Woodward acted in capacity of captain of Horse Rangers, which company he organized as one of the first. Served under Colonel High T. Lumpson of Union, S.C.

Defended Charleston against attack of the British under Sir Peter Parker. Died in service as captain at Dutchman's Creek, Fairfield County, S.C. May 12, 1779. He was organizer of the "Regulation" in this section. See inscription on his monument at Rockton, Woodward Cemetery.

Thomas Woodward
The
Regulator
killed by
British and Tories, May 12, 1779.

Came to S.C. prior to 1760. Land grants to him recorded 1753.

Military Services:References.

McCrary's History of S.C. in Revolution, 1775080.P.14-42
D.A.R Genealogical Notes. S.C. Historical and Genealogical Magazine Vol.I.P.183 shows Captain Thomas Woodward as 46 years old in 1775, born 1729. Son John, who succeeded his father as captain born 177