

Bio: Juliana Mathews

Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2018

Juliana Mathews was born on the 6th of November 1765, probably at the home of her parents, Fletcher Mathews and Sarah Woodhull of Mount Pleasant, in Ulster (Orange) county New York. Little is known of her childhood, but her teen and early adult years must have been affected by the turbulent affairs of her loyalist father during the American Revolution.

At the tender age of eighteen, Juliana Mathews was married to John Evertson. Family records suggest that the marriage took place on the 1st of December 1782 in Evertson's hometown of Pleasant Valley in neighboring Dutchess county New York. A few years later, in 1786, John Evertson's sister Margaret was married to John Cotton Smith. A delightful account of this wedding is given in a letter written by Mary "Polly" Evertson, a transcription included on this website. Was the Evertson – Mathews wedding a similar affair?

As a young bride, Juliana Mathews Evertson established a home with her husband about forty miles north, up the Hudson Valley from her parent's home in Orange county. Juliana Mathews and John Everston were the parents of five identified children, born between 1783-1792: Margaret Evertson (married John Nitche); Sarah Evertson (married William Phillips); Jacob Roeters Evertson (married Elizabeth Phillips); Nicholas Evertson (married Clarissa Hasbrouch); and Julia Ann Evertson (married Abram Wilson).

Sadly, John Evertson died at the age of thirty-two, on the 11th of September 1795.

It is of interest to note that in an abstract of the Will of John Everson (Evertson), given in Cowen's 1939 book, Abstracts of the Wills of Dutchess County New York (vol 2), John Evertson's wife, Julia or Juliana is not mentioned:

John Everson, County of Dutchess; mentions – son Jacob; son Nichalas; daughter Margaret; daughter Sally; daughter Julia. Executors - my father Jacob Everson; my brother Nicholas Everson. Dated 9 June 1795; Witnesses – Daniel Ward, Edward C Googin, Nathaniel Smith, John Lose, Nichs Evertson; probate 3 October 1795.

Juliana Mathews Evertson did outlive her husband, and was likely left a wealthy widow. She probably remained at her home in Pleasant Valley, Dutchess county New York to continue the raising of her fatherless children. About three years after the death of her husband, Juliana was secondly married to Rev Methusaleh Baldwin on the 27th of November 1798.

Juliana's father, Fletcher Mathews died intestate in 1789, and the division of his primary property was made ten years later, in May 1799. The portion of property allotted to Juliana was described as follows:

All that part of the Estate of the said Fletcher Mathews deceased and bounded as follow, to wit, Beginning at the south Edge of the said Road leading from Goshen to New Windsor (a small distance nearly west from the late Dwelling house of the said Fletcher Mathews) at the middle of the road called the East Division road and runs thence . . . [mentions – division allotted to the heirs of Elizabeth Williams, Silas Piersons land, farm formerly belonging to William Coleman] . . . to the place of beginning containing one hundred and eighty acres is set apart and allotted to ___ Baldwin and Juliana his wife late Juliana Evertson and a Daughter of the said Fletcher Mathews.

At the time of Juliana's marriage to Methusaleh Baldwin, he was serving as pastor of the Presbyterian congregation at Pleasant Valley. The Evertson family had been instrumental in establishing the Presbyterian church at Pleasant Valley, New York. In 1770 John Evertson's parents, Jacob and Margaret Evertson had given land for the church building, and a few years later the church was formally established:

The society was legally incorporated January 26th, 1785, agreeably to an act of the Legislature, passed April 6th, 1784. Cornelius Humphrey and Eliphalet Platt were chosen Inspectors, and John Everson, Clerk. The following persons were chosen Trustees; Cornelius Humphrey, Eliphalet Platt, Lemuel Conklin, John M. Thurston, John Everson, and Joshua Ward. "Voted, that this congregation be known by the name of the Presbyterian Congregation, of Pleasant Valley. - Charlotte Precinct, Jan. 26th, 1785.

An account of the life of Methusaleh Baldwin suggests that sometime between the years 1795-1800 he left the church at Pleasant Valley, and took up work at Mathewsfield, near New Windsor, in Orange county New York. Mathewsfield was originally the home of Juliana's grandfather, Vincent Mathews, and the newlyweds may have taken up residence in the area. Methuselah and Juliana were in their mid-thirties, and Juliana's five children were between the ages of five and fifteen. Methuselah Baldwin had been previously married to Jane Higgins, and had been widowed with two young children in 1795. There is no indication that the Mathews - Baldwin marriage produced more children.

Methusaleh Baldwin served part-time in several congregations near Mathewsfield, and took a permanent position at a small Presbyterian church at Scotchtown in 1805. He remained in Scotchtown more than forty years, and at the close of his life he is regarded with the words:

Mr. Baldwin was a man of great kindness and benevolence of heart, greatly beloved by his people for his many excellent qualities, as well as for his labors in seeking to promote their spiritual welfare. While receiving a meagre remuneration for his services, he seems to have been contented with it, making it evident to his people that he sought not theirs but themselves.

After thirteen years as a pastor's wife, Juliana Mathews Evertson Baldwin died on the 11th of May 1811 at Scotchtown in Orange county New York. She was probably in her late forties. Methuselah Baldwin outlived his second wife by many years, dying in 1847.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Juliana Mathews in database](#)

[Bio: Methuselah Baldwin](#)

[Sketch: The Division of Fletcher Mathews' Estate, 1799](#)

[Sketch: The Smith – Evertson Wedding Story](#)

Further Reading:

For readers who subscribe to ancestry.com, I recommend a visit to the "Public Tree" of Janet Kelly, titled Rowe-Kelly5. It includes portraits, and a wealth of information on the Evertson family, especially the descendants of John Evertson and Juliana Mathews, who are the 3xgreat-grandparents of Janet Kelly.

Bio of Elizabeth Mathews; written by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for John Markham of Chesterfield website; 2018.