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REPORT TO: File

SUBJECT Mills: Initial Survey of Published Resources for Southside Virginia: Brunswick, Goochland, and Counties Cut from Them—Principally Albemarle, Amherst, Bedford, Cumberland, and Prince Edward—with Peripheral Research in South Carolina and Tennessee to Pursue Leads

BACKGROUND: The “facts” and allegations on which this research was based are as follows:

William Mills (allegedly born in England) and wife Mary (allegedly née Walton) are said to be the parents of seven children born *ca.* 1725–1745, for which the following details are widely asserted:¹

1. **AMBROSE MILLS**, b. *ca.* 1722; married *ca.* 1745, Albemarle (?) **Mourning Stone**; and *ca.* 1759, Craven Co., SC, **Ann Brown**. lived in Lunenburg and Bedford Cos., Va. (1749–57); Anson Co., NC (1758); Craven Co., SC (*ca.* 1758–67); Tryon and Rutherford Cos., NC (*ca.* 1768–1780); hung 14 October 1780, Bickerstaff’s Farm, Rutherford Co., NC, as a Tory colonel.²
2. **THOMAS MILLS**, b. *ca.* 1724; m. before 1752; d. before 6 September 1755, leaving children Ambrose and Elizabeth named as heirs in Thomas’s father’s will.³ Wife unknown.
3. **SARAH “SALLY” MILLS**, b. *ca.* 1726; m. about 1748, **Thomas Watts**; moved with him to Craven Co., SC (later Camden District and Fairfield and Kershaw Cos.).⁴
4. **WILLIAM MILLS**, b. *ca.* 1728; named as an heir in his father’s 1755 will. Nothing further proved. Numerous online trees assert him to be “Col. William Henry Mills” of the Patriot cause, but none offer evidence; a double-name in this place and time, for a family of his status, was rare.
5. **ELIZABETH MILLS**, b. *ca.* 1730; m. **Thomas Learwood**, Albemarle Co., Va., before her father’s 1755 will.⁵ One undocumented Learwood genealogy asserts she married secondly to a **Ripley**. By Learwood, she supposedly had **John, Mary** who married **Richard Tankersley Jr.** of Amherst, **Agatha or Anne** (m. in Albemarle **Charles Denny** who was b. 1760), **Frances** (m. **Benjamin Denney**), and **Edmond Learwood** who moved to Laurens Co., SC, with son **Edmond Franklin Learwood**, born 1782, who reputedly named sons **Ambrose Ripley Learwood** and **Charles Lavender Learwood**. By **Ripley**, she supposedly had **John** who allegedly married

¹ The only documented work I’ve seen published on this family is 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; citing Amherst Order Book 1773–82. Hiden provides this list of children from William’s will but identifies only one spouse: that of Sarah (Mills) Watts.

² See Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Ambrose Mills ... Research Notes,” for the abstracted records that document this chronology.

³ Thomas’s birth-order position in the family is unproved. As a deceased son, he is mentioned last in his father’s will. Given that the 1755 will credits him with two children before his death and that males commonly married later than females in their society, I am positioning him ahead of his sister Sarah.

⁴ See Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Thomas Watts (*ca.* 1725–*aft.* 1796); Spouse Sarah Mills: Research Notes,” for all known records created by or about this couple.

⁵ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 134. Some descendants allege that she married **John Edmond Learwood** (1720–1855) in 1745, had four children born 1745–50 (though he is said to have died in 1755), and that she d. 1767, Va. See, for example Ralph Tennant, “Christine Larwood Family Tree,” Ancestry (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/21647526/person/1171920273> : accessed 6 June 2015); no evidence provided

Ambrose Graden), **Pleasant** (m. *Shadwick*), **Elizabeth** (m. *John Murray*), **Mildred** (m. "*Equiviler [Acquilla] Years*"), and possibly another son who married a *Dalsbarthe* and *Barrentine*.⁶

6. **ANNE (AKA ANNA) MILLS**, b. ca. 1732, Va.; unmarried at time of father's 1755 will; frequently, without evidence, said to be wife of **Lewis Witt** whose widow left a son "Mills Witt" and other children who bore names carried by Anne Mills's siblings (Jesse, Millie, Elizabeth).⁷
7. **MILDRED "MILLIE" MILLS**, b. ca. 1734, Va.; unmarried at time of father's 1755 will; said to have married **William Lavender** who died 1776. Many descendants attribute to him a double-name also: William Charles Lavender.⁸
8. **JESSE MILLS**, b. ca. 1736, Va.; heir to a "proportionable part of his father's land *beside* the land [his father] lived on." Some assert that he later lived in Bedford County and/or died in Kentucky. None offer any evidence or appear to have tried to reconstruct his life.

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

SECONDARY

ISSUE: Autosomal DNA carried by descendants of Ambrose, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Millie triangulate on *many* segments with descendants of one William Mills who was born about 1783–88 and married Drucilla Kemp, 1815, in Franklin County, Va. No researchers have identified his parents. His Y-DNA is a Witt Y rather than a Mills Y—suggesting that his mother may have been a Mills and his father a Witt. This report lays the ground work for determining how this man—whom I am calling *William Mills-Witt*—fits into this family.



⁶ James Larwood, "Morphology of Larwood Genealogy" (MS, n.p., 1933); imaged at *Ancestry.com* from a copy at Sutro Library, San Francisco, California. This manuscript presents the American Learwood/Larwood immigrant as "John Larwood," assigns him a marriage at about the same date as Elizabeth Mills married *Thomas* Learwood, but does not identify his wife. The time frame and the identity of the couple's putative offspring suggest strongly that this is the *Thomas* Learwood/Learwood who married Elizabeth Mills, daughter of William, before William's 1755 will in Albemarle. Also see Joey67, "Denney Family," *Missouri Family Trees* (<http://missourifamilytrees.blogspot.com/2010/03/denney-family.html> : accessed 23 May 2016. Ann "Larwood" Denny is said to be the mother of Benjamin Denney (b. about 1780 in Virginia; died January 1842 in Pulaski, Mo.; and Charles Denney Jr. who died 1841 in Pulaski. Charles Denney's parents are alleged there to be Samuel Denney and Sarah Suddarth, whose parents were William Suddarth and **Parlow Mills**. He cites no sources

⁷ Bedford Co., Va., Will Book 4: 276-77, Will of Anne Witt, 9 December 1811, probated 28 October 1816; and Will Book 5: 195–97, Anne Witt, Sales & Accounts; these two sets of records name her children as *Mills*, *Jesse*, John, Roland, Robert, Agatha/Agness, *Milly* (m. William Whitton), and *Betsey* (Calvert).

⁸ For example, see KayMarie Ybarra, "KayMarieRettaYabarra" tree, *Ancestry* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/60751412/person/34299038922/facts> : accessed 17 May 2016), "Mildred Millie Mills ... 1738 ... 1776," profile page. The double-name attributed to her husband, "William Charles," is highly dubious. Double forenames were not at all common in this era. Also Michael Spillars, "Spillars Family Tree," *Ancestry* (person.ancestry.com/tree/54902/person/6049440132/facts : accessed 17 May 2016), profile for "Mildred Amelia Mills, Birth 1738 • Virginia, United States; Death 1776 • Amherst, Amherst, Virginia." Spillars lists her children (without evidence) as *Sarah* (1744-1787), *William* (1760–1835), *Winston* (1762-1835), *Anthony* (1763-1802), *Charles* (1763-1802), *George* (1765-1846); *Mary* (1768–1850); *Joseph* 1(769--).

Jlav78, "Lavender Family Tree," *Ancestry* (person.ancestry.com/tree/27253432/person/26082618067/facts) asserts the same basic facts for Millie and William that are used by Spillars, above, and most everyone else; but jlav78 gives different data for the children: *Sarah* (1744-1787), *John* (1746-1776), *Charles* (1748–1803), "William (Allen)" (1756–1835), *Mary*, *Mildred*, *Anthony*, *George*, *Winston*, *Charles*."

Executive Summary

The research notes in this report expand our knowledge of most members of this nuclear family. The family summary above can be expanded as follows:⁹

WILLIAM & MARY MILLS: GOOCHLAND

- **1732–44, St. James Parish, Goochland County.** Land on Licking Hole Creek and Wild Board Creek. *Neighbors:* Henry Chiles, Samuel Coleman, Richard Kearby/Kirbey, _____ Utley, _____ Scott, Henry Adkins, Stephen Lacy, George Hilton. *Associates:* Patrick Cash, Edman Hogges, William Grimes, John Clark, John Pryor, Peter Patrick. John Winn, Humphrey Parrish, Josias Payne, John Robards.

COMMENT:

- Note that none of the associates of the William & Mary Mills, above, appear among the associates of the William & Mary Mills below.
- David Mills of the Nicholas Mills family later bought land on Lickinghole, which was a branch of Meacham's River. He was a landowner in the area by 1760.

WILLIAM & MARY MILLS: ALBEMARLE

- **1748, Albemarle County.** Had 54 acres surveyed. Location not specified. Grant not yet found.
- **1749, Goochland/Albemarle County.** 400-acre grant surveyed on Pedlar River and Dancing Creek.
- **1752, Albemarle.** With wife Mary, sold 400 acres on Pedlar River & Dancing Creek to Martha Massie.
- **1755 (26 Sept), Albemarle.** Wrote will. *Executors:* Wife Mary & Thomas Jopling. *Associates:* *John Staples, Isham Davis, Wm. Floyd, Charles Truly, Robert Davis.*
- **1756–59, Albemarle/Amherst.** Grant of 350 acres on Branches of Buck Creek of Pedlar River. *Neighbors:* Edward Watts Jr., Thomas Mills, Thomas Smith, John Tuley.
- **1766 (10 July), Amherst.** Finalized grant for the 330 acre "unsettled tract" on branches of Buck Branch of Pedlar River bequeathed to son William Jr. by terms of his 1755 will. *Neighbors:* John Davis, Isham Davis.
- **1766 (4 August), Amherst.** Probate of will of William Mills
- **1776 (July), Amherst.** Probate of estate of widow Mary Mills.

COMMENT:

At least one and possibly two different William Millses, in 1736 and 1746, got land grants in an area that became Cumberland County.

- **1736, Goochland.** Grant, 400 acres, Willis River & Great Guinea Creek of Appamotox. *Neighbors:* John Marten, William Warnack, James Allen.
- **1746, Goochland.** Grant to "William Mills Son of William Mills of Aberdeen," 380 acres, both sides of Pidy Rock Run, Willis River. *Neighbors:* Anthony Levellain, William Daniel, William Easley, Ralph Hipping (Kipping?).

Cumberland County records address the disposition of both tracts. The first was sold before 17 November 1755. On 26 February 1759, the sale of the second tract places its grantor William Mills in Cumberland, while our William is documented as a resident of Albemarle.

⁹ For documentation of each point in this executive summary, see the research note of that date.

THOMAS MILLS

- Shortly before his death he applied for a land grant adjacent to his father's land on "branches of Pedlar River," also adjoining Arthur Tuley and Edward Watts [Jr.] That grant was approved on 10 March 1756, six months after his father's will described him as deceased.
- Albemarle and Amherst deeds have no record of his sale of that land.
- His land is mentioned on 10 July 1766 when William Mills Sr. finalized his title to the 330-acre previously "unsettled" tract adjacent to several family properties.
- His widow and the mother of the two children named in the will of William Sr., was possibly the **Eleonore Mills** who, in 1769, witnessed a deed from Wm. Cabell Sr. to William Cabell Jr., together with William Walton and John Savage. William Walton would later marry Thomas's sister Milly Mills and John Savage was a landowner at Tobacco Row Mountain—i.e., the east bank of Pedlar River.
- Thomas's children have not been found as adults.

WILLIAM MILLS JR.

- Born by 1728, given that he was charged with his own title on the 1750 tax roll of Lunenburg.
- Resident of N.C. on 5 October 1770 when he sold 330 acres bequeathed to him by his father.
- Appears to be the Loyalist William Mills hung by his sister's future brother-in-law, Capt. Jesse Walton, the week before the Battle of King's Mountain; the incident is recounted in the RW pension application of Capt. Walton's nephew, William Walton Jr. (whose father married Millie Mills).

JESSE MILLS

- First on record as an adult in 1764.
- Stayed on Pedlar River until his father's death in 1766.
- Sold his inherited land in September 1766, with consent of wife Lucy (allegedly Tilman).
- Bought 396 acres on Tye River in 1767, part of the Grymes tract that Millie Mills and husband William Lavender would buy in 1770.
- Served as bondsman on 2 November 1767 for Sheriff George Stovall, Jr.
- September 1768, sold his new tract (396 acres) on Tye River but apparently still owned land there.
- June 1770 bought another 297 acres of the Grymes tract.
- 5 July 1771, mortgaged the 297 acres; Lucy's participation was not required given that it was a mortgage and not a sale.
- 1771, 1772, 1776, gave several mortgages on personal property and slaves inherited from mother.
- 1777–1781, no record of him in Amherst
- 1784 (July), mortgaged a slave and livestock to Tilman Walton, son of Milly's future husband William Walton, and witnessed a deed.
- 1784–1802, no further record. Not on 1787 tax roll. **Likely period of death.**
- 1790, possibly the Jesse Mills of Rutherford County, NC, living two doors from Ambrose Mills's son William. (Neither William nor his father had a son named Jesse.)
- **1802**, one Jesse Mills of Green Co., Kentucky, is sued in Albemarle County by Joshua Hudson, father of Jesse's late wife Rachel, by whom he has a small child. **He would seem to be a younger Jesse Mills.**

ELIZABETH (MILLS) LEARWOOD RIPLEY

- Elizabeth married twice: (1) Thomas Learwood/Leerwood/Leirwood, before 26 September 1755; and (2) John Ripley, 1762–1769.
- January 1756, Bedford County. Thomas “Leirwood” and *James Wheeler* were sued in Bedford by Archibald Buchanan and John Brown & Co.
- 13 June 1757, Bedford County. Thomas “Learwood” received grant of 154 acres [formerly] in “Lunenburg County” on the head branches of **Reedy Creek** by the north side of **Pilot Mountain.** This land lay along the line with the future county of **Campbell.**
- September 1757, as residents of **Prince Edward County**, Thomas and Elizabeth sold the Pilot Mountain land.
- 29 March 1760, **Bedford County**. Thomas and Elizabeth on 29 March 1760 received a grant of 230 acres on west side of **Elk Creek, Bedford.**
- 1760. **Thomas** Learwood’s land is cited as adjacent to land of Moses Watkins of Bedford, on both sides of **Reedy Ck in Bedford**, adjoining **George Walton**, Thomas Franklin, and Bolling. Wit Robert Rutledge, William Bumpas, and William Jamerson.
- In 1762, in Prince Edward Co., she bore a son who enlisted in the Revolutionary War at age 14 under the name John Ripley; as an adult, he used the name John Mills. In his pension application he stated that he enlisted as Ripley because that was his stepfather’s name. About 1789, John left SC for Tennessee, then to North Carolina, before settling in Athens Co., OH.
- 1762–1769. Time frame of second marriage.
- About 1769 (when young John was seven) his step father, “John Ripley,” moved them to Ninety Six District SC. By 1772, Elizabeth’s new husband had purchased part of the James Ryan patent on Beaver Dam Swamp of Little River, which they sold in 1784. Elizabeth’s son *Edmund Learwood* bought another portion of that patent in 1784.
- The John Ripley household appears on the 1790 census of Edgefield District, SC, after which they family appears to have moved again—leaving behind one son Ambrose Ripley.
- Elizabeth and John Ripley may have followed her son John Mills into Tennessee. Individuals of appropriate names are found in Greene Co., TN (Thomas Ripley, 1790s–1820s), Nashville (John Ripley, 1802), and Rhea County (1830, Pleasant Ripley).
- A possibility for Elizabeth’s alleged son-in-law “Equiviler Yearns” has been found as a War of 1812 casualty in Kentucky: Aquilla Yearns, county of residence not stated.
- No evidence has been found for other Learwood children. Richard Tankersley Jr., who allegedly married Mary Learwood, was a neighbor of Milly (Mills) Lavender and inventoried the estate of Millie’s husband William in 1774.

MILLY (MILLS) LAVENDER WALTON

- Milly married twice: (1) **William Lavender**, with no middle name; apparent son of “Charles Lavender, the elder” who held land in Goochland in 1745; died 1774; (2) 16 April 1792, Amherst, **William Walton**, a conscripted RW veteran. By the first husband, she was the mother of:
 1. **William Lavender Jr.**, an RW soldier who married **Sarah “Sally” Stratton** (daughter of John Stratton) on 4 April 1781, and remained on parental land on Tye River until 1793. He and his widowed mother then sold the land they had inherited, calling it a grant made to “Charles Lavender, the elder.” Died as a pensioner on 7 January 1835, leaving his widow Sarah who then applied for his pension.
 2. **Charles Lavender**, an RW soldier who married **Lucy Ballew**, daughter of Thomas and sister of Joseph; died 5 May 1802 in Edgefield District, SC, where his father-in-law also lived. Lucy and children lived a short while in Buncombe Co., NC, near her brother Joseph, then moved

- to Spartanburgh District, SC, before settling in Jackson County, Georgia, where her son Charles sought a pension. Other sons: Simeon (moved to Alabama) and Willis (moved to Mississippi).
3. **Winston Lavender**, also an RW soldier according to the pension application by Charles Jr. No further information.
 4. **Allen Lavender**, who was married by 29 October 1785,¹⁰ appears on the 1787 tax list, and died in 1799, leaving land on Rockfish River near Joe's Creek. His brother Charles was one of his administrators. In 1805, his land was in possession of **Aggey Lavender, his widow**, who was the **daughter of Ann (allegedly Mills) and Lewis Witt**.
 5. **Anthony Lavender** (likely son), whose estate was opened in July 1801 in Amherst.
 6. **George Lavender**, adult by 1802 when he witnessed a will, petitioned the Virginia legislature in 1810, as a resident of **Nelson County**, to allow him to bring into the state a slave coming to him from his father's estate, which his remarried mother had removed to her residence in Tennessee.

Milly and William Walton apparently had no children. The following is known

- In 1793, with son William Lavender Jr. and their spouses, she sold the land inherited from her first husband.
- 19 January 1806, William Walton Sr. died in Burke County, NC, age 69.
- 1808, Maury County, Tennessee, Millie appeared with the widowed **Elizabeth McDonald** at the estate sale of Elizabeth's husband John McDonald.
- May 1822, Maury County, Tennessee, the property of Milly Walton, deceased, was auctioned off.
- No known relatives of Millie have been found yet in Maury to explain why she moved there. Maury records do have one Jesse Walton, 1818, and William Walton 1821. Jesse appeared in the company of a John "**Bickenstaff**" (likely *Bickerstaff* of the Rutherford N.C. Tory family on whose farm Ambrose Mills was hung). William Walton appeared in the company of one **John Mills**.
- Another possible magnet drawing Millie to Maury might be the RW soldier Hugh McCabe who moved there from **Pedlar River** in Amherst.

ANNE MILLS

- Despite the frequent assertions that Anne Mills, daughter of William, married Lewis Witt and bore a son named *Mills Witt*, no direct evidence has emerged yet to support this. Significant indirect evidence does connect Anne Witt to offspring of William and Mary Mills and is currently being developed.
- Some researchers have noted that David Mills of Albemarle also had a daughter Ann and have questioned whether *she* might be the wife of Lewis Witt. No known tree validly identifies a husband for David's daughter Ann. However, David's will of 1764 refers to Ann

¹⁰ "Journal to Ledger C: Commencing from the 10th October 1785 By Thompson and Teas," p. 34, charge against Allen Lavender p Wife Dr. to Sundries" (hat, handkerchief, fabric, thread); "Amherst County Business Records, Thomas and Teas Company Journal; Amherst County microfilm reel 132; Library of Virginia. Online trees asserting that William and Allen were one and the same are mistaken; this journal repeatedly carries separate charges for the two men.

as “Ann Mills,” implying that she was still single. In that event, she can be eliminated for consideration as Anne Witt, who bore 8 children to Lewis before his death in 1774.¹¹



Research Notes

(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

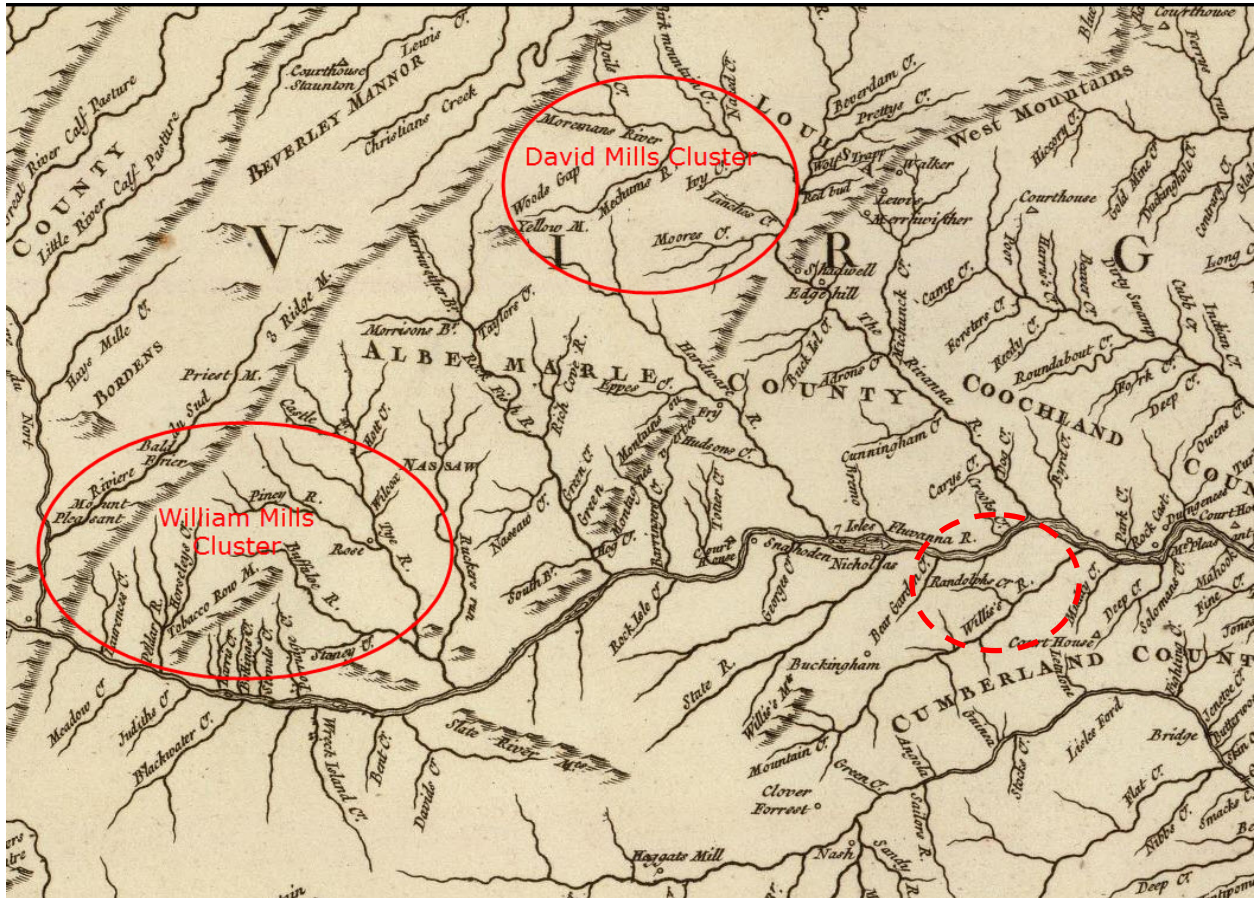
EVOLUTION OF HENRY-PATRICK-FRANKLIN

1767	Pittsylvania	cut from	Western	Halifax
1777	Henry		Western	Pittsylvania
1786	Franklin		Northern	Henry
			Southwestern	Bedford ¹²

¹¹ 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 (Lewis Witt). Also Bedford Co., Will Book 4:276–77 (Ann Witt will) and 287 (Ann Witt inventory and accounts), previously consulted for my work on William Mills-Witt of Franklin Co.

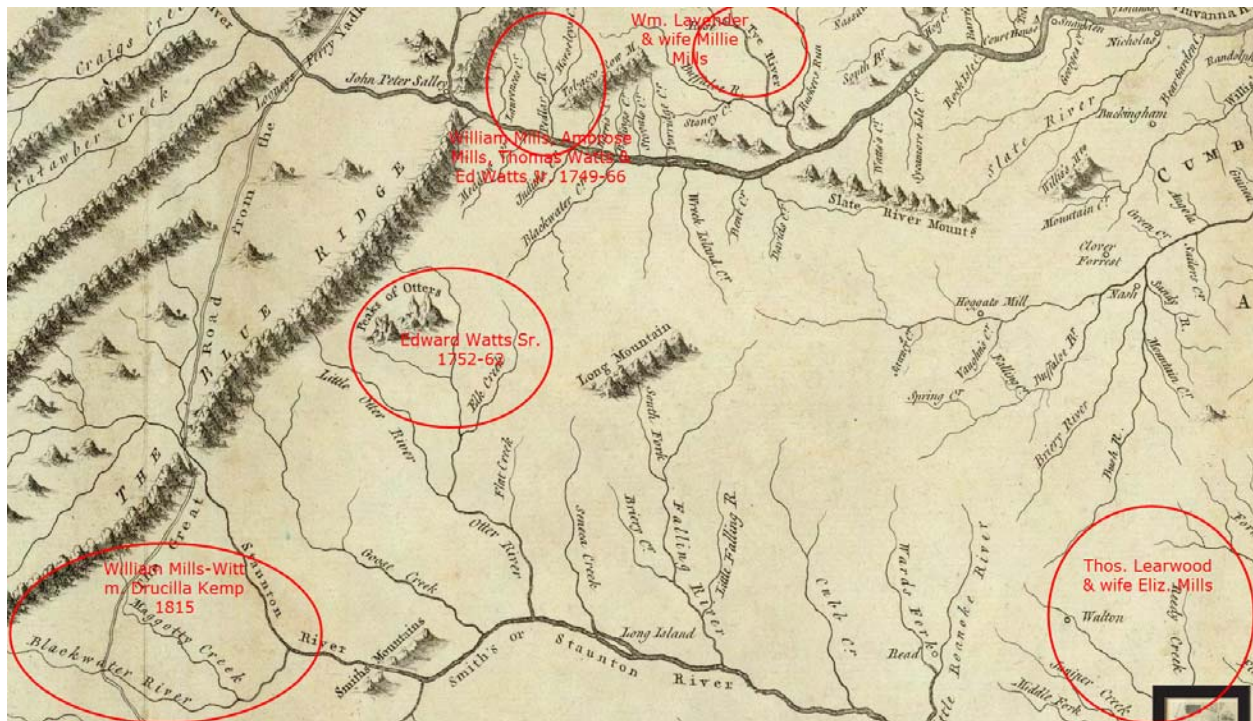
¹² Michael F. Doran, *Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia, 1634–1895* (Athens, Ga.: Iberian Publishing Co., 1987).

Map 1
Two Mills Clusters in Albemarle, ca. 1749–1780¹³
David Mills of Fredericksville Parish, Northern Albemarle
&
William Mills of Lower Albemarle (later Amherst)



¹³ The above map snippet is from Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, "A Map of the Most Inhabited Part of Virginia," 1775; imaged at *DavidRumsey* (<http://bit.ly/1TEYmPT> : accessed 20 May 2016).

Map 2
Location of Mills-Learwood-Lavender-Watts Grants¹⁴



11 APRIL 1732
GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA
Land Grant.

“For 40 shillings, grant to **William Mills**, 400 acres on **branches of Licking Hole Creek**, Goochland county, bounded as follows:

Beginning at a corner pine of *Samuel Coleman’s* Land_[,] Thence on his line South fifty Six degrees West forty nine chains to a Corner pine_[,] Thence West Twenty Six Chains to a Corner pine_[,] thence South Thirty five Chains to *Chiles* corner White Oak on a branch, Thence West Seventeen Degrees North Sixty Six Chains to a Corner red Oak_[,] Thence North Ten degrees West Seven Chains to a Corner black oak_[,] Thence West Sixteen degrees North Thirty Three? Chains Corner red oak & pine, Thence North Seventeen degrees West on Irby [*sic*] Line four & an half Chains to a Corner hiccory on *Scotts* Line_[,] Thence North Thirty five degrees East fifty two Chains to *Kirbys* Corner white Oak_[,] Thence on his Line South forty one Degrees East fifty four Chains to a Corner white Oak _[,] Thence East seven Degrees North Twenty seven chains to a Corner_[,] Thence East Thirty Six Degres North one hundred Eighty Chains to a Corner Thence South Thirty Six degrees East Seventy Chains to a Corner White Oak_[,] Thence West Thirty Six Degrees South to the Line of **Henry Childs**_[,] Thence on his line to the place began at.¹⁵

¹⁴ This snippet is also 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).

¹⁵ Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* (http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=164&last=&g_p=P14&collection=LO_Patent : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Mills, Willliam, grantee ... Goochland County ... 400 acres on branches of Lickinghole Creek”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 13, 1728-1732 (pt.1 & 2), p. 407 (Reel 11).”

COMMENT:

- The identity of this William is unproved.
- David Mills, of the Nicholas Mills family, owned land on Licking Hole Creek by 1760. (See below.)
- This William, with wife Mary, of the Henry Chiles neighborhood of Goochland has no known associates in common with William and Mary of Pedlar River in Albemarle and Amherst.

TO DO:

The recorded deeds for these 1732–46 Goochland transactions need to be obtained and studied for further clues that might generate a reliable identification in each case.

31 OCTOBER 1732

GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

Land purchase.

“Henry Chiles and Anne his wife sold to **William Mills** 300 acres on east side of **Licking Hole Creek** in Goochland for £25, including plantation called “Bobs” & bounded by *Utley’s* line. Wit: Richard Kearby, Patrick Cash, Edman Hogges.”¹⁶

12 MARCH 1733

GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

“**William Mills** of Goochland sold Francis Kearby 100 acres for £2.10 being part of 400 acres by patent dated 11 April 1732. Wit: Richard Kearby, Edmond Hogges, William Grimes. **Mary, wife of William Mills**, relinquished dower.”¹⁷

CA. 17 FEBRUARY 1735

GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

“**William Mills** of **St. James Parish**, Goochland, sold William Chambers 20 [200?] acres on **Wild Boar Creek** for £4, part of a tract bought of Henry Chiles. **Mary** relinquished dower. Wit: Samuel Coleman, John Clark.”¹⁸

CA. 15 JUNE 1736

GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

“**William Mills** of St. James Parish, Goochland, sold James Walker 300 acres on branches of **Licking Hole Creek** for £15.5 part of a greater tract Mills took up by patent 11 April 1732 bounded by *Samuel Coleman*, *Chiles* corner, *Scott’s* line, *Kerby’s* line & *Henry Chiles*. **Mary** released dower. Wit: John Pryor, Henry Chiles, Peter Patrick.”¹⁹

¹⁶ Carl R Waggle, “Genealogy Report: Ancestors of Mary Elizabeth Lewis,” user trees, *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/w/a/g/Carl-R-Waggle-CA/GENE3-0010.html> : accessed 23 May 2016), citing Goochland Deeds & Wills Book 1: 366.

¹⁷ Carl R Waggle, “Genealogy Report: Ancestors of Mary Elizabeth Lewis,” user trees, *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/w/a/g/Carl-R-Waggle-CA/GENE3-0010.html> : accessed 23 May 2016), citing Goochland Deeds & Wills Book 1: 487.

¹⁸ Carl R Waggle, “Genealogy Report: Ancestors of Mary Elizabeth Lewis,” user trees, *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/w/a/g/Carl-R-Waggle-CA/GENE3-0010.html> : accessed 23 May 2016), citing Goochland Will Book 2: 68.

¹⁹ Carl R Waggle, “Genealogy Report: Ancestors of Mary Elizabeth Lewis,” user trees, *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/w/a/g/Carl-R-Waggle-CA/GENE3-0010.html> : accessed 23 May 2016), citing Goochland Deeds & Wills Book 2: 231.

8 SEPTEMBER 1736

GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

Land Grant.

“For 40 shillings, grant to **William Mills**, 400 acres on **the Ridge between Willis River and great Guinea Creek of Appamattox River**, Goochland county, bounded as follows:

Beginning at a red Oak in Almes Allen’s Line, running Thence New Lines North fifty Degrees West one hundred and twenty six Poles to a white Oak, North twenty five Degrees East one hundred and seventy Poles to a Pine, Thence on John Marten North sixty Degrees East seventy Poles to a white Oak and Hickory, Thence New Lines North twenty five Degrees East one hundred and forty two Poles to Pointers, South sixty five Degrees East one hundred and forty seven Poles to oa white Oak, Soth twenty five Degrees West thirty five Poles to a white Oak, Thence on William Warnack the same Course continued two hundred and ninety three Poles to a Spanish Oak, Thence on James Allen North seventy five Degrees West fifty two Poles to a white Oak South thirty seven Degrees West sixty seven Poles to first station.²⁰

COMMENT:

This William Mills of Willis River would remain there as late as 1760, when he and his land were in Cumberland County (cut from Goochland in 1749).

16 MAY 1738

GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

Witness.

William Mills witnessed a deed between *John Winn* of Henrico and *Humphrey Parris* for land on **North side of the James** in Goochland, along with William & Humphrey Parrish Jr.”²¹

16 SEPTEMBER 1740

GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

Neighbor.

John Parrish sold land on **South branch of Owens Creek** bounded by *William Mills*, Henry Adkins, and Stephen Lacy.”²²

14 SEPTEMBER 1741

GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

Neighbor.

“George Hilton sold land on **Licking Hold Creek**, [adj.] Thomas Biby, Christian’s line, and **William Mills**.”²³

14 NOVEMBER 1743

GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

Unproved possibility.

“**William Mills** sold land to Josias Payne.”²⁴

²⁰ Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* (http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=407&last=&g_p=P17&collection=LO_Patent : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Mills, William, grantee ... Goochland County ... 400 acres on the ridge between Willis River and Great Guinea Creek of Appamattox River”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 17, 1735-1738, p. 164 (Reel 15).

²¹ Carl R Waggle, “Genealogy Report: Ancestors of Mary Elizabeth Lewis,” user trees, *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/w/a/g/Carl-R-Waggle-CA/GENE3-0010.html> : accessed 23 May 2016), citing Goochland Deeds & Wills Book 3, page 121.

²² Carl R Waggle, “Genealogy Report: Ancestors of Mary Elizabeth Lewis,” user trees, *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/w/a/g/Carl-R-Waggle-CA/GENE3-0010.html> : accessed 23 May 2016); no book/page cited.

²³ Carl R Waggle, “Genealogy Report: Ancestors of Mary Elizabeth Lewis,” user trees, *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/w/a/g/Carl-R-Waggle-CA/GENE3-0010.html> : accessed 23 May 2016); no book/page cited.

15 MAY 1744

GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

Unproved possibility.

“**William & Mary Mills** sold land to John Robards. ... (This may be when they moved away or were cut off into Albemarle County as he does not appear in the 1744 Vestry book of St. James Northam.)”²⁵

COMMENT:

- Acreage? Adjacent landowners? Witnesses?
- Most researchers working on William and Mary of Albemarle-Amherst assume that they were the same-name couple in the 1732–44 Goochland documents; and (as speculated by the researcher quoted in the note above) they assume the couple moved after 1744 to the area that became Albemarle.
- However, one significant anomaly exists: The published Albemarle/Amherst records created by and about William and Mary reveal absolutely no associates in common with those of the Goochland couple. That is a significant aberration in behavioral patterns within a society in which people formed a dependable, consistent support-network of associates.

1744

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

County formation.

Albemarle is created this year from the western portion of Goochland.

26 SEPTEMBER 1745

GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

Residence.

“In the first order book 1744–48, we have the following ... p. 64, Sept. 26, 1745 John Graves to be the surveyor of the road from the **mouth of Tye River** to the branches of **Harris Creek** and all the tithables between **Buffalo and Fluvanna Rivers** except **Chas. Lavender**, are to assist him.”²⁶

28 AUGUST 1746

GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

Land grant.

“For 40 shillings, grant to **William Mills, son of William Mills of Aberdeen**, 380 acres on “**both sides of Pidy Rock Rua [sic] of Willis River**, Goochland County, bounded as follows:

Beginning at Pointers **Ralph Kippings** Corner running thence a New Line North Seventy five Degrees East two hundred and four Poles crossing **Pidy Rock Run** to Pointers_(,) thence on **Anthony Levellain’s** North thirty Degrees East nineteen Poles crossing a Branch to Pointers_(,) North Seventy Degrees East two hundred and four Poles to Pointers_(,) thence on **William Daniel** South nineteen and an half Degree East one hundred and fifty nine poles to Pointers_(,) thence a new Line South nineteen Degrees East one hundred Poles to Pointers, North Seventy Degrees West two hundred and give Poles to Pointers_(,) thence on **William Easley** North thirty five Degrees West forty five Poles to a White Oak_(,) South fifty five Degrees West two hundred and one Poles crossing two Branches of Pidy Rocky Run to Pointers_(,) Thence on **Ralph**

²⁴ Carl R Waggle, “Genealogy Report: Ancestors of Mary Elizabeth Lewis,” user trees, *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/w/a/g/Carl-R-Waggle-CA/GENE3-0010.html> : accessed 23 May 2016), citing Goochland Deeds & Wills Book 4:270.

²⁵ Carl R Waggle, “Genealogy Report: Ancestors of Mary Elizabeth Lewis,” user trees, *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/w/a/g/Carl-R-Waggle-CA/GENE3-0010.html> : accessed 23 May 2016), citing Goochland Deeds & Wills Book 4:356.

²⁶ Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Graves Family of Pittsylvania [sic] and Franklin Counties,” in *Genealogies of Virginia Families: From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* vol. 2 (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1981), 81.

Hipping [Kipping?] north thirty five Degrees West one hundred and Seventy eight Poles to the first Station.”²⁷

COMMENT:

- This land would fall into Cumberland County and would later be sold by its owner “William Mills of Cumberland County” during the time that William and Mary Mills lived in Amherst.
- Pidy Rock is said by one area researcher to be “north of Cairo (Caira?).”²⁸

5 APRIL 1748

ALBEMARLE CO., VA.

Land patent.

Thomas Watts patent for 400 acres, branches of the Pedlar River, in a valley, Albemarle Co., bounded as follows:

Beginning at a Hickory Saplin_[,] running thence south twenty degrees west twenty two poles to a White Oak in a Valley_[,] south twenty degrees East ninety poles to pointers_[,] south ten degrees west seventy three poles to a hickory Saplin_[,] south thirty five degrees west one hundred and thirty six poles to a pine_[,] south sixty six poles to four Dogwood Saplings_[,] south fifty five degrees west two hundred and forty four poles to Pointers_[,] north four hundred and thirty six poles to pointers_[,] and north sixty five degrees West one hundred and forty poles to the first Station.²⁹

JUNE 1748 – JUNE 1749

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land survey.

Survey, 54 acres, by Joshua Fry, Gent.”³⁰

COMMENT:

I have twice examined the online land grants in an effort to locate this grant and could not find him under any conceivable variant spelling or misreading.

1748

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court papers.

“1748 Folder ... William Hopkins shows that **Ambrose Mills** is indebted to him 1 Pound, 13 shillings, 9 pence, due by account. Account for above (2 items).

“1749 Folder ... Promissory note of **Ambrose Mills** of Albemarle Co. to William Hopkins 24 Sept. 1748. Wit: **R. Walton**, H. Wood.”³¹

²⁷ Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* (http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=230&last=&g_p=P25&collection=LO_Patent : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Mills, William, grantee ... Goochland County ... 380 acres on both sides of Pidy Rock Rua [sic] of Willis River; citing “Land Office Patents No. 25, 1745-1747, p. 230 (Reel 23).

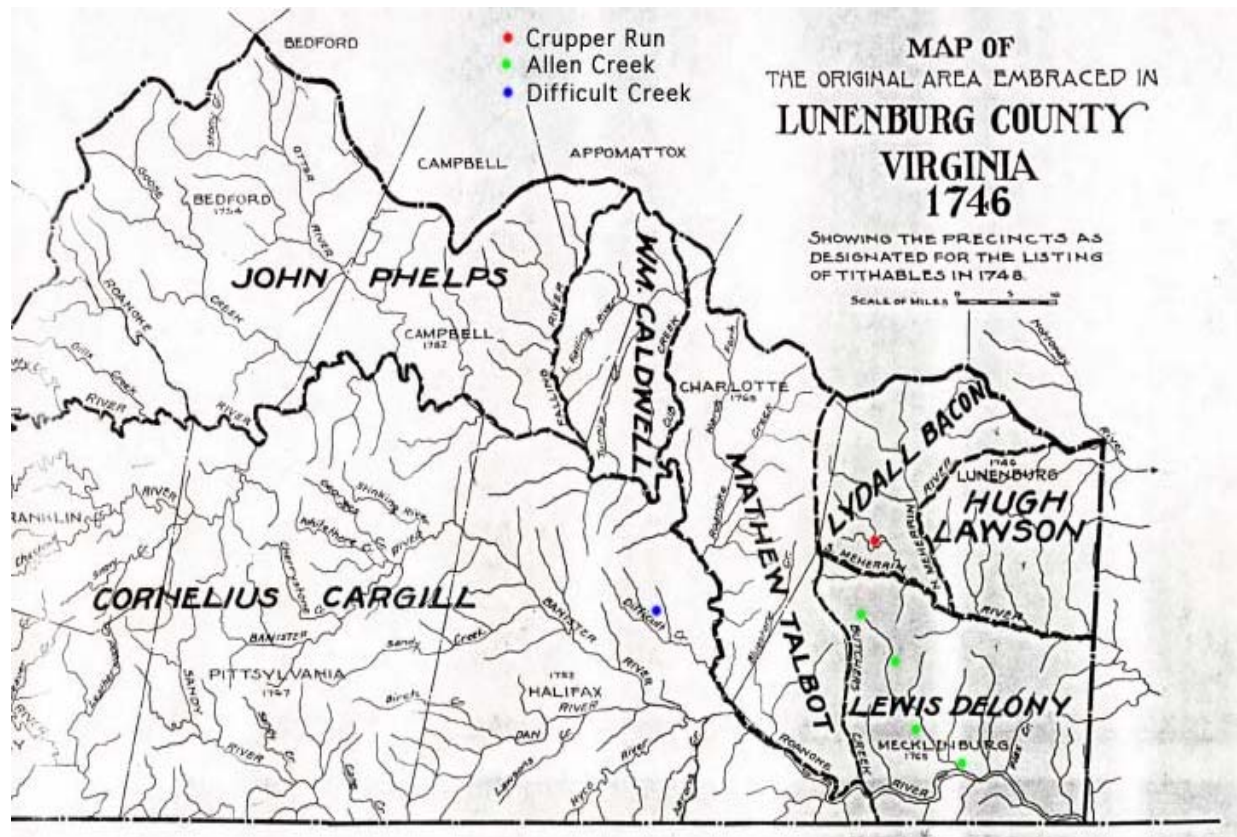
²⁸ Diane Jones <dijon at ckt.net>, “(Bolling5) Children of Ann ____ Bolling Amoss,” posted 14 October 2013, *Bolling Research Mailing List* (http://bolling5.com/pipermail/bollingresearch_bolling5.com/2013-October/007690.html : accessed 28 May 2016).

²⁹ Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* (http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=276&last=&g_p=P26&collection=LO_Patent : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Watts, Thomas, grantee ... Albemarle County ... 400 acres on the branches of Pedlar River”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 26, 1747-1748, v.1 & 2 p. 1-730, p. 276 (Reel 24).

³⁰ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 2; citing Albemarle Order Book 1744–1748, p. 364.

³¹ Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Papers, 1744–1783* (Richmond, VA: P.p., 1987), 3, 6.

Map 3
Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1748³²



1748
LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Tax roll.

"List of Tithes Taken Between Hounds Creek and Meherrein {River} 1748³³

COMMENT:

No Mills or known neighbors and associates.

"Lists of Tithables for 1748; List Taken by William Caldwell"³⁴

COMMENT:

- No Mills or any known neighbor or associate.

"List of Tithables for 1748; List Taken by {Lewis} Deloney"

[skip 35 households]

Lewis Delony

³² Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: Lists of Tithes; Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1748–1783* (1931; reprint, Baltimore: Clearfield Co., 1998), 58; color-annotated copy, source not identified, accessed via *Google Images*.

³³ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 58, 60–61; no source cited.

³⁴ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 176–78; no source cited.

John Freeman	8	
[skip 17 households]		
Henry Delony		
John Challis		
Jas. Vincent	3	
[skip 4 households]		
Edward Whitt	1	[one Lewis Witt/Whitt supposedly m. Anne Mills]
[skip 26 households]		
Field Jefferson		
Thos. Jefferson		
George Farrar		
Joseph Aking		
Wm. Edwards		
David Dodd	16	
John Tayloe Duke	2	[later a Watts & Mobberly neighbor in Fairfield District, SC]
John Duke	3	
[skip 32 households]		
Wm. Sandifer		
John Young	6	
[skip 22 households]		
Nickolas Calyham		
John Callyham		
David Caliham	3	
[skip 30 households]		
David Allen	1	
John Robinson		
Mark Robinson		
Edward Robinson	4	
Wm. Douglas	1	
Thomas Watts	1	[husband of Sarah Mills]
Wm. Hagood and		
Wm. Hagood, Junr.	2	
Matthew Robinson and		
Wm. Gamblin	2	
[13 households to end of list] ³⁵		

28–30 MARCH 1748

ALBEMARLE COUNTY (ADJACENT TO LUNENBURG)

Land survey.

“Thos. Stone, 200 ac; Mar 28, 1748; joyning South side Pedlar River; joyning **Geo Watts, Horsly’s creek, Thos Stone.**”

“**Thos. Watts**, 335 ac; Mar 30, 1478 [sic]; branches of Pedlar River; by Thomas Turpin; joining Robt. Davis, **Edwd Watts.**”³⁶

³⁵ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 67–73; no source cited.

³⁶ Eric G. Grundset, “Land lying in the County of Albemarle:” Albemarle County, Virginia Surveyors’ Plat Books, Volume 1, Parts 1 and 2, and Volume 2, 1744–1853 [and 1891] (Fairfax, VA: Privately printed, 1998), 18; citing vol. 1, pp. 64 and 68.

1749

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Tax roll.

“The List of Tithes taken Between Hounds Creek and Meherrin 1749” by Hugh Lawson³⁷

COMMENT:

No Mills or known neighbor or associate.

“William Howard’s List of Tithables, 1749”

[Skip 8 households]

John Robinson

Mark Robinson

Edward Robinson

4 tithes

24 heads & scalps

[Skip 9 households]

Henry Deloney

William Tait, Constable

[Skip 17 households]

William Hagood, Senr. &

William Hagood, Junr.

2 tithes

Francis Ellidge

John Parnold

Jacob Mitchell

John Earl

John Carril

Thomas Watts

3 tithes

18 heads & scalps³⁸

COMMENT:

- This William Howard District was the Lewis Delony District the previous year.
- Note that Thomas Watts is still listed near the Hagoods, as in the previous year. However, he is now listed in the “household” of John Earl.
- Many online trees at Ancestry and elsewhere assert (without evidence) that John Earl was married to **Mary Elizabeth Watts**.³⁹

1 APRIL 1749

ALBEMARLE & GOOCHLAND COUNTY

Land grant.

On payment of 40 shillings, grant made and confirmed unto **William Mills**. 400 acres in Goochland County [which, by the time of the patent was issued, had been subdivided to create Albemarle] “on both sides of **Pedlar River and Dancing Creek** bounded as follows:

“Beginning at two Spanish Oaks on the North Side the said River running Thence down the same and across making in a Right line two hundred and twenty Poles to a Willow Tree on the South Side the River,_(,) Thence into the Woods North twenty five Degrees West at one hundred and seventy a Branch in all two hundred and thirty Poles to a red Oak near a Branch,_(,) North two hundred and sixty Poles crossing two Branches and **Dancing Creek** to two Dogwoods and a Gum,_(,) South seventy six Degrees east at seventy six

³⁷ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 67–73; no source cited.

³⁸ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 108–15, particularly 114; no source cited.

³⁹ For example, see “scanner5” [creator, “Murphy-MacDaniel Family Tree,” *Ancestry* (http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/11032083/person/6159613367?src=&ml_rpos=37 : accessed 5 January 2015), “John Earl” page.

Pedlar River in all two hundred and sixteen Poles to Pointers on the side of Valley[,] and South twenty Degrees West two hundred and twenty Poles to the Beginning.”⁴⁰

COMMENT:

This 1749 document is the first record I’ve found that can be positively linked to the William Mills of the 1755 will.

Map 4 Pedlar River, Tye River, Piney River Region, Albemarle (later Amherst)⁴¹



9 AUGUST 1749
LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA
Land sale.

Thomas Watts and Sarah, his wife of Albemarle County, sell to Peter Bays, “of aforesaid county,” for 35 pounds, land in Albemarle County, on the North side of Pedlar River, containing 400 acres, described as

Beginning at a Hicory saplin, Running from thence by marked Trees to a White Oak in a valey, from thence to a Hicory saplin from thence to a pine, from thence to four Dogwood saplins and Thence along a line to pointers and Thence along a line to pointers [sic] and Thence along a line to the place Began.”

Signed: Thomas (WT his mark) Watts. Witnesses: Edmond Harrison, Richard Powell, Thomas Smith. August Court, 1749: Thomas Watts acknowledged the deed.⁴²

⁴⁰ Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* (http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=539&last=&g_p=P28&collection=LO_Patent : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Mills, William, grantee ... Albemarle County ... 400 acres on both sides of Pedlar River and on Dancing Creek”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 28, 1746–1749 (v. 1 & w p.1-730), p. 539 (Reel 26).”

⁴¹ The above map snippet is from Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, “A Map of the Most Inhabited Part of Virginia,” 1775; imaged at *DavidRumsey* (<http://bit.ly/1TEYmPT> : accessed 20 May 2016).

COMMENT:

- Pedlar River was a short branch of the Fluvanna/James, lying in the western “butt” of Albemarle. To the south of the Fluvanna was Lunenburg. In 1754, Prince Edward County (where the Learwoods lived) would be created from Amelia and included the part of Lunenburg that lay along the south side of the Fluvanna.
- Sarah did not sign or make her mark. The evidence does not show she was actually present. In most other deeds in this record set, the wife *did* sign or acknowledge the sale.
- Skimming this “Will & Deed” book, reveals that most men who appear in these records (i.e., yeoman class and above) could sign their names. Most women could not.
- Thomas Smith, one of the witnesses above, in 1759 sold land adjoining William Mills and Edward Watts. (See abstract under that date.)

13 NOVEMBER 1749

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order,

Payment of wolf bounties.

“To Henry Delony, assignee of **Thomas Watts/Walls**, granted by Wm. Howard, Cert. 3 Oct. 1749, 1 old Wolf head, 140 lbs. tobacco.”

[*skip several*]

“To **Ambross Mills**, granted by John Phelps, cert. 25 Feb 1748, 1 old wolf head, 140 pounds tobacco.”⁴³

COMMENT:

After moving to Fairfield, where his wife and children (except for a son William) were massacred in the Indian uprisings of *ca.* 1757, Ambrose apparently pulled back into Anson County, NC, where he is found on one document dated 5 December 1758.⁴⁴ As a Loyalist colonel during the Revolution, he would be among 32 men captured at the Battle of King’s Mountain and among the 9 prisoners subsequently hanged (1780) on the plantation of his fellow Loyalist, Aaron Biggerstaff, in Rutherford County, N.C.⁴⁵

12–14 APRIL 1750

ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Land survey.

“**Wm Mills**’ 350 ac; Ap 12, 1750; on branches Buck Creek; by William Cabell, joining **Edward Watts Jr.**”

“**William Mills**; 330 ac; Ap 13, 1750; on branches Buck branch; by William Cabell; joining **Thos. Mills**, John Davis, Isham Davis.”

⁴² Albemarle Co., Va., Wills & Deeds, Book 1: 96–97. Peter Bays did not keep the land. On 13 December 1760 William Gilliam sold it to Nicholas Davis of Cumberland County, saying that Thomas had received patent for the 400 acres “on branches of Pedlar River” on 5 April 1748. No neighbors were named. See Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Abstract, 1761–1764* (N.P.: Antient Press, 1988), 4.

⁴³ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2, 1748–1742* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffyliaiad Publications, 1995), 51; citing Order Book 2: 246–47.

⁴⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *Anson County, North Carolina: Deed Abstracts, 1749–1766; Abstracts of Wills & Estates, 1749–1795* (Baltimore: Clearfield, 1974), 92; citing vol. 5: 305.

⁴⁵ John A Robertson et al., “Biggerstaff’s Old Fields,” *Global Gazetteer of the American Revolution* (<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/biggerstaffsoldfields.htm> : accessed 4 December 2014). Ambrose also owned land in the Forks of Wateree Creek area of modern Fairfield County; in 1784 his son William Mills of Rutherford, NC, sold that land (from Virginia) to Micajah Pickett of Fairfield who immediately conveyed it to two sons of Sarah (Mills) Watts, **William** and **John Watts**. See Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book C: 59 (Pickett to William Watts and John Watts); and Deed Book A: 508–10 (John Watts to Nathan Sanders, before Pickett, J.P.).

“Thos. Smith, 350 ac; Ap 14 1750; on Pedlar River; by William Cabell; joining **Wm Mills, Edward Watts, John Stones.**”⁴⁶

1750

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Tax roll.

“For 1750: List taken by Nicholas Haile.” [about 120 taxpayers; skipping first 75 or so]

John Keeth

John Macfaull

William Mills 1 [Apparently Wm. Jr., given that there is just one tithe]

William Hays

John Richardson

William Bennet

Peter Bennet

Joseph Bennet

Nicholas Welsh

[skip 15]

Charles Simmons

William Linch

Thomas Wats 1 [married Sarah Mills, sister of Wm. Jr.]

John Boon

John Smith

Peter Kinsey

Joshua **Bartlet** [In the Fairfield family: John Watts’s eldest son, Thomas Watts, named his own son **Bartlet S. Watts**]⁴⁷

John Anderson

Jeremiah Scafe

[end of list]⁴⁸

COMMENT:

Thomas Watts is cited in a new district with a new set of neighbor. In 1749 he was in the household of a man supposedly married to “**Mary Elizabeth Watts.**” He is now in the neighborhood of **William Mills [Jr.]**, who had a sister Sarah, wife of **Thomas Watts.**

“List Taken by William Howard”

[includes Farrars, John Taylor Duke, William Sandefur⁴⁹ (with Young dependents again) and then ...]

Edward Whitt 1

James McDaniel

Field Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson [son of Field, cousin of the president]

Steven Houseman 12

[skip 6 households]

John Robinson

⁴⁶ Eric G. Grundset, “Land lying in the County of Albemarle:” Albemarle County, Virginia Surveyors’ Plat Books, Volume 1, Parts 1 and 2, and Volume 2, 1744–1853 [and 1891] (Fairfax, VA: Privately printed, 1998), 31–32; citing vol. 1, pp. 127, 133.

⁴⁷ Wynema McGrew, *Watts is My Line: John and Judith (?) Watts, Settlers of the Mississippi Territory*, vol. 1 (Hattiesburg, MS: P.p., 2010), particularly 158–59.

⁴⁸ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 135–38; no source cited.

⁴⁹ The Sandefur/Standifer family ended up in Franklin Co., where they were associates of (and marriage bondsman for) William Mills-Witt in 1815. See Franklin Co., Marriage Bond, no. 2859; Office of the Circuit Court Clerk, Rocky Mt., VA.

Thomas Moore
 James Smith
 Thomas Avery, Senr.
 John Avery
 Thomas Avery, Junt.
John King [a man of this name was a Fairfield associate of the Thos. Watts family]
 Baxter Davis
 Edward Davis
 John Sanboth
 John Gain Davis
Thomas Watts 1
 William Taber
 John Taber
 Henry Sage
 William Daniel
 Francis Lett
 [etc.]⁵⁰

COMMENT:

It appears that Thomas Watts is double-listed in this year 1750. Each Thomas has “neighbors” that appear for the one Thomas in previous years. A second Thomas Watts has not been found in county records or on these lists. It is likely that a move occurred amid the compilation of the tax rolls, and that one assessor/collector or the other did not remove him. In such cases, taxpayers typically appealed the extra tax and the correction would be shown amid the assessor’s corrections (usually appended to the tax roll). This set of published tax abstracts show no s corrections for any list.

“List taken by Hugh Lawson”⁵¹

COMMENT:

This district has no Mills or known neighbors and associates.

“1750 List taken by John Phelps”

William Mobberley	1	
Benjn. Turman		
John Jennings	2	
Edwd. Mobberly, Junr.		
Thomas Mobberly		
Roger Conner	3	
Edwd. Mobberly	1	
Benjn. Mobberly	1	
[skip 10 households]		
Clemt. Mobberly	1	[These Mobberlys moved to Fairfield along with Ambrose Mills]
[skip 7 households]		
Capt. Linch		[Wm. Linch is cited adjacent to Thos. Watts in Hailes Dist.]
Harry Cockram	3	
Jno. Mobberly		

⁵⁰ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 138–44, particularly p. 140; no source cited.

⁵¹ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 144–47, particularly p. 145; no source cited.

Mordecai Mobberley		
Hamon Mobberley	6	
[skip 2 households]		
Jno. Payne		
Chs. Spurlock		
Ambrose Mills	4	[Mills is shown on next year's list as Payne's overseer]
[skip 5 households]		
Wm. Stone		[Ambrose Mills is said to have married Mourning Stone] ⁵²
Robt. Irons		[Ironses were also in Fairfield]
Wm. Stone Junr.		
Eusebius Stone	4	

JULY 1750

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

"Silvanus Junon petitioner agst **Thos Watt**; petitioner to recover £3/5/5/ debt."⁵³

COMMENT:

To have been sued in his own name, Thomas was at least 21—i.e., born before 1729.

1751

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court papers.

"1751 Folder ... John Harvie shows that John Long is in debt to him. Account of John Long with Harvie for attorney's fees agst **James Mills** and agst Molly Johnson, for 1 Pound, 10 shillings (2 items)."⁵⁴

COMMENT:

I have found no evidence to fit this James Mills into any other Albemarle family.

1751

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Tax List.

"For 1751 List taken by Field Jefferson"

[Skip about 40]

Thomas Evins
John Evins

[skip 9]

Charles Evins
And son Tom
Gilbird Evins

[skip 20]

William Sandefur {?}
Saml. Young

Thomas Wats **1**

⁵² Lyman C. Draper, *Kings Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King's Mountain, October 7th, 1780* (Cincinnati: Peter G. Thompson, 1881), 481. Draper, the famed creator of the Draper Manuscripts at the Wisconsin Historical Society, corresponded from the 1840s with thousands of families of participants in the Revolution to acquire privately held records, memoirs, etc. His biography of Col. Ambrose Mills, however, does not provide sources.

⁵³ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2, 1748–1742* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaid Publications, 1995), 71; citing Order Book 2:322.

⁵⁴ Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Papers, 1744–1783* (Richmond, VA: P.p., 1987), 8.

Edward Henry
David Robertson
Robert Hudson
 Ephraim Hudson
Thos. Burnee
John Lankford 1
Thomas Macklin
James Lett
Francis Lett
John **Hopson**
James Mcdannold and son James
Francis Wray
George Vaughan
David *Boring*
Richard Wats 0 [*sic*; he had been exempted in 1747]
James Thompson
Edward White and son John
Saml. Holms
Saml. Holms, Jun.
Wm. Holms
Isaac Home

[*skip 8*]

Henry Delony [a Jefferson in-law]

[*skip 23*]

George Farrar [husband of Judith Jefferson; father of Field, below]

Edward Epts
Morris Evins

[*skip 10*]

David Calleham

[*skip about 50*]

Field Farrar [later moved to Camden District, SC—now Fairfield Co.]

[*skip about 40*]

Nicho. **Hobson**

John Hobson⁵⁵

COMMENT:

Hobson is of interest to me because William Mills-Witt of Franklin (b. ca.1783–88) had a son Samuel who married one Mary Ann Hobson.

“For 1751, List taken by Hugh Lawson”⁵⁶

COMMENT:

No Mills or known neighbors or associates.

1752

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

⁵⁵ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 154–73; no source cited.

⁵⁶ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 173–75, particularly 174; no source cited

Tax List.

“For 1752, List taken by John Phelps.”

[skip 28]

“Mr. John Payn’s list

[someone has penciled into the published book “of Goochland”]

Ambrose Mills, Overseer 7

[skip 12]

Edwd. Mobberley 1 [1756 on Little River, Cheraw/Camden/Fairfield]⁵⁷

Clemt. Mobberley 1 [also settled on Little River, Camden/Fairfield SC]⁵⁸

Benjn. Mobberley 1 [also settled on Little River, Camden/Fairfield SC]⁵⁹

Thos. Halsey

Richd. Hill

Robt. Baber

Israel Peterson

Wm. Verdeman

Robt. Verdeman

Wm. Verdeman, Junr.

Jonas Anderson

Stepn. Hudson

Petr. Hudson

Col. Wm. Randolph

Frs. Luck, overseer

[skip 19]

Jas. Standeford

[In 1810–15, in offshoot county Franklin, Standefords Millses, and Callaways were next-door neighbors.]

[skip 3]

Rich. Callaway

Amb. Bramlet

[skip 56]

Wm. Callaway

Wm. Gowin

Robt. Graves

Wm. Simmons

Jno. Mounts

Jno. Mounts, Jr.

Wm. Watkins

Saml. Watkins

Yowel Watkins

Jno. Wood

Capt. Chs. Lynch’s list

Thos. Price

Rice Price

Edward Wats

Edwd. Wats, Junr.

[Edward Jr. and William took out adjacent grants, 1763, Wateree River, adj. Thomas Watts. Edw. Jr. & William moved 1762–65 to Little River, near Bedford Mobleys & Ambrose Mills; in next generation, our John and one Wm. Watts bought Mills’s Forks of Wateree Creek land.]

Wm. Wats

Geo. Wats

Jno. Wats

5

⁵⁷ Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 7, citing B-2: 94; “Deed from Edw. Mobberly (Craven Co., SC) to Samuel Drake, 330 Acres on Otter River,” Bedford Co.

⁵⁸ Kenneth Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley’s Meeting House, June 1780* (P.p.: P.p., 2005), 22.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

Jno. Denny		
Jno. Denny , Junr.		[This Denny family would appear to be the one into which
Zach. Denny		
<i>Robt. Worthen's</i> list		
Jno. Braisey, Overs.		
Jno. Reed		
Benjn. Arnolds, Qr.		
Thos. Gaddey, Overs.		
Richd. Turner		
Jason Meader		[moved to Anson Co., NC, as did George Watts, above]
Job Meader	2	[Little River land grant in 1760; ⁶⁰ in Anson Co., NC, by 1762; ⁶¹ back in Fairfield, 1790; son-in-law of Edward Mobberly, Sr., who is taxed at the start of this list ⁶²]
Joel Meader		
Benjn. Orrick		
Jno. Eckols		
Jeffery Crowley		
Wm. Harvey		
Lewis Meador		[moved to Anson Co., NC]
[<i>skip 39</i>]		
Jas. Gibson	1	[Fairfield, SC, 1790]
Randal Gibson	1	[Fairfield, SC, 1790]
Thos. Prather		
Adam Biard		
Thos. Walker		
Wm. Briant		
Jno. Davison		
Henry Farguson		
Matw. Amory		
Wm. Armstrong		
Thos. Carr		
John Mills	2	[no known relationship to Ambrose; he is not named as a son in the published abstract of William Mills's will made 1755 and probated 1766 ⁶³]
Nathan Nichols		
John Thomas		
John Wallon [Walton?]		
James McGee		
Jno. Phelps		
William hayes		
Thos. Laxton		

⁶⁰ Kenneth Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley's Meeting House, June 1780* (P.p.: P.p., 2005), 22.

⁶¹ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754-1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 22; deed from "Job Meador of Anson Co., N.C., to John Williams of Bedford County, 70 acres lying on the South side of Otter River." The Mobberlys/Mobleys who moved to Fairfield also lived on Otter River in Bedford. The Watts of Bedford owned land on Elk and Ivy Creeks, as did the Woodward who also moved to Fairfield where they were Watts neighbors.

⁶² Kenneth Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley's Meeting House, June 1780* (P.p.: P.p., 2005), 100, 118. Shelton cites Robert Mills, "Statistics of South Carolina, 1826" for statement that Job Meador died Oct. 1822 at 101 years of age.

⁶³ 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: 657-701, particularly 701.

[End of list]⁶⁴

“1752 List taken by Hugh Lawson”⁶⁵

COMMENT:

No Mills or known neighbors or associates.

The compiler of these published tax rolls for Lunenburg did not include surviving rolls from 1753–63.

TO DO:

- Seek the omitted Lunenburg tax rolls at Library of Virginia and use them to further analyze the family.
- Search for the existence of Bedford tax rolls after the county’s creation in 1754, to better define the outmigration to the Fairfield area.

27 FEBRUARY 1752

LUNENBURG > BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

County creation.

The legal act creating Bedford County was passed this day.

COMMENT:

It would be 1753 before an administration was in place to start recordkeeping in the new county, In the meanwhile, we continue to find Watts, but not Mills, in Lunenburg’s records.

JULY 1752

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Civic role.

“Alexander Mackie agst Amey Jones, Godfrey Jones, David Jones exorts Thos Jones decd., defendant; **jury:** James Arnold, Saml Perrin, **Thos Watts**, Wm. Bevil, Lewis Morgan, Henry Parrish, Joseph Perrin, James Thomason, Christopher Johnson, Richd Thompson, Wm Jones, Reuben Vaughn; plaintiff to recover for nonperformance.”⁶⁶

7 AUGUST 1752

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale

William Mills of Albemarle County to *Martha Massie* of New Kent County, sale of 400 acres in Albemarle Co. on **Pedlar River** described as:

“Beginning at two Spanish Oaks on the North side of the said River, running thence down the same and across making in a Right line two hundred & twenty Poles to a Willow tree on the South Side of the River, thence into the woods North twenty five Degrees west at one hundred & Seventy a branch, in all two hundred & thirty Poles to a red oak near a branch, North two hundred & Sixty Poles Crossing two ranches & **Dancing Creek** & two Dogwoods & Gum South twenty Six Degrees East at Seventy Six, Pedlar River, in all two hundred & Sixteen Poles to Pointers on the side of a **vallee** & South twenty Degrees West two hundred & twenty Poles to the Beginning.”

⁶⁴ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: Lists of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 202–8.

⁶⁵ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 199–202, especially p. 200; no source cited.

⁶⁶ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-A, 1752–53* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaid Publications, 1997), 15; citing Order Book 2 ½-A:103.

7 August 1752, Mills put Massie in possession of the property.

13 August 1752, Mills acknowledged receiving 200 pounds from Massie in full payment. Mary, William's wife, also appeared in court to be privately examined about the relinquishment of her dower rights.⁶⁷

COMMENT

- William Sr. patented this land in 1749 on "**Pedlar River and Dancing Creek.**"
- Why would a single woman buy this land from Mills? It's rural; part of it is in woods. It's not a town lot where she would have close neighbors. **Almost certainly, Mills is part of Martha's support network.** This conclusion is strengthened by the point that Mills legally put her in possession of the property a week before he received payment.

TO DO:

- Martha Massie should be studied as a potential mother-in-law or sister of William Mills.
- New Kent should be studied as potential place of prior residence for William Mills.

10 AUGUST 1752

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale

Samuel Jameson of Albemarle County to James Wharey of same, sale for 40 £, 400 acres in Albemarle Co. on "**branches of Spring Creek**" described as:

"bounded beginning at **Charles Mills's** Corner white Oak saplin runing thence on his line to pointers, thence on new line North West to a Stake between pointers, South West to a branch of Spring Creek to a shrubby white Oake, South east to pointers in **Charles Mills** line, thence on the said North East to the first station (which said parcel of land was granted unto Samuel Jamison by Patent bearing date the twenty fifth day of June One thousand seven hundred and Forty seven) with all building houses orchards and appurtenances belonging."

Signed: Samuel Jamison; Jean [her distinctive mark that looks like a small C looped into a big below-line C] Jamison. Witnesses : John McCollock, John [A, his mark] Jamison, Alexander Jameson.⁶⁸

COMMENT:

In addition to the William Mills family, another major cluster of Millses appear in a different part of the county—offspring of Nicholas Mills of Hanover. Charles, above, is one of those. Many online trees assert that the William Mills under study in this project was also a son of Nicholas. None offer evidence. As seen from this project, the patterns of residence and associations strongly speak against that proposed kinship.

5 SEPTEMBER 1753

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

"John Thompson agst **Ambrose Mills** for debt due; dismissed."

31 OCTOBER 1753

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

⁶⁷ Albermarle Co. Wills & Deeds, Book 1: 475–76 (previously consulted in my Watts study).

⁶⁸ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed & Will Abstracts, 1748–1752* (1990, reprint, n.p., The Antient Press, n.d.), 145.

Court order.

“**John Mills** aptd surveyor rd from *Euing’s* fence to the Blew Ridge in room of **William Mills.**”⁶⁹

COMMENT:

- This should be a reference to William Jr. His father at this point should be too old to be assigned road duty.
- The 1755 will of William Sr. does not name a son John. He refers to a deceased son Thomas who left children—i.e., heirs for Thomas’s share of William’s property. *If* this John were William’s son, then he would have had to die before 1755 without heirs.

“**Jas Mills** on attachment (mare & colt) agst Jeremiah Morah dfdnt; plaintiff to recover debt by public sale attachment.”⁷⁰

COMMENT:

- This James is also not mentioned as a son in the will of William Sr.
- Some trees assert (without documentation) that he is the same James Mills of Bedford in 1782–85 and thereafter Franklin Co.

10–11 OCTOBER 1753

ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Land survey.

“Micajah Clarke; 400 ac; October 11, 1753; North fork of Maple Creek; by William Cabell, joining **Marvel Stone.**”

“Micajah Clarke; 350 ac; October 10, 1753; branches Pedlar River on West side of the Tobacco Row Mountains, by William Cabell; joining Peter Bays, **William Watts.**”⁷¹

12 APRIL 1754

ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Land survey.

“Nicholas Davis Gent, 25,000 ac; April 12, 1754; on both sides Fluvanna River [south branch of the James]; 3,450 acres part thereof was formerly granted 21,550 acres New Land included by Order of Council and survey’d by William Cabell; joining Colo Fry & Company, N. Davis, Jno. Anthony, Rev’d Wm Stith, Rich’d Burk Braton & Co., Carrington & Mayo, **Wm Mills**, Jno. Davis, Rob’t Davis, Cornelius Nevil (400 ac), Nich. Davis. Shows the following watercourses: Hunting Creek, Tuckahoe Creek, Cabbin Creek, Indian Camp Creek, Vineyard Creek, Tumblin Creek, Cold Camp Creek, Wide Mouth Creek, Salt Creek, and **Pedlar River** along with numerous islands in the river.”⁷²

SEPTEMBER 1754

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Road order.

⁶⁹ 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.

⁷⁰ 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.

⁷¹ Eric G. Grundset, “Land lying in the County of Albemarle:” *Albemarle County, Virginia Surveyors’ Plat Books, Volume 1, Parts 1 and 2, and Volume 2, 1744–1853 [and 1891]* (Fairfax, VA: Privately printed, 1998), 56; citing vol. 1, p. 244.

⁷² Eric G. Grundset, “Land lying in the County of Albemarle:” *Albemarle County, Virginia Surveyors’ Plat Books, Volume 1, Parts 1 and 2, and Volume 2, 1744–1853 [and 1891]* (Fairfax, VA: Privately printed, 1998), 63; citing vol. 1, p. 277.

“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.”⁷³

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.”⁷⁴

COMMENT:

- Note that Ambrose Mills is supporting Birks in this suit lodged by Walton. Genealogists have long asserted that Ambrose’s mother was one Mary *Walton*.⁷⁵ None have presented evidence, to my knowledge.
- Before May 1755 (see below), apparently to clear this debt, John P. Birks and his wife Sarah would sell a tract of land on **Elk Creek** adjoining “Watts.” Edward Watts had earlier bought Elk Creek land from George Walton.
- 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.⁷⁶
- **George Walton** appears in 1760, below, as adjacent landowner to the newly chosen grant of **Thomas Learwood**, Ambrose’s brother-in-law on Elk Creek. 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, North side of Stanton River. His Elk Creek holdings spanned 4 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.”⁷⁷

⁷³ 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.

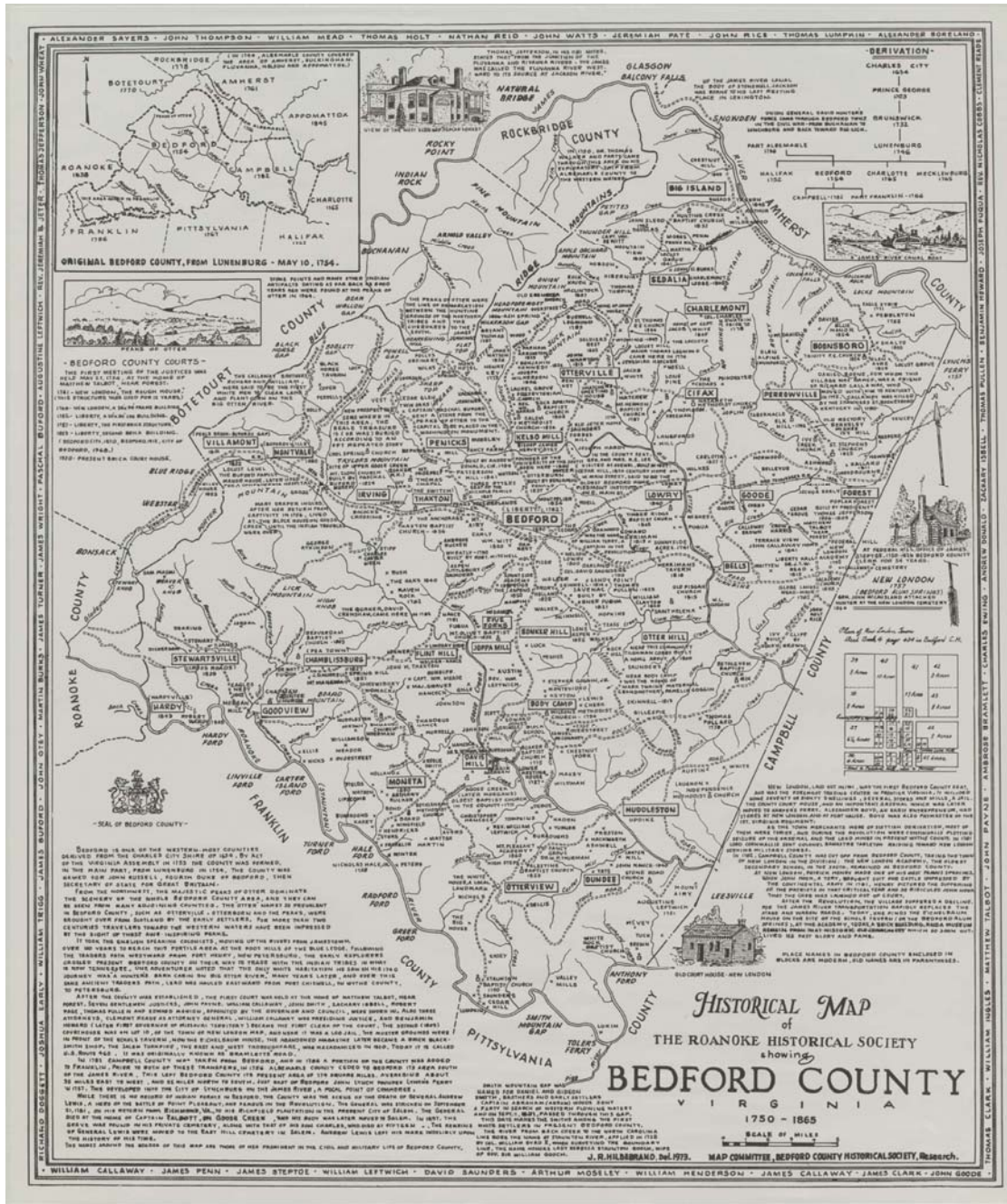
⁷⁴ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 23; citing original page 29.

⁷⁵ 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.

⁷⁶ 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).

⁷⁷ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987)/

Map 5
 "Historical Map ... of Bedford County" 78



78 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.

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.”⁷⁹

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.”⁸⁰

COMMENT:

Matthew was an offshoot of the Nicholas Mills family, centered in the Mechum’s Riveri part 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.”⁸¹

COMMENT:

No further mention of this case has been found. Ambrose Mills left Bedford about this time.

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.”⁸²

⁷⁹ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 33-34; citing original p. 49.

⁸⁰ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 46; citing original pp. 70-71.

⁸¹ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 69; citing original p. 108.

⁸² TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 68; citing original p. 107.

26 SEPTEMBER 1755

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Will

William Mills of Albemarle Co., “mentions the following persons: *wife Mary son Ambrose, dau. Sarah Watts, to son Wm.* the 350 a of land that is unsettled (evidently the land for which the patent was recorded in 1756), *daus. Elizabeth Learwood and Ann Mills, son Jesse Mills, dau. Milly Mills, son Thos. Mills’s* children, viz., **Ambrose Mills, Jr.**, and **Elizabeth Mills**, son and dau. of Thomas Mills, deed [decd?]. Wife & Thos. Jopling exors. Witt: John Staples, Isham Davis, Wm. Floyd, Charles Truly (aka Turley, Tuley), and Robt. Davis.”⁸³

COMMENT:

Joplin first appears in Albemarle/Amherst deeds in 1750, amid the Roses and Davises who were neighbors of William Mills. However, later deeds place his land on **Green Creek**, a site the deeds don’t associate with Mills, Watts, or Lavender.

- “10 Apr 1750 Ro. Rose, Clerk [obsolete term for a form of minister], to Jno. Parks, planter; rents and covenants – 100 acres, part of 3,700 acres pat. To Rose – during lives of Wm. Parks & John Parks, Jr. – to pay on 26 Dec each year 436 pds. Tobacco. Wit: Matthew Davis, Gilbert Hay, **Thos. Jopling**, Philip Davis.”⁸⁴
- “9 March 1758, **Thos. Jopling** to Saml. Bailey for £10, 134 acres both sides of Green Creek adj. grantor; Ralph Jopling. Wit: Jno. Peters, Nathan Bond, Lee Harris. [also] 24 Dec 1757 Ralph Joplin to Jno. Cox for £50, 400 acres **Green Creek**, branches, adj. Col. Epes’ **Green Mt.** tr. Wit: Jno. Griffin, Rich. & Perrin Farrar. Katherine, wife of Ralph Joplin.”⁸⁵
- “20 Aug 1760 Jno. Wright, Orange, N.C. to **Thos. Jopling** for £100, 400 acres **N side of Rockfish**; part of 800 acres bought from Col. Jno. Chiswell, adj. Alex. Montgomery, Chiswell.”⁸⁶
- “4 April 1761 **Thos. Jopling** to David Enicks for £20, 400 acres, pat. 20 Aug. 1760, on head branches **Geady and Briery Creeks**, adj. his own line; Mary Upton, Jno. Snyder. Witnesses: Wm. Cox, Robt. Johnson, Jno. Peter.
- “1 Dec 1761 **Thos. Jopling**, AC [Amherst County], to John Roberts, AC, 25 pds. For 300 acres ... North side of South Fork of **Rockfish**. Lines: Widow Upton, Widow Johnson. Mark of Thos. Jopling. Wit: Thomas Farrar, William Cox, James Jopling. Court held at Henry Key’s 7 Dec 1761 ... This first courthouse was in what is now **Nelson County**.”⁸⁷
- “25 May 1763. John Robinson, King and Queen, to **Thomas Jopling**, AC, 22 pds. For 258 acres, S side of Rockfish and part of larger tract pat. To John Chiswell and now property of

⁸³ 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. For the will, Hiden cites “probated Aug. 4, 1766 ... **Amherst Co.** Rec. W. B. 1, p. 73.”

⁸⁴ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 18; citing Albemarle Deed Book 1: 225.

⁸⁵ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 32; citing Albemarle Deed Book 2: 32.

⁸⁶ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 49; citing Albemarle Deed Book 3: 32.

⁸⁷ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 71; citing Amherst Deed Book A: 15.

- Robinson. Lines: William Harris, on S side of **Rockfish**; James Montgomery, John Montgomery. Wit: William Cabell, Jr., Cornelius Thomas, Joseph Cabell.”⁸⁸
- “3 October 1763. James Nevil, David Crawford, Cornelius Thomas, **Thomas Jopling**, & Howard Cash, AC, [bond] ... Nevil appointed Sheriff of Amherst ... Marks of Jopling & Cash.”
“4 Feb 1765 James Nevil, **Thomas Jopling**, Henry Key, & Geo. Seaton. ... Nevil ... is hereby bonded to collect taxes.”⁸⁹
 - “3 Nov 1766. Jos. Upton, Alb[ermarle] to **Thomas Jopling**, AC, for 60 pds, 400 acres. Lines: **Bryary Branch**. Wit: Geo. Seaton, **Edmund Wilcox**, Neill Campbell.”⁹⁰
 - “4 July 1769. **Thos. Jopling**, AC, to
 - Benj. Childers, AC, for love borne by Jopling for his son-in-law, Benj. Childers – 200 acres S side of **Rockfish**. Lines: Col. Jno. Chiswell, Michael Montgomery, Josiah Jopling.”
 - His son Josiah Jopling, 530 acres N side and joining **Rockfish**.”
 - Jno. Griffin, his son-in-law, AC, 323 acres. Lines: Wm. Harris, Jas. Mountgomery, John Mountgomery, Chiswell, Benj. Childers, S side of **Rockfish**.”⁹¹
 - 4 April 1774.” Elliz. Cox – Book 1, Page 250 – Guardian Bond – **Thos. Jopling** and Jas. Nevil, April 4, 1774, for **Thos. Jopling** as guardian of Eliz. Cox, orphan of Jno. Cox, deceased.”⁹²
 - “2 Aug 1779. Ro. Davis & wife Jenny, AC (sighed Jean) to Philip Thurmond, AC, for £2000, 375 acres both sides **Wilderness Run**. Lines: Ro. Davis, Jno. Floyd. Wit: **Thos. Jopling**, Edmond Powell, Ro. Davis, Jr.” Also, same to same, “90 acres on **Davis’s Spring Branch**.” Same witnesses.”⁹³
 - “6 Sep 1779. Wm. Loveday and wife Sarah, late of AC, to Wm. Cabell for £600, 200 acres branch of **Purgatory Swamp** and branch of **Joe’s Creek** below **Fendley’s Gap**. Part of 400 acres pat. To Walter King 10 Apr 1751. Conveyed by King to Lunsford Lomax, the Elder, 1 Dec 1764 ... Wit: Wm. Newton, Groves Harding, **Thos. Jopling**, Jas. Ward, Jno. Bibb, Abraham Warwick.”⁹⁴
 - “6 May 1782. Francis West & wife Eliz., AC, to Wm. Cabell, AC, for £15, 110 acres **Mayo Creek** and pat. To West by Commonwealth on 20 Jul 1780. Lines: Moses Going. Wit: Jno. Martin Jr., Abraham Warwick, **Thos. Jopling**.”⁹⁵
 - “8 Oct 1787. Thos. Davis, Lincoln Co. – power of attorney to **Thos. Jopling**, AC to receive of Thos. Upton, Albemarle, 1400 acres in Montgomery County – S side of the **great Canaway which my father Robt. Davis**, bought of Jas. Mooney ... my seven sisters: Nannah (Hannah?), Abigale, Jane, Martha, Lucy, Ann & Polly Davis and ... my two brothers, Robt. & Olander

⁸⁸ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 77; citing Amherst Deed Book A: 120.

⁸⁹ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 78, 85; citing Amherst Deed Book A: 142, 299.

⁹⁰ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 99; citing Amherst Deed Book A: 179.

⁹¹ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 107; citing Amherst Deed Book A: 323–25.

⁹² Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 82.

⁹³ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 184; citing Amherst Deed Book E: 157–59.

⁹⁴ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 185; citing Amherst Deed Book E: 174.

⁹⁵ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 198; citing Amherst Deed Book 3: 334.

- Davis. **Wit:** Rich. Farrar, Michl. Thomas, **Thos. Jopling**, Sherrod Griffin. Orig. del. To Jopling, Sept. 1788.”⁹⁶
- “2 July 1787. **Thos. Jopling**, AC, to Jos. Smith, AC, for £40, 300 acres both sides **Rockfish**.” 19 Jan 1789, **Thomas Jopling**, AC & **wife Hannah**, AC, to Wm. Ball of Albemarle, for £200, 400 acres **Briery Creek** on S side and joining **Rockfish River**. Lines: Edwd. Harding, David Enix, Thos. Farrar. Wit: Michl. Thomas, Gideon Crews, Michl. Thomas Jr., Ralph Thomas.”⁹⁷
 - “5 Sept. 1785. Jas. Matthews, AC, to **Thos. Jopling**, AC, for £40, 92 acres head branch of **S fork Rockfish**. Lines: Abraham Eades Jr. Pat. To grantor 15 Jun 1773.”⁹⁸
 - “10 Aug 1789 **Thos. Jopling** – Book 3, Page 116 – August 10, 1789, written: September 7, 1789, probated. Witnesses: Henry Martin, Jos. Thomas, Thos. Farrar, Jno. Jopling. Executors: sons, Jas. And Jos. And friend, Henry Martin, **Ux, Hannah** – Gladys Creek land; grandson, **Jesse Jopling** – if without heirs; sons, Josiah and Jas. – **Piney Mountain** land bought of Jesse Martin; **son, Thomas**.; Jno. Griffin who married my daughter Martha; my daughters: Ann Childers, Jane Davis, Lucy Powell, Rebecca Martin, Hannah Allen. Book 2 (3?), Page 126 – Inventory – December 1, 1789 – L 534-17-6.”⁹⁹
 - “30 Oct 1806. **Thos. Jopling**, Bedford, to Jno. Harris, AC, for £600, 210 acres **Buck Creek**. Lines: Jno. Diggs, Bennett Jopling, Henry Roberts, grantor. Wit: Jno. W. Harris, Asa Varnum, Benj. Rucker, Jr., Wm. Lee Harris.”¹⁰⁰

COMMENT:

- Past 1789, the Thos. Jopling entries are clearly to a younger Thomas.
- Curiously, of the 30+ appearances that Thomas Jopling makes in this set of deed abstracts,
 - none place him in the presence of William Mills, the man who appointed him executor of his estate.
 - These two men live in different parts of Albemarle/Amherst.
 - They have almost no associates in common.
 - He *did* have a grandson named Jesse—a not common name given to a son by William and Mary Mills—but that Jesse was also the grandson of Jesse Allen whose daughter Alsey married a Jopling.¹⁰¹

SO: Why would William Mills name him as a co-executor, together with William’s wife? The only logical answer would seem to be that he was a kinsman of Mary.

ADDENDA

Transcript from diary of Rev. Robert Rose:

“247-On September 16, 1729, Thomas Joplin, and his 'tithables' assisted in clearing the road from **Tuckahoe Creek** mill to the main "river road" (Three Chop Road), which traversed the area

⁹⁶ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 229; citing Amherst Deed Book R: 223.

⁹⁷ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 238; citing Amherst Deed Book E: 169, 380.

⁹⁸ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 242; citing Amherst Deed Book F: 10.

⁹⁹ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 199.

¹⁰⁰ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 457; citing Amherst Deed Book K: 560.

¹⁰¹ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 3.

between Richmond to Woods (now Jarman's) Gap. **Joplin's road was then Goochland County, Later in Albemarle County**, Joplin replaced John Johns as surveyor of the road from **Rockfish River to Hardware River** (on June 27, 1745). Joplin's son married *Catherine Farrar*, daughter of John Farrar. ... Joplin lived near where **Joplin's Ford Bridge** now crosses **Rockfish River** via Route 722 between Albemarle and **Nelson County**. In 1761, the river became part of the line between Albemarle and Amherst and Nelson (formed in 1808 from Amherst).

"938-Three families who lived on **Rockfish River** where Parson Rose might have had his breakfast were those of **Thomas Joplin**, *John Farrar*, and *Allen Howard*. From there, Rose rode to the new Ballenger's Creek Church near present Boiling Springs in Albemarle County ..." ¹⁰²

"August 16th, 1842

"Be it remembered that it is in proof satisfactory to the court that Robert Davis & Hannah Smith are creditable persons and the said Robert Davis and Hannah Smith upon their oaths state they have long been acquainted with *Lindsey Powel* of Casey Co, KY who was the son of **Edmond Powel**, that his mother's maiden name was **Lucy Joplin** and she was the daughter of **Thomas Joplin** of Amherst County, State of Virginia who lived on **Rockfish**, that said Lucy intermarried with said Edmond Powel by whom she had six children namely William, Frances (who intermarried with Charles Kavanauh), Mary (who intermarried with John T. Marshall), Hannah (who intermarried with Robert Simpson), Lindsey, and James and that said Lucy Powel departed this life about twenty years ago in the state of Tennessee and Edmond Powel, father of said Lindsey departed this life some years ago in Casey County, Kentucky.

"Be it remembered that it is proof satisfactory to the court that Lindsey Powel is a creditable man and the said Lindsey Powel upon his oath states he is well acquainted with Robert Davis and Landon Davis of Casey County, Ky and Hannah Smith of Lincoln County, KY who were the children of Robert Davis that their mothers maiden name was Jane Joplin and she was the daughter of Thomas Joplin of Amherst County State of Virginia that said Jane intermarried with said Robert Davis by whom she had eleven children namely John, Thomas, Hannah, Abigail, Jane, Robert, Patsey, Anne, Landon, Lucy, and Polly and that the said Robert Davis was many years ago killed by the Indians and Jane the mother of the said Robert, Landon & Hannah has departed this life many years ago." ¹⁰³

The poster of these notes adds: "Carol Seales, sent this concerning his date of death:

I found Thomas Jopling's actual death date. "Colonial Virginia Source Records 1600s-1700s, Abstracts from 18th Century Virginia Newspapers, Surnames I-J, Page 188: Jopling, Thomas the elder, of Amherst Co., d. on Mon. the 24th ult. in a very advanced age (VIC 9 Sep 89); e.a.w. his ex., James and Josiah Jopling (VIC 9 Dec 89). (The Virginia Independent Chronicle)." This would place his death 24 Aug 1789. The paper was dated 9 Sep 89. (ult is prior month) therefore 24 Aug 1789. "

"Marriage: b: ABT 1710;

"Married Hannah Freeman: 3 OCT 1735 in probably Amherst Co., VA

"Children:

Ralph Joplin b: ABT 1731

Josiah Joplin b: ABT 1733 in Amherst Co., VA

¹⁰² Grant Pinnix, "Yadkin County and Caswell County," forum, *RootsWeb* (<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=grantpinnix&id=I004773> : accessed 25 May 2016), message "ID: I004773, Thomas Joplin"; citing "Goochland County Order Book 1, p. 148; Albemarle County Order Book, 1744-48; Moore, p. 37; Hiden, p 52," with no citation for Rev. Rose's diary. That well-known source for the Albemarle area is available as Frederick T. Bowes, ed., "Diary of the Rev. Robert Rose, 1747-1751," MSS 10886, Special Collections, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

¹⁰³ Pinnix says this "transcribed court record relating to the Davises, Joplins and Powells" was supplied by "Renee Bunck"; he cites "Casey County, Kentucky - Circuit Court Records - Civil Court Book 5 page 231."

James Joplin b: ABT 1735
Thomas Joplin b: 1745 in Albemarle Co., VA
Jane Joplin b: ABT 1738 in Amherst Co., VA
Martha Joplin b: ABT 1739 in Amherst Co., VA
Anne Joplin b: ABT 1741 in Amherst Co., VA
Royal Joplin b: ABT 1743 in Amherst Co., VA
Lucy Joplin b: ABT 1747 in Amherst Co., VA
Rebecca Joplin b: ABT 1749 in Amherst Co., VA
Hannah Joplin b: ABT 1751 in Amherst Co., VA”

COMMENT (BY ESM)

None of this provides any *obvious* reason as to why William Mills chose Thomas Jopling as his executor. The 1766 Amherst probate proceedings show that Jopling declined to serve.

18 NOVEMBER 1755

CUMBERLAND COUNTY (FORMERLY GOOCHLAND)

Neighbor.

“Deed, Zachariah Terry, of Cumberland, to William Daniel, of Caroline, 200 acres in Cumberland, lying on both sides of Randolph road, part of a tract **formerly belonging to William Mills**. Daniel Coleman a witness.”¹⁰⁴

COMMENT:

This William Mills is the one who received grants in the 1740s on Willis River and Guinea Creek. See abstracts below for 28 May 1759, 26 September 1760, and 24 August 1761.

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.”¹⁰⁵

COMMENT:

- Thomas Leirwood/Leerwood married Elizabeth Mills, daughter of William and Mary, between 26 September 1755 and 13 June 1757.
- 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:

“**Moses Helm**, William Moore, Thomas Franklin, John Bollings tithes, William Rutherford James Murphey, **James Wheeler**, John Golloway, Archibald Campbel, James McRunnals, Edward Phair, Nicholas Hayse, Lewis Franklin, Edmond Franklin, John Thompson, John

¹⁰⁴ W. B. Newman, “Captain William Daniel, of Middlesex: Some of His Descendants, and Other Daniels of Virginia,” *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), 1: 507.

¹⁰⁵ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 87; citing original p. 136.

Pleasants tithes, Natth'l Patteson, & John Carson, are added to the hands that work on the Road whereof John Beard is Surveyor.”¹⁰⁶

10 MARCH 1756

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land grant.

In consideration of 35 shillings paid to the Receiver General of Revenues for the colony, a grant is hereby made and confirmed unto **Thomas Mills**. 335 acres in Albemarle County “on the **Branches of Pedlar River** bounded as follows:

“Beginning at a small white Oak in **Robert Davis’s** line_[,] running thence new line North eighty degrees East one hundred and six? Poles to Pointers_[,] South thirty five degrees East nineteen Poles to **Arthur Tuley’s** Corner_[,] thence on Tuley’s Line South seventy five degrees East one hundred Poles to Pointers in **Edward Watts’s** line_[,] and on the same South one hundred and sixty six Poles to Pointers_[,] thence new lines South one and an half degree East fifty four Poles crossing a **Branch** to Pointers_[,] South sixty three degrees West one hundred and fifteen Poles to Robert Davis’s Corner at Pointers_[,] thence on Davis’s Line North seventy four degrees West forty five Poles to Pointers_[,] North forty seven? Degrees West forty five Poles to Pointers_[,] North fifteen to Pointers_[,] thence North fifteen degrees East forty eight Poles to a white oak Saplin North nine¹⁰⁷

COMMENT:

- The record ends at the bottom of the page and appears to need a closure, but a new document starts at the top of the next page.
- Thomas is said to be dead in the 1755 will of his father. His land, after the patent was received, would not be sold. The abstracts that follow contain references to this land through 1770.

13 MARCH 1756

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land grant.

In consideration of 35 shillings paid to the Receiver General of Revenues for the colony, a grant is hereby made and confirmed unto **William Mills** 350 acres in Albemarle County “on the **Branches of Buck Creek of Pedlar River** bounded as follows:

“Beginning at a Poplar and running thence With thirty five degrees east along **Peter Buck branch** two Hundred and twelve poles to Pointers on **Maple Creek**_[,] North sixty? Degrees West at ten poles a branch at eighty six poles crossed it again to **Edward Watts Junr.** his corner Maple_[,] and with his Line South eighty four degrees west two hundred and twenty poles to pointers_[,] a new Line South forty degrees west forty eight poles to Pointers in **Thomas Mills’s** Line_[,] and with it South sixteen Poles other? Pointers_[,] the same course continued on a new Line in all one Hundred and ninety two Poles to Pointers_[,] and North eighty three degrees east two hundred and sixty eight poles to the Beginning.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁶ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford Couty, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 35; citing Order Book 1–A, pp. 51–52.

¹⁰⁷ Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* (http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=40&last=&g_p=P34&collection=LO_Patent : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Mills, Thomas, grantee ... Albemarle County ... 335 acres on the branches of Pedlar River”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 34, 1756–1765, p. 40 (Reel 33-34).”

¹⁰⁸ Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* (http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=696&last=&g_p=P32&collection=LO_Patent : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Mills, William, grantee ... Albemarle County ... 350 acres on the branches of Buck Creek of Pedlar River”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 32, 1752–1756 (v.1 & 2 p.1-715), p. 696 (Reel 30).”

COMMENT:

The grantee is William Sr. I've found no evidence that William Jr. stayed in the region after the 1756 departure of his brother Ambrose and their brother-in-law Thomas Watts for the Carolinas. When William next makes a cameo appearance in 1770 to sell inherited land, he identifies himself as a resident of NC.

8 SEPTEMBER 1756
LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

"**Jas Mills** on attachment agst Jeremiah Moray dfdnt in debt; dfdnt's debt not fully recovered by public sale attachment, further execution ordered."¹⁰⁹

COMMENT:

The records covered in this project yield no suggestion that James may have belonged to the Nicholas Mills family or the William Mills family.

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."¹¹⁰

13 JUNE 1757
LUNENBURG 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 Hicory, North eighty five Degrees East seventy four poles to a Hicory[,] 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 Hicory[,] 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 his line North twenty eight Degrees West fifty four poles to the first Station."¹¹¹

COMMENT:

The Fry-Jefferson map (see Map 6) shows a Reedy Creek in the Walton area *considerably* southeast of the Pedlar River region where Elizabeth's family lived at the time. While the grant

¹⁰⁹ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 24: 1755-57* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaiad Publication, 1998), 38; citing Order Book 4: 198

¹¹⁰ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754-1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 116; citing original p. 184.

¹¹¹ 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: downloaded 20 May 2016), "Leerwood, 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)."

places the land in Lunenburg, when they sold the land three months later to Moses Helm, they identified themselves as a resident of Prince Edward—a new county created in 1754 from the region between the Staunton River and the Fluvanna. This Fry-Jefferson map does not show Prince Edward County.

Map 6
Reedy Creek—Walton Area, Lunenburg County, Va.¹¹²



COMMENT:

One Helm researcher who has extensively studied the property of Moses Helm offers clarification regarding the problematic location of Learwoods at the site above:

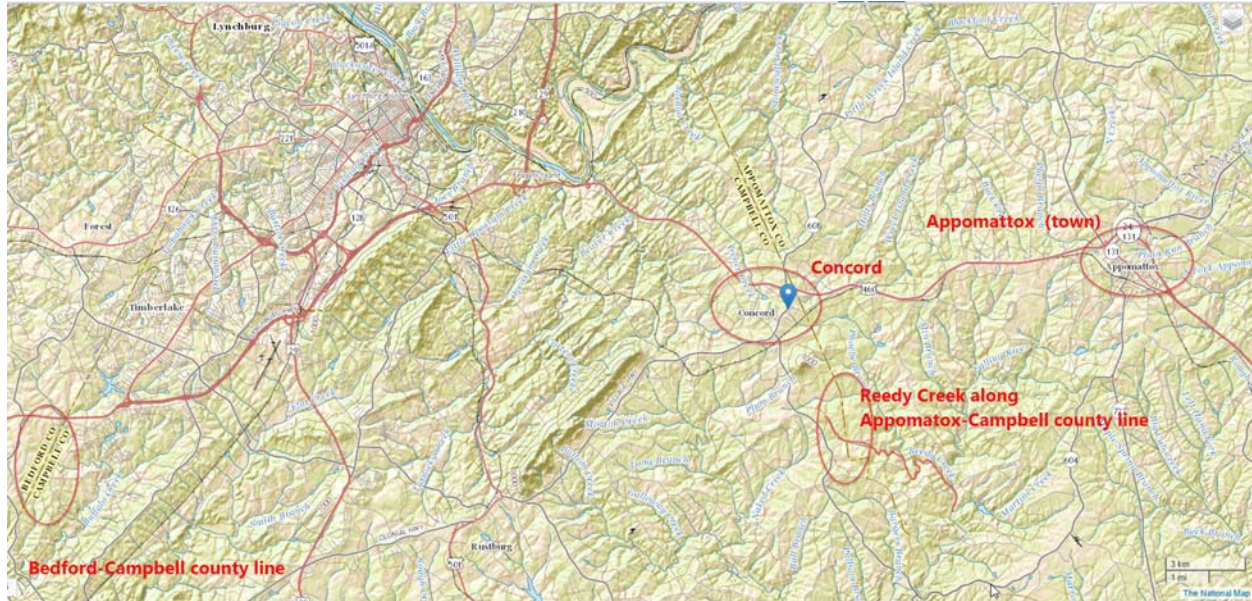
“There are three Reedy Creek locations: one as shown on [the] Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson map, in Lunenburg County; a **second refer[r]ed to in the Leerwood grant and sale to Moses Helm**, and other deeds and land grants during the 1700’s, being on the and third, current USGS maps show one on the south side of Pilot Mountain. The lat[t]er are a branches [sic] off Falling River. And Fish Pond Creek is a tributary near the head waters of the Appomattox River. These place the Leerwood property and the Wheeler p[r]operty closer to other properties” owned by Elizabeth (Mills) Learwood’s family.¹¹³

¹¹² 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).

¹¹³ Gary Helm (gary@garyhelm.net) to Elizabeth Shown Mills, email, “Mills, Leerwood, Helm Genealogy Research – in Virginia,” 24 October 2016. For more detailed study of Moses Helm and his property, see Gary Helm, “Moses Helm, Farms and

The Reedy Creek near Concord—Helm’s placement of the Leerwood land—is shown on Map 7, below.

Map 7
Reedy Creek along Campbell & Appomattox County Line, Virginia.¹¹⁴



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.¹¹⁵

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.”¹¹⁶

COMMENT:

Regarding the buyer of the Leerwood grant, one Helm researcher reports:

Home Found,” *Information Technology Outfitters* (<http://www.garyhelm.net/Life%20and%20Times%20of%20Moses%20Helm.htm> : accessed 25 October 2016).

¹¹⁴ The above map snippet is from United States Geological Survey (USGS), *The National Map* (<http://viewer.nationalmap.gov/basic/> : 25 October 2016), accessed through USGS *Geographic Information Names System (GNIS)* (<http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/f?p=136:1:11631886055376>).

¹¹⁵ 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.

¹¹⁶ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 134; citing original p. 213.

“Moses Helm had multiple properties. One is refer[r]ed to in the December 23 1754 Bedford County Court Book, where Moses Hellum, James Wheeler and others were ordered to work on the road where John Beard is Overseer. That property of Moses Hellum (Helm) was on Fish Pond Creek. That property was prior to 1754 in Albemarle County, and in 1754 became part of Bedford County Virginia. That property would later become part of Buckingham County Virginia, and is now in Appamattox County Virginia. This places the Wheeler property near a road known by various names that went from near Willis Mountain and the headwaters of Willis River, and the headwaters [o]f the Appamattox River.

“Two other adjoining properties of Moses Helm were on the **north side of Pilot Mountain, on what was then called Reedy Creek**. One of these properties is the **property Moses Helm purchased from Thomas and Elizabeth Leerwood**, in 1757. Part of that property is now in Campbell County Virginia, and the other part in Appomattox County.¹¹⁷

Helm’s website also states:

“September 1, 1780, page 357 [book not identified]. Moses Helm had 40 acres surveyed in 1767, to begin the process of obtaining this land grant that is not completed and signed until 1780. This property adjoins his property purchased from **Thomas Leerwood** in 1757. It also adjoins property Captain Thomas Helm [his son] received by grant in 1780, which includes Pilot Mountain. Most of the property lines established in the Thomas Leerwood grant in 1757, and the Moses Helm survey in 1767, are still in use today.”¹¹⁸

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.”¹¹⁹

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: ...

Augusta County: “**Edward Watts**

Bedford County: “Jeremiah Early, Jacob Henderson, Ambrose Bryan, Samuel Brown, James Fair, Charles Bright, **John Watts**, and John Handy, 0.4.0 each.

“Jeremiah Earley, Lt., 8.2.0; **George Watts, Sgt.**, and Edmund Fair, Sgt., 3.12.0 each

“James Fair, Samuel Brown, James Callaway, Richard Woodard, Sr., Charles Bright, Edward Bright, John Jones, Richard Maples, Richard Woodard, Richard Burks, William Burks, Bolling Burks, William Woodard, John Woodard, James Orchard, and **Edward Watts**, 2.14.0 each. Richard Pritchard, 2.4.0; John House, 1.17.0; Thomas Duly, James

¹¹⁷ Gary Helm (gary@garyhelm.net) to Elizabeth Shown Mills, email, “Mills, Leerwood, Helm Genealogy Research – in Virginia,” 24 October 2016.

¹¹⁸ Gary Helm, “Moses Helm, Farms and Home Found,” *Information Technology Outfitters* (<http://www.garyhelm.net/Life%20and%20Times%20of%20Moses%20Helm.htm> : accessed 25 October 2016).

¹¹⁹ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 140; citing original p. 226.

Duly, and Thomas Maclin, 1.11.0 each; James Wine, 0.16.0; **John Watts**, 0.14.0; Jeremiah Early, Lt., 8.11.0; **George Watts, Sgt.**, and Jacob Anderson, Sgt., 3.16.0 each

“Edmund Fair, James Callaway, Samuel Brown, Richard Woodward, Charles Bright, James Fair, Edward Bright, Richard Maples, John Jones, Thomas Thirman, Richard Woodward Sr., and John Hughes, 2.17.0 each; James Bromlet, 2.14.0; Richard Burks, Jr., William Burks, Boling Burks, **Edward Watts**, and James Orchard, 2.11.0 each; William Woodward, John Bush, John Woodward, Isaac Woodward, Michael Poore, and Richard Pritchard, 2.6.0 each; Andrew Poore, 1.16.0; Leonard Hall, for conducting Indians, 1.10.0; John Hues, for conducting Indians, 2.0.0.”¹²⁰

COMMENT:

No Mills, Lavender, Learwood.

26 FEBRUARY 1759

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, VA

Land Sale.

“**William Mills** of Cumb to John Seay, no wr date. {acreage?} land on the branches **Pidy Rock Ck in Cumb**, bd William Mills, Williams Daniel, William Easley. Wit James Taylor Jr., John Fransisco, George Francisco. Recd 26 Feb 1759. {William Easley grt 20 August 1747 Goochland 400a on both sides of **Pidey Rock Run of Willis’s River.**}”¹²¹

COMMENT:

This land was granted in 1746 to “William Mills, son of William Mills of Aberdeen.” It then lay in Goochland. The above description of the 1759 seller (i.e., 1735 grantee) as being a resident “of Cumberland” when he sold the land eliminates him for consideration as our William Mills who, in the 1750s and 1760s lived on Pedlar River in Albemarle (later Amherst).

28 MAY 1759

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, VA

Neighborhood.

“Job Thomas of Cumb and Nathaniel Basset of Lunenburg to Alexander Tren of Cumb, land on north or upper side of **Willises River** {that’s where **Pidy Rock** is} bd sd River bank, **John Jude [sic]**, Drury Woodson, James Cuningham, John Reynolds, Paul Carrington, Valentine Margin, Joseph Price, Maurice Langhorn, Tucker Woodson, James Anderson, Walker Daniel, Orlando Hughes, Drury Scruggs, Benjamin Wilson, John Jude. Wit Thomas Tabb, Benja. Colvard, John Holland, Antho’y Christian. Recd 28 May 1759.”¹²²

13 DECEMBER 1759

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Debt.

“Venable vs. **Mills** – Attchment, 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

¹²⁰ Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, *Virginia’s Colonial Soldiers* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988), 201–2, 208–9.

¹²¹ Diane Jones <dijon at ckt.net>, “(Bolling5) Children of Ann ____ Bolling Amoss,” posted 14 October 2013, *Bolling Research Mailing List* (http://bolling5.com/pipermail/bollingresearch_bolling5.com/2013-October/007690.html : accessed 28 May 2016), citing “Cumb 2-450.”

¹²² Diane Jones <dijon at ckt.net>, “(Bolling5) Children of Ann ____ Bolling Amoss,” posted 14 October 2013, *Bolling Research Mailing List* (http://bolling5.com/pipermail/bollingresearch_bolling5.com/2013-October/007690.html : accessed 28 May 2016), citing “Cumb 2-481.”

hands. Ordered that he satisfy this judgment and costs out of the same to the Plaintiff.”¹²³

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.

13 DECEMBER 1759

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Neighbors.

“This indenture ... Between **Thomas Smith** of the **Parish of St. Anns** in County of Albemarle of one part and John **Tooley [Tuley, Truly]** of the same County & Parish Witnesseth that Thomas Smith for sum of ten pounds Curr. money of Virginia to him paid doth sell John Tooley & to his heirs one certain parcell of land containing three hundred & fifty acres (be the same more or less) which sd parcell of land was granted to the sd Thomas Smith by Patent at Williamsburg bearing date the twentieth day of March one thousand seven hundred & fifty nine lying in the County of Albemarle on **Pedlar River** and bounded [as follows]:

Beginning at pointers in **William Mills’s** line & with his lines North & East to pointers & North & West crossing **Maple Creek** to **Edward Watts’s Junr.** his corner Maple on the same thence up the Creek with his line according to its meanders to **Stone’s** line & with the same South & East cross **Pedlar River** to pointers by the River thence down the same according to its meanders to other pointers thence South & West to a Sorrell Tree South & West crossing Pedlar River to pointers North & West to Maple Creek one hundred & four poles to Pointers & North twenty three degrees West ninety two poles to the Beginning [Signed] **Thomas + Smith.**

“At a Court held for Albemarle County the thirteenth day of December 1759

“This Indenture Memorandum & Receipt was acknowledged by Thos. Smith party thereto & ordered to be recorded. **Sarah Wife of the said Thomas** personally appeared in Court & being first privately examined as the Law directs Voluntarily relinquished her right of Dower to the Estate conveyed in the said Indenture.”¹²⁴

COMMENT:

- This land adjoins the new grant of William Mills Sr.
- Thomas Smith in 1749 witnessed the sale by Thomas Watts and wife Sarah Mills of the Pedlar River land TW had just been granted..
- In the actual deed (which I examined as part of the Watts project in 2014–15) three different samples of Smith’s mark shows that he placed his + or X within a circle.

13 DECEMBER 1759

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Neighbor.

“Thos. Smith & wife Sarah to Jno. Tooley for £10, 350 acres pat. 20 Mar 1759, on **Pedlar, adj. Wm. Mills, Maple Creek**, Edwd. Watts, Jr.”¹²⁵

¹²³ 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.

¹²⁴ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1758–1761* (N.P., The Antient Press, 1988), 59; citing Deed Book 2: 205–6. (Checked the actual deed.)

¹²⁵ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 41; citing Albemarle Deed Book 2: 205.

**FEBRUARY COURT 1760
BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Debt.

“Stone vs. **Mills** – abates by Plaintiff’s death.”¹²⁶

COMMENT:

Considering that Ambrose Mills m. Mourning Stone, the defendant in the above case is likely Ambrose.

**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_{i,j} thence along their lines West eighty Poles to **William’s** corner white oak in the same_{i,j} thence along his line North two hundred and twenty four Poles to his corner white Oak in **Kay’s (Ray’s? Key’s?)** line_{i,j} thence along his line North eighty Degrees East one hundred and fifty Poles to his corner two red Oaks in Callaway’s line_{i,j} Thence along his line South ten Degrees East ninety four Poles to a red Oak South forty Degrees West forty Poles to a Pine_{i,j} South fifty Degrees East sixty four Poles to the Creek aforesaid, thence down the same as it Meanders to the first.”¹²⁷

COMMENT:

See Map 5.

**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, Thomas Franklin, and Bolling**. Wit Robert Rutledge, William Bumpas, and William Jamerson.”¹²⁸

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.

¹²⁶ 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.

¹²⁷ 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: 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).”

¹²⁸ Roberta J. Estes (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 : accessed 23 May 2016. No citation of the source is provided in this extensive list of abstracts focusing primarily on the Watkins family.

Palmer, grantor, Tonkhart Pullen, Alex. Trent, Drury Scruggs. Wit: Benj. Wilson, Thos. Tabb, Robt. Brown, Jacob Winfrey, Jr.”¹²⁹

6 NOVEMBER 1760

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

William Wallace of Albemarle to William Woods & David Gass of same, sale for 28£ 300 acres in Albemarle on **branches of Michams River**, described as

“bounded Beginning in pointer in **David Mills** line & with it South & West to pointers of John Lawsons_[,] & with his line South & East to a pine_[,] thence on new lines North & East to pointers_[,] South & East to pointers_[,] North sixty seven Degrees West at one hundred & thirty six poles to a branch two hundred & thirty poles to the beginning. ... granted unto the said William Wallace by Patent bearing date” 16 August 1756.”

Signed: William [his mark \] Wallace. Witnesses: Michael Woods; John Wallace; Michal Wallace. Acknowledged 13 November 1760, in court, by William Wallace.

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.”¹³⁰

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 Walton, whose land lay in Cumberland County in 1760. (See above.)
- Chilton’s abstracts from Bedford’s Deed Book A shows Callaway owning land on Elk Creek, Buffalo Creek, and Little Otter River

24 AUGUST 1761

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, VA

Neighbor.

“William Daniel of Cumberland to John Seay 4 Aug 1761, recd 24 Aug 1761, £8, 25a in Cumbeland on the Heads of **Pidy Rock** and **Bear Cr**, bd John Seays, William Mills, John Taylor, Warham Easleys Church Road. No wit.”¹³¹

20 MARCH 1762

¹²⁹ 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.

¹³⁰ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 8.

¹³¹ Diane Jones <dijon at ckt.net>, “(Bolling5) Children of Ann ____ Bolling Amoss,” posted 14 October 2013, *Bolling Research Mailing List* (http://bolling5.com/pipermail/bollingresearch_bolling5.com/2013-October/007690.html : accessed 28 May 2016), citing “Cumb 3-193).

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

David Gass of Albemarle to William Woods of same, sale for 100£ “current money of Virginia,” sale of 300 acres lying in Albemarle on Branches of **Meechams River** and bounded as follows:

Beginning at pointers in **David Mills’s** line and with it South & West to pointers of John Lawson’s_(,) and in his line South & East to a pine_(,) thence new lines North & East to pointers_(,) South & East to pointers_(,) North & West to a pine North & West at one hundred and thirty-six poles to a branch_(,) two hundred and thirty six poles to the Beginning.”

“Signed: David Gass. Witnesses: Archd. Woods, Andrew Wallace, Michl. Woods. Proved 10 June 1762 at court by oaths of Archibald Woods, Andrew Wallace and Michael Woods.”¹³²

13 AUGUST 1762

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

“**David Thompson and Catey his Wife to David Mills of Albemarle County & Fredricksville Parish,**” sale for 55£ “currant money of Virginia” all their “parcel of land in “said county and Parish “containing by estimation” 524 acres “granted to David Thompson by Patents “ consisting of 250 acres dated 16 August 1756 and 274 acres patented 10 August 1759, described as

“beginning at a corner chesnut near the Ledge_(,) running thence South & West to a chesnut Sapling_(,) thence South & West to a chesnut_(,) thence South & West to a beach_(,) thence South & East to a chesnut_(,) thence South & East to a hickory thence South & East to a large white oak near a Spring_(,) thence North & East to a chesnut_(,) thence North & East to a chesnut_(,) thence North & West to a chesnut_(,) thence North & East to a chesnut_(,) East thirty six poles to a white oak_(,) thence North to a chesnut_(,) thence North & East to a white oak_(,) thence North & West to a corner tree in the old line_(,) thence South & East to a locust_(,) thence South & East to a chesnut_(,) thence South to a forked chesnut oak_(,) thence South & East to a chesnut red oak_(,) thence South & East to a small chesnut_(,) thence South & East to a chesnut_(,) thence South & East to a large chesnut_(,) thence South & East to a red oak_(,) thence South & East to a chesnut red oak_(,) thence South & East to a hickory saplin_(,) thence North & East to a chesnut red oak_(,) thence North & West to a hickory_(,) thence North & West to a small chesnut_(,) thence North & West to a large chesnut_(,) thence North & West to a hickory_(,) thence South & West to a chesnut_(,) thence North & West to a Locust_(,) thence North & West to a forked Maple saplin on a branch of **Lynches River**_(,) thence South & West to a chesnut red oak_(,) thence South & East to a red oak saplin_(,) thence South & East to a chesnut_(,) thence South & East to a chesnut red oak_(,) thence South & West to a chesnut_(,) thence South four degrees West forty two poles to the beginning.”

Signed: David Thompson, Catey Thompson. Witnesses: Nichs. Meriwether, John Lewis Junr. Proved 13 August 1762 by acknowledgement of David & Catey Thompson at court.¹³³

9 SEPTEMBER 1762

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

David Mills and wife Lucy of Albemarle County to John Shifflet of same, sale for 16£ current money of Virginia, sale of 100 acres in Albemarle described as

¹³² Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1761–1764* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1988), 59; citing Deed Book 3: 46.

¹³³ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1761–1764* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1988), 54; citing Deed Book 3: 208–11.

“Beginning at *Coursey’s* line thence with *Coursey’s* line South & West to three-white oak saplins in *Coursey’s* line,¹³⁴ North & East to two red oaks and chesnut on the Road,¹³⁴ thence North & East to a pine,¹³⁴ thence South & East to three pines in *William Davis’s* line,¹³⁴ thence South & West along *Davis’s* line to the Beginning one hundred and five poles.”

Signed: David Mills. Acknowledged 6 September 1762 in court by David Mills.¹³⁴

COMMENT:

- The next document recorded is one of 4 October 1762 by “*William Coursey Senr.*,” planter of Albemarle, to wife *Anne Coursey*, a gift of slaves witnessed by *John Foster*, *John Ripto Junr.*, *Mary Ripto*.¹³⁵
- On a [blank] day in 1767, *John Dickason* & wife *Mary* sold to “*John Rippito*,” all of Albemarle, 500 acres on South Side of *Payne Mountain* “Beginning at a Pine Corner in **Jacob Watts** cleared ground”¹³⁶
- This *Jacob Watts* appears to be the brother of *Edward Watts*, whose son *Thomas m. Sarah Mills*. They are both named in the *Orange/Culpeper Cos. will* of their apparent father, *Thomas Watts*.¹³⁷

8-9 DECEMBER 1762

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

John Lockhart and *David Lockhart* of Albemarle Co., to *John Kinkead* of same. Sale for 80£, via lease and release, 356 acres in Albemarle on **South Branch of North Fork of Mechums River**, described as

“Beginning at **Matthew Mills** pointers in *John Lockhart’s* line and thence on *Mills’s* line North & East to a pine North & West crossing two branches to pointers North & East to pointers of *Bushes* North & East to pointers South & East to a red oak in *George Davidson’s* line South & East to pointers South & East crossing a Branch to pointers North & East to a red oak South & East to pointers South & East to a white oak South & West to a white oak North & West to the beginning.”

Signed *John Lockrd*, *David Lockhart*. No witnesses: acknowledged by the *Lockharts* at court on 9 December 1762.¹³⁸

2 FEBRUARY 1763

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

John Cowan of Albemarle Co., to *William Woods* of same. Sale for 25£, 68 acres on **Spring Branch and Mechams River**, described as

“Beginning at a chesnut on the North side of the River & runing thence a new line North & West to pointers thence on **David Mills** line North & West to pointers thence South & West to pointers thence new line South & East to a pine then South & East to a corner Gum of *William Woods* Spring Creek thence

¹³⁴ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1761–1764* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1988), 63; citing Deed Book 3: 235–36.

¹³⁵ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1761–1764* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1988), 63; citing Deed Book 3: 236–37.

¹³⁶ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1768–1770* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1990), 115; citing Deed Book 5: 234–35

¹³⁷ Culpeper Co., VA, Will Book A: 10.

¹³⁸ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1761–1764* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1988), 71; citing Deed Book 3: 269–72.

down the same fifty two degrees East thirty six poles to Mechams River down the same North thirty six degrees East nineteen poles to the first station ... land was granted to the said John Cowan by Patton [sic] bearing date” of 25 March 1762.

Signed: John Cowan. Witnesses: Michael Woods, David Lewis, Archibald Owens. Proved 10 March 1763 by oaths of Woods and Owen.¹³⁹

12 NOVEMBER 1763

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land lease.

David Mills to William Coleman & wife Betty, all of Albemarle. “In consideration of rents & Covenants herein after mentioned on the part of the said William Coleman and Betty his Wife to be paid and performed hath farm let unto said William Coleman and Betty his Wife one hundred acres of land except all Mines Minerals & Quarries whatsoever lying in the **Parish of Frederickville** in Albemarle County,” described as

“Beginning at David Mills Corner white oak in William Thompsons line the North side **Piney Run**,^[i] thence on Thompsons line South & East to two dogwoods in his line on the North of the Run^[i] thence North & East to a red oak saplin^[i] thence North & West to a white oak in David Mills line by a branch thence on his line South 45 West 110 poles to the Beginning.

Land is leased for 10 years, beginning 3 January next “if either of them live so long, but if they do depart this Life before the Ten years has expired ... then this Lease shall immediately cease.” Payment: First four years, 1£ 5s; other six years, 1 £. Rents are due on 3 January of each year. Signed: David Mills, William Coleman, Betty + Coleman. Witnesses: Wm. Michie, James Keaton. Proved by David Mills at court on 14 June 1764.¹⁴⁰

Signed: David Mills. Witnesses: Saml. Dolton, James Keaton, Bradley Merideth. Proved 8 March 1764 by oaths of the witnesses.¹⁴¹

COMMENT:

- David’s wife Lucy was not involved here because this was a lease, not a sale.
- Note the lengthy duration of the lease: 10 years.

28 FEBRUARY 1764

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Will.

“I, David Mills of Albemarle County do make this my Last Will and Testament. Imprimis I appoint my dear Wife, **Lucy Mills**, Executrix and my particular friends, **Isaac Davis** and **William Barksdale**, together with **my Son, Zachariah Mills**, ... Executors ... and bequeath unto my Executors ... all my lands (excepting such part thereof as is herein after particularly devised) together with all surveys, the sum or sums of money or whatever else shall be due to me from any person ... to the intent that they ... as soon as conveniently may be after my death shall sell the said lands and lay out the money ... after paying all my debts and funeral charges) in purchasing young female slaves which they are to divide equally among my Children....

¹³⁹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1761–1764* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1988), 76; citing Deed Book 3: 290–91.

¹⁴⁰ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1761–1764* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1988), 110; citing Deed Book 3: 446–48.

¹⁴¹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1761–1764* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1988), 98; citing Deed Book 3: 395–97.

“Item. Whereas I have a large survey of land on **Buck Mountain Creek** [to be divided] as follows: Beginning on Buck Mountain Creek and continuing up the same to the lines of the first survey to the **Musterfield Path** nigh John Davis’s, from thence round the Fence to the mouth of a little Creek, from thence to the highest part of the back line and from thence down the said line and round on the lines of the first survey to the beginning ... I give and devise to my **son Zachariah Mills**.

“Item. I give and devise to my Executors [400] acres of land above the Road, which shall include my dwelling house and be included in the above survey for my Son, Zachariah Mills, with this express proviso ... that they ... suffer my beloved Wife, Lucy Mills, to have and occupy the said land and dwelling house ... during her widowhood and til her death if she shall never marry again and then ... to my Son, Zachariah Mills.

“Item. I give and devise to my **Son, David Mills**, and his heirs forever all the residue of my **Buck Mountain** Tract Survey.

“Item. I give and devise unto my **Son, Wyat Mills**, and his heirs forever all my **Beaverdam Swamp** tract of land.

“Item. I give and devise to my **Son Joseph Mills**, and his heirs forever a thousand acres of land adjoining **Beaver Creek**.

“Item. I give and devise to my Son Zachariah Mills {and David Mills omitted}, and to their heirs forever Epperson’s Survey and Coursey’s Survey and my will and desire is that my Executors divide the said tracts into two parts equal with respect to quality and that David have that part adjoining Thomas Ballard’s line and Zach: the other.

“Item, I give and devise to my Sons, Zachariah Mills, David Mills, Wyat Mills and Joseph Mills and their heirs forever, all that tract of land lying on the **Great Mountains** which I bought of David Thompson [executors to divide].

“Item. I give and devise to my **Daughters, Ann Mills and Elizabeth Mills**, and their heirs forever the [800] acres of land which was in the possession of *James Ceaton* ... and that Anna have that part which shall include the **Garden Spot** and Elizabeth that which joins *Garlick’s* line [executors to divide].

“Item. I give and devise to my Daughters, **Mary Mills and Lucy Mills**, and their heirs forever, [800] acres of land which shall adjoin *Twyman’s*. [Executors to divide the land] in such a manner that it shall extend from *Twyman’s* to the line below **Fishing Creek**, and thence divide it into two parts equal with respect to quantity and quality and that Mary have that adjoining *Twyman’s* and Lucy that adjoining the line below Fishing Creek.”

Other provisions regarding executors, slaves, household furniture. Signed: David Mills. Witnesses: William Michie, David Thomson, Hannah her mark *A* Epperson.¹⁴²

COMMENT:

- Many online trees identify (without evidence) David’s wife as Lucy Wyatt—thus the name Wyatt Mills for a son.
- Some researchers have questioned whether David’s daughter Ann might be the wife of Lewis Witt who named her first son Mills Witt. I’ve found no known record or online tree that validly identifies a husband for David’s daughter Ann. The above reference to her by her maiden name implies that she was not married here in 1764. In that event, she can be eliminated from consideration as Anne Witt, who bore 8 children to Lewis before his death in 1774.¹⁴³

¹⁴² Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Wills, 1752–1764* (2000 reprint; N.P., The Antient Press, n.d.), 7–9; citing Will Book 2: 173–75.

¹⁴³ 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 (Lewis Witt). Also Bedford Co., Will Book 4: 276–77 (Ann Witt will) and 287 (Ann Witt inventory and accounts), previously consulted for my work on William Mills-Witt of Franklin Co.

6 [JAN-MARCH] 1764

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

David Mills to James Merideth, both of Albemarle. Sale for 16£, a parcel “by supposition one hundred acres more or less lying in Albemarle County” described as

“Beginning at a Scrubby white oak corner of the said David Mills and running thence along the said **David Mills** corner line West to a scrubby white oak corner of the said David Mills, thence North & East to a pine & two red oak bushes thence North & East to a white oak saplin thence South one hundred & twenty poles to the Beginning.”

Signed: David Mills. Witnesses: Saml. Dolton, James Keaton, Bradley Merideth. Proved 8 March 1764 by oaths of the witnesses.¹⁴⁴

5 MARCH 1764

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Witness:

“Gregory Mathews, Buckingham, to John Murrel, Albemarle, 25 pds. For 190 acres on Horse Shoe Mountain and joining lands of John Hunter & William Burns. Pat. To Joseph Cabell, 20 Sep 1759. Wit: William Tiller, **Jesse Mills**, Stephen Gee.”¹⁴⁵

COMMENT:

This is the first record yet found for Jesse Mills as an adult. From it, we might tentatively place his birth as pre-1743—assuming that he was at least 21 at the time of the signature. That is not a stable assumption, however. Some witnesses were younger.

16 MARCH 1764

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Nicholas Rice of Louisa County to Alexander Baine, “Merchant in Henrico.” To secure payment of 27£ 13s 11p, bearing interest from 31 January 173 due to Baine –and for another 5s paid now by Baine, Rice conveys to Baine “one certain tract or parcel of land lying & being in the County of Albemarle being my full share proportion & dividend of the land left to me by the Last Will & Testment of **Nicholas Mills Senr., deceased,**” as may more fully appear reference thereto being had on the records of Hanover County. Signed: Nicholas Rice. Witnesses: Thomas Perkins, John Bullok, David Ross. Acknowledged 11 September 1770 before Merth. Price, Wm. Garrott, Wm. Pettitt, John Walker, and Dabney Carr. Proved at November 1770 court, Albemarle County, by oaths of Price, Walker, and Carr.¹⁴⁶

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 –

¹⁴⁴ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1761–1764* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1988), 98; citing Deed Book 3: 395–97.

¹⁴⁵ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 79; citing Amherst Deed Book A: 162.

¹⁴⁶ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1768–1770* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1990), 117–18; citing Deed Book 5: 243–44

Anthony Bledsoe, Francis Thorp, **John Mills**, James McFall, Thomas Barnes, Francis **Smith**. Recorded Feb 26, 1765.¹⁴⁷

(BEFORE) 26 JULY 1764
BEDFORD CO., VA

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.”¹⁴⁸

11 OCTOBER 1764
ALBERMARLE COUNTY, VA

Proof of will.

Lucy Mills, widow of David, appeared in court and renounced all benefit and advantage from his will. Executors did not appear and she was granted administration.¹⁴⁹

11 OCTOBER 1764
ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

John Lawson and Margaret his wife to Gilbert Marshall, all of Albemarle Co. Sale for 72£ 10s, 300 acres on **Licking-hole Creek, a branch of Mecham’s river**, described as

Beginning at a White oak of *Henry Kerrs* four poles from a point of Brocks, *John Cowans* Corner & with Cowans line North East to pointers in *William Wallace’s* line thence on new lines North to a Pine & North West to pointers in **David Mills** line & with his lines South West to pointers & North West to pointers in *Andrew McWilliams* line & with it South East to pointers in *Henry Kerrs* line and with his lines North East to pointers & South East to the Beginning ... granted to the said John Lawson by Patent” 10 August 1759.”

Signed: John Lawson; Margeret Lawson. “Memorandum that peaceable possession was given by John Lawson unto Gilbert Marshall,” signed John Lawson. Proved by John at court on 11 October 1764, at which time Margaret was examined separately to relinquish her right of dower.¹⁵⁰

1 AUGUST 1765
ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

David Lewis of Albemarle to Christopher Shepherd of same, sale for 50£, 200 acres on **Branches of Michim River**, described as

100 acres “Beginning at **Mathew Mills** pointers in said Lockharts line and runing thence on Mills line South West to a Hickory_{i,j} South West crossing two Branches to pointers [in] the said line_{i,j} thence new Lines South to a Chesnut tree near the top of a Mountain East crossing a Branch to pointers_{i,j} North East crossing a Branch to pointers North West to Pointers in said Lockhards line_{i,j} and on the same North West crossing a Branch to the first Station. Likewise ...” 100 acres joing the above 100, which “likewise joynes *David Lewis, John Kinkead and Christopher Shepherd.*”

¹⁴⁷ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deeds, 1761–1766* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1991), 45-46; citing Deed Book 2: 515.

¹⁴⁸ Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 33, citing B-2: 515.

¹⁴⁹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Wills, 1752–1764* (2000 reprint; N.P., The Antient Press, n.d.), 7–9; citing Will Book 2: 173–75.

¹⁵⁰ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1764–1768* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1989), 3; citing Deed Book “1764–1768,” pp. 8–9.

Signed: David Lewis Jr. Witnesses Henry Hays, William Grayson, James Colrey. Proved 8 August 1765 by David Lewis Jr. at court.¹⁵¹

4 OCTOBER 1765
ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

John Kinkead of St. Anns Parish in Albemarle to David Lewis Junr. Of same county and parish, for 35£, sale of a parcel of land, size unspecified, on **Branches of Mechims River**, described as

“Beginning at **Mathew Mills** Pointers in *John Lockharts* line & running thence on Mills line_{i,j} North East crossing to a Branch to Pointers_{i,j} thence New lines North East to pointers of *Bushes* South East to a Red oak in *George Davisons* line_{i,j} & with the same South East to pointers_{i,j} North East to pointers of *William Woods* in said line_{i,j} thence a new line South East crossing a branch to pointers in *John Lockharts* line_{i,j} & on the same South West crossing a Branch to the first Station.”

Signed: John Kinkead. Acknowledged October Court 1765 by John Kinkead and wife Margaret who relinquished her dower.¹⁵²

20 OCTOBER 1765
ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

John Coffey of St. Anne’s Parish, Albemarle, planter, to James Garland of same. Sale for 55£, 100 acres “on the head of the **South Branch of Middle Harware** in the North Garden,” described as

“Beginning and to join on the land of said *James Garland* purchased of *James Coffey* on the North West end_{i,j} and runing thence on said *John Coffeys* Entry_{i,j} and runing thence on a straight course to a poplar in a branch_{i,j} thence up the said Branch Coffeys line on the same course to the foot of a **Mountain**_{i,j} and a long the said line to the land of *James Garlands* on the South East.”

Signed: John Coffey. Witnesses: Charles Lambert, Claudius Buster, **Menan Mills**. Acknowledged by Coffey at court on 10 July 1766.¹⁵³

4 JULY 1766
ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

James Coffey of Amherst Co., planter, to Robt. Fields of St. Anne’s parish, Albemarle Co., overseer. Sale for 52£ 10s, a tract of 175.23 acres on the **South branch of Mitcham’s [Mechum’s] River in the Ragged Mountains**, “being two thirds of a tract of land granted to sd James Coffey as by Patent bearing date at Williamsburgh July the 26th 1755,” described as

Bounded on *Henry Terrills* and **Matthew Mills** land & *Jno. Coffey Junr.* Land.

Signed: James Coffey. Witnesses: Nicholas Morran, Jno. Coffey, Cha. Lambert. Proved 10 July 1766 at court by oath of Nicholas Moran, Jno. Coffey & Chas. Lambert.¹⁵⁴

¹⁵¹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1764–1768* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1989), 28; citing Deed Book “1764–1768,” pp. 115–17.

¹⁵² Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1764–1768* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1989), 43; citing Deed Book “1764–1768,” pp. 195–97.

¹⁵³ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1764–1768* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1989), 53; citing Deed Book “1764–1768,” pp. 238–40.

¹⁵⁴ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1764–1768* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1989), 54-55; citing Deed Book “1764–1768,” pp. 251–53.

10 JULY 1766

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Lucy Mills of Fredericksville Parish, Albemarle Co., to David Spradling of Trinity Parish, Louisa County, sale of 327 acres in Fredericksville Parish, Albemarle on South side of **North Branch of North Fork of James River** described as

“Beginning at a Red Oak near the bank of the River in *Mr. Webbs* line_[,] running thence along the same to *Mr. Carr’s* Corner several Oak saplins_[,] thence North East to a red oak saplin by a Branch_[,] thence South East to Carr’s Corner white oak on top of a hill_[,] thence North East to a Dogwood saplin on the River_[,] and thence up the same by the water courses making a straight line to the Beginning.

Signed: Lucy Mills. Acknowledged at court 10 July 1766, by Lucy Mills.¹⁵⁵

10 JULY 1766

AMHERST COUNTY

Land grant.

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

“Beginning at Pointers on **Thomas Mills** & running with his Line South sixty five Degrees West one hundred and twelve poles to a Spanish oak_[,] and with *John Davis’s* Line South twelve Degrees East one hundred and four [five?] poles to a pine South twenty four Degrees East forty four poles to pointers_[,] thence on *Isham Davis’s* South forty six Degrees East and hundred nad seventy four poles to Pointers_[,] East eighty eight Poles to a white oak North seventy seven Degrees East one hundred and eighty poles to pointers_[,] North eighteen Degrees West one hundred and forty two poles to Pointers_[,] South thirty nine? Degrees West eight eight poles to a poplar South_[,] eighty three Degrees West two hundred and twenty one poles to pointers_[,] and North one hundred and ninety two Poles to the beginning.”¹⁵⁶

COMMENT:

In his will of 1755, William Sr. bequeathed to William Jr. his 330 acres of “unsettled” land. In 1770 as a resident of NC (see that date below), William Jr. sold the 330 acres above. Apparently the grant above represents finalization of a process that William Sr. began in the 1750s.

4 AUGUST 1766

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Will probate.

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

“Administrator’s Bond – **Mary Mills, Jesse Mills, Wm. Lavinder**, August 4, 1766, for Mary Mills.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁵ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1764–1768* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1989), 52; citing Deed Book “1764–1768,” pp. 235–36.

¹⁵⁶ Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* (http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=942&last=&g_p=P36&collection=LO_Patent : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Mills, Willliam, grantee ... Albemarle County ... 330 acres on the branches of Buck Branch of Pedlar River”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 36, 1764–1767 (v. 1 & 2 p.557-1083), p. 942 (Reel 36).”

¹⁵⁷ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 242; citing Book 1: 73 (will); Book 1: 75 (administrator’s bond); 1: 104 (inventory).

COMMENT:

"7 Sep 1772. Chas. Tuley, AC, to Stephen Goolsby, AC, for £100, 400 acres pat. To Arthur Tuley, dec'd, 3 Nov 1750. **Branch of Pedlar**, Lines: *Ro. Davis, Maple Creek, Edwd. Watts*. Wit: Rich. Peter, Jer. Taylor, Wm. Floyd. Elizabeth, wife of Tuley.

"13 Mar 1772. Thos. Morrison, AC, planter, to **James Tuley Sr.**, Albemarle, for £50, 73 acres on **Long Meadow a branch of Rockfish**. Lines: *Col. Jno. Chiswell*. Wit: **Abner Witt**, James Tuley Jr., Saml. Lackey, Francis New, **Chas. Tuley**.

"5 Sep 1772. Abner Will [Witt], AC, to Laurence Small, AC, for £100, 100 acres **branch of Corbin Creek**. Lines: *Jno. Lackey, Jas. Barnett*. Wit: **Chas. Witt, Jno. Witt Jr., Littleberry Witt**.

5 Sep 1772. "**Abner Witt, AC**, to John Witt Jr. & Sr., Deed of Trust – 5 sh. 200 acres. Lines: Jas. Barnett, Jno. Reid, also slaves, furniture etc. Wit: Laurence Small, Chas. Witt, Chas. Barnerd, Littleberry Witt, Wm. Small."¹⁵⁸

"10 Dec 1779. "Jas. Tuley & wife Judith, Albemarle, to Abner Witt, AC, for £500 70 acres **Branch of Short's Creek**. Lines: *News, Thos. Morrison, Francis News*. Wit: Francis News, **Lewis Witt, Jos. Roberds. Orig. del. To Witt.**"¹⁵⁹

COMMENT:

The Lewis Witt of the 1779 document above, who associated with William Mills's neighbor, Tuley, is not the Lewis Witt who is said to have married William's daughter Anne. That Lewis died in 1774.

TO DO:

Get this inventory and any other related documents.

14 AUGUST 1766

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Lucy Mills of Fredericksville Parish, Albemarle Co., "Widow & Executrix of **David Mills** deced." To William Pettit of Trinity Parish, Louisa County. Sale for 10£, 100 acres described as

"Beginning at a Red oak and two Hickory saplins on the side of a Branch thence South West to two white oaks in Daivd Eppersons line_(,) thence South East to pointers_(,) thence North West to a Pine and three oak saplins in *William Davis's* line_(,) then South West to a forked Pine in *Coursey's* line thence South to a Red oak Corner in said *Coursey's* line_(,) thence South West to the first station."

Signed: Lucy Mills. Acknowledged at court on 14 August 1766 by Lucy Mills.¹⁶⁰

1 SEPTEMBER 1766

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Jesse Mills, AC, to Nathaniel Davis, AC, for 40 pds., 350 acres **branch of Buck Creek of Pedlar**. Lines: *Maple Creek, Edward Watte, Jr., Thos. Mills.* "**Lucy, wife of Jesse Mills**, consents."¹⁶¹

¹⁵⁸ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 141; citing Amherst Deed Book C: 392–98.

¹⁵⁹ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 188; citing Amherst Deed Book E: 204.

¹⁶⁰ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1764–1768* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1989), 57–58; citing Deed Book "1764-1768," pp. 264–66.

COMMENT:

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

4 OCTOBER 1766

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

James Meridith and Lucrehea his wife to Thomas Walker, all of Albemarle County, sale for 12£, 100 acres described as

"Beginning at a Shrubby Oak in Leatherdales line thence a Strait line to a Pine in **Mills** line from thence to a white oak in **Mills** from thence along Leatherdales line to the first Station."

Signed: James + Meridith; Lucrehea + Meridith. Witnesses: John Clark, Samuel Sampson, Thos. Garth, Geo. Martin. Proved Oct. Court 1766 by oath of Jno. Clark. Further proved 12 March 1767 at court by Saml. Sampson. Further proved 19 April 1767 at court by Geo. Martin.¹⁶²

COMMENT:

The "Mills" in this case should be **David Mills**.

27 FEBRUARY 1767

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Inventory

William Mills estate. L265-4-9, taken by **Henry Key** and Wm. Welton [likely *Walton*].¹⁶³

COMMENT:

- Walton would, in 1793, marry Mills's widowed daughter Milly Lavender. Walton's brother Lt. Jesse Walton, in the lead-up to King's Mountain, captured and ordered hung William Mills Jr., who (like his brother Ambrose) was a Tory. See subsequent abstract from the pension application of Walton's son William Walton Jr.
- Henry Key's house is said to be the site of the first courthouse in Nelson.

TO DO:

- Get this inventory and any other documents.
- Add Nelson Co. to my work list for further records of this family—particularly potential records on Elizabeth Mills (b. ca. 1754, daughter of Thomas) and William Mills-Witt (b. 1783–88).

31 MARCH 1767

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Inventory.

Estate of Doctor Arthur Hopkins, appraised by Giles Tompkins, William Moon, Solomon Hancock, before John Fry, Gent., J.P. "Credits taken from the books and papers of the deceased ... **David Mills, deced.**"¹⁶⁴

¹⁶¹ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 100; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 128.

¹⁶² Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1764–1768* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1989), 81; citing Deed Book "1764–1768," pp. 368–69."

¹⁶³ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 242, citing Book 1: 104.

9 APRIL 1767

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

William Garratt of Louisa County to John Armour Finley of Albemarle. Sale for 18£, 249 acres in Albemarle on **Pounding Branch**, described as

“Beginning at **Matthew Mills’s** corner red oak and running thence with his line North East to a Chesnut_[,] thence South West to pointers_[,] thence North West to a Hiccory_[,] thence North to pointers in the said Mills line_[,] thence on his line South East to the first Station.”

Signed: William Garrat. Acknowledged by Garratt at court 19 April 1767.¹⁶⁵

8 JULY 1767

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

“Mary Grymes, widow, Peyton Randolph, Esq.; Benj. Grymes; and John Robinson, Gent., Executors of Phillip Grymes, dec’d; and Lunsford Lomax, the Younger, Caroline Co., to **Jesse Mills**, AC [Amherst Co.]. [Whereas] Lunsford Lomax, the Elder, Caroline, mtgd. [*took a mortgage*] on 7 Aug 1756, and rec. 21 Oct. 1756 in General Court – to secure loan to Lomax by Philip Grymes, late of Middlesex, 7881 acres – money not repaid – mutually agreed between Mary Grymes, widow, and executors that land be sold to discharge debt and interest thereon – and they appointed Wm. Cabell, the Younger, atty, in AC Court – Lunsford Lomax & wife, Judith, 13 Jan 1767, (Proved in AC) conveyed to Lunsford Lomax, the Younger, [*who now conveys for*] 128 pds. 10 sh. [*paid*] by **Jesse Mills** – **396 acres**, part of said tract and formerly granted to Harmer, King, Randolph, & Lomax by order of Council **Tye River**. Lines Rose. Wit: George Seaton, **Wm. Walton**, Jno. Ryan, Edmund Wilcox, Clerk.”¹⁶⁶

COMMENT:

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

8 JULY 1767

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

John Coffey of Amherst County, planter, to Robert Fields of Albemarle. Sale for 35£, 242 acres on the **head Branches of Mitchums River under the Ragged Mountains**, described as

“Beginning at a red oak Henry Terrils and **Matthew Mills’s** Corner of their Dividing line and runing thence on Mills South East to pointers thence new lines South East to pointers thence North West to a Chesnut Tree thence South West to a hiccory on the sd Terrels line thence with his line North East to the first Station.”

¹⁶⁴ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Wills, 1752–1764* (2000 reprint; N.P., The Antient Press, n.d.), 34–35; citing Will Book 2: 118–22

¹⁶⁵ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1764–1768* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1989), 79; citing Deed Book “1764–1768,” pp. 359–60.

¹⁶⁶ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 100; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 203.

Signed: James Coffey. Witnesses: Marvel Nash, Michael Israel, Chas. Lambert. Proved by oath of the 3 witnesses at court on 19 July 1767.¹⁶⁷

7 AUGUST 1767

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Nicholas Mills of **Hanover County** to David Lewis of Albemarle, sale for 10£ 100 acres in Albemarle County described as

“Beginning at a red oak on the **North side of Michums River** and runing thence North West to pointers on John Rodes line_[,] and with it South West to a white oak_[,] thence on new lines South East to a Maple Saplin on the North side of Michums River_[,] & thence down the meanders of said River South East to the first Station.”

Signed: Nicholas Mills. Witnesses: David Rodes, John Marks, Zachariah Mills. Proved at November 1767 court by David Rodes, John Marks & Zachariah Mills.¹⁶⁸

COMMENT:

Note, below under 22 March 1768, that Marks also witnessed the sale of David Lewis land adjoining Matthew Mills on Ivy Creek—the watercourse on which Edward Watts, the Callaways, and the Woodwards on land.¹⁶⁹

2 NOVEMBER 1767

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Surety on bond.

“Geo. Stovall Jr., Jas. Dillard, Wm. Walton, Gabl. Penn, Alex. Reid Jr., Alex. Reid, Jno. Ryan, Jacob Smith, **Jesse Mills**, Ambrose Porter, Abraham Penn, Wm. Bibb, Jas. Christian, Wm. Floyd, Jos. Dillard, & Wm. Loving bonded to King Geo. III for 1000 pds. For Geo. Stovall Jr. who was appointed sheriff by governor under Colony seal on 17 Oct last past to perform duties of office. ... Same men and date as above for Stovall to collect fees. ... Same men and date for Stovall – 500 pds – to collect all Quit Rents.”¹⁷⁰

COMMENT:

Was Jesse’s wife Lucy a Stovall?

22 MARCH 1768

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

David Lewis Junr. Of St. Ann’s Parish to Ricxhard Woods, Joel Terrell and Samuel Woods of Fredricksvill Parish, all of Albemarle except Samuel Woods who is of Amhurst Co. Sale for 40£ 356 acres on **Ivy Creek**, “which formerly belonged to David Lockhart which lyes joining **Matthew Mills**, Christopher Shepherds, John Woods, and tract of land which formerly belonged to David Lewis Junr.” Signed David Lewis Jr.,

¹⁶⁷ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1764–1768* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1989), 93; citing Deed Book “1764–1768,” pp. 416–18.

¹⁶⁸ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1764–1768* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1989), 104; citing Deed Book “1764–1768,” pp. 456–57.

¹⁶⁹ See Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Watts: Literature Survey of Colonial & Revolutionary Bedford, Brunswick, and Lunenburg Counties, Virginia,” report to file, 5 January 2015.

¹⁷⁰ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 103; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 261–62.

Witnesses: Samuel Boyd, Thomas Anderson, John Marks. Proved by oaths of Boyd, Anderson and Marks at April Court, 1768.¹⁷¹

12 MAY 1768

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Benjamin Brown of St. Martin's Parish, Hanover Co., to James Harris of Fredricksville, Albemarle Co., sale for 20£, 22 acres described as

"Beginning at James Harris's Corner Red Chesnut running thence Noth West to pointers_{i,j} thence South West to a Red oak_{i,j} thence North East to a red oak_{i,j} thence North East to the beginning."

Signed: Ben Brown. Witnesses: **Zachariah Mills**, Thomas Langford, John Mullins Junr. Acknowledged at Albemarle County court 12 May 1768 by Benjamin Brown.

5 SEPTEMBER 1768

AMHERST COUNTY, VA.

Land sale.

"**Jesse Mills & wife, Lucy**, AC, to Lucas Powell, Alb. Co., for 90 pds, 396 acres **branch of Tye**. Lines: Rose. Wit: Jacob Smith, Wyatt Powell, Wm. Floyd."¹⁷²

COMMENT:

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

1 APRIL 1769

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

David Lewis Junr. of St. Anne Parish, Albemarle, to Henry Tilley of same. Sale for 30£, 129 acres on **South Branch of Mechums River**, described as

"Beginning at a Corner white Oak of *William Littles* and with his line South fourteen degrees East sixty poles to a Pine saplin_{i,j} North eighty degrees East ninety nine to a white Oak in *John Woods* line_{i,j} and with his line South thirteen degrees West Eighty poles to pointers_{i,j} South thirty degrees East eighty two poles **crossing the South Branch of Mechums River** to corner red Oak & white Oak saplins in **Mathew Mills's** line_{i,j} & with his lines South sixty two degrees West ninety eight poles to a white oak_{i,j} South twenty five degrees West twenty eight poles to a Pine_{i,j} thence on new lines North thirty seven degrees West twenty six poles to pointers in *Samuel Blacks* line_{i,j} and with his lines North forty degrees East twenty poles to pointers_{i,j} North eleven degrees East one hundred & four poles **crossing the South Branch of Mechums River** to a Pine_{i,j} North sixty two degrees West seventy two poles to pointers round a Rock_{i,j} North forty five degrees West fifty six poles to a Pine_{i,j} a new line North thirty six degrees West fifty two poles to pointers in *Thos. Read's* line_{i,j} and with his line North Eighty one degrees East eight poles to the beginning."

¹⁷¹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1764–1768* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1989), 118; citing Deed Book "1764–1768," pp. 504–5.

¹⁷² Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 110; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 264.

Signed: David Lewis Jr. Acknowledged that delivery was made same day. David then acknowledged the deed before Albemarle County court on 8 June 1769.¹⁷³

3 APRIL 1769
AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Witness.

“Wm. Cabell, Sr., AC, to Wm. Cabell, Jr., AC, love borne by SR for JR, his son, fishery on Woods Island in the Fluvanna – agreeable to reservations in deed from Wm. Cabell, the elder, to his son, Jno. Cabell, 13 April 1763; rec. in AC. Wit: **Wm. Walton**, Jno. Savage, **Eleonar Mills** (X).¹⁷⁴

COMMENT:

No Eleonar Mills has been identified in the Amherst family. William & Mary (allegedly née Walton) did not have a daughter Eleonar. Their son Ambrose married Mourning Stone and Ann Brown. Their son Jesse was married in this period to “Lucy” (allegedly Tilman). Their son William appears to have left the county, along with Ambrose, and is said (by undocumented online trees) to have married a “Rebecca.” William and Mary’s son Thomas died leaving two young children by an unknown wife and land for which the patent was received after his death and no sale of that land has been found on record. *It seems possible that Eleonar is widow of Thomas, holding her family together on Thomas’s land.*

Other references spotted for John Savage:

- 12 March 1765 “John Savage ... Whitten ... Cabell. **Tobacco Row**.¹⁷⁵ [**Tobacco Row Mountain lay on East bank of Pedlar River, suggesting that Eleonor lived in the immediate neighborhood of William & Thomas Mills.**]
- 24 May 1765: “William Cabell to William Phelps, 170 acres on both sides of **Raven Creek of Buffalo**. Witnesses: John Owen, John Dawson, John Savage.¹⁷⁶

21 JUNE 1769
ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Gilbert Marshall of Augusta County to Abraham Music of Albemarle, sale for 30£, 330 acres on **Lickenhole Creek** in Albemarle described as

“Beginning at a white Oak of Henry Kerrs four poles to a point of Rocks *John Cowens* Corner_[,] and with Cowens lines North eighty two degrees East seventy eight poles to pointers_[,] then with new lines North seventeen degrees West one hundred & twelve poles to a Pine_[,] and North forty nine Degrees West One hundred & thirty two poles to pointers in **David Mills** line_[,] and with his line South fifty degrees West one hundred and thirty six poles to pointers_[,] and North seventy two degrees West one hundred and sixty poles to pointers in *Andrew McWilliams* line_[,] & with it South thirteen degrees East two hundred & forty poles to pointers in *Henry Kerr’s* line_[,] & with his lines North thirty three degrees East one hundred poles to pointers_[,] and South eighty five degrees East two hundred & ten poles to the beginning.

¹⁷³ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1768–1770* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1990), 50–51; citing Deed Book 5: 93-94.

¹⁷⁴ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 115; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 431.

¹⁷⁵ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 91.

¹⁷⁶ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 86.

Signed: Gilbert Marshal. Witnesses Henry Carr, Samuel Carr, Terrell Music. Memorandum that possession passed on 21 June 1759. Proved August Court 1769 by oath of the three witnesses.¹⁷⁷

12 OCTOBER 1769
ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Thos. Walker to John Shiflet, both of Albemarle Co., sale for 14£, 100 acres described as

“Beginning at a Shrubby Oak in Leatherdale’s line, thence a strait line to a Pine in **Mills’s** line, from thence to a white Oak on **Mills** line, from thence along Leatherdales line to the Beginning, together with the apputenances thereunto belonging.

Signed: Thomas Walker. Witnesses: **Thos. Smith**, Danl. Smith, Nichs. Meriwether, William Lewis. Proved by oaths of all the witnesses at November court, 1769.¹⁷⁸

COMMENT:

When Walker bought the land in 1766 (above), that deed also identified the adjacent owner only as “Mills.” Despite the “Thomas Smith” appearance, the neighborhood seems to be that of David Mills.

17 APRIL 1770
AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Land purchase.

“Grymes exrs. To **Wm. Lavender** – see p. 33 for details of Grymes – for £25, 546 ½ acres on **branch of Tye**. Lines: **Mills, Alcock, King**. Wit: Zach. Taliaferro, Thos. Mitchell, Thos. Hawkins, Ambrose Jones, **Geo. Galasbey**, Moses Campbell.”¹⁷⁹

COMMENT:

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

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

“17 April 1770. Grymes Excrs. To Thos. Wilsher – see p. 33 for details of Grymes – for £8-15, 174 acres on branch of Tye. Lines: *Wilsher, Campbell, Edmonds*. Wit: *Zach. Taliaferro, Rod. McCulloch, Thos. Reid, Rich. Tankersley Sr. & Jr.*”¹⁸⁰

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

¹⁷⁷ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1768–1770* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1990), 57–58; citing Deed Book 5: 107–8.

¹⁷⁸ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1768–1770* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1990), 74; citing Deed Book 5: 142–43.

¹⁷⁹ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 121 citing Amherst Deed Book C: 78.

¹⁸⁰ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 121 citing Amherst Deed Book C: 76.

Family clues:

- Richard Tankersley Jr. is said to have married Mary Learwood [niece of Wm. Lavender's wife Millie].¹⁸¹
- When William Lavender died, Richard Tankersley (Sr. or Jr.) was one of the three men who inventoried his estate. See 1776, below.
- Richard Tankersley of 1783 (presumably Richard Jr.) did have a wife Mary:
"1 Sep 1783. "**Rich. Tankersley & wife Mary**, AVC, to Jas. Dillard, AC, one negro girl, Watsey, and £20,000 tobacco to be delivered on James River in two deliveries. Also two adj. tracts and where grantor lives. 1) 150 acres on **N bank Tye**. Lines: Jos. Dillard, Jos. Mays. 2) 174 acres. Lines: Rose, Glasby, Dillard, a Stoney Hill. Orig. del. To Capt. James Dillard 13 Jul 1797.¹⁸²
- Richard Tankersley [Sr., wife Winifred] also bought land in 1767 on **Piney**, the same waterway where Thomas Jefferson of Albemarle, 3 weeks later, would buy land from George Gillespie (Clasby), who would later serve as surety for Millie (Mills) Lavender. Details of the Tankersly transaction:
"3 Feb 1767. Jas. Jones & wife Mary, AC, to Rich. Tankersley, AC, for 100 pds, 315 acres **N side of Tye** and opposite **mouth of Piney**, part of larter [*sic*] tract granted by order of Council to Robt. Roles (*sic*, but Rose is meant), Clerk, and Thos. Chen (Chew) and sold by Robt. Rose to Edward Manton & rec. in Alb. Wit: Henry Rose, Leonard Tarrant Jr., Ambras Jones."¹⁸³
- Richard Tankersley [Jr.] was a landowner by 1772:
"3 Aug 1772. Rich. Tankersley & wife Winneford, AC, to Stephen Watts, AC, for £55, 182 acres **N side Tye & opposite mouth of Piney**. Part of Rich. Tankersley Sr. land which he gave to his son, Jr., and joins Chs. Rose. Wit: Hugh Rose, Augustin Wright, Thos. Wortham.¹⁸⁴ (On 4 Aug. 1777, **Stephen Watts & wife Eliz.** Sold this to *Geo. Wortham*. On 4 Aug. 1783, Geo. Wortham and wife Juday sold this land to Jas. Mays, **with Rich. Tankersley Jr. cited as adjacent neighbor**.¹⁸⁵)

COMMENT:

This Stephen Watts remains unidentified. One family tree asserts him to be the son of Thomas Watts and wife Sarah Mills, without evidence; but its information on that couple is radically off base. It presents the couple as lifelong residents of Albemarle/Amherst, with two children (Stephen and William) and no evidence other than derivative sources that are at least third-hand.¹⁸⁶ For all known evidence on this couple, see E. S. Mills, "Thomas Watts (b. ca.1725; d. ca.1796–1800); Spouse, Sarah Mills: Research Notes," report to file, 25 October 2015.

¹⁸¹ James Larwood, "Morphology of Larwood Genealogy" (MS, n.p., 1933); imaged at *Ancestry.com* from a copy at Sutro Library, San Francisco, CA. This manuscript presents the American Learwood/Larwood immigrant as "John Larwood," assigns him a marriage at about the same date as Elizabeth Mills married *Thomas* Learwood, but does not identify his wife.

¹⁸² Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 204; citing Amherst Deed Book E: 423.

¹⁸³ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 98; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 170.

¹⁸⁴ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 140; citing Amherst Deed Book C: 369. The wife of Richard Tankersly Sr. is also identified in Deed Book B: 388 (Davis, p. 112).

¹⁸⁵ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 169, citing Amherst Deed Book D:444; and 204, citing Deed Book E: 422.

¹⁸⁶ Sharons44, "Meredith Family Tree," user-contributed trees, *Ancestry* (<http://person.ancestry.com/tree/70823236/person/42487602640/facts> : 1 June 2016).

14 JUNE 1770

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

“**Jesse Mills, AC**, to Thos. Lumpkin, AC, for £100, 297 bought by TL [*sic*, but it appears to mean JM] of Lunsford Lomax Jr. and rec. in AC. Wit: Geo. Penn, Isaac Tinsley, Geo. McDaniel, Geo. Galaspie.”¹⁸⁷

COMMENT:

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

TO DO:

Get this record.

JULY-NOVEMBER 1770

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court papers.

“Bond of Leonard Phillips of Albemarle Co. to James & Robert Donald & Co., Merchants in Glasgow, dated 13 June 1770, witnesses: John Miller, David Shepherd. Account of Leonard Phillips, Sr. to above company, July-Nov. 1770, mentions **Joseph Mills**. Order to arrest Phillips in above suit, 18 May [1773] (3 items).”¹⁸⁸

COMMENT:

David Mills’s will of 1764 names son Joseph. Shepherds were also in his neighborhood.

27 AUGUST 1770

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY <HALIFAX <LUNENBURG

Land grant.

On payment of 40 shillings, grant made and confirmed unto **William Mills and Elizabeth (his wife)**. 400 acres in **Pittsylvania County** “on both sides of **Matrimony Creek** bounded as follows:

“Beginning at a white Oak_[,] thence North eighty one Degrees west one hundred and fifty nine Poles to a red Oak North_[,] fifty seven Degrees West seventy four Poles to a white Oak_[,] North seven Degrees East seventy Poles to a Dogwood_[,] North forty Degrees West ninety one Poles to a Chesnut_[,] North three East forty eight Poles to a white Oak_[,] North seventy-nine Degrees East ninety Poles to a Gum_[,] North sixty two Degrees East forty two Poles to a hickory_[,] East seventy Poles to a red Oak_[,] South sixty six Degrees East one hundred and thirty two Poles to a red Oak_[,] South eighteen Degrees East fifty two Poles to a hickory_[,] South one hundred & seventy Poles to Pointers_[,] East two hundred and forty five Poles to a poplar_[,] South seventy five Degrees East sixty four Poles to an Ash_[,] South fifty two Degrees West one hundred Poles to a white Oak_[,] South one hundred and thirty five Poles to a hickory_[,] West two hundred and thirty eight Poles along the Country(?) Line to Pointers in the same_[,] North sixty nine Poles to the Beginning.”¹⁸⁹

COMMENT:

¹⁸⁷ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 127; citing Amherst Deed Book C: 178.

¹⁸⁸ Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Papers, 1744–1783* (Richmond, VA: P.p., 1987), 45.

¹⁸⁹ Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* (http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=223&last=&g_p=P39&collection=LO Patent: downloaded 20 May 2016), “Mills, William, grantee ... Pittsylvania County ... 400 acres on both sides of Matrimony Creek”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 39, 1770–1771, p. 223 (Reel 39).”

Pittsylvania County would subsequently become Henry, then Franklin—the county in which William Mills-Witt (b. ca.1783–88) first appeared on a tax roll in 1812. The William Mills of this land record would remain in Pittsylvania and Henry, where he had a son William Jr. That William Jr. was a contemporary of William Mills-Witt, but both younger Williams appear simultaneously in Franklin records, with different wives and neighbors.

5 SEPTEMBER 1770

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

John Goodall and **Elioner** his wife, Tristan Snow and Elizabeth his wife, Frances Johnson and Mary Johnson, coheirs of John Johnson dec'd of Orange County, St. Thomas Parish, all sell to Ephraim Simonds of same county and parish, for 40 £, a tract of 400 acres “by estimation” in Albemarle County on Branches of Beverdam Swamp described as

“Beginning at **Mills’s** Corner Poplar runing thence on new lines West one hundred & twenty poles to two Hickory saplins_[,], North twenty five degrees East two hundred & thirty poles crossing two branches to a Pine & Gum saplin on the side of a Mountain_[,] thence East two hundred & three poles to a red Oak in *Mr. Webbs* line_[,] thence on the same South two hundred poles to **Webbs & Mills** corner two red Oaks_[,] thence on Mills line South sixty four degrees West one hundred & thirty nine poles to the first station. Together with all houses gardens watercourses thereunto belonging.”

Signed by all the grantors, who acknowledged having received the full sum. Witnessed by W. Bell, Elizabeth Bell, Ann Rhodes. Acknowledged in Albemarle Court November 1770 by John Goodall & Elioner his Wife, Tristan Snow & Elizabeth his wife, Frances Johnson & Mary Johnson.¹⁹⁰

COMMENT:

Webb appears earlier as neighbor of David Mills.

5 OCTOBER 1770

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

“**Wm. Mills, North Carolina**, to Jno. Lewis, AC, for £25, 330 acres branch of **Buck Creek of Pedlar**. Lines **Thos. Mills, Jno. Davis, Isham Davis**. Wit: David Crawford, Alex. Reid Jr., Rich. Powell.”¹⁹¹

COMMENT:

This William would be the son of William and Mary. On 1 September 1766 his brother Jesse sold 350 acres adjoining Thomas and Edward Watts on Buck Creek of Pedlar. (See above.) On 2 March 1772, another neighbor of William’s land, Jno. Tuley, would sell Nathaniel *Davis* a tract on Pedlar and Maple Creek, referencing the old lines of Wm. Mills and Edward Watts Jr. (See those dates below.)

5 JULY 1771

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Mortgage.

¹⁹⁰ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1768–1770* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1990), 114; citing Deed Book 5: 230–32.

¹⁹¹ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 123; Deed Book C: 118.

“**Jesse Mills** to Alex. Spiers, Jno. Bowman & Co., Deed of Trust – 5 sh. 297 acres which Mills bought of Lunsford Lomax. Also one Va. Born negro wench named Phoebe; stock, tobacco. Wit: Thos. Jones, Jas. Pendleton, Martin Bibb.”¹⁹²

20 SEPTEMBER 1771
AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Mortgage.

“**Jesse Mills** to Thos. Mitchell, Factor for Jas. & Ro. Donalds & Co., Glasgow merchants – all household furniture, stock and all book debts after paying Wm. Watson his demands vs. me. Memo: Trunk and table mentioned in fifth line delivered in lieu of the whole. Wit: Edmd. Wilcox, Nathl. Tilman.”¹⁹³

8 OCTOBER 1771
AMHERST COUNTY, VA

“**Jesse Mills**, AC, to Edwd. Tilman, for £12, stock. Wit: “Ann NBAS(?) JONES” [Annianias Jones?], Lede Jones.”¹⁹⁴

[N.D.] 1772
ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Thomas Johnson and Anne his wife of Albemarle Co. to William Coleman of same. Sale for 12£ 9s 9p, 150 acres described as

“Beginning at a Corner white Oak of **David Mills**_(,) thence North West to a Hicory corner in *Keaton’s* line_(,) thence South West to a Chestnut corner in Keatons line_(,) thence South West to a white Oak corner in Keaton’s line_(,) thence South West to several marked trees in *James Ennis’s* line_(,) thence North West to two pines in the said Ennis’s line_(,) hence North East to a red Oak on the side of the Mountain_(,) thence North East to a Spanish Oak sapling by a Branch_(,) thence along the said Mills line South West to the beginning. Together with all houses orchards gardens waters.”

Signed: Thomas Johnson; Anne Johnson (A, her mark). Witnesses: none. Acknowledged by Johnson and wife at Albemarle Court, July 1772.¹⁹⁵

21 JANUARY 1772
ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Elizabeth Buster, Claudius Buster and Dorcas his wife to William Gilham, all of Albemarle County, sale for 50£, 167 acres in Albemarle on North Fork of Harware [**Hardware**] **River**, conveyed to Elizabeth Buster by Thomas Fitzpatrick, described as

“Beginning at a Gum, corner in John Bolin’s line at the head of a Spring_(,) thence along a chop line between *Claudius and John Buster’s* a West course to a corner red Oak in the back line on the side of the **Little Mountain**_(,) thence along *Tomlin’s* line North thirty nine degrees East to a

¹⁹² Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 134; Deed Book C: 252.

¹⁹³ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 134; Deed Book C: 254.

¹⁹⁴ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 137; Deed Book C: 316.

¹⁹⁵ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1772–1776* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1992), 2; citing Deed Book 1772–1776, pp. 4–6.

Chesnut Oak_(,) and South seventy degrees East ninety four poles to a red Oak in John Bollin's line_(,) thence on the same South nineteen degrees West to the first station."

Signed: Elizth: Buster, Claudius Buster, Darcus Buster. Witnesses: Chas: Lewis, William Watson, **Menan Mills**. Acknowledged by Claudius Buster at Albemarle Court, April 1777, after separate questioning of his wife Dorcas regarding her voluntary relinquishment of dower rights.¹⁹⁶

COMMENT:

Menan Mills was named as a son in the 1764 will of David Mills.

2 MARCH 1772
AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Neighbor.

"Jno. Tuley, AC, to Nathl. Davis, for £50, 350 acres on **Pedlar**. Lines: **Wm. Mills**, crossing Maple Creek, **Edw. Watts, Jr.**, Stone."¹⁹⁷

7 MARCH 1772
AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Mortgage.

"**Jesse Mills** Deed of Trust to Alex. Spiers, Jno. Bowman & Co., Dect [Debt] of £255-8-2 – 5 sh – one negro girl, Letty, about 30; one boy Harry, about 12; other slaves, stock, tobacco-land on **head of Tye** – 200 acres. Wit: Geo. Walker, Jr., Geo. Weir, Thos. Wright, Thos. Reid."¹⁹⁸

8-9 APRIL 1772
AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Land survey.

William Cabell Jr. reported the following

8 April 1772	Thos. Jopling	400 a
9 April 1772	Thos. Jopling	400 a
9 April 1772	Thos. Jopling	30 a
10 Apr 1772	David Montgomery	98a
11 Apr 1772	Abraham Warwick	45 a
14 Apr 1772	Rich. Harvey	92 a
15 Apr 1772	Jas. Stephens	53 a
24 Apr 1772	Jno. Ballowe	200 a ¹⁹⁹

COMMENT

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

¹⁹⁶ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1776–1778* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1997), 19; citing Deed Book 1776–1782, p. 40.

¹⁹⁷ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 135; Deed Book C: 267.

¹⁹⁸ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 136; Deed Book C: 298.

¹⁹⁹ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 141; citing Amherst Deed Book C: 402.

28 OCTOBER 1772

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

John Webb Gent. & Judith his wife of Hanover County, to William Bell of Orange County. Sale for 90£ 812 acres “according to Plats being in Albemarle County on the **Branch of the Beaver Dam**, “joyning the lands of said John Bell, John Ogg and **Mills** [no first name given] described as

“Beginning at two red Oaks corner in the old line joyning of **Mills’s** Land, thence South East to two red Oaks an old Corner, thence South East to a white Oak Spanish Oak and Hickory on Beverdam, thence North East to two Gums and Spanish Oak, thence North to a Chesnut, thence along the said Bell’s line North West to several small Pines corner of the said Bells old line, thence along the old line due South to the beginning; Together with all houses orchards woods.”

Signed: John Webb; Judith Webb. Witnesses: James Causey, James Ruckier, John Bell. Proved by the witnesses in Albemarle Court, November 1772.²⁰⁰

COMMENT:

The compiler of this set of abstracts indexes this entry under the name of David Mills.

16 FEBRUARY 1773

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Land survey.

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

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 15 Feb 1773 | Cuthbert Webb | 229a |
| 16 Feb 1773 | Thos. Jopling | 391a a |
| 17 Feb 1773 | Jas. Mathews | 230 a |
| 20 April 1773 | Ro. Davis | 380 a |
| 20 April 1773 | Jas. Kitchen | 136 a |
| 24 April 1773 | Ralph Jopling | 400 a ²⁰¹ |

30 NOVEMBER 1773

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Mordecai Hord, late of Albemarle Co., to Richard Durrett Junior of same, sale for 140£, 440 acres on **South Fork of Jacobs Run**, described as

“Beginning at a corner white Oak saplin, a corner of the Patten_t, thence along the Patten lines South West to a red & white Oak saplins_t, thence South East to two white Oaks & a Pine in **Henry’s or Millses line**_t, and along the said Line North East to a white Oak saplin_t, thence South East to a stooping white Oak_t, thence South East to a corner red Oak on the said line_t, thence leaving the Patten line runing North East to a corner at several Pines_t, thence North West to corner between a white Oak, red Oak & Pine_t, thence North West to the beginning.”

Signed: Mordecai Hord. Witnesses: Jno. Moore, Jas. Quarles, Micajah Clark, Jr. Proved by oaths of witnesses at December Court, 1772.²⁰²

²⁰⁰ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1772–1776* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1992), 11; citing Deed Book 1772–1776, pp. 36–38.

²⁰¹ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 149; citing Amherst Deed Book D:32.

COMMENT:

The compiler of this set of abstracts indexes this entry under the name of David Mills.

5 OCTOBER 1773

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

David Frazer and Barbara his wife, of Augusta [County] to James Ennis of Albemarle. Sale, for 30£, 200 acres in Albemarle on **Branches of Rockey Creek** described as

“Beginning at Rockey Creek being a white Oake_[,] to the Middle Fork to South Fork of Rockey Creek_[,] to a small red Oak _[,] and thence South East to a knoby white Oak in **James Merideths** line_[,] thence along his line North at Rock Creek to a red Oak and two white Oaks_[,] and thence North East to the beginning; with all woods houses gardens.”

Signed: David Frazer; Barbary Frazer. Witnesses: **Barnet Mills, Nathen Mills**, Martin {W, his mark} Ennis. Proved by the oaths of all witnessese at Albemarle Court March 1774.²⁰³

COMMENT:

James Ennis owned land adjacent to David Mills. See “N.D.] 1772,” above.

10 NOVEMBER 1773

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Witness.

“1770 Folder ... Bond of Benjamin Taylor and John Jones, both of Albemarle Co., to John Henderson, Jr., Sheriff, 10 Nov. 1773, because of writ of trespass levied agst estate of Benjamin Taylor by John McCue on a negro woman of the estate, that the debt will be paid. Witness: **Menan Mills**. Order to attach estate of Taylor to satisfy debt. (2 items).”²⁰⁴

11 DECEMBER 1773

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Land Sale.

“**Wm. Lavender & wife Mildred**, AC, to Edmd. Wilcox, AC, for £100 546 ½ acres bought by Wm. Lavender from exrs. of Philip Grymes & Lunsford Lomax, Jr., 17 April 1770. On **branch of Tye**. Lines: **Mills**, Allcock, King. Wit: Patrick Hart, Benj. Taliaferro, Wm. Powell, Gabl. Penn, Aaron Campbell, Rich. Alcock.”²⁰⁵

COMMENT:

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

1774

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

“Appraisalment of estate of **Lewis Witt**. By: Robert Mitchell, Thomas Robinson, William Adams. Recorded May 23, 1774. Teste: **James Steptoe**.²⁰⁶

²⁰² Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1772–1776* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1992), 19; citing Deed Book 1772-1776, pp. 71-73.

²⁰³ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1772–1776* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1992), 65–6; citing Deed Book 1772-1775, pp. 253-43.

²⁰⁴ Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Papers, 1744–1783* (Richmond, VA: P.p., 1987), 32.

²⁰⁵ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 153; citing Amherst Deed Book D: 119.

COMMENT:

This Lewis Witt, who died leaving a son *Mills* Witt by his wife Anne, is widely believed to have married Anne Mills, sister of Ambrose and sister of Sarah who married Thomas Watts.

TO DO:

- Get this estate and all documents relating to it.
- 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 10th of October 1774. ...”²⁰⁷

COMMENT:

No Watts, Woodward, Witt, Mills, or known associate appears on this list.

9 JANUARY 1775

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Abraham Musick to Henry Wood, both of St. Ann’s Parish, Albemarle. Sale, for 45£, 200 acres on **Licking Hole Creek, a Branch of Michems River**, described as

“laid out by a new line, the said line joins *Henry Carr, John Bowen & David Mills* line and also all houses fences fruit trees woods and all other appurtenances.”

Signed: Abraham Musick. No witnesses. Musick acknowledged deed at January 1775 term of court.²⁰⁸

23 FEBRUARY 1775

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

George Rogers & Frances his Wife to Giles Rogers. Sale for 48£, 800 acres in Albemarle County on both sides of **Piney Run** and **other Branches of Buck Mountain Creek**, described as

“Beginning at John Reeds corner two red Oak saplins_[,] thence with his line South West to a red Oak bush_[,] North West to a red Oak_[,] and North West to pointers in **David Mills** land_[,] thence on the same South West to his and *William Keatons* corner two pines_[,] thence on Keatons line South East to *Martins & John Reeds* line_[,] thence on the same North West to the beginning ... with its appurtenances.”

Signed: George Rogers. Witnesses: Charles Burrus, Richd. Snow (+), Randolph Rogers. Proved by oaths of the witnesses at Albemarle court, July 1775.²⁰⁹

[N.D.] BEFORE OCTOBER 1775

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

²⁰⁶ 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.

²⁰⁷ *Historical Sketch of Bedford County, Virginia, 1753–1907* (N.P., N.p., n.d.), 44.

²⁰⁸ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1772–1776* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1992), 106; citing Deed Book 1772–1775, pp. 409–11.

²⁰⁹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1772–1776* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1992), 114–15; citing Deed Book 1772–1775, pp. 433–34.

Land sale.

John Spencer of Albemarle Co., to Thomas Woolfolk of Orange County. Sale for 80£, 240 acres on **Pounding Branch** in Albemarle, described as

“Beginning at **Matthew Millses** corner red Oak and runing thence on his line North East to pointers, thence new lines South East to a Chesnut tree, then South East to pointers, thence South West to a Hicory, thence North West to pointers, thence South West to a Hickloy, thence North East to pointers on said Mills line, thence on his line North East to a white Oak, thence South to the first station; and now in possessions of said Thomas Woolfolk with all houses and advantages belonging.”

Signed: John Spencer. No witnesses shown. Acknowledged by Spencer in October 1775 term of court, at which time his wife Rosannah was questioned separately and voluntarily relinquished her right of dower.²¹⁰

12 JANUARY 1776

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Will [nutshell].

Reuben Terrell’s will. Wife Milly. Estate to be kept together as much as possible for education and support of children until “daughter Mary arrives to lawful age or marries.” “After the death of my wife Milly ... estate I have lent to her real and personal shall be equally divided among *all my children*. If *either* of my children should died before they marry or come of age” Witnesses: John Wood, Thomas Collins, **John Mills**. Henry Emmerson, Amea Emmerson, Ephra U {his mark} Rucker. Proved November Court 1776.²¹¹

COMMENT:

I still have spotted no clues to the identity of this John Mills—except for the fact that the Emmersons and Woods were neighbors of David Mills. However, John was not named as a son in David’s will. Possibly he was a brother or grandson.

27 JANUARY 1776

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Neighbor.

“**Thos. Ballow(ew)**, AC & Parish, to Nathl. Woodruff, AC & Parish, for £25, 100 acres, part of 400 acres pat. To Ballow at Williamsburg 12 May 1759. S side Tye. Lines: Ballow, where Woodruff now lives, main road, top of Brushey Mt. Wit: Killis Wright, **Chas. Lavender**, Alex. Chisnell. Orig. del. To Wm. Meredith, Aug 1793, by order of DC(?)”²¹²

COMMENT:

The pension application file of Charles Lavender, RW, and his widow Lucinda “Lucy,” identify her as a “Ballew.” See notes, below, under “1838–55.” It states that her father lived in Edgefield near them. The 1790 census shows one Thomas Bellew in Edgefield.

5 FEBRUARY 1776

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Estate.

²¹⁰ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1772–1776* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1992), 124; citing Deed Book 1772–1776, p. 473.

²¹¹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Will Books 1752–1756; 1775–1783* (reprint, 2002; N.P., The Antient Press, n.d.), 124; citing Will Book 1: 347.

²¹² Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 165; citing Amherst Deed Book I: 363.

William Lavender, deceased. **Milly Lavender, widow**, posted administrator's bond with sureties Geo. Clasbey (also written as Geo. Gillaspie and signed GG), Edmd. Wilcox.²¹³

COMMENT:

- On 24 February 1767, George "Clasby" sold 300 acres on N. side of "**Piney**," to Thomas Jefferson of Albemarle.²¹⁴ As seen above, this was the area in which Richard and Mary (Learwood?) Tankersley bought land that same year.
- Given that Gillaspie and Wilcox signed Milly's bond, odds are good that they are kin. I need to work both these men. In the meanwhile this note offers a starting point:
 - "Gillaspie[']s son William, married Nancy Ann **Hudson** and they removed to **Madison Co., Ky.**"²¹⁵

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

8 FEBRUARY 1776

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Robert Gentry and wife Judah of Albemarle to John Woodson of same, sale for 65£, 234 acres in Albemarle **on Branches of Ivy Creek**, "agreeable to two Patents granted Samuel Arnold" dated 10 September 1764, and another 30 acres. No metes and bounds given. Signed: Robert Gentry; Judah Gentry (J, her mark), **Menan Mills**, John Miller, Thos: Staples. Acknowledged by Robert and Judith at February Court 1776.²¹⁶

COMMENT:

Minan Mills is named as a son of David, in David's will.

14 MARCH 1776

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Estate.

William Lavender, deceased. Inventory L183-8-1, by *Wm. Pollard, Lucas Powell, Rich. Tankersly*.²¹⁷

COMMENT:

The compiler of these abstracts also adds to this:

Book 17, Page 273 – Plat of division

16 December 1867 [sic]

100 acres on branch of Hugg Creek – both sides of road from Sardis Church to Hicks' grocery. **To widow; Jno. S. Lavinder; Wm. H. Lavinder; Chas. and Wm. H. North, infants of Francis North**, deceased shares

²¹³ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 210, citing Book 1: 297.

²¹⁴ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 98; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 160.

²¹⁵ Anonymous, "Gillespie, Donald, Cash, Wallace, Fezell and Hash Family Histories," *RootsWeb* (http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gillespiehistory/gillespie_history/deeds.html) : 28 May 2016).

²¹⁶ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1772–1776* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1992), 128–29; citing Deed Book 1772–1776, pp. 486–87.

²¹⁷ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 210, citing Book 1: 432 with notation "see Page 509 for 1793, for more data."

bought from **Jas. D.; Pitt E.; and Paulus P. Lavinder** by Jno. P. Hambleton; 3 bought of **Wm. T. Burley and ux** and one of **C. M. Lavinder**. E. P. Tucker, assistant surveyor for Jno. W. Broaddus, Amherst County surveyor.

JULY 1776

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Probate.

Ambrose Mills, as “heir at law” was summoned by the Amherst County Court to appear and declare whether he would administer the estate of **Mary Mills, dec’d**.²¹⁸

COMMENT:

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

10 SEPTEMBER 1776

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Mortgage.

“**Jesse Mills**, AC, to Edmd. Wilcox, AC, for £12-8-11, debt, Deed of Trust. 5 sh. Two slaves, Moll and Bristol, and descended to me at death of my mother; stock, etc. Wit: Geo. Gillaspie, Jas. Higginbotham, Jos. Cabell.”²¹⁹

COMMENT:

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

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1777

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Estate.

Moses London. Administrator’s Bond posted by Alex. Chisnal (Chaznall) with Jos. Cabell, Edmd. Wilcox, “4 August 1777 for Amherst County.” Inventory 1 September 1777 L28-8-1, taken by **Chas. Lavender**, Killis Wright, Jas. Edmonds.²²⁰

COMMENT:

- Other London abstracts on this page include “**Lavinder London** – Book 4, Page 281 – Tobacco Inspector – Tye River Warehouse: November 18, 1805; Bondsman: Austin Wright.
- It seems possible that kinship existed between Charles Lavender and the Londons—perhaps a daughter of Charles, or a sister or daughter of William Lavender, married a London.

²¹⁸ 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; citing Amherst Order Book 1773–82.

²¹⁹ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 167; Deed Book C: 397.

²²⁰ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 210, citing Book 3: 503 (will).

- The Charles Lavender of this record would appear to be Charles “the elder.” Any child of William Lavender and Millie Mills would be still a minor, while estate appraisals were normally made by men of some years and experience.

25 DECEMBER 1777

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Michael Wood of Montgomery County and William Wood of Albemarle County, sell to William Brisco of Albemarle, for 35£, 300 acres in Albemarle on **Branches of Mechum’s River**, described as

“Beginning at pointers in **David Mill’s** line and with it South fifty degrees West two hundred twenty poles to pointers in **Henry Wood’s** line_[,] and with his line South forty nine degrees East one hundred thirty two poles to a Pine_[,] thence on new lines North sixty nine degrees East one hundred seventy four poles to pointers_[,] thence south eighty seven degrees, East fifty six [to] a Branch at one hundred thirty eight another_[,] in all one hundred fifty poles to pointers_[,] thence North sixteen degrees West at one hundred thirty six poles to a Branch_[,] in all two hundred thirty six poles to the first station; And all houses orchards and water courses.”

Signed: Michael Wood, William Wood. Witnesses: Michael Wallace, Wm. Shelton, Josiah Wallace. 27 December, acknowledgment of payment received. Proved by oath of witnesses at Albemarle Court, January 1778.²²¹

18 NOVEMBER 1777

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Samuel Stockton and wife Prudence of Albemarle to Richard Wood of same, sale for 300£, 284 acres in Albemarle on both sides of **Meachum’s River**, described as

“Beginning at pointers on *Thomas Stockton’s* Corner pointers and running thence South eighty eight degrees East seventy six poles to a Locust Stake on **Matthew Mills’s** line_[,] and with it North thirty five degrees one hundred fifty four poles to pointers in the Fork of a Branch_[,] thence South seventy six degrees East thirty six poles to pointers on two large Pines and red Oak_[,] thence North thirty eight degrees East sixty four poles to a red Oak_[,] thence North sixty two West seventy poles to a corner red Oak_[,] thence South forty five degrees West sixty poles to a white Oak_[,] thence North forty five degrees West at thirty poles crossing Stockton’s Branch in all one hundred fifty six poles to a Stake between pointers_[,] thence South forty five degrees West two hundred and two poles to a Maple_[,] thence South forty five degrees East ninety six poles to the Ford crossing the said Branch_[,] thence new lines and by the meanders of the Road East twenty six poles to a white Oak saplin between fences_[,] thence South six degrees West twenty two poles to a white Oak saplin on the old line_[,] thence South forty five degrees East thirty two poles to the first station.”

Signed: Samuel Stockton; Prudence her mark Stockton. Witnesses: William Grayson, John Grayson, **Minian [sic] Mills**, Philomon Snell, Thomas Stockton. Proved by oath of “three of the witnesses” at Aril Court 1778.²²²

[N.D.] 1778

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

²²¹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1776–1778* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1997), 68–68; citing Deed Book 1776–1782, pp. 138–40.

²²² Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1776–1778* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1997), 90; citing Deed Book 1776–1782, pp. 186–88.

Ephraim Musick and wife Isabela to Neill McFall, all of Albemarle Co., sale for 60£, 100 acres in Albemarle on both sides of **Lickinghole Creek**, described as

“Beginning at *Henry Karr’s* corner white Oke and with his line runing thence South thirty three degrees West one hundred poles to pointers on *Hugh McWilliams’s* line_[,] and with it North thirteen degrees West two hundred forty poles to pointers on **Mills’s** line_[,] and with it South seventy two degrees East one hundred two poles to a red Oke saplin_[,] thence on new lines South thirty three degrees West thirty three poles to a small red Oke saplin_[,] thence South six degrees West eighty three poles to a white Oke on North side of Licking hole Creek_[,] and down the Creek and by the meanders North forty seven degrees East forty four poles to the first station, and all houses orchards and water courses to the same belonging.”

Signed: Ephraim Musick; Isabela Musick. No witnesses named. Acknowledged by Ephraim Musick at Albemarle Court, December 1778, after wife Isabela was separately examined and she voluntarily relinquished her dower rights.²²³

COMMENT:

This Mills reference should be to the land of the late David Mills.

24 JANUARY 1778
BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

“Will of **Richard Woodward**. January 24, 1778. Wife Elizabeth. Sons: Lance, Randolph, Isaac, John, William, Richard, Warwick. Daughters: Urcilia Hall, **Frances Taylor**. Exec: wife Elizabeth, son Lance. Witnesses: Richard Gilliam, Zacharias Gilliam, Peter Ferguson, Leonard Hall. Recorded April 24, 1786. Teste James Steptoe.²²⁴

COMMENT:

- Richard Woodward was a close associate (and possible father-in-law) of George Watts, whose brother Thomas m. Sarah Mills.²²⁵
- The actual document shows the will was proved 24 April 1786. Elizabeth Woodward, widow, and Lance Woodward were appointed executrix and executor. The inventory was conducted by Joseph Poindexter, **Simon Mills**, and Richard Gilliam.
- This Simon Mills has not been fitted into the family of either David or William Mills.

28 JANUARY 1778
ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Samuel Stockton of **Rutherford Co., NC**, to Samuel Wood of **Amherst Co.**, sale for 250£, “a certain tract of land and Mill on it, the lot of land containing twenty eight acres more or less lying in Albemarle County on the waters of **Mechum’s River** and bounded by the line of James Garland, David Cook, John Harlow and John Dollins.” Signed: Samuel Stockton. Witnesses: Jas: Brooks, **Chas: Mills**; William Grayson, John Grayson. Proved at Albemarle Court, March 1780, by James Brooks, William Grayson, and John Grayson.²²⁶

²²³ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1778–1780* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1997), 54–55; citing Deed Book 1776–1782, pp. 336–38.

²²⁴ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Will Book 1, 1759–1787; Will Book 2, 1787–1803* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1988, 55; citing Will Book 1: 505. Checked. The original document is at 1: 505–6, with inventory at p. 517.

²²⁵ See Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Watts: Literature Survey of Colonial & Revolutionary Bedford, Brunswick, and Lunenburg Counties, Virginia,” report to file, 5 January 2015.

²²⁶ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1778–1780* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1997), 99–100; citing Deed Book 1776–1782, pp. 427–28.

COMMENT:

- Mechum's River is the area of David Mills, but David's will did not name a son Charles.
- The fact that Charles Mills witnessed the deed but did not appear in Albemarle Court to prove the deed suggests that he did not reside in Albemarle. Amherst or Rutherford would be the likeliest places to search for him.
- Rutherford, at this time, was the home of the offspring of Ambrose Mills, son of William and Mary, formerly of Albemarle. However, Ambrose's offspring did not include a Charles.

4 APRIL 1778

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Richard Wood and wife Elizabeth to Augustine Shepherd, sale for 34£, 49.5 acres in Albemarle described as

"Beginning at pointers_(,) running thence new lines eighty-eight degrees West ninety poles to a white Oak saplin_(,) North seventy seven degrees West thirty poles to a white Oak_(,) thence West twenty one poles to a white Oak_(,) South twenty one poles West to a white Oak saplin on **Minian Mills's** line_(,) running thence with Mills's line South fifty degrees East sixty one poles to a red Oak saplin_(,) hence with *Christopher Shepherd's* line North seventy five degrees one hundred and sixty poles to a white Oak_(,) thence a new line North sixty degrees West forty six poles to the first station."

Signed: Richard Wood. No witnesses shown. Acknowledged at Albermarle Court, April 1778, by Richard Wood.²²⁷

9 APRIL 1778

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Zachariah Mills to Henry Austin, sale for 62£, 390 acres in Albemarle County, described as

"Beginning at **David Mills's** corner two red Oak saplins in *Mr. Wills's* line on the **Branches of Beaver Dam**_(,) running thence along *Mr. Wills's* line South two hundred ninety two poles to his corner shrubby white Oak in *Mr. Robinson's* line, thence on *Robinson's* line East two hundred poles to a Pine on the side of a **small Mountain**_(,) South thirty four degrees East three hundred forty two poles to two red Oaks and a Chesnut in *Mr. Webb's* line_(,) thence on *Mr. Webb's* line North thirty four degrees West one hundred and sixty poles to two white Oaks on the spur of a Mountain_(,) and North thirty four degrees West three hundred twenty poles to the first station."

Signed: **Zachariah Mills**. No witnesses shown. Acknowledged by Mills at April term of court.²²⁸

11 SEPTEMBER 1778

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Samuel Simpson and wife Mary to Francis Birchhead, sale for 70£, 177 acres in Albemarle adjoining John Hall, William Carr, Josiah Wood, and McGilligitt. [No metes & bounds shown.] Signed: Saml. Simpson. Witnesses: Wm. Michie, **David Mills**, Jas: Redd. Acknowledged by Simpson at Albemarle Court, September 1779.²²⁹

²²⁷ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1776–1778* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1997), 88; citing Deed Book 1776–1782, pp. 182–83.

²²⁸ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1776–1778* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1997), 90; citing Deed Book 1776–1782, p. 185

²²⁹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1778–1780* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1997), 71; citing Deed Book 1776–1782, pp. 368–69.

28 OCTOBER 1778

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Nicholas Mills of Hanover to Samuel Morton of Charles County, Maryland, sale for 600£, 52 acres on **Spring Creek** Albemarle Co., described as

“Beginning at a Pine saplin running thence North sixty eight degrees East at one hundred six poles [to] **Spring Creek**, at one hundred twenty six left the same, in all one hundred thirty four poles to pointers_{i,j} South eighty degrees East one hundred forty two poles to pointers_{i,j} North sixty seven degrees East thirthy two poles to a red Oak saplin on the side of a Hill_{i,j} North fifty six degrees East ninety six poles to a Maple saplin on North side **Meachum’s River**_{i,j} thence North twenty one degrees West ninety two poles to a white Oak_{i,j} thence on Moorman’s line South forty four degrees West forty two poles to a red Oak, white Oak, and Dogwood_{i,j} North twenty five degrees West one hundred sixty two poles to a Spanish Oak bush_{i,j} thence on new lines West four hundred forty poles to a white Oak saplin_{i,j} South thirty degrees West at one hundred eighteen poles to the North fork of Spring Creek at two hundred and four the South Fork in all three hundred poles to pointers_{i,j} and South sixty degrees East two hundred ten poles to the beginning.”

Signed: Nicholas Mills. Witnesses: William Michie, **Zachariah Mills**, John [his mark MR] McRea. Proved by William Michie and Zachariah Mills, Albemarle Court, 10 December 1778.²³⁰

28 DECEMBER 1778

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Thomas Whary to John Norris, both of Fredericksville Parish, Albemarle, sale for 95£, 325 acres in Albemarle on both sides of **Spring Creek of Moorman River**, described as

“Beginning at Daniel Maupine’s pointers in the Fork of two small Branches_{i,j} and running thence on Maupine’s line North six and a half degrees West one hundred fifty six poles crossing to a Branch to pointers in a Branch_{i,j} and North forty five degrees East one hundred thirty two poles crossing the said Creek to pointers_{i,j} thence new lines South thirty five degrees East one hundred fourteen poles to a red Oak_{i,j} South forty five degrees East one hundred forty five poles crossing a Branch to pointers in **David Mills’s** line_{i,j} thence on Mills’s line_{i,j} South twenty nine degrees West one hundred eighty eight poles crossing the said Creek and a Branch to pointers in the said line_{i,j} and thence a new line North fifty five degrees West one hundred eighty eight poles crossing two branches to the first station; Together with all houses orchards and water courses.”

Signed: Thomas Wharey. Witnesses: William Norris, his mark [a crude W]; William Norris, Junr., Elizabeth [her mark X] Norris. Proved by witnesses at Albemarle Court, June 1779.²³¹

30 JANUARY 1779

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Neighbor.

“Nichl. Cabell, AC, Esquire, and wife Hannah, to Edmund Wilcox for £3000, 2325 acres S side of and joining Buffalo and Tye. Lines: Jno. Harper, Roling (sic) Road, Jno. Nicholas, **Punch Creek**, Jas. Freeland, dec’d, confluence of **Buffalo and Tye, Chas. Lavender** – excepting only that M (Mr?) Jno. Nicholas or

²³⁰ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1778–1780* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1997), 49–50; citing Deed Book 1776–1782, pp. 329.

²³¹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1778–1780* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1997), 36–37; citing Deed Book 1776–1782, pp. 305–6.

estate of Jno. Fry, dec'd. may possibly be entitled to – a small part of the upper end of the land; may be entitled to it by prior right. Wit: Francis Spencer, Saml. Burks, Sarah Johnson, Johanes Jones.”²³²

21 MAY 1779

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

John Norris and wife Sarah to Townill Johnson, all of Albemarle, sale for 150£, 325 acres in Albemarle on both sides of **Spring Creek of Moorman River**, described as

“Beginning at Daniel Maupine’s pointers in the Fork of two small Branches_[i,j] and running thence on Maupine’s lines North six and a half degrees West one hundred fifty six poles crossing a Branch to pointers in a Branch_[i,j] and North forty five degrees East one hundred thirty two poles crossing the said Creek to pointers_[i,j] thence new lines South thirty five degrees East one hundred fourteen poles to a red Oak_[i,j] and South forty five degrees East one hundred forty five poles crossing a Branch to pointers in **David Mills’s** line_[i,j] thence on Mills’s line South twenty nine degrees West one hundred eighty eight poles cross the said Creek and a Branch to pointers_[i,j] in said line and thence a new line North fifty five degrees West one hundred eighty eight poles crossing two Branches to the first station; and all houses orchards and water courses.”

Signed: John Norris; Sarah [her mark X] Norris. Witnesses: William Morris, Junr., Elisabeth [her mark B] Norris, William his mark W Norris. Proved by witnesses at Albemarle Court, June 1779.²³³

10 JUNE 1779

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

John Shiflet and Joyce his wife to John Stephens, sale for 65£, 100 acres “bounded by the lands of William Davis and **Mr. Mills.**” Signed: John his mark X Shiflet; Joice her mark Z Shiflet. Acknowledged by John Shiflett at Albemarle Court, June 1779, after wife Joyce was separately examined and relinquished her dower rights.²³⁴

10 JUNE 1779

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Ephraim Simmonds and wife Mary to John Dun, all of Albemarle. Sale for 75£, 300 acres “by estimation” in Albemarle County on **Branches of Beaver Dam**” described as

“Beginning at two Hiccorys corner of William Roger_[i,j] s and running South twenty five degrees West one hundred fifty poles to two Hicory saplins_[i,j] then due East one hundred twenty poles to a Poplar corner of **Mills’s**_[i,j] thence with his line North eighty six degrees East one hundred eighty to two red Oaks corner to Webb’s and Mills’s_[i,j] thence on Mills’s line North two hundred poles to a corner in Webb’s line_[i,j] thence West eighty five poles to a fork’d red Oak corner to William Roges [*sic*]_[i,j] thence with his line South one hundred forty two poles to a single and double Maple another corner of said Roger’s_[i,j] thence along his line North sixty five degrees West one hundred sixty eight poles to the first station; together with all houses orchards and water courses to the same belonging.”

²³² Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 181; citing Amherst Deed Book E: 121.

²³³ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1778–1780* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1997), 41–42; citing Deed Book 1776–1782, pp. 314–16.

²³⁴ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1778–1780* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1997), 38; citing Deed Book 1776–1782, p. 308.

Signed: “Ephraim’s signature less readable than before”; Merey her mark X Simmonds. Acknowledged by Ephraim Simmons at Albemarle Court, June 1779.²³⁵

COMMENT:

This is David Mills’s land.

13 JUNE 1779

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Will (nutshell).

Thomas Ballard of Albemarle. Daughter Mary; sons Thomas Ballard, Bland Ballard. Daughter-in-law Mourning Ballard to live on and use and occupy that part of [my land] where she now lives during her natural life and I will and require the land to be equally divided between them so that Bland enjoy that part whereon he now lives. ... to the natural daughter of my daughter Frances, named Rachel, now wife of Gabriel Mullins.” To my daughter Susanna Pettit ... land in Louisa County” then “the said land unto her ... eldest son then surviving and his heirs.” Rest of my estate to be divided between my five children Thomas, Bland, Anna, Maupin, Frances Ballard, and Susanna Pettit. Witnesses: William Michie, **Zachariah Mills, Joseph Mills**. Proved 6 May 1784 by William Michie and **Zachariah Mills**.²³⁶

21 SEPTEMBER 1779

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale inquisition.

Inquisition taken on the land of John Ledderdale, Albemarle County, before Peter Marks, Gent. Escheator for the county, regarding an estimated 800 acres on waters of **Buck Mountain**, Albemarle County, adjoining lands of **Zach: Mills, David Wills** [*sic*], Henry Austin and others. Upon the oath of Giles Rogers, Foreman, Lewis Davis, John Miller, Robert Davis, Henry Austin, David Dolton, Cornelius White, Benjamin Huntsman, John Davis, Richard Durrett, Thomas Johnson, Bartlett Davis, and James Kitten, it is determined that the land is the property of John Leatherden [*sic*] a British subject, and ought to be vested in the Commonwealth. Signed: Giles Rogers, Peter Marks.²³⁷

26 OCTOBER 1779

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Miles Gathright and wife Elizabeth of Albemarle County and Parish, to **John Mills of Caroline County and Parish**, for 1000£, sale of 198 acres “joyning the lands of John Epperson and Charles Lambert and also Alexander Ramsay on the North Branch of **Meachum’s River** ... it being the land purchased of James Nailor and the Land Pattented to Michael Craft.” Signed: Miles Gathright, Elizabeth her mark + Gathright. Witnesses: John Epperson, Bradley Berrey, Martin Martin. Acknowledged by Miles Gathright at Albemarle Court, November 1779.²³⁸

COMMENT:

The Emmersons were neighbors of David Mills.

²³⁵ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1778–1780* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1997), 39–40; citing Deed Book 1776–1782, pp. 310–12.

²³⁶ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Will Books 1752–1756; 1775–1783* (reprint, 2002; N.P., The Antient Press, n.d.), 72–74; citing Will Book 1: 396–97.

²³⁷ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1778–1780* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1997), 81–82; citing Deed Book 1776–1782, pp. 389–90.

²³⁸ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1778–1780* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1997), 88–89 citing Deed Book 1776–1782, pp. 401–2.

10 NOVEMBER 1779

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

William Wood and wife Sarah to Micajah Via, all of Albemarle, sale for 25£, 68 acres in Albemarle on "**Spring Creek and Mecham's River**," described as:

"Beginning at a Chesnut on North side the River and running thence on new line North twenty three degrees West one hundred ten poles to pointers, thence on **David Mills's** line North eighty two degrees West fifty four poles to pointers, thence Southsixty seven degrees West one hundred poles to pointers, thence new line South sixty two East one hundred poles to a Pine, thence South seventy eight East sixty eight poles to a corner Gum of William Wood's on Spring Creek, thence down the same South fifty two East thirty six poles to Meachum's River, down the same North thirty-six East nineteen poles to the first station."

Signed: William Wood. No witnesses recorded. Acknowledged by William Wood at AlbemarleCourt, November 1779.²³⁹

29 JANUARY 1780

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

William Shields of Augusta County and Miles Gathright and Elizabeth Gathright his wife of Albemarle, to Richard Wood of Albemarle, sale for 2500£, 400 acres in Albemarle on both sides of **Virgin Spring Branch**, described as

"running thence [from the branch] North eighty six degrees West one hundred seventy five poles to pointers_[,] South eighty degrees West forty poles to pointers_[,] South seventy six degrees West one hundred forty poles to a black Oak [at] Colo. Cheswell's Corner_[,] North eighty degrees West seventy five poles to pointers_[,] North one hundred sixty two poles crossing the VirginSpring Branch near the head to pointers_[,] East four hundred twenty poles to pointers_[,] South one hundred forty two poles crossing the Virgin Spring Branch to the first station."

Signed: William Shields, Miles Gathright, Elizabeth [her mark X] Gathright. Witnesses: **Menan Mills**, Nath: Garland, William Grayson, Alexander Fretwell. Proved by oaths of Garland, Grayson and Fretwell, with Elizabeth Gathright separately examined, Albemarle Court, March 1780.²⁴⁰

18 SEPTEMBER 1780

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Witness

"1782 Folder ... Benjamin Dawson and David Rodes of Albemarle Co. promise to pay William Sharpe 660 Pounds, 18 Sept. 1780, witnesses: **Zch'h Mills, Wyatt Mills**. Order to arrest Dawson and Rodes, 17 June. (2 items)."²⁴¹

24 DEC 1781

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Neighbor.

²³⁹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1778–1780* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1997), 86; citing Deed Book 1776–1782, pp. 397–98.

²⁴⁰ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1778–1780* (reprint, n.d.; N.P., The Antient Press, 1997), 102–3; citing Deed Book 1776–1782, pp. 432–34.

²⁴¹ Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Papers, 1744–1783* (Richmond, VA: P.p., 1987), 60.

“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.”²⁴²

COMMENT:

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

TO DO:

Examine Bedford Tax rolls of 1782–88. It seems likely that the Walton neighborhood was omitted from this tax roll compilation.

1782

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

“1782 Folder ... “Order to attach the estate of Anderson Bryan to satisfy **Menoan Mills**, 9 May.”²⁴³

11 APRIL 1782

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Surety.

29 January 1780, will of Thomas Stockton, Gent. of Albemarle, Colony [*sic*] of Virginia. Wife Rachel. Son Newbery. Daughter Jermine. Son Thomas. Son John. Son Dan. Daughter Rachel. Son Jesse to have the “hole” of his land after death of wife. Proved 11 April 1782. Thomas and John Stockton, executors provide bond with sureties **Menan Mills** and Jesse Stockton.²⁴⁴

1783

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court papers.

“A List of Insolvents, Errors and Removals [from tax rolls] ... **David Mills.**”²⁴⁵

19 MARCH 1783

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

“Order to attach goods of **Menan Mills** that John Nicholas recovered, 19 March.”²⁴⁶

²⁴² *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.

²⁴³ Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Papers, 1744–1783* (Richmond, VA: P.p., 1987), 45.

²⁴⁴ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Will Books 1752–1756; 1775–1783* (reprint, 2002; N.P., The Antient Press, n.d.), 83–84; citing Will Book 1: 407.

²⁴⁵ Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Papers, 1744–1783* (Richmond, VA: P.p., 1987), 61.

²⁴⁶ Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Papers, 1744–1783* (Richmond, VA: P.p., 1987), 61.

AUGUST 1783

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Surety.

6 August 1783, will of William Watson. "Imprimis I will there be an equal division of my lands on the western waters as soon as they be patented made between my sons John & Matthew Watson and in case my wife who are [sic] now pregnant have a son, that in equal division be made between thrice sons of the above lands. Lands in Albemarle to be divided between sons. Daughter Elizabeth. Daughters Sally, Lucy, Molly, Anna. Executors: Robert Michie, David Wood, John Key and son John Watson. Proved August Court 1783. Surety for executors: John Michie and **Zachariah Mills**.²⁴⁷

5 JULY 1784

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Mortgage.

"**Jesse Mills**, AC, to Tilman Walton, AC, for £21-10, Deed of Trust – 1 sh. – slave, stock, etc. Wit: Ro. Wright, Jno. Swanson, Wm. Walton."²⁴⁸

COMMENT:

- Tilman Walton's father William Walton Sr. would, in 1793 (see below), marry Mildred "Millie (Mills) Lavender.
- Tilman's uncle, Lt. Jesse Walton, ordered the hanging of Jesse's and Mildred's brother William a week before the Battle of King's Mountain. See subsequent pension abstracts for William Walton [Jr.].

5 JULY 1784

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Witness.

"Augustin Shepherd, Jno. Shepherd, & Debartus Shepherd to Jas. Callaway, AC, for £800, 554 acres. Property of David Shepherd and by his will devised to his three brothers above; ref. to AC will and deeds. Line of Carter Braxton. On 22 Mar 1775 for '300 or 4 acres'. Also deeds of Ezek. Gilbert, 1 Feb 1779, for 40 acres; Ezek. Gilbert on 1 Nov 1779, for 160 acres; Jno. Wiatt Gilbert, 16 Mar. 1780, for 50 acres. Tracts adjoining. Wit: Wm. Powell, **Jesse Mills**, Benj. Powell, W. Wright."²⁴⁹

COMMENT:

No further mention of Jesse seems to appear in these records for another 18 years, until "Jesse Mills, Green Co., Ky." sued, in Charlottesville, the administrators of Joshua Hudson, with a countersuit said to occur in Amherst. See 25 October 1802 below. At this time, Jesse Mills, brother of Ambrose, should have been about sixty. It seems likely that the 1802 Jesse is a younger man.

3 MARCH 1786

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Witness.

²⁴⁷ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Will Books 1752–1756; 1775–1783* (reprint, 2002; N.P., The Antient Press, n.d.), 409–11; citing Will Book 1: 409–10.

²⁴⁸ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 212; Deed E: 539.

²⁴⁹ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 213; Deed E: 551.

“Geo. Gillespie & wife Mary, AC, - he is called Sr. herein – to Geo. Blain, AC, for £20, 122 ¾ acres. Lines: Grantee, Bibb. Wit: Nathl. Offutt, Wm. Bibb, **Wm. Lavender**, David Parrock. Orig. del. To Blaine 28 Nov 1787”²⁵⁰

COMMENT:

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

**9 DECEMBER 1786
AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Witness.

“Danl. Harvie, AC, to Thos. Wilshire, AC, for £600, 481 acres **Harris Creek**. Lines: Wm. Harvie, N bank Harris, Battaile Harrison, dec’d, Geo. Lee, Rich. Harvie. Wit: Jno. Wiatt, Fleming Jordan, Thos. Powell, Geo. Lee, Ambrose Rucker, Gideon Crews, Chas. Stewart, **Allen Lavender**, Jno. Bradshaw.”²⁵¹

**10 OCTOBER 1787
AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Mortgage.

“**Wm. Lavender**, AC, to Alex. Brydie, factor for Irving Galt & Co. Deed of Trust – 5 sh. For debt a new Glasgow store: knife; negress. Wit: Wiate Powell, Jas. McNain.”²⁵²

COMMENT

- The non-appearance of William’s wife in this document cannot be taken as an indication of whether she was still living. Women were not required to consent to a husband’s mortgage, only to the sale of land purchased during the marriage.
- Records of this mercantile firm should be sought for possible additional information on Lavender.

**1787
AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Tax roll abstract.

Tax List A: “L” section

Landrum, Young

Landrum, James

Lane, William

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

Lackey, Samuel

²⁵⁰ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 232; citing Amherst Deed Book F: 52.

²⁵¹ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 234; citing Amherst Deed Book F: 148.

²⁵² Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 239; citing Amherst Deed Book F: 243.

Lundsford, William
 Lunsford, William ("son of William")
 Lancaster, John
 Lancaster, John ("son of John")

"T" section

Taylor, William
 Taylor, George
 Tillford, James
 Trusleir, James

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

Tanksley, Reubin tax charged to **Richard Tanksley** "Son of Richard, 16-21 years"
 Tanksley, Samuel tax charged to **Richard Tanksley** "Son of Richard, 16-21 years"
 Thurmond, John
 Thomas, John
 Turner, William
 Thurmond, Guttridge²⁵³

COMMENT:

- No other Lavenders, no Learwoods, and no Mills on List A.
- Richard Tank(er)sley is alleged by many online trees to have married Mary Learwood.
- Cabbells, Chisnells, Coffees, **Dennys**, Edmunds, Hargroves, Joplings (including William), Keys, and Taliaferros, and **Tankersleys** are in this district. Balls and Ballews are not.

Amherst Tax List B

"L" section

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

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

Lahorn, William

²⁵³ Netti Schreiner-Yantis and Florene Speakman Love, *The 1787 Census of Virginia: An Accounting of the Name of Every White Male Tithable ...*, 3 vols. (Springfield, VA: Genealogical Books in Print, 1987), 1: 168–81, especially p. 174 (Lavender), 179 (Tanksley).

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

“S” section

Steward, William
Staton, Anne
Smith, William
Strutten, John

Lavender, William **John Strutten [Stratton], charged with his tithe** [no other items taxed]

Stratten, Joseph
Shelton, Richard

Rian, Jno. Richard Shelton charged with his tax

Scott, Samuel

Markam, Thos. Samuel Scott charged with his tax.²⁵⁴

COMMENT:

- Charles, above, should be Charles “the younger,” son of William Sr. and Millie (Mills) Lavender.
- William Lavender [Jr.], above, was married to the daughter of John Stratton, according to the RW pension affidavit she filed, stating that they were married on 4 April 1781 by “Reverend Holmes” of the Episcopalian church “without license from the clerk.”²⁵⁵
- No Learwoods, Mills, or other names of interest.

However:

Elizabeth (Mills) Learwood and her second husband John Ripley are already in Ninety-Six District, South Carolina (present Laurens). According to her son John Mills alias Ripley, they moved when he was seven (1769). Ripley appears as a landowner there before 1772. He and Elizabeth sold his land (adjacent to her son Edmund Learwood) in 1784, and then relocated with her in Edgefield in time for the 1790 census.²⁵⁶ For additional notes, see “William Mills (ca.1699–1766); Spouse Mary (Walton?): Research Notes,” report to file, 2 June 2016.

²⁵⁴ Netti Schreiner-Yantis and Florene Speakman Love, *The 1787 Census of Virginia: An Accounting of the Name of Every White Male Tithable ...*, 3 vols. (Springfield, VA: Genealogical Books in Print, 1987), 1: 190.

²⁵⁵ William Lavender (Private Capt. Allen’s Co., Col. Taylor’s Regt., Virginia Line), no. W20189 in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25255701> and 33 subsequent numbers); see specifically image 25255712.

²⁵⁶ See the pension application of Elizabeth’s son John who enlisted at age 14: John Mills alias Ripley (priv., Capt. Rogers? Co., Genl. Hampton’s Regt., SC), S9025, opened 2 April 1834, Athens, Ohio; file imaged in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25853045> and 19 subsequent numbers). In his affidavits, John states that he was born in Prince Edward Co., VA, in 1762 and that his stepfather John Ripley moved them to Ninety Six District SC when he was seven. He references his mother without naming her. A witness, Mary Graden, speaks of his visiting his mother there in Ninety Six during his term of service. Mills *alias* Ripley stated that after the war he continued to reside in SC for “six or seven years,” then removed “into Tennessee, thence into North Carolina, thence into Western Virginia, and thence into Ohio where he now resides and has resided about 9 years.”

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

1787

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Tax roll abstract.²⁵⁷

COMMENT: No names of interest.

1787

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Tax roll abstract.

Tax List A: "M" section

Mullendore, Jacob

Miller, Daniel

Miller, Thomas Sr.

Mills, James

tax on self

0 male 16-21

0 blacks 16+

0 blacks -16

1 horses, mares, etc.

6 head of cattle

Meadow, Jesse

Martin, Martin

Miller, Jacob Jr.

Martin, William

Miller, Joseph

Meadow, Jonas²⁵⁸

COMMENT:

- The Kemps—family of Drucilla Kemp who married William Mills-Witt in 1815—are on Tax List B. No Millses appear there. No Lavenders or Learwoods are taxed in the county.
- This James Mills has not yet been identified.

1787

BUCKINGHAM COUNTY, VA

Tax roll abstract.

Tax List A:

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

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

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

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

²⁵⁷ 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.

²⁵⁸ 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: 623–38.

“L” section

Low, Daniel Jr.
Land, John
Lewallen, Alexr. McGruder

Learwood, Josiah **tax charged to Josiah**
0 male 16-21
0 blacks 16+
0 blacks -16
2 horses, mares, etc.
2 head of cattle

[end of “L” section]

“R” section,
Robertson, Nicholas
Ransome, Flamsted
Ransome, Ambrose
Right, Gabriel

Ripley, Richard **tax charged to Richard**
0 male 16-21
1 blacks 16+
2 blacks -16
3 horses, mares, etc.
12 head of cattle

Roy, Peter
Reveley {?}, John
[end of “R” section]

Tax List B:

“M” section
May, Littlebury
Mays, John
Moore, William

Mills, Mary **tax charged to Mary**
0 male 16-21
10 blacks 16+
23 blacks -16
7 horses, mares, etc.
30 head of cattle
“not tithable”

Mosely, John
Mosely Arthur
Mathews, James
Mathews, Thomas
Miller, Frederick²⁵⁹

COMMENT:

²⁵⁹ 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: 6842 (Learwood), 684 (Ripley), 689 (Mills).

- **Learwood:** This Josiah Learwood of Buckingham is the only Learwood (or variant spelling) entry in the whole state index.
- **Mills:** This Mary Mills has not been identified. Mary, mother of Elizabeth (Mills) Learwood, died in 1776.
- **Ripley:** No John Ripley, Elizabeth Ripley, or either name alleged for her sons (Ambrose or Pleasant) or son-in-law “Equiviler” (likely Aqually) Yearn. Searching statewide, Gloucester County has a John, Richard, and Andrew. One “John Murray” (the name alleged for a son-in-law) is in Nelson County, cut from Amherst.

Richard Tankersley, in this statewide compilation of tax data, appears in Amherst County, List A, the list on which we find his alleged mother-in-law’s sister, Millie Lavender. Dennys are also on that list, but no Benjamin or Charles.

Charles Denney appears on these tax rolls in Montgomery County.
Benjamin Denny appears in Frederick County.

Aquilla Yearns—one man of that name—was a Kentucky soldier in the War of 1812, “Killed October 1, 1814.” On “Roll of Captain David Holt’s Company, Kentucky Infantry.”²⁶⁰

TO DO:
Search Nelson County records, given that it was cut from Amherst.

1787
HENRY COUNTY, VA
Tax roll abstract.

Tax List A: “M” section

May, Littlebury
Mays, John
Moore, William

Mills, William	tax charged to William
	1 male 16-21
	8 blacks 16+
	8 blacks -16
	5 horses, mares, etc.
	22 head of cattle

Morris, Samuel Coleman
Morriss, Joseph
Martin, Brice,
McKinsey, Sarah
Murphey, William²⁶¹

COMMENT:

- This William should be the William who, with his wife Elizabeth, had land patented in Pittsylvania in 1770. Henry was cut from Pittsylvania.

²⁶⁰ Kentucky Adjutant General’s Office, *Kentucky Soldiers of the War of 1812: With an Added Index* (1891; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969), 352.

²⁶¹ 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: 623–38.

- Matrimony Creek, the site of their grant, is a small stream that today straddles the line between Henry County and Rockingham County, NC. Franklin County lies *above* Henry County.
- Other William Millses are in Berkeley (2), Fairfax (Sr. and Jr.), Loudoun, Prince William, and Spotsylvania.

I also checked counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Campbell, Nelson, Pittsylvania, and Prince Edward. Patrick County was not created until 1791.

3 OCTOBER 1790

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Land Purchase.

“Jno. Rowsey & wife Mary, AC, to **Chas. Lavender** for £50, 92 acres – granted Chas. Wingfield, assignee of Jos. Whittle by Commonwealth of Va. – 10 sh. Paid to “Treasury of Comm.” By Chas. Wingfield – **N side Buffalo ridge and coves**. Lines: Chiswell, Matt. Whittle, Jas. Klain (Kline?). Wit: Jno. Courney, Wm. Edmonds, Austin Smith.”²⁶²

16 APRIL 1792

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Marriage.

William Walton and Mildred Lavender.²⁶³

COMMENT:

Millie’s husband, William Walton Sr.—together with sons William Jr. and Tillman—saw Revolutionary War service on the Patriot side. Neither William Sr. nor Millie lived long enough to file for a pension but both Walton sons created pension files. The affidavits of William Jr. not only document his father’s service but tells us more about the Walton-Mills relationship and accounts for the death of Millie’s brother, William Mills.

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

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

COMMENT:

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

“In May 1780, my father William Walton was Drafted in the service under Captain John Loving to go to South Carolina. I volunteered [age 13] mounted on Horse, armed with a small Rifle, mustered in service at Amherst Court House, Joined Majr Franklin’s Battalion at Linches Ferry on James River, Joined Col. Sturm’s Ridgment [*sic*] near Dan River, and Genl. Gates’s Army in South

²⁶² Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 249; citing Amherst Deed Book F: 546.

²⁶³ “Virginia, Select Marriages, 1785–1940,” database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 May 2016), citing “FHL film number 30273, Reference ID P73.”

Carolina ... Army fell in with Cornwallace's Army at Clearmont, near Camden, where our Army was defeated, and Capt. Lovings Company left to return in any way they thought most for there own safety, my father and self returned to **Wilkes County North Carolina**. ... Last of August to the best of my recollection.

COMMENT:

- If William Walton Sr. had not seen prior service before he was *drafted* in 1780, then it appears that he did not support the cause.
- The "return" to Wilkes County was not a return *home* (as alleged by some accounts of his life). Rather, he stopped there to recuperate at the residence of his brother Jesse.

"In the month of September 1780 in Wilkes County North Carolina, I volunteered with my father in Captain John Brown's Company of Mounted Rifle men. Joined Col. Cleveland's Ridgiment at the Quakers Meador on the Catawba River. Set out from thence to Gilbert's Town in Rutherford County on the way at the head of Cain Creek, fell in with Ferguson's Mounted British, routed them, took several Tories, **among them was William Mills, who Col. Cleveland and my uncle Jesse Walton** Hanged. On the next day Marched from thence for King's Mountain Joined the Ridgiment of Col. Campbell McDowell and several other commanding Cols. In four or five days arrived at **Kings Mountain the next morning a tremendous engagement took place**. ... Two or three days after this Battle was fought twelve or fifteen of the Tories that had been notorious for killing many Whigs, was executed by hanging them, the prisoners was marched off I believe for Charlottesville [Albemarle County] Virginia. ... I returned to my fathers in Amherst County about the first of the year 1782. ... I lived with my Father William Walton at the time I performed the two first Tours of service and also when I performed the fourth service under Baron [?] Stuben. The third Tour of duty when performed I was in North Carolina, Wilks County living at **my Uncle Jesse Walton's**. Since the American Revolution I have lived from **1784 to 1791 in Augusta County, Virginia**, from that time until 1800 in Burke County, North Carolina, from that time until 1815 in Charleston South Carolina, and from that time untill the present in the Mississippi Territory, Alabama Territory and the State of Mississippi."²⁶⁴

TO DO:

Search Augusta County 1784–1791 & Burke County for the missing Learwoods.

COMMENT:

Millie Mills Lavender's brother Ambrose Mills is well known to be among the "twelve or fifteen of the Tories" hung *after* King's Mountain. The account of the William Mills being hung in Rutherford *before* King's Mountain—by a man who had known both William and Ambrose back in Amherst/Albemarle /Bedford—is the first account of this William's death that I have seen.

27 NOVEMBER 1792
AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

"**Chas. Lavender** to Jno. Tyler & Jno. Alex. Johns for £40, 100 acres **Buffalo Ridge. Sally, wife of CL**, signed. Lines: Nathan Wingfield, Jno. Phillips, Edloe. Wit: Jas. Franklin, W. Spencer, Geo. Dillard, Elijah

²⁶⁴ William Walton (Private Capt. John Loving's Co., Stevens' Va. Regt., Virginia), no. S17184 in "Revolutionary War Pensions," *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25255701> and 33 subsequent numbers), particularly 20447300, 20447303, 20447306, 20447308.

Moran. Final proof, 21 Jan 1793 by Spencer & Dillard. Then another note that Jas. Franklin proved it on 18 Jun 1798, rec. 15 Oct. 1798.”²⁶⁵

29 NOVEMBER 1792
AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Witness

“Deed of Trust by Wm. Lane to Jas. Franklin. Debt of £120. 5 sh. For 8 slaves named. Wit: Saml. Brown, Jno. Stratton, **Wm. Lavender.**”²⁶⁶

COMMENT

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

15 JULY 1793
AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

“**Wm. Lavender & wife Sarah; Wm. Walton & wife Mildred**, AC, to Lewis Tindall, Buckingham Co. (Orig. del. 27 Aug 1800, to LT) for £160, 200 acres S side **Tye**. Lines: Edmd. Wilcox, decd. Pat. To **Chas. Lavender, the elder, 12 Jan. 1746**, adjoins Jno. Partree Burks.”²⁶⁷

COMMENT:

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

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

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

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

The acknowledgment of the deed calls Mrs. Walton “Mildred” rather than Millie.²⁶⁸ William did not state why he and the Waltons owned the land jointly or how they obtained it, but the usual situation was a joint inheritance. “Mildred “Millie” Walton was, in fact, *née* Millie Mills—the widowed and remarried mother of the William with whom she sold this land. See the petition filed in 1810 (see below) by her son George.”²⁶⁹

²⁶⁵ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 337; citing Amherst Deed Book H: 393.

²⁶⁶ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 274; citing Amherst Deed Book G: 203.

²⁶⁷ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 278; citing Amherst Deed Book G: 254.

²⁶⁸ 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).

²⁶⁹ Library of Virginia, “Legislative Petitions Digital Collection,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* (www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions : downloaded 22 May 2016), George Lavender petition 13 December 1810; citing Legislative Petitions of the General Assembly, 1776–1856, Accession Number 36121, Box 177, Folder 10.

19 NOVEMBER 1993

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Wm. Walton, AC, to Jos. Roberts, AC, for £140, 3 gracts N branch **Rucker's Run & Ragged Mt.**. 1) 42 acres pat. To Jno. Loving Jr 5 Jun 1765. Lines: Col. Lomax, his own, top of a mt., Jno. Loving Jr. conveyed to Jno. Tuggle. 2) 40 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres granted to him by deed 5 Oct 1767, from Lunsford Lomax Jr. 3) 72 acres pat. To Jno. Tugtle [*sic*] 1 May 1775. Lines: his own, Jno. Montgomery, Jno. Loving Jr., Abraham Seay, top of the mt. Wit: Wm. Chamberlain, Benj. Henderson, Eddy Fortune £140. Orig. del. To Jas. Seay Jr."

20 JUNE 1794

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Land purchase.

"Jesse Martin & wife Eliz, AC, to **Allen Lavender**, AC, for £50, 59 acres S side **Findley Mt.** Lines: Rich. Prichard, Jacob Eades – tract of 10 acres and part of 60 acres lately held by Peter Cartwright. Lines: Jesse Martin, old road, Wm. Cabell's purchase of Peter Cartwright, Jno. Ball, Wm. Alford. Tract of 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres S side and joins a N branch of **Joe's Creek**. Lines: James Matthews, Jesse Marton, and is part of tract of Wm. Alford which he bought of Henry Key."²⁷⁰

COMMENT:

Given the presence of Allen Lavender adjoining *Findley Mountain*, raises the possibility that my DNA match, Dr. Carmen Finley, may descend from these Finleys of Amherst.

20 JULY 1795

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Will.

Jno. Norman Kidd, will witnessed by Tilman Walton, **Mary Mills**, Obedience Kidd.²⁷¹

COMMENT:

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

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

1 OCTOBER 1796

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Witness.

"Jos. C. Migginson & wife Sally, Buckingham Co., to Shadrick Carter, AC (del. To SC, 1804) for £250, 150 acres both sides **Little Owens Creek**. Part of tract and next to Wm. Horsley dec'd. Wit: Benj. Watkins,

²⁷⁰ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 287; citing Amherst Deed Book G: 402.

²⁷¹ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 205, citing Book 3: 338,

Benj. Johnson, Saml. Arrington, **Chas. Lavender**.²⁷²

17 OCTOBER 1797
AMHERST COUNTY, VA
Estate.

Allen Lavendir (Lavender) will written. Probated 18 June 1798. Witnesses: Jno. Cooney, Rowland Edmonds, Jno. Alford. "My ux and children until youngest is 21. Executor: **my brother Chas. Lavender**."²⁷³

20 DECEMBER 1798
AMHERST COUNTY, VA
Neighbor.

"Hector Cabell & wife Paulina; Saml. Jordan Cabell; Wm. & Landon Cabell, AC, to Ro. Rives, AC, (Orig. sent to Landon Cabell, 23 Feb 1807 per letter filed) for £1613, 1130 acres on branches of **Joe's Creek**. Part of Hector's tract. Lines: old church road, Wm. Hansbrough decd., Rolling road, Richard's road, Rich. Murrow, Warminster road, Elisha Peters, **Allen Lavender**, old glade road. Also 390 acres on N side Fluvanna and upper side of Tye – conveyed to Hector Cabell by Jno. Cabell & wife Eliz., Buckingham Co., 25 Oct 1799. Wit: Wm. H. Cabell, Rich. Murray, Benj. Jordan."²⁷⁴

5 JANUARY 1799
AMHERST COUNTY, VA
Will

Joshua Hudson wrote will (proved 20 April 1801) with bequest to "**granddaughter, Rachel Hudson Mills**."²⁷⁵

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

18 FEBRUARY 1799
AMHERST COUNTY, VA
Land purchase.

"Jos. Tilford, & wife Nancy, AC, to **Geo. Lavender**, AC, for £300, 150 acres **Coffee or Raccoon Creek**. Lines: Stephen Johnson, Col. Henry."²⁷⁶

2 MARCH 1799
AMHERST COUNTY, VA
Mortgage.

"**Chas. Lavender**, AC, to Jas. Murphy, AC, Deed of Trust – debt due R. Rives & Co. - \$1.00 – stock. Orig. del. To JM 12 Aug 1799. Wit: Hen. Holloway, Saml. Hansbrough, Jno. Crisp, Wm. Staples."²⁷⁷

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

²⁷³ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 210, citing Book 3: 503 (will).

²⁷⁴ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 381; citing Amherst Deed Book I: 353.

²⁷⁵ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 184, citing Book 4: 6.

²⁷⁶ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 343; citing Amherst Deed Book H: 503.

²⁷⁷ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 344; citing Amherst Deed Book H: 511.

15 APRIL 1799

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Inventory

"Allen Lavendir (Lavender), **L185-8-4, taken by Jno. Alford, Achilles Wright, Jas. Edmonds.** Administrator's Bond posted by Chas. Lavender and Alex Chisnall."²⁷⁸

4 JUNE 1799

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Mortgage.

"Wm. Lavender, AC, to Galt & Gardner – Deed of Trust – 2 sh. Slave, mare, furniture. Wit: Spotswood Garland, Jno. Ellis, Will Edmunds, Jr."²⁷⁹

25 AUGUST 1799

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Witness.

"Wm. Veal & wife Eliz, AC, to Hugh McCabe, AC, for £40, 404 acres N side Fluvanna (**early name for James River**) & **Otter Creek**. Lines: **Cornl. Thomas, Tarrapin Creek, Rattlesnake Branch**. Wit: Wm. Burks, Jno. Flood, **Anthony Lavender**, Jos. Milstead, Chas. Flood, Kensy Ralls, David Burks Jr."²⁸⁰

1 SEPTEMBER 1800

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Neighbor.

"Nelson Anderson & wife Agnes, to Elisha Peters for £12-12, 25 acres S fork of **Rockfish**. Lines: grantee, estate of **Allen Lavender**, glade road, grantor."²⁸¹

17 JANUARY 1801

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Mortgage.

"Chas. Lavener [sic], AC, to Jas. Murphy, Deed of Trust, debt due Brown Rives & Co. - \$1.00 – stock and furniture. Wit: Danl. Higginbotham, Saml. Edmunds Jr., Jas. Gregory, Henry Reed."²⁸²

20 JULY 1801

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Administrators bond.

Anthony Lavender. Geo. Dillard, administrator, posts bond with Jos. Dillard, surety."²⁸³

²⁷⁸ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 210, citing Book 3: 541 (inventory) and 4: 313 (bond)

²⁷⁹ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 346; citing Amherst Deed Book H: 541.

²⁸⁰ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 352; citing Amherst Deed Book I: 11.

²⁸¹ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 363; citing Amherst Deed Book I: 165.

²⁸² Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 367; citing Amherst Deed Book I: 204.

²⁸³ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 210, citing Book 4: 333.

28 APRIL 1802

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Neighbor.

“Hector Cabell & wife Paulina, AC, 1st: Ro. Rives, 2nd, Wm. & Landon Cabell, 3rd. Rives has bought of Hector Cabell at £1200, 1130 acres **Joe’s Creek**. Part of tract. Lines: old church road, **Allen Lavender, Rich. Murrow, Prichard’s road, Warminster road**. Deed of 1799 or 1800, *Saml. Jordan Cabell, Wm. & Landon Cabell*, parties thereto relinquished int. in will of Wm. Cabell, late of AC. Hector had only life estate. Wm. & Landon Cabell to Ro. Rives 300 acres S & joining **Tye**. Conveyed to Hector Cabell by Jno. Cabell & wife Eliz., Buckingham Co., 21 Oct 1799. Hector is to occupy. Wit: Abram Martin, Hudson Martin, Jno. Horsley, *Chas. Watts*. Rec. 1 April 1805 with wits: Wm. A. Howard, Danl. Higginbotham, Austin Wright, Willis Wills.”²⁸⁴

15 SEPTEMBER 1802

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Neighbor.

“Wm. *Coffee*, AC, from Peter Rippetoe & wife Sarah, AC, £7400 tobacco, 215 acres E side **Cub Creek**, branch of **Tye**. Lines: Wm. Hooker, Moses Martin, Thos. Sturat [*sic*], **Geo. Lavender**.”²⁸⁵

COMMENT:

Peter Riptoe, in above abstracts from the 1760s, was a neighbor of **David Mills**.

George, in a legal suit abstracted below, identifies himself as the son of William and Millie Lavender.

14 OCTOBER 1802

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Estate.

“**Rachel H. Milles** (indexed Miles) ... Guardian Bond – **Jesse Mills** and Thomas Dickerson ... for Jesse Mills as guardian of Rachel H. Mills, child of Jesse Mills, by his ux, Rachel Mills.”²⁸⁶

COMMENT:

With just one child, and she a minor, this Jesse Mills should be much too young to be the son of William (wife Mary) who left his will in 1755 naming an adult Jesse.

25 OCTOBER 1802

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

“**Jesse Mills**, Green Co., Ky, sued in Charlottesville vs. admrs. of Joshua Hudson, dec’d, and they have sued in AC; my bdm. In Anderson Moss. Power of Atty. To Moss to act. Wit: Ro. Garland, Jacob Kinney, Thos. L. McClelland.”²⁸⁷

COMMENT:

- Jesse appears to have returned to Amherst/Albemarle to attend to affairs generated by his

²⁸⁴ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 430; citing Amherst Deed Book K: 288.

²⁸⁵ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 387; citing Amherst Deed Book H: 413.

²⁸⁶ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 242; citing Book 4: 356.

²⁸⁷ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 3894; citing Amherst Deed Book I: 497.

child's inheritance from Rachel and by this lawsuit.

- *Hypothesis:* The Jesse who moved to Kentucky was more likely to be Jesse, Jr.

TO DO

Investigate Jesse of Green County to determine age, or the possibility of additional information.

18 & 23 JULY 1803

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Estate.

Chas. Lavinder, admin. Bond posted 18 July 1803 by Jas. Murphy, with Jno. Loving surety. Inventory taken 23 July, totaling L148-5-6, taken by Allen Blair; Jos. Staples, **Benj. Watts**.²⁸⁸

COMMENT:

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

13 DECEMBER 1805

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Deed.

"Elisha Peters to Danl. Leebrick for £420, 200 acres S waters **Rockfish**; part of tract. Lines: **Aggey Lavender**, Ro. Rives, **Nelson Anderson**, old glade road, Dolly Key, Rich. Breedlove. Orig. del. To Wm. D. Ligon – no date."²⁸⁹

COMMENT:

- Aggey would seem to be the widow of Allen, given by the description of the land. *Cf.* 1 September 1800 and 28 April 1802. As "Agatha Lavender," she is named in the 26 June 1826 Bedford settlement of the estate of her mother Ann (widow Lewis) Witt.²⁹⁰
- Agatha's children are identified there as "Nancy Lavender, John W. Lavender, Bird Lavender, and Dosha Lavender [minors, who inherited \$148.12 total], represented "by there [*sic*] attorney Charles Lavender," and sons Charles Lavender (\$37.03) and Cliff Lavender (\$37.03) for whom Charles also acted as attorney.
- A second note states: "Balance to Wm. Lavender's children which 1/8 part of Agatha Lavender's share of the Estate ... \$37.12." William would be a deceased son, whose children are sharing his 1/8 part.
- This accounts for *seven* heirs of Agatha; the reference to 1/8 share tells us that there's another heir somewhere.
- A third note states: "Paid **Pleasant Crews & Elizabeth his wife**, who was daughter of Lavender by there attorney Charles Lavender ... \$37.03.
- Note under 1 September 1800, above, that Nelson Anderson and "wife Agnes" sold 25 acres adjoining the line of Aggey Lavender. This Agnes Anderson was not an heir of the estate of Agnes Lavender's mother. **Odds are good, here, that Agnes (Witt) Lavender has remarried to Nelson Anderson.**

Also note:

²⁸⁸ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 210, citing Book 4: 132 for inventory and 4: 372 for bond.

²⁸⁹ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 435; citing Amherst Deed Book K: 335.

²⁹⁰ Bedford Co., Va., Probate Records, 5: 195–97.

- William Mills-Witt (b. *ca.* 1783) of adjacent Franklin Co., named sons ***Pleasant*** and ***Anderson***.
- The eight children of Ann (Mills?) Witt—i.e., Mills Witt, Jesse Witt, Rowland Witt, John Witt, Robert Witt, Elizabeth (Witt) Calvert,²⁹¹ Millie (Witt) Whitton wife of William, Agatha (Witt) Lavender—all came to adulthood and married about the time William Mills-Witt was born. Ann's daughters, theoretically, can be eliminated. Given that William used the name *Mills* but carried the Witt Y, it would appear that his father was a Witt and his mother was a Mills.
- No individual with the name Mills—given name or surname—is involved with this estate.

29 JANUARY 1806

BURKE COUNTY, NC

Death.

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

Tombstone inscription:

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

Biography:

“He was a son of William and Susannah Walton. [Evidence?] He married Elizabeth Tilghman and moved to Amherst County, VA before 1767. During the American revolution, Walton served under Captain John Loving. After moving to Wilkes county, NC,²⁹² Walton served under Captain John Brown's Riflemen and served under Col. Benjamin Cleveland in the Battle of Kings Mountain. After the war, Walton & his wife moved to Charleston [*no state given*] where she died in 1787. He moved with his son William Walton Jr. to Burke County, NC, some [*sic*] time after the death of his wife. Three of Walton's sons married daughters of Irish innkeeper James McEntire. He died in 1806 and was buried in the original Presbyterian churchyard. His remains were moved to the present cemetery location in the early 1960s. (Source: biographical sketch by Joseph Moore Walton). Family links: Children: William Walton (1857-1884).”²⁹³

26 JANUARY 1808

MAURY COUNTY, TN

Neighbor.

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

“Inventory & sale of John McDonald, dec'd. 26 Jan, 1808. Those buying at sale: **Elizabeth McDonald**, Anthony I Turner, Richard Cock, John McDonald, William Tress (?), James Wren, Alexander McDonald, Abner Franklin, Jesse Yocum, Robert McDonald, John McKnight, Hugh Ross, William Alexander, Thomas

²⁹¹ Elizabeth Calvert was dead by the time her mother's estate was settled in 1826. Her children were presented by Robert Calvert, Elizabeth's son.

²⁹² William did not move to Wilkes Co., NC. He was there temporarily—having retreated there to the home of his brother after his unit was defeated at the Battle of Camden. See the discussion of this event in the pension application of William Jr., abstracted below.

²⁹³ *Find A Grave* (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 22 May 2016), “William Walton Sr.,” memorial page 7323283, created 2 April 2003 by “Armantia.”

Morgan, John Wells, **Mrs. Walton**, Amos Caldwell, John Given, John McCurley, William Caldwell, Aguilar Now (?), Lazarus Dottson, Abraham Bogards, Joseph Land, Col. Russell, James Bogard, John Williams, James McDonald, Matthew Yocum, John Hughey, John Miller, Esqr., Joseph Phararer.”²⁹⁴

COMMENT:

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

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

TO DO:

Study John and Elizabeth McDonald to determine whether Elizabeth might be Millie Walton’s sister of that name or a potential daughter or neice.

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

- *Ca.* March 1815, “Debts of late L. B. Estus deceased ... A. J. Walton²⁹⁵
- *Ca.* 1823 [n.d.] “Hiram Goforth, administrator of Andrew H. Goforth, deceased. Money received: 1821 ... **William Walton**²⁹⁶
- 16 Nov. 1818, “Inventory of sale of Benjamin Herndon, made on 16 Nov. 1818. Sold to: Sarah Herndon, widow; John Wright, Samuel Smith, James Hays, Samuel M. King, Hardy W. Crawford, William Williams, William Wade, William A. Davis, John Knox, John Gordon, Abraham Job, James C. O’Reilly, Andrew Varnoy, James Joes [sic], Mr. Patterson, Peter I. Voorhies, Hiram Goforth, **Jesse Walton**, Joseph Herndon, William P. Crawford, James Rankin, Thomas Gilliam, Joshua W. Kilpatrick, Alfred H. Wortham, Francis Porter, Amos Caldwell, John **Bickenstaff**, Allen Morris.²⁹⁷ [Note, one again, that only one woman appears: the widow of the man whose property was being sold.]
- 2 June 1821: Sale of Andrew H. Goforth, Buyers: Nancy Goforth, James Hays, John W. Beasly, Bennett W. More, Thomas Caldwell, Britton J. Baucomb, John Baugers, **William Walton**, Robert Rankin, Alfred Milin, Ezekial Akin, Richard Cock, Moses Renfrow, David Fortner, Drewry Morris, Hiram Goforth, David Rankin, William Scott, William Kilcrease, Samuel Hays, Shelton Renfro, James Frankin, Moses F. Roberts, William Johnston, **John Mills**, John Cilcrease [Gilcrease?], Bert Rankin, Wilie Scott, Joseph Malcomb, Samuel Job. By Hiram

²⁹⁴ Jan Grant, transcriber, “Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements Book A Vol. 1, 1807-1824,” compiled by Jill K. Garrett and Marise P. Lightfoot, March 1964; citing p. A:4; HTML file, *Tennessee Genealogy Trails* (<http://genealogytrails.com/tenn/maury/willssettlements.html>) : accessed 24 May 2016).

²⁹⁵ Jan Grant, transcriber, “Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements Book A Vol. 1, 1807-1824,” compiled by Jill K. Garrett and Marise P. Lightfoot, March 1964; citing A:220; HTML file, *Tennessee Genealogy Trails* (<http://genealogytrails.com/tenn/maury/willssettlements.html>) : accessed 24 May 2016).

²⁹⁶ Jan Grant, transcriber, “Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements Book B Vol. 1, 1807–1824,” compiled by Jill K. Garrett and Marise P. Lightfoot, March 1964; citing Book B (1816–1825): 23; HTML file, *Tennessee Genealogy Trails* (<http://genealogytrails.com/tenn/maury/willssettlements.html>) : accessed 24 May 2016).

²⁹⁷ Jan Grant, transcriber, “Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements Book A Vol. 1, 1807–1824,” compiled by Jill K. Garrett and Marise P. Lightfoot, March 1964; citing C: 100; HTML file, *Tennessee Genealogy Trails* (<http://genealogytrails.com/tenn/maury/willssettlements.html>) : accessed 24 May 2016).

- Goforth, administrator, sold 23 July 1821.²⁹⁸ [Again, only one woman appears: the widow.]
- 18 May 1822, sale of Milly Walton, deceased.²⁹⁹ See abstract under that date below.

Another possible magnet drawing Millie to Maury County might be:

- “**Hugh McCabe**, b. ca. 1757. At the time he entered service he lived on the **Pedlar River** in Amherst County, Virginia. He was living in Maury County, Tennessee when he applied for a pension on September 14, 1832. A Certificate of Pension allowing him \$30 per year was issued April 4, 1833. He left his widow, Sarah McCabe the pension. He died on December 5, 1832 in Mt. Pleasant.”³⁰⁰

28 NOVEMBER 1810

NELSON COUNTY, VA

Legislative petition.

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

“The prayers of your petitioner George Lavender Humbly Sheweth that of the Estate of his father (William lavender Dec^d) he became Intitled to a negroe Girl by the name of Jinney. The possession of whom Remained with his mother (the widow of the Afforesaid William Lavender Dec^d) who about the year 1795 Intermarried with a certain **William Walton** and removed to the State of Tennessee and took with them the Afforesaid Girl Jinney, who is now a Woman with some Children. The possession of Whom your petitioner has Obtained, he therefore prays your Honourable body that a Law may pass this Session of the General Assembly to permit your petitioner to Introduce and hold in this State the Afforesaid Slave Jinney and her Children and your petitioner in duty bound will ever pray &c. **Nelson County** Virginia, 28th November 1810. George Lavender.” Filed 13 December 1810.³⁰¹

COMMENT:

- George’s mother married before 15 July 1793 (see above), the date that George and his wife Sarah, together with William Walton and his wife Millie (also referenced as Mildred), sold the land of William Lavender.
- Apparently the special law was needed to allow him to bring slaves in the state because the state had passed a law prohibiting the new “importation” of slaves into its boundaries.

1822

MAURY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Probate.

²⁹⁸ Jan Grant, transcriber, “Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements Book A Vol. 1, 1807–1824,” compiled by Jill K. Garrett and Marise P. Lightfoot, March 1964; citing C: 461; HTML file, *Tennessee Genealogy Trails* (<http://genealogytrails.com/te4nn/maury/willssettlements.html>) : accessed 24 May 2016).

²⁹⁹ Jan Grant, transcriber, “Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements Book A Vol. 1, 1807–1824,” compiled by Jill K. Garrett and Marise P. Lightfoot, March 1964; citing C: 478; HTML file, *Tennessee Genealogy Trails* (<http://genealogytrails.com/te4nn/maury/willssettlements.html>) : accessed 24 May 2016).

³⁰⁰ Marise Parrish Lightfoot, *Let the Drums Roll: Veterans and Patriots of the Revolutionary War Who Settled in Maury County, Tennessee* (Columbia: Maury County Historical Society, n.d.), unpaginated entries in alpha order.

³⁰¹ Library of Virginia, “Legislative Petitions Digital Collection,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* (www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions) : downloaded 22 May 2016), George Lavender petition 13 December 1810; citing Legislative Petitions of the General Assembly, 1776–1856, Accession Number 36121, Box 177, Folder 10.

“Walton, Milly 1822wb-#120.”³⁰²

COMMENT:

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

18 MAY 1822

MAURY COUNTY, TN

Estate sale.

“Sale of **Milly Walton**, deceased, sold 18 May 1822. Buyers: Duncan Collins, Daniel G. Bills, Andrew Culberson, John B. Fowler, **Elisa Moore**, Alexander Mease, Thomas Richardson, **Patsey Hill**, Jonathan McManis, Thomas B. Hardison, Richard Hill, Simeon Marsh, Isaac Williams, **Nancy Drake, Sally Watson**, Hubert Drake.³⁰³

COMMENT:

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

- 20 May 1819. Account of sale of Duncan Hill, sold 20 May 1819. Buyers: Richard Hill, Simson Marsh, James Vincent, **Patsey Hill**, Robert Hill, John Weaver, James Boone, Jeremiah Gant, Thomas Grant, Damon Coallman, Damon Collens (?). By Rd Hill, administrator.”³⁰⁴
- 29 August 1821. Will of Eley Drake: Son **Hubert Drake**; daughter Diana; daughter Annah, daughter Demarius (?); **wife Nanny**. 29 October 1821, Executor, friend Thomas Grant. Signed Eley X Drake. Witnesses: R. **Hill**, Betsey X Johnston. Recorded 27 Jan. 1824.³⁰⁵

17 JANUARY 1837

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Death.

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

William died 17 January 1835 and his widow Sarah filed her own application. Both files are filmed together. According to Sarah, she married him on 4 April 1781 before “Rev. Holmes” of the Episcopal Church, without a license from Amherst County “where her father John Stratton then resided,” but three banns were announced. William Lavender’s affidavit of 17 May 1830 states that he was 70 years old (i.e., born 1760). He identified himself as a day-laborer, with no family residing with him except his wife, one daughter and a grand child.” Included is a copy of a deed executed 15 July 1793 from “William Lavender & Sarah his wife” and “William Walton & Mildred his wife,” for 160£ to Lewis Tindal of Buckingham Co., land described as 246 acres

³⁰² Byron and Barbara Sistler, *Index to Tennessee Wills & Administrations, 1779–1861* (Nashville: Byron Sistler & Associates, 1990), 377.

³⁰³ Jan Grant, transcriber, “Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements Book A Vol. 1, 1807-1824,” compiled by Jill K. Garrett and Marise P. Lightfoot, March 1964; citing p. 478; HTML file, *Tennessee Genealogy Trails* (<http://genealogytrails.com/te4nn/maury/willsettlements.html>) : accessed 24 May 2016).

³⁰⁴ Jill K. Garretet and Marise P. Lightfoot, “Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements, 1807–1824 and 1820 Census,” MS (n.p.: March 1964), 98, citing Maury Co., Wills & Settlements C-1:396; accessed as “Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements, 1807–1824 and 1820 Census,” image reproduction, *Ancestry*, frame 103.

³⁰⁵ Jill K. Garrett and Marise P. Lightfoot, “Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements, 1807–1824 and 1820 Census,” MS (n.p.: March 1964), 71, citing Maury Co., Wills & Settlements C-1: 217; accessed as “Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements, 1807–1824 and 1820 Census,” image reproduction, *Ancestry*, frame 76.

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

The acknowledgment of the deed calls Mrs. Walton “Mildred” rather than Millie. Sarah submitted this deed to prove that she was married to William by 1793.³⁰⁶

16 MARCH 1840
AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Death.

Death of the widow Sarah (Stratton) Lavender.³⁰⁷

1838–1855
JACKSON COUNTY, GA.

Pension application.

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

File includes

- Amherst Co. bond of **Charles Lavender** (x) and John Taliaferro for Charles [Sr.], a bachelor, to marry **Lucy Ballaw**, a spinster, both of Amherst, 21 Dec. 1785.
- Affidavit of Widow Lucy, 1838, saying that he often spoke of service under “Col. Samuel Cavil” [Cabell] and that one time “he was gone so long that on his return home his mother did not know him.” He lived in Amherst at that time and when he entered service, was at the taking of Cornwallis and the Battle of Brandywine. **Charles died 5 May 1802 in Edgefield District, SC.** Affidavit before Charles **Witt**, J.I.C.
- Letter of A. D. Hiller of the Bureau to Eloda Lavender Shippet, Washington D.C., 20 May 1936) stating that Charles had two **brothers who served, William and Winston**, that the widow’s father (unnamed) lived in **Edgefield District, SC in 1789**, that her **brother Joseph Ballew (86 in 1854) lived then in McDowell County, N.C.** and testified that his brother John Ballew enlisted with Charles Lavender.
- Letter to Mrs. J. B. Atkeson of Artesia, NM in 1927, from Winfield Scott, Comm., stating that Lucinda “Lucy” Ballew died 14 June 1846 in Jackson Co., Ga., aged about 80. Her son **Simeon** lived in Alabama, son **Willis** in Mississippi, and son **Charles** (51 in 1853) all lived in Jackson County, Ga.

³⁰⁶ William Lavender (Private Capt. Allen’s Co., Col. Taylor’s Regt., Virginia Line), no. W20189; digitized in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25255701> and 33 subsequent numbers), particularly images 25255712 and 255780.

³⁰⁷ William Lavender (Private Capt. Allen’s Co., Col. Taylor’s Regt., Virginia Line), no. W20189; digitized in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25255701> and 33 subsequent numbers), particularly images 25255712 and 255780.

- Image 25254797 contains the affidavit of the family’s agent that Charles Lavender Jr. knew no one back in Amherst or Albemarle still living with knowledge of the facts and no one else aside from “a few old persons in Buncombe and McDowell Counties, N.C.”—the latter locale being the site of Joseph Ballew’s widow.
- Affidavit of **John Fortune** (of Buncombe) saying he knew Lavender who lived near the Buncombe-Burke county line. Fortune said that after Charles moved to S.C. he was killed by lightning about 1800. Testified before Fletcher Fortune, J.P.
- Affidavits of Charles Daugherty (and wife Elizabeth) of Edgefield who testified in 1845 that they moved to Edgefield about 1795, where they became acquainted with Lavender and Mrs. Lavender’s father “the old Mr. Ballew.”
- Affidavit of Joseph Ballew, 1852 from McDowell Co., NC, stating that Charles and Lucy moved to Edgefield District about 1898 from Buncombe Co., NC. In the latter part of 1802, after Charles died, Lucy moved back to **Burk Co., N.C.**, for 2 years before moving on to Spartanburg Co., SC and then to Jackson Co., Ga., about 1822.
- Affidavit of Joseph Ballew, 1855, from McDowell Co., NC, stating that Charles & Lucy “removed from Amherst County Va. to **Buncombe County N. Carolina**” about the time he made that same move.
- Affidavit of Joseph Ballew, 1854 (aged 86), stating that Charles served under Col. Meriwether, was at the seige of York and the taking of Cornwallis, and guarded British prisoners held in Albemarle. Charles and Lucy were married by a minister named Patterson, in Joseph Ballew’s presence.
- Affidavits of Jane and William Edwards of Jackson Co., Ga., stating in 1852 that “they became acquainted with Lucy Lavender and her children in the State of South Carolina **Spartanburgh** District, some thirty years ago, that about eighteen years ago they (the Edwardses and Lucy’s family) moved to Jackson Co. Simeon Lavender, they heard, lived in Mississippi, that Willis was in Alabama, and Charles Jr. remained in Jackson.”³⁰⁸



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³⁰⁸ Charles Lavender (Priv., Cabell’s and Meriwether’s Regts., VA Line), Widow Lucy, No. W8025; digitized in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25254588> and 109 subsequent images : accessed 17 May 2016).

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TO DO: Rework this and all Lunenburg books for Mills.

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witness (p. 7). John witnessed deed for Benj. Maddox & wife Mary 1761 on Cunningham Creek, with John Key and Robt. Napier. John witnessed deed for William Barnett Sr. and Christopher MacRae on un stated waterway in St. Ann's parish, 1764. Millses are in Fredericksburg Parish; see notes above.

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COMMENT:

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

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