

DAWSONS
IN THE
REVOLUTIONARY WAR
(AND THEIR DESCENDANTS)

Volume II

By
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1983

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JOHN DAWSON

Rank in the Revolutionary War Captain, Virginia.
Born 1734 in Amherst Co., Virginia.
Died 1804 (or 1810) in Amherst Co., Virginia.
Married Sally or Sarah (Carroll). Had nine issues.
Place of residence during the war Amherst Co., Virginia.
Date of this report 10/28/74. Additions 7/82.

JOHN DAWSON, Captain, Revolutionary War,
Amherst Co., Virginia

John Dawson (3-13), first-born son of Martin Dawson (2-1) (see his report as in the Revolutionary War) and his first wife, Priscilla (Sorrell) Dawson, was born in 1734 in Amherst Co., Va. and died there in 1804. (Sudie Wood wrote 1810. He was mentioned in his father's will of 1808.) He married before 1759 Sally or Sarah (Carroll) who was born before 1741 in Virginia and died before 1826 (her will proven 27 Feb. 1826 in Nelson Co., Va.). John Dawson served as a Captain of the Amherst militia during the Revolutionary War. His place of residence during the war was Amherst Co., Va.

Sources for this report are mainly four DAR papers, one SAR paper, a research paper by Mary Roy (Dawson) Hedian, correspondence with descendants, and the Charles Carroll Dawson book. Strenuous efforts were not made to find all DARs and S/Rs. There is only one SAR as of 7/71.

Charles Carroll Dawson ended his 4th generation numbering at (4-30); his 5th at (5-5); and his 6th at (6-3). This report will continue from these numbers and be in conjunction with the Martin Dawson report.

According to the Hedian research paper: "Martin Dawson's first-born son, John, married Sally Carroll and the records show that they were living on Carroll Creek as early as 1759. . . John Dawson and his family later moved into Amherst County and lived near Faber's Mill (now in Nelson County). This move westward probably occurred about 1764." He then proceeded to buy many acres of land. Her research paper goes on to say: "He died without a will but the Nelson County records contain considerable interesting data concerning the settlement of his estate by his son, John Sorrell Dawson. . . The nine children born of the union of John and Sally Dawson (or their sons-in-law in the case of married daughters) all appear as legatees in the accounts." The following nine are named as legatees of the settlement and confirmed by the will of Sally (Carroll) Dawson who also willed slaves to various family members:

was born 1767 and died 1858 in Nelson Co., Va. John Sorrell Dawson settled his father's estate. Hedian says: "John Sorrell Dawson received land on Hickory Creek from his great grandfather, John Sorrell, and he and his brother Pleasant bought an additional 100 acres of land on the Rockfish River in 1796 . . . John Sorrell Dawson died intestate and Nelson and Benjamin (his sons) . . . were appointed to serve as administrators of his estate on Dec. 28, 1818. . . The inventory of his estate listed 22 slaves, a large number of books. . . and a considerable quantity of stock and equipment." They had the following seven children (order of birth unknown):

- 5-6. Nelson Dawson, m. Sarah (White) (5-13), daughter of Priscilla (Dawson) White (4-36) and Joseph White. Had issue.*
- 5-7. Elizabeth Dawson, m. Elliot Roberts. Had issue.*
- 5-8. Polly Dawson, m. Guthridge Thurmond. Had issue.*
- 5-9. Sally Dawson, m. Thomas Johnston.
- 5-10. Pleasant L. Dawson, m. Mahala (White) (5-15), daughter of Nancy (Dawson) White (4-37) and Rev. Hugh White. Had issue.*
- 5-11. Benjamin Dawson, b. 1791, d. 1853, m. Dorothy Waller (Childress). Had issue.*
- 5-12. Nancy Dawson, b. 1801, d. 1890, m. Matthews H. Roberts. Had issue.*

Additions made 7/82 from SOUTHERN RELATIVES, Vol. I,
by Dixie Hammonds, pp. 148-160 on the line of

- (4-31). JOHN SORRELL DAWSON II. . . (A SAR claims he was in the Revolutionary War. Confused with his father who DAR PATRIOT INDEX says "Captain?") Mrs. Hammonds did not say why he had the title "Captain." Research indicated. "Captain John Sorrel Dawson II married Jane Lyons (Note spelling), the daughter of Peter Lyons and his first wife Elizabeth (Norvell) Lyons." Seven issues "named from Superior Court records of Albemarle Co., Va. Oct. 14, 1837." Page 149 as listed prior but new or different information:
- 5-6. Nelson Dawson, Sr. m. Sallie White (5-13), the daughter of Joseph White and Priscilla (Dawson) White. Had issue.*
- 5-7. Elizabeth Dawson, m. Elliot Roberts. Had issue.*
- 5-8. Mary (Polly) Ann Dawson, m. Guthrie Thurman (or Thurmond). Had issue.*
- 5-9. Sally Dawson, m. Thomas B. Johnson. (different spelling).
- 5-10. Pleasant L. Dawson, married his cousin, Mahala White (5-16), the daughter of Rev. Hugh White and Nancy (Dawson) White (4-37). Had issue.*
- 5-11. Benjamin Dawson, m. Dorothy Walker Childress.
- 5-12. Nancy Dawson, m. Matthew H. Roberts. Had issue.*
- (4-32). PLEASANT S. DAWSON, according to Dixie Hammonds, p. 148 and p. 154, son of John Dawson (3-13) and Sally or Sarah (Carroll) Dawson, m. 7 March 1791 Sally Christian who died before 1836. Pleasant Dawson died 1826 or before 1833. Page 154 quotes his will in Albemarle Co., Va. No issues are named, most going to his widow, Sally, and to his brother, Martin Dawson (4-39). The inventory included 34 slaves, etc. to a total of \$11,489.13.

- (4-33). BENJAMIN DAWSON, ADDITIONS made 7/82. son of John Dawson (3-13) and Sally or Sarah (Carroll) Dawson, according to Dixie Hammonds, p. 148, 153, was a minister, m. 1786 Mary Ann (Martin), daughter of Thomas Martin and Ann Moorman Martin. He died 1837. Moved to Kentucky and settled in Lincoln County. No mention by her of his being in the Revolutionary War. Page 153 lists these eight named issues (checking indicated):

- 5-12A. Benjamin Dawson, Jr., m. Mildred (Coffee). Five issues named.
- 5-12B. George Washington Dawson, m. Ann (Wade).
- 5-12C. Milly Dawson, m. Toby Sweeney.
- 5-12D. Elizabeth Dawson, m. Robert Powell.
- 5-12E. Nancy Dawson, m. James Stevens.
- 5-12F. Sally Dawson, m. Josiah Haynes.
- 5-12G. Polly Dawson, m. Edward Deake.
- 5-12H. "John Dawson?" Hammonds not seem sure about this issue.

- (4-34). SUSANNAH (DAWSON) ADAMS, daughter of John Dawson (3-13) and Sally or Sarah (Carroll) Dawson, according to Mrs. Hammonds, p. 152, m. 13 Aug. 1786 Richard Adams. Ten issues listed from Albemarle Co., Va. records (should be checked):

- 5-12i. James Adams.
- 5-12J. Pleasant Adams.
- 5-12K. William Adams.
- 5-12L. Benjamin Adams.
- 5-12M. Martin Adams.
- 5-12N. Sally Adams.
- 5-12o. Lynch Adams.
- 5-12P. Dawson Adams.
- 5-12Q. Elizabeth Adams.
- 5-12R. Henry D. Adams.

- (4-36). PRISCILLA (DAWSON) WHITE, daughter of John Dawson (3-13) and Sally or Sarah (Carroll) Dawson, died before 1835. She married 8 Jan. 1793 in Amherst Co., Va. Joseph White of Orange Co., Va. According to Sudie Wood, p. 465, they had the following two known children:

- 5-13. Sarah White, m. Nelson Dawson (5-6), son of John Sorrell Dawson (4-31) and Jane (Lyon) Dawson. (Wood called her Sally).
- 5-14. Elizabeth White, m. Christopher Faber.

- (4-37). NANCY (DAWSON) WHITE, daughter of John Dawson (3-13) and Sally or Sarah (Carroll) Dawson, married Rev. Hugh White, who according to Rev. Edgar Woods, p. 178, was "a Baptist minister, who was for a time a lot holder both in Charlottesville and Milton." According to Sudie Wood, p. 465, they had the following two known children:

- 5-15. Eliza White. Not mentioned in Hammonds' book.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. DAILY PROGRESS NEWSPAPER, Charlottesville, Va. Feb. 27, 1954. Article on Martin Dawson (4-39).
2. DAR Patriot Index, p. 181 (none name a John Dawson who m. Jane (Lyon)).
3. DAWSON, Charles Carroll, p. 316. About Martin Dawson (2-1).
4. Sweeny, William Montgomery, MARRIAGE BONDS AND OTHER MARRIAGE RECORDS OF AMHERST COUNTY, VIRGINIA 1763-1800, Genealogical Pub. Co., Baltimore, 1973, p. 5. 24, 30, 81.
5. Wood, Sudie Rucker, RUCKER FAMILY GENEALOGY, Old Dominion Press, Richmond, Va. 1932, p. 461, 463-465.
6. Woods, Rev. Edgar, ALBEMARLE COUNTY IN VIRGINIA, 1901, p. 177-179
7. Hedian, Mary Roy (Dawson), (9-2), RESEARCH PAPER on her Dawson kin.
8. Correspondence with many John Dawson descendants but mainly with: Hedian, Mary Roy (Dawson) (9-2).
Smith, Jane Frances (9-1).
Wallace, Nancy Ford (Finch) (8-32).
9. DAR papers of:
Barnes, Mary Ford (Finch) No. 425994 (8-37).
Orr, Lavalette Ford (Ranson) No. 147399 (8-31).
Smith, Mary Louise (Barnes) No. 477857 (9-35).
Wallace, Nancy Finch No. 521695 (9-31).
10. SAR papers of:
Roberts, Joseph Pleasant No. 26684 (7-20).
11. HAMMONDS, Dixie, SOUTHERN RELATIVES, Vol. I, March 1961, various pages. (Additions made 7/82.)
12. Gwathmey, John, HISTORICAL REGISTER OF VIRGINIANS IN THE REVOLUTION, Genealogical Pub. Co., 1979, p. 214 (Dawson, John, Captain). He also lists p. 214 "Dawson, John, Sgt. 8 CL, Va." (Could he be the one mentioned by (7-20) p. 242 and 243 and claimed as a Captain??)

5-16. Mahala White, m. Pleasant L. Dawson (5-10), son of John Sorrell Dawson (4-31) and Jane (Lyon) Dawson. Page 152 Hammonds' book gives her dates (1804-1901) and lists four issues. . See (5-10).

(4-38) ELIZABETH (DAWSON) FORD, daughter of John Dawson (3-13) and Sally or Sarah (Carroll) Dawson, according to DAR papers, was born 7 Oct. 1779 in Amherst Co., Va. and died 13 Jan. 1860 in Charlotte Co., Va. She married in Amherst Co., Va. 4 Dec. 1798 Abner Ford of Charlottesville, Va. He was born ca. 1770 in Charlotte Co., Va. and died 18 May 1818 in that same county. Nancy (Finch) Wallace wrote that Abner Ford's father did P.S. during the Revolutionary War providing provisions for the Army. She is also the source for most of the information and the names, order of birth unknown, of the following ten children:

- 5-17. John Dawson Ford, b. 1799, d. 1877, m. 1st Mary Watkins (Brooks), m. 2nd Catherine (Wilson). Had issue.*
- 5-18. Elizabeth Ford, b. 10 March 1801, d. 1838, m. John Harvey who was a justice of the peace and magistrate of Charlotte Court House, Va. where they resided. She is buried in the old Ford Cemetery near the Salem Baptist Church in Madisonville, Va. She was the first daughter.
- 5-19. Sarah Ford, 2nd daughter, m. Henry Thornton of Charlotte Co., Va.
- 5-20. Culvin Ford, married, lived and died in Lynchburg, Va. leaving a large family.
- 5-21. Peyton Ford, b. 11 Dec. 1808, d. 8 May 1841, married, had several children.
- 5-22. Patrick Henry Ford. He and wife went to Mississippi to live.
- 5-23. Mary Ford, married a cousin, Thomas G. Ford, and they went west.
- 5-24. Elvina Ford, m. Henry G. Roberts of Charlotte Co., Va.
- 5-25. Prudence Ford, m. Burwell Collins of Charlotte Co., Va. They went to Tennessee or Mississippi to live.
- 5-26. Sophia Ford, m. William Collins. In 1838 living in Lexington, Tenn.

(4-39). MARTIN DAWSON, son of John Dawson (3-13) and Sally or Sarah (Carroll) Dawson, was born 1772 in Nelson Co., Va. and died 1835 in Albemarle Co., Va. He never married. Much has been written about him. Edgar Woods, page 177, named him the well-known merchant of Milton. Sudie Wood, p. 465, wrote: "He provided for the freedom of about sixty of his slaves, and for their removal to Liberia. He bequeathed about \$40,000 to the University of Virginia and 500 acres of land." The Feb. 27, 1954 issue of the Charlottesville, Va. newspaper, THE DAILY PROGRESS, has an article titled: Unmarked Grave Last Resting Place of School Benefactor. Not only does this article explain Martin Dawson's complicated will about the money and the land he left to the University of Virginia, it also explains how his plan turned out. This article begins thusly: "An unmarked grave in an unmarked cemetery in a cultivated field in Nelson County is the last resting place of a man. . .the man was Martin Dawson. . .Dawson was the youngest of John and Sarah Carroll Dawson's nine children. John and his wife resided for the first years of their marriage on a farm on Carrol Creek, a half-mile east of the present Shadwell Station. In 1760, they moved to a new home near Faber, in Nelson near the Albemarle line. Martin was born on this place, 'Rock Spring' in 1772. When Martin came of age, he left home and came to Milton, which then was the chief