

Simeon, Likely Son of Silas⁴ Watson

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The research presented in this article is the work of Richard Watson of Pittsburgh, PA. Rich is a lineal male descendant of Simeon Watson and his wife Olive Stratton, through son Jonathan Stratton Watson (1803-1878) and Jonathan’s second wife, Louisa Sheffield (1814-1887).

This article is part of a larger family history, **The WATSON Family of West Greenwich, Rhode Island**, which can be found via [this link](#).

A branch of the Watson family of Rhode Island settled in West Greenwich and lived there for nearly one hundred years. The patriarch of this branch was Samuel, designated #7 in *The American Family of John Watson of the Narragansett Country, Rhode Island*. Samuel was the grandson of John Watson, and the son of Samuel² and 1st wife Mercy (Helme) Watson. His line of descent as a 3rd-generation Watson is rendered Samuel³ (Samuel², John¹).

Simeon Watson (1779 – 1858)

As we described in [Silas⁴ Watson’s own story](#), it is highly likely that Simeon Watson (1779 – 1858) was the son of Silas⁴ Watson:

In 2021, two Watson men with well-documented lines of descent from Samuel³ Watson (the patriarch) – one via son Robert⁴, the other via son Samuel⁴ Jr. – were found to be Y-DNA matches for Rich Watson of Pittsburgh, PA. Rich’s direct male line “brick wall” ancestor was Simeon Watson. Further analysis (a 700-marker test known as the *Big Y* at [FamilyTreeDNA](https://www.familytreedna.com)) confirmed the match, indicating that Rich Watson also descended from Samuel³ Watson.

Rich Watson’s identification as a lineal male descendant of Samuel³ Watson means that he can trace back to Samuel³’s grandfather, John¹ Watson, who is named as progenitor in the Watson genealogy *The American Family of John Watson of the Narragansett Country, Rhode Island*. And it means that Simeon Watson’s own line of descent is rendered thus:

Simeon⁵ WATSON (Silas⁴, Samuel³, Samuel², John¹).

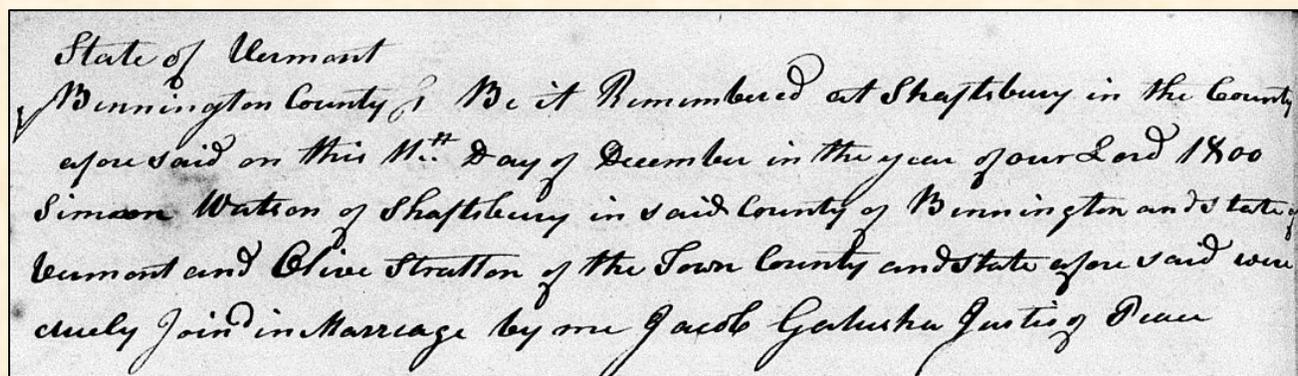
No birth record for Simeon Watson has been found. This is unsurprising, given that there are no records available for any of Silas and Sarah (Bowdich) Watson’s offspring. In the 1850 census, Simeon indicated that he was born in Vermont. In the 1900 census, Simeon’s daughter Sarah gave her father’s place of birth as Vermont.

Records found at the Cattaraugus County Museum and Research Library in Machias, Cattaraugus county, NY, say that Simeon Watson died in Machias on April 29, 1858 at the age of 78 years, 11 months, and 4 days. This translates to a birth date of May 25, 1779.

Documents from the Revolutionary War era and at least one land evidence record place Silas⁴ Watson in Pownal, Vermont, in 1779, the year Simeon Watson was born. Thus we assert the reasonable probability that Simeon was born in the town of Pownal on May 25, 1779.

Simeon⁵ Watson in Shaftsbury, Vermont

Simeon is first of record in Shaftsbury, Bennington county, VT: Simeon was “of Shaftsbury” when he married Olive Stratton of that town on December 11, 1800. Olive, born about 1783, was the daughter of Jonathan Stratton and Eunice Cutler of Shaftsbury.



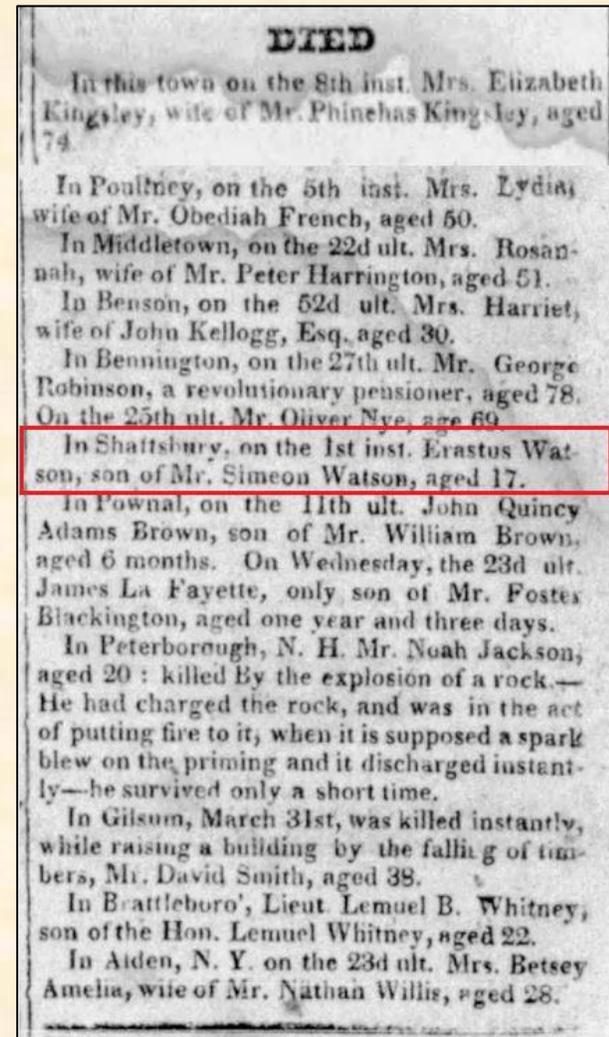
State of Vermont
Bennington County. We it Remembered at Shaftsbury in the County
afore said on this 11th Day of December in the year of our Lord 1800
Simeon Watson of Shaftsbury in said County of Bennington and State of
Vermont and Olive Stratton of the Town County and State afore said were
lawfully join^d in Marriage by one Jacob Goshen Justice of Peace

Simeon Watson appears as head of household in Shaftsbury in the 1810, 1820, and 1830 federal censuses.

The 1810 census lists Simeon Watson immediately before his father-in-law, Jonathan Stratton; they were neighbors. Simeon's household in 1810 numbered seven people: He and Olive had three sons and two daughters, all under age 10.

By 1820, Simeon's household had expanded to a total of eleven people. Now there were seven sons and two daughters, plus Simeon and Olive. The constellation of daughters in 1820, which includes one under age 10, probably reflects an older daughter or two living elsewhere by that time. This census noted that four members of Simeon's household were engaged in agriculture.

The 1830 census recorded Simeon's and Olive's family as composed of five sons and two daughters still living under their roof. Two of those children, a boy and a girl, were between 5 and 9 years of age. The loss of son Erastus in 1825 is reflected in the smaller number of sons recorded in this census year.



Children of Simeon⁵ and Olive (Stratton) Watson

In 1865, when Olive Watson was asked the question *Of how many children the parent?* for that year's NY state census, her response was "twelve." The names of six of Simeon and Olive (Stratton) Watson's children have been identified:

1. DAUGHTER (unidentified #1), born circa 1801
2. SIMEON H.⁶ was born circa 1802 in Bennington county, VT. He died before Oct. 6, 1849, in Machias, Cattaraugus county, NY, where he was a Justice of the Peace.

Simeon H. Watson married, first, Dolly Peters, on January 22, 1832, in Darien, Genesee county, NY. In December 1835, in Shaftsbury, VT, Simeon H. Watson divorced Dolly on grounds of desertion.

Simeon H. Watson married, second, Ann R. Bachus (1815-1867) on September 18, 1839, in Bennington county, VT.

Simeon H. and Ann (Bachus) Watson had three children:

1. Edgar H.⁷ Watson (1838-1873), who married Nellie Sweet (1847-?)

2. Mary A. Watson (1840-1929), who married Alphonso Monroe Wood.
3. Hilan S. Watson (1846-1909), who never married.

More about children Mary A. and Hilan S. Watson can be found in the [Appendix](#).

3. SARAH, born November 28, 1802 in Bennington county, VT; died October 23, 1905, in Silver Springs, Wyoming county, NY. On November 21, 1830, in Darien, Genesee county, NY, Sarah Watson married Jasper Andrews (1806-1893) of Groton, NY.

Jasper and Sarah (Watson) Andrews had seven children, four of whom survived to adulthood:

1. Jane A.⁷ Andrews (1831-1913), who married Andrew Kimball Walker
2. Horatio Erastus Andrews (1834-1913), who married Martha Landfair
3. Lovina Andrews (1835-?)
4. Benjamin Franklin Andrews (1843-1864)

Jasper's and Sarah's two sons served in the Civil War. Only one came home:

Horatio E. Andrews and Benjamin F. Andrews enlisted in the Union Army in August 1862, both of them serving in Company D, 154th NY Infantry.

On May 2, 1863, Company D was engaged in the battle of Chancellorsville, VA. Horatio was wounded and taken to a hospital in Washington, DC.

On July 1, 1863, the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg, Benjamin was captured at the bottom of Culp's Hill by troops of General Early. He was taken to Libby Prison in Richmond, VA.

Horatio was released from the hospital on December 24, 1863; he was formally mustered out on December 27, 1863.

On January 27, 1864, Benjamin died in Libby Prison of typhoid fever, as attested to by Dr. John Wilkins, Surg., C.S.A. Benjamin was laid to rest in Richmond National Cemetery in Richmond, Henrico county, VA (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/10354661/benjamin-f-andrews>).

The name and dates for son "B. F. Andrews" appear on a headstone beneath his parents' names in Oramel Cemetery, Oramel, Allegany co., NY. However, only Jasper Andrews is buried beneath that stone. When Sarah (Watson) Andrews died at age 102 on October 23, 1905, she was buried in Elmwood Cemetery, Silver Springs, NY (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/60814137/sarah-andrews>).

4. JONATHAN STRATTON, born November 11, 1803, in Bennington county, VT; died September 11, 1878, in Machias, Cattaraugus county, NY. He is buried in Brewer Cemetery in Machias, NY (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/25777617/jonathan-s-watson>).

Around 1825, Jonathan S. Watson married his first wife, Eunice Stratton (1803-1845). Jonathan S. and Eunice (Stratton) Watson had seven children:

1. Norman A.⁷ Watson (1829-1910), who married Helen Altana Hitchcock (1835-1899)
2. Edwin P. Watson (1832-1917), who married Lucy Carolina (—) (1836-?)
3. Helen M. Watson (1833-?)
4. Hiram Watson (1834-1847)
5. Caroline Watson (1835-?), who appears in the 1850 census as “Cornelia”
6. Nancy Flotilla Watson (1841-1923), who married William Pond
7. Hilan T. Watson (1844-1846)

In March 1846, Jonathan S. Watson married his second wife, Louisa Sheffield (1814-1887). Louisa, born April 9, 1814, in Mendon, Worcester county, MA, was the daughter of George Sheffield and his wife Mary Polly Southland.

Jonathan S. and Louisa (Sheffield) Watson had four children:

8. Milton H.⁷ Watson (1847-1931), who married Sarah Marie Potter (1850-1928)
9. Lucia Ambra Watson (1848-1921), who married Lorentus Salisbury Corthell (1829-1898)
10. LaRay Watson (1850-1920), who married Clarissa (Clara) M. Ashcraft (1851-1926)
11. Ladran DeVer Watson (1853-1937), who married Sarah Jane Barton (1858-1946)

5. ERASTUS, born circa 1808, died in Shaftsbury, VT, on April 1, 1825, at 17 years of age. His death notice appeared in the April 12, 1825, issue of the Rutland, Vermont, newspaper *The Rutland County Herald*.

6. SON (unidentified #1), born possibly in 1813 (*per census records, born 1810-1815*)

7. LYMAN G., born May 3, 1814 in Bennington county, VT; died February 8, 1889, in Melrose, Grundy county, Iowa. He is buried in Melrose Cemetery in Grundy county, IA (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/79455170/lyman-g-watson>).

In September 1834, Lyman G. Watson married Clarinda Sumner (1812-1897). Clarinda, born August 5, 1812, in Darien, Genesee county, NY, was the daughter of Jotham Sumner and his wife Susanna Holbrook.

Lyman G. and Clarinda (Sumner) Watson had eight children:

1. Merritt S.⁷ Watson (1838-1900), who married Jane Crossan (1840-1921)
2. Robert Emmett Watson (1841-1910), who married Mary Virginia Long (1850-1927)
3. Van Ness Watson (1843-?)

4. Josephine Watson (1845-1924), who married Otis Hall (1825-1897)
5. DeLoss L. Watson (1849-1923), who married Lois Hall (1856-1934)
6. Rosella Watson (1852-1919), who married Richard J. Thomas (1845-1915)
7. Elvira Henrietta Watson (1853-1947), who married Robert James Ware (1842-1914)
8. Harriet Watson (1855-?)

8. JANE, born 1816-1820 in Vermont; died circa 1839 in New York.

Jane married Andrew Grover, born in Germany. They had at least one child, a daughter named Idelia Jane, born October 3, 1837 in Machias, Cattaraugus co., NY. Jane (Watson) Grover died when Idelia Jane was two years old. Simeon and Olive Watson raised Idelia; she appears with them in the 1850 census and is probably the female under age 5 enumerated with Simeon and Olive in 1840.

Idelia Jane Grover was married twice: First, to Edward Jabez Hancock (1835-1881), with whom she had children; second, to Daniel Cooper (~1833-1915). Idelia died at age 90 on January 22, 1928, in Glidden, Carroll co., IA. A transcribed obituary is posted at her Find A Grave memorial, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/64757126/idelia-jane-cooper>.

9. SON (unidentified #2), born possibly in 1817 (*per census records, born 1815-1820*)
10. SON (unidentified #3), born possibly in 1818 (*per census records, born 1815-1820*)
11. DAUGHTER (unidentified #2), born possibly in 1823 (*per census records, born 1821-1825*)
12. SON (unidentified #4), born possibly in 1824 (*per census records, born 1821-1825*)

The Question of Eunice – One Woman or Two?

Brewer Cemetery Records of 1930 – from Brewer Cemetery in Machias, Cattaraugus co., NY – include information on the burial of Eunice Watson, who died on May 8, 1845 at age 42. Eunice was the first wife of Jonathan S. Watson.

The Find A Grave website has a memorial page for [Eunice Watson](#), created by a member volunteer. This memorial tells us that Eunice Watson is buried in Brewer Cemetery in Machias, Cattaraugus co., NY; that Eunice was born in 1803 and died in 1875 at age 72. There is no photo of any gravestone Eunice might have had.

Since it's known that Simeon and Olive (Stratton) Watson moved to the Machias, NY, area, the second Eunice Watson might have been their unmarried daughter. Given that Olive's mother and one of Olive's sisters were named Eunice, it follows that Simeon and Olive might have bestowed the same name on one of their daughters.

The problem with this reasonable assumption is that the Find A Grave memorial is the only mention anyone has found for the second Eunice Watson. Though she lived presumably until 1875, this Eunice doesn't appear in the 1850, 1860, or 1870 federal censuses, nor in NY state censuses for 1855 and 1865.

Here are two women, both named Eunice Watson, both born in 1803. Both of them died in *eighteen-something-five* – 1845; 1875. Both died at an age that ends in the number 2 – 42 yrs.; 72 yrs. In each case, the number 4 can be swapped out for the number 7.

This suggests the possibility that Eunice Watson's Find A Grave memorial might be a mis-transcribed entry for Eunice (Stratton) Watson, first wife of Jonathan S. Watson. If there was no headstone to consult, likely the Find A Grave volunteer was working from other, possibly handwritten, records on which the number 4 looked like a 7.

When and if this mystery is solved, this section likely will disappear in favor of either burial information about Eunice (Stratton) Watson or the addition of another named daughter of Simeon and Olive Watson.

The Emancipation of Son Lyman

Page 3 of the *Vermont Gazette* for Tuesday, July 15, 1834, included this legal debt notice:

TAKE NOTICE

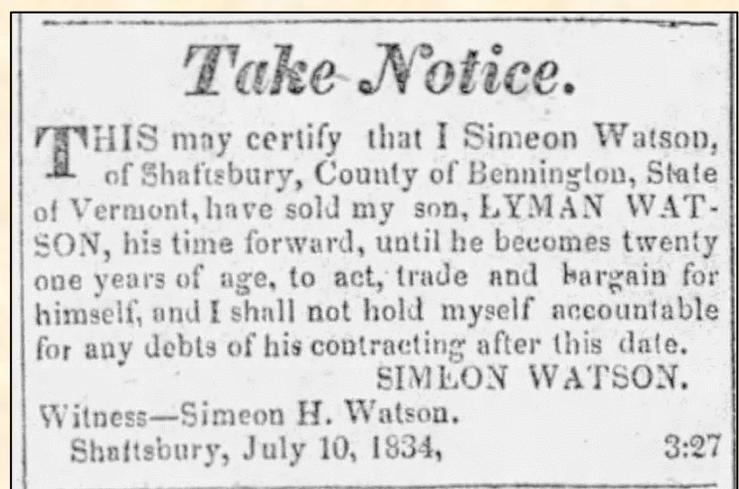
THIS may certify that I Simeon Watson, of Shaftsbury, County of Bennington, State of Vermont, have sold my son, LYMAN WATSON, his time forward, until he becomes twenty one years of age, to act, trade and bargain for himself, and I shall not hold myself accountable for any debts of his contracting after this date.

SIMEON WATSON.

Witness — Simeon H. Watson.
Shaftsbury, July 10, 1834

Despite the use of the word “sold” in this notice, it was just Simeon Watson's announcement to the world that he was emancipating his minor son Lyman G. Watson, who was then just a couple of months past his twentieth birthday.

This isn't necessarily evidence of family conflict. Based on knowledge of when Lyman got married – September 1834 – this action by Simeon likely anticipated that event. This idea is supported by the fact that Simeon sold him two tracts of land in Shaftsbury, 35 and 25 acres, on August 12, 1834, a month after setting him off on his own.



Perhaps Lyman was unwilling to wait for his 21st birthday before marrying Clarinda Sumner, prompting Simeon to act to protect himself financially from possible debts accruing to Lyman's new family. Better that the young man become fully independent and free to "act, trade, and bargain for himself."

Migrating to New York

In a 1904 [article](#) in the Rochester, NY, newspaper *Democrat and Chronicle* about daughter Sarah (Watson) Andrews, it says:

"Leaving Vermont in 1827, she came to Darien, Genesee County, N. Y., to live with a sister and an aunt. The journey was made in part over the Erie canal, and Mrs. Andrews remembered the excitement of the trip and liked to tell of its incidents of seventy-seven years ago, when Western New York was dotted with the wigwams of the Six Nations."

It's likely that the aunt was Olive's sister Philanda (Stratton) Gunn, who married Aaron D. Gunn. Aaron and Philanda moved to Genesee co., NY, from Bennington co., VT, around 1817.

Son Jonathan may have been the next in this family to move to New York. On September 13, 1829, he sold land in Shaftsbury, Bennington co., VT, to his father. Three months later, Jonathan and wife Eunice had their first child, son Norman A. Watson, on December 10, 1829, in Pembroke, Genesee co., NY, about ten miles northwest of Darien.

In 1830, eldest son Simeon H. Watson was living with his brother Jonathan and sister-in-law Eunice in Pembroke, NY. On January 22, 1832, in Darien, Genesee co., NY, Simeon H. married his first wife, Dolly Peters. Unfortunately, Dolly deserted him less than six months into their marriage. An item from the *Vermont Gazette* of Bennington indicates that Simeon H. was again "of Shaftsbury" when he filed for divorce from Dolly in December 1835.

Congregating in Machias

Over time, members of this Watson family relocated from where they lived in Shaftsbury, VT, and Genesee county, NY, to reside relatively near each other in Machias, Cattaraugus co., NY, about forty miles south of Darien, NY.

Son Jonathan arrived in Machias about 1832. Daughter Sarah (Watson) Andrews, who had married in Genesee county in 1830, moved to Machias in 1833 with her family. Daughter Jane (Watson) Grover gave birth to her daughter Idelia Jane in Machias in October 1837.

Eldest son Simeon H., who remarried in Vermont, was enumerated in Bennington in 1840. Since he was listed, in 1846, as a Justice of the Peace in Machias, NY, he and his family arrived sometime in the five years prior.

Simeon and son Lyman likely left Shaftsbury in 1835 after selling property that they held jointly. (Both of their names appear on the relevant deeds. This father-son property ownership might explain why Simeon chose to separate his financial liability from that of Lyman in the summer of 1834.) The final sale, one of several in 1835, occurred on September 19, 1835. By October 16, 1835, Simeon and Lyman had paid off a \$75 mortgage dating to Sept. 3, 1834.

The 1840 census shows Simeon and Olive Watson residing in Freedom, Cattaraugus co., NY. Living with them was one female between 15 and 19 years of age, and one female under the age of five. The little girl very likely was granddaughter Idelia Jane Grover, whose mother Jane had died about a year earlier.

Intriguingly, the name listed just before Simeon's in the 1840 census is another Watson. The given name *looks like* it could be "John A." (the handwriting is difficult to decipher). That household has the profile of a young family: One male aged 20-30, with one female of the same age group; one boy and two girls under age 5. If this "John A. Watson" was a child of Simeon and Olive, he could be any one of their unidentified sons # 1, 2, or 3, as listed above in "Children of Simeon⁵ and Olive (Stratton) Watson."

Lyman Watson was living in Machias in 1840, enumerated just before his brother Jonathan. Simeon and Olive joined them in Machias sometime prior to the taking of the 1850 census.

The answers that Simeon and Lyman gave to an item in the 1855 NY state census seem to indicate that they arrived in Cattaraugus county, NY, at different times. This item involved "Years resident in this city or town" – which, for them, meant the town of Machias. Simeon's answer was *19 years*, while Lyman's response was *18 years*.

If we take these numbers at face value, it means that Simeon and Olive Watson moved to Machias around 1836, a year ahead of Lyman Watson and family. Given that Lyman was enumerated in Machias in 1840 while Simeon wasn't a resident of Machias until *after* 1840, we may attribute this discrepancy to a broad interpretation of the question along with a very human dash of imperfect memory. Simeon and Lyman probably moved to Cattaraugus county, NY, at about the same time.

Simeon⁵ Watson's Final Years

In 1850, Simeon and Olive Watson were enumerated in Machias, NY, immediately after the family of their son Jonathan S. Watson. Living with the elder Watsons was Idelia Grover, the child of their late daughter Jane.

The proximity of these two families extended to the 1855 NY state census. By that time, however, Simeon and Olive were the sole occupants of their household: Granddaughter Idelia had married, circa 1853, and now lived with her husband and baby daughter in Freedom, Cattaraugus co., NY.

Simeon⁵ Watson died at age 78 on April 29, 1858, in Machias. He was buried at Brewer Cemetery in that town. (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/25777620/simeon-watson>)

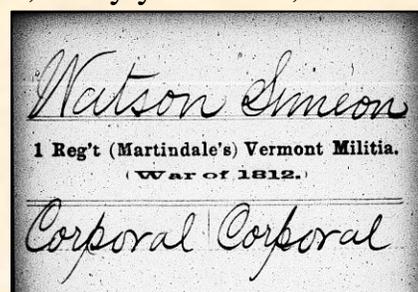
Simeon's wife, Olive, survived him by almost exactly 13 years. Though the 1860 census taker seems to have missed her, Olive Watson appears in Machias in the 1865 NY state census, living in the same proximity to her son Jonathan's household. By 1870 she was living with Jonathan.

A Widow's Pension for Military Service

Simeon⁵ Watson served the United States during the War of 1812, for two-and-a-half months in that year. Simeon was in Capt. Elihu Cross' Company of Col. Martindale's 1st Regiment Detached Militia (Vermont); he served at the rank of Corporal.

Those months of military service by Simeon Watson made it possible, many years later, for his widow Olive to apply for a pension when Congress passed the Service Pension Act of February 14, 1871.

Since Olive married Simeon prior to 1815 – the year in which the peace treaty ending the War of 1812 was ratified – she qualified for a pension based on her husband's service. Olive Watson was granted a widow's pension, Certificate No. 5606, that paid her \$8.00 per month.



We don't know if Olive (Stratton) Watson lived long enough to collect her first pension payment. On April 22, 1871, little more than two months after the Service Pension Act was passed, Olive died in Machias at 93 years of age. She was laid to rest in Brewer Cemetery with Simeon. (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/25777619/olive-watson>)

Summary

Simeon⁵ Watson, likely son of Silas⁴ and Sarah (Bowdich) Watson, was born on May 25, 1779, probably in Pownal, Bennington county, Vermont. He was "of Shaftsbury," Bennington county, VT, for decades. That is where he married Olive Stratton in December 1800, and where they lived and raised their family of twelve children (six of whom have been identified).

Around 1836, Simeon and Olive Watson moved to the town of Freedom, Cattaraugus county, NY. Freedom was near the town of Machias, also in Cattaraugus county, where a number of their children had settled. By 1850, Simeon and Olive were residents of Machias.

Simeon Watson died at age 78 on April 29, 1858, in Machias. He was buried at Brewer Cemetery in that town. Simeon's wife, Olive, survived him by almost exactly 13 years. On April 22, 1871, at age 93, Olive died in Machias. She was laid to rest in Brewer Cemetery with Simeon.

Appendix

Hilan S. Watson's obituary was published in the October 8, 1909, edition of the *Wyoming County (NY) Herald* newspaper. All locations mentioned in this obit are in NY state:

Hilan Watson, an inmate of the County Home at Machias for the past 12 years, died there on Saturday, September 25th, aged 64 years. Mr. Watson had been sorely afflicted with rheumatism for many years and toward the last of his life was practically helpless. He was a son of Simeon Watson an early resident of the town of Machias and a member of a family prominent in the history of the town for the past 75 years. His father died when he was but a child and his mother married again and removed with her family to Attica, residing there some years. The deceased was employed for a number of years by Spencer & Davis, the Arcade liverymen, and afterward resided for some time at Olean, from which city he came to the County Home. He never married but leaves a sister, Mrs. M. Wood of Olean. A brother, Edgar Watson, served as a member of the 71st NY regiment during the Civil War and died at Michigan City, Indiana, a few years later.

Hilan Watson's obituary provides the basics on what happened with his family after his father, Simeon H. Watson, died. But it gives incorrect info for Hilan's brother Edgar, who died in Michigan state, not Michigan City (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/131538032/edgar-watson>).

This obituary also clears up some confusion about Hilan's name. In his father's will, he is mentioned inexplicably as *Alfred S. Watson*. In the final settlement probate document, he is named as Simeon H. Watson. In the 1860 census

<i>Ann P. Parmenter</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>F</i>
<i>Mary A. Weston</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>F</i>
<i>Simeon H. </i>	<i>13</i>	<i>M</i>

in Yorkshire, Cattaraugus co., NY, he was listed as Simeon H. *Weston*, as shown in this excerpt also listing his sister Mary and their twice-widowed mother, Ann Parmenter.

It's probably safe to say that Hilan S. Watson's name at birth was Simeon Hilan Watson. Likely he was called by his middle name to avoid confusion with his father. Hilan simply reordered his given names, a pretty common practice in those times.

When Ann (Bachus) (Watson) Parmenter died in November 1867 at age 52, she was buried in Delevan Cemetery in Delevan, Cattaraugus co., NY. Her headstone doesn't refer to her second husband – she is named simply as “Ann R., wife of Simeon H. Watson” (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/38133900/ann-r-watson>).

Hilan's sister, named in his obit as “Mrs. M. Wood,” has to be Mary A. Watson, who wed someone named Wood.

We looked for people surnamed Wood who are buried in Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Olean, Cattaraugus county, NY, the same cemetery where Hilan Watson was laid to rest (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/88051141/hilan-s-watson>). There we found a good candidate for Hilan's sister: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/161346674/mary-a-wood>. Mary A. Wood's husband was Alphonso Monroe Wood, who commonly went by his middle name (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/161334036/alphonso-monroe-wood>). Mary and Monroe Wood had one child, a daughter named Gladys, who apparently never married. Gladys predeceased her parents (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/209676740/gladys-l.-wood>).

Acknowledgments

We offer our sincere thanks to the two Watson men who each spat in a tube so that their Y-DNA profiles could be determined – and to the woman who expertly analyzed their results, proving that Rich Watson is descended from the same Rhode Island Watson ancestors.

Resources

Rich Watson and his [family tree](#) at Ancestry.com

[Ancestry.com](#), [FamilySearch](#), and [Find A Grave](#) – our favorite sources for records and clues.

Sarah (Watson) Andrews in the 1900 US federal census for Gainesville, Wyoming co., NY; Roll: 1179; Page: 6; Enumeration District: 0123; FHL microfilm: 1241179. Accessed at [Ancestry.com](#). 1900 US Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

The Cattaraugus County Museum and Research Library in Machias, Cattaraugus county, NY: <https://www.cattco.org/museum>

Tombstone Birthday Calculator: <http://www.searchforancestors.com/utility/birthday.html>

Davis, George C., and Jean Adams Bradley. *The American Family of John Watson of the Narragansett Country, Rhode Island*. Kingston, R.I.: Pettaquamscutt Historical Society, 1983.

Vermont, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1732-2005, images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1942-27950-6185-41?cc=1987653&wc=32ZB-J44:324709901,1583517506,1583517509>: accessed 16 April 2022), Shaftsbury, Bennington county, VT – Births, marriages, deaths, 1765-1893, vol. 1; image 8 of 116.

Obituary for Erastus Watson found in *The Rutland County Herald* (Rutland, VT), Tuesday, April 12, 1825, page 3. Accessed at [Newspapers.com](#) on February 28, 2022.

Birth record for Louisa Sheffield, 2nd wife of Jonathan Stratton Watson found at Ancestry.com. *Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA:

STATE OF VERMONT,

Bennington County ss.

To the Honorable Supreme Court next to be holden at Bennington, within and for the County of Bennington, on the 2d Tuesday next after the 4th Tuesday in January next.

Humbly sheweth SIMEON H. WATSON, of Shaftsbury, in the County of Bennington, and State of Vermont, that at Darien in the County of Genessee, and State of New York, on the 22d day of January, A. D. 1832, he was lawfully married to DOLLY PEETERS by James Sutherland then a Justice of the Peace for said county of Genessee, and from that time until the 1st day of August, A. D. 1832, he lived with the said Dolly, in the strict observance of all the duties required by the marriage covenant when the said Dolly without just cause or provocation, willfully deserted your petitioner and has ever since absented herself and neglected and refused to perform the duties enjoined upon her by the marriage covenant. Your petitioner therefore, prays this Honorable Court that the bonds of matrimony between him and the said Dolly may be dissolved and a Bill of Divorce granted him, and as in duty bound will ever pray.

Dated at Shaftsbury, aforesaid this 1st day of December, A. D. 1835.

SIMEON H. WATSON, by
SAMUEL H. BLACKMER, Att'y.

WHEREAS SIMEON H. WATSON, of Shaftsbury, in the County of Bennington, hath preferred his petition to the Honorable Supreme Court next to be holden at Bennington, in and for the County of Bennington, on the second Tuesday after the fourth Tuesday in January next for a Bill of Divorce for the causes stated in said petition.—And it appearing that said Dolly has gone to parts unknown, out of this State, it is ordered that the petitioner cause the substance of said petition to be published in the *Vermont Gazette*, two weeks successively, the last of which publications to be not less than six weeks before the term of said Court and that a compliance with this order shall be deemed sufficient notice to the petitioner to appear and answer to said petition.

Given under my hand at Rutland, this 2d day of December A. D. 1835.

CH. K. WILLIAMS

Chief Justice of Supreme Court.

Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. Original data: Town and City Clerks of Massachusetts. Massachusetts Vital and Town Records. Provo, UT: Holbrook Research Institute (Jay and Delene Holbrook).

“Has Passed The Century Mark,” newspaper article about Sarah (Watson) Andrews: *Democrat and Chronicle* (Rochester, NY), Mon., 28 November 1904, page 4. Accessed at Newspapers.com on March 18, 2022; downloaded on May 1, 2022.

State of Vermont: Roster of soldiers in the War of 1812-14. Prepared and published under the direction of Herbert T. Johnson, Vermont Adjutant General. The Messenger Press, St. Albans, VT: 1933. Entry for Simeon Watson found on page 441. Accessed at FamilySearch on 16 April 2022.

Notice of Simeon H. Watson’s petition for divorce, *Vermont Gazette*, Bennington, VT, Tues., December 22, 1835, page 3. Accessed at Newspapers.com on February 28, 2022. **(Shown at left)**

Simeon Watson’s notice regarding his son Lyman G. Watson, *Vermont Gazette*, Bennington, VT, Tues., July 15, 1834, page 3. Accessed at Newspapers.com on February 28, 2022.

Obituary for Hilan S. Watson, *Wyoming County Herald*, Arcade, Wyoming county, NY, October 8, 1909. This newspaper item was found via the fultonhistory.com website, aka *Old Fulton New York Post Cards*.

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Family History Library film #8202985: Sale of 23 acres in Shaftsbury, Bennington county, VT, from Simeon Watson and Lyman Watson to William Mack of Pittsfield, Berkshire co., MA, on 19 September 1835 (Book 11, pg. 155. Image 398 of 853; Transcription Page 155).

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