

SAMUEL and MARY SIMONTON THORNTON

Samuel Thornton married Mary Simonton, daughter of Theophilus and Mary Smith Simonton, in Penn., but no marriage record exists. They were married when they arrived in NC sometime between 1750 & 1754. Their children and spouses were as follows: Theophilus m. Sarah Miller-marriage bond 10 Nov. 1786 Rowan CO., NC-and they both died in Washington CO. IN in 1821 & 1828; James m. Jennet Montgomery in SC-he died in Highland CO., OH in 1814 and her death is unknown but it was after 1839; Robert m. Mary unk., but they too were in Highland CO., OH from 1813 until moving on probably to Madison CO., OH in Aug. of 1815; Margaret m. Matthew Reed; Magdolene m. John Strain who died in 1798 in Abbeville-they had a son Harvey named in honor of John's brother; Levi m. Sarah Thornton b. in Iredell CO., NC 1787 (some believe her name maiden name was Johnson) and he died in Edgar CO., Ill.; Polly (Mary) m. John Shields 1814 (His first wife also Mary) in Highland CO., OH.

Samuel and Mary Thornton removed to Abbeville, SC after 1786 when he transferred the last of his Granville Land Grant to his son Theophilus who remained in Iredell CO. until he moved north to Washington CO., IN sometime between 1816 and his death in IN. in 1821. Samuel wrote his will in Abbeville, SC 1796 and it was probated in 1797. We do not know when Mary died, but believe it was before 1804 when the Thorntons and several families from the Upper Long Cane Presbyterian Church, with their pastor, Rev. Robert G. Wilson, moved into Washington Presbytery in Kentucky. It is interesting to note that several of the surnames in Iredell CO. NC are found in Abbeville along with the Thorntons. About a year later these Presbyterians crossed over the Ohio River going first to Chillicothe and then to the confluence of the Paint and Snake Creeks in Highland CO., OH. Wilson remained in Chillicothe, OH and subsequently became the third President of Ohio State University. They left the south because of their opposition to slavery.

Sources are deeds in Rowan and Iredell CO. NC. Wills in Rowan CO. NC and Abbeville, SC. History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina by Dr. George Howe, D.D. Rocky Springs Presbyterian Session Book of Highland CO. OH which is found at the Ohio State Library. Highland CO. OH Common Pleas Court Records found at the Ohio State Library. Tax lists of Highland CO. OH.

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