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Title: Letter from Robert Waln, Jr. to Samuel Sitgreaves

Date: May 24, 1824

Location: I-Friends-1992-6

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75' 91
Philadelphia. May. 24. 1824

Samuel Sitgreaves Esq.

Resp^d Sir,

As Editor of the work entitled the "Biography of the Signers to the Declaration of Independence", it has become my duty to prepare the life of Judge Wilson for the press; & emboldened by the advice of my friends, I take the liberty of addressing myself to you on the subject. — I am instructed that you were educated in the office of Mr. Wilson, & necessarily enjoyed peculiar facilities in becoming acquainted with his public & private character, & the extent of his abilities both as a lawyer & a politician. — If, Sir, your leisure will permit you to devote a little time to the consideration of the queries which are subjoined, & you will be good enough to communicate to me the result of your reminiscences, you will confer upon me a peculiar favour. The interrogative form which I adopt in seeking for information, may appear somewhat harsh; but as it serves to exhibit a condensed view of my wants, I trust that it will be excused:

- I. Some acct. of his family, ancestors? their profession, situation &?
- II. The date & place of his birth? n^o. in family & some acct. of them?
- III. Education, occupation, habits, disposition, talents, & in youth?
- IV. Early prospects? profession? success? abilities? eloquence? &
- V. Commencement of his political career? various offices held by him & the dates of them? his particular services, civil & military? & in general, any thing connected with his Public Life?
- VI. His virtues & habits in private life? his domestic character and situation? his marriage, the date, & to whom? offspring? and in general, any thing connected with his Private Life?

VII. His conduct on the bench? judicial character? legal abilities &c.?

VIII. Any characteristic anecdotes of his public or private life?

IX. His last illness? death, date of it, & where?

I cannot hope, Sir, that you have it in your power to satisfy me on all these points; but the queries will serve to convey to you an idea of the nature of the information which I solicit.

My ignorance respecting Mr. Wilson is now very great. Mrs. Hollingsworth, however, may assist me greatly, & Bishop White has politely promised, at the proper season, to relate to me all that he knows of that eminent man, to whose memory he appears to be much attached. Mr. Bird Wilson will not, it seems, be able to afford me much assistance, & (excepting Judge Piton,) I know of no other living source to which I can apply with any reasonable prospect of success. The printed Journals of public bodies afford little more than dates.

Under these circumstances, & taking into consideration the national nature of the work in which I am engaged, as well as the eminent character of the individual, I trust that you will be willing to gratify my requests.

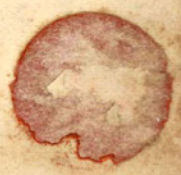
With many excuses for thus troubling you,

I am with great Respects
Yours

Rob. Walsh P^r

Robert Walsh jun^r

21. May 1821.



Rec^d 27th May 1821.
cancel^d 12. June 1824

Pa^d

Easton.

mail

Samuel Fitzgibbons Esq.

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1821



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