

Mrs. Walton
Copy of letter from Mrs. J. M. Bankhead (May 19, 1960)

1505 Dale Drive, Silver Spring, Md.

Dear Mr. Hogue:

I am delighted to know that you are a cousin and not just a genealogist in search of "General Information"!

I am enclosing what information I have that might be helpful in your D.A.R. information.

I have nothing from Penna. at all. That was to be my next move! We will be delighted to see you and your wife when you come to Washington. You have my address - my phone is JU 8-1122.

My husband is a medical doctor here in Silver Spring. We are both from Lowrys, S.C. (17 mi. south of York). We have only one child - a son (23) who is taking Elec. eng. at Clemson. He is married and has two daughters 3 & 1. He went into the navy right out of high school. Four yrs. of that put him right into a college mood! They will be here the first two weeks in June. Hope you and Mrs. Hogue can come then.

"My Watsons" stayed in the environs of York Co., S.C. Samuel Lytle (grandson of Col. Samuel) was pastor of Bethel for 40 yrs. Jas. Adams was a Lieut. in the Civil War (all four yrs.) I have a copy of his war diary - he came back and married my grandmother. They lived in York. He taught Latin and Greek at King's Mt. Military school - then to Baltimore (where my mother was born) to teach Math in Bryan, Stratton & Sadler Southern Business College - then back to York Co. to try farming and thence to the town of York where he taught again and died there in 1905.

I can't prove it yet - but I believe that my Watson line has completely disappeared. It has as far as my line is concerned. My mother was the only one of her family to have children. The others either died young or did not marry.

I will give you more details when you come this way. I have a Watson Bible and the dates of Births, Marriages and deaths are very complete from David on down - but nothing on Col. Samuel's children. I have census records and cemetery records and have built what I have on that and all are subject to mistake.

Hope to see you in June.

Sincerely,

(signed) Eleanor Bankhead.

From "The Yorkville Enquirer".

Col. Samuel Watson, Civil and Military Leader of York, S.C.
(by Mrs. John London with additions by Miss Margaret A. Gist).

Col. Samuel Watson was born in Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania.
He married Elizabeth McDowell of North Carolina.

According to the Historian, McGrady, Mr. Watson served in the Regiments formed in the New Acquisition (now York County) as a 1st Lieut. The Provincial Congress, appointed in 1775 Ezekiel Polk and Thos. Weil as Colonels and Lt. Watson was soon made a Captain and then a Colonel. These men along with other Regimental officers went to Charleston to attend the 2nd Provincial Congress.

Quoting from Dr. Robert Lathan's History, "On the road leading from Dallas to Rock Hill, about 10 miles from Rock Hill, between Allison Creek and the residence of Mrs. Gillespie, lived Col. Samuel Watson, the grandfather of Rev. Samuel Watson who was Pastor of Bethel church

for 40 yrs. The house was for that time a substantial building, being constructed of brick & stone, with a cellar beneath. From all accounts Col. Watson was a man of sterling integrity and a true Whig. In consideration of his uprightness, he was made by Common Consent of his Whig neighbors a kind of Commissary, and his house was a depository for any supplies that the Whigs might have on hand. Salt was very scarce in the country and any quantity of this article that might be captured from the British was sent to Col. Watson to be distributed. A peck was, by some arrangement, allowed at one time to each woman whose husband or sons might be in the army.

The Catawba Chapter, D. A. R., Rock Hill, S.C. has erected a marker to the memory of Col. Watson. It is located in the front yard of the Meek Williams place on the York-Charlotte (N.C.) road. The bronze plaque is attached to a boulder which was the hearthstone in the home of Col. Watson.

The inscription is "Colonel Samuel Watson, 1731 - 1810;
Wife Elizabeth McDowell, 1738 - 1817.

Near this spot was the home and commissary of Col. Watson, 1st Lieut of the Rangers, Captain and delegate to the S.C. Prov. Congress, 1776. Colonel of Militia of New Acquisition, Elder in Bethel Church, and in consideration of his uprightness he was made commissary by his Whig neighbors and house was a depository for supplies.

In May 1788 Col. Watson was one of the New Acquisition's eleven delegates to the Convention in Charleston which ratified the Constitution of the United States.

Col. Watson was buried in Bethel Church Cemetery. He was one of four Revolutionary Colonels buried there. The others being Cols. William Hill, Thos. Neil and Joseph Howe.

FOR THE REVOLUTIONARY