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**DATE:** 8 February 2019 (updated 11 July 2022, 10 November 2022)

**REPORT TO:** File

**SUBJECT:** Augusta County & the Virginia Frontier, Mills & Watts: Initial Survey of Published Literature, principally

- Bockstruck's *Virginia's Colonial Soldiers*<sup>1</sup>
- Chalkley's *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish in Virginia*<sup>2</sup>
- Kegley's *Virginia Frontier*<sup>3</sup>
- Nelson's *Report on the Chalkley Manuscripts*<sup>4</sup>
- Peyton's *History of Augusta County*<sup>5</sup>
- Rev. John Craig's *List of Baptisms*<sup>6</sup>

**OBJECTIVE:** This survey of key published resources for eighteenth-century Augusta County seeks evidence to better identify the Mills and Watts families who settled Southwest Virginia and (eventually) assemble them into family groups.

**BACKGROUND:** Targeted research in several areas of Virginia and North Carolina has yielded several Millises of particular interest with proved or alleged ties to Augusta:

## **Cluster 1: Goochland > Albemarle > Amherst**

**WILLIAM MILLS & WIFE MARY** appear in Goochland County as early as 1729. As a resident of Goochland County, William requested land on Pedlar River, a branch of James River. In 1745, the tract he chose was cut away into the new county of Albemarle (later Amherst); it lay just across the Blue Ridge from the Forks of the James River land of a John Mills who is said to have lived contemporaneously in Augusta. William and Mary's daughter Sarah married Thomas Watts of adjacent Lunenburg > Bedford about 1748. Many online

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<sup>1</sup> Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, *Virginia's Colonial Soldiers* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988).

<sup>2</sup> Lyman Chalkley, *Chalkley's Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish in Virginia: Extracted from the Original Court Records, 1745–1800*, 3 vols. (Rosslyn, VA: Commonwealth Printing Co. for Mary S. Lockwood, 1912); vols. 1 and 3 digitized at *Google Books* (<https://www.books.google.com>); vol. 2 at *HathiTrust* (<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=njp.32101076208097;view=1up;seq=7>).

<sup>3</sup> Frederick Bittle Kegley, *Kegley's Virginia Frontier: The Beginning of the Southwest; the Roanoke of Colonial Days, 1740–1783* (1938; reprinted Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2003).

<sup>4</sup> Thomas Forsythe Nelson, *Report on the Chalkley Manuscripts, 21<sup>st</sup> Congress, the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution* (Washington, DC.: McQueen Press, 1912).

<sup>5</sup> John Lewis Peyton, *History of Augusta County, Virginia* (Staunton, VA: Samuel M. Yost & Son, 1882); imaged in *Google Books* as flowable text with page ranges rather than exact pages. This work is a romanticized social history and ode to the Lewis family and those who intermarried with them. It offers only one passing reference to John Mills' landholdings and two to that of Arthur Watts; the data duplicates information provided more fully by Chalkley and Kegley.

<sup>6</sup> *List of Baptisms by Rev. John Craig; Augusta County, Virginia, 1740–1749*, transcribed by L. B. Hatke (Staunton, VA: Privately printed, n.d.); imaged, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/10552/dvm\\_LocHist000204-00001-1](https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/10552/dvm_LocHist000204-00001-1) : accessed 1 December 2019).

trees assert, without evidence, that William of the Pedlar was the son of one Gilbert Mills who died in Augusta. That claim has been soundly disproved.<sup>7</sup>

### Cluster 2: Lunenburg > Bedford > Franklin

**JOHN MILLS & WILLIAM MILLS** appear on the 1750 tax roll of Lunenburg and fell into Bedford when Bedford was cut away in 1754. Bedford records state for him an intermittent residence in Botetourt, which was created 1770 from Augusta. John was associated with Alexander Sayers of Augusta.<sup>8</sup>

**JAMES MILLS** first found in Bedford County on the 1782 tax roll. He fell into Franklin County after 1785, when lower Bedford was joined to upper Henry County to create Franklin. In both counties he was an associate of John Early of Early's Mountain, which paralleled the Blue Ridge on the East. James's wife is widely said (without accompanying evidence) to have been Octavia **Breckinridge**,<sup>9</sup> a family that settled Augusta County.

**JOHN MILLS** appears on the Franklin County Settlement Map<sup>10</sup> as a land patentee (no date) in northwestern Franklin, along the dividing line with modern Roanoke County (cut from Botetourt, formerly Augusta). This John is placed as a near neighbor of Daniel Spangler, John Noftsinger (originally from Augusta,) and the Abshire family from which Elizabeth Abshire married James Mills's son William in 1796.<sup>11</sup>

**"WILLIAM & SAMUEL MILLS"** (no date) appear on the Franklin County Settlement Map at Sling's Gap in northwestern Franklin, just slightly west of John Mills and adjacent to Samuel Miller and Rev. Jacob Miller. William and Samuel *might* be the two same-named sons of William Mills-Witt below, who were taxed in that district c1841–46.<sup>12</sup>

**WILLIAM MILLS-WITT** born c1785–88, parents unknown. He appears in all records as "William Mills." However, his descendants carry a Witt Y; and a detailed study of every intervening generation of Millses in the tested lines does not place any Witt male in their community at the time the Mills male was conceived—not until this William's

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<sup>7</sup> See the following research papers archived at E. S. Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>), under the "Research" tab:

- "Mills & Watts: Goochland and Cumberland Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey," report to file, 28 August 2018.
- "William Mills (c1695–1766) of Goochland, Albemarle & Amherst Counties, Virginia; Spouse Mary (Walton?): Research Notes," a work-in-progress last updated 19 February 2020.

<sup>8</sup> See the following research papers archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab:

- "Mills: Southside Virginia: Initial Survey of Published Resources ....," report to file, 28 May 2016 (updated 1 July 2019).
- "Mills: Bedford County, Virginia: Extended Survey of Resources," report to file 28 August 2018.
- "Mills & Associates: Botetourt Court, Virginia: Initial Survey," report to file 28 August 2018 (revised 24 June 2019).
- "William Mills of Haile's Tithe List, 1750, Lunenburg Co., Virginia: Identification Needed," report to file, 20 June 2018.

<sup>9</sup> The Breckinridges were a prominent frontier family centered in Augusta, Botetourt, and Montgomery. The lifestyle and social class of James Mills of Franklin was not that of the Breckinridges. See the following research report archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab:

- "James Mills (bef. 1750–c1823–24); Wife [?Octavia Breckenridge?]: Research Notes," a work-in-progress last updated 28 December 2019.

<sup>10</sup> Gertrude C. Mann, J. R. Hildebrand, and George A. Kegley, *A Settlement Map of Franklin County, Virginia ... 1786 to 1886* (Rocky Mount: Franklin County Historical Society, 1976. Also see E. S. Mills, "Mills & Associates: Franklin & Floyd Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey," report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

<sup>11</sup> "Franklin County, Virginia, Marriage Bond Index, 1786–1858," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>): accessed 24 April 2018), citing Marshall Wingfield, *Marriage Bonds of Franklin County, Virginia* (Memphis: West Tennessee Historical Society, 1939), 162.

<sup>12</sup> E. S. Mills, "William Mills (b. c1783–88; d. c1863); Spouse Drucilla Kemp: Research Notes," a work-in-progress last updated 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

generation. Until and unless proved otherwise, for the purpose of study, I am referencing him as Mills-Witt.

William first appeared on Franklin County's tax roll in 1806, associated with Samuel McCarroll who owned land in Montgomery County (previously Botetourt and Augusta). He married **Drucilla Kemp** of the Kemp-Camp family of the south side of Blackwater River (formerly Henry County, cut from Pittsylvania, cut from Halifax, cut from Lunenburg). The Kemp-Camp family also appears intermittently in Bedford records. William and Drucilla's sons included a William and Samuel Mills who *might* be the "William & Samuel" of the Franklin County Settlement Map. In 1847, William and Drucilla moved to Floyd County (formerly Montgomery). In 1860 they were in Pulaski County (cut from Pulaski and Wythe, originally Augusta). Drucilla died 1866 in Montgomery County. Their two daughters married into Montgomery-rooted families: Lawrence and Bradberry.<sup>13</sup>

### Cluster 3: Botetourt > Fincastle > Montgomery Counties<sup>14</sup>

1. **WILLIAM MILLS** who migrated to Anson County, Virginia, before 1755 and filed for a patent on Clark's Creek contemporaneously with Blaney Mills below. William died on Clark's Creek by 1765, before he completed title to his land. He left a young son John and daughters Sarah (m. John Leek), Ann (m. James Lockhart), and Jeanne (m. Powers Lamkin). This William is a likely candidate for the William Mills of 1749–50 Lunenburg, to whom John Mills [Sr.] made a payment from an estate he was administering.<sup>15</sup>
2. **JOHN MILLS SR.**, who appears to be the John Sr. of Bedford, the May 1774 executor of the estate of **Irvin Patterson** in Fincastle (formerly Botetourt, cut from Augusta). John Sr.'s own estate was probated in Botetourt in February 1782. His kinsman appear to be
3. **HUGH MILLS**, John's brother, whose will was proved May 1785 in Botetourt, naming brothers Blaney and John Sr., along with John Sr.'s son Hugh. By 1761, Hugh had migrated to Clark's Creek of Anson Co., NC (later Mecklenburg and Tryon), where he patented land that year. Unlike William, above, he did not stay. In 1771, Hugh sold that NC land, identifying himself as a resident of Botetourt Co., VA.<sup>16</sup>
4. **BLANEY "BLENNY" MILLS**, John's brother, who purchased land in Anson in 1755 (from John Clark, with William Mills as his witness) and obtained land on Fishing Creek of Anson Co., later SC. (Blaney/Blenny as surname appears contemporaneously in Albermarle Co, VA.)
5. **JOHN MILLS JR.**, son of John Sr., who married Martha "Patty" Ewing, daughter of Robert of Bedford, in 1772 Botetourt, and administered the Fincastle estate of **William Beard**, March 1775. John Jr. was a militia captain in Botetourt during the

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<sup>13</sup> For all known data on William and Drucilla, see *ibid*.

<sup>14</sup> See the following reports archived under the "Research" tab at *HistoricPathways.com*:

- "Mills & Associates: Botetourt Court, Virginia: Initial Survey," report to file 28 August 2018 (revised 24 June 2019).
- "Mills & Associates: Montgomery & Fincastle Counties, Virginia: Preliminary Survey," report to file, 28 August 2018 (updated 10 September 2020).

<sup>15</sup> John Beard & John Mills vs. Admr. of Edmund Smith, Bedford Chancery Causes no. 1772-005; imaged Library of Virginia, "Chancery Records Index," *VirginiaMemory* ([http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case\\_detail.asp?CFN=019-1772-005](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=019-1772-005) : downloaded 27 May 2018). For much more on the network in which John and William Mills operated in Lunenburg and Bedford, see the previously cited "William Mills of 1750 Tithe List, Lunenburg County, Virginia: Identification Needed," and "Mills: Bedford County, Virginia: Extended Survey of Resources.

<sup>16</sup> In addition to the Botetourt notes for Hugh in this report, see E. S. Mills, "Mills & Associates: Rutherford County, NC, Its Parent Counties (Anson, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Tryon) and Its Offshoots (Buncombe, Burke, Henderson, and Polk Counties): Survey of Published Resources," report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

Revolutionary War. (Other Ewings also appear in Botetourt and Fincastle during that period—notably James.) This John Mills Jr. is the father of record for

- A. **NARCISSA MILLS**, daughter of John, who married Robert “**Sinoggin**,” 29 June 1797.
  - B. **SYDNEY MILLS**, daughter of John, who married George **Stepp**, 27 June 1803.
6. **HUGH MILLS**, son of John Sr., cited in the 1785 probate of the will of his uncle Hugh.

Botetourt also offered four other Millses for whom no parents are known:<sup>17</sup>

- **JAMES MILLS**, married Elizabeth Phipps, daughter of Josiah Phipps on 24 March 1784. If this is James Mills of Bedford and Franklin, then Elizabeth was not the mother of James’s older sons who married in the mid-to-late 1790s.
- **MARY MILLS**, brother of James, was named as wife in Samuel Burton’s 1789 will.
- **WILLIAM MILLS**, married Sarah Lemox, with her brother William as surety, 20 May 1788.
- **DAVID MILLS**, married Nancy Hayes, with John Hayes as surety on 4 April 1797.

Montgomery County records include one several other seemingly “stray” Millses who emerged there in the 1780–90 period:

**PVT. JOHN “MILLS”** (var. **MILES**) appears on published Montgomery militia rolls of 1777 through 1785, in Enoch Osborn’s Company. A study of all local records available for Montgomery County establishes his identity as part of a Miles family.<sup>18</sup>

**THOMAS MILLS**, who is cited on the 1787 tax roll of Montgomery as “Gone to N.C.”<sup>19</sup>

**FRANCES “FRANKY” MILLS**, called “widow” in a marriage bond taken out by John Abram Glimph in Montgomery in 1787, with “Milliton” (**Valentine?**) **Akers** as bondsman. The marriage did not occur. In 1791, she wed John White Sr., with Thomas Copley Jr. as bondsman, moved with him to Big Springs at East Mountain in northern Montgomery (subsequently Giles Co., VA, now Mercer Co., WV). Prior to her marriage to White, she bore two children:<sup>20</sup>

- **RACHEL MILLS**, b. c1786; bound out by John Preston, 1790; married in Montgomery Co., **John Bowen**, 1803 (with consent of guardian William Preston, brother of John), and moved to Warren County, OH; after Bowen’s death there in 1816, she married **William Berryhill**.
- **SAMUEL MILLS**, b. c1788; married **Rachel Prince** in 1807 and Nancy Rinehart in c1833, both in Giles County; resident of the north-of-East Mountain region that became Mercer County, VA, and then WV.

**SARAH “SALLY” MILLS**, daughter of Jesse Mills and wife Lucy Hix Tillman of Amherst County; Sarah married April 1791, **Elijah Sartin**, son of Joel Sr. of Big Stony Creek, Montgomery Co., with Jeremiah Mastin, surety. In 1815, Elijah and Sarah sold their land and moved to

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<sup>17</sup> See the two reports cited under note 14.

<sup>18</sup> See the following reports, archived online under the “Research” tab at *HistoricPathways.com*:

- “Mills & Associates: Montgomery County, VA, Extended Research (Bias, Sartain, Toney, White, Whitt/Witt), report to file, 10 September 2020.
- “Mills & Associates: Montgomery & Fincastle Counties, Virginia: Preliminary Survey,” report to file, 28 August 2018 (updated 10 September 2020).

<sup>19</sup> See the two reports cited at n. 17.

<sup>20</sup> See the following reports archived online under the “Research” tab at *HistoricPathways.com*:

- “John White, Sr. (c1740–1821); Spouses 1. Unidentified & 2. Frances “Frankey” Mills: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 18 January 2021.
- “Mills & Associates: Montgomery & Fincastle Counties, Virginia: Preliminary Survey,” report to file, 28 August 2018 (updated 10 September 2020).

Gallia County, OH, where both died. Prior to her marriage to Sartain, Sarah was the mother of<sup>21</sup>

- **ELIZABETH MILLS**, b. c1790, who married Archibald Chapman, son of George, on 26 March 1811, Giles Co., with Elijah Sartain as the guardian who gave permission for the marriage. They, too, moved to Gallia County, OH.



### FORMATION OF CRITICAL COUNTIES

1734	Orange	cut from	Spotsylvania	
1745	<b>Augusta</b>		Orange	
1770	<b>Boutetourt</b>		Augusta	
1772	<b>Fincastle</b>		Boutetourt	[extinguished 1777]
1777	Kentucky		Fincastle	[extinguished 1780]
1777	<b>Montgomery</b> <sup>22</sup>		Fincastle	
1777	Washington		Fincastle	
1778	Greenbrier		Montgomery, Botetourt, Augusta	
1778	Illinois		Augusta	
1786	Russell		Washington	
1789	Kanawha		Greenbrier, Montgomery	
1790	[Montgomery enlarged with addition of part of Botetourt]			
1790	Wythe		Montgomery	
1791	Bath		Augusta, Botetourt, Greenbrier	
1793	Grayson		Wythe	
1799	Monroe		Greenbrier	
1800	Tazewell		Wythe, Russell	
1804	Mason		Kanawha	
1806	Giles		Montgomery, Monroe, Tazewell	
1809	Cabell		Kanawha	
1818	Nicholas		Greenbrier, Kanawha, Randolph	
1822	Alleghany		Bath, Botetourt, Monroe	
1824	Logan		Giles, Cabell, Tazewell, Kanawha	
1831	<b>Floyd</b>		Montgomery	
1838	Roanoke		Botetourt	
1839	<b>Pulaski</b>		Montgomery, Wythe <sup>23</sup>	

<sup>21</sup> See the following reports archived under the “Research” tab at *HistoricPathways.com*:

- Jesse Mills Sr. (c1740–aft1811) of Albemarle & Amherst Counties, Virginia; Spouse Lucy Tilman: Research Notes), a work-in-progress last updated 8 April 2021.
- “Mills & Associates: Montgomery County, VA, Extended Research (Bias, Sartain, Toney, White, Whitt/Witt), report to file, 10 September 2020.
- “Mills & Associates: Giles County, Virginia: Principally Whites, with Selective Records for Byas, Brumfield, Chapman, Dingess, Napier, Sartain & Toney Families,” report to file, 8 February 2020 (updated 10 January 2021).

<sup>22</sup> Franklin Co. documents of the early 1800s refer to Montgomery County as “Tennessee.” See Deed Book 4 particularly.

<sup>23</sup> Michael F. Doran, *Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia, 1634–1895* (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1987).

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## TABLE OF MAPS

Map 1	Counties Associated with William Mills-Witt of Franklin .....	20
Map 2	Virginia’s Southwestern Border c1770–78.....	21
Map 3	Kegley’s Beverley’s Manor & The Borden Grant.....	28
Map 4	Kegley’s “Original Land Grants of the Roanoke & Vinton Community” .....	31
Map 5	Kegley’s “Roanoke Watershed” .....	32
Map 6	Kegley’s “Original Land Grants of The Stone House & Carvin’s Creek Community .....	39
Map 7	Kegley’s Plat Map of Mills Mountain & Cloverdale Furnace Estate.....	40
Map 8	Kegley’s “Forks of the James Community; Below Borden’s Grant, 1740–1760” .....	42
Map 9	Kegley’s “Fincastle Community, 1740–1760” .....	43
Map 10	Kegley’s “Roanoke Community, 1740–1760” .....	44
Map 11	Kegley’s “Philadelphia Road from North Carolina, 1751” .....	46
Map 12	Kegley’s Map of Big Spring, Welch Run & Glade Creek.....	49
Map 13	Kegley’s “Map of Washington’s Route on His Tour of Inspection of the Frontier Forts, October, 1756” .....	60
Map 14	Lloyd’s Map [snippet] showing Forks of Roanoke, Mill[’s] Mountain, Wolf & Falling Creek, Maggoty Creek & Blackwater.....	61
Map 15	Kegley’s “Old Botetourt and Its Subdivisions” .....	82
Map 16	Schreiner-Yantis’s Map of Tax District C, Montgomery County, c1787–1790 .....	83
Map 17	Lloyd’s Map, Location of Little River & Meadow Creek (originally Augusta) Relative to Present Montgomery, Pulaski & Floyd County .....	84
Map 18	Kegley’s “Tinker Creek and the Roanoke—Early Botetourt County” .....	85
Map 19	Kegley’s “South Branch and North Fork in Early Botetourt County” .....	81

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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### **Note:**

For all events, kinships, etc., noted in this summary, full details and citations appear under the next section “Research Notes,” arranged chronologically for easy location.

The Chalkley and Kegley abstracts are much too terse to make reliable decisions about identity and kinships. The following represents working hypotheses to be explored in Augusta’s original records when they can be accessed.

### **MILLS BROTHERS**

Three Mills brothers arrived in the Augusta region by 1742. Their relationship is proved by the will of Hugh, proved in Montgomery County in 1785, naming his two brothers:<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Karen Wagner Treacy, *Botetourt County, Virginia (Will Book A (pt. 1), 1770-1785)* (Athens, GA & Charlottesville, VA: New Papyrus Publishing Co., 2015), 169–70. See also E.S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Montgomery, Fincastle & Botetourt Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey,” report to file, 28 August 2018 (updated 8 November 2018); archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

**1. John Mills Sr.**, b. before c1721; first found on record in Augusta in 1742. He was indeed the same man as “John Mills Sr.” of Lunenburg and Bedford Counties, c1745–66. He speculated on many tracts but his “home place” after the mid-1750s appears to have been on Looney’s Mill Creek of the James, just SSE of Fort Fauquier and a bit SSW of Pattonsburg (present Botetourt). His estate was probated in Botetourt in 1782. The volumes of abstracted records used in this research segment does not reference his death; that is known from prior research.<sup>25</sup>

The Augusta records suggest that John Sr. had at least two wives. In brief

- Sale deed of 29 May 1751 : no wife mentioned
- Sale deeds of 18 May 1753 & 4 January 1754: executed with wife **Ann**
- Sale deeds of 22 May 1761 to 11 February 1773: executed with wife **Mary**
- Sale deed of 15 January 1778: executed without a wife

John’s estate was probated in 1782 in Botetourt. By October 1785, his widow had married their neighbor John McIntyre; In 1787 the McIntyres disposed of their Botetourt property and left the county (as did James Mills, Mary’s apparent son). John was the father of at least six children:<sup>26</sup>

- **John Jr.**, born by 1743, in order to have sold part of his father’s land in 1764; married 1772
- Unidentified daughter, married before 1765 to William Beard, Jr.
- **Mary**, baptized March 1748/9 by Rev. Craig, as daughter of John of Tinker’s Creek; married Samuel Baldwin whose 1789 Botetourt will named his wife Mary and “her brother James Mills.”
- **Hugh, named in will of his uncle as the son of John Sr.**
- **James**, married by Botetourt bond dated 24 March 1784, Elizabeth Philipps, daughter of Josiah. Court orders from October 1784 chronicle a suit by Annie Leatherdale against James for a breach of promise to marry, during which James’s new stepfather, John McIntire, served as his surety.
- **William**, witnessed document for John and Mary McIntire, 13 February 1786; married by bond of 20 May 1788, Botetourt, to Sarah “Lemox” [Lemare?], with brother William “Lemox” as bondsman. William dropped from Botetourt records at same time as James and the McIntires.

**2. Hugh**, born by 1727, in order to sign a note by 16 June 1748; d. 1785, left no known children

**3. Blaney**, born by 1734, in order to qualify for a land grant in NC in 1755; one heir of brother Hugh

## OTHER MILLS

**William Mills**, named in the will of Gilbert, made his first appearance in Augusta in 1742, in company with John above. They obtained adjacent lands in Augusta, later Botetourt: William’s land encompassed Mills Mountain (aka Mill Mountain), just NW of the forks of the Roanoke. William appears with John in Lunenburg—most notably, the lawsuit involving the estate of Edmund Smith.<sup>27</sup> Upon William’s decision to move to Anson Co., NC,<sup>28</sup> in 1751, he gave his power of attorney to John to sell his Augusta property. In that document he referenced John as his “trusty and loving friend,” not as father or brother.

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<sup>25</sup> Anne Lowry Worrell, *Early Marriages, Wills, and Some Revolutionary War Records: Botetourt County, Virginia* (1958; reprinted, Baltimore: Clearfield, 2004), 80.

<sup>26</sup> For the Botetourt records on this family unit, see E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates of Botetourt County, Virginia: Extended Survey, 1770–1820,” 20 November 2022; archived online at Mills, *HistoricPathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>27</sup> Chalkley’s abstract for the March 1767 judgment in the case “John Craig vs. **William Beard**” (a case launched 24<sup>th</sup> October 1765) states that Beard was John Mills’s son-in-law (Chalkley, 1:351; citing “Judgments ... March 1767”). Also see E. S. Mills, “William Mills of Haile’s Tithes List, 1750, Lunenburg Co., Virginia: Identification Needed,” report to file 20 June 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>28</sup> E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Rutherford County, NC, Its Parent Counties (Anson, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Tryon) and Its Offshoots (Buncombe, Burke, Henderson, and Polk Counties): Survey of Published Resources,” report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

Considering that John's brothers Blaney and Hugh also went to NC with William, it is apparent that the two families were close and a cousinship (or some other kinship) almost certainly existed.

William was born by 1726 in order to serve in militia in 1742. He died on Clark's Creek of Mecklenburg Co., NC (formerly Anson Co.); his estate was opened in 1767. (See NC research report, cited below.) He was clearly not the William Mills who settled c1745 on Pedlar River and died there in 1766. He is a viable candidate for the William Mills named as son in the 1757 will of Gilbert Mills of Augusta.

**Other Millses:** Seventeen or so other adult Millses appear once or twice in Chalkley and Kegley's published abstracts of Augusta and its predecessor, Orange. They cannot yet be placed reliably into family units. In alpha order, they were **Charles** (1763), **David & Hannah** (1767, likely of Albemarle), **George** (1795), **Gilbert** (1757), **James** (1728, 1745, 1762; likely multiple men), **John** (1754, with **Agnes, Elizabeth Sr., Elizabeth Jr.**), **Joseph** (1739), **Lawrence** (1764), **Menan** (1790), **Nicholas** (1754), **Richard** (1756), **Robert & Susanna** (1785), **William** (1773). A table summarizing their activities appears as the end of this executive summary, before the detailed research notes begin.

One **Jesse Mills** reference adds valuably to my study of Millses in Albemarle and Amherst. The Albemarle settler **William Mills** (wife **Mary**) drafted his will on Pedlar River in 1755, naming children **Ambrose, Thomas** (dead by 26 September 1755), **William Jr., Sarah Watts, Elizabeth Learwood, Anne, Millie, and Jesse**. I have previously tracked all of these offspring except Jesse (wife Lucy Tilman), for whom I have found no record past 1782. Here in Augusta, in 1811, a law suit was filed by one of Lucy's siblings. Chalkley's abstract cites Jesse and Lucy as still alive, but states no place of residence for them.<sup>29</sup>

## WATTS

At least eight Watts individuals appear in the county from 1747 forward (**Arthur, Edward, George, John, Jonathan, Mary**, and two or three **Williams**). No clear connection was found with the Watts family of my interest: that of Edward and Thomas Watts of Lunenburg and Bedford.

One **William Watts** who was active around Mills Mountain in the 1788–99 period deserves further study. Known details suggest him as a candidate for the William Watts who allegedly married "Eleanor Mills" and settled with their sons Eli and Ambrose in Kanawha County, (West) Virginia, by 1810.<sup>30</sup> Male-line descendants of this William who have undergone Y-DNA testing carry the same haplogroup (I-M223) and markers (37-marker test = GD0; 67-marker test = GD2) as descendants of my Edward and Thomas of Orange > Lunenburg > Bedford.

## WHITT-WITT

Only one reference has been found to a Whitt in these published abstracts. The data for that man (Richard Whitt) duplicates material already found for Rev. Richard Whitt of Meadow Creek of New River, Botetourt, and Montgomery Counties.

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<sup>29</sup> E. S. Mills, "William Mills, c1695–1966) of Goochland, Albemarle, & Amherst Counties; Spouse: Mary (Walton?): Research Notes," a work-in-progress last updated 1 February 2019; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

<sup>30</sup> 1810 U.S. Census, Kanawha County, VA, p. 130, line 1. Two other family clusters who lived around him—Joseph and Nicolas Pryor; Benjamin and Levi Morris—were also Augusta residents contemporaneously with the William Watts of Mills Mountain. The online accounts that include William Watts and wife Eleanor Mills usually focus on their putative son Elias "Eli" (aka "Aly"). For a sampling, see

- Roanna Dolan Griffin, "Elias Ali Watts," *Find A Grave* (www.findagrave.com : 6 June 2015), identifying Elias as her 5th great-grandfather; she provides no evidence for any of the names and dates in this memorial.
- Kemberley Watts, "Kemberley Watts family tree," Ancestry (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/56168776/person/42328815618?ssrc=> : accessed 6 June 2015). This tree is highly irrational but does cite several sources usable for clues.



As an overview, before presenting the detailed notes from Bockstruck, Chalkley and Kegley, I am summarizing the Mills and Watts data in two tables. In presenting this summary, I must add a caveat: While Chalkley and Kegley sometimes abstract the same material, there are occasional variances in the data—including dates. Also, Kegley sometimes references the same event in different portions of his volume, and the dates do not always agree.

**Table 1**  
**Millses in Augusta > Botetourt, 1747–1799**

*Note:* This chronological summary of activities for each Augusta man incorporates references to each that I've found previously in other locales. I'm incorporating it with the Augusta activities in order to have a more-complete picture of each man's life. The entries from non-Augusta sources carry a citation. For entries that carry no citation, the source and fuller details can be found, under the cited date, in the "Research Notes" section of this report.

**MILLS MEN FOR WHOM KINSHIPS ARE IDENTIFIED**

**Alexander Mills**

- 1746 Oct Daughter **Elizabeth** was baptized by Rev. Craig
- 1749 Apr Son **Gilbert** was baptized by Rev. Craig
- In 1790, one Gilbert Mills of Little River, Abbeville, SC, left a will naming wife Martha and sons Alexander and William, both of age; witness: William Clark.<sup>31</sup>
- 1757 26 Aug Named as son in will of **Gilbert Mills** who also left a note due in Pennsylvania to son William; he also named a granddaughter Agnes, but not a son John
- 1767 20 May Purchased land on Cowpasture from Daniel and Elizabeth Oharra, with **John Mills**, William **Crow**, and Henry Key, as witnesses. These associates have not been found in any known records created by or about John Mills Sr.

**Blaney Mills**

- 1756 29 Oct Got land in Anson Co., NC, with **William Mills** as witness; Blaney/Blenny remained there at least through 28 October 1756<sup>32</sup>
- 1760s Bought **Big Springs** land from Benj. Starrett, formerly owned by Robert Ewing and Wm. Beard; Blany "soon sold" to James Stewart
- 1769 13 Mar Purchase from John Mills, 200 acres near **Glade Creek**, adjoining **Thomas Akers**.
- 1771 Sold those 200 acres near **Glade Creek** to James Stewart
- 1771— No information
- 1785 May Named in the will of his brother Hugh

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<sup>31</sup> "South Carolina, Wills and Probate Records, 1670–1980," *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/9080/007649553\\_00097/715832](https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/9080/007649553_00097/715832) : accessed 1 February 2019) > Abbeville > Index and Will, Vol. 1, 1787–1815, image 97 of 725, being a WPA typescript.

<sup>32</sup> Brent H. Holcomb, *Anson County, North Carolina: Deed Abstracts, 1749–1766; Abstracts of Wills & Estates, 1749–1795* (Baltimore: Clearfield, 1974), 12, 151.

*Note:* Blaney remains a prospect for father of the Pvt. John Mills of Montgomery Co., 1777–85 and possible antecedent of William Mills-Witt of Franklin (b. c1785–8), who named a son William B. The first question to investigate is where he lived after his 1771 sale.

**Gilbert Mills** (likely Scottish)

- 1757 26 Aug Wrote will naming **son William** (who was to inherit a note due Gilbert from James Starrett of “Refoe” [Radnor?] Township, Pennsylvania), son **Alexander**, and granddaughter **Agnes**. Witness was *Eleanor Teas*. Several connections appear here:
- In 1742, John Wilson sold to Joseph Tees the Beverley Manor land that John’s father had purchased from **Joseph Mills** in 1742, Orange County
  - Robert Ewing (whose daughter married **John Mills Jr.**) sold his Augusta land to Starretts in 1757; Kegley (p. 521) says Joseph conveyed it to Benjamin Starrett, but also (p. 545) reports a 1785 document reciting the chain of title back to *James* Starrett.
  - Benjamin Starrett, in the 1760s, sold the Ewing tract to **Blaney Mills**.
  - *Gilbert’s son William appears to be the William of Augusta who gave his power of attorney to his “trustworthy friend” John Mills Sr. before migrating to North Carolina with John Sr.’s brother Blaney and Hugh.*

**Hugh Mills**

- 1748 16 Jun Signed a note; by implication he was at least 21—i.e., born by 16 June 1727
- 1750 13 Nov Bought 208 acres from James Patton, on **Welsh Run** of Roanoke, corner on John Mills at **Glade Creek**
- 1753 24 Nov Assigned to road crew with Steven Rentfro and other men from **Buffalo Creek**, to work land between between **Carvin’s Creek** and the Milligans at head of **Looney’s Mill Creek**
- 1755 15 Apr Appraised estate of William Miller, with Wm. Carvin and Richard Carr
- 1761 10 Apr Received land grant in **Anson Co., NC**, on Clark’s Creek, where William also settled; the land would have been applied for several years earlier
- 1762 Appointed, with John Thompson, to road crew from “Stone House” to the Bedford line
- 1763 7 Dec Survey, 129 acres on **Welshman’s Run**, cornering Henry Ferguson, said to be “east of a mountain”
- 1764–65 Assigned to processioning lands—with Rees **Bowen**, David Cloyd, David Robinson, and William Graham—in the district containing **Buffalo** (aka **Tinker**) Creek
- 1765 Had his land processioned; it apparently lay between Rees Bowin/Bowen and David Cloyd
- 1768 Paid by [or to] Malcolm Campbell estate, 9 pounds
- 1769 17 Aug Credited with paying the estate of Col. James Patton for land; no specifics
- 1771 13 Dec Sold, as “Hugh Mills of Botetourt” to John Boyd of Tryon Co., NC, land he had patented on Shady Branch of Clark’s Creek in Anson > Tryon, 1761
- 1774 9 Nov Assigned (him or his crew) to work road from John Howard’s to James Stewart’s, in the “Great Lick and **Glade Creek** Community,” David May as surveyor
- 1777 Assigned to work the same section of road as in 1774, same surveyor
- 1779 10 Jul Mentioned in road order to James Cloyd et al. to view the best route from “the fork of the road at John Howard’s field to **Hugh Mills**”
- 1785 May Will probated, naming brothers Blaney and John, along with John’s son Hugh
- 1787 Cited as adjacent landowner to John Depew’s grant, 290 acres on **Welshman’s Run**, adjoining John Howard also.

**Hugh Mills Jr. (son of John Sr., nephew & heir of Hugh Sr.)**

- 1796 Survey, 269 acres on Glade Creek
- 1798 30 Apr Grant, 100 acres on Glade Creek adjoining John Depew

**John Mills Sr.**

- 1742 John and William “Miles” appear on a list of men in Capt. John McDowel’s company who (along with Capt. McDowel) did not appear for muster
- 1743 1 Mar Granted 400 acres on **Persimmon Branch** of James River; sold 1748. (The John of this grant may be the John who d. in 1750. Persimmon Creek was considerably north of the locus where John Sr. settled. But note that a grant on Persimmon was also made to one William Mills.)
- 1745 Grant, 178 acres on br of James, beginning on branch **Looney’s Mill Run**; sold 1765 by John & Mary
- bef1746 Grant, 100 acres, **Little River**; sold 1751
- 1746 13 Aug John Mills posted bond, agreeing to pay Ann (Widow Edmond) Smith 40 pounds due to Smith before he died; filed 28 October 1765 in court case; she was then wife of William Hays.<sup>33</sup>
- 1748 5 Apr Grant, 300 acres, **Buffalo Creek** [aka **Tinker’s Creek**] of Roanoke; Kegley identifies this as the site of Augusta’s landmark “Stone House” on “Old Carolina Road below the gap of Buffalo Creek at the southern end of Tinker Mountain.” Adjacent lands patented 1753 to **Erwin Patterson** (Kegley, 96, 512–13; in 1774 John Mills was Patterson’s executor); c1788–89 the property was leased to one **William Watts**
- 1748 12 Apr Sale, 400 acres on **Persimmon Branch**; granted 1743; this may be John who died 1750
- 1749 Mar Baptism of Mary, child of John Mills, at **Tinker’s Creek**.
- 1749 15 Sep Grant, 400 acres on **Woods River** [New River]; sold 1751
- 1749 Served as surety for executor of **Simon Aker’s** estate, with Nicholas Haile as witness; in 1750 John Sr. and William were taxed in Nicholas Haile’s district of Lunenburg (See Lunenburg 1750 report, previously cited)
- 1750 3 Nov Purchase, rights to 150 acres from James Patton, **Murre’s Run** of Roanoke; granted 1764; sold 1766 by John “and Mary”
- 1751 29 May Sale, 400 acres **on Woods River**; granted 1749
- Sale, 100 acres on **Little River** to Samuel Eckerling
- Sale, 65 acres on **Little River** to Reuben Ratcliff—**acquisition not found**
- 1752 9 Feb Promise to sell, “245 acres, part of 845 acres on ... Buffler’s Creek” [**Buffalo Cr.**]; grant finalized 1759; was sued 1760 for non-compliance
- 1752 21 May Witness to land sale, John Patton Jr. to Jacob Sybert (Chalkley gives year as 1755, but also “17xlii”)
- 1752 17 Dec Purchase from James Patton, 600 acres on “**Buffelo**” **Creek**; sold 1758
- 1753 9 Mar Survey, 380 acres on **Bent Mountain**
- Survey, 550 acres on **Little Bottom Creek** (sold 325 acres in 1764)
- Survey, 1370 acres on **Wolf Creek & Falling Creek**
- Survey, 580 on b
- 1753 21 Mar Survey?, for John Mills “of Lunenburg,” 150 acres, **Murry’s Run** of Roanoke; bought (rights?) 1750 from Jas. Patton; sold 1766 by John “and Mary”

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<sup>33</sup> John Beard & John Mills vs. Admr. of Edmund Smith, Bedford Chancery Causes no. 1772-005; imaged Library of Virginia, “Chancery Records Index,” *VirginiaMemory* ([http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case\\_detail.asp?CFN=019-1772-005](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=019-1772-005) : downloaded 27 May 2018).

- 1753 9 Apr Survey, for John Mills & David Miller, 250 acres at head of **Milligan's Run**
- 1753 18 May Sale by John Mills & Ann of Lunenburg, 600 acres on **Buffalo Creek** at the **Barrens**, to Wm. Graham
- 1753 Survey, 310 acres on **Bent Mountain & Little Bottom Creek**
- 1753 31 Oct Appointed surveyor of road from "Euing's fence to the Blew Ridge in room of William Mills," Lunenburg County court.<sup>34</sup> This land should lie on the East side of Blue Ridge
- 1754 4 Jan Sale by John Mills & Ann of Lunenburg, 300 acres on **Buffalo Creek** to Erwin Patterson; (fr. the **Stone House** property he sold to Irwin Patterson in 1764). Apparently, it lay adjacent to the Buffalo Creek tract John lived on in February 1755. In 1774, John was executor of Patterson's estate.
- 1754 Sep Relieved of road duty in Lunenburg>Bedford; Nicholas Welch was his replacement<sup>35</sup>
- 1755 4 Jan Survey, 192 acres on **branch of Roanoke** joining James Gatlive; patented 1764; sold 1773. (Could this be his Wolk Creek land? The Wolf was adjacent to the Buffalo.)
- 1755 12 Feb Cited as adjacent landowner ("**land John Mills lives on**") in survey for Erwin Patterson on **Buffalo**
- 1755 27 Feb Purchase, from Adam Looney, rights to 143 acres on **Looney's Creek** adjoining Adam's land and 122 acres adjoining Sloan; granted 1764
- 1755 Aug Filed suit in Bedford against Patrick Downey. No details. Suit dismissed.<sup>36</sup>
- 1755 27 Nov Assigned to road crew with Robert Looney Jr. at **Looney's Creek**. (This does not appear to be the location where he was said to live in February 1755.)
- 1756 10 Mar Grant, 213 acres on **Glade Creek**; sold 1764
- 1757 9 Aug Cited in military correspondence; his place in Augusta, near the Toshes, had stores of biscuits for troops
- 1757 Nov Sued William Woods in Bedford Court; suit dismissed;<sup>37</sup> not found again in Bedford until 1764
- 1758 17 Mar Sale, to William Graham, 600 acres on **Buffelo Creek**, from Jas. Patton on 17 Dec. 1752 (Kegley has him selling this on 18 May 1753.)
- 1759 12 May Grant, 341 acres at **Carvin's Cove**; sold to William Carvin 1763/64
- 1759 Grant, 845 acres on **Buffilo Creek & "Corrovan" (Carvin's) Creek**
- 1760 22 Apr Grant, 580 acres on **Bent Mountain**; sold 400 acres of this to Leonard Huff, 1761; sold 180 to William Carvin on or by 5 December 1764
- 1760 Appraised Daniel Looney's estate with George Adams and Thomas Ramsey
- 1761 2 Jan Witnessed, with "Jane Mills," deed of Erwin Patterson **of Lunenburg** to Erwin Wood; document is recorded consecutively with a 22 May 1761 deed from "John Mills and Mary" of Lunenburg; if "Jane" is not a transcription error then this suggests the name of a daughter, mother, or sister. Note "Jennet Mills," below, who was named as a daughter in the 25 December 1750 will of John Hays.
- 1761 14 Feb Grant, 1370 acres on **Wolf Creek** and **Falling Creek**
- 1761 22-3 My Sale by John Mills and **Mary of Lunenburg** to Leonard Huff of Halifax Co., 400 acres, part of 580 acres patented to John 22 April 1760 at **Bent Mountain** on **Huff's Creek** of the Roanoke

<sup>34</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-B, 1753–1754* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaid Publication, 1998), 41; citing Order Book 2 ½-B: 469.

<sup>35</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 17; citing original Order book 1-A, p. 18.

<sup>36</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 68; citing original p. 107.

<sup>37</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 140; citing original p. 226.

- 1761 14 Aug Witnessed (with Israel Christian) deed of Thomas Walker of **Albemarle** to James Patton's executors, re land at **Birk's Garden** on **New River**; in 1769 John Mills served as surety to Wm. Preston, one of the Patton executors
- 1761 19 Aug Sale by "John Mills of **Lunenburg**," to Israel Christian, 117 acres on **Roanoke** owned by **William Mills**, adjacent to John Mills's line
- 1762 8 Feb Purchase from **James Sloan**, 178 acres on branch of **Looney's Mill Run**. (In 1790, one James Sloan with wife Alice, allegedly née Mills of Pennsylvania, sold to one James Mills their land on Elliott's Creek of the Maggoty in adjacent Franklin County.)
- c1762 Purchase of James Boyd's grant of 340 acres on **Looney's Mill Creek** ("Mount Joy Estate") from James Hughey (Huey); later sold to Mathew Harvey.
- 1762 2 Aug Witnessed John Thomson's purchase of 179 acres on **Glade Creek**, adj. John **Bowen**.
- 1763 Sale, 341 acres, **Carvin's Cove**, to William Carvin
- 1763 William Young sold John Madison for Wm. Davis, 400 acres E side of "New River or Woods' River" formerly patented to **John Mills** and conveyed by him to Young.
- 1763 8 Aug Witnessed, with David Looney, sale by Robert Williams of Orange Co., NC, to William Walker of **Bedford**, 275 acres on **Craig's Creek**.
- 1764 6 Mar John Mills's son-in-law, **William Beard**, has 270 acres surveyed in **Creeley's Gap**
- 1764 4 Jun Grant, 143 acres on a branch of Looney's Creek, cornering on Adam Looney; sold 1768
- 1764 27 Jun Grant, 192 acres on a **branch of Roanoke** joining James Gatlive; surveyed 1755; sold 1773
- Grant, 122 acres on a small **branch of James River**; see 1755 purchase of rights
- Grant, 150 acres on **waters of James River**; see 1750, 1753 "Murry Run" land
- Grant, 143 acres on **Looney's Mills Creek**; see 1755 purchase of rights
- 1764 2 Jul Witnessed deed from **Alexander Sayers** to **Israil Christian**, both of Augusta, for a lot apparently in New London (Bedford Co.)<sup>38</sup>
- 1764 22 Aug Sale to John Thompson, 213 acres on **Glade Creek**, adj. Mills (purchased 1756), sold by "John, son of John Mills,"
- 1764 5 Nov Petitioned Bedford Chancery Court in suit of John Mills and John Beard vs. **William Hayes**, adm. of Edmund Smith<sup>39</sup>
- 1764 5 Dec Sale, by John Mills and Mary to William Carvin, 180 acres on **Bent Mountain**, part of 500 acre grant
- 1764 10 Dec Sale by John Mills and Mary to William Carvin, 325 acres on **Little Bottom Creek**, cornering on Huff
- Sale by John Mills and Mary to William Carvin, 341 acres on **Carvin's Creek** at the **Cove** (variously, the sale occurred in 1763)
- 1765 Processioning of John's land in district covering "waters of **James and Catawbo**, on South Side; two tracts: 1) on **Looney's Creek**; 2) "**where he now lives**." The latter apparently lay between George Poage and Margt. Clark
- 1765 18 Aug Sale, by John Mills and Mary to Isr. Christian, 122 acres on **branch of James R.**, adj. Sloan (granted 1760)
- Sale, by John Mills and Mary to same, 150 a on waters of James, Adam Looney's line (granted 1760)
- Sale, by John Mills and Mary to same, 178 a on branch of James & br of **Looney's Mill Run** (gr. 1745)

<sup>38</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 140; citing original p. 226.

<sup>39</sup> John Beard & John Mills vs. Admr. of Edmund Smith, Bedford Chancery Causes no. 1772-005; imaged Library of Virginia, "Chancery Records Index," *VirginiaMemory* ([http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case\\_detail.asp?CFN=019-1772-005](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=019-1772-005) : downloaded 27 May 2018).

- 1766 11 Feb Sale, by John Mills and Mary to James Huston, 150 a on **Murrie's Run**, branch of Roanoke
- 1767 10 Feb Survey, 345 acres; no details
- 1767 12 Feb Survey, 254 acres; no details
- 1767 28 Feb Witnessed sale of slaves from John Smith to Jonathan Smith
- 1767 Mar John Mills's **son-in-law, William Beard**, is sued by John Craig
- 1767 10 Jul Grant of 325 acres on **Bent Mountain** and **Little Bottom Creek**; sold 22 October 1768
- 1768 6 Jul Sale, by John Mills and Mary to James Alcorn, 143 acres patented to John "4 June 1764," on branch of **Looney's Mill Creek**, cornering on Adam Looney.
- 1769 22 Oct Sale, by John Mills and Mary to William Carvin, land on **Bent Mountain** and **Little Bottom**, patented 10 July 1767 to John
- 1769 Served as representative for Sinking Spring Church, with Joseph **Cloyd** et al.
- 1769 13 Mar Sale (no wife mentioned in abstract) to **Blaney Mills**, 200 acres "near **Glade Creek**," adj. Thomas **Akers**. The deed was said to be "delivered" 8 October 1773 to "John Mills, son of William"<sup>40</sup>
- 1769 16 Aug Had improvements appraised on three tracts: 550 acres on **South Fork** of Roanoke; 1,170 on Wolf Creek; and 180 acres on Roanoke; referenced again under 22 October 1769
- 1769 26 Aug Served as co-surety for William Preston's bond as executor of James Patton's estate; others who signed with him included Robert Breckinridge, David Robinson
- 1769 29 Aug Sold, as resident of Augusta, to John Hook, land on **Bore Augur Creek** in Bedford; witnessed by Charles and Robert Ewing, John Birks, John Peary<sup>41</sup>
- 1769 22 Oct Sold, by John Mills and Mary to William Carvin, 325 acres on **Bent Mountain** and **Little Bottom Creek**, cornering on **Leonard Huff**.
- 1770 Appointed surveyor, with Andrew Woods, of road from "Branch below James Moore's to the Ferry"
- 1770–1771 Granted hemp certificate for 2319 pounds grown on his plantation.
- 1773 11 Feb Sold, by John Mills and Mary to James Robinson, 192 acres in "**Buffalo Creek** Community"; apparently the 192 acres on a branch of Roanoke joining James Gatlive, patented 1764
- 1777 15 Oct Purchase of (?rights to) 340-acre from Jas Huey [Hughey], patented February 1742, area of **Looney's Mill Creek**
- 1778 15 Jan Sold (no wife mentioned), to William Allen, 230 acres on **Back Creek**, near **Looney's Mill Creek**. (The acquisition of this tract has not been found in Chalkley or Kegley's abstracts.)
- 1780 2 June Bought items from estate sale of Thomas Dooley in Bedford, John Ewing as clerk of sale; this may be John Jr., husband of Patty Ewing.<sup>42</sup>
- 1781 Grant, 242 acres on S side of **Beaver Dam** of **Looney's Mill Creek**  
 Grant, 116 acres on S side of **James River**  
 Grant, 145 acres on **Back Creek** (near **Looney's Mill Creek**) adj. **the land he lives on**; these 1781 grants may be to John Jr.

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<sup>40</sup> The William Mills who gave his power of attorney to John Mills Sr., before moving to Clark's Creek, Anson (Mecklenburg) County, NC, left four young children at his death: a son John and three daughters. His son John seems not to appear on local record in NC until 1783 when he was sued by Col. Daniel McKissick for the use of McKissick's stud horse; he had not paid and was believed to have "absconded" to SC "with the enemies of the United States in the late War." In 1784 The Mecklenburg sheriff, to satisfy the judgment, levied on the Clark's Creek land held by **John Mills**, said to be granted 23 April 1768 and to include "his deceased father's William Mills improvements." The 1773 reference above suggests that young John, after his father's death, may have been raised by his father's "trustworthy friend," John Mills of Augusta.

<sup>41</sup> Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book C-3* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, n.d.), 50; citing p. 508.

<sup>42</sup> Joida Whitten, *Abstracts of Bedford County, Virginia, Wills, Inventories and Accounts, 1754–1787* (Dallas, TX: P.p., n.d.), 105; citing pp. 368–69.

**John Mills Jr. (son & administrator of John Sr.)**

- 1772 As John Mills Jr. of “**Tinker Creek—Glade Creek—Great Lick Community** in early Botetourt,” he married Martha Ewing, daughter of Robert.
- 1774 10 Sep Cited as Ensign in Capt. Philip Love’s Company, Botetourt militia
- 1783 Cited as Lieutenant in Capt. John Wood’s Company, Botetourt militia, which “included men along **Looney’s Creek** & Roanoke River; John Jr. had 14 horses, 28 cattle, 8 slaves
- 1788 Grant, 399 acres on **Back Crk** near Looney’s Mill; apparently made to John Jr.; Sr. is dead
- 1792 Grant, 185 acres on **Back Crk** near Looney’s Mill Creek; apparently made to John Jr. Grant, with Peter Miller, 90 acres on S side of **Looney’s Creek** adj. John Mills Grant, 1164 acres on Looney’s Mill Creek

**William Mills (son of Gilbert)**

- 1742 29 Sep John and William “Miles” appear on a list of men in Capt. John McDowel’s company who (along with Capt. McDowel) did not appear for muster
- 1744 13 Dec Purchased goods at local estate sale
- 1740s or 50s Granted 845 acres on **James River**; sold 1753 to Wm. Graham (600 acres) and David Robinson (245 acres), conveyed on William’s behalf by John *and Ann*
- 1751 9 Oct Gave power of attorney to “trusted friend” John Mills, identifying self as “of Loonenburg”
- 1752 14 Nov Granted 400 acres on **Buffalo Creek** of Roanoke; John sold this for William on 22 August 1753
- 1753 3 Jan Sale (by agent, John Mills) to Wm. Graham, 600 acres on **Buffalo Creek**, cornering Israel Christian
- 1755 29 Oct Witnessed purchase of land in Anson County, NC, by Blaney/Blenny Mills, son of John<sup>43</sup>
- 1756 10 Mar Patent issued to him for 117 acres in Augusta on waters of **Roanoke**, adj. **John Mills**
- 1757 26 Aug Named as “**son William**” in will of Gilbert, bequeathed a note due Gilbert from James Starrett of “Refoe” [Radnor?] Township, Pennsylvania).
- 1756 May One William Mills sued George Robinson of Augusta for breach of promise to sell land on **Mills Creek**. Amelia County is involved. It’s not certain that this William is of Augusta.
- 1760 18 Nov Named as adj. patentee to David Cloyd’s patent on **North Branch**
- 1761 20 May Named as adj. patentee to David Cloyd’s land on **Persimmon Branch** of James River
- 1761 19 Aug Sale (by agent John Mills of **Lunenburg**) to Israel Christian, 117 acres on **Roanoke** adj. to John Mills
- 1767 20 Jan Estate opened for William Mills of **Clark’s Creek**, Mecklenburg (formerly Anson) Co., NC.<sup>44</sup> (Hugh Mills, brother of John Sr. of Augusta and Botetourt, also obtained land on Clark’s Creek of Anson, which he sold after his return to Botetourt; see his summary above.)

<sup>43</sup> Brent H. Holcomb, *Anson County, North Carolina: Deed Abstracts, 1749–1766; Abstracts of Wills & Estates, 1749–1795* (Baltimore: Clearfield, 1974), 12, 151.

<sup>44</sup> Brent H. Holcomb, *Mecklenburg County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Wills, 1763–1790 (1749–1790)* (Greenville, SC: A Press, 1980), 77.

### MISCELLANEOUS INDIVIDUALS

#### No Known Attachment to the John-Blaney-Hugh cluster

(Arranged chronologically by date of each person's first appearance)

#### James Mills (land speculator; Beverley-Brooke associate)

- 1728           Petitioned, with Robert Lewis, Wm. Lynn, **Robt. Brooke Jr.**, William Lewis, and Beverly Robinson—location unstated—for a 50,000-acre grant on which to settle other families. Either the grant was not allowed or else they did not pursue the settlement.
- 1762 24 May   **James Mills**, John Robinson, Richard Tunstall are executors of Wm. Beverley.

#### Joseph Mills

- 1739           Purchased 660 acres from William Beverley in Beverley's Manor, Orange Co. Others living around him in Location E-7 of Hildebrand's map were **Robert Brooke**; Jno, Rbt., and Wm. Christian; John Cown; James Patton; William Robinsone, and Thomas Shields.<sup>45</sup> (The coupling of Robert Brooke with both James and Joseph Mills suggests that James and Joseph may be from the same Mills family.)
- 1742 24 Jun   Sold his land in Beverley's Manor to John Wilson (Chalkley, 3:307; citing Deed Book 4:530)
- 1765 15 Oct   Owned land adj. to Beverley Manor land of Robert Armstrong, on br of **Christian's Crk**

#### James Mills, immigrant

- 1741           Named in 1741 Orange Co. court minutes as a recent importee from Great Britain.
- 1745—         Referenced in importation rights given to Thomas "**Lockhar.**"
- 1746           Assigned, with Jacob **Lockhart** and **William Mills**, to work the road from the top of North Mountain to the Courthouse.
- 1753 31 Oct   (possibly same) Sued Jeremiah Morah to recover debt "on attachment (mare & colt)"<sup>46</sup>

#### John Mills

- 1743           Grant, 400 acres on Persimmon Branch of James River
- 1750 22 Feb   Died. Benj. Kerkendall, adm. Sureties: Anthony Bogart, Jno. Dunbar.

#### Jennet Mills

- 1750 25 Dec   Named as daughter in the will of **John Hays**, whose land adjoined William Miller. She may be widow of John, who died in February. (William *Hays* was close associate of John Mills Sr. during their Lunenburg years. Also, one David Mills in Botetourt, 1797, married Nancy *Hayes*.)

#### Nicholas Mills

- 1754           Qualified as "Lieut. of Foot" in the Augusta militia; likely an offshoot of the Nicholas Mills family of Hanover, with offspring in Albemarle, Halifax, and elsewhere)

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<sup>45</sup> "The Beverley Patent, November 6, 1736, Including Original Grantees, Orange and Augusta Co. VA ... An Index taken from the drawings of J. R. Hildebrand, 5-6-1951 and 1954; Individuals who received Patents of Land in Beverly Manor, now Augusta Co., VA" (<http://sites.rootsweb.com/~vaaugust/BeverlyPatent.htm> : accessed 27 November 2018).

<sup>46</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2½-B, 1753–1754* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffyliaiad Publication, 1998), 50; citing p. 562.



**John Mills (apparently kin to Gilbert)**

1754 Order for “**John and Agnes Mills,**” of Lunenburg and Bedford and “Agnes Mills, Elizabeth Mills, and Elizabeth Mills Jr.” of Bedford to give testimony in an unidentified court case. (The only known Millses in Lunenburg and Bedford at this time was Augusta’s John Sr. and John Jr. The reference to Elizabeth Sr. and Jr. imply an older woman and younger woman, possibly mother and mother.

Note that one Agnes Mills is named as a granddaughter in the 1757 will of “Gilbert Mills, planter” of Augusta, below.

**Richard Mills**

1756 Aug Said to be “of Pennsylvania, husbandman, farmer”

1756 Nov Said to be “servant of Wm. Preston” in 1756 agreement with Preston to gain one year of his service in exchange for not enlisting in the army

**Charles Mills**

1763 8 Nov Was a debtor to the Augusta estate of George **Robinson**. In 1756 **William Mills**, assignee of [unstated] sued George Robinson of Augusta for breach of promise to sell Mills land on Mills Creek. Amelia County was involved. It’s not certain that this William was of Augusta.

**Lawrence Mills**

1764 23 Mar Said to be a “convict servant” of Jeremiah Ragen.

**David Mills**

1767 10 Mar **David Mills** and **Hannah** sell 120 acres on branch of Buffalo to *Israel Christian*; apparently David Mills Jr. and sister Anna of Albemarle (David Sr. of Albermarle d. 1764, left will)

- 1753, **William Mills** owned land cornering on *Israel Christian*, sold by William’s agent John Mills to William Graham
- 1761, John Mills of **Lunenburg**, sold to *Israel Christian*, 117 acres on Roanoke owned by **William Mills**, adjacent to John Mills’s line
- 1761, Thomas Walker releases to James Patton’s executors all interest in 4500 acres on waters of New River known as **Birk’s Garden**. Witnesses: *Israel Christian*, John Mills.
- 1764, David Mills of Albemarle left will bequeathing to daughter “**Anna**” all “that part of [800 acres in possession of James Ceaton] which shall include the **Garden** spot. (Others heirs were widow Lucy; sons Zachariah, **David Jr.**, Wyat, Joseph; daughters Mary, Lucy, and Elizabeth.)

**John Mills (Associates: Alexander & Robert Mills; Bells, Burnsidés, Campbells, Crows, Crawfords, Fraziers, Hannas, Oharras, Stuarts)**

1767 20 May Witnessed, with **Wm. Crow**, Henry Key, sale of land on Cowpasture by Daniel and Elizabeth Oharra to **Alexander Mills**, son of **Gilbert Mills**)

1769 3 Mar Witnessed, with James **Crow** et al., John Buchanan’s sale to **John Campbell**, 740 acres on **Middle Fork of Holston River** (This location in Western Augusta might suggest that the John of this record is not the John of Glade Creek in Eastern Augusta—however, Map 9 shows that John of Glade Creek was the next-door planter to John Buchanan)

1785 Named as nephew in will of **Robert Mills**, who left John the plantation Robert lived on with wife Susannah; John’s oldest son Robert was still a minor; Robert’s brother John had children Alexander, Robert, and William; associates were Moffetts, Hannas, Rankins, Carsons

1787 10 Nov Served as surety for Isaac Hanna’s bond to marry Rebekah Hogshead

1790 Appraised the estate of John “Stuart” [Stewart?] with **John Campbell**, George Crawford

- 1792 Was heir-at-law & executor of Robert Mills; sued Joseph, Florence, and William Bell
- 1793 9 Mar Served as surety for Abraham Hanna's bond to marry Mary Carson
- 1794 20 Jan Named as nephew and executor in will of Martha (Widow John) Burnside; other kin and associates named: **Jennett Frazer**, Ann Henderson, Henry King, Joseph Peck, George Hook, and **John Campbell, co-executor**
- 1794 11 Oct Named, with his son **Samuel Burnside Mills**, in Martha Burnside estate papers; Peggy Stuart is granddaughter of the deceased; Jennett Frazier is a legatee. (On 14 October, Michael **Aker/Acre** bought from the estate) Also potentially relevant:
- 1749, John Mills of Lunenburg was surety for Simon **Aker's** ex'r; Nicholas Haile, witness
  - 1750, John Mills died
  - 1750, John **Hays**, left will naming **Jennet Mills** as his daughter
  - 1740s–66, John Mills of Lunenburg and Augusta was bondsman for William **Hays**, administrator of the estate of Edmund Smith
  - 1788, Franky Mills, apparently widow of Pvt. John Mills of Montgomery Co., married Johann Abraham Glymph with **Valentine Akers** as surety
- 1800 14 Jun Made will: wife, son Robert, daughter Elizabeth; brother-in-law Andrew Allison and John Allison. Witnesses: Alex Robertson, H. King, Esther Gamble

#### **William Mills**

- 1773 17 Sep **William Mills** and David Essex were reported to court as runaway servants of Andrew Russell

#### **Robert Mills**

- 1785 12 May Will proved 20 September 1785. Had **brother William** and **nephew John**, etc., but other family names and associates don't overlap with John Jr. and John Sr. Robert's will also referenced brother William's "*sons*" (plural). If this abstract is correct, that eliminates from consideration the William who first appeared in Augusta in 1743 and died on Clark's Creek in Anson > Mecklenburg Co., NC, in the 1760s, leaving property that went to one son and three daughters.

#### **Menan Mills**

- 1790 8 Jun **Menan Mills**, assignee of Robert Brown, sued administrators of Alexander Searight.

#### **George Mills**

- 1794 1 Apr **George Mills** gave instructions for "delivery" to Leonard Miller of land or deed, part of 156 acres patented 6 April 1769 to Daniel Mouse on North Fork of South Branch

#### **Jesse Mills**

- 1811 29 Jul **Jesse Mills** and wife Lucy Tilman are named in a suit between heirs of Lucy's mother (Mrs. Thomas Tilman) and grandfather (Daniel Hix). [This Jesse married Lucy in Albemarle > Amherst; he is named as a son and heir in the 1755 will and 1766 and 1776 estate settlements of William and Mary Mills of Albemarle > Amherst.

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**Table 2**  
**Wattses in Augusta > Botetourt, 1747–1799**

**Arthur Watts**

1747 sued for freedom dues from Charles Hays

**George Watts**

1756 servant of Thomas Watterson, petitioned for freedom dues

1763 added to tithables

1766 accused of horse stealing (Chalkley, 130)

1767 George Watts's children bound out

**John Watts**

1783 served in Capt. James Neely's Company, Botetourt?

**Jonathan Watts**

1773 tax delinquent

**Mary Watts**

1768 orphan, bound out to Margaret Patton; Mary was likely a child of George, above

**William Watts**

1764 witnessed mortgage of Alex. Boyd, merchant of Augusta, to Alex Baine

1768 runaway servant of James Patterson

**William Watts**

c1788 rented the "Stone House" landmark near Mills Mountain

1789 grant, 400 acres in "the Barrens" adjoining Peter Evans, formerly Breckenridge land

1789 bought 175 acres on Tinker Creek, adjacent to Breckenridge land

1789 bought the Edward McDonald place, 200 acres, from McDonald's heirs

1789 bought 70 acres (in Carvin's Creek, Glade Creek, Great Lick area of Botetourt), part of 400 warranted to Abraham Loubtell, assigned to William and Nathan **Akers** and William Norvell

1794 sold the McDonald place to John Snyder

1795 cited as former owner of land on Tinker Creek now owned by Michael Cloyd.

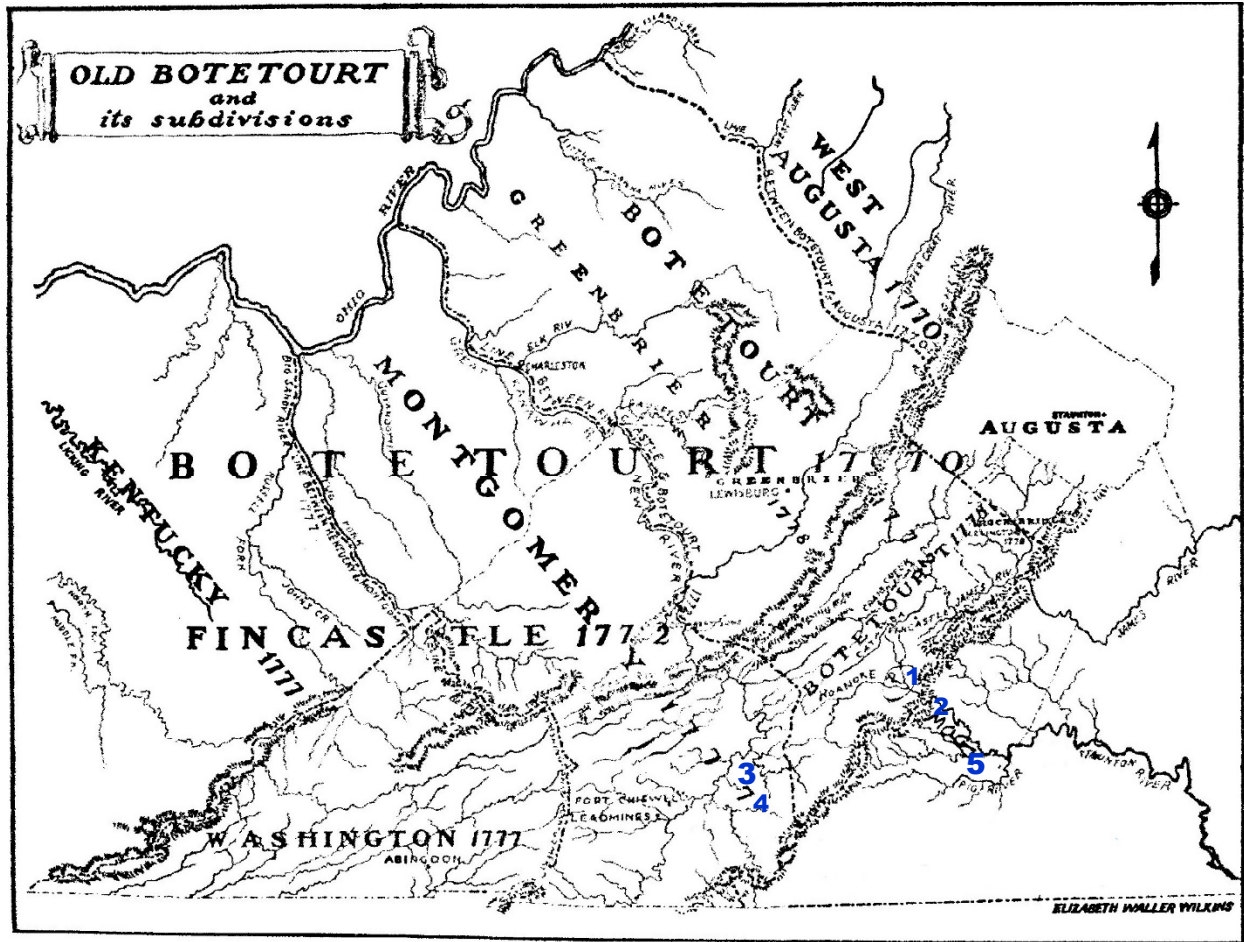
1797 sued Layton Yancey for debt due by note signed 6 February 1797

1799 grant, 340 acres in fork of Roanoke River and Tinker Creek, adj. **Akers**

1810 Edward Watts, said to be son of William, was of "Evans Spring Branch and Great Lick"; married Elizabeth Breckenridge, dau. of James Breckenridge

Map 1

Kegley's "Old Botetourt and Its Subdivisions" (p. 380)  
Showing Key Residential Locations for the Mills Settlers of This Study



- 1 John Mills, near Forks of Roanoke
- 2 John Mills, west side of Gap in Franklin Co. (see Franklin Co. Bicentennial map; just above the Maggoty)
- 3 John Mills, Little River
- 4 John, Franky & Thomas Mills of Montgomery, 1777–90; Richard Whitt, Meadow Creek of New River, 1774–
- 5 Blackwater River, site of William Mills-Witt, 1806–47

## Map 2

**Counties Associated with William Mills-Witt of Franklin:  
Montgomery & Pulaski (formerly Augusta); also Bedford, Floyd, Franklin, Henry<sup>47</sup>**



**STOKES & SURRY COUNTIES, NC**

1788–1790 residence of **Thomas Mills** of Montgomery Co. tax roll, 1787  
& (allegedly) **Robert Whitt** of Montgomery tax rolls, 1787–88 and 1791–92

<sup>47</sup> J. T. Lloyd's *Official Map of the State of Virginia* (New York: J. T. Lloyd, 1862); imaged at *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~3695~350006:Lloyd-s-official-map-of-the-State-o/>; accessed 2 May 2018).

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## RESEARCH NOTES

1666—

### VIRGINIA FRONTIER

#### Legal context

“In 1666 the Colony was empowered to make grants of waste and unappropriated lands, and in 1705 there was a general revival of the laws. Three special acts were passed prescribing the forms of patents, to be granted upon *importation rights*, upon *treasury rights*, for *forfeited or lapsed lands*, and for *escheated* lands, every form containing a reservation of a *fee rent* of one shilling for every fifty acres and a requirement that the premises should be seated and planted within three years from the date of the grant. This fee rent for each fifty acres was the so-called *quit rent* which was waived for the benefit of the early settlers on the western waters.

“*The Importation Right*—Every free immigrant to the Colony, other than transient persons, had an *importation* right to fifty acres of land; every imported servant, after the term of service expired, to fifty acres; every immigrant, bringing with him a wife and children, to fifty acres for his wife and each child; that the immigrant only, or those to whom he should assign his rights in the presence of two witnesses, should be entitled to such rights or certificate thereof; that proof of each importation right should be made, on oath, before the general [assembly?] or a county court, and a certificate thereof produced in the secretary’s office; upon which the secretary should grant the claimant a certificate; and on that certificate, any surveyor might lay off the quantity expressed, on any vacant land, returning the survey to the secretary’s office, that a patent might issue.

“*The Treasury Warrant*—On the payment of five shillings for every fifty acres of land, the receiver-general of the revenues of the Colony was directed to deliver to any person desiring to take up vacant lands a certificate .... Each claimant was limited to five hundred acres, unless he owned five or more tithable servants or slaves, in which case he might take up two acres more for every such tithable; and after that grants for more than four thousand acres in any one tract were prohibited, except in entries before made for larger quantities. Swamps, marshes, and low grounds adjacent to patented high lands could not be taken up till one year after the notice, in the presence of two witnesses, to the patentee of the highlands.

“Titles to lands previously granted were confirmed, whether duly recorded or not, but after that time all patents and the rights on which they were founded were required to be recorded. Patentees were required to seat and plant the granted lands within three years. Seating and planting meant the building of a wooden house [at least] twelve feet square, and the clearing and tending of [at least] one acre. [The 1713 law required twenty feet by sixteen, along with three head of cattle per hundred acres.] A failure to so seat and plant a grant within the prescribed three years meant a forfeiture of the grant and of the right on which it was founded. Time was extended to three more years in case of the death of the grantee. If lands were forfeited, they might not be patented to another for three years after the date of the first patent, and not then without an order of the general court.

“*The Processioning*.—Every fourth year the county court was to direct its vestry to lay off its parish into precincts, and appoint times for processioning between the last days of September and March, and two freeholders to see each of the precincts processioned, who were to return their reports to the vestry to be registered by the clerk. Three processionings settled the bounds of lands unalterably, provided they

were made with the consent of the owners and saving the cases of infants, women and persons of unsound mind.

*“The Surveyors.*—Surveyors were commissioned by the masters of William and Mary College and the government confirmed only such surveys as had been made by surveyors so commissioned. Both surveyors and chain carriers were required to be sworn before the county court. Surveyors were required to see that every tract surveyed should be plainly bounded, either by natural bounds, marked trees or other artificial landmarks, to deliver plats of surveys to those for whom they were made within six months after the survey was made, and not to deliver such plats to any other person till six months had elapsed; to enter every plat and survey in a book to be furnished him for that purpose, within two months after the survey was made, indicating all streams crossed in the courses, and the boundaries and adjacent plantations; and to return annually, in June, to the county clerk’s office to be recorded there lists of all surveys, specifying for whom made, the quantities surveyed, and where situated.

“A penalty was imposed on the surveyor for refusing to survey; and it was provided that all entries should stand good till the surveyor gave notice that he was ready to survey; and if the party failed to attend the surveyor within a month after such notice, his entry should be void. The county court might appoint inspectors of the surveyors’ books to report on their condition and take care of them in case of the death or removal of the surveyor.

*“The Surveyor’s fees.*—The surveyor’s fees were to be paid in tobacco, collected by the sheriff, if necessary. For every survey made ...”

COMMENT:

Kegley goes on to state that this 1666 law was amended in 1705, 1713, 1732, 1742, and 1748. He details those amendments.

“Taking up Land” meant building a cabin and raising a crop of grain of any kind, however small. This entitled the occupant to four hundred acres and after as much as one thousand more adjoining, to be secured by a land office warrant. It is said that all of the best lands in Borden’s Grant were taken under **“Cabin Rights.”** ...

“It was under these laws and regulations that the lands of the Great Valley and the Southwest were taken up. Numerous large grants were made, but only a few of them were followed up with actual settlement. .... The surveyor’s report needed to be filed with the secretary for the colony. **The report needed to lie two years to see whether a conflicting claim would be filed.**” (Kegley, 54–58)

COMMENT:

Peyton elaborates on the “cabin rights” referenced by Kegley:

“Deposition of Mrs. James Greenlee, taken November 10, 1806, in the suit of Joseph Burden [Borden], Plaintiff, vs. Alex. Cueton and Others, Defendants.

“That she, with her husband, James Greenlee, settled on Burden’s large grant, as near as she could recollect, in the Fall of the year 1737. ... settlers were ... to have 100 acres for ever cabin they should build, even if they built forty cabins, and that they might purchase any quantity adjoining at 50 shillings per hundred acres. ... These cabin rights were afterwards counted, as deponent understood, and an account returned to the government, then held at Williamsburg.” (Peyton, page range 74–76)

**1726–30**  
**SHENANDOAH VALLEY**  
Settlement

“Traditional history gives the first settlers in the Valley of Virginia as John Lewis and his party in Augusta and Adam Miller and his associates in Rockingham, originally Augusta. ...” (Kegley, 31)

**1728**

**JAMES RIVER HEADWATERS**

Settlement

Petition for land on the head waters of James River ... by “Robert Lewis, Wm. Lynn, Robt. Brooke, Junr, **Jas. Mills**, William Lewis & Beverly Robinson—Humbly Shew—That your Petitioners have been at great Trouble & Charges in making Discoveries of Lands among the Mountains, and are desirous of taking up some of those Lands they have discov’d—Wherefore your petitioner humbly pray your Honours to grant him an order to take up Fifty Thousand Acres, in one or more tracts on the head branches of James River to the West and Northwestward of the Cow Pasture, on seating thereon one Family for every Thousand Acres, and as the said Lands are very remote and lying among the great North Mountains, being about Two Hundred Miles at least from any landing—Your petitioners humbly Pray Your Honours will grant them six years time to seat the same and your petitioners as in Duty bound will ever pray.”

“1728, Robert Carter and Mann Page were the first to enter land in the Valley of the Shenandoah by due process of law. Carter was granted 50,000 acres on the North Branch of the Shenandoah, and Page about 8,000 acres between that and the Potomac.” (Kegley, 32–33; citing “Virginia State Papers, 1, 214” for the Mills petition and “Kemper, First Westward Movement,” for the Carter and Page settlements)

COMMENT:

Kegley does not indicate whether the Lewis-Lynn-Brooke-Mills-Robinson petition was granted. I have not found a patent in the colonial patent books.

**1730**

**SHENANDOAH-MASSANUTTING**

Settlement

“Robert Beverly, William Beverly and John Corrie, pray for leave to take up Fifty thousand Acres of land lying upon Shenando River, and next above the grant to Col. Wm. Beverly for the land called the Massanutting Town.” (Kegley, 33; citing “State Papers,” 1: 216)

**1730**

**SHENANDOAH -MASSANUTTING**

Settlement

Whereas Jacob Stover, “a native of Switzerland,” has petitioned for 10,000 acres “on the west side of the great mountains, and on the second fork of the Shenando River, on both sides of the branches thereof, for the settlement of himself and divers German and Swiss families, his associates, whom he proposes to bring thither to dwell in two years space,” the council granted the land “provided that one family for each thousand acres do come to inhabit there within the time proposed, and that in the meantime no other person be permitted to enter or take up the same other than the petitioners and his associates.”

“The place selected was the Indian Old Fields called Massanutton, and here was made the first permanent white settlement in the Valley.” (Kegley, 33; citing “Proceedings of the Council, June 17, 1730”)

**1732**

**SHENANDOAH VALLEY**

Settlement

“The colonial government, anxious to seat a white poulation west of the great mountains ... relaxed its rigor towards the Presbyterians and other Dissenters, and welcomed them, indeed, in 1732, and thereafter, to the upper country of Virginia; From the Scotch and Irish settlements in Pennsylvania



emigrants began to pour into the Valley. ... Within five years of Lewis's settlement at Bellefonte, so great was his own desire and that of the people for the ordinances of religion, that they sought to secure the services of a Presbyterian minister. On the 2d of Spetember, 1737, a supplication from the inhabitants of Beverly Manor was laid before the Presbytery of Donegal, Ireland, requesting supplies. ... In 1738, Mr. [James] Anderson [of the Presbytery of Donegal] visited Virginia, bearing a letter from the Synod of Philadelphia to Gov. Gooch. His visit was made on the invitation of John Caldwell and others, who asked protection in the exercise of their religious preferences." (Peyton, page range 84–86)

**1734**

**SHENANDOAH VALLEY**

Settlement

"In October, 1734, William Beverley was granted 60,000 acres of land on the west side of the great mountains, beginning at Jacob Stover's upper tract, on condition of seating thereon one family for each 1000 acres in two years and pay for rights for as much thereof as shall not be seated by them within the time mentioned.—This land was in later Augusta County and marks the beginning of the Scotch-Irish settlement in the Valley." ...

*"It is believed that all the earliest settlers west of the Blue Ridge came from Pennsylvania and moved up the Valley of the Shenandoah. It was several years before any settlers entered the valley from the east, and through the gaps of the mountain. As early as 1734 Michael Woods, an Irish immigrant, with three sons and three sons-in-law, came up the Valley, and pushing his way through Wood's Gap settled on the eastern side of the Blue Ridge. Two of the sons-in-law were Peter and William Wallace. They were then in Goochland County."* (Kegley, 36; citing "Charles E. Kemper—Early Westward Movement," and "Waddell—Annals of Augusta County")

**1734**

**ORANGE COUNTY, VA**

Geo-political context

"In forming Orange County [1734] it was agreed that the County of Spotsylvania be divided by the dividing line between the parish of St. George and the parish of St. Mark; and that that part of said county, which is now the parish of St. George, remain, and be called, and known by the name of Spotsylvania county; and all that territory of land, adjoining to, and above the said line, bounded southerly, by the line of Hanover county, northerly, by the grant of the Lord Fairfax, and westerly, by the utmost limits of Virginia, be thenceforth erected into one distinct county ... Orange.

"All the inhabitants that shall be settled on the westward of Sherrendo [Shenandoah] River by the first day of January, shall be free and exempt from the paiment of public county and parish levies, by the space of three years, from thence next following. Also all that shall settle there in the said three years." (Kegley, 36–37; citing "Hening, 4, 450")

**1736**

**MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA LINE**

Geo-political context

"Rival Settlements ... By 1736 a respectable number of Germans and others had settled west of the Susquehanna *along the Maryland line under Pennsylvania Titles*; but to avoid paying taxes, imposed by the province, these *settlers accepted titles from Maryland*, 'and attorned to the Lord Baltimore; but, becoming satisfied that adhesion to him might ultimately prejudice their interests, they formally renounced their allegiance, and sought protection from Pennsylvania.' ... These licenses, or promises to settlers to grant them patents for the lands they had settled are signed by T. Penn, himself." (Kegley, 38; citing "Rupp—Lancaster County, 268–70," and "Rupp—Lancaster County, 265")

**1736**

**BEVERLEY'S MANOR**

Settlement

"On September 6 ... 1736, there was granted in Virginia to William Beverley, John Randolph, Richard Randolph, and John Robinson 118491 acres of land "Beyond the Great Mountains on the River Sherando called the Manor of Beverley." (Kegley, 38; citing "Virginia Patent Book, 17, 154")

**1737–45**

**BORDEN'S GRANT**

Settlement

"While William Cabell and others were pushing their settlements up the valley of the James River below the mountains, groups of Pennsylvanians were moving through the great valley west of the mountains looking for suitable locations for homes on the upper branches of the Shenandoah. **Benjamin Borden**, an enterprising land-hunter who had previously come to Virginia from East Jersey and was then living in the lower valley, had secured the promise of a large tract of land on the north and northeast branches of James River between the Blue Ridge and North Mountain south and west of Beverly Manor. In September, 1737, while on his way to locate his prospective lands, Borden fell in with the family of Ephriam McDowell and made an agreement with the son, John McDowell, to act as a sort of agent or secretary in locating and settling the lands. Through the remainder of 1737 and the summer of 1738 about one hundred families came into the new settlement and Borden was granted one thousand acres for each family settled. ... The tract was surveyed in the summer and fall of 1738 by James Wood, the surveyor of Orange County." (Kegley, 38–39; citing "Morton—History of Rockbridge County—21-32 and 540")

Settlers of "Borden's Great Tract, 1737–45 [were] James **Bell**, Alexander **Breckenridge**, George, James, Robert and Adam **Breckenridge**, John Moore, Quantin Moore, George Henderson, Thomas Armstrong, John Mulholan, John **Bell**, John Walters, William McCanless, Robert **Poage**, Seth Poage, Daniel McAnaire, and John Gwinn. ... other early purchasers were David Moore, Isaac Anderson, Andrew Moore, William Evans, John Downing, William Sawyers [**Sayers**], John Paul, Robert Campbell, Samuel Wood, John Mathews, John Edmiston, Richard Woods, John **Hays**, Charles **Hays**, Samuel Walker, John McCraskey. Alexander Miller was the first Blacksmith and John Hays the first owner of a mill. James Greenlee came in 1737." (Kegley, 43)

"Neither Benjamin Borden nor the men to whom he sold land stopped at the border of his Great Tract. Borden entered a number of tracts below his line in the Forks of James and on Catawba, a south branch of the James, some distance away. Robert Poage, George Robinson and John Mathews made a rush for the valley of Mill Creek, on Poage's Run, and scattered settlements were made in different parts of the territory, even before any petitions for large grants were considered by the council." (Kegley, 60)

COMMENT:

See Map 3, below.

**1738**

**ROANOKE**

Settlement

"More Pennsylvanians propose coming to Virginia: An overture to the Synod of Philadelphia. Friday, May 26, 1738. Upon the application of John Caldwell, in behalf of himself and many families of our persuasion, who are about to settle in the back parts of Virginia, desiring that some members of the Synod may be appointed to ... procure the favour and countenance of the Government of that Province to the laying a

foundation of our interest in the back parts thereof. ... A committee was appointed to prepare instructions and write a letter in the name of the Synod to the Government [of Virginia]. ... Governor Gooch replied to the letter received, saying that ... no interruption shall be given to any minister who shall conform to the rules prescribed by the Act of Toleration in England by taking the oaths enjoined thereby, and registering the place of his meeting and behave himself peaceably towards the government. This was the beginning of the great migration to James River and the Roanoke.” (Kegley, 39; citing “Foote, Virginia,” 2d Ser., 104”)

#### 1738–44

##### AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA

###### Geo-political context

In response to a petition by inhabitants of Orange County, the commonwealth’s Committee of Propositions and Grievances agreed to divide Orange. “That all that Part of the said County of Orange, which lies to the Westward of the Top of the Blue Ridge of Mountains, be separated from the rest of the said County, and erected into Two distinct Counties, to be divided by a Line from the Head Spring of Conway River, to the Head Spring of Potowmack, and the rest of the said County be another distinct County. And that the Petition against the said Division be rejected. ...

“On Oct. 10, 1744, a bill was presented to the House by Mr. Harrison to oblige the inhabitants of **Augusta County** to pay their proportion of the charge for running the dividing line between **Augusta** and **Frederick** Counties.” (Kegley, 39–40; citing “Journal of the House of Burgesses,” 6: 338; 7: 128)

“No deeds were recorded before February, 1738; and then the first ones are found in the Orange records. ... The first deeds from William Beverley recorded in Augusta are dated August 12 and 13, 1747. From that time on the entries came fast. Before 1750 there were more than a hundred new tracts purchased and a great many of the original ones subdivided.” (Kegley, 40–41; citing “Hening,” 4: 45)

TO DO:

**Get this petition.**

#### 1739

##### ORANGE COUNTY, VA

###### Land purchase

**Joseph Mills** purchased 660 acres from William Beverley in Beverley’s Manor, Orange Co. Others living around him in Location E-7 of Hildebrand’s map were **Robert Brooke**; Jno, Rbt., and Wm. Christian; John Cown; James Patton; William Robinsone, and Thomas Shields.<sup>48</sup>

#### 1741–45

##### AUGUSTA (ORANGE) COUNTY, VA

###### Geo-political context

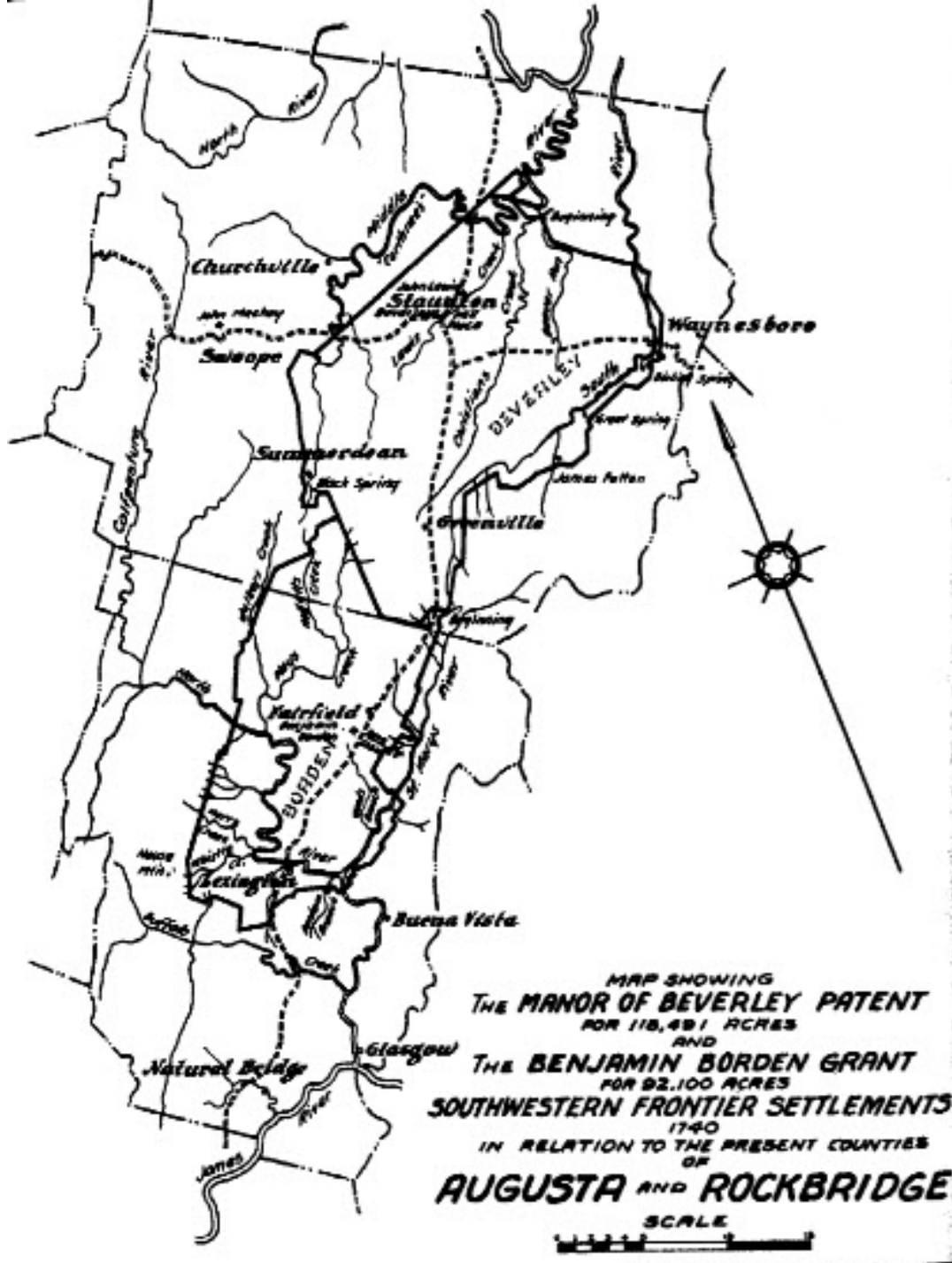
“The Militia Officers were John McDowell and John Mathews, Captains under Colonel James Patton, all appointed in 1742. Colonel Patton qualified on May 27th. ... The inhabitants of the northern and central part of the Borden Tract were placed in John Buchanan’s company, **those in the southern part of the Tract and in the “Forks of James” below Borden’s line were given to John McDowell.** ... Every man belonged to one company, *usually the one embracing the immediate territory in which he lived.* One individual might belong to two different companies by owning property at different places. The company was the local civil and military unit. In it the taxes were levied and collected and the militia met in regular muster. Everyone

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<sup>48</sup> “The Beverly Patent, November 6, 1736, Including Original Grantees, Orange and Augusta Co. VA ... An Index taken from the drawings of J. R. Hildebrand, 5-6-1951 and 1954; Individuals who received Patents of Land in Beverly Manor, now Augusta Co., VA,” *RootsWeb* (<http://sites.rootsweb.com/~vaAugust/BeverlyPatent.htm> : accessed 27 November 2018).

belonging to a company did not necessarily do active military service, even in times of war. (Kegley, 139-40; emphasis added)

Map 3  
Kegley's Map of Beverley's Manor & The Borden Grant" (p. 42)



11 JUNE 1742  
AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA  
Association

“Joseph Love and Mary to Samuel Caldwell, £150, 400 acres on South River Shanando, Beverley Manor line, part of 660 acres deeded to John Willson’s father by **Joseph Mills**, 24<sup>th</sup> June 1742. Teste: Pat. Cunningham, Samuel Love, Walter Davis, Robert ( ) Crawford. Delivered to Samuel Culwell.” (Chalkley, 3:410; citing Deed Book 11: 595)

COMMENT:

The men in this Joseph Mills-Love-Caldwell-Wilson community along the Beverley Manor line do not appear on the lists for either McDowell’s Company or Buchanan’s Company.

**24 JUNE 1742**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“John Wilson to Joseph Tees, 400 acres on South River, Shanandore; Beverley Manor line, part of 660 acres deeded to John’s father by **Joseph Mills, 24<sup>th</sup> June, 1742**. Teste: James Patton, Mary Thompson, Michael O’Donnel, Wm. Thompson, Joseph Love, Wm. Preston.” (Chalkley, 3:307; citing Deed Book 4:530)

COMMENT:

- The 1742 date of Mills’s sale suggests that the deed is filed in Orange County.
- Chalkley 3:266 describes a tract of land conveyed in 1747/8 as “part of a large tract conveyed to **James Mills** and sold to Robert Wilson and John Holmes.”

**25 SEPTEMBER 1742**

**AUGUSTA & ORANGE COUNTIES, VA**

Militia service

“At a court martial held 15 Sept. 1742 ... the return of Capt. John McDowell’s delinquents.” List includes Capt. McDowell, James and Ephraim McDowell, and 48 others, including “Erwin Patterson, Edward Patterson, **John Miles, William Miles** ...” (Bockstruck, 320)

COMMENT:

The coupling of this pair of Miles Men, together with Erwin Patterson who was a long-time friend of John Mills, suggests that “Miles” should be “Mills.” The list for the county’s other company, Buchanan’s, does not include any Mills. The region in which John and William Mills took out their lands did fall within McDowell’s district as described in the “1741–45” note above.

Kegley dates this list to 1742–44, saying

“The following are the members of John McDowell’s Company and they constituted the adult male population of the Lower Forks Community. ... **John Miles, Wm. Miles**. ... Erwin Patterson ... Samuel Woods, Richard Woods.” (Kegley, 140) Kegley goes on to say that after the original organization of the militia, McDowell and Buchanan were replaced in 1745 by Richard Woods and Benj. Borden.

Bockstruck also abstracts trials held for some of the delinquents in other companies, but none for Capt. McDowell or his men.

As background, Bockstruck (p. 319) tells us:

“The minutes of the county courts martial survive for very few counties. They are generally housed with the county records in the courthouse. The Augusta County original record book of courts martial has been mutilated. The first portion is now a part of the Draper Manuscripts (1QQ18#) at the Wisconsin State Historical Society. The remaining portion exists on microfilm at the Virginia State Library.”

**1 MARCH 1743**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land grant

“**John Mills**—Grant, 400 acres on **Persimmon Branch of James River.**” (Kegley, 65)

**13 DECEMBER 1744**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Sale Bill of above estate [Daniel Monahan’s], purchasers, viz: James Price, **Wm. Akers**, Pat Shirkey, Chas. **Ewing**, John Thomas, **Mary Akers**, Nicholas Harford, Mary Kinder, Wm. Armstrong, Wm. Carson, Archibald Grimes, **Wm. Mills**, James Burk, Bryan Cuff, Wm. Armstrong, Henry Brown, Daniel Creeley, Pat Shirkey, **Mark Cole**, George Barberer, **Simon Akers**, Peter Kinder, Joseph Love, Methusalem Griffith, Tobias Bright, **Jno. McFall**, Wm. March, **Mark Cole**, Jasper Terry, Henry Brown, Jr., Wm. Terry, **Stephen Rentfro**. 1740—The estate of Daniel Monahan, Dr. [i.e., the one to whom the sums are owed]. Cash paid Joseph Tate. Cash paid Edmond Cartledge. 1743—Cash paid Andrew Gaughagin.—Cash for John Jennet. Cash for thrashing grain. Cash paid Jno. Boyd. Cash for Jno. Finley. **Edmond Smith’s** account. Cash paid Robert Looney, Robert Rowland, Jno. Bramham. Cash paid Andrew Clemons. 18<sup>th</sup> June, 1747—Daniel Monahan to **Simon Akers**, 1 year’s keeping his child, £4, 7, 6. Paid John Bird.” (Chalkley, 3:9; citing Will Book 1:89–92)

COMMENT:

See subsequent comments linking the Millses to the Akers and Edmond Smith. Mark Cole and Stephen Rentfro, along with Smith, appear in my previously cited study of William Mills’s 1750 Lunenburg associates. Both settled lands that ended up in Franklin County.

This is the only reference to Edmond/Edmund Smith within Chalkley or Kegley.

**13 DECEMBER 1744**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

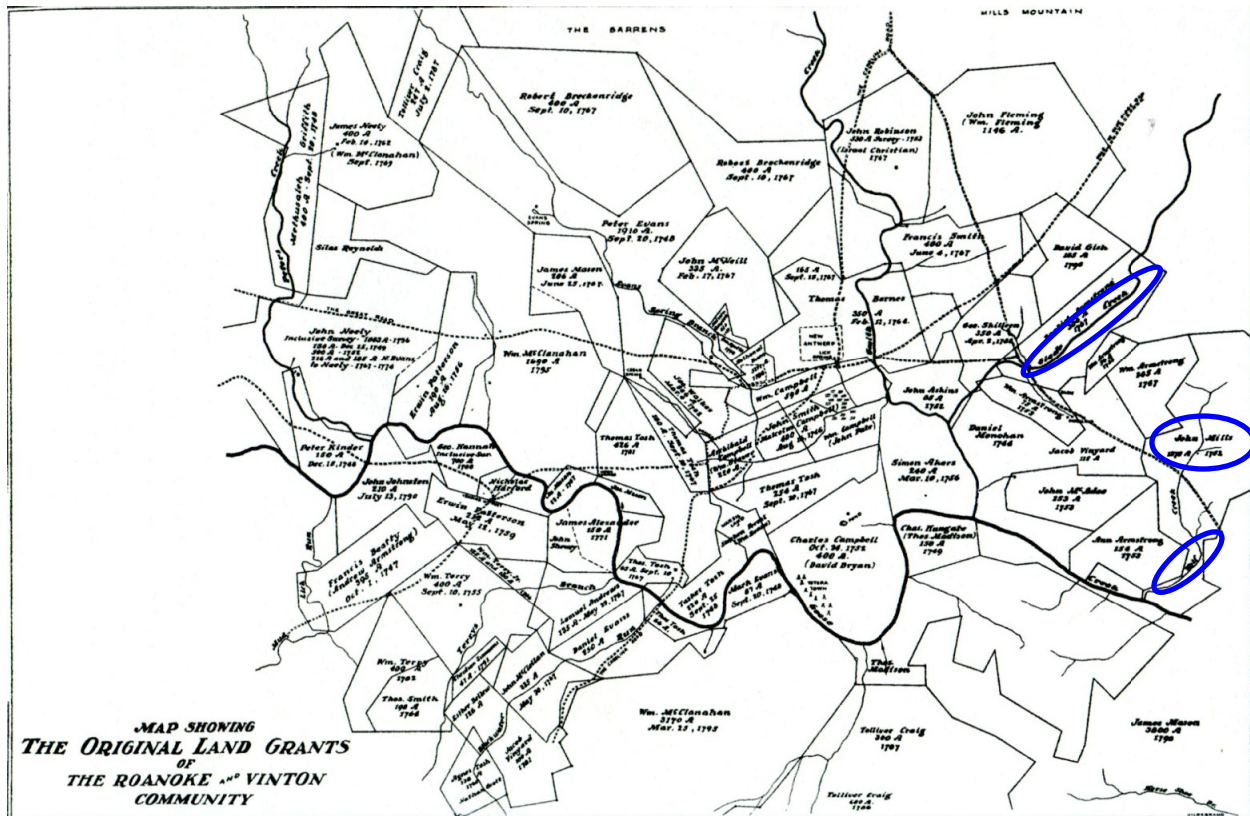
“Daniel Monahan’s Sale Bill ... **John Mills** to a horse, £7/10/10; Peter Kinder to a colt ... Joseph Love to a mare ... Joseph Love to a mare and colt ... Peter Kinder to a steere calf ... **William Mills** to three calves, £3/10/0; Methuselam Griffith ... Tobias Bright ... Patrick Shirkey ... Nicolas Harford ... George Robinson ... **John McFall** ... William March ... William March ... William March ... **Mark Cole** ... **Mark Cole** ... **Mark Cole** ... Nicholas Harford ...”

“The full total of acct, £38/1/15 ... By cash [credited] to **Wm. Mills**, £0/9/8.” (Kegley, 186–87)

COMMENT:

Mark Cole, like John Mills, was also a resident of Lunenburg > Bedford. See the previously cited studies, “William Mills of 1750 Tithe List, Lunenburg” and “Mills: Bedford County ... Extended Survey.” Kegley (p. 101\_ also dates Cole’s residence in Bedford at 1755, at which time he served as executor of the will of Daniel Evans of Augusta.

Map 4  
 Kegley's "Original Land Grants of the Roanoke & Vinton Community" (p. 523)



24 DECEMBER 1744  
 AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA  
 Association

“Daniel Monahan died on the Roanoke in 1744 and his will, recorded in Orange, is the first will connected with this community. He had land adjoining William Armstrong, and a child, Mary Monahan, who was cared for by Simon Akers.” (Kegley, 92)

“Daniel Monahan lived on the east side of **Smith’s** or **Buffalo Creek** adjoining William Armstrong near Glade Creek.” (Kegley, 93)

“At Daniel Monahan’s sale held on December 13, 1744, there were present many individuals not mentioned in earlier records:--James Price, **Charles Ewing**, John Thomas, William Armstrong, William Carson, **William Mills**, Methusalem Griffith, Tobias Bright, Archibald Grimes, Daniel Creely, George Barber, John McFall, William March, Jasper Terry, Joseph Love, William Terry, James Davis.” (Kegley, 91; citing “Chalkley’s Abstracts, Volume 3, page 9. Sale bill”)

COMMENT:

In 1788, Montgomery Co. (cut from Botetourt, cut from Augusta), John A. Glymph took bond to wed “Franky Mills, widow” with “Milliton” (Valentine?) Akers as bondsman.<sup>49</sup> They did not marry.

<sup>49</sup> Anne Lowry Worrell, *A Brief of Wills and Marriages in Montgomery and Fincastle Counties, Virginia, 1733–1831* (1932; reprinted Baltimore, 1996), 18.

Map 5  
Kegley's "Roanoke Watershed" (p. 523)



c1744  
AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA  
Settlement

“John McFall and Charles Ewing were on Glade Creek, and Daniel Creely at the divide between the waters of Glade Creek and an east branch of Buffalo Creek near present Cloverdale gave his name to **Creely’s Gap** and Creely’s branch. **William Mills** located early on the west side of the mountain between **Glade Creek** and **Buffalo** [aka Tinker’s Creek] and **gave to that mountain the name Mill’s Mountain.**” (Kegley, 94)

COMMENT:

*Re Charles Ewing*

Charles Ewing was the father of Robert Ewing whose daughter Patty married John Mills Jr., son of John Mills Sr. of Augusta > Botetourt and Lunenburg > Bedford. Charles Ewing’s will mentioned



land adjacent to “Beard,” apparently David Beard who is mentioned in the inventory and sale of Ewing’s property.<sup>50</sup>

*Re John McFall*

In Lunenburg > Bedford of the 1750s and 1760s, McFalls were associates of the above set of Millses, as well as Alexander Sayers of Augusta. See the previously cited study of William Mills of Lunenburg, 1750.

**1745–57**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Geo-political context

“In the year 1745, all that portion of the Colony of Virginia which lay west of the Blue Ridge Mountains was erected into a County which was named Augusta. In December of that year, the County Court was organized and held its first sitting. ... The bounds of the new County were limited on the north by Fairfax’s Northern Neck Grant and the boundaries of Maryland and Pennsylvania to the westward of Fairfax; on the east by the Blue Ridge Mountains; on the south by the Caroline line. On the west its territory embraced all the soil held by the British without limit of extent.

“For about twelve years the County Court of Augusta was the only Court and repository of records within that district. ... Its original constitution embraced all Virginia west of the Blue Ridge (with the exception of the Northern Neck Grant, whose southern boundary was in the present County of Shenandoah, and western, through the Counties of Hardy, Hampshire, and northward to the Potomac); the whole of the present state of West Virginia; a portion of the present Western Pennsylvania, including Pittsburgh, which was, at times, the seat of the County Court; and the lands on the waters of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.” (Chalkley, 1:3)

**10 MARCH 1745**

**ORANGE & AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Road order

“Mark Evans, William Kervine, John McFarron, James Mc Gomerie appd. Overseers of Road Blazed by **Orange Co.** from inhabitants of **Roanoke** to top Blue Ridge at bounds of Brunswick Co. and Cap. Robinson and **John Mills** are to lay off precincts and tithables.” (Chalkley, 1:15; citing Book 1, p. 20)

COMMENT:

This John Mills was obviously a man of some substance prior to the time that Augusta was created.

TO DO:

Orange County records needs to be thoroughly worked to better determine when each of the Millses came into the region.

**5 SEPTEMBER 1745**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Importation right

“Zachariah Hoy vs. Gordon McWilliams—O.S. 316; N.S. 113—Bill, 1815. Henry Martz deposes, in Rockingham, 25<sup>th</sup> February, 1820, he is 52 years old 1<sup>st</sup> of September next. Deed, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1810, by Jacob Pickering and Hannah of Rockingham to Zackariah Hoy, 20 acres on Smith’s Creek in Rockingham, part of tract patented to Jacob Woodle, 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1772. Recorded in Rockingham, October, 1810. **Patent, 5<sup>th</sup> September 1745, to Thomas Lockhar** in consideration of importation of William Phillips, **James Mills** and Thomas Miller, **120 acres in Augusta on Smith’s Creek.** Deed, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1801, by John Vance and

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<sup>50</sup> Joida Whitten, *Abstracts of Bedford County, Virginia, Wills, Inventories and Accounts, 1754–1787* (Dallas, TX: P.p., n.d.), 29–30, 39; citing pp. 114–17, 147–49, 157–59.

Catherine of Rockingham to David Fisher ....” (Chalkley, 2:234–35; citing “Judgments ... Circuit Court Causes Ended”).

COMMENT:

An immigrant James Mills was in Orange County, VA, as early as 1741:

**23 JULY 1741**

**ORANGE COUNTY, VA**

Importation.

“John Newport John Crawford **James Mills** & Thomas Brown ... were immediately imported into this Colony from Great Britain.”<sup>51</sup>

A James Mills was also in Lunenburg by 1751:

**1751**

**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Court papers.

“1751 Folder ... John Harvie shows that John Long is in debt to him. Account of John Long with Harvie for attorney’s fees agst **James Mills** and agst Molly Johnson, for 1 Pound, 10 shillings (2 items).”<sup>52</sup>

**31 OCTOBER 1753**

**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Court order.

“**Jas Mills** on attachment (mare & colt) agst Jeremiah Morah dfdnt; plaintiff to recover debt by public sale attachment.”<sup>53</sup>

**20 AUGUST 1746**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Road order

“Report as to road from top North Mountain to Wm. King’s and thence to C.H. [courthouse]—Robert Davis appointed overseer. The following tithables to work it: George Kill Patrick, James Young, **James Mills**, Robert McClellan, Andrew Pickens, **Jacob Lockhart**, John Trishell, Hugh Young, Samuel Kinkead, **William Mills**, William McFeeters, James Clark, Henry Cristwell.” (Chalkley, 1:20; citing Book 1, p. 72)

COMMENT:

Prior research has established that both John and William Mills of Augusta were in Lunenburg simultaneously with a James Mills, and were closely associated (with each other, but not James) in Lunenburg. They were in the part of Lunenburg that was cut off into Bedford.<sup>54</sup>

The fact that James, here in Augusta, is to serve on the same road crew (i.e., is in the same neighborhood) with William might suggest that James is also part of this family cluster. However,

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<sup>51</sup> Barbara Vines Little, “Importations in the Orange County, Virginia, Order Books 1-8, 1735–1770,” *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 26 (November 1988): 248, citing Order Book 2:433; imaged in “Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>), image 14.

<sup>52</sup> Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Papers, 1744–1783* (Richmond, VA: P.p., 1987), 8.

<sup>53</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-B, 1753–1754* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaid Publication, 1998), 50; citing Order Book 2 ½-B: 562.

<sup>54</sup> See E. S. Mills, “Mills: Initial Survey of Published Resources for Southside Virginia: Brunswick, Goochland, and Counties Cut from Them—Principally Albemarle, Amherst, Bedford, Cumberland, and Prince Edward—with Peripheral Research in South Carolina and Tennessee to Pursue Leads,” report to file, 28 May 2016 (updated 25 October 2016); archived at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the “Research” tab.

his James is more likely the one imported by Thomas Lockhar(t). By contrast, William and John Mills have not been found on any importation lists for Virginia.

**OCTOBER 1746**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Baptism

“**Alexander Mills**, a child Baptized named **Elizabeth**.” (Craig, p. 15 at *Ancestry* frame 18 of 40)

“**James Miles**, a child baptized named **Andrew**.” (Craig, p. 156 at *Ancestry* frame 19 of 40)

**1747**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

Grant, “August, 1754, **James Miles**—on the west bank of North Branch of James River adjoining William Porter. Borden’s deed to William Porter August 21, 1754—Au. D. Bk. 6, 409. **James Miles had purchased the homeplace of Robert Renick on Buffalo Branch in 1747**. This he sold to William Morrow or Murray in 1753. Au. D. Bks. 1, 175 and 5, 251.” (Kegley, 83)

COMMENT:

Kegley’s index identifies this James Miles as “of Bedford” in 1755. On p. 185, Kegley includes him on a list of Augusta’s 1755 tax delinquents, but that list does not attach Bedford to Miles’s name.

**17 FEBRUARY 17[47/]8**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court minute

“**John Mills** vs. Michael Finney.” (Nelson, p.13, citing Court Order Book 3:92; *Ancestry* image 17 of 28)

“The Court recommends to the Gov. the following as proper persons for Justices: James Rutledge, Robt. Hook, Saml. O’Dell, Henry Downs Jr., Patrick Martin, John Lyle, Archibald Alexander, **John Mills**, Wm. Harmission, **Erwin Patterson**, Wm. Harbeson, Abraham Vanderpoole, David Stuart, James Lockhart & Andrew Lewis.” (Nelson, 14, citing Court Order Book 3:101; *Ancestry* image 18 of 28)

**29 FEBRUARY 1747/8**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land ownership

“£77. John Holmes to William Wright, 260 acres in Beverley Manor, **part of a large tract conveyed to James Mills** and sold to Robert Wilson and John Holmes, patent line of Beverley Manor; Anthony Black’s land; Wm. Robinson’s line; John Wilson’s line. Teste: Wm. Henderson, John Black, John Cunningham. Proved by all and dower released by Jane, 19<sup>th</sup> May, 1748.” (Chalkley, 3:268; citing Deed Book 1:515)

COMMENT:

Note that the records found to-date for this Beverley Manor land identifies the landowner variously as *James* and *Joseph*.

TO DO:

Find patent for this James and/or Joseph.

**5 APRIL 1748**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land grant

“**John Mills**, 300 acres on **Buffalo Creek of Roanoke**. (This came to be known as the **Stone House Place**, later Cloverdale.)” (Kegley, 96; citing Land Grants, Bk. 26:301)

**1746–48**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Settlement

“Settlement on New River and Holston: Some of the people on the Roanoke and James River extended the explorations and entries of land across the dividing ridge to the valleys of the western waters. Some surveys were certainly made while that territory was yet in Orange County, but since only a few patents were issued on such surveys, we are led to believe that there was more of prospecting for good land than there was of staking definite claims for homesteads.

“The formal opening of the region for survey and settlement came with the order of council granting leave to James Patton and others to take up 100,000 acres lying in Augusta County on three branches of the Mississippi River, the one known by the name of Wood’s River, the other two to the westward thereof and on the waters of said river, the land being to the westward of a former Order of Council granted to Zachary Lewis, Gent., and others, and that four years time be allowed them to survey and pay rights for the same upon returns of the plats.

“However, before the agent and surveyor for this company appeared on the ground to take over the management of its affairs, several groups of individuals had made selections and established their homes in anticipation of titles to the land. Surveying was begun in March, 1746. ... **John Mills**, of Roanoke, had two patents, **400 acres on Wood’s River (1748)**, and **100 acres on Little River**, that were issued in advance of the grants in Col. Patton’s Wood’s River surveys.” (Kegley, 116)

COMMENT:

This Mills land on Woods River and Little River fell into Botetourt, then Fincastle, then Montgomery; it apparently lies now within present Floyd County. Millses previously placed in this area are<sup>55</sup>

- **Pvt. John Mills, Franky Mills, Thomas Mills, Sara, Frances, and Rachel Mills** lived there in the 1780s and 1790s.
- **William Mills-Witt (b. c1785-88)** of Franklin, settled in Floyd c1847 after he left Franklin.
- I am investigating the possibility that William’s parents, c1785–88, were (the unmarried) Sara Mills and Robert Whitt, putative nephew of Rev. Richard Whitt. Robert left Montgomery Co. in 1788 for NC, then returned in 1791 and married (1792), the sister-in-law of Sara’s sister Frances.
- See notes attached to the 9 March 1748 Simon Aker abstract below.

**9 MARCH 1748**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Simon **Aker**’s will—Wife Mary Akers; sons, William and **Thomas**, and their younger brother and sister, Uriah Acres and **Ruth** Acres. Executors, wife Mary and son William. Teste: Wm. Armstrong, Susanna Armstrong, **Nicholas Haile**. Presented, 17<sup>th</sup> May, 1749 by Mary and William Acres. Proved by Wm. and Susanna Armstrong, and lie for further proof.” (Chalkley, 3:12; citing Will Book 1:151)

COMMENT:

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<sup>55</sup> E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Montgomery, Fincastle & Botetourt Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey,” report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

- Widow Franky Mills, discussed above, remarried 1787, John Abraham Glymph. Security for the marriage bond was **Valentine Akers**.<sup>56</sup>
- I am investigating the possibility that Franky may have been an Akers by birth.
- Online trees assert that the wife of Rev. Richard Whitt, née Susannah Skaggs, was first married to **Thomas Blackburn Akers**. No children are identified for them.<sup>57</sup>
- Susannah Skagg was the child of James and **Rachel Skaggs**.<sup>58</sup> By Whitt, she named a daughter **Ruth**<sup>59</sup>—a Biblical name that was not at all common in their region.

Geni's "master profile" for Susannah (Skagg) Akers Whitt presents her as the mother of Rev. Richard Whitt's children born 1757, 1759, 1760, 1762, and 1765—then a break in births until 1772, 1774, and 1776. However:

- That break in births suggests the likelihood that Rev. Whitt had two wives, with Susannah being the mother of only the last three (Ruth, Edmund, and Susannah).
- Rev. Richard Whitt resided in **Halifax County through February 1767**, when he and brother Edmund were cited in a county road order.<sup>60</sup>
- The **earliest known appearance** of Richard Whitt in association with the Skaggs of **Augusta** (soon to be Botetourt, then Fincastle, then Montgomery) was **26 April 1769**.<sup>61</sup>

All points considered, it is plausible that Richard Whitt did not marry Susannah Skaggs until c1768–69, and that her prior marriage to Thomas Blackburn Akers should have produced children in the period that "Widow Franky Mills," was born (c1760).<sup>62</sup>

TO DO:

The observable connections between the Skaggs, Akers, Whitts, and Mills of Montgomery County suggest that I need to **add Skaggs and Akers to my work list, for thorough study**.

The specific objective is to determine whether Franky Mills (who named children Thomas and Rachel) might be the daughter of Susannah (Skaggs) and Thomas Blackburn Akers.

## 12 APRIL 1748 AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA

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<sup>56</sup> Anne Lowry Worrell, *A Brief of Wills and Marriages in Montgomery and Fincastle Counties, Virginia, 1733–1831* (1932; reprinted Baltimore, 1996), 18. Worrell appears to have misread his given name as "Milliton." No "Milliton" Akers can be placed in this region and the configuration of up-down and tall-short strokes suggest that "Valentine" was intended.

<sup>57</sup> For example, see "Master Profile for Susannah Whitt," *Geni* (<https://www.geni.com/people/Susannah-Whitt/6000000003722078805> : accessed 16 November 2018). It is probable that researchers are merging two different Susannahs.

<sup>58</sup> *Appalachian Aristocracy* (<http://appalachianaristocracy.com/getperson.php?personID=I4564&tree=01> : accessed 16 November 2018), "James Skaggs, Jr." sketch, offers abstracts of two depositions dated 27 April 1836 "at the home of William Skaggs, Aleck Fork of Pitman Creek" made by William Ratliff and Frances Samples (apparently for the RW pension application of Moses Skaggs of Green Co., KY), in which they both state he had four sisters: "Susannah, wife of Richard Whit; Lydia, wife of Matthias Harmon, Elizabeth "Betsy," wife of John Hankins; and Nancy, wife of William Meridy."

<sup>59</sup> Will of Richard Whitt, transcribed by David F. Whitt, *Ancestors and Descendants of William Whitt, 1775–1850* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2004), 58–59; citing "page 120 in the Montgomery County Will Book for 1813."

<sup>60</sup> David F. Whitt, *Ancestors and Descendants of William Whitt, 1775–1850* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2004), 58–59; citing Halifax County Court Orders (1764–1766), p. 18, and Plea Book 5 (Part 2), Halifax County Court Orders (1766–1767), p. 63.

<sup>61</sup> Richard did not patent land in Augusta > Botetourt > Fincastle until 1774; it lay on Meadow Creek near the Skaggs. In 1779, he purchased a part of James Skaggs's land. For his lands, see James L. Douthat, *Land Grants in Fincastle County, Virginia, 1772–1776* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 2008), 15, citing Plott Book A, 1773–1775: 92; and Douthat, *Montgomery County, VA: Deed Book A, 1773–1789* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 31 (Mastin) and 39 (Whitt); citing pp. 157, 193.

<sup>62</sup> David Whitt's family chart (between his pp. 57 and 58) reports undocumented assertions that Susannah might have been Whitt's first wife, after which he married "Betsy Baxter" who bore Ruth. However, the presence of the name *Ruth* in the Akers family weighs in favor of Ruth's mother being Susannah (Skaggs) Akers.

Land sale

“£20. **John Mills** to David Cloyd, 400 acres on a branch of James River called Persimona Branch. Teste: James Patton, Thomas Lewis, **Arther ( ) Watts** [*sic*]. Proved by all, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 1748.” (Chalkley, 3:268; citing Deed Book 1:523–24)

**13 APRIL 1748**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

“17<sup>th</sup> February, 1758. Colonel James Patton’s estate; appraised by Thomas Stewart, John Ramsey, Edward Hall. List of bonds, bills, &c., due the estate: ... **Hugh Mills**, 13<sup>th</sup> April 1748; William Graham, **John Mills** and *Erwin Patterson*, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1753 ... “**Charles Mitts**, 20<sup>th</sup> December 1753; ... **Arthur Walls**, 4<sup>th</sup> October 1754; ... **John Mills**, 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1753 ... **John Mills**, 20<sup>th</sup> February 1753 ...” (Chalkley, 3:73–74; citing Will Book 3:202–7)

**APRIL 1748**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Historical context

“The Stone House and **Carvin’s Creek Community—The Stone House Lands**. The Stone House which stood by the Old Carolina Road below the gap of **Buffalo Creek** at the southern end of **Tinker Mountain** was a neighborhood center from the beginning of the settlement. We have no description of the house, and its builder is unknown. ... It stood on a tract of 300 acres of land patented to **John Mills** in April, 1748. A tract of 200 acres adjoining this, one course of which went to a locust in ‘Little Hell,’ was patented to **Erwin Patterson** in 1753 and the next year Patterson purchased from **Mills** the 300 acres.

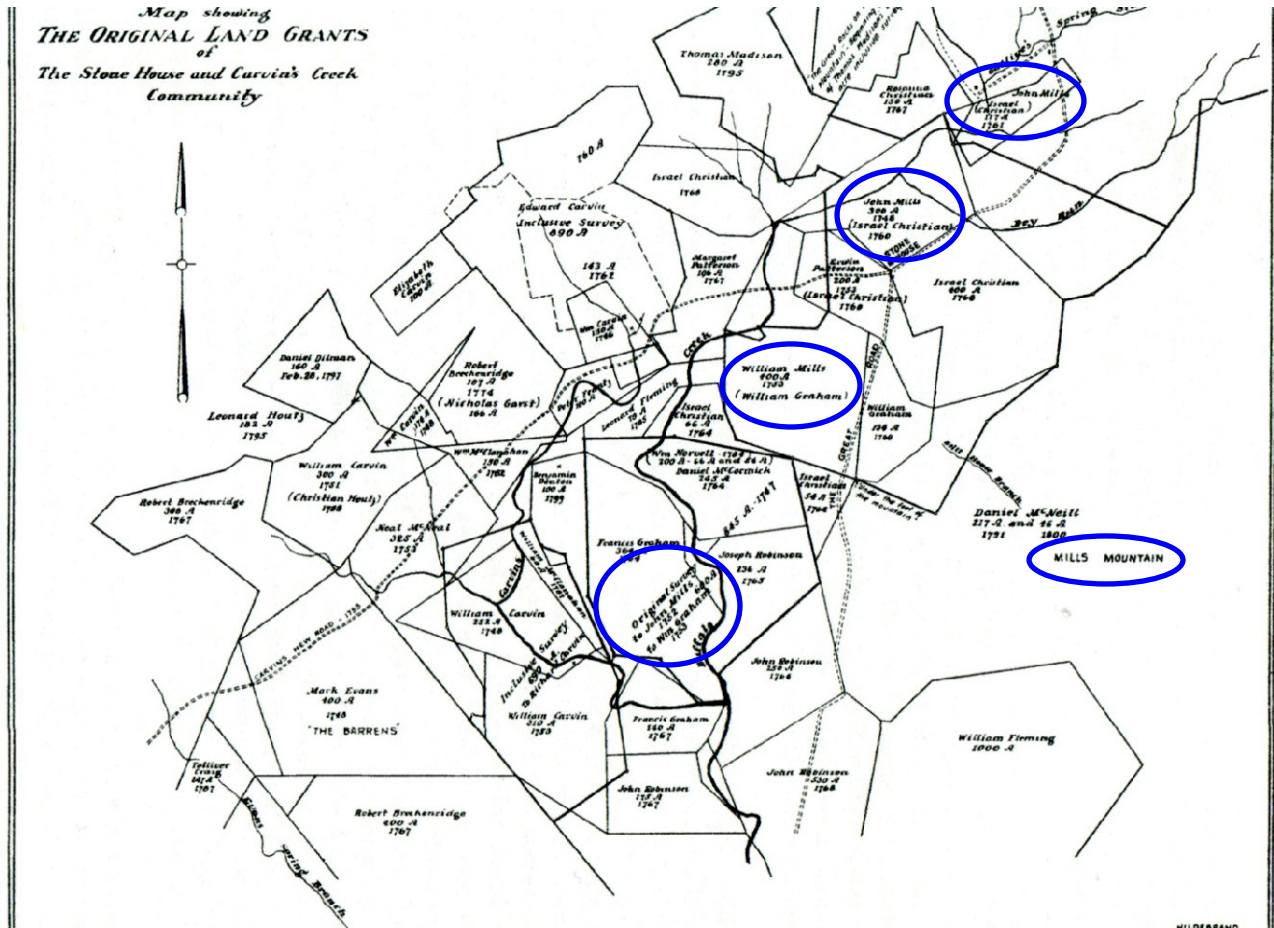
“The Christians came to the Roanoke in 1760 when they purchased the above mentioned tracts of Erwin Patterson and entered 400, 117 and 78 acres adjoining. In 1769 all this land with two additional surveys made up what was then known as the ‘**Stone House Lands**’ which lands were conveyed by Israel Christian to his son, William, on the occasion of William’s marriage with his wife, Anne, who was a sister of Patrick Henry. Here the Christians lived until they moved to **Dunkard Bottom** [later Montgomery County, now Pulaski County] on **New River** in the year 1773. In 1779 they conveyed for £1500, 1410 acres ‘commonly called’ the ‘Stone House Lands’ to Thomas Madison who had married Susanna, another sister of Patrick Henry. **Thomas Madison**, a lawyer lived busily here and on Holston where he had business interests as guardian for his niece, a daughter of William Campbell, who had married Elizabeth Henry, another sister of Patrick’s. In 1784 he purchased the William Graham homestead adjoining (400 acres) from George Graham, James Robinson and Priscilla Graham, executors of William Graham, dec.” (Kegley, 512–13)

“**Thomas Madison** moved to the **Salt Works in Washington County**, where he was living in October 1787. He returned to live at the Stone House in the fall of 1788 or 1789. He rented the Stone House place to the late **William Watts**.” (Chalkley, 2:73; citing “Judgments. April, 1799 (K to Z) ... Circuit Court Causes Ended”)

COMMENT:

In this era, use of the term “late” did not mean “deceased” unless the word deceased appeared after the name. More typically, it meant “late of this place.”

Map 6  
Kegley's "Original Land Grants of The Stone House and Carvin's Creek Community" (p. 513)



MAY 1748  
AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA

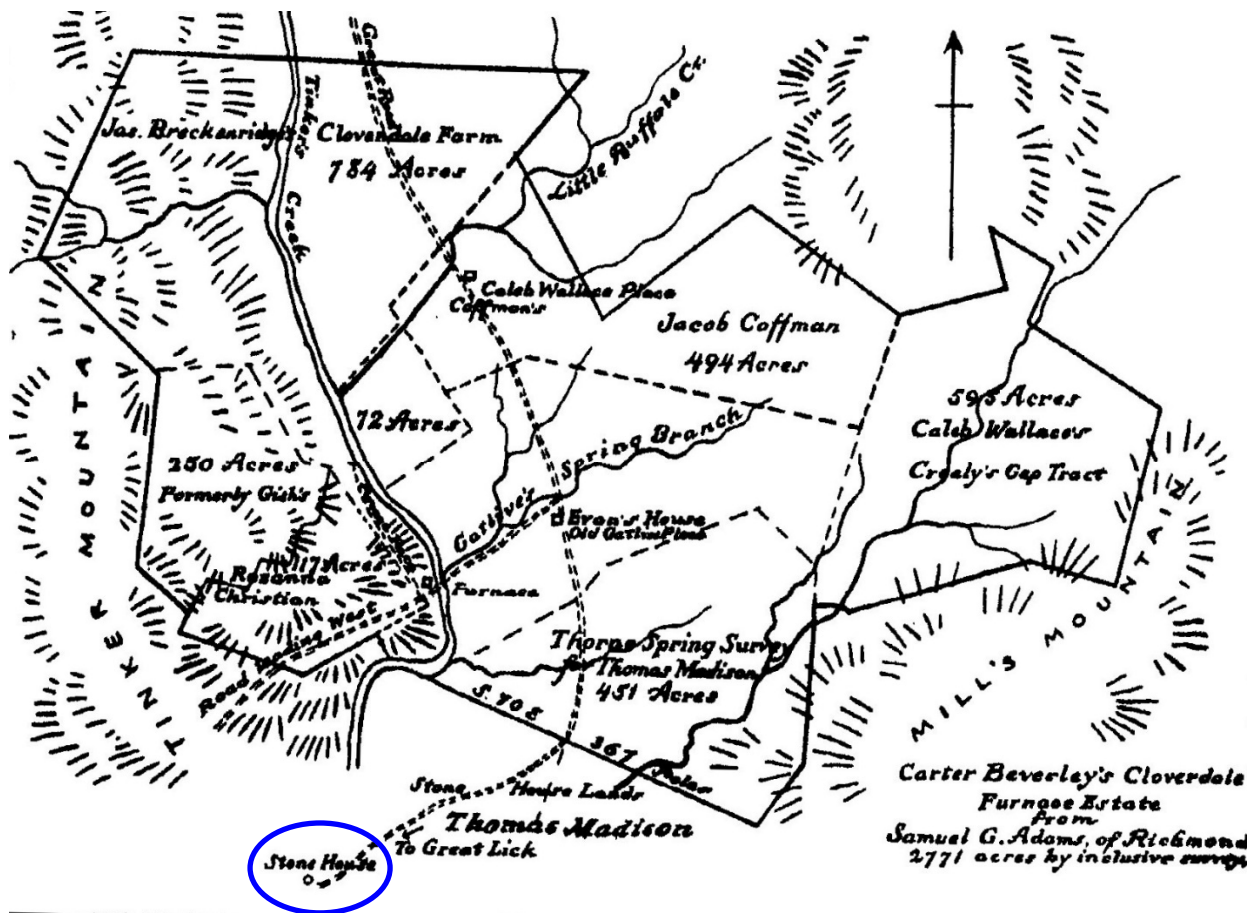
Court suit

"Charles Milliken vs. **John Mills**.—Debt. Writ 20<sup>th</sup> February 1747. Defendant lives on Roanoke." (Chalkley, 1:298; citing "County Court Judgments")

COMMENT:

Chalkley identifies these records as "files of papers in the County Court marked 'Judgments' and reports: "They are filed in bundles, wrapped, and labeled with the term at which final judgment was entered. The references are to the bundle first and then to the style of the suit where the paper noted may be found. The letters used in designating the bundle are private markings and not a part of the official label." He does not cite any of those "markings" that might help to identify the bundle or provide other clues.

Map 7  
Kegley's Plat Map of Mills Mountain & Cloverdale Furnace Estate (p. 512)



1748  
AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA  
Tax delinquency

“Delinquents. 1748 ... Uriah Shadwick, gone to Carolina; **James Mills**, not found; **Abraham Mire [Marr]**, not found; Sam’l Martin, not found; Wm. Martial, twice charged; Lawrence Morein, runaway; James Moore, not found; Wm. McClennay, not found ... (Chalkley, 2:413; citing “Lists of Delinquents in the Tax Levies [which] are not copies of the complete lists as returned to the Court, but contain only the names of those for whose delinquency some reason is assigned by the officer in making his return.”)

COMMENT:

By 1751, one James Mills was in Albemarle.<sup>63</sup>

22 FEBRUARY 1749  
AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA  
Association.

“William Beverley to James Patton ... 432 acres in Beverley Manor. Corner to the Christies, William Long’s line. **Joseph Mills’** line. William Robinson’s line. Teste: James Lockhart.” (Chalkley, 3:280; citing D.B. 1:526)

<sup>63</sup> Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Papers, 1744–1783* (Richmond, VA: P.p., 1987), 8.



COMMENT:

See prior comments about the possibility that “Joseph” was “James.” The “Christies” were the Christian family. A contemporary road order helps to place this land:

**20 AUGUST 1748**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Road order

“**Robert and Wm. Christian** to lay out a road from Black James Armstrong’s to **Wm. Long’s mill**, thence to James Alexander’s fence, with these workers: James Armstrong, George Rutledge, Thomas Rutledge, James Caldwell, James Armstrong, James Frain [Frame?], William Robb, **John Christian**, James Alexander, John Black, John Wilson, Anthony Black, Wm. Wright, and Wm. and John Robinson.” (Chalkley, 1:36; citing Order Book II: 63)

**MARCH 1748/9**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Baptism

“**John Mills**, a child Baptized named **Mary**. At **Tinker’s Creek**.” (Craig, p. 22 at *Ancestry* frame 25 of 40)

COMMENT:

- Tinker’s Creek is now in Roanoke County, but lay in the part of Augusta that was cut away to create Botetourt.
- The baptism of this child by Rev. Craig suggests that John, like Gilbert’s son Alexander, was Presbyterian and more-likely Scottish.

**APRIL 1749**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Baptism

“**Alexander Mills**, a child Baptized named **Gilbert**.” (Craig, p. 23 at *Ancestry* frame 26 of 40)

**17 MAY 1749**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Probate

“Mary and William **Aker’s** bond as above, with surety **John Mills**.” (Chalkley, 3:12; citing Will Book 1:152)

COMMENT:

“As above” refers to the 9 March 1748 will of Simon Aker’s wherein the widow Mary and son William were appointed executors. Legatees: “sons, William and Thomas, and their younger brother and sister, Uriah Acres and Ruth Acres. Witnesses: Wm. Armstrong, Susanna Armstrong, **Nicholas Haile**. Presented 17 May 1749 by Mary and William Acres and proved by Wm. and Susanna Armstrong.

*Note:* In 1750, John Mills and William Mills were in Nicholas Haile’s district of Lunenburg.<sup>64</sup>

**19 MAY 1749**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Roads

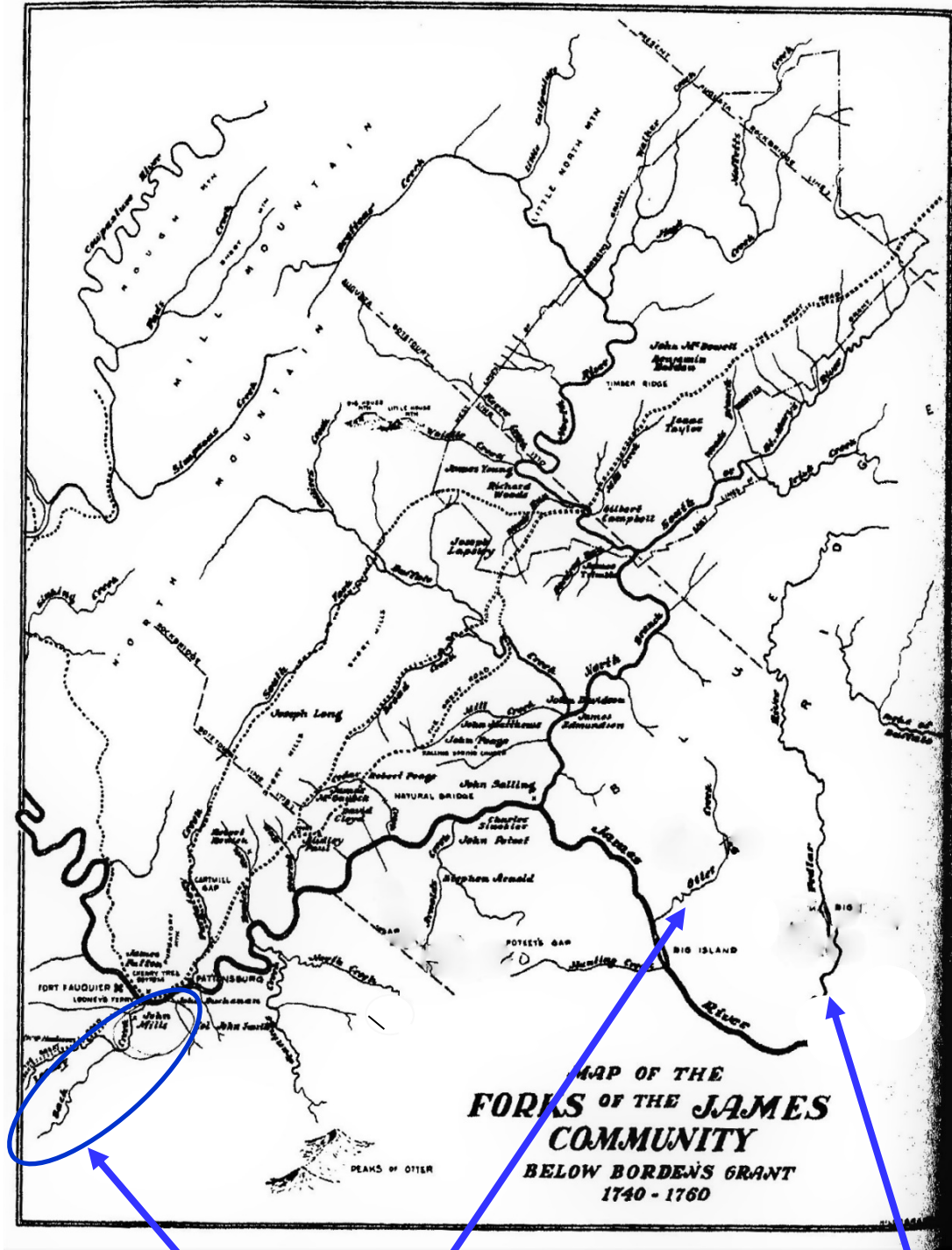
“Thus we see that on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, 1749, this order entered of record by the County Court: ‘That Jas. Montgomerie, and Richard Burton, or any one of them, wait on the Court of Lunenburg and acquaint them

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<sup>64</sup> See Elizabeth Shown Mills, “William Mills of Haile’s Tithes List, 1750, Lunenburg Co., Virginia: Identification Needed,” report to file, 20 June 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways*, under the “Research” tab.

that the inhabitants of Augusta have cleared a road to the said county line, and desire that they will clear a road from the court-house of Lunenburg to meet the road already cleared by the inhabitants of Augusta.” (Peyton, 43–45)

**Map 8**  
**Kegley’s “Forks of the James Community; Below Borden’s Grant, 1740–1760” (p. 138)**

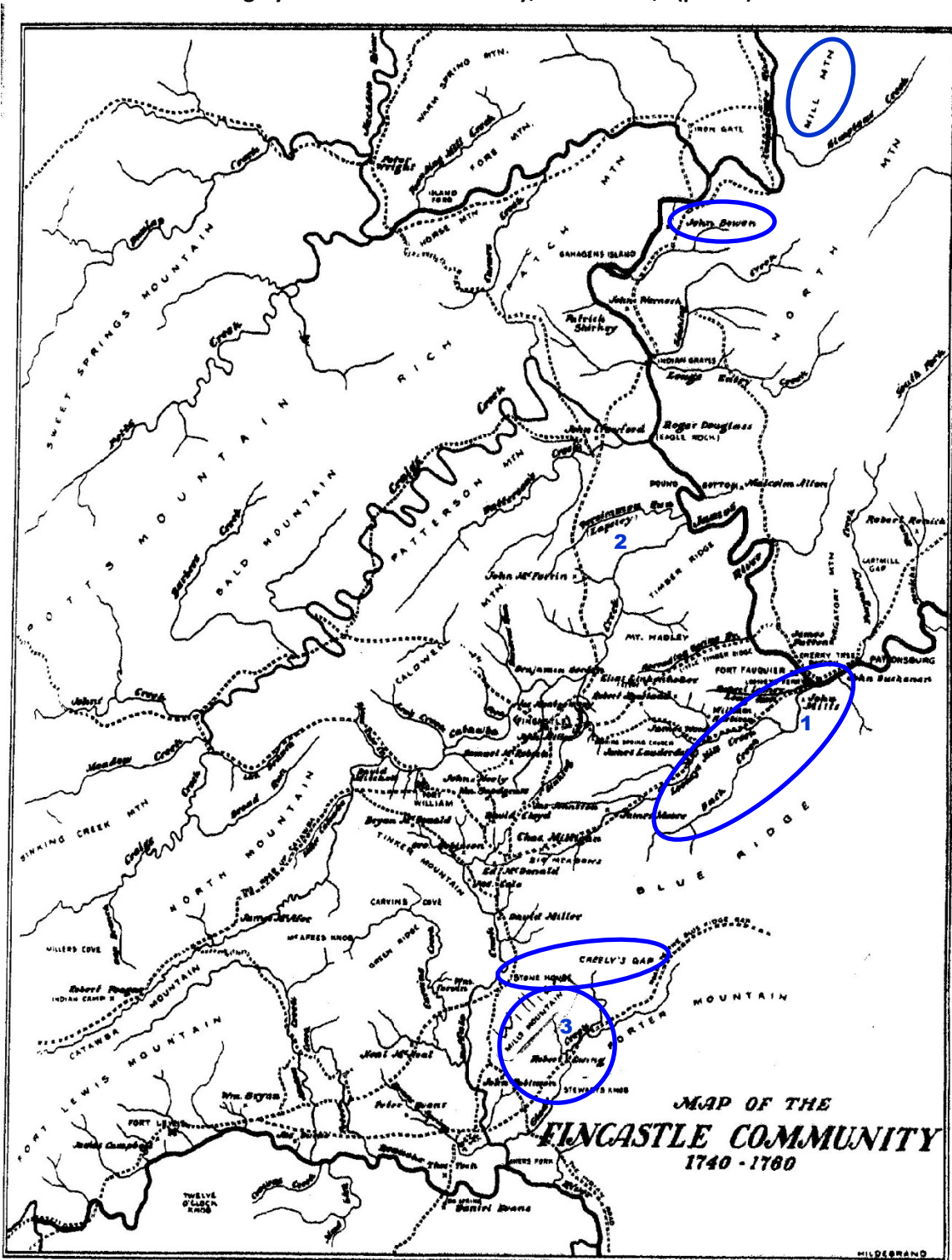


John Mills Sr. of Augusta

Edward Watts of Albemarle

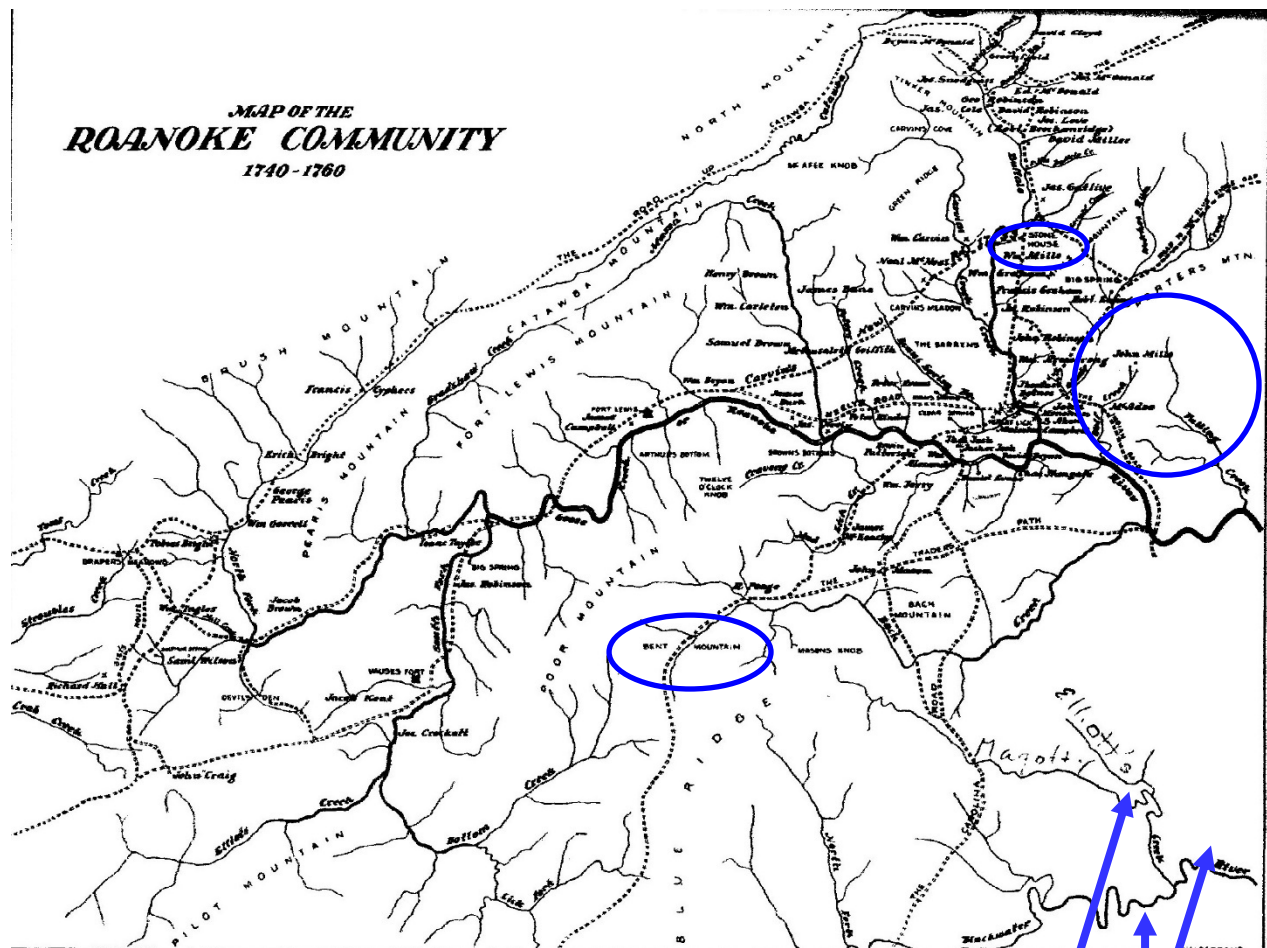
William & Mary Mills of Albemarle

Map 9  
 Kegley's "Fincastle Community, 1740-1760," (p. 159)



1. Site of John Mills' homeplace on Looney's Mill Creek & Back Creek, off James River
2. Site of Persimmon Creek site of land patented in name of one John Mills
3. Site of John Mills' Wolf Creek/Falling Creek patents; also site of Mills' associate Robert Ewing.

Map 10  
Kegley's "Roanoke Community, 1740–60" (p. 177)



**Note:**  
John Mills Sr. & Jr. & in-law Robert Ewing appear in  
- Lunenburg, 1750–53  
- Bedford Co., 1754 through 1760s, sporadically thereafter

**Franklin County**  
James Mills, 1782–1824  
William Mills-Witt, 1806–)

**1750**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**  
Death

“From the clerk’s fee books we get an insight into the position and movements of many citizens that we know. ... In 1750 Samuel Ackerlin had gone to Pennsylvania ... [skip 10] **John Mills** dead and no effects ...”  
... **Widow Sloan**, in Bedford.” (Kegley, 185; actual book and page not cited)

**COMMENT:**

This is clearly not the same John Mills who was a justice and large-scale landowner in the Forks of the Roanoke from the 1740s to his death in 1782. Nor is it the son John Jr. who outlived him.

The Widow Sloan of Augusta and Bedford is of interest because one James Sloan (with wife Alice, said to be née Mills) of Bedford and Franklin sold his land in 1790 to a James Mills who had been in Bedford from 1782.<sup>65</sup> (The land lay on Elliott’s Creek of the Maggoty.) John Mills Sr. and Jr. were both periodic residents of Bedford and John Jr. owned land there until 1786.<sup>66</sup> James Mills of Bedford and Franklin has not been placed into any birth family.

**22 FEBRUARY 1750**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Probate

“Benj. Kerkendall’s bond as administrator of **John Mills**, with sureties Anthony Bogart, Jno. Dunbar.” (Chalkley, 3:19; citing Will Book 1:284)

**13 JUNE 1750**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Wm. Beverley to Thos. Lewis and John Madison, power attorney to sell land in Beverley Manor, except the Mill tract, also lots in Staunton, except lots 2, 10, 11. Attorneys required to account with Jno. Robinson, Richard Tunstall and **Jas. Mills**.” (Chalkley, 3:288; citing Deed Book 2:833–35)

**25 DECEMBER 1750**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

“**John Hays**’ will, plantationer—Wife, Rebecca; three sons; son, Andrew; son, Charles; son, John (land on Roanoke joining **William Miller**’s plantation); nephew, John Hays, Jr. (Rebecca Hays, daughter to son John); **daughter, Jenett Mills**; nephew, (?) Rebeckey Guines; nephew, Robert Lusk; nephew, James Hays, son to son James [*sic*]; legatee, Robert Lusk; legatee, Abigail Hayes, alias Kinseys. Executors, wife Rebecky and sons Charles and Andrew. Teste: James Buchanan, Saml. Hayes, James Moore. Proved 26<sup>th</sup> February 1750, by all witnesses, and Charles and Andrew refuse to administer, and Rebecca qualifies with sureties (no bond appears).” (Chalkley, 3:19; citing Will Book 1:291)

**1750–51**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court fee

“... page 21, Robert Young, white, (February), vs. Carr, vs. **Mills**; ...  
“... page 103, **James Mills**, Hanover, (May, 1751)”  
(Chalkley, 2:395; citing “Fee books of Augusta Court”)

**1750–56**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Civic duty

“Captain Robinson, Erwin Patterson, **John Mills** and Thomas Ingles were justices in this first period.” (Kegley, 183)

**1751–54**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sales

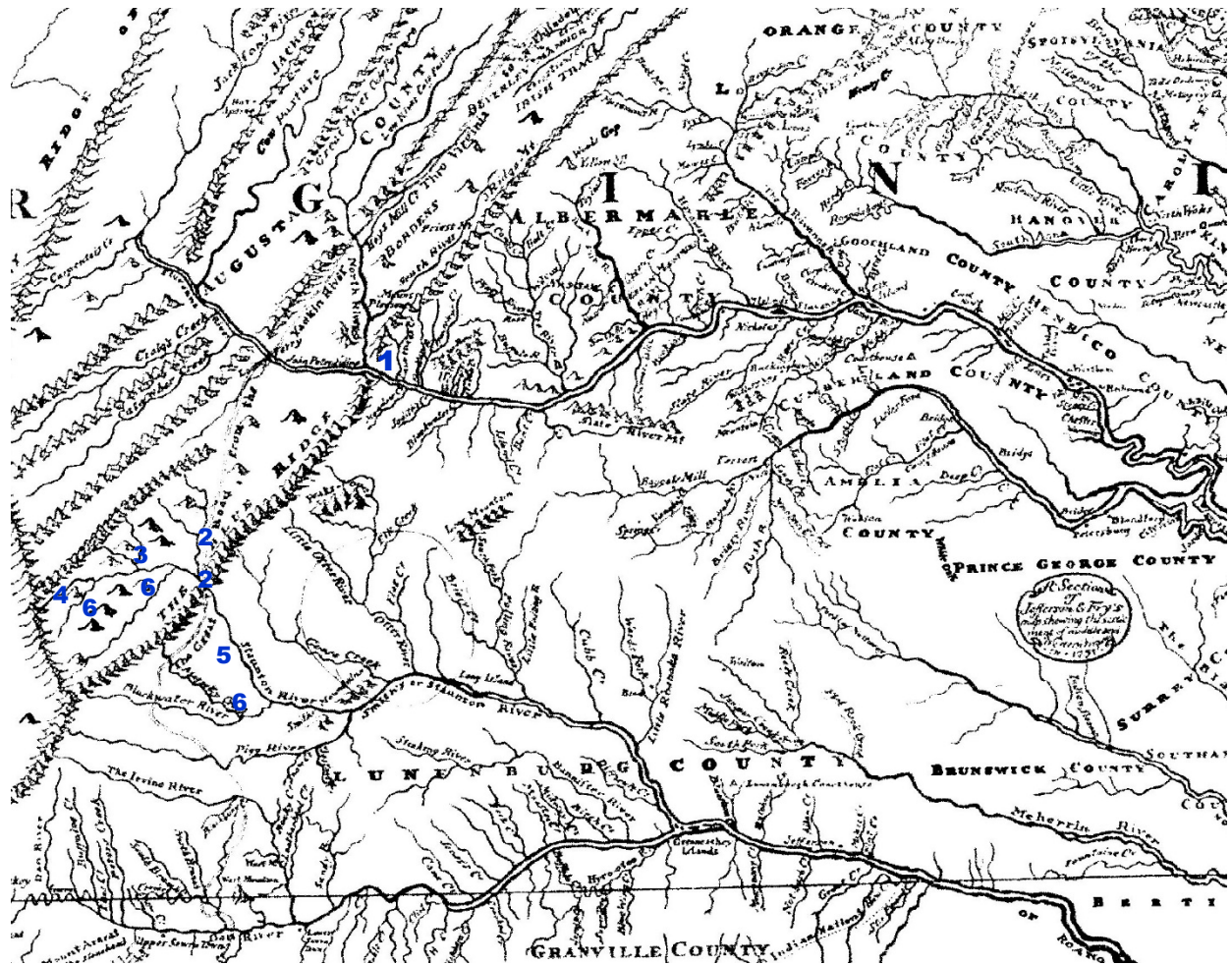
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<sup>65</sup> See E. S. Mills, “James Mills (*bef.* 1750–c1823-24) & Wife [?Octavia Breckinridge?]: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>66</sup> For John Mills Sr. and Jr., see E. S. Mills, “Mills: Bedford County, Virginia: Extended Survey of Resources,” report to file, 28 August 2018. Also Mills, “William Mills of Haile’s Tithe List, 1750, Lunenburg County, Virginia: Identification Needed,” report to file, 20 June 2018. Both are archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

“We find some additional names of people in this early community in the deeds and wills or settlements of that period. ... 1751 ... Samuel Eckerling from **John Mills**, 100 acres on **Little River**; 1754 Rueben Ratcliff from **John Mills**, 65 acres on **Little River**.” (Kegley, 126)

Map 11  
Kegley’s “Philadelphia Road from North Carolina, 1751” (p. 178)



- 1 William & Mary Mills, Pedlar River, 1740s-1776
- 2 John Mills, Sr., Augusta>Fincastle>Botetourt>Montgomery (now Floyd) & Franklin 1740s-82
- 3 William Mills & Mills Mountain, 1740s, Augusta (now Smyth)
- 4 John, Franky & Thos Mills; Richard & Robert Whitt, Montgomery, 1777-90
- 5 James Mills, Elliott’s Creek of Maggoty, Bedford > Franklin 1782-1824
- 6 William & Drucilla (Kemp) Mills-Witt, Franklin c1806-40s; Floyd 1847-50; Pulaski 1860-63; Mtgy 1866

**29 MAY 1751**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“**John Mills** to Wm. Young, Francis Reiley’s line, 400 acres on **Woods River [New River]**; patented to John, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1748. Teste: James McKeachey, Robert Gray.”

“**John Mills** to Samuel Akerling, 100 acres on Little River of Woods River; patented to John, 15<sup>th</sup> September 1749. Teste: Andrew Cowan.” (Chalkley, 3:295; citing Deed Book 3:342–50)

COMMENT:

Kegley (p. 185) says that Samuel Akerling went back to Pennsylvania.

**27 AUGUST 1751**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court minute.

[Editor’s note] “This book begins August 1749, but there are no orders but those of suits and actions until August 27, 1751, when a new Court was organized under a commission ... directed to James Patton, Peter Scholl,\* Robert Cunningham, Wm. Jameson, David Stuart,\* John Lynn,\* Erwin Patterson,\* Thos. English, Benj. Borden,\* Joseph Kenady, John Denton, Wm. Christian, Robert Breckinridge, John Lewis,\* Silas Hart, Andw. Lewis,\* James Rutledge, Alexr. Wright, Ro. McClenahan,\* Robert Campbell, John Wilson, Richd. Burton, Patr. Bartin, James Lockhard, **John Mills**, Ro. Ramsey, Richd. Woods, John Anderson, John Ruddle, Thos. Stuart, John Lyle, John Buchanan, Thomas Lewis, Archd. Alexander, John Mathews, Adam Dickenson, Mathias Seltzer, Wm. Harbeson. (Those marked {\*} qualified.)” (Chalkley, 1:45; citing Order Book III, p. 176)

COMMENT:

The original volume needs to be read for those 1749–51 records of suits that were skipped by Chalkley. Apparently, they fall into pp. 1–175.

**26 NOVEMBER 1751**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Appointment

“Robert McClenahan, Wm. Horbeson and **John Mills**, qualified Justices.” (Chalkley, 1:47; citing III:198)

**9 OCTOBER 1751**

**AUGUSTA & LUNENBURG, VA**

Power of attorney

“**William Mills**, of Loonenburg, to **John Mills (trusty and loving friend)**. Power of attorney to convey land and attend to business, 1751. Teste: Erwin Patterson, Alexander Ingram.” (Chalkley, 3:301; citing Deed Book 4:182)

COMMENT:

- This seems to be the point at which William removed to Anson County, NC.
- The wording suggests that William was not a sibling or son of John. The term “trusty friend” is known to include cousinships or other relationships outside the first degree.

**29 NOVEMBER 1751**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Power of attorney

“Power Att’y. from **Wm. Mills** to **John Mills** allowed to remain for further proof.” (Chalkley, 1:49; citing III:213)

**9 FEBRUARY 1752**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Breach of promise

“14<sup>th</sup> July, 1760. David Robinson to Wm. Graham. Whereas **John Mills** of Augusta County did on **9<sup>th</sup> February, 1752**, agree to convey to Joshua McCormick title for 245 acres, part of 845 acres on a branch of

Round Oak called Buffler's Creek [**Buffalo Creek**]. Joshua, on 23d February, 1753, assigned his right to David Robinson, late of Augusta County, now of New Gorden Township, County of Chester, Province of Pennsylvania, and David obtained a deed. Power attorney to Wm. Grahames to bring suit against **John Mills** to recover the title and to make conveyance to Daniel McCormick. Teste: Elizabeth Young, Andrew Treper, John Armstrong, Bryan McDonald, Robert McGee, Benjamin Reelson." (Chalkley, 3:397; citing Deed Book 11:219)

**17 MAY 1752 [1759?]**

**AUGUSTA & CULPEPER VA**

Land sale

"**Edward Watts** and **Elizabeth**, of Culpeper, to John Magret, 125 acres. Mouth of **Hawksbill** of Shando; 200 acres sold by Jacob Stover to Jacob Castle; Castle sold 75 acres to Jacob Coger, 26<sup>th</sup> June, 1740, and 126 acres to **Elizabeth Downs, present wife of Edward Whats**, 23d September, 1742." (Chalkley, 3:304; citing Deed Book 4:326–30)

COMMENT:

- Hawksbill Creek runs through Page and Rockingham County, VA. Hawksbill Mountain marks the dividing line between present Page and Madison Counties, VA.
- If this is Edward Watts who appeared later that year in Lunenburg (son of Thomas of Orange/Culpeper), then Elizabeth Downs would not be the mother of his sons. The Downs–Watts marriage would have occurred between 1742 and 1752. All five known sons (Thomas, Edward Jr., William, John, and George) were of tithable age (16) by 1752.

**25 AUGUST 1752**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

"John Wilson to Joseph Tees, 400 acres on South River, Shanandore; Beverley Manor line, part of 660 acres deeded to John's father by **Joseph Mills**, 24<sup>th</sup> June, 1742. Teste: James Patton, Mary Thompson, Michael O'Donnel, Wm. Thompson, Joseph Love, Wm. Preston." (Chalkley, 3:307; citing Deed Book 4:530)

COMMENT:

The 1742 date of Mills's sale suggests that the deed is filed in Orange County.

**14 NOVEMBER 1752**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land grant

"**William Mills**, 400 acres on **Buffalo Creek** of Roanoke." (Kegley, 100; citing Virginia Land Grant Bk. 31:299)

COMMENT:

Hiden's abstract of this grant, same book:page, dates it as 16 November 1752.<sup>67</sup>

**18 NOVEMBER 1752**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Deed

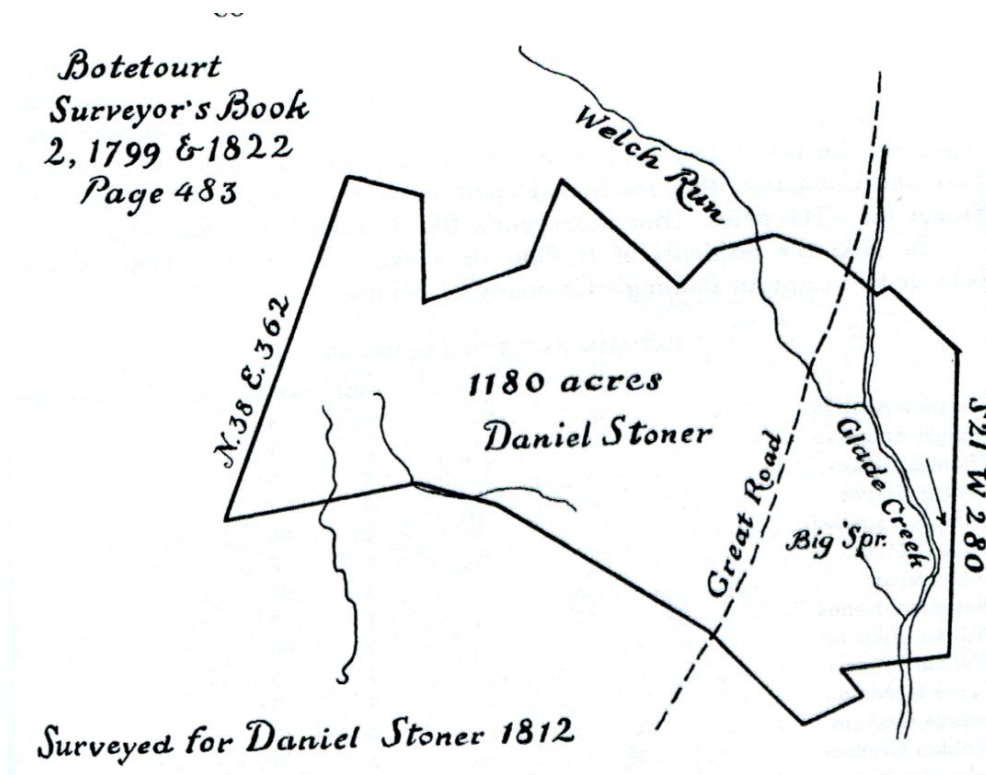
"James Patton to **Hugh Mills**, 208 acres by patent, 3d November, 1750, on a branch of Roanoke; **Welsh Run; corner John Mills**; Glead Creek." (Chalkley, 3:308; citing Deed Book 5:36)

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<sup>67</sup> Mrs. P. W. Hiden, "Nicholas Mills of Hanover County," *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1933): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 657–701; specifically see Parks, p. 699.



Map 12  
Kegley's Map of Big Spring, Welch Run & Glade Creek (p. 521)



c1752–1760s  
AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA  
Historical context

“On his way to the West in 1750 Dr. Walker [of Albemarle] stopped at **William Beard’s**, which was on upper Glade Creek and at William Armstrong’s near the Great Lick. **Robert Ewing** was then at the ‘Big Spring’ on a grant for 160 acres of land and John **Bowen** had already staked off 238 acres in the forks of the creek. John **McFall**, **Hugh Mills**, Richard Kerr, John Askins, Nathan Nichols, Robert Orr and John McAdoo had all come to the neighborhood in the 1750’s, and the Ewings had left, selling their Spring to Benjamin Starrett. **John Mills**, the veteran landseeker located 1370 acres on Wolf Creek and Falling Creek in 1760, and the next year John Thompson, ‘late of Pennsylvania’ succeeded Robert Orr. Henry Ferguson followed Thompson who proceeded to New London to become the chief tavern keeper, and George Pearis succeeded John **McFall**. Thomas **Akers** went to Wolf Creek in 1763 and Reese **Bowen** took charge of the Bowen tract at the forks of Glade Creek.

“In 1764 ... **William Beard**, presumably William, Jr., the **son-in-law** of **John Mills**, appears in the records as a landowner.

“In the 1760’s the ‘Big Spring’ again changed ownership, this time from Benj. Starrett to **Blany Mills**. Mills soon sold to James Stewart. ...” (Kegley, 520)

COMMENT:

In 1788, in Montgomery Co.’s Little River area (where John Mills Sr. of Augusta had owned land from 1746 to 1751), Frances “Frankey” Mills married John Abram Glymph—with “Milliton”

(Valentine?) **Akers** as surety. Franky's apparent daughter Rachel, in 1803, married a John **Bowen** in Montgomery.<sup>68</sup>

Regarding the Akers, Kegley (p. 534) writes:

"The Akers land in the fork of Tinker Creek and the River was sold to Nathaniel Evans in 1773 by William Akers and Elizabeth, of Bedford, and **Thomas Akers and Mary, of Botetourt.**"

**1753**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, V A**

Land survey

"Lands on Back Creek and Bent Mountain through Different Periods of Settlement: ...1753 **John Mills**—Survey, 380 acres on **Bent Mountain**; survey, 310 acres on **Bent Mountain, Little Bottom Creek**; James Huston—140 acres on Back Creek, called Turkey Bottom, from John Mathews and Ann." (Kegley, 556)

COMMENT:

Bent Mountain lay at the head of Maggoty Gap—the pass through the Blue Ridge that linked this part of Augusta to the area that became Franklin County.

As noted earlier, the Franklin County Bicentennial land map places John Mills as a landowner within Franklin County, where the Gap lies (east of the mountain). It also places an unidentified Samuel and William Mills in close proximity.

I have found no record of a land grant or deed made to a Samuel or William Mills in Franklin County.

**1753—**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Historical context

"Back Creek, Mason's Creek and Fort Lewis Community—The Settlement of Back Creek and Bent Mountain: When John Mason came to Back Creek of Roanoke in 1750 his neighbors were his brother-in-law, James McKeachey, and Robert Poage. John Mathews, **John Mills**, James McGavock, William Carvin, William Lewis, Alexander Boyd and Alexander Baine were early land-owners, but not settlers. The Back Creek neighborhood was an extension or suburb of the Great Lick settlement. The communication was naturally over the trails leading south by Back Mountain and over **Bent Mountain** to the Southwest. The homesteaders along the Carolina Road were grouped in Captain Neely's Company [**1783**], while those farther up the creek about the Forks were in Captain Lewis's Company with those of Mason's Creek. **Those of the Bent Mountain region were under Captain Martin.**" (Kegley, 553)

TO DO:

Pursue this Captain Martin to see whether his militiamen included any Millses.

**20 FEBRUARY 1753**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

"17<sup>th</sup> February, 1758. Colonel James Patton's estate; appraised by Thomas Stewart, John Ramsey, Edward Hall. List of bonds, bills, &c., due the estate: ... **Hugh Mills**, 13<sup>th</sup> April 1748; William Graham, **John Mills** and Erwin Patterson, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1753 ... "**Charles Mitts**, 20<sup>th</sup> December 1753; ... **Arthur Walls**, 4<sup>th</sup> October

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<sup>68</sup> For this set of Millses, see E. S. Mills, "Mills & Associates: Montgomery, Fincastle & Botetourt Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey," report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

1754; ... **John Mills**, 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1753 ... **John Mills**, 20<sup>th</sup> February 1753 ..." (Chalkley, 3:73–74; citing Will Book 3:202–7)

**23 FEBRUARY 1753**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Deed

"Same [James Patton] to **John Mills of Lunenburg**, 150 acres by patent 3d November, 1750. Murre's Run of Roanoke. Teste: Wm. Carravin, Erwin Patterson, Alexander Ingram." (Chalkley, 3:309; citing Deed Book 5:98–100)

**6 MARCH 1753**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Survey

"By William Preston [for] ... Ann Armstrong, 254 acres on Glade Creek of Roanoke; William Armstrong, 65 acres between him and **Monahan**; Alexander Ingram, 400 acres on Huff's Creek; William **Bowen**, 92 acres on Glade Creek; **John Mills**:

- 1370 acres on **Wolf Creek** and **Falling Creek**,
- 380 acres on **Bent Mountain**
- 580 acres on **Huff's Creek**
- 550 acres on **Little Bottom Creek**

John McCurry, 204 acres on both sides Roanoke; James Bean, 95 acres joining where he lives; Erwin Patterson, 210 acres on the Roanoke, on the River, corner near three Indian graves; Adam Loyday, 104 acres on Goose Creek." (Kegley, 101)

**21 MARCH 1753**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Survey

"By William Preston. ... Henry Brown, Sr., 50 acres on lick Run of Roanoke, Corner James Burk, From James Patton. (54 acres in survey.) Au. D. Bk. 5, 90; John **Cloyd**, 200 acres on **Buffalo Creek**; Jacob Brown, 100 acres on West Fork of Roanoke. Au. D. Bk. 5,95; **John Mills, of Lunenburg**, 150 acres on **Murry's Run** of Roanoke. Au. D. Bk. 5, 98; William Daubney Cauthorn, 180 acres on Bradshaw's Creek. Au. D. Bk. 5, 106." (Kegley, 101)

**9 APRIL 1753**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Survey

"By William Preston ... **John Mills** and David Miller, 250 acres at the head of Milligan's Run, joining Edward McDonald and Stephen Rentfro." (Kegley, 101)

COMMENT:

Stephen Rentfro ended up on Pig River (Halifax > Henry > Franklin Cos.)<sup>69</sup>

**18 MAY 1753**  
**AUGUSTA & LUNENBURG COUNTIES, VA**  
Deed.

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<sup>69</sup> On 12 May 1759, he is cited as adjacent owner to William "Cooke" who received "225 acres on both sides of the North Fork of Pig River"; see Library of Virginia, "Land Office Grants," database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=229&last=&g\\_p=P34&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=229&last=&g_p=P34&collection=LO_Patent) : accessed 20 May 2018), citing "Land Office Patents No. 34, 1755–1765, p. 229 (Reels 33–34)."

“From **John Mills** and **Ann** of Lunenburg.” (Kegley, 102; citing Augusta Deed Book 5:333)

COMMENT:

See 1761, below, for John Mills of Lunenburg & wife **Mary**, citing Augusta Deeds 9:390.

**3 AUGUST 1753**

**AUGUSTA & LUNENBURG COUNTIES, VA**

Deed

“**John Mills** and **Ann**, of **Lunenburg**, to Wm. Graham, 1753. **Buffalo Creek** of Roanoke. The Barrens; corner Joshua McCormick; Corraven’s [**Carvin’s**] Creek. 600 acres by patent, 3d November, 1750. Teste: Humphrey Madison. Delivered: Benj. Estell, November, 1762.” (Chalkley, 3:314, citing Augusta Deed Book 5:333)

**3 AUGUST 1753**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

“17<sup>th</sup> February, 1758. Colonel James Patton’s estate; appraised by Thomas Stewart, John Ramsey, Edward Hall. List of bonds, bills, &c., due the estate: ... **Hugh Mills**, 13<sup>th</sup> April 1748; William Graham, **John Mills** and Erwin Patterson, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1753 ... “**Charles Mitts**, 20<sup>th</sup> December 1753; ... **Arthur Walls [Watts?]**, 4<sup>th</sup> October 1754; ... **John Mills**, 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1753 ... **John Mills, 20<sup>th</sup> February 1753** ...” (Chalkley, 3:73–74; citing Will Book 3:202–7)

**3 AUGUST 1753**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Fee paid

“From Col. Patton’s appraisal in 1758 a pretty good check on the men who secured land through him may be had. Bonds, bills, etc. due his estate for land purchased [included] ... **John Mills**, 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 1753; Erwin Patterson, 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 1753 ...” (Kegley, 110–11; no citation)

**22 AUGUST 1753**

**AUGUSTA & LUNENBURG COUNTIES, VA**

Deed

“**Wm. Mills**, late of Augusta, 1753, by attorney **John Mills**, of Lunenburg, to Wm. Graham; patented to William, 1752. **Buffalo Creek**, a branch of Roanoke.” (Chalkley, 3:319; citing Augusta Deed Bk 5:557)

COMMENT:

Chalkley provides no date, only “1753.” Kegley, 103, gives the date as 22 August 1753, citing the same Augusta deed book and page.

On 2 March 1765 (see that date, below) Graham and wife Priscilla conveyed this land to Joseph Robinson, saying that it had been conveyed to them on 3 August 1753 by “Jno. Mills.”

**1753**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Historical context

“The Harshbarger Land and Mill Place

“Down in the **forks of Carvin’s Creek** and **Tinker Creek** lay a body of land that was surveyed early for the James River and Roanoke Company and taken soon after it was surveyed by **William Mills**. It embraced 845 acres and at the time of settlement had the distinction of being the largest tract of good land in one survey in the community. In 1753 **William Mills** sold to William Graham 600 acres and to David Robinson, 245 acres. ... [In 1793, the Graham family] sold the whole 504 acres to Samuel Harshbarger. ... The 245 acres of the **Mills land** sold to David Robinson was developed by Daniel McCormick and in later times this

tract with some others adjoining became in turn the home place of Henry Wilson (1778), Moses Tullis (1779), William Norvell (1784) and Peter Noffsinger (1802).” (Kegley, 516–17)

COMMENT:

Peter Noffsinger also held land below the Forks of the Roanoke in Franklin County, according to the Franklin County Bicentennial Map.

**22 AUGUST 1753**

**AUGUSTA & LUNENBURG COUNTIES, VA**

“From **John Mills** and **Ann of Lunenburg**,” to David Robinson. Patented to James Patton and by him deeded to John. **Buffalo Creek** of Roanoke. Conavan’s Creek. Cor. Wm. Graham.” (Chalkley, 3:319; citing Augusta Deed Bk 5:557)

COMMENT:

Chalkley provides no date, only “1753.” Kegley, 103, gives the date as 22 August 1753, citing the same Augusta deed book and page.

**24 NOVEMBER 1753**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Road order

“Wm. Carravan [Carvin], overseer—from Charles Millicons to Wm. Carravan’s, with these workers: Wm. Ralston and his sons, Charles Millicon [Milligan], James, Joseph and Edward McDonald, Joseph and David Robinson, James Galliad, Archd. Graham, David Miller, **Hugh Mills**, Richard Kerr, Wm. Miller, Wm. Graham, David and Joshua McCormick, Tobias Smith, **Steven Rentfro**.” (Chalkley, 1:51; citing IV: 76)

“The extension of the road from Wm. Carvin’s to Charles Milligan’s at the head of **Looney’s Mill Creek** called in the men of the upper branches of **Buffalo Creek**; William Ralston and his sons, Charles Milligan, James McDonald, Joseph McDonald, Edward McDonald, Joseph Robinson, David Robinson, James Gatlive, Archibald Graham, David Miller, Daniel McCormick, Joshua McCormick, Tobias Smith, **Stephen Rentfro**, and **Hugh Mills**, Richard Kerr and William Miller from **Welch’s Run**. William Graham contributed to this branch as well as the other. William Carvin, Overseer.” (Kegley, 104; citing “Orders of the Court, Chalkly 1, 61”)

COMMENT:

Kegley & Chalkley have a number of references to Augusta Countians who moved to Orange County, NC:

- Charles Milligan moved to Orange County, NC, before 5 May 1761, when he sold his land “on head of Lunie’s Creek” to John McClalan. (Kegley, 348)
- Hugh Caruthers was also of Orange County, NC, on 26 February 1760, when he sold his “Loonie’s Creek” land to Margaret Clark. (Kegley, 348)
- Robert Williams was of Orange County, NC, 17 December 1753 when he sold James Patton land on Craig’s Creek. Teste: **John Mills**, David Looney. (Chalkley, 3:430; citing Deed Book 12:177)
- James Pritchard and wife Abigail were in Orange on 1 June 1761 when they sold to Joseph Borden of Frederick County land that Abigail received as one of the daughters of Benjamin Borden. (Kegley, 353; citing Augusta Deed Book 10, 326)

**20/28 DECEMBER 1753**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

“17<sup>th</sup> February, 1758. Colonel James Patton’s estate; appraised by Thomas Stewart, John Ramsey, Edward

Hall. List of bonds, bills, &c., due the estate: ... **Hugh Mills**, 13<sup>th</sup> April 1748; William Graham, **John Mills** and Erwin Patterson, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1753 ... **Charles Mitts** [*sic*], 20<sup>th</sup> December 1753; ... **Arthur Walls**, 4<sup>th</sup> October 1754; ... **John Mills**, 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1753 ... **John Mills**, 20<sup>th</sup> February 1753 ...” (Chalkley, 3:73–74; citing Will Book 3:202–7)

#### 1753–54

##### AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA

###### Land sale

“August, 1754, **James Miles**—on the west bank of North Branch of James River adjoining William Porter. Borden’s deed to William Porter August 21, 1754—Au. D. Bk. 6, 409. James Miles had purchased the homeplace of Robert Renick on **Buffalo Branch** in 1747. **This he sold to William Morrow or Murray in 1753.** Au. D. Bks. 1, 175 and 5, 251.” (Kegley, 83)

#### 1754

##### AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA

###### Historical context

“Early Roads of the Roanoke ... In 1754 William Lippard of Draper’s Meadows, was made overseer from Bingaman’s Ferry to Roan Oak [Roanoke River] near Tobias Brights’, and from the widow Draper’s to Jacob Brown’s. John Robinson, Sr. had charge from Jacob Brown’s to Isaac Taylor’s. Another stretch was added **on the east to extend from the Widow Sloan’s to Carravan’s new road.** ... The Widow Sloan’s was the Andrew Woods—Dr. Simmon’s place on Looney’s Mill Creek. ...

“The triangle formed by William Carvin’s road from the **Stone House** to Bryan’s, James Neely’s road from Byran’s to the Great Lick and the Carolina Road has been changed only by different locations of the Carvin road. The road out **Glade Creek** to the “Gapp of the Blue Ridge” has been kept about the original location, except that it formerly kept north of the Ewing Big Spring. The short cuts by Fleming’s at the end of **Mill’s Mountain** and through **Creely’s Gap** are as old as the settlements themselves. On the south side of the river there were roads leading by Bason’s toward Halifax and by **Erwin Patterson’s** toward Cave Spring and the Traders Path over **Bent Mountain.**” (Kegley, 179–80)

#### SPRING 1754

##### AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA

###### Association

“William Miller, father of David Miller, of **Buffalo Creek**, died in the spring of 1754. He had live stock, farming implements and household goods to the amount of £131/0/6, appraised by William Carravan [Carvin], **Hugh Mills** and Richard Carr. The land was patented to David, who afterward sold it to Robert Breckenridge.” (Kegley, 192–93; no citation)

#### SPRING-SUMMER 1754

##### AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA

###### French & Indian War

“Through the spring and summer of 1754 while these military movements in the northwest were in progress life on the Roanoke was quiet. ... Traders were still passing through the valley on their way to the Cherokee posts. ... The officers of the local militia acting under Col. Patton as County Lieutenant were: James Campbell, Captain of a company of Foot; John Smith, Major of foot; **John Buchanan, Col.** of horse and foot; David Robinson, Lieutenant of Foot; Ephraim Vause, Captain of Horse; William Robinson, Lieut. of horse; George Robinson, Captain of foot; Abraham Smith, Captain of foot; William Ingles, Captain of foot; Baptist McNabb, Ensign of foot.

“On New River were: James Calhoun, Capt. of a troop of horse; Ebenezer Westcoat, Capt. of a company of foot; Adam Harmon, Capt. of a troop of horse; Augustine Price, Lieut. of a troop of horse; Jacob Harmon, Ensign; **Alexander Sayers**, Capt. of horse; Robert McFarland, Lieut. of horse; John McFarland, Ensign; Joseph Crockett, Capt. of a company of foot; Samuel Stalnaker, Capt. of a comp. of foot.” (Kegley, 208–9.

“To make the militia more efficient the Assembly passed an act [no date given] for its regulation and training. All male persons from 18 to 60 years of age were to be enlisted, *with exemptions for members of the Council, the Burgesses, other officials, farm overseers, millers, and persons employed in copper, iron or lead mines.*” (Kegley, 218; citing Hening 6:631 to 548 [sic])

COMMENT:

Bockstruck’s *Virginia Colonial Soldiers* also identifies some of the men who served under these officers—and on through 1775. No Mills or Watts males are included in the Augusta units.

**4 JANUARY 1754**

**AUGUSTA & LUNENBURG COUNTIES, VA**

Deed

“**John Mills** and **Ann**, of Lunenburg, to Erwin Patterson, 300 acres patented 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1748, on Buffalo Creek, west side Blue Ridge.” Chalkley, 3:320; citing Augusta Deed Bk 6:13)

COMMENT:

Chalkley provides no date, only “1754.” Kegley, 104, gives the date as 4 January 1754, citing the same Augusta deed book and page.

**21 MARCH 1754**

**AUGUSTA & BEDFORD COUNTIES, VA**

Association

“**John and Agnes Mills**, witnesses from **Bedford**. (Kegley, 104; citing “Orders of Court, Au. W. B. 2, 58”)

COMMENT:

In 1754 Bedford was cut off from Lunenburg.

Up to this point, the wife of John Sr. of Augusta and Lunenburg > Bedford has been identified as *Ann*. Given the nature of the record that is tersely abstracted here (their apparent service as witnesses in a court suit), we should not assume that John and *Agnes* were spouses. They could be siblings, joint heirs, etc.

**21 MARCH 1754**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court minute

“John Porton, infant, servant of **James Miles** [sic] and Thomas Hamilton, released from indenture.”

“**John and Agnes Mills**, witnesses for Lunenburg.” (Chalkley, 1:62; citing IV:124)

COMMENT:

There is no other context in this minute that would clarify what this minute represents.

**AUGUST 1754**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land grant

“**James Miles**—on the west bank of North Branch of James River adjoining William Porter. **Borden’s** deed to William Porter August 21, 1754—Au. D. Bk. 6, 409. **James Miles** had purchased the homeplace of Robert Renick on **Buffalo Branch** in 1747. This he sold to William Morrow or Murray in 1753. Au. D. Bks. 1, 175 and 5, 251.” (Kegley, 83)

**21 AUGUST 1754**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Militia service

“**Nicholas Mills** qualified Lieut. of Foot.” (Chalkley, 1:64; citing Order Book 4:263)

COMMENT:

For the Nicholas Mills family, prominent in Virginia from the 1600s, see Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1933): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 657–701.

**26 AUGUST 1754**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Dedimus Potestatem to Bedford Co. to examine the witnesses **Agnes Mills, Eliz. Mills** and **Eliz. Mills, Jr.**” (Chalkley, 1:65; citing Order Book IV:302)

COMMENT:

My prior surveys of Bedford Co. resources included John Sr. and John Jr. of Augusta, but not an Ann, Agnes, Elizabeth [Sr.] or Elizabeth Jr. of this era.<sup>70</sup> (One Elizabeth Mills “of full age” married 1786 to William Burton in Bedford.<sup>71</sup>)

A *dedimus potestatem* (meaning “we have given power”) is “a writ or commission issuing out of chancery, empowering the persons named therein to perform certain acts, as to administer oaths to defendants in chancery and take their answers.”<sup>72</sup>

One Agnes Mills would be named three years later as a granddaughter in the will of “**Gilbert Mills, planter**” of Augusta—along with Gilbert’s two sons, William and Alexander.

**4 OCTOBER 1754**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“17<sup>th</sup> February, 1758. Colonel James Patton’s estate; appraised by Thomas Stewart, John Ramsey, Edward Hall. List of bonds, bills, &c., due the estate: ... **Hugh Mills**, 13<sup>th</sup> April 1748; William Graham, **John Mills** and Erwin Patterson, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1753 ... “**Charles Mitts**, 20<sup>th</sup> December 1753; ... **Arthur Walls [Watts?]**, 4<sup>th</sup> October 1754; ... **John Mills**, 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1753 ... **John Mills**, 20<sup>th</sup> February 1753 ...” (Chalkley, 3:73–74; citing Will Book 3:202–7)

**1755**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

“The first processioners for **Looney’s Mill Creek** were John Sloane and Hugh Caruthers appointed for the

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<sup>70</sup> E. S. Mills, “Mills: Initial Survey of Published Resources for Southside Virginia: Brunswick, Goochland, and Counties Cut from Them—Principally Albemarle, Amherst, Bedford, Cumberland, and Prince Edward—with Peripheral Research in South Carolina and Tennessee to Pursue Leads,” report to file, 28 May 2016 (updated 25 October 2016); and “Mills: Bedford County, Virginia: Extended Survey of Resources,” report to file, 28 August 2018. Both reports are archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>71</sup> Earle S. Dennis and Jane E. Smith, *Marriage Bonds of Bedford County, Virginia, 1755–1800; Reprinted with Bedford County, Virginia: Index of Wills, from 1754 to 1830*, edited by Rowland D. Buford (Reprinted, Baltimore: Clearfield, 1975), 7.

<sup>72</sup> Henry Campbell Black, *Black’s Law Dictionary*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (St. Paul, MN: West Publishing Co., 1961), 501.



south side of the south branch of James River joining Roanoke. These men were succeeded in 1755 by Robert Looney, Jr. and **John Mills** 'on Looney's Creek and the waters thereof.' (Kegley, 165)

**1755**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Tax delinquency

"List of Robert Breckinridge, Sheriff ... Zachariah Bell, gone to Carolina ... [skip a couple of hundred names] **Jas. Miles** ... (Chalkley, 2:418; citing "Delinquents")

**4 JANUARY 1755**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Survey.

"**John Mills**—Survey, 192 acres on a **branch of Roanoke** joining James Gatlive." (Kegley, 105)

COMMENT:

Kegley (p. 333) provides a brief bio of Gatlive, saying that he had in 1753 acquired "one of the choice tracts of land on the Roanoke fronting on **Buffalo Creek** [variously called **Tinker Creek**] north of the **Stone House Land**. ... This he sold in 1754 to James Neely who conveyed it to Robert Neeley and he in turn sold to William Christian. In 1758 James Gatlive on the Roanoke is reported as killed by Indians. The administrator appointed was Robert Montgomery, but James' wife, Martha, qualified in February, 1762 ..."

**12 FEBRUARY 1755**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Survey

"Erwin Patterson—Survey, 78 acres on a branch of Roanoke called **Buffalo Creek** adjoining land **John Mills lives on.**" (Kegley, 105)

COMMENT:

This is not the same tract that was said to be John's residence in 1765.

**27 FEBRUARY 1755**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

"Adam Looney, 143 acres on **Looney's Creek** by his own land; 122 acres **joining Sloan**, transferred to **John Mills.**" (Kegley, 83; no citation)

**15 APRIL 1755**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

"William Miller's appraisalment, by Wm. Carraven, **Hugh Mills**, Richard Carr—3 bonds on Richard Reed, Edward McDonald; 3 bonds on William Beard, Wm. Miller, Jr." (Chalkley, 3:39; citing Will Book 2:110)

**21 MAY 1755 (1752?)**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

"John Patton, Jr., to Jacob Sybert, 210 acres conveyed by Ro. Green to John Patton, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 17xlii (1752), recorded in Augusta on same stream as above; corner to tract sold to Roger Dyer. Teste: Thomas Fulton, **John Mills.**" (Chalkley, 3:336; citing Deed Book 7:112)

**29–30 OCTOBER 1755**

**ANSON COUNTY, NC**

Land purchase

**Blenny Mills** purchased land from John Clark via a lease-and-release on 29–30 October 1755, with **William Mills** as witness, and remained there at least through 28 October 1756.<sup>73</sup>

**27 NOVEMBER 1755**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Processioning minute

“Malcom Allen and John Bowen, on north side James River from mouth of Cowpasture down to mouth of Purgatory. Robert Looney, Jr., and **John Mills**, Looney’s Creek and waters thereof. Robert Rennick and John Mathews, Jr., from James River to Buffelow Creek, below the old Great Road. *Mountain* William Hall and Henry Kirkum, on Purgatory and the south west side of Buffelow to the head above the Waggon Road to the Mountain.” (Chalkey, 2:442; citing “Augusta Parish Vestry Book,” p. 159)

**MARCH 1756**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court minute.

“**Mills**, assignee, vs. Robinson—**William Mills** complains of George Robinson of Augusta County : On May 22d 1737, George made his bond to James Cunningham of Lancaster County Pennsylvania. Carpenter [*sic*] conditioned to sell land on **Mill Creek** to **Mills**. Bond assigned 12<sup>th</sup> August, 1745 by James Cunningham of Amilow County.” (Chalkley, 1:314; citing “Judgments ... March 1756 (B).”)

COMMENTS:

- The original suit should be sought (if it survives) to clarify the situation that is tersely described above.
- The reference to “Amilow” County would seem to be *Amelia* County.
- The abstract, if correct, implies that this William Mills was an adult by 1737—i.e., born before 1716.

**10 MARCH 1756**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land grant

“**Wm. Mills**, 117 a. in Augusta Co. on the waters of Roanoke beginning at **John Mills’s** line.”<sup>74</sup>

COMMENT:

By this time, William of Augusta had migrated to Anson County. Considering that the land grant process took several years, it is likely that the 1756 Virginia patent represents an acquisition process that began in the 1740s, when he was a documented resident of Augusta.

For the land grant process, see the extract from Kegley presented at the beginning of this set of Research Notes, under the date “1666—.”

**10 MARCH 1756**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

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<sup>73</sup> Brent H. Holcomb, *Anson County, North Carolina: Deed Abstracts, 1749–1766; Abstracts of Wills & Estates, 1749–1795* (Baltimore: Clearfield, 1974), 12, 151.

<sup>74</sup> Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1933): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 657–701; specifically see Parks, p. 699.

Land grant

“John **McFall**, 220 acres on Glade Creek of Roanoke, joining John **Bowen**; 141 acres on a branch of Goose Creek. Land Grants, Bk. 32, 698; **John Mills**, 213 acres on Glade Cr. Land Grants, Bk. 34, 38).” (Kegley, 109)

**AUGUST 1756**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court minute

“Johnson vs. **Mills (Milles)**.—**Richard Mills**, of Nearlocke Township, County of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, husbandman, farmer. Bond to James Johnston, of Township of Drumore, County of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, farmer. Dated 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1748. Returned, not found.” (Chalkley, 1:316; citing “Judgments ... August, 1756 (A).”)

**9 AUGUST 1756**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Militia service

COMMENT:

Bockstruck, 323–24, presents “militia lists” (not “delinquent lists”) for 6 companies. No Mills is included. Research elsewhere informs us that William Mills, his “trustworthy friend” John Mills Sr., and John’s sons were living elsewhere:

- John Mills Sr. was living in Lunenburg by 1749—on his land that lay east of the mountain—and was cut away into Bedford in 1754.
- William Mills had removed to Lunenburg by 1749, gave power of attorney to John in 1751 as he was leaving Lunenburg, and surfaced in Anson Co., NC., by 1755.
- Blaney (aka Blenny) Mills who was in Anson in 1755 and 1756, but returned by the 1760s.
- Hugh Mills also removed to Anson where he entered land in 1761;<sup>75</sup> he returned to Augusta before the end of 1762
- John Mills Jr. would not have been old enough to appear on the 1756 lists.

The Augusta court-martial records exist through 1770, with no further Mills or Miles references.

**22 NOVEMBER 1756**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court minute.

“**Richard Mihills**, servant of Wm. Preston, agreed not to enlist in his Majesty’s service, and Wm. acquits him of one year’s service.” (Chalkley, 1:75; citing Order Book V:257)

**1757, 1762**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

“August 17, 1769, Settlement of the estate of Col. James Patton with William Thompson, an executor. ... 1757, 1762. The items listed are in the main receipts of cash on payment for lands bought of Col. Patton. to whom bonds had been given. ... Cash of [from] **Hugh Mares** ... John Thompson, John Robinson, **Hugh Mills**, John Stephenson, Wm. Patterson, **William Buchanan**, ...” (Kegley, 364; citing Augusta Will Book 4, 235, 237)

COMMENT:

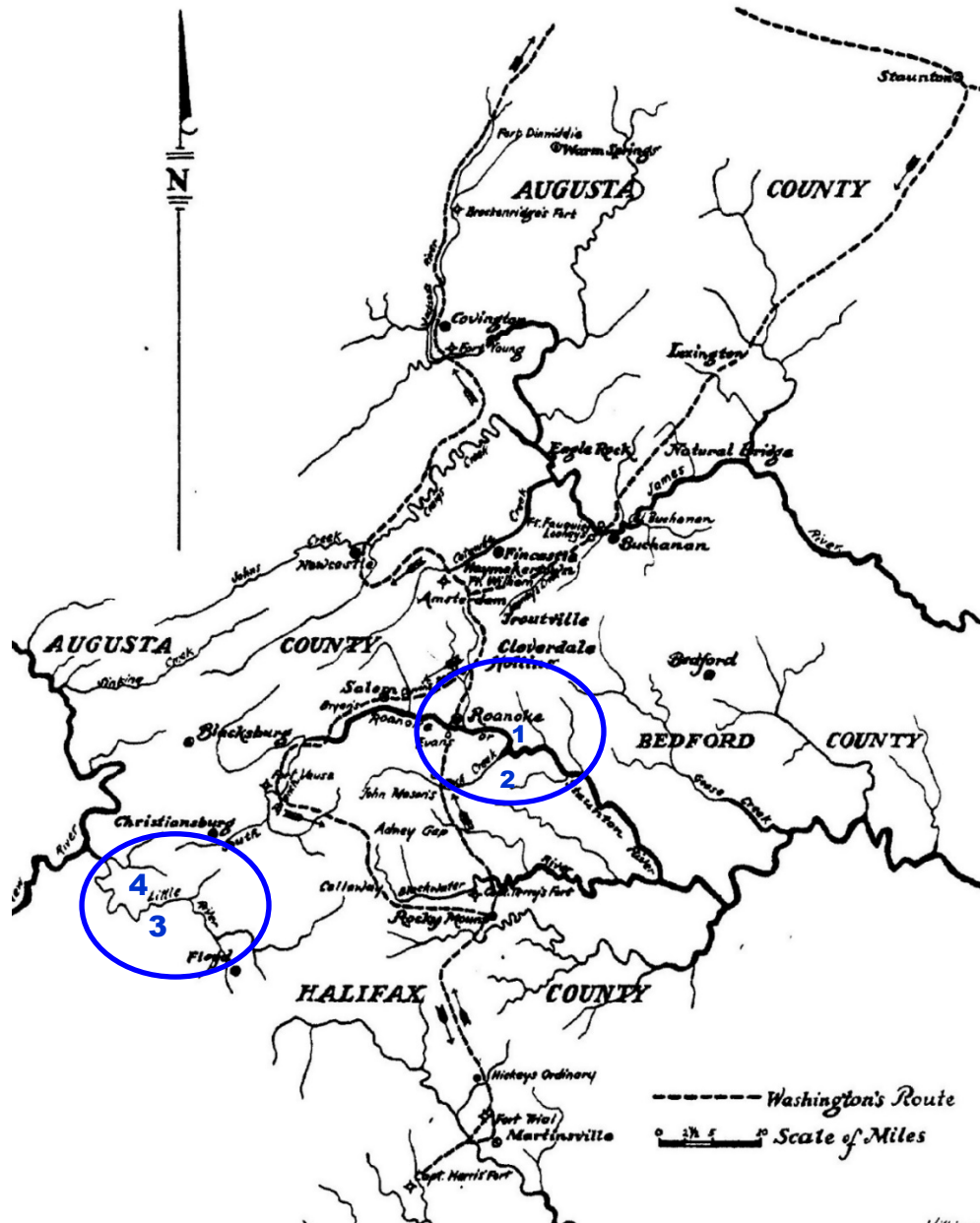
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<sup>75</sup> For the NC records on these brothers, see E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Rutherford County, NC, Its Parent Counties (Anson, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Tryon) and Its Offshoots (Buncombe, Burke, Henderson, and Polk Counties): Survey of Published Resources,” report to file 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

Apparently 1757 is the year that Patton sold these lands. The year 1762, by which time Patton had died, appears to be when the list of cash and bonds was created. 1769 was the year Patton's estate was settled.

Map 13

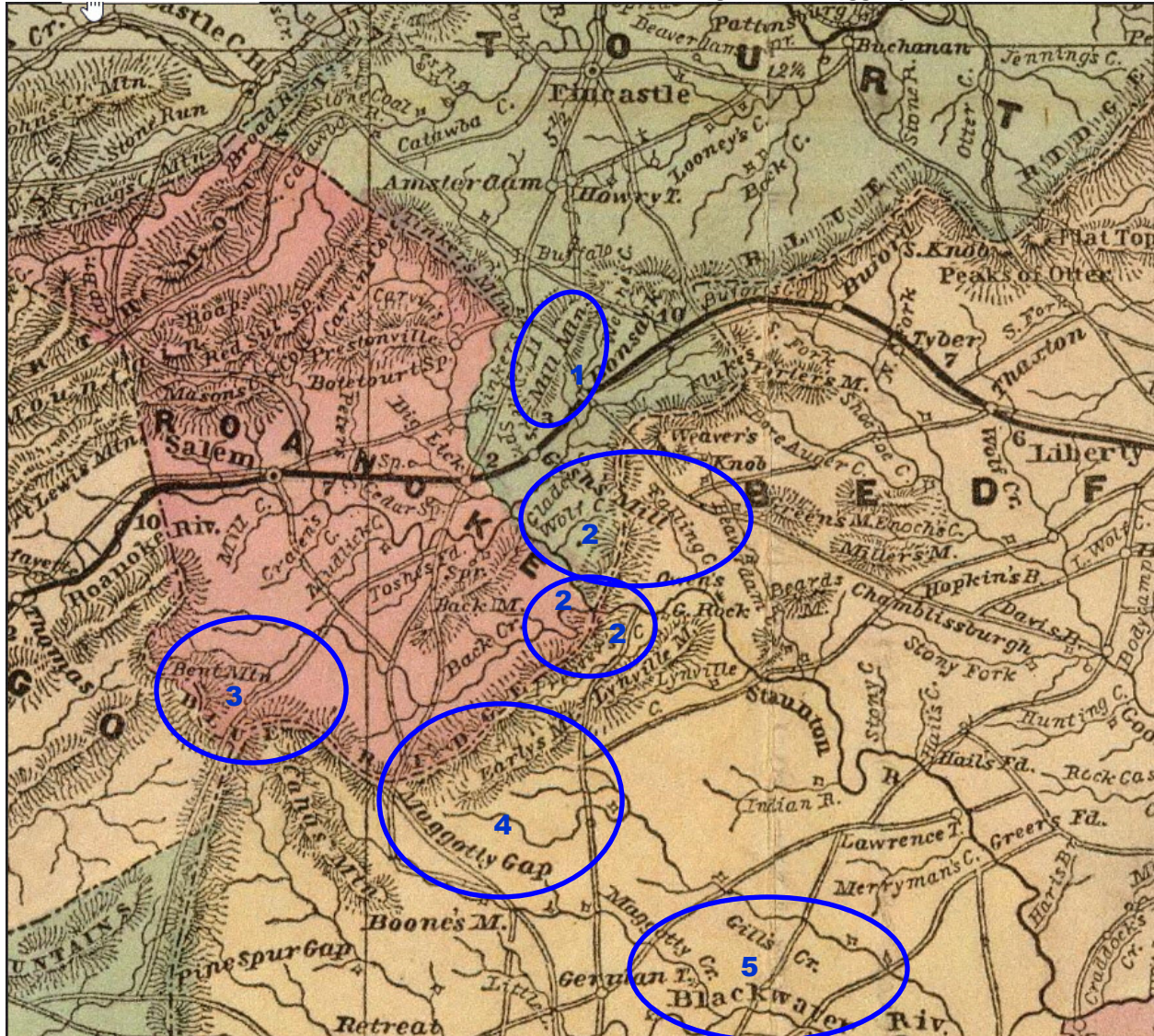
Kegley's "Washington's Route on his Tour of Inspection of the Frontier Forts, October, 1756" (p. 238)



- 1 John Mills, Bent Mountain, Forks of Roanoke (Kegley, p. 101, 177, 553, 556)
- 2 John Mills, west side of Maggoty Gap, Franklin Co. (see Franklin Co. Bicentennial map)
- 3 John Mills, Little River (Kegley, 116)
- 4 Franky & Thomas Mills of Montgomery, 1777–90; Richard Whitt, Meadow Creek of New River, 1774–

Map 14

Forks of Roanoke, Mill Mountain, Bent Mountain, Wolf & Falling Creek, Maggoty Creek & Blackwater<sup>76</sup>



- 1 William Mills, 1744, Mills' Mountain, aka Mill Mountain (Augusta > Fincastle > Botetourt) (Kegley, 44)
- 2 John Mills Sr. & son Blaney, Glade Creek & Wolf Creek, Forks of Roanoke (Roanoke & Bedford > Franklin) (Kegley, p. 177); also John on west side of Maggoty Gap, in Franklin Co. (see Franklin Co. Bicentennial map)
- 3 John Mills, Bent Mountain (Augusta > Fincastle > Botetourt > Montgomery > Roanoke) (Chalkley, 3:372, 491)
- 4 James Mills, associate of John Early on waters of Maggoty, 1784 (Bedford)–1803 (Franklin)<sup>77</sup>
- 5 William Mills-Witt & wife Drucilla Kemp, on Blackwater, 1806–47 & Gills Creek 1816 (Franklin)

1757, 1762

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

“August 17, 1769, Settlement of the estate of Col. James Patton with William Thompson, an executor. ...

<sup>76</sup> J. T. Lloyd's *Official Map of the State of Virginia* (New York: J. T. Lloyd, 1862); imaged at *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~3695~350006:Lloyd-s-official-map-of-the-State-o/>).

<sup>77</sup> E. S. Mills, “James Mills ... : Research Notes,” previously cited.

1757, 1762. The items listed are in the main receipts of cash on payment for lands bought of Col. Patton. to whom bonds had been given. ... Cash of [from] **Hugh Mares** ... John Thompson, John Robinson, **Hugh Mills**, John Stephenson, Wm. Patterson, **William Buchanan**, ..." (Kegley, 364; citing Augusta Will Book 4, 235, 237)

COMMENT:

Apparently 1757 is the year that Patton sold these lands. The year 1762, by which time Patton had died, appears to be when the list of cash and bonds was created. His estate was settled in 1769.

Hugh Mares (aka Mares) also appears in my research notes from Botetourt and Montgomery and a Permelia Mares was listed consecutively with William Mills-Witt in 1830 Franklin Co. Several members of the Mares family, as early as the 1790s, were free people of color.

**9 AUGUST 1757**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Civic role

Letter: "Col. Read to Col. John Buchanan. Lunenburg, August 9, 1757. Sincerely sorry for the distresses of your people, the murders dailey committed, the captives taken and the people continually flying away from the inhuman savage enemy. Shocking to be forced to fly a second time with your family—Poor miserable country! Poor ill-fated frontiers.

"The Governor says that he hath ordered a detachment of 250 men from the Virginia Regiment for the protection of our frontiers on July 18<sup>th</sup>. The situation in Bedford not so bad as represented. ... Would have the flour at *Toshes* and the biscuit at **John Mills's** [i.e., supplies for the troops] moved to some safe splace that it may be ready for this detachment from the Regiment when they do arrive." (Kegley, 251; citing "Draper Manuscripts")

**26 AUGUST 1757**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Will

"**Gilbert Mills'** will, planter—To son **William**, note on *James Staret* living in *Refoe township, Pennsylvania*; son **Alexander**, clothes; granddaughter **Agnes Mills**, residuary legatee. Executors, Isaac White, Edward Hall. Teste: Henry Davis, **Eleanor Tear [Teas]**. Proved 16<sup>th</sup> November, 1757, by the witnesses. Executors qualify, with Alex. Richey, Robert McClehenry." (Chalkley, 3:46; citing Will Book No. 2:208)

COMMENT:

**Starretts**. This family associated with William and Blaney Mills and with Robert Ewing whose daughter married John Mills Jr.

"24 January 1755. **Benjamin Starrett**.—Deed, 160 acres on Glade Creek of Roanoke, from **Robert Ewing** and Mary of Lunenburg." (Kegley, 105)

"In the 1760's the 'Big Spring' again changed ownership, this time from **Benj. Starrett** to **Blany Mills**. Mills soon sold to James Stewart, who in turn sold to Anthony Gohlson ..." (Kegley, 520)

"Surveyed for Daniel Stoner, 1,180 acres, 1812 [being] 160 acres granted to **Robert Ewing** December 15, 1749; conveyed to **Benjamin Starrett**, 1757, to James Stuart who sold to Anthony Gohlson, 1796 ..." (Kegley, 521)

"James Stewart—Deed, 160 acres on a branch of Roanoke granted to **Robert Ewing**, from **James Starrett**." (Kegley, 545)

**Re “Refoe” Township**

I have not been able to locate a “Refoe” Townships in Pennsylvania. The closest possibilities I’ve identified thus far are

- **Oxford**, Chester County; in 1778 a William Starrett was taxed in Oxford Township, along with Hayes and McDowells; he was said to be a son-in-law of Hayes; both surnames associated with the Millses of Augusta.<sup>78</sup>
- **Radnor**, then in Chester County, now in Delaware County; said to be named for the Welsh who came from Radnorshire.

TO DO:

- Find this pair of deeds for Blaney, to tie down the time frame.
- Pursue the several Gilbert Mills baptized c1770-1782 in Fife, Kirkcudbright, and Morayshire, Scotland. **In Augusta, Alexander Mills, son of Gilbert, had two children baptized by the Presbyterian minister John Craig. It seems likely that this set of Mills is Scottish Presbyterian.**<sup>79</sup>

UPDATE:

Genealogist Robert Mills has located and shared Gilbert Mills’ patent for “100 acres situated in **Rapho** Township, Lancaster County,” patent no. 394 issued 26 February 1745, land apparently applied for in 1737. Adjacent neighbors were **Samuel Scott** and **Robert Sterat**.<sup>80</sup>

**14 NOVEMBER 1757**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Borden’s executors to David Wallace, £3.10, 200 acres, part of 92100; cor. James McNabb’s. Teste: **Jno. Mills**, Wm. Hall. Delivered: David Wallace, November, 1763.” (Chalkley, 3:349; citing Deed Book 7:503–4)

**15 MARCH 1758**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Appraisement

“**Gilbert Mill’s** appraisement, by Saml. Steel, Wm. Finley, John Finley, James Gilespy.” (Chalkley, 3:47; citing Will Book No. 2:227)

**17 MARCH 1758**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“**John Mills** to William Graham, £\_\_\_, 600 acres, part of a tract deeded to John by James Patton, 17<sup>th</sup> December 1752, on **Buffelo Creek**, a branch of Roanoke; cor. David Robinson, Carravan’s Creek.” (Chalkley, 3:350; citing Deed Book 7:531)

**14 NOVEMBER 1758**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor

“William Buchanan from Borden’s executors, 280 acres on North Branch of James River; corner of **James Miles**.” (Kegley, 87; citing Augusta Deed Book 8:14)

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<sup>78</sup> J. Smith Futhey and Gilbert Cope, *History of Chester County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: L. H. Everts, 1881), 296, 424–25.

<sup>79</sup> “Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms,” 1564–1950,” database entry, *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=60143> : accessed 1 February 2019), citing FHL film 990807.

<sup>80</sup> “Robert Mills, Architect PC” to E. S. Mills, “Gilbert Mills,” email 10 July 2022. Mr. Mills has provided images of both the patent and its reverse which carries partial documentation, but did not state the collection or archives in which he found it.

**12 MAY 1759**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land grant

“**John Mills**—Grant, 130 acres on **Long Run** of James River.” (Kegley, 88; citing Patent Book 34: 308)

**1759**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land grant

“Carvin’s Cove has a history all its own, the land grants running something like this: 1759 Grant to **John Mills**, 341 acres. 1763 **John Mills** to William Carvin—Grant, 341 acres on Carvin’s Creek at a place called the Cove. ...” (Kegley, 515; citing no source)

“Same to **John Mills**, 845 acres by patent as above. **Buffilo Creek** of Roanoke; Corrovan’s Creek.”

“Same to Robert Poage, 104 acres by patent, as above, on Cedar Creek in Forks of James; corner Thomas Taylor’s line; McDowell’s land; corner **Wm. Mills**.” (Chalkley, 3:308; citing Deed Book 5:36–37, 41, 61. Kegley, 101, citing same)

**1760**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Daniel Luney’s appraisal was made by George Adams, Thomas Ramsey and **John Mills**.—Two nurseries and Apple Trees. Peter Looney was dead in 1760, with Margaret Looney his administratrix. Both Thomas and Daniel Looney had David for administrator.” (Kegley, 176; citing Augusta Will Book 3: 55, 59)

**22 APRIL 1760**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land grant.

“Lands on Back Creek and Bent Mountain through Different Periods of Settlement: ... April 22, 1760. **John Mills**—580 acres on **Bent Mountain**.” (Kegley, 556; citing Pat. Bk. 34:970)

**14 JULY 1760**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Breach of promise

“David Robinson to Wm. Graham. Whereas **John Mills** of Augusta County did on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 1752, agree to convey to Joshua McCormick title for 245 acres, part of 845 acres on a branch of Round Oak called **Buffler’s Creek**. Joshua, on 23d February, 1753, assigned his right to David Robinson, late of Augusta County, now of New Gorden Township, **County of Chester**, Province of Pennsylvania, and David obtained a deed. Power attorney to Wm. Grahames to bring suit against **John Mills** to recover the title and to make conveyance to Daniel McCormick. Teste: Elizabeth Young, Andrew Treper, John Armstrong, Bryan McDonald, Robert McGee, Benjamin Reelson.” (Chalkley, 3:397; citing Deed Book 11:219)

COMMENT:

The Chester County origin for the Robinsons may be of value. See the 1758 will of Gilbert Mills referencing James Starret of “Refoe” Township, Pennsylvania—which may be Chester County’s Radford Township.

**14 JULY 1760**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale



“Daniel McCormick, 245 acres, part of 845 acres on Round Oak from **John Mills**, by Wm. Graham.” (Kegley, 298; citing Augusta Deed Book 11:219)

**18 NOVEMBER 1760**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“David Cloyd and Margaret ( ) to James Cloyd, £20, 400 acres on North Branch [of the] James joining **Wm. Mills**, patented to David Cloyd, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1748. Delivered: Jno. Thompson by Cloyd’s order, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 1777.” (Chalkley, 3:364; citing Deed Book 9:13) (also Kegley, 237; no citation)

**2 JANUARY 1761**  
**AUGUSTA & LUNENBURG, VA**

Association

“Erwin Patterson, of **Lunenburg**, to Erwin Wood, of Lunenburg (?) (Augusta ?), £, 5 sh., 108 acres by patent, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 1755, on Roanoke. Teste: **John** and **Jane Mills**, John Wood.” (Chalkley, 3:372; citing Deed Book 9:387)

COMMENT:

This document is recorded consecutively with a sale from “**John Mills** and **Mary**, of Lunenburg, to Leonard Huff” that was executed on 22d May, 1761 and “Delivered: Samuel Lewis, December, 1777.”

**14 FEBRUARY 1761**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land grant

“**John Mills**, 1,370 acres on **Wolf Creek** and **Falling Creek**.” (Kegley, 299; citing Land Grants, Bk. 34, 846)”

COMMENT:

This lies along the line between present Bedford and Botetourt, in extreme south Botetourt, where the county forms a thin sliver separating Roanoke and Bedford. See Map 9.

**18 FEBRUARY 1761**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land survey

“William Preston, Assistant Surveyor, enters 3 tracts, 400 acres each, between lands of David Cloyd, James Johnston, Wm. Ralston; a survey for **John Mills**, David Miller, Wm. Armstrong and said Preston’s land whereon Rentfro formerly dwelt. Also 400 acres on a small branch of Craig’s (Creek?), above Jacob Patton’s old place, known by the name of the **Mill Place**.” (Chalkley, 3:61; citing Will Book 3:10) (Kegley, 299 provides basically the same detail, citing “Augusta Surveyor’s Book”)

**FEBRUARY 1761**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“As a young surveyor from the year 1752 William Preston’s duties were chiefly on the waters of the Roanoke. Where he resided from 1752 to 1761 is not known. There are indications that he lived with the family of David Cloyd. In February, 1759, he purchased from Stephen Rentfro, 191 acres on Buffalo Creek adjoining David Cloyd, and in **February, 1761**, he entered three tracts of 400 acres each, between the lands of David Cloyd, James Johnston and William Ralston: a survey for **John Mills**, David Miller, William Armstrong, and said Preston’s land whereon Rentfro formerly lived.” (Kegley, 506)

**18 FEBRUARY 1761**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land entry

“William Preston’s entries, 18<sup>th</sup> February 1761 : three tracts of 400 acres each between David Cloyd, James Johnson, William Ralston, a survey for **John Mills** and David Miller, William Armstrong and said Preston’s land, whereon Rentfro formerly lived; also 400 on a branch of Craig’s Creek, above Jacob Patton’s old place, known by the name of the **Mill Place.**” (Chalkley, 1:445; citing “Original Petitions and Papers Filed in the County Court ... 1761”)

**10 APRIL 1761**

**ANSON > TRYON COUNTY, NC**

Land grant

“A large platt diagram showing lands of (No. 5) *Daniel McKissick’s* 423 acres, (No. 4) **Hugh Mills** 350 acres of land granted 10 April 1761, and (No. 6) Daniel Warlock granted 1,000 acres 28 May 1751 on **Clarks Creek**, and shows the land “the patten in dispute Covrs.” Certified by Wm. Scott.”<sup>81</sup>

**19 MAY 1761**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“John **Bowen’s** Will Proved, wife Lillie qualified as administratrix. May 20, 1761, Moses **Bowen’s** administration by mother, **Lillie Bowen**, appraisalment by John Daily, John McClure and Neal (McCluster), June 11. John Bowen’s appraisalment was made by the same men on August 18.” (Kegley, 360; citing Augusta Will Book 3:24, 46)

COMMENT:

Kegley has a lengthy bio for John Bowen at 366–68.

- Named children: John Jr. (married Rachel Mathews of Sampson Mathews’ family), Moses (d. 1761 French & Indian War), Mary, Charles, Rees (m. Levisa/Lucy Smith, daughter of Col. John Smith), Henry (m. Ann Cunningham), and Rebecca (m. “a Whitley”)
- Parents: Moses Bowen and Rebecca Rees, who came from Wales to Pennsylvania
- Wife was Lily McIlhane with whom he lived “a while” in Maryland, before Virginia
- Will of widow Lily proved in Washington Co. in April 1780
- Earliest record in Augusta County is a bond to Co. Patton on 15 April 1748
- John Bowen Jr. and Rachel had **John**, Moses, William, Ann, Rebecca, and Elizabeth
- In 1779 “the Bowens generally migrated to the Holston and Clinch river Valleys”

**TO DO:**

**Study the family of John Jr. and Rachel, to determine whether their son John III might be the John who married Rachel Mills in 1803, Montgomery County.**

**20 MAY 1761**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“David Cloyd to Michael Cloyd, £5, 262 acres on Percimmon Branch of James River, adjoining David Mitchel and **William Mills**; cor. Mills’ former survey. Delivered.” (Chalkley, 3:371; citing Deed Book 9:346–48)

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<sup>81</sup> Edith Warren Huggins, *Burke County, North Carolina, Land Records, 1778*, vol. 1. (N.p.: P.p., 1977), 152. For the plat of this land, see “North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018) > Anson > 1779–2438 > image 350 of 1224.

“Michael Cloyd from David Cloyd, £10, 400 acres on Percimmon Branch of James River. 262 acres on Percimmon Branch of James River. £5, adjoining David Mitchell and **Wm. Mills**. (Kegley, 353; citing Augusta Deed Book 9:343–46)

**22 MAY 1761**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Deed.

“**John Mills** and **Mary, of Lunenburg**, to Leonard Huff (Hooff), of Halifax County, £25, 400 acres, part of 580 patented to John, 22d April, 1760, at **Bent Mountain, on Huff’s Creek**, a branch of Roanoke. Delivered: Samuel Lewis, December, 1777.” (Chalkley, 3:372; citing Deed Book 9:390).

COMMENT:

This document is recorded consecutively with deed of Erwin Patterson of Lunenburg to Erwin Wood, 2 January 1761, witnessed by “**John and Jane Mills**.”

In 1753–54, the deeds by John of Lunenburg cited his wife as Ann. (Kegley, 102–4)

**23 MAY 1761**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“Leonard Huff, of Halifax County [buys] 400 acres at **Bent Mountain on Huff’s Creek**, a branch of Roanoke. £25. From **John Mills** and **Mary** of Lunenburg County.” (Kegley, 300; citing Augusta Deed Book 9:390)

TO DO:

I have not yet worked original conveyances, probates, and court suits in Lunenburg.

**14 AUGUST 1761**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Thomas Walker, of Albemarle, to James Patton’s executors, £100, releases all interest in 4500 acres on waters of New River known by name of **Birk’s Garden**, patented to James Patton. Teste: **Israel Christian, John Mills**, John Miller.” (Chalkley, 3:376; citing Deed Book 9:529)

COMMENT:

- 10 March 1767 (see note below) “**David Mills and Hannah**” sold 120 acres on a branch of the Buffalo to Israel Christian.
- 28 February 1764 David Mills Sr. of Albemarle made his will leaving to his daughter “Anna” Mills “that part [of 800 acres in possession of James Ceaton] which shall include the **Garden Spot**.” His other children included Zachariah Mills (coexecutor with widow Lucy), **David Mills Jr.**, Wyat Mills, Joseph Mills, Mary Mills, Lucy Mills, and Elizabeth Mills.<sup>82</sup>

**19 AUGUST 1761**

**AUGUSTA & LUNENBURG, VA**

Land sale

“**John Mills**, of **Lunenburg County**, to Israel Christian. Whereas **Wm. Mills**, of Augusta, on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1751, constituted **John Mills** his attorney to sell his lands in Augusta, £\_\_\_, 117 acres on Roanoke; **Jno. Mill’s** line.” (Chalkley, 3:377; citing Deed Book 10:8)

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<sup>82</sup> Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1761–1764* (n.d.; reprint, N.P.: The Antient Press, 1988), 98; citing Deed Book 3: 395–97.

**19 AUGUST 1761**

**AUGUSTA & LUNENBURG, VA**

Land sale

“Israel Christian [buys] 117 acres on the Roanoke, **John Mills** line. From **Wm. Mills** of Lunenburg County. By attorney **John Mills**.” (Kegley, 300; citing Augusta Deed Book 10: 8)

**8 FEBRUARY 1762**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

“James ( ) Sloan to **John Mills**, £5, 178 acres by patent, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1745, on a branch of James River, on a branch of Lunie’s [**Looney’s**] **Mill Run**. Delivered to Jhn Craig by your order, May, 1764.” (Chalkley, 3:388; citing Deed Book 10:521) (Kegley, 348; citing same)

COMMENT:

Kegley provides this background for Sloan:

“The Sloans came to Looney’s Mill Creek after 1742, and before 1747. Both James and John were constables in the new settlement. John Sloan and Hugh Caruthers were processioners on the south side of the South Branch of James River joining RoanOke in 1747. Robert lived just above Lauderdale’s on the land that became the home of Andrew Woods and later of the Simmons family. **James sold his land to John Mills in 1762**; John [Sloan] sold to John Adams in 1763; Robert [Sloan] to Andrew Woods in 1767. They went to Rowan County, North Carolina.” (Kegley, 164–65)

In 1790, Franklin County, one James Sloan/Slone and wife Alice (allegedly née Mills) sold their land on Elliott’s Creek of the Maggoty to James Mills (parents and origin unknown).<sup>83</sup>

**1762**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase/sale

“James Boyd’s grant of 340 acres on Lunie’s [**Looney’s**] Mill Creek is one of the first grants recorded. This was the beginning of the famous **Mount Joy Estate**. Boyd sold to James Hughey, of South Carolina. Hughey sold to **John Mills** and **Mills** to Mathew Harvey.” (Kegley, 165)

**24 MAY 1762**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“John Robinson, Richard Tunstall and **James Mills**, executors of Wm. Beverley, vs. William and Andrew Hamilton.” (Chalkley, 1:98 citing Order Book No. VII: 245)

**2 AUGUST 1762**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Robert Orr, of Johnson County, North Carolina, to John Thomson, £50, 179 acres on **Glade Creek** of Roan Oak [Roanoke], by patent, 10<sup>th</sup> March 1756; corner **John Boen’s** [**Bowen’s**] land. Teste: **John Mills**.” (Chalkley, 3:401; citing Deed Book 11:331)

**1762**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

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<sup>83</sup> E. S. Mills, “James Mills (*bef.* 1750–c1823-24) & Wife [?Octavia Breckinridge?]: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab. For the deed of sale, see Franklin Co., Deed Book 2:94.

Road orders

“In 1762 [22 November] the orders for roads designate the **Stone House** and Graham’s Clearing as the starting points for changes in location and construction of roads. In May a road was ordered from ‘Graham’s Clearing’ to Catawba, with William Preston as surveyor. In **November**, John Thompson, Henry Ferguson and **Hugh Mills** were appointed to view the nearest and best way from the ‘Stone House’ to the Bedford line.” (Kegley, 320)<sup>84</sup>

COMMENT:

Numerous Kegley abstracts place both John Mills (Hugh’s father) and William Mills near the site of Stone House.

**16 NOVEMBER 1762**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor

“William Poage [buys] from Robert Poage and Jean, 104 acres on **Cedar Creek** in **Forks of James**; cor. Thomas Taylor, McDowell’s land; cor. **William Mill’s** land.” (Kegley, 340; citing Augusta Deed Book 11:75)

**1763**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“Carvin’s Cove has a history all its own, the land grants running something like this: **1759**. Grant to **John Mills**, 341 acres. **1763**. **John Mills** to William Carvin—Grant, 341 acres on Carvin’s Creek at a place called **the Cove**. ...” (Kegley, 515; citing no source)

**15 FEBRUARY 1763**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“William Young, of Kingsoss, County of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, cordwainer, to John Madison, power of attorney to convey to William Davis, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, skinner, 400 acres on east side of New River or Woods’ River, formerly patented to **John Mills**, and conveyed by him to William Young, £65. Teste: Paul Isaac Vato, John Kirke, David Robinson, John Boller. Acknowledged by Vato and Kirke, both of Philadelphia, before Henry Harrison, Mayor of Philadelphia.” (Chalkley, 3:403–4; citing Deed Book 11:400–1)

**8 AUGUST 1763**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Robert Williams, of Orange County, North Carolina, to William Walker, of Bedford County, £33.18.3, 275 acres conveyed to Robert by James Patton, 17<sup>th</sup> December, 1753, on Craig’s Creek. Teste: **John Mills**, David Looney. Delivered: William Walker, March, 1766.” (Chalkley, 3:430; citing Deed Book 12:177)

**8 NOVEMBER 1763**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Debt

“George Robinson’s estate appraised, by Robt. Breckinridge, Jno. Neeley, Bryan McDonald—Danl. McCormick’s bond; Jno. Bare’s (?) note; Robt. Galloway’s note; Wm. Roseby’s 3 notes; **Arthur Wats’** note

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<sup>84</sup> The exact date is provided by Lyman Chalkley, “Before the Gates of the Wilderness Road: The Settlement of Southwestern Virginia,” *Virginia Magazine of History & Biography* 30 (1922): 198.

assigned by James Price; **Charles Mills'** (?) note assigned by Jno. Lowry." (Chalkley, 3:82; citing W.B. 3:307)

**7 DECEMBER 1763**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land survey

"**Hugh Mills** has surveyed 129 acres on Welshman's Run. Survey by Wm. Preston." (Kegley, 302; citing no source)

"Henry Ferguson [survey of] 130 acres east of a mountain, corner to the land of **Hugh Mills**. Survey by Wm. Preston; 109 acres from John Thompson." (Kegley, 302; citing no source)

**1764–65**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Processioning minute

"The county was again divided into precincts and two intelligent, honest free-holders appointed to each for processioners, to report between the last day of September and the first of March [1765]. ... The reports of 1765 show ... in the lower section William Bryan and James Neely listed James Bryan, William Bryan, Jr., David Bryan, Rees **Bowin**, **Hugh Mills**, David **Cloyd** on **Tinker's Creek**, **David Robinson**, **William Graham**, on Buffalo Creek, ...."

"About this time **Buffalo Creek** began to be called 'Tinker' or '**Tinker's Creek**'. Both names are used in the Processioners' report. Rev. John Craig used the name 'Tinker' in his baptismal record in 1749. The deed of Joseph McDonald to William Preston in 1762 has it 'Tinker's Creek'." (Kegley, 319–20; no citation)

COMMENT:

- The Cloyds subsequently appear in Montgomery County after that county was created from land formerly in Augusta.
- A Bowen-Mills marriage occurred in Montgomery in 1803: John Bowen married Rachel Mills. Parents of neither are stated in the record and they have not been found in other documents. Rachel *appears* likely to be the youngest daughter of Montgomery's Pvt. John Mills (1777–85) and Franky (a widow who remarried in 1788).<sup>85</sup>

**13 MARCH 1764**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

**Jeremiah Early** and wife Elisabeth of **Culpeper**, to Francis Kirtley, £80, 240 acres on Elk Run. ... Teste: James Kirtley, **John Earley**, William ( ) Bohanon, William ( ) Smith."

COMMENT:

In 1784, while in Bedford County, James Mills of Elliott's Creek of the Maggoty witnessed the will of John Early, along with other documents for John's son Jubal. In 1785 both were cut away into Franklin County, where the association continued.<sup>86</sup> See Map 9.

**6 MARCH 1764**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Kinship

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<sup>85</sup> Anne Lowry Worrell, *A Brief of Wills and Marriages in Montgomery and Fincastle Counties, Virginia, 1733–1831* (1932; reprinted Baltimore, 1996), 10. For fuller details on the search for information on this couple and Rachel's potential parents, see my Montgomery, Fincastle & Botetourt report of 28 August 2018, previously cited.

<sup>86</sup> E. S. Mills, "Mills & Associates: Franklin & Floyd Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey," report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

“**William Baird (Beard). (Son-in-law of John Mills.** Court Order in Chalkly [*sic*] 1:351) 270 acres in Creeley’s Gap. Survey by William Preston.” (Kegley, 304; citing no source for the survey itself)

**23 MARCH 1764**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“**Lawrence Mills**, convict servant of Jeremiah Ragen.” (Chalkley, 1:112; citing Order Book VIII: 418)

COMMENT:

Chalkley’s other abstracts from the minutes of this day do not provide further context for Lawrence or the situation in which he is involved here.

**21 MAY 1764**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Robert Lockridge and Rebecca to David and Jno. Kinkead of Albemarle, £90, 520 acres on Great Calfpasture; corner Kinkead’s land, crossing Ramsey’s Creek, said Lockridge’s land. Teste: Francis Tincher, **Wm. Wills** [*sic*], George Campbell. Delivered David Kinkead, November 1768.” (Chalkley, 3:417; citing Deed Book 11:746–47)

**23 MAY 1764**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Joseph Love and Mary to Samuel Caldwell, £150, 400 acres on South River Shanando, Beverley Manor line, part of 660 acres deeded to John Willson’s father by **Joseph Mills**, 24<sup>th</sup> June 1742. Teste: Pat. Cunningham, Samuel Love, Walter Davis, Robert ( ) Crawford. Delivered to Samuel Culwell.” (Chalkley, 3:410; citing Deed Book 11: 595)

COMMENT:

- The 1742 date of Mills’s sale suggests that the deed is filed in Orange County.
- Chalkley 3:266 describes a tract of land conveyed in 1747/8 as “part of a large tract conveyed to **James Mills** and sold to Robert Wilson and John Holmes.”

TO DO:

- Work **Orange County deeds** and **colonial/state land grants** for Augusta and Orange
- Investigate the possibility that the “Joseph” abstracts presented by Chalkley may be a misreading of the original “Jas.” for “Jos.”

**27 JUNE 1764**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land grant

“**John Mills**, 192 acres on a branch of Roanoke joining James Gatlive.” (Kegley, 304; citing Land Grants, Bk. 55, 512)

“**John Mills**, 122 acres on a small branch of James River.” (Kegley, 349; no citation)

“**John Mills**, 150 acres on waters of James River.” (Kegley, 349; no citation)

“**John Mills**, 143 acres on Looney’s Mill Creek.” (Kegley, 349; citing Pat. Bk. 35:507–14)

**22 AUGUST 1764**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“**John Mills** to John Thompson, £\_\_\_, 213 acres on **Glade Creek** of Roanoke; corner said **Jno. Mills’** land. Delivered: Israel Christian, November, 1768.” (Chalkley, 3:417; citing Deed Book 11:748)

**22 AUGUST 1764**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“John Thomson [buys] 213 acres on **Glade Creek** of Roanoke. From **John Mills, son of John Mills.**” (Kegley, 303; citing Augusta Deed Book 11, no page number)

COMMENT:

This tract was granted 10 March 1756. The abstract implies that “John Mills, son” was of legal age to sell property by 1764. If so, he was born by 1743. By extension, we should consider the possibility that the 1772 marriage of John Jr. to Patty Ewing was not his first marriage.

**28 NOVEMBER 1764**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Alex. Boyd, merchant in Augusta County, to Alex. Baine, merchant in Virginia, to secure payment of £1092.9.5 and to secure him as surety for Boyd, to James Lyle, merchant of Chesterfield, on account of Boyd, on North Fork of Roanoke called Stanton River, and sometimes by name of Roanoke River, 1200 acres, 400 acres thereof purchased from James Campbell and Lettes, his wife, oaks on Goose Creek, 100 acres more thereof purchased from same, crossing Crooked Run, 98 acres patented to Ale<sup>r</sup> Boyd, 30 acres more, part thereof, on Roanoke, patented to Alexander Boyd, 14<sup>th</sup> February, 1761; corner James Campbell, 267 acres, part thereof purchased from Mathias Yoakam, 305 acres thereof, entered on Augusta surveyor’s book, and surveyed by Wm. Preston, one of the surveyors of said County. The aforesaid tracts adjoin and the plantation thereon, well known by the name of Fort Lewis. Conveys also 5 negroes. Mortgage. Teste: **Wm. Watts**, Alex. Love, David Ross, Charles McPherson.” (Chalkley, 3:425; citing Deed Book 12:40)

COMMENT:

If this William Watts was at least 21 (as probable), then he was born by 1743. He *is* of age compatible with the aging William Mills, husband of Eleanor, of 1810 Kanawha County.

**5 DECEMBER 1764**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“Lands on Back Creek and Bent Mountain through Different Periods of Settlement: ... December 5, 1764. William Carvin—180 acres, part of 500, on **Bent Mountain**, granted to **John Mills and Mary**; William Carvin—325 acres on **Little Bottom Creek**, a branch of Roanoke. Corner Huff’s land.” (Kegley, 556; citing Augusta Deed Book 12:131–36)

COMMENT:

The “500” acres should be 580, patented to John Mills on 22 April 1760. John had already sold 400 of this to Leonard Huff in 1761.

The abstract appears misleading. As written, it says that the grant was made to “John Mills and Mary,” but grants jointly to husband and wife were extremely rare and involved special circumstances, as when the patented tract incorporated a land right that the wife had inherited.

Apparently, what Kegley is trying to say here is that William Carvin bought 180 acres on Bent Mountain from John and Mary, which was part of 500 patented to John.



TO DO:

Obtain the actual patent for this land to see how it is worded.

**10 DECEMBER 1764**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“**John Mills** and **Mary (Mearey)** to William Carvin, £50, 325 acres on **Little Bottom Creek**, a branch of Roanoke, corner Huff’s land. Delivered: Thos. Madison, 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1769.” (Chalkley, 3:428–29; citing Deed Book 12: 131)

**10 DECEMBER 1764**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale. “[William Carvin? buys] 341 acres on **Carvin’s Creek**, a branch of Roanoke, called **the Cove**, £50. From **John Mills** and **Mary.**” (Kegley, 303; citing Augusta Deed Book 12:131–36)

**1765**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Procession minute

“Processioners on Waters of James and Catawbo, on South side, report, viz: For Thomas McFerrin, on Persimmon Run; for Michael Cloyd, for Wm. Herbison, adjoining Andw. Monelly; for Robt. Rowland, for Jas. Rowland; for J\_\_\_\_\_ Looney, on Sinking Spring; for Andw. Monelly; for **Jno. Mills**, on **Looney’s Mill Creek** ... for Wm. Rowland, for Geo. Poage, for **Jno. Mills, where he now lives**; for Margt. Clark, where she now lives; for Margt. Clark, on Back Creek; for George Burdwell, for James Lauderdale.” (Chalkley, 2:452; citing “Augusta Parish Vestry Book,” p. 408)

COMMENT:

The wording of the report implies that Jno. Mills’s land is not on Looney’s Mill Creek, but that it is near that location. If the processioners followed custom, examining land boundaries in neighborhood sequence, then John’s home place should lie between William Rowland and George Poage on one side, and Margaret Clark on the other.

Clearly, this is not the same place that was said to be his residence in 1755.

Closer study of Rowland, Poage, and Clark should enable a more-precise placement of the John Mills Sr. At this point, the best estimate is near the fork of James River and Back Creek, along the western base of the Blue Ridge, a bit SW of modern Pattonsburg in present Botetourt.

**1765**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Procession minute

“Wm. Bryans and Jas. Neely report as follows, viz: For James Bryan (on Roanoke), for Wm. Bryan, Jr., for David Bryan (Geo. McAfee present), for Rees Bowin, for **Hugh Mills**, for David Cloyd (**Tinker’s Creek**), for David Robinson, for Wm. Graham, for Wm. Graham (on **Bufallo Creek**) [former land of John Sr. and William], Benj. Paulson present; for Wm. Graham, Henry Holston present; for Peter Evans; for Thos. Tosh, Danl. McNeal present; for Jno. McAdoo, Jas. Mellin present; for David Dutton, Wm. Elam present; for Israel Christian, for Joseph Snodgrass, for Joseph Robinson, for John Neilly; for Baptist Armstrong, present **Thomas Acres**; for Wm. Carvin, for Wm. Terry, for **Thomas Ackers**, for James Neilly (on **Carson’s Creek**).” (Chalkley, 2:450; citing “Augusta Parish Vestry Book,” p. 382)

“Processioners of the Waters of James and Catawbo, on South side<sub>[,]</sub> report: For Thomas McFerrin on Persimmon Run; for Michael Cloyd; For Wm. Herbison adjoining Andw. McNelly; For Robert Rowland; For

James Rowland; For Joseph Looney on **Sinking Spring**; For Andrew McNelly; For **John Mills** on **Looney's Mill Creek**; For James Moore on Looney's Mill Creek; for Margt. **Rentfro**, on Beaver Dam Run and Looney's Mills Creek; for William Rowland; for George Poage; For **John Mills, where he now lives**; For Margt. Clark, where she now lives; For Margt. Clark, on Back Creek; for George Burdwell; For James Lauderdale; For John Smith; John McFerrin, John McClellan; For John Alcorn, where he now lives; for David Mitchell; For William Rowland on Patrick's Run; For Alexander Evans; For John Crawford, where he now lives; For John Adams." (Kegley, 365–66; citing Vestry Book, 408–9)

COMMENT:

See Map 9, Kegley's "Fincastle Community."

Tinker's Creek, according to Kegley, is an alternative name for Buffalo Creek. It runs along the west side of William Mills's Mill(s) Mountain. Hugh Mills's father John, in 1748, patented 300 acres on Tinker's Creek—the Stone House Property—but he sold it in 1754 to Erwin Patterson.

**2 MARCH 1765**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

"Same [William Graham and Priscilla] to Joseph Robinson, £100, 236 acres, part of 600 acres conveyed to William [Graham] by **Jno. Mills**, 3d August, 1753, on **Buffalo Creek**; corner Israel Christian, formerly Daniel McCormick's. Delivered: Cap. Thos. Madison, 22d October 1770." (Chalkley, 3:419; citing Deed Book 11:787) (Kegley, 304, provides much the same detail and same citation)

COMMENT:

This was actually the land of William Mills that John sold to Graham by power of attorney from William.

**18 AUGUST 1765**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

"**John Mills** and **Mary** to Israel Christian. £50, 122 acres on a branch of James River, line of **Sloan's** land. Delivered: Wm. Fleming, August, 1766." (Chalkley, 3:430; citing Deed Book 12:169)

COMMENT:

Kegley provides significantly different detail, identifying 3 tracts being sold:

"Israel Christian from **John Mills** and **Mary**, £50, 122 acres on a branch of James River, Sloan's line; 150 acres on waters of James River. Adam Looney's line, £50; 178 acres, patented 1745, on a branch of James River, beginning on a branch of Looney's Mill Run." (Kegley, 349; citing Augusta Deed Book 12:169–74)

**15 OCTOBER 1765**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

"Robert ( ) Armstrong and Elizabeth ( ) to William Armstrong, £100, 200 acres in Beverley Manor on a branch of Christian's Creek; William Robinson's corner, **Joseph Mills'** land. Delivered: Wm. Armstrong, October, 1766." (Chalkley, 3:435; citing Deed Book 12:334–35)

**11 FEBRUARY 1766**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“**John Mills** and **Mary** to James Huston, £40, 150 acres on Murrie’s Run, a branch of Roanoke. Delivered: Samuel Lewis, 8<sup>th</sup> April, 1775.” (Chalkley, 3:447; citing Deed Book 13:125) (Kegley, 306, echoes the detail and confirms the citation.)

**10–13 FEBRUARY 1767**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land surveys

“February 10, 1767, **John Mills**—Survey, 345 acres.

“February 12, 1767, **John Mills**—Survey, 254 acres.

“February 13, 1767, John Clerk—Survey, 210 acres

“February 13, 1767, James Ewing—Survey, 138 acres.” (Kegley, 351; no citation)

COMMENT:

The fact that the surveyor had worked Mills’s land on February 10 and 12, then surveyed John Clerk and James Ewing on the 13<sup>th</sup>, suggests that Clerk and Ewing lived quite close to Mills’ tract.

**28 FEBRUARY 1767**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“John Smith to Jonathan Smith, £90, slaves. Teste: **John Mills**, Joseph Luney, James McKair (McKain?), William **Bowen**.” (Chalkley, 3:465; citing Deed Book 14:229)

**MARCH 1767**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court minute

“John Craig vs. **William Beard**.—24<sup>th</sup> October, 1765. Defendant is a son-in-law of **John Mills**.” (Chalkley, 1:351; citing “Judgments ... March 1767”)

COMMENT:

- John Mills and **John Beard** in 1764 were administrators of the estate of Edmund Smith in Bedford County.<sup>87</sup>
- William Beard in 1779 apparently lived in Bedford when he witnessed the sale of land from John and Priscilla Maddox to their son Nathan Mattox.<sup>88</sup> (Nathan’s daughter Sarah married Robert Kemp of Franklin in 1802, and was stepmother to Drucilla Kemp who married William Mills-Witt in 1815.<sup>89</sup>)

**10 MARCH 1767**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“Israel Christian, merchant [buys] 120 acres on a branch of **Buffalo**, a branch of Roan Oak, Baptist McNab’s line, Edward McDonald’s line. From **David Mills** and **Hannah**. £15. Teste: Francis Smith, William Christian, William Preston, Robert Breckenridge, Benj. Hawkins, Wm. Fleming, Edward Carvin, Stephen Trigg, Nathan Gillian.” (Kegley, 309; citing Augusta Deed Book 13:240)

COMMENT:

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<sup>87</sup> John Beard & John Mills vs. Admr. of Edmund Smith, Bedford Chancery Causes no. 1772-005; imaged Library of Virginia, “Chancery Records Index,” *VirginiaMemory* ([http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case\\_detail.asp?CFN=019-1772-005](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=019-1772-005) : downloaded 27 May 2018).

<sup>88</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Deed Book 6, 1778–1780, p. \_\_\_\_.

<sup>89</sup> See E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Franklin & Floyd Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey,” report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

For an unexplained reason, Kegley italicizes the phrase “David Mills and Hannah.” Italics are not his usual practice for the names of participants in a deed.

David is not a common given name among Virginia Millses, outside the offspring of the immigrant Nicholas Mills. One David Mills Jr. of Albemarle (son and heir of David Mills Sr. who made his will in 1764, Albemarle Will Book 2:175) had a sister and co-heir named **Anna**, and a **Hannah** Epperson witnessed David Sr.’s will; but I’ve not encountered a contemporary “Hannah Mills” in their family or elsewhere.<sup>90</sup>

#### 20 MAY 1767

##### AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA

Association

“Daniel ( ) Oharra and Elizabeth to Alexander Miller, £24.10, 125 acres on south branch of the Cowpasture River. Teste: Wm. Crow, Henry Key, **Jno. Mills**. Delivered: Alex. Miller, September, 1769.” (Chalkley, 4:458; citing Deed Book 13:475–78)

COMMENT:

Chalkley, 3:462 (citing Deed Book 14:112) identifies William Crow as a “storekeeper” owing money to James Richey & Co. of Glasgow.

#### 8 JULY 1767

##### AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Land sale

“Mary Grymes, widow, Peyton Randolph, Esq.; Benj. Grymes; and John Robinson, Gent., Executors of Phillip Grymes, dec’d; and Lunsford Lomax, the Younger, Caroline Co., to **Jesse Mills**, AC [Amherst Co.]. [Whereas] Lunsford Lomax, the Elder, Caroline, mtgd. on 7 Aug 1756, and rec. 21 Oct.1756 in General Court – to secure loan to Lomax by Philip Grymes, late of Middlesex, 7881 acres – money not repaid – mutually agreed between Mary Grymes, widow, and executors that land be sold to discharge debt and interest thereon – and they appointed Wm. Cabell, the Younger, atty, in AC Court – Lunsford Lomax & wife, Judith, 13 Jan 1767, (Proved in AC) conveyed to Lunsford Lomax, the Younger, [*who now conveys for*] 128 pds. 10 sh. [*paid*] by **Jesse Mills** – **396 acres**, part of said tract and formerly granted to Harmer, King, Randolph, & Lomax by order of Council **Tye River**. Lines Rose. Wit: George Seaton, **Wm. Walton**, Jno. Ryan, Edmund Wilcox, Clerk.”<sup>91</sup>

COMMENT:

1770 (see below) the Grymes heirs sold another part of this land to Jesse’s brother-in-law William Lavender, at which time the deed referred to the adjacent landowner as “Mills,” without a given name.

#### 1768

##### AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA

Association

“Malcolm Campbell [made] his will ... in February, 1761, and proved in June 1763, provided that his wife, Isabella, should have ... 200 acres off the upper end of the plantation adjoining the Long Lick and a survey on Mill Creek. ... The sale held November 29, 1763, amounted to £133/4/1. ... A final settlement made in

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<sup>90</sup> For more on this David Mills family of Albemarle, see E. S. Mills, “Mills: Southside Virginia: Initial Survey of Published Resources for Brunswick, Goochland, and Counties Cut from Them—Principally Albemarle, Amherst, Bedford, Cumberland, and Prince Edward—with Peripheral Research in South Carolina and Tennessee to Pursue Leads,” report to file, 28 May 2016 (updated 28 August 2018); archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>91</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 100; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 203.

1768 by William Simpson and Elizabeth, his wife [daughter of Campbell], shows amounts paid numerous creditors. To Francis Delaney ... Adam **Beard** ... Samuel Flowers ... Alexander Boyd ... Samuel Drake ... Benj. Estill ... **Hugh Mills**, £9/0/0/; Wm. McKee, Sheriff ...” (Kegley, 333)

**16 MARCH 1768**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor

“William Poage (and Ann) to William McClenachan, £260; two tracts,—**A** containing 104 acres in Forks of James River on a branch called **Cedar Creek**, corner Robt. Whitlow’s land, James McGuffey’s line, corner (supposed) **William Mill’s** land; **B** containing 100 acres patented to William 23d May, 1763, on said creek. Teste: John Frogg. Delivered: William McClenachan, June, 1769.” (Chalkley, 3:467; citing Deed Book 14:324)

**16 APRIL 1768**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Binding out

“**Mary Watts**, orphan, bound to Margt. Patton.” (Chalkley, 2: 458; citing “Augusta Parish Vestry Book,” p. 462)

**11 MAY 1768**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor

“James McCampbell from William Buchanan, £50. 280 acres; corner **James Miles**, on North Branch of James River, opposite to an island.” (Kegley, 346; citing Augusta Deed Book 14:486)

**6 JULY 1768**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“**John Mills** and **Mary** to James Alcorn, £50, 143 acres patented to **John Mills**, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1764, on waters of James River, a branch of **Looney’s Creek**; corner land in possession of Adam Looney.” (Chalkley, 3:474; citing Deed Book 15:66) (Kegley, 352; same data and same citation)

**22 OCTOBER 1768**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“**John Mills** and **Mary** to William Carvin, £50, patent to **John Mills**, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1767, 325 acres on the **Bent Mountain** and **Little Bottom Creek**, a branch of Roanoke, corner Leonard Huff’s land. Teste: Arthur Campbell, John Bowyer, Ben. Estill, Samuel McDowell, William Christian.” (Chalkley, 3:491; citing Deed Book 16:96)

**NOVEMBER 1768**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Alexander Miller vs. David Rice.—Alexander Miller had preached 20 years. 1766. **Elizabeth Miles**, wife of **Abraham Miles**.” (Chalkley, 1:346; citing “Judgments, November, 1768 (A).”)

COMMENT:

The published abstracts for that court session offer nothing more to put Elizabeth and Abraham’s activities into a meaningful context. I have seen no evidence to assume that “Miles in this case should be Mills.

c1769

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Religious activity

“In 1768 Rev. Mr. Craig had six Sabbaths at Craig’s Creek and Reed Creek and places ‘interjasent.’ In 1769 [36 acres was surveyed for William Bryan Sr. and Jr., Wm. Cowen and David Gass] on a small branch of Roanoke. ... A report of Mr. Craig’s mission to collect funds for the expenses of the Church gives the names of the different congregations, their membership, their officers and the amount subscribed. There were five congregations—

- Sinking Spring, 73 families, 40£, Representatives, **John Mills, Joseph Cloyd**, Edward Sharp, Benj. Hawkins, Thos. McFerrin, Robert Finley, Andrew Woods;
- Craig’s Creek, 45 families, 28£, Representatives, Malcolm Allen, John Crawford, James Wilson, James Robinson, Samuel Lawrence;
- Denean, 70 families, 40£, Representatives, James McCune, David Cloyd, William Preston, William Fleming, Robert Breckenridge;
- New Antrim, 43 families, 30£, Representatives, Andrew Boyd, Robert Poage, Neal McNeal, William Bryant, Thomas Tosh;
- New Derry (Forks of Roanoke), 36 families, 45£, Representatives, Jos. Barnet, Robert Ritchie, David Robinson, Samuel Woods, **William Beard**, Samuel Crockett, Hugh Crockett, James Robertson, James Montgomery.

“The Craig’s Creek Congregation was in the lower part of Craig’s Creek and along James River, the forerunner of the Spreading Spring Congregation. Denean was in the neighborhood of Greenfield and Cloverdal. New Antrim was the Roanoke-Peter’s Creek congregation. New Derry (Forks Meeting House) was on the upper branches of the Roanoke, the location of the meeting house was not indicated.” (Kegley, 323).

“The Presbyterian families on the upper branches of **Buffalo, Mill Creek** and **Catawba** belonged to Sinking Spring, which afterward became the Fincastle Congregation and took over the old Parish Church.” (Kegley, 396)

COMMENT:

Joseph Cloyd, who served with John Mills, appears to be the Joseph Cloyd subsequently on Montgomery County tax rolls—suggesting that John (out of all his various tracts) resided on a tract very near the border between Montgomery and Botetourt (the county in which his estate was inventoried in 1782).

William Beard is identified in Chalkley (1:351) as son-in-law of John Mills Sr.

**24 JANUARY 1769**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor

“William Christian [buys] 1,095 acres on **Buffalo** commonly called the **Stone House Lands**, five tracts: **A.** 300 acres whereon the Stone House stands; **B.** 117 acres on **Buffalo Creek**; **C.** 200 acres, corner of William Graham; **D.** **400 acres by Mills Mountain**; **E.** 78 acres on Dry Run. Also two surveys adjoining said Stone House Lands, Tinker Mountain, Rosanna Christian’s land and Creeley’s Gap. From Israel Christian, his father, £1000.” (Kegley, 315; citing Augusta Deed Book 15:355)

**28 JANUARY 1769**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“John Thomspson and Susanna (mark) to Israel Christian, £125, two tracts containing 392 acres on **Glade Creek**, a branch of Roanoke—A, containing 213 acres, corner land formerly **John Mills**’; B, containing 179 acres, corner John Boon’s land. Teste: James Allen, Thomas McShery, George Inglebird. (The name is written Thos. McElhenny on lease, but McShery on release). Delivered.” (Chalkley, 3:491; citing Deed Book 16:80)

**3 MARCH 1769**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“John Buchanan, gent., and Margret to John Campbell, £340, 740 acres on a branch of the Indian or Holstone River, called the Middle Fork, said tract being known by the name of the Royal Oak. Teste: James **Crow**, **John Mills**, David Campbell, Arthur Campbell, John Howard, George Skillern. Delivered: David Campbell, May, 1771.” (Chalkley, 3:482; citing Deed Book 15:313–15)

COMMENT:

Maps 8 and 9 place John Buchanan as the next landowner NE of John Mills Sr. at forks of Roanoke and Back Creek, just below present Pattonsburg.

At least two indirect connections have been found between Mills and Crow(e)s in Franklin County.

- 1799: James Mills Jr. married Nancy Frame. Nancy’s apparent brother William, in 1805 married Nancy Crowe.<sup>92</sup>
- 1810: Michael Crowe is two households from the Slones/Sloans from whom James Mills Sr. in 1790 bought his land on Elliott’s Creek of the Maggoty. They are eight households from James Dudley, the brother-in-law of William Mills-Witt.<sup>93</sup>

**13 MARCH 1769**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land Purchase & Sale

“**Blaney Mills** [buys] 200 acres on the Waters of Roanoke near **Glade Creek**, adjoining Thomas **Akers**. From **John Mills**. £50.” (Kegley, 315; no citation)

COMMENT:

Blaney sold this land in 1771 to James Stewart (Kegley, 542; citing only “Deed”)

**18 MARCH 1769**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“**John Mills** to **Blany Nulls [Mills]**, £30, 200 acres on waters of Roan Oak, near Glade Creek, adjoining land of **Thomas Acres**. [Deed] Delivered [to]: **John Mills**, son of William, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 1773.” (Chalkley, 3:482; citing Deed Book 15:316–17)

COMMENTS:

- This William, who had a son John, died as a resident of Clark’s Creek, Anson County, NC. His estate was opened for probate on 20 January 1767. His heirs were his son John and apparent daughters Ann, Jean, and Sarah, whose interests were handled by their “kinsman, William

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<sup>92</sup> “Franklin County, Virginia, Marriage Bond Index, 1786–1858,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : last accessed 15 May 2018).

<sup>93</sup> 1810 U.S. census, Franklin Co., VA, p. 7, lines 9–11 and 13 (Slone-Crowe) and p. 6 (Dudleys). James Dudley and William Mills-Witt married daughters of Robert Kemp; Franklin Co., Va., Will Book 4: 163. Dudley married Nancy Kemp in 1804 and William Mills married Drucilla Kemp in 1815; “Franklin County, Virginia, Marriage Bond Index, 1786–1858,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : last accessed 15 May 2018).

Welsh.” As an adult, John of William apparently lived in North Carolina for at least a while; on 16 March 1784 a sheriff’s levy was made on him for land granted 23 April 1768 that included “his deceased father’s William Mills improvements.” Blany/Blenny and Hugh Mills also went to Anson with William, but returned to Augusta > Botetourt.<sup>94</sup>

- Another Mills-Akers interaction is found in Montgomery County. In 1788, “Widow Franky Mills” (apparent widow of the militiaman/soldier John Mills of 1777–85) married Johan Abram Glymph, with “Milliton” [Valentine?] Akers as bondsman.<sup>95</sup>
- The Hugh Mills will probated in Botetourt in May 1785 names his brothers as Blaney and John—and notes that John also named a son Hugh.<sup>96</sup> Hugh, Blaney, and John appear to be sons of John Sr., whose estate was appraised in February 1782, according to a brief abstract published from Botetourt records.<sup>97</sup>

NOTE: *I have not yet worked the original probate or deed records of Botetourt.*

#### 26 APRIL 1769

##### AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA

Association

“James ( ) Scaggs (Skeggs), Sr., and Rachel ( ) to James Scaggs, Jr., £100, 104 acres patented to Samuel Ratlive 22d August, 1753, and conveyed to James, Sr., on Meadow Creek, a branch of New River. Teste: William Preston, **Richard Whitt**, James ( ) Skggs, John ( ) Skggs, Is. Christian, James Buchanan, W. Ingles.” (Chalkley, 3:490; citing Deed Book 16:49–50.)

COMMENT:

The land would soon fall into Botetourt and then Montgomery Counties.<sup>98</sup>

#### 16 AUGUST 1769

##### AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA

Court order

“James Caghey, Wm. Terry and Wm. Cox—to value improvements of **John Mills** on 550 acres on South Fork of Roanoke and 1,170 acres on the Wolf Creek, a branch of Roanoke, and 180 acres on Roanoke.” (Chalkley, 1:158; citing Order Book XIII: 319)

#### 17 AUGUST 1769

##### AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA

Association

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<sup>94</sup> Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Mills & Associates: Rutherford County, NC, Its Parent Counties (Anson, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Tryon) and Its Offshoots (Buncombe, Burke, Henderson, and Polk Counties): Survey of Published Resources,” report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>95</sup> Anne Lowry Worrell, *A Brief of Wills and Marriages in Montgomery and Fincastle Counties, Virginia, 1733–1831* (1932; reprinted Baltimore, 1996), 18. For everything known to date about this set of Millises (and other records on the John Mills Sr. and Jr. of Roanoke, who also created records in Montgomery), see E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Montgomery, Fincastle & Botetourt Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey,” report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>96</sup> Anne Lowry Worrell, *Early Marriages, Wills, and Some Revolutionary War Records: Botetourt County, Virginia* (1958; reprinted, Baltimore: Clearfield, 2004), 80.

<sup>97</sup> Anne Lowry Worrell, *Early Marriages, Wills, and Some Revolutionary War Records: Botetourt County, Virginia* (1958; reprinted, Baltimore: Clearfield, 2004), 80.

<sup>98</sup> For more on this land and Whitt’s activities in that community, see E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Montgomery, Fincastle & Botetourt Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey,” report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.



“The estate of Col. James Patton ... By cash from, viz (apparently in payment of piece of land belonging to Col. Patton’s estate): [*skip a dozen or so names*]... **Hugh Mills** ... [*skip another 20 or so to end of list*].” (Chalkley, 3:110; citing Will Book 4:235–37)

**26 AUGUST 1769**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“William Preston’s bond (with Robert Breckinridge, **John Mills**, David Robinson, Wm. Campbell, George Skillern, John Taylor, Patrick Campbell) as executor of James Patton.” (Chalkley, 3:110; citing Will Book 4:234) (Kegley, 363; basically same detail; no citation)

**22 OCTOBER 1769**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“William Carvin [buys] 325 acres on the **Bent Mountain** and **Little Bottom Creek**, a branch of Roanoke, corner Leonard Huff’s land. £30. From **John Mills** and **Mary**. Teste: Arthur Campbell, John Bowyer, Benjamin Estill, Samuel McDowell, Wm. Christian.” (Kegley, 317; citing Augusta Deed Book 16:96)

**22 OCTOBER 1769**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Property evaluation

“**John Mills**, 550 acres on **South Fork** of Roanoke; 1,170 acres on **Wolf Creek**; 180 acres on the Roanoke. Valuation of improvements, by James Caghey, William Terry and William Cox. *William Cox*, 1766 to have deed for land sold by David Bryan. Reference in D. Bryan’s will.” (Kegley, 317; citing Augusta Orders of Court, August 16, 1769; and Chalkley, 1:158)

**31 JANUARY 1770**

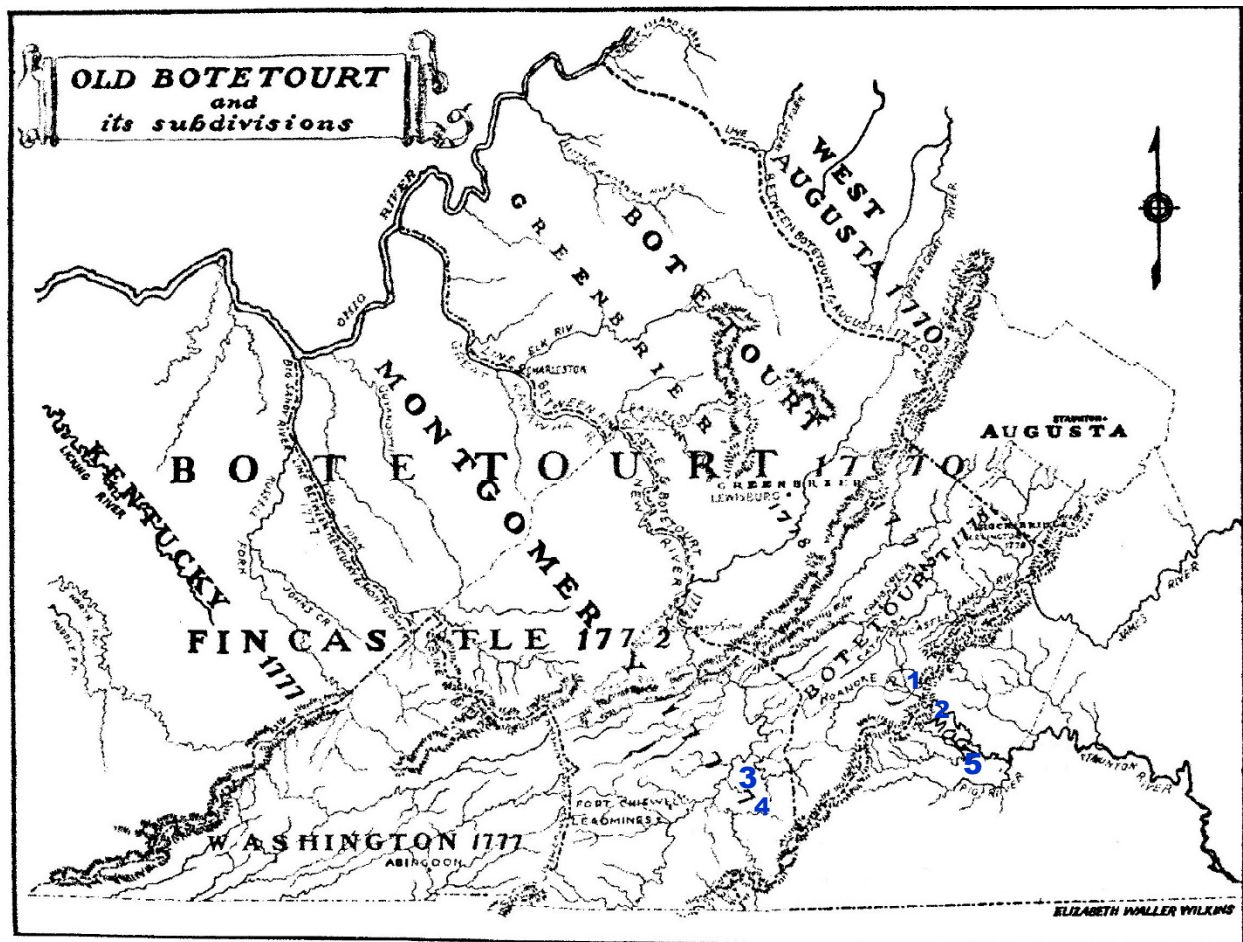
**AUGUSTA > BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA**

Geo-political context

In November 1769, Botetourt County was created by the General Assembly. “From and after the **thirty-first day of January** next ensuing, the said county and parish of Augusta be divided into two counties and parishes, by a line beginning at the Blue Ridge, running north fifty-five degrees west, to the confluence of Mary’s Creek, or the South River, with the north branch of James River, thence up the same to the mouth of Carr’s Creek, thence up the said creek to the mountain, thence north fifty-five degrees west, as far as the courts of the two counties will extend it; and that all that part of the said county and parish which lies on the south of the said line, shall be one other distinct county and parish, and called and known by the name of Botetourt.

“Be it further enacted ... That after the said thirty-first day of January, a court for the said county of Botetourt be constantly held, by the justices thereof, upon the second Tuesday in every month ...” (Kegley, 377–78; citing Hening, 8:395)

Map 15  
Kegley's "Old Botetourt and Its Subdivisions" (p. 380)



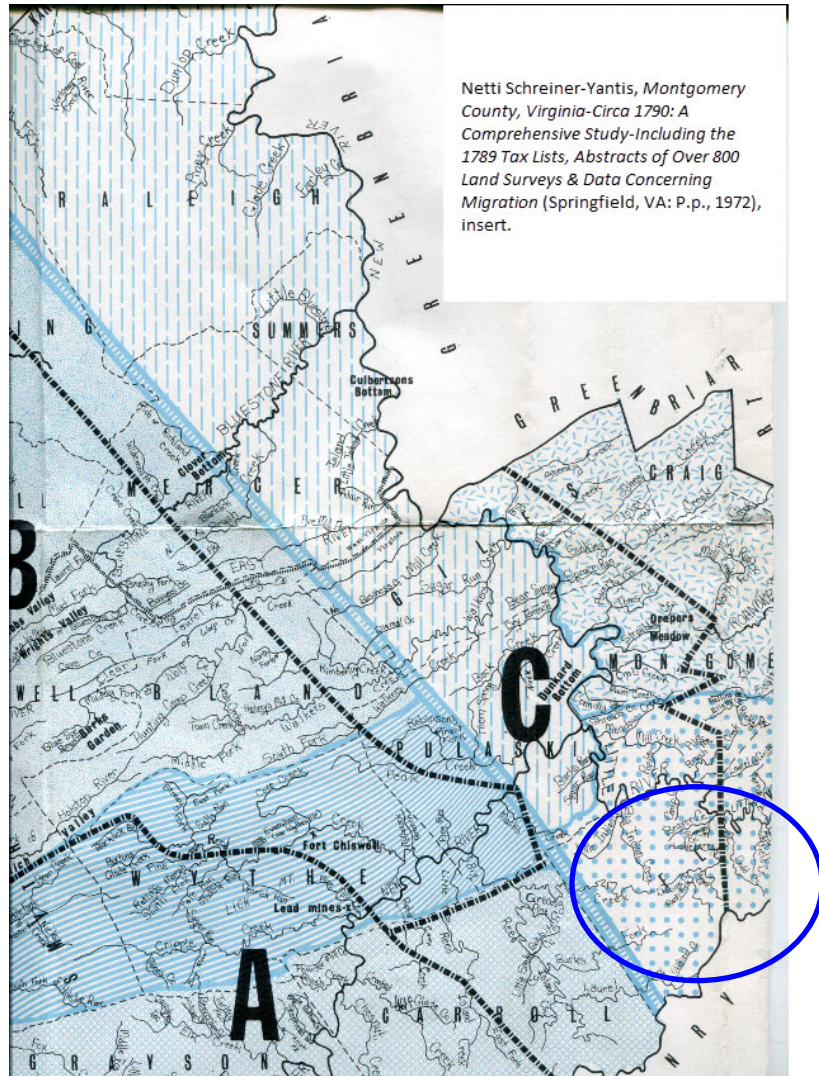
1. John Mills, Forks of Roanoke (Kegley, p. 177)
2. John Mills, west side of Gap in Franklin Co. (see Franklin Co. Bicentennial map; just above the Maggoty)
3. John Mills, Little River (Kegley, 116)
4. John, Franky & Thomas Mills of Montgomery, 1777–90; Richard Whitt, Meadow Creek of New River, 1774–
5. Blackwater River, site of William Mills-Witt, 1806–47

COMMENT:

- For records abstracted from Botetourt and subsequently Fincastle and Montgomery, see E. S. Mills, "Mills: Montgomery, Fincastle, and Botetourt," previously cited. John Jr. and his brother Blaney appear in these records.
- For records in Bedford that cite John Mills Sr. and Jr. of Botetourt, see E. S. Mills, "Mills: Bedford County ... Extended Survey," previously cited.

The area of Montgomery in which John Jr. and Blaney were taxed in 1787 is better shown on this snippet of the "Montgomery County, 1790" map created by Netti Schreiner-Yantis:

**Map 16**  
Tax District C—Montgomery County, c1787–1790

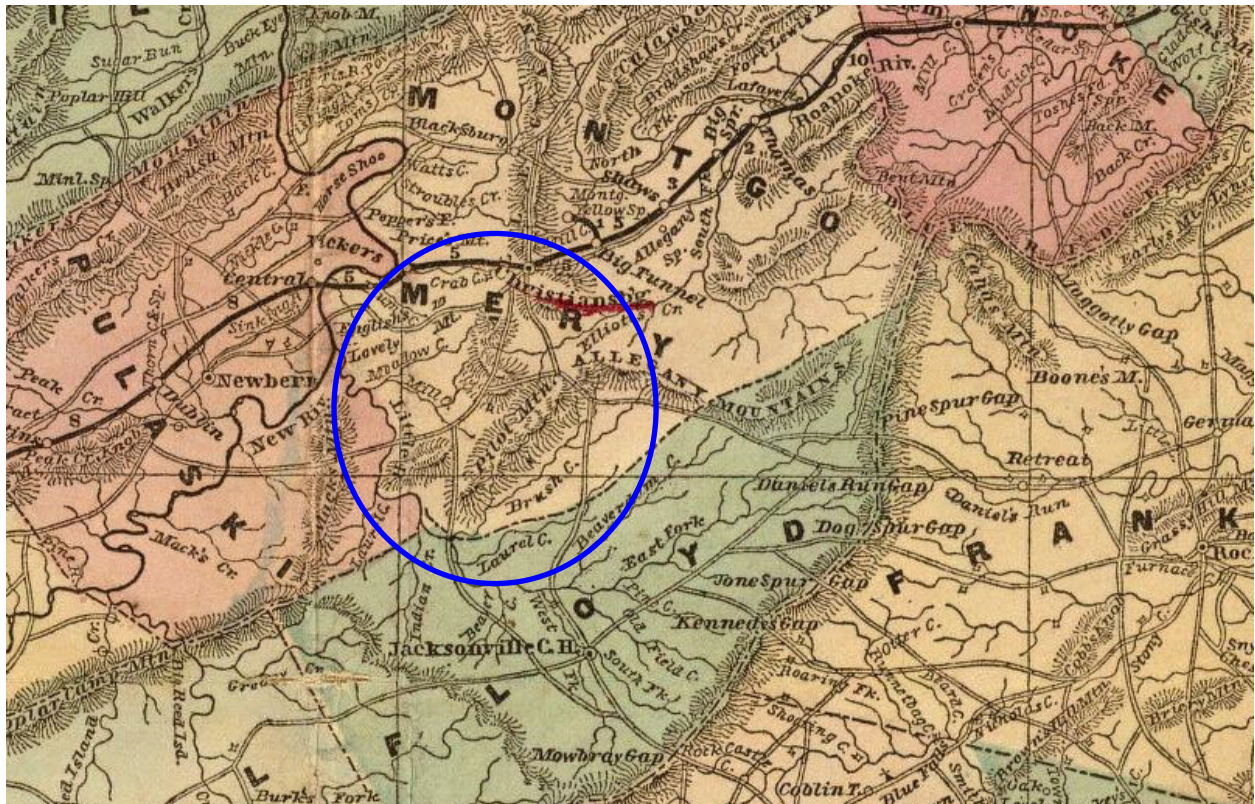


**COMMENT:**

Little River of New River (formerly Woods River) is the relatively short waterway circled in blue. This lay in the 1787 Tax District for John Mills Jr. and Blaney Mills. In 1782–90 Pvt. John Mills, widow Franky, her new husband John A. Glymph, and Richard Whitt (Witt), were also here; the landowning Whitt lived on Meadow Creek of Little River.

The next map, a snippet from Lloyd’s 1862 map, shows Little River as the boundary line between present Montgomery, Pulaski, and Floyd. William Mills-Witt (c1785–1863) resided in all three of those counties and his children intermarried with families from those counties.

**Map 17**  
**Location of Little River & Meadow Creek (Originally Augusta)**  
**Relative to Present Montgomery, Pulaski & Floyd Counties**

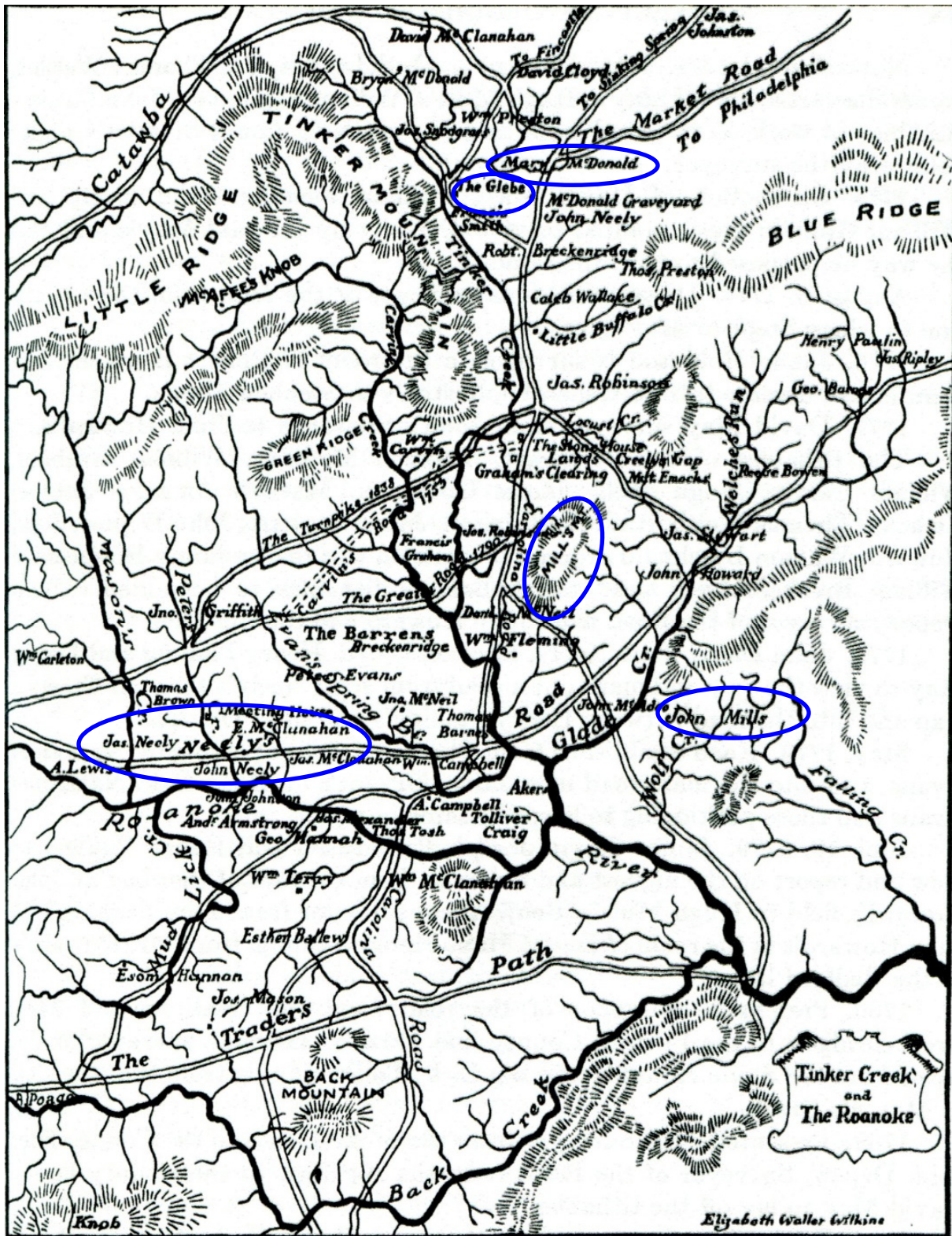


**COMMENT:**

The Catawba rises at the top center of this map. John Mills' Glade and Wolf Creek lands would fall around the top right of this map. Note also the locations of Bent Mountain (Blaney Mills and Thomas Akers) and Maggoty Gap that leads in to Franklin County.

Map 18

Kegley's "Tinker Creek and the Roanoke—Early Botetourt County" (p. 537)<sup>99</sup>



<sup>99</sup> The Mary McDonald property on this map was purchased by William Watts in 1789 and sold by him in 1794.

1770

**BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA**

Road orders

“From First Ford on Catawba to Col. Breckenridge’s, Francis Smith; Forks of Road at Michael **Cloyd’s** to branch below James Moore’s, Michael **Cloyd**; Branch below James Moore’s to the Ferry, **John Mills** and Andrew Woods; Waggon Ford to Renick’s place, Henry Cartmill; Renick’s to James Gilmore’s, Audley Paul and Hugh Barclay; Gilmore’s to Buffalo Creek, James Simpson; **Buffalo to North River**, John Paxton; Fork of the Road below Barclay’s to **Buffalo Creek**, George Francisco; **Ford of Buffalo** to North River, James Templeton’ Graham’s Clearing to Miller’s Mill, Robert Breckenridge and Israel Christian; Walter Stewart’s to Lawrence’s John McClure, and Thomas Reed.” (Kegley, 393)

**7 DECEMBER 1770**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Ordinary license

“Ordinaries Licensed ... “December 7, 1770, **John Wills, Senr.**, at his house on Catawba.” (Kegley, 390).

COMMENT:

Kegley indexed this entry as John **Mills**. Kegley’s other entries to John *Wills* puts him in Capt. May’s Catawba Militia, 1783 (p. 478) and places him on a 1773 survey on Craig’s Creek (p. 461) and on a Catawba Creek property that he purchased in 1779 (p. 474). There also was a William Wills on the Catawba contemporaneously.

1770-1771

**BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA**

Occupation

“Hemp certificates granted by the court of Botetourt County, 1770–71: Hemp was extensively cultivated. Joseph **Cloyd** had 491 lbs., made on his plantations ... **John Mills, 2319 lbs.**; ... Caleb Worley, 3460 lbs. ...” (Kegley, 391)

**MARCH 1771**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court minute

“Rev. Alexander Miller, Clerk, vs. Rev. John Brown, Clerk. Slander. Case damage, £100. Writ dated 9<sup>th</sup> November 1769. Plaintiff was a Presbyterian. Defendant was a member of the Presbytery. Judgment deposing Mr. Miller. Depositions taken, North Carolina, Orange County, Upper Huco, 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1771, at house of Rev. Hugh McAden : **Mrs. Elizabeth Miles**; Mrs. Sally McCoy (formerly Tolbert), sister of **Elizabeth Miles**; **Abraham Miles**; John Lea, aged 45 years; Thomas Barnet and Alexander Moore, Elders of Lower Huco and Hugh Barnet, Vestryman.” (Chalkley, 1:363; citing “Judgments ... March 1771 (B).”)

1771

**BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“Some Details in Land Tenure on **Carvin’s Creek** and **Glade Creek** and about the Great Lick in Early Botetourt County. ... James Stewart—Deed, 200 acres near Glade Creek, from **Blaney Mills**.” (Kegley, 542; no source citation)

**13 DECEMBER 1771**

**TRYON COUNTY, NC**

Land sale.

**Hugh Mills of Botetourt Co.**, Colony of Virginia, to *John Boyd* of Tryon Co., N.C. for £50 NC money, 350 A on **shady branch of Clark's Creek** adj. *Daniel Warbrights*, granted to sd. Mills 10 Apr 1761 ... Hugh Mills (seal), Wit: *William Ramsey, Joseph Love, John Andrew*. Rec. Apr. term 1774.<sup>100</sup>

1772

**BOTETOVRT COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

“Some marriages of interest in the Tinker Creek—Glade Creek—Great Lick Community in early Botetourt. 1772. **John Mills, Jr.**, and **Martha Ewing**, of Robt.” (Kegley, 539)

11 FEBRUARY 1773

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“The Buffalo Creek Community ... James Robinson—deed, 192 acres from **John Mills and Mary**.” (Kegley, 493; source not cited)

FEBRUARY 1772

**AUGUSTA > FINCASTLE COUNTIES, VA**

Geopolitical context

“Whereas it is represented to the present general assembly, by the inhabitants and settlers on the waters of Holston and New River, in the county of Botetourt, that they labor under great inconconiences by reason of the extent of the said county, and their remote situation from the courthouse; Be it therefore enacted, That **from and after the first day of December next**, the said county of Botetourt shall be divided into two distinct counties, that is to say, all that part of the said county, within a line, to run up the east side of New River to the mouth of Culberson's creek, thence a direct line to the Catawba road, where it crosses the dividing ridge between the North fork of Roanoke and the waters of New River, thence with the top of the ridge to the bent where it turns eastwardly, thence a south course, crossing Little River to the top of the Blue Ridge of Mountains; **shall be established as one distinct county, and called and known by the name of Fincastle**; and all that other part thereof, which lies to the east and northeasst of the said line, shall be one other distinct county, and retain the name of Botetourt.” (Kegley, 394; citing Hening 8:600)

17 AUGUST 1773

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court minute

“David Essex, runaway servant of Andrew Russell

“**William Mills**, runaway servant of Andrew Russell”

“Andrew McClure, vice **Thomas Frame**, road surveyor”

(consecutive entries; Chalkley, 1:173; citing Order Book XV: 148)

COMMENT:

One James Mills, who first appears on the 1782 tax roll of Bedford and was then cut away into Franklin County in 1785, had a son James Mills Jr. who married Nancy Frame in 1799.<sup>101</sup> Nancy and Chisley Frame, in 1787, were bound out (as poor children, apparently) to Christian C. Long. In

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<sup>100</sup> Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 52; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 1:709.

<sup>101</sup> Franklin Co., VA, Marriage Bond Register 1, 1786–1853: 67, citing marriage bond 2854.

September 1788 William Fram[e], “bastard child of Happy Frame,” was bound out to Lewis Bryant.<sup>102</sup> Happy herself married Thomas Short in 1797.<sup>103</sup>

Either Happy was an unmarried single woman in the 80s when she bore her children, or else she was the widow of a man who died somewhere about the end of the Revolution. Franklin County records have not yet yielded a clue to the identity of a possible father for those children.

See my separate report, “Frames & Pryors: Survey of Published Sources for Augusta County & Western Virginia.”

### 1773

#### AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA

Tax delinquency

“Daniel Smith’s Delinquents and Supernumeraries for 1773 ... [skip 20 or so] Charles Ramsey, Jno. Sleath, Wm. Crow, Wm. Smith, Jno. Faires, Jno. Driver, David Hutson, Jno. Lambert, Jr., Jno. Lambert, Barnet Moise, **Jonathan Watts**, Francis McBride, twice returned.” (Chalkley, 2:422; citing “Delinquents”)

### 10 SEPTEMBER 1774

#### BOTETOVRT COUNTY, VA

Militia service

“Botetourt Aid in Defense of Virginia Frontier, 1774–1783 ... A Roll of Capt. Phi(l) Love(’s) Company of Volunteer, Phi Love, Capt.; Daniel McNiell, Lieut.; **John Mills, Ensign**; Wm. **Ewing**, Sergt. Majr. ...” (Kegley, 624–26; source not cited)

COMMENT:

This John Mills would seem to be John Jr. of Augusta and Boutetourt (husband fo Patty Ewing), who was a Boutetourt lieutenant in 1783—as opposed to the Pvt. John who first appeared in Enoch Osborn’s Montgomery militia between 1777 and 1785.<sup>104</sup>

### 9 NOVEMBER 1774

#### AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA

Road order

“Great Lick and **Glade Creek** Community—Roads about the Great Lick: John Howard’s, Mathew Amyx’s, Thomas Welsh’s, James Stewart’s, David May’s, **Hugh Mills’s**, William Graham’s, John Itruss’s tithables to work on the road from said Howard’s to James Stewart’s under John May the surveyor.” (Kegley, 538, also 518 and 536 for section headings; no source citation)

### 1775

#### BOTETOVRT COUNTY, VA

Land grant

“Lands on **Back Creek** and **Bent Mountain** through Different Periods of Settlement: ... 1775. **John Mills, Jr.**—part of 500 acres on **Bent Mt.**, and **Little Bottom Creek**, “Branches of the Roanoke [sic].” (Kegley, 557; no citation of source)

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<sup>102</sup> Marshall Wingfield, *An Old Virginia Court: Being a Transcript of the Records of the First Court of Franklin County, Virginia, 1786–1789* (Memphis: West Tennessee Historical Society, 1948), 82 (citing original p. 153) and 150 (citing original p. 281)

<sup>103</sup> “Franklin County, Virginia, Marriage Bond Index, 1786–1858,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>) : last accessed 15 May 2018).

<sup>104</sup> E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Montgomery, Fincastle & Botetourt Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey,” report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.



**1777**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Road order

“Great Lick and Glade Creek Community—Roads about the Great Lick: David May surveyor from John’s [sic] Stewart’s to John Howard’s. William Carvin, **Hugh Mills**, James Goodman, Mathew Amacks, Samuel Amacks, Thomas Welsh, Andrew Harrison, James Stewart, John Depew, John Howard, William Brechnald ordered to work on this road—James Robins’s, William Breckenridge’s and Martin Baker’s tithables to be added. John Depew, surveyor of the Road from John Howard’s to the **Big Lick.**” (Kegley, 538; also 518 and 536 for section headings; no source citation)

**1777**

**BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Lands on Back Creek and Bent Mountain through Different Periods of Settlement” ... 1777. Alexander Baine—325 and 180 acres at the head springs of Roanoke River at a place called **Bent Mt.**, from **John Mills** and **Mary** to Wm. Carvin and from Wm. Carvin and Sarah to Baine.” (Kegley, 556–57; citing Botetourt County Deed Book 2:320–22)

**15 OCTOBER 1777**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

“**Looney’s Mill Creek**, 1770-1783, Conveyances ... 1781. **John Mills**—Grant, 340 acres from Jas. Huey, Pat. February 1742.” (Kegley, 417; no source cited)

**1777**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Historical context

“The old road leading west from Looney’s Ferry went up Long Run north of the little ridge called ‘Stable Hill’ back of the Mount Joy house and came out into the Mill Creek valley at Harbison’s [Erwin Patterson’s bought out Harbison]. **John Mills** purchased the James Huey land, 340 acres, in 1777 and developed a plantation containing 1164 acres, by an inclusive survey of **1792**. After Mills’ death the land was acquired by Matthew Jarvey whose improvements thereon called attention to the beauty of the house site and added interest to the place which then became known as the ‘Mount Joy’ Estate. The Harvey-Anderson mansion house was burned in Hunter’s Raid, but a house is still there and the site is as magnificent as ever.

“Col. John Smith’s land came next below Mills and south of Looney’s.” (Kegley, 420–21; Kegley, 418, for Erwin Patterson)

COMMENT:

It is not clear from the discussion whether the John Mills who purchased the Huey land was John Sr. who died in 1782 or John Jr. It is possible that John Sr.’s estate was still being settled in 1792 when the survey was made.

**15 JANUARY 1778**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“Looney’s Mill Creek, 1770-1783, Conveyances ... William Allen—Grant, 230 acres on **Back Creek**, from **John Mills.**” (Kegley, 417; no source cited)

**10 JUNE 1779**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Road order

“Great Lick and **Glade Creek** Community—Roads about the Great Lick: “James Cloyd, Joseph Richardson and Henry Pauling to view and report on the nighest and best way from the fork of the road at John Howard’s field to **Hugh Mills’**, Benj. Allen, surveyor from John Stewart’s to John Howard’s in the room of David May. Henry Pauling, from Mr. Howard’s to the Bedford line.” (Kegley, 538; also 518 and 536 for section headings; no source citation)

**1779**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY**

Tax delinquents:

“Augusta County Levy for 1779 ... [*skip 100 or so*] James Matchery, gone; Alexander Marten, gone; **Daniell Miles**, gone; John McMulin, gone; Joseph Maerten, gone; John Martial, gone ...” (Chalkley, 2:423; citing “Delinquents”)

COMMENT:

I’ve seen no evidence to suggest this Daniel Miles was a Mills.

**21 MARCH 1780**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court minute

“Elizabeth Wilson, **Ann Miles** and Mary Johnston, soldiers’ wives, allowed three bushels of grain each, valued at £45.” (Chalkley, 1:213; citing Order book XVIII: 190)

**14 DECEMBER 1780**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“The Road to be established around the plantation of the Reverend McWallace, and the said McWallace to be Surveyor of the Road from the creek near **Mrs. Breckenridge’s** to the **Stone House.**” (Kegley, 500).

**1780**

**BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

“Some Marriages on South Branch and North Fork in Early Botetourt County ... 1780. Abraham **Henderson** and **Rachel Whitt.** ... 1782. **John Huff** and Elinor Corder.” (Kegley, 594, 596; source not cited)

**c1780–83**

**BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA**

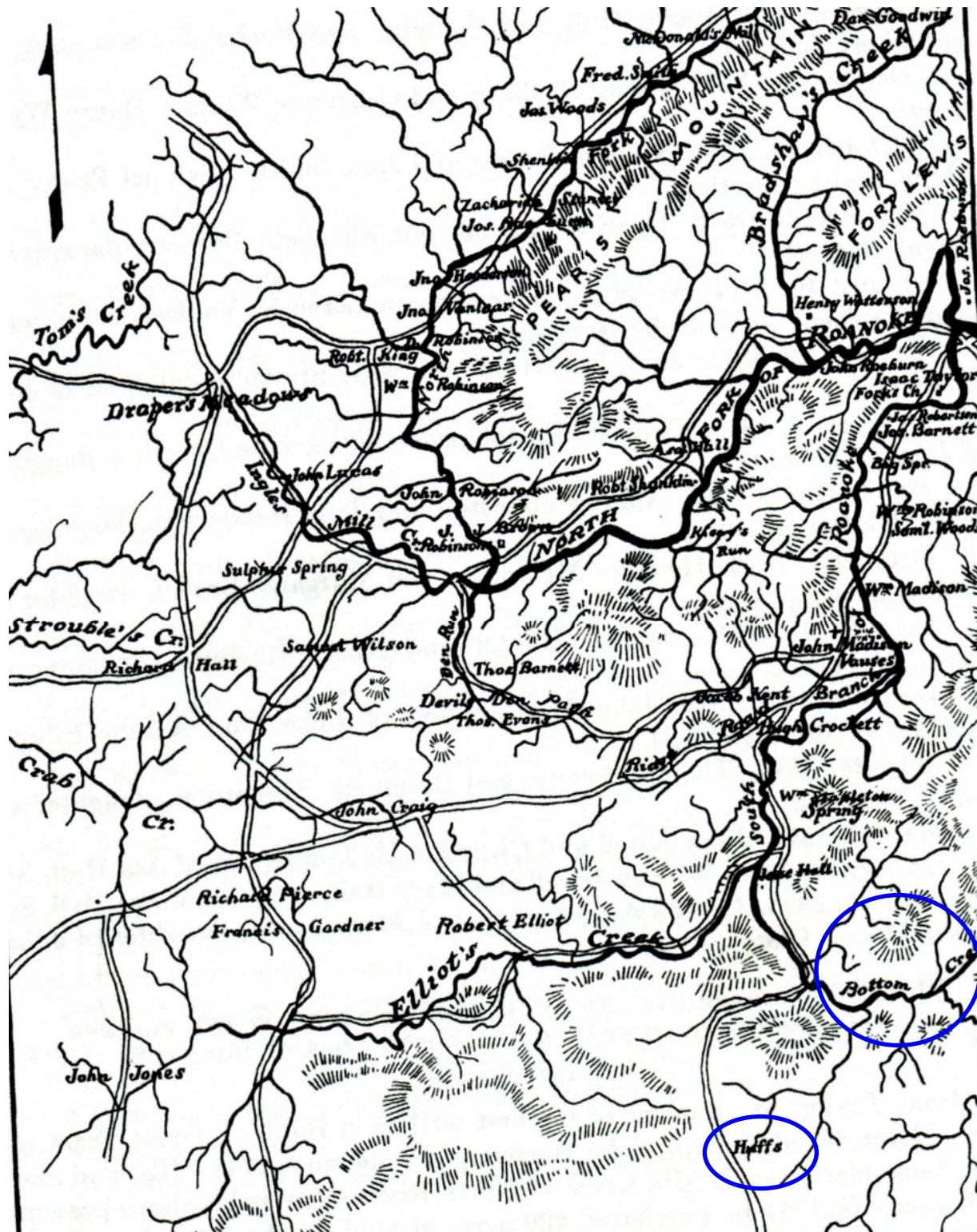
Militia service

“From 1780 to 1783 numerous militia officers were appointed: among them George Skillern and Hugh Crockett, Colonels; Dr. John Wood, Captain; Thos. Rowland, Major; **Jno. Mills, Jr., Lieut.;** James Woods and John Reynolds, Lieutenants ...” (Kegley, 384)

COMMENT:

This Rachel’s family has not been determined. The only Whitt household placed contemporaneously in the county is that of Rev. Richard Whitt; but his will, which names sons and daughters, does not include a Rachel.

Map 19  
Kegley's "South Branch and North Fork in Early Botetourt Court" (p. 602)



COMMENT:

Richard Whitt's Meadow Creek should fall in the neighborhood of John Jones, in SW corner.

**1781**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land grant

"Looney's Mill Creek, 1770-1783, New Grants ... 1781. **John Mills**—Grant, 242 acres on south side of Beaver Dam, of Looney's Mills Creek; **John Mills**—Grant, 116 acres on south side of James River." (Kegley, 414; no source cited)

COMMENT:

This is likely John Jr., who is now well into the acquisition stage of his life.

**1783**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Militia service

"In 1783 **Captain Mill's [John Mills, Jr.]** Company of Militia included these men who were then living along the Creek [Looney's] and on the River\* ... **John Mills**, 14 horses, 28 cattle, 8 slaves." (Kegley, 418; source not cited)

COMMENT:

Only two other individuals, Matthew Ralston and Thomas Rowland, held a larger number of slaves: 17 and 21 respectively.

**1783**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Militia service

"The Great Lick and Great Creek Community ... Captain James Neely's Company. With the exception of Captain Neely himself the people enrolled in his company resided generally above and east of Peter's Creek in the vicinity of the Great Lick. ... In this roll of Capt. Neely's company in 1783 some names appear which have not been accounted for in the land records, but most of the names look fairly familiar and the property listed is about what we would expect." (Kegley, 534)

COMMENT:

The list follows, showing horses, cattle, slaves, and tithables for each man. I am extracting only the names, with the exception of my person of interest: John Watts.

TO DO:

For each of these named men, I need to seek a pension at *Fold3* and extract any details that may help to identify this John Watts.

"Captain James Neely's Company": Lemuel Andrews, Andrew Armstrong, John Baily, Samuel Boswell, Charles Broadwater, Thomas Brown, Peter Corbin, Anthony Cox, John Cox, Toliver Craig, Samuel Crawford Sr., Andrew Defoor, Peter Evans, Jerrard Glading, John Griffith, Godfrey Hamilton, Thomas Hammon, George **Hanna**, Esom Hannon, John Harrison Sr., John Harrison Jr., John Hartman, John Henry, Hugh Henry, Joseph Horton, William Horton, Benjamin Howard, William Johnson, Michael Johnston, William Johnston, George Kelly, Henry Kelly, John Kelly, John Kensey, Johnston Martin, Joseph Mason, William McClenachan, Samuel McElhany, James McKeachey, James Mellon, John Meux, James Neely, Captain, John Neely, Doctor, Robert Neely, William Neely, John Neely, Thomas Prothers, Samuel Reed, Silas Reynolds, Joel Richardson, William Roberts, Peter Rodgers, Nathan Scott, Samuel Seagraves, Anna [*sic*] Snowden, Henry Snowden, Jacob Snowden, Levi Snoden, Andrew Telford, William Terry, Miles Terry, James Tosh, James Tosh Jr., Jonathan Tosh, Daniel Walker, **John Watts** (1 horse, 4 cattle, 0 slaves, 0 tithables), John Webb. (Kegley, 534–36)

COMMENT:

The Hannas were associates of the Robert-Susannah-Alexander-John Mills family.

**1784**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

“Looney’s Mill Creek, 1770-1783, Conveyances ... **John Mills**—Grant, 37 acres below the mouth of Looney’s Creek, from John Miner and Margaret, of Salisbury, N.C.” (Kegley, 417; no source cited)

**12 MAY 1785**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Will

“**Robert Mill’s** will—To wife, **Susannah**; to **nephew, John Mills**, the plantation on which I and he now live; to **nephew, John Mills’s oldest son Robert, infant**; to Isabell Hannah, my niece’s daughter; to brother John’s children, viz: **Alexander, Robert, William**; to **brother William’s** sons. Executors, nephew **Jno. Mills** and friend George Moffett. Teste: Isaac Hamm [Hanna], Jno. Rankin, Rebekah Carson. Proved, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1785, by Isaac Hanna and Rebecca Carson. **John Mills** qualifies.” (Chalkley, 3:173; citing Will Book 6:490)

COMMENT:

Note that Robert’s brother William is said to have “sons” (plural). That seemingly eliminates him as the William who died in the 1760s in NC leaving one son and three daughters.

TO DO:

Virginia patents need searching for a grant to this Robert Mills, who does not seem to have acquired his land by local deed.

**MAY 1785**

**BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA**

Will.

“**Hugh Mills**. Will po. [probate order] May, 1785. Names bros. *Blaney* and *John*, and John’s son *Hugh*.”<sup>105</sup>

**22 MARCH 1786**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court minute

“**Robert Mills’s** death abates suit.” (Chalkley 1:245; citing Order Book XIX:288)

COMMENT:

The other details extracted from the court minutes of this date do not offer context that explains the nature of the suit.

**1786**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land grant

“Looney’s Mill Creek, 1770-1783, New Grants ... 1781. **John Mills**—Grant, 145 acres on **Back Creek, adj. the land he lives on.**” (Kegley, 414; no source cited)

COMMENT:

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<sup>105</sup> Anne Lowry Worrell, *Early Marriages, Wills, and Some Revolutionary War Records: Botetourt County, Virginia* (1958; reprinted, Baltimore: Clearfield, 2004), 80.

This would be John Jr., former militia lieutenant and husband of Patsy Ewing. John Sr. died in 1782. The location should be Back Creek of the James—not Back Creek of the Roanoke (see Map 9).

**1787**

**BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor

“Some Details in Land Tenure on **Carvin’s Creek** and **Glade Creek** and about the Great Lick in Early Botetourt County. ... 1787. ... John Depew—Grant, 290 acres on **Welshman’s Run**, adjoining John Howard, **Hugh Mills**, and his own.” (Kegley, 545; no source citation)

COMMENT:

*Welsh* Run was a NW branch of the Glade (see Map 12).

**18 JULY 1787**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor

“Some Details in Land Tenure on **Carvin’s Creek** and **Glade Creek** and about the Great Lick in Early Botetourt County. ... July 18, 1787. Richard and Thomas Bandy—Grant, 250 acres on Roan Oak and Wolf Creek, adjoining their lands and **John Mills**.” (Kegley, 542; no source citation)

**9 OCTOBER 1787**

**BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Lands on **Back Creek** and **Bent Mountain** through Different Periods of Settlement” ... October 8, 1787. Road established from Tosh’s Ford on RoanOak to the **county line at Noffsinger’s on Maggerty [Maggoty of Franklin County]**, and that Esom Hannan [Hanna] and Samuel McElheney be Surveyors thereof.” (Kegley, 560; no source cited).

COMMENT:

This road clearly provides a path from the Back Creek Millses to the Maggoty River of Franklin.

**1787**

**BOTETOURT & MONTGOMERY, VA**

Association

“Early Residents of Bent Mountain, Captain Martin’s Company [no date, but Kegley dates similar lists at 1783]: ... John **Huff**, Benjamin Huff, John Huff, son of Ben, Leonard Huff Sr., Leonard Huff Jr., Philip Huff, David Iddings, James **Iddings** ...”

COMMENT:

I am including this because

- Offspring of the Iddings in 1850 were next-door neighbors to William Mills-Witt in Floyd County; and
- One Elizabeth Pratt c1810 married John Huff, a year after she bore a son, Henry Pratt, whose offspring carries the same Witt-Y as descendants of William Mills-Witt.<sup>106</sup>

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<sup>106</sup> A descendant, Warren Pratt, has published a peer-reviewed case study arguing convincingly that the father of Elizabeth’s child was Henry Witt, son of Lewis Witt and wife Anne [Mills] of Bedford. See Warren C. Pratt, “Finding the Father of Henry Pratt of Southeastern Kentucky,” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 100 (June 2012): 85–103, particularly 96–97. David F. Whitt’s *Ancestors and Descendants of William Whitt*, 106 and elsewhere, lays out the evidence that the immigrant John Witt had four sons: John Jr., William, Edward, and Richard Sr. Richard Sr. was the father of Rev. Richard Whitt of Augusta and Montgomery. William, who died in Albemarle in 1754, is believed to be the grandfather of Lewis Witt through William’s son Benjamin. Both branches of the family carry the same Y-DNA.

**10 NOVEMBER 1787**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Isaac Hanna and Rebekah Hogshead; surety, **John Mills.**” (Chalkley, 2:281; citing “Marriage Bonds”)

COMMENT:

This John Mills appears to be the nephew John named in the 1785 will of Robert Mills. Isaac and Isabel Hanna were also mentioned, with Isabel said to be the daughter of Robert’s niece.

**1787– 88 (OR 1790–1803)**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Residency

“James Brynsides vs. Thomas Madison’s Exrs.—O.S. 33; N.S. 11—Injunction granted 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1803. Richard Madison died 23d February, 1785, seized of land in **Greenbrier, now Monroe**. 750 acres by survey, 1751, and two days before his death he expressed his will that his wife, Priscilla, should have his whole estate, and this nuncupative will was proved in Augusta. He left no issue, and his eldest brother, Thomas, became his heir at law, who wrote to William Bowyer, father of Priscilla, renouncing the estate in her favor. John Miller married Priscilla. Thomas is dead and these are defendants (representatives) viz: Henry Bowyer and Agatha, John H. Madison, Peggy Madison, Thomas Madison, Patrick H. Madison. Major Mathew Harvey deposes in **Botetourt, 15<sup>th</sup> February 1805**, that he has lived near Thomas Madison’s place, “**The Stone House**” since 1784. Thomas moved to the Salt Works in Washington County, where he was living in October 1787. He returned to live at the Stone House in the fall of 1788 or 1789. He rented the Stone House place to the late **William Watts.**” (Chalkley, 2:73; citing “Judgments. April, 1799 (K to Z) ... Circuit Court Causes Ended”)

COMMENT:

“Late” in this era did not mean *deceased*. It referenced a person who was there “lately,” but no longer.

**1788**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land grant

“Looney’s Mill Creek, 1770-1783, New Grants ... 1788. **John Mills**—Grant, 399 acres on **Back Creek**; **John Mills**—Grant, 185 acres on **Back Creek**; James Anderson—Grant, 100 acres adjoining his own land, Philip Weaver and others; Samuel **Noffsinger**—Grant, 190 acres adjoining Wm. Franklin, Wm. Allen, and **Mills’s** land.” (Kegley, 415; no source cited)

COMMENT:

Again, this is likely John Jr. It is possible, however, that a pending grant for John Sr. has just been issued. John Sr.’s estate documents need to be thoroughly studied.

**21 MAY 1788**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Marriage bond

“By Rev. Archd. Scott: **John Mills (Miller?)** and Priscilla Madison. (Chalkley, 2:348; citing “Record of Marriages in Augusta County Beginning 15<sup>th</sup> March 1785”)

**25 FEBRUARY 1788**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“James **Hayes**, of **Albemarle**, Braxton Eastham, of Rockbridge, to William Greyson, Nathaniel Garland and James Brooks, of Albemarle, 333 acres at Rockfish Gap, three patents belonging to Manus Burger, deceased, and John Burger, lately in possession of Henry Lyon, and now in possession of James P. Hulse. Teste: Jesse and Thomas Stockton, **John Mills**.” (Chalkley, 3:584; citing Deed Book 26:242)

COMMENT:

Hays/Hayes is a recurring name in association with the Augusta-Lunenburg Millses:

- On 25 December 1750 (see that date above), John Hayes drew up a will naming his daughter **Jenett Mills**.
- On 1750 tax roll of Lunenburg, Nicholas Haile’s District, William Mills was listed adjacent to William **Hays**. Hays had married the widow of Edmond Smith before 1753. John Mills of Lunenburg was administrator of the Smith estate before William Hays took over; in that role, John had paid **William Mills** a sum from that estate.<sup>107</sup>

**OCTOBER 1788**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court system

“When the district courts were established by Act of Assembly in October 1788, the southwest counties were grouped as follows:

“**The counties of Greenbrier and Botetourt** composed a district and the court was to be held at Lewisburg in Greenbrier and Botetourt Courthouse, alternately, on the eighteenth day of May, and the eighteenth day of October in every year, until the proprietor of the Sweet Springs should erect a sufficient courthouse and prison for the purposes of the court, after which time the Sweet Springs was to become the seat of the district court.

“**The counties of Bedford, Campbell, Franklin, Pittsylvania and Henry** composed one district with the court held at New London in the late Courthouse of Bedford, now belonging to James and John Calloway, who agreed to put the same in repair, at their own expense, for the use of the court to be holden on the fifteenth day of April and the fifteenth day of September in every year.

“**The counties of Montgomery, Washington and Russell** composed a district with a court at Montgomery and Washington courthouses, alternately on the second day of May and the second day of October in every year.”

“The judges of the general court attended the district courts, two to each court. They were elected by joint ballot of both houses of Assembly, twelve in all.

“The court had jurisdiction over all persons and in all causes cognizable in the general court and which amounted to thirty pounds, or three thousand pounds of tobacco. It also had the same jurisdiction concerning mills, wills, roads and letters of administration, orphans and guardians, public debtors, whether sheriffs or others, and the recording of deeds for lands and other property within the district, and caveats, as the general court then had.” (Kegley, 412)

**1789**

**BOTETOURT & MONTGOMERY, VA**

Geo-political context

“In 1789 the division line between Botetourt and Montgomery counties ran from the **Franklin line** near **Noffsinger’s Mill** by **Walton’s Tavern on the Roanoke** and John Glen’s on Catawba. From 1780 to 1800 William Walton regularly listed the tithables in his company.” (Kegley, 569)

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<sup>107</sup> E. S. Mills, “William Mills of Haile’s Tithe List, 1750, Lunenburg Co., Virginia: Identification Needed,” report to file, 20 June 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.



COMMENT:

In 1792, Mildred “Millie” Mills, daughter of William of Pedlar River (Amherst County) and widow of William Lavender, married William Walton Sr. Thereafter, they moved to BURke County, NC, where Walton died in 1806.<sup>108</sup> Whether this is the same William Walton remains to be proved or disproved.

Kegley, pp. 568–69 has a sketch of Walton that places him in the county from 1780 (as J.P.) through 1800. He was a 2d Lieut. in Capt. John Lewis’s militia, 1780. In 1789 he had a tavern on the Roanoke near Noffsingler’s Mill, Franklin Co.

**APRIL 1789**

**BOTETOVRT COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

“In April 1789, John Campbell for himself and Mary McDonald” (widow of Edward McDonald and mother of John’s wife Elizabeth, as well as Rebecca McDonald, the wife of John’s brother Robert Campbell) ... Robert Campbell, John Greenway and Nancy McDonald sold the [Edward McDonald] place, 200 acres for £400 to **William Watts**. In May, 1794, Watts sold to John Snyder, and in December of the same year Snyder sold to George Stover, who laid off the Town of Amsterdam.” (Kegley, 504)

COMMENT:

See Map 18, “Kegley’s “**Tinker Creek** and the Roanoke—**Early Botetourt County**” for the location of Mary McDonald’s land just above the Glebe, north of **Mills Mountain**.

**24 OCTOBER 1789**

**BOTETOVRT? COUNTY, VA**

“Community Building on the Roanoke: The **Buffalo Creek** Community” ... **William Watts**—200 acres, £400, the Edward McDonald land.” (Kegley, 494; no source cited)

**25 DECEMBER 1789**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land grant

“Some details in Land Tenure on Carvin’s Creek and Glade Creek and About the Great Lick in Early Botetourt County ... December 25, 1789. **William Watts**—Grant, 400 acres lying in the Barrens, adjoining Peter Evans, being part of the same land devised to William Breckenridge by his father, £400. From **William Breckenridge**, of Botetourt, **John Breckenridge, of Albemarle**, 400 acres adjoining the above, same descent. (Kegley, 546; citing Botetourt Deed Book 4:154)

**1789**

**BOTETOVRT COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

“Some details in Land Tenure on Carvin’s Creek and Glade Creek and About the Great Lick in Early Botetourt County ... December 25, 1789. **William Watts**— Deed, 175 acres on Tinker Creek connecting land of Robert Breckenridge conveyed to John Breckenridge by Isaac Robinson and Sarah £221. From John Breckenright and Mary.” (Kegley, 546–47; citing Botetourt Deed Book 4:368)

**19 FEBRUARY 1790**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

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<sup>108</sup> See the discussion and documentation in E. S. Mills, “William Mills (c1695–1766) of Goochland, Albemarle & Amherst Counties, Virginia; Spouse Mary (Walton?): Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

Association

“John Stuart’s estate appraised by John Campbell, George Crawford, **John Mills**.” (Chalkley, 3:190; citing Will Book 7:284)

**8 JUNE 1790**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Judgment

“**Menan Mills**, assignee Robert Brown, vs. Sarah Searight and William Logan, administrators of Alexander Searight—Debt. Rockbridge, 8<sup>th</sup> June 1790.” (Chalkley, 2:20; citing “Judgments, April, 1791 (I to Z)”)

**16 AUGUST 1791**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land grant

“James Wright and Alexander Wright, sons and devisees of William Wright, deceased, and Elizabeth, wife of James, of Augusta, to Jacob Bear, 260 acres in Beverley Manor, part of tract originally surveyed for **Joseph Mills**, and sold to Robert Wilson and Jno. Holmes by deed which was conveyed to said William Wright, deceased, by John Holmes, February, 1748.” (Chalkley, 3:595; citing Circuit Court Deeds, Book 1:35)

COMMENT:

Chalkley 3:266 describes a tract of land conveyed in 1747/8 as “part of a large tract conveyed to **James Mills** and sold to Robert Wilson and John Holmes.”

TO DO:

- Work colonial and state land grants for Augusta County.
- Investigate the possibility that the “Joseph” abstracts presented by Chalkley may be a misreading of “Jas.” for “Jos.”

**1792**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Land grant

“Looney’s Mill Creek, 1770-1783, New Grants ... 1792. **John Mills**—Peter Miller—Grant, 90 acres on south side of Looney’s adjoining **John Mills**, Joseph Paxton and his own land; **John Mills**—Grant, 1164 acres, inclusive survey on Looney’s Mill Creek; William Wilson—Grant, 230 acres on Looney’s Creek ....” (Kegley, 415; no source cited)

COMMENT:

The location of this grant on Looney’s Mill Creek suggests that this John Mills is John Jr., rather than the John (below) who was nephew and heir at law of Robert Mills.

**NOVEMBER 1792**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court minute

“**John Mills**, heir-at-law of **Robert Mills** (John was a nephew of Robert) vs. Joseph and Florence Bell and William Bell.” (Chalkley, 1:397; citing “Judgments ... November 1792” term)

COMMENT:

This case needs to be pursued to identify both Robert and John. Kegley has nothing on this Robert Mills.

**1792**

**BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Lands on Back Creek and Bent Mountain through Different Periods of Settlement ... 1792 (William **Sexton**—87 acres on a branch of Roanoke, from Francis Smith); Robert Harvey and James Mason—3,600 acres on the **Dividing Ridge between Back Creek and Magotty Creek [Franklin Co.]**.” (Kegley, 558; citing Patent Book 26, 280)

COMMENT:

In Botetourt County, 1790, one William Sexton married Mary Ewing, daughter of James.<sup>109</sup>

In adjacent Montgomery County, 1791, one Alidge Sexton/Saxton married Sara Mills,<sup>110</sup> the apparent daughter of Pvt. John Mills (d. 1785-87) and Franky [—?—], who remarried in 1788.

I am investigating Sara as a possible mother of William Mills-Witt who first appeared on the tax rolls of Franklin in 1806 in company with the Montgomery Co. landowner Samuel McCarroll. William named his first daughter *Millie* (the name of the child’s maternal grandmother) and his second daughter *Sarah* (potentially the child’s paternal grandmother—i.e., William’s own mother).

**9 MARCH 1793**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Abraham Hanna and **John Mills**, surety. Abraham Hanna and Mary Carson, of full age.” (Chalkley, 2:211; citing “Marriage Bonds”)

COMMENT:

This John Mills should be the nephew of Robert Mills who lived with Robert and inherited his land.

**1793**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Historical context

“Back Creek, Mason’s Creek and Fort Lewis Community—The Settlement of Back Creek and **Bent Mountain**: When John Mason came to Back Creek of Roanoke in 1750 his neighbors were his brother-in-law, James McKeachey, and Robert Poage. John Mathews, **John Mills**, James McGavock, William Carvin, William Lewis, Alexander Boyd and Alexander Baine were **early land-owners, but not settlers**. The Back Creek neighborhood was an extension or suburb of the Great Lick settlement. The communication was naturally over the trails leading south by Back Mountain and over **Bent Mountain** to the Southwest. The homesteaders along the Carolina Road were grouped in Captain Neely’s Company [**1783**], while those farther up the creek about the Forks were in Captain Lewis’s Company with those of Mason’s Creek. Those of the Bent Mountain region were under Captain Martin.” (Kegley, 553)

“Robert Harvey’s interest in Back Creek land is shown in his acquisitions begun in 1792—Robert Harvey and James Mason, 3,600 acres on **the Dividing Ridge between Back Creek and Magotty Creek**; Robert Harvey, 520 acres extending into **Franklin County**; 1793, Robert Harvey, 1700 acres on Back including the Buck Mountain ...” (Kegley, 555)

**20 JANUARY 1794**  
**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

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<sup>109</sup> Anne Lowry Worrell, *Early Marriages, Wills, and Some Revolutionary War Records: Botetourt County, Virginia* (1958; reprinted, Baltimore: Clearfield, 2004), 41.

<sup>110</sup> Anne Lowry Worrell, *A Brief of Wills and Marriages in Montgomery and Fincastle Counties, Virginia, 1733–1831* (1932; reprinted Baltimore, 1996), 35.

“Martha Burnside’s will—Widow of John Burnside; to nephew, **John Mills**; to Jennett Frazer; to Ann Henderson; ‘If daughter Frances should marry again and have children, then to such children, but if not, then to Frances’ present children, viz: Polly, Som—Morrison (Samuel Morrison) Burnside, and Margaret. Executors, **John Mills** and John Campbell. Teste: H. King, Joseph Peck, Geo. Hook. Proved, September Court, 1794, by Henry King and Joseph Peck. Executors qualify.” (Chalkley, 3:204; citing Will Bk 8:124–25)

COMMENT:

John Mills was nephew of both Robert Mills and Martha Burnside. One interpretation is that Martha’s sister married Robert’s brother. Note also, under 11 October 1794, the reference to John’s son as Samuel Burnside Mills.

The associations and naming patterns here suggest that the John who died in 1750 and the “Jennet Mills” née Hayes of 1750 may be parents of this John Mills—and that the John who died in 1750 may be Robert’s brother. However, the 25 December 1750 will of Jennet’s father John does not name a daughter Martha who could be Martha Burnside.

*Cf.* 11 October 1794 for the reference to the testator’s daughter Frances as Frances *Stuart* and granddaughter Margaret as “Peggy Stuart.”

**1 APRIL 1794**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“On North Fork of South Branch, part of 156 acres patented to Daniel Mouse, 6<sup>th</sup> April 1769. Delivered: Leonard Miller by order of **George Mills**, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1794.” (Chalkley, 3:545; citing Deed Book 21:217)

**10 OCTOBER 1794**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“John Burnside’s estate appraisal taken 10<sup>th</sup> October, 1794, by Alex. Robertson, John Gamble, A. Anderson.” (Chalkley, 3:207; citing Will Book 8:182–87)

**11 OCTOBER 1794**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Ann Henderson deposes that she heard John and Martha Burnside give to their granddaughter, Peggy Stuart, certain articles, and also to Patience Richey, also that certain bags belonged to Gemm, a negro, also a cow to Jennet Frazer. Elizabeth Blakely deposes ditto, 11<sup>th</sup> October, 1794. Frances Stuart deposes ditto, that **Samuel Burnside Mills**, son to **John Mills**, was to have a colt.” (Chalkley, 3:207; citing Will Book 8:193–94)

**14 OCTOBER 1794**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Vendue bill of John and Martha Burnside’s estates—Recorded, September Court, 1795, sold to, viz: Thos. Dickon, **Michael Acre**, James Hogdson, Jno. Kinode, Peter Paul, Negro Jeam, Rose Kether.” (Chalkley, 3:207; citing Will Book 8: 188–9)

COMMENT:

Note the association of “Michael **Acre**” with the Burnside estate. In May 1749 (see that date above) the widow Mary “Aker” and son William posted bond as executors of the will of Simon

Aker—with **John Mills** as surety and Nicholas Haile of Lunenburg as witness. The will named other children as Thomas, Uriah, and Ruth “Acres.”

*Regarding Akers:*

In 1787, Montgomery County, one “Milliton” [Valentine] Akers served as bondsman for the marriage of Widow Franky Mills (widow of John?) to John Abraham Glymph.<sup>111</sup> Some online trees assert (without evidence) that Valentine Akers was the son of Thomas Blackburn Akers and Susannah Scaggs, later wife of Richard Whitt.

**15 DECEMBER 1795**

**AUGUSTA (BOTETOURT?) COUNTY, VA**

Association

“The Buffalo Creek Community ... Michael Cloyd—Grant, 116 acres on Tinker Creek, adjoining his own land, land formerly **William Watts**, John Drake, and Thomas Madison.” (Kegley, 495; citing no source)

COMMENT:

This places William Watts in the same community with the Augusta County Millses. He is a candidate for the William Watts who was in Kanawba County by 1810, with a wife Eleanor who was allegedly a Mills. Children’s data is compatible with a marriage during William’s years (c1787–c1799) in Augusta > Botetourt.

**1796**

**BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA**

Land survey

“Some details in Land Tenure on Carvin’s Creek and Glade Creek and About the Great Lick in Early Botetourt County ... 1796 ... **Hugh Mills**—Survey, 269 acres on Glade Creek ...

COMMENT:

Ostensibly, this should be Hugh Mills, son of John Jr. The elder Hugh Mills (brother of John Jr.) died in the 1780s leaving his will that named his brothers John and Blaney and his nephew Hugh, son of John. However, see entries below of 30 April 1798 and 24 October 1798 referencing “heirs of Hugh Mills.” It is possible that the estate of the elder Hugh may not yet be settled.

**6 FEBRUARY 1797**

**ROCKINGHAM & AUGUSTA COUNTIES, VA**

Court suit

“**William Watts**, assignee Layton Yancey, vs. George and John Houston, and Alexander Herring—Debt. Rockingham. Writ, 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1797.” (Chalkley, 2:15; citing “Executions. April, 1792 (L to Z)”)

**30 APRIL 1798**

**BOTETOURT COUNTY**

Land grant

“Some details in Land Tenure on Carvin’s Creek and Glade Creek and About the Great Lick in Early Botetourt County ... April 30, 1798. **Hugh Mills**—Grant, 100 acres on **Glade Creek** adjoining John Depew. (Kegley, 550; no citation)

**22 OCTOBER 1798**

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<sup>111</sup> Anne Lowry Worrell, *A Brief of Wills and Marriages in Montgomery and Fincastle Counties, Virginia, 1733–1831* (1932; reprinted Baltimore, 1996), 18. For more information on Mills-Glymph family members in Montgomery, see Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Mills & Associates: Montgomery, Fincastle & Botetourt Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey,” report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Court minute

“Called Court on **George Miles** for horse stealing—. Guilty and sent to District Court.” (Chalkley, 1:290; citing Court Order Book XXIV:388)

COMMENT:

I’ve seen no evidence to suggest this George was a Mills, rather than Miles.

**24 OCTOBER 1798**

**BOTETOURT COUNTY**

“Some details in Land Tenure on Carvin’s Creek and Glade Creek and About the Great Lick in Early Botetourt County ... October 24, 1798. John Depew, Sr.—Grant, 1180 acres on Glade Creek adjoining Anthony Gohlson, **heirs of Hugh Mills**, James Goodman and others. (Kegley, 550; citing Patent Book 38:415”

**1799**

**BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

“The Great Lick and Great Creek Community ... The Akers land in the fork of Tinker Creek and the River was sold to Nathaniel Evans in 1773 by **William Akers and Elizabeth, of Bedford, and Thomas Akers and Mary, of Botetourt**. In 1784 Evans sold the place to David Wright, who mortgaged it to Alexander Baine and after four years gave it over to Baine, who in turn sold it to **Edward Watts** (1799). This place is remembered as the Carr land. As usual in those early grants a later survey showed more land than was accounted for in the patent. A neighboring tract of 206 acres granted to James Mason in 1787 was resurveyed in 1808 by Col. Anderson who found enclosed 279 acres.” (Kegley, 518, 534)

**5 JANUARY 1799**

**BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA**

Land grant

“Some details in Land Tenure on Carvin’s Creek and Glade Creek and About the Great Lick in Early Botetourt County ... **William Watts**—Grant, 340 acres in the fork of Roanoke River and Tinker Creek [adjoining] **Akers land**. (Kegley, 551; citing Botetourt Deed Book, without exact book or page)

COMMENT:

The fact that William Watts received a grant adjoining Akers in 1799, the same year that Akers land was sold to Edward Watts suggests that William and Edward may be close kin.

**APRIL 1799**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Judgment

“Larew vs. Shepherd—O.S. 120; N.S. 41—Bill, April 1800. Orators are Abraham and Lambert Larue, of Hampshire County, and Isaac and Jacob Larue, of Ohio County. On **27<sup>th</sup> October 1780**, Isaac Larue of Frederick County, grandfather of orators, entered 300 acres in Ohio County, on an island in the Ohio River opposite Middle Island Creek; also 2,000 acres on both sides of mouth of Middle Island Creek. Isaac (Sr.) died, April, 1795, testate (will dated 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1794) devising above lands to orators as the four sons of Elizabeth, daughter of Isaac. In **1780, David Shepherd, late of Ohio County**, deceased, made an entry by military warrant to cover a large portion of above tracts. David died **January, 1796**, intestate as to this land, leaving Moses Shepherd (son); Elizabeth Lee, wife of John Lee (daughter); Sarah Springer, wife of Levi Springer (daughter); **Ruth Mills, wife of John Mills (daughter)**; Elizabeth Beall, wife of Zephaniah Beall, daughter and sole heir of William Shepherd, deceased, who was son of David. Ejectment was

brought in County Court. Injunction granted in Chancery Court on confession of judgment in ejection suit. Copy of Isaac Larue's will, dated **1<sup>st</sup> August, 1794**, proved in Superior Court of Frederick, Berkeley, &c., **3d September, 1795**. Wife, Phebe; sons, James and Jabez; daughter Elizabeth's son Abraham and her sons Isaac, Jacob and Lamberd [Lee]. See plats of surveys on Ohio River. Survey for Daniel McFarland, assignee of Jeremiah Learner. Andrew Zane deposes in Ohio County, 12<sup>th</sup> December 1805, that in 1771 he was hunting on the Ohio River opposite the island, on which he saw an improvement made by Michael Tygart." (Chalkley 2: 116; citing "Judgments ... Circuit Court Causes Ended")

COMMENT:

Note that the c1809 court case Robinson vs. Shepherd identifies **Edward** Shepherd as father of Ruth Mills.

The identity of the John who married Ruth Shepherd is not yet known. John Mills Jr., in 1772, married Patsy Ewing, daughter of Robert. If she has not died, then the John who married Ruth would be someone new to the county or from the Robert-John set of Millses.

**14 JUNE 1800**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Will.

"**John Mills'** will—To wife and children; to **son, Robert**; to **daughter, Elizabeth**. Executors, brother-in-law Andrew Allison and John Allison. Teste: Alex. Robertson, H. King, Esther Gamble. Proved 23d June, 1800, by Robertson and Gamble. Executors qualify." (Chalkley 3:218; citing Will Book 9:52)

COMMENT:

This abstract suggests that either this John Mills married an Allison or he had a sister who married Andrew Allison.

**1802**

**BOTETOURT COUNTY**

Neighbor

"Some details in Land Tenure on Carvin's Creek and Glade Creek and About the Great Lick in Early Botetourt County ... 1802. Peter **Noffsinger**, 336 acres, inclusive survey on **Tinker Creek**; 15 acres, part of 66, granted to Isaac Christian, 1764; 200 acres from Daniel McCormack to Isaac Christian, **part of the Mills land**. Some details in Land Tenure on Carvin's Creek and Glade Creek and About the Great Lick in Early Botetourt County ... December 25, 1789. **William Watts**—; 70 acres, part of 400, warrant to Abraham Loubtell, assigned to William and Nathan **Akers** and William Norvell; 30 acres to William Norvell; 20 acres, part of a warrant, to William Preston for 1500 acres." (Kegley, 552; citing "Boy. Sur. Bk.")

**4 APRIL 1808**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Legal suit

"William Coleman, of Kentucky, vs. Richardson—O.S. 213; N.S. 75—Bill filed 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1808. 28,400 acres at mouth of little **Kenawha** was patented to David Richardson and others, 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1773, in consideration of military services of **patentees in Braddock's war, in pursuance of Dinwiddie's proclamation 19<sup>th</sup> February 1754**. This land has remained unoccupied to present time, but squatters have taken possession of parts of it. Andrew Fowler, living in Bath County, is the only patentee living in Virginia. **Orator has bought rights of following patentees**, viz: Thomas Nappe [Napier?] and many others who were soldiers but never prosecuted their claims; Francis Self, Robert Murphy, Alexander Banney, William McAnulty, Andrew Fowler, Jacob Van Braam, **Arthur Watts**, Robert Stuart. Defendants to this bill are, viz: Patentees David Richardson, representatives of Robert Stobo, Jacob Van Braam, John Baynes,

representatives of James Towers, Andrew Fowler, Thomas Nappe, **Arthur Watts's representatives**, John Fox, Francis Self, Robert Stuart, Robert Murphy, John Smith, Alexr. Kinny, Wm. McAnulty, Mary Horn, and the following squatters ... " (Chalkley, 2:167; citing "Judgments ... Circuit Court Causes Ended"

COMMENT:

The case goes on for several pages, with testimonies and proofs of service, but no further reference to Watts or his representatives.

TO DO:

Pursue the possibility that the William Watts who settled Kenawha before 1810 was one of Arthur Watts' representatives.

**c1809**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Judgment

"Robinson vs. Shepherd—O.S. 225; N.S. 79—Orator, Samuel Robinson of Ohio County. In November, 1784, he bought 400 acres from John Kyle in Ohio County, who had a certificate in right of settlement granted to said Kyle and John Fleming. Patent issued **5<sup>th</sup> July, 1786**. In **1786** Kyle died testate, leaving Edward Cook, his executor. David Shepherd had a military warrant for 900 acres, which included 200 acres, part of the 400. Edward **Shepherd** died, leaving only son Moses Shepherd. Elizabeth Lee, wife of John Lee; Sarah Springer, wife of Levi Springer; and **Ruth Mills, wife of John Mills**, his daughters and Sarah Bell, wife of Zephania Bell, his granddaughter." (Chalkley 2:179; citing "Judgments ... Circuit Court Causes Ended")

COMMENT:

- Note that the c1799 court case Larew vs. Shepherd identifies **David** Shepherd as father of Ruth Mills.
- Chalkley's abstract does not date this case, but the immediately preceding case was said to be "Recorded in Rockingham, June 1809).
- November 1792, John Mills (nephew and heir at law of Robert Mills) sued Joseph, Florence & William Bell

**1810**

**AUGUSTA? COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

"Evans Spring Branch and the Great Lick ... **Edward Watts**, son of **William Watts**, married (1810) Elizabeth Breckenridge, daughter of James Breckenridge and came into possession of the **Watts-Breckenridge lands** in the Barrrens and on Evans' Spring Branch." (Kegley, 526; no source cited)

**29 JULY 1811**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Judgment

"Tilman's heirs vs. Dawson—O.S. 259; N.S. 91—Bill, 29<sup>th</sup> July, 1811. Complainants are, viz: Daniel Tilman, eldest son and heir of Lucy Tilman, by Thomas Tilman, Sr., her husband, and who was formerly Lucy Hix, daughter of Daniel Hix, deceased; Thomas Tilman, Jr.; Richd. **Marr** and Winifred (Tilman); **Jesse Mills** and **Lucy (Tilman)**, and the heirs of William Walton and Elizabeth (Tilman) being children and heirs of Lucy Tilman and her husband Thomas. Daniel Hix died, testate, in Goochland. Daniel's wife was Joan. Lucy (Hix) Tilman died 1762 or 1763 and Thomas in 180—[sic]. Daniel devised a slave to his daughter Lucy and she was sold to Drury Christian, who is now dead, and said slave and increase are now in possession of Drury Christian's representatives, viz: John Christian, deceased, leaving Elizabeth Christian, his widow, and children, infants; wife of Pleasant Dawson (daughter of Drury); — — —, wife of Henry Moorman (daughter



of Drury). Answer of Dawson sworn to in Amherst. Will of Daniel Hix. Wife, Joan; daughters, Lucy and Winifred; cousin, Archer Hix, set of Troopers' Arms. Dated 26th November, 1734. Recorded in Goochland, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 1735." (Chalkley, 2:197–98; citing "Judgments ... Circuit Court Causes Ended")

COMMENT:

- In 1810 **Daniel Tilman** is in Fredericksville district, Albemarle Co., a census semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname. The household consists of a male 45+, a female 45+, and a female 26–45.
- In 1810 **Thomas Tilman** is in St. Anns district, Albemarle—a male 26–45, a male 0–10, and a female 26–45
- In 1810, no Richard or Winnifred Marrs seems findable on the census
- **Millses** in Albermarle in 1810 appear in both districts, including a "Joseph" in Fredericksville (p. 202?) for whom the penmanship suggests at least a possibility that "Joseph" might be *Jesse*. He is aged 45+, with 5 males 0–10, a female 26–45, 3 females 10–16, listed consecutive with a Sarah Mills. Other Millses on the same page are Nathan and Henry. This household seems too young to be that of Jesse and Lucy.

<a href="#">View Record</a>	Henry Mellis	Fredericksville, Albemarle, Virginia		4	
<a href="#">View Record</a>	Joseph Mills	Fredericksville, Albemarle, Virginia	9	19	
<a href="#">View Record</a>	Menan Mills	St Anns, Albemarle, Virginia		1	
<a href="#">View Record</a>	Nathan Mills	Fredericksville, Albemarle, Virginia		4	
<a href="#">View Record</a>	Sarah Mills	Fredericksville, Albemarle, Virginia	12	16	
<a href="#">View Record</a>	Zachariah Mills	Fredericksville, Albemarle, Virginia	5	7	
<a href="#">View Record</a>	James Mills	Fredericksville, Albemarle, Virginia	4	7	
<a href="#">View Record</a>	Jane Millas	St Anns, Albemarle, Virginia		3	
<a href="#">View Record</a>	Isaac Millaway	Fredericksville, Albemarle, Virginia		8	

1–9 of 9 Per page

**1814**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

Association

"Allen vs. Hylton—O.S. 244; N.S. 86—Bill, 1814. Complainants are, viz; George, Jesse, Samuel H., John Allen, Martha, wife of Jacob Tyree; Bethinia, wife of Leroy Camden; Lewis Tindall, administrator of Lucy Tindall; George, William, Nancy, Susan, Martha Tindall, Hannah, wife of James Edmonds, children of Lucy Tindall, formerly Lucy Allen. Bethinia Allen, widow of John Allen and daughter of James Nevil of Albemarle owned property in own right from her father. She lived and co-habited with George Hylton without being married. She died 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1803. Hylton died July, 1812, testate. ... [skip 2 pages of abstracted detail involving Albemarle, Powhatan, Nelson, Buckingham, Amherst, Fluvanna, and **Montgomery County,**

where George Hylton lived—including testimony that “Mrs. Allen” had been legally married to Hylton, by Parson Ramsey of the High Church of England] “**William Lawson Watts** deposes, his wife and Valentine Hylton’s wife were sisters.” (Chalkley, 2:188-90; citing “Judgments ... Circuit Court Causes Ended”)

#### **NOVEMBER 1814**

#### **AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA**

#### Judgment

“Buzard vs. Zickafoose—O.S. 276; N.S. 97—Bill, November, 1814. Complainants are, viz: Catharine Zickafoose, widow of Peter Zickafoose, deceased; Sampson Sickafoose [*sic*], Susanna Buzzard and Reuben, her husband; Mary Fleisher and Henry, her husband; **Fanny Mills and Western [Mills], her husband**; Sally Zickafoose, infant. Peter Sickafoose died, intestate, leaving above widow and children and George and Elias Zickafoose, the two elder sons, owning land in Pendleton County in Crab Bottom. Elias died shortly after his father, leaving widow Elizabeth and infant children, Susanna, Elias, Elizabeth, Henry and Mary.” (Chalkley, 2:208; CITING “Judgments ... Circuit Court Causes Ended”)

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### **FURTHER RESEARCH**

#### **In-Out Table**

Prepare a table of land acquisitions and disposals for each Mills individual, identifying

- each tract acquired by acreage, location & adjacent landowner
- date of acquisition
- means of acquisition (and prior owner, if any)
- date of disposal
- means of disposal (and subsequent owner)

This should enable me to separate residences from land bought on speculation and to determine where each Mills likely lived in the county.

#### **Mapwork**

Each person’s holdings need to be placed as precisely as possible on detailed waterway maps of old Augusta, with determination of the offshoot county into which the land fell. (Note: Actual platting of the land is not possible until the original grants and deeds are studied—assuming that metes and bounds will be included for at least some of them.)

#### **Individual Research Notes**

A set of individual research notes—detailing every record created for each, in chronological order, needs to be set up for each Mills and Watts that have been identified in Augusta. Extracting each person’s notes from the present report and assembling them into a composite of each person will provide a better foundation for future research.

#### **Patents & Grants**

All Virginia patents and grants for Mills and Watts land in Augusta County need to be acquired. Also pursue the Pennsylvania and Maryland titles discussed herein under date of 1736.

#### **Associates to Add:**

- Akers (Montgomery Co. associates of the John & Franky Mills family; were previously in Augusta)

- Bowen (ditto)
- Skaggs (Susannah Skaggs, daughter of James Skaggs, is said to have married Thomas Blackburn Akers and then Rev. Richard Whitt. Her son Valentine Akers appears to be the bondsman for the remarriage of Widow Franky Mills. Richard Whitt is the uncle of Robert Whitt, who is being considered as a father for William Mills-Witt (b. c1785-88) of Franklin by Franky's proposed daughter Sara.

### **County-level Research**

No valid judgments can be made from the terse abstracts provided by Chalkley and Kegley. The original courthouse registers and files need to be thoroughly combed for the following counties:

- Augusta
- Bedford (including Akers)
- Botetourt
- Lunenburg
- Montgomery
- Orange

### **Tax Rolls**

These need to be worked for the following counties—including Akers

- Augusta
- Bedford (tax data for some early years are in my Bedford County extended-research report)
- Botetourt
- Lunenburg
- Montgomery (tax data for some early years are in my Montgomery County preliminary report)
- Orange

### **Literature Surveys**

These still remain to be done for the following counties:

- Patrick
- Roanoke
- Washington

### **Miscellaneous**

- Records of Rev. John Craig need to be located and used.
- RW Pensions at *Fold3.com* need to be searched for every man on James Neely's 1783 militia roll
- Clarence Edwin Carter's *Territorial Papers of the United States, vol. 4, Territory South of the Ohio River, 1790-1796* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1936).