

JOHN & MARTHA SEATON
of Elizabethtown, New Jersey

Our earliest record of John Seaton is his admission to the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, on 6 June 1813. On 1 April 1818 he bought land of Ezekiel and Sally Williams located on the road from Elizabeth to Westfield. On 5 April 1823 John Seaton of Rahway Township bought 9 3/4 acres from Robert and Anna Clark. Nine years later in April of 1832 he acquired of George C. Thomas the land which became his homestead. On 25 May 1840 he bought salt marsh land in Elizabeth Great Meadows and on 1 Jan. 1845 he purchased from Sophia Crittenton a woodland lot of 21 acres in Union Township.

Quit claim deeds by Robert Seaton, son of John and Martha, to his mother and by various other children (William H. and wife Amelia and Benjamin C. of Elizabethtown and Sarah M.) to their brother John Jr. indicate that John Seaton (Sr.) had died by 5 November 1847, leaving no will. According to cemetery records, John Seaton was buried in the First Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Elizabeth on 13 May 1847, aged 61, indicating that he was born about 1786. His remains were removed in December of 1855 to the then recently opened Evergreen Cemetery of Hillside, New Jersey. When his widow Martha died on (?4) April 1873, aged 82 years 3 months, she also was buried on Lot 70 in Evergreen. From this we assume that she was born in January 1791. She was admitted to the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth on 11 Sept. 1814; dismissed to the Third Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth on 17 Nov. 1851; received back at First Presbyterian Church on 29 Nov. 1861 and dismissed on 10 Sept. 1866.

We have no information on the background of John Seaton before his appearance in Rahway Township. His wife Martha, according to the census, was born in Ireland. Family records give her maiden name as Murdock and this is the name provided in Oren Seaton's genealogy of his own Seaton family which includes in an appendix John and Martha Seaton as 'unidentified'.

The first child, so far as we know, was Samuel who was probably born in New Jersey ca 1811 and was admitted to the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth on 3 Sept. 1826 along with his younger brother Robert. Samuel's name does not appear with the other children in the settlement of his father's property in 1847 so he had evidently died before 1847. We find that he is the Samuel Seaton who died in a yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans on 12 September 1841, aged 30, born in New Jersey, and is buried in Cypress Garden Cemetery in New Orleans. The cemetery is now gone. It is not known when he went to New Orleans or why. His younger brother Robert arrived in Louisiana around 1843 [according to newspaper obituaries published at the time of his death in 1883] and was living in New Orleans when his father died in 1847. In November of that year, Robert

executed a quit claim deed in Essex County, N.J., granting to his mother Martha Seaton all his share of his father's estate.

The children of John and Martha Seaton have been identified through church, cemetery, census, newspaper notices and land deeds as follows:

1. Samuel b. N.J. ca 1811
 adm. 1st Pres.Ch of Elizabeth 3 Sep 1826
 d. New Orleans, La. 12 Sept. 1841, ae 30.
 bu. Cypress Grove Cemetery at end of Canal
 Street, New Orleans, La.
 [His name appears on marker at Evergreen
 Cemetery as one of children of John & Martha]
2. Robert b. Elizabeth, N.J. 1815
 d. Tampa, Fl. 8 Jan. 1883
 bu. Pass Christian, Miss. Trinity Churchyd
md. 1849 New Orleans, La.
Elizabeth Ann/Eliza Ann Kelly
 b. Charleston, S.C. 1831
 d. [? in Calif.]
 d/o _____ & Ellen C/E _____ Kelly
 (perhaps [?Robert] Kelly & Ellen Castelreagh
 who were in New York state when sons Edward
 Castelreagh, William and Peter were born in
 the 1830s. The youngest child, Charles Hurst
 Kelly, was born in New Orleans in 1845.

Robert Seaton and his wife were separated or divorced, perhaps as early as 1860. He continued to maintain his listing in the New Orleans directory as an architect; Ann Eliza as a 'widow'. The census of 1870 shows Robert with his son Walter living in Pass Christian, Miss; Ann Eliza, her mother and her two daughters were in New Orleans in the Eleventh Ward. No census record has been found for any of them for 1880. Their children were Walter [b. 1850]; Emma [b. ca 1852]; and Gertrude [b. 1854] who married Charles A. Bull.

3. John (Jr) b. N.J. ca 1821
 d. N.J. 18 Aug. 1873, aged 52
 bu. Evergreen Cem. Hillside, N.J.
 adm. First Presby. Ch. of Elizabeth 16 July
 1842; diem. to Third Church on 17 Nov. 1851
 rec'd First Church 29 Nov. 1861; dismissed to
 1st Church 29 Nov. 1861; diem. to Pres. Ch. of
 Craneville [Cranford] 10 Jan. 1866. Funeral
 at Roselle Presbyterian Church.
md. 24 Nov. 1847, Rahway [Rev. Chas. K. Imbue]
Mary H. Campbell, d/o Samuel Campbell of Rahway

- b. Ireland ca 1820
d. 23 Feb. 1864, ae 44
adm. First Presby Ch. of Elizabeth 4 June 1848
- md. (2) Mary A. Benedict
b. N.Y. ca 1825
Children were William, Martha Ann Elizabeth
Leeper, Samuel C, Sarah M, John H., Mary H.,
Franklin P. and possibly others who died young
4. William H. b. N.J. ca 1820 [ae 30 in 1850]
d. N.J. 12 Jan. 1899 [bu 14 Jan]
Res. of Elizabeth, NJ. Butcher in 1850; teamster
in 1860.

md. 30 Jan. 1849 [Rev. Charles K. Imbrie at 'The Wheatsheaf']
Pamela Kelly, d/o William Kelly Esq
b. N.Y. 1817
d. Elizabeth, N.J. 17 Feb. 1895, ae 78
1076 Magnolia St. Bu. Evergreen Cemetery
adm. First Presby. Ch. of Elizabeth 4 Mar. 1850
from First Presby. Ch. of Rahway.
Children were William Kelly, Franklin Pierce, Sarah Emma
who married James T. Lucas

5. Sarah M. b. N.J. ca 1829
bu. 31 Oct. 1855 in Union, ae 27.
6. Benjamin C. b. ca 1828; d. 6 Feb. 1829
7. Benjamin C. b. N.J. ca 1830 [ae 20 in 1850 butcher]
d. 19 Dec. 1862
8. ?John b. ca 1823; d. 6 Feb. 1829, ae 6, Williams
Farms.

Other names at Evergreen Cemetery Lot 70:

- Sarah Elizabeth Seaton (bu. 5 Feb. 1945 #6 Vault)
Elizabeth Dwight Hooker Seaton (bu. 6 Oct. 1955 #6 Vault)
George M. Seaton (bu. 19 Jan. 1963)
*Mary E. McCuller Seaton (d. 27 Apr. 1852, ae 24 y 9 m.)
*John Thomas Seaton (d. 25 Aug. 1849, ae 1 y 11 m)
*John Thomas Seaton (d. 9 Jan. 1852, ae 2 y 2 m 1 d)
*originally bu. 1st Presb. Ch. of Eliz.

Ref: Records of First Presby. Church of Elizabeth; Evergreen
Cemetery at Hillside, N.J.; Essex Co. Deeds (S6-452/4, 547/8)
(R7-110/112); City of Elizabeth V.R.; Internat. Geneal. Index;
Census of 1850, Essex Co, N.J.; 1860 Union Co., N.J.; New
Orleans city directories; Trinity church cemetery, Pass
Christian, Miss; N. J. Advocate; Centinel of Freedom; Research
by W. D. Buchanan; Cliff Ryan; etc.

John and Martha Seaton were the paternal great great grandparents
of Mary Louise Buell Todd