John Ferris

SAR #189969

CASSAR; Orange County

**Robert Stockton**

Robert Stockton was born of Presbyterian parents, in Albemarle County, Va., Dec. 12, 1743. He received a moderate English education, and was brought up to the trade of a hatter, by which he acquired a good estate.

Very early in life, his mind became impressed upon the subject of religion, and he united with the Presbyterian Church. When he was of sufficient age, he entered the army as a Captain in the service of the King of England. While performing duty in this capacity, he became much troubled about the salvation of his soul. He united with a Baptist church in 1771 in Henry County. Immediately after his baptism, he rejoined his company, called them into line, and spoke to them to the following purport: "Gentlemen, I have found another King, and have enlisted in His service.

Few men in Virginia were ever more active and zealous in preaching the gospel, or more successful in winning souls to Christ, than Robert Stockton. He was among the most active ministers in building up the churches of Strawberry Association. He was pastor of two churches -- Snow Creek in Franklin County and Leatherwood in Henry County.

During the Revolutionary War, and just before the battle of Brandywine, Mr. Stockton, like David, visited the army to see how his brethren did, and to administer to their wants. During the battle, he fell into the hands of the British, and was kept a prisoner two years. When he was permitted to return home, he found that his faithful wife had not only supported her family, but had paid off all his debts.

The maiden name of this excellent woman was Katherine Blakey. On the refusal of her parents to consent to her marrying young Stockton, the youthful lovers eloped to North Carolina, and were married, when she was only fourteen years of age.

On return from his long imprisonment, Mr. Stockton continued to labor in the same field, with his wonted zeal and success, till near the close of the Century, when he began to think of moving to a new country. Mr. Stockton settled in what is now Metcalf County, Kentucky. He united with Dripping Spring Church, which had been constituted the year before. Mr. Stockton was called to the care of Dripping Spring church, which was prosperous under his charge as long as he was able to preach. He was also Moderator of Green River Association, till he became too old and feeble to fill the position. His arrival in Kentucky, just at the commencement of the great revival, was very propitious. In this great work, he bore an active part. Many valuable young preachers were raised up, and the churches became numerous and strong. A few years more of faithful labor, and the aged servant’s work was done. He died in great peace, the 21st of September, 1825.

Taken from A History of Kentucky Baptists by J. H. Spencer pg 379-382.