

MATTHEW GASTON  
By Mrs. Louise Kelly Crowder

The subject of this study is MATTHEW GASTON Sr., who died in Greene County, Georgia, and who wed, in Rowan County, N. C., ANN SIMONTON, daughter of ROBERT and MARGARET ( ) SIMONTON.

From the book BROTHERHOOD OF MAN by LEWIN DWINDELL MCPHERSON, page 21: "Brothers JOSEPH, ROBERT and MATTHEW GASTON, said to be a great-grandsons of the first Irish WILLIAM, emigrated to South Carolina with their sister, JANE (GASTON) WALKER, leaving a fourth brother, ALEXANDER, in Ireland, born about 1750, died about 1840."

"MATTHEW GASTON Sr. of Green County, Georgia, seems to be most clearly accounted for in the above group of brothers and sister, JANE (GASTON) WALKER, immigrants. Said MATTHEW married, probably in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania or Rowan County, North Carolina, before August 12, 1768, ANN SIMONTON, daughter of ROBERT and MARGARET ( ? ) SIMONTON and grand daughter of THEOPHILUS I. and ANN ( ? ) SIMONTON. No other American location for any of these has been found after very diligent search."

"There seems to be no doubt that MATTHEW GASTON Sr., dec'd, of Greene County, Georgia, had previously lived in Rowan (later Iredell) County, North Carolina. MATTHEW GASTON (MATTHEW) was grant 294 acres on Richland Creek in Greene County, Georgia, in 1789. Under date of December 9, 1799, in Greene County, Georgia, there is administration proceedings, including inventory of the property and public sale thereof, by ROBERT GASTON, administrator of the estate of MATTHEW GASTON, Sr., dec'd..... Among the purchasers were ALEXANDER, ELEXOR, JOHN, REBECCA, MARGARET and ROBERT GASTON. THOMAS GASTON is shown of record as among those who hired the slaves of MATTHEW GASTON'S estate. This, with other evidence, indicates all the children of the said MATTHEW and ANN (SIMONTON) GASTON were adults on the date of sale, December 9, 1799, or during the closing of the administration of the estate, not much later."

On the same page MCPHERSON lists the children of MATTHEW GASTON and his wife ANN SIMONTON: ROBERT GASTON, JANE (born 177-, died after 1855), ALEXANDER, THOMAS, JOHN, MARGARET, MATTHEW Jr., and ANN.

In identifying MATTHEW GASTON, Sr. and placing him in his family group, Mr. MCPHERSON is probably right. However, he overlooked the Council Journal Records of the Province of South Carolina, which were published by Miss Janie Revill in 1939, the same year his book was compiled. In this publication, "A COMPI- LIATION OF THE ORIGINAL LISTS OF PROTESTANT IMMIGRANTS TO SOUTH CAROLINA" we find: page 87: Council Journal 33, page 312-325: List of passengers on the EARL OF DONEGAL Duncan Ferguson, Master, petitions praying for the said bounty from the under- mentioned persons, etc.. page 89: MATTHEW GASTON.... age 19: On page 92 of the same book, MATTHEW GASTON is listed as among those who received warrants of survey "on the bounty" his land grant being 100 acres.

The plat for this grant of 100 acres land to MATTHEW GASTON dated 12 August, 1768, is recorded in Vol. 16, page 33, of the Colonia Plats of South Carolina at the South Carolina State .

Archives in Columbia, South Carolina. See attached photostat of same. Note that the land is described as being located in Craven County on Rocky Creek, adjoining the lands of EDWARD HENDERSON and DAVID HUNTER.

Note that McPHERSON puts the marriage date of MATTHEW GASTON and ANN SIMONTON as being before August 12, 1768. The above MATTHEW GASTON, age 19, arrived in Charleston before 22 December 1767.

The land granted to MATTHEW GASTON "on the bounty," was located in that part of Craven County which was later (1785) out for Chester County, South Carolina when the counties of South Carolina were formed in that year. Whether MATTHEW GASTON ever lived on this land is not known and cannot be ascertained from the information now available. It may be that he and his wife ANN (SIMONTON) did, for a short period, reside here. The land was located in the same general vicinity as that of his kinsman. "Justice" JOHN GASTON, a King's Justice and a District Surveyor. It will be seen on the photostat of the plat that JOHN GASTON D.S. surveyed the land, signing the plat on 8 June 1768.

MATTHEW GASTON, and dower by wife ANN, of ROWAN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, sold the 100a land in Chester County on 10 January 1775. See photostat attached which was taken from Old Deed Book E, pages 86 to 88. The description of the land tallies exactly with that in the grant made to the MATTHEW GASTON who came over to this country on the Earl of Donegal at the age of 19 in the year 1767.

Therefore it can be safely asserted that MATTHEW GASTON, Sr. who died ca. 1799 in GREENE COUNTY, GEORGIA, having removed there from ROWAN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, and who was the husband of ANN SIMONTON, daughter of ROBERT SIMONTON and MARGARET his wife, is the same MATTHEW GASTON who came to the Province of South Carolina in 1767 on the Earl of Donegal, settling, or planning to settle, near his kinsman JUSTICE JOHN GASTON who was originally from Ireland via Pennsylvania.

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HERE AND THERE

By Jean H. Nichols

The following is a letter received from one of our members, Judge James P. Coleman, Fifth Judicial Circuit, U. S. Court of Appeals, Ackerman, Mississippi. We felt it would be of interest to so many of our members descended from these same families and we appreciate Judge Coleman taking the time to share this information with all of us.

"I am certainly indebted to you for publishing the list of graves in the Hopewell Baptist Churchyard, near Bascomville -- your December, 1980 issue.

The data thus made available ties directly in with many Chester Countians who migrated around 1835 to that part of Winston County, Mississippi, which is now a part of Choctaw County, of which Ackerman is the county seat.

Many of these individuals are buried in the Old Concord Baptist Church cemetery about six miles southwest of Ackerman.

For example:

1. In Hopewell are the graves of one Martha Ann Howard, wife of John J. J. Howard, along with two of her children, Martha Potts