



# ELIZABETH SHOWN MILLS

Certified Genealogist<sup>SM</sup> Certified Genealogical Lecturer<sup>SM</sup>  
Fellow & Past President, American Society of Genealogists  
Past President, Board for Certification of Genealogists

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

**DATE:** 28 August 2018 (updated 15 May 2022)

**REPORT TO:** File

**SUBJECT:** Mills & Associates: Amherst County, VA, Preliminary Survey of Published Resources, 1764–c1811; Including Notes for Families Surnamed Byas, Burton, Joplin, Lavender, Learwood, Napier, Ripley, Toney, Walton, White, Witt, & Watts

**BACKGROUND:** This report continues the survey of published literature begun in my prior report “Mills & Associates: Albemarle, Goochland & Southside VA”<sup>1</sup>

**OBJECTIVE:** Comb all available published records to help identify correctly each person in this family, their spouses, vital dates, activities, and migrations.

**SIDE ISSUE:** Autosomal DNA carried by descendants of the siblings Ambrose, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Milly Mills triangulate on many segments with descendants of one William Mills who was born c1783–88 and married Drucilla Kemp, 1815, in Franklin County, VA. No one has identified his parents. His Y-DNA is a Witt Y rather than a Mills Y—suggesting that his mother may have been a Mills and his father a Witt. This report lays ground work for determining how this man—whom I am calling *William Mills-Witt*—might fit into this family.

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## Executive Summary

The research notes in this report provides a sharper delineation of the life of William Mills (c1695–1755) of Pedlar River, Albemarle. It adds insight into the family he produced, and fleshes out the associates whose activities offer clues to kinships and migrations.<sup>2</sup> Particularly important are the following points:

### DEATH PERIOD FOR WILLIAM MILLS: c. LATE 1755

No record of William, as a living person, has been found since the creation of his will on 26 September 1755. His will was not probated until 4 August 1766. A rush of events in 1765–66, following more than a decade of no public or legal activities by him or his heirs, collectively suggests four things:

- William’s death occurred soon after he penned the will in which he said he was “weak in body.”
- William’s death, c1755, was likely the catalyst for not only the immediate marriages of his two youngest daughters but also the 1756 decision of his son Ambrose and his daughter and son-in-law Sarah and Thomas Watts to leave the Pedlar for new lands in South Carolina. Outmigrations in the

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<sup>1</sup> Mills & Associates: Albemarle, Goochland & Southside VA, Preliminary Survey of Published Resources; Including Notes for Families Surnamed Byas, Joplin, Lavender, Learwood, Napier, Ripley, Toney, Walton, White, Witt, & Watts,” report to file, 28 May 2016 (updated 23 February 2022); archived at E. S. Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the “Research” tab.

<sup>2</sup> For documentation of each point in this executive summary, see the research note of that date within this report.

colonial and antebellum Southeast were frequently triggered by the death of a parent. In the present case:

- William’s will clearly stated that his children (with only one exception) were not to inherit anything until the death of his wife Mary.
- The one exception was his son William Jr., who was to immediately receive William Sr.’s “unsettled” 330 acres. That singular bequest appears to have been made to entice William Jr.— who had left home some years before for North Carolina—to return to Albemarle. William Jr. did not do so. He remained in NC. The record shows only one return by him to Albemarle > Amherst, made in 1770 to sell the land his father had left him.
- William Sr.’s remaining children were thus left to make their own starts in life. His son-in-law Thomas Watts had, in fact, already broken ties with William Sr. by selling the land patent adjacent to William that Thomas had applied for when he married William’s daughter.
- William’s estate was held together and managed by his widow<sup>3</sup> until their youngest son came of age a decade later. Jesse, the last of the children to wed, filed for a marriage license as a legal adult in July 1765. At that point a male adult member of the family (likely Jesse) traveled to Richmond to pay the fees to finalize the patent on the “unsettled” tract of 330 acres on the waters of Buck Branch of the Pedlar that William Sr. had bequeathed to his son William Jr., and then filed for probate of the will.
- Jesse’s marriage in 1765 also prompted an alteration in the family’s implementation of William’s will. Jesse, according to William’s will, was to receive William’s “home place” after Mary’s death, but Jesse’s new wife’s family was from Tye River. By allowing probate in 1766, a decade before her death, Mary did not just provide a start in life for the one son who had stayed with her; she allowed him to relocate the family. As soon as she consented to the probate of the will, so that Jesse could obtain his inheritance, he sold his father’s home place and bought land on the Tye.



## Research Notes

**5 MARCH 1764**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Witness

“Gregory Mathews, Buckingham, to John Murrel, Albemarle, 25 pds. For 190 acres on Horse Shoe Mountain and joining lands of John Hunter & William Burns. Pat. to Joseph Cabell, 20 Sep 1759. Wit: William Tiller, **Jesse Mills**, Stephen Gee.”<sup>4</sup>

COMMENT:

This is the first record yet found for Jesse Mills as an adult. However, he did not have to be of full legal age in order to witness a document signature.

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<sup>3</sup> According to a Goochland deed of May 1744, Mary was not literate. See TLC Genealogy, *Goochland County, Virginia, Deeds, 1741–1745* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy 1990), 47. That would explain why William’s will appointed a male friend to serve with her as co-executor. It would also explain why Mary was not active buying and selling land after William’s death as many propertied and literate widows did. When William’s will was finally proved in 1766, the co-executor named in that 1755 will, Thomas Jopling, declined the legal appointment in favor of Mary’s son Jesse who had just come of age and was also literate.

<sup>4</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 79; citing Amherst Deed Book A: 162.

**6 AUGUST 1765**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

“**Mills, Jesse**, and **Lucy Tilman**, spinster ... **John Fraser**, surety. Consent of her father, Thomas Tilman.”<sup>5</sup>

COMMENT:

This volume does not offer a record for John Fraser’s marriage to identify his family connections.

**6 AUGUST 1765**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Marriage bond

**Mills, Jesse & Tilman, Lucy**. “Parents or Guardian of wife”: Thomas Tilman. Security and witnesses: John Fraser (security), William Trice, **William Walton**, Witnesses.<sup>6</sup>

COMMENT:

I have not identified this William Trice. He does not appear (as Trice or Tice) in Davis’s deed, will, and probate abstracts or in Sweeny’s marriage abstracts.

**10 JULY 1766**

**AMHERST COUNTY**

Land grant

On payment of 40 shillings, grant made and confirmed unto **William Mills**. 330 acres in Amherst County “on the **branches of Buck Branch of Pedlar River** bounded as follows:

“Beginning at Pointers on **Thomas Mills** & running with his Line South sixty five Degrees West one hundred and twelve poles to a Spanish oak<sub>(i,j)</sub> and with *John Davis’s* Line South twelve Degrees East one hundred and four [five?] poles to a pine South twenty four Degrees East forty four poles to pointers<sub>(i,j)</sub> thence on *Isham Davis’s* South forty six Degrees East and hundred and seventy four poles to Pointers<sub>(i,j)</sub> East eighty eight Poles to a white oak North seventy seven Degrees East one hundred and eighty poles to pointers<sub>(i,j)</sub> North eighteen Degrees West one hundred and forty two poles to Pointers<sub>(i,j)</sub> South thirty nine? Degrees West eight eight poles to a poplar South<sub>(i,j)</sub> eighty three Degrees West two hundred and twenty one poles to pointers<sub>(i,j)</sub> and North one hundred and ninety two Poles to the beginning.”<sup>7</sup>

COMMENT:

In his will of 1755, William Sr. had bequeathed to William Jr. his 330 acres of “unsettled” land. In 1770 as a resident of NC (see that date below), William Jr. sold these 330 acres. The issuance of the patent in July 1766 represents finalization of a process that William Sr. began before his death.

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<sup>5</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 52.

<sup>6</sup> Amherst Co., Marriage Book 1: 1; imaged Amherst Co. microfilm roll 37, Library of Virginia. A preface to the book states: I certify that this is a true abstract of all original of Amherst County marriage bonds and connecting papers borrowed by the Virginia State library from Amherst County Court House May 1929 and that this abstract was made from May to December 1929 by Eugenia Eleanor Hall. [Signed] H. A. McIlwaine, Librarian, Virginia State Library, Dec. 2, 1930.”

<sup>7</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=942&last=&g\\_p=P36&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=942&last=&g_p=P36&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Mills, William, grantee ... Albemarle County ... 330 acres on the branches of Buck Branch of Pedlar River”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 36, 1764–1767 (v. 1 & 2 p.557-1083), p. 942 (Reel 36).”

**4 AUGUST 1766**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Will probate

Will of **William Mills**, drafted 6 September 1755. “Witnesses: Jno. Staples, Isham Davis, Wm. Floyd, **Chas. Tuley**, Ro. Davis of Albemarle (Amherst County was nor [sic] formed until 1761). Ux, Mary; son, Ambrose, at death of his mother; son, Wm.; my daughters, Sarah Watts Mills [sic]; Eliz. Learwoods; Anna Mills; son, Jesse; daughter, Milly Mills; children of my son, Thos.; Ambrose Jr.; and Eliz. Mills – son and daughter of my deceased son, Thos. Executors: ux and Thos. Joblin. “

“Administrator’s Bond – **Mary Mills, Jesse Mills, Wm. Lavinder**, August 4, 1766, for Mary Mills.<sup>8</sup>

COMMENT:

The Tuleys, whom I have not yet investigated, also lived amid the Witts:

- “7 Sep 1772. Chas. Tuley, AC, to Stephen Goolsby, AC, for £100, 400 acres pat. to Arthur Tuley, dec’d, 3 Nov 1750. **Branch of Pedlar**, Lines: *Ro. Davis, Maple Creek, Edwd. Watts*. Wit: Rich. Peter, Jer. Taylor, Wm. Floyd. Elizabeth, wife of Tuley.
- “13 Mar 1772. Thos. Morrison, AC, planter, to **James Tuley Sr.**, Albemarle, for £50, 73 acres on **Long Meadow a branch of Rockfish**. Lines: *Col. Jno. Chiswell*. Wit: **Abner Witt**, James Tuley Jr., Saml. Lackey, Francis New, **Chas. Tuley**. [Rockfish also appears to be the site of Thomas Joplin.]
- “5 Sep 1772. **Abner Will** [Witt], AC, to Laurence Small, AC, for £100, 100 acres **branch of Corbin Creek**. Lines: *Jno. Lackey, Jas. Barnett*. Wit: **Chas. Witt, Jno. Witt Jr., Littleberry Witt**.

**NOTE:** Corbin Creek lies in present Nelson County, below Gulleysville near the north branch of Davis Creek.<sup>9</sup>

- 5 Sep 1772. “**Abner Witt, AC**, to **John Witt Jr. & Sr.**, Deed of Trust – 5 sh. 200 acres. Lines: *Jas. Barnett, Jno. Reid*, also slaves, furniture etc. Wit: Laurence Small, **Chas. Witt**, Chas. Barnerd, **Littleberry Witt**, Wm. Small.”<sup>10</sup>
- “10 Dec 1779. “Jas. Tuley & wife Judith, Albemarle, to **Abner Witt, AC**, for £500 70 acres **Branch of Short’s Creek**. Lines: *News, Thos. Morrison, Francis News*. Wit: Francis News, **Lewis Witt, Jos. Roberds**. *Orig. del. to Witt*.”<sup>11</sup>

**NOTE:**

- I have not located Short’s Creek. It should lie near Rockfish and Corbin.
- The Lewis Witt of this 1779 record, who associated with William Mills’s neighbor, Tuley, is not the Lewis Witt who is said to have married William’s daughter Anne. Anne’s Lewis died in 1774.

**1 SEPTEMBER 1766**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**Jesse Mills**, AC, to Nathaniel Davis, AC, for 40 pds., 350 acres **branch of Buck Creek of Pedlar**. Lines: *Maple Creek, Edward Watte, Jr., Thos. Mills*.” **Lucy, wife of Jesse Mills**, consents.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 242; citing Book 1: 73 (will); Book 1: 75 (administrator’s bond); 1: 104 (inventory).

<sup>9</sup> According to genealogist Deborah Harvey. I have not yet located it on a map.

<sup>10</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 141; citing Amherst Deed Book C: 392–98.

<sup>11</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 188; citing Amherst Deed Book E: 204.

COMMENT:

- The land being sold above was Jesse's inheritance from his father. Apparently, he used these proceeds the following summer, July 1767, toward the 128 pds. 10 shillings he paid for land on the Tye River.

**27 FEBRUARY 1767**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Inventory

"William Mills estate. £265-4-9, taken by **Henry Key** and Wm. Welton [likely *Walton*]."<sup>13</sup>

COMMENT:

- Walton would, in 1793, marry Mills's widowed daughter Milly Lavender. Walton's brother Lt. Jesse Walton, in the lead-up to King's Mountain, captured and ordered the hanging of William Mills Jr., who (like his brother Ambrose) was a Loyalist. See the pension application of Walton's son William Walton Jr.<sup>14</sup>
- Henry Key's house is frequently said to be the site of the first court sessions held in Nelson.

TO DO:

- Get this inventory and any other documents.

**2 NOVEMBER 1767**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Surety on bond

"Geo. Stovall Jr., Jas. Dillard, Wm. Walton, Gabl. Penn, Alex. Reid Jr., Alex. Reid, Jno. Ryan, Jacob Smith, **Jesse Mills**, Ambrose Porter, Abraham Penn, Wm. Bibb, Jas. Christian, Wm. Floyd, Jos. Dillard & Wm. Loving bonded to King Geo. III for 1000 pds. For Geo. Stovall Jr. who was appointed sheriff by governor under Colony seal on 17 Oct last past to perform duties of office. ... Same men and date as above for Stovall to collect fees. ... Same men and date for Stovall – 500 pds – to collect all Quit Rents."<sup>15</sup>

**5 SEPTEMBER 1768**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA.**  
Land sale

"**Jesse Mills & wife, Lucy**, AC, to Lucas Powell, Alb. Co., for 90 pds, 396 acres **branch of Tye**. Lines: Rose. Wit: Jacob Smith, Wyatt Powell, Wm. Floyd."<sup>16</sup>

COMMENT:

This is the land that Jesse bought in 1767 from the Grymes estate, adjoining Grymes land that Jesse's brother-in-law William Lavender would buy in 1770. Ostensibly, he is now landless; but later records imply that he was in possession of another Grymes tract on the Tye.

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<sup>12</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 100; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 128.

<sup>13</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 242, citing Book 1: 104.

<sup>14</sup> Affidavit of Applicant, William Walton (Private Capt. John Loving's Co., Stevens' Regt., VA), no. S17184 in "Revolutionary War Pensions," *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/20447289> and 33 subsequent numbers: accessed 30 May 2016), particularly 20447300, 20447303, 20447306, 20447308.

<sup>15</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 103; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 261–62.

<sup>16</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 110; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 264.

**3 APRIL 1769**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Witness

“Wm. Cabell, Sr., AC, to Wm. Cabell, Jr., AC, love borne by SR for JR, his son, fishery on Woods Island in the Fluvanna – agreeable to reservations in deed from Wm. Cabell, the elder, to his son, Jno. Cabell, 13 April 1763; rec. in AC. Wit: **Wm. Walton**, Jno. Savage, **Eleonar Mills** (X).<sup>17</sup>

COMMENT:

No Eleonar Mills has been identified in the Amherst family. William & Mary did not have a daughter Eleonar. Their son Ambrose married Mourning Stone and then Ann Brown. Their son Jesse married Lucy Tilman. Their son William had moved to the Carolinas, as had Ambrose, and is said (by undocumented online trees) to have married a “Rebecca.”

Meanwhile, William and Mary’s son Thomas died leaving two young children by an unknown wife and land for which the patent was received after his death and no sale of that land has been found on record. *It seems possible that Eleonar is widow of Thomas, holding her family together on Thomas’s land.* That land was sold in 1777:

**19 SEPTEMBER 1777**

**CHARLESTON, SC**

“**Jno. Turner & wife Eliz, Charles Town, S.C.** to Ashcraft Roach, AC, for £150, 335 acres on branch of Bader (sic) River. Lines: Ro. Davis, Atthus Tuley, Edwd. Watts. Pat. to Thos. Mills 20 Mar 1756. Wit: Gabl. Penn, Thos. Lumpkin, Wm. Vannerson.”<sup>18</sup>

If Elizabeth Turner was Elizabeth Mills, daughter of Thomas, then this eliminates her from consideration as a mother of William Mills (with a Witt Y) who was born 1783–88.<sup>19</sup>

If the Eleanor Mills was Thomas’s widow, then her presence amid the Cabells, being “at hand” to witness a document for them, suggests that she may have been a Cabell.

Other references spotted for John Savage:

- 12 March 1765 “John Savage ... Whitten ... Cabell. **Tobacco Row**.<sup>20</sup> [Tobacco Row Mountain lay on East bank of Pedlar River, suggesting that Eleonor also lived in the immediate neighborhood of William & Thomas Mills.]
- 24 May 1765: “William Cabell to William Phelps, 170 acres on both sides of **Raven Creek of Buffalo**. Witnesses: John Owen, John Dawson, John Savage.”<sup>21</sup>

**17 APRIL 1770**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

“Grymes exrs. to **Wm. Lavender** – see p. 33 for details of Grymes – for £25, 546 ½ acres on **branch of**

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<sup>17</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 115; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 431.

<sup>18</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807; and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 179; citing Amherst Deed Book E: 91.

<sup>19</sup> See E. S. Mills, “William Mills (b. c1783–88; d. ca.1863) & Spouse Drucilla Kemp: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 28 August 2018; archived online at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>20</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 91; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 43.

<sup>21</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 86; citing Amherst Deed Book A: 337.

**Tye.** Lines: **Mills, Alcock, King.** Wit: Zach. Taliaferro, Thos. Mitchell, Thos. Hawkins, Ambrose Jones, **Geo. Galasbey,** Moses Campbell.”<sup>22</sup>

COMMENT:

Three years before this, Grymes heirs sold **Jesse Mills** part of their **Tye River** land. (See 7 July 1767.)

On the same day as the Lavender sale above, Grymes’s executors sold another tract of Grymes’s land on “a branch of Tye.” The individuals named in that deed should fall into the neighborhood of William Lavender and Jesse Mills.

“17 April 1770. Grymes Excrs. to Thos. Wilsher – see p. 33 for details of Grymes – for £8-15, 174 acres on branch of Tye. Lines: *Wilsher, Campbell, Edmonds.* Wit: *Zach. Taliaferro, Rod. McCulloch, Thos. Reid, Rich. Tankersley Sr. & Jr.*”<sup>23</sup>

Contrary to the note about “p. 33,” neither p. 33 in this deed book nor p. 33 in the published book of abstracts carry any “details of Grymes.” Page 120 of Davis’s published abstracts carries his compiler’s note with personal details on the Grymes family, but none appears relevant to the Mills-Lavender family.

Family clues:

- Richard Tankersley Jr. is said to have married Mary Learwood [niece of Wm. Lavender’s wife Milly].<sup>24</sup>
- When William Lavender died, Richard Tankersley (Sr. or Jr.) was one of the three men who inventoried his estate. See 1776, below.
- Richard Tankersley of 1783 (presumably Richard Jr.) did have a wife Mary:  
“1 Sep 1783. “**Rich. Tankersley & wife Mary,** AVC, to Jas. Dillard, AC, one negro girl, Watsey, and £20,000 tobacco to be delivered on James River in two deliveries. Also two adj. tracts and where grantor lives. 1) 150 acres on **N bank Tye.** Lines: Jos. Dillard, Jos. Mays. 2) 174 acres. Lines: Rose, Glasby, Dillard, a Stoney Hill. Orig. del. to Capt. James Dillard 13 Jul 1797.”<sup>25</sup>
- Richard Tankersley [Sr., wife Winifred] also bought land in 1767 on **Piney**, the same waterway where Thomas Jefferson of Albemarle, 3 weeks later, would buy land from George Gillespie (Clasby), who would later serve as surety for Milly (Mills) Lavender. Details of the Tankersley transaction:  
“3 Feb 1767. Jas. Jones & wife Mary, AC, to Rich. Tankersley, AC, for 100 pds, 315 acres **N side of Tye** and opposite **mouth of Piney**, part of larter [*sic*] tract granted by order of Council to Robt. Roles (*sic*, but Rose is meant), Clerk, and Thos. Chen (Chew) and sold by Robt. Rose to Edward Manton & rec. in Alb. Wit: Henry Rose, Leonard Tarrant Jr., Ambras Jones.”<sup>26</sup>
- Richard Tankersley [Jr.] was a landowner by 1772:

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<sup>22</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 121 citing Amherst Deed Book C: 78.

<sup>23</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 121 citing Amherst Deed Book C: 76.

<sup>24</sup> James Larwood, “Morphology of Larwood Genealogy” (MS, n.p., 1933); imaged at *Ancestry.com* from a copy at Sutro Library, San Francisco, CA.

<sup>25</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 204; citing Amherst Deed Book E: 423.

<sup>26</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 98; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 170.

“3 Aug 1772. Rich. Tankersley & wife Winneford, AC, to Stephen Watts, AC, for £55, 182 acres **N side Tye & opposite mouth of Piney**. Part of Rich. Tankersley Sr. land which he gave to his son, Jr., and joins Chs. Rose. Wit: Hugh Rose, Augustin Wright, Thos. Wortham.<sup>27</sup> (On 4 Aug. 1777, **Stephen Watts & wife Eliz.** Sold this to *Geo. Wortham*. On 4 Aug. 1783, Geo. Wortham and wife Juday sold this land to Jas. Mays, **with Rich. Tankersley Jr. cited as adjacent neighbor.**<sup>28</sup>)

COMMENT:

This Stephen Watts remains unidentified. Online trees assert without evidence that he was the son of Thomas Watts (aka “Thomas Caleb” Watts) and wife Sarah Mills. They also present the couple as lifelong residents of Albemarle/Amherst, with two children (Stephen and William) and no evidence other than derivative sources that are at least third-hand.<sup>29</sup> For all known evidence on the actual Thomas and Sarah, see E. S. Mills, “Thomas Watts (b. ca.1725; d. ca.1796–1800); Spouse, Sarah Mills: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 15 June 2016; archived at *Historic Pathways*.

**14 JUNE 1770**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“**Jesse Mills, AC**, to Thos. Lumpkin, AC, for £100, 297 bought by TL [*sic*, but it appears to mean JM] of Lunsford Lomax Jr. and rec. in AC. Wit: Geo. Penn, Isaac Tinsley, Geo. McDaniel, Geo. Galaspie.”<sup>30</sup>

COMMENT:

The wording of this is garbled. I have not been able to find, in the published abstracts, a record of Jesse buying 297 acres from Lomax.

TO DO:

Get this record to clarify the details.

**5 OCTOBER 1770**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“**Wm. Mills, North Carolina**, to Jno. Lewis, AC, for £25, 330 acres branch of **Buck Creek of Pedlar**. Lines **Thos. Mills, Jno. Davis, Isham Davis**. Wit: David Crawford, Alex. Reid Jr., Rich. Powell.”<sup>31</sup>

COMMENT:

This William would be the son of William and Mary, selling the 330 acres of “unsettled” land left to him in his father’s 1755 will. On 1 September 1766 William Jr.’s brother Jesse sold 350 acres said to adjoin Thomas and Edward Watts on Buck Creek of Pedlar. (See above.) On 2 March 1772, another neighbor of William’s land, Jno. Tuley, would sell Nathaniel *Davis* a tract on Pedlar and

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<sup>27</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 140; citing Amherst Deed Book C: 369. The wife of Richard Tankersly Sr. is also identified in Deed Book B: 388 (Davis, p. 112).

<sup>28</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 169, citing Amherst Deed Book D: 444; and 204, citing Deed Book E: 422.

<sup>29</sup> Sharons44, “Meredith Family Tree,” user-contributed trees, *Ancestry* (<http://person.ancestry.com/tree/70823236/person/42487602640/facts> : 1 June 2016).

<sup>30</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 127; citing Amherst Deed Book C: 178.

<sup>31</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 123; Deed Book C: 118.

Maple Creek, referencing the old lines of Wm. Mills and Edward Watts Jr. (See those dates below.)

**5 JULY 1771**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Mortgage

“**Jesse Mills** to Alex. Spiers, Jno. Bowman & Co., Deed of Trust – 5 sh. 297 acres which Mills bought of Lunsford Lomax. Also one Va. Born negro wench named Phoebe; stock, tobacco. Wit: Thos. Jones, Jas. Pendleton, Martin Bibb.”<sup>32</sup>

UPDATE:

This Phoebe and her offspring would be the subject of a c1810–19 legal suit.<sup>33</sup>

**20 SEPTEMBER 1771**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Mortgage

“**Jesse Mills** to Thos. Mitchell, Factor for Jas. & Ro. Donalds & Co., Glasgow merchants – all household furniture, stock and all book debts after paying Wm. Watson his demands vs. me. Memo: Trunk and table mentioned in fifth line delivered in lieu of the whole. Wit: Edmd. Wilcox, Nathl. Tilman.”<sup>34</sup>

**8 OCTOBER 1771**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Bill of sale

“**Jesse Mills**, AC, to Edwd. Tilman, for £12, stock. Wit: “Ann NBAS(?) JONES” [Ambrose Jones], Lede Jones.”<sup>35</sup>

**28 DECEMBER 1771**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

“**Reid, Thomas and Florence Mills**, spinster. ... John Reid, surety. Consent of Florence.”<sup>36</sup>

COMMENT:

This Florence Mills has not been identified. The family into which she married does not appear among associates of the William and Mary Mills family.

TO DO:

Examine the original marriage record to ensure the accuracy of the name and to glean additional details if possible.

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<sup>32</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 134; Deed Book C: 252.

<sup>33</sup> Augusta Co., VA, Chancery Causes, file 1817-084, Daniel Tilman [et al] vs. Elizabeth Christian, widow, etc., for Complaint of Tilman's Heirs, filed shortly before 10 March 1810 (date first subpoenas were issued); "Chancery Record Index [with images]," Library of Virginia, Virginia Memory ([https://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case\\_detail.asp?CFN=015-1817-084](https://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=015-1817-084) : accessed 16 May 2018), particularly images 1–5 of 29. Jesse and Lucy were parties to this suit. The case was filed in Augusta because that was the site of the district chancery court.

<sup>34</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 134; Deed Book C: 254.

<sup>35</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 137; Deed Book C: 316.

<sup>36</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 64.

**2 MARCH 1772**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor

“Jno. Tuley, AC, to Nathl. Davis, for £50, 350 acres on **Pedlar**. Lines: **Wm. Mills**, crossing Maple Creek, **Edw. Watts, Jr., Stone.**”<sup>37</sup>

**7 MARCH 1772**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Mortgage

“**Jesse Mills** Deed of Trust to Alex. Spiers, Jno. Bowman & Co., Dect [Debt] of £255-8-2 – 5 sh – one negro girl, Letty, about 30; one boy Harry, about 12; other slaves, stock, tobacco-land on **head of Tye** – 200 acres. Wit: Geo. Walker, Jr., Geo. Weir, Thos. Wright, Thos. Reid.”<sup>38</sup>

**8–9 APRIL 1772**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Land survey

William Cabell Jr. reported surveying the following tracts:

|              |                      |                     |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 8 April 1772 | <b>Thos. Jopling</b> | 400 a               |
| 9 April 1772 | <b>Thos. Jopling</b> | 400 a               |
| 9 April 1772 | <b>Thos. Jopling</b> | 30 a                |
| 10 Apr 1772  | David Montgomery     | 98a                 |
| 11 Apr 1772  | Abraham Warwick      | 45 a                |
| 14 Apr 1772  | Rich. Harvey         | 92 a                |
| 15 Apr 1772  | Jas. Stephens        | 53 a                |
| 24 Apr 1772  | Jno. Ballowe         | 200 a <sup>39</sup> |

COMMENT

All of these men from 8–15 April should be in Thomas Jopling’s neighborhood, given the sequence of the dates and the lack of time for travel in-between farms. Ballew, 9 days later, likely did not live in the neighborhood (unless, perhaps, the surveyor was ill and not working in the interim).

**30 JUNE 1772**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

“**Watts, Stephen**, Planter, and Elizabeth Farrar, spinster ... William Spencer, surety, who testifies that Elizabeth is of lawful age. Consent of Elizabeth.”<sup>40</sup>

**18 NOVEMBER 1772**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

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<sup>37</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 135; Deed Book C: 267.

<sup>38</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 136; Deed Book C: 298.

<sup>39</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 141; citing Amherst Deed Book C: 402.

<sup>40</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 80.

Mortgage

“**Jas. Byous** to Jas. Manees – Deed of Trust – 5 sh. cows, pigs, dishes, etc. Wit: Thos. Harget, Jas. Manees.”<sup>41</sup>

**16 FEBRUARY 1773**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Land survey

William Cabell Jr. files another list of surveys but not listed in chronological sequence, so I have rearranged them into date order below:

|               |                      |                     |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 15 Feb 1773   | Cuthbert Webb        | 229a                |
| 16 Feb 1773   | <b>Thos. Jopling</b> | 391a a              |
| 17 Feb 1773   | Jas. Mathews         | 230 a               |
|               |                      |                     |
| 20 April 1773 | Ro. Davis            | 380 a               |
| 20 April 1773 | Jas. Kitchen         | 136 a               |
| 24 April 1773 | <b>Ralph Jopling</b> | 400 a <sup>42</sup> |

COMMENT:

Ralph appears to own land on the Pedlar or its waters, near his sister’s husband, Robert Davis.

**11 DECEMBER 1773**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Land Sale

“**Wm. Lavender & wife Mildred**, AC, to Edmd. Wilcox, AC, for £100 546 ½ acres bought by Wm. Lavender from exrs. of Philip Grymes & Lunsford Lomax, Jr., 17 April 1770. On **branch of Tye**. Lines: **Mills**, Allcock, King. Wit: Patrick Hart, Benj. Taliaferro, Wm. Powell, Gabl. Penn, Aaron Campbell, Rich. Alcock.”<sup>43</sup>

COMMENT:

**Jesse Mills**, brother of Mildred (Mills) Lavender, in 1767 bought Grymes land on a branch of Tye.

**27 JANUARY 1776**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Neighbor

“**Thos. Ballow(ew)**, AC & Parish, to Nathl. Woodruff, AC & Parish, for £25, 100 acres, part of 400 acres pat. to Ballow at Williamsburg 12 May 1759. S side Tye. Lines: Ballow, where Woodruff now lives, main road, top of Brushey Mt. Wit: Killis Wright, **Chas. Lavender**, Alex. Chisnell. Orig. del. to Wm. Meredith, Aug 1793, by order of DC(?)”<sup>44</sup>

COMMENT:

Two adult Charles Lavenders are known to be on record in Albemarle > Amherst at this point. The first Charles was cited as a landowner on 27 June 1745, shortly after Albemarle was

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<sup>41</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1762–1852) & Albemarle County, VA (1948–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 149; citing DB D: 22.

<sup>42</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 149; citing Amherst Deed Book D: 32.

<sup>43</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 153; citing Amherst Deed Book D: 119.

<sup>44</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 165; citing Amherst Deed Book I: 363.

created.<sup>45</sup> That Charles (whose son William married Milly Mills) *might* be the man of this document. The youngest Charles, born of William and Milly about 1763, was a Revolutionary War soldier whose pension file identifies his widow Lucy as a “Ballew.”<sup>46</sup>

The identity of the Charles who appears on record in Amherst from this record of 1776 through circa 1784, when the youngest Charles came of age, is ambiguous.

#### FEBRUARY TERM 1776

#### AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Estate

“Milley Lavender, widow of William Lavender, granted Admr. of said Decedents Estate.”<sup>47</sup>

#### COMMENT:

In the **June** 1776 term of court, we find this: “Ordered that the Widow of **John** Lavender be Summoned to appear here at the next Court to Declare whether she will take upon herself the Admr. of the said Decedents Estate.”<sup>48</sup> Given that Milly posted bond in February 1776, after her February appointment, it is clear that the John who died about the same time as Milly’s William was a different man—not the same man with a double name.

#### 5 FEBRUARY 1776

#### AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Estate

**William Lavender**, deceased. **Milly Lavender, widow**, posted administrator’s bond with sureties Geo. Clasbey (also written as Geo. Gillaspie and signed GG), Edmd. Wilcox.<sup>49</sup>

#### COMMENT:

- On 24 February 1767, George “Clasby” sold 300 acres on N. side of “**Piney**,” to Thomas Jefferson of Albemarle.<sup>50</sup> As seen above, this was the area in which Richard and Mary (Learwood?) Tankersley bought land that same year.
- Given that Gillaspie and Wilcox signed Milly (Mills) Lavender’s administratrix bond, odds are good that they are kin—if not on the Mills side, then the Lavenders. I need to work both these men. In the meanwhile, this note offers a starting point:

“Gillaspie[’s] son William, married Nancy Ann **Hudson** and they removed to **Madison Co., Ky.**”<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> Virginia Transportation Research Council, *Albemarle County [Virginia] Road Orders, 1744–1748* (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 2008).

<sup>46</sup> Charles Lavender (Pvt., Col. Merriwether & Samuel Cabell Regt., VA Continental Line), Widow Lucy, no. W8025, in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25254588> and 109 subsequent images : accessed 17 May 2016). The pension file states that Lucy’s father (unnamed) moved with them to Edgefield, SC, where he lived nearby. The 1790 census shows Thomas Bellew in Edgefield.

<sup>47</sup> Lenora Higginbotham Sweeny, *Amherst County, Virginia in the Revolution: Including Extracts from the “Lost Order Book,” 1773–1782* (Lynchburg: J.P. Bell Co., 1951), 74.

<sup>48</sup> Lenora Higginbotham Sweeny, *Amherst County, Virginia in the Revolution: Including Extracts from the “Lost Order Book,” 1773–1782* (Lynchburg: J.P. Bell Co., 1951), 75.

<sup>49</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 210, citing Book 1: 297.

<sup>50</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 98; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 160.

<sup>51</sup> Anonymous, “Gillespie, Donald, Cash, Wallace, Feazell and Hash Family Histories,” *RootsWeb* ([http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gillespiehistory/gillespie\\_history/deeds.html](http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gillespiehistory/gillespie_history/deeds.html) : 28 May 2016).

Note, under 20 April 1801 and 25 October 1802, below, that “**Jesse Mills**” (i.e., Jesse Jr.) was married to Rachel **Hudson** and also **moved to Kentucky**. Jesse was then in Green Co. Both Green and Madison Counties were cut from Lincoln although they are some distance apart today.

**14 MARCH 1776**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Estate

**William Lavender**, deceased. Inventory &183-8-1, by *Wm. Pollard, Lucas Powell, Rich. Tankersly*.<sup>52</sup>

COMMENT:

The compiler of these abstracts also adds this:

Book 17, Page 273 – Plat of division

16 December 1867 [sic]

100 acres on branch of Hugg Creek – both sides of road from Sardis Church to Hicks’ grocery. **To widow; Jno. S. Lavinder; Wm. H. Lavinder; Chas. and Wm. H. North, infants of Francis North**, deceased shares bought from **Jas. D.; Pitt E.; and Paulus P. Lavinder** by Jno. P. Hambleton; 3 bought of **Wm. T. Burley and ux** and one of **C. M. Lavinder**. E. P. Tucker, assistant surveyor for Jno. W. Broaddus, Amherst County surveyor.

**JULY 1776**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Probate

**Ambrose Mills**, as “heir at law” was summoned by the Amherst County Court to appear and declare whether he would administer the estate of **Mary Mills, dec’d**.<sup>53</sup>

COMMENT:

An “heir at law” was a “forced heir,” as opposed to being a legatee under a will. In colonial Virginia, the heir at law of a landowner was the eldest son who, under primogeniture, inherited all land unless the father left a will giving some tracts to other sons. This identification of Ambrose as the eldest son helps to date the time frame of the parental marriage—assuming that Mary was his mother.

On the latter note, William Sr.’s will is worded oddly. In his bequest to Ambrose of a “proportionable share” he said that share would come to Ambrose “after the death of his mother (my wife).” The parenthetical clarification may well imply that Ambrose was born of a prior wife but that Mary, as William’s second wife, had been the “mother” who raised Ambrose.

In either case, Ambrose’s role as heir-at-law would be as heir-at-law to his father’s will, under which Mary was given lifetime use of William’s personal property.

**10 SEPTEMBER 1776**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Mortgage

“**Jesse Mills**, AC, to Edmd. Wilcox, AC, for &12-8-11, debt, Deed of Trust. 5 sh. Two slaves, Moll and

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<sup>52</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 210, citing Book 1: 432 with notation “see Page 509 for 1793, for more data.”

<sup>53</sup> Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1933): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed., 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 700–1; citing Amherst Order Book 1773–82.

Bristol, and descended to me at death of my mother; stock, etc. Wit: Geo. Gillaspie, Jas. Higginbotham, Jos. Cabell.<sup>54</sup>

COMMENT:

- George Gillespie (aka Clasbie) and Edmund Wilcox are repeatedly appearing in these Mills-Lavender records.
- In February 1776 *they*, not the perpetually indebted Jesse, appeared as bondsmen for Jessie's sister Milly to administer the estate of her husband William Lavender.

**AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1777**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Estate

Moses London. Administrator's Bond posted by Alex. Chisnal (Chaznall) with Jos. Cabell, Edmd. Wilcox, "4 August 1777 for Amherst County." Inventory 1 September 1777 L28-8-1, taken by **Chas. Lavender**, Killis Wright, Jas. Edmonds.<sup>55</sup>

COMMENT:

- Again, the Charles of this record appears to be Charles Sr. Any child of William Lavender and Milly Mills would be still a minor, while estate appraisals were normally made by men of some years and experience.
- Other London abstracts on this page include "**Lavinder London** – Book 4, Page 281 – Tobacco Inspector – Tye River Warehouse: November 18, 1805; Bondsman: Austin Wright.
- It seems possible that kinship existed between Charles Lavender and the Londons—perhaps a daughter of Charles, or a sister of William Lavender, married a London.

**25 DECEMBER 1778**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

"Pollard, Robert, bachelor, and **Orany Watts**, spinster ... Thomas Griffin, surety. Consent of her parents, Joseph Dillard and wife. Joseph Dillard states that Orany is of age."<sup>56</sup>

COMMENT:

- Joseph Dillard's wife is obviously a widow. Note the later Watts-Dillard marriage below.
- This Orany Watts is also misattributed to "Thomas Caleb" Watts and Sarah Mills by many online trees.

**30 JANUARY 1779**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor

"Nichl. Cabell, AC, Esquire, and wife Hannah, to Edmund Wilcox for £3000, 2325 acres S side of and joining Buffalo and Tye. Lines: Jno. Harper, Roling (sic) Road, Jno. Nicholas, **Punch Creek**, Jas. Freeland, dec'd, confluence of **Buffalo and Tye**, **Chas. Lavender** – excepting only that M (Mr?) Jno. Nicholas or estate of Jno. Fry, dec'd. may possibly be entitled to – a small part of the upper end of the land; may be

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<sup>54</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 167; Deed Book C: 397.

<sup>55</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 210, citing Book 3: 503 (will).

<sup>56</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 62.

entitled to it by prior right. Wit: Francis Spencer, Saml. Burks, Sarah Johnson, Johanes Jones.”<sup>57</sup>

**15 OCTOBER 1779**

**AMHERST, ALBEMARLE & BUCKINGHAM COUNTIES, VA**

Petition

“Petition of freeholders and inhabitants of the counties of Amherst, Albemarle, and Buckingham counties to repeal the act ‘for laying a tax payable in certain enumerated commodities,’ as thereby the poorest man in the state is compelled to pay as much as those of the most opulent fortunes for the conduct of the present war with Great Britain. ... [skip 14] Thomas Jopling Junr., [skip 21] **Jhn Tinsley, Jessee Mills**, Jas Rouse, Jno Thurmond, Bolinger Wade [skip 11] **Isaac Tinsley**, Richard Powel, Jereh Whitney, Isaac Staples [Buckingham Co. Staples?],” and about 200 more.<sup>58</sup>

**15 DECEMBER 1779**

**AMHERST & BUCKINGHAM COUNTIES, VA**

Petition

“Petition of freeholders and inhabitants of the counties of Amherst and Buckingham requesting appeal of a recent act requiring a fee of twelve shillings per hogshead of tobacco per month stored in the public warehouses above twelve months. ... Richd Shelton, David Woodroof, William Allen, Notley Mattocks, **Richard Tankersley**, [skip 9], Thos Jopling Junr., [skip 26], John Tinsley, **Jesse Mills**, Benja Briand, Isaac Tinsley, Thomas Joblin,” and about 200 more.<sup>59</sup>

**MARCH COURT 1780**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Estate

“**William Burton** Orphan of **William Burton**, Decd. chose George Penn, guardian.”<sup>60</sup>

COMMENT:

In 1777, George Penn witnessed the sale of land by Jesse Mills. In 1785, Bedford County, one William Burton married one Elizabeth Mills.<sup>61</sup>

**6 MARCH 1780**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

“**Burton, William, bachelor** and Frances Penn, spinster, March 6, 1780. Edmund Wilcox, surety.”<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 181; citing Amherst Deed Book E: 121.

<sup>58</sup> Jean Pickett Hall, “Legislative Petitions from Virginia Counties with Significant Record Losses: 1. Buckingham County,” *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 28 (May 1990): 87–114, specifically 91.

<sup>59</sup> Jean Pickett Hall, “Legislative Petitions from Virginia Counties with Significant Record Losses: 1. Buckingham County,” *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 28 (May 1990): 87–114, specifically 93. Jesse did not sign any petitions in this series that were exclusively from Buckingham.

<sup>60</sup> Lenora Higginbotham Sweeny, *Amherst County, Virginia in the Revolution: Including Extracts from the “Lost Order Book,” 1773–1782* (Lynchburg: J.P. Bell Co., 1951), 87.

<sup>61</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Marriage Bonds, 1755A–1787B, for “B” section, Burton-Mills, date of 12 October 1786; imaged, Bedford Co. microfilm 176, Library of Virginia, Richmond. The published abstract of this marriage found in Earle S. Dennis and Jane E. Smith, *Marriage Bonds of Bedford County, Virginia, 1755–1800; Reprinted with Bedford County, Virginia: Index of Wills, from 1754 to 1830*, edited by Rowland D. Buford (Reprinted, Baltimore: Clearfield, 1975), 7, omits critical details.

<sup>62</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 14.

**24 DEC 1781**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor

“Deed from William Dunwodey of Bedford County to *Nath’l. Patteson* of Bedford Co. for 113 pounds—190 acres—beginning at **Geo. Walton’s** and **Walter Learwood’s** corner, *Thomas Franklin’s line, Boling’s* line. [Signed] William Dunwodey, L.S.”<sup>63</sup>

COMMENT:

- I have not been able to find anyone in this era named Walter Learwood. Odds are good that this published abstract has a misreading and that the passage should be “**Walton and Learwood’s corner.**”
- None of these individuals are found on the two tax lists for Bedford, published in Schreiner-Yantis and Love’s *The 1787 Census of Virginia*. Part of Bedford was cut away in 1786 to create Franklin County.
- Searching for these individuals statewide, I find these possibilities:
  - Thos. Franklin, Campbell, Mecklenburg, Henrico, Richmond, Princess Ann
  - Nathaniel Patteson [& variants]: No.
  - Geo. Walton: No

TO DO:

Get this deed (Bedford Bk G: 100, 20 August 1781) to verify or correct.

**1782**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Land tax roll

[consecutive entries]

“Burton, William. Quantity of Land: 400  
Rate per acre: 4/9  
Amount: 95....0....0  
Pound rate: 0....19....0

“Burton, Jesse. Quantity of Land: 400  
For Rate per acre: 4/9  
Philip Burton Amount: 95....0....0  
Pound rate: 0....19....0<sup>64</sup>

**31 MAY 1783**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“**Jas. Bias**, AC [Amherst Co.] to Wm. Camden, AC, for £24, **60 acres pat. to Bias** at Williamsburg 3 Aug 1771. **S. branch Huff Creek**. Lines: Benj. Noell, Jno. Coleman, Frye(?) Stataims’s(?) named Old Cove. Wit: Jos. Tucker Geo. Duncan, Jno. Duncan.”

“Benj. Noell, AC, to Wm. Camden, AC, for £120, 150 acres and pat. to grantor at Williamsburg 16 Feb 1770. On branches of **Huff Creek**. Lines: Jas. Ison, Jas. Stinnett. Wit: Jos. Tucker Jno. & Geo. Duncan. This

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<sup>63</sup> *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1981), 1:603, “Notes on Dinwiddie Family,” compiler unidentified; citing “Bedford Co., Va., Book ‘G,’ Pg. 100, Aug. 20, 1781.”

<sup>64</sup> Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Amherst County, Virginia, Land Tax Books, 1782–1788* (McLean, VA: The Antient Press, 1997), 10.

and above deed del. to Camden 7 Jan 1791.”<sup>65</sup>

COMMENT:

Bias has disposed of the 230 acres that he had surveyed in 1762. He still has 53 acres that were surveyed for him in 1771. Apparently, he was downsizing rather than leaving the county.

**30 OCTOBER 1783**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

“**Burton**, Philip, bachelor, and Ann Jones, spinster, married October 30, 1783 by the Rev. Charles Clay. (Order Book 1782-1794, p. 201).”<sup>66</sup>

**5 JULY 1784**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Mortgage

“**Jesse Mills**, AC, to Tilman Walton, AC, for £21-10, Deed of Trust – 1 sh. – slave, stock, etc. Wit: Ro. Wright, Jno. Swanson, Wm. Walton.”<sup>67</sup>

COMMENT:

- Tilman Walton’s father William Walton Sr. would, in 1793, marry Mildred “Milly” (Mills) Lavender. See notes for that year.
- Tilman’s uncle, Lt. Jesse Walton, ordered the hanging of Jesse’s and Mildred’s brother William a week before the Battle of King’s Mountain.<sup>68</sup>
- Amherst Co.’s personal tax roll of 1787 charges Tilmon Walton with a tithe for **William Mills**.

**5 JULY 1784**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Witness

“Augustin Shepherd, Jno. Shepherd, & Debartus Shepherd to Jas. Callaway, AC, for £800, 554 acres. Property of David Shepherd and by his will devised to his three brothers above; ref. to AC will and deeds. Line of Carter Braxton. On 22 Mar 1775 for ‘300 or 4 acres’. Also deeds of Ezek. Gilbert, 1 Feb 1779, for 40 acres; Ezek. Gilbert on 1 Nov 1779, for 160 acres; Jno. Wiatt Gilbert, 16 Mar. 1780, for 50 acres. Tracts adjoining. Wit: Wm. Powell, **Jesse Mills**, Benj. Powell, W. Wright.”<sup>69</sup>

COMMENT:

No further mention of a Jesse Mills has been found in these records for another 18 years, until “Jesse Mills, Green Co., Ky.” sued, in Charlottesville, the administrators of Joshua Hudson, with a countersuit said to occur in Amherst. See 25 October 1802 below.

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<sup>65</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1762–1852) & Albemarle County, VA (1948–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 204; citing DB E: 420–21.

<sup>66</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 14.

<sup>67</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 212; Deed E: 539.

<sup>68</sup> Affidavit of Applicant, William Walton (Private Capt. John Loving’s Co., Stevens’ Regt., VA), no. S17184 in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/20447289> and 33 subsequent numbers: accessed 30 May 2016), particularly 20447300, 20447303, 20447306, 20447308.

<sup>69</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 213; Deed E: 551.

*Update:* Numerous online trees assert that Lucy Tilman died about this time, after which Jesse remarried Joshua Hudson's daughter and moved off to Kentucky. In doing so, they conflate Jesse Sr. with Jesse Jr., the actual husband of Rachel Hudson.<sup>70</sup>

**2 AUGUST 1784**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VVA**

Land sale

"**Jas. Bias** & wife **Eliz**, AC, to Lemaster Cooksey, AC, for £78, 170 acres S branch **Huff**; part of pat. to grantor at Williamsburg 3 Aug. 1771. Wit: Chas. Burrus, **Jos. Layne**, Wm. Camden."<sup>71</sup>

**6 SEPTEMBER 1784**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor

"Tyre Slading, AC, to Wm. Camden, AC, for £20, 100 acres. Lines: Near **Huff Creek**, Jno. Coleman, top of the mt., Benj. Nowell, **Jas. Bias**. Wit: Jno. Danl. Coleman, Thos. Lucas, Solomon Ellis. Proved 7 Mar 1785 – Jno. Danl. Coleman is now dead, but signature proved by Lucas & Ellis under oath."<sup>72</sup>

**15 SEPTEMBER 1784**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor

"Jane **Davis**, AC to Jacob Phillips, AC, for £70, 250 acres S side **Dancing Creek**. Lines: Jos. Cabell, Ro. Payton, S branch Dancing Creek. Wit: John **Goodrich**, **Jos. Lane**, John **Tooley**, Jno. Sale."<sup>73</sup>

COMMENT:

Note that Joseph Lane is a neighbor of **both** James Bias and Jane Davis of Dancing Creek. They appear to be in the neighborhood in which William Mills settled. His lands were on the Pedlar and Dancing Creek, with Davises and Tooley/Tuleys as neighbors.

*Update:* This Jane Davis was the widow of Robert Davis (witness to William Mills's 1755 will) and the daughter of **Thomas Jopling** (whom William Mills named as executor of his will).<sup>74</sup>

**6 JANUARY 1785**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Association

"Lemaster Cooksey, AC, to Wm. Camden, AC, for £20, 100 acres S fork **Huff Creek**. Lines: Benj. Nowell, top of a mt., Jno. Higginbotham, Benj. Higginbotham, Patrick Nowell. Wit: Jno. Watson, Wm. Tucker, Pledge Palmore, Thos. Bailey."<sup>75</sup>

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<sup>70</sup> For all known records found to-date for Jesse and his children, see "Jesse Mills Sr. (c1744–aft1811) of Albemarle & Amherst Counties, Virginia; Spouse Lucy Tilman: Research Notes," a work-in-progress last updated 29 December 2021; archived at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the "Research" tab.

<sup>71</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1762–1852) & Albemarle County, VA (1948–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 211; citing DB E: 526.

<sup>72</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1762–1852) & Albemarle County, VA (1948–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 216; citing DB E: 595.

<sup>73</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1762–1852) & Albemarle County, VA (1948–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 216; citing DB E: 596.

<sup>74</sup> Amherst Co., VA, Order Book, 1773–1782, p. 455, for motion of Thomas Joplin "father to the said Jane Davis" to be appointed administrator of the estate of Jane's late husband Robert Davis; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 7856348 > image 122.

<sup>75</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1762–1852) & Albemarle County, VA (1948–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 216; citing DB E: 594.

COMMENT:

Cooksey, the prior August, bought 170 acres from Bias for £78. He is now selling 100 acres of it for just £20. Apparently he kept the house lot and improved acres and disposed of the rest.

**21 DECEMBER 1785**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Marriage

“**Lavender, Charles Jr.**, bachelor, and Lucy Ballow, spinster. ... John Taliaferro, surety. Consent of his mother, **Milly Lavender**. Consent of her father, Thomas Ballow.”<sup>76</sup>

**3 MARCH 1786**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Witness

“Geo. Gillespie & wife Mary, AC, – he is called Sr. herein – to Geo. Blain, AC, for £20, 122¾ acres. Lines: Grantee, Bibb. Wit: Nathl. Offutt, Wm. Bibb, **Wm. Lavender**, David Parrock. Orig. del. to Blaine 28 Nov 1787 ... ”<sup>77</sup>

COMMENT:

Various online trees identify George’s wife Mary but say she was a second wife. I’ve found no suggested identity for an earlier wife that would explain why he cosigned Milly (Mills) Lavender’s administratrix bond.

**4 SEPTEMBER 1786**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Marriage

“**Fortune, Richard**, bachelor, and **Mary Lavender**, spinster, September 4, 1786. **Charles Lavender**, surety. Consent of her mother, **Milley Lavender**.”<sup>78</sup>

**9 DECEMBER 1786**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Witness

“Danl. Harvie, AC, to Thos. Wilshire, AC, for £600, 481 acres **Harris Creek**. Lines: Wm. Harvie, N bank Harris, Battaile Harrison, dec’d, Geo. Lee, Rich. Harvie. Wit: Jno. Wiatt, Fleming Jordan, Thos. Powell, Geo. Lee, Ambrose Rucker, Gideon Crews, Chas. Stewart, **Allen Lavender**, Jno. Bradshaw.”<sup>79</sup>

COMMENT:

Allen Lavender was the youngest son of Charles Lavender Sr.

**1786**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Land partition

“BURTON, William Cr. By

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<sup>76</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 46.

<sup>77</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 232; citing Amherst Deed Book F: 52.

<sup>78</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 52.

<sup>79</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 234; citing Amherst Deed Book F: 148.

Quantity of Land: 76  
Rate per acre: 7/5  
Amount: 28....3....8  
Pound rate: 0....8.... 5 ½  
To Joseph Burrus, taken out of 400 acres that was at the same rate,

Remainder stands charged to Burton

Quantity of Land: 324  
Rate per acre: 7/5  
Amount: 120....3....0  
Pound rate: 1....16....1/2 <sup>80</sup>

**1787**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Land tax roll

**“Burton, William** Quantity of Land: 324  
Rate per acre: 7/5  
Amount: 120....3....0  
Pound rate: 1....16....0<sup>81</sup>

**20 AUGUST 1787**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

Clements, John, Bachelor, and **Jane Mills Key**, spinster. ... William Key, Surety. Consent of her father, Martin Key. Consent of his father, William Clements.”<sup>82</sup>

TO DO:

Investigate why Martin Key gave the middle name “Mills” to this daughter. It implies a kinship to the Millses—but then the question becomes *Which set of Millses?* William and Mary of the Pedlar of lower Albemarle > Amherst or the David Mills family of Meacham’s River of upper Albemarle?

Online trees assert that she was

- daughter of “John Martin” Key and “Anne Rice Key”
- granddaughter of Thomas Rice II and “Jane Mills Rice”
- great-granddaughter of Nicholas Mills and Ann Clopton.<sup>83</sup>

**10 OCTOBER 1787**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Mortgage

**“Wm. Lavender**, AC, to Alex. Brydie, factor for Irving Galt & Co. Deed of Trust – 5 sh. For debt a new Glasgow store: knife; negress. Wit: Wiate Powell, Jas. McNain.”<sup>84</sup>

<sup>80</sup> Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Amherst County, Virginia, Land Tax Books, 1782–1788* (McLean, VA: The Antient Press, 1997), 46.

<sup>81</sup> Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Amherst County, Virginia, Land Tax Books, 1782–1788* (McLean, VA: The Antient Press, 1997), 59.

<sup>82</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 30.

<sup>83</sup> For example, see Sandra Gaught Mann, “Gaught/Riddle Family Tree,” user-contributed, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/160200616/family?cfpid=382226602399&fpid=382226602399&usePUBJs=true> : accessed 22 September 2021).

COMMENT

Records of this mercantile firm should be sought for possible additional information on Lavenders.

1787

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Tax roll abstract

Tax List A: "L" section

Landrum, Young

Landrum, James

Lane, William

**Lavender, Milley** tax charged to Milley herself  
0 male 16–21  
2 blacks 16+  
2 blacks –16  
2 horses, mares, etc.  
10 head of cattle

Lackey, Samuel

Lundsford, William

Lunsford, William ("son of William")

Lancaster, John

Lancaster, John ("son of John")

"T" section

Taylor, William

Taylor, George

Tillford, James

Trusleir, James

**Tanksley, Richard** tax charged to Richard himself  
2 male 16–21  
4 blacks 16+  
5 blacks –16  
2 horses, mares, etc.  
14 head of cattle

Tanksley, Reubin tax charged to **Richard Tanksley** "Son of Richard, 16–21 years"

Tanksley, Samuel tax charged to **Richard Tanksley** "Son of Richard, 16–21 years"

Thurmond, John

Thomas, John

Turner, William

Thurmond, Guttridge<sup>85</sup>

COMMENT:

- No other Lavenders, no Learwoods, and no Mills on List A.
- Richard Tank(er)sley is alleged by many online trees to have married Mary Learwood.

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<sup>84</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 239; citing Amherst Deed Book F: 243.

<sup>85</sup> Netti Schreiner-Yantis and Florene Speakman Love, *The 1787 Census of Virginia: An Accounting of the Name of Every White Male Tithable ...*, 3 vols. (Springfield, VA: Genealogical Books in Print, 1987), 1: 168–81, especially p. 174 (Lavender), 179 (Tanksley).

- Cabbells, Chisnells, Coffees, **Dennys**, Edmunds, Hargroves, Joplings (including William), Keys, Taliaferros, and **Tankersleys** are in this district. Balls and Ballews are not.

Amherst Tax List B

**“L” section**

Lively, James  
Lemaster, Raclph  
Lemaster, Abraham  
Lemaster, John  
Lemaster, Eleazer  
Lucas, Thomas  
Lee, Francis  
London, Larkin  
Landrum, Thomas  
**Lavender, Charles**

Charged with his own tax  
0 male 16–21  
0 blacks 16+  
0 blacks –16  
2 horses, mares, etc.  
14 head of cattle

Lahorn, William  
Leach, William  
Lewis, John F.P., Jr.  
Lewis, Jno. Sr.

**“S” section**

Steward, William  
Staton, Anne  
Smith, William  
Strutten, John  
**Lavender, William**  
Stratten, Joseph  
Shelton, Richard  
Rian, Jno.  
Scott, Samuel  
Markam, Thos.

**John Strutten** [Stratton], **charged with his tithe** [no other items taxed]  
  
Richard Shelton charged with his tax  
  
Samuel Scott charged with his tax.<sup>86</sup>

COMMENT:

- Charles, above, should be Charles “the younger,” son of William Sr. and Milly (Mills) Lavender.
- William Lavender [Jr.], above, was married to the daughter of John Stratton, according to the RW pension affidavit she filed, stating that they were married on 4 April 1781 by “Reverend Holmes” of the Episcopalian church “without license from the clerk.”<sup>87</sup>
- No Learwoods, Mills, or other names of interest.

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<sup>86</sup> Netti Schreiner-Yantis and Florene Speakman Love, *The 1787 Census of Virginia: An Accounting of the Name of Every White Male Tithable ...*, 3 vols. (Springfield, VA: Genealogical Books in Print, 1987), 1: 190.

<sup>87</sup> William Lavender (Private Capt. Allen’s Co., Col. Taylor’s Regt., Virginia Line), no. W20189 in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25255701> and 33 subsequent numbers); see specifically image 25255712.

Elizabeth (Mills) Learwood and her second husband John Ripley are already in Ninety-Six District, South Carolina (present Laurens). According to her son John Mills alias Ripley, they moved when he was seven (1769). Ripley appears as a landowner there before 1772. He and Elizabeth sold his land (adjacent to her son Edmund Learwood) in 1784, and then relocated with her in Edgefield in time for the 1790 census.<sup>88</sup> For additional notes on the family, see “William Mills (c1695–1766); Spouse Mary [–?–]: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 23 February 2022.<sup>89</sup>

**1788**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Land tax roll

“**Burton, William** to Lindsey Coleman

|                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Quantity of Land: | 324                        |
| Rate per acre:    | 7/5                        |
| Amount:           | 120....3....0              |
| Pound rate:       | 1....16....0 <sup>90</sup> |

**COMMENT:**

William Burton is dropped from the rolls the next year, having sold his land.

**25 DECEMBER 1789**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

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<sup>88</sup> See the pension application of Elizabeth’s son John who enlisted at age 14: John Mills alias Ripley (priv., Capt. Rogers? Co., Genl. Hampton’s Regt., SC), S9025, opened 2 April 1834, Athens, Ohio; file imaged in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25853045> and 19 subsequent numbers). In his affidavits, John states that he was born in Prince Edward Co., VA, in 1762 and that his stepfather John Ripley moved them to Ninety-Six District, SC, when he was seven. He references his mother without naming her. A witness, Mary Graden, speaks of his visiting his mother there in Ninety-Six during his term of service. Mills *alias* Ripley stated that after the war he continued to reside in SC for “six or seven years,” then removed “into Tennessee, thence into North Carolina, thence into Western Virginia, and thence into Ohio where he now resides and has resided about 9 years.”

For John Ripley’s land grant, see Sara M. Nash, *Abstracts of Early Records of Laurens County, South Carolina, 1785–1820* (Fountain Inn, SC, 1992), 6; citing Deed Book A: 208. Also, *South Carolina Department of Archives & History*, database (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov> : accessed 18 May 2016), “Winn, Richard, plat for 150 acres on Bever Dam Creek, Ninety-Six District, Surveyed by Jonathan Downs on July 8, 1772; Names indexed [neighbors], Harvey, James; **Ripley, John**,” citing State Plat Books (Charleston Series), S213190, volume 0010, page 00182, item 0000. Also see *South Carolina Department of Archives & History*, database (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov> : accessed 18 May 2016), “**Learwood, Edmond**, Plat for 500 acres on Beaverdam Creek, Ninety-Six District, surveyed by Jonathan Downs”; citing State Plat Books (Charleston Series), S213190, vol. 0001, page 00291, item 000. In 1817 “Edmond Learwood Sr.” sold 200 acres of this patent on “both sides of Beaverdam Cr of Little R” to Wm. Moore, citing one adjacent neighbor as “*heirs of Thos. Learwood*.” Also Nash, 385; citing Deed Book K:206.

For the land sale by John and Elizabeth, see Sara M. Nash, *Abstracts of Early Records of Laurens County, South Carolina, 1785–1820* (Fountain Inn, SC, 1992), 6; citing Deed Book A: 46.

For the 1790 presence in Edgefield, see 1790 U.S. census, Edgefield Dist., SC, p. 513, col. 1, line 8. Elizabeth’s nephew, Charles Lavender, had also settled in Edgefield; see the 1790 census, p. 509.

For Ambrose Ripley in 1793, see GeLee Corley Hendrix, *Edgefield County, South Carolina: Abstracts of Deed Books 1–12, 1786–1796* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1993), 128; citing Deed Book 9: 72–75; Hendrix, 161; citing Deed Book 10: 347–48; and Hendrix, 127; citing Deed Book 9: 50–57.

For the last-known reference to the absent or deceased John Ripley in Edgefield, see Brent H. Holcomb, *Edgefield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1755–1795* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 154, citing 13 October 1794 term of court. The minutes from 1790 until October 1794 are missing.

<sup>89</sup> Also posted at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>90</sup> Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Amherst County, Virginia, Land Tax Books, 1782–1788* (McLean, VA: The Antient Press, 1997), 106.

“Goodrich, Samuel, bachelor, and **Elizabeth Walton**, spinster ... Landon Carter, surety. Consent of his father, James Goodrich. Consent of her father, **William Walton** for her to marry Samuel Eliot Goodrich.”<sup>91</sup>

**4 JANUARY 1790**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Marriage

“**Watts, Charles**, bachelor, and Elizabeth Dillard, spinster ... James Dillard, surety.”<sup>92</sup>

**24 JANUARY 1790**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Marriage

“**Watts, Stephen, widower**, and Martha Christian, widow, ... **Charles Watts**, surety. Consent of Martha to marry ‘Captain Stephen Watts.’”<sup>93</sup>

**3 OCTOBER 1790**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Land purchase

“Jno. Rowsey & wife Mary, AC, to **Chas. Lavender** for £50, 92 acres – granted Chas. Wingfield, assignee of Jos. Whittle by Commonwealth of Va. – 10 sh. Paid to “Treasury of Comm.” By Chas. Wingfield – **N side Buffalo ridge and coves**. Lines: Chiswell, Matt. Whittle, Jas. Klain (Kline?). Wit: Jno. Courney, Wm. Edmonds, Austin Smith.”<sup>94</sup>

**4 FEBRUARY 1792**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Marriage

“Jordan, William (he signed as ‘Jordain’), bachelor, and **Sarah Watts**, spinster .. James Christian, surety. Consent of her father, **Stephen Watts**. Certificate of marriage by the Rev. Mr. Crawford. (M.R.)”<sup>95</sup>

**16 APRIL 1792**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Marriage

**William Walton and Mildred Lavender ... William Lavender**, surety. Consent of Mildred<sup>96</sup>

COMMENT:

Milly’s new husband, William Walton Sr.—together with sons William Jr. and Tillman—saw Revolutionary War service on the Patriot side. Neither William Sr. nor Milly lived long enough to file for a pension but both Walton sons created pension files. The affidavits of William Jr. not

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<sup>91</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 33.

<sup>92</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 80.

<sup>93</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 80.

<sup>94</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 249; citing Amherst Deed Book F: 546.

<sup>95</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 44.

<sup>96</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 79.

only document his father's service but tell us more about the Walton-Mills relationship and accounts for the death of Milly's brother, William Mills.

7 June 1832, Green Co., Ala. Age 65 (born 12 January 1767).

"In April or May 1779 [age 12], I William Walton was drafted or impressed by Captain William Loving [to take ground flour and corn for the Army] at a place known as Lovings Gap in Amherst County, State of Virginia. ... The part of the Country where the Grain was impressed is so Mountainous that Carriages could not be got to the farms. In this most disagreeable service, I was compelled to continue for twelve months, finding my own Horn & fixtures, thinly Clad in homespun furnished by my Mother, one of the Coldest Winters almost unknown.

COMMENT:

In short, using the force of his troops, Loving went down to the valley and forced people there to take *their* corn up to his neighborhood.

"In May 1780, my father William Walton was Drafted in the service under Captain John Loving to go to South Carolina. I volunteered [age 13] mounted on Horse, armed with a small Rifle, mustered in service at Amherst Court House, Joined Majr Franklin's Battalion at Linches Ferry on James River, Joined Col. Sturm's Ridgment [*sic*] near Dan River, and Genl. Gates's Army in South Carolina ... Army fell in with Cornwallace's Army at Clearmont, near Camden, where our Army was defeated, and Capt. Lovings Company left to return in any way they thought most for there own safety, my father and self returned to **Wilkes County North Carolina**. ... Last of August to the best of my recollection.

COMMENT:

- If William Walton Sr. had not seen prior service before he was drafted in 1780, then it appears that he did not support the cause.
- The "return" to Wilkes County was not a return *home* (as alleged by some accounts of his life). Rather, the two Williams, father and son, stopped there to recuperate at the residence of William Sr.'s brother Jesse. There, William Jr. enlisted again, according to his pension application's affidavit.

"In the month of September 1780 in Wilkes County North Carolina, I volunteered with my father in Captain John Brown's Company of Mounted Rifle men. Joined Col. Cleveland's Ridgment at the Quakers Meador on the Catawba River. Set out from thence to Gilbert's Town in Rutherford County on the way at the head of Cain Creek, fell in with Ferguson's Mounted British, routed them, took several Tories, **among them was William Mills, who Col. Cleveland and my uncle Jesse Walton** Hanged. On the next day Marched from thence for King's Mountain Joined the Ridgment of Col. Campbell McDowell and several other commanding Cols. In four or five days arrived at **Kings Mountain the next morning a tremendous engagement took place**. ... Two or three days after this Battle was fought twelve or fifteen of the Tories that had been notorious for killing many Whigs, was executed by hanging them, the prisoners was marched off I believe for Charlottesville [Albemarle County] Virginia. ... I returned to my fathers in Amherst County about the first of the year 1782. ... I lived with my Father William Walton at the time I performed the two first Tours of service and also when I performed the fourth service under Baron [?] Stuben. The third Tour of duty when performed I was in North Carolina, Wilks County living at **my Uncle Jesse Walton's**. Since the American Revolution I have lived from **1784 to 1791 in Augusta County, Virginia**, from that time until 1800 in Burke County, North Carolina, from that time until

1815 in Charleston South Carolina, and from that time until the present in the Mississippi Territory, Alabama Territory and the State of Mississippi.”<sup>97</sup>

COMMENT:

This William Mills, hung as a Tory, was William Mills Jr., known in his community as “English Billy.” See the 18 May 1833 affidavit of his nephew John Mills (son of Ambrose) in the pension file of English Billy’s son Jesse who served the American cause.<sup>98</sup>

This account of the William Mills hanging in Rutherford *before* King’s Mountain—by a man who had known both William and Ambrose back in Amherst/Albemarle /Bedford—is the first account of William Jr.’s death that I have seen.

**27 NOVEMBER 1792**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“Chas. Lavender to Jno. Tyler & Jno. Alex. Johns for £40, 100 acres **Buffalo Ridge. Sally, wife of CL**, signed. Lines: Nathan Wingfield, Jno. Phillips, Edloe. Wit: Jas. Franklin, W. Spencer, Geo. Dillard, Elijah Moran. Final proof, 21 Jan 1793 by Spencer & Dillard. Then another note that Jas. Franklin proved it on 18 Jun 1798, rec. 15 Oct. 1798.”<sup>99</sup>

**29 NOVEMBER 1792**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Witness

“Deed of Trust by Wm. Lane to Jas. Franklin. Debt of £120. 5 sh. For 8 slaves named. Wit: Saml. Brown, Jno. Stratton, **Wm. Lavender.**”<sup>100</sup>

COMMENT

This William would be William Jr. William Sr., husband of Milly, died back in the 70s.

**21 MAY 1793**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

“**Mills, Jesse**, bachelor, and Rachel Hudson, Spinster. ... Reuben Hudson, surety. Consent of her father, Joshua Hudson. Certificate of marriage by the Rev. Mr. Crawford. (M.R.)”<sup>101</sup>

COMMENT:

This bachelor Jesse was Jesse Jr. Jesse Sr. remained married to Lucy Tilman until at least 1810.<sup>102</sup>

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<sup>97</sup> William Walton (Private Capt. John Loving’s Co., Stevens’ Va. Regt., Virginia), no. S17184 in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25255701> and 33 subsequent numbers), particularly 20447300, 20447303, 20447306, 20447308.

<sup>98</sup> Jesse Mills Pension Application (Pvt., Miller’s Regt., NC Line), W7448; imaged in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/246/25852181> and 50 subsequent images: accessed 30 May 2018), particularly images 25852227 and 25852229, for “English Billy.”

<sup>99</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 337; citing Amherst Deed Book H: 393.

<sup>100</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 274; citing Amherst Deed Book G: 203.

<sup>101</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 52.

<sup>102</sup> Augusta Co., VA, Chancery Causes, file 1817-084, Daniel Tilman [et al] vs. Elizabeth Christian, widow, etc., for Complaint of Tilman’s Heirs, filed shortly before 10 March 1810 (date first subpoenas were issued); “Chancery Record Index [with images],” Library of Virginia, *Virginia Memory* ([https://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case\\_detail.asp?CFN=015-1817-084](https://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=015-1817-084) :

**15 JUNE 1793**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

“Fortune, Jesse and **Betsy Lavender**, July 15, 1793. **Jesse Mills**, surety. Consent of his parents, Thomas and Elizabeth Fortune. Consent of her mother, **Milley Walton**. Certificate of marriage by the Rev. William Dawson, July 22, 1793. (M.R.)”<sup>103</sup>

**15 JULY 1793**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“**Wm. Lavender & wife Sarah; Wm. Walton & wife Mildred**, AC, to Lewis Tindall, Buckingham Co. (Orig. del. 27 Aug 1800, to LT) for £160, 200 acres S side **Tye**. Lines: Edmd. Wilcox, decd. Pat. to **Chas. Lavender, the elder, 12 Jan. 1746**, adjoins Jno. Partree Burks.”<sup>104</sup>

COMMENT:

The document strongly implies that “Charles Lavender the elder” was the father of William Sr., who inherited Charles’s land, which was subsequently inherited by his oldest son William Jr.

A copy of this deed is filed in William’s RW pension application, providing additional details. A fuller abstract would be this:

- 15 July 1793, “William Lavender & Sarah his wife and William Walton & Mildred his wife” sold to Lewis Tindal of Buckingham Co., for 160£, 246 acres described as

“lying on the South side of Tye River & joining the lines of Edmund Wilcox Decd., ... Beginning at a hickory saplin running thence south seventy degrees west one hundred and forty two poles to pointers, thence south forty five Degrees West ninety two poles to white oak in **John Portree Burks** line, thence on the same South thirty three Degrees west five poles to his corner forked Red oak, thence continued the Course forty one poles to a hickory saplin South Thirty degrees East forty a branch at pointers & north thirty Degrees East one hundred and sixteen poles to the beginning.”

The acknowledgment of the deed calls Mrs. Walton “Mildred” rather than “Milly.”<sup>105</sup> William did not state why he and the Waltons owned the land jointly or how they obtained it, but the usual situation was a joint inheritance.

**6 SEPTEMBER 1793**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor

“Wm. Camden, AC, to David Duggins, (Orig. del. to Wm. Camden per order) for £50, 140 acres near **Huff**. Lines: Jno. Coleman, top of the mt., Benj. Noel, **Jas. Bias**, old cove about half way up mt., Tyree

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accessed 16 May 2018), particularly images 1–5 of 29. Jesse and Lucy were parties to this suit. The case was filed in Augusta because that was the site of the district chancery court.

<sup>103</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 30.

<sup>104</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 278; citing Amherst Deed Book G: 254.

<sup>105</sup> William Lavender (Private Capt. Allen’s Co., Col. Taylor’s Regt., Virginia Line), no. W20189 in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25255701> and 33 subsequent numbers).

Harding.”<sup>106</sup>

**19 NOVEMBER 1993**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**Wm. Walton**, AC, to Jos. Roberts, AC, for £140, 3 tracts N branch **Rucker’s Run & Ragged Mt.** 1) 42 acres pat. to Jno. Loving Jr 5 Jun 1765. Lines: Col. Lomax, his own, top of a mt., Jno. Loving Jr. conveyed to Jno. Tuggle. 2) 40 ¾ acres granted to him by deed 5 Oct 1767, from Lunsford Lomax Jr. 3) 72 acres pat. to Jno. Tugtle [sic] 1 May 1775. Lines: his own, Jno. Montgomery, Jno. Loving Jr., Abraham Seay, top of the mt. Wit: Wm. Chamberlain, Benj. Henderson, Eddy Fortune £140. Orig. del. to Jas. Seay Jr.”

**3- NOVEMBER 1793**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

“Hill, John, Jr., bachelor, and **Genny Watts**, spinster, ... **William Watts**, surety. Consent of her father, **Charles Watts**.”<sup>107</sup>

**23 MARCH 1794**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

“Lucy Johnson, Exrx. of Ro. Johnson, dec’d, Caroline, to **Larkin Byas**, AC (del. to LB 31 Jan 1801) for £45, 325 acres, pat. 27 Oct 1766, S side & joining **Pedlar**. Lines: Saml. Guest, S bank Pedlar, S bank. Cornfield branches, Jno. Duncan, N fork Cedar, Joel Watkins, Josiah Ellis. Wit: Henry Brooks, Francis Veal, Jos. Veal, Wm. Veal.”<sup>108</sup>

COMMENT:

On this same day, Lucy Johnson also sold adjacent lands to Francis and William Veal.<sup>109</sup>

**20 JUNE 1794**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

“Jesse Martin & wife Eliz, AC, to **Allen Lavender**, AC, for £50, 59 acres S side **Findley Mt.** Lines: Rich. Prichard, Jacob Eades – tract of 10 acres and part of 60 acres lately held by Peter Cartwright. Lines: Jesse Martin, old road, Wm. Cabell’s purchase of Peter Cartwright, Jno. Ball, Wm. Alford. Tract of 8½ acres S side and joins a N branch of **Joe’s Creek**. Lines: James Matthews, Jesse Marton, and is part of tract of Wm. Alford which he bought of Henry Key.”<sup>110</sup>

**29 AUGUST 1794**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor

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<sup>106</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1762–1852) & Albemarle County, VA (1948–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 284; citing DB G: 358.

<sup>107</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 39.

<sup>108</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1762–1852) & Albemarle County, VA (1948–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 288; citing DB G: 431.

<sup>109</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1762–1852) & Albemarle County, VA (1948–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 288; citing DB G:432–34.

<sup>110</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 287; citing Amherst Deed Book G: 402.

“Edwd. Harper & wife Frances, AC, to Josiah Ellis, AC, for £30, 365 acres on **N side and joining** Dancing Creek. **Lines: Josiah Jopling, Ezek. Shumaker, Larkin Byas, Drury Bowman.** Wit: J. P. Hewlings, Jesse Carter, Rich. Ellis, Wm. Haynes, Obediah Martin.”<sup>111</sup>

**15 SEPTEMBER 1794**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Jno. Stinnett & wife Ann, AC, to **Jer. Whitten, AC,** for £101-5, 200 acres **Thomas Mill Creek.** Lines: Rod. McCulloch, Chas. Davis, Jno. Sledd. Wit: Chas. Davis, Harden Haynes, Jno. Burford Jr., Frances Veal, **Larkin Byas.**”<sup>112</sup>

**28 FEBRUARY 1795**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

“Christian, James, bachelor, and **Cordelia Watts,** spinster ... John London, surety. Consent of Reuben Norvell and **Stephen Watts, guardians.**”<sup>113</sup>

**30 MAY 1795**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

“**Brown, James,** bachelor, and **Susannah Mills,** spinster, ... John Lancaster, surety who made oath that “**Susannah Mills,** daughter of **Jesse Mills,**’ had resided with him for some time and that he believed her to be 21 years of age.”<sup>114</sup>

COMMENT:

This James Brown is not James M. Brown of Amherst. On 20 December 1793, James M., a “bachelor,” married Rhody Powell, spinster, daughter of Wiatt Powell, with Samuel White as surety.<sup>115</sup>

This volume does not have a marriage record for this John Lancaster. In 1790, John Lancaster, Jr. married Lucy Parrock, spinster, with consent of her father Thomas Parrock.<sup>116</sup>

**20 JULY 1795**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Will

Jno. Norman Kidd, will witnessed by **Tilman Walton, Mary Mills,** Obedience Kidd.<sup>117</sup>

COMMENT:

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<sup>111</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1762–1852) & Albemarle County, VA (1948–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 289; citing DB G:440.

<sup>112</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1762–1852) & Albemarle County, VA (1948–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 289; citing DB G: 430.

<sup>113</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 19.

<sup>114</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 12.

<sup>115</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 20.”

<sup>116</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 46.

<sup>117</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 205, citing Book 3: 338,

- Mary Mills, widow of William Mills, died by July 1776.
- Jesse Mills, son of Mary and William was long married to *Lucy*.
- William Mills, son of Mary and William, moved to N.C., wife unidentified but said to be *Rebecca*.
- Ambrose Mills, son of Mary and William, died N.C. leaving a widow *Ann* (née Brown)
- Thomas Mills, son of Mary, died 1756 leaving two children, wife unidentified but likely *Eleanor* of 1766.

This leaves us with no identification of Mary Mills above. Almost certainly, this Mary belongs in the family under study. Tilman Walton, above, was the son of William Walton Sr. whose second wife (m. 1793) was *Milly* (Mills) Lavender, daughter of Mary and William.

The only way this Mary fits into the family would be as a daughter of Jesse and Lucy (Tilman) Mills.

**1 OCTOBER 1796**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Witness

“Jos. C. Migginson & wife Sally, Buckingham Co., to Shadrick Carter, AC (del. to SC, 1804) for £250, 150 acres both sides **Little Owens Creek**. Part of tract and next to Wm. Horsley dec’d. Wit: Benj. Watkins, Benj. Johnson, Saml. Arrington, **Chas. Lavender**.”<sup>118</sup>

**17 OCTOBER 1797**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Estate

**Allen Lavendir (Lavender)** will written. Probated 18 June 1798. Witnesses: Jno. Cooney, Rowland Edmonds, Jno. Alfard. “My ux and children until youngest is 21. Executor: **my brother Chas. Lavender**.”<sup>119</sup>

**28 JUNE 1798**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Association

“Jno. Camden, AC, to Jeremiah **Whitten**, AC, for £30, 100 acres **Pigg Creek**. Lines: **Jno. Bias**, Morris, Jno. Hog.”<sup>120</sup>

COMMENT:

There has been no prior purchase of land by *John* Bias. Considering that the seller, whose land adjoined Bias, was a *Camden* and that James Bias sold part of his land to *William Camden*, I should investigate the possibility that James has died and his land has been taken over by son John.

- 7 March 1762, Robert Whitten had land surveyed two days before James Bias (i.e., same neighborhood).
- 1788, John Bias, Jeremiah Whitten, and John Goodrich were adjacent landowners appointed to keep the road from “John Richardsons into Thomases Road that leads to Davies Ferry.”

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<sup>118</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 329; citing Amherst Deed Book H: 272.

<sup>119</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 210, citing Book 3: 503 (will).

<sup>120</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1762–1852) & Albemarle County, VA (1948–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 336; citing DB H: 367.

Note on 15 September 1784 that John Goodrich was a neighbor of Jane Davis on Dancing Creek, where they were also in the Bias neighborhood.

- 6 September 1805 James Bias Jr. was married to Jeremiah Whitten’s daughter Elizabeth.
- 1805 Jeremiah Whitten was the father of William Whitten who in the 1780s was accused by the Bedford Co. court of fathering a child by Milly Witt, daughter of Lewis and **Anne (Mills) Witt**.

**20 DECEMBER 1798**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Neighbor

“Hector Cabell & wife Paulina; Saml. Jordan Cabell; Wm. & Landon Cabell, AC, to Ro. Rives, AC, (Orig. sent to Landon Cabell, 23 Feb 1807 per letter filed) for £1613, 1130 acres on branches of **Joe’s Creek**. Part of Hector’s tract. Lines: old church road, Wm. Hansbrough decd., Rolling road, Richard’s road, Rich. Murrow, Warminster road, Elisha Peters, **Allen Lavender**, old glade road. Also 390 acres on N side Fluvanna and upper side of Tye – conveyed to Hector Cabell by Jno. Cabell & wife Eliz., Buckingham Co., 25 Oct 1799. Wit: Wm. H. Cabell, Rich. Murray, Benj. Jordan.”<sup>121</sup>

**5 JANUARY 1799**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Will

Joshua Hudson wrote will (proved 20 April 1801) with bequest to “**granddaughter, Rachel Hudson Mills**.”<sup>122</sup>

COMMENT:  
See estate of Rachel Mills, below, wife of Jesse Mills Jr.

**18 FEBRUARY 1799**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Land purchase

“Jos. Tilford, & wife Nancy, AC, to **Geo. Lavender**, AC, for £300, 150 acres **Coffee or Raccoon Creek**. Lines: Stephen Johnson, Col. Henry.”<sup>123</sup>

**2 MARCH 1799**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Mortgage

“**Chas. Lavender**, AC, to Jas. Murphy, AC, Deed of Trust – debt due R. Rives & Co. - \$1.00 – stock. Orig. del. to JM 12 Aug 1799. Wit: Hen. Holloway, Saml. Hansbrough, Jno. Crisp, Wm. Staples.”<sup>124</sup>

**15 APRIL 1799**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

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<sup>121</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 381; citing Amherst Deed Book I: 353.

<sup>122</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 184, citing Book 4: 6.

<sup>123</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 343; citing Amherst Deed Book H: 503.

<sup>124</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 344; citing Amherst Deed Book H: 511.

Inventory

“**Allen Lavendir** (Lavender), **£185-8-4**, taken by **Jno. Alford**, **Achilles Wright**, **Jas. Edmonds**. Administrator’s Bond posted by Chas. Lavender and Alex Chisnall.”<sup>125</sup>

**22 APRIL 1799**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

“**Watts, John**, bachelor, and Elizabeth Wilcox, spinster ... Thomas Wilcox, surety. Consent of his father **Caleb Watts**, who stated his son was 21 and that he was willing he should marry ‘Elizabeth Wilcox, daughter of Thomas Wilcox.’”<sup>126</sup>

**4 JUNE 1799**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Mortgage

“**Wm. Lavender**, AC, to Galt & Gardner – Deed of Trust – 2 sh. Slave, mare, furniture. Wit: Spotswood Garland, Jno. Ellis, Will Edmunds, Jr.”<sup>127</sup>

**17 JUNE 1799**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“**Jer. Whitten**, AC, to Anthony Nicely, AC, for £100, Peg’s (Pig’s?) Creek. Lines: **Jno. Bias**, Jon. Hogg, Nichl. Jones. Orig. del. 19 Aug 1816.”<sup>128</sup>

**17 JUNE 1799**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Ambrose Gatewood & wife Margaret, AC, to Jas. Shastead, AC, for £50, 100 acres **Otter Creek**. Lines: **Jer. Whitten**, Wm. **Davis**. Wit: Benj. Shackelford, Thos. Jenkins, **Roland Bias**. Final proof, 20 Oct 1800, by TJ. Orig. del. to JS on 18 Aug 1812.”<sup>129</sup>

**25 AUGUST 1799**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Witness

“Wm. Veal & wife Eliz, AC, to Hugh McCabe, AC, for £40, 404 acres N side Fluvanna (**early name for James River**) & **Otter Creek**. Lines: **Cornl. Thomas**, **Tarrapin Creek**, **Rattlesnake Branch**. Wit: Wm. Burks, Jno. Flood, **Anthony Lavender**, Jos. Milstead, Chas. Flood, Kensy Ralls, David Burks Jr.”<sup>130</sup>

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<sup>125</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 210, citing Book 3: 541 (inventory) and 4: 313 (bond)

<sup>126</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 80.

<sup>127</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 346; citing Amherst Deed Book H: 541.

<sup>128</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1762–1852) & Albemarle County, VA (1948–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 362; citing DB I: 159.

<sup>129</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1762–1852) & Albemarle County, VA (1948–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 336; citing DB H: 367.

<sup>130</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 352; citing Amherst Deed Book I: 11.

**17 MARCH 1800**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

“**Watts, William Lawson** and Mary Ann Dillard, spinster, ... John Camm, surety.”<sup>131</sup>

**24 MARCH 1800**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

“**Watts, Benjamin**, and Fanny Lee, spinster ... William Lee, surety. Consent of her brother and guardian, James Lee.”<sup>132</sup>

**5 DECEMBER 1800**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

“Loving, Samuel, and **Elizabeth Watts**, spinster ... Spotswood Garland, surety. Consent of her father, **Stephen Watts**.”<sup>133</sup>

**1 SEPTEMBER 1800**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor

”Nelson Anderson & wife Agnes, to Elisha Peters for £12-12, 25 acres S fork of **Rockfish**. Lines: grantee, estate of **Allen Lavender**, glade road, grantor.”<sup>134</sup>

**17 JANUARY 1801**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Mortgage

“**Chas. Lavener** [sic], AC, to Jas. Murphy, Deed of Trust, debt due Brown Rives & Co. - \$1.00 – stock and furniture. Wit: Danl. Higginbotham, Saml. Edmunds Jr., Jas. Gregory, Henry Reed.”<sup>135</sup>

**20 JULY 1801**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Administrators bond

**Anthony Lavender**. Geo. Dillard, administrator, posts bond with Jos. Dillard, surety.<sup>136</sup>

**28 APRIL 1802**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor

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<sup>131</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 80.

<sup>132</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 80.

<sup>133</sup> William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 48.

<sup>134</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 363; citing Amherst Deed Book I: 165.

<sup>135</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 367; citing Amherst Deed Book I: 204.

<sup>136</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 210, citing Book 4: 333.

“Hector Cabell & wife Paulina, AC, 1<sup>st</sup>: Ro. Rives, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Wm. & Landon Cabell, 3<sup>d</sup>. Rives has bought of Hector Cabell at £1200, 1130 acres **Joe’s Creek**. Part of tract. Lines: old church road, **Allen Lavender**, *Rich. Murrow*, **Prichard’s road**, **Warminster road**. Deed of 1799 or 1800, *Saml. Jordan Cabell, Wm. & Landon Cabell*, parties thereto relinquished int. in will of Wm. Cabell, late of AC. Hector had only life estate. Wm. & Landon Cabell to Ro. Rives 300 acres S & joining **Tye**. Conveyed to Hector Cabell by Jno. Cabell & wife Eliz., Buckingham Co., 21 Oct 1799. Hector is to occupy. Wit: Abram Martin, Hudson Martin, Jno. Horsley, *Chas. Watts*. Rec. 1 April 1805 with wits: Wm. A. Howard, Danl. Higginbotham, Austin Wright, Willis Wills.”<sup>137</sup>

**15 SEPTEMBER 1802**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor

“Wm. *Coffee*, AC, from Peter Rippetoe & wife Sarah, AC, £7400 tobacco, 215 acres E side **Cub Creek**, branch of **Tye**. Lines: Wm. Hooker, Moses Martin, Thos. Sturat [*sic*], **Geo. Lavender**.”<sup>138</sup>

COMMENT:

- Peter Riptoe, in above abstracts from the 1760s, was a neighbor of **David Mills**.
- George, in a petition abstracted below, identifies his parents as William and Milly Lavender.

**14 OCTOBER 1802**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Estate

“**Rachel H. Milles** (indexed Miles) ... Guardian Bond – **Jesse Mills** and Thomas Dickerson ... for Jesse Mills as guardian of Rachel H. Mills, child of Jesse Mills, by his ux, Rachel Mills.”<sup>139</sup>

COMMENT:

This Rachel Hudson was wife of Jesse Jr.

Jesse was appointed “guardian” *not* of the child (for whom he was the *natural* guardian) but of the child’s *inheritance* from her grandfather. Courts appointed guardians only for financial interests; children who were orphaned and had no inheritance went through the binding-out process.

**25 OCTOBER 1802**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Legal suit

“**Jesse Mills**, Green Co., Ky, sued in Charlottesville vs. admrs. of Joshua Hudson, dec’d, and they have sued in AC; my bdm. in [*sic*] Anderson Moss. Power of Atty. to Moss to act. Wit: Ro. Garland, Jacob Kinney, Thos. L. McClelland.”<sup>140</sup>

COMMENT:

Jesse appears to have returned to Amherst/Albemarle to attend to affairs generated by his child’s inheritance from Rachel’s father and by this lawsuit.

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<sup>137</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 430; citing Amherst Deed Book K: 288.

<sup>138</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 387; citing Amherst Deed Book H: 413.

<sup>139</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 242; citing Book 4: 356.

<sup>140</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 394–95; citing Amherst Deed Book I: 497.

TO DO

Pursue Jesse in Green Co., KY, for additional information.

**18 & 23 JULY 1803**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Estate

**Chas. Lavinder**, admin. Bond posted 18 July 1803 by Jas. Murphy, with Jno. Loving surety. Inventory taken 23 July, totaling L148-5-6, taken by Allen Blair; Jos. Staples, **Benj. Watts**.<sup>141</sup>

COMMENT:

The next Lavender estate is that of **Geo. W. Lavender**, 21 September 1863, Book 16:364, with **Wm. H. Lavender** as administrator.

**17 SEPTEMBER 1805**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

“**Jas. Bias**, AC, from Jas. Franklin & wife Nancy, AC, for £80, 105 acres N branches **James [River]**, surveyed by CARS (sic) Christian Jr.; taken from larger tract of heirs of **Jerry Whitten**, decd. Lines: **Tabithy Whitten**, Benj. Noel, Sledd. Wit: Thos. N. Eubank, Rich. S. Ellis, Abram Carter Moses Rucker, Chas. Davis. Order to quiz Nancy, 19 Sep 1805; done, by Wm. Ware & Chas. Taliaferro, 21 Sep. 1805.”<sup>142</sup>

**13 DECEMBER 1805**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Deed

“Elisha Peters to Danl. Leebrick for £420, 200 acres S waters **Rockfish**; part of tract. Lines: **Aggey Lavender**, Ro. Rives, **Nelson Anderson**, old glade road, Dolly Key, Rich. Breedlove. Orig. del. to Wm. D. Ligon – no date.”<sup>143</sup>

COMMENT:

- Aggey would seem to be the widow of Allen, given by the description of the land. Cf. 1 September 1800 and 28 April 1802. As “Agatha Lavender,” she is named in the 26 June 1826 Bedford settlement of the estate of her mother Ann (widow Lewis) Witt.<sup>144</sup>
- Agatha’s children are identified there as “Nancy Lavender, John W. Lavender, Bird Lavender, and Dosha Lavender [minors, who inherited \$148.12 total], represented “by there [sic] attorney Charles Lavender,” and sons Charles Lavender (\$37.03) and Cliff Lavender (\$37.03) for whom Charles also acted as attorney.
- A second note states: “Balance to Wm. Lavender’s children which 1/8 part of Agatha Lavender’s share of the Estate ... \$37.12.” William would be a deceased son, whose children are sharing his 1/8 part.
- This accounts for *seven* heirs of Agatha; the reference to 1/8 share tells us that there’s another heir somewhere—possibly the widow taking a child’s share in lieu of her “widow’s thirds.”

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<sup>141</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 210, citing Book 4: 132 for inventory and 4: 372 for bond.

<sup>142</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1762–1852) & Albemarle County, VA (1948–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 445; citing DB K: 441.

<sup>143</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 435; citing Amherst Deed Book K: 335.

<sup>144</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Probate Records, 5: 195–97.

- A third note states: “Paid **Pleasant Crews & Elizabeth his wife**, who was daughter of Lavender by there attorney Charles Lavender ... \$37.03.”

Also note:

- The eight children of Ann (Mills?) Witt—i.e., Mills Witt, Jesse Witt, Rowland Witt, John Witt, Robert Witt, Elizabeth (Witt) Calvert,<sup>145</sup> Milly (Witt) Whitton, the alleged wife of William Whitton, and Agatha (Witt) Lavender—all came to adulthood and married about the time William Mills-Witt was born. Ann’s daughters, theoretically, can be eliminated. Given that William used the name *Mills* but carried the Witt Y, it would appear that his father was a Witt and his mother was a Mills.
- No individual with the name Mills—given name or surname—is involved with this estate.

## 29 JANUARY 1806 BURKE COUNTY, NC

### Death

The Find a Grave memorial page of “William Walton, Sr.” provides a photograph of his tombstone (attributed to First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Morganton, Burke County, NC) and a biography:

Tombstone inscription:

“Sacred to the Memory of **William Walton Sen** who departed this life on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 1806 in the 70<sup>th</sup> Year of his Age, a native of Amherst County Virginia [sic].

Biography:

“He was a son of William and Susannah Walton. He married Elizabeth Tilghman and moved to Amherst County, VA before 1767. During the American revolution, Walton served under Captain John Loving. After moving to Wilkes county, NC, Walton served under Captain John Brown’s Riflemen and served under Col. Benjamin Cleveland in the Battle of Kings Mountain. After the war, Walton & his wife moved to Charleston [*no state given*] where she died in 1787. He moved with his son William Walton Jr. to Burke County, NC, zome [sic] time after the death of his wife. Three of Walton’s sons married daughters of Irish innkeeper James McEntire. He died in 1806 and was buried in the original Presbyterian churchyard. His remains were moved to the present cemetery location in the early 1960s. (Source: biographical sketch by Joseph Moore Walton). Family links: Children: William Walton (1857-1884).”<sup>146</sup>

### COMMENT:

This “memorial” has factual problems. Walton did not *move* to Wilkes County, NC, during the Revolution as asserted. He remained in Amherst County until at least July 1793, when he and his new wife Milly (Mills) Lavender sold her interest in her late husband’s land. That is the likely time of their move to NC. During the war, however, amid enlistments, William and son William “recuperated” in Wilkes County at the home of William Sr.’s brother Jesse Walton. Post-war they returned to their home in Amherst.<sup>147</sup>

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<sup>145</sup> Elizabeth Calvert was dead by the time her mother’s estate was settled in 1826. Her children were presented by Robert Calvert, Elizabeth’s son.

<sup>146</sup> *Find A Grave* (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 22 May 2016), “William Walton Sr.,” memorial page 7323283, created 2 April 2003 by “Armantia.”

<sup>147</sup> William Walton (Private Capt. John Loving’s Co., Stevens’ Va. Regt., Virginia), no. S17184 in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25255701> and 33 subsequent numbers), particularly 20447300, 20447303, 20447306, 20447308.

No evidence of their residence has been found in Charleston; and the Amherst court orders, tax rolls, and deeds records chronicle Walton's presence there throughout, until the point that he and Milly joined her son in the sale of the Lavender land.

**18 MAY 1806**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor

"Wm. Camden & wife **Lucy**, AC, to Jas. **Markham**, SC, for £60, 140 acres **Huff**. Lines: Jno. Coleman, top of the mt., Benj. Noel, **Jas. Byas**, Slaiding. Wit: Danl. Higginbortham, Peyton Keith, Jas. Garland. Orig. del. to JM, 5 Jan 1807."<sup>148</sup>

**30 SEPTEMBER 1806**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

"Heirs of **Jer. Whitten**: **Jas. Bias** & wife **Betsy**, James Franklin & wife Nancy, Wm. Noel & wife Lucy, Edmnd. Boles & wife Tabitha, to Ro. Nickles, AC, for £20, 136 acres N side Otter. Lines: Jer. Whitten, Jno. Hog, Wit: Ro. Tinsley, Peter Siliman, Jno. Gilliam."<sup>149</sup>

**26 JANUARY 1808**

**MAURY COUNTY, TN**

Neighbor

"Inventory by Alexander & Joseph McDonald, administrators for **John McDonald**, deceased. Among items: note on Michael Kinsey of (Kinzer?) Montgomery Co., Va.; note on Richard McDonald of Washington Co., Kentucky; note on Parson Crofford now in Court of Chancery in the Federal City. 22 Dec, 1807.

"Inventory & sale of John McDonald, dec'd. 26 Jan, 1808. Those buying at sale: **Elizabeth McDonald**, Anthony I Turner, Richard Cock, John McDonald, William Tress (?), James Wren, Alexander McDonald, Abner Franklin, Jesse Yocum, Robert McDonald, John McKnight, Hugh Ross, William Alexander, Thomas Morgan, John Wells, **Mrs. Walton**, Amos Caldwell, John Given, John McCurley, William Caldwell, Aguilar Now (?), Lazarus Dottson, Abraham Bogards, Joseph Land, Col. Russell, James Bogard, John Williams, James McDonald, Matthew Yocum, John Hughey, John Miller, Esqr., Joseph Phararer."<sup>150</sup>

COMMENT:

The only "Mrs. Walton" whom I have been able to place thus far in Maury County, Tennessee, is Milly (Mills) Lavender Walton—whose reason for moving to Maury after the 1806 death of her husband in N.C. is undetermined. Two points are germane:

- Women rarely appeared at estate sales in this era; such sales were typically liquor-fueled and often raucus. When a woman appeared, she was typically part of the family.
- As seen from this list, only two women made purchases: The widow McDonald and "Mrs. Walton."

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<sup>148</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1762–1852) & Albemarle County, VA (1948–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 440; citing DB K: 384.

<sup>149</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1762–1852) & Albemarle County, VA (1948–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 449; citing DB K: 476.

<sup>150</sup> Jan Grant, transcriber, "Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements Book A Vol. 1, 1807–1824," compiled by Jill K. Garrett and Marise P. Lightfoot, March 1964; citing p. A:4; HTML file, *Tennessee Genealogy Trails* (<http://genealogytrails.com/tenn/maury/willssettlements.html> : accessed 24 May 2016).

TO DO:

Study John and Elizabeth McDonald to determine whether Elizabeth might be Milly Walton's sister of that name, remarried after the death of John Ripley, or a potential daughter or niece.

Other Walton-Mills entries in this set of online abstracts are these:

- cMarch 1815, "Debts of late L. B. Estus deceased ... A. J. Walton<sup>151</sup>
- c1823 [n.d.] "Hiram Goforth, administrator of Andrew H. Goforth, deceased. Money received: 1821 ... **William Walton**<sup>152</sup>
- 16 Nov. 1818, "Inventory of sale of Benjamin Herndon, made on 16 Nov. 1818. Sold to: Sarah Herndon, widow; John Wright, Samuel Smith, James Hays, Samuel M. King, Hardy W. Crawford, William Williams, William Wade, William A. Davis, John Knox, John Gordon, Abraham Job, James C. O'Reilly, Andrew Varnoy, James Joes [sic], Mr. Patterson, Peter I. Voorhies, Hiram Goforth, **Jesse Walton**, Joseph Herndon, William P. Crawford, James Rankin, Thomas Gilliam, Joshua W. Kilpatrick, Alfred H. Wortham, Francis Porter, Amos Caldwell, John **Bickenstaff**, Allen Morris.<sup>153</sup> [Note, once again, that only one woman appears: the widow of the man whose property was being sold.]
- 2 June 1821: Sale of Andrew H. Goforth, Buyers: Nancy Goforth, James Hays, John W. Beasly, Bennett W. More, Thomas Caldwell, Britton J. Baucomb, John Baugers, **William Walton**, Robert Rankin, Alfred Milin, Ezekial Akin, Richard Cock, Moses Renfrow, David Fortner, Drewry Morris, Hiram Goforth, David Rankin, William Scott, William Kilcrease, Samuel Hays, Shelton Renfro, James Frankin, Moses F. Roberts, William Johnston, **John Mills**, John Cilcrease [Gilcrease?], Bert Rankin, Wilie Scott, Joseph Malcomb, Samuel Job. By Hiram Goforth, administrator, sold 23 July 1821.<sup>154</sup> [Again, only one woman appears: the widow. *The presence of John Mills, who cannot otherwise be placed, also suggests that the widowed Elizabeth McDonald might be Elizabeth (Mills) Learwood Ripley who bore John Mills alias Ripley in 1762.* As noted previously in this report, when John filed for a pension he stated that he had lived in Tennessee and North Carolina before moving to West Virginia and then Ohio.]
- 18 May 1822, sale of Milly Walton, deceased.<sup>155</sup> See abstract under that date below.

Another *possible* magnet drawing Milly to Maury County might be:

- "**Hugh McCabe**, b. c1757. At the time he entered RW service he lived on the **Pedlar River** in Amherst County, Virginia. He was living in Maury County, Tennessee when he applied for a pension on September 14, 1832. A Certificate of Pension allowing him \$30 per year was

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<sup>151</sup> Jan Grant, transcriber, "Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements Book A Vol. 1, 1807–1824," compiled by Jill K. Garrett and Marise P. Lightfoot, March 1964; citing A:220; HTML file, *Tennessee Genealogy Trails* (<http://genealogytrails.com/tenn/maury/willssettlements.html> : accessed 24 May 2016).

<sup>152</sup> Jan Grant, transcriber, "Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements Book B Vol. 1, 1807–1824," compiled by Jill K. Garrett and Marise P. Lightfoot, March 1964; citing Book B (1816–1825): 23; HTML file, *Tennessee Genealogy Trails* (<http://genealogytrails.com/tenn/maury/willssettlements.html> : accessed 24 May 2016).

<sup>153</sup> Jan Grant, transcriber, "Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements Book A Vol. 1, 1807–1824," compiled by Jill K. Garrett and Marise P. Lightfoot, March 1964; citing C: 100; HTML file, *Tennessee Genealogy Trails* (<http://genealogytrails.com/te4nn/maury/willssettlements.html> : accessed 24 May 2016).

<sup>154</sup> Jan Grant, transcriber, "Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements Book A Vol. 1, 1807–1824," compiled by Jill K. Garrett and Marise P. Lightfoot, March 1964; citing C: 461; HTML file, *Tennessee Genealogy Trails* (<http://genealogytrails.com/te4nn/maury/willssettlements.html> : accessed 24 May 2016).

<sup>155</sup> Jan Grant, transcriber, "Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements Book A Vol. 1, 1807–1824," compiled by Jill K. Garrett and Marise P. Lightfoot, March 1964; citing C: 478; HTML file, *Tennessee Genealogy Trails* (<http://genealogytrails.com/te4nn/maury/willssettlements.html> : accessed 24 May 2016).

issued April 4, 1833. He died on December 5, 1832 in Mt. Pleasant, leaving a widow whose birth name I have not yet discovered.”<sup>156</sup> A man of that name is on record in 1799 Amherst County as an associate of Milly’s son Anthony Lavender.

**25 AUGUST 1799**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Witness.

“Wm. Veal & wife Eliz, AC, to Hugh McCabe, AC, for £40, 404 acres N side **Fluvanna** (early name for **James River**) & **Otter Creek**. Lines: **Cornl. Thomas, Tarrapin Creek, Rattlesnake Branch**. Wit: Wm. Burks, Jno. Flood, **Anthony Lavender**, Jos. Milstead, Chas. Flood, Kensy Ralls, David Burks Jr.”<sup>157</sup>

**28 NOVEMBER 1810**  
**NELSON COUNTY, VA**

Legislative petition

**George Lavender** “asks for a law to permit [him] to introduce & hold into the state a slave named Jinney and her children who belonged to the estate of his father William Lavender,” saying:

“The prayers of your petitioner George Lavender Humbly Sheweth that of the Estate of his father (William Lavender Dec<sup>d</sup>) he became Intitled to a negroe Girl by the name of Jinney. The possession of whom Remained with his mother (the widow of the Afforesaid William Lavender Dec<sup>d</sup>) who about the year 1795 Intermarried with a certain **William Walton** and **removed to the State of Tennessee** and took with them the Afforesaid Girl Jinney, who is now a Woman with some Children. The possession of Whom your petitioner has Obtained, he therefore prays your Honourable body that a Law may pass this Session of the General Assembly to permit your petitioner to Introduce and hold in this State the Afforesaid Slave Jinney and her Children and your petitioner in duty bound will ever pray &c. **Nelson County** Virginia, 28<sup>th</sup> November 1810. George Lavender.” Filed 13 December 1810.<sup>158</sup>

COMMENT:

Apparently the special law was needed to allow him to bring slaves in the state because the state had passed a law prohibiting the new “importation” of slaves into its boundaries.

**1822**  
**MAURY COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

Probate

“**Walton, Milly** 1822wb-#120.”<sup>159</sup>

COMMENT:

No other Waltons are shown for Maury County in this statewide index.  
No Lairwood, Larwood, Lavender, Learwood, Leerwood entries statewide.

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<sup>156</sup> Marise Parrish Lightfoot, *Let the Drums Roll: Veterans and Patriots of the Revolutionary War Who Settled in Maury County, Tennessee* (Columbia: Maury County Historical Society, n.d.), unpaginated entries in alpha order.

<sup>157</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 352; citing Amherst Deed Book I: 11.

<sup>158</sup> Library of Virginia, “Legislative Petitions Digital Collection,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions](http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions) : downloaded 22 May 2016), George Lavender petition 13 December 1810; citing Legislative Petitions of the General Assembly, 1776–1856, Accession Number 36121, Box 177, Folder 10.

<sup>159</sup> Byron and Barbara Sistler, *Index to Tennessee Wills & Administrations, 1779–1861* (Nashville: Byron Sistler & Associates, 1990), 377.

**18 MAY 1822**

**MAURY COUNTY, TN**

Estate sale

“Sale of **Milly Walton**, deceased, sold 18 May 1822. Buyers: Duncan Collins, Daniel G. Bills, Andrew Culberson, John B. Fowler, **Elisa Moore**, Alexander Mease, Thomas Richardson, **Patsey Hill**, Jonathan McManis, Thomas B. Hardison, Richard Hill, Simeon Marsh, Isaac Williams, **Nanvy Drake, Sally Watson**, Hubert Drake.”<sup>160</sup>

COMMENT:

The four females attending the sale should be carefully studied for potential kinship. Two of the women appear elsewhere in this volume in a capacity to suggest that they—like Milly—were widows in 1822:

- 20 May 1819. Account of sale of Duncan Hill, sold 20 May 1819. Buyers: Richard Hill, Simson Marsh, James Vincent, **Patsey Hill**, Robert Hill, John Weaver, James Boone, Jeremiah Gant, Thomas Grant, Damon Coallman, Damon Collens (?). By Rd Hill, administrator.”<sup>161</sup>
- 29 August 1821. Will of **Eley Drake**: Son Hubert Drake; daughter Diana; daughter Annah, daughter Demarius (?); **wife Nanny**. 29 October 1821, Executor, friend Thomas Grant. Signed Eley X Drake. Witnesses: R. **Hill**, Betsey X Johnston. Recorded 27 Jan. 1824.<sup>162</sup>

**17 JANUARY 1837**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Death

Affidavit of William Lavender’s widow Sarah Stratton. 19 November 1838. Her husband’s death occurred 7 January 1835. The following is a hasty nutshell of the pension file:

William died 17 January 1835 and his widow Sarah filed her own application. Both files are filmed together. According to Sarah, she married him on 4 April 1781 before “Rev. Holmes” of the Episcopal Church, without a license from Amherst County “where her father John Stratton then resided,” and three banns were announced.

William Lavender’s affidavit of 17 May 1830 states that he was 70 years old (i.e., born 1760). He identified himself as a day-laborer, with no family residing with him except his wife, one daughter and a grand child.” Included is a copy of a deed executed 15 July 1793 from “William Lavender & Sarah his wife” and “William Walton & Mildred his wife,” for 160£ to Lewis Tindal of Buckingham Co., land described as 246 acres

“lying on the South side of Tye River & joining the lines of Edmund Wilcox Decd., ... Beginning at a hickory saplin running thence south seventy degrees west one hundred and forty two poles to pointers, thence south forty five Degrees West ninety two poles to white oak in **John Portree Burks** line, thence on the same South thirty three Degrees west five poles to his corner forked Red oak, thence continued the Course forty one

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<sup>160</sup> Jan Grant, transcriber, “Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements Book A Vol. 1, 1807–1824,” compiled by Jill K. Garrett and Marise P. Lightfoot, March 1964; citing p. 478; HTML file, *Tennessee Genealogy Trails* (<http://genealogytrails.com/te4nn/maury/willsettlements.html> : accessed 24 May 2016).

<sup>161</sup> Jill K. Garretet and Marise P. Lightfoot, “Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements, 1807–1824 and 1820 Census,” MS (n.p.: March 1964), 98, citing Maury Co., Wills & Settlements C-1: 396; accessed as “Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements, 1807–1824 and 1820 Census,” image reproduction, *Ancestry*, frame 103.

<sup>162</sup> Jill K. Garrett and Marise P. Lightfoot, “Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements, 1807–1824 and 1820 Census,” MS (n.p.: March 1964), 71, citing Maury Co., Wills & Settlements C-1: 217; accessed as “Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements, 1807–1824 and 1820 Census,” image reproduction, *Ancestry*, frame 76.

poles to a hickory saplin South Thirtty degrees East forty a branch at pointers & north thirty Degrees East one hundred and sixteen poles to the beginning.”

The acknowledgment of the deed calls Mrs. Walton “Mildred” rather than Milly. William Lavender’s widow Sarah submitted this deed to prove that she was married to William by 1793.<sup>163</sup>

**16 MARCH 1840**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Death

Death of the widow Sarah (Stratton) Lavender.<sup>164</sup>

**1838–1855**  
**JACKSON COUNTY, GA.**

Pension application

1 January 1855. **Charles Lavender Jr.**, aged 52, applied from Jackson County, Georgia, saying his father enlisted in Amherst County early in the war and had a brother **Winston Lavender** with whom he “helped guard the Fort or Barracks where the British prisoners were kept.” Cites his “Unkle Joseph Ballew” as the “family person now living that was knowing to his [father’s] service” from “Amherst or Albemarle County.”

File includes

- Amherst Co. bond of **Charles Lavender** (x) and John Taliaferro for Charles [Sr.], a bachelor, to marry **Lucy Ballaw**, a spinster, both of Amherst, 21 Dec. 1785.
- Affidavit of Widow Lucy, 1838, saying that he often spoke of service under “Col. Samuel Cavil” [Cabell] and that one time “he was gone so long that on his return home his mother did not know him.” He lived in Amherst at that time and when he entered service, was at the taking of Cornwallis and the Battle of Brandywine. **Charles died 5 May 1802 in Edgefield District, SC.** Affidavit before Charles **Witt**, J.I.C.
- Letter of A. D. Hiller of the Bureau to Eloda Lavender Shiple, Washington D.C., 20 May 1936) stating that Charles had two **brothers who served, William and Winston**, that the widow’s father (unnamed) lived in **Edgefield District, SC in 1789**, that her **brother Joseph Ballew (86 in 1854) lived then in McDowell County, N.C.**; he also testified that her brother John Ballew enlisted with Charles Lavender.
- Letter to Mrs. J. B. Atkeson of Artesia, NM in 1927, from Winfield Scott, Comm., stating that Lucinda “Lucy” Ballew died 14 June 1846 in Jackson Co., Ga., aged about 80. Her son **Simeon** lived in Alabama, son **Willis** in Mississippi, and son **Charles** (51 in 1853) all lived in Jackson County, Ga.
- Image 25254797 contains the affidavit of the family’s agent that Charles Lavender Jr. knew no one back in Amherst or Albemarle still living with knowledge of the facts and no one else aside from “a few old persons in Buncombe and McDowell Counties, N.C.”—the latter locale being the site of Joseph Ballew’s widow.
- Affidavit of **John Fortune** (of Buncombe) saying he knew Lavender, who lived near the Buncombe-Burke county line. Fortune said that after Charles moved to S.C. he was killed by lightning about 1800. Testified before Fletcher Fortune, J.P.

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<sup>163</sup> William Lavender (Private Capt. Allen’s Co., Col. Taylor’s Regt., Virginia Line), no. W20189; digitized in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25255701> and 33 subsequent numbers), particularly images 25255712 and 255780.

<sup>164</sup> *Ibid.*

- Affidavits of Charles Daugherty (and wife Elizabeth) of Edgefield who testified in 1845 that they moved to Edgefield about 1795, where they became acquainted with Lavender and Mrs. Lavender's father "the old Mr. Ballew."
- Affidavit of Joseph Ballew, 1852 from McDowell Co., NC, stating that Charles and Lucy moved to Edgefield District about 1798 from Buncombe Co., NC. In the latter part of 1802, after Charles died, Lucy moved back to **Burke Co., N.C.**, for 2 years before moving on to Spartanburg Co., SC and then to Jackson Co., Ga., about 1822.
- Affidavit of Joseph Ballew, 1855, from McDowell Co., N.C., stating that Charles & Lucy "removed from Amherst County. Va. to **Buncombe County N. Carolina**" about the time he made that same move.
- Affidavit of Joseph Ballew, 1854 (aged 86), stating that Charles served under Col. Meriwether, was at the seige of York and the taking of Cornwallis, and guarded British prisoners held in Albemarle. Charles and Lucy were married by a minister named Patterson, in Joseph Ballew's presence.
- Affidavits of Jane and William Edwards of Jackson Co., Ga., stating in 1852 that "they became acquainted with Lucy Lavender and her children in the State of South Carolina **Spartanburgh** District, some thirty years ago, that about eighteen years ago they (the Edwardses and Lucy's family) moved to Jackson Co." Simeon Lavender, they heard, lived in Mississippi, that Willis was in Alabama, and Charles Jr. remained in Jackson.<sup>165</sup>

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## FURTHER RESEARCH

This block of work points to several specific issues that need to be clarified and to several geographic areas that need to be searched.

### SPECIFIC ITEMS:

#### Albemarle County

- Sparacio, Ruth and Sam. *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Abstracts, 1770–1772*. I'm missing this volume from my personal set. Get it and study it.
- Weisiger, Benjamin B., *Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Papers, 1744–1893*. Richmond: Privately Printed, 1987.

#### Amherst County

- Will Book 1:104 (estate inventory of William Mills, 1766) needs to be photocopied. Any and all related records need to be found.
- Deed Book C:178 (Jesse Mills to Thomas Lumpkin), needs to be examined to clarify questions raised by the published abstract.

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<sup>165</sup> Charles Lavender (Priv., Cabell's and Meriwether's Regts., VA Line), Widow Lucy, No. W8025; digitized in "Revolutionary War Pensions," *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25254588> and 109 subsequent images : accessed 17 May 2016).

## Lunenburg County

Data extraction needs to be completed for

- Evans, June Banks. *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 5, 1757–1759*. New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaid Publications, 1998. James Mills, p. 43, not copied.
- Evans, June Banks. *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 6, 1759–1761*. New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaid Publications, 1998. Has several entries for James, John, & William Mills that I did not get for want of time when I had access in SLC.
- *A History of Bedford County; Reprinted from the 1884 Edition of Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia ... Special Virginia Edition* (New York & Richmond: H. H? Hardesty & Co., 1884). No index. Not read.
- *Historical Sketch of Bedford County, Virginia, 1753–1907*. N.P., N.p., n.d. No index. Lightly skimmed first part that deals with 1700s–1800s.

### COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH:

#### Bedford County

- Library of Virginia: thoroughly examine the following 3 volumes that have not been published:
  - Reel 67 Surveyor's Record No. 1, 1754–1781. Unpaged. Index. 257 pp
  - Reel 67 Surveyor's Record No. 2, 1754–1795. Unpaged. Index. 613 pp.
  - Reel 67 Surveyor's Record No. 3, 1774–1782 "224-228 (index)." 222 pp.

#### Goochland

- Make a comprehensive search for all known family members and associates
- Verify all information in the Waggle abstracts at notes 16–26

#### Lunenburg County

- Library of Virginia: Thoroughly study the original tithe lists, beginning with those omitted from Bell:
  - Reel 11 1748–1756 (Bell stops with 1752)
  - Reel 412 1757–1772
  - Reel 413 1772–1781

#### Nelson County (split from Amherst, 1807)

- Make a comprehensive search for all known family members and associates

#### New Kent County

Make a specific search for

- William Mills, pre-1755
- Martha Massie, a potential in-law who moved to Albemarle c1755

#### Kentucky: Green County

- Investigate Jesse Mills, husband of Rachel Hudson, who was "of Green County, Kentucky" in 1802 when he returned to Amherst to handle the inheritance of his minor child from her grandfather Hudson.

#### Kentucky: Madison County

- If I don't find answers for Jesse in Green County, extend to Madison County where William Gillaspie moved with his wife Nancy Ann Hudson.

Tennessee: Maury County

Make a comprehensive search of all records, with emphasis on

- WALTON: Milly (Mills) Walton—and all others
- McDONALD: John & Elizabeth—Milly's known associates
- McCABE: Samuel & Sarah—migrants from Amherst/Albemarle

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## RESOURCES USED

- Abercrombie, Janice L. and Richard Slatten. *Virginia Publick Claims: Amherst County*. Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing, c1991. MASSIE, MILLS: No. JOPLING, Thomas and others appear numerous times with claims for bacon, beef, etc. William BURTON donated 400# beef worth £5-9-7 in Oct. 1780 (p. 31).
- Ackerly, Mary Denham and Lula Eastman Jeter Parker. *Our Kin: The Genealogies of Some of the Early Families Who Made History in the Founding and Development of Bedford County, Virginia*. Harrisonburg, VA: C. J. Carrier Co., 1976.
- Bell, Landon C. *Sunlight on the Southside: Lists of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1748–1783*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974.
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COMMENT:

From this point on, a new Watts, Charles, appears; no other Watts covered in our time frame.

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