



## ELIZABETH SHOWN MILLS

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REPORT TO: File

SUBJECT Mills & Associates of Floyd County, Virginia: Conner, Idding, Key, Light, Smith (Bird & John), Walters, Wilson

PRINCIPALS: **William Mills**, born c1784–88,<sup>1</sup> allegedly in Franklin County, Virginia;<sup>2</sup> died c1863, likely in Pulaski County, Virginia.<sup>3</sup> Parents unknown. He does not fit into any Mills family or couple established in Franklin or surrounding counties. Male-line descendants of two separate sons carry Y-DNA (haplogroup I-L338) with markers matching offspring of the Witt/Whitt family that spread through numerous counties in central Virginia.<sup>4</sup> My working hypothesis is that William (whom I reference as William Mills-Whitt to distinguish him from other same-name men) was born to a Mills female and a Whitt father who did not wed.

**Drucilla Kemp** m. William Mills c24 August 1815 (date of bond; return not filed). She was the daughter of Robert Kemp<sup>5</sup> and Milly Edmundson who m. 2 November 1786.<sup>6</sup> Her stepmother was Sarah Mattox who married Robert Kemp on 9 December 1802.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Pulaski Co., VA, population schedule, Western District, post office Newbern, p. 29 (also 721), dwelling/family 197/192 cites William Mills as age 76; census taken 22 June 1860. That census calls for citing age as of 1 June. If given accurately, William's birth would have occurred between 2 June 1783 and 1 June 1784. 1850 U.S. census, Floyd Co., VA, pop. sch., Western Dist. No. 15, p. 391b, fam./dwell, 204/204, dated 25 July 1850, cites his age as 62—suggesting that his birth was between 2 June 1787 and 1 June 1788. He first appears as a tithable on personal tax rolls in 1806, placing his birth by 1788 or by 1785, depending upon whether Franklin that year considered 18 or 21 to be the tithable age. The state law did not require the charging of tithables, leaving it to the county, and the county's roll this year does not state the tithable age.

<sup>2</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Floyd Co. This census cites county of birth for individuals born in Virginia. All members of William's household are said to have been born in Franklin Co. The data seems not to be a default used by the enumerator because surrounding households have considerable diversity in birthplaces.

<sup>3</sup> 1863 registers are missing from the local series; and the state series is missing an overlapping block of three years. I had my search duplicated by Barbara Vines Little, CG, of Old Dominion Research Service, Orange, Virginia, 9 April 2007, to ensure I had not missed the record; she, too, checked both the state and local series.

<sup>4</sup> On 37-marker tests taken by Clay and Dan Mills, fourth-great-grandsons of William and Drucilla, almost all matches are Witts/Whitts; none are Mills. On a 67-marker test, Clay and Dan match Warren C. Pratt at a genetic distance of 1. They match Gerald Witt (descendant of the immigrant John Witt, b. c1645) and Kenneth Allen Whitt (descendant of Richard Whitt, c1729–1813) at a genetic distance of 2. They match Travis Wilson Witt at a genetic distance of 3. On a 111-marker test, Clay and Dan match Pratt at a genetic distance of 2. Pratt has established his Y-line descent from Elizabeth Pratt and Henry Witt, b. c1762 to Lewis and Ann (Mills) Witt of Bedford County; see Pratt, "Finding the Father of Henry Pratt of Southeastern Kentucky," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 100 (June 2012): 85–104. In backtracking the Y-lineage of Clay and Dan (Gary Bernard Mills < Harold Garland Mills < Hugh E. Mills < Joseph H. Mills < Samuel E. Mills < William Mills & Drucilla), I find no Mills couple or female past puberty in the direct line who can be placed in proximity to a Witt/Whitt male at the time a direct-line son was born—until we reach the generation of this William Mills who married Drucilla Kemp.

More recently, Clay and Dan are an exact match, on the 111-marker test, to Edward Eugene Mills, a male-line descendant of William and Drucilla's son William B. Mills—thereby confirming that William's Y was also the Witt/Whitt Y.

<sup>5</sup> Franklin Co., VA, Will Book 4: 163, estate of Robert Kemp, dec'd., partition of goods among heirs, 8 June 1830.

<sup>6</sup> Marshall Wingfield, *Marriage Bonds of Franklin County, Virginia* (Memphis: West Tennessee Historical Society 1939), 52, "Robt. Camp" and "Milly Edmundson, daughter of Richard." The surviving documents I have seen for the estate of Richard Edmundson do identify Kemp as an heir, but do not specifically mention a daughter Milly.

<sup>7</sup> Franklin Co., VA, Marriage Bond Register, 1786–1853, p. 54.

ASSOCIATES: The 1850 census places William, Drucilla, and their family in a cluster of interrelated families, with the following two individuals as adjacent neighbors:

- Samuel Light, 30, constable (b. Floyd) \$500; **Margaret [Smith<sup>8</sup>] 23 (b. Franklin)**; Furdinand 6, Henry 4, McAlin? 2, Angeline 1/12 (b. Floyd)
- Henry Iddings, 38? (b. Penn.) farmer \$1500; Charles Vest 30 (b. Franklin); Martha [Idings]<sup>9</sup> Vest 49 (b. Floyd), Children 8 to 16 (b. Floyd), Polly Idings 51 “Ediot” (b. Floyd).

TASK: Comb online resources for Floyd County, with principle resources being at *FamilySearch.org* and *Ancestry.com*. Include the Lights and Iddings to determine

- what drew William and Drucilla to live among them; and
- whether they offer any clues to William’s origin and birth family.

CHILDREN: Children of William and Drucilla:<sup>10</sup>

1. **JAMES H. MILLS**, b. c1816; first appeared on Franklin Co. tax rolls, adjacent to William, in 1837. He has not been found after the Franklin roll of 1844. (Drucilla had a brother named James Kemp.)
2. **SAMUEL E(DMUNDSON?) MILLS**, b. 26 February 1818; died 31 July 1894, Talbot Co., GA; married (1) **Mary Ann Hobson**, 17 December 1841, Franklin Co., VA, with James Patterson as bondsman; (2) **Rebecca Amy Collier**, 19 March 1868, Upson Co., GA. (Samuel was not a male name used by the Kemp family.)
3. **WILLIAM B(RECKENRIDGE?) MILLS**, b. c1820, makes his first appearance in Franklin on the 1841 tax roll, appeared again in 1842, was dropped in 1843, was back again in 1844; and on 19 October 1847, in Franklin County, he married **Mary M. Matthews**. He died of gunshot wound on 30 April 1865, while returning home from war. (The name “Breckenridge” is assigned to him by tradition; all known documents call him simply “William B.”)
4. **SPARREL MILLS**, b. c1824, Franklin Co., VA; first appears on the Franklin Co. tax roll of 1845; married **Martha Susan Jarrett**, daughter of Allen Jarrett, 1848, in Henry Co., VA. In 1850, he and his inlaws and parents were all in Floyd Co. In 1852–54 he was taxed in Montgomery Co. The 1860 census of Montgomery cites him as a laborer, living among other laboring families, apparently on the substantial farm of Andrew J. Lucas. Postwar, he remained in Montgomery, and died after 3 May 1900, when he filed an application for a Confederate pension as a resident of Radford. (The first usage of the name *Sparrel* as a given name in

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<sup>8</sup> Samuel Light m. “Peggy Smith d/o John” 20 February 1842, Floyd Co.; see Therese A. Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley: Montgomery, Floyd, Pulaski, & Giles* (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 2008), 143.

<sup>9</sup> Charles Vest m. Martha Idings, 21 July 1831, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley, Virginia*, 244.

<sup>10</sup> For documentation of each point in this children’s list, see E. S. Mills, “William Mills (c. c1784–88; d. c1863); Spouse Drucilla Kemp: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 27 August 2021; archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the “Research” Tab.

Many online trees erroneously assign two other “sons” to this couple: Larkin Preston Mills (said to be b. c1814, husband of Hannah Wimmer) and Anderson Mills (said to be b. c1816, husband of Hannah Smith and Sarah Gearhart). However

- The Floyd Co. license for Anderson’s second marriage identifies his parents as “John and Nancy” Mills. For an image copy, see “olé Paul,” Rena Worthen & BarbR (contributors), “Index to Marriages of Floyd County, Virginia 1831–1940,” *RootsWeb* ([sites.rootsweb.com/~vafloyd/1\\_Marriages](http://sites.rootsweb.com/~vafloyd/1_Marriages) : downloaded 19 April 2020).

- Franklin Co.’s censuses, tax rolls, and legal records associate these two men with the family of William Mills Sr. (son of James Sr.) who married Elizabeth Abshire and lived in the Maggoty/Elliott’s Creek region of Franklin Co. None associate them with the Black Water River area where William and Drucilla lived with her Kemp and Maddox kin. For example, see the 1830 census of Franklin which enumerates Anderson and Larkin consecutively with Hiram Mills; Hiram is named as a son in the 1841 will of William Mills, the son of James Mills of Elliott’s Creek and the husband of Elizabeth Abshire (Franklin Will Book 5:336).

For the Millses of Maggoty Creek, founded by James in the 1770s, see E. S. Mills, “James Mills (*bd*f. 1750–c1823–24); Wife [?Octavia Breckinridge?]: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 28 December 2019; archived online at *HistoricPathways.com* (<https://www.historicpathways.com/download/MillsJamesofBedfordFranklin.pdf>).

Franklin County appears to be the 1798 birth of a son to the prominent John and Theodocia (Saunders) Hale—Theodocia being the daughter of Col. Peter Saunders and wife Mary Sparrel. By the time Sparrel Mills was born, many families unrelated to the Saunderses and the Hales were giving that name to their sons.)

5. **ROBERT WILEY MILLS**, b. c1826; died 31 May 1862, Battle of Seven Pines near Richmond. He married 18 December 1843, Henry Co., VA, **Mary Jarrett**, daughter of Allen Jarrett. In 1850, as “Wiley Mills,” he farmed in Floyd Co.’s militia district 15 (Beaverdam Creek, allegedly). He enlisted at the Floyd Co. courthouse on 14 March 1862 (age 36) in Co. A, 24<sup>th</sup> VA Infantry, under Lt. G. M. Helms. (No basis is known for his name; several Robert Wileys lived before him in Botetourt, Montgomery, and Giles Counties.)
6. **CHARLES T. MILLS**, b. c1828, or 1833, Franklin Co., VA; married **Sarah E. Fleeman**, daughter of Elias and Patsy Fleeman,” 22 December 1857, Montgomery Co., where they were enumerated in 1860. By 1870, they had moved to Claiborne County, TN, by 1870. Both died after the 1880 census of Claiborne. (No family basis is known for his name. One Charles Taliaferro was a prominent resident of Franklin at the time of his birth.)
7. **SARAH “SALLIE” ANN MILLS**, b. ca. 1830, m. in Floyd Co., c16 December 1850, **William H. Key**, (parents unidentified). The 1850 census of Floyd places William, 23, “born in Giles Co.,” in the home of George Key, 36, and wife Hannah Kester, adjacent to Sparrell Mills and his Jarrett in-laws. In 1860, the Keys lived in the Mills-Jarrett family cluster in Pulaski County’s Western District. On 6 April 1864, as “Sarah A. Key,” age 35, daughter of “William Mills” and “Drucella Mills,” she m. a widower from Lovely Mount (now Radford) in Montgomery Co., **George Bradbury** (*var.* Bradberry), son of Mark and Mary. Sarah died 1 July 1889 in Summers Co., WV. (Any argument that Sarah might be named for William’s mother is weakened by the fact that Sarah was also the name of the stepmother who raised Drucilla.)
8. **MILLY FRANCES MILLS**, b. April 1832 (variously 1830, 1832, 1833) in Franklin Co., VA; died after the 6 June 1900 census visitation and, apparently before the April 1904 death of her husband whose obituary cites children but not a wife. On 27 July 1854 (by license of 22 July) in Floyd Co., VA, Milly married **John B. Lawrence**, who had been born in Bedford Co., VA, as son of William and Agnes Lawrence. (Milly was the name of Drucilla’s mother—inviting speculation that Frances might be the name of William’s mother.)
9. **THOMAS R[ICHARD?] MILLS**, b. 11 March 1833, according to his death certificate; married ca. 27 August 1855, in Montgomery Co., **Sarah S. Nunnally** [*var.* **Nunley**], daughter of Richard and “B” Nunnally. The couple are cited on the 1860 census, Pulaski Co., VA, next door to both sets of parents. In 1880, they resided in Montgomery Co.; in 1900 they lived in Pulaski Co. where he was employed as a “river ferryman.”<sup>11</sup> Thomas died 5 April 1915 of “chronic Bright’s disease.” (Thomas was a name used within the Kemp family. Richard was the name of Drucilla’s grandfather Richard Edmundson).

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<sup>11</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Pulaski Co., VA, Dublin Magisterial dist., ED 43, sheet 17-B. 1910 U.S. census, Pulaski Co., VA, Dublin Magisterial Dist., stamped p. 27, ED 44, Sheet 1A, dwell./fam. 3.

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- One William Mills appears intermittently in Floyd, 1840–48. Apparently a young to middle-aged man (judging by the fact that he was charged with brawling), he is coupled with Larkin and Anderson Mills. Meanwhile, an unidentified William Mills, husband of Mary “Polly” Showalter/Shewalter, appeared in Franklin 1833–37, where he was called William “Jr.” to distinguish him from William Sr. of the Maggoty and Elliott’s Creek.<sup>12</sup> His location on Elliott’s Creek of Franklin placed him in proximity to Larken Mills (Franklin 1833–38 tax rolls & 1840 census) and Anderson Mills (Franklin 1841–42 tax rolls). That location also suggests the possibility that they were sons of the taxpayer Nancy Mills, widow of James Mills Jr.; as noted earlier, Anderson’s 1859 marriage license in Floyd names his mother as “Nancy.”
- William and Drucilla Mills appear to have moved into Floyd between July 1848 (his last appearance on Franklin County’s personal tax roll) and 9 February 1849 (when he and his son Sparrel both turned in their list of taxable items to Floyd County’s tax commissioner).
- The 1850 census cites William as a farmer but no record shows his purchase of land in Floyd. That enumeration places him adjacent to the young constable Samuel D. Light. As shown in this report, in February 1849, Light acquired more land than he could farm—suggesting strongly that William was leasing Light’s land. *Why William chose that site remains unexplained.* The only hints of a possible connection I have found to date are these:
  - Young Light’s wife, née Margaret Smith, was the daughter of one John Smith of Franklin whom I have not yet identified or pursued.
  - Peter Guerrant Sr., one of Franklin County’s prominent early settlers and a land speculator, owned Floyd County land adjacent to William’s 1850 neighbors. No connection has been found in Franklin County between Guerrant and William Mills-Whitt; however, Guerrant might well have advertised, in Franklin, the availability of land for rent in Floyd.
- William’s other adjacent neighbor on the 1850 census, Henry Iddings Jr., was a well-established landowner and keeper of a “house of private entertainment,” whose father Henry Sr. had subdivided his land among his children throughout the 1830s and 1840s. It was a tightly-knit neighborhood (and one in which Samuel D. Light was an in-law). In 1848, Henry Jr. was the only Iddings who apparently had sufficient land to need a renter or tenant farmer; in fact, he expanded his holdings by 200 acres early that year.
- The Samuel D. Light and Henry Iddings lands lay between Big Run and Pine Creek, two parallel streams that branch off Little River a short distance apart. Little River’s head in Montgomery County (as a branch of New River) was the site of the Whitt settlement at the time William Mills was born.
- The Light-Iddings neighborhood, between Big Run and Pine Creek, appears to have centered near the *headwaters* of those streams, near the community called “Simpsons.” Neighbors cited in the Light and Iddings deeds do not place them along Little River itself.
- Little River, nonetheless, seems to play a significant role in the trajectory of William Mills’s life. As indicated by Map 1, below, the Blackwater River of Franklin, on which William spent most of his adult life, was a geophysical extension of Floyd County’s Little River, broken by a mountain range

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<sup>12</sup> See E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Franklin County, Virginia, Extended Survey,” report to file, 1 September 2021; archived online at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

through which a gap existed (Dog Spur Gap, at roughly the site of modern Pine Spur Overlook) for travel between the two counties.

- William’s first record in Franklin (the 1806 tax roll) places him, roughly, below that gap in the region of the McCarrell-Menafee-Ferguson clan, the intermarried Mullinses and Stanleys (who lived in both Franklin and Montgomery Counties), and the Napiers whose siblings also settled in Montgomery County at the other end of Little River on the waters of New River (where they were in-laws and close associates of Sarah Mills, one of the two candidates for William Mills-Whitt’s mother).<sup>13</sup>
- William and Drucilla, in their sixties, left her inherited land in the possession of their newly married son William B. and moved up the Blackwater through the gap into Floyd County (old Montgomery). After two years in the Simpson’s community of the Iddings and Lights, they moved again and would spend the rest of their lives in the region where Little River flows into New River. Coincidentally or not, that was the community settled in the 1770s by the Rev. Richard Whitt who willed his land in 1813 to his son Archibald. At the time of William and Drucilla’s arrival there c1853, those lands were occupied by two sons of Archibald and wife Hannah Lowe: **Hezekiah** and **Abijah** Whitt who (according to the 1850 census) were born c1795–96 and c1800-01.

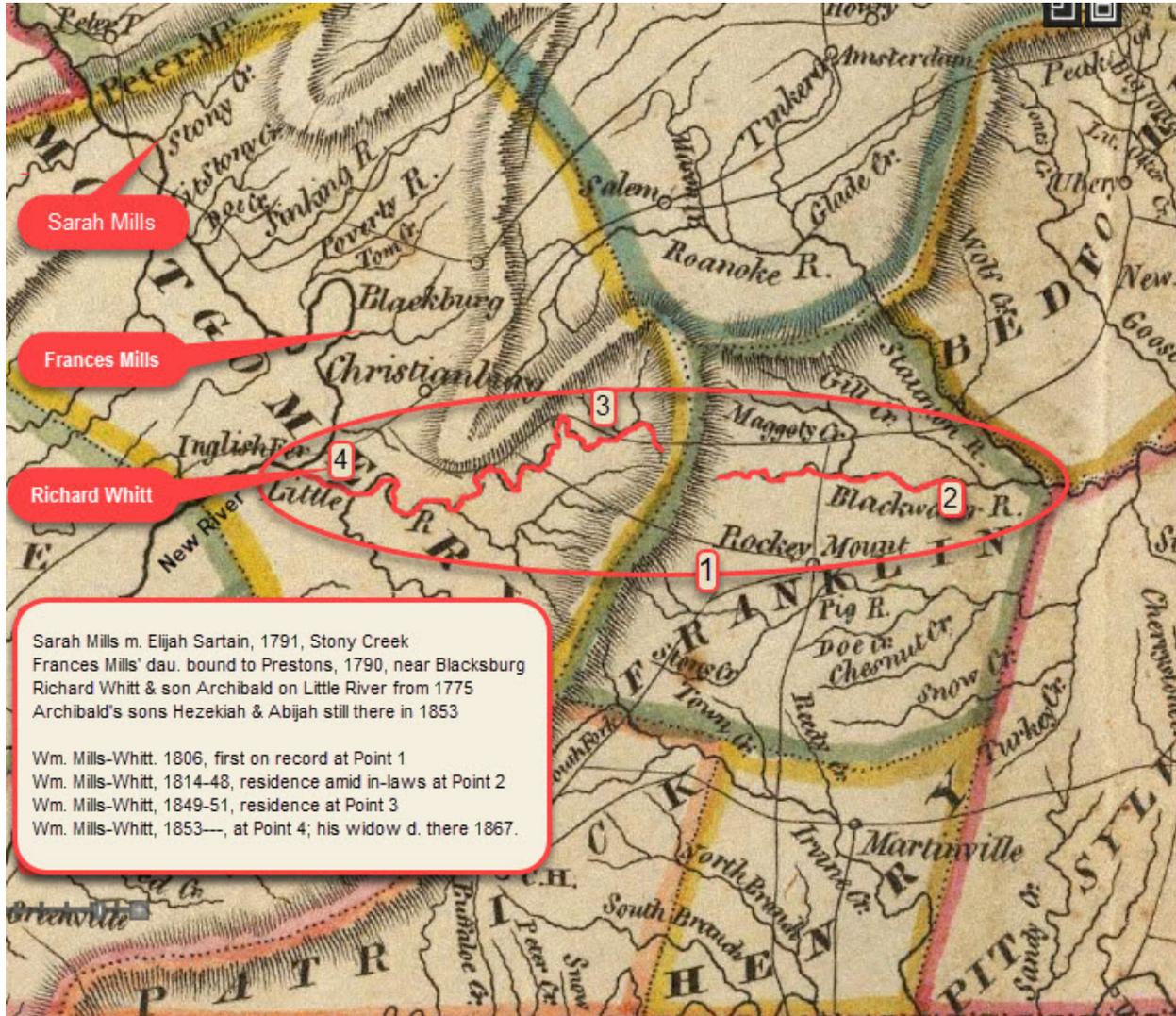
See Map 1 for the region that ran from Floyd County’s Little River through Dog Spur Gap and on to Franklin County’s Blackwater River.

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<sup>13</sup> For these two females and their lives in Montgomery County and its offshoot Giles—including some Whitt data—see the following reports posted at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab:

- E. S. Mills, “John White Sr. (c1740–1821); Spouses: 1. Unidentified & 2. Frances ‘Frankey’ Mills: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 18 January 2021.
- E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Montgomery & Fincastle Counties, Virginia: Preliminary Survey,” report to file last updated 10 September 2020. This report includes Whitt data from the late 1700s.
- E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Montgomery County, VA, Extended Research (Bias, Sartain, Tony, White, Whitt/Witt),” report to file, 10 September 2020.
- E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Giles County, Virginia: Principally Whites, with Selective Records for Byas, Brumfield, Chapmen, Dingess, Napier, Sartain & Toney Families,” report to file, 8 February 2020 (updated 10 January 2021).
- E. S. Mills, “Gallia County, OH: Preliminary Research on Elijah Sartain, Wife Sarah Mills, and Related Families from Montgomery and Giles Counties, VA—Particularly Brumfield, Chapman, Napier, and Williams,” report to file 1 September 2021.
- E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates, Montgomery County, c1845–1870: Preliminary Survey of Resources for Bradberry (esp. George), Fleeman, Jarrett (esp. Allen, Lawrence (esp. Jon B.)), and Nunley (Nunnally (esp. Richard)), report to file, 1 September 2021; this report includes selective Whitt data from the mid-1800s.

Map 1  
From New River to the Blackwater via Little River & Dog Spur Gap  
The Mills-Whitt World c1785–1867



RESEARCH NOTES

**1831**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Floyd County was cut from Montgomery County in this year.

COMMENT:

William & Drucilla Mills remained in Franklin County until 1848, on the land they had inherited from her father. Their residences, thereafter, tie them to the counties of Floyd (1849–52) Montgomery (1853), Pulaski (1860), and again Montgomery (1867, Drucilla's death).

Pulaski County was cut in 1839 from Montgomery and Wythe. Wythe itself was cut from Montgomery in 1790.

**5 APRIL 1834**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Mortgage

**Henry Iddings** (s) and wife **Abigal** (x) of Floyd County to John R. Guerrant of **Franklin County**, sale for \$150 cash in hand, 113 acres on **Piney fork of Beaver dam, waters of Little River, a branch of New River**. On condition that "the said Henry Iddings obliges himself to pay the said Jno. R. Guerrant [\$150] back with interest if the title should not be a good one." [Metes and bounds not copied here.] Adjacent landowners: **Bird Cole**, Terry, Hornburger, **Peter Wilson**. Acknowledged 5 April 1834 before Peter Guerrant Jr. and Leonard Aldridge, JPs. Reviewed by the clerk and admitted to record, 19 April 1842.<sup>14</sup>

**15 DECEMBER 1834**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Bond

**John Light**, with **Andrew Conner** and **Jacob Hoback** as sureties, posts bond for \$2,000 as constable for Floyd Co.<sup>15</sup>

COMMENT:

John Light m. Polley Conner in March 1832, Floyd County. Her parents are not identified in that record.<sup>16</sup> In 1816, in Montgomery Co., William Mills witnessed a land lease between John *Conner* and landowner John Toney (son of William Toney of Franklin County).<sup>17</sup>

**20 MAY 1836**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Deed of trust

**Elijah Light** of the 1<sup>st</sup> part, Charles B. Reynolds of the 2<sup>nd</sup> part, and John P. Guerrant of the 3<sup>d</sup> part. Whereas Elijah Light is indebted to Guerrant for \$130 due 1 May 1837 by a bond of this day, Light secures the bond with this trust deed to

all that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Floyd in the State of Virginia containing [137] acres, ... being the whole tract of land whereon the said Elijah Light now resides, with all appurtenances. [No waterway or neighbors named.]

If the debt is paid on time, then this trust deed is null and void, etc. All three parties signed. Witnesses: Peter Guerrant Jr., Preston Thompson (x), Wm. Simpson. Acknowledged in court, August 1838.<sup>18</sup>

**13 APRIL 1837**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**John Light** to Thomas Helms, sale of land in Floyd County "on the waters of Little River, it being my entire right and interest as Legatee of **Henry Light** Decd., being the tract that the said Henry Light formerly lived on and adjoining the said **Thomas Huling, Isaac Booth Sr.**, and others, together with all

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<sup>14</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 85; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 550.

<sup>15</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book A (1831–1836): 272; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 147.

<sup>16</sup> Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley, Virginia: Montgomery, Floyd, Pulaski, and Giles Counties*, 143.

<sup>17</sup> Giles Co., Deed Book B: 85.

<sup>18</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book B (1836–41): 179–80; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 343.

appurtenances. Witnesses: Henry Shockey, Peter Guerrand Jr., William Webb, Thomas H. Slager?, Jacob **Walters**. Admitted to record, Floyd Co. Clerk's Office 27 May 1837.<sup>19</sup>

COMMENT:

See 19 April 1841, below, for sale by Henry, Samuel, and Lorenzo D. Light to Thomas Helm. It is likely (but should be verified) that all four were sons of "Henry Light Dec'd."

**8 NOVEMBER 1837**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Deed of trust

**Lydia W. Iddings** to Benjamin Howell of the 2d part and McCabe & Headin and Dickins and Thomas of the 3d part. Iddings is indebted to McCabe Headen & Co. for \$42.59 by bond bearing this date, also to the same for \$6 by bond bearing this date, also to the same for \$5 by bond bearing this date, and to Dickins & Thomas for \$19.09 by bond of this date. Therefore, for \$1, she gives a trust deed on 50 acres described as

Beginning at 2 chesnuts, thence N38 W28 poles to a gum, N22 E110 po to a cucumber on the **old line**, E57 po to a poplar & hickory, S30 W 39 po to a poplar, S10 E106 po to a chesnut, S70 W13 po to a white oak, N75 W67 po to the first station;

Also one feather bed, bedstead & bedding, 1 side saddle, 1 Cow & increase, 8 head of hogs & increase, 1 Bureau.

If debt is paid by 1 November 1838, this trust deed will become null and void. Otherwise, Howell is to sell the property at highest bidder to pay the debt. All 4 parties signed. Acknowledged in court 8 November 1837.

"Received in full my interest in the trust deed from Lydia Idding. [Signed] H. Dickins June 22 1847; Thos McCabe for McCabe Headen & Co. Delivered to McCabe June 1847."<sup>20</sup>

COMMENT:

A major financial collapse occurred worldwide in the spring of this year 1837, plunging many families into debt. Mortgages (aka deeds of trust) would be common through the early 1840s.

**4 JANUARY 1838**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

Michael Sowder and wife Ann, administrators of Jacob Sowder Decd., of Franklin County, to **Henry Iddings** of Floyd County, sale of "land lying and being in the County of Floyd Known by the name of the **Mackaronie Tract**," containing 10 acres described as

Beginning at a large chesnut and red oak by a small branch, corner to the land of **Mark Lykins** and thence with the line thereof S73 W12 poles to a chesnut on a line of **Humphrey Smith's** land and with it leaving Lykins N43 W74 poles to two chesnut oaks and chestnut, N20 E5 poles to a four-pronged maple in a line of said **Lykins old survey**, and with it S82 E46 poles to two chesnuts and white oak, thence S13 E52 poles to the beginning.

Signed: Ann Sowder her X mark [a blank spot is left where Michael's signature should be]. Witnesses: **Jabez Smith, Charles Vest** (his X mark), Richard Sumpter. Proved in Floyd's June court session 1839.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book B (1836-41): 66; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 286.

<sup>20</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book B (1836-41): 110-11; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 308-9.

<sup>21</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book B (1836-41): 271; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 389.

COMMENT:

Henry Iddings [Jr.] and Charles Vest were in the household adjacent to William Mills in 1850. Note, below, that Iddings (after buying the above tract) proceeded to divide his original patent between his children before the end of the year, suggesting that he may have remained on this “Mackaronie Tract.”

Andrew Idings on 23 Oct 1847 gave a deed of trust to James Light and William Snuffer, trustee. James Light served as surety for the bond of Andrew Light’s wife as administratrix of the estate of **Jabez H. Smith**, decd., her prior husband. The consideration to be held in trust was a tract of land that was part of [H]Umphrey Smith’s old tract, bounded by **Henry Idings**, Bolin Childress, and others.<sup>22</sup>

**11 SEPTEMBER 1838**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

Abijah **Booth** (x) to George **Booth**, both of Floyd County, sale for \$500 “the whole of ... 305 acres by Patent” in Floyd County “on **Beaver Creek, waters of Little River, waters of New River.**” [Metes & bounds not copied] adjoining **Charles Simmons**, a branch, **Ambrose Briant**, **Abijah Booth**, **William Reed**, **Carter Cox**, and a creek. Witnesses: Isaac Booth, Isaac Moore, Jno. Howard. Proved in November Court 1838.<sup>23</sup>

COMMENT:

- The 1790 tax roll of Montgomery County shows Abijah Booth Sr. submitting his tax list on the same day as **Militin Atkins**, apparently in the lower part of the county that lay between Walker’s Creek and New River.
- In 1789, this Militin Atkins was the surety on the unexecuted marriage bond for Frances “Frankey” White and John Abram Glymph of Montgomery’s Doe Creek (which lay across New River from Walker’s Creek, a short distance upriver from the point where Little River enters New River). Male-line descendants of Frankey’s son Samuel Mills, who was born about the time of this intended marriage, carry the Y-DNA signature of the Atkins family, with matches to descendants of the Booker Mullins to whom William Mills-Whitt is connected by 1806 tax roll data in Franklin.<sup>24</sup>
- See Map 4 for location of Boothe Creek. Going east on Little River, from New River, the next major waterway past Boothe Creek is Big Run, site of Henry Iddings (& William Mills 1850).

**19 OCTOBER 1838**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Gift

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<sup>22</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book D (1844–47): 465; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 264.

<sup>23</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book B (1836–41): 204; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 355.

<sup>24</sup> For Frances “Frankey” Mills, parents unknown, who emerged in Montgomery as a single mother about 1788, see the following reports posted at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab:

- E. S. Mills, “John White Sr. (c1740–1821); Spouses: 1. Unidentified & 2. Frances ‘Frankey’ Mills: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 18 January 2021.
- E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Montgomery & Fincastle Counties, Virginia: Preliminary Survey,” report to file last updated 10 September 2020.
- E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Montgomery County, VA, Extended Research (Bias, Sartain, Tony, White, Whitt/Witt),” report to file, 10 September 2020.

**Henry Iddings (x) and Abigail Idding [sic] (x) to Thomas Iddings** all of Floyd County. Henry and Abigail “for the true regard to their friend Thomas Iddings makes a friendly gift” of land “on the waters of **Little River**” containing [100] acres by survey bearing same date, bounded as follows:

Beginning at a white oak near a branch the begin[nin]g corner to the above named tract of 220 acres, thence with a line S57 W32 poles crossing s<sup>d</sup> branch to a chesnut saplin & five dogwoods on a hill side, thence **new lines** S30 poles to two chesnut sprouts, from one stump S79 E38 poles to a white oak stump near a branch S3 E82 poles down on the W side of sd branch to red & chesnut saplin, S83 W21 poles to a hickory grub and a double chesnut stump near the top of a **ridge** by addition of ten acres S14 E21 poles to two red oak sapling and a black oak on the top of a ridge, S67 W 30 poles to a large chesnut, S9½ E100 poles to three red oak saplins on flat ridge, N78 E150 poles crossing the **Old House branch** to a red oak sapling on the patten [patent] line, thence with the same N25 W33 poles to a chesnut corner thereof, N70 W20 poles to a double chesnut by a road, N23 W52 poles to a chesnut and chesnut oak, N76 W60 poles to a white oak & chesnut corner to patten [patent] of 220 acres, and with last line this of N12 W140 poles to the beginning.

Acknowledgment 20 October 1838 before Peter Guerrant Jr. & Leonard Aldridge, Justices of the peace. “Delivered Dec 1852.”<sup>25</sup>

COMMENT:

With regard to the first reference to “s<sup>d</sup> branch,” there was no prior reference identifying any branch, only a statement that the land lay on *waters* of New River.

**19 OCTOBER 1838**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**  
Gift

**Henry Iddings (x) and Abigail Idding [sic] (x) to Charles Vest** all of Floyd County. Henry and Abigail, having “a true regard to their friend Charles Vest make a friendly gift” of Floyd Co. land described as being on the waters of **Little River** containing [96] acres by survey bearing the above date, bounded as follows:

Beginning at a black oak & spanish oak near the top of a **ridge** corner to tract of land of for [sic] **Wm Iddings**, with his line S74 W40 poles to a large chesnut & white oak saplin on a **ridge**, N80 W28 poles to a white oak, S64 W48 poles to a chesnut and white oak, by thence leaving same line N38 W21 poles to a double chesnut on a **ridge**, N82 W49 poles to two chesnut oaks & a white oak on a **ridge**, N21 W36 poles to two chesnuts and three red oak saplins on a **division line** run between **Henry Idings** & Guerrant, with the same line N53 E132 poles crossing a branch to a red oak saplin and white oak on a hill side, S56 E16 poles to two white oaks & a gum, S26 E24 poles to a branch, thence down the meanders of the same & binding thereon 45 poles to **Likins branch**, thence down the s<sup>d</sup> branch as meanders 50 poles to a white oak & locus, thence S41½ W37 to the beginning.

Acknowledged 19 October 1838 by Henry and Abigail before Leonard Aldridge and Peter Guerrant Jr., Justices of the peace. Proved November Court 1838.<sup>26</sup>

COMMENT:

The Iddings are dividing land between their children. Charles Vest wed Martha Iddings in 1831.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book B (1836–41): 208; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 357.

<sup>26</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book B (1836–41): 204; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 355.

**20 OCTOBER 1838**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**Jacob Watters** [sic] and **Hannah** his wife to Benjamin Newman of **Montgomery County**. Sale for \$200 land in Floyd County on the waters of **Little River** containing 80 acres by survey. Metes & bounds [not copied] refer to “a flat **ridge corner** to a lot of land laid off to **Sam<sup>l</sup> Vest**, small branch. Also an **adjoining tract** “on the NW side of the aforesaid,” containing 80 acres surveyed and 20 acres yet to be surveyed ... containing in all 100 acres. Signed **J C Walters**; Hannah Walters C her mark [that mark could also be read as a G or an unclosed O]. Acknowledged 20 October 1838 before Peter Guerrant Jr. and Leonard Aldridge, Justices of the Peace. Proved November Court 1838.<sup>28</sup>

COMMENT:

Jacob Walters married Hannah **Iddings**, 19 July 1822, in Montgomery County.<sup>29</sup>

**20 OCTOBER 1838**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Gift

**Henry Iddings** (x) & **Abigail** his wife (x) to **Bird Smith**, “for the true regard for their friend & **son in law** Bird Smith & also for the consideration of the sum of One dollar ... conveyance of Floyd County land “on **Old house run**, said to contain [100] acres, being the remainder of a large survey.” Bounded by **Thomas Iddings, Johnathan Iddings, William Iddings & David Hall**, also **Wm. Walters Sr.** Acknowledged by Henry and Harriet on 20 October 1838 before Leonard Aldridge and Peter Guerrant Jr., JPs. Admitted to record, 26<sup>th</sup> March 1839. “[Delivered] To Smith May 1847.”<sup>30</sup>

COMMENT:

Bird Smith married Lydia Idings, daughter of Henry.<sup>31</sup> I have not been able to locate Old House Run.

**22 DECEMBER 1838**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Gift

**Henry Iddings** (x) and **Abigail** his wife to **David Hall**, all of Floyd County. The Iddings “for their regard and friendship to their **son in law** David Hall make a friendly gift” of **100 acres**, being part of a 400-acre survey patented to the said Henry Iddings. [Metes and bounds not copied]. Bounding **James Simpson** and **Walters**. Also another small piece “laying on the branch and on the north side of the above-named survey, which is marked off without coursing, supposed to be **five acres**.” Acknowledged 22 December 1838 by Henry (but not Abigail) before James H. Gray and Peter Guerrant Jr., JPs. Admitted to record, 26 March 1839.<sup>32</sup>

**7 SEPTEMBER 1839**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Sale of land

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<sup>27</sup> Charles Vest m. Martha Idings, 21 July 1831, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, compiler, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 244.

<sup>28</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book B (1836–41): 205–6; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 356.

<sup>29</sup> Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 248.

<sup>30</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book B (1836–41): 263; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 385.

<sup>31</sup> Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 215.

<sup>32</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book B (1836–41): 262; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 384.

**David Hall** (s) and wife **Abigail** (x) to **William A. Conner**, sale of Floyd County land on the **waters of Little River** and known as a part of the **old house branch** tract," 105 acres, for \$100. Land is said to adjoin **James Simpson** and **William Walters**, described as

Beginning at two white oaks near a branch, corner to the said patent? land, and also corner to the land of **James Simpson**, thence with a line thereof N70 E220 poles to a large chesnut in **Walters line**, thence with it leaving Simpson's line N47 W66 poles to a white oak, N65 W60 poles to a chesnut oak, thence runs the **Division line** S56 W150 poles, crossing a branch to a white oak on a SW hill side in the patent line, thence with the same S23 E20 poles to a white oak on a hill side corner thereof, thence S45 E35 poles to the beginning.

Acknowledged 7 September 1839 before Leonard Aldridge and Peter Guerrant Jr., JPs. Admitted to record 30 September 1839.<sup>33</sup>

**28 JANUARY 1840**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Association

Anderson Evans to **Henry Iddings**, sale for \$45, 16 acres of land in Floyd County "on the waters of Little River," described as

Beginning at a white oak, thence S13 E to a chesnut tree on said Iddings line 52 poles, thence with said Iddings line 65 poles to a burch on the bank of a branch in the aforesaid line N13 W30 poles to a beach and maple on said branch, thence N88½ W65 poles to the beginning.

Witnesses: **Bird Smith, J. C. Watters, Jonathan Iddings**. Proved February 1843 by oaths of witnesses.<sup>34</sup>

**3 APRIL 1840**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

William Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horse, 0 tax

COMMENT:

William Mills-Whitt appeared this year on the personal tax roll of Franklin. His son William B. Mills, born about 1820, as the third son of William and Drucilla was not yet 21 and not yet liable for poll tax. The above William is clearly a different man.

This William of 1840 Floyd is not taxed in 1841, but would appear sporadically in tax and court records, sometimes in association with a Larkin and Anderson Mills.

Meanwhile, one William Mills (parentage unproved) appeared in Franklin County 1833–37, where he was called "William Mills Jr." to distinguish him from William Mills Sr. of Elliott's Creek of the Magotty. He was married in that period to Mary "Polly" Shewalter/Showalter of Elliott's Creek. In 1837, he and Polly (along with Polly's apparent mother Sally Shewalter) sold their Elliott Creek land and dropped from Franklin's records. That William's location was in close proximity to one Nancy Mills (widow of James Jr., who was the brother of William Sr.) and the same area as Anderson and Larkin Mills who weave in and out of the tax rolls of both Franklin and Floyd County in this period.

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<sup>33</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book B (1836–41): 306; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 406.

<sup>34</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 193; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 604.

**3 SEPTEMBER 1840**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**  
Land purchase

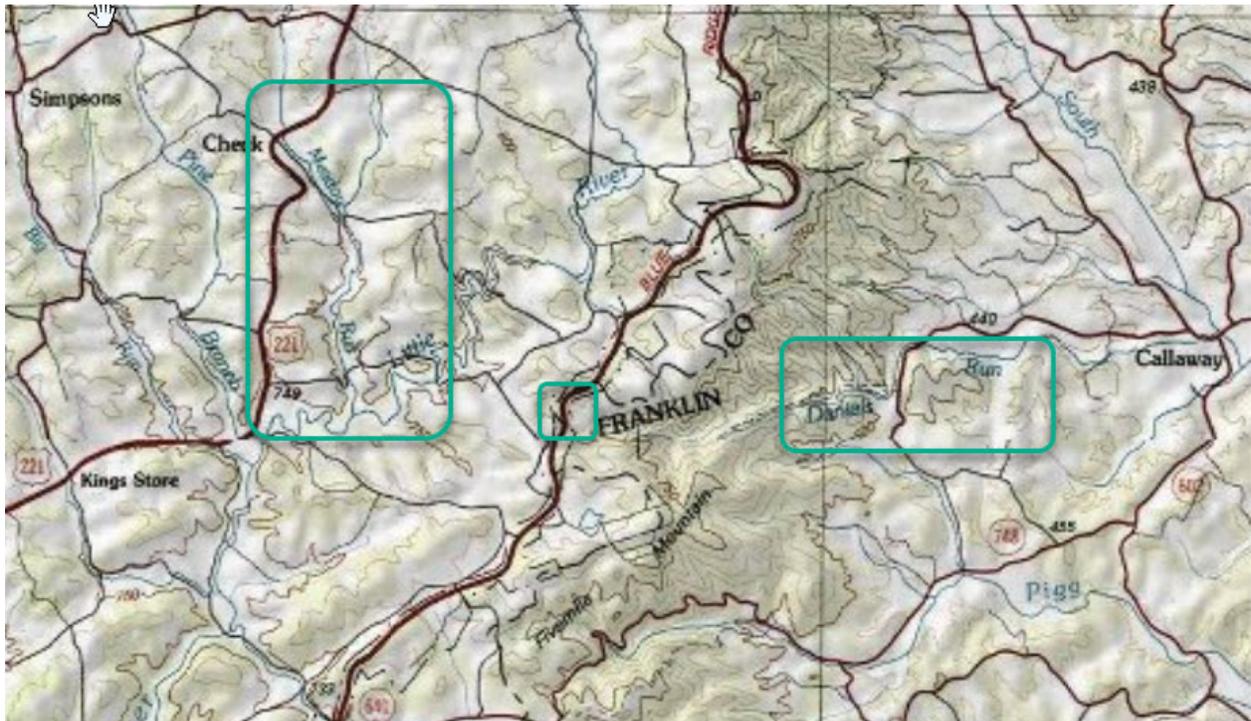
**Peter Poff** (x) and wife **Mary** (x) of Montgomery Co. to **Nathan Conner** of Floyd, sale for \$262 cash, a tract of land in Floyd on “the **Meaddow Run**, a hed [sic] branch of **Little River** containing 42 acres, excluding 8 acres taken off the SE side of the Meaddow Run. [Metes & bounds here, not copied.] Adjacent to **William Conner**. Also one other adjacent tract containing 70 acres, adjoining **John B. Conner**. Witnesses: **James H. Gray, Randal Wilson**. Acknowledged 4 September 1841 before Leonard Aldredge and Lewis Payne. Received in October court and ordered to be recorded.<sup>35</sup>

COMMENT:

In 1850, Nathan Conner (36), Daniel P. Conner (22), and William Connor (age 60) were adjacent neighbors. William Conner m. Catherine Poff 7 May 1811 and Polly Poff, 1822, in Montgomery.<sup>36</sup>

Meadow Run of Little River was a bit west of Dog Spur Gap through the mountain that divided Floyd from Franklin. Dog Spur Gap (Pine Spur Overlook) was a bit N of the end of Franklin County’s Daniel’s Run, just west of Jacob Prillaman’s land, to the WSW of Callaway in Franklin County. (On the map below, from Simpsons to Check is roughly two miles by the road that runs above them.)

Map 2  
**Meadow Run (Floyd County) to Daniel’s Run (Franklin County)**

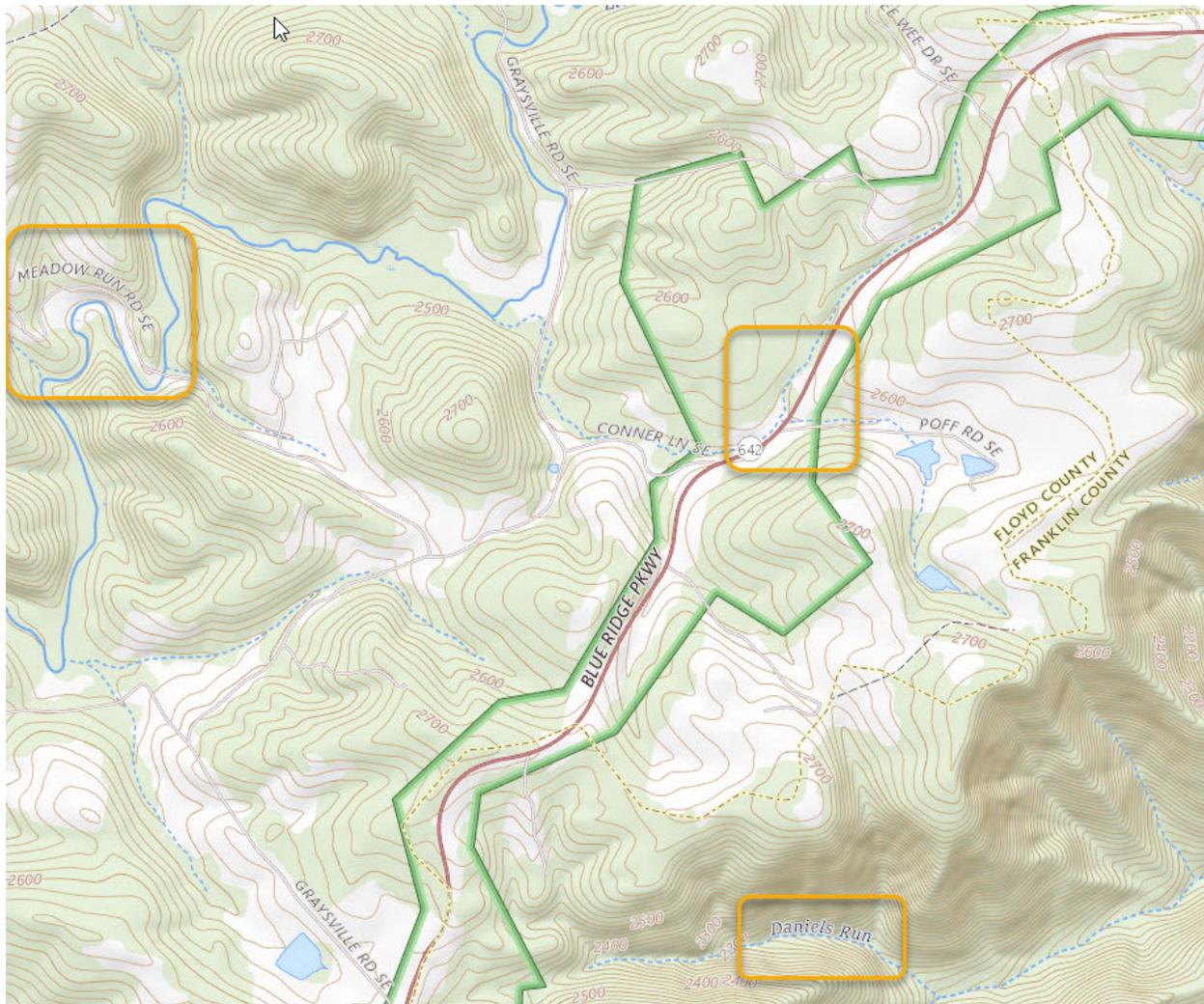


<sup>35</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 16; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 516.

<sup>36</sup> Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 50.

**Map 3**

**Meadow's Run to Southern Fork of Daniel's Run: Topographical View**



**28 SEPTEMBER 1840**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

Peter Guerrant Sr. (x) of Franklin County sells to **John R. Conner** of Floyd a tract of land in Floyd “on the waters of **Wilson’s Branch** and part of **William Wilson’s** place it being all the land that lays on the West and North of a small branch between the said Conner house and the Wilson place and suppose to contain thirty acres.” Acknowledged 28 September 1840 before Leonard Aldridge and Lewis Payne, JPs. Proved March Court 1841.<sup>37</sup>

**28 SEPTEMBER 1840**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

<sup>37</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book B (1836–41): 428; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 467.

Peter Guerrant Sr. (S) of Franklin County to **Charles Poff** of Montgomery, for \$100 cash in hand, sale of land in Floyd County “on the waters of **Laurell branch, waters of Medow Run**, adjoining the lands of the above-named Charles Poff, being part of the tract of land that the named Peter Guerrant purchased of **Daniel Wilson**, it being all that part of the aforesaid Wilson tract ... laying on the S side of the **Old Bent Road**, supposed to contain 50 acres. Acknowledged before Leonard Aldridge and Lewis Payne, JPs, 28 September 1840. Received by clerk and admitted to record 29 April 1842.<sup>38</sup>

**28 SEPTEMBER 1838**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**Charles Poff** (s) and wife **Rebecca** (s) of Montgomery County to Peter Guerrant Sr. of Franklin, for \$100 cash in hand, sale of 40 acres in Floyd County “on the head waters of the **Laurell branch**, being part of the place that was purchased of **Stephen Reed** by **Peter Poff Sr., Deceased** and Willed by him to his son **Charles Poff** above,” described as

Beginning at the **Old Bent Road** near the corner of **Wilson’s place** ... where a small branch do cross said road and said branch to its head with the meander of said branch and then the nearest course to the line of **Jacksons old place**, it being all the land of the aforesaid place laying N & E of said line.

Acknowledged before Leonard Aldridge and Lewis Payne, JPs, 28 September 1840. Received by court clerk **M. Sandifer**, 29 April 1842, and ordered to be recorded.<sup>39</sup>

**19 APRIL 1841**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

Henry Light (s), **Samuel Light** (s), and Lorenzo D. Light (s) sell to Thomas Helms for \$90 a tract of land in Floyd County “on the waters of **Little River** adjoining Thomas Helms and others known by the name of **Henry Lights old place**, containing” 400 acres more or less. No witnesses. April Court 1841 deed “was acknowledged in Court” [doesn’t say by whom, and ordered to be recorded.

COMMENT:

- See 1838 above for John Light, heir of Henry Light, to Thomas Helms.<sup>40</sup>
- Samuel D. Light, the 1850 neighbor of William and Drucilla, would have just turned 21 at the time of the sale above. The deed suggests he was also a son and heir of Henry Light Sr.

**21 MAY 1841**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**William A. Conner** (s) sells to **Daniel Conner**, both of Floyd for \$100, 105 acres “on the waters of **Little River** and known as a part of the **Old House Run** tract, adjoining **James Simpson, William Walters** [metes and bounds not copied. Acknowledged “in the Clerks Office,” 22 May 1841 and admitted to record.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 90; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 553.

<sup>39</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 91; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 553.

<sup>40</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book B (1836–41): 435; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 471.

<sup>41</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 18; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 517.

**20 JULY 1841**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Association

William **Simpson** (s) and Catharine Douglas (x) sell to James Gray, all of Floyd, for \$350, a tract of land in Floyd Co. “being the same tract or parcell of land purchased by the said William Simpson and Catharine Douglas of **David Iddings** and wife and laying on the **head waters** of **Big Run**, s<sup>d</sup> patented to **old James Iddings**, “being all the lines patented to old James Iddings except two small pieces, one to **Henry Iddings** and one to **James Light Sr.** Witnesses: **John Light, Randal Wilson, J. Gray**, Charles B. Reynolds, George **Walters**. Proved in November Court 1841 and ordered to be recorded.<sup>42</sup>

**3 SEPTEMBER 1841**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Association

**Peter Poff** (x) and wife Mary (x) of **Montgomery County** to Anthony Poff of Floyd, sale for \$156 cash in hand, a tract of 80 acres by survey; also 8 acres more or less, “mentioned and excluded from a tract Deeded to **Nathaniel Conner** by Peter Poff.” [Metes and bounds not copied.] Lying on **Waters of East fork of Little River**, the tract adjoins Mathias **Furrow**, Richard Rudock, **Wm. Conner**. Witnesses: Joseph Gray, Son; **Randal Wilson**, James H. Gray. Acknowledged 4 September 1841 before Leonard Aldridge and Lewis Payne, JPs. Received in March Court 1842 and ordered to be recorded.<sup>43</sup>

**28 FEBRUARY 1842**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Deed of trust

Roland **Vest** to Deskenis & Thomas and Henry Deskinis, of the 2d part, “and [unnamed] trustees of the 3d part.” Whereas Vest is indebted to Deskinis & Thomas for \$13.50 dated this day and payable on demand, also to Harvey Deskinis for \$26.30 dated this day and payable on demand, he secures his debt with a deed to **Jackson Godbey trustee**, for personal property identified as “2 cows, 2 beds and furniture, 2 Axes, 1 Scythe & Crowdel?, 1 mowing sythe, 2 chests, 2 pots, 1 oven, 2 skilets, 1 bay horse & calf, one drape, ½ doz chairs, and all the household & kitchen furniture on hand, saw, drawing knife, 1 set of tools, and their increase.” Signed: Roland Vest, Deskinis & Thomas, H. Deskinis, Jackson Godbey. Acknowledged in the county court and admitted to record on 28 February 1842.<sup>44</sup>

COMMENT:

Online trees identify Godbey (without evidence) as son of George & Nancy (Elswick) Godbey of Montgomery—and the nephew of Francis Godbey who married **Rhoda Whitt**, daughter of **Archibald Whitt** and granddaughter of Rev. Richard Whitt of Montgomery. After William and Drucilla Mills, the 1850 neighbor of Henry Iddings, left Floyd Co., their traceable action place them amid Archibald Whitt’s offspring at the intersection of New River and Little River.

**23 MARCH 1842**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Associates

Peter Guerrant Jr. (s) and wife Sarah (x) sell to **Jacob Walters**, all of Floyd Co., for \$400, land in Floyd County “adjoining the land of **John Smith**, deceased, supposed to contain about [100] acres ... being the tract of land I bought of **Joshua Wilson** and bargained to sell said tract of land to **Jacob Walters** about

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<sup>42</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 65; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 540.

<sup>43</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 71; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 543.

<sup>44</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 65; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 540.

five years ago. Witnesses: Lewis Webster, Cyrus Price, Thomas Akers (X his mark). Acknowledged 9 April 1842 before Saml. Hairston and Cyrus Price, JPs. Received by clerk and admitted to record 19 April 1842.<sup>45</sup>

**24 MARCH 1842**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Associates

**Isaac Booth** (s) to “James Booth, his son ... in consideration of a natural love & affection” and \$1 conveys title to 100 acres, “part of a tract of 260 acres lying partly in Montgomery & partly in Floyd, which [100] acres is to be taken off the SW end of this said tract of 260 acres & is to include the new house lately put up by the said James Booth & which 100 acres lies in the County of Floyd. No witnesses. Acknowledged in the clerk’s office, Floyd County, 25 March 1842. “Delivered to Jacob Walters, 12 August 1873.”<sup>46</sup>

**16 MAY 1842**  
**FLOYD COUNTY**

Land sale

**Henry Iddings** (x) and **Abigail** his wife to **William Iddings** all of Floyd County, “for and in consideration of the love they bear toward their son, the said William Iddings” and for \$1, convey land “on **waters of Big run**, a branch of **Little River** containing by estimation 60 acres described as

Beginning at a white oak in the sd. Wm. Iddings patent line, a corner of **Bird Smith’s** land and running thence N87 W20 poles to a red oak, corner of the said patent line, thence with said line S71 W, crossing the Creek 42 p[oles] to four white oaks, corner of the same, thence leaving said patent line S80 W30p crossing a branch to a dead white oak and chesnut oak, corner of William Iddings’ **new survey**, thence with a line of the same S57 W28½ up sd. branch to a cherry tree planted in place of a white oak cut down corner of the survey, thence with sd line S21½ W49 poles crossing a small branch to a chesnut oak beginning of sd new survey.

Also a corner of an [80] acres survey made for **Jacob Walters**, thence with a line of sd. 80 acre survey N89 W39p to two white oak saplings, corner of the same, thence with a line of the same N20 W24p to maple pointers in a branch, thence with the same 40p crossing two roads to a small black oak corner of the same, thence on leaving sd. line nearly N 40p crossing a road to a small white oak near sd road, thence nearly E 40p to a chesnut and white oak by a path, corner of **Charles Vests** land, thence with a line of the same N64 E48p to a white oak, corner of the same, thence with the same S80 E28p to a large chesnut and white oak sapling, corner of the same, thence with the same 45 poles crossing the creek to a white oak near sd creek, corner of the same, also a corner of **Jonathan Iddings** land, thence with Jonathan Iddings line 66 poles to four chesnuts from one root corner of the same, also corner of **Bird Smith’s** land, thence with Bird Smith 46 poles to the beginning.

Acknowledged in May Court 1842 and ordered to be recorded.<sup>47</sup>

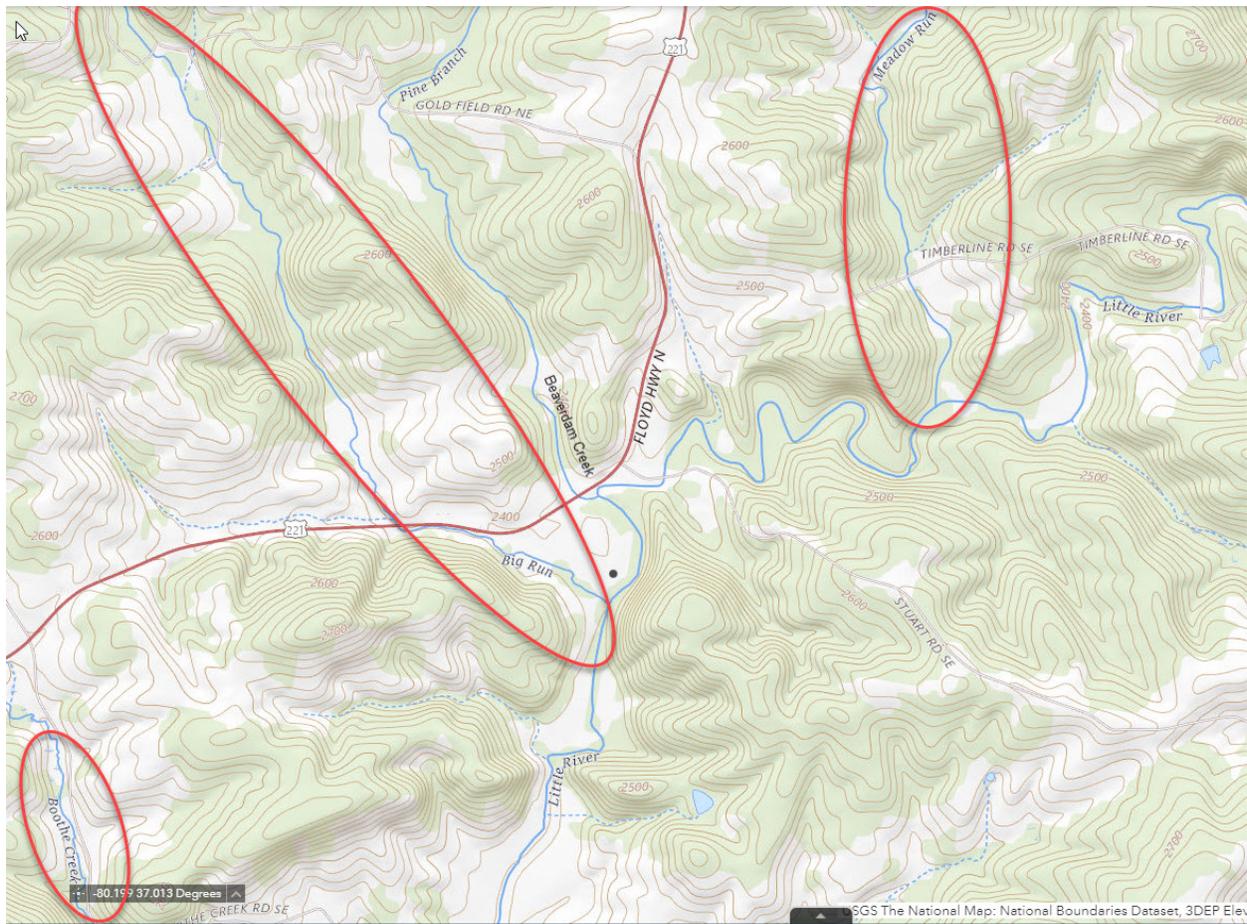
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<sup>45</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 86; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 551.

<sup>46</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 79; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 547.

<sup>47</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 92; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 554.

Map 4  
Big Run of Little River—Between Boothe Creek & Meadow Run  
(William Mills’s location between Henry Iddings & Light)



Note: Boothe Creek, at left, runs south into Little River, off the bottom corner of this map.

**6 AUGUST 1842**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Peter Guerrant Jr. (s) to **John O. Conner** and **Daniel Conner**, all of Floyd, sale for \$150 cash, land **on the waters of Rush? Run, waters of the South fork of Roan Oak [Roanoke]**, being the same land the above-named Guerrant purchased of **Jacob Prilaman**,” 152 acres. [Metes and bounds not copied.] Acknowledged by Guerrant in the Clerk’s office, 19 September 1842 and admitted to record.<sup>48</sup>

**19 SEPTEMBER 1842**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Association

Peter Guerrant Jr. (s) to **Jacob Conner**, both of Floyd County, for \$250 cash in hand, sale of land in Floyd “laying on the West side of the **Bent Road** and the part of the land purchased of **Johnathan Reed** and bounded on the East by said **Bent Road**, on the North by **Richard Rudaker’s land**, on the West by

<sup>48</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 146; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 581.

Anthony Poff, and on the South by **Matthew Furrow.**” Acknowledged in Clerk’s Office, 19 September 1842.<sup>49</sup>

**9 DECEMBER 1842**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Association

“General Briggs Lawrence” (s/ Ginnerl Griggs Lawrence) of Floyd Co. to **John Lawrence** of Montgomery Co., sale for \$250 cash in hand, 87 acres in Floyd Co. “on the top of the **Laurel Ridge.**” Also his interest in a patent made to James P. & Briggs Lawrence for 125 acres dated 31 August 1840. The 87 acres start “at the first corner of the patent where it calls for three chesnuts and a double chestnut.” [Rest of m & b not copied; no adjacent owners named.] Acknowledged in the clerk’s office 9 December 1842.<sup>50</sup>

**15 FEBRUARY 1843**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Association

“**William Simpson** (s) and **Catharine Douglass** (s) to **Hiram Walters**, all of Floyd County, sale for \$45, 18 3/8 acres of land lying on **Pine Run, waters of Little River**, adjoining the lands of old **William Walters** and said Simpson [metes & bounds not copied]. Witnesses: **Bird Smith, James Light, Jonathan Iddings.** Proved in court February term 1843 “by the oaths of the witnesses.”<sup>51</sup>

COMMENT:

In 1850, Hiram Walters was living with “old” William Walters, 9 dwellings from William and Drucilla Mills.

*HomeTownLocator* does not show a “Pine Run” off Little River. It does show a “Pine Branch” a bit SSE of Simpsons, VA, running NE off Little River where it abuts Hwy 221 (aka Floyd Hwy). Map 4 places “Pine Branch” just East of Big Run. Both came within a half-mile or so of the Simpsons community.

**AUGUST 1843**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Ordered that Fleming Poff be and he is hereby appointed Surveyor of the Road in Precint No. 62 in place of **William R. Conner**, resigned, and that the hands assigned to the said Conner constitute his gang, and that they keep the said road in repair according to the law.”<sup>52</sup>

COMMENT:

I have begun my reading of court orders at this point—the start of volume 2—roughly five years before William Mills-Whitt arrived in the county. I am reading line by line; but I am not taking notes on deeds presented to court because I have already read the deed books, page by page. Ditto for performance bonds filed by incoming sheriffs, justices of the peace, and constables.

The only notes I am taking are those that have a potential significance to William Mills and family or to the locations of individuals with whom he associated.

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<sup>49</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 146; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 581.

<sup>50</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 171–72; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 593–94.

<sup>51</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 186; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 601.

<sup>52</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1831–1843, 10; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 321.

**3 AUGUST 1843**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Affidavit

"I, **Henry Iddings** [Sr.] (x) do hereby certify that I was at Floyd Court house some time in the course of the last year when James Litteral and Henry F. Callaway were in conversation about the **Meadows run** land, when James Litteral loudly proclaimed that he put no claim to the land which he purchased of the heirs of **Zachariah Stanley** which is covered by the survey of **Daniel Conner** and the Said Litteral further Said that if said Calaway brought suit he might pay the Costs himself." Sworn 3 August 1843 before Peter Guerrant and James H. Gray, JPs.

"To all whom it may concern, know ye that I **Henry Iddings** (x) do certify that some time in the year **1780** a certain **Zachariah Stanly** with **Humphrey Smith**, a deputy Surveyor for the County of Botetourt, called upon me and **my cousin David Iddings** to carry the chain in a Survey they were then about to make on **Meadow Run**, beginning on the lines of **Nicholas Allay**, thence up Meadow run some distance, when **David Idding** told the Said Stanly and the Said Smith that they were crossing on the land of **Daniel Connor** & notwithstanding they continued on & completed the survey." Sworn 3 August 1843 before Peter Guerrant and James H. Gray, JPs. Presented in Floyd's October Court 1843.<sup>53</sup>

**5 AUGUST 1843**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Deed of trust

**Thomas Iddings** (x) to Peter Guerrant Jr. (s), Charles B. Reynolds, and **Henry Iddings** (x) of the second part, both of Floyd Co. Whereas Thomas Iddings is justly indebted to Guerrant for \$32.70 with legal interest from 12 April 1839 "which is more fully set forth by a bond to that effect, also unto Charles N. Reynolds [for] \$26.00 and "perhaps a few cents" with legal interest from 5<sup>th</sup> day of November 1842, "which is more fully set forth by a bond to that effect," also unto **Henry Iddings** for \$80 with legal interest from 5 August 1843, "which is more fully set forth by a bond to that affect," therefore Thomas Iddings conveys to **Bird Smith** for \$1 a tract of land in Floyd County "on the Waters of **Old House Run**, waters of Little River, said to contain" 126 acres "being the **place where I now live** on, and all its appurtenances, also one Sorrel mare, seven head of cattle, eight head of hogs, all my household and Kitchen furniture of every description, also all farming utensils." Condition: if Thomas Iddings defaults on his debt "(but not until the 5<sup>th</sup> day of August one thousand eight hundred and forty seven)" then Smith may sell the land to cover those debts. Witness: **Samuel Vest**. Acknowledged by Thomas Iddings and admitted to record, in the office of the clerk, 7 August 1843.<sup>54</sup>

**19 AUGUST 1843**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

**Henry Iddings** (x) and **Abigail** his wife (s) to **Jonathan Iddings** "for the true Regard for their Friend and son Jonathan Iddings" and for \$1 convey a tract of land lying in Floyd County on **Lykens Branch**, 100 acres, "being part of a survey surveyed by the said Henry Iddings, a fore hunned Acres survey, and a part of a survey surveyed by the said Iddings of About two hundred and twenty Acres" on Lykins Branch, corner to a lot laid off for **Charles Vest**" ... Witness: **Bird Smith**. Acknowledged in August Court by Henry Iddings. "Delivered to Burd Smith May 1853."<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841-45): 332-33; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 674.

<sup>54</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841-45): 332; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 674.

<sup>55</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841-45): 301-2; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > images 658-59.

## COMMENT:

- Bird Smith married Lydia Iddings in 1832.<sup>56</sup> See 1850 census data below.
- I have not yet located Lykens Branch.

**30 NOVEMBER 1843****FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

## Land purchase

J. N. Zentmayer, Deputy Clerk, County court of Floyd, to **John Lawrence** of Montgomery Co. Whereas on 19 October 1840, P. Howell, deputy sheriff for P. Guerrant Jr., Sheriff of Floyd, sold for taxes a tract of land under an act of 27 February 1835 for “nonpayment of taxes west of the Aleghany Mountain,” and **John Lawrence** became the purchaser of 90 acres returned delinquent in the name of James Bowman, for the nonpayment of taxes due thereon “for the year 1832 & 37” [& 33?] lying on the waters of **Big Run**, a branch of the South fork of Roanoke [metes and bounds not copied]. Zentmayer conveys title to Lawrence “but ... only such estate in the said tract of land as was vested in the said James Bowman. Admitted to record 30 November 1843.<sup>57</sup>

## COMMENT:

Big Run was also the site of the land of Henry Iddings, who appears next door to William Mills on the 1850 census. On 27 July 1854, Mills's daughter Milly married John B. Lawrence, son of William and Agnes Lawrence.<sup>58</sup> I have not yet determined the relationship between William and the above John Lawrence.

**16 DECEMBER 1843****FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

## Land purchase

Andrew Richards (x) and wife (x) Mary of Montgomery Co. to **James P. Lawrence** of Floyd, sale of land in Floyd on “waters of **Laurel Creek**, a branch of Little River,” 80 acres bounded by land of James P. Lawrence, corner to a survey of 300 acres made to **Henry H. Calaway**, small branch, prong of **Laurel Creek**, a spring branch, South side of **Laurel Ridge**. [Metes and bounds not copied.] Acknowledged before Joseph Howard and Asa L. Howard, JPs. Received in office and admitted to record 25 December 1843.<sup>59</sup>

**3 JANUARY 1844****FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

## Land sale

**Booth Napier (s)** to Elizabeth J. Burd, both of Floyd, “in consideration of the natural love and affection which he has and bears for his daughter, the said Elizabeth,” and for \$1, conveys to her land on **Laurel Creek, waters of Little River** ... crossing a creek to two pines on a knole, near a corner of **Abijah Booth's** Laurel Creek Survey, [etc.] also two horses, one cow, 3 feather beds, one pot, one oven and two skillets,

<sup>56</sup> Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley, Virginia*, 215. Parents are not named in the published abstract.

<sup>57</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 353–54; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > images 684–85.

<sup>58</sup> “Virginia, Select Marriages, 1785–1940,” database, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com>), Milly A. [sic] Mills, 22, born 1832, Floyd Co. VA, marriage 27 July 1854, Floyd County, Virginia, daughter of William and “Pricilla” [sic] married John B. Lawrence, age 16 [sic], son of William and Agnes, b. Bedford Co.; citing FHL microfilm 31345 “P10.” John B. Lawrence's obituary states that he was born 15 April 1832, which would make him 22 at marriage, not 16, according to a transcription posted at *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/52752773/john-b-lawrence> : accessed 27 April 2021), memorial page with photograph of tombstone by Brenda Dudley Eames; the name and date of the newspaper is not identified there.

<sup>59</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 362–63; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 689.

8 chairs, 3 tables, 4 head of Sheep, two trunks, one chest, 1 Iron tramal, 1 cupboard & contents & Sundry wooden vessels. Acknowledged by Napier and admitted to court, 3 January 1844.<sup>60</sup>

COMMENT:

Laurel Creek is a branch of the West Fork of Little River, about halfway between Big Run and New River.

“Booth Napier” married Catherine Bird, 14 February 1832.<sup>61</sup> Online trees place the birth of “Booth Wooten Napier” birth in 1790, place him in **Franklin Co.** in 1820, and identify him as the son of “Robert Booth Napier” and Elizabeth “Betsy” Champion. They also assert that his daughter [step-daughter?] Elizabeth m. 16 November 1848, Floyd County, John Jessee, and lived 1880 on **Walkers Creek in Giles Co.**<sup>62</sup>

*FamilySearch FamilyTree* shows Robert Booth Napier G9M6-NSF (husband of Elizabeth Champion) dying in Franklin County in 1805. He is said to be the son of Robert Napier Jr and Mary Tarleton *Hughes*, and a **brother of Patrick Napier Sr.** (1713–1774), Ashford Napier (1734–1801), and Thomas Hughes Napier (1736–1804, Montgomery).

At *FamilySearch FamilyTree*, Patrick Napier Sr. (1713–1774), is said to be the father of Thomas Hughes Napier KNNR-B2C of Montgomery County and Patrick Napier (1744–1808) of Fluvanna.

“Patrick Napier Jr.” married in Montgomery, June 1788, Fanny Brumfield,<sup>63</sup> sister of Humphrey Brumfield who married Sally Sartin.<sup>64</sup> Sally’s brother Elijah in 1791 married Sarah Mills,<sup>65</sup> daughter of Jesse Mills and Lucy Tilman Hix. Sally is one of two candidates I have targeted for the mother of the William Mills who married Drucilla Kemp.

**17 FEBRUARY 1844**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**Charles Hall** (s) and wife Elizabeth (x) of Montgomery County to **Samuel Vest** of Floyd, sale for \$15, 30 acres patented 1 August 1836 in Floyd County on **waters of Boothe’s branch**, waters of Little River. [Metes and bounds not copied, no neighbors named.] **Witnesses: Bird Smith, H. Walters, Jonathan Iddings.** Proved in Floyd Court, 3d Monday in February 1844 by oath of witnesses.<sup>66</sup>

**17 FEBRUARY 1844**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**Henry Iddings** (x) has “this day given and bequeathed and bestowed unto **Samuel Vest**” for \$1 and in consideration of the love I bear toward said Sml. Vest” a tract of land “supposed to contain” 300 acres.

Beginning at a white oak and red oak on the N side of a **ridge**, corner to **Collins’** land, also a corner to a entry survey made for **Hall** with a line of the latter S79½ E73p to a chesnut, N53¼

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<sup>60</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 374; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 696.

<sup>61</sup> Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley, Virginia: Montgomery, Floyd, Pulaski, and Giles Counties*, 172.

<sup>62</sup> For example, see mark\_sunkel, “Sunkel Family Tree,” *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/23731972/person/162261095599/facts?\\_phsrc=BZE8&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/23731972/person/162261095599/facts?_phsrc=BZE8&_phstart=successSource) : accessed 13 April 2021), “Booth Wooten Napier,” Facts page and (<https://www.ancestry.com/familytree/person/tree/23731972/person/162260798760/facts>), Elizabeth Betsy Napier, Facts. page.

<sup>63</sup> Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley, Virginia: Montgomery, Floyd, Pulaski, and Giles Counties*, 172, for Napier.

<sup>64</sup> Giles Co., VA, Deed Book A: 331–32.

<sup>65</sup> Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 202.

<sup>66</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 405; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 711.

E42p to a chestnut oak & two red oak saplings on a **flat ridge**, N49 W98p to 4 chestnut oaks & red oak corner to **B. Newman's** land, thence with his line rather NE to a **road** leading from said Newman's to **Jacob Walters**, thence up the road to a division line made between **Guerrant** and **Iddings**, thence with the line SW to a corner marked by **Iddings** for said **Vest**, thence nearly S to 2 red oaks & 2 white oak on the line of the **Widow Scotts** land near **Mill Creek** with a line S6¾ W93p down sd **creek** to a stump on a large rock corner to the lott laid off by **Bird Smith** with a line S77½ E152p to a large & small chestnut and gum sapling and line begun on and with it at 18¾ E66p to the beginning.

"And I **Charles Hall** (s) do bind myself my heirs to warrant and defend 70 acres of the above named land on the NE side of it to him the said S. Vest. Witnesses: **Bird Smith; Charles** (his X mark) **Vest, Jonathan Iddings**. Proved 3d Monday in February 1844 in court, by oath of witnesses. Marginal note: "Delivered May 1847 to J. Godbey."<sup>67</sup>

COMMENT:

- This tract and its neighbors seems to be the locus of the landless William Mills in 1850.
- Bird Smith was Iddings' son-in-law.
- "J. Godbey" should be the surveyor Jackson Godbey, a kinsman of the Whitt family of Montgomery.
- The USGS National map places one Mill Creek as a branch of Meadow Creek, just E of Radford. This was the site settled by Rev. Richard Whitt and his son Abijah—and the general locale of William Mills's residence between 1853 and 1860. However, that Mill Creek is clearly not the one above that lies adjacent to Iddings' land. Neither USGS's National Map nor *HomeTownLocator* identifies a Mill Creek in Iddings' neighborhood.
- See 30 June 1845 for a document relating to Mill Creek of Beaverdam Creek of Little River. Beaverdam is the next creek up from Big Run, when going NE on Little River. Beaverdam and Big Run roughly parallel each other for several miles. Iddings land apparently lay between them.

**1844**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

**William Mills**, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horse, 0 tax

COMMENT:

- Both William Mills-Whitt and his son William B. Mills are taxed this year in Franklin.
- This William of Floyd is just one listing from And<sup>w</sup> Mills, formerly of Greer's District of Franklin County (offspring of James Mills of Maggoty Creek), who is now missing from the Franklin roll.

**20 MARCH 1844**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**Henry Iddings (x)** and **Abigail (x)** his wife to **Jacob McNeal**, for \$100, sale of land patented to the above-named Iddings in "Floyd formerly Montgomery County on the waters of **Pilot Run**, the old Survey, containing by patent **eighty acres**, but the above-named Iddings and wife only conveys what has not been conveyed heretofore to **Jacob? (Jonas?) Likins** & designated by a marked line between the said Lykins and the aforesaid Iddings ... supposed to contain forty acres ... more or less, together with all and

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<sup>67</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 406; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 712.

singular the appurtenances thereto belonging.” Acknowledged before Peter Guerrant and James H. Gray, JPs, 20 March 1844. Received and admitted to record, 18 May 1844.<sup>68</sup>

COMMENT:

This appears to refer to an earlier location of Iddings, in his first years in Montgomery County. Neither USGS’s National Map nor *HomeTownLocator* identifies a Pilot Run. *HomeTownLocator* places Pilot Mountain several miles north of Beaverdam Creek and even more distant from Big Run and Pine Branch.

**9 MAY 1844**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**William H. Conner** (s) and **Lucinda Conner** (x), his wife to **Nathan Conner**, sale for **3.70**, a tract of **52 acres** along ridge, cornering on Andrew Conner’s survey of 333 acres ... to **Lig oneland’s** survey of 30 acres, to **John A. Conner’s** land bought of Peter Guerrant to a survey made for **Cornelius Conner**, then to **Nathan Conner’s** land, to **William Conner**. Acknowledged 20 June 1844 before Leonard Aldridge and Peter Guerrant JPs.<sup>69</sup>

**20 MAY 1844**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

License granted to **Henry Iddings** “to keep a house of entertainment in his residence in the County of Floyd until the next May term of this court.”<sup>70</sup>

**20 JUNE 1844**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**William A. Conner** (s) and “wife” (signed as Lewsinda Conner, her X mark) to **John O. Conner**, all of Floyd, sale for \$30 paid herewith, land on S fork of Roanoke, 115 acres adjoining **Andrew Conner**. [Metes & bounds not copied.] Acknowledged 20 June 1844 before Leonard Aldridge and Peter Guerrant JPs. Received and admitted to record, 22 August 1844. Proved March term 1849 with certificate from the JPs.<sup>71</sup>

**30 JUNE 1844**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**Samuel L. Vest** (signed Samuel Vest) and **Sarah** (x) his wife to **Lorenzo D. Light**, sale for \$135, a tract of 135 acres “corner to a piece of land laid off for **Benjamin Newman**. Waterway not named. [Metes and bounds not copied.] Acknowledged before Peter Guerrant and James H. Gray, JPs, 2 August 1845. Received and ordered to be recorded, August court 1845.<sup>72</sup>

**5 OCTOBER 1844**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

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<sup>68</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 479–80; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > images 749–50.

<sup>69</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 267; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 430.

<sup>70</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1831–1843, 61; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 346.

<sup>71</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book D (1844–47): 24–25; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 38.

<sup>72</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book D (1844–47): 135; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 94.

**John Light** (x) to **John R. Conner** of Floyd Co., for \$20, sale of 20 acres in Floyd “adjoining the lands of **Nathan Conner, Richard Rudock, Anthony Poff**, and the above-named **John Conner**, the same land patented to the above-named **John Light**. Acknowledged 5 October 1844 before Valentine Thrash and Peter Guarrant, JPs. Received and admitted to record 1 September 1845.<sup>73</sup>

**18 NOVEMBER 1844**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**John P. Lawrence** and **Cloe** (x) his wife to **Wilson Huff**, sale of land containing a sawmill on the waters of **Brush Creek** containing 10 acres or more. Adjacent landowners not named. [Metes & bounds not copied.] Acknowledged before John Lester Jr. and Valentine Thrash, JPs, 18 November 1844. Received and admitted to record 7 March 1845.<sup>74</sup>

COMMENT:

Brush Creek, like Laurel Creek, is a branch of the West Fork of Little River.

**14 FEBRUARY 1845**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**John O. Conner** and **Daniel Conner** to **John Light** (s), **Wm. A. Conner** (s), **Aaron Conner** (s), **Nancy Conner** (x), & **Bethany Conner** (x), all legatees of **Andrew Conner Deceased** “who before he departed this life made a will ... and upon examining said will there appears to be a small piece of land of about twenty akers which the parties present believe was intended to be given unto the above named John & Daniel Conner which we all are willing to admit.” Acknowledged 14 February 1845 before Valentine Thrash and Peter Guarrant, JPs. Received and admitted to record 1 September 1845.<sup>75</sup>

**APRIL 1845**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

**Henry Iddings, Bird Smith**, and **Jonathan Iddings** having produced the sheriff’s receipt for \$3.00, the tax imposed by law, leave is given them to keep a house of private entertainment at the residence of the said Henry Iddings in the County of Floyd until the next May Term of this court.<sup>76</sup>

**28 JUNE 1845**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

William A. Evans (s) and wife Naomy (s) to **Henry Iddings**, all of Floyd, for \$51.75, 27.5 acres “on the Bank of the branch known by the name of **Lykins Branch**” adjoining Iddings. Witnesses: **Bird Smith, Charles Vest** (x), **Jonathan Iddings**. Acknowledged 29 November 1845 before Leonard Aldridge and James H. Gray, JPs. Proved in court February term 1848.<sup>77</sup>

**30 JUNE 1845**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

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<sup>73</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book D (1844–47): 145; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 99.

<sup>74</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book D (1844–47): 146; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 100.

<sup>75</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book D (1844–47): 24–25; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 38.

<sup>76</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1831–1843, 133; Imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 382.

<sup>77</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book D (1844–47): 192; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 122.

Land sale

**Henry Iddings** (x) and wife **Abbigail** (x) to **Bird Smith**, all of Floyd, sale for \$80, a tract of 80 acres on **Mill Creek**, waters of **Beverdam**, waters of Little River, cornering on a piece of land formerly belonging to **Abner Booth**; also cornering on **Polly Scott**. [Metes & bounds not copied.] Witnesses: **William A. Evans**, **Charles Vest** (x), **Jonathan Iddings**. Acknowledged 29 November 1845 before Leonard Aldredge and James H. Gray, JPs. Proved in court February term 1846.<sup>78</sup>

COMMENT:

Beaverdam is the “next creek up” from Big Run, when going NE on Little River.

**2 JULY 1845**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**Henry Iddings** (x) and **Abbigail** (x) his wife to **Jonathan Iddings**, all of Floyd Co., for \$1. “We do by the Request of **Henry Idding Jr.** make the Right and title of a certain tract of Land that he the said **Henry Iddings Jr.** was to have made to him as a deed of gift from us to **Jonathan Iddings**, land on **Big Run** and **Smith’s Branch**” containing 100 acres bounded by lands of **Jabez H. Smith** and **Anderson Iddings**, and **Charles Vest’s** branch, corner of Guerrant’s and Idding’s survey. Acknowledged 29 November 1845 before Leonard Aldridge and James H. Gray, JPs, proved Floyd County February Court 1846.<sup>79</sup>

COMMENT:

**Andrew Idings/Iddings** on 23 Oct 1847 gave a deed of trust to **James Light** and William Snuffer, trustee. James Light served as surety for the bond of Andrew Light’s wife as administratrix of the estate of **Jabez H. Smith**, decd., her prior husband. The consideration to be held in trust was a tract of land that was part of [H]**Umphrey Smith’s** old tract, bounded by **Henry Idings**, Bolin Childress, and others.<sup>80</sup>

I have not yet located a waterway known as “Smith’s Branch.”

**2 JULY 1845**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**Henry Iddings** (x) and wife **Abbigail** (x) to **John W. Gray**, sale for \$120 of 27 acres in the County of Floyd on the waters of **Pine Runn**, waters of Little River, beginning on the side of the Waggon Road above **Captain Simpson** then down the road to a post near **Simpson’s stable**, then down a branch to corner of **James Iddings land**, then W to beginning [metes not copied. Acknowledged 29 November 1845 before Leonard Aldridge and James H. Gray, JPs. Proved March Court 1846.<sup>81</sup>

COMMENT:

Pine Runn seems to be the Piney Fork of Beaverdam where Iddings bought land in 1834. It should lie near the present community of Simpsons

**9 SEPTEMBER 1845**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

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<sup>78</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book D (1844–47): 193–94; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > images 122–23.

<sup>79</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book D (1844–47): 194–95; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 123.

<sup>80</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book D (1844–47): 465; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 264.

<sup>81</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book D (1844–47): 214; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 138.

**John Lawrence** (x) of Montgomery Co. to Nathan Basham of Floyd, sale for \$23, a tract of 23 acres in Floyd Co. of waters of **Beaver Dam** ... being a part of the same land conveyed to **John J. Lawrence** by George Craig. Metes and bounds not copied. Acknowledged in court September term 1846.<sup>82</sup>

COMMENT:

This Lawrence land would appear to be within five or so miles (give or take) from the Iddings locale on Big Run where William and Drucilla lived in 1850.

**12 JANUARY 1846**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**John Lawrence** and wife **Nancy** (x) to **Harvey Willson**, all of Montgomery, sale of land in Floyd Co. on the waters of **Beaver run**, \$87, for 58 acres “being a part of the said tract of land that was conveyed to the said **John Lawrence** by **John P. Lawrence** and bearing date [blank]. Metes & bounds not copied. Acknowledged 19 September 1846 before Joseph Howard and Valentine Thrash, JPs. Proved September Court 1846.<sup>83</sup>

**24 MARCH 1846**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

James Rowlin (x) and Frances (x) his wife, “formerly widow of **Maskin Evans**, to **Henry Iddings**, all of Floyd. Sale for \$50 “the third of the land of the estate of **Maskin Evans** (Decst.)” from which land they “choose the part of the plantation on which they now live which contains the house, meadows and \_\_\_ to Bowlin Childers’ land on the N side and James H. Gray on the E end and **Henry Iddings** on the S side to be bounded on the W end by the second cross fence from this land westward and to range? parallel with the said cross fence from line to line through the land that is contained in **Maskin Evans** deed which deed is said to contain 208 [2008?] Acres, with its appurtenances. Witnesses: **Bird Smith, Thomas Iddings** (his x mark), **Hannah Walters** (her x mark). Proved at county court, 3d Monday in April, by oaths of the two male witnesses.<sup>84</sup>

**MARCH TERM 1846**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“The Grand jury returned into court and presented ...

An Indictment against Thomas Weeks for an assault a true bill also

An Indictment against Robert Huff for an assault a true bill also

An Indictment against William Webb for an assault a true bill also

An Indictment against **Anderson Mills** for a breach of the peace a true bill

An Indictment against **William Mills** for a breach of the peace a true bill also

An Indictment against **Anderson Mills** No. 2 for a breach of the peace a true bill also

An Indictment against **Anderson Mills** No. 3 for a breach of the peace a true bill also

An indictment against Simeon **Light** for a breach of the peace a true bill also

An Indictment against **William Mills** No. 2 for a breach of the peace a true bill also

An Indictment against Philip A. Webb for a breach of the peace a true bill also

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<sup>82</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book D (1844–47): 308–9; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 185.

<sup>83</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book D (1844–47): 309–10; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 185–86.

<sup>84</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 87; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 340.

An Indictment against Wilson Huff for an assault a true bill also  
An Indictment against Philip A. Webb No. 2 for an assault a true bill also”<sup>85</sup>

COMMENT:

This William appears *not* to be William Mills-Whitt of Franklin for two reasons:

- William Mills-Whitt paid his tax in Franklin in 1846.
- William Mills-Whitt would have been in his 60s by this time. In this era, brawling is more-commonly seen among males in their 20s to 40s. Anderson Mills fits that profile. William Mills-Whitt does not.

This William appears to be the William who submitted his list of taxable items in 1844 on same day as And<sup>w</sup> Mills of the Maggoty Creek, Franklin County, Millises.

“Ordered that process issue against **Anderson Mills** who stands indicted of a breach of the peace, to cause him to appear here on the first day of the next quarterly term to answer the said indictment.

“Ordered that process issue against **William Mills** who stands indicted of a breath of the peace, to cause him to appear here on the first day of the next quarterly term to answer the said indictment.

[2 additional orders against Anderson]

“Ordered that process issue against **Simeon Light** who stands indicted of a breach of the peace, to cause him to appear on the first day of the next quarterly term to answer the said indictment.”

[A second order against William Mills and similar orders against the others on the indictment list.]<sup>86</sup>

**11 APRIL 1846**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

**William Mills**, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horse, 0 tax

COMMENT:

This not-yet-identified William of Floyd is added to the end of the list. He is not listed with Anderson and Larkin, formerly of Maggoty Creek (Greer’s tax district) in Franklin, who have been in Floyd intermittently since c1833. Both William and Larkin turned in their lists on 11 April.

**William Mills-Whitt and son William B. Mills are still taxed in Franklin.**

**JUNE 1846**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“**Henry Iddings** and **Bird Smith** having produced the sheriff’s receipt for \$3.00, the tax imposed by law, leave is given them to keep a house of private entertainment at their residence in this county till the next May Court.”<sup>87</sup>

“Commonwealth vs. William Webb on an indictment for an assault: Ordered that a capias issue against the Defendant returnable here in the first day of the next term.

COMMENT:

This order indicates that Webb failed to appear and he is being summoned again.

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<sup>85</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: 200? [illegible]; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 418.

<sup>86</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: 202?; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 419.

<sup>87</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: 221; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 427.

“Commonwealth vs. **Anderson Mills** on an Indictment for a breach of the peace No 1: This day came the parties by their attorneys and the Defendant for plea saith that he is not guilty in manner and form as in the Indictment against him is alleged and of this he puts himself upon the Country [requests a jury trial] and the attorney for the Commonwealth doth the like and the cause is continued till the next Term.”

COMMENT:

- Ditto for Anderson’s No. 2 and No. 3 charges.
- Ditto for Philip A. Webb’s no 1 charge (breach of the peace) and no. 3 charge (assault).

“Commonwealth vs. **William Mills** On an Indictment for a breach of the peace No 1: Ordered that a *capias* issue against the Defendant returnable here on the first day of the next term.”<sup>88</sup>

COMMENT:

- Ditto for William’s No. 2 charge.
- Ditto for Simeon Light’s charge.

**25 AUGUST 1846**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**  
Land sale

**John Lawrence** (s) and wife **Nancy** “and **Sarah Lawrence**, the wife of **General Briggs Lawrence** of Montgomery County” to **James P. Lawrence** of Floyd, for \$200, sale of 87 acres in Floyd Co. on S side of **Laurel Ridge** on the waters of **Laurel Creek**, a branch of Little River, adjoining James P. Lawrence. Acknowledged in September court by John Lawrence.<sup>89</sup>

**AUGUST 1846**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**  
Court order

“Commonwealth vs. **Anderson Mills** On an Indictment for a breach of the peace No. 1. This day came as well the Attorney prosecuting for the Commonwealth as the Defendant by his attorney and thereupon came a jury to wit Michael Reed, Humphrey Reed, Isaac Huff, Benjamin Weddle, William Crooks, Jacob **Conner**, John Weaver, Jeremiah H. Slusher, Samuel Gill, Abijah Booth, Elijah Turman, and Ezekiel Gelham who being elected and swore the truth to speak upon the issue joined, upon their oaths, do say ‘We the jury find the Defendant **Guilty** and assess his fine to **one cent**.’ Therefore it is considered by the Court that the Commonwealth recover against the Defendant the sum of one cent And the costs of this prosecution. And the said Defendant may be taken &c.”

“Commonwealth vs. **William Mills** On an Indictment for a breach of the peace No. 1. This day came as well the attorney for the Commonwealth as the Defendant by his attorney and the said Defendant for plea saith he is **not guilty** in manner and form as in the Indictment against him is alleged and of this he puts himself upon the Country and the attorney for the Commonwealth doth the like and thereupon came a jury to wit **Anderson Iddings, Lorenzo D. Light**, Levi Widdle, Matthew Turman, Lawrence Graham, Andrew Dickinson, Carter Cox Jr., James Simmons, Early Dickerson, John Sumner, Abner Lester Jr., Isaiah Sumner, Who being elected tried and sworn the truth to speak upon the issue joined upon their oaths do say “We the jury find the Defendant **Guilty** and assess his fine **five dollars**.’ Therefore it is considered by the Court that the Commonwealth recover against the Defendant the fine aforesaid, by the jury aforesaid assessed, and the costs of the prosecution. And the said Defendant may be taken &c.”

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<sup>88</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: 224–25; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 429.

<sup>89</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 347; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 471.

“Commonwealth vs. **William Mills** On an Indictment for a breach of the peace No. 2.” Same verbiage. Same plea. Same jury. Same fine.

“Commonwealth vs. William Webb On an Indictment for an assault.” The defendant acknowledged himself indebted to the Commonwealth for one cent and is ordered to pay one cent plus costs.

“Commonwealth vs. **Anderson Mills** On an Indictment for a breach of the peace No. 2 [and] No. 3. Same jury. **Not guilty** for both charges.<sup>90</sup>

**19 SEPTEMBER 1846**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**John Lawrence** (s) and wife **Nancy** (x) of Montgomery Co. to **Isaac Willson** of Floyd Co., sale for \$126, a tract of **90 acres in Floyd Co.**, a tract of land granted by the commonwealth to **James** and **Andrew Bow\_\_ns?** by patent dated 14 October 1801. [Metes & bounds not copied; no waterway or neighbors named.] Acknowledged 19 September 1846 before Joseph Howard and Valentine Thrash, JPs. Proved September Court 1846.<sup>91</sup>

**6 MARCH 1847**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

**William Mills**, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horse, 0 tax

COMMENT:

William Mills (Mills-Whitt), husband of Drucilla Kemp, is dropped from Franklin’s personal tax roll this year. However, this William of 1847 Floyd does not seem to be Drucilla’s husband. A comparable William was taxed in Floyd in 1846, while Drucilla’s William was on Franklin’s personal and land tax rolls. Franklin County land rolls do not identify our William Mills as a Floyd resident until 1849.

The 1846–49 tax lists of Floyd provide these couplings:

- 1846, William turned in his list on the same day as Larkin Mills.
- 1847, William turned in his list on the same day as Anderson Mills.
- 1848, William, Anderson, and Larkin all turned their lists in the same day.
- 1849, William Mills (the only one in Floyd) is listed consecutively with Anderson Mills, but **did not turn in his list on the same day**. Instead, he turned in his list on the same day as (a) William and Drucilla’s known son Sparrel; and (b) Samuel D. Light, who would be enumerated next door to William and Drucilla on the 1850 census. **1849 clearly marks the first taxation of William Mills-Whitt in Floyd County.**

**MAY COURT 1847**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“**Henry Iddings** and **Bird Smith** having produced the sheriff’s receipt for \$3, the tax imposed by law, leave is given them to keep a house of private entertainment at their residence in this county till the next May Term of this Court.”<sup>92</sup>

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<sup>90</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: 247–48; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > images 440–41.

<sup>91</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book D (1844–47): 310–11; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 186.

<sup>92</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: 325; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 479.

**3 JULY 1847**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**  
Land sale

**Lydia Iddings** (signed Lydia W. Iddings) to **Anderson Conner**, both of Floyd Co., for \$150, sale of land in Floyd Co. “on the head waters of the **south fork** of **Roanoke** near the top of the Alleghany Mountains,” 60 acres. [Metes & bounds not copied.] Witness: **Bird Cole**. Acknowledged 3 July 1847 before Leonard Aldridge and Peter Guerrant, JPs. Received and ordered to be recorded September Court 1847.<sup>93</sup>

COMMENT:

“[Roanoke River] has its headwaters in the Blue Ridge Mountains in southwestern Virginia at **Lafayette** in **Montgomery County** where the North Fork and South Fork of the river merge. The North Fork, approximately 30 miles long, rises between two mountain ridges and flows initially southwest, then loops back to the northeast. The **South Fork**, approximately 20 miles long, rises in several streams in the mountains on the **border of Floyd**, **Roanoke**, and **Montgomery** counties and flows generally north, joining the North Fork from the south.”<sup>94</sup>

**OCTOBER 1847**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**  
Court order

“**William Mills** who stand bound by his recognizance for his appearance here this day, to answer the complaint of Philip A. Webb against him for a breach of the peace appeared accordingly, whereupon On motion of the said **Mills** and for reasons appearing to the court, it is ordered that the said recognizance be quashed.”<sup>95</sup>

COMMENT:

This marks the end of the proceedings for the Mills/Mills/Webb brawl that was first charged in March 1846.

**15 OCTOBER 1847**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**  
Land sale

**John Lawrence** (x) of Montgomery County to **William Lawrence Jr.** of the county of Floyd, sale for \$300, land “on the waters of **Beaver dam** containing 80 acres more or less [metes and bounds not copied]. Acknowledged by John Lawrence at March 1848 term of court.”<sup>96</sup>

COMMENT:

The John Lawrence who married William and Drucilla’s daughter Millie Frances in 1854 was son of a William and Agnes Lawrence.

**6 NOVEMBER 1847**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**  
Land sale

**Elijah Light** and wife **Susan** (“Susannah, her x mark”) to **Randolp** [sic] **Wilson**, sale for \$200, land in Floyd County “on the head waters of **Roanoke**,” containing 60 acres by survey more or less. [Metes and

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<sup>93</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book D (1844–47): 442; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 253.

<sup>94</sup> “Roanoke River,” *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roanoke\\_River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roanoke_River)).

<sup>95</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: 378–79; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 506.

<sup>96</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 65; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 328.

bounds not copied. Neighbors not named.] Acknowledged 8 November 1847 before James H. Gray and **Bird Cole**, JPs. Proved and ordered to be recorded, November Term 1847.<sup>97</sup>

**20 NOVEMBER 1847**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**Elijah Light** (s) and wife **Susan** (“Susannah, her x mark”) to **Henry Light**, both of Floyd County, sale for \$41 of 72 acres in Floyd. [No water course or neighbors named.] Reference to “old line.” Metes & bounds not copied. Acknowledged 20 November 1847 before Valentine Thrash and **Bird Cole**, JPs. Proved and ordered to be recorded, February term 1848.<sup>98</sup>

**5 (6?) JANUARY 1848**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**Sims Stowers** (x) and wife **Jane** to **Henry Iddings**, all of Floyd County, for \$105, sale of their interest in 200 acres, being the land of Gaskin? Evans, deceased, Jane being an heir, lying on “the head waters [of?] Roanoke and Little River. Witnesses: Saml. M. Helm; **Charles Vest**, his X mark, **Martha Vest**. Proved in court 3 January 1848 by the two male witnesses.<sup>99</sup>

COMMENT:

- This deed provides an extra tract of land for Henry Iddings which could have been rented to William Mills.
- “Gaskin?” Evans is likely the “Maskins” (aka “Makins”) Evans whose widow Frances (remarried to James Rowlin), sold land to Henry Iddings in March 1846 above.

**JANUARY 1848**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“**Lorenzo D. Light** for Isaac Booth vs. **Samuel D. Light** and **Samuel Vest**. A motion on a bond for the forthcoming on the day of sale of property taken under execution. Notice proved and Execution awarded for \$73.62 cents, to be discharged by the payment of \$36.19 cents with interest from the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September 1847 till paid and the costs.”<sup>100</sup>

COMMENT:

As previously noted, Samuel Vest was married to an Iddings daughter.

**FEBRUARY 1848**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“On the motion of Joseph Gray Sr. the court doth order the overseer of the poor or any one of them appointed in this County do bind out to said Gray according to law **Headen V. Light** until he attain the age of 21 years.”<sup>101</sup>

COMMENT:

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<sup>97</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book D (1844–47): 442; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 265.

<sup>98</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 26–27; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 308.

<sup>99</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 82–83; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > images 337–38.

<sup>100</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: 398; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 516.

<sup>101</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: 402; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 518.

“H. V. Light,” aged 13, is enumerated in the 1850 household of Joseph Gray Sr.<sup>102</sup>

**15 FEBRUARY 1848**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Will

“I **William Walters** Seignior .. far advanced in life” ... daughter **Nancy Holt** \$1 ... daughter **Elizabeth Simpson** \$1 ... son **Jacob Walters** \$1 ... son **George Walters** \$1 ... son **Martin P. Walters** \$1 ... son **Wm C. Walters** \$1 ... daughter **Elender Perdue** \$12 ... daughter **Polly Duweese** wife of Larkin Dewease \$1 ... daughter **Matilda Conner** wife of Andrew Conner \$1 ... son **John Walters** \$1 ... “present wife all my household & kitchen furniture with privilege of disposing of it at her death as she wishes. Signed 15 February 1848, “Wm Waters Sr.” Witnesses: Peter Guarrant, William Snuffer, Jacob Sowder.

Proved in November Term 1853, Floyd Co., by oaths of Peter Guarant, William Snuffer, and Jacob Sowder.

Inventory of personal property totaling \$71 made by **William Iddings** (x), John W. Gray (s), “Samuel M. Helm by Hiram Walters” (x).<sup>103</sup>

**15 FEBRUARY 1848**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**James W Smith** (s), son & heir of **Jabez H. Smith** to **James Light**, sale for \$100, sale of interest in the lands of the estate of his deceased father [coming from?] the estate of **Humphrey Smith**. Acknowledged 4 March 1848 before James H. Gray and Peter Guerrant, JPs. Proved 25 March 1848 in the Clerk’s Office.<sup>104</sup>

COMMENT:

Jabez Smith’s widow married Andrew Light. See deed of 23 Oct 1847.

**10 MARCH 1848**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“**Peter Guerrent** sheriff of Floyd County in 1840 and as such commissioners for the sale of Thos. Collins land, and **Isaac Boothe**, executor of **Abner Boothe** deceast” to **Samuel L. Vest** for \$77, land in Floyd County on waters of Mill Creek a branch of Little River, 22 acres by survey [metes & bounds not copied; adjacent landowners not named]. Acknowledged 10 March 1848 before James H. Gray and **Bird Cole**, JPs. Proved June term of Court.<sup>105</sup>

**21 MARCH 1848**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll.

**William Mills**, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horse, 0 tax

COMMENT:

- William Mills, Anderson Mills, and Larkin Mills all turned their lists on the same day.
- William (of Drucilla) has not been found on Franklin’s personal tax rolls for 1847–48.

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<sup>102</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Floyd Co., VA, pop. sch., Western Dist. No. 15, p. 392 verso, dwell. 218/fam. 218.

<sup>103</sup> Will Book B, 1852–1862: 70–71; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007644622 > image 50.

<sup>104</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 80; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 336.

<sup>105</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 139; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 366.

- Franklin County land tax rolls do not cite Drucilla's William as a Floyd County resident until 1849. The 1849 roll, below, shows only one William Mills. That William did not turn in his list on the same day as Anderson and Larkin. Instead, he turned in his list on the same day as (a) William and Drucilla's known son Sparrel; and (b) **Samuel D. Light**, who would be enumerated next door to William and Drucilla on the 1850 census.

#### JUNE 1848

##### FLOYD COUNTY, VA

"Jacob Smith and **John R. Conner** are appointed surveyors of the **Bent Mountain Road** leading from the **Little River Meeting House** to the County Line and it is ordered that James **Wimmer** and Henry W. Carr be appointed commissioners to allot by boundary to such surveyor his respective hands."

"On the petition of **Joseph Gray** who produced the Sheriff's receipt for \$3.00 the tax imposed by law, leave is given him to keep a house of private entertainment at his residence n the County of Floyd till the next May Term of this Court."

"On the petition of **Henry Iddings** who produced the Sheriff's receipt for \$3.00 the tax imposed by law, leave is given to keep a house of private entertainment at his residence in this County till the next May Term of this Court."<sup>106</sup>

#### 30 JUNE 1848

##### FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Land sale

John W. Dillan (x) and Doshy (x) his wife of Montgomery Co. to **Henry Iddings** of Floyd, sale for \$105, "their interest in the lands of Maskins Evans (Decsd) the land lying ... on the waters of **Roanoke** adjoining the lands of said **Henry Iddings** and **James H. Gray**," the lands being some 200 acres. Witness: **Bird Smith**. Acknowledged 8 July 1848 before **Bird Cole** and Peter Guerrant, JPs. Proved in July Court 1848.<sup>107</sup>

#### COMMENT:

Iddings has now purchased a third share of the Evans land.

#### 1 JULY 1848

##### FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Land sale

**Thomas Iddings** (x) to Jackson Godbey, Trustee, of second part, and **Henry Deskines & Pleasant Howell** of third part. Iddings is indebted to Deskins for \$148.11 and to Howell for \$66.28 by bonds dated this date. As security, and for \$1, he gives a deed of trust to Godbey for land on the waters of **Old House Run** of Little River, 136 acres, also sundry household goods that are detailed but not copied.<sup>108</sup>

#### JULY 1848

##### FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Court order

Approval of a lengthy list of payments by the county to individuals who presented fox scalps (for bounties) and other claims against the county for attendance in court, etc.<sup>109</sup> No Mills.

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<sup>106</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: 425; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 529.

<sup>107</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 147–48; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 370.

<sup>108</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 151; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 372.

<sup>109</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: illegible page number; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 531.

**13 JULY 1848**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

J. N. Zentmeyer, clerk of county court, to **Samuel D. Light**, at a courthouse sale of land forfeited for taxes, 20 October 1845, Light bought **120 acres** delinquent in the name of R. M. Beedle who owed taxes for 1840, 1841, 1842 & 1843 in the amount of \$.41; Samuel D. Light was the purchaser “and the time allowed for the redemption of said land having elapsed and no person having redeemed the same,” Zentmeyer now titles the land to Light. No land description provided; no waterway or adjacent owners named. Acknowledged in court July term 1848.<sup>110</sup>

COMMENT:

- Light in 1850 lived adjacent to William Mills. He was a 30-year-old constable. The amount of land he has just purchased suggests that he needed labor to assist him in clearing and cultivating it.
- In 1842, Samuel D. Light m. “Peggy Smith, d/o John.”<sup>111</sup> The 1850 census states that she was a **native of Franklin County.**”

TO DO:

- Check deed index for Beedle’s acquisition of the land.
- Read land tax rolls for 1840–43 to determine the description of the property.
- Study John Smith of Franklin.

**3 AUGUST 1848**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**Samuel L. Vest** (s) and wife **Sarah** (x) to **John Vest**, all of Floyd Co., for \$100, convey land “on the head branches of Lewis Payne’s Millstream which are waters of Little River,” 75 acres by recent survey adjoining Huff. Acknowledged to the clerk of court 2 September 1848.<sup>112</sup>

**AUGUST 1848**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“**Dow Light** presented an account against the Commonwealth for two dollars and eight cents, which was examined allowed and ordered to be certified to the auditor of public accounts.

**Jonathan Iddings** presented same for \$2.34 cents, allowed &c.<sup>113</sup>

**2 SEPTEMBER 1848**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**John Light** and wife **Mary** of Floyd County to William Furgeson of Roanoke County, sale for \$300, land in Floyd containing 74 acres adjacent to **John O. Conner, Daniel Conner** on a ridge; also “a small entry made by myself adjoining the aforesaid. Acknowledged 28 September 1848, county clerk’s office by “John Light and wife.”<sup>114</sup>

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<sup>110</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 150; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 371.

<sup>111</sup> Samuel Light m. “Peggy Smith d/o John” 20 February 1842, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 143.

<sup>112</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 221–22; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 407.

<sup>113</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: illegible page number; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 534.

<sup>114</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 192–93; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > images 392–93.

**OCTOBER 1848**

**FLOYD COUNTY**

Court order

“On the petition of **John Wimmer** who produced the sheriff’s receipt for \$13.36 cents the tax imposed by law, and entered into bond with Pleasant Howell his security in the penalty of \$150, conditioned as the law directs, a license is granted him to **keep an ordinary at his residence** in the County of Floyd, until the next May Term of this Court. The court being satisfied that the said John Wimmer is a man of good character not addicted to drunkenness or gaming.”

COMMENT:

There obviously is a significant difference between “a house of private entertainment” (as conducted by Henry Iddings) and an ordinary (as licensed to Wimmer), considering the tax difference of \$3.00 vs. \$13.36 and the fact that the ordinary license also required a bond. Likely, the “house of entertainment” (a billiard hall, perhaps) did not include the privilege of selling alcohol.

**NOVEMBER 1848**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

“Ordered that the overseers of the poor for this County or any one of them do bind out according to law to George Redinger (farmer) **Silvester Mills** until he attain the age of twenty one years.”<sup>115</sup>

COMMENT:

The 1850 census shows “Silvester Mills 16,” birthplace “unknown” as a laborer in the home of George and Catherine Redinger.<sup>116</sup>

**7 DECEMBER 1848**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

**George W. Key** of Montgomery County purchases from **Blackburn Akers** (s) and wife **Elizabeth** (s) of Floyd Co. for \$300 a tract of 155 acres in Floyd on the waters of **Beaver dam Creek** and **Bones branch**, waters of Little River [metes and bounds not copied]. Acknowledged before Joseph Howard and L. L. Payne, JPs, on 2 June 1849. Proved at March 1850 court by certificates of the JPs.<sup>117</sup>

COMMENT:

- William Key, future husband of William and Drucilla’s daughter Sarah, was enumerated in 1850 with George W. Key.
- I have not located “Bones Branch” on any contemporary map.
- The “waters of Beaver dam Creek” location—if on the west side of Beaverdam—would place the Keys within five or so miles of William and Drucilla.

**JANUARY 1849**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

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<sup>115</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: 449–50; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > images 541–42.

<sup>116</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Floyd Co., VA, pop. sch., Western Dist. No. 15, dwell./fam. 179, places the George Redinger household among other Redingers, Epperlys, Walkers, 10 households from John Trent (49), 11 from Henry Light (23) with wife Nancy Light (28), and 12 households from Bird Cole (59), the son-in-law of Henry Iddings; and 17 from Wilson Light (27) with wife Olive (28), then Elijah Light, Andrew Conner, and Wm. Whitneck households.

<sup>117</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book F (1850–52): 1–2; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 544.

“William G. Peck, Surviving partner of Peck & Micou vs. **Philip A. Webb**. Debt. “The Defendant being arrested and in custody of the sheriff for want of bail acknowledges the plaintiffs action for the debt.” \$3,043, plus interest from 19 June 1846 until paid, plus costs. However, the plaintiff was not a resident of the county and was not present in court. Therefore the defendant was discharged.<sup>118</sup>

**27 JANUARY 1849**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

**Anderson Mills** purchased from **Elizabeth Webb** (x) for \$50, land that Webb purchased from Thomas Furguson, 25 acres described as

beginning at two chestnuts, a corner to the old survey, a corner to **Henry King**, and with both surveys N27 E116p to a red oak & chestnut corner of said King and the old survey, thence leaving said line S76½ W98p to a red oak in the old line, thence with the same to the beginning which is S28 E90p, together with all appurtenances.

Acknowledged 27 January 1849 before Peter Guerrant and Leonard Aldridge, JPs. Proved by their certificate at the April 1849 term of court.<sup>119</sup>

**28 JANUARY 1849**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**John Light (s)** and **Mary** (x) his wife to William Aldridge, all of Floyd County, sell for \$125 a tract of 65 acres in Floyd County at corner to **James Light’s survey ... James Gray ...** [Metes and bounds not copied. Waterway not stated.] Acknowledged 20 January 1849 before Leonard Aldridge and Peter Guerrant, JPs. Received and admitted to record 22 January 1849.<sup>120</sup>

**9 FEBRUARY 1849**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Tax roll.

“S” section

Samuel D. Light, 1 male 16+, 0 slaves, 2 horses, \$32¢ ½ tax

“M” section

**William Mills**, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horse, 0 tax, **9 February**

Anderson Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 1 horse, 10¢ tax, 3 May  
[skip 6]

Larkin T. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 0 tax, 3 March  
[skip 27]

**Sparriel Mills**, 1 white male 16+, 1 “other” watch, 25¢ tax, **9 February**

COMMENT:

- Note that Sparrel and his father did not turn in their lists on the same day, as might be expected if they lived together or in the same community.
- I have seen no evidence to suggest that William and Drucilla moved to Floyd because a son had taken work there (as seems to be the case with their residence in 1860 Pulaski County). To

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<sup>118</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: 468–69; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 551.

<sup>119</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 271–72; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 432.

<sup>120</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 247–48; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 420.

the contrary, it appears that William, as father, leased land in Floyd and moved his family there—after which his sons sought work in the county.

**MAY 1849**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“**Henry Iddings** who produced the sheriff receipt for \$3, the tax imposed by law, leave is given him to keep a house of private entertainment at his residence in this County, till the next May term of the Court.”<sup>121</sup>

**2 JUNE 1849**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

Owen Price and Henry T. Callaway, adms. of Peter Guerrant Sr. of Franklin County, to **Bird Smith**, and **Jonathan Iddings** of Floyd County. Sale for \$95 a tract of land adjoining **Henry Iddings** “and others.” Acknowledged 2 June 1849 before Peter Guerrant and James H. Gray, JPs. Proved by certificates of the JPs at Floyd Court, 22 August 1849.<sup>122</sup>

**JUNE 1849**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“The Grand jury returned ... Also an Indictment against **Anderson Mills** for retailing ardent spirits contrary to law. A true Bill.”<sup>123</sup>

**13 JULY 1849**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Thomas Wimmer (x) to **Anderson Mills**, for \$22, sells 15 acres in the county of Floyd on the waters of Roanoke and bounded as follows:

Beginning at a birch, old corner, S47 E120 poles to a gum in **King’s** line and with the same S35½ W13p to his corner chestnut, thence leaving said line S66 W58p to a chestnut and white oak by the **Bent road** and with said road with its meandering ... to the beginning.

Witnesses: Samuel B. Terry, Philip A. Webb, John Gearhart (his x mark). Proved at July 1849 court by Terry, Webb, and Gerheart.<sup>124</sup>

**JULY 1849**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Ordered that a new Precinct be made in the public road from the branch at **Henry Iddings** to the branch near **Joseph Gray’s mill** & that the precincts Nos. 6 & 62 be changed in their limits to correspond with the new precinct. It is further ordered that **John W. Gray** be appointed Surveyor of said new precinct and that he together with the male titheables in the bounds of his precinct shall keep said road in repair according to law.”<sup>125</sup>

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<sup>121</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: 492; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 563.

<sup>122</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 346; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 469.

<sup>123</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: 498; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 566.

<sup>124</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 310; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 451.

<sup>125</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: 508; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 571.

**JULY 1849**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Samuel B. Terry, Larkin Deweese, John Gearhart, **Philip A. Webb, Samuel D. Light**, William P. **Conner**, William Snuffler, William Webb Jr., Daniel P. **Conner** and **Anderson Mills**, severally appeared in Court and acknowledged themselves indebted to the Commonwealth of Virginia in the sum of fifty dollars to be levied of their respective lands and tenements, goods and chattels, and to the use of the Commonwealth rendered agst., **upon this Condition:** That if the said Samuel B. Terry, Larkin Deweese, John Gearhart, Philip A. Webb, Samuel D. Light, William P. Conner, William Snuffler, William Webb Jr., Daniel P. Conner and Anderson Mills shall severally **make their personal appearance before the Judge of the Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery for Floyd County to give evidence** on behalf of the Commonwealth against **Robert C. Muncy** on charge of felony, and shall not depart thems[elves] without leave of said Court, then this recognizance is to be void.”<sup>126</sup>

COMMENT:

A court order on the preceding page states that Muncy was “charged with passing to John Gearhart of this County on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June 1849, a false forged and counterfeited bank note purporting to be a bank note of the denomination of ten dollars.”

**1849**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Land tax roll

“**William Mills (Floyd Co.)**” 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 [sic] per a, \$453 total value, 46¢ tax.

COMMENT:

- This tax roll places William’s move to Floyd Co. ca. late 1848, after the creation of Franklin’s 1848 roll.
- One major question remains unanswered: *Why did William, who owned land in Franklin County, leave Franklin and move across the mountain into Floyd County, where he did not buy land?* Given that the 1850 census cites him as a 62-year-old farmer with no property, he would seem to be a renter, a tenant farmer or a sharecropper. All three statuses were inferior to that of a man who farmed his own land.

**AUGUST 1849**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Commonwealth vs. **Anderson Mills**, On an Indictment for retailing ardent spirits contrary to law. This day came as well the attorney for the Commonwealth as the defendant by his attorney and the said defendant for plea saith he is **not guilty** in manner and form as in the indictment against him is alleged and of this he puts himself upon the Country and the attorney for the Commonwealth doth the like and the cause is continued.”<sup>127</sup>

**NOVEMBER 1849**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

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<sup>126</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: 511; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 572.

<sup>127</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: 516; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 575.

“Commonwealth vs. **Anderson Mills** On an Indictment for retailing ardent Spirits. Ordered that this cause be continued at the Costs.”<sup>128</sup>

**17 NOVEMBER 1849**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Trust deed

**Anderson Mills** to Samuel B. Terry of second part and **John Smith** of third part. Whereas Mills is indebted to Smith for \$268.62 to be paid 7 May 1851 by four notes dated 1 June 1844, 7 May 1846, 27 August 1847, and 4 November 1848, Mills secures the debt by giving a deed of trust to Terry on “three small tracts of land, one containing 45 acres, the two 15 acres, and the other 25 acres, lying on the waters of Roanoke, [also] one sorrel mare and five head of cattle, four head of hogs, one rifle gun, one shot gun, 2 shovel plows, 2 hoes, seven head of sheep, 2 axes, and one mattock, one pair of horse gearing, about 25 barrels of corn, two beds and furniture, all the remainder of my household and kitchen furniture and all his increase of property. Witness: Henry King. Proved at March 1850 court by Mills’ acknowledgment.”<sup>129</sup>

COMMENT:

- I have not determined whether this John Smith is the same John Smith whose daughter Hannah (b. in Franklin Co.) married Samuel D. Light.
- I have not found a deed by which Anderson Mills acquired this land; I have not yet searched the state land office grants for him.
- The 1850 census places Anderson Mills some miles distant from William and Drucilla’s location between Big Run and Beaverdam Creek of Little River.

**30 NOVEMBER 1849**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**William Conner Sgr** (x) and **Catherine** his wife to **William P. Conner** and **Daniel O? Conner**, “his sons” ... “in consideration of the love and respect I have for my two sons William and Daniel Conner and also for \$2 paid by them, sell “one half of all my land including the dwelling houses. ... The above-named William Conner Sgr reserves to himself intire possession and the profits arrising from said land and premises during his natural life [no mention of Catharine or her life]. Acknowledged before James H. Gray and Saml. M. Helms, JPs, 30 November 1849. Proved by the certificate of the JPs at December 1849 court.”<sup>130</sup>

**2 MARCH 1840**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**Bird Smith** (s) and wife **Lydia** (x) and **Jonathan Iddings** (s) and wife **Hannah** (s) of Floyd Co. to **John H. Newman**, sell for \$103.50 a tract of 96 acres on waters of **Big Run** described as

Beginning at a white oak on a SE hill side near **Charles Vest**, thence N52 W151 p to a gum and chestnut oak, thence N42 W18p to a chestnut and two chestnut oaks, thence S66 W26p to a red oak, thence N64 W39p to 2 white oaks, thence N57 W19p to a red oak and 2 white oak saplings, corner to **Guerrant** and **Iddings** survey, thence with said line N44 E84p to a white oak, thence N53 E86p to a white oak and Spanish oak, thence S61E 88p to the B.G. [beginning].

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<sup>128</sup> Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849: 534; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 584.

<sup>129</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book F (1850–52): 5–6; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 546.

<sup>130</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 389–90; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 491.

Acknowledged [no date] before **Bird Cole** and Saml. M. Helms, JPs. Proved by certificate of JPs at court 11 March 1850.<sup>131</sup>

COMMENT:

The 1 June 1850 census places Jonathan Idings and the new landowner John Newman 2 houses from William and Drucilla Mills.

**MARCH-APRIL 1850  
FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Tax roll.

“S” section

Samuel R. Light, 1 male 16+, 0 slaves, 2 horses, 25¢ tax, 5 March

Samuel D. Light, 1 male 16+, 2 horses, 20¢ tax, **22 April**

“M” section

**William Mills**, 2 white males 16+, 20¢ tax, **7 March**

Anderson Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 tax, **3 April**

[skip 6]

Larkin T. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 tax, **23 April**

[skip 23]

**Spariel Mills**, 1 white male 16\_, 1 horse, 10¢ tax, **16 May**

**MAY 1850  
FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“On the petition of **Henry Iddings** who produced the sheriffs receipt for the Tax imposed by law, leave is given him to keep a house of private entertainment at his residence in the County of Floyd till the next May Term of this Court.”<sup>132</sup>

**25 JULY 1850  
FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Census

West. Dist. No. 15

(pp. 382–85 Neighborhood of Anderson & Larkin Mills)

- 77/77 Morton, Matchee 47 \$0, Elizabeth 44, Richard 20, John 14, Sarah 14, Tobitha 12, Mitchell 10 (all born Goochland), Amanda 8 (b. unknown)
- 78/78 **Conner, John A.** 37 (b. Floyd) \$800, Lucinda 28, Sarah 7, Charity 4, H. P. 2, Joseph L. 1
- 79/79 **Conner, Elizabeth** 71 (b. Floyd), Daniel 32 \$200, Nancy Holack 21, Ferdinan West 3, Noah W Hale 1
- 80/80 **Light, John**, 42 (b. Floyd) \$200, Polly 42, Lydia 17, Nancy 15, James 14, Julian 11, Elizabeth 8, Sarah 6, John B. 4, Henry B. 1
- 81/81 **Conner, W. A.** 45 (b. Floyd) \$200, Lucinda 39 (b. NC), Elizabeth 18, Amanan (female) 17, Mary 14, Nancy 13, Lydia 11, Evaline 8, Adaline 8, Patients [sic] 5, D. L. 2 (all children b. Floyd)
- 82/82 Maxey, Caleb 28 (b. unknown) \$0, Delila 25 (b. Patrick), James 6, W. N. 3, Henry J 1 (all children b. Franklin)
- 83/83 Akers, Thomas 70 (b. Montgomery) \$0, Sophia 70 (b. Floyd)
- 84/84 **Conner, Aaron** 39 (b. Floyd) \$300, Leoneor? 35,<sup>133</sup> Andrew J. 14, Eliza M. 13, Daniel O. 10, Nathan 8, Moranda 6, John A., 4, Betsy 2, Melvina 6/12, Maesa Cole (female) 70.

<sup>131</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 465–66; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 529.

<sup>132</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854, illegible page number; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 617.

- 85/85 **Conner, Daniel P.** 22 (b. Floyd), Betsy 18  
 86/86 **Conner, William** 60 (b. unknown) \$0, "Cartey" [Catherine or Polley **Poff**]<sup>134</sup> 60 (female, b. Augusta), William 23 (b. Floyd)  
 87/87 **Conner, Nathan** 36 (b. Floyd) \$500, Eliza 34, Keyor (female) 9, Mary P. 8, William 6, Nathan 4
- COMMENT:  
 See 3 September 1841 deed above, by which Nathan Conner bought land from Peter & Mary Poff, adjacent to William Conner.
- 88/88 Wilson, Isaac 32 (b. Floyd) \$200, Elsa [Ailey **Cole**]<sup>135</sup> 31, Fleming 13, William J. 11, Cary D. 10, Sara E. 9, Lydia 7, **Massy** 4, Susan 2, Eliza P 8/12  
 89/89 Manning, Cary 34 (b. Floyd) \$100, Mahala 24, Charles 9, Lydia 4, Elsa 3, Mary 2, W. J. 10/12.  
 90/90 Shilling, Claresa 45 (b. Floyd), Mary A 18, Mahala 16, Catherine 8, William 4, Joseph 2  
 91/91 Gearheart, John 40 (b. unknown) \$100, Fanny 38, Hannah 14, Sally 12, Harvey 10, Riley 6  
*[no further Conners or Lights in this neighborhood]*
- 112/112 Shilling, George 60? 20? (b. Floyd) \$0, Rosanna 96 (b. Brunswick) \$500, Betsy Dewead 58 (b. Floyd)  
 113/113 **Mills, Larkin P.** 36 (b. Franklin) farmer \$0, Hannah [**Wimmer**]<sup>136</sup> 30, Nancy 15, Tazwell 12, Emeline 10, Mary M 9, Elvina 6, James T. 3, Ballard P. 6/12  
 114/114 Tice, Francis 31 (b. Franklin) \$100, William 9, James R. 8, Martha 6, Daniel 5, Andrew J. 2  
 115/115 **Wemer, James** 53 (b. Franklin) \$742, Nancy 50 (b. Montgomery), Harvey 19 (b. Montgomery), Mary 16 (b. Montgomery), Madison 14 (b. smeared), Sally 12 (b. 12), Lucinda 6 (b. Floyd)  
 116/116 Wemer, Wm B. 21 (b. Montgomery), Charity 21 (b. Floyd)  
 117/117 King, Catherine 40 (b. Floyd) \$300, Mary 18, John 13  
 118/118 Wells, Elizabeth 25 (b. Franklin) \$200, William 3 (b. Floyd), Mary J. 1 (b. Floyd)  
 119/119 Bowls, George 24 (b. Franklin) \$0, Lucy 18, Betsy Bowls 59  
 120/120 **Manning, Claiborn** 40 (b. Floyd) \$100, Sally [Huff] 34, William 12, James 9, Catherine 8, Theo? 3, Sarah J. 3/12  
 121/121 Terry, Samuel 30 (b. Floyd), Lucinda 26, Peter 7, Matilda 4, Jackson 3, George W. 1  
 122/122 King, Henry 50 (b. Floyd) \$600, Sarah [Bartlett]<sup>137</sup> 42, Eliza 21, Robert 20, Joseph 18, Thomas 15, Sarah 12, Reuben 9, Nancy 5  
 123/123 **Mills, Anderson** 34 (b. Franklin) farmer \$100, Hannah [**Smith**]<sup>138</sup> (b. Floyd) 25, Eliza 6, Mary E. 4, John T. 1  
 124/124 **Conner, Peter** 21 (b. Floyd) blacksmith, Mary J. [**Martin**]<sup>139</sup> 22 (b. unknown), Sarah 2/12  
 125/125 Rice, John D. 28 (b. N.C.) tailor \$300, Eliza A. 24 (b. Henry), Sally 4, Mary J. 1, Peter Richardson 24 apprentice tailor  
 126/126 Henry Dillon 42 (b. Ireland) brickmason \$7,000, Harriet 37 (b. Patrick), John 14, Mary 12, Sarah 10, Nancy 8, Emma 34, James B. 8/12

<sup>133</sup> Aaron Conner m. "Keziah" Cole, 19 Oct 1833, Floyd Co., see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 50.

<sup>134</sup> William Conner m. Catherine Poff 7 May 1811 in Montgomery; and William Conner m. Polly Poff, 9 June 1822 in Montgomery; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 50.

<sup>135</sup> Isaac Wilson m. Ailey Cole, 16 November 1835, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 260. Note that Aaron Conner also married a Cole and had apparent mother-in-law "Maesa" [Massey] Cole living with him 3 houses from the Wilsons.

<sup>136</sup> Larken Mills m. "Hannah Wimmer d/o Margaret Wimmer," 2 November 1847, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 165.

<sup>137</sup> Henry King m. "Sarah Bartlett d/o Reuben Bartlett," 4 September 1827, Montgomery Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 131.

<sup>138</sup> Anderson Mills m. Hannah Smith (parents unidentified), 13 June 1844, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 165.

<sup>139</sup> Peter Conner m. Mary Jane Martin, 8 March 1849, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 50.

127/127 Howard, Asa L. (b. Patrick) merchant \$14,000, Ellen M. 34, Eliza A. 4, Laura G. 1, Rosabella Header 14 \$2500, John W. Header 8 (\$2500), Right Booth 37 laborer, Tazwell M. Howard 20 student.

COMMENT:

- Anderson and Larkin Mills are almost certainly on the outskirts of a town given their proximity to the blacksmith, tailor, merchant, and other tradespeople.
- The last of the town entries appears to be household 162. From that point forward, the males are again farmers or laborers.
- “Right Booth” appears to be a son and heir of Isaac Booth. On 14 October 1841, Asa W Osbourne and wife Milla, heirs of Isaac, living in Lawrence Co., Arkansas, sold all their interest in Isaac’s estate to “Wright Booth.”<sup>140</sup> On 24 January 1846, Right Booth sold 530 acres to Samuel Black, on Booth’s Branch of Little River and Daniel’s Run, adjacent to F. W. Lester and “Howery.”<sup>141</sup> On 12 September 1846, Black and wife Evaline sold the 520 acres, adjoining **Howry, Martin Walters**, to Thomas G. Shelor.<sup>142</sup>

(pp. 389–93 Neighborhood of William & Drucilla Mills)

178/178 Epperly, George 61 (b. NJ farmer \$390), Sally 55 (b. unknown), Sarah 19, John 16, Henry 32 all b. Floyd.

179/179 Redinger, George 56 (b. unknown; no occ., \$100), Catherine (59 b. unknown), Molly Basham 26, Benjamin Basham 26, Sarah E. Basham 3, Roiny Basham 4/12, Sarah Redenger 22, Mary Redinger 20, Elia. Redenger 14, **Silvester Mills** 16 (laborer, b. unknown), Tom Noris 8 (mulatto, b. Floyd)

COMMENT:

This Silvester Mills, who was bound out to George Redinger in 1848, has not been identified. Early census data for William and Drucilla do not allow placing him into their family.

180/180 Redinger, Amos 28 (b. Floyd, blacksmith \$0) & family

181/181 Epperly, Philip S. 29 (b. Floyd, farmer \$0) & family

182/182 Bross, Jacob 48 (b. Rockingham; farmer \$575) & family

183/183 Bross, Henry 23 (b. Montgomery, farmer \$0) & family

184/184 Holt, **Sparrel** 32 (b. Floyd, farmer, \$100) & family

185/185 **Walters**, John 32 (b. Floyd farmer \$1500, Roda [“Rutrough” or Brebaugh<sup>143</sup>] 26, Matilda 5, Harvey 1, Elisa Brebrough 21, John H. Croff 11

186/186 **Wilson**, James L. 24 (b. Floyd) farmer \$0, Lydia [**Cole**<sup>144</sup>] 25, Catherine Row 15

187/187 Trent, John 49 (b. Campbell) farmer \$0, Sarah E. 26, Catherine S. 10?, Margaret A. E. 5, W. T. 4, Mary J. 2

188/188 **Light, Henry** 23 (b. Floyd) \$100, Nancy [**Cole**<sup>145</sup>] 28, Elija J. 10/12

189/189 **Cole, Bird** 59 (b. Floyd) farmer \$4000, Sarah [Underwood<sup>146</sup>] 52, Harvey 23, Fleming 21, Eliza 20, Emeline 18, Bird Jr. 15, Pleasant 6<sup>147</sup>

<sup>140</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 145; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 580.

<sup>141</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book D (1844–47): 189; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 120.

<sup>142</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book D (1844–47): 317; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 189.

<sup>143</sup> John Walters m. Rhoda Rutrough 12 April, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 248.

<sup>144</sup> James D. Wilson m. Lydia Cole, 24 April 1845, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 261.

<sup>145</sup> Henry Light m. Nancy Cole, 20 January 1848, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 142.

<sup>146</sup> Bird Cole m. “Sarah Underwood d/o Jesse), 21 Oct. 1818, Montgomery; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 57.

<sup>147</sup> On 19 June 1843, “Burd Cole” posted bond for \$2000 as constable, with Valentine Thrash and Jos. Howard as sureties; see Floyd Co., Deed Book C (1841–45): 277; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237 > image 646.

- 190/190 **Hall**, John M. 35 (b. Indiana) farmer \$400, Polly 29 (b. Floyd), Ira 6, Louiza 5  
 191/191 **Wilson**, Harvey 26 (b. Montgomery) farmer \$100, Ruth [**Wilson**<sup>148</sup>] Poff 51, Leva [**Wilson**<sup>149</sup>] Muncy 42, Julia Munsey 13, Jane Muncey 4, Julus Muncey (male) 1  
 192/192 Basham, Robert 39 (b. Bedford) farmer \$0, Elizabeth [Clowder<sup>150</sup>] 32, Julia 4, John W. 2, Nancy J. 2/12  
 193/193 **Lawrence, William** 32 (b. Floyd) farmer \$500, Sarah [**Booth**<sup>151</sup>] 35, Jacob B. 9, James B. 7, Wm. B. 7, Hosanah 4 male, Nancy E. 2, Charlotte Scott 25 (b. Franklin)  
 194/194 **Light, Wilson** 27 (b. Floyd) farmer \$0, Olive [**Iddings**<sup>152</sup>] 28, Headen 12, Floyd 11, Canaday 6, Roley 5, Sarah 4, Rody 2, Susan 1  
 195/195 **Light**, Elijah 51 (b. Floyd) farmer \$500; Susannah [**Wilson**<sup>153</sup>] 49; John 20 (all b. Floyd Co.)  
 196/196 **Conner**, Andrew 27 (b. Floyd) farmer \$250; Matilda [**Walters**<sup>154</sup>] 25; Julia A. 4, W. H. 1 (all b. Floyd)  
 197/197 Whitneck/Whitlock, Wm 45 (b. Roanoke) farmer \$300; Betsey 42 (b. Rockbridge); children 2 to 21 (b. Floyd)  
 198/198 McNeal, Wm 28 (b. Franklin) farmer \$150; Nancy 21 (b. Pocahontas); Elizabeth 1 & James 1/12 (b. Fl.)  
 199/199 Wilson, James 21 (b. Floyd) farmer \$200; Emily [**Smith**<sup>155</sup>] 29; children 7 to 1/12 (all b. Floyd); Peter Wilson 75 (b. Loudoun)  
 200/200 **Wilson, Elijah** 68 (b. Loudoun) farmer **\$2400**; Hannah [**Light**<sup>156</sup>] 39; children 21 to 5 (all b. Loudoun)
- COMMENT:  
 On 3 July 1847, Peter Wilson sold to Elijah Wilson for \$200 his land on the waters of **Beaver Dam**, neighbors not named; no witnesses.<sup>157</sup>
- 201/201 Angle, Samuel 23 (Pittsylvania) farmer \$0; Elizabeth [**Walters**<sup>158</sup>] 22 (b. Floyd)  
 202/202 **Walters**, Jacob 40 (b. **Montgomery**) farmer **\$700**, Hannah [**Iddings**<sup>159</sup>] 45 (b. Floyd), Lutitia 25, Christina 16 (b. Floyd)  
 203/203 **Light**, Samuel 30, constable (b. Floyd) \$500; **Margaret [Smith<sup>160</sup>] 23 (b. Franklin)**, Furdinand 6, Henry 4, McAlin? 2, Angeline 1/12 (b. Floyd)
- 204/204 **Mills, William** 62 male farmer \$0 b. Franklin cannot read or write  
     Drucilla 57 female b. Franklin cannot read or write  
     Sally 21 female b. Franklin cannot read or write  
     Thos. R. 14 male b. Franklin cannot read or write  
     Charles T. 21 male labourer b. Franklin  
     Milley 20 female

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<sup>148</sup> John Poff m. Ruth Wilson, 23 May 1826, Montgomery Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 185.  
<sup>149</sup> Luke Munsey m. "Olivia Wilson d/o Peter," 18 July 1826, Montgomery Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 171.  
<sup>150</sup> Robert Basham m. Elizabeth Clowder, 17 April 1845, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 16.  
<sup>151</sup> "William Lawrence s/o John" m. Sarah Booth, 27 August 1839, Montgomery Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 50.  
<sup>152</sup> Wilson Light m. Olive Iddings, 13 June 1847, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 143.  
<sup>153</sup> Elijah Light m. "Susannah Wilson d/o Peter," 14 February 1820, Montgomery Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 142.  
<sup>154</sup> Andrew Conner m. Matilda Walters, 22 April 1845, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 50.  
<sup>155</sup> James Wilson m. Emily Smith, 20 December 1841, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 260.  
<sup>156</sup> Elijah Wilson m. "Hannah Light d/o James," 1 September 1825, Montgomery Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 260.  
<sup>157</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book E (1847–50): 89–90; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 341.  
<sup>158</sup> Samuel Angle m. Elizabeth Walters, 21 December 1848, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 9.  
<sup>159</sup> Jacob Walters m. Hannah Iddings, 19 July 1822, Montgomery Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 248.  
<sup>160</sup> Samuel Light m. "Peggy Smith d/o John" 20 February 1842, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 143.

## COMMENT:

- Millie Frances Mills would marry John Lawrence, there in Floyd, in 1854.<sup>161</sup>
- By 1860, Samuel Light, Margaret, Ferdinand, and family had moved to Missouri. The census places them in Osceola Twp, St. Clair Co., MO (p. 901/31). No Millses are nearby.
- The deed records abstracted for the late 1830s and 1840s make it clear that all of the Mills' immediate neighbors occupy land originally owned by **Henry Iddings Sr.**
- **Why and how did William choose this locale when he left Franklin?** The Iddings were not particularly prosperous at this point. After the elder Henry divided his land among his sons and sons-in-law, none of them (with the possible exception of Henry Jr.) had so much land that they needed a tenant farmer or renter.

205/205	<b>Iddings</b> , Henry <u>38?</u> (b. Penn.) farmer \$1500; Charles Vest 30 (b. Franklin); Martha [ <b>Iddings</b> <sup>162</sup> ] Vest 49 (b. Floyd); children 8 to 16 (b. Floyd); Polly Iddings 51 "Ediot" (b. Floyd).
206/206	<b>Iddings, Anderson</b> 29 (b. Floyd) farmer \$100; Eliz. [ <b>Smith</b> <sup>163</sup> ] 47; Ellen 19; Ely 15; Matitia Smith 12; Lafayette Iddings 12 (all b. Floyd)
207/207	<b>Iddings</b> , Jonathan 42 (b. Floyd) farmer \$600, Hannah [ <b>Pharis</b> <sup>164</sup> ] 43, Alice? 4 (all b. Floyd)
208/208	Newman, John 23 (b. Botetourt) farmer \$100, farmer (b. Botetourt)
209/209	<b>Vest</b> , Isaac 23 (b. Franklin) farmer \$0, Nancy [ <b>Wilson</b> <sup>165</sup> ] 26 (b. Floyd), Louisa 1 (b. Floyd)
210/210	<b>Iddings</b> , Wm. 49 (b. Floyd) farmer \$1000, Sarah [ <b>Conner</b> <sup>166</sup> ] 45 (b. Floyd), Wm Booth 19 labourer (b. Floyd), Sarah Holt 12 (b. <b>Montgomery</b> )
211/211	Holiday, Sarah 35 (b. Franklin) \$0, Francis Holoway 10, female (b. Franklin), Lutetia Holoway 12 (b. Franklin), Charles L? Holoway 8 (b. Franklin), Nancy Holoway 20 (b. Franklin), Louisa Holoway 11 (b. Franklin), Floyd 7 (b. Franklin), Henry Holoway 5 (b. Floyd), Wilmoth Holoway 80 (b. Franklin).
212/212	<b>Smith, Bird</b> 49 (b. Franklin) farmer \$300, Lydia [ <b>Iddings</b> <sup>167</sup> ] 36, Henry 16, Alice 13, Martha 8, Jonathan 6, Elizabeth 2 (wife and children born Floyd)
213/213	<b>Iddings</b> , Thomas 42 (b. Floyd) farmer \$500, Jane 37, Ellen 16, Michael 13, Sarah 11, Mary 10, Caroline 8, Martha 5, Nancy 2, Alcey Iddings 15 (all b. Floyd)
214/214	<b>Walters</b> , William 78 farmer (b. Botetourt) farmer \$300, <b>Hiram</b> 31 (b. Floyd), Druzilla [ <b>Booth</b> <sup>168</sup> ] 27 (b. <b>Montgomery</b> ), Mary 9/12 (b. Floyd), Ticha? Hedges 10 (b. Unknown)

## COMMENT:

On 15 February 1843, Hiram Walters bought 18 acres (from William Simpson and Catherine Douglas) adjacent to "old William Walters" on "**Pine Run**, waters of Little River." Witnesses were Bird Smith (212/212), James Light, and Jonathan Iddings (207/207).

215/215	<b>Walters</b> , Wm. C. 41, farmer (b. Montgomery) farmer \$600, Cynthia [Deweze <sup>169</sup> ] 35, Sarah 13, John 15, Mary 9, Peter 8, Jacob 7 (wife and children b. Floyd)
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<sup>161</sup> Edward E. Mills, query, "Milly Ann Mills," *Mills Ancestry* (<http://www.geocities.com/millsancestry/q3.htm> : posted 25 February 1998; accessed 15 March 2002). The reference to "Milly Ann" should be Milly Frances.

<sup>162</sup> Charles Vest m. Martha Iddings, 21 July 1831, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley, Virginia*, 244.

<sup>163</sup> "Iddings, Anderson s/o Lydia Iddings" m. Elizabeth Smith, 20 Dec. 1841, Floyd Co. Also "Bird Smith s/o Rosannah Smith" m. "Lydia Iddings d/o Henry Iddings," 8 September 1832, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 120, 215.

<sup>164</sup> Jonathan Iddings m. Hannah Pharis, 8 May 1845, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 120.

<sup>165</sup> Isaac Vest m. Nancy Wilson, 3 December 1846, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 244.

<sup>166</sup> William Iddings m. "Sally Conner d/o Jonathan Conner," 18 October 1818, Montgomery Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 120.

<sup>167</sup> "Bird Smith s/o Rosannah Smith" m. "Lydia Iddings d/o Henry Iddings," 8 September 1832, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 215.

<sup>168</sup> Hiram Walters m. Druzilla Boothe, February 1849, Montgomery Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 248.

<sup>169</sup> William Walters Jr. m. Cynthia Deweeze, 29 February 1840, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 247.

- 216/216 **Walters**, Martin F 42 (b. Montgomery) farmer \$1000, Mary **[Pharis<sup>170</sup>]** 41 (b. Floyd), Emanuel 17, William P. 15, Solomon 13, Philip 9, Melvina 7, Hiram 4, Elmina 2/12, Elizabeth 18
- 217/217 **Simpson**, James 50 (b. Floyd) farmer \$2000, Eliz 48 (b. Montgomery), Susan E. 18, Mary A. 17, Agnus 16, Margaret E. 16, William 13, Matilda E. 10, Edward Gray 64 (b. Penn.)

COMMENT:

- James Simpson’s land in 1838–39 adjoined Henry Iddings, David Hall (son-in-law of Iddings), William Walters, and Daniel [David?] A. Conner (who bought Hall’s land).
- Simpson’s proximity suggests that William and Drucilla were near the community now known as Simpsons, near the headwaters of Big Run and Pine Fork, rather than near the point where Big Run emptied into Little River.
- In 1851 Daniel/David Conner m. Martha E. Craghead.<sup>171</sup>

- 218/28 Gray, Joseph Sr. 71 (b. Penn.) farmer \$2500; Randolph **Wilson** 27 (b. Floyd) farmer \$250, Joseph H. Wilson 2, Ann [Gray <sup>172</sup>], Wilson 30, H. N. **Light** 13, Margaret **Newman** 20 (b. Montgomery), Peter Gray 16 (b. Franklin)
- 219/219 Gray, Jackson 36 (b. Floyd), farmer \$0, Elizabeth 38 (b. Kanawha), David 4, Lucy 2, Mary 1
- 220/220 Reed, Hamilton 32 (b. Floyd) farmer \$0, Fleming Reed 30, Sarah Reed 55, **Nancy Idings** 60 (b. unknown), Sarah Reed 12 (b. Floyd)
- 221/221 Reed, Wm. A. 40 (b. Floyd) farmer \$0, Catherine 39 (b. Notoway), Florence 17 (b. Roanoke), W. B. 15 (b. Roanoke), Elizabeth 13 (b. Floyd), Mary A 10, Charles H. 7, Julia A. 5, Margaret 2
- 222/222 **Conner, Jacob** 23 (b. Floyd) farmer \$0, Elizabeth A. 26 (b. Goochland)
- 223/223 **Conner, Wm.** 49 (b. Floyd) farmer \$1000, Elizabeth 49, Peggy 25, Jonathan 17, Albert 16, Samuel 14, Juliana 12, Martha 9, **Salley Conner** 77 (b. Floyd also)
- 224/224 Furrow, Matthea 75 (b. Loudon) farmer \$800, Barbara 73 (b. NC)
- 225/225 Furrow, Adam 34 (b. Montgomery farmer \$0, Eliza 30 (b. Floyd), Mary A. 13, Elmira 11, John T. 10, Amanad [Amanda] 8, Sarah S. 6, James M. 2, Wm. F. 4/12
- 226/226 Poff, Henry 60 (b. Va.) farmer \$1000, Sally **[Sowers/Sowder<sup>173</sup>]** 59 (b. Floyd) Wm. 15, Joseph A? 12, Malinda Aldridge 21, Lydia Poff 17
- 227/227 **Poff**, Anthony 44 (b. Floyd) farmer \$700, Sally **[Wilson<sup>174</sup>]** 42, Peter 21, Joshua 20, Catherine 18, Isaac 16, Mary J. 14, Julia A. 13, Emeline 11, Andrew 9, Adeline 7, Eliza 3, Elizabeth 1/12
- 228/228 **Conner, Jacob** 37 (b. Floyd) farmer \$400, Lucinda 25, W. 13, John H 9, Rebecca Wilson 9

COMMENT:

On 19 September 1842 Peter Guerrant Jr. sold to **Jacob Conner** 60 acres lying on W side of Bent Road, bounded on N by Richard Rudaker, W by **Anthony Poff** and S by **Matthew Furrow**.

The Conner-Poff neighborhood was in the area of Meadow Run of Little River, just west of Dog Spur Gap through the mountain that divided Floyd from Franklin. On the Franklin side, lay the Prillaman-Poff neighborhood along the headwaters of Daniel’s Run. **See Map 3.**

- 229/229 **Ruduck**, Eva 50 (b. Frederick) \$0, Mary J. Ruduck 26 (b. Floyd), Rebecca Funk 35, Mary J. Funk 10

<sup>170</sup> Martin Walters m. Mary Pharis, 20 September 1831, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 248.

<sup>171</sup> For Daniel Conner marriage bond with Martha E. Craghead, 13 Feb 1851, and David Conner license to marry Martha E. Graghead 13 February 1851, Montgomery Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 50.

<sup>172</sup> Martin Walters m. Mary Pharis, 20 September 1831, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 248.

<sup>173</sup> Henry Poff m. “Sally Sowers d/o Jacob,” 25 March 1812, Montgomery Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 185.

<sup>174</sup> Anthony Poff m. “Sally Wilson d/o Joshua,” 16 May 1828, Montgomery Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 185.

- 230/230 Collins, Thomas 50 (b. "Jiles") farmer \$0, Eliz Collins 35 (b. Floyd), Amanda 17, Mary J. 14, James 11, Daniel B. 7, Thomas 6, John H. 4, Charity 9/12
- 231/231 **Conner, John R.** 45 (b. Floyd) farmer \$500, Louise 42, Darius 17, Samuel 14, Luvena 13, Emeline 10, Sally 9, Floyd 5, Riley 2
- 232/232 **Conner, Isaac** 33 (b. Floyd) farmer \$500, Caroline [Gray<sup>175</sup>] 23, Mary E. 6, W. D. 5, Elzira 3/12
- 233/233 **Sowder**, Daniel 60 (b. Floyd) farmer \$1000, Martha 50, Jacob 18

COMMENT:

On 28 September 1840, **John R. Conner** bought from Peter Guerrant Sr. of Franklin, 30 acres on Wilson's Branch, a part of "William Wilson's place" (or adjacent to "a part of William Wilson's place"; the wording is ambiguous).

(pp. 406–8 Sparrel & Wiley Mills–Jarrett–Key Neighborhood)

Western District No. 15

421/421	<b>Mills, Sparrel</b>	23	male	farmer	b. Franklin
	Susan	19	female		b. Franklin
	Juliana	1	female		b. Floyd

COMMENT:

Neighbors:

- 417 Clowers, Martha 34 (b. Franklin; no occ. \$0), Wm. R. 8, James T. 8, Sarah J. 4, Lewis M. 2, Reuben M. 5/12 (all children b. Floyd Co.); Sarah Pugh, 64? (b. "Va.")
- 418 Leftwich, Cromwell 27 (b. Bedford; farmer \$0, Sally 50 (b. Bedford), "T." 15 (female; b. Bedford), Emely 35 (b. Bedford)
- 419 Leftwich, Joel 23 (b. Bedford; farmer \$0), Luticia [Cumpton<sup>176</sup>], 20 (b. **Franklin**)
- 420 Barber, Josiah 34 (b. Penn; carpenter \$0), America 23 (b. **Henry**), James W. 6 (b. Henry), Wm. A. 7/12 (b. Floyd)
- 421 **Mills, Sparell** [married Susan Jarett, daughter of Allen, in **Henry Co.** in 1848]
- 422 **Garret [Jarrett], Allen** 69 (b. Virginia; farmer \$0), Mary Garrett 64 (b. Franklin), Lucinda Garret 24 (b. Franklin)
- 423 Key, George, 36 (b. **Giles**, farmer \$500), Hannah [Kester<sup>177</sup>] 28 (b. **Montgomery**), Sarah 8 (b. Giles), Louise 5 (b. Montgomery), John R F 2 (b. Floyd); **Wm. H. Key** 23 (b. Giles)
- 424 **Light**, Loving D. 28 (b. Floyd; farmer \$500); Sarah 30 (b. **Montgomery**); Octavia 1 (b. Floyd)

COMMENT:

In December 1850, William H. Key would marry William Mills's daughter (and Sparell's sister) Sallie.<sup>178</sup>

The 1820 census shows two Key families in Giles County (entries are semi-alphabetical by first letter of surname, thereby destroying the identification of neighbors):

<sup>175</sup> Isaac Conner m. Caroline Gray, 6 November 1841, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 50.

<sup>176</sup> "Virginia, U.S., Select Marriages, 1785–1940," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/5664825:60214?>; accessed 1 February 2021).

<sup>177</sup> George W. Key m. "Hannah Kester d/o John," 22 April 1841, Giles Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 130. The Kesters were married into the Eplings, Lybrook, and Walters families of Montgomery.

<sup>178</sup> "Virginia Compiled Marriages, 1740–1850," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>; 6 February 2020), database entry for William H. Key and Sarah Ann Mills. Also 1860 U.S. census, Pulaski Co., TN, "Western District: Newbern P.O.," p. 29, dwelling/family 198/193.

Pearisburg Dist. (p. 118)

line 2	<b>Key, Orphax</b>	1 male 45+	
		1 male 26–44	1 female 16–25
		1 male 0–10	2 females 0–10
line 20	<b>Key, John</b>	1 male 45+	1 female 26–44
		1 male 16–25	1 female 10–15
		1 male 16–18	3 females 0–10
		1 male 10–15	
		1 male 0–10	

The male aged 16–25 in John’s household is a duplicate entry for the male 16–18, as per the census instructions.

The 1830 census of Giles enumerates no one of similar surname. Orphax/Arphax seems not to have been enumerated anywhere. There were several John Keys in potential counties that year.

**TO DO:**

Giles Co. tax rolls need to be reworked for Keys during the 1820s.

p. 408

Western District No. 15

451/451	<b>Mills, Wiley</b>	26	male	farmer	b. Franklin
	Mary	25	female		b. Franklin
	William	5	male		b. Henry
	George	3	male		b. Henry
	John	1	male		b. Henry

COMMENT:

Neighbors:

- 447 Whitlock, Henry 47 (b. Halifax; farmer \$600), Elizabeth 50, J. H. 18, Isaac 17, Mason 15, Eliza 13, Mary E. 10, George 9 (all b. Floyd)
- 448 Williams, Wm. J. 28 (b. Va.; miller \$600), Elizabeth [Strictler<sup>179</sup>] 25 (b. Va.), Jacob 3 (b. Floyd), Julia 1 (b. Floyd), Eli 20 (laborer, b. **Franklin**)
- 449 Shank, Henry 49 (b. Greenbrier?; farmer \$1500), Susan 46 (b. Botetourt), Nancy 18 (b. Bor.), Joel 15 (b. Bor.), Elizabeth 12 (b. Floyd), Peter 10 (b. Floyd), Austin 8 (b. Floyd)
- 450 Link, Henry 59 (b. Va.; farmer \$1000), Rebecca 34 (b. Floyd), John Likins 24 (b. Floyd, Labourer), Francis Holoway 17 (b. **Franklin**)
- 451 **Mills, Wiley** [m. Mary Jarrett, daughter of Allen, 1843, Henry Co.]
- 452 Overstreet, Lewis 58 (b. Bedford; farmer \$700), Hariet 24, **Tilman** 23 (laborer), Isaac 20, James 17, Mary J. 14, Nancy 12 (all b. Bedford)
- 453 Blackwell, Moses 48 (b. Bedford; farmer \$1200), Rebecca [**Walters**<sup>180</sup>] 38 (b. Va.), Moton 15 (b. Botetourt), Christina 13 (b. Floyd), Wm. 10 (b. Floyd), Thos. 8 (b. Floyd), Abraham 7 (b. Floyd), Eli 6 (b. Floyd), Jacob 5 (b. Floyd), Thostale? 1 (female b. Floyd)
- 454 **Walter**, Christina 75 (b. Va., no occ., \$1000), living alone
- 455 Boswell, James 53 (b. Bedford), Mary 43, Nancy 21, Bird 20, Jabez 18, James 13, Elizabeth 11, Letitia 9 (all b. Pittsylvania)

<sup>179</sup> Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley, Virginia*, 259, citing Floyd Co.

<sup>180</sup>“Virginia, U.S., Select Marriages, 1785–1940,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/5664825:60214?> : accessed 1 February 2021), 18 August 1836, Botetourt Co.

456 **Vest, Samuel** 37 (b. **Franklin**; farmer \$1000), Sarah [**Iddings**<sup>181</sup>] 32 (b. Floyd), Henry 16 (b. Franklin), Benj. 14 (b. Franklin), Charles 12 (b. Franklin), John 11 (b. Franklin), James 9 (b. Floyd), Wm. 7 (b. Floyd), Abigail 5 (b. Floyd), Martha 3 (b. Floyd), Mary 2/12 (b. Floyd)

COMMENT:

Wiley's residence five houses from the daughter of Henry Iddings (William Mills's next-door neighbor) suggests they are in the same general neighborhood and that the distance between Wiley and William's residence may have been affected by the path the census taker took. For example, an enumerator may have followed a road up one side of a creek, then doubled back down the other side of the creek, picking up families that lived "just across the creek" from those he had enumerated 20, 50, or more houses earlier.

**1850**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Census: Agricultural Schedule

[p. 2; begin line 26]

John M. Hall (40 acres cleared/ 210 acres uncleared)

William Lawrence (27/50)

Andrew Conner (30/75)

William Whiteneck (30/150)

William \_\_\_\_\_ul 30/45 [a blot appears over the first letters, but the last two letters of the surname do not suggest the name is Mills]

James Williams (30/25)

Elijah Williams (40/50)

Jacob Walters (50/100)

Anderson Iddings (100/150)

**Henry Iddings** (200/190)

Jonathan Iddings (50/170)

William Iddings (60/150)

Thomas Iddings (30/107)

William Walters (80/100)

William C. Walters (50/44)<sup>182</sup>

NOTE:

- This is the neighborhood in which William Mills was enumerated. On the population schedule, Henry Iddings, shown above, appears on one side of William Mills; Samuel Light, a 30-year-old constable and landowner, appears on the other side of Mills. **On this agricultural schedule, neither Mills nor Light appear.**
- The schedule offers much valuable data on crops and home manufactures, which I have not extracted. At this point, my intent was to observe the size of the farms that surrounded William Mills and the percentage of cleared vs. uncleared land.

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<sup>181</sup>Samuel Vest m. 12 September 1833 in Floyd to "Sally d/o **Henry Iddings**"; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley, Virginia*, citing Floyd Co.

<sup>182</sup> 1850 U.S. census, agricultural schedule, Dist. 15, p. 2; imaged, "U.S. Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880," *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/T1132\\_2-00135?](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/T1132_2-00135?) : accessed 19 April 2021).

**AUGUST 1850**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Commonwealth vs. **Anderson Mills**. Ordered that this cause be continued at the defendant’s Costs.”<sup>183</sup>

John Hylton vs. George Rouinbaum? In *assumpsit*. Jury, consisting of Joseph Williams, John C. Wade, John Carter, Benjamin Clement, John Walters, William E. Lewis, Daniel L. Clark, John W. Kennerly, Philip Epperly, John Clown, **William Mills**, and George W. Tucker could not agree on a verdict. Cause continued.<sup>184</sup>

COMMENT:

*Assumpsit* was a breach of contract—i.e., a civil case. Therefore, William Mills did not have to be a freeholder to serve on the jury. For petit jury service the requirement was (a) be twenty-one years of age; and (b) own “property, real or personal, of the value of one hundred dollars.” For grand jury service, the requirement was to be “a freeholder ... and in other respects qualified ... and not constables, ordinary keepers, surveyors of roads, nor owners nor occupiers of water grist mills; and when they are grand jurors for a county court, not inhabitants of a town having a corporation court.”<sup>185</sup>

In 1852–53, Virginia’s code was revised to state more explicitly that the county courts, “at the April or May term ... prepare a list of such inhabitants of the county or corporation, not exempted as aforesaid, as they shall think well qualified to serve as jurors, *being persons of sound judgment* and free from legal exception.”<sup>186</sup>

The population schedule of the 1850 census, taken a month before this jury service, credits William with no property. His non-appearance on the 1850 agricultural census of Floyd also suggests that he had no agricultural property or animals in the county and raised very little in the way of crops. From this, one might surmise that he did still retain ownership of his land in Franklin County, for which no deed of sale has been found. Indeed, Franklin County tax rolls of the 1850s continue to tax the land to William.

**OCTOBER 1850**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“On the motion of **Charles Vest** it is ordered that **Anderson Iddings**, Bolin Childers, James Lykins and John B. Payne or any three of them (being first sworn before some justice of the peace for that purpose) do view the ground along which a public road is proposed to be constructed from the **Booth** place on the **Daniels Run** road to **Henry Iddings on the Pine Spur road**, and report to the Court the conveniences and inconveniences likely to result both to the public [*sic*] and to individuals if said road should be opened as proposed, and especially whether any yard, garden, or orchard of any part thereof will in such case have to be taken.”<sup>187</sup>

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<sup>183</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 56; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 632.

<sup>184</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 60; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 634

<sup>185</sup> R. H. Rawlings et al., eds., *The Code of Virginia* (Richmond: W. F. Ritchie, 1849), p. 628, Title 49, section 1; also p. 767, Title 55, Chap. 206, sect. 4 for grand jury; also p. 774, Title 55, Chapter 208, sect. 4 for criminal cases.

<sup>186</sup> George W. Munford, ed., *The Code of Virginia*, 2d ed. (Richmond: Ritchie, Dunnavant & Co., 1860), 688, section 4.

<sup>187</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 70? [illegible page number]; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 639.

**OCTOBER 1850**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“**Lucinda Jarret** who was summoned to appear here on this day as a witness for **William H. Boyd** at the suit of Reuben B. Price was solemnly called but came not. Therefore on the motion of the said William H. Boyd, it is ordered that the said **Lucinda Jarret** be summoned to appear here on the first day of the next Term to show cause if any she can why an attachment should not be issued against her for her said Contempt.”

“**James H. Gray** who was summoned to appear here on this day as a witness for **William H. Boyd** at the suit of Reuben B. Price [etc., as with Lucinda Jarrett].<sup>188</sup>

COMMENT:

Boyd’s case was continued in the December term. Reuben B. Price was also suing Samuel D. Light that term.<sup>189</sup>

**18 JANUARY 1851**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**Jonathan Iddings** (s) and wife **Hannah** (s), **Bird Smith** (s) and wife **Lydia** (s), and **Benjamin Newman** (s), all of Floyd County to Morgan T. Newman and William H. Newman, sell for \$55.18¾ a tract of 55 acres and 34 rods by survey [metes not copied], corner to a survey made by **Guerrant and Iddins, Tinsley’s** line, a new fence on **Lorenzo D. Light’s** line. Acknowledged before Peter Guerrant and James H Gray, JPs, 18 January 1851. Proved March 1851 court by certificate of the JPs.<sup>190</sup>

**JANUARY 1851**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“On the motion of **Samuel D. Light** it is ordered that **Anderson Iddings**, **George W. Key** and **Bird Cole** do view the ground along which an alteration is proposed to be made in the public road leading from **Daniels Run** to **Christiansburg**, leaving the road as it now runs at the mouth of **Anderson Iddings’** land, thence passing said **Light’s house**, and intersecting the old road again at **James Wilson’s fence**, and that they make report to court under oath stating the conveniences and inconveniences likely to result &c.

<sup>191</sup>

COMMENT:

- George W. Key appears to be the brother of William H. who married William Mills’s daughter.
- Anderson Iddings was married to Elizabeth **Smith**. Whether Elizabeth was a sister of Samuel D. Light’s wife Petty (daughter of John) is undetermined.
- Anderson **Mills** m. 1844 Hannah **Smith**, parents unidentified.

**MARCH-APRIL 1851**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Tax roll.

“S” section

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<sup>188</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 72? [illegible page number]; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 640.

<sup>189</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: illegible page number; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 646.

<sup>190</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book F (1850–52): 150–52; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > images 618–19.

<sup>191</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: illegible page number; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 648.

Samuel R. Light, 1 male 16+, 0 tax, 29 April  
Samuel D. Light, 1 male 16+, 1 horse, 12½¢, 27 March

“M” section

**William Mills**, 2 white males 16+, 20¢ tax, **26 April**

Anderson Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 tax, *22 April*

Larkin T. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 tax, *22 April*

**Robert W. Mills**, 1 white male 16+, 0 tax, 20 April

**Spariel Mills**, 1 white male 16+, 0 tax, **26 April**

COMMENT:

The second tithable male in William’s household should be his son Charles T.

**15 MAY 1851**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**James Light** to **John W. Gray**, for \$50, sells 4 acres on west? side of Gray’s house and a spring [etc.] “known as a part of new survey made by **James Light Sen.** a small corner of the **Iddings old survey** that he the said James Light Sen. & his heirs” freely grant. Acknowledged before James H Gray, JP, 17 May 1851 proved June 1851 court by JP’s certificate.<sup>192</sup>

**12 JUNE 1851**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Constable bond

**Samuel D. Light** posted his constable’s bond in the amount of \$2,000 with Pleasant Howell, William H. Boyd, and Tazewell Headen as sureties.<sup>193</sup>

**JUNE 1851**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“**Henry Iddings** and **Charles Vest** having produced the certificate for \$3, the Tax imposed by law, leave is given them to keep a house of private entertainment at their residence in this county till the next May Term of this court.”<sup>194</sup>

**JUNE 1851**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“The Grand Jury returned into court and presented  
An Indictment against Robert Graham for a breach of the peace, a true bill  
An Indictment against James Saylor for a breach of the peace, a true bill  
An Indictment against Jacob Holmes for a breach of the peace, a true bill  
An Indictment against John Lancaster for a breach of the peace, a true bill  
An Indictment against Solomon Fisher for a breach of the peace, a true bill  
An Indictment against Marvell Young for a breach of the peace, a true bill  
An Indictment against William Otherman for a breach of the peace, a true bill  
An Indictment against John Banninger? for a breach of the peace, a true bill

<sup>192</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book F (1850–52): 214; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 650.

<sup>193</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book F (1850–52): 173; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 639.

<sup>194</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 119; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 664.

An Indictment against **Sparrel Mills** for a breach of the peace, a true bill<sup>195</sup>

“Commonwealth vs. **Sparrel Mills** Indictment for a breach of the peace. By leave of the court and with the assent of the attorney for the Commonwealth, the defendant acknowledges himself indebted to the commonwealth *one cent* for the offense aforesaid. Therefore it is considered that the Commonwealth recover against the said Defendant one cent and the costs of this prosecution.”<sup>196</sup>

“Commonwealth vs. **Anderson Mills** Indictment for retailing ardent spirits. By consent of the Court and with the assent of the attorney for the Commonwealth ordered that a *nolle prosequere* [an order not to prosecute] be entered in this cause.”<sup>197</sup>

**2 AUGUST 1851**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**William A. Conner** (s) and wife **Lewsindy** (x) to **Aaron Conner**, all of Floyd, sale for \$30, 30 acres on the waters of the South Fork of the Roanoke bounded by survey of 333 acres made for **Andrew Conner**, Guerrant’s land [metes not copied]. Acknowledged 2 August 1851 before James H. Gray and Valentine Thrash, JPs. Proved September 1851 court by JP certificates.<sup>198</sup>

**OCTOBER 1851**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

“**Samuel D. Light** presented an account against the Commonwealth for six dollars and forty seven cents which was examined and ordered to be certified, to the first auditor.”

**Samuel D. Light** was also appointed, with William **Iddings** and Joseph Kelly, to conduct the election to be held in “Littrell’s” Precinct.<sup>199</sup>

**NOVEMBER 1851**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“**Samuel D. Light** Constable of this county presented an account against the Commonwealth for seven dollars and fifty six cents wich was examined allowed and ordered to be certified.”<sup>200</sup>

**3 JANUARY 1852**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

David Linck (s), wife Adaline (s), and **John L. Smith** (s) sell to **Anderson Iddings** [husband of Elizabeth Smith<sup>201</sup>] for \$75 “their entire interest” in two parcels of land totalling 210 acres ... “on the **head of Big Run**, a branch of Little River.” Tract 1: beginning on a ridge ... leaving the paternal line, crossing the road along a marked line of the land formerly sold to **Joshua Wilson** ... a conditional line to E corner of **Wilson’s fence** III crossing a spring branch ... . Tract 2 containing 50 acres corner to two surveys belonging to **Henry Iddings** one of 40 acres and the other 10, ... a line of **Frances Evans** ... adj land

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<sup>195</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 123; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 666.

<sup>196</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 124; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 667.

<sup>197</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 125; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 667.

<sup>198</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book F (1850–52): 246–47; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 666.

<sup>199</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 153; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 682.

<sup>200</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 161; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 686.

<sup>201</sup> John L. Smith married Mary D. Anderson, 10 October 1833, in Montgomery; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 120 (Iddings) and 217 (Smith).

formerly belonging to **Humphrey Smith** [Metes not copied; the metes and bounds take up almost a full page.] Acknowledged 3 January 1852 before Peter Guerrant and James H. Gray, JPs. Proved 15 March 1852 in office of the clerk by certificates of JPs.<sup>202</sup>

COMMENT:

Given that John L. Smith and Anderson Iddings, husband of Elizabeth Smith—along with David Linck and wife Adaline—sold “their intrerest” in land, we may conclude that they were joint heirs. Note that the land lay adjacent to lands of Humphrey Smith (by then deceased), one heir of whom (see 4 January 1838, above) was Jabez Smith. That 1838 document also identified the land as adjacent to Henry Iddings.

**21 JANUARY 1852**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Probate

Sale of goods and chattels of **Allen Jarret** Decd.<sup>203</sup>

COMMENT:

Purchasers included “Polly Jarrett,” who bought a jug and “Lucinda Garrett” who bought tobacco, buckwheat, and cabbage; also Burd Cole, Anderson Iddings, Samuel L. Vest, S. D. Light and others from William Mills’s 1850 neighborhood—but not William or his sons, not even the sons who married Jarrett’s daughters.

**1852**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Tax roll.

COMMENT:

- William Mills is not taxed. His son “Robert W.” [Robert Wiley] is still taxed in Floyd.
- Anderson, Andrew, and Larking are also taxed in Floyd.
- I am not continuing with these Conners in northern Floyd.
- As noted in the May term of court, below, the situation of Samuel D. Light and Henry Iddings (the candidates for owner of the land William Mills farmed) remains the same. Neither altered their livelihood or their acreage. Whatever prompted William Mills to uproot appears to be a situation of his own making, not an alteration by those upon whom he was dependent.

**JUNE 1852**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“**Samuel D. Light** who hath been elected constable of this county for the term of two years from the first day of July next, this day appeared in court, and with Pleasant Howell, William H. Boyd, and William Snuffer his securities entered into and acknowledged a bond in the penalty of \$2,000 with conditions according to law, and thereupon the said Samuel D. Light took the several oaths presented by law.”<sup>204</sup>

**MAY 1852**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

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<sup>202</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book F (1850–52): 326–27; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 707 [sic].

<sup>203</sup> Floyd Co., Will Book B, 1847–1854: 380; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007644621 > image 400.

<sup>204</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 200; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 707.

“**Henry Iddings** and **Charles Vest** ... having produced the sheriff’s receipt for three dollars, the tax imposed by law, leave is granted them to keep a house of private entertainment at their residence in this county till the next May Term of this court.”<sup>205</sup>

**JUNE 1852**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“The Grand Jury returned into Court and presented ...  
an indictment against Alfred Ratliff for petit larceny, a true bill  
an indictment against **Sparrel Mills** for an assault, a true bill  
an indictment against **Robert W. Mills** for a breach of the peace, a true bill  
an indictment against Richard Haranhen? for an assault, a true bill  
an indictment against John B. Carter for trespass assault and battery, a true bill  
an indictment against **Anderson Iddings** for an assault a true bill  
an indictment against Francis M. Austin for an assault a true bill  
an indictment against John Hoff for voluntary fighting a true bill<sup>206</sup>

**AUGUST 1852**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

Commonwealth vs. William Moore On an Indictment for an assault. Jury included **Robert W. Mills**.<sup>207</sup>

**NOVEMBER 1852**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Commonwealth vs. **Sparrel Mills** On an indictment for an assault. Ordered that a *capias* issue against the defendant.”

“Commonwealth vs. **Robert W. Mills** On an indictment for a breach of peace. Ordered that this Cause be continued.”<sup>208</sup>

**JANUARY 1853**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“A sale bill of the personal estate of **Allen Jarrett** decd was returned to Court and ordered to be recorded. An inventory of the personal estate of **Allen Jarrett** decd was returned to Court and ordered to be recorded.”<sup>209</sup>

**JANUARY 1853**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“**John M. Hall**, **Charles Vest** and William H. Akers commissioners heretofore appointed to divide into three precincts the two precincts of which the said William H. Akers and Charles Vest are surveyors, and to apportion the precincts and hands this day returned their report which is confirmed and ordered to be filed.”

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<sup>205</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 189; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 701.

<sup>206</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 201; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 707.

<sup>207</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 220; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 717.

<sup>208</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 207; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 730.

<sup>209</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 261; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 738.

“Ordered that **Andrew Conner** be appointed Surveyor of a new precinct of road from **Andrew Conners lane** to **Henry Iddings branch** east of his house.”<sup>210</sup>

**1 JANUARY 1853**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Land Purchase

**Samuel D. Light & Wm. H. Boyd** purchase from **Thomas Iddings** (s) and **Jane** (x) his wife, for \$436.25 a tract of 151¾ acres on **Big Pine branch** of Little River .. “leaving the corner of **Thomas Iddings’ old deed** ... corner to the old deed & **Jonathan Iddings** on a ridge ... corner to **Hiram Walters**. Acknowledged before H. H. Carr and James H. Gray, JPs, 1 January 1853. Proved 14<sup>th</sup> January 1853 in Clerk’s office by the certificate of the JPs.<sup>211</sup>

**20 MARCH 1853**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Commonwealth vs. **Robert W. Mills** On an indictment for breach of the peace. This day came as well the attorney for the Commonwealth as the defendant by his attorney and the said defendant for plea sayeth that he is not guilty in manner and form as in the indictment against him is alleged and of this he puts himself upon the Country and the attorney for the Commonwealth doth the like and the cause is continued.

“Commonwealth vs. **Sparrel Mills** On an indictment for an assault. Ordered that a *capias* issue against the defendant to be directed to the sheriff of Montgomery.”<sup>212</sup>

COMMENT:

A *capias* was an order for arrest. The order was sent to Montgomery because Sparrel had already moved there. He was taxed in Montgomery in both 1852 and 1853.<sup>213</sup>

**19 APRIL 1853**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Will

**James Light** ... to my son **James Light** all his land consisting of five surveys .. my two daughters, all my household and kitchen furniture to be equally divided between them **Elizabeth Iddings** and **Hannah Willson** .. any remainder to be divided between “my three children” [same-named individuals]. Witnesses: Wm. H. Boyd, John S. Light, Lewis R. Shank. Proved 21 July 1853.<sup>214</sup>

**1853**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Tax roll.

COMMENT:

William Mills is not taxed  
Anderson, Larkin, and Robert W. appear.

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<sup>210</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 262; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 739.

<sup>211</sup> Floyd Co., Deed Book F: 450; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 70.

<sup>212</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 278; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 747.

<sup>213</sup> See E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates, Montgomery County c1845–1870: Preliminary Survey of Resources for Bradberry (esp. George), Fleeman, Jarrett (esp. Allen), Lawrence (esp. John B.), and Nunley/Nunnally (esp. Richard),” report to file 1 September 2021; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>214</sup> Will Book B, 1852–1862: 186; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007644622, image 105.

**23 JUNE 1853**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Commonwealth vs. **Sparrel Mills** On an indictment for an assault. This day came the attorney for the Commonwealth and the said **Sparrel Mills** appeared in discharge of his recognizance and by his attorney pleaded **not guilty** to the indictment, and the attorney for the Commonwealth replead thereto generally and the cause is cont.”<sup>215</sup>

**JULY 1853**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Ordered that **Samuel D. Light**, Aaron **Conner** and Robert Y. Hoopff ... appraise in current money the personal estate of James Light Senr., deceased.”<sup>216</sup>

**18 AUGUST 1853**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Commonwealth vs. **Sparrel Mills** On an Indictment. Continued.”<sup>217</sup>

**19 AUGUST 1853**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Commonwealth vs. **Robert W. Mills** On an Indictment. Continued.”<sup>218</sup>

**24 NOVEMBER 1853**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Commonwealth vs. **Sparrel Mills** On an Indictment for an assault. The Court with the consent of the attorney for the Commonwealth enters a nolle prosequere in this cause.”

“Commonwealth agt. **Robt. W. Mills**. Nolle prosequere.”<sup>219</sup>

COMMENT:

The order not to prosecute apparently rests in the fact that Sparrel and Robert Wiley Mills are no longer residents of the county.

**1854**

**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Tax roll.

COMMENT:

- Robert Wiley Mills is not taxed.
- Anderson and Larkin Mills continue to be taxed.
- A new William is added to the end of the roll.

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<sup>215</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 297; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 756.

<sup>216</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 310; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 763.

<sup>217</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 313; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 764.

<sup>218</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 319; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 767.

<sup>219</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 338–39; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 777.

**12 JULY 1854**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**  
Probate

Estate of **James Light**. Documents for July 1853 and July 1854.<sup>220</sup> No reference to Mills.

**21 SEPTEMBER 1854**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**  
Court order

“The last will and testament of **Henry Iddings** Decd was proved by the oath of **James Light Jr.** and **Samuel R. Light**, witnesses thereto, and is ordered to be recorded and on motion of **William Iddings** and **Bird Smith**, executors therein named who made oath thereto and together with **Henry Deskins** and **Pleasant Howell** their securities entered into and acknowledged a bond in the penalty of **Six thousand dollars** with condition accordingly to law, certificate is granted them for obtaining a probate of said will in due form.

“Ordered that **Samuel M. Helms**, **James A. Wright**, **James H. Gray**, and **William H. Boyd** (any three of whom may act) being first sworn for that purpose, do appraise in current money the real and personal estate of **Henry Iddings** Decd. and return the appraisement under their names to the court.

“It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that **Mary Iddings**, a daughter and devisee of **Henry Iddings** Decd is an idiot and altogether incapable of taking care of her estate, on the motion of **William Iddings**, he is appointed a committee to said **Mary Iddings**, whereupon the said **William Iddings**, together with **Samuel L. Vest** and **Bird Smith**, his securities, entered into and acknowledged a bond in the penalty of one thousand dollars, with condition according to law.”<sup>221</sup>

**21 SEPTEMBER 1854**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**  
Court order

“**Bird Smith** reported verbally that he had opened the road from the **crossing** of **Meadow Run** to the location of the **road** from **Shawsville** to the **Bent Mountain Turnpike** at **William Idding’s meadow**, which being received the court appoints **William Iddings** surveyor thereof.

“Ordered that **John W. Gray**, **James Light** and **Martin P. Walters** allot to **William Iddings** Surveyor of the road, his hands out of the Company of which **Peter Conner** was formerly surveyor, the remainder to be assigned to Robert W. Kropff. Ordered that Robert W. Koopff be appointed surveyor of the road from the turnpike at **Peter Conner Shop** to the Cross Road.”<sup>222</sup>

**SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1854**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**  
Probate

Inventory and accounting for estate of **Henry Iddings Sr.**<sup>223</sup> No Mills reference.

**17 OCTOBER 1854**  
**FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

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<sup>220</sup> Will Book B, 1852–1862: 173–73; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007644622 > image 108.

<sup>221</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 409? [corner of pages too dark for legibility]; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 815.

<sup>222</sup> Floyd Co., Court Order Book 1850–1854: 410?; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 816.

<sup>223</sup> Will Book B, 1852–1862,” 293–85; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007644622 > images 113–14.

Probate sale

**Henry Iddings Sr.** Account submitted by “Wm. C. Booth for Wm. Iddings & Bird Smith, executors with the will annexed.”<sup>224</sup>

COMMENT:

Iddings’ 1850 census neighbors, many of whom were kinsmen, are well represented. No Mills attended.

I read for about 50 pages after this point, finding only documents from 1854–58, with no evidence that William and Drucilla’s family were still in the county.

**DECEMBER 1854  
FLOYD COUNTY, VA**

Probate

A very brief annual account for December 1853 to 21 December 1854, estate of **Allen Jarrett**. \$6.00 received from D. S. Thurman’s account. Payments made to F. W. Lester and S. D. Light, as constables, and Wm. J. William, as well as “Clerks Tickets.” \$46.97 activity for year.<sup>225</sup>

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**RESOURCES USED**

ORIGINAL RECORDS:

Censuses

- 1830 Floyd County
- 1840 Floyd County
- 1850 Floyd County, population and agricultural schedules
- 1810 Franklin County
- 1820 Franklin County
- 1830 Franklin County
- 1840 Franklin County
- 1850 Franklin County, population and agricultural schedules
- 1820 Giles County

Floyd County, Virginia

- Chancery Order Book 1 (1833–1866). Imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008746357. (Read 1843–52)
- Common Law Order Book 1 (1831–1853). Imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 8746361. **Not online.**
- Deed Book A (1831–1836). Imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237.
- Deed Book B (1836–1841). Imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237.
- Deed Book C (1841–1844). Imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572237.
- Deed Book D (1844–1847). Imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238.

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<sup>224</sup> Will Book B, 1852–1862,” 100; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007644622, image 122.

<sup>225</sup> Will Book B, 1852–1862,” 410; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007644622 > image 228.

Deed Book E (1847–1850). Imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238.  
Order Book F (1850–1853). Imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238.  
Order Book G (1853–1854). Imaged. *FamilySearch* digital film 008572239. **Read first 150 pp.**, taking me through the time that William Mills and sons have left the county.  
Order Book 1831–1843. Imaged. *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162. **Not yet read page-by-page.**  
Order Book 1843–1849. Imaged. *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162.  
Order Book 1850–1854. Imaged. *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162.  
Will Book A, 1831–1847. Imaged. *FamilySearch* digital film 007644621. **Not yet read page-by-page.**  
Will Book B, 1847–1854. Imaged. *FamilySearch* digital film 007644621.  
NO IDDINGS, JARRETT, LIGHT or WALTERS—despite the fact that Allen Jarret’s estate was probated in January 1853, James Light in July 1853, William Walters in November 1853, and Henry Iddings in September 1854.  
Will Book C, 1852–1862. Imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007644622. (This book begins with an 1841 document.)

Montgomery County, Virginia

Marriage Bonds, 1789–1796. Montgomery Co., microfilm reel 38, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

MAPS ONLINE:

*Google Maps*. [maps.google.com](https://maps.google.com)

*Hometown Locator: Virginia*. <https://virginia.hometownlocator.com>

*David Rumsey Map Collection*. <https://www.davidrumsey.com>

Lloyd, J.T. *Official Map of the State of Virginia*. New York: J. T. Lloyd, 1862.

Mitchell, Samuel Augustus. *A New Map of Virginia*. Philadelphia: Thoams, Cowperthwait & Co., 1853.

DERIVATIVE SOURCES:

Fisher, Therese A., compiler. *Marriages in the New River Valley, Virginia: Montgomery, Floyd, Pulaski, and Giles Counties*. Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2008.

Wingfield, Marshal. *Marriage Bonds of Franklin County, Virginia*. Memphis: West Tennessee Historical Society 1939.