



## ELIZABETH SHOWN MILLS

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DATE: 28 August 2018 (rev. 25 July 2024)  
REPORT TO: File  
SUBJECT: Mills: Bedford County, Virginia: Extended Survey of Resources  
BACKGROUND: My interest in Bedford (and its offshoot, Franklin) is two-fold:

(1)

**William Mills (b. c1784; d. c1863)** married 1815, in Franklin Co., Va., to Drucilla Kemp, daughter of Robert Kemp and Millie Edmundson, and the stepdaughter of Sarah Mattox whom Robert Kemp married in 1802. Key points:<sup>1</sup>

- William's birth family is unknown; but his Y-line is that of descendants of the Virginia immigrant John Witt. For the purpose of identification in this project—a project that involves several William Millses—I am calling him William Mills-Witt.
- Prior to 1785 when Franklin County was cut from Bedford and Henry, families surnamed Edmundson, Kemp, Maddox, Mills, and Witt lived in both parent counties.
- One other Mills family is found contemporaneously in Franklin County: James Mills, who lived in the part of Franklin that was cut from Bedford. This James Mills had a son William who can be disambiguated easily from William Mills-Witt.
- Bedford, Franklin, and Henry are being separately searched for possible clues to the family of William Mills-Witt.

(2)

**William Mills (b. c1690) and wife Mary** were in Albemarle County, Virginia, by summer 1745 and were previously in Goochland as early as 1730. William and Mary lived along the line that Albemarle shared with the part of Lunenburg County that became Bedford County in 1754. At the time of William's death in 1766, their part of Albemarle had been cut away to form Amherst County, where Mary died in 1776. Their offspring appear in all four counties—Albemarle, Amherst, Lunenburg, and Bedford—as well as adjacent Prince Edward (formerly Amelia, Brunswick, and Prince George) and Nelson County (which was cut from Amherst in 1807). At least four of their seven children lived a while in Bedford: one of them, **Anne Mills, wife of Lewis Witt** lived there until her death c1816.<sup>2</sup> The children of this couple who should be sought in Bedford records are

<sup>1</sup> For documentation of all known facts about William and Drucilla, see E. S. Mills, "William Mills (b. ca.1784–85; d. ca. 1863); Spouse; Drucilla Kemp: Research Notes," a work-in-progress last updated 15 June 2016; archived online at E. S. Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.HistoricPathways.com>), under the "Research" tab.

<sup>2</sup> For documentation of each fact asserted above for William, Mary, and their children—and much more on each—see E. S. Mills, "William Mills (c1695–1766) of Goochland, Albemarle & Amherst Counties, Virginia; Spouse Mary (Walton?): Research Notes," a work-in-progress last updated 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

1. **AMBROSE MILLS** who appears in Lunenburg and Bedford Cos., VA (1749–57) after which he moved to Anson Co., NC; Craven County > Camden District, SC; and Rutherford Co., NC, where he was hung 14 October 1780, as a Loyalist colonel.<sup>3</sup>
2. **THOMAS MILLS**, b. c1724; m. before 1752; d. before 6 September 1755, leaving children Ambrose and Elizabeth named as heirs in Thomas's father's will. Wife unknown, but may be the **Eleonar** Mills who witnessed a William Cabell deed of gift in 1766.<sup>4</sup> The fate of Ambrose is unknown. Elizabeth apparently married James Turner and moved to Charleston, SC, from where she and James sold Thomas's land in 1777 without a discoverable deed of purchase.
3. **SARAH "SALLY" MILLS** m. about 1748, **Thomas Watts**; lived in the part of Lunenburg that became Bedford in 1754; moved 1756 to Craven Co., SC (later Camden District and Fairfield and Kershaw Cos.).<sup>5</sup>
4. **WILLIAM MILLS**, moved to Rutherford Co., NC, before 1769; allegedly married **Rebecca** [–?–]. He was also hung there as a Loyalist, the week before the Battle of King's Mountain, at the order of Capt. Jesse Walton (whose brother William Sr. married Mily Mills below). His only proved child is a son Jesse Mills. He is also alleged to have a daughter "Mary Walton Mills" who married James Stepp of Rutherford.
5. **ELIZABETH MILLS** who m. **Thomas Learwood** before 26 September 1755. In 1757, as residents of Prince Edward, they sold a grant that had been made to Thomas in Bedford. In 1762 (apparently as a widow), Elizabeth bore a son John who took the surname Mills as an adult. By 1769, she married **John Ripley** with whom she soon moved to 96 District, SC, then—in the 1790s—to Tennessee (apparently Nashville/Davidson Co., and possibly Rhea Co.).
6. **ANNE (AKA ANNA) MILLS** was unmarried at time of father's 1755 will. Frequently, but without direct evidence, she is said to be wife of **Lewis Witt** whose widow Anne left a son "Mills Witt" and other children who bore names carried by Anne Mills's siblings (Jesse, Millie, Elizabeth). Lewis Witt died 1774 in Bedford Co. His widow Anne remained in Bedford until her death c1816. Her daughter Aggy married Allen Lavender of Amherst, a son of William and Mary Mills's daughter Milly by William Lavender. (Put another way: If this Anne is the Anne who married Lewis Witt, then Aggy Witt and Allen Lavender were first cousins.
7. **MILDRED "MILLY" MILLS** married **William Lavender** who died 1776; married **William Walton Sr.** in 1792, Amherst. With Walton, she moved to Burke Co., NC, where he died in 1806; from there she moved (reason unknown) to Maury County, TN, by 1808 and died there in 1822.
8. **JESSE MILLS** married **Lucy Tilman** and remained in Amherst after the 1766 death of his father. He sold his inherited land shortly after and bought other land on Tye River next door to sister Milly and William Lavender. He appears in Amherst records through 1776, when he mortgaged a slave inherited from his mother. Between 1787–84, he is missing from Amherst records; in 1784 he mortgaged a slave and livestock to Tilman Walton and is not found thereafter. Some assert he later lived in Bedford County. (Others present him as the Jesse Mills of Green Co., Ky., who in 1802 was sued in Albemarle Co. by Joshua Hudson, father of that Jesse's late wife Rachel Hudson, by whom Jesse had a small child. This 1802 Jesse appears to be a younger man.) The only child alleged for Jesse and Lucy is a Susannah Mills who married one James Brown in Amherst in 1798. *Of this Mills family, Jesse is the only candidate for father of the female who bore William Mills-Witt c1784.*

<sup>3</sup> For all known records on Ambrose, see E.S. Mills, "Ambrose Mills, Col. (c1721–1780); Spouses 1. Mourning Stone; 2. Ann Brown: Research Notes," a work-in-progress updated 21 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

<sup>4</sup> Amherst Co., VA, Deed Book B:431, William Cabell Sr. to William Cabell Jr. for love and affection, 3 April 1769. Other witnesses were Wm. Walton, and Jno. Savage.

<sup>5</sup> For all known records created by or about this couple, see E. S. Mills, "Thomas Watts (c1725–aft. 1796); Spouse Sarah Mills: Research Notes," a work-in-progress last updated 29 November 2019; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

With regard to Henry County:<sup>6</sup>

- More than a few Bedford families became early settlers of Henry, before and after it was cut from Pittsylvania. Included among them were the families of John Kemp and Richard Emondson, grandfathers of Drucilla who married William Mills-Witt.
- Another William Mills (wife Elizabeth) settled by 1770 along Matrimony Creek in Pittsylvania County, on land that later fell into Henry. There is no evidence that this William ever resided in Bedford. He and his son William Fontaine Mills are easily distinguished from William Mills-Witt of Franklin.

GOAL: Expand my survey of Bedford’s published resources to extract all records dealing with any of these Millses or their known associates. Emphasis will be on published resources—online and in print at the Library of Virginia. If time permits while onsite there, I should begin work in the unpublished materials.

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<sup>6</sup> See E. S. Mills, “Mills: Henry and Pittsylvania Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey,” report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

## Executive Summary

Four Mills individuals have been placed in Bedford County between its creation in 1754 and 1790.<sup>7</sup>

- **James Mills** first appears on the 1782 personal tax roll, but not the land tax roll or other published records. In 1785, he was cut away into Franklin County, where he purchased land on Elliott's Creek of the Maggoty. His wife is alleged to be Octavia **Breckenridge**. His Bedford associates included *John Early* (whose 1784 will he witnessed; later filed in Franklin) and *James and Alice Slone* (from whom he bought land in 1789 after they were cut away into Franklin).<sup>8</sup> Nothing has been found to date to point to James's origin or parentage.
- **Elizabeth Mills** "of full age" when she married *William Burton* in 1786 Bedford, with *Jesse Reynolds* as surety. She has not been found in any other record—nor has Reynolds. A Robert, John, and Joseph Burton were taxed there 1782–87, but no William. A William Burton of Amherst moved into Bedford before making his will in 1811, naming a different wife. **One William Burton (wife unknown) and one Jesse Reynolds settled in Henry County about 1786**; Jesse, an RW soldier who lived to file for a pension, cited his birth in Culpeper County and the period of his move, which would have taken him *through* Bedford about the time of the Mills-Burton marriage. Sufficient work has not been done on the Henry County men to prove or rule out a connection. (This possibility was not discovered until after the Henry survey was completed.)
- **John Mills Sr.** first appeared in Bedford in 1745 when it was part of **Lunenburg Co.** In 1749–50 he was closely associated in Lunenburg with a **William Mills**. Long-term associates from c1749 through 1764, in both Lunenburg and Bedford, were Edmund Smith (wife Ann and son Henry), *William Hays*, John Beard, and *Robert Ewing, Esq.* When Bedford was cut away in 1754, he and Ewing fell into Bedford. His Bedford activities (1753 and 1764) involved Alexander and William Sayers of Augusta Co. When he sold his Bedford land in 1769, he identified himself as a resident of **Augusta**.<sup>9</sup> Two years later, part of Augusta would split off into **Botetourt**. His estate was settled in Botetourt in 1782. Apparently left sons Hugh, Blaney, and John.<sup>10</sup> (The published abstracts are vague. The original records need to be examined.)
- **John Mills Jr.**, in 1772, **Botetourt County**, married *Martha "Patty" Ewing*, "daughter of Robert Ewing of Bedford." John Jr. purchased Bedford land in 1777. The tax roll series that begins in 1782 assesses him for that land in 1782 and 1785 but not in 1786. In 1787, as a resident of Botetourt, he sold his land with wife "Patty." According to his father-in-law's will, probated 1786, the couple had at least one child: a son Bartus Mills. A 1782 militia roll for Botetourt cites "Capt. John Mills" of District 37, whose company included *James Mills*.<sup>11</sup> Considering that Breckenridges also concentrated in Augusta and Botetourt, it is tempting to propose this James to be the James cited above; however, a James who appears on a 1782 militia roll in Botetourt should not appear on the 1782 personal tax roll of Bedford. That anomaly would need explaining.

<sup>7</sup> All details in this summary are documented, in chronological sequence, in the abstracts that follow.

<sup>8</sup> See E. S. Mills, "Mills & Associates: Franklin & Floyd Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey," report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

<sup>9</sup> For John Mills Sr. and Jr., see Mills, "William Mills of 1750 Tithe List, Lunenburg County, Virginia: Identification Needed," report to file, 20 June 2018. Both are archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

<sup>10</sup> Anne Lowry Worrell, *Early Marriages, Wills, and Some Revolutionary War Records: Botetourt County, Virginia* (1958; reprinted, Baltimore: Clearfield, 2004), 80.

<sup>11</sup> Anne Lowry Worrell, *Early Marriages, Wills, and Some Revolutionary War Records: Botetourt County, Virginia* (1958; reprinted, Baltimore: Clearfield, 2004), 68.

## FORMATION OF CRITICAL COUNTIES

### EVOLUTION OF BEDFORD

1732	Brunswick	cut from	South & southwestern	Prince George
1746	Lunenburg		Western & northwestern	Brunswick
1746	Amelia		Western	Prince George
			Northern	Brunswick
1752	Halifax		Western	Lunenburg
1753–1754	Bedford		Northwestern	Lunenburg
1754	Prince Edward		Western	Amelia

### EVOLUTION OF ALBEMARLE-AMHERST

1728	Goochland	cut from	Western & northwestern	Henrico
1744	Albemarle		Western	Goochland
1749	Cumberland		Southeastern	Goochland
1761	Amherst		Southwestern	Albemarle
1761	Buckingham		Southern	Albemarle
1777	Fluvanna		Southeastern	Albemarle
1807	Nelson		Northeastern	Amherst

### EVOLUTION OF HENRY-PATRICK-FRANKLIN

1767	Pittsylvania	cut from	Western	Halifax
1777	Henry		Western	Pittsylvania
1786	Franklin		Northern	Henry
			Southwestern	Bedford

## Research Notes

**13 AUGUST 1746**

**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Bond.

"This is to Cirtifi to all to hoom these may Consarn that the Bond **John Mills** gave me, bearing date the **13<sup>th</sup> day of Aught 1746** for forty pounds was money that the sd. Mills agreed to pay me for money due to My husband before he di[e]d (Edmond Smith) which bond I took in my name for the noe [*sic*] of the Heirs of the sd. Edmond Smith as I was Intend to admr. on the sd. Estate, as witness my hand this **28<sup>th</sup>**

**day of Octr. 1766.** [Signed] Ann (her mark) Hays. Test: Richard Edwards, Benjamin Juvenan [?], James Keatch.”<sup>12</sup>

**31 OCTOBER 1753**

**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Court order.

**“John Mills** aptd surveyor rd from **Euing’s** fence to the Blew Ridge in room of **William Mills.**”<sup>13</sup>

COMMENT:

- This William has not been identified. Beyond reasonable doubt, he is the William Mills of the 1750 Lunenburg tax list, but he has not been found in subsequent Lunenburg tax rolls, deeds, or road orders.
- This William Mills is closely associated with this John Mills. See particularly the case John Beard & John Mills vs. Admr. of Edmund Smith, Bedford Chancery Causes, in which John Beard and John Mills served as surety for William Hays about the same time that Beard, William Mills, and William Hays appeared together on the 1750 Hailes tithe list. As part of the settlement of that estate, John Mills paid William Mills a sum due to William.<sup>14</sup>
- The 1755 will of William Mills Sr. of Albemarle does not name a son John.

**“Jas Mills** on attachment (mare & colt) agst Jeremiah Morah dfdnt; plaintiff to recover debt by public sale attachment.”<sup>15</sup>

COMMENT:

- This James is also not mentioned as a son in the will of William Sr. of Albemarle.
- This James’s location did not fall within the bounds of Bedford when Bedford was cut away.
- Some online trees assert (without documentation) he is the **James Mills of Bedford** in 1782–85 and thereafter Franklin Co. According to these trees, he was born in Ireland in 1730, married Octavia Breckenridge in Augusta Co., and died 24 April 1824 in Franklin County leaving children Arthur (1770–1851), William (1771–1849), John (1774–), and James (1775–1855).

**11 JUNE 1753**

**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Estate settlement

“I, **William Hays**, Admr. of Ed. Smith Deced. and Guardian to Henry Smith, eldest Son of the aforesaid Edmund Smith do hereby acknowledge that I have Reced. of James Gray Sixty two Pounds, ten Shillings, the Consideration Money Bargained for by the [said] Smith in full satisfaction for four hundred Acres of Land which Land the said Edmund Smith Sold but Died before [he] had time to Execute Deeds for the said Land it being the Land which the aforesaid James Gray now prays there w[ill be] a Patent Granted him for, to which prayer I in no wise Object. Witness my hand this **eleventh Day of June 1753.** [Signed]

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<sup>12</sup> John Beard & John Mills vs. Admr. of Edmund Smith, Bedford Chancery Causes no. 1772-005; imaged Library of Virginia, “Chancery Records Index,” *VirginiaMemory* ([http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case\\_detail.asp?CFN=019-1772-005](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=019-1772-005) : downloaded 27 May 2018).

<sup>13</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-B, 1753–1754* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaid Publication, 1998), 41; citing Order Book 2 ½-B: 469.

<sup>14</sup> See E. S. Mills, “William Mills of Haile’s Tithe List, 1750, Lunenburg Co., Virginia: Identification Needed,” report to file dated 20 June 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>15</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-B, 1753–1754* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaid Publication, 1998), 50; citing Order Book 2 ½-B: 562.

William Hayes. Teste: John Woodson, Benja. Childress. A Copy Teste P. Pelham Jurat. [Signed] -?- Waller, C. L..”

**[Undated]**

“The Total of the Appraisement of Edmond Smith’s Estate	£50.13.3
“To the Total of Hays Acct. against Smith’s Estate	194.1.0
“To the Total of <b>Mills</b> Acct. Against sd. Estate	12.7. 61/2

**[undated]**

“Proven ac\_\_\_\_\_ against Edmond Smiths Estate:

<b>William Mills</b> acct.	9.8.6 ½
William Hall “	0.17.0
John Mathews jner	1.17.0
Handrew Hays	0.9.6
Samuel Hailnekr[?]	3.10.0
William March	0.18.6
William Sayers	0.5.0
William Sayers	<u>2.5.0</u>
	12.7.6 ½ <sup>16</sup>

COMMENT:

Note the Sayers association. In 1764, John Mills would witness two sales of New London lots by one Alexander Sayers of Augusta.

**SEPTEMBER 1754**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Road order.

“Nicholas Welch is appointed Surveyor of the Road in the room of **John Mills**, and it is ordered that he, together with all the hands that assisted the said Mills on the said Road, do forthwith clear and keep the same in repair.”<sup>17</sup>

**OCTOBER 1754**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Associate.

“George Walton, Plaintiff, against **John Partree Birks**, Defendant, In Debt. This day came the Plaintiff by his attorney, and the defendant in his proper person, and **Ambrose Mills** came into Court and undertook for the Defendant that in case he shall be cast in this suit that he shall satisfy and pay the condemnation of the Court or render his body to prison in execution for the same or that the said Mills will do it for him, and the said Defendant acknowledging the Plaintiff’s action, therefore it is considered by the Court that the Plaintiff recover against the Defendant 7£ 18 shillings and 3? pence, the debt in the declaration mentioned, and his costs. But this judgment is to be discharged by the payment of 3£ 9 shillings and 4 pence half penny, together with 5% interest from March 1, 1754, and the costs, and the plaintiff agrees to stay execution of this judgment one month.”<sup>18</sup>

<sup>16</sup> John Beard & John Mills vs. Admr. of Edmund Smith, Bedford Chancery Causes no. 1772-005; imaged Library of Virginia, “Chancery Records Index,” *VirginiaMemory* ([http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case\\_detail.asp?CFN=019-1772-005](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=019-1772-005) : accessed 27 May 2018).

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

<sup>18</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 23; citing original page 29.

COMMENT:

- Note that Ambrose Mills is supporting Birks in this suit lodged by Walton. Genealogists have long asserted that Ambrose's mother was Mary *Walton*.<sup>19</sup> None seem to have evidence.
- In 1745–48, when Ambrose's inlaw Edward Watts charged "John Peartree Burks" with assault, battery, and slander, Ambrose and his father William Mills were called as witnesses in the case. Ambrose declined to appear. William appeared for 10 days of service.<sup>20</sup>
- Before May 1755 (see below), apparently to clear the debt above, Birks and his wife Sarah would sell a tract of land on **Elk Creek** adjoining "Watts."
- **Thomas Learwood**, Ambrose's brother-in-law, also owned land on Elk Creek.
- **George Walton** appears at least a dozen times in Bedford Co. deeds, owning and selling land on Butterums Branch, Elk Creek, a branch of Elk Creek, Rock Castle Creek, and north side of Stanton River. His Elk Creek holdings spanned four tracts, in addition to the fifth on a Branch of Elk. One of those lay adjacent to "the land sold by Walton to Edward Watts."<sup>21</sup> Walton, as a surveyor, was also a land speculator in many Southside counties.
- On 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 adjacent to **John Portree Burks**; the land apparently had been granted to Charles Lavender and then inherited by his son William Lavender Sr.<sup>22</sup>

DECEMBER 1754

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

"Archibald Buchanan, John Bowman and Co., Plaintiffs, against **Ambros Mills**, Defendant, in debt. This day came the Plaintiffs by their attorney, and the Defendant in his proper person, and the Defendant acknowledging the Plaintiff's action, ... the Plaintiffs [shall] recover against the Defendant 7 £, the debt in the declaration mentioned, and his costs. But this judgment, except as to the costs, is to be discharged by the payment of 3 £ 16 shillings, with 5% interest from may 3, 1753."<sup>23</sup>

MARCH 1755

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

"William Armstead, Plaintiff, against John Anthony and **Matthew Mills**, Defendants, in debt. This day came the Plaintiff by his attorney, and Defendant Anthony in his proper person, and the Defendant acknowledges the Plaintiff's action. Therefore it is considered by the Court that the Plaintiff recover against the Defendant Anthony, 368 £, the debt in the declaration specified, and his costs. But this judgment, except as to the costs, is to be discharged by the payment of 168 £ 5 shillings, with 5% interest from October 1, 1753, and the Plaintiff acknowledges to have received of this judgment, last September 24, 8 £ 13 shillings and 9 pence, and last October 27, 20 £ 10 shillings, and also to have

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<sup>19</sup> Mrs. P. W. Hiden, "Nicholas Mills of Hanover County," *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1833): 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.

<sup>20</sup> See, for example, Joanne Lovelace Nance, "Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Orders, ... March 1746[/7]–May 1747," *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 28 (August 1990): 202–10, specifically 203, citing p.251.

<sup>21</sup> Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 18.

<sup>22</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).

<sup>23</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 33-34; citing original p. 49.

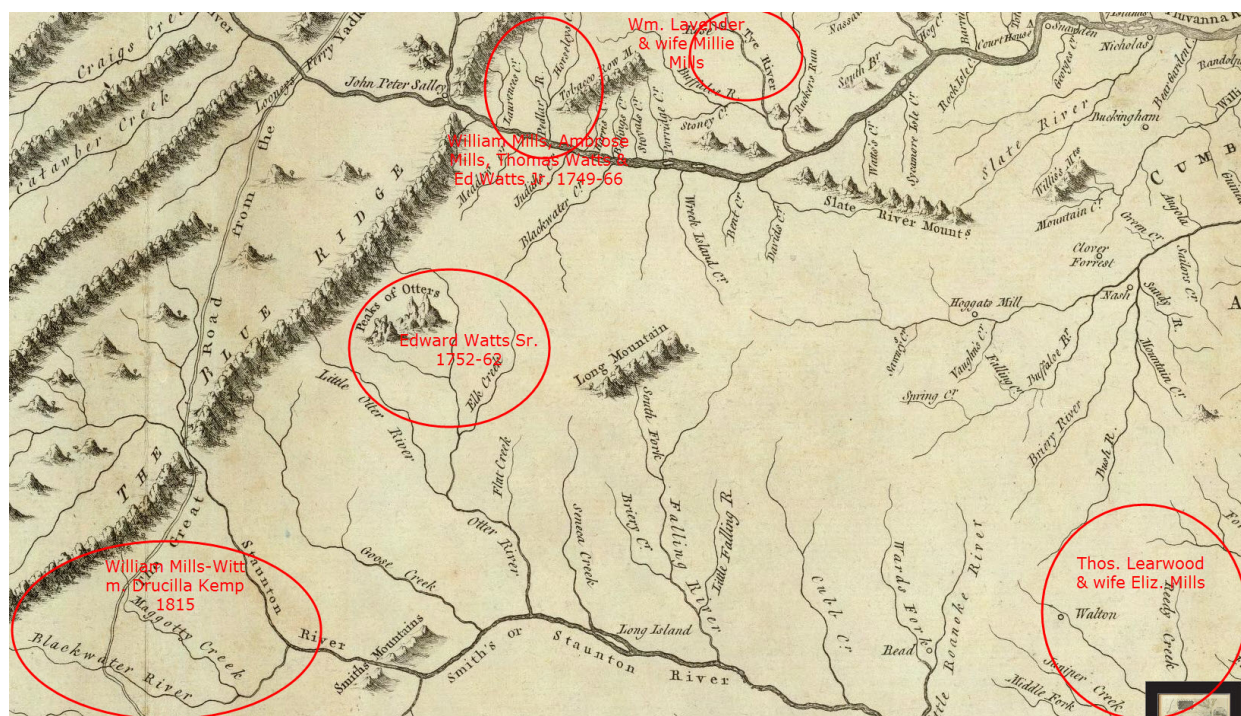


received, this day, 13 £ and 9 pence. And as to the Defendant **Mill** {sic}, this suit is ordered to be dismissed.”<sup>24</sup>

COMMENT:

Matthew Mills was an offshoot of the Nicholas Mills family that centered in the Mechum’s River part of Albemarle.

**Map 1**  
**Location of Mills-Learwood-Lavender-Watts Settlements (1749–1815)<sup>25</sup>**



**DECEMBER 1754**  
**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Legal suit.

“Archibald Buchanan, John Bowman and Co., Plaintiffs, against **Ambros Mills**, Defendant, **in debt**. This day came the Plaintiffs by their attorney, and the Defendant in his proper person, and the Defendant acknowledging the Plaintiff[’s] action, therefore it is considered by the Court that the Plaintiffs recover against the Defendant 7 £, the debt in the declaration mentioned, and his costs. But this judgment, except as to the costs, is to be discharged by the payment of 3 £ 16 shillings, with 5% interest from May 3, 1753.”<sup>26</sup>

<sup>24</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 46; citing original pp. 70-71.

<sup>25</sup> This snippet is taken from Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, “A Map of the Most Inhabited Part of Virginia,” 1775; imaged at *David Rumsey* (<http://bit.ly/1TEYmPT> : accessed 20 May 2016).

<sup>26</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 33–34; citing original p. 49.



## Map 2



<sup>27</sup> J. R. Hildebrand, "Historical Map of the Roanoke Historical Society Showing Bedford County, Virginia, 1750–1865 (N.P.: The Society, 1973); accessed at Virginia Tech University Library Special Collections, *ImageBase* (<http://spec.lib.vt.edu/imagebase/08MAPS/screen/HM200701241556.jpg> : accessed 4 January 2015). Pedlar River lies in NW corner of this map. The last record found for Thomas & Elizabeth (Mills) Learwood is a 1760 grant on Elk Creek in the neighborhood of Thomas Watts's father Edward Watts Sr.

**MARCH 1755**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Legal suit.

“William Armstead, Plaintiff, against John Anthony and **Matthew Mills**, Defendants, in debt. This day came the Plaintiff by his attorney, and Defendant Anthony in his proper person, and the Defendant acknowledges the Plaintiff’s action. Therefore it is considered by the Court that the Plaintiff recover against the Defendant Anthony, 368 £, the debt in the declaration specified, and his costs. But this judgment, except as to the costs, is to be discharged by the payment of 168 £ 5 shillings, with 5% interest from October 1, 1753, and the Plaintiff acknowledges to have received of this judgment, last September 24, 8 £ 13 shillings and 9 pence, and last October 27, 20 £ 10 shillings, and also to have received, this day, 13 £ and 9 pence. And as to the Defendant **Mill** {sic}, this suit is ordered to be dismissed.”<sup>28</sup>

COMMENT:

Matthew Mills was an offshoot of the Nicholas Mills family that centered in the Mechum’s River area of Albemarle.

**AUGUST 1755**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Legal suit.

“Ordered that the Sheriff of this County summon **Ambros Mills & Edward Watts** to appear at next Court to answer the complaint of **Robert Ewings, Gent.**”<sup>29</sup>

COMMENT:

- No further mention of this case has been found. Ambrose Mills left Bedford about this time.
- This Robert Ewing, or a namesake who left a Bedford Co. will in 1786, was father-in-law to John Mills of Lunenburg, Bedford, and Botetourt.

**AUGUST 1755**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Legal suit.

“**John Mills**, Plaintiff, against Patrick Downey, Defendant, on an Attachment. For reasons appearing to the Court, this suit is ordered to be dismissed.”<sup>30</sup>

**JANUARY 1756**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Legal suit.

“Archibald Buchanan, John Brown and Co., Petitioners, against **Thomas Leirwood** and James Wheeler, Defendant, on a Petition. This day came the Petitioners by their attorney, and the Defendant did not appear. Therefore it is considered by the Court that the Petitioners recover against the Defendant, 3 £ 3 shillings and 5 pence and their costs and a lawyer’s fee.”<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 46; citing original pp. 70–71.

<sup>29</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 69; citing original p. 108.

<sup>30</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 68; citing original p. 107.

<sup>31</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 87; citing original p. 136.

COMMENT:

I've not yet identified a family for James Wheeler, but he was in Bedford as early as 23 December 1754, in the neighborhood of the land grant Thomas Learwood sold to Moses Helm. Note that Thomas, himself, was not assigned to this neighborhood road-crew list:

"Bedford County Court Book December 23, 1754: **Moses Helm**, William Moore, Thomas Franklin, John Bollings tithes, William Rutherford, James Murphey, James Wheeler, John Golloway, Archibald Campbel, James McRunnalds, Edward Phair, Nicholas Hayse, Lewis Franklin, Edmond Franklin, John Thompson, John Pleasants tithes, Natth'l Patteson, & John Carson, are added to the hands that work on the Road whereof **John Beard** is Surveyor."<sup>32</sup>

**8 SEPTEMBER 1756**

**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Court order.

"**Jas Mills** on attachment agst Jeremiah Moray dfndt in debt; dfndt's debt not fully recovered by public sale attachment, further execution ordered."<sup>33</sup>

COMMENT:

The records covered in this project yield no suggestion that James may have belonged to (a) the Nicholas Mills family; (b) the William Mills family of Albemarle > Amherst > Nelson; (c) the William and John Mills family of Lunenburg and Bedford with Augusta County connection; or (d) or any other.

**NOVEMBER 1756**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Bounty sale.

To Thomas Prather, Assignee of **Ambrose Mills**, 1 ditto [old wolf's head], December 29, 1755, Marck Cole, 100."<sup>34</sup>

**13 JUNE 1757**

**LUNENBURG>BEDFORD COUNTY**

Land grant.

On payment of 15 shillings, grant made and confirmed unto **Thomas Leerwood**, 154 acres in Lunenburg County "on the head branches of **Reedy Creek** by the north side of **Pilot Mountain**," bounded as follows:

"Beginning at **Wathen's** Corner pointers on **Beard's Old Path**, thence new lines North sixty five Degrees East one hundred and thirty four poles to a Hickory, North eighty five Degrees East seventy four poles to a Hickory[,] North sixty five Degrees East thirty six poles to a white Oak [,] North fifteen Degrees East thirty poles to a white Oak[,] South sixty five Degrees East one hundred and twenty poles to three white Oaks[,] South twenty Degrees East forty four poles to a Chesnut[,] South seventy five Degrees West seventy six poles to a white Oak[,] North eighty three Degrees West thirty eight poles to a Hickory[,] South seventy Degrees West eighty poles to a white Oak[,] North eighty Degrees West one hundred and forty poles to a white Oak[,] South fifteen Degrees West forty poles to a Spanish Oak in **Wathens** line and thence along

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<sup>32</sup> *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 35.

<sup>33</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 24: 1755–57* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaid Publication, 1998), 38; citing Order Book 4: 198

<sup>34</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 116; citing original p. 184.



his line North twenty eight Degrees West fifty four poles to the first Station.”<sup>35</sup>

COMMENT:

- As shown below, when the Leerwoods sold the land, it lay in Bedford Co.
- See Map 3 for the location of this land. The location was *considerably* southeast of the Pedlar River region where Elizabeth’s family lived. That may be one reason why they soon sold the grant. (See September 1757, below.) While the grant places the land in Lunenburg, when they sold the land three months later, they identified themselves as residents of Prince Edward—a new county created in 1754 from the part of old Lunenburg that lay between the Staunton River and the Fluvanna. The c1775 Fry-Jefferson map, below, shows part of Prince Edward County in the upper right corner.

**Map 3**  
**Reedy Creek Area, Lunenburg County, Va.<sup>36</sup>**



<sup>35</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=370&last=&g\\_p=P33&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=370&last=&g_p=P33&collection=LO Patent); downloaded 20 May 2016), “Learwood, Thoms, grantee ... Bedford County ... 230 acres or [on] west side of Elk Creek”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 33, 1756–1761 (v.1,2,3 & 4 p.1-1095), p. 799 (Reel 31-32).”

<sup>36</sup> The above map snippet is from Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, “A Map of the Most Inhabited Part of Virginia,” 1775; imaged at *David Rumsey* (<http://bit.ly/1TEYmPT> : accessed 20 May 2016).

**24 SEPTEMBER 1757**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Land Sale.

**Thomas Leerwood** and wife **Elizabeth** of **Prince Edward County**, to Moses Helm, 55? Pounds, land on headwaters of **Reedy Creek**, 154 acres. Signed Thomas (W his mark) Leerwood; Elizabeth (X her mark) Leerwood. Witnesses: Nathaniel Patterson, Joseph McMurtray, James Patterson.<sup>37</sup>

**SEPTEMBER 1757**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale.

"A deed from **Thomas Leerwood** and **Elizabeth, his wife**, to Moses Helm was acknowledged by the said Thomas Leerwood and Elizabeth his wife, and ordered to be recorded."<sup>38</sup>

COMMENT:

One biographical sketch of Moses Helm tells us

"1782. Bedford County was divided, and the Helm properties near **Pilot Mountain** became part of **Campbell County**, portions of which, after 1845 become part of Appomattox County."<sup>39</sup>

**NOVEMBER 1757**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Legal suit.

"**John Mills**, Plaintiff, against William Woods, Defendant, in case. The parties having agreed the difference between them, it is ordered that this suit be dismissed."<sup>40</sup>

COMMENT:

This is the last record found thus far on any "John Mills" in Bedford until 1764.

**CA. 1755–58**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Military.

"The following entries are taken from William Waller Hening's collection of the laws of Virginia. During the French and Indian War, the House of Burgesses passed an act for the defense of the frontier of the colony on 14 September 1758. The soldiers mentioned in the schedule attached to this act appear below: ...

COMMENT:

- Edward, George, and John Watts (brothers of Thomas who married Sarah Mills) all appear as militiamen from Bedford.
- No Mills, Lavender, Leerwood appear.

**13 DECEMBER 1759**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

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<sup>37</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Deed Book 1: 139–41. Note that Ann Chilton's abstract (her p. 18) omits the difficult-to read-amount, as well as the fact that Thomas and wife were of Prince Edward County.

<sup>38</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 134; citing original p. 213.

<sup>39</sup> Tymethief, "Life of Moses Helm, 1701–1781," *Ancestry* (<http://mv.ancestry.com/viewer/7e829452-8873-46b0-bae5-4a4fd47d0dfb/26805146/5037442581> : accessed 28 May 2016).

<sup>40</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 140; citing original p. 226.

Debt.

“Venable vs. **Mills** – Attachment, the Defendant not appearing, judgment is granted the Plaintiff 4 £ 1.7.7 and costs and William Callaway, garnishee, declares he has sufficient of the Defendant’s Estate in his hands. Ordered that he satisfy this judgment and costs out of the same to the Plaintiff.”<sup>41</sup>

COMMENT:

- This Mills reference is likely to Ambrose, who sold 898 acres to William Callaway as mentioned in a later deed recorded 27 April 1761 (see below).
- I have not been able to locate the alleged grant to Ambrose. Apparently, he sold his interest in it before the patent was issued.

**FEBRUARY COURT 1760**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Debt.

“Stone vs. **Mills** – abates by Plaintiff’s death.”<sup>42</sup>

COMMENT:

Considering that Ambrose Mills m. Mourning Stone, the defendant in the above case is likely Ambrose. The decedent Stone is not identified.

**29 MARCH 1760**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Land grant.

On payment of 25 shillings, grant made and confirmed unto **Thomas Learwood**, 230 acres in Bedford County “on west side of **Elk Creek**:

“Beginning at **Waltons and Callaways** corner red Oak on the said Creek<sub>(,)</sub> thence along their lines West eighty Poles to **William’s** corner white oak in the same<sub>(,)</sub> thence along his line North two hundred and twenty four Poles to his corner white Oak in **Kay’s (Ray’s? Key’s?)** line<sub>(,)</sub> thence along his line North eighty Degrees East one hundred and fifty Poles to his corner two red Oaks in Callaway’s line<sub>(,)</sub> Thence along his line South ten Degrees East ninety four Poles to a red Oak South forty Degrees West forty Poles to a Pine<sub>(,)</sub> South fifty Degrees East sixty four Poles to the Creek aforesaid, thence down the same as it Meanders to the first.”<sup>43</sup>

COMMENT:

See Map 1.

**1760**

**BEDFORD & HALIFAX COUNTY, VA**

Land grant.

“7465 Joyce Summary 1760 Prince Edward.

Reedy Ck. William Moore of Bedford Co and Anna wife convey 190 ac of land to Moses Watkins of Bedford, located on both sides of **Reedy Ck in Bedford** adj to **George Walton, Thomas Learwood**,

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<sup>41</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 166; citing original Order book 1-B, p. 106.

<sup>42</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 166; citing original Order book 1-B, p. 106.

<sup>43</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=799&last=&g\\_p=P33&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=799&last=&g_p=P33&collection=LO Patent); downloaded 20 May 2016), “Learwood, Thomas, grantee ... Bedford County ... 230 acres on west side of Elk Creek”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 33, 1756-1761 (v.1, 2, 3 & 4 p.1-1095), p.799 (Reel 31-32).”

Thomas Franklin, and Bolling. Wit Robert Rutledge, William Bumpas, and William Jamerson.”<sup>44</sup>

COMMENT:

- This abstract appears in a set of online abstracts relating primarily to the Watkins family. It carries no explanation by which we can interpret the set of six words and numbers on its first line. The reference to Prince Edward suggests that the deed may be there, but Prince Edward’s deeds are supposedly destroyed.
- On 11 Sep. 1760, George Walton lived in Cumberland County when he sold to Orlando Hughes 400 acres that were part of an 8[00?] acre tract Walton patented in 1757, “adj. Jno. Palmer, grantor, Tonkhart Pullen, Alex. Trent, Drury Scruggs. Wit: Benj. Wilson, Thos. Tabb, Robt. Brown, Jacob Winfrey, Jr.”<sup>45</sup>

**BEFORE 1761**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale.

**Ambrose Mills** sold to William Callaway 898 acres, surveyed for him by George Walton, **adjacent to land of George Walton**. Deed has not been found but is mentioned in this deed abstracted by Chilton:

“Callaway, William, Deed from William Callaway to Thomas Pullen, 204 acres for 23 Pounds beginning at a white oak binding on the land Thomas Pullen bought of George Walton. (This being part of 898 acres which Geo. Walton surveyed for Ambrose Mills, who later sold it to Wm. Callaway). Rec. April 27, 1761. Pg. 430.”<sup>46</sup>

COMMENT:

- I’ve found no grant of land for Ambrose Mills in the Library of Virginia’s online database of colonial land grants.
- The 1757 grant to Ambrose’s brother-in-law, Thomas Learwood, also adjoined land of Walton. However, Walton was a surveyor who speculated in promising land across many Southside Virginia counties.
- Chilton’s abstracts from Bedford’s Deed Book A shows Callaway owning land on Elk Creek, Buffalo Creek, and Little Otter River.

**2 JULY 1764**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale.

“Jul 2, 1764 from **Alexander Sayers of Augusta County** to Israil Christian of same, for 40£ and by virtue of [etc. as per deed above] one certain lot of 6 acres of land ... No. 37. Signed – Alex’r Sayers. Wit – Anthony Bledsoe, Francis Thorp, **John Mills**, James McFall, Thomas Barnes, Francis **Smith**. Recorded Feb 26, 1765.”<sup>47</sup>

**(BEFORE) 26 JULY 1764**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

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<sup>44</sup> Roberta J. Estes ([restes@comcast.net](mailto:restes@comcast.net)), “Re: Moore in Charlotte and Prince Edward Counties,” 24 June 2007; posted at “Moore-L Archives,” *RootsWeb* ([newsarch.rootsweb.com/th/read/MOORE/2007-06/1182731829](http://newsarch.rootsweb.com/th/read/MOORE/2007-06/1182731829) : accessed 23 May 2016. No citation of the source is provided in this extensive list of abstracts focusing primarily on the Watkins family.

<sup>45</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 46; citing Albemarle Deed Book 2: 324.

<sup>46</sup> Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 8.

<sup>47</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deeds, 1761–1766* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1991), 45–46; citing Deed Book 2: 515.



Witness.

"Deed from Alexander Sayers of Augusta Co., to Israil Christian. 6 Acres adj. New London Town. Wit. An Bledsoe, Fran Thorp, **John Mills**, James Mfall, [sic] Thos. Barnes, Francis Smith. Rec. July 26, 1764. Teste Ben Howard CBC."<sup>48</sup>

**6 NOVEMBER 1764**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Legal suit.

"This is to Certify that I Wm. Hays has Receivd full Satisfaction of Henery Smith for all Edmond Smith's Children for all Diet and Cloathing and Necessary Learning given under my hand this 6<sup>th</sup> Day of Novbr 1764. [Signed] William Heyes; Witness pres. Geo. Ruddy? [Gundy?], Nicholas Welsh?

[n.d.]

"To the worshipful Court of Bedford sitting in Chancery. Hum[b]ly complaining, sheweth unto your worships your Orators John Beard [q.v.] and **John Mills** that after the Death of Edmund Smith, long since decd., your Orators [tendered] themselves as Securities for the Widow Hays for the full and just Administration of the goods and chattels of the decd. Edmund Smith aforesaid. That sometime after the administratrix intermarried with William Hayes so that the Administration delivered unto him, together with the care of the children Henry [big blank space] being the Infants, that the Estate of the said Edmund Smith deceased was exhausted by Paiment of Debts and Charges of the maintenance of the Children \_\_\_\_ so that at the time of their coming of Age there was not any Part of it in the Hands of the Administrator Wm. Hayes. That William Hayes, as he has often assured your Orator, constantly kept Acct. Vouchers for money paid for the Estate and every Thing necesssary for his own Justification and to indemnify your Orators as his Securities. But that sometime past the vouchers aforesaid were secretly to him out of the said Hayes's Custody by some \_\_\_\_ Person, as your Orator so believe and circumstances appear, in Order your Orators suppose to make way for the perpetrating a manifest Fraud against your Orators, as the said Hayes had no Estate of his own and therefore your Orators were to make good any Amount due from him as Admr & \_\_\_\_ that had your Orators been able to have regained the said Vouchers they would have made it appear that the Estate of the said Emund Smith Decd was not wasted by the Admr. But now so it is that the Heirs of the said Edmund Smith have brought your Orators in this Court charging your Orators together with the Adm. Wm. Hayes with having wasted the Estate aforesaid, with sums of Money received by the said Hayes for the said Estate and \_\_\_\_ upon the same \_\_\_\_ manner particularly the Sum of sixty two Pounds ten Shillings said by them to be received by the said Hayes of a certain [blank space] for a certain Piece of Land belonging to the Estate of the Edmund Smith aforesaid and sold by the said Hayes to the said [blank] together with sundry other Articles entirely unjust, amounting in the whole to a more significant Sum. And the said Defendants state \_\_\_\_ing the said Suit against your Orators recovered a Judgt. against your Orators for £118?. Although your orators were by no Means liable for the sum of £52.40.0 before mentioned to be received by Hayes. And that your Orators had not the Benefit of the Vouchers before mentioned to be taken from Hayes amounting to £68.11.0, as well as what your Orators were charged with Interest or Money received by the Admr. Hayes. And that your Orators [illegible] not allowed the Sum of £12.16.6 ½ paid by one of your orators for the said adm in Behalf of the said Estate. All which Actings and Doings of the said Deft. are contrary to Equity and good Conscience and \_\_\_\_ to the Oppression & Injury of your Orators. In under Consideration whe\_\_ and for as much as your Orator is only relievable in this Court of Chancery, to the E\_\_\_\_ therefore that the said Defendants may upon their several and respective Oaths separately and distinctly set forth whether the Administration of the goods and Chattels of Edmond

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<sup>48</sup> Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 33, citing B-2: 515.

Smith was not granted to his widow, whether she did not intermarry with Wm. Hayes & whether your Orators [torn] not Sureties for the Administratrix? Whether the Estate under the Admr was not indebted to several Persons? Whether the Admx did not pay such? Whether your Orator **John Mills**, did not keep? the sum of £12.16.6 ½ for the Estate?<sup>49</sup>

COMMENT:

No further reference has been found to John Mills in Bedford until 1774.

**23 JUNE 1767**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Bill of sale

*Eleanor Franklin* "Bill of Sale to Lucreasey Franklin, Dicey Franklin, Lucillah Witt. Personal Property. Wit. John Creasy, Thos. Creasy. Rec. June 23, 1767. Test Ben Howard CBC."<sup>50</sup>

**24 AUGUST 1769**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

**"Mills, John of Augusta Co.** to John Hook. 136 Acres on both sides of Bore Auger Cr. [Bedford Co.]. Wit. Chas. **Ewings, Robt. Ewings**, John B. Birks, John Peary. Rec. Oct. 24, 1769. Teste Ben Howard CBC."<sup>51</sup>

NOTE:

In 1776 Robert Ewing and wife Mary witnessed a deed to land on **Branches of Otter River** between John Williams and Dudley Roundtree.<sup>52</sup>

TO DO:

Pursue this John Mills in Augusta County and his 1764 Augusta associate: Alexander Sayer. In 1770, Botetourt would be cut out of Augusta. In 1782 and 1785 two Mills probates were opened in Botetourt that suggest a family unit:

- "Mills, John, dec. Apr. estate Feb., 1782."
- "Mills, Hugh. Will pro. May, 1785. Names bros. Blaney and John, and John's son, Hugh."<sup>53</sup>

Blaney (*var.* Blenny) and the older Hugh Mills removed to Anson Co. NC and associated there with a William Mills of Clarke Creek (later Rutherford Co., NC) and a Matthew Mills. Blaney obtained a grant on Fishing Creek, which fell into Chester and Union Cos., SC, after the NC-SC line was run. William and Hugh received grants on Clarke Creek, which fell into Anson's offshoot Mecklenburg, and then Tryon and Lincoln Cos. Hugh returned to Botetourt, where he sold his NC land in 1770. William left a son John (of age by 1784 at which time a creditor levied on part of the Clarke Co. land John had inherited from his father) and three daughters who received parts of William's land from a kinsman, William Welsh in 1765.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> John Beard & John Mills vs. Admr. of Edmund Smith, Bedford Chancery Causes no. 1772-005; imaged Library of Virginia, "Chancery Records Index," *VirginiaMemory* ([http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case\\_detail.asp?CFN=019-1772-005](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=019-1772-005) : downloaded 27 May 2018).

<sup>50</sup> Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book C-3* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, n.d.), 11; citing p. 113.

<sup>51</sup> Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book C-3* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, n.d.), 50; citing p. 508.

<sup>52</sup> Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book C-3* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, n.d.), 1; citing p. 7.

<sup>53</sup> Anne Lowry Worrell, *Early Marriages, Wills, and Some Revolutionary War Records, Botetourt County, Virginia* (1956; reprint Baltimore: Clearfield Co., 2004), 80; original registers or files not cited.

<sup>54</sup> See E. S. Mills, "Mills & Associates: Rutherford County, NC, Its Parent Counties (Anson, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Tryon) and Its Offshoots (Buncombe, Burke, Henderson, and Polk Counties: Survey of Published Resources," report to file dated 28 August 2018); archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab. (The given name Matthew is found among Nicholas Mills offspring on Mechum's River of Albemarle; Blaneys were in Albemarle also).

**17 MAY 1770**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Association.

[*nutshell*]

Will of Charles Ewing. Wife Martha. Sons William, Robert, Samuel, George, David, Charles, Caleb. Daughter "Marth". Robert was to get "all the remainder of the survey of land I now live upon lying between above said William and Charles." Caleb was to get "the land on Goose Creek, bounded by Cary's, **Beard's** and Reed's lines, including the flat Top Mountain."<sup>55</sup>

COMMENT:

The testator's son Robert was the father of Martha "Patty" Ewing who married John Mills. See Robert's will under 1786, below.

The neighbor named Beard may have been David Beard who was mentioned in the estate inventories and sales of Charles Ewing in 1772.<sup>56</sup>

**14 JANUARY 1772**

**BOTETOURT COUNTY, VA**

Marriage.

"**John Mills** and **Martha Ewing**, dau. **Robert Ewing** (of Bedford)—Jan. 14, 1772."<sup>57</sup>

**9 FEBRUARY 1773**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase contract

**Lewis Witt** contracted with John Cooper to buy a parcel of land on Otter River, giving his bond in the penal sum of 8£, "to be discharged by the payment of Four pounds on or before the first day of February 1774." Shortly after executing the bond, the Witts learned that the land "appeared to be the property of a certain **George Walton**, who sold the said Land to a certain James Chastain & conveyed it to him by a Deed bearing date the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 1774." During this interval, Lewis Witt died. His widow and administratrix, Ann, refused to pay Cooper and Cooper launched a suit against the estate—one that would not be settled until 1785. See notes below for 1774, 1784, and 1785.<sup>58</sup>

COMMENT:

Cooper's rejoinder in this file, sworn before W. Leftwich on 24 August 1784, stated:

"Many years ago he purchased of Peter Pinkstone a Tract of Land the legal Title to which was in George Walton, whose Bond for a Conveyance was assigned to this Respondant; that he afterwards sold the same to James Chastain, who on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1773 accepted the same Bond of Walton for a Title; that the Intestate **Lewis Witt** purchased of James Chastain a Small Part of the Same Land & gave to the Respondant [Cooper] his Bond for £4, knowing and contenting himself with Chastain's appearance of a Right, which the Complainant [Witt]

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<sup>55</sup> Joida Whitten, *Abstracts of Bedford County, Virginia, Wills, Inventories and Accounts, 1754–1787* (Dallas, TX: P.p., n.d.), 29–30; citing pp. 114–17.

<sup>56</sup> Joida Whitten, *Abstracts of Bedford County, Virginia, Wills, Inventories and Accounts, 1754–1787* (Dallas, TX: P.p., n.d.), 29–30, 39; citing pp. 147–49, 157–59.

<sup>57</sup> Anne Lowry Worrell, *Early Marriages, Wills, and Some Revolutionary War Records: Botetourt County, Virginia* (1958; reprinted, Baltimore: Clearfield, 2004), 33.

<sup>58</sup> Petition of Ann Witt, admx. of Lewis Witt, through attorney Innes & Camp, admitted to court 28 June 1784; in Witt vs. John Cooper, Bedford Chancery Records, 1785–011; imaged at Library of Virginia, *VirginiaMemory* ([www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case\\_detail.asp?CFN=019-17885-011](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=019-17885-011) : accessed 14 May 2016).

confesses was completed in 1774; So that the Complainants, Intestacy, had the Title in the Way & by the Means first proposed & approved by him before he gave his Bond to the Respondent.”

Also in the file, dated 25 June 1773P

“This is to Sartify that I have Receved a bond of John Cooper Which I inDorst to the said Cooper Which I had from Alexander Daverson for twenty pounds & the said Bond I am to Collect the money and Remet the money to him the Said John Cooper. I allso Recved from him a Bound he had of Mr. George Walton to make me a Right to a peac of Land on Otter River as Witness my hand this twenty fifth of June 1773. [Signed] James Chastain. N.B. I am to give the said John Cooper in his Bound that he give to make me a Right. [Signed] J.C. Test: Arthur Cooper, Noth Cooper.”

#### **MARCH 1774**

##### **BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court Order

“**Mills** vs. Bandy—Disd. Plfs. Costs for want of prosecution.”

“Bandy ads. Mills—Richard Bandy ald. 8 dais attce.”<sup>59</sup>

#### **COMMENT:**

The fact that Mills did not appear to prosecute the case suggests that he may be the John Mills who was intermittently in and out of Bedford and Augusta > Botetourt.

#### **1 APRIL 1774**

##### **BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court minute

“At a court held for Bedford County ... Cooper vs. Chasteen—A. caps; Same vs. **Witts admx.**—A. Caps.”<sup>60</sup>

#### **COMMENT:**

“A. Caps” was an abbreviation for “alias capias,” a second writ issued to take someone into custody.

The “second writ” designation tells us that there should be a prior court order for this case, but it is not included among “Witt” index entries in the volume, which covers Court Order Books 6 & 7. Possibly the case began in Book 6.

Almost certainly, this represents the beginning of the 1784–85 Bedford chancery case, Ann Witt vs. John Cooper, for which a few records survive as the countersuit Cooper vs. Witt. (See notes under those years below.) Shortly before his death Lewis Witt had contracted with Cooper to buy land. Witt’s widow Ann, as administratrix of his estate, discovered that the land had previously been sold by George Walton to James Chasteen/Chastain. Checking prior entries for Cooper and Chasteen here in this order book, I find

#### **28 MARCH 1774**

“A deed Walton to Chasteen ackd. & o. rd.” (Citing Order Book 6:1)

#### **MAY 1774**

##### **BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court Order

“Bandy ads. **Mills**—Richard Bandy Junr. ald. one dais attce.”

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<sup>59</sup> Bevin J. Creel, *Bedford County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1774–1783* (N.p.: N.p., 2011), 2; citing Book 6: 2.

<sup>60</sup> Bevin J. Creel, *Bedford County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1774–1783* (N.P.: [Lulu.com], 2011), 69; citing Order Book 6:188.

Scruggs for Trents & Callaway vs. Richd. Bandy—Judgt. Confessed for £54.18.0& costs.”

**Mills** vs. Bandy—Disd. Plfs. Costs, Plf. Not fur. Prosecuting.”<sup>61</sup>

COMMENT:

No record has been found that explicitly identifies the Mills who prosecuted this suit against Richard Bandy.

**21 MAY 1774**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Estate inventory

“**Lewis Witt**. Inventory and Appraisement. Listed: household furnishings, farm equipment, livestock. Appraisers: Robt. Mitchell, Thomas Robinson, William Addams. Witness: R. Cowan (Note: ‘Teste R. Cowan’). Returned 23 May 1774.”<sup>62</sup>

COMMENT:

Ann Chilton’s abstract provides significantly fewer details:

**1774**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

“Appraisement of estate of **Lewis Witt**. By: Robert Mitchell, Thomas Robinson, William Adams. Recorded May 23, 1774. Teste: **James Steptoe**.”<sup>63</sup>

TO DO:

- Get this estate and all documents relating to it.
- Go back through the original records and work all Lewis Witt deeds, court records, etc., in Bedford.

**10 OCTOBER 1774**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Military.

“Captain Buford’s Volunteers in 1774. List of Captain Thomas Buford’s Volunteer Company, raised in Bedford County, who formed part of the army under General Andrew Lewis at the battle with the Indians at Point Pleasant, the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 1774. ...”<sup>64</sup>

COMMENT:

No Mills, Watts, Witt, Woodward, or known associate appears on this list. See subsequent entry under April 1786 for Jesse Witt as a member of Major. Abraham Buford’s company.

**15 OCTOBER 1776**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Association.

Will of Silvator *Allford*. Son William Alford, daughters Judith Vest, Lewcy Vest, Mary *Mullins*, Melicient Broms?, Elizabeth Edds. Witnesses: William Dudley, James Martin, George Willcox, and Armistead Dudley.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> Bevin J. Creel, *Bedford County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1774–1783* (N.p.: N.p., 2011), 17; citing Book 6: 60–61.

<sup>62</sup> Joida Whitten, *Abstracts of Bedford County, Virginia, Wills, Inventories and Accounts, 1754–1787* (Dallas, TX: P.p., n.d.), 42; citing pp. 211–12.

<sup>63</sup> Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Will Book 1, 1759–1787; Will Book 2, 1787–1803* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1988), 18; citing Will Book 1: 211.

<sup>64</sup> *Historical Sketch of Bedford County, Virginia, 1753–1907* (N.P.: N.p., n.d.), 44.

COMMENT:

The Dudleys were in-laws of William Mills (of the Witt Y) in Franklin from 1815 forward. The family of William, Booker, and Joseph Mullins were among his key associates there in Franklin.

**24 MARCH 1777**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court Order

"A deed Crawford to **Mills** fur. Pvd. & o. rd."<sup>66</sup>

COMMENT:

- This publication continues through Court Order Book 7, 1783, and there are no further Mills entries.
- There also appears:  
Edmundson, Andrew (estate, October 1779)
- Camp, Kemp: none
- Maddox (John), Maddocks (Wilson), 1 entry; 1 "Maticks" with no given name

TO DO:

Work Bedford Deeds beginning with C-3, 1766.

**13 SEPTEMBER 1777**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Association

"*Irvine Patterson*. Guardians Accounts. '1768 Ervin Pattersons Orphan to **Saml. Hairston** Garden.' Mentioned: ... '1774 Meeting at **Millses** to settle with the Exors'; 'Going to **Beards** to Setle with the Exrs'. ... Signed: Richard Stith ... 13 September 1777. Examiners: Chas. Talbot, Richard Stith, John f Patrick. Returned 22 September 1777."<sup>67</sup>

COMMENT:

The Mills associated with Beards and Pattersons appear to be the John who was intermittently in and out of Bedford and Augusta > Botetourt.

**24 JANUARY 1778**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Association.

Will of Richard Woodward. Wife Elizabeth. Sons Lance, Isaac, John, William, Richard, Warwick. Daughter Frances Taylor. Witnesses: Richard Gilliam, Zacharias Gilliam, Peter Forqueran.<sup>68</sup>

COMMENT:

Frances (Woodward) Taylor was formerly married to George Watts in Albemarle, then moved with him to Anson > Lincoln Counties, NC, where George died and she remarried one James Taylor.<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>65</sup> Joida Whitten, *Abstracts of Bedford County, Virginia, Wills, Inventories and Accounts, 1754–1787* (Dallas, TX: P.p., n.d.), 70–71; citing pp. 264–65.

<sup>66</sup> Bevin J. Creel, *Bedford County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1774–1783* (N.p.: N.p., 2011), 42; citing Book 6: 123.

<sup>67</sup> Joida Whitten, *Abstracts of Bedford County, Virginia, Wills, Inventories and Accounts, 1754–1787* (Dallas, TX: P.p., n.d.), 70; citing pp. 262–63.

<sup>68</sup> Joida Whitten, *Abstracts of Bedford County, Virginia, Wills, Inventories and Accounts, 1754–1787* (Dallas, TX: P.p., n.d.), 160; citing pp. 505–6.

**23 JULY 1779**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale.

**John Maddox** and Priscillia Maddox, his wife, of the County of Bedford to Nathan Maddox of same, sale for 50£, 50 acres on north branches of Stanton River, bounded as follows:

Beginning at a Sourwood Worleys Corner ash on Browns line by a Branch, thence up the said Branch and Meanders to Mitchell's Blazed ash, thence along his line to Worley's white Oak, thence with Worleys line as it Meanders to the first Station.

Signed John (+) Mattox; witnesses: Joseph Truth, Edward + Burgess, William Terry, Frances Worley, William *Beard*.<sup>70</sup>

COMMENT:

This volume has no Burton, Camp/Kemp, Edmondson, Lavender. One other Mattox document.

MATTOX, Valentine to John Starr: 246,  
23 July 1779. 100 acres S side of Goose Creek

**2 JUNE 1780**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Associates.

Accounts due to Thomas Dooley, deceased—apparently for items at estate sale ("John Ewings Clerk at The sale"). Two entries for **John Mills**.<sup>71</sup>

**8 JULY 1780**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Land patent

Grant to Ann Will [**Witt**] for 230 acres on the mouth of Island Creek on the south side of Otter River, described as

beginning at the **Mouth** of the said **Island Creek** thence up as it Meanders to a Corner hickory off South 30 degrees E 100 Poles to a Hickory, S 86 Poles to a hickory in **White's** line, thence a line thence [*sic*] a long his line South 87 degrees E 20 Poles to his Corner white oak, [thence] N 87 degrees E 94 Poles to a Red oak, [thence] N 40 degrees E 194 Poles to a Red oak, [thence] North 40 degrees East 128 Poles to **Waltons Corner** white oak thence along his line N 21 degrees E 78 Poles to a dogwood on **Otter River**, thence up the said River as it Meanders to the first Station.<sup>72</sup>

**1781**

**BEDFORD & BOTETOURT COUNTIES**

Militia service.

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<sup>69</sup> See E. S. Mills, "Mills & Associates: Rutherford County, NC, Its Parent Counties (Anson, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Tryon) and Its Offshoots (Buncombe, Burke, Henderson, and Polk Counties): Survey of Published Resources," report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

<sup>70</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Deed Book 6, 1778–1780.

<sup>71</sup> Joida Whitten, *Abstracts of Bedford County, Virginia, Wills, Inventories and Accounts, 1754–1787* (Dallas, TX: P.p., n.d.), 105; citing pp. 368–69.

<sup>72</sup> Library of Virginia, "Land Office Grants," database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=589&last=&g\\_p=PA&collection=LO Grant](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=589&last=&g_p=PA&collection=LO Grant) : downloaded 14 June 2018), citing "Land Office Grants A, 1779–1780 (v.1 & 2 p.1–685), p. 589 (Reel 42)." The library's database misreads her name as Ann "Will."

"Holly, John. April 22, 1833. 72 years of age. I enlisted under Captain Charls Gwalkin of Bedford County in the year 1777. I think In August. I was sent to Booneborough, Kentucky to guard the fort and fight the Indians. ... Our company marched to Boonesborough which was then under the command of Colonel Boon, called the founder of Kentucky. I did duty under him until he was taken prisoner by the Indians. ... We were then ... under Colonel Richard Callaway and William May was our Adjutant. [Discharged] May 1778.

"In 1781 when General Cornwallis was coming into Virginia and came to Dan River, all the men able to bear arms in Bedford and half of them in Botetourt were ordered into service. All the Botetourt men were endorsed at Fincastle. One half of them received orders not to march or go into service and Captain was so discharged. **But Captain Mills informed his company that if any of them would go voluntarily he would go with them and command them.. I and fifteen others so volunteered and was marched under Captain Mills to General Green's tent on the Markee in North Carolina ...** and then was attached to Colonel Lee's infantry. ... I was born in Prince William County November 17, 1760. I have resided in Bedford Since 1765 except for one year in Botetourt County, at which time I was five years old."<sup>73</sup>

TO DO:

Study the full file at *Fold3* for other possible references to this Captain Mills.

#### 24 DECEMBER 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>74</sup>

COMMENT:

- I have not been able to find anyone in this era named Walter Learwood. Odds are good that this published abstract has made 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

I have reexamined Bedford tax rolls of 1782–88 in hopes of determining whether the Walton neighborhood was omitted from this tax roll compilation. The semi-alpha order of the entries, by first letter of surname, obscures neighborhood context.

#### 1782

##### BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land Tax Roll

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<sup>73</sup> Ann Chilton, *Revolutionary War Pensions, Bedford Co., VA* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1988), 19–20.

<sup>74</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.**" Get this deed to verify or correct.



Martin, Thomas	4/	125.25
<b>MILLS, John</b>	7/6	240.90
Martin, Salley	3/5	290.50
Mayberry, Henry		
Meadows, James	___/___/2	300.30
Mayberry, Frederick		
[“Mountains” in n’hood; <i>skip several dozen</i> ]		
Mousley, Walter		
Mitchell, John		
Mousley, Edward		
Morgan, Easther		
<b>Mattox, Nathan</b>	___/___/3/	50/7/10
Meadors, John Senior		
Meadors, Ambrose		
Meadors, Jeremiah		
Meadors, William		
Morgan, Evan		
<b>Mattox, Valentine</b>		
<i>Mason, Elizabeth</i>		
Mitchell, Thomas		
<b>Mattox, John</b>	___/___/3	140.12.10
Melton, Richard Junr. Morriss, William		
Moody, Edward		
Magrudah, Laughlan		
Maxcy, Josiah		
Martain, William		
Maxcy, Walter		
[ <i>end of “M” section</i> ]		

# **“W”**

**Watts, Edward**

Wheeler, Benjamin

Wheeler, Thomas

Wheeler, Rowland

[*skip 3*]

Wommers, Jesse

[*skip 8*]

Woodward, William

Wright, Cap. James

Wheeler, Archalus

Woodward, Issac, Dec’d Estate

Woodward, Launce

Williamson, James

Wilkinson, Joseph

Wright, John (Elk Creek)

Wheat, John

Woodward, Chesley

Worldley, William  
 Wilson, William  
 Williams, Thomas  
 Winston, Edmund  
 Watson, Johnson  
 Wilkinson, Peter  
 Waddy's estate  
 Wheat, Bond  
 Ward, John (L Runn)  
 Walker [no first name]  
 Ward, Major John  
 Walton, George by Smith  
 Wilson Joseph  
**Witt, Ann** 5/6 200.15  
 White, George  
 Wilks, John  
**Witt, John** 2/6 200.25  
 Wade, Isaac  
 Wright, John (Little Otter)  
 White, Stephen  
 Weasegare?, Daniel  
 Woody, William  
 Williams, Col. Nathaniel  
 Worldley, Martha  
 Wooster? Hiamon?  
 Willey, William  
 Woodson, Jacob  
 Winfrey, Henry  
 Wood, Stephen  
 Webb, Theoderick  
 Webster, William ("ought to be John")  
*Wimmer, Jacob*  
**Watts, Thomas** 3/6 170.30  
 Wood, Thomas  
 Wood, Peter  
 Wood, Ambrose  
**Watts, Richard** 9/5 158.75  
 Webb, Samuel  
 Walton, William  
 Whitmore, Chrisley,  
 [Illegible]  
 [end of "W"]<sup>75</sup>

COMMENT:  
 No William Burton, Camp, Edmondson, Kemp, Lavender.

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<sup>75</sup> Bedford County, Land Tax Book, 1782; Land Tax Books, Reel 32, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

**19 JULY 1782**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Personal Tax Roll.

Burton: Robert, but no William  
 Edmundson: NO  
 Kemp: NO

Meadors, John, son of Joel  
 Meadors, Joel  
 Meadors, Isham  
 Meadors Jarvis?

<b>MILLS, James</b>	1 free white male 21+	1 white tithe above 16
	0 slaves	0 black tithes
	2 horses	
	9 cattle	

McEllarry, Richard  
 Miller, William  
 Mitchel, John  
 Mitchel, Aquila C.  
 Morgan, Evan?  
 Melson, William  
 Morgan, Esther

[skip 37]

Meadors, Ambrose  
 Meadores, Thomas  
 Meadors, William  
 Meadors, Jeremiah  
 Mausley Walter  
 Meadors, Jeremiah  
 Meadors, James

[7 to end of "M" list/ was one of these Elizabeth Mason?]

Woodward, Samuel  
 Williams, Thomas  
 Woodward, Launce  
 Woodward, Richard  
 Waterfield, Philip  
 Wilkinson, Joseph  
 Woodward, Joshua  
 Watson, Johnson

**Watts, Thomas**

**Watts, Richard**

**Watts, William**

[skip 5]

Wimmer, Jacob

[skip a bunch]

Thomas Watts	100/2.612.40.00	3/9
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I have reconsulted the Bedford personal tax roll to confirm that John Mills was indeed missing from the roll in 1783. The point is relevant because one John Mills shows on a 2 April 1783 “List of Capt. Enoch Osburn’s Company,” in **Montgomery County** who is not found there in other years. The younger John of Bedford was present in Bedford in 1782, but is missing in 1783 and later.<sup>77</sup> The 1786 roll carries a notation that his land was conveyed to William Buford. In April 1787, the deed was filed in Bedford.

"The Condition of the above Obligation is such that whereas the above bound **Ann Witt** hath obtained an Injunction to stay further proceedings on a Judgment obtained by the above named **John Cooper** against her in the County Court of Bedford until the matter thereof be recused[?] in Equity in the said Court. Now if the said **Ann Witt** shall satisfy and pay all such Damages and Costs as shall be awarded against ~~him~~ her in Case the Injunction aforesaid shall be dissolved, then the above Obligation to be void. Otherwise to remain in full force and virtue. [Signed] Ann (W her mark) Witt; Wm (+ his mark) Whitton. Sealed & delivered in presence of J. Steptoe."<sup>78</sup>

Bond.

<sup>78</sup> Witt vs. John Cooper, Bedford Chancery Records, 1785–011; imaged at Library of Virginia, *VirginiaMemory* ([www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case\\_detail.asp?CFN=019-17885-011](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=019-17885-011) : accessed 14 May 2016).

“The CommonWealth of Virginia To the Sheriff of Bedford County, Greeting: We Command You that You attach **John Cooper** so that you have his body Before Our Justices of Our said County at the Court House On the fourth Monday in Next month to answer us as well of a Certain Contempt by him to us Offered as ~~upon~~ it is said as upon those things which shall then and there by Objected & ~~further~~ Against him & further to do and Receive what our said Court shall in this Part Consider and have then there this Writ. Witness **James Steptoe** Clerk of our said Court at the Court House aforesaid the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 1784 in the Ninth Year of The CommonWealth. [Signed] Ja.Steptoe.”<sup>79</sup>

**1784 [9 MAY 1785]**  
**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**  
 Land Tax Roll<sup>80</sup>

COMMENT:

The headers are barely readable. They seem to be:

- Quantity of Acres
- Average price per acre
- Amount of valuation
- Tax

Martin, Thomas

**MILLS, John**                      240   20.6      246.0   3   13.9 ¾

Martin, Sally

Mayberry, Henry

Meadows, James

Mayberry, Frederick

[Milams, Moormans & Mountains in n’hood; *skip 21*]

Mouzly, Arthur

Mead, Nicholas

Melton, William

Mead, Wm. & Isham Talbot              [1787 associates of John Mills & wife Patty]<sup>81</sup>

[*skip 15*]                                      [including Mean, Moorman, Manson, Musgrove, Morgan, Mitchells]

Mousley, Walter

Mitchell, John

Mousley, Edward

Morgan, Easter

**Mattox, Nathan**                      50   8.2      20.8.4   \_\_.6.1 ½

Meadors, John Senior

Meadors, Ambrose

Meadors, Jeremiah

Meadors, Benjamin

Meadors, William

Morgan, Evan

Mattox, Valentine

<sup>79</sup> Witt vs. John Cooper, Bedford Chancery Records, 1785—011; imaged at Library of Virginia, *VirginiaMemory* ([www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case\\_detail.asp?CFN=019-17885-011](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=019-17885-011) : accessed 14 May 2016).

<sup>80</sup> Bedford County, “Land Book 1784”; Land Tax Books, Reel 32, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

<sup>81</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Deed Book 7, 1780–87: 697–98.

Mason, Elizzeth  
Mitchell, Thomas  
Mattox, John  
Melton, Richard  
Morrier?, William  
Moody, Thomas  
McGrad\_\_\_\_, Laughlan  
Maxcy, Josiah  
Martin, William  
Maxcy, Walter

At end of roll are (1) a list of new grants made in 1784, certified August 1785; and (2) a list of alterations (sales) made in 1784.

This 1784 assessment was certified 8 May 1785.

COMMENT:

- No Robert Burton, Camp, Edmondson, Kemp, Lavender.
- Lamaster Cooksey now appears.
- Did not have time to pursue Watts and Witt.

**18 APRIL 1785 [SIC]**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

William Walton, assignee of Isaac Rentfro vs. John Webster. Bail by John Ferguson. Rentfro assigned note to William Walton on 15 April 1786 [sic], with Elizabeth Watson (x) as witness. Judgment confessed August 1786.<sup>82</sup>

**OCTOBER 1785**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court Order.

**“Nathan Maddox** exempted from future paintm. Of the County Levy.”<sup>83</sup>

“Ordered that Luke Abshire & Nicholas Teal be appd ovr’s of the Road from the Carolina Rd at the Ford of Maggotty to the Widow Cantrells, in the room of Jno. Langdon—and the Hands who workd under the former Sur. above Stone’s Mill are appd to work under **Luke Abshire** as far as John Earlys Road & Nichs. Teal from Earlys Rd to the Widow Cantrells with the Balance of the Hands.”<sup>84</sup>

COMMENT:

Abshire & Early lands would fall into Franklin County—specifically, the neighborhood of James Mills whose son William Jr. married Elizabeth Abshire and bought land from Early’s heirs. James also witnessed the will of John Early in 1784 Bedford, before they were both cut off into Franklin.<sup>85</sup>

**1785 [1786?]**

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<sup>82</sup> Folder: 1786 Aug, Walton vs. Wesster [sic]; Franklin County Judgments, 1769-1787, Barcode 1184668, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

<sup>83</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Order Book No. 8, 1784–1786, p. 204.

<sup>84</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Order Book No. 8, 1784–1786, p. 205.

<sup>85</sup> *Franklin County, Virginia, Wills, 1786–1812* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1991), 69–70; citing Will Book 1:242. For more of the Early-Mills-Abshire interactions, see E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Franklin & Floyd Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey,” report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Land Tax Roll.

**John Mills** Same data as earlier. Same position.

Valentine Maddox Still there—but nothing showing for John or Nathan.

COMMENT:

I also read alterations and new-grant lists.<sup>86</sup>

**24 MARCH 1786**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Association

Will of **John Farguson**. Wife Mary. Gives “250 acres of land to Jery Farguson and to Pleasant Farguson and to William Farguson.” Gives “to Issom Fargusson the land and plantation and all others ‘Tendement’ in **Franklin County**.” Executors: “my two sons **John** and **Issom Fargusson**.” Witnesses: John Griffin, George Moodey, Farley Hatcher. Proved 25 September 1786. Security for executors: John Phelps, William Haiden, and John Griffen.”

COMMENT:

The compiler of these notes adds “John Farguson also referred to as ‘Ferguson’ and ‘Forguson’.”<sup>87</sup> Offspring of John Ferguson Jr., in Franklin, were key associates of William Mills-Witt.<sup>88</sup>

**19 JULY 1786**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

**Willam Walton vs. Rentfro**<sup>89</sup>

COMMENT:

The several small documents in this file do not indicate whether Walton was a resident of the county or not.

**12 AUGUST 1786**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Marriage Bond.

William Burton & **Elizabeth Mills**, Jesse Reynolds, surety. Certificate of Elizabeth that she is of lawful age.”<sup>90</sup>

COMMENT

- Creel’s *Bedford County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1774–1783* has nothing on William or Elizabeth Burton.
- *Who is Jesse Reynolds?* One Jesse Reynolds (aka Runnalds) was a RW soldier from Culpeper County. In old age, he applied for a pension stating that he returned to Culpeper after service and stayed there for “three years after the war ended, then moved to the County of

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<sup>86</sup> Bedford County, “Land Book 1785”; Land Tax Books, Reel 32, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

<sup>87</sup> Joida Whitten, *Abstracts of Bedford County, Virginia, Wills, Inventories and Accounts, 1754–1787* (Dallas, TX: P.p., n.d.), 162–63; citing pp 511–12.

<sup>88</sup> See E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Franklin & Floyd Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey,” report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>89</sup> Folder: 1786 Aug, Walton vs. Rentfro; Franklin County Judgments, 1769-1787, Barcode 1184668, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

<sup>90</sup> Earle S. Dennis and Jane E. Smith, *Marriage Bonds of Bedford County, Virginia, 1755–1800; Reprinted with Bedford County, Virginia: Index of Wills, from 1754 to 1830*, edited by Rowland D. Buford (Reprinted, Baltimore: Clearfield, 1975), 7.

Pittsylvania ... and have lived in this County ever since.”<sup>91</sup> No connection at all has been made between Jesse of Bedford and Jesse of Culpeper-Pittsylvania. However, the move from Culpeper to Pittsylvania (1785–86) occurred about the time that he served as surety for the Burton-Mills marriage in Bedford.

- No William Burton was on the Bedford 1782–86 rolls. One William Burton is taxed 1783, 1784, and 1785 in adjacent Amherst; is missing from the 1786 list; appears again in 1787; and then is taxed no more in Amherst. That 1787 list actually cites *two* William Burtons:

- 7 April

**William Burton** 1 white male 21+, 0 wm 16-21, 3 black 16+, 4 blacks -16, 1 horse, 7 cattle

- 9 July

**William Burton “(son nat W Burton)”** 1 white male 21+, 0 wm 16-21, 1 black 16+, 2 blacks -16, 2 horses, 4 cattle

- William Sr.’s son Jesse of Amherst did reside in Bedford County in the 1780s:

c1800

“Claim of Henderson, McCall & Company {pp. 114-15}

“**William Burton**, Albemarle. L201.13.6¼ and L101.11.7¼, Richmond Store. He died in that part of Albemarle which is now included in Fluvanna County before the war. He left a good estate in lands, slave and other personal property but was generally reputed to be in much debt. His acting executor was his **son Jesse Burton who removed to Bedford County during the war**. Before the peace, the whole of the estate of Wm. Burton as sold and distributed.”<sup>92</sup>

This record provides a link for the marriage of Jesse’s half-brother William Burton (natural) to Elizabeth Mills in Bedford—if **Elizabeth was living with her aunt Anne (Mills) Witt**.

- Bedford County taxation of William Burton begins 1788, the year he ceases to be taxed in Amherst. The Bedford tax data is compatible with the older (legitimate) William Burton in Amherst. The William Burton said to be a natural son in 1787 is not found thereafter in any of the 20 or so surrounding counties for whom I have searched the tax rolls, with one exception.<sup>93</sup> The Bedford data is as follows:

1788 tax roll of Bedford, List B [northern dist.], first name in “B” section [no date] cites:  
1 white male 21+, 0 white males 16-21, 6 slaves 16+, 1 slave 12-16, 2 horses

1789 tax roll of Bedford, List B, 2<sup>nd</sup> name in “B” section, 25 May cites:  
1 white male 21+, 0 white males 16-21, 6 slaves 16+, 1 slave 12-16, 1 horse

1790 tax roll of Bedford, List B, 3<sup>rd</sup> name in “B” section, 14 May cites:<sup>94</sup>  
1 white male 21+, 0 white males 16-21, 6 slaves 16+, 1 slave 12-16, 1 horse

1791 tax roll of Bedford, List B, 4th name in “B” section, 28 March cites:  
1 white male 21+, 0 white males 16-21, 6 slaves 16+, 1 slave 12-16, 1 horse

1792 tax roll of Bedford, List B, 3<sup>rd</sup> name in “B” section, 24 April cites:

<sup>91</sup> Affidavit of applicant, 23 January 1833, Jesse Reynolds aka Runnals (Pvt., Col. Pendleton’s Regt., Va., RW), filed with W 4580, widow Sarah (née Brown) Runnals; imaged at *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/1/16187040> and 35 subsequent images); the statement of birth and residence is at image 16187055.

<sup>92</sup> “British Mercantile Claims, 1775-1803,” *The Virginia Genealogist* 29 (July-September 1985): 220; citing “T79/92 Reports of William W. Hening.”

<sup>93</sup> See E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Amherst County, VA, Tax Roll Notes,” report to file, 9 June 2019.

<sup>94</sup> Same district and 8 names above Robert Burton who has been taxed in the county since 1782.



1 white male 21+, 0 white males 16-21, 6 slaves 16+, 1 slave 12-16, 3 horse

1793 tax roll of Bedford, List B, 28 May cites:

3 white tithes, 8 slaves over 12, 5 horses [Did William Burton have a prior wife?]

1794 tax roll of Bedford, List B, (between Robert and Philip Burton 28 March cites:

8 white tithes, 8 slaves over 12, 6 horses [the number of males suggests a business or trade]

1795 tax roll of Bedford, List B, 27 June cites:

3 white tithes, 2 slaves over 12, 1 horses [the reduction suggests debt problems/legal suits]

1796 tax roll of Bedford, List B, [no date] cites:

1 white male 21+, 7 slaves 16+, 7 slaves 12-16, 3 horses

1797 tax roll of Bedford, List B, [no date] cites:

1 white male 21+, 7 slaves 16+, 7 slaves 12-16, 5 horses [again between Robert & Philip]

1798 tax roll of Bedford, List B, [no date] cites:

1 white male 21+, 7 slaves 16+, 8 slaves 12-16, 3 horses, \$3.70 tax

1799 tax roll of Bedford, List B, [no date] cites:

1 white male 21+, 7 slaves 16+, 8 slaves 12-16, 4 horses, \$4 tax

1800 tax roll of Bedford, List B,<sup>95</sup> [no date] cites:

3 white male 21+, 7 slaves 16+, 10 slaves 12-16, 4 horses, \$4.88 tax

1801 tax roll of Bedford, List B, [no date] cites:

2 white male 21+, 7 slaves 16+, 10 slaves 12-16, 5 horses, \$5 tax [Robert & Philip still taxed]

[This year carries a list of "retail" aka "merchandise" licenses; Burton is not included]

1802 tax roll of Bedford, List A,<sup>96</sup> 5 April, cites:

**Robert Mills:** 1 white male 21+, 1 horse [Robert Mills, 1804, Franklin County]

COMMENT:

The 1810 census of Bedford includes a Robert Mills living in the northern district, aged 26-45 (i.e., born 1765-1794), with 3 children 10-15 and 6 younger children. The 1830 census enumerates him as 45+ (i.e., born 1775 or earlier).

Three children aged 10-15 in 1810 (assuming they are all his) suggests that he married c1794. No such marriage has been found. However, a Robert Mills married Sally Campbell c10 November 1806 in Amherst County.<sup>97</sup>

1802 tax roll of Bedford, List B, [no date] cites:

2 white male 21+, 6 slaves 16+, 8 slaves 12-16, 5 horses, \$4.12 tax [R & P still taxed]

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<sup>95</sup> William Whitton is taxed in this district; one William Whitton is said to have married Millie Witt, the daughter of Anne (Mills) Witt, sister of Jesse Mills. As this report shows, she was charged with bearing a child while he was charged with living with her out of wedlock. I've found on marriage record for them.

<sup>96</sup> Gabriel Mattocks and Thomas Musgrove is on List A, on 12 and 16 August respectively. Thomas appeared with William Mills in Franklin in 1812,

<sup>97</sup> "Virginia, Select Marriages, 1785-1791," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 March 2018), citing FHL microfilm 32073 and [Amherst Co. Marriage Book \_\_], "p198." The database gives an exact date, but does not indicate whether that was the date of the bond or the marriage return. **The only Mills marriages in Amherst during 1765-1815 were those of Susannah, Jesse Jr., and Robert.**

1803 tax roll of Bedford, List B, 31 August, cites:

William Burton: 2 white male 21+, 9 slaves 16+, 8 slaves 12-16, 5 horses, \$4.56 tax

**William Burton Jr.:** 1 white tithe, 0 tax [born 1786 or 1787; now 16]

[R & P still taxed on different days]

[This year carries a list of “retail” aka “merchandise” licenses; Burton is not included]

1804 tax roll of Bedford, List B, cites:

William Burton: 2 white male 21+, 10 slaves 16+, 8 slaves 12-16, 7 horses

**William Burton Jr.:** 1 white tithe

[This year carries a list of “retail” aka “merchandise” licenses; Burton is not included; one

**Thomas McCarroll** was issued a one-year-license]

1805 tax roll of Bedford, List B, 13 March, cites:

William Burton: 1 white male 21+, 11 slaves 16+, 8 slaves 12-16, 6 horses

**William Burton Jr.:** 1 white tithe, 1 horse

*also List B*

**Francis Mills,** 10 April, 1 white tithe, 1 horse

[This year carries a list of “retail” aka “merchandise” licenses; Burton is not included;

**Thomas McCarroll** does not reappear]

COMMENT:

This **Francis Mills**, on 3 December 1806—together with “Francis Mills, Junr.”—signed a petition of citizens from “Bedford & Franklin Counties.” In 1820 and 1830, “Francis Mills” was a household in Henry County, where he appears to be an offshoot of William and Elizabeth (Fontaine) Mills of Matrimony Creek.

- One William Burton is subsequently found in Pittsylvania also, but my cursory search of Pittsylvania has yielded no identity for his wife or any stated tie to Bedford.
- This Elizabeth appears to be of appropriate age to have borne William Mills *ca.* 1784. I have not been able to place her into the family of James Mills of Bedford and Franklin, whose sons began marrying in the mid-1790s. No daughters are known for that James Mills.

**1786**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Land Tax Roll.

Headers:

- Quantity of Acres
- Average price per acre
- Amount of valuation
- Tax at ½ pr cent.

**John Mills**            No longer there.

Alterations list:    John Mills to William Buford

“List of Lands taken from Bedford to form a part of Franklin County” includes several individuals cited as neighbors in these notes:

Apsher, Lodowick

Apsher, Abram

Craighead, John

Cantrell, Sarah  
Cockerham, William  
Early, Jubal & John  
**Greer, Moses**  
Maxcey, Josiah  
Martin, William  
Maxcy, Walter  
Meadow, Jesse  
Meadow, James  
Meadow, Joel  
Meadow, John Jr.  
Maxcy, Jeremiah  
**Mattox, John**  
Wimmer, Jacob  
**Watts, Richard**  
Wright, William<sup>98</sup>

**2 MARCH 1786**  
**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**  
Will.

**Robert Ewing's LW&T.** Wife Mary Ewing. Son Finis Ewing to get his 400 acres adj. Adam Sharp after death or remarriage of wife. His 514 acres on S end of Ewings Mountain adjoining Sharp, Clark, Foulden, *Dooley* and Forquans' lines to be sold. Daughters Sidney Linn. Daughter "**Patey Ewing**" (*var.* "Paty Ewing") gets money to purchase a slave. Daughter **Pety Mills**, a "Dimond Ring worth too pistoles as a token of hir singular Obedience and to her son **Bartus Mills** a set of shoe and knee silver buckles." Sons Robert, Baker, Rhuben, and Chattim, proceeds to be used to purchase land in "Kentucky" and "Western Country." Sons Young and Urban are under age. Bertus Ewing, son of John to get "a set of shoe and knee silver buckles." ... "Be it known each of my *children Paty, Rubin and Chattim* whom I give said land to as above shall be at all future charge *as they arrive at full age.*"

Executors: James Turner, John Ewing, George Dooley, and "beloved Wife Mary Ewing if she will accept of it." Witnesses: George Dooley, John Edgar, Sam Ewing.

Codicil 14 May 1787 revises terms substantially, speaks of "when my son Finis Ewing" arrives at full age abd "2000 acres of land in the Country of Kentucky loated by Order of my son Baker Ewing" which he says should go "to my three young sons Young, Urben and Reuben."<sup>99</sup>

COMMENT:

The wording of the will implies that he has two daughters named *Patey, Paty, Pety*—i.e., Patty. One is twice called Patey Ewing (maiden name) and is presumably the one who is under age. One is reference as "Pety Mills" and already has a son. If this reading is correct, then one explanation might be that Pety/Patty Mills—and likely Baker Ewing—come from a first marriage. If he has only one daughter of that name, then the statement that she is underaged suggests that the John Mills she married is a much younger man than the John Mills who was a 1750s neighbor of Robert Ewing, Esquire.

As seen below, in April 1787, "Patty Mills" joined with John Mills in the sale of their land, at which time they were said to be of Botetourt.

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<sup>98</sup> Bedford County, "Land Book 1786"; Land Tax Books, Reel 32, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

<sup>99</sup> Joida Whitten, *Abstracts of Bedford County, Virginia, Wills, Inventories and Accounts, 1754–1787* (Dallas, TX: P.p., n.d.).

**23 APRIL 1787**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale.

**John Mills** and **Patty** his wife of **Botetourt** to William Buford.<sup>100</sup>

COMMENT:

This volume has no Burton, Camp/Kemp, Edmondson, Frame, Lavender, Mills, Mattox. Other items of interest for which I did not have time to take full notes include

169/ 25 Nov 1782

William Mead & Isham Talbot to **Thomas WATTS**, 100 acres on both sides of Stanton River; m&b but no neighbors cited.

658-59/ 12 August 1786

Joseph & Mary **Burden** to Stockton, Raccoon Branch, no neighbors named

662-63/25 December 1786

John **Burden** & wife Ann "Nancy" to Henry Haynes, 250£, 382 acres patented to John Harvy 2 January 1756 + 210 acres patented to John Burden joining the other one 15 June 1773, of which 292 acres sold from Harvey's patent, Roaring River ... (Both Burdens signed)

**6 MAY 1786**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Marriage Bond

**Jesse Witt** and Henry Brown Jr. of Bedford post bond for Jesse to marry Alice Brown.<sup>101</sup>

**APRIL 1787**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court minutes.

"A Deed **Mills & wife** to Buford—Ackd & Ord – Patsy the wife have [*sic*] been privately Exd Relinqd &c."<sup>102</sup>

"**Jesse Witt**, a Pensioner came before the Court who examined him respecting his infirmness contracted in the Service of the United States and it is the Opinion of the Court that he be recommended as a Person still to be Intitled to the Annual Pension of £12, as formerly settled upon him."<sup>103</sup>

COMMENT:

This Jesse should be the son of Anne (Mills) Witt.

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<sup>100</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Deed Book 7, 1780-87: 697-98.

<sup>101</sup> Jesse Witt (Widow "Alice or Alcy") pension application (Pvt., Capt. George Lambert's Co., 14<sup>th</sup> Va. Line, Revolutionary War), W6524; imaged at *Revolutionary War Pension Files, Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/2815082> and 54 subsequent images : 14 May 2018). For an 1843 transcript of the bond, see image 28158104. Jesse petitioned in Bedford on 30 August 1832 saying he was aged 70 on 11 May 1832. He enlisted for three years in the army on 1 March 1777, under Major Abraham Buford (image 28158125). Postwar, he submitted his discharge certificate to the state's general assembly which granted him an invalid or half-pay pension of \$40 a year "for many years." (unage 28158128). He died 3 February 1842 in Bedford (image 28158136). Alice died 9 July 1844 leaving Lettice, Elizabeth, Daniel, Alice, Milly, and Jesse Witt as children and heirs (image 28158107). Her son Jesse was described by Thomas Green on 25 October 1846 as "a pious man—a preacher" (image 28158166). Mrs. Anna F. Cole of Berwyn, Md., inquired about him on 7 July 1903 saying he was her great-grandfather (image 28158254).

Note: File S39893 is a Jesse Witt/Whitt of Goochland.

<sup>102</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Order Book No. 9, 1786-1790, p. 46; Bedford Co. Reel 41, Library of Virginia.

<sup>103</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Order Book No. 9, 1786-1790, p. 49; Bedford Co. Reel 41, Library of Virginia.

**MAY 1787**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court Order.

“On the motion of **Richd. Edmundson** Secy [security] For the Admr. Of Eliz. Haile Craighead late Eliz Haile & **Tho: Watts** who was Secy for **Humphrey Edmundson** for their admr. Of Richd. ~~Emmondson~~ Haile decd. be Sumd. to next Court to Give Counter Secy. For their Indemnification.”<sup>104</sup>

COMMENT:

The crossed out words appear in the original record book.

**1787**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Tax roll abstract.<sup>105</sup>

COMMENT: No names of interest.

**APRIL 1789**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court Order.

“**Jesse Witt** late a private in the 14<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regt.” is approved for a continuation of his pension.<sup>106</sup>

**MAY 1789**

**BEDFORD COUNTY**

Bastardy charge

“Commonwealth vs. **Milly Witt** — for having a Bastard Child — fined acc<sup>g</sup> to Law — Deft. not app<sup>g</sup>.

“Same vs. **Wm. Whitton** for keeping Milly Witt — Dism<sup>d</sup>.<sup>107</sup>

COMMENT:

The same page has similar charges against Eliz. Pratt, living “in adultery” with Barna. Lyne.

Milly Witt was daughter of Anne (Mills) Witt, the widow of Lewis Witt, and proposed granddaughter of William and Mary Mills of Albemarle and Henrico. The subsequent settlement of Anne’s estate identifies Milly as the wife of Whitton.

Page 259 of this same register fines another another man for not “acquaint<sup>g</sup> the Church Wardens of the parish of Russel of a Base born Child being born in his House within six months.” Milly and Wm. Whitton were not fined for non-reporting within six months, suggesting that their child was less than six months old.

**1789**

**BEDFORD COUNTY**

Guardianship

“Ordered that **John Witt** be appd Guardian to **John Witt** Orphan & Heir to **Benjamin Witt** deceased for the purpose of making a Defence to a Suit in Chancery exhibited against him by Thomas Overstreet

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<sup>104</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Order Book No. 9, 1786–1790, p. 51; Bedford Co. Reel 41, Library of Virginia.

<sup>105</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: 199–210.

<sup>106</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Order Book No. 9, 1786–1790, p. 255; Bedford Co. Reel 41, Library of Virginia.

<sup>107</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Order Book No. 9, 1786–1790, p. 259; Bedford Co. Reel 41, Library of Virginia.

Junr.”<sup>108</sup>

COMMENT:

I visually *scanned* Bedford Court minutes from start of 1783 through end of 1789. Did not have time to read word for word.

**AUGUST 1789**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court Minute.

“Jones vs Neal. Leave for Pl to take the Deps. [of] **Thomas Edmundson, Ninian Edmundson, Thomas Bell, Dolly Edmundson, & Priscilla Orne** in the State of Maryland.”<sup>109</sup>

COMMENT:

This may point to Maryland origins for Richard Edmundson and his wife.

**NOVEMBER 1789**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court minute.

“A Report of a road from **Mrs. Pratts to Mrs. Witts’** Ford on **Otter River**, thence across the River to Thomas Lumpkins from thence into the Road by Richard Lees. Retd & Established ans. to Report Ord that Richard Deason be appd Surv of Sd Rd from Mrs. Pratts to Jos. White’s Old Place & with the List of Hands filed & Roger Williams appd. Sur of Sd Rd from Joseph Whites old Place to Otter River & the Hands as p[r] List filed.”<sup>110</sup>

**27 MARCH 1790**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Ord: that the overseers of the Poor bind Edy Dabney Daughter of Rachel Dabney to Nicholas Mead acc<sup>g</sup> to Law (memo. Child said to be four years old).

“Ordered that the Order made at last \_\_\_\_ of Court Allow<sup>g</sup> **Jesse Witt’s** Claim as a Pensioner be Quashed & that the Clerk be Ordered not to certify the same.”<sup>111</sup>

**24 MAY 1790**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

Commonwealth vs. **William Whitton** Surv[eyor of] Rd. from Callaway’s Mill Creek to Coffee’s old Shop, fined acc<sup>g</sup> to Law & C.<sup>112</sup>

**24 AUGUST 1790**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

**William Whitton** served in jury in case of Boothe vs. Frith.<sup>113</sup>

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<sup>108</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Order Book No. 9, 1786–1790, p. 270; Bedford Co. Reel 41, Library of Virginia.

<sup>109</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Order Book No. 9, 1786–1790, p. 309; Bedford Co. Reel 41, Library of Virginia.

<sup>110</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Order Book No. 9, 1786–1790, p. 337–38; Bedford Co. Reel 41, Library of Virginia.

<sup>111</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 14; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 428.

<sup>112</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 16; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 429.

<sup>113</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 32; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 437.

**25 OCTOBER 1790**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Ordered that Abner Early be app<sup>d</sup> Sur. Rd. in room of **William Whitton** from Col<sup>o</sup> Callaway’s to Campbell’s Line with the usual Hands.”<sup>114</sup>

“Ordered that **Isaac Wade, Enos Mitchell**, Wm. Butler & James Austin Surveyors of Roads do attend with their Hands who work under them & assist Richard Dearen & Roger Williams Surveyors of the Road from **Mrs. Pratts to Mrs. Witts** ford on the Otter River with the Hands allotted to them And It is Ordered that John Thompson be app<sup>d</sup> Surv. of the Road from **Witt’s ford** on Otter River, thro **Lampkins’s** Land nearly along a path way to the road at John Robert’s, thence along Roberts’s Plantation into the Rd. leading to the main Rd. where Archelaus Moon formerly lived, now Lee’s, and their Hands who are allotted him to open the same.”<sup>115</sup>

**24 MAY 1791**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Jury duty

**John Witt** [the John born of Benjamin Sr.] is still the only Witt who has done jury duty since I began tracking Witts in these court orders (1786).<sup>116</sup>

COMMENT:

No further reference to a John Witt appears until 1794, at which time one John Witt was appointed to the grand jury. Given that land ownership qualifications were greater for grand jury service, it is likely the John of 1794 was this older John, rather than John-of-Lewis or John-of-Benjamin Jr.

**27 JUNE 1791**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Ordered that the Overseers of the poor bind out David **Pratt**, son of **Betty Pratt** tpo Dederick Ewose acct. to Law.

“Ordered that the Overseers of the poor bind Barnett Pratt, son of **Betty Pratt** to Levi Squires accg. to Law.

“Ordered that the Overseers of the Poor bind Robert Nix to Henry Musgrove accg. to Law.”<sup>117</sup>

COMMENT:

From the two entries for sons of Betty Pratt, it is obvious that the overseers are waiting several years after the birth of “fatherless children” to bind out those children.

**24 AUGUST 1791**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

**Jacob Wade** serves on jury with **James Brown**.<sup>118</sup>

**26 SEPTEMBER 1791**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

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<sup>114</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 43; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 442.

<sup>115</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 44; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 443.

<sup>116</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 88; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 465.

<sup>117</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 93; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 467.

<sup>118</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 106; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 474.

Court order

“Wade’s Legatees vs. Hardwick (Wade Admr.) -- Leave for the Deft. to take the Depo. of **Pearce Wade** De bene Esse.”<sup>119</sup>

“Ordered that Charles Harris, Peter Wilkerson, **John White’s** & Charles Jones, or any three, be appd. to appraise sd. Deced’s Estate [Samuel Hensley] & make return thereof to Court.”<sup>120</sup>

**26 DECEMBER 1791**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Ordered that the overseers of the poor bind **James Pratt** to Drury Holland. Ord. that Do. Bind **Nancy Pratt** to Mordecai Morgan.”<sup>121</sup>

**28 FEBRUARY 1791**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Ordered that John Campbell & Mary his wife & **Elizabeth Pratt** be Summoned to Court to show Cause why they do not deliver up their childdren that are bound by over. poor, agreeable to orders of court.”<sup>122</sup>

**27 MARCH 1791**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Jury duty

**William Whitton** serves on jury for the first time in years.<sup>123</sup>

**31 MAY 17792**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“**Isaac Wade** Quald. as an Ensign of the Militia accg. to Law & took the Oath prescribed by Act of Congress.”<sup>124</sup>

**28 AUGUST 1792**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

**Isaac Wade** served on jury.<sup>125</sup>

**24 SEPTEMBER 1792**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Ordered that the Overseers of the Poor bind **Oliver Pratt**, Son of **Elizabeth Pratt** to James grayson accg. to Law.”<sup>126</sup>

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<sup>119</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 109; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 475.

<sup>120</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 111; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 476.

<sup>121</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 126; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 484.

<sup>122</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 136; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 489.

<sup>123</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 141; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 491.

<sup>124</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 155; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 495.

<sup>125</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 168; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 506.

<sup>126</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 181; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 512.



**22 OCTOBER 1782**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

"A Deed Boothe & ux to **Whitton** – Ackd. & O.Rd. Tomsey the wife [of Booth] relinqd. &c."<sup>127</sup>

**27 NOVEMBER 1792**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Jury duty

**William Whitton** served again on the jury.<sup>128</sup>

**25 MARCH 1793**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Jury duty

**William Whitton** served again on the jury.<sup>129</sup>

**27 MARCH 1793**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

**Isaac Wade** is recommended to the governor as an ensign in the 1<sup>st</sup> district.<sup>130</sup>

**30 MAY 1793**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

"On the motion of Peter Forgueson by his Attorney & for reasons appearing to the Court, I is Ordered that the petition & Summons of the said Peter Forgueson against **Benjamin Hobson**, which was determined at February Court last by an award of arbitration appointed by the Court for that purpose, be [squashed?], that the Judgment rendered on said Award be set aside, and the Execution thereon be Quashed."<sup>131</sup>

COMMENT:

I have not, before now, been gathering Hobson/Hopson entries because I had not previously placed Benjamin Hobson in this county. There have been random Hopson entries that used merely the surname. When I resume Hobson/Hopson research, I should work Bedford County thoroughly.

**24 JUNE 1793**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

"On the motion of **Benjamin Hobson** & his attorney to set aside an Order of last Court reinstating a petition & Summons at the suit of Peter Forgueson, it being in Proof to the Court that the said Forgueson had legal notice of this motion. On hearing, it is ord. that the motion be dismissed with Costs."<sup>132</sup>

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<sup>127</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 183; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 531.

<sup>128</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 189; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 534.

<sup>129</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 211; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 545.

<sup>130</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 220; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 550.

<sup>131</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 236; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 558.

<sup>132</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 243; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 561.

**22 JULY 1793**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

"Ordered that the Overseers of the Poor bind Ann White & **John Witt White**, children of Elizabeth White, to James Rather according to Law."<sup>133</sup>

COMMENT:

The presence of two given names for the child John is not common in this society. In most cases in which I have observed it in the court minutes of Amherst and Bedford, it has been instances in which a child was born out of wedlock but the child's father was known. The child's legal surname would be that of the mother, while the father's surname was tacked onto the given name.

This court order suggests that one of the Witt males *is* fathering children without marrying the mother.

"Forgueson vs. **Hobson** Peter Jud. for 1£ 15.7 ½ on hearing & Costs."<sup>134</sup>

**26 AUGUST 1793**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Jury duty

**William Whitton** again serves on jury.<sup>135</sup>

**23 SEPTEMBER 1793**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

"**Whitton** vs. Allen & al – Dismd. at the deft. Allen & Samuel Best's Costs."<sup>136</sup>

**23 DECEMBER 1793**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

"John Nichols Surveyor of the Road from James Eckhols's to the Cross Roads at **William Whittons** with the list of hands filed.

"Robert Dollar Survr Rd from the forks of the Road at Goose Creek Meadows to the Cross road at **William Whitton's** with the List of hands filed."<sup>137</sup>

**27 JANUARY 1794**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

"Ordered that Robert Burton, Richard **Gilliam**, **Benjamin Hobson** & Joseph **Poindexter** or any three be appointed to appraise sd. decedent's estate [Daniel Morin, of the prior court order] & make return thereof to Court."<sup>138</sup>

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<sup>133</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 246; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 563.

<sup>134</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 249; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 564.

<sup>135</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 251; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 565.

<sup>136</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 264; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 572.

<sup>137</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 280; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 580.

<sup>138</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 283; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 581.

**25 MARCH 1794**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Quinn vs. **Ripley** – Jud. Confd. au<sup>c</sup> to Sp & C<sup>o</sup> Stay Ex’on ‘til May Court.”<sup>139</sup>

**26 MAY 1794**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Clark v. Frederick – **Benjamin White** Sp bail.”<sup>140</sup>

**28 MAY 1794**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

**John Whites** [*sic*] served on jury for three trials. Each time his name included the ‘s’ at the end.<sup>141</sup>

**27 AUGUST 1794**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

**Wm Whitton** again serves on jury.<sup>142</sup>

**Benjamin Hobson** is recommended to the governor as a proper person to fill the post of Ensign of oa Light Company in the 2d Battalion, 91<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Militia.<sup>143</sup>

**24 NOVEMBER 1794**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

**John Witt** appointed to grand jury with John Leftwich, Stephen Preston, and other prominent men.<sup>144</sup>

**25 NOVEMBER 1794**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“**Ripley** vs. Lark – Atta – On Hearing Jud. for £40 & Costs payable the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1795 – And it is ordered that the Sheriff make Sale of the Property by him attached accg. to Law, payable at the day aforesaid and apply the money arising from such sale toward satisfying the Pl. Jud: & Costs.”<sup>145</sup>

**26 JANUARY 1795**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Ordered that the Overseers of the poor bind **Suckey Pratt**, Daughter of **Mary Pratt** to Daniel Mitchell accg to Law.”<sup>146</sup>

**23 FEBRUARY 1795**

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<sup>139</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 293; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 586.

<sup>140</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 303; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 591.

<sup>141</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 308; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 594.

<sup>142</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, pp. 327-28; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > images 603-4.

<sup>143</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 329; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 604.

<sup>144</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 341; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 610.

<sup>145</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 343; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 611.

<sup>146</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 351; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 615.

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

"A Deed Waddy to **White** pvd. by two Wits.

"A Deed **Witt** to Overstreet – Ackd & Ord."<sup>147</sup>

**23 MARCH 1795**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

**John Witt** serves on [petit] jury.<sup>148</sup>

**24 MARCH 1795**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

**Joshua Wade** serves on jury—the first time he's been mentioned.<sup>149</sup>

**27 APRIL 1795**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court order

"The Last Will & Testament of **Edward Watts** decd. p[rove]d & Ordered to be Recorded."

"Ordered that Samuel Davis be appd. Survr. Road from the forks of the road that Leads from Pate's Settlement near Marthias James's to the Flinty hill in the room of **Benjamin Watts**, with the usual hands."<sup>150</sup>

COMMENT:

While Jesse Witt is said to be a preacher at some point in life, he has not yet been licensed as such nor has he applied to marry people.

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**FURTHER RESEARCH**

For this Mills project, I have now conducted a general survey of published literature—in print and online, as well as some work in original records—for ten Central Virginia counties:

- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| • Albemarle  | • Goochland     |
| • Amherst    | • Henry         |
| • Brunswick  | • Lunenburg     |
| • Cumberland | • Pittsylvania  |
| • Franklin   | • Prince Edward |

At this point, research needs to expand across the Blue Ridge into the counties of

- Augusta
- Botetourt (cut from Augusta, 1770)
- Montgomery (cut 1777 from defunct Fincastle, which was cut from Botetourt in 1772)

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<sup>147</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 354; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 617.

<sup>148</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 361a [*sic*]; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 621.

<sup>149</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 364; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 623.

<sup>150</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Court Order Book 1790–1795, p. 366; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 624.

Key persons of interest are William & John of Lunenburg c1745–54, the two Johns of Bedford, 1755–86, and the John and Hugh Mills who died in Botetourt in 1782 and 1785, respectively, with kinsmen in Montgomery. William Mills-Witt of Franklin lived intermittently in Montgomery, some of his children chose spouses there, and the name Hugh carried down among his offspring.

If the survey of the three over-the-mountain counties does not yield the needed origin data for William of Albemarle and the needed parental data for William Mills-Witt of Franklin, then research should next focus on the original court, land, probate, and tax records of Bedford County that have not yet been worked.

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#### COMMENT:

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