



ELIZABETH SHOWN MILLS

Certified GenealogistSM Certified Genealogical LecturerSM
Fellow & Past President, American Society of Genealogists
Trustee & Past President, Board for Certification of Genealogists

141 Settlers Way, Hendersonville, TN 37075 • eshown@comcast.net

- DATE:** 17 October 2014
- REPORT TO:** File
- SUBJECT;** Watts: Initial Survey of South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them
- ASSOCIATES:** Families known, alleged, or suspected at start of project: Duke, Hornsbie, Rawls; also 1790 census neighbors of John Watts (principally Knighton, Lewis, Pickett, Pigg, Sanders, Tidwell)
- BACKGROUND:** **John Watts** (ca.1748–ca.1820-22) and his son-in-law **Moses Hornsbie** appear on the 1790 census of Fairfield District, South Carolina (taken between August 1790 and Fall 1791). By February 1792, John had moved his family to Washington County, Georgia, where he and his son Thomas applied for headright land. The location of the tracts given to them would subsequently fall into Montgomery (1793) and Tattnall (1801) counties. In Montgomery County, John served as a justice, 1793–99.¹
- About 1809–10, John relocated in Telfair County, Ga., and in 1816 he led his family to Covington County, Mississippi. There he died after the 1820 census but before the 1823 tax roll on which a slave was taxed to his apparent widow, **Judith Watts**.²
- Earlier researchers have presented John Watts as
- a Revolutionary Soldier from North Carolina (accepted by DAR as Ancestor no. 122826, John “A.” Watts), although that organization does not accept the maiden name proposed for Judith: Rawls).
 - the same individual whose name appears as a signer of the 1769 petition from Anson County, North Carolina. (That assertion is demonstrably false. Consulting the original petition reveals that John Watts of Anson could not sign his name, while John Watts of Montgomery County, Ga., signed many documents as a justice.³
 - The son of William and Agnes Watts of Anson
- OBJECTIVE:** Identify all Wattses in this region of South Carolina, with a view toward placing John Watts into a neighborhood, a birth family, and a point of prior residence.

¹ For further background on John Watts, see Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Testing the FAN Principle Against DNA: Zilphy (Watts) Price Cooksey Cooksey of Georgia and Mississippi,” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 102 (June 2014): 129–52.

² Covington County, Miss., Tax Rolls, 1819–29; accessible as “Mississippi State Archives, Various Records, 1920–1951,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 12 July 2013), section “County Tax rolls 1821–1854, Box 3640.”

³ Wynema McGrew, *Watts Is My Line: John and Judith (?) Watts, Settlers of the Mississippi Territory*, vol. 1 (Hattiesburg, Miss.: P.p., 2010), 5–14, summarizes the most-common assertions about John’s origin and analyzes the problems with many of the assertions. She did not note the signature problem on the Anson petition and, because her focus was on the thousands of descendants of John, she has not pursued Anson, Fairfield, or Virginia research to discover John’s true identity.



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

Local records commence with South Carolina's post-Revolution creation of counties. Some random documents recorded after that 1785 organization date back into the 1770s.

The region that became Fairfield and Kershaw went through numerous names and boundary changes, all of which affect the records that were kept and where they are found. For maps, see:

- Appendix 1 "Proprietary Counties, 1682 [-1769]"
- Appendix 2 "Parishes of the Anglican Church" [from 1706]
- Appendix 3 "Districts 1769-1784"
- Appendix 4 "Districts and Counties, 1785"
- Appendix 5 "Districts, 1791-1799"
- Appendix 6 "Districts & Counties, 1791-1799"
- Appendix 7 "Broad to Lynches Creek; Fairfield & Kershaw Counties (Cook's Map, 1773)"

The area of our interest fell into six jurisdictions:

- **Craven County**, pre 1769
- **St. Mark's Parish**, 1767—
- **Camden District**, 1769-1784
- **Fairfield County**, 1785—
- **Lancaster County**, 1785-1791
- **Kershaw County**, 1791—

In this report, when "Fairfield" or "Kershaw" is used in a pre-1785 or pre-1791 context, it refers to the part of Craven, St. Mark, Camden, or Lancaster that later became Fairfield and Kershaw Counties.

Within this region, key landmarks have similar or duplicative names that are easily confused:

Wateree River

- Currently divides upper Fairfield from Kershaw.
- The lower half of the Wateree fell into Kershaw after 1791
- Below Kershaw, the Wateree is the Santee; mid-1700 grants for "Santee" land often ended up on the Wateree.

Wateree Creek

- Flows west from Wateree River and lies entirely in modern Fairfield.
- About 6 miles east of the river, the creek forks into Upper Wateree and Lower Wateree Creeks

Dry Creek of Wateree River

- Lies in Kershaw County.
- Flows east from the river, about 2 miles below the SE corner of modern Fairfield.
- Rarely shown on modern maps; roughly the area marked now as White Oak Creek

Dry Branch of Wateree Creek

- Lies in modern *upper* Fairfield, above Wateree Creek and just west of Wateree River.

Dry Fork of Wateree Creek

- Lies in modern *central* Fairfield, just west of the Forks of Wateree Creek.

For geographic placement of all these jurisdictions, see Appendixes 1-7.

Overview of Watts settlers identified to-date in Fairfield and Kershaw

- 1757 **Thomas Watts** received warrant for 250 acres on south side of **Lynches Creek** (surveyed 1762, granted 1764), the first of several grants made to him along Lynches Creek. He and wife Tabitha sold land 1777 on SW side of **Great Lynches Creek** on the branch called **Jumping Gully** (said to be acquired 1765). This land would lie in extreme *eastern* Kershaw Co.
- 1762 **Ambrose Mills** (brother of Sarah who married one **Thomas Watts**), had land surveyed at the **Forks of Little River**, in western Fairfield.⁴
- 1762 **William Watts** had land surveyed on Little River in western Fairfield, below the forks, on a branch of Jackson Creek that flowed into Ambrose Mills's grant. Earliest neighbors included James Anderson and James Hawthorn. That branch would become known as "**Watts's Branch**" of Jackson Creek. In the published records covered by this report, William is last on record 7 February 1797.
- 1763 **Thomas Watts, William Watts** and **Edward Watts "Jr."** had *adjacent* tracts surveyed in *western* Kershaw on east (aka "north") side of **Wateree River**, at lower side of the mouth of **Dry Creek**. Only Thomas would remain there. In the published records covered by this report, he is last on record there, 23 February 1796.
- ca.1763 **Edward Watts Jr.** transferred his grant on Wateree River (present Kershaw) to Francis Kirkland and requested a new grant in Fairfield on the **South Fork of Little River** near **Beaver's Creek**, on the edges of the **Mobley/Mobberly Settlement**—established in the 1750s by families from **Bedford County, Virginia**. Edward's tract lay just north of the forks site chosen by Ambrose Mills (also from **Bedford**) and about 5 or 6 miles north of William's grant on Jackson Creek. Edward's earliest neighbors were *Kennedys, Kirklands, Mobleys, and Walkers*. Records covered by this report show Edward last on the 1792 land tax roll of Fairfield.
- 1772 One **John Watts** of "Camden District" received headright land **south of Saludy** on a small branch of **Buck Cr.** adj. David Boyd—land that should have fallen into the most western counties Edgefield or Abbeville. (He may be the "Capt." John Watts who, with Major Richard Watts, appears post-Revolution on the north side of the Saluda in Laurens—with business activity across the river in Abbeville.) His location lies well outside our targeted area, and *no known record connects him to the Fairfield-Kershaw Watts under study*.
- 1772–74 **George Watts** received a grant in his name on **25-Mile Creek of Wateree River**, despite the fact that he was only 15 years of age when his petition was filed and scarcely 16 when he received it. In 1774, he witnessed a deed for *Robert Duke*. In 1780, he witnessed the will of *Jacob Perry*. He would remain there, associating with Dukes and Perrys, with land adjacent to *Rev. Ralph Jones*, until the early years of the next century.
- 1777 One **John Watts** (a different man from the 1772 grantee) witnessed a deed for **Thomas and Tabitha Watts** of **Great Lynches Creek** (present **Kershaw**). This John Watts is said, by other researchers, to be Thomas and Tabitha's son.⁵
- 1783 **John Watts** of Fairfield was among 14 men signing a character affidavit for Lt. William Coggins, a "former neighbor" who was moving to Georgia. *Eleven of the other 13 men are proved neighbors and associates of our John Watts*. *Rev. Ralph Jones* (George Watts's neighbor) appears to have spearheaded the petition.

⁴ 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: 700–1. Hiden cites the 1755 will of William Mills, naming children "Sarah Watts" and Ambrose Mills, and a 1749 deed of Thomas Watts and wife Sarah.

⁵ Neal Watts, "John Watts," *GeorgiaGenWeb* [Washington Co., Ga. page] (http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gawashin/famconnect/watts_j.htm: accessed 29 December 2014), citing *Louisville Gazette and Republican Trumpet*, legal notice, Josiah Watts and Tabitha Watts apply for letters of administration on the estate of John Watts, deceased, late of Washington County.

- 1786 **John Watts** of Fairfield, Wateree Creek, sold *land to Nathan Sanders—land said to have been purchased by **William Watts**, who had bought it (1784) from **Micajah Pickett**, who bought it (1784) from **William Mills**, heir of **Ambrose Mills**. (Sanders and Micajah Pickett were 1790 neighbors of our John Watts.)*
- 1786 **John Watts** (same as above) is shown as an adjacent landowner on the plat of an uncompleted grant that “**Thomas Watts Jr.**” bought from James Olgivie.
- 1790 **John Watts** and “**Thomas Watts**” are shown as adjacent households on the Fairfield census. While our John Watts had a son Thomas, aged about 20 that year, he is not known to have married and begun a family until the late 1790s in Georgia. The Thomas of 1790, adjacent to John, should be “Thomas Watts Jr.” who owned adjacent land.

Tentatively, evidence suggests two clusters of Watts in the region that became Fairfield and Kershaw.

- **Lynches Creek**, along the eastern border of present Kershaw County: specifically Thomas, Tabitha, and their son John who is said to be a patriot officer in the Revolutionary War. No evidence yet places them in the areas that became western Kershaw and Fairfield.
- **Waters of the Wateree & Little Rivers**—later Fairfield and western border of Kershaw: specifically, (Gen. 1) Edward Jr., Thomas [Sr.], William [Sr.]; and (Gen. 2) John, George, and Thomas Jr.

For the placement of these clusters, see the map at Appendix 7.

RESEARCH NOTES

PRE-1749

CRAVEN / CAMDEN, SC

Context.

“[In the late 1600s], the area lay within Craven County, and shortly before the Revolution it was within Camden District. Its ecclesiastical position was within the vast **St. Mark’s Parish**. Under the new Whig government the opposite sides of the Wateree River voted in different districts, designated the District Eastward of the Wateree and the District Westward of the Wateree. The areas were then rejoined as part of newly created **Lancaster County**, before being divided somewhat similarly to present boundaries [with the eastern side of the Wateree] being set aside as Kershaw County (or for many years as Kershaw District). Boundary-line adjustments up to modern years since have resulted in alterations and annexations, so that some borderline sections of the original county—Ionia, Lucknow, Stoneboro, parts of the old Tiller’s Ferry settlement, and the entire town of Kershaw—now lie within neighboring counties.”⁶

2 MAY 1749

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

“The Petition of **Benjamin Duke** setting forth that the Petitioner was desirous to be a settler on the Wateree River on the North side thereof, that he had a Wife and three Children and never had any land granted to him, prayed to run out to him two hundred and fifty acres of Land on the North side of the

⁶ Joan A. Inabinet and L. Glen Inabinet, *A History of Kershaw County, South Carolina* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press for the Kershaw County Historical Society, 2011), 9.

Wateree River and that he might have a Grant for the same. Benjamin Duke. The Prayer thereof was granted.⁷

COMMENT:

'North side of Wateree River' places him in modern Kershaw, along the Fairfield line.

14 NOVEMBER 1757

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land plat.

"Description: **Watts, Thomas**, plat for 150 acres in Craven County

Names Indexed: Leigh, Egerton; *Wade, John*; **Watts, Thomas**

Locations: Craven County; **Lynches Creek**

Document Type: Plat"⁸

5 JULY 1757

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

"The following Petitions for Land ... were presented to His Excellency the Governor and read, Viz't.

Isaac Knighten 400 in Craven County.⁹

1 DECEMBER 1761

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land warrant.

"The following Petitions for Warrants of Survey of Land, certifying of Platts and prolonging of Warrants and were produced & read Viz't.

Ambrose Mills 100 on Little River¹⁰

COMMENT:

- 100 acres was the allotment for two headrights. Ambrose had been married for some years by 1761. However, his wife and all children except a son (William) supposedly were massacred during the Indian uprisings on the Carolina frontier, 1755–61. He remarried, but at the point above, it would seem that he applied only for himself and that son.¹¹

9 MARCH – 12 NOVEMBER 1762

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land memorial.

"Memorial exhibited by *Moses Knighton*, to be register[ed] in Auditor's office ... tract of land 200 acres, in Craven County on a branch of **Black River** commonly called **Grassy herd**. Bounded on all sides by

⁷ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 2, 1748–1752 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1997), 41; citing pp. 324–25.

⁸ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Watts, Thomas"; citing "Series: S213184; Volume: 0007; Page: 00207; Item: 03."

⁹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 11, citing pp. 10–11.

¹⁰ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 83. *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Mills, Ambrose, Plat for 100 Acres on Little River."

¹¹ Lyman C. Draper, *Kings Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King's Mountain, October 7th, 1780* (Cincinnati: Peter G. Thompson, 1881), 481. Draper, the famed creator of the Draper Manuscripts at the Wisconsin Historical Society, corresponded from the 1840s with thousands of families of participants in the Revolution to acquire privately held records, memoirs, etc. His biography of Col. Ambrose Mills, however, does not provide sources.

vacant land. Survey certified the 9th day of March 1762, and granted the 13th of July 1762 to the Memorialist, at quit rent of 3/sterling or 4/ proclamation money per hundred acres, to commence two years from date. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand the 11th day of Novr. 1762. MOSES KNIGHTON, Jno. Evans, D.S.”¹²

COMMENT:

- Black River was a branch of Lynches Creek, now in Sumter Co., below Kershaw.
- In 1790, Fairfield, “Moses Knighton [Jr.]” was enumerated 13 houses below **John Watts** and **Thomas Watts**. Like many early families, the Knightons acquired land along several waterways before settling into a preferred location.

4 MAY 1762

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

“Meeting of Tuesday A.M. 4 May 1762: Pages 486–688; The following Petitions for Warrants of Survey of Land, Renewing of Warrants of Survey, and Certifying elapsed Platts, addressed to his Excellency, were presented & read viz’t ... *To Certify Plats*:

Thomas Watts 100 [acres] in Craven County¹³

COMMENT:

This Thomas Watts should be Thomas of **Lynches Creek**, who is now expanding his initial 1757 grant. Note that subsequent records for this land cite it as 150 acres, rather than 100.

MAY 1762

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land survey.

“Pursuant to a Precept from the Honbl. Egerton Leigh Esqr Surveyor General dated December the first AD 1761 I have Admeasured and laid out unto **Ambrose Mills** a tract of Land Containing one hundred Acres Situate Lying and being in Craven County on the **North branch of Little River** also Called **Bowerses Mill Creek** bounded on all sides with vacant Land and hath such form shape and marks as the above plat represents[.] Certified by me this seventh day of May 1762. John Gaston, D.S.”¹⁴

COMMENT:

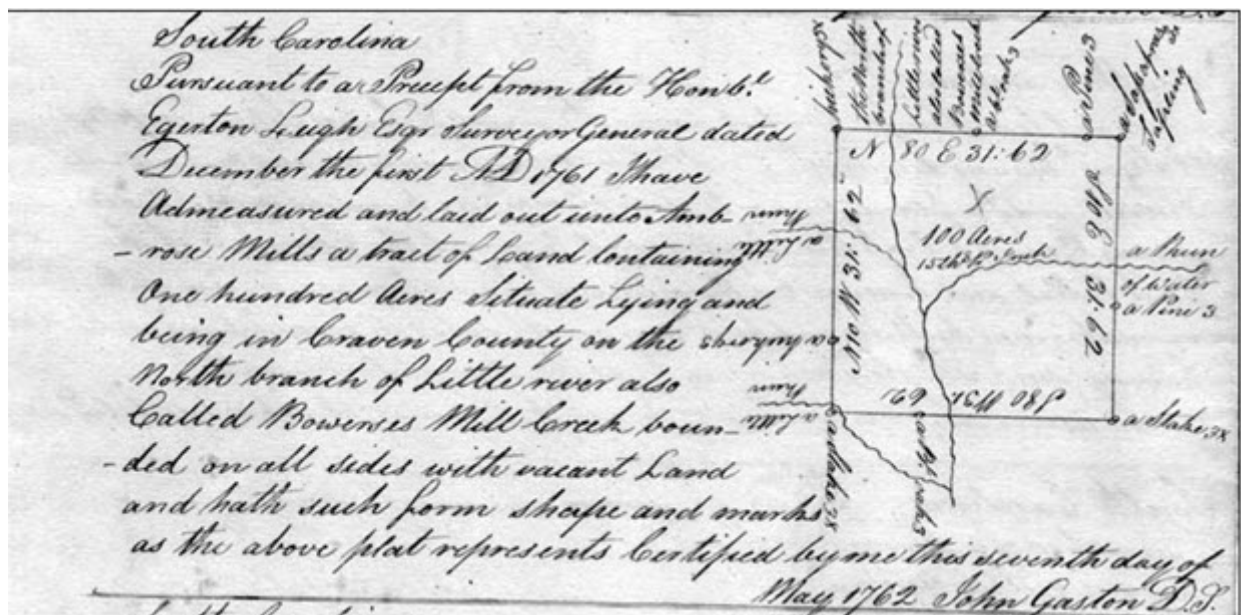
- See plat below.
- Ambrose did not complete the grant process. He did not return the survey to the Council at Charleston to have it certified—after which the grant would have been issued. In June 1766 (see abstracts under that date, below) he turned this and another surveyed tract back to the colony and made new requests for Wateree River land a bit above the trio of tracts warranted in 1763 to Thomas, William, and Edward Jr. On 2 September 1766 (see that date below) the land that had been surveyed for Ambrose was granted to Thomas Holsey.¹⁵

¹² Katie-Prince Ward Esker, *South Carolina Memorials*, vol. 2, 1731–1766: *Abstracts of Selected Land Records from a collection in the Department of Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina* (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1977), 73.”

¹³ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765, 74.

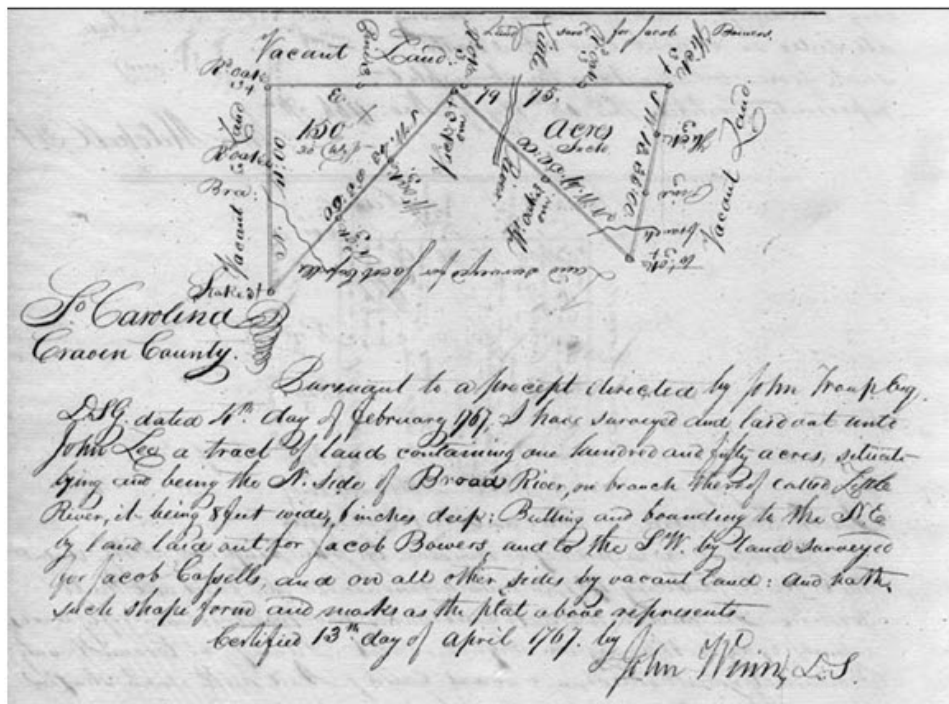
¹⁴ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Mills, Ambrose, Plat for 100 Acres on Little River.”

¹⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 26.



COMMENT:

- Ambrose's neighbor, **Jacob Bowers**, had petitioned for his mill site in 1758, 400 acres on Little River, approved 5 September.¹⁶ His survey plat has not yet been posted online by the SC Department of Archives and History.
- Although Bowers's plat is not available for this initial survey of published materials, a later survey for his adjacent landowner to the south, **John Lee**, helps to recreate the region.¹⁷



¹⁶ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765, 31.

¹⁷ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Lee, John, Plat for 150 Acres on [waters of] Broad River."

COMMENT:

John Lee will be encountered again later in conjunction with **Ambrose Mills, William Watts [II], and John Watts**. The land that William purchased from Ambrose Mills's son and heir on Wateree Creek of Fairfield County had been first surveyed for John Lee, then granted to Ambrose Mills. (Like Ambrose, Lee would be a prominent Loyalist in Fairfield.¹⁸)

7 SEPTEMBER 1762
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

"Pages 540-42: The following Petitions for Warrants of Survey of Land, Prolonging of Warrants, certifying of Elapsed Plats, Passing Fiats for Elapsed Certified Plats, and for passing of Grants on Elapsed Fiats, were presented & read ..."

"William Watts" 100 [acres] on Santee River or waters yr' of [thereof]
Charles Harken 100 [acres] on the waters of Santee or Wateree Rivers¹⁹

COMMENT:

The Santee became the Wateree in the Kershaw area. William's land would be surveyed on the Wateree, adjacent to Thomas.

4 OCTOBER 1762
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land survey.

"Pursuant to a Precept from Egerton Leigh Esqr., Surveyor Gen^l bearing date the seventh day of September 1762, I have measured and laid out unto **William Watts**, a Plantation or tract of Land of one hundred acres on Little river, bounding to S. Eastwd. on **James Anderson's** Land & to the SWestwd. on **Little river** and on the other sides by vacant Land and hath such form as the above plat represents[.] Certified by me the fourth day of October AD 1762. Jn^o Pearson, D.S."²⁰

COMMENT:

- For William's survey plat, see below.
- The survey plat would not be certified until 7 May 1765, when William trekked to Charleston to file his petition.
- No compatible plat has been found for his southern neighbor, James Anderson.
- William also petitioned for land on the North (East) side of the Wateree River, in present Kershaw County. In 1763, he would be cited on adjacent plats for Thomas Watts and Edward Watts Jr.
- It does not appear that William completed the title to his Wateree River land.

¹⁸ Kenneth Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley's Meeting House, June 1780* (N.p.: Privately printed, 2005)

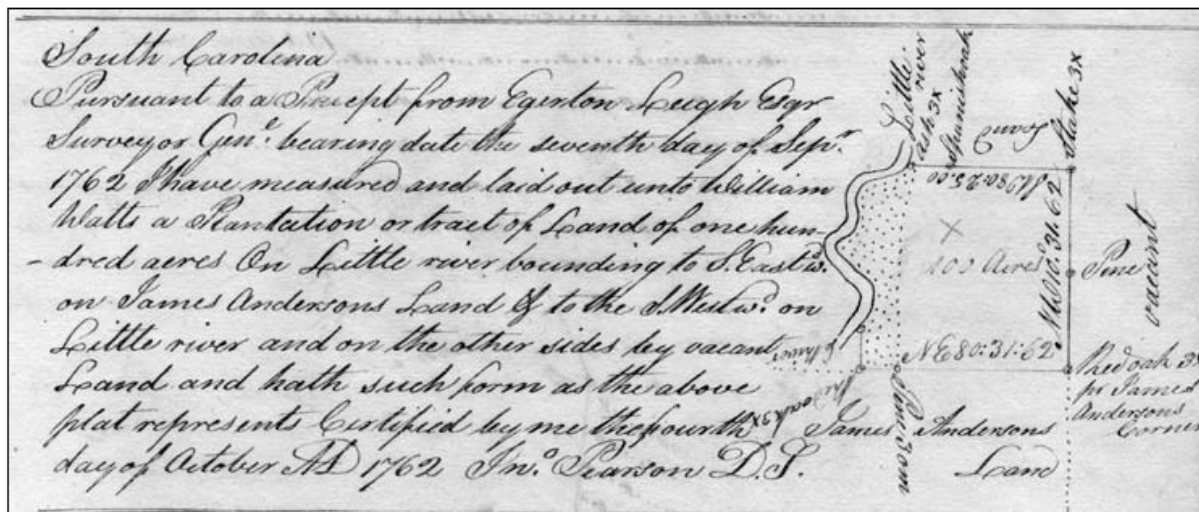
¹⁹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765, 89.

²⁰ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Watts, William, Plat for 100 Acres on Little River."

S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series)

WATTS, WILLIAM, PLAT FOR 100 ACRES ON LITTLE RIVER.

[Previous](#) | [Return to image index](#) | [Next](#)



2 NOVEMBER 1762
Craven County, SC
 Land petition.

“Pages 554–557: His Honour the Lieutenant Governor acquainted the Board, that his Excellency the Governor had gone into the country for a few days, and not being returned he had probably forgot that this was the day appointed for receiving Petitions for Warrants of Survey of Land & C. and **detaining the poor people in Town longer than was absolutely necessary would be a very great hardship to them.** He [the Lieutenant Governor] had therefore ordered the Council to be summoned in order to receive their Petitions and to **swear them to their Family Rights, which would save at least 24 hours to them.** ... The several Petitioners were thereupon ordered in and sworn to the allegations of their respective Petitioners, and the Petitioners being read are as follows, viz't. ...

Ambrose Mills 300 on the Waters of Santee River”²¹

COMMENT:

- This 300 acre request for family rights, in addition to the 100 acres already granted, would be 8 headrights—say: Ambrose, a wife, and 6 children or slaves.
- Ambrose had this land surveyed but did not complete the grant process. The survey is cataloged in the SC Department of Archives & History’s COM-Index as “Mills, Ambrose, unrecorded plat for land not granted, 300 acres on Kirkpatrick’s Branch, Turkey Creek, Broad River, Craven [Fairfield] County, surveyed by John Gaston, 2/3/1763.”²²
- Ambrose apparently folded this request into a different tract of 600 acres that he petitioned for and had surveyed in 1766 (below).
- His total headrights of 700 acres would represent himself, a wife, and 12 children and/or slaves. He likely is claiming his rights for the wife and children already killed in the Cherokee-Anglo conflict.

²¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765, 96.

²² *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Mills, Ambrose, Series S213197, Box 0003, Item 00859.”

5 NOVEMBER 1762

CRAVEN [LANCASTER] COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

“John Crawford of Anson County, to William Moore of Craven Co., SC, for L500 ... 550 A in parish of St. Mark on **N prong of Lynches Creek**, adj. *Solomon Homes*, **Thomas Watts** ... Grant rec. Book WW page 28 ... John Crawford (Seal), Wit: Solomon Willy, John Twitty. Prov. 5 Nov 1767, by Solomon Willy, before Thomas Wade, J.P.²³

COMMENT:

This Thomas of Lynch Creek appears to be a different person than Thomas of the Wateree, whose chose a grant bordered by William and Edward Watts Jr.

Inabinet’s history of Kershaw County describes the area this way:

“The **Big Lynches River**, lately identified as simply the Lynches River, rises just about the North Carolina state line and travels along most of the eastern boundary of Kershaw County in predominantly sandhill terrain. The **Little Lynches River** originates in upper Lancaster County, where it is called a creek. The Little Lynches at first collects Piedmont waters but also travels through sandhills most of its way through Kershaw County. In an area early designated as the Fork of the Lynches, the Big and Little Lynches join as one body in the swampy lowlands below the town of Bethune and continue the sinuous journey of a Coastal Plain river.”²⁴

2 FEBRUARY 1763

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

“Meeting of Tuesday A.M. 1 February 1763: Pages 9-12; The following Petitions for Warr’ts of Survey of Land and for Certifying Elapsed Platts were presented & read Viz’t ... To Pass Fiats on Certified Plats:

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------|---|
| Thomas Watts | 200 [acres] | in Craven County |
| James Swancey | 200 [acres] | on a Branch of Lynches Creek” ²⁵ |

COMMENT:

This 200-acre tract in the name of Thomas Watts has not been placed. Whether this is yet another tract of Thomas of Lynches Creek or whether this was a first tract for Thomas of the Wateree (who 9 months later requested land adjacent to William and Edward Watts Jr.) is unproved.

4 OCTOBER 1763

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

“Meeting of Tuesday A.M. 4 October 1763 [Petition for Warrants]:

William Watts 100 on Santee River or the Waters [thereof]
[skip 8 on a list of several dozen]

Edward Watts Jun’r 250 on the no side of Wateree River at the mouth of Dry Creek

Thomas Watts 550 on the No side of Wateree River at the mouth of Dry Creek
adjoining lands of ____ Simpson”²⁶ [Thomas Simpson]

²³ Brent H. Holcomb, *Lancaster County, South Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1787–1811* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, n.d.), 11; citing Book A:207–09.

²⁴ Joan A. Inabinet and L. Glen Inabinet, *A History of Kershaw County, South Carolina* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press for the Kershaw County Historial Society, 2011), 6.

²⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 105.

COMMENT:

See map at Appendix 7 for the location of these lands.

Six days later, surveyor John Gaston would begin the task of surveying these three tracts—beginning with William’s land, which actually lay on the Wateree (east bank).

South Carolina’s headright policy granted 100 acres to a family head and 50 acres for each family member or slave.²⁷ *If* none of these three men owned slaves, then their family composition at the time should be as follows:

- **Thomas, 550 acres:** himself, wife, and 9 children or slaves; if he owned no slaves, then 9 children would suggest that he *likely married in the early-to-mid 1740s*.
- **Edward Jr., 250 acres:** himself, wife, and 3 children or slaves; if he owned no slaves, then 3 children at this point suggests he *likely married by 1758*.
- **William, 100 acres:** himself & wife, child or slave—most likely a wife.

If these three Wattses who sought adjacent grants are brothers, then Thomas would appear to be the elder.

The fact that Edward explicitly entered his land in the name Edward *Jr.* implies that there was an Edward *Sr.* in the area or the family. No Edward *Sr.* has been found in the area. That absence suggests the probability that the three grantees were siblings and that Edward *Jr.* was likely the son of Edward *Sr.*—thus, he explicitly identified himself as *Jr.* on the land grant to avoid any probate issues in the event of his death without a wife or legal children.

Thomas Watts’s plat for 550 acres shows **Thomas Simpson** as neighbor on north. However, Simpson’s own plat has not yet been digitized online, from which we might have further markers. Later records suggest that he died before the grant was completed.

10 OCTOBER 1763

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land plat.

“**Watts, William**, unrecorded plat for land not granted, 100 acres on *Santee River*, Craven County, surveyed by John Gaston.”²⁸ [No other parties named]

14 OCTOBER 1763

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land plat.

“Pursuant to a precept from the Hon. Egerton Leigh, Esq. Surveyor General, dated the 4th day of Oct. A. D. 1763, I have admeasured and laid out unto **Thomas Watts** a tract of land containing five hundred and fifty Acres, Situate lying and being at the **N side of Wateree River** and on the **lower side** of the **Mouth of Upper Dry Creek**, in Craven County, Bounded on the W. side with the Wateree River and up the river on that line which extends outwards from it with land of *Mr. Thomas Simpson, Esq.,* late decd. and part of that line which runs S. one E 53 Chs. is bounded with vacant land and the remainder of that line and all the next lines which runs N89E 33 Chs. is bounded by land surveyed for **William Watts** and the next line

²⁶ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 129–30; also see p. 91 for 7 Sept 1762 “To pass Fiats on Elapsed cert’d Plats: Thomas Simpson: 150 in Craven County.

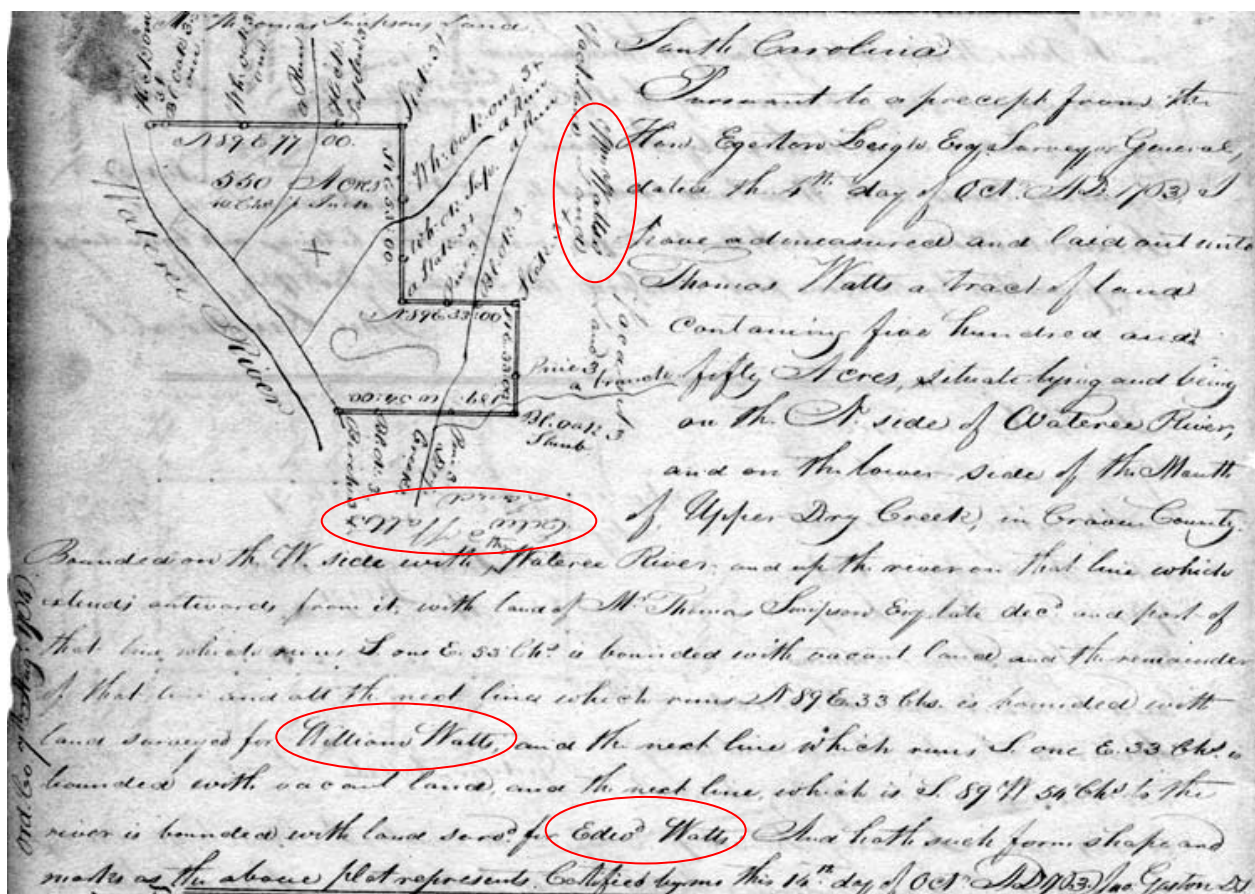
²⁷ For the headright law, see “South Carolina Archives Series Description: Colonial Land Grants, 1731–1775,” article, *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/Terms/Series/SeriesDescriptions/s213015.html>)

²⁸ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/>; accessed 7 October 2014), “Watts, William”; citing Series 213197, Box 0004, Item 01126.

which runs S one E 33 Chs. is bounded with vacant land, and the next line which is S 89 W 54 Chs. is bounded with land survd for **Edwd. Watts**. And hath such marks as the above plat represents. Certified by me this 14th day of October 1763.”²⁹

COMMENT:

Potentially critical point: Every land grant found in this project for the Wateree and Little River Wattses, as well as Ambrose Mills, lay at a confluence of two or more streams. Only one usable stream was needed for water access to market. Two or three streams on a property reduced the amount of acreage available for planting and increased the likelihood of crop flooding. These men clearly followed an occupation for which a confluence of streams was important.

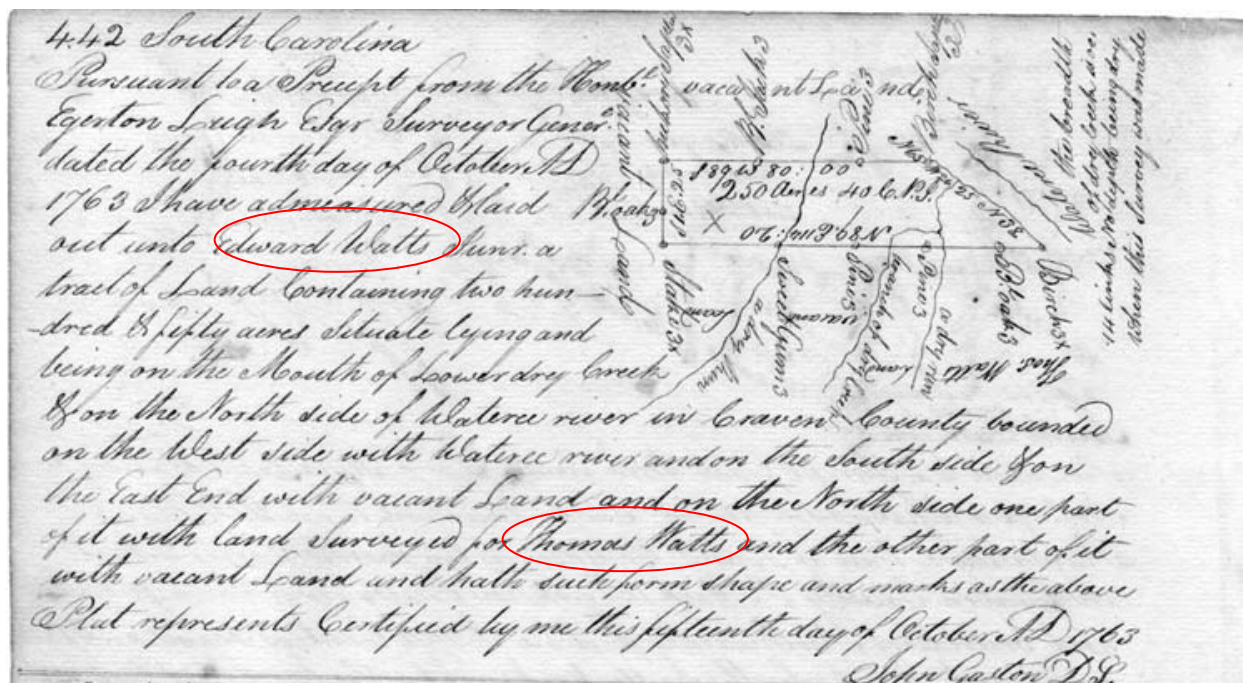


COMMENT:

The William Watts plat should be the unrecorded plat for the land surveyed on 10 October 1763.

²⁹ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Watts, Thomas, citing “S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series).”

15 OCTOBER 1763
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC
 Land plat.



“Pursuant to a precept from the Honl. Egerton Leigh, Esq. Surveyor Gener^l, dated the 4th day of Oct. A. D. 1763, I have admeasured and laid out unto **Edward Watts Junr.** a tract of land containing two hundred & fifty Acres, Situate lying and being on the **Mouth of Lower Dry Creek** & on the **North side of Wateree** river in Craven County bounded on the West side with Wateree river and on the South side & on the East End with vacant Land and on the North side one part of it with land Surveyed for **Thomas Watts** and on the other part of it with vacant Land and hath such form shape and marks as the above Plat represents. Certified by me this fifteenth day of October A D 1763, John Gaston D.S.”³⁰

COMMENT:

Neither Edward nor William would keep their land. As shown in this set of notes, both soon moved to Little River in modern Fairfield County.

1 NOVEMBER 1763
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC
 Neighbor.

“Certify Plats”

William Lankford 200 in Craven County [Lynch Creek] surveyed for John Ashley³¹

COMMENT:

Lankford was an adjacent neighbor to Thomas of Lynches Creek.

³⁰ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Watts, Edward Jr.”; citing “S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series).”

³¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 83. For the plat, see South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Ashley, John”; citing “S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series).”

6 MARCH 1764

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Petition.

List of men requesting warrants of survey:

Robert Duke 150 on **Wateree**³²

1 MAY 1764

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Petition.

Lapsed fiats approved: **Thomas Watts** 150 on the Waters of Peedee or **Lynches Creek**.

“On the bounty ...”

“**Thomas Watts** for a Grant to be signed to him notwithstanding the Fiat is Elapsed for one hundred & fifty acres of **Lynches Creek**”³³

3 MAY 1764

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

“Description: **Watts, Thomas**, Land grant for 150 acres in Craven County” [**Lynches Creek**]

Names Indexed: Watts, Thomas

Locations: Craven County

Document Type: Land Grant³⁴

COMMENT:

This would be the approval of the 150-acre renewal that Thomas of Lynches Creek asked for above. It’s not a separate tract of land.

3 MAY 1764

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

“**Thomas Watts**, 150 acres on Lynches Creek in Craven County. ... Plat certified 4 May 1762.”³⁵

21 MAY 1764

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

“Solomon Willy, 100 acres in Craven County on the **south side** of **North Lynches Creek** adj. **Thomas Watts**, [granted] 18 January 1765. Plat certified 21 May 1764.”³⁶

³² Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 151.

³³ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 166.

³⁴ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Watts, Thomas, citing “Series: S213019; Volume: 00011; Page: 00481; Item: 000.”

³⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 2, *Grant Books 10 through 17, 1760–1768* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2007), 73: citing Grant Book 11:481.

³⁶ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 2, *Grant Books 10 through 17, 1760–1768* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2007), 73: citing Grant Book 12:29. For the plat, see *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Willy, Solomon”; citing “Series: S213019; Volume: 00008; Page: 00051; Item: 02.”

COMMENT:

The plat for this land is not yet online at the SCDAH.

23 MAY 1764

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land memorial.

Description: "**Watts, Thomas**, Memorial for 150 acres on Lynches Creek, Craven County"

Names Indexed: **Watts, Thomas**

Locations: Craven County, **Lynches Creek**

Document type: Memorial³⁷

COMMENT:

The chronology for Thomas's land is as follows:

- 4 May 1762: original petition
- 1 May 1764: petition to have his lapsed fiat approved
- 3 May 1764: his plat was certified
- 23 May 1764: he filed his memorial.

Five documents, total, but just one piece of land.

7 AUGUST 1764

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

"Read also the following Petitions ... *to Certify Platts*:

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Thomas Watts | 550 [acres] | in Craven County |
| <i>Thomas Wade</i> | 150 [acres] | do. |
| Edward Watts Jun'r | 250 [acres] | do." ³⁸ |

COMMENT:

Note that only Thomas and Edward Jr. returned their plats to the Council of the province to have them certified and the grants finalized. William did not. He apparently forfeited this land in favor of the 100 acres on Little River.

No futher headright land would be found for William, even though a decade would pass before the provincial land office permanently closed and headrights ceased to be given.

18 AUGUST 1764–3 JUNE 1765

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

"**Robert Duke**, 150 acres surveyed 18 Aug 1764 for said Duke on the mouth of **Cedar Creek, Craven County, on Wateree River**, [granted] 3 June 1765. Plat certified 7 May 1765."³⁹

6 NOVEMBER 1764

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

³⁷ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Watts, Thomas, citing "Series: S111001; Volume: 0006; Page: 00282; Item: 004."

³⁸ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 185.

³⁹ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina's Royal Grants*, vol. 2, *Grant Books 10 through 17, 1760–1768* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2007), 116: citing Grant Book 12:327.

*“John Cook, 100 acres surveyed 24 Sept 1759 for Joseph Jones on Lynches Creek adj. William Moor, Thomas Watts, 12 March 1765. Plat certified 6 Nov 1764.”*⁴⁰

5 FEBRUARY 1765
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

for Warrant ... **Wm. Langford** 100 [acres] Waters of Lynches Creek⁴¹
to Prolong Warrant ... **Thomas Watts** 150 [acres] on Peedee or **Lynches Creek**

COMMENT:

Seven years have passed since Thomas Watts of Lynches Creek petitioned for this first headright land and received his warrant. He has not yet had it surveyed and would not do so until 1770, the same month that he witnessed the sale of Langford’s land.

7 FEBRUARY 1765
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

“Pursuant to a precept from John Troup, Esq. DS Gen^l dated the 5th day of Feby. A. D. 1765, I admeasured unto **William Lankford** a tract of Land Containing 100 Acres the **So Side of Lynches Creek** in Craven County bounded the S. East side by *Wm. Moore’s Land & Solomon Holmes Lands* & on the N East by Lynches Creek & *Solomon Holmes Lands* & on the N West sides by *Jacob Holleys & Thos. Watts Land* & on the West side by vacant Land & hath such form & marks as the above platt Represents. Certified by me this 29th day of March 1765, Jno. Belton, DS.”⁴²

29 MARCH 1765–23 AUGUST 1765
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

*“William Langford, 100 acres on the south side of Lynches Creek in Craven County adj. William Moore, Solomon Holman, Jacob Holly, Thomas Watts, [granted] 23 Aug 1765. Plat certified 29 March 1765.”*⁴³

COMMENT:

The placement of this land adjacent to Thomas Watts tells us that Langford/Lankford’s land was in the Jumping Gully region of Lynches’ Creek.

1 MAY 1765
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

Description: *“Cook, John, Memorial for 100 acres on Lynches Creek, Craven County”*
Names Indexed: Cook, John; **Watts, Thomas**
Locations: Craven County, Lynches Creek
Document type: Memorial⁴⁴

⁴⁰ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 2, *Grant Books 10 through 17, 1760–1768* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2007), 102: citing Grant Book 12:146.

⁴¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, *1757–1765* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 221, 223.

⁴² *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Lankford, William,” citing “S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series), volume 00008, page 00010, item 0001.

⁴³ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 2, *Grant Books 10 through 17, 1760–1768* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2007), 137: citing Grant Book 12:597.

COMMENT:

The placement of this land adjacent to Thomas Watts tells us that Cook's land was in the Jumping Gully region of Lynches' Creek.

7 MAY 1765

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

Petition presented to Certify Platts

William Watts 100 [acres] On Little River⁴⁵

COMMENT:

- This plat being certified would be the 100 acres for which William received a warrant on 7 September and a survey on 4 October 1762.
- The land lay just below the Forks of Little River grant made to Ambrose Mills, abutting a branch that would become known as Watts Branch of Jackson Creek.
- Ambrose Mills would soon leave the region and relocate at the juncture of Wateree River and Wateree Creek, still in Fairfield County.
- Edward Watts Jr. would, by 1765, follow William to Little River. (See 2 July 1765, below.)

28 MAY 1765

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land memorial.⁴⁶

Description: *Willy, Solomon*, Memorial for 100 acres on **Lynches Creek**, Craven County

Names Indexed: **Watts, Thomas**; *Willy, Solomon*

Locations: Craven County, Lynches Creek

Document type: Memorial

2 JULY 1765

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

"Read the following Petitions for Orders to the Secretary to prepare Grants tho' the time since the Attorney General issued his Fiat was Elapsed."

David Stuart 150 acres in Craven County

Thomas Watts 550 D'o [Wateree River]

Abram Summerford 100 on **Beaver Creek**

Edward Watts Jun'r 150 D'o

Thomas Watts 150 on Peedee or **Lynches Creek**⁴⁷

COMMENT:

- *Re Thomas of "Craven"*: this is the Thomas whose 550 acres were surveyed in 1763 along Dry Creek and White Oak Creek of the Wateree, later Kershaw County.

⁴⁴ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Watts, Thomas, citing "Series: S111001; Volume: 0006; Page: 00421; Item: 002."

⁴⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 244.

⁴⁶ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Watts, Thomas, citing "Series: S111001; Volume: 0006; Page: 00395; Item: 003."

⁴⁷ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 253.

- *Re Thomas of Lynches's Creek*: This 150-acre tract is the land adjoining Lankford. It also lay in Kershaw, but on the opposite side of the county.

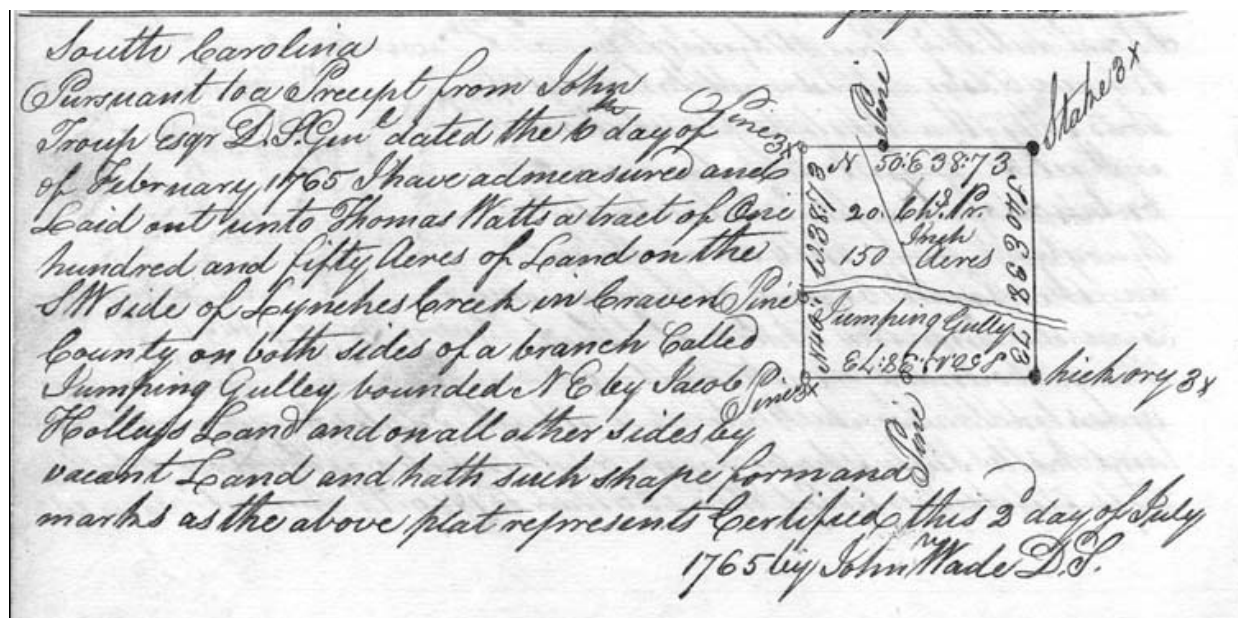
Re Edward: This appears to mark the period of Edward's relocation on Little River. Two Beaver Creeks existed at that time:

- One lay just above the Dry Creek/White Oak Creek area where the three Watts surveys were made in 1763 (modern Kershaw). Nothing places Edward in this area.
- One lay between Broad River and Little River (modern Fairfield). In 1773 Edward would petition for another 300 acres on Little River, near this Beaver Creek.

**2 JULY 1765
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC**

Land plat.

"Pursuant to a precept from John Troup Esqr D.S. Genl. dated the 6th day of February 1765, I have admeasured and Laid out unto **Thomas Watts** a tract of One hundred and fifty Acres of Land on the **SW side of Lynches Creek** in Craven County on both sides of a branch Called **Jumping Gulley**, bounded NE by *Jacob Holley's Land* and on all other sides by vacant Land and hath such shape form and marks as the above plat represents. Certified this 2d day of July 1765."⁴⁸



**3 SEPTEMBER 1765
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC**
Land petition.

List of men petitioning for warrants of survey ... **John Duke**

100 on the **Wateree**⁴⁹

⁴⁸ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Watts, Thomas, Plat for 150 Acres in Craven County," citing "S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series), vol. 00011, p.00555, item 003.

⁴⁹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 261.

11 SEPTEMBER 1765

CRAVEN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Neighbor.

Description: **Langford, William**, Memorial for 100 acres on Lynches Creek, Craven County

Names Indexed: *Holly, Jacob; Holman, Soloman; Langford, William; Moore, William; Watts, Thomas*

Locations: Craven County, Lynches Creek

Document type: Memorial⁵⁰

25 SEPTEMBER 1765–17 JANUARY 1766

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

“**John Duke**, 100 acres in Craven County adj. *Moses Kirkland*, [granted] 25 September 1765. Plat certified 17 January 1766.”⁵¹

27 SEPTEMBER 1765

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

“**William Watts**, 100 acres on **Little River**, adj. *James Anderson*, on **Little River**, [granted] 27 September 1765. Plat certified 7 May 1765.”⁵²

COMMENT:

This is the land warranted in his name in September 1762 and surveyed in October 1762, with the plat being certified on 7 May 1765.

7 NOVEMBER 1765

CRAVEN [LANCASTER] COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

“This Indenture made November 5, 1765 Between *John Crawford* of Anson County of one part and William Moore of Craven County and State of South Carolina of the other part. Whereas in and by a certain grant bearing date **May 7, 1762** under hand of his Excellency William Henry Littleton, Esq. Governor in and over the Province of South Carolina did give and grant unto John Crawford a tract of land containing 550 acres of land Situate lying and being on the **North prong of Lynches Creek** in Parish of St. Marks and County of Craven aforesaid bounded on one side by *Solomon Homes’s* land and on the other side by **Thomas Watt’s** land Plat thereof to the original grant is annexed and is duly recorded in Secretary’s Office of the said Province in Book WW page 28th. This Indenture Witnesseth that the said John Crawford for 500 pounds lawful current money of the Province aforesaid to him paid by said William Moore doth grant bargain, For one whole year and by force of the Statute transferring of uses into possession and to his heirs and assigns forever all that tract of land of 550 acres Together. Signed:” John Crawford. *Solomon Willy, John Twitty*.

Proved 5 November 1767 by Solomon Willy before Thomas Wade, J.P.

Recorded: 28 February 1788, Lancaster Co.⁵³

⁵⁰ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Watts, Thomas”; citing “Series: S111001; Volume: 0008; Page: 00069; Item: 004.”

⁵¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 2, *Grant Books 10 through 17, 1760–1768* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2007), 175; citing Grant Book 13:513.

⁵² Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 2, *Grant Books 10 through 17, 1760–1768* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2007), 152; citing Grant Book 13:199.

⁵³ Ida McDow Rodman, *Deeds A, Lancaster County, Recorded in 1787 & 1788* (Lancaster, SC: Mrs. B.H. Rosson Jr., Genealogist, S.C.D.A.R., 1952-53), 61; citing A:208-9.

3 JUNE 1766

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

“The following Petitions for Warrants of Survey, to Prolong Warrants & to Certife Platts were presented & read Viz. ...

Ambrose Mills 600 Wateree River Join’g Kirkland, McCormick & Layton”⁵⁴

COMMENT:

- On this trip to Charleston, to petition the council, Ambrose appears to have given back to the colony his rights in the 300-acre survey between Little River and Broad River and replaced it with the larger request on the Wateree River.
- He also relinquished his 100-acre survey at the forks of Little River. At the September council meeting, it would be assigned to *Thomas Holsey*. He would replace this 100-acre tract in 1768, getting land at the forks of Wateree Creek that **would later be owned by our John Watts**. See 1768 and 1786 entries below.
- This Wateree River land lay on the west of the river, between Wateree Creek (on the north) and Taylor Creek (on the south). This is the region in which John Watts, his land-partner William Watts, and Thomas Watts Jr. would later own several tracts of land.
- Ambrose’s relocation on Wateree Creek brought him into the neighborhood of John Morris. Ambrose’s son William, is said to have married one Eleanor Morris in the mid-1760s.⁵⁵

2 SEPTEMBER 1766

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land disposal.

Petitions “to certify plats” ...

Thomas Holsey 100 Survyd for **Ambrose Mills**”⁵⁶

28 SEPTEMBER 1766

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land survey.

“Pursuant to a Precept directed by John Troup Esqr D S Genl dated the third day of June 1766_[,] I have admeasured and laid out unto **Ambrose Mills** a tract of Land Containing **six hundred acres** situate lying & being in Craven County on the South [west] side of the Wateree river butting and bounding on the NE on the River & SE on land laid out unto *Patyrick Mackormack* and on the SW land laid out unto **Francis Laton**, vacant land and land laid out according to information) to one **Pickett** and on the NW on Land laid out unto **Richard Kirkland** and such for one **Pickett** such shape form and marks as appears in the above delineated plat Certified by me this 28th day of Sep 1766. J. F. Butts, D.S.”⁵⁷

COMMENT:

The copy-book version of the plat, below, needs to be rotated about 90° clockwise for proper N-S orientation.

⁵⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 10.

⁵⁵ For example, see “Wunsche Bennett Family,” *Ancestry* (<http://person.ancestry.com/tree/80368236/person/42420120391/facts> : accessed 11 September 2014).

⁵⁶ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 26.

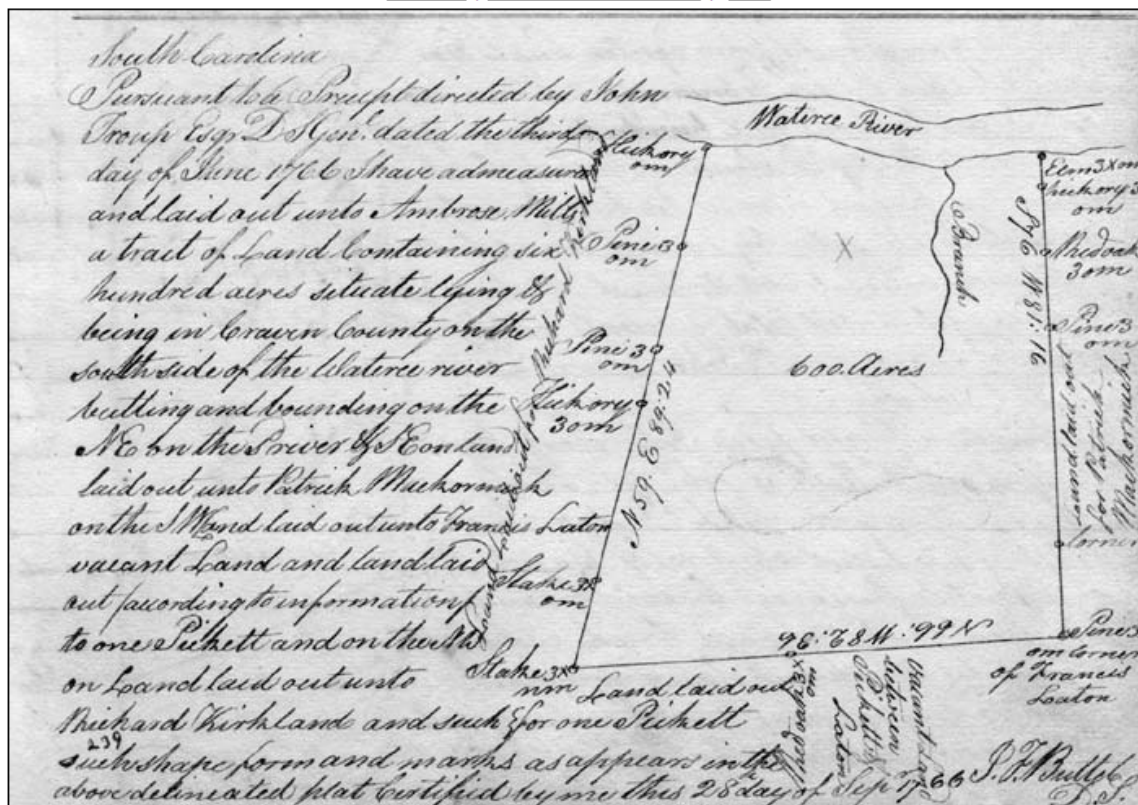
⁵⁷ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Mills, Ambrose, Plat for 600 acres in Craven County”; series S213184: Colonial plat Books (Copy Series).

Ambrose Mills: 600 acres, Wateree River, Modern Fairfield⁵⁸

S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series)

MILLS, AMBROSE, PLAT FOR 600 ACRES IN CRAVEN COUNTY.

[Previous](#) | [Return to image index](#) | [Next](#)



COMMENT:

Regarding the individuals and locations named in this plat:

- In 1790, Francis Layton lived two houses from our John Watts's son-in-law, Moses Hornsby.
- Throughout the 1780s, as well as the 1790 census, numerous documents associate **Charles and Micajah Pickett** with our John Watts; after John removed to Georgia, William Watts II and Thomas Watts Jr. both used Charles Pickett as their neighborhood justice of the peace.⁵⁹
- A 15 June 1791 survey for Moses Knighton places his land adjacent to **Francis Layton and Thomas Watts [Jr.]**⁶⁰ In 1790 our **John Watts** lived 13 houses from Moses Knighton.
- This **Ambrose Mills** tract lay between Wateree Creek (on the north) and Taylor's (aka Layton's) Creek (on the south). Locating this land on contemporary maps is aided by the survey for an adjacent grant made shortly after this for Searls Lewis. See below.

⁵⁸ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Mills, Ambrose, Plat for 600 acres in Craven County"; series S213184: Colonial plat Books (Copy Series).

⁵⁹ These documents are covered in my report in progress, "Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties ..."

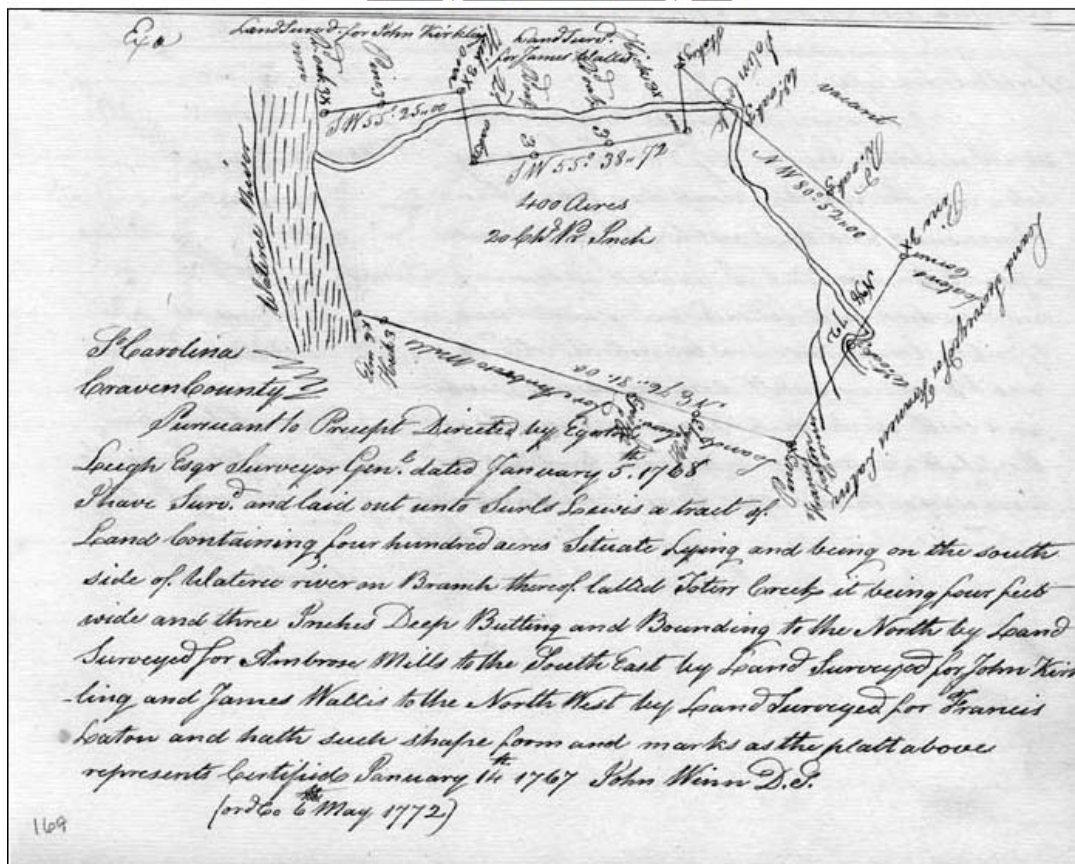
⁶⁰ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>), "Knighton, Moses, 117 acres, Wateree Creek."

Surls Lewis Plat: Wateree River adj. Ambrose Mills⁶¹

S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series)

LEWIS, SURL, PLAT FOR 400 ACRES ON WATREEE RIVER.

[Previous](#) | [Return to image index](#) | [Next](#)



COMMENT:

- The watercourse marked “Tater’s Creek” on this copy-book plat is Taylor’s Creek—aka Layton’s Creek.
- Lee’s plat also needs to be rotated—180° in his case.

7 OCTOBER 1767
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

“To Certifie Plats” ... **Thomas Watts**

550 in Craven County⁶²

[Wateree River]

COMMENT:

The Wateree location is cited in the grant subsequently issued to him for these 550 acres.

⁶¹ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Lewis, Surls, Plat for 400 acres on Wateree River.”

⁶² Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 117.

7 OCTOBER 1767–1 FEBRUARY 1768

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

“**Thomas Watts**, 550 acres on the **north side of Wateree River** and on the **lower side of the mouth of Dry Creek** in Craven County adj. *Thos Simpson Esqr.* late decd, **William Watts, Edward Watts** [granted] 1 February 1768. Plat certified 7 October 1767.”⁶³

COMMENT:

Note that Thomas waited four years to have his plat certified, after the survey was made. In the meanwhile, the land surveyed for William appears to have been forfeited back to the province—perhaps replaced by the 1765 grant he received on Little River. It is still cited, above, because the grant would cite the adjacent landowners at the time the survey was made.

5 JANUARY 1768

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

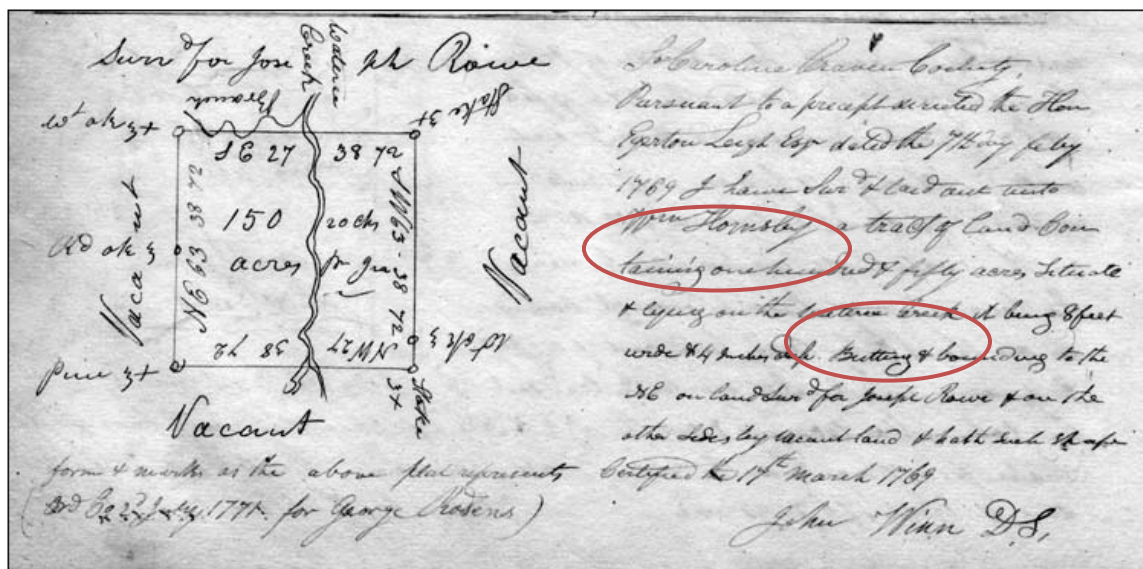
“The following Petitions for Warrants of Survey, to prolong Warrants and Certifying Platts were presented and read viz ” ...

[Consecutive names]

William Hornsby 100 Waters of Santee [Surveyed on **Dry Fork of Wateree Creek**]
John Schimst 100 in Craven County
Robert Duke 100 Waters Santee⁶⁴

COMMENT:

- The Hornsby plat below needs a clockwise rotation of about 63°.
- See abstract under date of 1 October 1771 for the placement of this land on Dry Fork.



⁶³ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina's Royal Grants*, vol. 2, *Grant Books 10 through 17, 1760-1768* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2007), 236: citing Grant Book 15:215.

⁶⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 145–46. For plat, see *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (http://www.archives.index.sc.gov/online_archives/ : accessed 7 October 2014), “Hornsby, William”; citing “Series: S213184; Volume: 0020; Page: 001689; Item: 03.”

5 JANUARY 1768
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC
Land warrant.

Surveyor General Egerton Leigh issued a warrant for 100 acres to be surveyed for **Ambrose Mills** in the Fork of Wateree Creek [Fairfield County].⁶⁵

COMMENT:

This warrant, for the land our John Watts later owned, is not included in Holcomb's abstracts from council journals. The date of the warrant appears on the survey plat created 11 days later.

6 JANUARY 1768
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC
Land petition.

"To Certifie Platts " ... **Robert Duke** 100 in Craven County⁶⁶

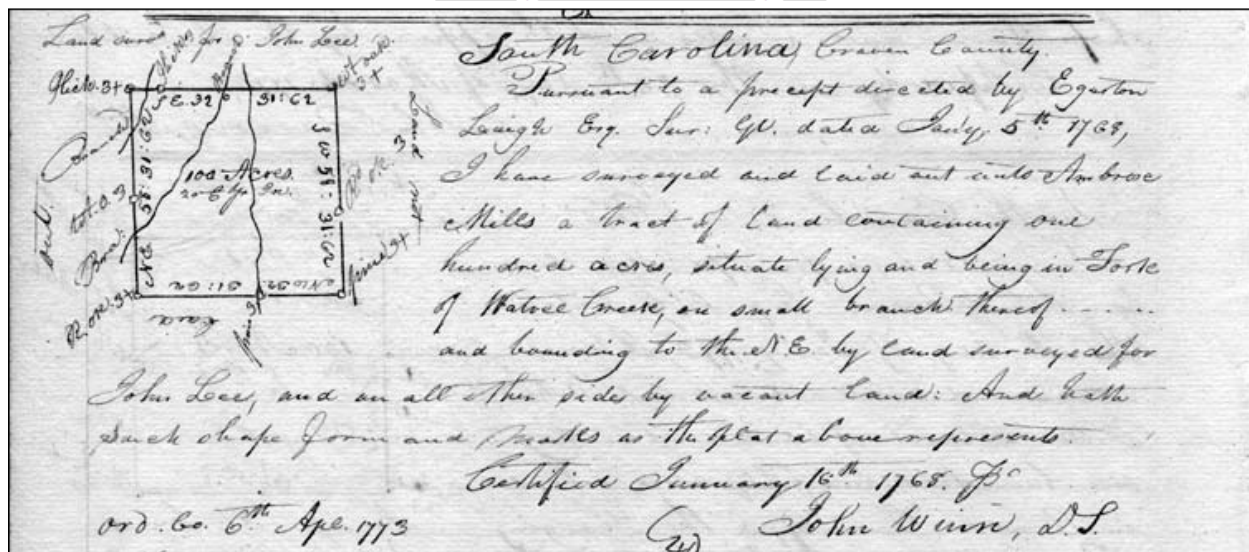
16 JANUARY 1768
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC
Land survey.

"Pursuant to a precept directed by Egerton Leigh, Esq. Sur. Gl. dated Jan'y 5th 1768, I have surveyed and laid out unto **Ambrose Mills** a tract of land containing one hundred acres, situate lying and being in **Fork of Wateree Creek**, on small branch thereof and bounding to the N.E. by land surveyed for **John Lee**, and on all other side by vacant land. And hath Such shape form and marks as the plat above represents. Certified January 16th 1768 pr. John Winn, D.S. Ord. Gr. 6th Apl. 1773."⁶⁷

S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series)

MILLS, AMBROSE, PLAT FOR 100 ACRES IN CRAVEN COUNTY.

[Previous](#) | [Return to image index](#) | [Next](#)



⁶⁵ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Mills, Ambrose, citing "Series: S213184 Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series)."

⁶⁶ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 149.

⁶⁷ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Mills, Ambrose," citing "Series: S213184 Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series)."

COMMENT:

- Rotate this plat roughly 90° clockwise for proper North-South orientation.
- On 15 December 1784 our John Watts and William Watts [II] bought this land. On 29 January 1786, it was sold by our John Watts, acting alone. See abstract of 15 December 1784, below.
- Again, the plat associates Ambrose **Mills** with the future Loyalist **John Lee**.

1 FEBRUARY 1768

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land memorial.⁶⁸

Description: **Watts, Thomas**, Land Grant for 550 acres on **Lynches Creek**, Craven County

Names Indexed: **Watts, Thomas**

Locations: Craven County, **Lynches Creek**

Document type: Land Grant

COMMENT:

Under provincial law, land-grant recipients had two years in which to visit Charleston and memorialize their land for tax purposes—i.e., to identify their acreage and how they got the land.

3 MAY 1768

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

“The following Petitions for Warrants of Survey, to prolong Warrants and Certifying Platts were presented and read Viz ” ...

Henry Duke 50 Waters of Saludy

“To Certifie Platts”

Henry Duke 150 on Mudlick Creek

Henry Duke 200 in Colleton County⁶⁹

COMMENT:

None of the above entries put Henry Duke in modern Fairfield or Kershaw. However, a later grant (see below for 1770, 1771, and 1773) show land patented to him on Fairfield’s Little River, adjoining Mobleys of Bedford County, Virginia.

3 JANUARY–12 JANUARY 1769

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

“*John Twitter*, 200 acres in Craven County on the **north side of North Lynches Creek**, adj. **Thomas Watts**, [granted] 12 Jan 1769. Plat certified 3 Jan 1769.”⁷⁰

COMMENT:

No plat yet available at SCDAH website.

⁶⁸ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Watts, Thomas, citing “Series: S213019; Volume: 0015; Page: 00215; Item: 000.”

⁶⁹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 182, 184.

⁷⁰ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 3, *Grant Books 18 through 24, 1768–1773* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2008), [page number cut off photocopy]: citing Grant Book 18:147.

7 FEBRUARY 1769

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

"The following Petitions for Warrants of Survey, to Prolong Warrants and Certifying Platts were presented and Read viz" ...

[*Consecutive names*]

John Winn 100 in Craven County Surveyd for John Marpole
Robert Duke 100 D'o " Rice Jernigan⁷¹

26 APRIL 1769

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

Description: **Twittee, John**, Memorial for 200 acres on **Lynches Creek**, Craven County

Names Indexed: Twittee, John; **Watts, Thomas**

Locations: Craven County, Lynches Creek

Document type: Memorial⁷²

16 DECEMBER 1769–2 APRIL 1773

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

"**Luke Rawls**, 150 acres (surveyed for him 16 Dec 1769A) in Craven County between the **Congaree and Wateree Rivers** adj. *Benjamin Ewearit, James Brown*, [granted] 2 April 1773. Plat certified 1 Dec 1772."⁷³

COMMENT:

The Congaree branched to become the Broad midway of Lexington County, below Fairfield. This Rawls tract appears to be in present Richland, across the Fairfield-Richland line from other Rawls who settled above and west of 25-mile Creek. No plat is available yet at the SCDAAH website.

2 JANUARY 1770–13 JULY 1770

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

"**Robert Duke**, 100 acres in Craven County on **Twenty five Mile Creek** adj. *George Toy, Joseph Bradly*, [granted] 13 July 1770. Plat certified 2 January 1770."⁷⁴

6 MARCH 1770

_____ COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

"Read the following Petitions for Warrants of Survey, to prolong warrants and Certifying Platts,. vizt. "

Henry Duke 50 "In South Carolina"⁷⁵

⁷¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 222.

⁷² *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Watts, Thomas, citing "Series: S111001; Volume: 0008; Page: 00424; Item: 001."

⁷³ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina's Royal Grants*, vol. 4, *Grant Books 25 through 31, 1772–1775* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2009), 223; citing Grant Book 29:120.

⁷⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina's Royal Grants*, vol. 3, *Grant Books 18 through 24, 1768–1773* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2008), 91; citing Grant Book 20:9.

⁷⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 270.

COMMENT:

- Subsequent documents (below) place this in the Mobley Settlement, between Broad and Little Rivers, just north of the Forks of Little River survey made in 1762 for Ambrose Mills.
- These Mobleys were migrants from **Bedford County, Virginia**—as was their neighbor **John Taylor Duke**, as well as **Ambrose Mills**.

13 MARCH 1770–2 MAY 1770

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

“**Henry Duke**, 50 acres on Mudlick Branch adj. *William Thomson, Henry Duke, Benjamin Moore*, [granted] 2 May 1770. Plat certified 13 March 1770.”⁷⁶

COMMENT:

- Mudlick Creek is in present Laurens and Newberry.

12–13 APRIL 1770

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

“Lease and Release. 12 & 13 Apr 1770, *William Lankford* of Craven County, SC, planter, and **Judith**, his wife, to *William Rford* of same county, for £500 SC money, 100 acres in Craven County on south side of Lynches Creek adj. *Solomon Holmes, Jacob Holley, Thomas Wats*, which tract was granted 23 Aug 1765. *William Lankford (LS), Judith Lankford (O) (LS)*, Wit: *William Reiley, Daniel Walsh, James Thursby*. Proved in Charleston District by Col. Frederick Kimball who attested to the handwriting of William Lankford and William Reiley on 7 June 1785 before Dl. Mazyck, J.P. Recorded 7 June 1786.”⁷⁷

COMMENT:

Lankford had 2 tracts on Lynches Creek: 200 acres surveyed for Ashley, granted in 1763; and 100 acres, sold above, granted in 1765. Apparently Lankford is still in the area, on his 200 acres.

1 MAY 1770

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

Thomas Watts 150 in Craven County⁷⁸ [Lynches Creek]

COMMENT:

This is the same tract of land as below.

1 MAY 1770–13 JULY 1770

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

“**Thomas Watts**, 150 acres on the **south west side of Lynches Creek** in Craven County on **both sides of a branch called Jumping Gulley**, adj *Jacob Holley*, [granted] 13 July 1770. Plat certified 1 May 1770.”⁷⁹

⁷⁶ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina's Royal Grants*, vol. 3, *Grant Books 18 through 24, 1768–1773* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2008), 77; citing Grant Book 19:419.

⁷⁷ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1783–1788; Books 1-5 through Z-5* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1996), 225, citing “S-5, 160-167.”

⁷⁸ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 77.

⁷⁹ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina's Royal Grants*, vol. 2, *Grant Books 10 through 17, 1760–1768* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2007), 265; citing Grant Book 15:587.

COMMENT:

Thomas has now finalized this grant after 13 years.

On 6 July 1790, Richard Middleton sold to William Middleton 3 tracts of land on SW side of Lynch's Creek: 100 acres below Jumping Gully granted to William Lankford, 23 August 1765; land of unspecified acreage granted to John Wade 1 Feb 1763; and **70 acres being part of a tract granted to Thomas Watts 13 July 1770**. See abstract dated **6 July 1790**.

3 JULY 1770

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

Luke Rawls 150 in Craven County

[*skip 1*]

Seabury *Ginn* 300 in Craven County⁸⁰ [One Jesse Ginn was John Watts neighbors in 1790]

4 SEPTEMBER 1770

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

Benjamin Duke 200 "in South Carolina"

"To Certify Platts"

Robert Ellison 150 in Craven County

[*skip 4*]

Benjamin Duke 200 in Craven County⁸¹

6 NOVEMBER 1770

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

"The following Petitions for Warrants of Survey vizt.

Robert Duke 300 "in South Carolina"⁸²

COMMENT:

On 7 June 1774 Robert's petition was read in the House to have certified his lapsed survey for these 300 acres. [See extract under that date, below.]

7 NOVEMBER 1770

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

"To Certify Platts."

Robert Duke 100 Craven County surv'd for Rice Jernigan⁸³

⁸⁰ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 290.

⁸¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 298–99.

⁸² Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 307.

⁸³ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 313.

7 DECEMBER 1770
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC
Land petition.

“The following Petitions for Warrants of Survey vizt. ...”

Robert Duke 100 in Craven County⁸⁴

4 DECEMBER 1770–12 JULY 1771
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

“**Robert Duke**, 100 acres in Craven County on the **west side of Wateree** and the **north side Twenty five Mile Creek**, [granted] 12 July 1771. Plat certified 4 Dec 1770.”⁸⁵

1 JANUARY–10 APRIL 1771
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

“**Henry Duke**, 50 acres (surveyed 26 Oct 1765 for *George Hooper*) on **Broad River** adj. *George Sinclair*, *George Hoopau*, [granted] 10 April 1771. Plat certified 1 Jan 1771.”⁸⁶

COMMENT:

This is the only tract which Henry Duke owned in what is now Fairfield. Under 11 February 1773, below, we learn that it (like William Watts’s land) was in the Mobley Community.

1 JANUARY 1771
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC
Land petition.

“To Certify Platts”

Henry Duke 50 in Craven County

[skip 4]

Luke Rawls 150 in Craven County⁸⁷

5 MARCH 1771
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

“To Certify Platts”

Robert Duke 500 in Craven County survey’d for Nath’l Henderson

[skip 21]

Robert Duke 100 Craven County surv’d for Hardy Rice Jernigan⁸⁸

⁸⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 320.

⁸⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 3, *Grant Books 18 through 24, 1768–1773* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2008), 284; citing Grant Book 24:40.

⁸⁶ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 3, *Grant Books 18 through 24, 1768–1773* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2008), 258; citing Grant Book 23:396.

⁸⁷ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 2.

⁸⁸ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 15–16.

2 JULY 1771

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

For warrant of survey

Robert Duke 500 in Craven County surveyed for Nath'l Anderson

[skip 32]

Seabury *Ginn* 150 in Craven County

[skip 3]

George **Roden** 150 surveyed for William *Hornsby* in Craven County⁸⁹

COMMENT:

Note that William Hornsby's land (on Wateree Creek) has been taken over by a **Roden**. In 1783, when the Wateree Creek j.p. Charles Pickett and 13 men from that neighborhood (including our John Watts), signed a character reference for a "former neighbor," the name following John Watts was Thomas "**Roaden**." (See 5 December 1783, below.)

25–26 SEPTEMBER 1771

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

"Lease and release. 25 & 26 Sept 1771, **Thomas Woodward** and his wife *Elizabeth* of Craven County, SC, to **Richard Winn** of County of Craven for £400 SC money, 250 acres granted to **Elizabeth May** on east side Broad River on Cedar Creek in Craven County, Vacant on all sides, that Thos. Woodward being by marriage heir of sd. Elizabeth May. Thomas Woodward (LS), Elizabeth Woodward (LS), Wit: *Jacob Gibson, William Stribling*. Proved 14 Oct 1771 before John Winn, J.P., by the oath of William Stribling. Recorded 20 Aug 1784."⁹⁰

COMMENT:

- Edward Watts Jr. [later Sr.] in 1790 had several Woodward neighbors.
- *Mills's Atlas* also shows early Woodward settlements just to the east of William Watts I on Jackson Creek.
- The granting of land to females was highly unusual, unless the woman was a widow. Various online trees call her (without documentation) "Elizabeth Stokes Mays."

1 OCTOBER 1771

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

"To Certify Platts"

Thomas Die 100 in Craven County, surveyed for **William Hornsby**.

[skip 26]

Luke Rawls 150 in Craven County⁹¹

⁸⁹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 36.

⁹⁰ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1783–1788; Books 1-5 through Z-5* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1996), 32; citing "K-5, 407-411."

⁹¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 52.

1 OCTOBER–4 DECEMBER 1771

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

*“Thomas Dye, 100 acres (surveyed for **William Hornsby** 18 June 1768 in Craven County on **Dry Fork of Wateree Creek** adj. *Joseph Cales*, 4 Dec 1771. Plat certified 1 Oct 1771.”⁹²*

COMMENT:

- This document places William Hornsby, in 1768, within three or so miles of John Watts, whose daughter Catherine would (ca. 1788) marry Moses Hornsby, son of Leonard.
- The State Archives website has not posted an image of the plat.

3 DECEMBER 1771

?CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

John Rall 100 “in South Carolina”⁹³

7 JANUARY 1772

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

Henry Duke 50 “in South Carolina”

[*skip 23*]

Petitions to have Elapsed platts Certified

William Lee 300 in Craven County, Surveyed for “Scabury” *Ginn*

Thomas Sanders 300 in Craven County, Surveyed for “Scabury” *Ginn*⁹⁴

7 APRIL 1772

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

“To Certify Platts”

Gabriel Rawls 100 in Craven County⁹⁵

COMMENT:

In 1775, after the SC land office reopened, Gabriel received 100 acres on Crain Creek in what is now Richland County, just South of Fairfield’s 25-Mile Creek.

29 SEPTEMBER 1772

?CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

“To Certify Platts”

John Watts 150 “in South Carolina”⁹⁶

⁹² Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 3, *Grant Books 18 through 24, 1768–1773* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2008), 317: citing Grant Book 24:442

⁹³ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 67.

⁹⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 278–79

⁹⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 100.

⁹⁶ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 149.

COMMENT:

The identity and location of this John Watts is uncertain. He appears to be John Watts **Buck/Beech Creek of the Saludy**, neighbor of David Boyd—a county or two west of Fairfield.

1 DECEMBER 1772

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

“For warrants of Survey”

Edward Watts 300 “in South Carolina”

[*skip 60*]

George Watts 150 “in South Carolina”

“To have Elapsed platts Certified”

Luke Rawls 150 in Craven County⁹⁷

COMMENT:

- This George Watts is not otherwise identified. His location is too generic. Thus far, I’ve not found another George Watts outside of Fairfield.
- Ostensibly, this man is young to be George of Fairfield, whose RW pension file states that he was born 25 December 1756. At the time of the above grant, George of Fairfield was still 16 and ineligible for even one headright in his name—much less, a headright plus a dependent. However,
 - Grantees did not have to prove their age.
 - Heads of households were eligible even if underage.
 - George had three proved children by 1780 (James, Thomas, and Sarah) and possibly a fourth (Elizabeth, for whom he served as surety in a charge brought against her in 1793). He does appear to have married in his mid-teens.
- Edward Watts, above, is Edward Jr. of the Wateree River, who in 1765 had requested 150 acres on Beaver Creek of Little River.
- The location of this Luke Rawls land has not been determined. The 1790 census places a Luke Rawls in Fairfield County.

7 DECEMBER 1772–17 FEBRUARY 1773

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

“**Robert Ellison**, 400 acres in Camden District on **Watts Branch** of **Jacksons Creek** adj. Adam Blair, John Phillips, [granted] 17 Feb 1773. Plat certified 7 Dec 1772.”⁹⁸

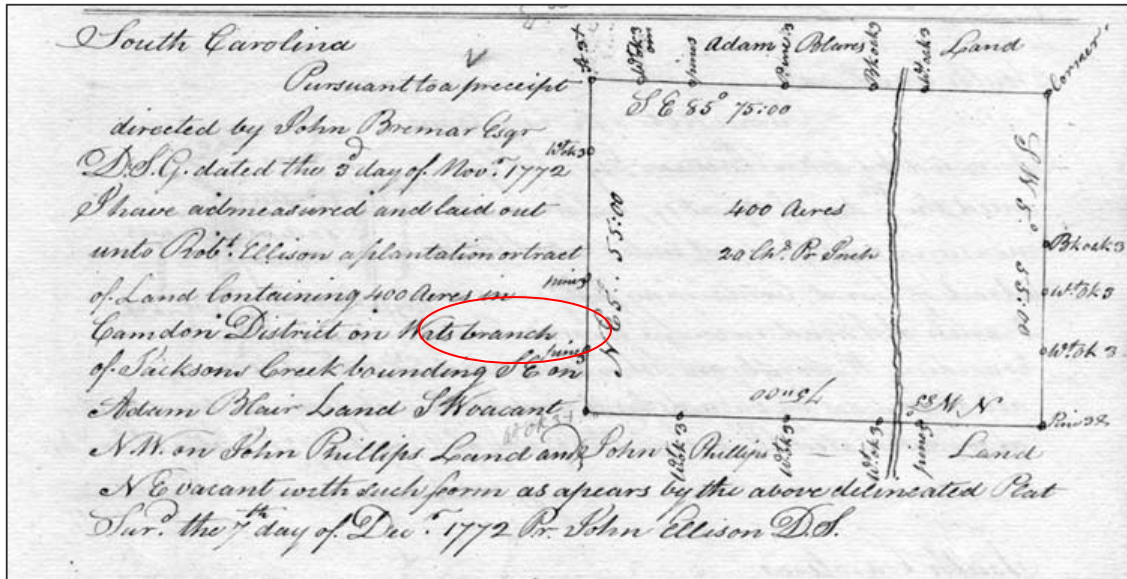
COMMENT:

- Robert Ellison sold this land in 1783 to Hugh Milling. See abstract under 1783.
- The plat for this land, shown below, needs to be rotated about 80 degrees clockwise for proper N-S orientation (estimating from its calls). Jackson’s Creek runs E-W rather than N-S.⁹⁹

⁹⁷ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 167, 171, 173.

⁹⁸ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 4, *Grant Books 25 through 31, 1772–1775* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2009), 197: citing Grant Book 28:412.

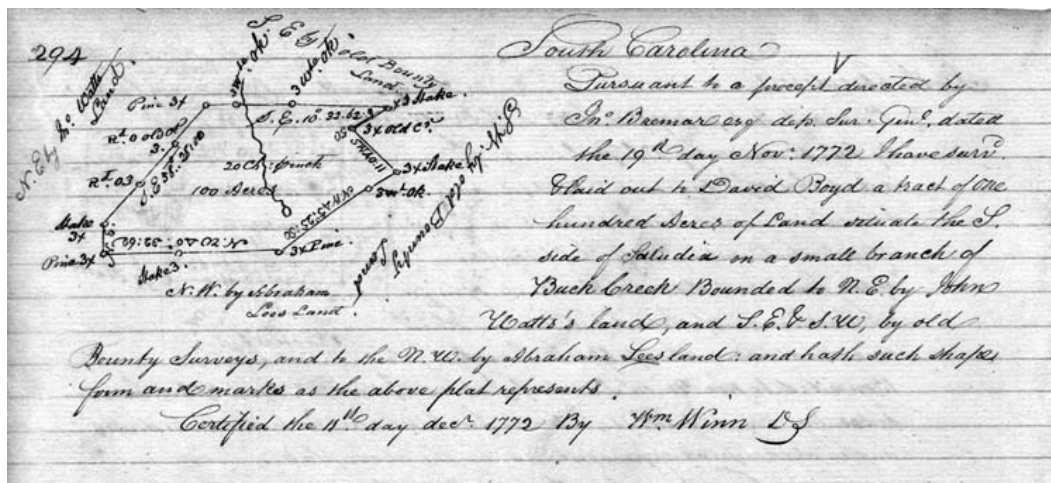
⁹⁹ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Ellison, Robert, Plat for 400 acres in Camden District,” S213184: Colonial plat Books (Copy Series).



11 DECEMBER 1772
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC
 Neighbor.

David Boyd Plat for 100 Acres on South Side of Saluda River

“Pursuant to a precept directed by Jno. Bremar, esq., dep. Sur. Genl. dated the 19th day of Novr. 1772, I have survd. & laid out to David Boyd a tract of one hundred Acres of Land situate the S. side of Saludia on a small branch of Buck Creek Bounded to N.E. by **John Watts’s** land, and S.E. & S. W. by old **Bounty Surveys**, and to the N.W. by Abraham Lee’s land, and hath such shape, form and marks as the above plat represents. Certified the 11th day Decr 1772 By Wm. Will DS.”¹⁰⁰



COMMENT:

“South Side of the Saluda” should place this in old Edgefield or Abbeville (Newberry and Laurens lay on north side). Mills’s Atlas, however, shows only one Buck Creek in the state and places it in

¹⁰⁰ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Boyd, David, Plat for 100 acres on South Side of Saluda River,” S213184: Colonial plat Books (Copy Series).

Spartanburg. That county lay north of Laurens and the N.C. line. One "Capt." John Watts has been found in post-Revolutionary Laurens County (on Cain Creek), with multiple actions across the Saluda in Abbeville; but I have not placed a John Watts in Spartanburg.

Contemporaneous lands were surveyed for one or more David Boyds on Fishing Creek in what is now York County and another land plat for which no waterway is identifiable. All are in old Craven County but don't appear to be in the part that became Fairfield.

Re Bounty Surveys: "In 1761, The Bounty Act was a direct result of the French and Indian War (1756–1759 in the colonies) and the Cherokee War (1760) in South Carolina. This Act provided cash money to anyone who brought settlers to the "upcountry" area of South Carolina - again, to serve as a deterrent against future Indian attacks on the colony. Three new "townships" were established as a result of the Bounty Act of 1761, much like the earlier townships of 1730."¹⁰¹

5 JANUARY 1773

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

"For warrants of survey"

John Taylor Duke 200 "in South Carolina [This land was near Mobley's Meeting House]

[skip about 50]

Adam Duke 100 "in South Carolina [see comment below under 2 February 1773]

[skip 4]

Jacob Rall 100 "in South Carolina"¹⁰²

COMMENT:

John Taylor Duke, like his Mobley neighbors, was from **Bedford County, Va.**

13 JANUARY 1773–26 AUGUST 1774

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

"*Samuel Nipper*, 100 acres on a branch called Round top, being the waters of **Twenty five mile Creek** in Craven County adj. **Jeremiah Duke**, William Simmons, [granted] 16 Aug 1774. Plat certified 13 Jan. 1773."¹⁰³

2 FEBRUARY 1773

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

"To Certify Platts"

John Rawl 400 "in South Carolina"

[skip 21]

Henry Duke 50 in Craven County¹⁰⁴

COMMENT:

¹⁰¹ J. D. Lewis, "A History of Londonborough Township, South Carolina," *Carolana* (http://www.carolana.com/SC/Towns/Londonborough_Township_SC.html : accessed 7 October 2014).

¹⁰² Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 179.

¹⁰³ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina's Royal Grants*, vol. 5, *Grant Books 32 through 37, 1735–1776* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2010), 37; citing Grant Book 32:460.

¹⁰⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 208.

This Duke land lay next door to Mobleys, according to a 1787 deed of sale (see date of 11 February 1773 below), placing it in the same area as the land taken out by **John Taylor Duke**, rather than the Robert-Jeremiah Duke cluster along the Wateree River and 25 Mile Creek.

Henry Duke, by late 1773, had moved with his wife **Lettice “Letty” [—?—]** to **Wilkes County, Georgia**. From there, in 1776, he purchased a tract of Wateree River land from two daughters of John Ragland—one of whom was married to **Adam Duke**.

Charleston, 2 May 1776

“Aaron Loocock of Charleston, merchant, and his wife Mary, to Archibald Brown of same, merchant, £7000 S. C. money: 200 acres in Craven County on a branch of Wateree River called the Beaver Pond, granted April 1751 to **John Raglan**, and said John Raglan having departed this life intestate, the tract descended to **Mary, wife of William Sizemore, and Elizabeth wife of Adam Duke, coheireses of said Raglan**, and **Henry Duke** having purchased all the right and title of said Sizemore and Adam Duke, as appears by lease and release 24 & 25 April 1775, the said **Henry Duke** and **Lettice** his wife conveyed the said 200 acres to Aaron Loocock.” Witnesses: Andrew Lord and John Lord.¹⁰⁵

The Ragland-Duke land lay on Beaver *Dam* in modern Kershaw County, just southeast of (but across the Wateree from) Robert Duke’s land on 25-Mile Creek. Some descendants of Robert and Henry assume the two to be brothers, but I have not seen supporting evidence.

With Rachal Mills Lennon, I have already done some preliminary work on Henry and Letty Duke. Our interest is two-fold:

- The 1805 land lottery list of Tattnall County, Georgia, lists William Cooksey (future father-in-law and later husband of John Watts’s daughter Zilphy) with Cooksey’s daughter Lettice (who is called “Letty Duke” on this list) and her illegitimate son whom they registered for the lottery as “Henry Duke.”¹⁰⁶
- Sizemores and Dukes both appear frequently amid my autosomal DNA matches.

5-6 FEBRUARY 1773 CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

“*Thomas Woodward* of Craven County, SC to *Joseph Kirkland* of same, for £700 SC money, tract granted 14 June 1771 to *Isaac Porcher*, 700 acres on **Cedar Creek** in Craven County adj. land of one *Bell, Thomas Woodward, Edward McGraw*, which was conveyed to Thomas Woodward 29 Oct 1771. Thomas Woodward (T) (LS), Wit: *John Winn, David Hopkins, William Love*. Proved in Camden District by the oath of *John Winn* 4 Feb 1786 before *Richard Winn*, J.P. Recorded 20 March 1786.”

COMMENT:

Cedar Creek lay in southeast Fairfield. Its tip is about four miles from 25-Mile Creek (neighborhood of George Watts and the Dukes and Perrys. *Mills’s Atlas* notes “Kirkland’s Old Place” as a landmark there on Cedar Creek. Two neighborhood issues from 1790 are relevant:

- “Mrs. Elizabeth Kirkland,” widow of Thomas Kirkland, was on the page preceding John Watt’s son-in-law, **Moses Hornsbie**
- Francis Kirkland, on 8 November 1774, was in possession of the Dry Creek of Wateree River land that had been surveyed for **Edward Watts Jr.** (See abstract below, of that date.)

¹⁰⁵ Brent H. Holcomb. *South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1776–1783, Books Y4 through H5*. Columbia, South Carolina: SCMAR, 1994), 66; cites Deeds A5: 236-42.

¹⁰⁶ See E. S. Mills, “William Cooksey, R.W. (ca. 1745–1829): Research Notes,” 29–30, 54, 79–80; archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<http://www.historicpathways.com/download/CookseyRW22414.pdf>); and Rachal Mills Lennon to Elizabeth Shown Mills, report “Dukes and Associates of South Carolina,” dated 12 March 2012.

- Francis Kirkland in 1786 was cited together with **Thomas Watts [Jr.]** as a neighbor of land *William Duggins* was selling.¹⁰⁷
- Francis Kirkland was neighbor of **Luke Rawls** and **Richard Duggins**, on the 1790 census.

11 FEBRUARY 1773
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

“23 January 1787. *Henry Funderburgh* and *Mary his wife* of Fairfield County for the natural love and affection they bear to their beloved son *Thomas Mobley* and also for 25 shillings, 50 acres on the N. side of **Broad River**, bounded N.E. onland held by Henry Funderburgh, all other sides on vacant land, **granted to Henry Duke 11 February 1773**, also 50 acres being ½ of 100 acres granted to *Michael Hooker* 29 April 1768 on Beaver Creek on the N. side of Broad River, bounded on all sides on vacant land. (signed) Henry Funderburgh (H), Mary Funderburgh (g). Witness: *Danl. Mabry*, *Edwd. Lovejoy* (CD), **Cullin Mobley** (x). Proved 13 February 1787 in open court by Henry Funderburgh. Recorded 16 April 1787.¹⁰⁸

COMMENT:

Cullin Mobley came to Beaver Creek, between the Broad and Little River, from **Bedford County, Virginia**.¹⁰⁹

2 MARCH 1773
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

John Rall 200 “in South Carolina”¹¹⁰

2 MARCH–2 APRIL 1773
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

“*William Sanders*, 200 acres in Craven County, adj. *Joseph Bradley*, **Luke Rals (Rawls)**, **Gabriel Rals**, on a **branch of Cane Creek on the north side of Broad River**, 2 April 1773. Plat certified 2 March 1773.”¹¹¹

COMMENT:

Mills’s Atlas shows only one Cane Creek in SC—that one in Pendleton, Spartanburg and Union Counties. Those three counties were, in the 1770s, in Craven and Broad River does run through them. However, it seems more likely that tis should be **Crane (var. Crain)** Creek, just below 25-Mile Creek of Fairfield, where Rawls land has already been placed in abstracts above.

12 MARCH 1773–9 SEPTEMBER 1774
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

¹⁰⁷ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book A: 188–92.

¹⁰⁸ Tony Draine, *Fairfield County, S.C., Deed Book A, 1785–1788* (Columbia, SC: Draban Publication, 1991), 13, citing pp. 333–35.

¹⁰⁹ The Mobberlys/Mobleys, formerly of Bedford, are extensively treated in Kenneth Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley’s Meeting House, June 1780* (N.p.: Privately printed, 2005).

¹¹⁰ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 222.

¹¹¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 4, *Grant Books 25 through 31, 1772–1775* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2009), 224: citing Grant Book 29:128.

“**Robert Duke**, 100 acres in Craven County on **Flatt Branch**, adj. *William Ferguson*, [granted] 9 Sept 1774. Plat certified 12 March 1773.”¹¹²

6 APRIL 1773
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC
Land petition.

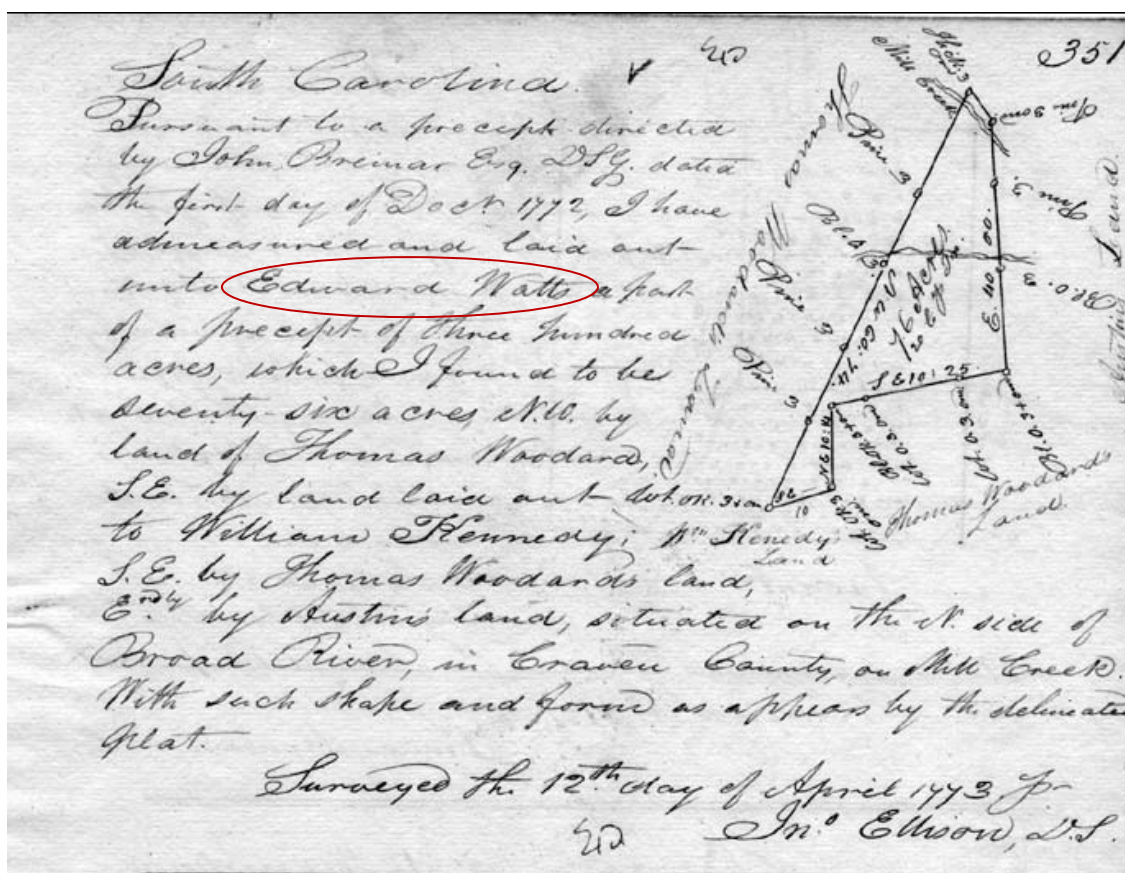
“The following petitions praying to have Elapsed platts Certified & read vizt ...”

Ambrose Mills 100 in Craven County”¹¹³

COMMENT:

This is the land surveyed in 1768, at the forks of Wateree Creek—the land sold by our John Watts on 29 January 1786 (see that date, below).

12 APRIL 1773
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC
Land survey.



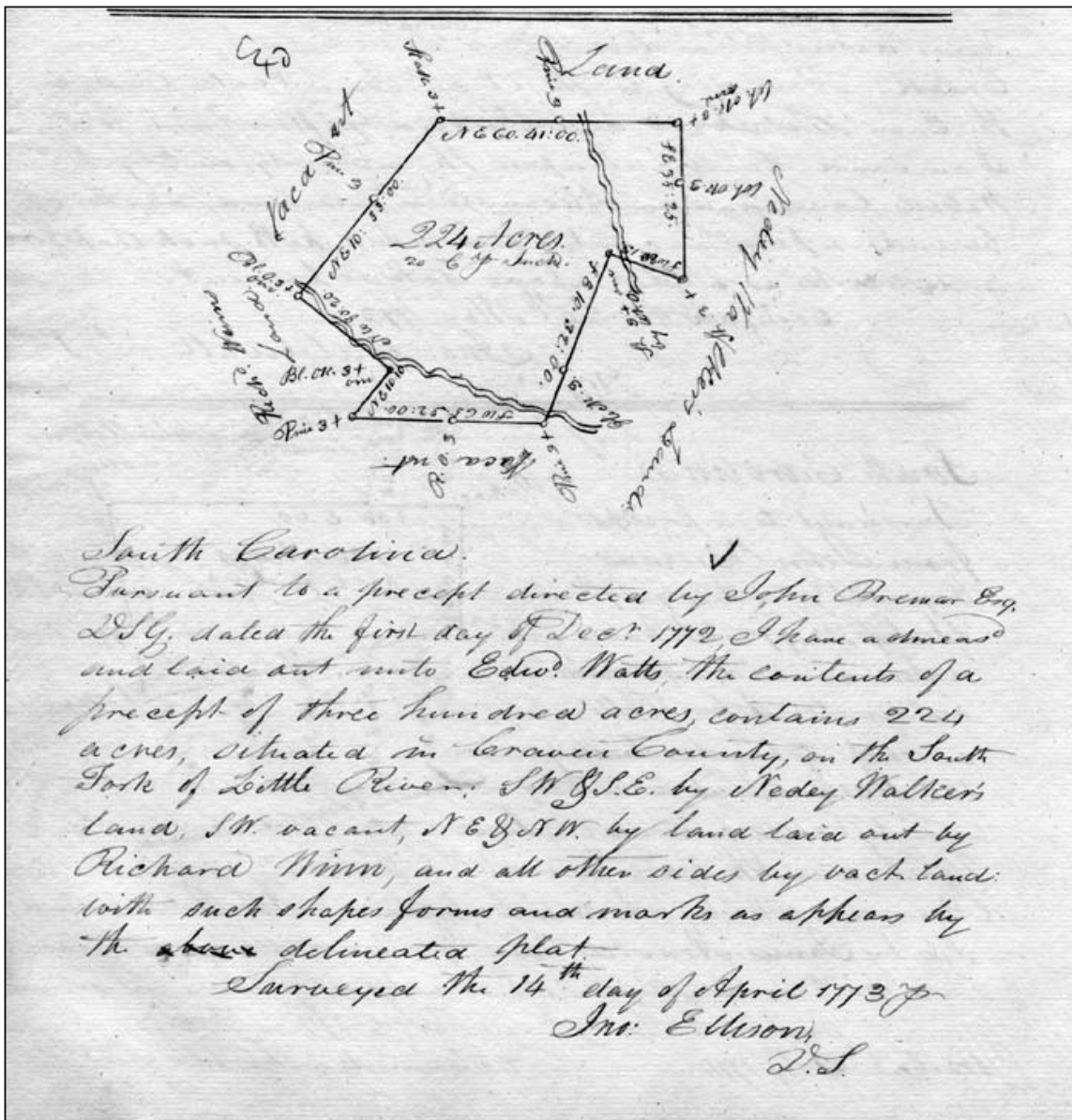
“Pursuant to a precept directed by John Breinar Esq. D.S.G. dated the first day of Decr. 1772, I have admeasured and laid out unto **Edward Watts** a part of a precept of three hundred acres, which I found

¹¹² Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina's Royal Grants*, vol. 5, *Grant Books 32 through 37, 1735–1776* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2010), 67; citing Grant Book 33:229.

¹¹³ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 245.

to be seventy-six acres N.W. by land of **Thomas Woodard**, S.E. by land laid out to **William Kennedy**, S.E. by **Thomas Woodards** land, E^{rdly} by **Austin's** land, situated on the **N. side of Broad River** in Craven County on **Mill Creek** With such shape and form as appears by the delineated plat. Surveyed the 12th day of April 1773 pr Jn^o Ellison, D.S.”¹¹⁴

14 APRIL 1773
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC
 Land plat.



“Pursuant to a precept directed by John Bremar Esq. DSG. dated the first day of Dec^r 1772, I have admeas^d and lad out unto **Edw^d Watts**, the contents of a precept of three hundred acres, contains 224

¹¹⁴ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Watts, Edward, Plat for 76 acres in Craven County,” S213184: Colonial plat Books (Copy Series).

acres, situated in Craven County, on the **South Fork of Little River**. SW & SE by *Nedey Walker's* land, SW vacant, NE & NW by land laid out by *Richard Winn*, and all other sides by vact. land with such shapes forms and marks as appears by the above elineated plat. Surveyed the 15th day of April 1773 pr Jno. Ellison, D.S."¹¹⁵

COMMENT:

- Edward's precept (warrant) was for 300 acres on **Beaver Creek** in neighborhood of Mobley's Meeting House. Apparently this was his original choice.
- When it came time to survey the land, however, he requested a survey in the area of **Mill Creek**, the waterway just below William's settlement on Jackson's Creek. As the 76-acre plat above explains, there was not enough land there to provide the 300 acres. All surrounding lands had been taken and there was no vacant land on which to expand.
- The Mill Creek survey was made on **12 April, a Monday**. Two days would pass before Ellison would perform a survey of Edward's second choice, the land on **South Fork of Little River**, rather than nearby Beaver Creek. That site still places him in the area settled by the many members of the **Mobley family**.
- Curiously, Ken Shelton's ongoing efforts to plat Fairfield lands, places Edward's **South** fork of Little River land some miles to the Northeast—east of Lee's Creek and above Dampier's Creek which branches from the **East** fork of Little River. He also places at this spot several others whose plats specify **South** fork of Little River.¹¹⁶
- Side note: **The Dampiers also migrated to Tattnall County, Georgia, and on to Covington County, Mississippi, where they were John & Judith Watts's neighbor in 1820.**

31 AUGUST 1774

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

"**Edward Watts**, 76 acres in Craven County adj. **Thomas Woodward**, *William Kennedy*, *Auston*, **on the north side of Broad River**, [granted] 31 Aug 1774. Plat certified 12 April 1773."¹¹⁷

COMMENT:

- Together, the 76-acre grant above (surveyed on Mills Creek) and the 224-acre grant below totalled 300 acres. That was the allotment for 6 headrights in addition to the 5 he had used for his 250 acres on Dry Creek of the Wateree. At his death, Edward left six surviving children, as well at least one slave.
- Edward would not keep this land. On 2 December 1779, he and his wife Millender sold it to their neighbor John Oston.¹¹⁸

9 SEPTEMBER 1774

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

¹¹⁵ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Watts, Edward, Plat for 224 acres in Craven County," S213184: Colonial plat Books (Copy Series).

¹¹⁶ Ken Shelton, *South Carolina: Fairfield County Plat Map* (http://ken-shelton.com/Fairfield-Plat-Map/Fairfield_Plat_Map.htm : accessed 27 October 2014).

¹¹⁷ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina's Royal Grants*, vol. 5, *Grant Books 32 through 37, 1735–1776* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2010), 60; citing Grant Book 33:129.

¹¹⁸ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book K: 359; ; from report in progress, "Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield ..."

“**Edward Watts**, 224 acres in Craven County on the **south fork of Little River** adj. *Nedy Walker, Richard Winn*, [granted] 9 Sept 1774. Plat certified 16 April 1773.”¹¹⁹

25 APRIL 1773–31 AUGUST 1774

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

“**Adam Duke**, 100 acres in Craven County on the **south side of Broad River** adj. *Daniel John Johnston, Joseph Hogg, Peter Collings, Isaac Horsey, John Mattsuor*, [granted] 31 Aug 1774. Plat certified 25 April 1773.”¹²⁰

4 MAY 1773

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Jacob <i>Gibson</i> | 350 “in South Carolina |
| George <i>Thompson</i> | 1000 “in South Carolina |
| James <i>Harrison</i> | 150 “in South Carolina” |
| [<i>skip 2</i>] | |
| Jacob <i>Holley</i> | 100 “in South Carolina” |
| Mark <i>Lott</i> | 400 “in South Carolina” |
| [<i>skip 27</i>] | |
| Leonard Hornsby | 100 in Craven County ¹²¹ |

COMMENT:

Leonard Hornsby was father of Moses Hornsby, who would inherit Leonard’s land.¹²²

1773–1774

SC

Context.

“The land office was closed again in 1773 except to officers and enlisted men eligible to receive land under the Proclamation of 1763. After the land office was reopened in 1774, all ungranted land was to be auctioned at 6 pence per acre, reserving a quitrent of ½ pence sterling per acre. The records end abruptly on July 19, 1774 with the outbreak of the American Revolution. *Granted-land records after the colonial period continue as records of the county court system.* Vacant land owned by the State continues as a state record.”¹²³

COMMENT:

- At this point, headrights ceased as a policy for South Carolina.
- This hiatus in land-office activity *might* explain the lack of a known grant to John Watts who married about 1768–69 but first appears on record, as a well-established member of his Fairfield community, in 1784.

¹¹⁹ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 5, *Grant Books 32 through 37, 1735–1776* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2010), 79; citing Grant Book 33:389.

¹²⁰ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 5, *Grant Books 32 through 37, 1735–1776* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2010), 44; citing Grant Book 32:551.

¹²¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, *1771–1774* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 251.

¹²² Fairfield Co. Deed Book I:330.

¹²³ Theresa M. Hicks and Frances S. Osburn, *South Carolina Quitrents, 1772–1773–1774* (Columbia, SC: Peppercorn Publications, 1998), i, italics added. This volume contains no Watts entries.

13 MARCH–9 SEPTEMBER 1774

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

“**Robert Duke**, 100 acres in Craven County on **Horse Pen Branch**, [granted] 9 Sept 1774. Plat certified 13 March 1774.”¹²⁴

COMMENT:

Horse Pen Branch lay in the waters of the Wateree, a few miles above 25-Mile Creek. Like 25-Mile, it would eventually fall into both Fairfield and Kershaw counties.

7 JUNE 1774

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land petition.

“To have elapsed Plats Certified”

Robert Duke 300 in Craven County¹²⁵

8 JULY 1774

CRAVEN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Land petition.

Council approval of many such petitions to have *lapsed* plats re-certified, including

John Watts 150 in Craven County¹²⁶

COMMENT:

This appears to be the John Watts whose land lay adjacent to David Boyd on Buck Creek (var. Beech Creek, according to SCDAAH database entry), a branch of the Saluda River. This 150-acre plat was first certified on 29 September 1772.

I have not yet found a grant that can be tied to John Watts of the Wateree. SC’s land-grant policy of this era allowed 100 acres for each head of household and 50 for each additional person. By 1774, John was married with three children. His non-appearance could be interpreted in several ways:

- He had some occupation other than planter.
- He was farming land that belonged to his parents or in-laws.
- He was renting land.
- He was not yet in South Carolina. This conclusion is countered by two others.
 1. After the Revolution, he still did not request land for farming even though he had a very large family which heavy financial obligations to support them; and
 2. At the immediate close of the Revolution he was one of fourteen men who signed an affidavit attesting the character of a former RW officer who had been their neighbor for some years.

18 JULY–19 AUGUST 1774

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

¹²⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 5, *Grant Books 32 through 37, 1735–1776* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2010), 68; citing Grant Book 33:232.

¹²⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 277.

¹²⁶ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 29_?

“Francis Kirkland, 250 acres in Craven County on the north east side of Wateree River adj. Thomas Watts, Briant Dunaley, [granted] 19 Aug 1774. Plat certified 18 July 1774.”¹²⁷

COMMENT:

- “North east side of Wateree River” places this in modern Kershaw, where Thomas, Edward Jr., and William all claimed land in 1763.
- When Kirkland filed his first memorial on 8 November 1774 (see below), his land description makes it clear that **he had taken over the land initially surveyed for Edward Watts Jr.**
- In 1785, Francis Kirkland had land surveyed on *Little River*, adjacent to “Thomas Watts,” John Gray, John Buchanan, and Spence Taylor.¹²⁸
- In 1790, Francis Kirkland was enumerated 8 houses from Luke Rawls.

1 AUGUST 1774

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

AUGUSTINE PRESTWOOD, 1 Aug. 1774: 150 acres in Craven County on **Hellow’s Creek, branch of Wateree Creek**. Bounded NE by **Micajah Pickets, Wm. Jones and Joseph Hellow**s; other sides vacant. Survey certified 6 Apr. 1773; granted 21 Apr. 1774. Quit rent in 2 years. Wm. Glascock, DS. Delivered 23 Sept. 1774 to *John Pooley*.¹²⁹

COMMENT:

- Wateree Creek lay on the Fairfield side of Wateree River, in upper Fairfield County.
- In 1790, “Micajah Pickets” is enumerated 8 houses below John and (son) Thomas Watts in Fairfield. At that time John lived next door to Rev. Edward Pigg who had just bought and moved onto a mill site on Mill Creek of the Wateree.¹³⁰
- Prestwood and Jones were also adjacent to the 1763 100-acre grant made to John Morris, potential father of Eleanor Morris who married Ambrose Mills’s son William.
- “Hellow” is also written *Heller* in local records.

6 AUGUST–28 OCTOBER 1774

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

“Thomas Wilson, 400 acres on the waters of Twenty five Mile Creek, a Branch of Wateree River adj. Quinton McCreight, Robert Duke, Thomas Duke, [granted] 28 Oct 1774. Plat certified 6 Aug 1774.”¹³¹

CA. 31 AUGUST 1774

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

“Thomas Duke, 100 acres in Craven County on the waters of Twenty five mile Creek, being a branch of the Wateree River, adj. William Ferguson, William Simmons.”¹³²

¹²⁷ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 148. Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 5, *Grant Books 32 through 37, 1735–1776* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2010), 23; citing Grant Book 32:274.

¹²⁸ Fairfield Co., SC, Plat Book B:186

¹²⁹ Jesse Hogan Motes III and Margaret Peckham Motes, *South Carolina Memorials: Abstracts of Land Titles*, vol. 1, 1774–1776 (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1996), p. 106, citing “12-530:3.”

¹³⁰ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book F., 22–23, 35–36.

¹³¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 5, *Grant Books 32 through 37, 1735–1776* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2010), 100; citing Grant Book 34:28.

COMMENT:

This abstract carries no date of survey or date of certification of plat. It is recorded between two grants dated 31 August 1774. On that same date (many entries later), we find:

“William Simmons, 300 acres in Craven County adj. Robert Duke, one *Pitman, St. John*, 31 Aug 1774. Plat certified 78 July 1774.”¹³³

30 SEPTEMBER–9 NOVEMBER 1774

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

“**David Boyd**, 100 acres on the **south side of Saludy** on a **small branch of Beach Creek** bounded by **John Watts** land, [by] an old Bounty survey and by *Abraham See* [Lee?]'s land, [granted] 9 November 1774. Plat certified 30 Sept 1774”¹³⁴

COMMENT:

- This John Watts is of no apparent connection to the Fairfield-Kershaw County Wattses.
- Other records dealing with this piece of land and the adjacent 150 acres of one John Watts, place it on *Buck's Creek*. *Mills's Atlas* (1815-25) has no Beach/Beech Creek at all but has a *Buck's Creek* in modern Spartanburg.
- *Gregg's History of Old Cheraw* offers an undated map that places one **Beach Creek** on the Kershaw side of the Wateree, just below the town of Camden at High Hills of the Santee.¹³⁵

3 OCTOBER 1774

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

Memorial of **George Koone**, 3 Oct. 1774: 100 acres in Craven County [Camden Dist., Craven Co., parent of Fairfield] “on a branch of **Broad River** called **Cedar Creek**. Bounded NW on *Stephen Smith* and vacant land; NE on vacant land; SE on vacant land and *Henry Koone*; SW on *Henry Koone* and Cedar Creek. Survey certified 30 July 1773; granted 25 May 1774. Quit rent in 10 years. Edwd. Hampton, DS. Delivered 15 Dec. 1774 to Johannes {?-signature}.”¹³⁶

COMMENT:

The 1790 census places helps to place the men above:

- “George Coon” is enumerated 5 houses above **John Watts** and his son **Thomas Watts**. He appears to have moved in the interval between 1774 and 1790.
- Stephen Smith is enumerated 6 dwellings from **Jesse Rawls**, while Conrad Koon was 5 houses from **Luke Rawls**.
- **Big Cedar Creek** of **Broad River** lay in **Richland and Southeast Fairfield** (*Mills's Atlas*).
- The extreme tip of Little Wateree near “Capt. T. Woodward's Old Place” (*Mills's Atlas*) lay about 5 miles northeast of Cedar Creek.

¹³² Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina's Royal Grants*, vol. 5, *Grant Books 32 through 37, 1735–1776* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2010), 45; citing Grant Book 32:561.

¹³³ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina's Royal Grants*, vol. 5, *Grant Books 32 through 37, 1735–1776* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2010), 53; citing Grant Book 32:274.

¹³⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina's Royal Grants*, vol. 5, *Grant Books 32 through 37, 1735–1776* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2010), 101; citing Grant Book 34:43.

¹³⁵ Alexander Gregg, *History of the Old Cheraws ... about 1730 to 1810* (Columbia: The State Company, 1925), x, “A Map of Cheraw's Precinct and Parts Adjacent; Taken from a Map in Carroll's Historical Collection of South Carolina.”

¹³⁶ Jesse Hogan Motes III and Margaret Peckham Motes, *South Carolina Memorials: Abstracts of Land Titles*, vol. 1, 1774–1776 (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1996), p. 132, citing “13-36:4.”

8 NOVEMBER 1774 – 3 FEBRUARY 1775

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land memorial.

“Memorial exhibited by *Francis Kirkland*, to be exhibited in Auditor’s office ... a tract of land 250 acres in Craven County, **NE of Wateree River** and bounding NE^{ly} on **Thomas Watt’s** land [*sic*]; SE of vacant land, S°W on *Bryant Dunaly’s* & NW by the river. Survey certified 8 July 1774 and granted 19 of August 1774, to the memorialist. Quit rent 3/ sterling or 4/ proclamation money per hundred acres, commencing tw [*sic*] years from date. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand the 3rd day of Feb^y 1775. FRANCIS KIRKLAND. Alexander MDowell, D.S.”¹³⁷

COMMENT:

- Kirkland’s statement that Thomas Watts’ 250 acres lie on his NE means that his land lies adjacent to Thomas’s SW line.
- Edward Watts’s 1763 plat placed his land on Thomas Watts’s southwest—the location Kirkland gives here for his land. *No record has been found of Edward’s disposition of his land—which, like Kirkland’s tract, was 250 acres.* All things considered, it is clear that Edward sold his tract to Francis Kirkland.
- Francis Kirkland in 1786 was cited together with one **Thomas Watts** as a neighbor of Fairfield Co. land William Duggins was selling.¹³⁸
- In 1790, Francis Kirkland is four houses from Luke Rawls in lower-central Fairfield.

29–30 DECEMBER 1774

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land purchase.

“Lease and release ... **Robert Duke** of Craven County, Parish of St. Marks, planter, to *Henry Miley* of same, for £500, tract granted to said Robert Duke 7 May 1774, recorded in Book QQQ, page 148, 100 acres on **south side** of the **Wateree River** on **Twenty five mile Creek**. *Robert Duke* (LS), Wit: Jeremiah Pierson, *James Lewis*, **George Watts**. Proved 1 May 1775 by the oath of *Jeremiah Pierson* before John N. Oglethorpe, J.P. Recorded 12 March 1787.:¹³⁹

COMMENT:

On 1777 juror lists:

- Robert Duke and Henry Miley are cited 3 names apart, between Broad and Catawba Rivers.¹⁴⁰ “South side of the Wateree” on 25-Mile Creek fits this description; it later fell into Fairfield.

In 1790,

- John Watts had 3 Lewis neighbors, 7 to 20 households on either side.
- George Watts had 3 Duke neighbors, 2 to 5 households on either side

The Duke land sold to Miley was resold by Miley in 1786, telling us more about the neighborhood:

¹³⁷ Katie-Prince Ward Esker, *South Carolina Memorials*, vol. 2: 1731–1766: *Abstracts of Selected Land Records from a Collection in the Department of Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina* (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1977), 67; citing “XIII, p. 276.”

¹³⁸ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book A: 188–92

¹³⁹ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1783–1788; Books 1-5 through Z-5* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1996), 362, citing “W-5, 554-559.”

¹⁴⁰ GeLee Corley Hendrix and Morn McKoy Lindsay, *The Jury Lists of South Carolina, 1778–1779* (Greenville, SC: Privately Printed, 1975), 53.

“Lease and release. 30 & 31 May 1786, *Henry Miley* of Camden District, SC, planter to *Martha Johnson*, widow, for £150 sterling, two tracts of land each 100 acres on Twenty-five mile creek in the District of Camden, *one granted to Robert Duke* and the other to *Caleb Doud*.... Henry Miley (X), Wit: James Denton, Will Luten. Proved in Charleston District by the oath of James Denton of Charleston, tavern keeper, 12 May 1787 before Dl. Mazyck, J.P. Recorded 12 March 1787.”¹⁴¹

George Watts, the witness above, was born 25 December 1756, according to his Revolutionary War pension application.¹⁴² He had just turned 18 at the time he witnessed this document. Note that he was not the witness who officially proved the deed.

31 JANUARY 1775

CRAVEN COUNTY, Sc

Neighbor.

Memorial of MASON GREENING, 31 Jan. 1775: 200 acres in Craven County, St. Marks Parish on High Hills of Santee. Bounded S on **Moses Knighton** and vacant land; W on said Knighton and *Wm. Barden*; E on land supposed to be granted and vacant land; N on Mason Greening. Survey certified 2 Mar. 1773; granted 19 Aug. 1774. Quit rent in 2 years, Ishiam Moore, DS. Delivered 25 Feb. 1775 to James McCormick.¹⁴³

COMMENT:

On the 1790 census, one *Moses Knighton* (there was a senior and a junior in the region) is listed 13 households after **John Watts** and **Thomas Watts [Jr.]**. The land above, lying on the High Hills of the Santee, would be in modern Sumter, below Kershaw.

7 FEBRUARY–2 SEPTEMBER 1775

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

“**Gabriel Rawls**, 100 acres (surveyed for *James Brown* 20 March 1768) in Craven County on Crain Creek, 2 Sept 1775. Plat certified 7 Feb 1775.”¹⁴⁴

COMMENT:

Crane Creek is in modern Richland (the county below Fairfield) about 5–10 miles north of Columbia.

10 FEBRUARY–1 MARCH 1775

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

Land grant to “*Andrew Broughton*, 200 acres in the **Fork of Broad and Saludy Rivers on the long Branch**, the waters of Saluda River adj. **John Rall**, *Moses Kirkland*, [granted] 1 March 1775. Plat certified 10 Feb 1775.”¹⁴⁵

¹⁴¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1783–1788; Books 1-5 through Z-5* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1996), 362, citing “W-5, 564-568.”

¹⁴² George Watts affidavit, 4 November 1833, DeKalb Co., Georgia; George Watts Pension Application (Sgt., Sumter’s Brigade, SC, Rev. War), File 11214, Widow Barbara; accessed via “Revolutionary War Pensions,” database with images, *Fold 3* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 11 September 2014), particularly 28052942 and 28052948. George states that he was “aged 76 years Christmas last.”

¹⁴³ Jesse Hogan Motes III and Margaret Peckham Motes, *South Carolina Memorials: Abstracts of Land Titles*, vol. 1, 1774–1776 (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1996), p. 223, citing “13-263-4”

¹⁴⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 5, *Grant Books 32 through 37, 1735–1776* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2010), 264; citing Grant Book 37:457.

1 MARCH–15 MARCH 1775

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

Land grant to “David Hay, 100 acres in Craven County on the waters of **Crain Creek** adj. *William Strother, William Sanders, Gabriel Rall*, [granted] 15 March 1775. Plat certified 1 March 1775.”¹⁴⁶

7 MARCH 1775

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land memorial.

Edward Watts, 7 Mar. 1775: 76 acres in Craven County. Bounded NW on *Thomas Woodward*; SE on *William Kennedy*; SE on *Thomas Woodward*; E on one Ouritan’s [Austin’s, var. Ostin’s] land on N side of Broad River. Survey certified 12 Apr. 1773; granted 31 Aug. 1774. Quit rent in 2 years. **Jno. Ellison**, DS. Delivered 18 May 1775 to John Bell.”¹⁴⁷

COMMENT:

This tract, and the one below, would be the grants Edward had surveyed in 1773 and received grants for in 1774. As their descriptions show, the two tracts were not contiguous. Edward would not keep the tract above.

In 1790,

- **Edward Watts, “Sr.”** (the man known as “Jr.” in the 1760s) appears between John & **Burbage Woodward** and Isaac Low.
- The presence of *Woodwards* next door to **Edward Watts** of 1790 suggests this is the same man, still living on his grant.
- Also note the identity of the surveyor, John Ellison. The 1790 census places this man next door to **Moses Hornsbie**, son-in-law of **John Watts**.

24 MARCH 1775

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land memorial.

Edward Watts, 24 Mar. 1775: 224 acres in Craven County on **S fork of Little River**. Bounded SW and SE on *Nedy Walker*; NE and NW on *Richard Winn*. Survey certified 14 July 1773; granted 9 Sept. 1774. Quit rent in 2 years. Jno. Ellison, DS. Delivered 18 May 1775 to John Bell.¹⁴⁸

3 APRIL–4 MAY 1774

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

“*John Swint*, 250 acres in Craven County on a **branch of Broad River called Beaver Creek** adj. **John Taylor Duke, Eleanor Moberly**, [granted] 4 May 1775. Plat certified 3 April 1775.”¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 5, *Grant Books 32 through 37, 1735–1776* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2010), 158; citing Grant Book 35:186.

¹⁴⁶ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 5, *Grant Books 32 through 37, 1735–1776* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2010), 194; citing Grant Book 36:118.

¹⁴⁷ Jesse Hogan Motes III and Margaret Peckham Motes, *South Carolina Memorials: Abstracts of Land Titles*, vol. 1, 1774–1776 (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1996), p. 64, citing “13-365:1.”

¹⁴⁸ Jesse Hogan Motes III and Margaret Peckham Motes, *South Carolina Memorials: Abstracts of Land Titles*, vol. 1, 1774–1776 (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1996), 284, citing “13-415:6.”

¹⁴⁹ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants*, vol. 5, *Grant Books 32 through 37, 1735–1776* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2010), 214; citing Grant Book 36:367.

COMMENT:

This land falls into the neighborhood recently vacated by **Henry Duke**. Beaver Creek is also the location requested by **Edward Watts**, prior to his location on South Fork of Little River. Beaver is shown on *Mills's Atlas* of 1825 as almost running into Little River. Edward's plat for his 224 acres on Little River shows an unidentified stream running into it on the Beaver Creek side of Little River.

7 AUGUST 1775

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Military pay roll.

"Revolutionary War Soldiers From What Is Now Fairfield County: Captain Woodward's Company."¹⁵⁰

COMMENT:

No Watts, Rawls, Duke, Mobley, Wade.

8 AUGUST 1775

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

"HUGH LOGAN, 8 Aug. 1775: 100 acres in Camden District, N of Broad River, N and S forks of Little River. Bounded SW by **Edward Watts**; other sides vacant. Survey certified 30 Sept. 1774; granted 17 Mar. 1775. Quit rent in 2 years. John Ellison, DS (Irish)."¹⁵¹

COMMENT:

In 1790, the deputy surveyor John Ellison is enumerated next door to Moses Hornsbie.

—**The province's land office has now closed.
It would not reopen until 1784.**—

2 SEPTEMBER 1775

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Military pay roll.

"Revolutionary War Soldiers From What Is Now Fairfield County: Robert Ellison's Company."¹⁵²

COMMENT:

No Watts, Rawls, Duke, Mobley, Wade. The author, after presenting the companies of John Buchanan, Capt. Woodward, and Robert Ellison, adds: "There were men from Fairfield in other commands."

31 MARCH 1777

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

"Lease and release. 31 March 1777, **Thomas Watts** of Craven County, planter, to **Richard Middleton** of same county, gentleman, for £100 SC money, 150 acres on **SW side Great Lynches Creek** on a branch of

¹⁵⁰ Fitz Hugh McMaster, *History of Fairfield County, South Carolina, from 'Before the White Man Came' to 1942* (Spartanburg, SC: Reprint Co., 1980),120.

¹⁵¹ Jesse Hogan Motes III and Margaret Peckham Motes, *South Carolina Memorials: Abstracts of Land Titles*, vol. 1, 1774–1776 (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1996), 11, citing "2-282:1."

¹⁵² Fitz Hugh McMaster, *History of Fairfield County, South Carolina, from 'Before the White Man Came' to 1942* (Spartanburg, SC: Reprint Co., 1980),120.

said creek called **Jumping Gully** adj. land of *Jacob Holly*, plat recorded in Secretary's Office in Book FFF, page 14, and in the Auditor's Office in Book K. No. 10, page 211. **Thomas Watts** (T), **Tabitha Watts** (LS), Wit: *William Jurdon*, **John Watts**, *Wm. Andrew*. Proved 12 February 1783 before *Andrew Baskin*, J.P., by the oath of **John Watts**. Recorded 7 June 1786.¹⁵³

COMMENT:

Thomas and Tabitha still retained ownership of Thomas's his 200-acre grant. They would not leave Lynches' Creek.

21 MARCH 1779

CAMDEN DISTRICT (LATER KERSHAW), SC

Impressment list.

"We the Subscribers being duly Sworn do Appraise the Following Horses &c &c for the use of Mathew Singleton's Quota of the Troop of Horse under the command of Lieut. Coll. Kershaw, now on Duty, to be worth as follows. Imprest by virtue of Genl. Wmson's warrant dated March 21st 1779."

There follows a list of several dozen individuals from whom horses, saddles, bridles, etc., had been impressed—and a list of individuals who had lost horses on the expedition to Georgia. **No Watts**.¹⁵⁴

COMMENT:

- Matthew Singleton was a large-scale landowner whose Swamps of the Wateree tract lay a few miles below Thomas Watts on the Kershaw side of the Wateree.
- Given **Watts's** proximity to Singleton, the Wattses would have been enjoined to contribute.

23 MARCH 1779

CAMDEN DISTRICT (LATER KERSHAW), SC

Militia order.

"Ordered That Each Capt. or Commanding Officer of Companies duly observe to have the Respective Companies in Readiness to Parade every Morning by 7 oClock under the direction of the Adjutant.

"That every Capt. or Commanding Officer of a Company, every morning Precisely a[t] 5 oClock cause his Company to appear on the Parade Ground, each company separately, each Capt. or Officer commanding to Exercise his men & when done, before discharged to call his List making a true Return to me of all absentees & upon non-attendance, every Defaulter may be assur'd of being dealt with according to Law for Disobedience of Orders."¹⁵⁵

COMMENT:

Militia service was obligatory in the colonies for men of roughly 18–45. Companies were neighborhood based and typically consisted of 90–100 men. When a community became so thickly settled that a significantly larger number of men existed within a lieutenant's unit, district lines would be redrawn and a new company created.

In peace time, militias typically met monthly. The above order, mandating *daily* practice, with stiff penalties for non-attendance, shows the heightened tension and need for readiness during

¹⁵³ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1783–1788; Books 1-5 through Z-5* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1996), 225-26, citing "S-5, 170-73."

¹⁵⁴ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images ([http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online archives/](http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online%20archives/)), "A List of Horses Appraised for Colonel Matthew Singleton's Quota," pp. 2–4; citing "Series: S213089; Box 003, Folder 00024, Item 000."

¹⁵⁵ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images ([http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online archives/](http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online%20archives/)), p. 1 of "A List of Horses Appraised for Colonel Matthew Singleton's Quota," citing "Box 003, Folder 00024, Item 000; S213089: Robert W. Gibbes Collection of Revolutionary War Manuscripts."

those years of war. The order also tells us that avoidance of service in the patriot militia would have been extremely hard for any male in the community.

Given that no service is found for our John or any other Watts male of the Wateree before 1780, **it is probable that the Watts moved away from Singleton's community to a less-settled area. The likeliest location for retreat, considering the activities in the region, would have been the land grant requested and issued in 1772 along 25-Mile Creek of the Wateree on the Fairfield side of the line in the name of George Watts.** That grant to George occurred under highly unusual circumstances, given that he was scarcely 16 when the request was made, barely 17 when the land was surveyed, and still 4 years short of the minimum age for eligibility.

2 JULY 1779

CAMDEN DISTRICT (LATER KERSHAW), SC

Conscription list.

"To Col^l Matthew Singleton's Reg^t of Militia for Articles Imprest (by Virtue of B. G^l Wmson's Warrant of Impress bearing date March 21st 1779) for the Public Use on an expedition into Georgia under Command of Lieu^t Col^l Kershaw in a Troop of Horse." Individuals from whom impressments were made: Hen^y Richbourgh, Tho^s Maples. Tho^s Smith. Jn^o Anderson, Dav^d Platt, Benjⁿ Reese [lined through] John Westbury, Ja^s Burtlitt, Fran^s Pringle, W^m Bennet, Edw^d McKay, Stevⁿ Welch, Paul Fulton, Hen^y Price, John Laverty, Tho^s W^m Jenkins, Isaac Hiltons, W^m Williams, Ja^s McCullough, W^m P____[?], James Gibson, Josiah Furman, Josiah Furman [again] , Henry[?] Horworth [lined through], W^m Williams, Moses Gorden, John [unclear last name], Charles Canty, James Rosse, Peter Millet, Micajah Waller.

"There are also some persons who have Seperate [lists] for some Articles Imprest by Virtue of the within cited Warrant (who are entitled to Public pay for them) & so Consequently not Included in this Bill.

"There are also Several other Articles Imprest by the aforsd authority, the owners of which have Not Yet (altho repeatedly called on to) made their Demands known to me & so could not Include herein the Amt. but as they will be under the Necessity of receieving Seperate Orders, would be glad to remind that they be not Exempted pay on Acct. of this Bill as the Articles was all Made use of in the Same Expedition. [Signed] Matth^w Singleton." ¹⁵⁶

AUGUST–DECEMBER 1779

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Military pay roll.

"Revolutionary War Soldiers From What Is Now Fairfield County: Pay Roll of Capt. John Buchanan's Company in the 6th South Carolina or The Continental Es[t]abishment Commanded by Lieut. Col. William Henderson from the first August to the first December 1779." ¹⁵⁷

COMMENT:

No Watts, Rawls, Duke, Moblely, Wade.

7 SEPTEMBER 1782

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Civic role.

¹⁵⁶ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>), "List of Property Impressed from the Regiment of Colonel Matthew Singleton (2 pages)"; citing "Series: S213089; Box 003, Folder 00025, Item 000."

¹⁵⁷ Fitz Hugh McMaster, *History of Fairfield County, South Carolina, from 'Before the White Man Came' to 1942* (Spartanburg, SC: Reprint Co., 1980),120.

“An Inventory of Su[n]dry Articles belonging to the Estate of William Powel Deceased, was sold by Barnibas Pope Esqr this 7th day of Septr 1782 and Returned by John *Ogilvie*, Guardian. Purchasers: Thomas Parrote Sr., John Miles [Mills?], Thomas Parrote jr., Magser(?) Yarbrough, Thomas May, *Wm Cato*, Wm Watson, Philip Pearson, Daniel Wooten, Rix Pope, Wm Rabb, Colon Hunter, James Nelson, **Thos Watts**, Jacob Gebson, *John Wooten*, C. D. Bradford, Benjamin May, Barny Pops, Samuel Procter, John Young (no total of receipts).”¹⁵⁸

COMMENT:

This “Thos Watts” should be in present Fairfield County and likely was the Thomas Watts of the 1790 census.

- Thomas Watts “Jr.” of Fairfield in 1787 bought 2 tracts of land from James *Ogilvie*, one of which was adjacent to our **John Watts**. *William Cato* was the surveyor.¹⁵⁹
- *John Wooten* of the above list was 5 houses from **George Watts** on the 1790 Fairfield census.
- *Jacob Gibson* was at the Widow Barber estate sale with our **John Watts** in 1784.¹⁶⁰
- *Philip Pearson* on 10 December 1784 was indebted to Jacob Flinthem and executed a bond for which one of his three bondsman was Crispin Morgan, son-in-law of **Edward Watts**.¹⁶¹

12 FEBRUARY 1783

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Civic role.

“Inventory of the Goods & Chattels of Lewis Perkins Deceased. 12 Feb. 1783 (Four slaves named. Includes 1 Bible & Psalm Book.) Total evaluation, £1758.8.9. [Signed] David Perkins, **John Watts**, James Marshall.”

6 March 1783. “Inventory of the Sale of the Estate of Lewis Perkins Deceased. March 6th, 1783. Sols [Sole] purchaser was Lydia Perkins. Total receipts. £1799.1.3.”¹⁶²

COMMENT:

This John Watts is likely to be John Watts of Lynches Creek, Kershaw County. His fellow appraiser, James Marshall, is shown on the surviving 1778–79 jury lists of taxpayers “East of the Wateree.” The cluster in which he appears (“**James Rochel**, **Josiah Evans**, Willm Tamerlinson, James Marshall, **Lewis L. Bryant**”) includes one neighbor and three known associates of John of Lynches Creek.¹⁶³

¹⁵⁸ “Early Wills of Camden District,” *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)* 4 (Spring 1976): page number not given, citing unidentified book, p. 312; accessed as *South Carolina Records and Reference*, CD-ROM (Orem, Utah: Ancestry.com, 1998).

¹⁵⁹ Fairfield Co. Plat Book B:441, for 630 acres surveyed to James Ogilvie adjacent to John Watts and John King; *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images ([http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online archives/](http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online%20archives/)), “Watts, Thomas, for 630 acres surveyed to James Ogilvie adjacent to John Watts and John King; citing “Series: S213190; Volume: 0020; Page: 00028; Item: 001.” Also *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/>), “Watts, Thomas, citing “Series: S213190; Volume: 0020; Page: 00023; Item: 001.”

¹⁶⁰ Kershaw Co., SC, Estate Records Book A:285–86,

¹⁶¹ “Fairfield County Deed Book A, 1785–1684,” *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)* 2 (Summer 1974): page number not given, citing Book A:196–97; accessed as *South Carolina Records and Reference*, CD-ROM (Orem, Utah: Ancestry.com, 1998). The bond did not state the relationship between Crispin Morgan and Edward Watts. For that proof, see Fairfield Co., Deed Book R:295–96, a land sale by heirs of Edward Watts.

¹⁶² “Early Wills of Camden District,” *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)* 2 (Summer 1974): page number not given, citing unidentified book, p. 91; accessed as *South Carolina Records and Reference*, CD-ROM (Orem, Utah: Ancestry.com, 1998).

¹⁶³ Ge Lee Corley Hendrix and Morn McKoy Lindsay, *The Jury lists of South Carolina, 1778–1779* (Greenville, SC: Privately Printed, 1975), 44–56.

20–21 SEPTEMBER 1783

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

“Lease and Release. *Robert Ellison* of Winnsborough, Planter for 57 pounds to *Hugh Milling* of Jackson Creek, Planter, 200 acres being ½ of a survey for 400 acres, on a **branch of Jacksons Creek, known as Watts Branch**, bounding S.E. on *Adam Blair*, S.W. on vacant land, N.W. on *Jno. Phillips*, and N.E. on vacant land. (signed) Rt. Ellison. Witness: *Jno. Woodward, H. Hunter, Jno. Milling*. Proved 25 January 1786 in open court by John Woodward and Henry Hunter. Recorded 4 March 1786.¹⁶⁴

COMMENT:

- The Watts reference is to the land of William Watts.
- Adam Blair in 1784 would have land surveyed on Hog Fork of the Wateree, adjoining John Gray. In 1791, when one Thomas Watts took out land on Dry Fork of the Wateree, it also adjoined John Gray. The online land grant database provided by the State Archives shows only two grants to John Gray—a small 100 acre grant in 1773, and a 640-acre grant on **Hog Fork** surveyed in 1774, with Adam Blair as his neighbor.
- Gray and Blair’s land seems to link (a) this tract on William Watts’ branch of Jackson’s Creek with (b) the Thomas Watts tract on Dry Fork that was, in 1799, sold by one William Watts.

5 DECEMBER 1783

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

“South Carolina. Camden District: William Coggin Lieut. The Barer here of has Removed to the State of Georgia and has Desired his **former Neighbours** to signifie his Character agreeable to his Deserts. We therefore Certify to all persons to Whom this present writing shall come that he the same William Coggin has Lived in our State this fifteen years and has behavd him self in A very honest quiet way of Living and is an Industress Man and is Quite inofensive person and has bin a friend to his Country. Certified under our hands this 5 day of December 1783.

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Chas. Pickett, J.P. | |
| Ralph Jones | Thos. Starke, Capt. | |
| Moses Knighten | William Miller, Lieut. | |
| | John Hollis, Luft. | [an antiquated English variant of Lieutenant] ¹⁶⁵ |
| | Moses Smith | |
| | John Watts | |
| | Thom. Roaden | |
| | John King | |
| | Jno. Yarbrough | |
| | Moses Hollis | |
| | Jesse Stevenson | |
| | James Rutland ¹⁶⁶ | |

¹⁶⁴ Tony Draine, *Fairfield County, S.C., Deed Book A, 1785–1788* (Columbia, SC: Draban Publication, 1991), 6–7, citing pp. 174–79.

¹⁶⁵ Patricia T. O’Conner and Stewart Kellerman, “Is it loo-TEN-ant or lef-TEN-ant?” *Grammarphobia*, blog (<http://www.grammarphobia.com/blog/2015/02/lieutenant.html>) : published 25 February 2015) discusses the centuries-old British pronunciation of this military rank.

¹⁶⁶ Pension application of William Coggin (Lt., Sumter’s Brigade, SC, Rev. War), S2838; accessed at *Fold3* (www.fold3.com) : 25 April 2014), specifically image 12739959.

South Carolina
 Camden district) William Coggin Lieut.
 The Barer here of has
 desired his former Neighbours to signify
 his Character agreeable to his Deserts We
 therefore Certify to all persons to Whome
 this present writing shall come that he the
 same William Coggin has Lived in our State
 this fifteen years and has behav'd him self in
 A very honest just way of Living and is an
 Industrious Man and is Quite insensive person
 and has bin a friend to his Country Certified
 under our hands this 5 day of December 1783

Ralph Jones
 Moses Knighten

John Clarke Capt
 William Miller Lieut.
 John Stokes Lieut
 Joseph ...
 John Watts
 Thos. Roosa
 John King
 Jesse Steven
 J. James ...

COGGIN, WILLIAM
 (S.C.)
 S-3238

COMMENT:

On 9 August 1784, Coggins had not yet left and was still in this same neighborhood, where he went back before Chas. Pickett, J.P., to acknowledge the accuracy of a service memorandum given him by Thos. Taylor.¹⁶⁷

Identifying the John Watts of this document rests upon identifying the individuals who said they had been “neighbors” of Coggins. Almost all of them are traceable, they all lived between Wateree Creek and Dutchman’s Creek in east central Fairfield, and they shared that neighborhood with our John Watts.

- **Ralph Jones**, whose name appears at the head of column one on this character affidavit was the pioneer Baptist minister discussed above, who headed two churches in Fairfield, one on Little Wateree Creek (John Watts’s neighborhood) and one a bit south on 25-Mile Creek (George Watt’s neighborhood).¹⁶⁸
- **Moses Knighten** appears on the 1790 census next door to Charles Pickett and 12 households from our Watts. In 1782, he and two of the other signers above (John King and Charles Pickett) had participated in the estate sale of a deceased neighbor, Thomas Milos.¹⁶⁹ Knighten also appears in the first document recorded locally for our John Watts, another neighborhood estate sale.¹⁷⁰ Knighten’s land grant confirmed in 1786, after the state land office reopened, placed him on Layton’s Creek,¹⁷¹ almost adjacent to land later granted to Thomas Watts Jr.¹⁷² In 1788, he and John Watts were called upon by the j.p. John King (a signer above) to appraise a stray horse that had been taken up by a neighbor.¹⁷³ In 1791 Knighten would take out a new grant on the Wateree adjacent to Thomas Watts Jr.¹⁷⁴
- **Charles Pickett, J.P.** appears in numerous documents executed by our John Watts, William Watts, and Thomas Watts Sr.¹⁷⁵ On Fairfield’s 1790 census, he is 13 households from Rev. John and Thomas Watts
- **Thos. Starke Capt.**, His brother Reuben, in 1796, bought from *Thomas Watts Sr.* the Kershaw Co. Wateree River land that had been Thomas Sr.’s plantation for three decades.¹⁷⁶
- **John Hollis**, in 1790, was 3 households from Charles Pickett, 4 from Knighten, 5 from fellow signer John King], and 16 from John Watts. In 1794, John Hollis bought the Mill Creek land owned by John

¹⁶⁷ Affidavit of claimant, 1 June 1852, William Coggins (Lt., Sumter’s Brigade, SC, Rev. War), no.S2838; accessed at *Fold 3* (www.fold3.com), image 12740238.

¹⁶⁸ Townsend, *South Carolina Baptists*, 147 for the quote; for Jones, also see 140, 145–47. Fairfield Co., Deed Book I: 415-22, sale of land by McClendon, 25-Mile Creek, adjoining Jones. *Mills’s Atlas*, Fairfield Co., notes the site of Joneses’ Meeting House.

¹⁶⁹ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1”: 2; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1. The filmed index begins with this statement: “Index to Wills: This Index was made by Mrs. Minnie Reese for W. L. McDowell & presented to Kershaw County, W. L. McDowell, May 3, 1934.” Some wills go back as early as 1771. Most inventories are in the early 1780s. All are recopied documents. **Many early Fairfield documents are found in this book.**

¹⁷⁰ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1”: 295; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

¹⁷¹ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, “Plat Book C, 1786–1788,” p. 220; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

¹⁷² Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book K:171–72; see also N:173–74 for James Barber’s sale of this tract to Robert Barber, 1801.

¹⁷³ Fairfield Co., SC, Court of Common Pleas, Record of Estrays, 1788–1799, p. 6 (counting back from legible p. 10); FHL film 1,294,199, item 1. Much of these pages are faded to the point of illegibility.

¹⁷⁴ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>), “Knighten, Moses, Plat for 117 acres on Wateree Creek.”

¹⁷⁵ See E. S. Mills, “Watts: Initial Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them,” report to file, 17 October 2014; and Mills, “Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County), Pre-1830,” report to file, 27 October 2014

¹⁷⁶ Lancaster Co., Deed Book C&E: 182 or 248–49 (Watts to Starke); Register of Mesne Conveyances, Lancaster. For Thomas Starke’s identity as Reuben’s brother, see Reuben’s will, Fairfield Co., “Estate Record Book C, Vol. 5,” 85–87; imaged, *Family Search* > South Carolina Probate Records, Loose Papers, 1732–1964 > Fairfield > County Court, Estate Records > 1803–1812, images 44–46.

Watts's next-door neighbor of 1790, Rev. Edward Pigg. That 1794 deed was witnessed by two fellow signers of the above affidavit, Moses Hollis and John Yarbrough.¹⁷⁷

- **Moses Smith**, brother-in-law of John King below.¹⁷⁸ His wife Catherine was daughter of Michael King and widow of John Byrd. They moved to Burke Co., GA. Catherine's grandson Jesse Byrd¹⁷⁹ appears to be the Jesse who was a Watts neighbor in Tattnall Co. (see Tattnall notes below). *These Smiths need to be explored thoroughly. John Watts, by his unknown first wife, named his first daughter Catherine; Catherine would then name a son Moses Smith Hornsby.*¹⁸⁰
- **Thomas Roaden**, father of Jeremiah Roaden who married Mary Hornsby, sister of John Watts's son-in-law Moses Hornsby.¹⁸¹
- **John King**, in 1782, with fellow signer Moses Knighton, appraised a neighborhood estate. Fellow signer Charles Pickett was a buyer at the estate sale.¹⁸² In 1784, after the land office reopened, the survey of King's land placed him adjacent to Moses Knighton.¹⁸³ In 1790, he was enumerated next door to Knighton and 11 households from our John Watts. In 1791, he applied for a land grant next door to Moses Hornsby, son-in-law of our John Watts.¹⁸⁴
- **John Yarbrough**, in 1792, bought land on Layton's Creek adjoining Frances Layton whose neighbor was *Thomas Watts Jr.* The land had previously been the home place of *Ambrose Mills*, whose smaller tract John Watts bought from the Mills estate in 1784.¹⁸⁵ In 1794, Yarbrough witnessed the sale of the Pigg land adjacent to John Watts in 1790. The purchaser and a fellow witness were both signers, with John Watts, of the 1783 character affidavit.¹⁸⁶
- **Moses Hollis**, in 1794, owned land adjoining the Pigg property, where John Watts lived in 1790.¹⁸⁷
- **James Rutland** in 1785 took out land next door to fellow signer Ralph Jones.¹⁸⁸
- **Charles Pickett, J.P.** appears in numerous documents executed by our John Watts, William Watts, and Thomas Watts Sr.¹⁸⁹ On the 1790 census of Fairfield, he is 13 households from our John Watts and Thomas Watts.
- **Moses Knighten** appears on the 1790 census next door to Charles Pickett and 12 households from our Watts. Knighten appears in the first document recorded locally for our John Watts, as buyers at a neighborhood estate sale.¹⁹⁰ His land grant confirmed in 1786, after the state land office reopened,

¹⁷⁷ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I:123.

¹⁷⁸ Fairfield Co., Deed Book I:437 (Smith and wife Catherine to John King, her brother).

¹⁷⁹ As a beginning point for this family see Cherie Fine, "[BYRD-L] Lewis Young," message, *RootsWeb Archives: Byrd-L Archives* (<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/index/BYRD> : posted 28 Feb. 2005) > Archiver > Byrd > 2005-02 > 1109652938.

¹⁸⁰ McGraw, *Watts Is My Line*, 32.

¹⁸¹ McLaurin, "Genealogy Report: Descendants of Leonard Hornsby" (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/m/c/l/Rex-Mclaurin/GENE1-0003.html>), citing "The actual old 1756 (printed date) Hornsby/Stroud bible ... archived at Winthrop University-Dacus Library (rare books section), Rock Hill, York Co., SC; Winthrop University Manuscripts acc. 1015, box 1, folder 1."

¹⁸² Kershaw Co., SC, "Camden District 1782-1788; Kershaw District 1817-1824, Estate Records Book A-1": 2; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1. The filmed index begins with this statement: "Index to Wills: This Index was made by Mrs. Minnie Reese for W. L. McDowell & presented to Kershaw County, W. L. McDowell, May 3, 1934." Some wills go back as early as 1771. Most inventories are in the early 1780s. All are recopied documents. **Many early Fairfield documents are found in this book.**

¹⁸³ Fairfield Co., SC, Plat Book C:110.

¹⁸⁴ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book D, 1788-1791," p. 181; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

¹⁸⁵ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book H: 92-94.

¹⁸⁶ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I:123.

¹⁸⁷ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I:123.

¹⁸⁸ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), Rutland, James," S213190, vol. 0020, page 00008, item 1, Plats for State Grants.

¹⁸⁹ See E. S. Mills, "Watts: Initial Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them," report to file, 17 October 2014; and Mills, "Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County), Pre-1820," report to file, 27 October 2014

¹⁹⁰ Kershaw Co., SC, "Camden District 1782-1788; Kershaw District 1817-1824, Estate Records Book A-1": 295; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1

placed him on Layton's Creek,¹⁹¹ adjacent to land granted to Thomas Watts Jr.¹⁹² In 1788, he and our John Watts were called upon by the j.p. John King (see signers above) to appraise an estray horse that had been reported.¹⁹³

- **John Hollis**, in 1790, was 3 households from Charles Pickett, 4 from Moses Knighton, 5 from fellow signer John King, and 16 from our John Watts. In 1794, John Hollis bought the Mill Creek land owned by John Watts's next-door neighbor of 1790, Rev. Edward Pigg. The document was witnessed by two fellow signers, Moses Hollis and John Yarbrough.¹⁹⁴
- **Moses Hollis**, in 1794, was the adjacent landowner to the Pigg property on Mill Creek, where John Watts lived in 1790.¹⁹⁵
- **John King**, in 1782, he and fellow signer Moses Knighton were co-appraisers of a neighborhood estate. Fellow signer Charles Pickett was a buyer at the estate sale.¹⁹⁶ In 1784, after the land office reopened, the survey of his land placed him adjacent to Moses Knighton.¹⁹⁷ In 1790, he was enumerated next door to Knighton and 11 households from our John Watts. In 1791, he applied for a land grant next door to Moses Hornsby, son-in-law of our John Watts.¹⁹⁸
- **John Yarbrough**, in 1792, bought land on Layton's Creek adjoining Frances Layton whose neighbor was Thomas Watts. The land had previously been the larger home place of Ambrose Mills, whose smaller mill site our John Watts bought from the Mills estate in 1784.¹⁹⁹ In 1794, Yarbrough witnessed the sale of the Pigg mill site that lay next to John Watts in 1790. The purchaser and a fellow witness to the document were both signers, with John Watts, of the 1783 character affidavit.²⁰⁰
- **James Rutland** in 1785 took out land next door to fellow signer Ralph Jones.²⁰¹
- **Ralph Jones**, whose name appears at the head of column one on the character affidavit was a pioneer Baptist minister in Fairfield County who headed two churches in Fairfield, one on Little Wateree Creek (John Watts's neighborhood) and one a bit south on 25-Mile Creek.²⁰²

CONCLUSION

- The John Watts of this document, beyond reasonable doubt, is our John Watts, not the John of Lynch Creek, some 35 miles to the east.
- The fact that John Watts joined with leaders of the Patriot forces to sign this character reference—although he did not personally serve—suggests he had an occupation that exempted him from service. It might then be expected that he contributed goods for which he should later appear among stub indents. Those records should be checked.

¹⁹¹ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book C, 1786–1788," p. 220; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible

¹⁹² Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book K:171–72; see also N:173–74 for James Barber's sale of this tract to Robert Barber on 14 January 1801.

¹⁹³ Fairfield Co., SC, Court of Common Pleas, Record of Estrays, 1788–1799, p. 6 (counting back from legible p. 10); FHL film 1,294,199, item 1. Much of these pages are faded to the point of illegibility.

¹⁹⁴ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I:123.

¹⁹⁵ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I:123, for Pigg's purchase of the mill site.

¹⁹⁶ Kershaw Co., SC, "Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1": 2; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1. The filmed index begins with this statement: "'Index to Wills: This Index was made by Mrs. Minnie Reese for W. L. McDowell & presented to Kershaw County, W. L. McDowell, May 3, 1934.'" Some of these wills go back as early as 1771. Most of the inventories are in the early 1780s. All have been neatly recopied, apparently at the time Kershaw was created.

Many early Fairfield documents are found in this book.

¹⁹⁷ Fairfield Co., SC, Plat Book C:110.

¹⁹⁸ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book D, 1788–1791," p. 181; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

¹⁹⁹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book H: 92–94.

²⁰⁰ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I:123.

²⁰¹ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>; accessed 7 October 2014), Rutland, James," S213190, vol. 0020, page 00008, item 1, Plats for State Grants.

²⁰² Leah Townsend, *South Carolina Baptists, 1670–1805* (1935; reprinted Baltimore: Clearfield, 2003), 147 for the quote; for Jones, also see 140, 145–47. Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I:415-22, sale of land by Bryant McClendon, 25-Mile Creek, adjoining Ralph Jones. *Mills's Atlas* for Fairfield Co. depicts the site of Joneses' 25-Mile Meeting House.

18 DECEMBER 1784

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Civic role.

“Memorandum of the Goods & Chattels of the Estate of Philip Hinson, Dec’d. 1 Negro fellow, 1 Negro Wench. Total evaluationa, £178.10.6. [Signed] John King, **John Watts**, Thomas Gavin.²⁰³

COMMENT:

This John Watts should be our John Watts of Fairfield, who cosigned the Coggins character affidavit with John King in 1783 and in a neighbor of King on the 1790 census. This Thomas “Gavin” has not been found on the census and may be a misreading of the name of a prominent neighborhood family, *Gowin*.

1784

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Tax roll.

“An Account of Tax which appears to have been received by John Marshall Esqr. for the year 1784, by written Memorandums found among his Papers. {District Eastward of the Wateree}. “

“The columns here are Negroes/ Number of acres/ Place/ £ S D.”

Robert Williams

Francis Bettis

John Bolding

William Welsh

Thomas Roach

Thomas Frizzle

Jeremiah Simmons

Alexaner Ingram

“**Thomas Watts** for 250 acres of land - 12 6”

John Williams

Charles McManus

John Welsh

Robert Welsh

[end of list]²⁰⁴

COMMENT:

- This would appear to be the Thomas Watts [Sr.] for whom, in 1763, 500 acres were surveyed on the east side of the Wateree (present Kershaw County) *adjacent to William Watts and Edward Watts Jr.*
- If so, Thomas has disposed of half his land.
- The comment in curly brackets is an addition by the compiler of these abstracts.

TO DO:

Search surviving deeds for a record of this land disposal.

²⁰³ “Early Wills of Camden District,” *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)* 3 (Summer 1975): page number not given, citing unidentified book, p. 223; accessed as *South Carolina Records and Reference*, CD-ROM (Orem, Utah: Ancestry.com, 1998).

²⁰⁴ “Two Additional 1784 Tax Lists,” *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)* 4 (Summer 1976): page number not given, citing “Office of the Clerk of Court, Kershaw County Court House, Apt. F (apparently Common Pleas and Equity Cases combined”); accessed as *South Carolina Records and Reference*, CD-ROM (Orem, Utah: Ancestry.com, 1998).

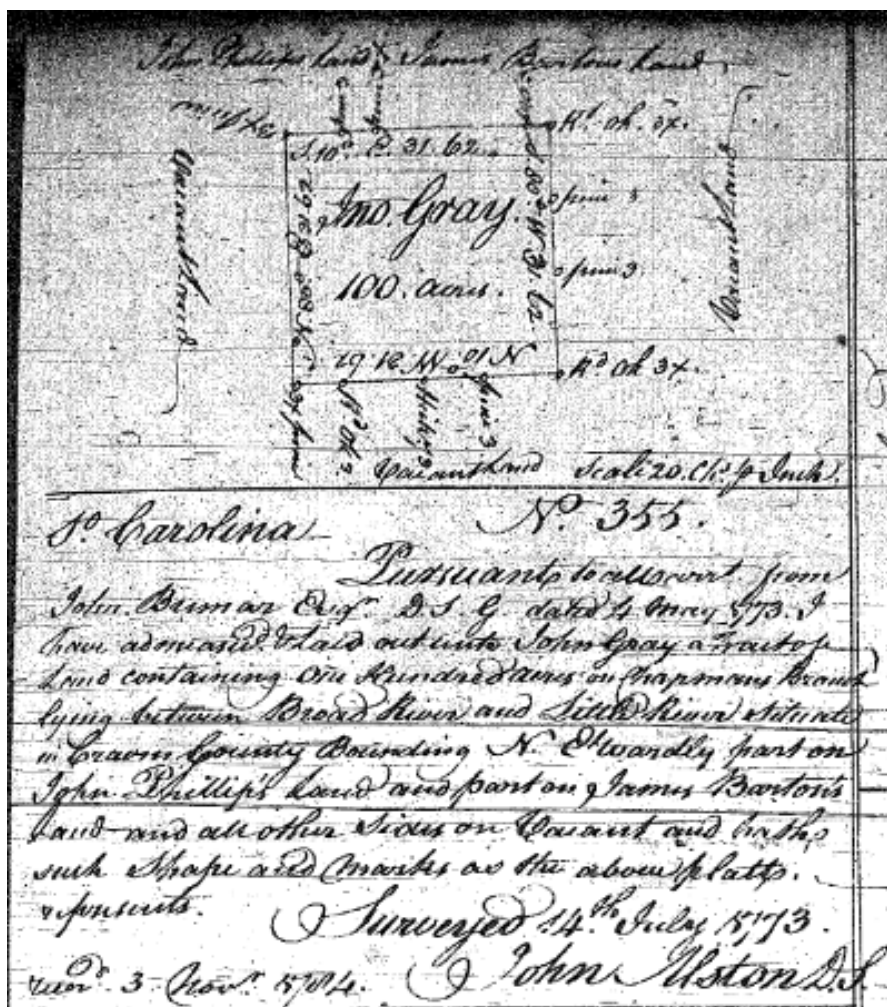
5 APRIL 1785
 CRAVEN COUNTY, SC
 Neighbor.

Description: *Kirkland, Francis*, plat for 226 acres on Little River, Camden District, surveyed by James Winn

Names Indexed: Buchannon, John; Gray, John; Kirkland, Francis; Taylor, Spence; **Watts, Thomas**; Winn, James

Locations: Broad River, Camden District; Little River

Document type: Plat²⁰⁵



COMMENT:

- Kirkland was the man who bought Edward Watts [Jr.]'s grant adjoining Thomas Watts Sr. on Wateree River in Kershaw. He is now in the Little River neighborhood of William and Edward Watts [Jr.]. The repeated connections across two locales suggests kinship.²⁰⁶

²⁰⁵ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>), "Watts, Thomas, citing "Series: S213190; Volume: 0016; Page: 00063; Item: 001."

²⁰⁶ For Edward's wife's identity, see Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Books K:359 (1779) and T:294-96 (1810). The latter document also identifies their surviving children.

- No record has been found for a grant to any Thomas Watts on Little River or its waters. It is possible that Thomas has *bought* a tract prior to the creation of a recorder's office in Fairfield County—one that was not subsequently recorded during the pre-1810 period that I have searched. It's also possible that he may be cited here because he is now in charge of Edward's land.
- John Gray's plat, at right above, also places his land between Broad and Little River.²⁰⁷
- All points considered, the Thomas of this record would appear to a now-adult son of Edward Jr. or William.

CA. 1785

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Civic role.

"Memorandon of a Sale of Sundries bought & Sold of the Estate of Samuel Ratcliff, Deceased. Purchasers: John King, Charles Pickett, Stephen Ratcliff, Rachel Butler, Peter Tidwell, **John Watts**, Moses Knighton, **Zilpah** Tucker, Amos Windham, Robert Roberts, Absolom Galloway, Robert Roberts, John Turner, Charles Kinbrell, Frederick Bell, Addison Scarborough, Susana Ratcliff (no date, no total of receipts. [Signed] John King."²⁰⁸

COMMENT:

The John Watts who attended this neighborhood sale, beyond reasonable doubt, was our John Watts of the 1790 Fairfield census. His immediate neighbors from that census included King, Pickett, Tidwell, and Knighton.

27 JULY 1785

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Court minutes.

"The Court met according to adjournment and Appointed the following persons Overseers on the following Roads Viz. ... From Colo [John] Winn's to Ederingtons Road: **Thomas Watts**."²⁰⁹

COMMENT:

- This Thomas Watts should also be the Little River Thomas, a likely son of Edward Jr. or William.
- "Col. Winn's Bridge" appears on *Mills's Atlas* where Little River forks into the South, North, East. Ederington appears on that map about 5 miles due west of "Col. Winn."
- A road from Col. Winn's location to that of Ederington would run East-West just below Beaver Creek.

2 DECEMBER 1785

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

"*Lewis Ayar* of St. Pauls Parish by *Thomas Lehre*, his Attorney for 10 shillings to *Arramanos Lises* of Camden District, 250 acres joining **John Tayor [Taylor] Duke**, and *Eleazer Mobarley*, granted 1775 to

²⁰⁷ Fairfield Co. Plat Book A: 143; accessed via Ken Shelton, *South Carolina: Fairfield County South Carolina Early Plat Series* (<http://ken-shelton.com/Fairfield/Plats/plats.htm> : accessed 27 October 2014).

²⁰⁸ "Early Wills of Camden District," *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)* 4 (Spring 1976): page number not given, citing unidentified book, p. 295; accessed as *South Carolina Records and Reference*, CD-ROM (Orem, Utah: Ancestry.com, 1998). The ca. 178 date above is extrapolated from surrounding entries.

²⁰⁹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 3.

John Swint. (signed) Lewis Ayar by Thos. Lehre, his Atty. Witness: *James Lisles (A), Thos. Cockrell (X), Ephraim Lisles*. Proved in open court by Thomas Cockrell and Ephraim Lisles. Recorded 23 May 1787.”²¹⁰

COMMENT:

This land should be on waters of Upper Little River or Beaver Creek in the Mobley Settlement.

9 DECEMBER 1785

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Neighbor.

“Sale account of the Goods & Chattels of **James Gore**, Deceased. Decr. 9th, 1785. Purchasers: James Gore, John Gore, John Taylor, Elizabeth Gore, Joshua Gore, Eleazer Gore, **William Wats**, John Cockrell (?), John Colvin, Leonard Pratt. Elizabeth Gore, Exr’x, James Gore, Ex’tor.”²¹¹

COMMENT:

James Gore had several tracts surveyed on Sandy River, which lies in the region that is now northwest Fairfield—off Little River. The association implies that this William is William Sr. of Little River or a son.

24–25 JANUARY 1786

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

“Lease and Release. *William Duggins* of Fairfield County, Planter for 100 pounds to *William Wright* of the same place, Planter, 200 acres on the **Little River**, bounded by *James Gray, William Barnet, Thomas Wats*, and *Francis Kirkland*, originally granted to said William Duggins. (Signed) William Duggins (X). Witness: *Robert Stark, D. Evans*. Proved 26 January 1786 in open court by William Duggins. Recorded 10 March 1786.”²¹²

COMMENT:

- This Thomas should be the Little River Thomas, who was assigned to road duty on 27 July 1785, above. See note of 31 December 1787 re Duggins survey.
- Note the identification of his adjacent landowner as Francis Kirkland—the man who bought Edward Jr.’s surveyed tract on Dry Creek of the Wateree, adjacent to Thomas Watts Sr.
- William Duggins memorialized this land on 19 June 1771, but I have not found the plat.²¹³
- On 19 November 1784 Duggins had 100 acres surveyed on Taylor’s Creek adjoining Micajah “Piggott” [Pickett], a 1790 census neighbor of our John Watts.²¹⁴
- One *Richard Duggins* on 31 January 1787 would have a tract surveyed—a tract lying on Little River itself and *adjoining Thomas Watts*. See that date below.

25 JANUARY 1786

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Court minutes.

²¹⁰ Tony Draine, *Fairfield County, S.C., Deed Book A, 1785–1788* (Columbia, SC: Draban Publication, 1991), 14, citing pp. 350–52.

²¹¹ “Early Wills of Camden District,” *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research* (SCMAR) 4 (Spring 1976): page number not given, citing unnamed book, p. 290; accessed as South Carolina Records and Reference, CD-ROM (Orem, Utah: Ancestry.com, 1998).

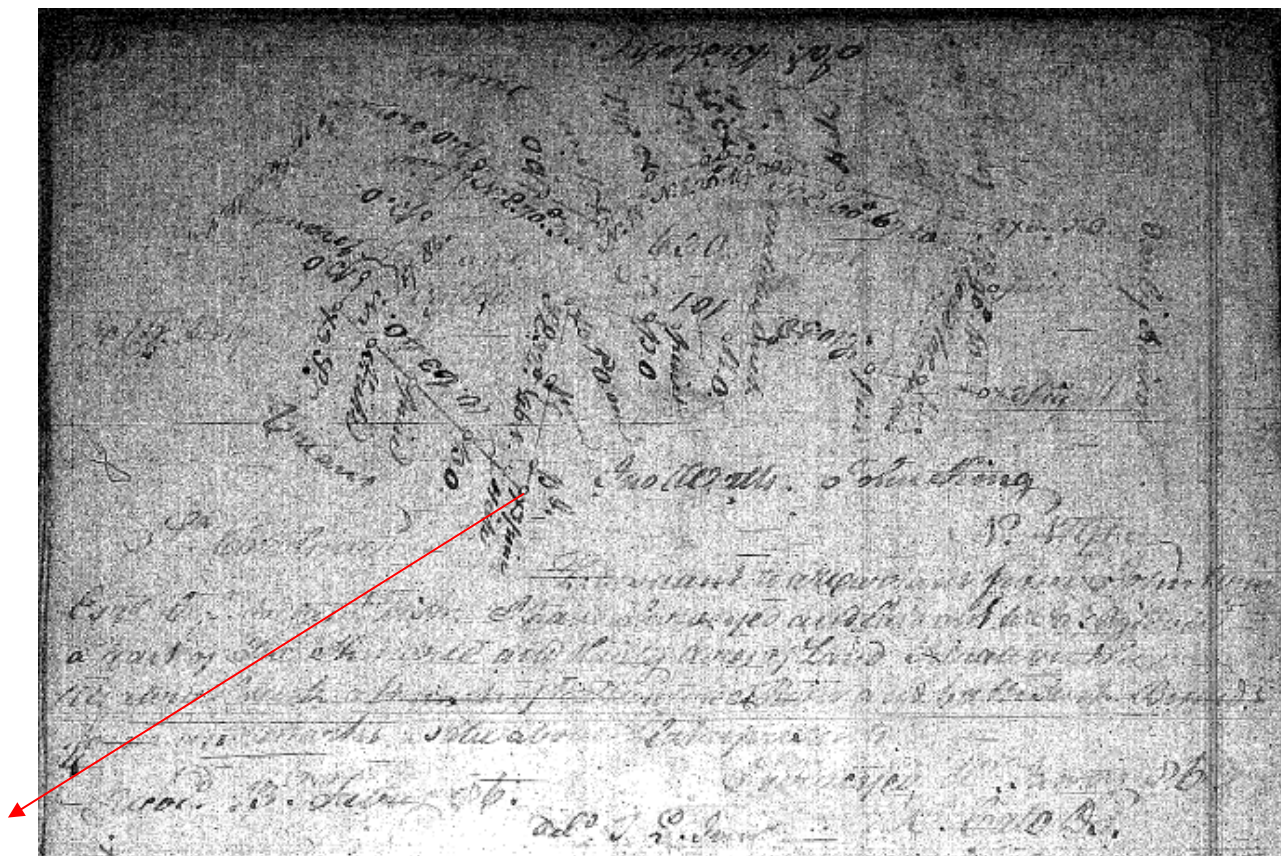
²¹² Tony Draine, *Fairfield County, S.C., Deed Book A, 1785–1788* (Columbia: Draban Publication, 1991), 7, citing pp. 188–92.

²¹³ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>), entry for “Duggin, William, citing “Series: S111001; Volume: 0010; Page: 00476; Item: 005.

²¹⁴ Fairfield Co., SC, Plat Book A: 176; imaged at Ken Shelton, *Genealogy Web Page* (www.ken-shelton.com/Fairfield/Plats/plat_B.htm).

“Ordered to proceed in calling over the Docket. **George Watts** vs. Dicksey Ward. Default.”²¹⁵

JANUARY 1786
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC
Land plat.



- The added red line represents north. John Watts and John King are to the NW of this tract.
- The transcript, below, follows the line lengths in the record to aid comparison with the faded image.

“Pursuant to a warrant from John Winn
Esq. [illegible words here] I have admeasured and laid out to **Jas. Ogilvie**
a tract of Six Hundred and thirty acres of land having [illegible ...]
[Illegible line ...]
[Illegible words] Surveyed ___ Jany ‘86
Recor^d 13 Feby ‘86 ___ Cato, D.S.”

Adjacent landowners shown at bottom of plat: **John Watts, John King.**

COMMENT:

- As seen in the King plat below, much is illegible. The notable point is the appearance of John Watts and John as adjacent landowners.

²¹⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 13.

- Several days after the survey—and before the filing—John Watts would sell a tract of land but not the tract shown on this survey. This point will be developed below, after one other related document are presented.²¹⁶
- **A copy of this plat—for land adjacent to John Watts & John King—is filed in the state land office under the name “Thomas Watts,”** who purchased the land from Ogilvie via a deed that has not yet been found. The State Archives’s online database carries this much more informative abstract:²¹⁷

Details

Series: S213190
Volume: 0020
Page: 00028
Item: 001

Date: 7/14/1787

Description: WATTS, THOMAS, PLAT FOR 630 ACRES ON WATEREE CREEK, CAMDEN DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY W. CATO FOR JAMES OGILVIE.

Names indexed: BARBER, JOHN; BISHOP, JAMES; CATO, W.; HINSON, BARTLY; KING, JOHN; OGILVIE, JAMES; WATTS, JOHN; WATTS, THOMAS

Locations: CAMDEN DISTRICT; WATEREE CREEK; WATEREE RIVER

Document type: PLAT

Topics:

[Close](#)

COMMENT:

- Note the names of other adjacent neighbors: John Barber, Bartly [Bartlett] Hinson, and John King. These men appear in numerous records as neighbors and associates of our John Watts.
- In April 1787, “Thomas Watts, Jun’r.” bought from Ogilvie an adjacent 737 acres.²¹⁸
- The abstracted plat, above, actually **places our John Watts as an adjacent landowner to the man identified in both Fairfield and Kershaw County as Thomas Watts Jr.**

LOCATION OF LAND:

The calls on this tract (to the extent they can be read) have little similarity to those on Ambrose Mills’s 100-acre mill site that our John Watts would sell at the end of this month. The differences are significant. Consider the following:

- The Ogilvie plat (like most in this plat book) do not show N-S orientation. However, it can be determined by reading the “calls.” When a line is marked “SE 32°,” then the line needs to be headed to the SE at 32°.
- To achieve the proper N-S orientation, we need to turn the Ogilvie plat roughly 120° clockwise. Doing so places John Watts and John King to the W of the 630 acres.
- No creeks, forks, or other waterways are shown on Ogilvie’s plat. The land has no opening onto water—a problem that would not exist for the landowner if he owned an adjacent tract, as did Thomas Watts Jr.

²¹⁶ Fairfield Co. Plat book B: 441.

²¹⁷ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>), “Watts, Thomas, citing “Series: S213190; Volume: 0020; Page: 00028; Item: 001.” Emphasis added.

²¹⁸ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book X: 82.

- Meanwhile, the 100-acre tract purchased by John and William Watts in December 1784 straddled the forks of the Wateree. If that tract adjoined the Ogilvie-Thomas Watts tract above, then the configuration of streams at that point (both the forks and adjacent creeks) allow no way to place the 630 acres on the map without crossing a waterway.
- The land on the northeast border of the Mills-Watts tract had been granted to John Lee—200-acre that was sliced by Wateree Creek in a configuration that exactly matches the Mills-Watts tract. In November 1786, when Lee made his will, he was still in possession of that adjacent land, and left those 200 acres to his daughter Rachel Cameron.²¹⁹
- All things considered, the **Ogilvie-Thomas Watts** tract of 630 acres lay between Dutchman’s Creek and Little Wateree Creek, likely with Mill Creek to its northwest—Mill Creek being the waters on or near which the 1790 census places John Watts.²²⁰

**29 JANUARY 1786
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC**

Land sale.

“**John Watts** of Fairfield County, Planter for 10 pounds to *Nathan Sanders* of the same place, Planter, 100 acres in the fork of Wateree Creek, bounded N.E. on land surveyed for *John Lee*, all other sides by vacant land, granted to *Ambros Mills* 16 May 1773, and sold by *William Mills* son and heir of *Ambros Mills* to *Micajah Pickett* 9 & 10 December 1784. (signed) **John Watts**. Witness: *Henry Sanders*, *William Tidwell* (X). Proved 13 November 1787 in open court by *Henry Sanders* and *William Tidwell*. Recorded 16 January 1788.”²²¹

COMMENTS:

- This John Watts is clearly our John who appears on the 1790 census amid the Picketts, Tidwells, and Sanders.
- Nathan Sanders, the purchaser, is found on the 1790 census 10 households from Moses Hornsbie (son-in-law of John Watts).
- There is clearly a legal problem with this transaction by which John sells land purchased by William Watts, without a power of attorney.
- Note that John is called “planter,” something he would no longer be if he were selling his only piece of land.

TO DO:

Comb the original deeds for the prior transactions, particularly William’s purchase of that land.

²¹⁹ Works Progress Administration, typescript of will of John Lee, Fairfield County, 1786; *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/Thumbnails.aspx?recordId=304725> : 6 June 2015), citing S108093, South Carolina Will Transcripts (Microcopy No 9).”

An image of this will, with the word “**Gordon**” penciled beside the name Sarah and “**Cameron**” penciled beside the name Rachel, has been posted by Holland Williams, “Balentine (SC) Family Research Tree Unproven,” Tree, *Ancestry* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/16941557/person/18980423603> : accessed 6 June 2015). Williams identifies the wife of John Lee as **Mary Cassells**, but does not identify the husbands of Agnis, Rosana, or Rebeccah, and offers no information on John Jr. He asserts that all the above children were born 1754–1769, which ostensibly rules out any of these daughters as the wife of John Watts.

For a different reconstruction of this family, see ProudToBeOkie, “Black Family,” *Ancestry* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/6657516/person/-1253799535> : accessed 6 June 2015), which asserts that John Lee (1721–86) first married Margaret Howard by whom he had Stephen (1748-1806), Elizabeth, Greenberry, and John; then married Mary Cassels, by whom he had Rachel (1756–91), Rosana (1760–82 [sic], Agnes “Nancy), Rebecca, Sarah, and Frances.

²²⁰ John’s next-door neighbor on that census was Rev. Edward Pigg, who, just months before, had bought the mill site on Mill Creek; see Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I:123.

²²¹ Tony Draine, *Fairfield County, S.C., Deed Book A, 1785–1788* (Columbia, SC: Draban Publication, 1991), 23, citing pp. 508–10.

14 JULY 1787

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Land plat.

Description: **Watts, Thomas**, plat for 276 acres on Wateree Creek, Camden District, surveyed by W. Cato for James **Ogilvie**.

Names Indexed: Bishop, James; Cato, W.; *Ogilvie, James; Peay, Nicholas; Watts, Thomas*

Locations: Camden District; Wateree Creek, Wateree River

Document type: Plat²²²

COMMENT:

- I have not been able to find this in the imaged local plat books provided online by Ken Shelton. There is no such plat for Thomas Watts in the index. Six plats are indexed for land surveyed for Ogilvie but registered by others acting under him (Plat Book B 316, 436, 443, 443, 444, 444). Only B:316 and B:441 carry Ogilvie's name. The plat at B:441 is for 630 acres surveyed January 1786, **adjacent to John Watts**. It is presented and discussed above under the survey date of January 1786. (Plat Bk E:384 has Ch. Pickett land adj. Bishop and "Watts")
- Three months before this Ogilvie record above, "**Thomas Watts Jr.**, planter" had bought from James "Oglivee" of Newbury County, Oglivee's 737-acre grant on **Dutchman's Creek** of the Wateree—land that should adjoin the grant above.²²³ Dutchman's Creek paralleled Little Wateree Creek, Dutchman's being the next major waterway to the south.
- **This man should be the one of the pair called "Thomas Jr." and "Thomas Sr." in local deeds and court records of the late 1780s and 1790s, on both sides of Wateree River.** John's son Thomas was not yet old enough to receive a land grant; Edward's son Thomas, of Little River, is considerably removed (20 or so miles). If William of Jackson's Creek (somewhat closer) had a son Thomas—a possibility that certainly exists—he has not yet entered the records.
- The "names indexed" in the abstract above would include the neighbors of the land being surveyed. The late-1700s to early-1800s Fairfield map depicted in *Mills's Atlas* shows A. Peay, Col. Peay, and Peay's Ferry along the main road between Lower or Little Wateree Creek (where John Watts lived) and Taylor's Creek—the latter lying just above Dutchman's Creek. Together, they seem to place "Thomas Jr." below the Little Wateree and above Taylor's and Dutchman's Creeks—in the immediate area of both the 630-acre survey for James Ogilvie and the 600-acre grant to **Ambrose Mills**.
- Re the **Peay** neighbors: In 1795, when **Moses Hornsby** sold his land, he sold it to *Nicholas Peay*.²²⁴ In 1799, when one William Watts sold his land on Dry Fork of the *Wateree River*, the j.p. he used was *Nicholas Peay* (of Fairfield Co.).²²⁵
- In short: Fairfield land records place John, John's son-in-law Hornsby, and Thomas Jr. in the same small community. They also place all three of those men—along with Thomas Sr., William [II], Edward Jr., and his Thomas in the same network of associates and in-laws.

²²² *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>), "Watts, Thomas, citing "Series: S213190; Volume: 0020; Page: 00023; Item: 001."

²²³ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book X:82.

²²⁴ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 330.

²²⁵ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book N:194–95.

31 DECEMBER 1787

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

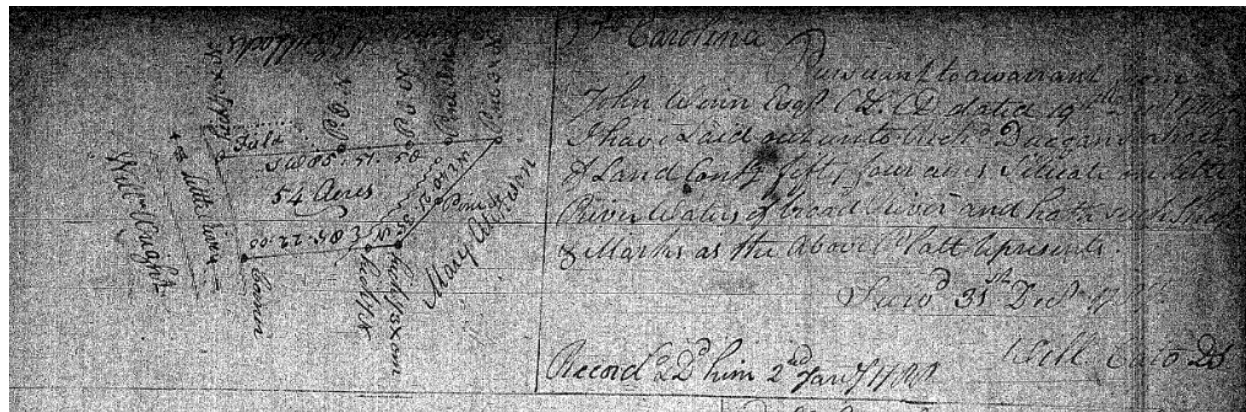
Neighbor.

Description: *Duggan, Richard*, plat for 54 acres on Little River, Camden District, surveyed by W. Cato

Names Indexed: Atcherson, Mary; Cato, W.; Duggan, Richard; McCulloch, John; **Watts, Thomas**; Wright, William

Locations: Camden District; Little River

Document type: Plat²²⁶



COMMENT:

- The references to Little River suggest this is Thomas-of-Edward.
- See abstract of 24–25 January 1786 for a connected land record on Little River involving Richard Duggins and this Thomas Watts.
- The above plat is not included in the online database. The image is from the local copy.²²⁷

5 MAY 1789

LANCASTER COUNTY, SC

Civic role.

“Jesse Minton of Lancaster Co., Camden Dist., planter, for s10, to James Sowel, 1000 A on Big and Little **Lynches Creek**, adj. James Bredin ... Jesse Minton (Seal. Elizabeth Minton € (Seal), Wit: **Benjamin Watts, Thomas Watts (T)**. Release gives grant date 4 Feb 1788. Prov. By **Thomas Watts**, 23 March 1790 before Andrew Baskin, J.P.”²²⁸

COMMENT:

Benjamin Watts was the son of Thomas of Lynch Creek. See Kershaw County Deed Book B:276.

14 OCTOBER 1789

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

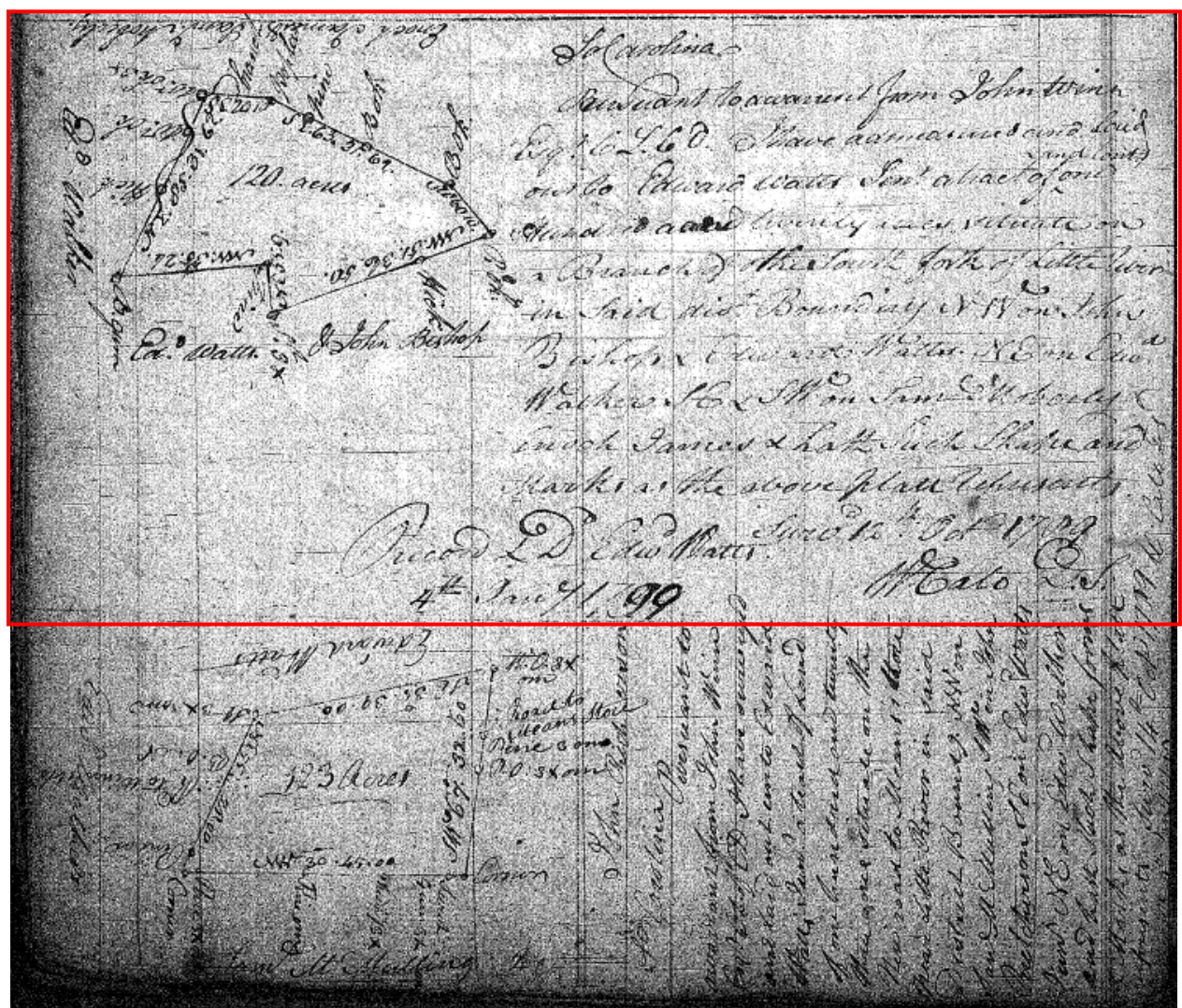
Land survey.

²²⁶ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>), “Watts, Thomas, citing “Series: S213190; Volume: 0022; Page: 00026; Item: 002.”

²²⁷ Fairfield Co. Plat Book C: 381; imaged at Ken Shelton, *South Carolina: Fairfield County South Carolina Early Plat Series* (<http://ken-shelton.com/Fairfield/Plats/plats.htm> : accessed 27 October 2014).

²²⁸ Brent H. Holcomb, *Lancaster County, South Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1787–1811* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, ca. 1981), 73; citing “Book C & E,” 57–59.

“Pursuant to a warrant from John Winn, Esqr. C. L. C^d, I have admeasured and Laid out to **Edward Watts Sen^r** [sic] a tract of [illegible word] land [being] one Hundred and twenty acres situate on a Branch of the South fork of Little River in Said dist. Bounding NW on *John Bishop & Edward Wattes*, NE on *Edw^d Walker*, SE & SW on **Sam^l Moberly & Enoch James** & hath Such Shape and Marks as the above platt represents. Surv^d 12th Oct 1789. Record & D^d [?] Edw^d Watts 4th Jan^y 1799.”²²⁹

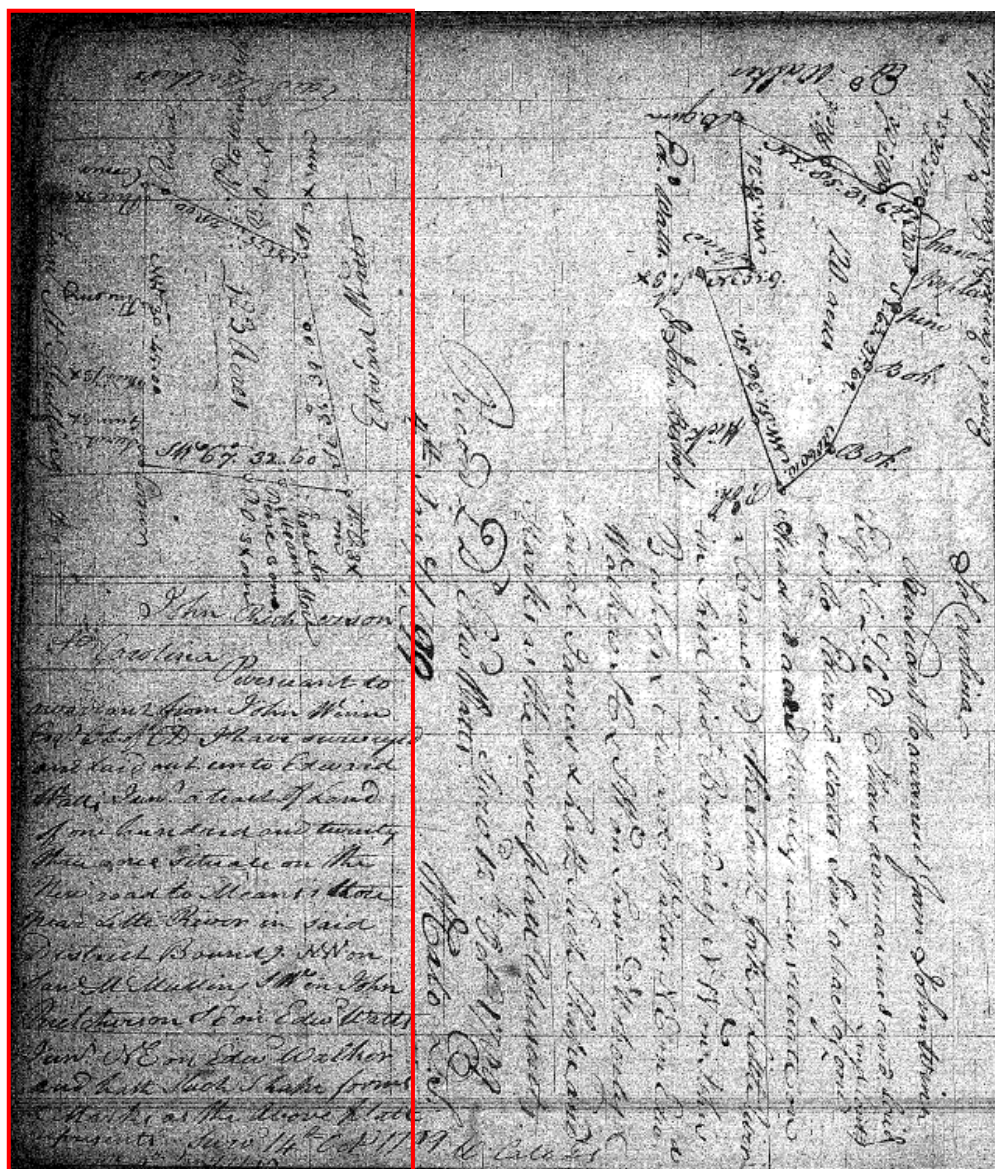


- COMMENT:
- This is a resurvey *and division* of Edward’s 1773 survey into two tracts.
 - The resurvey of the first half (above) cites the landowner as Edward Watts Sr. The resurvey of the second half (below) identifies the new owner as Edward Jr.

“Pursuant to a warrant from John Winn, Esqr. C. L. C^d [Commissioner of Lands, Camden District], I have admeasured and Laid out to **Edward Watts Sen^r** [sic] a tract of [illegible word] land [being] one Hundred and twenty three acres situate on the **New Road to Means’s Store**, near the Little River in Said dist.

²²⁹ Fairfield Co. Plat Book D: 93; imaged at Ken Shelton, *South Carolina: Fairfield County South Carolina Early Plat Series* (<http://ken-shelton.com/Fairfield/Plats/plats.htm> : accessed 27 October 2014).

Bounding NW on **Sam^l McMullins**, SW on John Hutcherson? [Ritcherson?], SE on "Edward Watts Junr.," NE on Edwd Walker & hath Such Shape and Marks as the above platt represents. Surv^d 14th Oct 1789. Record & D^d [?] Edw^d Watts 4th Jan^y 1799."²³⁰



6 JULY 1790
LANCASTER COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

"6 July 1790, Richard Middleton of Camden Dist., to William Middleton of same, planter (lease & release) 3 tracts (1) 100 A on SW side **Lynches Creek** near below **Jumping Gully** granted to *William Lankford*, 23 Aug 1765 (2) land on SW side **Lynches Creek** granted to *John Wade* 1 Feb 1763 (3) 70 A part

²³⁰ Fairfield Co. Plat Book D:93; imaged at Ken Shelton, *South Carolina: Fairfield County South Carolina Early Plat Series* (<http://ken-shelton.com/Fairfield/Plats/plats.htm> : accessed 27 October 2014).

of tract granted to **Thomas Watts** 13 July 1770. . . Richard Middleton (Seal), Wit: George Evans, Josiah Canty. Prov. In Kershaw County, by George Evans, before John Marshel, J.P. on 6 Jan 1791."²³¹

17 NOVEMBER 1790
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Witness.

"**John Woodward**, yeoman, to **Burbige Woodward**, planter, both of Fairfield Co., for 12 pds. sterling current money of SC, mortgage on certain livestock, corn, fodder, all my house furniture and plantation tools. If sum paid by 4 Nov. 1792, mortgage void. Dated 5 Nov. 1790. Wits: Isham Fair and **Edwd. Watts, Senr.**" Proved in open court 9 Nov. 1790. Recorded 17 Nov. 1790. Receipt for 12 pds. also recorded, same witnesses."²³²

COMMENT:

- This "Edward Watts, Senr." should be the original Little River settler who styled himself "Edward Watts Jr." in 1763 when he had land surveyed on the Wateree. He appears on the 1790 census next door to the Burbage Woodward above.
- The fact that he is now calling himself "Edward Senr." reveals that there is a younger Edward in his region who has come of age.

15 JUNE 1791
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Neighbor.

Description: **Knighton, Moses**, plat for 117 acres on **Wateree Creek**, Fairfield County, Camden District, surveyed by Richard Francis Winn.

Names Indexed: Barber, James; Knighton, Moses; **Layton, Francis**; *Lewis, Charles*; **Watts, Thomas**; Winn, Richard Francis

Locations: Camden District; **Little River**

Document type: Plat²³³

COMMENT:

- Most of the above men appear on the 1790 census (and local deed and court records) as *immediate neighbors of our John Watts and his adjacent landowner Thomas Watts*. (Moses Knighton and Charles Lewis are listed on same page with—13 and 17 households after—**John and Thomas Watts**. Francis Layton is 2 houses from Moses Hornsbie, John Watts's son-in-law.)
- Cf. the 28 September 1766 Ambrose Mills plat for 600 acres, on Wateree River, adjacent to Francis Layton.
- The identification of Layton as adjacent landowner places this between Dutchman's Creek and Little Wateree Creek and specifically identifies the adjacent Thomas as **Thomas Jr.**²³⁴

²³¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Lancaster County, South Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1787–1811* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, ca. 1981), 74; citing "Book C & E," 74–76.

²³² "Fairfield County Deed Book A, 1785–1794," *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)* 15 (Spring 1987): page number not given, citing Book A:98–99; accessed as *South Carolina Records and Reference*, CD-ROM (Orem, Utah: Ancestry.com, 1998).

²³³ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>), "Knighton, Moses, Plat for 117 acres on Wateree Creek."

²³⁴ Fairfield Co. Plat Book B: 441, for 630 acres surveyed January 1786 to James Ogilvie **adjacent to John Watts and John King**; *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>), "Watts, Thomas, for 630 acres surveyed to James Ogilvie adjacent to John Watts and John King; citing "Series: S213190; Volume: 0020; Page: 00028; Item: 001."

15 JUNE 1791

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Court minutes.

“**William Watts** vs. *William Goldtrap*. Att^t *William McMorris* in the name of the Deft. came into court and repleved the property and entered himself Special Bail.²³⁵”

[18] JUNE 1791

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Court Minutes.

“Petit Jurors drawn to serve at next court ... **Thomas Dukes** **Edward Watts**.²³⁶”

COMMENT:

Holcomb gives the date as “10” June but that date is out of sequence. Someone has pencilled in “18.”

17? JULY 1791

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Court minutes.

“Fairfield County vs. *Thomas Stone & Isaac Knighton*. sci fa.

“**Isaac Knighton** excused, he having showed to the Court that he was not an overseer at the time, the information was lodged. Rule stands over against **Thomas Stone**.

“**Isaac Knighton** appointed Overseer on the new road from Dutchmans Creek to Sauneys Creek.”²³⁷

COMMENT:

- Dutchman’s Creek, of the Wateree River, lay about 4 miles below the main stem of Wateree Creek. It curves southwestward in an arc that parallels the Little (Lower) Wateree Creek.
- Sauney’s Creek was the next major creek, going South from Dutchman’s, before reaching 25-Mile Creek (neighborhood of George Watts, the Dukes, and the Perrys).

28 JULY 1791

KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Civic role.

Petit Jurors ... **Benj’n Watts**.²³⁸

COMMENT:

This is a newly adult son of Thomas and Tabitha of Lynches Creek.

12 DECEMBER 1791

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Land plat.

Description: **Watts, Thomas**, plat for 215 acres on Dry Fork, Camden Dist., surv. by Andrew McDowell

²³⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 40.

²³⁶ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 46.

²³⁷ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 142.

²³⁸ Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986), 3; citing p. 11.

Names Indexed: Gibson, Isaac; Gibson, Jarvis; Gray, John; McDowell, Andrew; **Watts, Thomas**

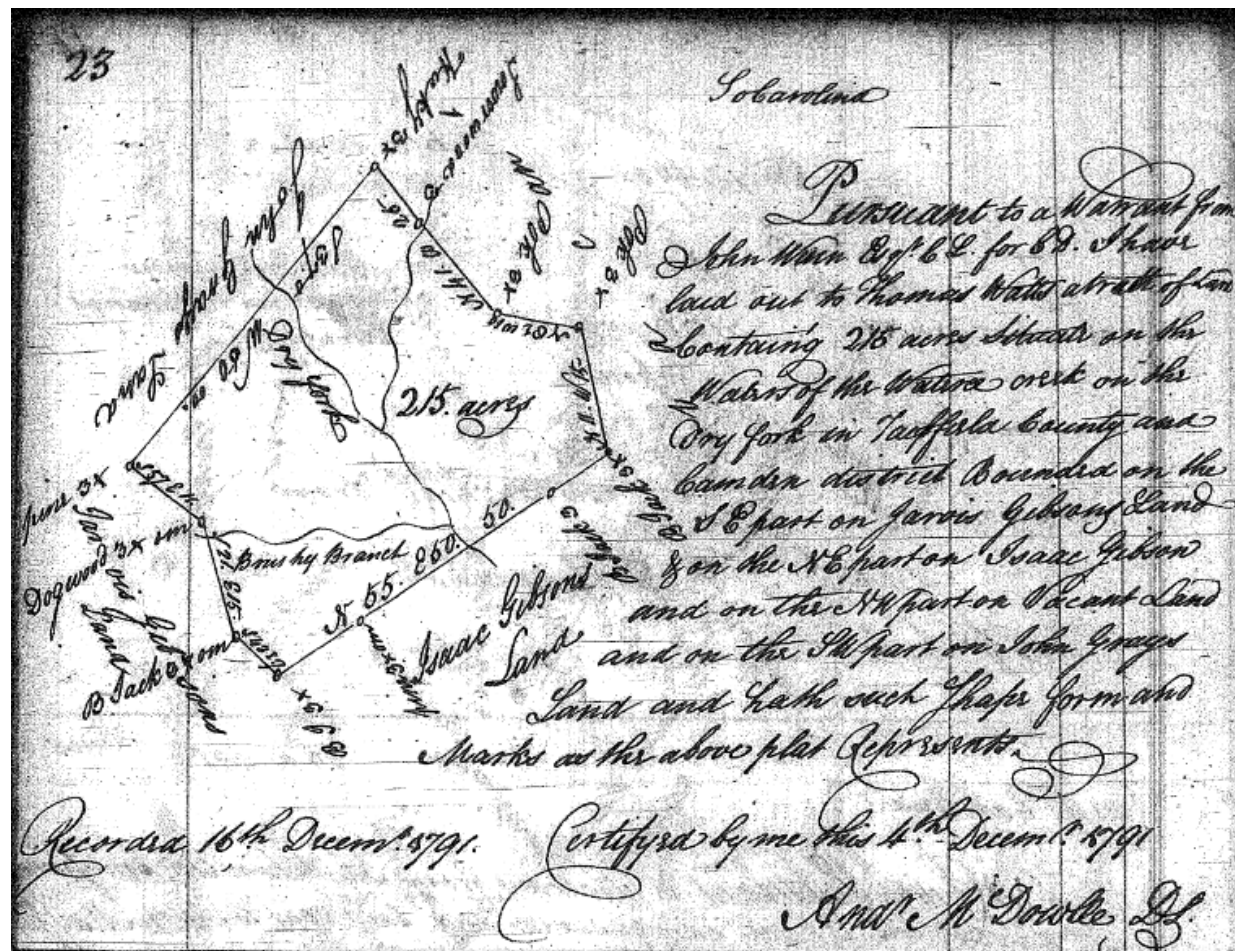
Locations: **Camden District**; Dry Fork Creek; Wateree Creek.

Document type: Plat²³⁹

COMMENT:

This is Thomas Jr. of Fairfield.

The plat of this land, below, is not part of the State Archives' online database. It is extracted from the local plat book.²⁴⁰



COMMENT:

- This grant to **Thomas Watts** [Jr.] was sold in 1799 by **William Watts** [II], without explanation of how he had the legal right to sell it.²⁴¹
- See also the note of 15 June 1791 for neighborhood context.

²³⁹ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Watts, Thomas, citing "Series: S213190; Volume: 0027; Page: 00503; Item: 002."

²⁴⁰ Fairfield Co. Plat Book E: 23; imaged at Ken Shelton, *South Carolina: Fairfield County South Carolina Early Plat Series* (<http://ken-shelton.com/Fairfield/Plats/plats.htm> : accessed 27 October 2014).

²⁴¹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book N: 194–95.

25 JANUARY 1792
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC
 Court minutes.

“**William Watts vs. William Goldtrap.** Attachment dismissed at the plaintiff’s costs.”²⁴²

JANUARY 1792
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC
 Court minutes.

“State vs. Thomas Means. ... Assault and Battery. ... Guilty.” Jurors include **Edward Watts.**²⁴³

JANUARY 1792
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC
 Court minutes.

“Margaret Godfrey vs. Thomas Malone Caase the cause was now called and the following Jury was impannelled to try the same ... **Edw^d Watts** who returned the following verdict. We find for the plaintiff £15”3”2. John **Woodard** foreman.”²⁴⁴

1992
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC
 Tax List.

[Names listed semi-alphabetically by first letter of surname]

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Watts, Edward | 24 acres, state tax | 0 acres, county tax | |
| Weaver, Morris | 250 acres, state tax | 250 acres, county tax | 1-1 poll |
| Walker, Andrew | 200 acres, state tax | 0 acres, county tax | 1-0 |
| Wells, Thomas | 100 acres, state tax | 0 acres, county tax | |
| Wagh, Samuel | 150 acres, state tax | 0 acres, county tax | 1-0 |
| Watts, George | 200 acres, state tax | 200 acres, county tax | |
| Wooten, Aaron | 100 acres, state tax | 100 acres, county tax | |
| Wilson, Jesse | 100 acres, state tax | 0 acres, county tax | |
| Wilson, Robert | 250 acres, state tax | 250 acres, county tax | 1-1 |
| Watts, Edward | 100 acres, state tax | 100 acres county tax | |
| [skip 35 “W” entries] | | | |
| Watts, William | | 93 acres, county tax ²⁴⁵ | [-7] |

COMMENT:

- By February 1792, our John Watts and his son Thomas were in Washington County, Ga.
- The above tax list does not cover all the known Watts land in the county.
 - Thomas Jr. had extensive holdings (1,344 acres bought from James Ogilvie ca. 1786–87) and is not included
 - Thomas of the 1791 survey is not included; however, he may not have received his patent before the tax list was compiled.

²⁴² Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 47.

²⁴³ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 52.

²⁴⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 54.

²⁴⁵ Tony Draine and Edd Bannister, *Fairfield County, SC, Tax Returns, 1792* (Columbia, SC: Draban Publications, ca.1991).

- Thomas-of-Edward is also missing. He appears on plats for both Richard Duggins and Francis Kirkland, as an adjacent landowner. However, his location suggests that he may be the actual proprietor of Edward's land.
- Local records of the 1790s in Kershaw indicate that Thomas Jr. resided there, and serve on juries there. It is possible that he paid his Fairfield tax as an absentee landowner or else his lease contract with a renter required the renter to pay the tax.
- Note the two separated listings for Edward Watts, suggesting there are two separate men by that name. See 12 October 1789 above, for the splitting of Edward Jr.'s 1772 grant into two separate tracts—one to be held by the grantee Edward Jr. (therein called Edward Sr.) and a new same-name man who was therein called Edward Jr.
- The acreage attributed to Edward Watts, in two separate lots, does have a problem. It totals 124. He actually had 223 (the original survey allowed 224). It is possible that a transcription error occurs on this published list.

TO DO:

- Find the actual roll and verify the above data.
- Read the entire roll for acreage to determine who might be paying tax on the missing tracts.

**28 FEBRUARY 1792
KERSHAW COUNTY, SC**

Civic role.

Grand jurors ... **Tho's Wats.**²⁴⁶

COMMENT:

- Thomas-of-John was in Washington County, Ga. in February 1792, at which time he petitioned for land.
- Thomas Jr. is a significant landholder in Fairfield and a likely resident there. He would, however, become a Kershaw resident before February 1796 (see below)
- Thomas Sr. and Thomas-of-Lynches Creek are the two remaining Thomases on the Kershaw side of the Wateree.

**22 MAY 1792
KERSHAW COUNTY, SC**

Civic role.

Grand jurors ... **Tho's Wats.**²⁴⁷

**JANUARY 1793
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC**

Court minutes.

"Petit Jury: ... **Moses Hornsby.**"²⁴⁸

²⁴⁶Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986), 7; citing p. 21.

²⁴⁷Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986), 16; citing p. 45.

²⁴⁸Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 82.

JANUARY 1793

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Court Minutes.

“The following persons have been Legally warned to work on the road from **Winnsborough to Little River** but neglected to attend. The Court have fined each Defaulter agreeable to Law. Defaulters names: *Thomas Owens, James Barkley, **Randal Gibson**, Hugh Carson & Wm. Durphey, Robert McCreight, Joseph Quarell, James Workman, David McCreight, John Hussey.*

“On a petition of several of the inhabitants of Fairfield County for a road to be opened from Archibald Palls on **Jacksons Creek**, the nearest and best way by *Hutchinsons old Field* to Chester County Line near *Doughtys Plantation*. Ordered that the same be Granted, and that *Mr. Burr Harrison, Thomas Shannon,* and *Ephraim Butler* be appointed Commissors to lay out the said road.”²⁴⁹

22–30 MAY 1793

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Witness.

“William Kirkland of Fairfield Co. to my loving daughter Sarah Taylor of same county, for love, goodwill and affection, 150 acs. where the said Sarah Taylor is now living and all the lands belonging to me adjoining the same 150 acs., also one Negro girl named Hannah, to said Sarah Taylor and the heirs of her body. Dated 22 May 1793. Wits: **Geo. Watts** and Jesse Kirkland who proved the deed of gift 30 May 1793 before Zachariah Kirkland, J.P. Recorded 3 June 1793.”²⁵⁰

30 MAY 1793

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Witness.

“William Kirkland to my loving daughter Elizabeth Sorsby and the heirs of her body, both of Fairfield Co., for love, goodwill and affection, one Negro girl named Silva, one Negro girl named Fillis and one Negro boy named Jerry. Wits: **Geo. Watts** and Jesse Kirkland who proved the deed of gift 30 May 1793 before Zachariah Kirkland, J.P. Recorded 3 June 1793.”²⁵¹

12 JUNE 1793

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Court minutes.

“Petit Jurors ... **Edwd Watts ... George Lott.**”²⁵²

14 JUNE 1793

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Court minutes.

“Ordered that *John Turner* and ***Micajah Picket*** and *William Watson* be commissioners to view the road leading through the **mountain gap** and to Judge wether the said road can conveniently be turned by the **plant** of **John Tidwell**, or wether the old may be more practicable and make a report thereof at Sept^r court next.”

²⁴⁹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 82.

²⁵⁰ “Fairfield County Deed Book A, 1785–1794,” *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)* 16 (Fall 1988): page not given, citing Book A:190; accessed as *South Carolina Records and Reference*, CD-ROM (Orem, Utah: Ancestry.com, 1998)

²⁵¹ “Fairfield County Deed Book A, 1785–1794,” *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)* 16 (Fall 1988): page number not given, citing Book A:189; accessed as *South Carolina Records and Reference*, CD-ROM (Orem, Utah: Ancestry, 1998)

²⁵² Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 52.

“John Wilson vs. **Geo^e Watts** & Danl. Williams. Debt. Jud^t. Considered by George Watts according to Specialty.”²⁵³

COMMENT:

- On 9 August 1784, John Wilson and Thomas Duke inventoried the estate of **Jacob Perry**, whose 1780 will named daughters **Ruth Watts** and **Mary Wilson**; and granddaughter **Sarah Watts**. **George Watts** witnessed the will.²⁵⁴
- Both Picketts and Tidwells were 1790 census neighbors of John and Thomas Watts—thereby placing those two Wattses in the vicinity of the mountain gap. That long gap mountain gap is shown on topo map MRC:34080D8 (Quadrangle: “Flint Hill, SC.”) in the spot that centers at N34.44905° W80.94825°.

18 JUNE 1793

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Court minutes.

“State vs. **Elizt^h Watts, Geo^e Watts, Jesse Perry**. Recognizances forfeited scire facias to issue.”²⁵⁵

COMMENTS:

Unlike most court cases, this one does not state the charge—not in this court minute or the subsequent one in January 1795. The typical reason why a female was charged as the main party in a suit, with two males (typically relatives) named after her, is a bastardy case for which the two males posted bond to ensure that the child would not become a public charge.

TO DO:

Investigate the possibility that George, by this time, has a daughter who is at least a teenager.

FEBRUARY TERM 1795

KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Civic role.

“Grand Jury Drawn from Box N’o 1 to N’o 2. ... **Francis Watts**.”²⁵⁶

COMMENT:

- This is the first reference found to a **Francis Watts**. Deed and probate records relevant to the land of Thomas of Lynches Creek indicate that he did not have a son Francis. (See forthcoming report “Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina.”)
- By elimination, this Francis would seem to be a newly adult son of Thomas Sr., of Dry Creek of the Wateree. No other Watts families have been identified in the county.
- The use of the name Francis again hints of a kinship with Francis Kirkland. Checking *Ancestry’s* user-contributed trees, I find undocumented support for this hypothesis: Kirkland is said to have married “Mary Watts” by whom he had children “Ambrose (1770–1840), Elizabeth (1770–1795), Mary (1778–182), Francis (1780–1854) and Constance (1781–1850).”

²⁵³ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 83.

²⁵⁴ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1:150, 182–83; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

²⁵⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, S.: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 87.

²⁵⁶ Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986),66; citing p. 177.

Mary's parents are not identified,²⁵⁷ but the fact that she named her first son Ambrose also suggests the likelihood that she was the daughter of Ambrose Mills's sister Sarah who married Thomas Watts.

JULY 1795

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Court minutes.

"State vs. **Elizabeth Watts et alias**. Sci Fai. Judgement on recognizance."²⁵⁸

AUGUST TERM 1795

KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Civic role.

"Grand Jury Drawn from Box N'o 1 to N'o 2. ... **Thomas Watts**."²⁵⁹

COMMENT:

Again, the lack of any suffix to the name "Thomas Watts" implies that he's the only one left in the county or the only one who has not passed the maximum age for jury service.

9 FEBRUARY 1796

KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Legal suit.

"Jonathan Belton vs. **Thomas Watts Sen'r**. Debt. Judgment Confess'd agreeable to Specialty with Costs of Suit With Stay of Ex'on Untill August next."²⁶⁰

COMMENT:

- Note that this is a **Kershaw** document.
- Thomas apparently asked for a stay of execution in order to sell his land and pay the debt. Had the land been seized, and auctioned at the courthouse door, it would have brought only a fraction of its value.
- Thirteen days after this decree above (22 February below), he sold his grant from the 1760s to a man who, in 1790, lived in Fairfield's Dutchman's Creek/ Taylor Creek area where (a) Thomas Watts Jr. held two tracts of land; and (b) our John Watts held a tract adjacent to one of those. The witnesses to that deed would then prove the document before **John Watts's** neighborhood justice, **Charles Pickett**.
- The **Beltons** were merchants and planters between Wateree Creek (on the north) and Taylor Creek (on the south)—i.e., the neighborhood of **our John Watts and Thomas Watts Jr.**

9 FEBRUARY 1796

KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Civil role.

"The State vs. Jesse Minton. Jurors: **Thomas Watts Jun'r**."²⁶¹

²⁵⁷ John Davis1_1, "Davis Family Tree," *Ancestry* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/23935811/person/12522964029> : accessed 5 June 2015).

²⁵⁸ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 114.

²⁵⁹ Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986), 73; citing p. 195.

²⁶⁰ Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986), 87; citing p. 216.

COMMENT:

Note, in the same term of court, the separate and distinctive identifications of Thomas Watts, *Sen'r.* and Thomas Watts, *Jun'r.*

12 FEBRUARY 1796
KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Civic role.

“Ordered that the following Persons are appointed overseers of the several districts of roads within this County for the ensuing year, each overseer to appoint a summoner for his district. ... **Tho. Watts.**”²⁶²

COMMENT:

This **Kershaw** man should *not* be Thomas Watts “*Sen'r.*” By 1796, a man who was over 21 in 1763 (when he applied for the grant) would be too old to be assigned road duty. This “young” **Thomas of Kershaw** should be the Thomas who appears in both Kershaw and Fairfield records as Thomas “Junior” (the Dutchman’s Creek grantee of 1787 and the 1790 neighbor of our John Watts).

22 FEBRUARY 1796
LANCASTER COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

“Camden Dist.: **Thomas Watts of Kershaw County**, for s 5, to **Reubin Starke** of Lancaster & Kershaw Co., ... 250A part of tract laid out for **Thomas Watts 1 Feb 1768** adj. **Francis Kirkland.** . . 22 Feb 1796. Thos Watts (Seal), Wit: Nicholas Peay, Austin Peay, Elijah Ivey. Prov. By Austin Peay in Fairfield County, 11 April 1796, before Chas. Pickett, J.P.”²⁶³

COMMENT:

- This Thomas was **Thomas Sr.**—one of the three Watts who in 1763 had 3 adjacent tracts surveyed on Dry Creek of Wateree River.
- The j.p. used to prove this Thomas Watts deed was the 1790 neighbor of our John Watts and Thomas Watts [Jr.]
- The purchaser, Reuben Stark, is enumerated in the 1790 census amid Dutchman’s Creek and Taylor Creek households—i.e., the area in which **Thomas Watts Jr.** had acquired land in 1786 and 1787.
- On 23 November 1834, Austin F. Peay of Fairfield District sold for \$18,670 to Roland Cornelius of Kershaw District, 1260 acres in Kershaw and Lancaster on **NE side of Wateree River** including “one tract granted to **Thomas Watts.**”²⁶⁴
- This north-of-Wateree land should be the tract surveyed for Thomas in 1763. 1768 would be the date the grant was finalized.

23 FEBRUARY 1796
LANCASTER COUNTY, SC

²⁶¹ Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986), 87; citing p. 218.

²⁶² Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986), 94; citing pp. 237-38.

²⁶³ Brent H. Holcomb, *Lancaster County, South Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1787–1811* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1981), 85; citing “Book C & E,” p. 182.

²⁶⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *Lancaster County, South Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1787–1811* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, ca. 1981), 91; citing “Book C & E,” pp. 248-49.

Bond.

“Thomas Watts of Kershaw Co., bound for s 5 to *Austin Peay* of Lancaster Co., 200 A laid out for **Thomas Watts 1 Feb 1768** ... 23 Feb 1796. **Thomas Watts** (Seal), Wit: Nicholas Peay, **Reubin Starke**, *Saml Starke*. Prov. By Reubin Starke, 11 Apr 1796, before Chas Pickett, J.P. on Fairfield County.”²⁶⁵

COMMENT:

Some Starke researchers assert (without evidence) that Reuben and Samuel were sons of Capt. Thomas Starke with whom our **John Watts** cosigned the 1783 letter of recommendation for their “former neighbor” William Coggins.

TO DO:

The Starks, particularly Reuben Starke, need to be fully studied for the potential birth family of John Watts wife. The name “Reuben,” which John and wife gave to their third son, does not fit anywhere into the Wattses of Fairfield and Kershaw.

1793–1796

GREENVILLE COUNTY, SC / WASHINGTON COUNTY, GA.

Civic role.

“[No.] 931. (Washington Co, GA) Feb. 22, 1793 Arthur Bennett (Washington Co, GA) to William Powell Reddell (Newberry Co, SC); for £50 sterling sold 200 ac on a branch of Reedy R; border: Young on SE, Muckle & Nation on N, & vacant land on other sides; granted (no date) to Arthur Bennett. (signed) Arthur Bennett; witness John Rutherford & Thomas B. Rutherford; wit oath by J. Rutherford & T. B. Rutherford before **John Watt (of Washington Co, GA)**; rec. Feb. 1, 1796; book D, p. 212.”²⁶⁶

COMMENT:

- This would be Capt./Col. John Watts, the Washington Co., justice. Our John also settled in Washington Co. and became a Georgia justice about this time, but not until his land had been cut away into Montgomery County.
- I am including Greenville County in these abstracts because George Watts’s Revolutionary pension application states that he moved to Greenville County from Fairfield. It is only a coincidence that a document executed before Justice John Watts of Washington County, Georgia (alleged son of Thomas and Tabitha of Kershaw) ended up filed in Greenville County.

11 MARCH 1796

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Neighbor.²⁶⁷

Description: Owens, Bird, plat for 100 acres on Dry Fork Creek, Fairfield County, Camden District, surveyed by Andrew McDowell

Names Indexed: *Gray, John; McDowell, Andrew; Owens, Bird; Tedwell, John; Watts, Thomas*

Locations: Camden District; *Dry Fork Creek; Wateree Creek*; Fairfield County

Document type: Plat

COMMENT:

²⁶⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Lancaster County, South Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1787–1811* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, ca. 1981), 85; citing “Book C & E,” p. 182?.

²⁶⁶ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Greenville County, SC: Books D & E (1795–1798)* (N.p.: P.p. 1999), 21.

²⁶⁷ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>; accessed 7 October 2014), “Watts, Thomas”; citing “Series: S213190; Volume: 0027; Page: 00503; Item: 002.”

- The neighbors here were adjoining landowners to the 1791 grant laid out for one “Thomas Watts” on Dry Fork.
- On the 1790 census, several **Tidwell** households are clustered around **John Watts** and his land-owning next-door neighbor, **Thomas Watts [Jr.]**.

TO DO:

Get the Bird Owens plat from the local plat registers.

7 JANUARY 1797

PINCKNEY DISTRICT, SC

Land plat.²⁶⁸

Description: Timms, James, Admor. of **Thomas Watts**, plat for 81 acres on Sandy River, Pinckney District, surveyed by William Boyd.

Names Indexed: Boyd, David; Boyd, William; McGriff, Patrick: Timms, James; **Watts, Thomas**

Locations: Pinckney District; Sandy River

Document type: Plat

COMMENT:

In the 1770s, one **David Boyd** owned land adjacent to **John Watts**, but the document abstract above appears to treat a different Boyd-Watts cluster. *Pinckney District was subdivided into Chester, Spartanburg, Union, and York.*

- Sandy River rises out of the extreme northwest corner of Fairfield County but is primarily in Chester and Union Counties.
- Chester County lies above Fairfield County, the full length of its Fairfield’s northern border.
- Union County lies for a short distance along Fairfield’s upper western border.
- These two county borders are about 6–7 miles from Mobley’s Meeting House and the site of Edward Watts’s land.
- This should not be a situation in which Thomas-of-Edward moved up Sandy River and died there, because Thomas of Edward was still alive at the time of Edward’s death in 1810.²⁶⁹
- The last known record for Thomas Sr. of Kershaw is the 23 February 1796 sale of part of his 1763 grant in Kershaw. Neither Thomas Sr. nor Jr. are found in Kershaw thereafter. The timing is appropriate for this probate-related document to be Thomas Sr.
- **This Thomas Watts is not an individual with known Fairfield or Wateree connections.** In May 1798, James Timms, as administrator of a number of estates, filed his return with the Chester County court, for the estate of Thomas Watts decd.” saying that he had “contracted with & paid to **Daniel Watts**, Heir of the said Thomas Watts, for his publick demands in full and have obtain’d only one land warrant.”²⁷⁰

9 MAY 1797

KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Civic role.

²⁶⁸ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov /online archives/>), “Watts, Thomas”; citing “Series: S213190; Volume: 0036; Page: 00028; Item: 007.”

²⁶⁹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book T:295–96, deed, heirs of Edward Watts; from report in progress, “Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield ...”

²⁷⁰ Chester Co., SC, Will Book 1: 364; imaged as “South Carolina Probate Records, Bound Volumes, 1671–1977,” *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org>), Chester County > Probate Records, 1787–1799, Vol. A (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1-19385-16212-59?cc=1919417&wc=M6NW-ZP8:210904201,210956301>)

“Ordered that the Following Persons are appointed Overseers of the Several Districts of Roads Within this County for the ensuing Year, each ... to appoint a Summoner for his District. ... **Tho’s Watts**.²⁷¹

COMMENT:

This should be Thomas Jr. See, for example, the road overseer note of 12 February 1796.

AUGUST TERM 1797
KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Civic role.

“Grand Jury Drawn from Box N’o 1 to N’o 2. ... **Thomas Watts**.²⁷²

COMMENT:

- The last deed for Thomas Watts (Sr. or Jr.) in the Holcomb abstracts I’m using here (which go through 1811), is the **23 February 1796** sale by Thomas Sr. of the land patented to him in the 1760s.
- The grand jury records also have no further mention of either Thomas. The drawing of the name means that Thomas was then *expected* to appear at the next term of court or be fined. He did not appear and he was not fined.
- Apparently one or both Thomas Watts (Sr. and/or Jr.) died or left the region. By the 1790s, the outmigrants from Fairfield included not only our John Watts and family, but also George Watts and family.
- The 1800 census of South Carolina shows only one Thomas Watts head-of-household in the state: a male 26-45 in Pendleton County—the county to which George of Fairfield would soon move. (See notes below.)

29 SEPTEMBER 1798
KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Land grant.

“Description: **Watts, Isaiah**, Plat for 145 acres on Red Oak Camp Creek Camden District. Surveyed by Richard Bettis.

Names indexed: Bettis, Richard; Rochel, James; Rochel, Lovick; **Watts, Isaiah; Watts**.

Locations: Camden District, **Lynches Creek**; Red Oak Camp Creek.²⁷³

COMMENT:

These Lynches Creek Watts are offspring of Thomas and Tabitha.

7 FEBRUARY 1799
KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Legal suit.

“No. 11 John Adamson vs **William Watts**. Confession of Judgements for £16 2/5.”²⁷⁴

COMMENT:

²⁷¹ Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986), 109; citing p. 266.

²⁷² Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986), 110; citing p. 267.

²⁷³ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>; accessed 7 October 2014), “Watts, Isaiah”; citing Series S108093, Reel 26, Frame 615, item 000.

²⁷⁴ Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986), 135; citing p. 339.

On 19 February 1800, by a deed recorded in Fairfield, “William Watts of Kershaw” sold land he had been granted on 6 February 1792 in Fairfield on Mottley’s Branch of Wateree Creek. On that same day, by a second document in which he is said to be of Fairfield (not Kershaw) he sold an adjoining tract that he had bought on Mottley’s Branch.²⁷⁵ Possibly, this was William Watts Sr. (one of the three men who received the Dry Creek of Wateree River grants in 1763. More likely, it was a son of Thomas Sr. and the same William Watts who co-purchased the Ambrose Mills land with our John in 1784.

2 DECEMBER 1799
GREENVILLE COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

“[No.] 1787. Dec. 2, 1799 Jesse Suggs (Greenville Co) to Dudley Howel (same); for £35 sterling sold 150 ac on head branches of Reedy R {and} Richland Cr; border: joins a conditional line and Ward Worth; where Jesse Suggs lives; part of 840 ac granted Feb. 4, 1793 by Gov. William Moultrie to Archabald Fowler (recorded in book 5G p9). (signed) Jesse Suggs & Wine Suggs’ mark ‘X’ (sic); **John Wats & Moses Lester; proved by John ‘Watson’** before David Goodlett esq.; recorded Junn. 19, 1801; book F p.217.”²⁷⁶

COMMENT:

I am including Greenville County at this point because George Watts’s Revolutionary War pension file notes his departure from Fairfield and subsequent residence in Greenville and Pendleton. This John “Watts” or Watson of Greenville appears to be no connection.

1 JANUARY 1802
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

“Description: Perry, Lemuel, plat for 500 acres on **25 Mile Creek**, Fairfield District, surveyed by Adam McWillie.

Names indexed: **Dukes, Elizabeth; McWillie, Adam; Perry, Lemuel; Perry, Lewis, Watts, Moses.**

Locations: Fairfield District, 25 Mile Creek.²⁷⁷

COMMENT:

This Moses Watts has not been identified.

- He was not named as a son of George in the pension application; however, George’s youngest son Edward, about 1851, stated that he was naming *only living children* of George.
- He is also not named in the 1810 estate-settlement deeds executed by heirs of Edward Jr.
- No known record identifies the children of Thomas of the Wateree River or William of Little River. (Little River was a center of the famed *Moses Kirkland’s* Regulator activities in the years leading up to the Revolution, and many Camden District families named their children Moses in his honor.)
- The Perry association and the 25-Mile Creek location suggests that Moses could belong to Thomas [Sr.] on Dry Creek of the Wateree (Kershaw Co.).
- Two other “stray” Wattses has appeared among the Wateree Wattses in the last decade:
 - **Elizabeth Watts**, for whom George Watts and Jesse *Perry* stood as surety in 1793.

²⁷⁵ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book N:77–78; and 78–80; from report in progress, “Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield ...”

²⁷⁶ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Greenville County, SC: Books F & G (1800–1807)* (N.p.: P.p., 2000), 13.

²⁷⁷ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online-archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Perry, Lemuel”; citing Series S213182, Vol. 0038, Page 00643; Item 002.

- o **Francis Watts**, who served as a Kershaw juror in 1795.

Both, like Moses, were of appropriate age to be the younger children of Thomas Sr.

7 DECEMBER 1804

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Legal suit.

“Lovick Rochell vs Jas. Holmes et alia. On Motion of Mr. Modan(?) and on an affidavit that **Tabitha Watts** a witness in this cause is very old and infirm, ordered that a Commission do issue to examine said Tabitha Watts.”²⁷⁸

COMMENT:

This Tabitha is the widow of Thomas Watts of Lynches Creek.

21 FEBRUARY 1809

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Civic role.

“Exparte Joseph English. Petition for Writ de lunatico Enquirendo. The Petition and affidavit accompanying it having been read, Ordered on motion of Mr. Blanding Solicitor for the Petitioner that a Writ do issue directed to Thomas Hopkins, James English, William Guphill, **Thomas Watts & William Watts** requiring them to enquire of the Lunacy of William Fitzpatric, and that the said Commissioners do make their return to the Court of Equity for the district of Columbia.”²⁷⁹

COMMENT:

This paired Thomas and William Watts should be Thomas Jr. and William, son of the original Wateree settler, Thomas Sr.

28 JULY 1818

PENDLETON DIST., SC

Witness.

“James Turner & William Turner (Pendleton Dist) to William Cannon (same); for \$800 sold 402.5 ac on Savannah R; {reference to 3 plats for metes & bounds}. (signed) James Turner & William Turner; (witness) Abraham Sanders & **James Watt**; wit. Oath Jul. 18, 1818 by Abraham Sanders before James Turner JP; Oct. 28, 1818 recorded; book O p. 323.”²⁸⁰

COMMENT:

This Turner-connected set of Watts in Greenville and Pendleton was the George Watts family, formerly of Fairfield. See the RW pension application for George and his widow Barbara.

19 NOVEMBER 1818

PENDLETON DIST., SC

Witness.

“Edward Sanders (Pendleton Dist) to Abraham Sanders (same); for \$74.50 sold 24.5 ac; border: begins at corner pine, joins a branch, includes a spring, joins a ‘hollor’, & division line between John Sanders &

²⁷⁸ “Camden District Equity Journal,” *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)* 14 (Summer 86): page number not given, citing unidentified book, p. 89; accessed as *South Carolina Records and Reference*, CD-ROM (Orem, UT: Ancestry.com, 1998).

²⁷⁹ “Camden District Equity Journal,” *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)* 15 (Spring 1987): page number not given, citing unidentified book, p. 165; accessed as *South Carolina Records and Reference*, CD-ROM (Orem, UT: Ancestry.com, 1998).

²⁸⁰ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Pendleton District, SC, Books O and P (1818–1822)* (N.p.: P.p., 2007), 41.

Thomas Sanders; where John Sanders lives. (signed) Edward Sanders' mark 'X"; (witness) Thomas Sanders & **Wm Watt**; wit. Oath May 8, 1819 by Thomas 'B' Sander before James McDill JP; Nov. 30, 1819 recorded & examined by Joseph Grisham, D clerk; book) p. 490."²⁸¹

20 JULY 1818

PENDLETON DIST., SC

Witness.

"James & William Turner (Pendleton Dist) to Abraham {or Abram} Sanders (same); for \$100 sold 50 ac on a branch of Savanah R {reference to 'oroginal plat' for metes & bounds}. (signed) James Turner & William Turner; (witness) William Cannan & **James Watt**; wit. Oath Jul. 28, 1818 by William 'Caannon' before James Turner JP; Nov. 30, 1819 recorded & examined by Joseph Grisham, D clerk; Book O p. 493."²⁸²

23 DECEMBER 1818

PENDLETON DIST., SC

Witness.

"**George Watts** {or Wats} (Richland Dist, SC) to **my son Thomas Watts**; for regard gave 138.75 ac on waters of Little Generestee {Cr}; reference to plat Dec. 17, 1818 by Joseph McPherson for metes & bounds; part of 2 grants: (a) in 1784 to Joseph McClesky and (b) in 1787 {to J McClesky?}. {signed} **George Watts & Barbary Watts**' mark 'X' (sic); (witness) **William Watts & Elizabeth Watts**; wit. Oath Feb. 14, 1819 by '**Elebeth**' **Watts** before **William Watts JP**; Feb. 25, 1822 recorded & examined by Joseph Grisham, D clerk; book P p412."²⁸³

COMMENT:

The list of children provided for George in his pension application does not include a William Watts who might be the J.P. and the witness above. It could be purely coincidence that George chose a J.P. of the same surname; but, more likely, this William Watts also stems from the Fairfield family.

The William Watts branch on Little River had, by this time, dropped from Fairfield records. Nothing yet has been found to point to a migration elsewhere.

18 APRIL 1820

PENDLETON DIST., SC

Witness.

"James Sherard (Pendleton Dist) to Abner Simpson (same); for \$145 sold 145 ac on waters of Little Henerstee {Cr} {no more description}; being N end of grant Dec. 2, 1793 to Nathan Young and divided Feb. 7, 1799 by John McMahan and sold Feb. 8, 1799 by Nathan Young to John 'Buckhanan' jr and sold Aug. 12, 1806 by 'John Buchanan' to said James 'Kere' and sold Mar. 12, 1807 to Alexr Sherard. (signed) James Sherard; (witness) John Sherard & **John Watt**; wit. Oath Mar. 2, 1821 by John Sherard before James Turner JP; Mar. 5, 1821 recorded & examined by Joseph Grisham, D clerk; book P p. 236."²⁸⁴

COMMENT:

This John Watt has not been identified. His associates, here and below at 3 January 1822, do not match the associates of George's son Thomas under date of 2 January 1822 below.

²⁸¹ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Pendleton District, SC, Books O and P (1818–1822)* (N.p.: P.p., 2007), 90.

²⁸² A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Pendleton District, SC, Books O and P (1818–1822)* (N.p.: P.p., 2007), 91.

²⁸³ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Pendleton District, SC, Books O and P (1818–1822)* (N.p.: P.p., 2007), 199.

²⁸⁴ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Pendleton District, SC, Books O and P (1818–1822)* (N.p.: P.p., 2007), 157–58.

22 OCTOBER 1821
PENDLETON DIST., SC

Witness.

“John Buchanan Sr (Pendleton Dist) to my son George Buchanan; for ‘care & attention’ paid to me leased 300 ac on Little Generostee Cr, a branch of Savannah R; where I live; border: joins Andrew Young, **James Watt**, & Wm Buchanan {no more description} ...”²⁸⁵

2 JANUARY 1822
PENDLETON DIST., SC

Land sale.

“**Thomas Watts** (Pendleton Dist) to Henry Adams (same); for \$310 sold 130 ac on Little Generostee {Cr}, a branch of Savannah R; except 28 ac sold to Garner Brooks; part of 2 granted in 1784 & 1787 to Joseph ‘McClusky’; reference to plat Dec. 17, 1818 for metes & bounds. (signed) **Thomas Watts**; (witness) William Wiley, Samuel McGee, & Moses D Harris; dower renounced Jan. 25, 1822 by **Lavina Watts, wife** of Thomas, before James McDill JQ (signed) Lavina Watts’ mark ‘X’; wit. Oath Jan. 2, 1822 by William Wiley before James McDill JQ; Feb. 25, 1822 recorded & examined by Joseph Grisham, D clerk; book P p.413.”²⁸⁶

COMMENT:

This Thomas should be Thomas-of-George.

3 JANUARY 1822
PENDLETON DIST., SC

Witness.

“Charles Cook (Pendleton Dist) to William Sherard (same); Cook owes Sherard \$430 ... [mortgages] 100 ac on Savannah R; border: joined on W by said river, on SE & E by David Stephenson, on NW by Archibald Simpson ... stills ... (witness) James Sherard & **John Watt**; wit. Oath Mar. 2, 1822 by John Sherard before G W Simpson JQ; Mar. 25, 1822 recorded & examined by John T Lewis, cc & RMC; book P p. 438.”²⁸⁷

25 FEBRUARY 1837
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Civic role.

“Married in Fairfield District, near Twenty Five Mile Creek, on Thursday evening, 23d inst., by **Mr. Jonathan Watts, Esq.**, Mr. Jacob Blizard, aged 17 years to Mrs. Wilson, aged about 75 years, relict of the late Mr. James Wilson of said district.”²⁸⁸

30 JANUARY 1853
SUMTER DISTRICT, SC

Land plat.

²⁸⁵ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Pendleton District, SC, Books O and P (1818–1822)* (N.p.: P.p., 2007), 189.

²⁸⁶ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Pendleton District, SC, Books O and P (1818–1822)* (N.p.: P.p., 2007), 200.

²⁸⁷ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Pendleton District, SC, Books O and P (1818–1822)* (N.p.: P.p., 2007), 206.

²⁸⁸ “Marriage and Death Notices from the Columbia Telescope,” *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)* 8 Winter 1980: page number not given; accessed as *South Carolina Records and Reference*, CD-ROM (Orem, UT: Ancestry.com, 1998).

Description: “**Watts, Jullius** of Sumter District, Will typescript (2 frames) Mss Will: Will Book D-2, page 122; Estate Packet: Bdl. 134, Pkg. 21)”

Names indexed: Andrews, David; Bob (slave); Brown, John E.; Clarissa (Slave); Corbett, Rebecca; Esther (slave), Lewis, W.; Peter (slave); Sharper (slave); **Watts, Agness; Watts, Alexander; Watts, Benson; Watts, Hampton; Watts, Julius; Watts, Rufus**

Locations: Sumter County, Sumter District

Document type: Will transcript²⁸⁹

COMMENT:

This Jullius appears to be the same-name Julius who was a son and heir of Thomas and Tabitha of Lynches Creek, Kershaw County. Note that the name Agnes is carried down in his family—Agnes being the widow of William Watts of Anson Co., NC, a couple frequently (but erroneously) claimed to be the parents of our John of Fairfield.

SOURCE LIST

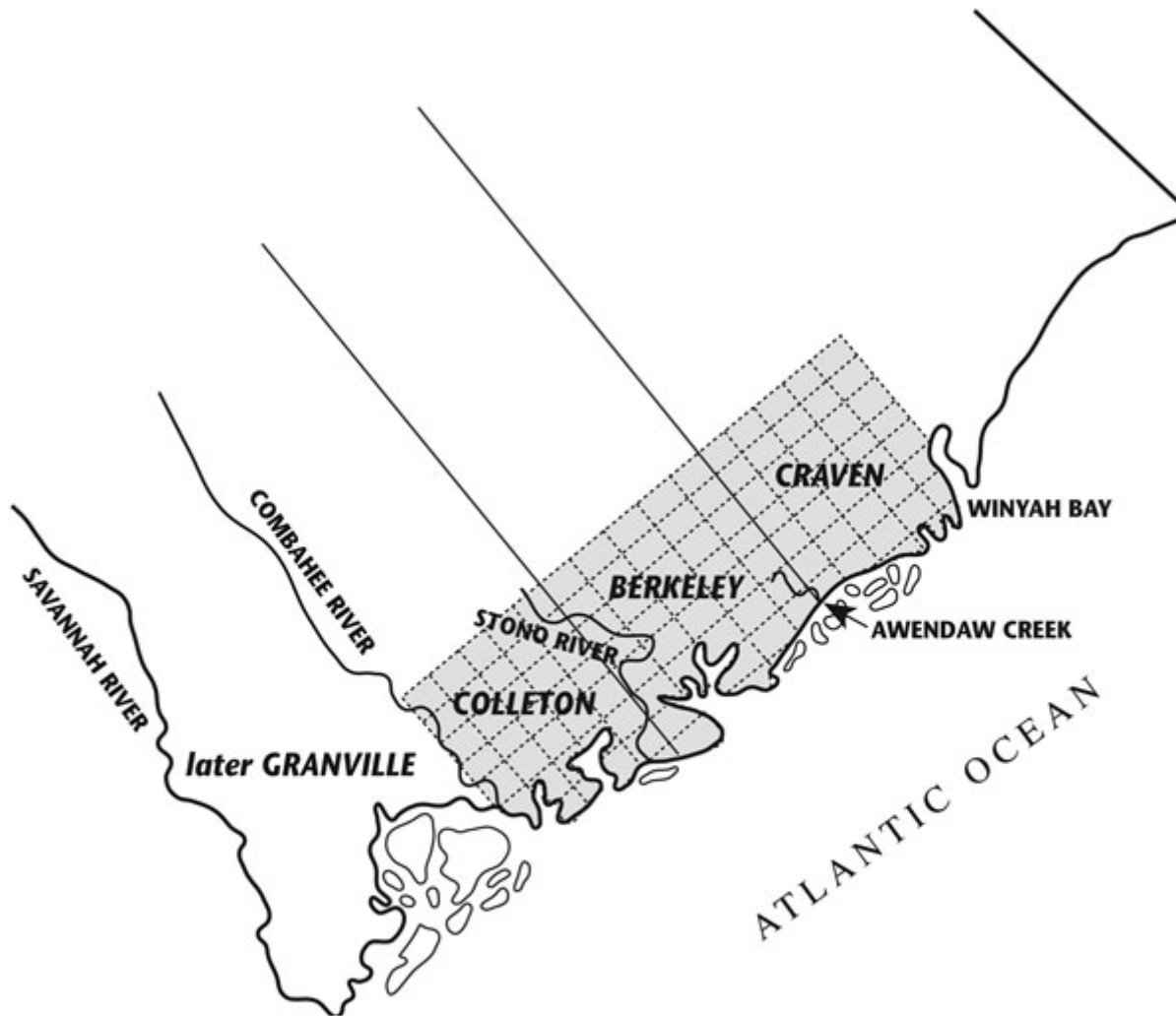
- Brown, Richard Maxwell. *The South Carolina Regulators*. Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press of Harvard Univ. Press, 1963. {Useful for context; no explicit reference found.}
- Draine, Tony. *Fairfield County, S.C., Deed Book A: 1785–1788*. Columbia, S.C.: Draban Pub., ca. 1991.
- and Edd Bannister. *Fairfield County, SC, Tax Returns, 1792*. Columbia, S.C: Draban Publications, ca.1991.
- Esker, Katie-Prince Ward. *South Carolina Memorials, vol. 2, 1731–1766: Abstracts of Selected Land Records from a Collection in the Department of Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina*. New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1977.
- Gregg, Alexander. *History of the Old Cheraws ... about 1730 to 1810*. Columbia, SC: The State Company, 1925.
- Gregorie, Anne King. *Records of the Court of Chancery of South Carolina, 1671–1779*. Washington, D.C.: American Historical Association, 1950. **No Watts, etc.**
- Hendrix, Ge Lee Corley and Morn McKoy Lindsay. *The Jury Lists of South Carolina, 1778-1779*. Greenville, SC: Privately Printed, 1975. {No Watts from Fairfield-Kershaw region; Robert Duke & Henry Miley do appear, p. 53, as “petit jurors between Broad and Catawba Rivers.”}
- Hicks, Theresa M. and Frances S. Osburn. *South Carolina Quitrents, 1772–1773–1774*. Columbia, SC: Peppercorn Publications, 1998. **Nothing found on key names**
- Holcomb, Brent H. *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799*. Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981.
- Holcomb, Brent Howard. *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799*. N.P.: n.p., 1986.
- . *Lancaster County, South Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1787–1811*. Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, n.d.
- . *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals, vol. 1, 1734/5–1748*. Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1996.

²⁸⁹*South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Watts, Jullius”; citing Series S108093, Vol. 0026, Frame 00615; Item 000.

- . *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 2, 1748–1752. Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1997.
- . *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 3, 1752–1754. Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1997.
- . *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 4, 1754–1756. Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998.
- . *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765. Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998.
- . *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770. Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999.
- . *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774. Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999.
- . *South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1783–1788; Books 1-5 through Z-5*. Columbia, S.C.: SCMAR, 1996.
- . *South Carolina Marriages, 1688–1799*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983
- . *South Carolina's Royal Grants*, vol. 1, *Grant Books 1 through 9, 1732–1761*. Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2007.
- . *South Carolina's Royal Grants*, vol. 2, *Grant Books 10 through 17, 1760–1768*. Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2006. **Nothing relevant.**
- . *South Carolina's Royal Grants*, vol. 3, *Grant Books 18 through 24, 1768–1773*. Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2008. **No Thomas Watts. The only John Watts is the Lowcountry John with wife Isabella.**
- . *South Carolina's Royal Grants*, vol. 4, *Grant Books 25 through 31, 1735–1776*. Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2010.
- . *South Carolina's Royal Grants*, vol. 5, *Grant Books 32 through 37, 1768–1773*. Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2007.
- . *Supplement to South Carolina Marriages, 1688–1820*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1984.
- Inabinet, Joan A. and L. Glen Inabinet. *A History of Kershaw County, South Carolina*. University of South Carolina Press for the Kershaw County Historical Society, 2011.
- Lambert, Robert Stansbury. *South Carolina Loyalists in the American Revolution*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1987. {Useful for context; no explicit info found.}
- Langdon, Barbara R. *Fairfield County Marriages, 1775–1879; Implied in Fairfield County, S.C. Probate Records*. Columbia, S.C.: Langdon & Langdon, 1986. **Nothing before 1806**
- Lewis, J. D. Lewis. "A History of Londonborough Township, South Carolina." *Carolana*. http://www.carolana.com/SC/Towns/Londonborough_Township_SC.html : accessed 7 October 2014.
- Lucas, Silas Emmett. *An Index to Deeds of the Province and State of South Carolina, 1719–1785 and Charleston District, 1785–1800*. Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977.
- Maddox, Joseph T. and Mary Carter. *South Carolina Revolutionary Soldiers, Sailors, Patriots & Descendants*. Albany, GA: Georgia Pioneers Publications, n.d. {Includes only one John Watts; this one in Laurens County, with a quite different family.}
- McMaster, Fitz Hugh. *History of Fairfield County, South Carolina, from 'Before the White Man Came' to 1942*. Spartanburg, SC: Reprint Co., 1980. **No Watts.**
- Mills, Robert. *Mills' Atlas: Atlas of the State of South Carolina, 1825*. Reprinted, Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1980.
- Moss, Bobby Gilmer. *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985.
- Motes, Jesse Hogan III and Margaret Peckham Motes. *South Carolina Memorials: Abstracts of Land Titles*, vol. 1, 1774–1776. Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1996.
- Pigg, James C. *Cheraw/Chesterfield District Will, 1750–1865 & Abstracts from the Court of Common Pleas 1823-1869. Tega Cay, SC: P.p., 2000. No Mills, Watts.*

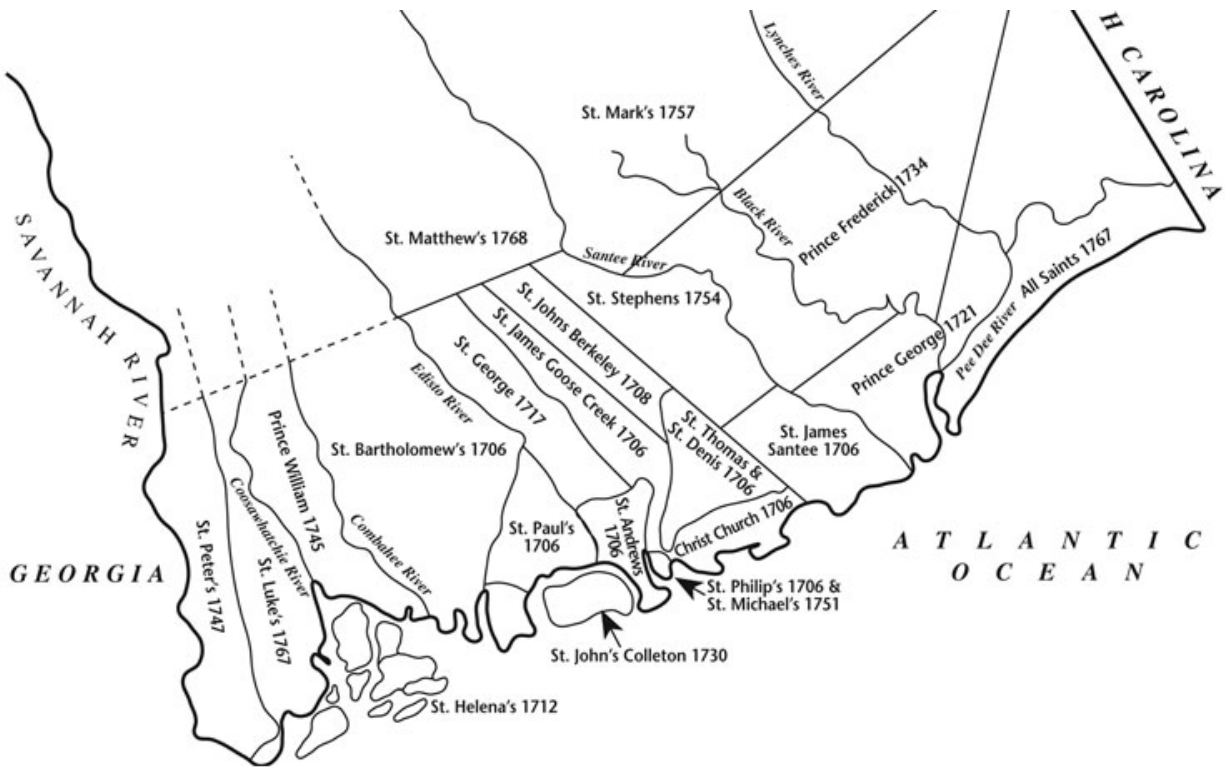
- Pigg, James C. *Index to Selected Royal & State Land Grants: Craven County, S.C.; Cheraw District, SC; Chesterfield County, SC. Tega Cay, SC*: P.p., 1996. **No Mills, Watts, Woodward.**
- Pigg, James C. *Miscellaneous Abstracts from Pre-Civil War Cheraw, South Carolina Newspapers*. Tega Cay, SC: P.p., 1996.
- Pruitt, A. B. *Abstracts of Deeds: Greenville County, SC: Books A, B & C (1787–1795)*. N.p.: P.p., 1997.
- Pruitt, A. B. *Abstracts of Deeds: Greenville County, SC: Books D & E (1800–1807)*. N.p.: P.p., 1999.
- Pruitt, A. B. *Abstracts of Deeds: Greenville County, SC: Books F & G (1800–1807)*. N.p.: P.p., 2000.
- Revill, Janie. *Abstract of 128 Wills from Will Book A, Sumter, S.C., 1777–1815*. Columbia, SC: P.p., 1933. **No Watts, etc.**
- Rodman, Ida McDow. *Deeds A, Lancaster County [South Carolina], Recorded in 1787 & 1788*. (Lancaster, SC: Mrs. B. H. Rosson, Jr., Genealogist, S.C.D.A.R., 1952–53.
- Rodman, Ida McDow. *Abstracts of Deeds B (Old), 1788-1797, Lancaster County, S.C.* Lancaster, SC: Mrs. B. H. Rosson, Jr., Genealogist, S.C.D.A.R., 1953-54 **No Watts.**
- Salley, A. S. *Accounts Audited of Revolutionary Claims against South Carolina*. 3 vols. Columbia, SC: The Historical Commission of S.C., 1935. **Nothing found therein.**
- South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images . <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/> : accessed 7 October 2014.
- South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)*, vols. 1–20. Imaged as *South Carolina Records and Reference*. CD-ROM. Orem, Utah: Ancestry.com, 1998.
- Stemmons, John D & E. Diane Stemmons. *South Carolina 1757 Jury List*. Sandy, UT: Census Publishing, 2004. **The places of residence appear to be all low-country.**
- Stemmons, John D & E. Diane Stemmons. *South Carolina 1767 Jury List*. Sandy, UT: Census Publishing, 2004. **The places of residence appear to be all low-country.**

Appendix 1
Proprietary Counties, 1682 [-1769]



"Proprietary Counties, 1682 [-1769]"
South Carolina Department of Archives & History
<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/guide/CountyRecords/propco.htm>

Appendix 2
Parishes of the Anglican Church [from 1706]



"Parishes of the Anglican Church" [from 1706]

South Carolina Department of Archives & History

<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/guide/CountyRecords/parishes.htm>

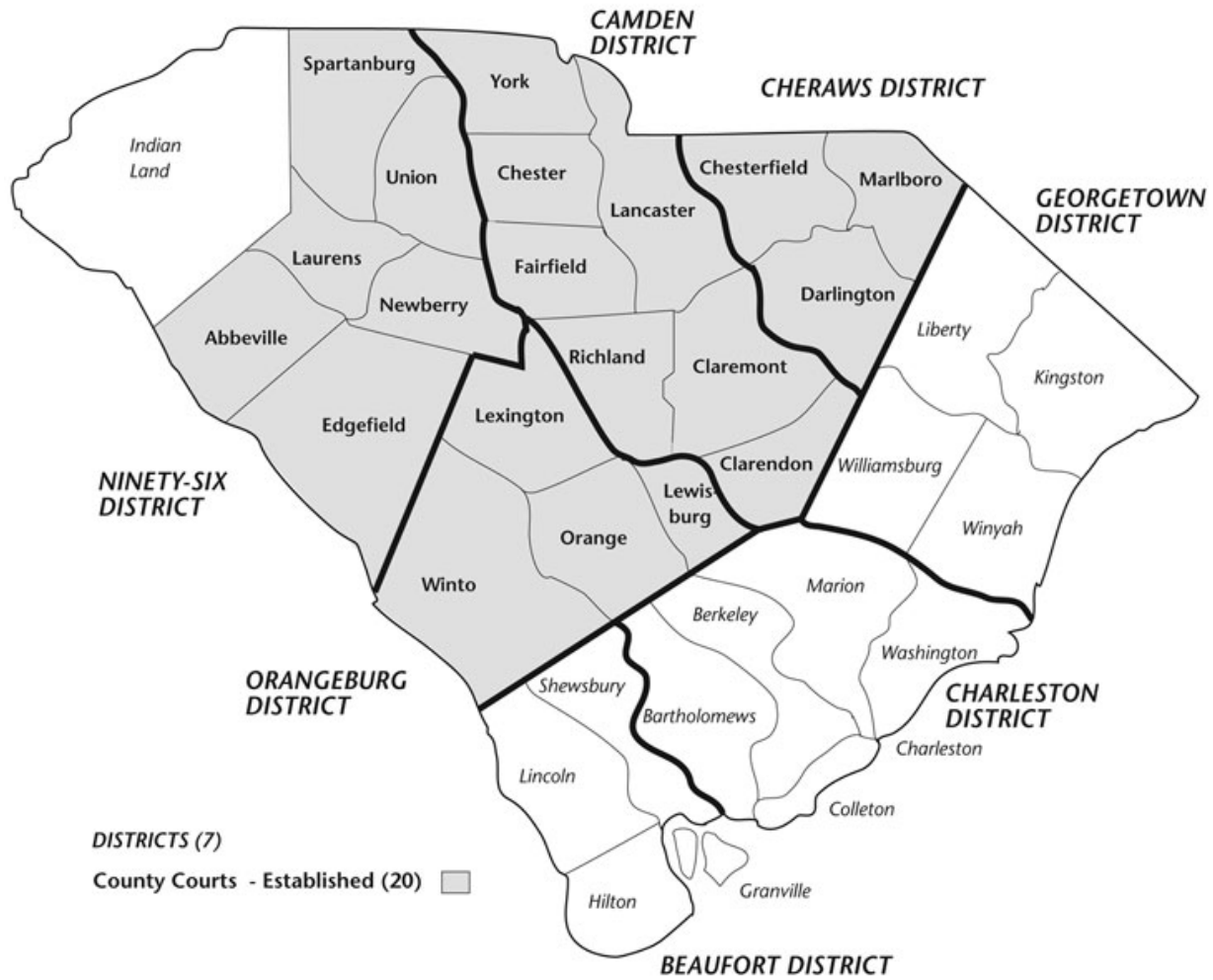
Appendix 3
Districts, 1769–1784



"Districts 1769-1784"

South Carolina Department of Archives & History,
<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/guide/CountyRecords/1769.htm>

Appendix 4
Districts and Counties, 1785

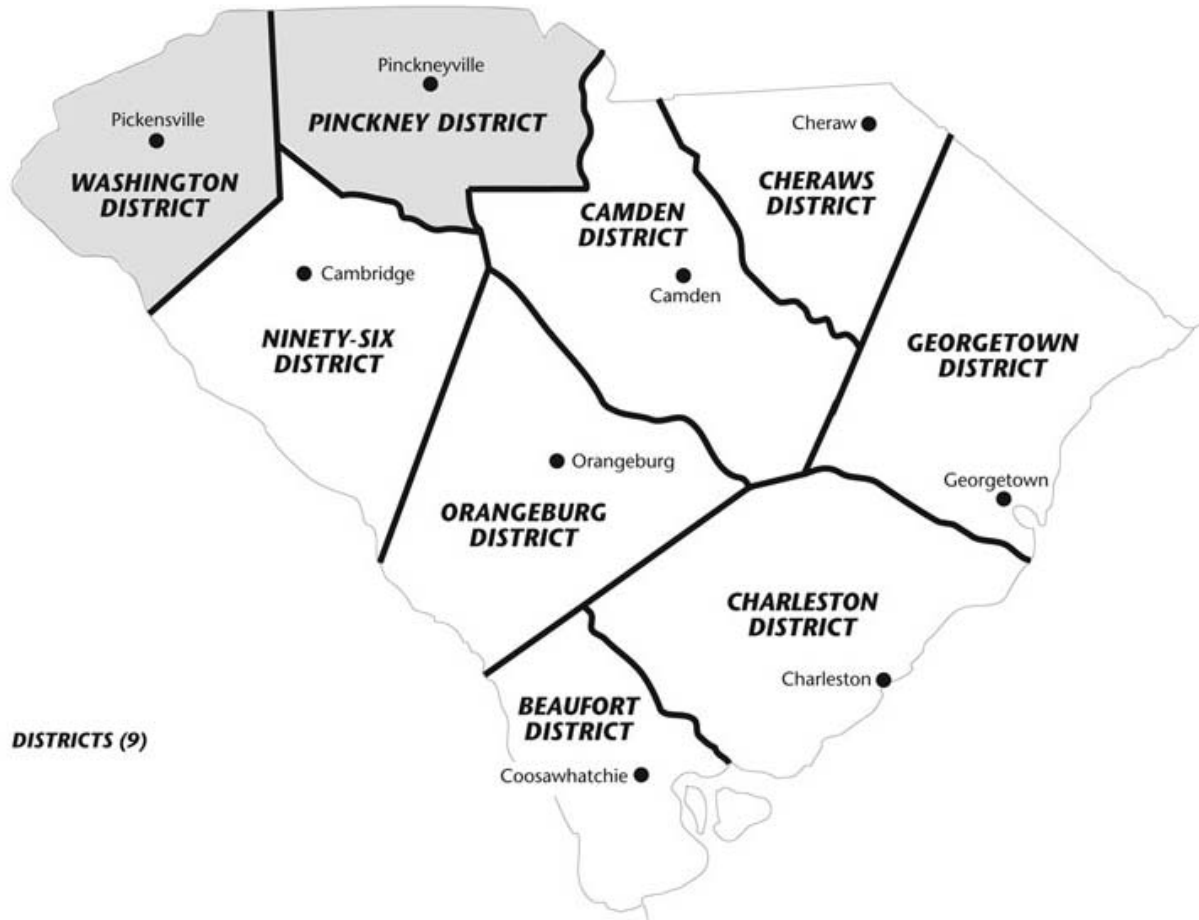


"Districts and Counties, 1785"

South Carolina Department of Archives & History

<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/guide/CountyRecords/1785.htm>

Appendix 5
Districts, 1791–1799

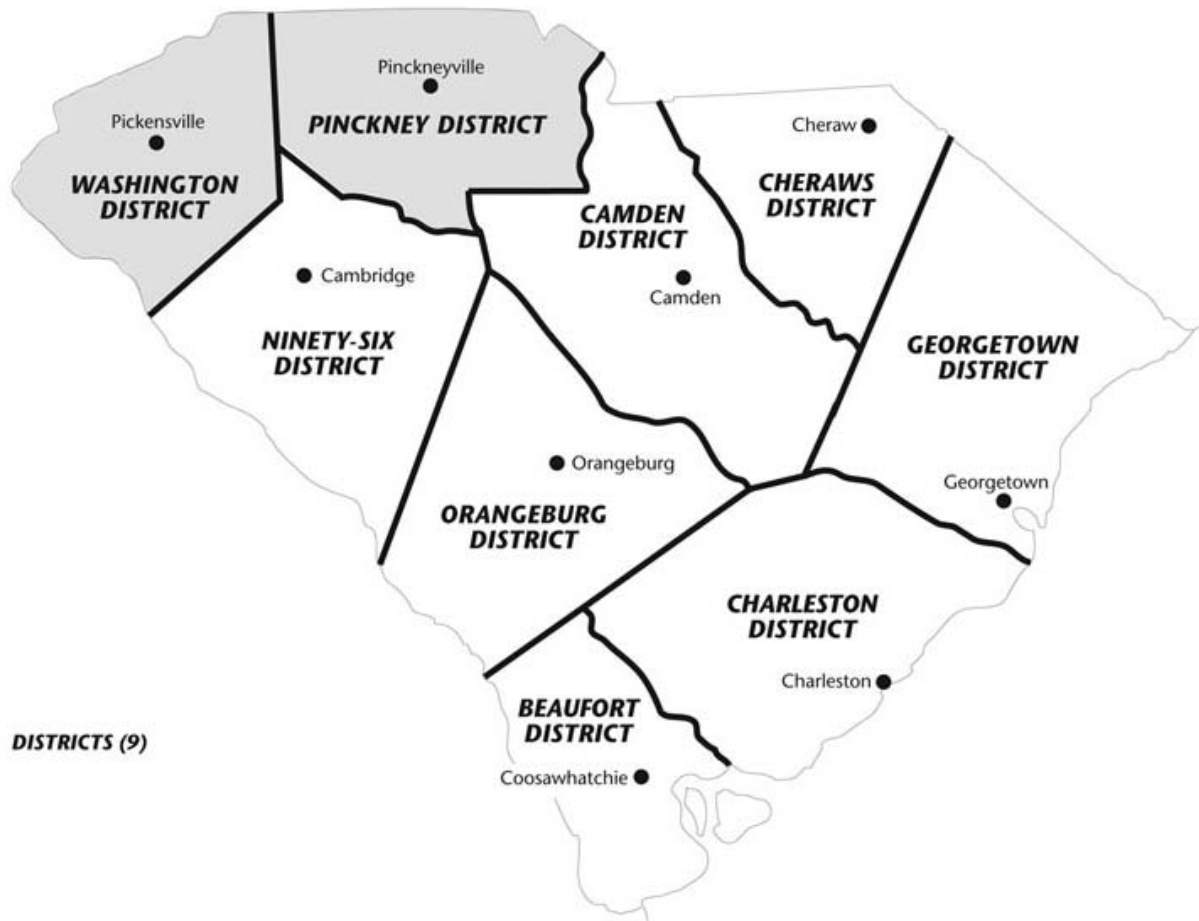


"Districts, 1791-1799"

South Carolina Department of Archives & History

<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/guide/CountyRecords/dist9199.htm>

Appendix 6
Districts & Counties, 1791–1799



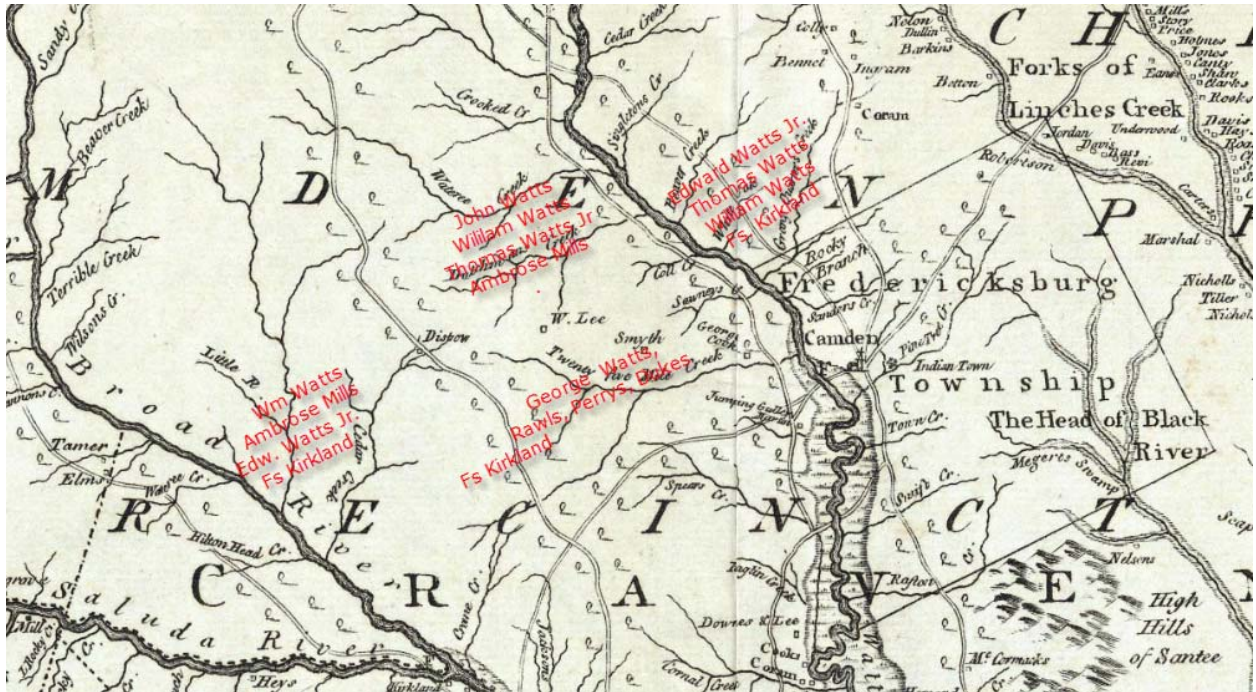
DISTRICTS (9)

"Districts, 1791-1799"

South Carolina Department of Archives & History

<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/guide/CountyRecords/dist9199.htm>

Appendix 7
Broad to Lynches Creek
Fairfield & Kershaw Counties (Cook's Map 1773)²⁹⁰



²⁹⁰ James Cook et al., *A map of the Province of South Carolina; with all the rivers, creeks, ... parishes, churches, towns, townships, county, parish, district, and provincial lines* (London: N.p., 1773); imaged at David Rumsey Map Collection (<http://www.davidrumsey.com/> : accessed 8 August 2014).