

Samuel Mills (c1788–7 April 1859)

Spouses:

1. Rachel Prince & 2. Nancy Rinehart

Research Notes

Family Summary:

Born: c1788, apparently in Montgomery County, VA¹

Married

- c6 May 1807, Giles County, VA
Rachel Prince (dau. of John & Rachel Prince),² died c1833, Giles County³
- c20 September 1833, Giles County, VA
Nancy Rinehart; born c1798; died 13 October 1882, Mercer County, WV⁴

Occupation: Farmer

Died: 17 February 1859, Mercer Co., VA (now WV)⁵

Residences: Montgomery Co., VA: 1788–1807
Cabell Co., VA: 1809 tax roll⁶
Giles Co., VA: 1810 census and 1811–37 tax rolls
Mercer Co., VA: 1837–1859

Mother: **Frances “Frankey” Mills**, called “a widow of this county” on November 1788 marriage bond with John Abram Glymph, Montgomery Co.;⁷ no marriage followed. Frankey died after 23 April 1807, when she signed the permission for son Samuel to marry⁸—and probably after the 1810 census that credits a female 26–44 to their household.⁹

Step-father: **John White Sr.** was the father of young adult children when he wed Frankey in Montgomery c19 August 1792, before Rev. Alexander Ross of Walker Creek Baptist

¹ BIRTH YEAR: Samuel was under 21 at his marriage in 1807, was first taxed as an adult in 1809, and cited his age as 67 in his bounty-land application on 8 November 1855. A copy of his 1855 affidavit appears in the War of 1812 pension application file of his widow; see Nancy Mills, service of Samuel Mills (Pvt., Johnston’s Co., Va. Militia, War of 1812), application 31152, certificate 33868; imaged at “War of 1812 Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files,” database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/322481910> : 14 October 2019), 73 images; for the bounty land affidavit, see images 322481947, 322481950. BIRTHPLACE: Samuel’s mother is on record in Montgomery County in November 1788.

² Giles Co., VA, Register of Marriages, 1806–1870; p. 23; imaged at *Family Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 7 September 2019) > image 31 of 25; citing microfilm 1928317. Giles Co., VA, Marriage Bonds [and Permissions], 1806–1820, unindexed, unnumbered, rough chronological order; imaged on Giles Co. microfilm 21, Library of Virginia (LoV), Richmond.

³ Several affidavits filed in Nancy Mills’s widow’s pension application file attempt to approximate the time of Rachel’s death; for example, see image 322481933. The object of the Board of Examiners was to ensure the legality of Nancy’s claimed status as surviving wife.

⁴ Nancy Mills, widow’s pension application file, image 322481976 and 322481964.

⁵ Nancy Mills, widow’s pension application file, image 322481913.

⁶ The land- and personal-tax rolls of Montgomery and Giles are by year, then by district—usually two to three districts per year. Within each district, names are almost always rearranged in rough alphabetical order by first letter of surname. Individual pages are often not numbered. All the relevant rolls are available on microfilm at the Library of Virginia (LoV), Richmond; they are also accessible, under lock, at *FamilySearch*. The pre-1807 personal rolls for Montgomery are available online through *BinnsGenealogy.com*. All three resources have been used for this project. The tax-roll extracts in this paper will cite the provider, the year, the county, the type of roll (land or personal), and the district. Taxpayers are then easily located by searching under the appropriate letter of the alphabet. For this project, each roll has also been read page by page, all letters of the alphabet, to search for “stray” names and to glean a better understanding of their society.

⁷ Montgomery Co., VA, Marriage Bonds, 1789–1796, unnumbered documents in rough chronological order; LoV Montgomery Co. microfilm reel 38. This document erroneously cites Frances as “Fanny” rather than “Frankey.”

⁸ Giles Co., VA, Marriage Bonds [and Permissions], 1806–20, unindexed, unnumbered, rough chronological order; LoV Giles Co. microfilm 21.

⁹ 1810 U.S. census, Giles Co., VA, stamped p. 395 *verso*, line 5 (John White). This census almost certainly misidentifies John’s age bracket. It enumerates him as a male 26–44, with a female 26–44, a male 16–25, 3 males 10–14, and 4 males 0–9. The other John White on this census (stamped p. 395), who is identified there as “John White H.,” is the John White variously called John White Jr., John White (Hunter), John Hunter White, and Jack White in Giles Co.’s tax and courthouse records.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

Church. (One Peggy White who wed Robert Whitt before Rev. Ross, three months later may also be a daughter; but that relationship is not proved.¹⁰) With his married son Benjamin, John settled his family between Wolf Creek and East River in the mid-1790s. His family at that time included a second married son, John Jr. (husband of Nancy Copley), an unmarried son James (later James H.), an apparent son Robert, a likely son Arter, and a possible son William—as well as Frankey and Samuel.¹¹ In 1797, John White and William Preston (brother of John below), had John White’s homestead surveyed to include 95 acres at Big Springs, lying on the South side of East River Mountain (later Giles Co.). In 1801, the land was patented jointly to “William Preston and John White.”¹²

Sister: **Rachel Mills** (b. c1786) was bound out by John Preston under a Montgomery Co. court order, 7 September 1790.¹³ William Preston requested guardianship on 3 August 1803¹⁴ to grant permission for her to marry **John Bowen**. After identifying Rachel as the “orphan of “Francis Mills,” he then served as surety for the marriage bond.¹⁵ Shortly after the marriage, Rachel and Bowen moved to Warren County in Southwest Ohio. After Bowen’s death c1815, she wed **William Berryhill**. She died c1870 at Lynchburg, Dodson Townhip, Highland County, Ohio, leaving six children by Bowen (Hugh, Elizabeth, James, Nancy, William Henry Harrison, and John III) and five by Berryhill (Rachael, Ruanah, William, Mary, and Joseph).¹⁶

Other half-siblings are certain for Samuel, given that his mother lived at least until 1807 (fourteen years after her marriage to White) and that the 1810 census attributes eight young males to that John White household.¹⁷ Their sons are not yet conclusively identified but a correlation of tax data, censuses, and courthouse records suggest that their number includes an Isaac, Reuben, Thomas, Wesley, and possibly Major White who all came on the tax rolls in the East River area after 1815.

?Brother: **William Mills** (b. c1783–84) married 1815 in adjacent Franklin Co., Drucilla Kemp; he died 1863 in Pulaski Co. (cut from Montgomery). His widow died in Montgomery Co. 1867. Male-line offspring carry a Witt/Whitt Y. William’s associates throughout life overlapped Samuel Mills and the Whites of Montgomery and Giles. Indirect evidence places him in Giles itself. As one example: on 15 May 1816 and again on 15 May 1817, a William Mills witnessed two Giles Co. land leases made by John Toney, a frequent associate and neighbor of the Whites from the 1790s through the 1820s. That William has not been found in any other Giles Co. courthouse records, although these have been

¹⁰ Montgomery Co., VA, Marriage Bonds, 1789–1796. Also untitled small register, unpaginated, chronological order; LoV Montgomery Co. microfilm 52, item 2, labeled “Marriage Records, 1785–1803” by the filmer.

¹¹ Petitions of 1800–4, transcribed later in this paper, identify the location of their residences. Tax rolls from 1792 forward place John White Sr., Benjamin White, and sometimes John Jr., James, William, Robert, and Arthur “Arter” amid other proved settlers of that region.

¹² Virginia, Land Office Grants, vol. 48, 1801–1802, p. 320; imaged at *Library of Virginia* (https://lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01LVA_INST:01LVA&lang=en; accessed 5 October 2019); currently, searches by name must be made through this gateway.

¹³ Montgomery Co., VA, County Court Order Book 5, 1790–1791, p. 20; LoV Montgomery Co. microfilm 21.

¹⁴ Montgomery Co., VA, County Court Order Book 13, 1801–1803, p. 130; imaged on LoV Montgomery Co. microfilm 22.

¹⁵ Montgomery County Marriage Bonds, 1796–1803; LoV Montgomery Co. microfilm 39.

¹⁶ For Rachel, the family she produced, and images from her Bible, see *FamilySearch FamilyTree* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/KLQH-YVS>; last accessed 18 January 2020), profile for “Rachel Mills, about 1786–1870, KLQH-YVS.”

¹⁷ 1810 U.S. census, Giles Co., VA, stamped p. 395 verso, line 5 (John White). This census almost certainly misidentifies John’s age bracket. It enumerates him as a male 26–44, with a female 26–44, a male 16–25, 3 males 10–14, 4 males 0–9.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

turned page-by-page in search of embedded references to unindexed individuals. Meanwhile, the Franklin County tax roll of 1816 identifies Drucilla's husband as "William Mills (G.C.)," suggesting his presence in Giles Co. at the time that Franklin tax roll was compiled. That designation was used for him in none of the other thirty or so Franklin County tax rolls on which he appears. Also relevant: William and Drucilla named their second daughter Millie Frances; the fact that "Millie" is the proved name of Drucilla's mother raises the question whether "Frances" represents William's mother.¹⁸

The possibility that William Mills of Franklin County is a maternal half-brother of Samuel is an hypothesis being subjected to genetic testing, both Y and autosomal. The evidence is limited, but current autosomal evidence is compatible with the hypothesis. Y tests point to different fathers, as expected.¹⁹

CHILDREN BY RACHEL PRINCE:²⁰

1. DAVID MILLS, b. c1807–8, is first charged to his father as a tithable (age 18) on the 1826 Giles Co. tax roll. In 1827, he was taxed under his own name. He married c4 February 1830 **Nancy Bailey**, Tazewell Co., VA.²¹ The 1850 census of Mercer Co., VA, and the 1860 census of Fayette Co., VA (formerly Giles), attribute nine children to their household, b. 1834–54: Sarah, Frances, Naomi, Samuel W., James Rolen, John, Elizabeth, Bailey, and Trimble. By 1870, the family was in Clay Township, Decatur Co., Indiana.²² Son Bailey Mills d. 23 April 1923, in Kokomo, Center Township, Howard Co., Indiana.²³
2. WILLIAM MILLS, b. c1809–10, first appears on the 1828 tax roll, charged with his own tithe. He married in Giles Co., 15 May 1833, **Elizabeth Davis**, before Rev. William Garretson. On 13 March 1837, also in Giles, he wed **Emarilla Perdue** and, due to boundary changes, fell shortly into Mercer. By 1850 they were in the new Virginia county of Wyoming (later West Virginia), enumerated two households from William's younger brother Robert. Neither William nor Robert participated in their father's 1859 estate sale. Censuses of 1860 and 1870 document William and Emarilla's return to Mercer, but not in proximity to Samuel Mills' other offspring. Instead, both years, they lived amid Wimmers.²⁴ The

¹⁸ See E. S. Mills, "William Mills (b. c1783-88; d. c1863); Spouse Drucilla Kemp: Research Notes," a work in progress last updated 28 Aug. 2018); archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the "Research" tab.

¹⁹ One descendant of Samuel has undergone Y-DNA testing. His Y-haplogroup is I-P37. (The parent branch of I-P37 is I-L460. Descendant branches include I-M423.) The closest matches to this tester descend from members of the Atkins family that settled Montgomery and Franklin Counties, and their kinsman Booker Mullins. (When William Mills-Witt made his first appearance on the Franklin Co. tax roll in 1806, his name was inserted between Samuel McCarrell, a Montgomery Co. land owner, and Booker Mullins.) Mitochondrial DNA tests are not appropriate for this problem. While both males inherited their mother's mtDNA, males cannot pass it on.

²⁰ Unless otherwise noted, all Giles Co. marriage data for these children are from Giles Co. Register of Marriages, 1806–1870; p. 23; imaged at *Family Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 7 September 2019); citing microfilm 1928317, digital film 7490220.

²¹ "Virginia, Select Marriages, 1785–1940," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : viewed 14 October 2019); citing Tazewell Co. [unnamed volume] p. 101, FHL film Number 34214.

²² 1850 U.S. census, Mercer Co., VA, population schedule, pp. 188v & 189 (stamped), verso, dwelling/family 554/554. 1860 U.S. census, Fayette Co., VA, pop. sch., Gauley Bridge p.o., p. 332, dwell./fam. 159/142 (David, age 55 [sic]). Also 1870 U.S. census, Decatur Co., IN, pop. sch., Clay township, Clifty p.o., p. 39A, dwell./fam. 153/153 (David aged 62).

²³ Indiana State Board of Health, Certificate of Death, Bailey Mills (b. 16 October 1850; d. 23 Apr. 1923); imaged in "Indiana, Death Certificates, 1899–2011," database with images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/60716/44494_350111-01489?pid=75494703 : viewed 14 October 2019) > Certificate > 1923 > 06 > image 1490 of 2512.

²⁴ 1850 U.S. census, Wyoming Co., VA, pop. sch., Dist. 71, p. 218 verso, dwell./fam. 198/198. 1860 U.S. census, Mercer Co., VA, pop. sch., Princeton p.o., p. 78, dwell./fam. 536/506 (Wm. age 48). Also 1870 U.S. census, Mercer Co., WV, pop. sch., Rock Township, p. 576 verso, dwell./fam. 110/110 (William, aged 62).

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

1850–70 censuses record eleven children b. 1838–60: Jeremiah, Anderson, Hiram, Rhoda, Ellen, William F., John, Samuel D., Henry A., and twins Joseph W. and Priscilla V. This William made his will in Wyoming Co. on 26 April 1871; it was proved 17 August 1871.²⁵

3. ROBERT MILLS, b. c1811, was Samuel's third son to come onto the tax rolls, making his first appearance on the 1832 roll, charged with his own tithe. He married in Giles Co., **Rebecca Rineheart**, on 3 May 1832, with Rev. William Garretson officiating. The marriage was not successful. The 1850 census of Wyoming Co., VA, depicts Robert and Rebecca as a family unit with five children to their household, aged sixteen down to one: Milley E. [Ellen], Emelia, Green, Marila, and Tabitha.²⁶ However, a son was born to Robert by **Lydia Gore** in 1849—after which Lydia bore him nine other children in rapid succession. The 1860 census shows that Robert's legal wife Rebecca was still alive, living in the Fayette County home of their daughter Emily McKinney (wife of Jesse G.), next door to their eldest daughter Ellen McKinney (wife of Jesse's father Joseph).²⁷

Meanwhile, Robert had remained in Wyoming, where his and Rebecca's three youngest children (Hugh Green, Marilla, and Tabitha Jane) shared a household with Robert, Lydia, and the seven children Lydia had produced up to that point: John B., Henry Gore, William F., Rewe D. (female), Samuel O., Frances, and Aden.²⁸ In 1869 Robert made his will in Wyoming Co. (proved 30 March 1871), naming children as follows: Hugh G. Mills, who was to have an equal share with "my last wives children ... from John B. Mills down to the youngest"; Milley E. McKinney "my oldest Daughter" (\$1); Emily McKinney "My second Daughter" (\$1); Marilla Mills "my third Daughter" (\$1); and Tabitha J. Mills (\$1). He also decreed that if any of the children "should prove Incoragible while under age and not render due obedience to their Mother ... they shall be disinherited." His will names "Lyda" as his wife.²⁹

4. SAMUEL MILLS JR, b. c1813, was Samuel's fourth son to come onto the tax rolls, making his first appearance on the 1834 personal roll of Giles, charged with his own tithe. He married in Giles Co., **Zeruah Perdue**,³⁰ 10 October 1833, before Rev. William Garretson. Secondly, he wed **Martha J.**

²⁵ Wyoming Co., WV, Will Book 1 (1851–1921): 32–33; imaged in "West Virginia Wills Books, 1756–1971," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9392-CS9H-HH> : accessed 27 December 2019) > Wyoming > Will book, v. 001 1851-1921 > image 35 of 185; citing "Jackson County Clerk, West Virginia." The Wimmer association and the names given to Anderson and Hiram suggest a connection to Franklin and Floyd Cos. where young Mills men of those names are coupled with Wimmers sporadically from the 1820s through 1840s. See E. S. Mills, "Mills & Associates: Franklin & Floyd Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey, report to file, 28 August 2018, updated 28 May 1819; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

²⁶ 1850 U.S. census, Wyoming Co., VA, pop. sch., Dist. 71, p. 219 (stamped), dwell./fam. 200/200.

²⁷ 1860 U.S. census, Fayette County, VA, pop. sch., p. 333, Dist. 1 p. 23, dwells. 163–164 and families 146–147. Emily married Jesse G. McKinney about 18 June 1856, at the age of 18; see "West Virginia Marriages," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XR4H-1YV?from=lynx1UIV8&treeref=L72R-LPZ> : accessed 10 January 2020); images accessible via browsing film 34493. As noted later in this paper, one Joseph McKinney was for many years listed on censuses and tax rolls adjacent to (or very close to) Samuel Mills.

²⁸ 1860 U.S. census, Wyoming Co., VA, pop. sch., P.O., Jos. Branch, p. 30; dwell. 205, fam. 178. Online trees widely assert an 1852 marriage date for Samuel and Lydia but cite no evidence; that marriage would not have been possible unless a divorce had occurred. Even then it was unlikely because divorce laws of that era penalized spouses who had cohabited with someone else during their marriage and forbade them the right to remarry.

²⁹ "West Virginia Will Books, 1756-1971," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9392-CS9H-KM?cc=1909099&wc=Q816-M5S%3A179685601%2C179696601> : 23 October 2018), Wyoming > Will book, v. 001 1851–1921 > image 33 of 185; citing Jackson [sic] County Clerk, West Virginia.

³⁰ This woman's name was the Biblical Zeruah (mother of Jeroboam). Her marriage record spells her name as "Zeruah," while the 1860 census correctly spells it as Zeruah (although *Ancestry's* database entry mistranscribes it as Zernah). The 1850 census writes her name phonetically as Jerua, and was misread by *Ancestry* as Lerna. See 1850 U.S. census, Mercer Co., VA, pop. sch., Dist. 42, stamped p. 189, dwell./fam. 558/558. Also 1860 U.S. census, Mercer Co., VA, p. 90, dwell. 618/fam. 584.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

Brown, c1867,³¹ allegedly **Martha Jane (Karnes) Brown**.³² Samuel was enumerated in Mercer Co. in 1860. By 1870, he and Martha had removed to Vermilion County, IL (post office: Oakwood).³³ The 1880 census places them at Clear Creek in Stafford Co., KS, living adjacent to his married son John.³⁴ Those censuses suggest eight children born to Samuel and Zeruah's household between 1834 and 1850: Nathaniel, Priscilla, Frances, Charlotte, John D., Ballad [Ballard?], Electra, and Robert W.; and 4 children to Samuel and Martha, b. 1870–77: Julia, Charles, Edward and Lincoln.

5. BENJAMIN MILLS, b. c1815–17; age 33 on 1850 census, aged 44 in 1860, and 53 in 1870—placing his birth between 2 June 1815 and 1 June 1817. He married in Mercer Co., c1842, **Mary M. Cooper?**; d. 9 October 1877, Mercer Co., at which time his age was said to be 63.³⁵ The 1850–70 censuses of Mercer suggest their children born 1843–49 were Sarah E., Mary M., George W., Charles W.; also living with them in 1870 were Mary E. Davis and Maria J. Davis, aged 17 and 12.³⁶
6. [UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE] MILLS, b. c1810–20; tallied on 1820 census. This daughter is commonly alleged to be named *Sally*. A female of that name did exist contemporaneously in Giles and she (born 1803 – 1810) appears likely to be Samuel's daughter—but not a daughter born of Rachel. See the discussion for Child 12, below.
7. [FEMALE] MILLS, b. c1820–25; tallied on 1830 census. Numerous online trees also allege this daughter to be named Rachel, although no evidence for the name is cited and no other details about her are given in those trees.

CHILDREN BY NANCY RINEHART:

8. PRISCILLA MILLS, b. c1834–35 (according to 1850 census) or 1837 (according to 1870 census).³⁷ No marriage record has been found for her. The 1860 census places her in her mother Nancy's household, where she and one **Martha J.**, aged 3, are given the surname *Mills*. In 1870, they are again living with Priscilla's mother, at which time Priscilla and Martha were given the surname **Ellis**, as was a new child **Harriet E. Ellis**, aged 4. After Nancy's death, Priscilla applied for death benefits from the U.S. Pension Bureau, creating a series of records that called her Priscilla *Mills*. Martha's birth registration identifies her mother as "Priscilla Mills."³⁸ In 1863, One "*Priscilla Russe!*" is said to have married **William H. Ellis** in 1863 in Mercer Co., implying that she married twice in three years.³⁹

³¹ "West Virginia, Marriages Index, 1785–1971," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : viewed 14 October 2019), citing "digital images of originals housed in County Courthouses in various counties throughout West Virginia."

³² Rmbroulovedones, "Mills Hatcher Family Tree," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/17511733/person/17511733/person/20478255234/facts> : 14 October 2019), "Facts" page for "Martha Jane Karnes Brown Mills."

³³ 1870 U.S. census, Vermilion Co., IL, pop. sch., Oakwood p.o., stamped p. 321 verso, dwell./fam. 406/406.

³⁴ 1880 U.S. census, Stafford Co., KS, pop. sch., Clear Creek, stamped p. 48, dwell./fam. 4/4.

³⁵ "West Virginia, Deaths Index, 1853–1973," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : 14 October 2019), Benjamin Mills, age 64, b. Giles, parents Samuel and Rachel, wife Mary; citing FHL microfilm 804477.

³⁶ 1850 U.S. census, Mercer Co., VA, population schedule, p. 183 (stamped), dwelling/family 470/470. 1860 U.S. census, Mercer Co., VA, pop. sch., p. 23 (top left corner), dwell./fam. 161/146. 1870 U.S. census, Mercer Co., VA, pop. sch., p.o. Princeton, p. 7 (top left corner), dwell./fam. 48/48.

³⁷ 1850 U.S. census, Mercer Co., VA, population schedule, p. 182 (stamped), verso, dwelling/family 464/464. 1860 U.S. census, Mercer Co., WV, pop. sch. p. 395, Princeton P.O. p. 53, dwell./fam. 358/330. 1870 U.S. census, Mercer Co., WV, pop. sch., stamped p. 498 vers, Princeton P.O. p. 6, dwell./fam. 48/48.

³⁸ "West Virginia, Births Index, 1804–1938," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : viewed 14 Oct. 2019), citing "West Virginia Birth, Index, FHL Film Number 804467."

³⁹ "West Virginia, Marriages Index, 1785–1971," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : viewed 14 Oct. 2019), generically citing "FamilySearch ... images of originals housed in County Courthouses in various counties throughout West Virginia."

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

Priscilla's daughter Harriet Elizabeth d. 24 May 1942 in Roanoke, VA, as the widow of John J. Doyle. Her death certificate identifies her as the daughter of "----- Ellis" born in Logan Co., WV, and Priscilla Mills of Mercer Co.⁴⁰

9. JAMES H. MILLS, b. May 1835, according to 1900 census.⁴¹ Married **Mary Ann Winfrey** (b. 13 June 1840, Mercer Co., daughter of Burel and Anna Winfrey).⁴² James lost his arm as a Confederate soldier in Co. G, 24th Virginia Regiment.⁴³ The 1870–1900 censuses of Mercer attribute to James and Mary Ann Eight children named Mary Frances, Lectra [Electra], James A., Charles, George W., Samuel Beryl, Elizabeth, and Etta V.⁴⁴ James is said to have died about 1905 in Mercer Co.⁴⁵
10. WILLIAM H. H. MILLS, b. c1839–40, according to 1850 census. The circumstance he presents is highly unusual in their society: a child bearing the name of a still-living brother.
11. LOUISA MILLS, b. c1847, according to 1850 and 1860 censuses.

LIKELY CHILD BY SALLY DINGESS:

12. SALLY MILLS, born 1803–10. On 25 May 1824, one "Sally Mills" chose the neighborhood justice John M. McLaugherty as her legal guardian under unexplained circumstances.⁴⁶ That act required her to be between the age of fourteen and twenty-one, fourteen being the minimum age at which a minor could choose his or her guardian. The appointment of a guardian (i.e., an adult male legally authorized to manage the inheritance of a minor or consent to a minor's marriage) was usually triggered by one of those two events: inheritance or marriage.

As noted in the discussion of the record under 25 May 1824, below, there was no legal predication by which a *legal* daughter of the still-living Samuel Mills could choose a legal guardian other than her own father. Yet, Giles County records, prior to the 1830s, offer no other Mills family into which this teenaged Sally might be placed.

The discussions below under 25 May 1824 and 12–13 November 1835 present the known evidence for the argument that Sally may be the daughter of the Sally Dingess whom McLaugherty married on 12 August 1813.⁴⁷ The death of Sally's mother and the inheritance that would come due to young

⁴⁰ Commonwealth of Virginia, Certificate of Death, Harriet Elizabeth Doyle (b. 22 Oct. 1865), State file no. 10896, Reg. no. 351; imaged in "Virginia, Death Records, 1812–2014," database with images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/9278/43006_162028006071_0086-00392 : viewed 15 October 2019).

⁴¹ 1900 U.S. census, Mercer Co., WV, East River Dist., ED 2, sheet 12-A, dwelling 202, family 212.

⁴² West Virginia State Department of Health, Certificate of Death, Mary A. Mills of Ingleside, d. 15 March 1933; image posted at Laura Keys, "Keys-George Family Tree," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/16170537/person/445641417/media/1654a593-f0d0-43e3-a8a9-da2373da54d6> : 15 October 2019), "Facts" for Mary Ann Winfrey.

⁴³ The battle in which James lost his arm, 4 May 1862, was the same battle in which his commander Jubal Early of Franklin County was badly wounded; see David E. Johnston, *A History of Middle New River Settlements and Contiguous Territory* (Huntington, WV: Standard Ptg. & Pub. Co., 1906), 205. The Compiled Military Service Record cards for James H. Mills, who was discharged 27 September 1862 from Chimborazo Hospital No. 5, Richmond, states his age at discharge as 24 and his birthplace as Mercer Co., VA. See "Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Virginia," *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/10784834> : accessed 4 June 2018).

⁴⁴ 1870 U.S. census, Mercer Co., WV, Beaverpond Township, p. 498 (stamped) & 6 (penned), dwelling/family 46. 1880 U.S. census, Mercer Co., WV, Beaver Pond, ED 80, p. 30B, dwelling/family 252. 1900 U.S. census, Mercer Co., WV, East River Dist., ED 2, sheet 12-A, dwelling 202, family 212.

⁴⁵ Rmbroulovedones, "Mills Hatcher Family Tree," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/17511733/person/20459656957/facts> : 14 October 2019), "Facts" page for James H. Mills.

⁴⁶ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 5 (1822–1829); imaged on *FHL digital film* 008151679, image 442.

⁴⁷ Therese A. Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley, Virginia: Montgomery, Floyd, Pulaski, and Giles Counties* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2008), 155.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

Sally from her mother's family would prompt the need for the legal guardianship.

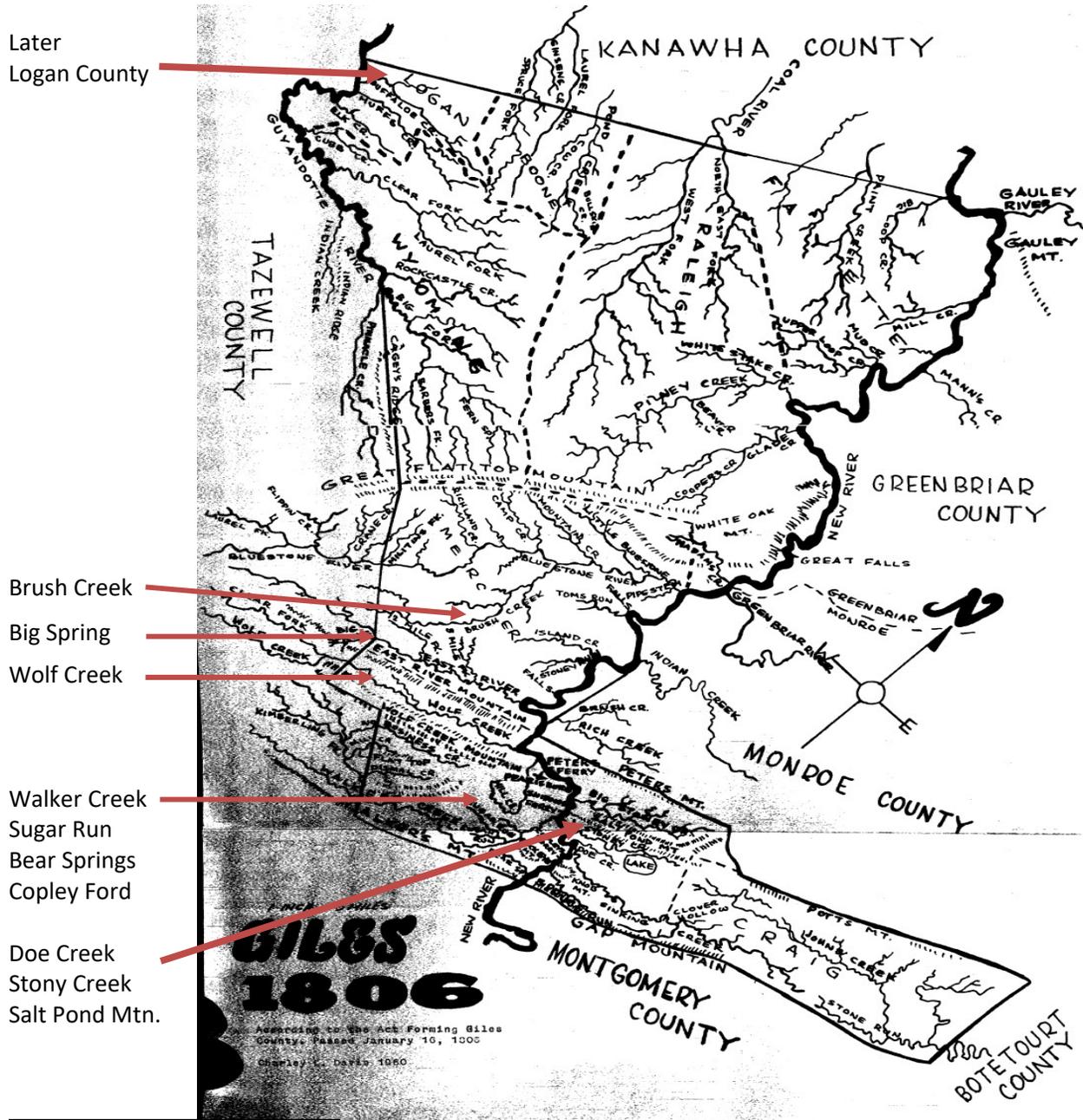
The younger Sally's use of Mills as a surname implies that her father was a Mills. In the time-frame of Sally's birth, Samuel Mills was the only male of that surname resident in the county. Meanwhile, about 1815 or thereafter, his sister or step-kin Elizabeth White bore a child out of wedlock by Sally Dingess's brother Charles. Legal, social, and financial interactions between the Whites, Dingesses, and Samuel Mills are documented in this paper from the early 1800s through at least the death of Charles Dingess in 1835.

No "Sarah Mills" married thereafter in Giles County. Nor has she been found in the statewide Virginia marriage database or the West Virginia marriage database that includes Virginia marriages within counties that became West Virginia.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ "West Virginia, marriages Index, 1784–1971," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2538/> : accessed 3 February 2020); "Virginia Select Marriages, 1785–1840," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60214/> : accessed 3 February 2020).

Samuel Mills
 Wife 1: Rachel Prince
 Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

Map 1
 Giles County, VA, 1806⁴⁹



⁴⁹ Charley L. Davis, *Giles County, Virginia, Personal Property Tax List, 1806; and Giles County Land Tax List, 1806; Order Book Minutes and Selected Marriages* (Oakton, VA: P.p., 1980), unnumbered p. before H-6. I have flagged areas associated with the White stepkin of Samuel. In particular: (1) Walker's Cr., where the Baptist minister Alexander Ross wed "John White Sr." to Frankey Mills, 1792; (2) Doe/Stony/Salt Pond, the neighborhood settled 1796–1806 by John White Jr. (aka "Jack White" and John Hunter White) and 1807 James H White; (3) Big Spring, between East River & Wolf Creek, where John Sr. co-owned land with William Preston, 1797–1818—also the neighborhood of John's son Benjamin; and (4) Brush Creek near 5-Mile Creek of East River (later Mercer Co.), the 1816 and later sites of Benjamin's son Benjamin H. and apparent sons Cornelius, James, and William, as well as Samuel Mills. An older John White, who used the mark "S", owned land at Sugar & Walker, c1787–96; in 1796 he wed Susannah Marcum and died within months. His heir John was taxed there until 1807.

RESEARCH NOTES:
PERIOD OF SAMUEL'S CHILDHOOD

COMMENT:

Samuel's life cannot be understood, or reconstructed correctly, without placing him into the context of family members. Therefore, this research paper includes all that is known for Samuel's mother Frankey and much of what is known for his stepfather John White Sr.⁵⁰ It includes more-selective notes for John's apparent sons by his first wife (Benjamin, John Jr. aka John Hunter and "Jack," James (later James H.), Robert, likely Arthur "Arter," and possibly William), as well as John's apparent grandsons Benjamin H. and Cornelius White. The latter, Cornelius, would remain close to Samuel until his death and then to Samuel's widow.⁵¹

1782–85

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Disambiguation

The earliest surviving tax list for Montgomery, attributed to 1782, includes one John White entry.⁵²

John White: 1 tithe, 0 slaves, 1 horse, 2 cattle
(listed consecutively with William *Marcum*, on the unalphabetized list)

This John White would be taxed in Montgomery through 1796, the year he married Susannah Marcum. In the 1780s he acquired land claims from Patrick Napier, land on Little Sugar Run of Walker Creek, whose adjacent landowners are described in one patent to John and three land sales executed by John as well as in deeds and patents for neighboring tracts.⁵³

This first John in Montgomery can be tracked yearly through the tax rolls by identifying others whose lists of taxable items were collected on the same day that the tax commissioner collected this John's list. Those neighbors who help distinguish this John from other Johns were principally the Napiers, the Farleys, Thomas Shannon, John Hammon, and Obediah Bias.

To distinguish this John White from three other same-name men taxed in Montgomery before 1800, *I am referencing him as John 'S' White*⁵⁴—drawing from the 'S' mark he made in legal records.

⁵⁰ All data for this couple are being assembled in a separate research paper: "John White Sr. (c1745–c1821) of Montgomery and Giles Counties, Virginia; Spouses: 1. Unknown; 2. Frances "Frankey" Mills: Research Notes," a work-in-progress last updated 20 February 2020; to be archived online at *Historic Pathways*.

⁵¹ For much more information about the Whites, along with other collateral kin and neighbors, see the following research reports archived under the "Research" tab at *Historic Pathways*.

- "Mills & Watts: Augusta County & the Virginia Frontier, Initial Survey ...," report to file, 8 February 2019.
- "Mills & Associates: Bedford County, Virginia: Extended Survey of Resources," report to file, 28 August 2018.
- "Mills & Associates: Botetourt County, Virginia: Preliminary Survey," report to file, 28 August 2018; updated 24 June 2019.
- "Mills & Associates: Giles County, Virginia—including Byas, Brumfield, Chapman, Napier, Sartain, and White," report to file, 10 Dec. 2019.
- "Mills & Associates: Montgomery & Fincastle Counties, Virginia: Preliminary Survey," report, 28 August 2018 (updated 24 June 2019).
- Mills & Associates: Montgomery County, VA, Extended Research (Bias, Sartain, Toney, White, Whitt/Witt)," 10 January 2020.

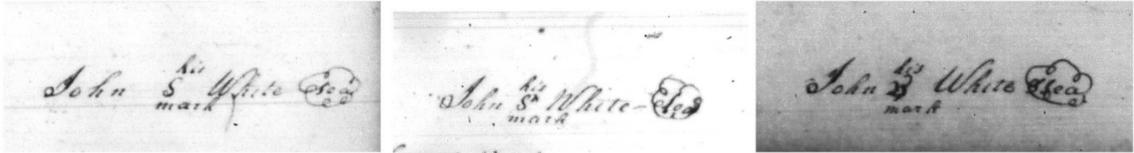
⁵² Montgomery Co., VA, 1782 tax roll, list titled "The Enumerated Items"; Personal Tax Rolls microfilm 241, Library of Virginia, Richmond. This "Enumerated List" may be a composite of partial rolls for 1782–85. See abstract under date "1783–85."

⁵³ For the patent, see Virginia, Land Office Grants No. 27, 1792–93, pp. 512–13; imaged at *Library of Virginia* (https://lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01LVA_INST:01LVA&lang=en : accessed 20 June 2019); searches by name must be made through this gateway. White's deeds are detailed in the 1782–85 discussion above. For records on the neighbors, see the Montgomery Co. research reports previously cited.

⁵⁴ All data for this man is being assembled in a separate reserch paper: "John 'S' White (c175—c1797) of Montgomery County, Virginia;

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

In 1793, he sold all but 35 acres of his Napier land, via three documents in which he “signed” his name in the following three fashions (as replicated by the county clerk who recorded the documents):⁵⁵



In 1796, at his marriage to Susannah Marcum, he again made his S mark on the original marriage bond:

Close-up of John White's signature with a mark on a marriage bond.

As will later be seen, this John’s signature with mark is distinctly different from that of the John White who married Frankey Mills.

1784

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Historical context

Rummel’s history of the Dunker (German Baptist) settlement in present Union County, Indiana—formerly Wayne and Franklin Counties—traces its origin to settlers from Franklin, Montgomery, and Giles Counties, VA.

One photo therein is captioned: “‘Old Trace’ near Beckley WV. ... This would have been the Kanawha Trace. ... down Coal River and Mossy Creek. ... It would be on this trace that **the Toney**s lived. **In 1784, on this route, there was a massacre at the ginseng camp of the Toney**s, while the men were away in the mountains digging ‘sang.’ We know that several of the wives were killed, because the men remarried after this, and several of these families are missing children of this period.”⁵⁶

COMMENT:

The brothers John, William, and Poindexter Toney were first taxed in Montgomery in 1787, the year John is said to have built his brick home on East River.⁵⁷ The land on which the house was built had been surveyed in 1785 for James Adair and would not be patented to Toney until

Spouses: 1. Unknown; 2. Susannah “Hannah” Marcum: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 20 February 2020; to be archived online at *Historic Pathways*.

⁵⁵ Montgomery Co., Deeds & Wills B, 1773–1797, pp. 112–14; imaged on LoV Montgomery Co. microfilm 1.

⁵⁶ Merle C. Rummel, “Four Mile Church—200th Anniversary: Presentation on the First 100 Years,” *Church of the Brethren: COB-NET* (<https://www.cob-net-org/docs/bl/four-mile-presentation.pdf> : accessed 21 October 2019), p. 5.

⁵⁷ “The Rhody Toney Hale House,” catalog entry and photograph, *Virginia Memory* (https://va.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma990006870420205756&context=L&vid=01LVA_INST:01LVA&lang=en&search_scope=digital_test2&adaptor=Local%20Se:arch%20Engine&tab=Digital&query=any,contains,Toney,%20John&offset=0 : 20 June 2019).

John, William, and Poindexter were sons of the William Toney whose will was probated Dec. 1804 in adjacent Franklin Co. with John Toney named coexecutor. See Franklin Co., VA, Court Order Book, 1800–1805, 353; imaged at *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4V-BRHL?i=3&cat=397106>); citing FHL digital film 7897650.

The Toney plantation in Franklin Co. lay on the North Fork of Blackwater. William Mills, the proposed brother of Samuel, married the daughter of Robert Kemp who operated Kemp’s Ford on the Blackwater, a few miles east of Toney. The bondsman for John Toney, as executor of his father’s will, was Luke Standifer—uncle of the Stephen Standifer who served as bondman for the Mills-Kemp marriage in 1815.)

1794.⁵⁸ The year that John Toney settled near the juncture of East River and New River is also the year that John White Sr., John White Jr., and Benjamin White made their first known appearance in Montgomery County, signing a petition in the Copley Ford area a few miles below Toney's Ford.⁵⁹

The two John Whites did not remain in the county—or at least within the regions into which the tentacles of government had reached. Benjamin did remain briefly; four months later, his list of taxable items was collected on the same day as that of John Toney: 18 March 1788. Benjamin then dropped from Montgomery records until mid-to-late 1791, when he and the two Johns settled near Toney on East River and went on that year's personal-tax roll. From that point forward, the Toney and the Whites frequently interacted and owned adjacent land on Wolf Creek, East River, and Brush Creek of East River. Close associations would continue through the estate settlement of John's grandson James White in 1828 and the estate settlement of Toney's son Jonathan in 1839.

In addition to that long-standing association, other factors suggest that John White's origins may be found by researching Toney's pre-Montgomery years. As noted under 1783 below, both men, that year, patented land on Cole's River, apparently a mile apart, based on settlement claims purchased from one John Smith. Both John White and Toney had their land surveyed in 1787. That land in the far northern reaches of Montgomery would in 1789 fall into Kanawha, a county whose early land records are destroyed.

The 1784 date of the massacre is compatible with the extrapolated birth years of the males who came to tithable age in the Montgomery County rolls of 1799–1806, i.e., the youngest sons of John White Sr. by his first wife.

1783–84

Historical context

"4 April 1788. It appearing to the Court that there was no list of Tithables delivered to the Sheriff for the year 1782, 83, & 84 as the law directs so the Levies were collected from some while others were clear, whereby an Executive County Levee was found necessary to discharge the existing Claims against the County for the year 1787 which were running on Interest. It is therefore ordered that the Clerk shall make of an account Specifying the amount of the Claims against the County for the several years before mentioned & the returns of the money Collected by the Sheriff & that the Capt. of each Company should make up a List of the receipts given by the sheriffs for the Different years & present the Same to the July Court when a further order may be made."⁶⁰

COMMENT:

This court order suggests that the so-called "enumerated articles" list attributed to 1782 by the Library of Virginia may be a composite list retroactively compiled.

⁵⁸ Virginia, Land Office Grants, vol. 30, 1793–1799, p. 284; imaged at *Library of Virginia* (https://va.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01LVA_INST:01LVA&lang=en; accessed 20 June 2019); currently, searches by name must be made through this gateway.

John, William, and Poindexter Toney were the sons of William Toney whose will was probated in 1804 in adjacent Franklin County.

⁵⁹ "Legislative Petitions Digital Collection," database with images, Library of Virginia, *Virginia Memory* (<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions>; accessed 27 October 2018), Record No. 000248562; citing Accession Number 36121, Box 171, Folder 20.

⁶⁰ Montgomery Co., VA, Order Book 1, 1773–1788, p. 316.

1783–1794

MONTGOMERY (LATER GILES) COUNTY, VA

Land grant

“By virtue of a Land Office Treasury Warrant” No. 18750 issued **14 August 1783**, “there is granted ... unto **John Toney, Assignee of John Smith**, a certain Tract or parcel of Land” containing 344 acres by survey dated **7 March 1787**, lying in Montgomery County on **Cole River**, bounded as follows:

Beginning at white oak corner of his Survey Number 14, running S 19° W 74 poles to two Buck eyes, on the Bank of the River on a line of said Survey, S 80° W 126 poles to two Lynns on the N side of a Hill, N 58° W 28 poles crossing the River to two Beeches on the Bank, and thence down the same and binding thereon, N 85° W 48 poles, N 69° W 62 poles, N 32° W 68 poles, N 5° W 56 poles, N 18° E 48 poles to two ___ on the Bank of the River, thence leaving the same N 56° E 160 poles, crossing two small branches to a black oak and white oak on West side of a Hill and S 42° E 265 poles to the Beginning.⁶¹

Issued 20 August 1794.

COMMENT:

The fact that this 1794 patent for land in what was then Kanawha County refers to it as lying in Montgomery tells us that Toney petitioned for the land and had it surveyed before Kanawha split off in 1789.

1783–1788

MONTGOMERY (LATER KANAWHA) COUNTY, VA

Land grant

“Edmund Randolph Esquire Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia To all To whom these presents Shall come Greeting: Know ye that by Virtue and in Consideration of part of a Land Office Treasury Warrant” No. 1727, issued 12 June 1783, “there is granted by the Said Commonwealth unto **John White**, assignee of **John Smith**, a Certain Tract or parcel of Land Containing Five hundred Acres by Survey bearing date” **1 August 1787**, “lying and being in the County of Montgomery on Cole River and bounded as followeth, To wit:

Beginning at a Cucumber and White Oak **one mile below the fork** at the foot of a hill about 20 poles above the third fording of Said River below the forks and running thence S 40° W 100 poles to two black oaks thence S 7° E 380 poles to a hickory orner to said **Smiths** Survey No. 20 and with a line of the same N 40° E 320 poles to a popar and leaving said line N 42° W 290 poles to the Beginning

“With its Appurtenances to have and to hold the Said Tract or parcel of Land with its Appurtenances to the said John White and his Heirs forever. In witness whereof the said Edmund Randolph Esquire Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia hath hereunto Set my hand and Caused the lesser Seal of the Said Commonwealth to be affixed at Richmond on” **22 July 1788** “and of the Commonwealth the Thirteenth [year].⁶²

⁶¹ Virginia, Land Office Grants, vol. 30, 1793–1799, p. 272–73; imaged at *Library of Virginia* (https://lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01LVA_INST:01LVA&lang=en : accessed 20 June 2019); searches by name must be made through this gateway.

⁶² Virginia, Land Office Grants, vol. 19, 1788, p. 421; imaged at *Library of Virginia* (https://lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01LVA_INST:01LVA&lang=en : accessed 5 October 2019); searches by name must be made through this gateway.

COMMENT:

Note that John White and Toney both purchased their settlement rights from John Smith. The White deed identifies his tract as lying “one mile below the fork.” Subsequent records filed in Giles County refers to “Toney’s Fork of Cole River.” For example:

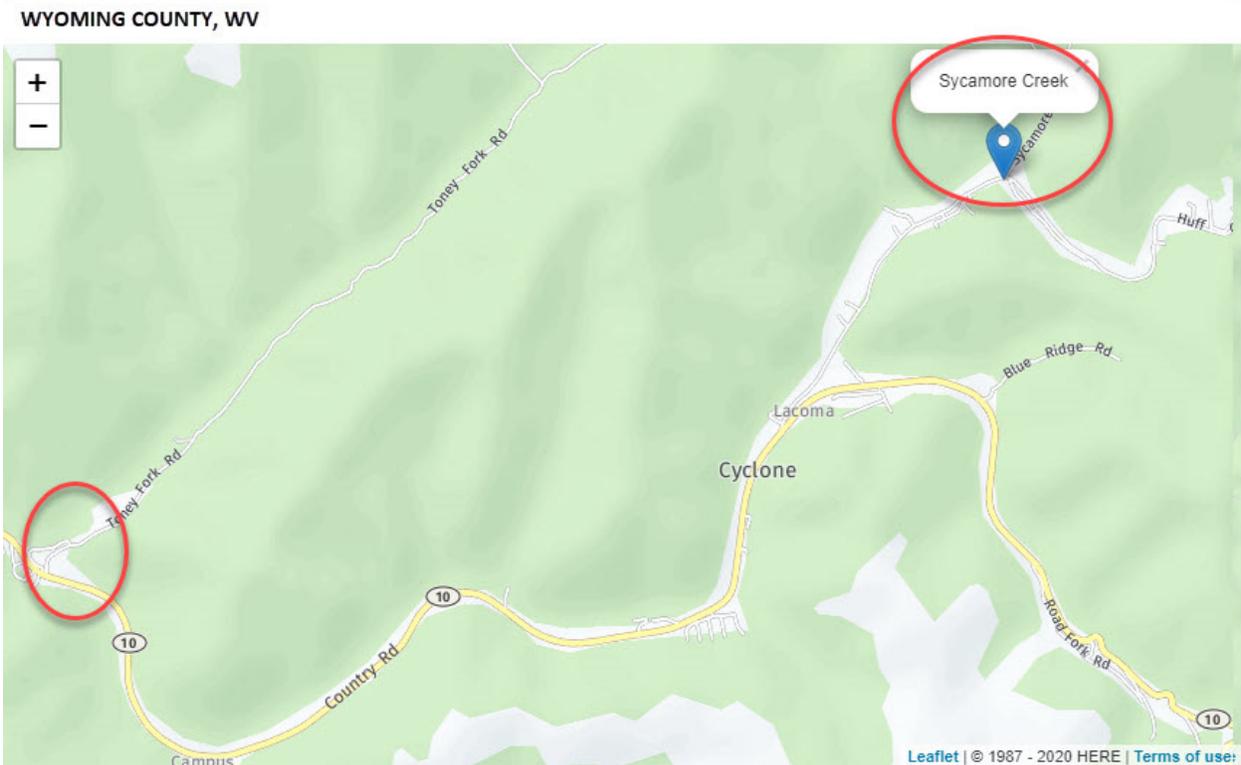
- 1813 Giles land tax roll carries entries for **Isaac Chapman** who owned two tracts of 212 and 230 acres on “Toney’s fork of Cole River,” the fork was more specifically identified as lying “at the mouth of Sycamore Creek.”

West Virginia Hometown Locator.com identifies Toney’s Fork as a waterway linking the Big Coal River at Peytona with the Little Coal River at Danville in current Boone County, WV. Sycamore Creek sprawled beyond that through several counties. In Wyoming Co., the mouth of the Sycamore lies between the west and east prongs of Toney’s Fork, as shown in Maps 2 and 3.

No disposition has yet been found for this land. The fact that two of Samuel Mills’s sons, William and Robert, moved to Wyoming County as young adults suggest a possibility that the land still remained within the family.

Map 2
Sycamore Creek & West Prong of Toney’s Fork, Wyoming County, WV⁶³

Sycamore Creek - Location Map

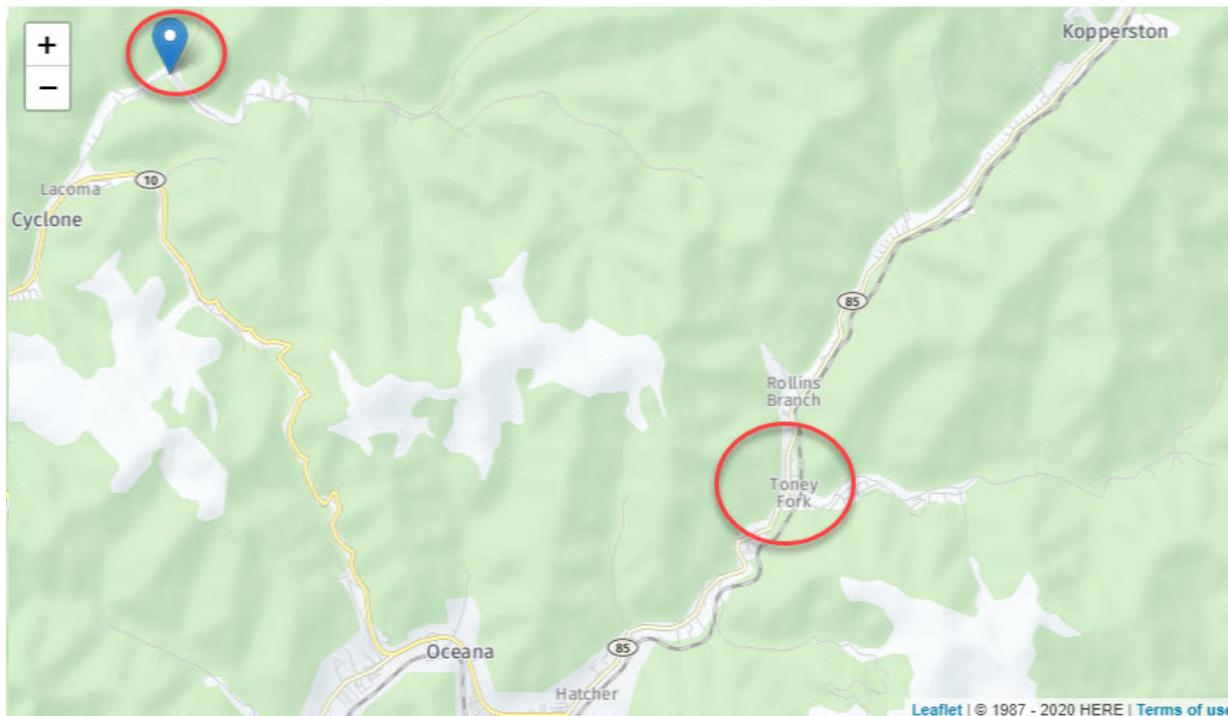


⁶³ *West Virginia HomeTown Locator* (<https://westvirginia.hometownlocator.com/features/searchfor.ftc.1.n.sycamore%20creek.cfm> : 10 January 2019).

Map 3
Sycamore Creek & East Prong of Toney's Fork, Wyoming County, WV

Sycamore Creek - Location Map

WYOMING COUNTY, WV



1786

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Tax roll.

COMMENT:

None is known to survive.

1787

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Tax roll

District of David McGavock

Glymph, Abraham

0 white males 16–21, 0 blacks, 0 horses or mares, 0 cattle

District of Bird Smith:

Mills, Thomas

0 males 16–21, 0 blacks, 1 horse/mare, 2 cattle

White, John

0 males 16–21, 0 blacks, 2 horses/mares, 4 cattle

“List of persons charged with tax in Montgomery County for the year 1787 who have removed before same could be collected. Bird Smith, Commr. ...

Abram Glymph
Thomas Mills “N.C.”⁶⁴

[listed in district of David McGavock, instead; see above]
[no further record]

COMMENT:

John Abra(ha)m Glymph in November 1788 posted bond to marry “Fanny” Mills, who he identified as “a widow of this county.”⁶⁵ The marriage did not occur, Glymph sold his land claim on Doe Creek, dropped off the tax rolls in 1789, and removed to Newberry District, SC, where he took a wife and left many offspring.

Thomas Mills is the only male Mills tithable found in Montgomery prior to and/or during Frankey’s emergence in Montgomery and he has been found there only in that year 1787. Research has revealed no connection to Frankey and Samuel, although he was living in the same tax district. He returned to his family in the part of Surry County, NC, that became Stokes in 1789.⁶⁶ The 1790 census shows him as the head of a family of seven.⁶⁷

John White of this list is the man I am calling John ‘S’ White, using his mark to distinguish him from others. His tax list was collected on the same day as his land-neighbors John Hammon, Thomas Shannon, and the Farleys (Thomas Sr., Henry, and William).

Subsequent documents relating to **John ‘S’ White** and his land are not included in this family backdrop for Samuel Mills—although a relationship may exist. I have included him up to this point to alert readers that multiple John Whites existed and that both associates and distinguishing characteristics must be defined in order to separate their activities and their family members.⁶⁸

1788–1806

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Tax rolls

No **Mills** entries. In 1806, the region settled by the Whites and their kith and kin would become Giles Co. The individuals being tracked in this paper were transferred to the Giles Co. rolls in 1807.

1787–1806

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Petitions to legislature

Across these twenty years, the only **Mills** to sign a petition was Thomas—an event that also occurred in the one year he was taxed in Montgomery. See the document dated 6 November 1787, below.⁶⁹

⁶⁴ Montgomery Co.’s 1787–1803 tax rolls are imaged at *Binn’s Genealogy* (<https://www.binnsgenealogy.com/MembersOnlyArea>).

⁶⁵ Montgomery Co., VA, Marriage Bonds, 1789–1796, unnumbered documents in chronological order; Montgomery Co., microfilm reel 38, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

⁶⁶ See E. S. Mills, “Mills, Whitt & Associates: Stokes and Surry Counties, NC: Literature Survey, Pre-1840,” report to file, 13 March 2019; also archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

⁶⁷ 1790 U.S. census, Stokes Co., NC, p. 551, col. 3, living near Jacob Mills. Other Mills in Stokes that year were Aaron and Asea.

⁶⁸ For these records, see my previously cited “Mills & Associates: Montgomery & Fincastle Counties, Virginia: Preliminary Survey,” and the subsequent “Mills & Associates: Montgomery County, VA, Extended Research (Bias, Sartain, Toney, White, Whitt/Witt),” 10 January 2020.

⁶⁹ “Legislative Petitions Digital Collection,” database with images, Library of Virginia, *Virginia Memory* (<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions>). For all Mills entries gleaned from these petitions, see E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Virginia Legislative Petitions from

6 NOVEMBER 1787

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Petition to legislature

Petition of inhabitants asking that the upper parts of Botetourt, Washington, & Russell Counties be annexed to Montgomery.⁷⁰

{image 3, col. 1} ... Wm. Robeson, Jh? Copley Junr., John Copley, John Homens, **Thos. Copley Senr.**, **Thomas Copley Junr.**, Henry Walker, **John White Senr.**, **John White Junr.**, **Beniman Whit[e]**, Moleston Peregane, Matthew French ... [Copley Ferry area]

{image 3, col. 3} [skip 16] Henry Bingaman Junr., Adam Bingaman, Peter Clyne, John Bingaman, John Pleek, **Richard Whitt**, Isaac M. McKenzie, Peter Blankenship, David McCormis Junr., **Joel Sarton**, **Abijah Whitte** [Whitt], William Chapman, Matthew French. [Settlers East of New River, roughly from Little River (Richard Whitt) up to Stoney Creek (Joel Sarton)].

{image 4, col. 1} Patten Thompson, John Cloyd, John **Mairs**, Robert Lester, James Britt, Danl. Britt, William Dry, Joseph Williamson, Henry Brown, Isaac Petty, Peter Rife, Thomas Farley Senr., Henry Farley, Thomas Farley Junr., Farris Farley, William Farley, **Milliton Adkins**, James Montgomery, James Montgomery Senr?, Andrew Steel, John Patton, **Benjn White**, John Davis, John Kane?, Joseph Long, **John White**, Uriah Poller.⁷¹ [Settlers West of New River roughly from Walkers Creek up to Wolf Creek.]

COMMENT:

Image 3, col. 1: This cluster represents the first documented appearance of Samuel Mills's stepfather in Montgomery County. Note that John White Senr., John White Junr., and Benjamin White signed together with Thomas Copley Jr. (the surety for John Sr.'s bond when he married Frankey in 1792) and Thomas Copley Senr. (whose daughter would marry John White Jr.), also in 1792.

None of these three Whites appear on the 1787 tax roll of Montgomery, although the other signers do. Benjamin remained in the county, submitting his 1788 list of taxable items on 19 March 1788.

- **Image 4, col. 1:** This cluster includes John 'S' White. If the Benjamin White included with him is a second Benjamin within the county, then he has not been found in any other county records. Not until the 1807 permission by John Sr. and Frankey, for her Samuel Mills to marry, would a second Benjamin (Benjamin H.) come on record. A study of all names on this 1787 petition reveal that several individuals appear twice. Possibly, Benjamin did the same. These petitions were circulated in numerous gathering places within the county, in an effort to glean as many signatures as possible.

Other key items to note:

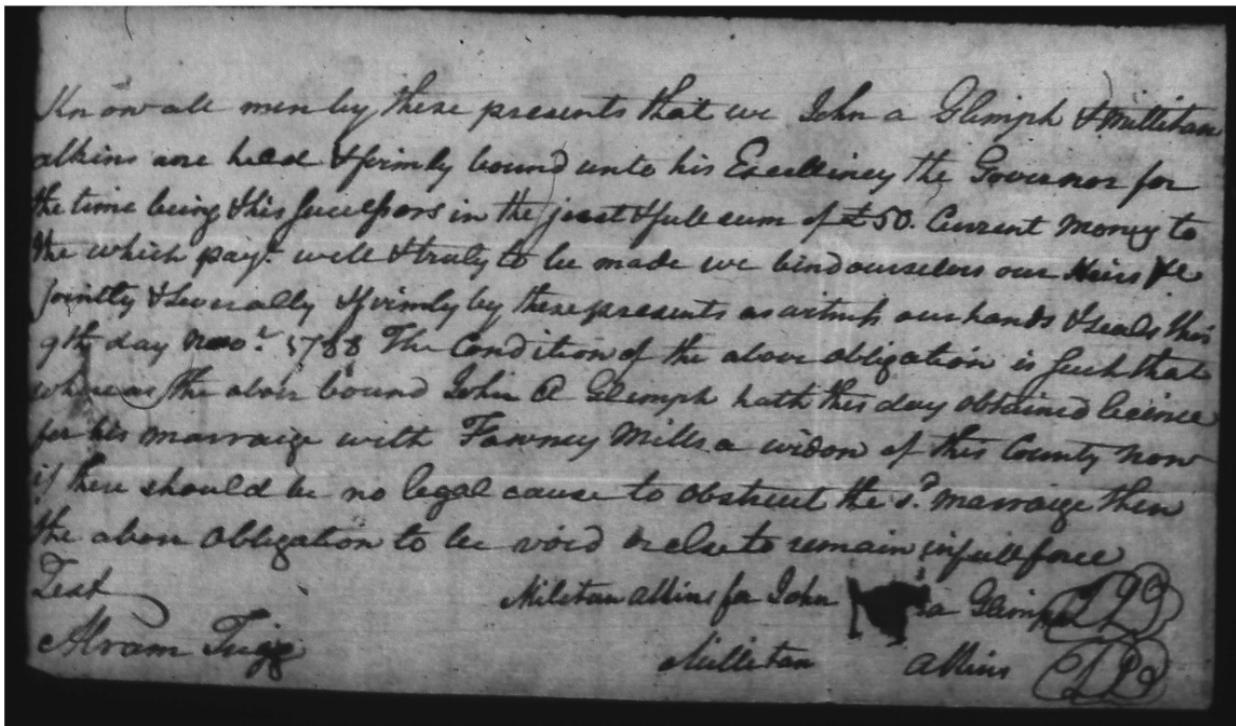
Amherst, Augusta, Bedford, Botetourt, Cabell, Campbell, Carroll, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Kanawha, Logan, Louisa, Mercer, Monroe, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Wythe Counties," report to file 26 February 2019; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

⁷⁰ "Legislative Petitions Digital Collection," database with images, *Library of Virginia, Virginia Memory* (<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions> : accessed 27 October 2018), Record No. 000248562; citing Accession Number 36121, Box 171, Folder 20.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

- Aside from the first page of signatures, none of the signatures appear to be original. All subsequent pages represent a copy that appears to have been made for legislative purposes.
- Milliton Adkins, who signed before Benjamin and John [‘S’] White, was surety for the November 1788 marriage bond of John Abram Glymph and “widow” Frankey Mills.
- Joel Sarton, flagged on this petition, was the father of Elijah Sartain who in 1791, before Rev. Alexander Ross of Walker Creek Baptist Church, married Sarah Mills of Amherst.⁷²
- The 1789–90 lists tax lists omit Benjamin and both Johns.

9 NOVEMBER 1788
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA
Marriage Bond

A photograph of a handwritten document, likely a marriage bond, written in cursive. The text is written on aged, slightly yellowed paper. The handwriting is clear but somewhat slanted. The document contains a legal declaration of a bond for £50, signed by John A. Glimph and Milliton Atkins on the 9th day of November 1788. It mentions a license for marriage with Fanny Mills, a widow. At the bottom, there are several signatures, including 'Aram Tigg' and 'Milliton Atkins for John A Glimph'. There are also some initials or marks that look like 'D' or 'D'.

“Know all men by these presents that we John a Glimph & Milliton Atkins are held & firmly bound unto his Excellency the Governor for the time being & his Successors in the just & full sum of £50 Current Money to the which pay^t well & truly to be made, we bind ourselves our Heirs & c Jointly & Severally & firmly by these presents as witness to our hands & seals this 9th day Nov^r 1788. The Condition of the above obligation is Such that whereas the above bound John A Glimph hath this day obtained license for his marriage with **Fanny** [sic] **Mills**, a widow of this County. Now if there should be no legal cause to obstruct the s^d marriage then the above obligation to be void & else to remain in full force

⁷² For Sarah Mills and Elijah Sartain, see the previously cited reports for Montgomery County. Also see “Jesse Mills Sr. (c1740—aft1811) of Albemarle & Amherst Counties, Virginia; Spouse Lucy Tilman: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 15 July 2019; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

obstruct the s^d marriage, then the above obligation to be void or else to remain in full force. [Signed] Milliton Atkins for John [his mark] a Glimph, Milliton Atkins. Test: Abram Trigg.”⁷³

COMMENT:

A published version of Montgomery County marriages, renders the names differently: “Glimp, John A., and **Frankey Mills, widow**. *Milliton Akers, surety*—Nov. 9, 1788.”⁷⁴

The bondsman, as shown in actual marriage bond imaged above, was Milliton *Atkins*, rather than “Akers.” Atkins was a key figure of the Walker Creek Baptist Church where two young and unattached females named Mills, Sarah (of Amherst) and Frankey (origin unknown), would wed in 1791 and 1792.

No “Fanny” Mills has been found in the county’s records, only Frankey.

1789–90

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Tax roll.

Only one John White tax entry appears in these two years. In both cases, the tax entry can be assigned to John ‘S’ White. The data is consistent from year to year and the lists were submitted amid the identified land-neighbors of John ‘S’.

7 SEPTEMBER 1790

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Ordered that **John Preston** be appointed to bind out according to Law two poor children (to wit) David Lucus son of Prude Lucus and **a daughter of Frankey Mills’s** and make return thereof.”⁷⁵

COMMENT:

Frankey’s daughter, Samuel’s sister, was likely bound to the Prestons. In 1803, John Preston’s brother William Preston—apparently still single—came to court with John Bowen Jr. who sought a license to marry “Rachel Mills, orphan of Francis Mills.” Because Rachel was underage, Preston had himself appointed her guardian, gave his permission, then cosigned the marriage bond with Bowen. The evidence is ambiguous on one critical matter that might be interpreted in at least two ways:

- The fact that Samuel’s sister was bound out as a “poor child” rather than a “bastard,” as was more common in the county, suggests that Frankey was indeed a widow *or* else she moved into the county after Rachel’s birth so the circumstances of the child’s birth were not known. Alternatively, if Frankey were part of the well-placed Mills family associated with the Prestons in adjacent Botetourt, then the wording might have been crafted to protect the

⁷³ Montgomery Co., VA, Marriage Bonds, 1789–1796; LoV Montgomery Co. microfilm 38.

⁷⁴ Anne Lowry Worrell, *A Brief of Wills and Marriages in Montgomery and Fincastle Counties, Virginia, 1733–1831* (1932; reprinted Baltimore, 1996), 18.

⁷⁵ Montgomery Co., VA, County Court Order Book 5, 1790–1791, p. 20.; LoV Montgomery Co. microfilm 21. Also for Rachel: Montgomery County Marriage Bonds, 1796–1803, unnumbered, chronological order; LoV Montgomery Co. microfilm 39.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

family reputation. Research on Botetourt County Millses is still underway.⁷⁶

- The fact that the 1803 court order identified Rachel as the orphan of a *mother*, not father, supports an hypothesis that her mother was a single woman rather than a widow at the time Rachel was born.

Prude Lucus, who was coupled with Frankey in this court order should belong to the Lucas family that sprawled around Smithfield (the Preston “seat”) on Sinking Creek, below Doe Creek, where John Abram Glymph homesteaded.

The name Prude gave to her son (David) is the same name that Franky’s son Samuel gave to his first-born. It was not a common given name in Montgomery Co. At least two men of that name later appear as associates of Samuel: David McComas and David French.

29 DECEMBER 1791

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Tax roll

Bird Smith District. Submission of lists of tithes and taxable personal property by:

- **“John White Senr.,”** 1 tithe 21+, 1 horse/mule
- **“John White Junr.,”** 1 tithe 21+, 0 horse/mule
- **“Benjamin White,”** 1 tithe 21+, 0 horse/mule⁷⁷

COMMENT:

Lists were collected from all three Whites on 29 December. Others whose lists were collected that day were “Obediah Boyers” [Byas], William Boyers, and John Markham—associates of John ‘S’ White. John Toney’s list had been collected two days earlier.

No list was submitted by John ‘S’ White. No other Whites or Millses appear on the county roll.

⁷⁶ A preliminary report is available as E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Botetourt County, Virginia, Initial Survey,” report to file, 28 August 2018 (revised 24 June 2019). See also E. S. Mills, Augusta County & the Virginia Frontier, Mills & Watts: Initial Survey of Published Literature, report to file, 8 February 2019. Both are archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

⁷⁷ Montgomery Co., VA, Land Tax Rolls, 1782–1806; Land Tax Records, LoV roll 197.

Map 4
Western Virginia Counties, 1791–1800⁷⁸



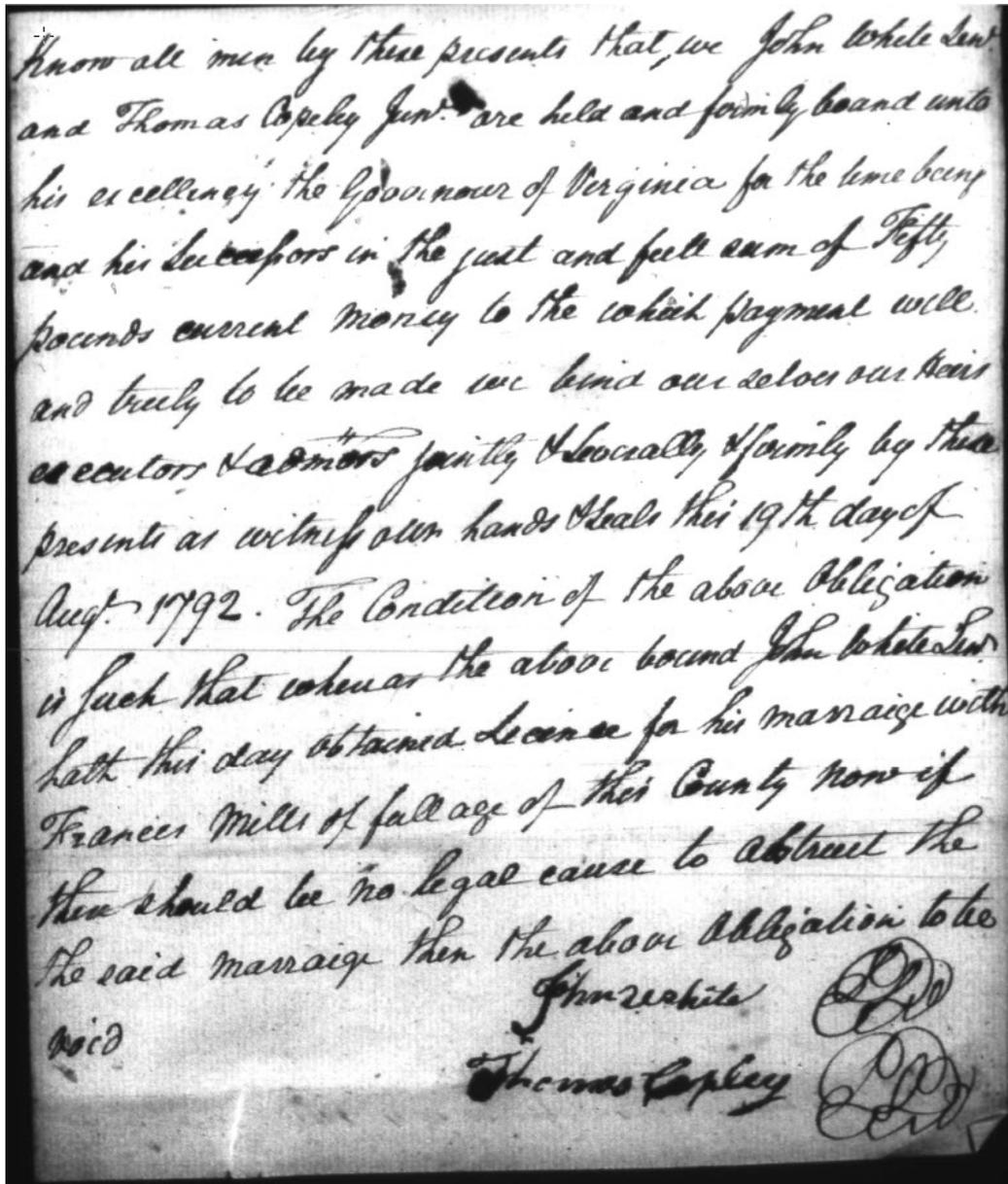
19 AUGUST 1792
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA
Marriage

“Know all men by these presents that we **John White Senr.** and Thomas Copeley **Junr.** are held and

⁷⁸ Snipped from Michael F. Doran, *Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia, 1634–1895* (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1987).

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

firmly bound unto his excellency the Governour of Virginia for the time being and his Successors in the just and full sum of Fifty pounds current money to the which payment well and truly to be made we bind our selves our Heirs executors & admors jointly & Severally & formily by these presents are witness our hands & Seals this 19th day of Augt. 1792. The Condition of the above Obligation is Such that whereas the above bound **John White Senr.** hath this day obtained License for his marriage with **Frances Mills** of full age of this County[.] now if there should be no legal cause to obstruct the the [sic] said marriage then the above obligation to be void. [Signed:] John White, Thomas Copley.”⁷⁹



Know all men by these presents that, we John White Senr
and Thomas Copley Junr are held and firmly bound unto
his excellency the Governour of Virginia for the time being
and his Successors in the just and full sum of Fifty
pounds current money to the which payment well
and truly to be made we bind our selves our Heirs
executors & admors jointly & Severally & formily by these
presents as witness our hands & Seals this 19th day of
Augt. 1792. The Condition of the above Obligation
is such that whereas the above bound John White Senr
hath this day obtained License for his marriage with
Frances Mills of full age of this County now if
there should be no legal cause to obstruct the
the said marriage then the above obligation to be
void

John White
Thomas Copley

⁷⁹ Montgomery Co., VA, Marriage Bonds, 1789–1796; LoV Montgomery Co., microfilm 38.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

COMMENT:

Worrell's published marriage abstracts for Montgomery also err significantly in reporting this marriage. White is identified in that published compilation as John Jr. and Copley's Jr. designation is omitted.⁸⁰ The same errors appear in Fisher's previously cited compilation of Montgomery, Giles, Pulaski, and Floyd marriages—a work that appears to have copied Worrell's out-of-copyright book, mistakes and all.

1792

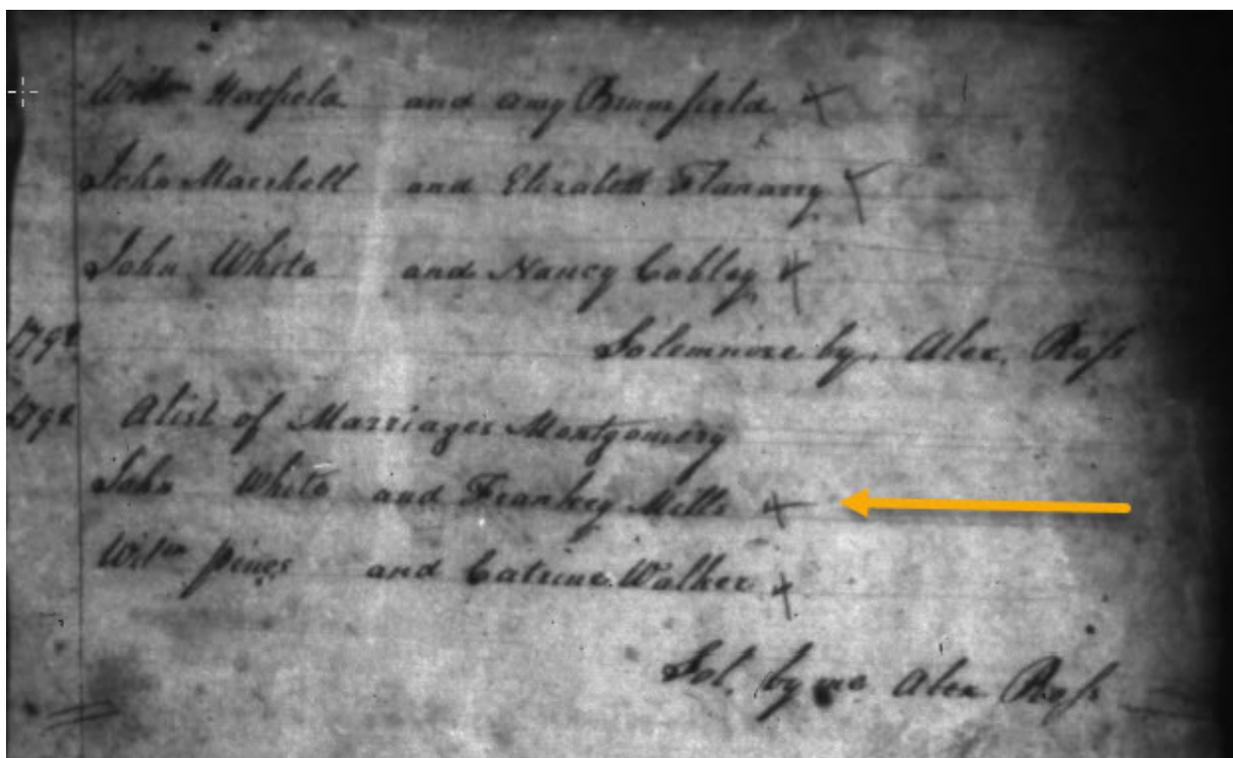
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Marriage

[No month shown] "A List of Marriages, Montgomery ...

"John White and Nancy Cobly [Copley]. [John Jr., aka John H.]

"John White and Franky Mills ... Sol. by me Alex Ross.⁸¹ [John Sr.]



1792–93

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Tax roll

⁸⁰ Anne Lowry Worrell, *A Brief of Wills and Marriages in Montgomery and Fincastle Counties, Virginia, 1733–1831* (1932; reprinted Baltimore, 1996), 42.

⁸¹ Untitled small register, unpaginated, chronological order; LoV Montgomery Co., microfilm 52, item 2, labeled "Marriage Records, 1785–1803."

John White Sr. does not appear. No other evidence has been found to place him in Montgomery in these two years. Possibly, he returned to his Cole River land.

1794–1821

MONTGOMERY & GILES COUNTIES, VA

From 1794 forward, John White consistently appears on the personal tax rolls of Montgomery and then Giles. Sometimes he is identified as “John White Sr.” and sometimes only as “John White.” However, his identity as the same man can be established by the tithes he reported, the property for which he was charged, and the neighbors among whom he submitted his annual list. His last appearance is the list of 1821.⁸²

12 MARCH 1797

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

On this date, **95 acres** were surveyed “on the waters of New River on the South side of the Big Spring Mountain,” adjacent to land of George Pearis. The land would be patented on 16 December 1801 in the name of “William Preston and **John White**.”⁸³

COMMENT:

- The patent is transcribed in full below under its issue date, 16 December 1801.
- See the 1800 petition, below, which places all the adult males in John’s reconstructed family north of Wolf Creek Mountain. (By 1804, John Jr. would leave them and settle among his Copley in-laws. Before 1807, James left them to settle at Doe Creek and Salt Pond Mountain.)
- Big Spring Mountain appears as East River Mountain on Map 1. See the 7 December 1804 petition below, stating that Big Spring was “also known as the head of East River.”

Regarding William Preston, John’s co-patentee:

- The 1790 court order authorizing Samuel’s sister, the daughter of Frankey Mills, to be bound out by the overseer of the poor (William Preston’s brother John) did not say to whom the child was bound.
- In 1803 William Preston came into court with John Bowen, requested guardianship of Rachel, the “orphan of Frances Mills, deceased,” and cosigned Bowen’s bond to marry Rachel.
- Montgomery County court minutes show that Preston’s widowed mother, Susanna (Smith) Preston of “Smithfield,” the Preston estate on Sinking Creek, took in at least one other community child born into a poor or problematic household.

All things considered, it is highly probable that Rachel was bound to the Prestons. Considering that William Preston was assigned guardianship of her specifically so he could agree to her marriage—while she was underaged, still legally bound by the court order, and still legally obligated to provide labor to the family until she came of age—and considering that William Preston also served as financial surety on the bond that guaranteed Bowen was free to marry her, it bears investigation whether William, a bachelor for many years, was Rachel’s father.

⁸² See E. S. Mills, “Whites of Montgomery & Giles Counties, VA: Disambiguation between Johns and an Overview of Offspring, Based on Tax Rolls, Legislative Petitions, and Other Legal Records,” report, 25 February 2020; archived online at *HistoricPathways* under the “Research” tab.

⁸³ Virginia, Land Office Grants, vol. 48, 1801–1802, p. 320; imaged at *Library of Virginia* (https://lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01LVA_INST:01LVA&lang=en : accessed 20 June 2019); searches by name must be made at this gateway.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

The “paternalism” that William Preston showed in the 1803 documents did not include candor. Frankey Mills was still alive in 1807 as the wife of John White, the man with whom William Preston co-owned the above tract of land. Preston was clearly aware that Frankey was still alive when he informed the court that Rachel was an “orphan” and that “Francis” was “deceased.” Doing so cut Frankey and her husband out of their right to give or withhold permission for the marriage.

1800— [N.D.]

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Petition to legislature

Request for part of Montgomery County to be annexed to Monroe County.

“The Petition of Sundry Inhabitants of Montgomery County Resident on **New River below Wolf Creek Mountain** Humbly Represents That your Petitioners Occupy a Strip of the Said County, from the aforesaid Mountain To the Kanawa line about 70 Miles and Generally from 12 to 15 Miles in Width, Situated Between the Countys of Munroe and Tazewell ... and as your Petitioners are generally Seated on the Banks of the New River, with Dispersed Settlements on its branches and the *most Convenient of us to our Present Seat of Justice has to Travel thirty eight miles and Still the River to Pass*—We therefore pray that your Honorable House will pass a law at your present Session to Incorporate us with the County of Munroe, by a Line to begin on New River at the end of **Peters Mountain** thence up the River so as to Include the **Settlers on Wolf Creek, to Wolf Creek Mountain**, thence with the Said Mountain, to the Tazewell County line, thence with Tazewell line, to Kanawa line, thence with Kanawa line to New River, thence up the Same to **Kerney’s Knobbs**, at the line of Munroe County.”

[signature p. 1, col. 4] **John White, John White Jr., Benjn White, James White, Arthur White**, David Somers, Berry Adkinson, Lewis Adkinson, Randolph Adkinson, Charles Walker Jr., Francis Farley, John Mitchmand, Fedrick Rose, Robert Smith, Peter Miller, Robert Clendenning, Peter *Dingues* ...⁸⁴

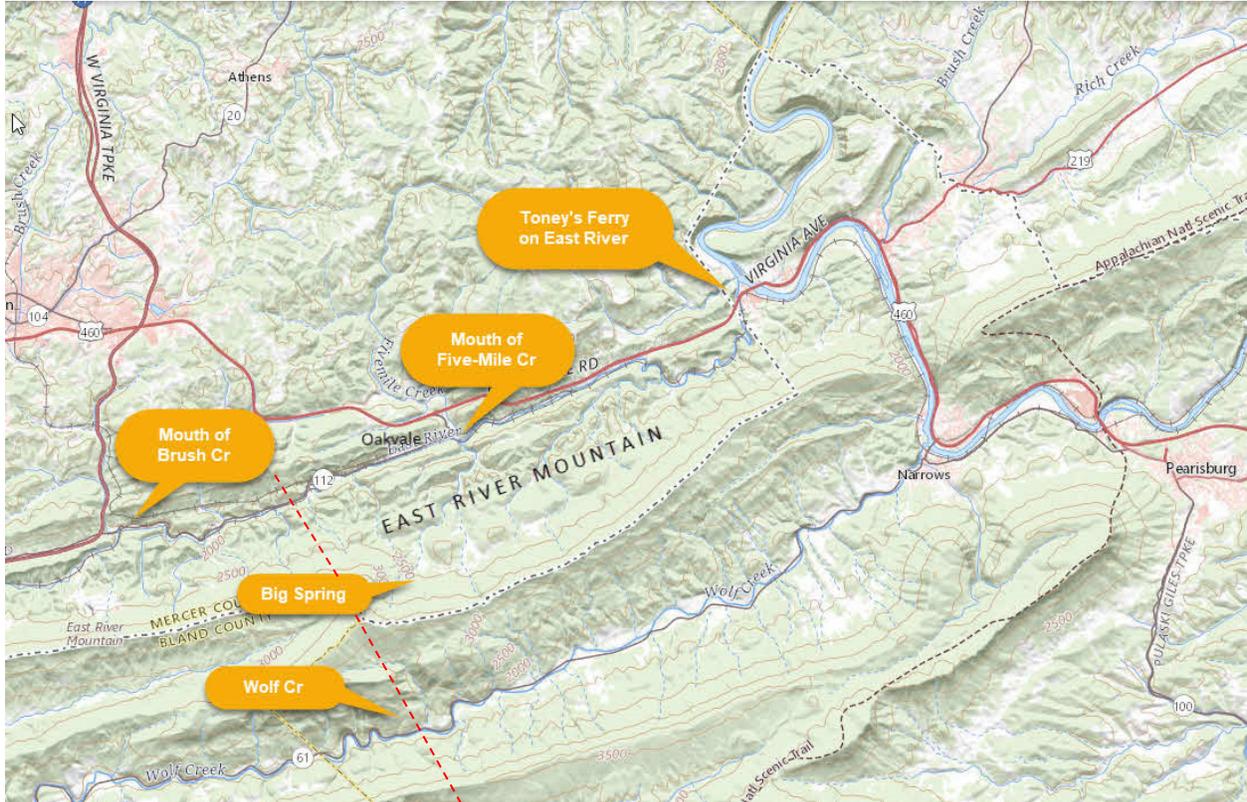
COMMENT:

- **John ‘S’ White** of Little Sugar Run of Walker’s Creek is dead, is dead by this point. The 1798 tax roll adds one “Hannah” White (his widow Susannah), charging her with a horse and two young tithables. She drops from the tax roll the next year, when two young White males are added.
- **All these 1800 signers**, according to the petition, are north of Wolf Creek Mountain, running into Kanawa between Tazewell on the West and Monroe on the East.
- **Frances Farley**, formerly of Walker’s Creek, has also moved northward according to county deed records.
- **Peter Dingess**, who appears in this cluster of signers, was the father of Charles A. Dingess whose estate was probated in November 1835 (see that date, below). **Samuel Mills** attended his estate sale and bought 1/9 share of a 1/2 share of a piece of land. That circumstance usually indicates a close family connection. One would not otherwise take on the ownership of a small piece of land ownership with seventeen other owners. For further records on this subject, see the 1835 research notes for Charles A. Dingess.

⁸⁴ Legislative Petitions Digital Collection,” database with images, Library of Virginia, *Virginia Memory* (<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions> : accessed 19 February 2019), citing accession Number 36121, Box 337, Folder 16.

Map 5

Northern Giles (mostly in present Mercer): Big Spring, Brush Creek, Five-Mile Creek & Toney's Ferry⁸⁵



15 DECEMBER 1801
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA
Petition to legislature

Request to move the seat of justice for the Judicial District from Sweet Springs in Botetourt County to Union in Monroe County.

{image 2} Peter Dingess, Sr., John Dingess, John Guttery, **John White Sen.**, **Jas. White**, James **Coply**, William Chapman, John Burgess, Henry Burgess, William Burgess, Garland Burgess, Edward Burgess Sr., Edward Burgess Jr., John Coleman, James Stewart, Absalom _____, **John White Jr.**, Joel Brumfield [Brumfield], John **Coply**.⁸⁶

⁸⁵ Snipped from "The National Map," at U.S. Board of Geographic Names, *Geographic Names Information System* (<https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/ngp/board-on-geographic-names/domestic-names> : accessed 7 October 2019), with sites compared against *HomeTownLocator: Virginia* (<https://virginia.hometownlocator.com/maps/countymap,cfips,071,c.giles.cfm> : accessed 7 October 2019); the two sites choose varying landmarks for display.

⁸⁶ Legislative Petitions Digital Collection," database with images, Library of Virginia, *Virginia Memory* (<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions> : accessed 19 February 2019), Record No. 000248589; citing Accession Number 36121, Box 171, Folder 52.

16 DECEMBER 1801
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Land patent

“James Monroe, Esquire, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia To all To whom these presents shall come Greeting [:] Know ye that by Virtue of a land Office Treasury Warrant number” 15,112 issued 6 March 1783, “There is Granted by the said Commonwealth unto **William Preston** and **John White** a certain tract or parcel of land containing” **95 acres** “by survey bearing date” 12 March 1797, “lying and being in the County of Montgomery On the waters of New River on the **South side of the Big Spring Mountain** and bounded as followeth, to wit,”

Beginning at four chesnuts on the S side of a Spur, S 38° E94 poles to two Spanish Oaks and a poplar by a branch, Corner of **George Paris’s [Pearis’]** land and with a line of the same S 65° E 60 poles to two white oaks, thence leaving said line S 40° W 170 poles to two white oaks in a hollow, N 45° W48 poles to three white oaks, thence N 10° E 200 poles, crossing some small branches to the beginning.

“with the Appurtenances to have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land with its Appurtenances to the said William Preston & **John White** and their heirs forever, in witness whereof the sd James Monroe Esquire Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia hath hereunto set his hand and caused the lesser seal of the said Commonwealth to be affixed at Richmond on” 16 December 1801 “and of the Commonwealth the Twenty Sixth [year].”⁸⁷

COMMENT:

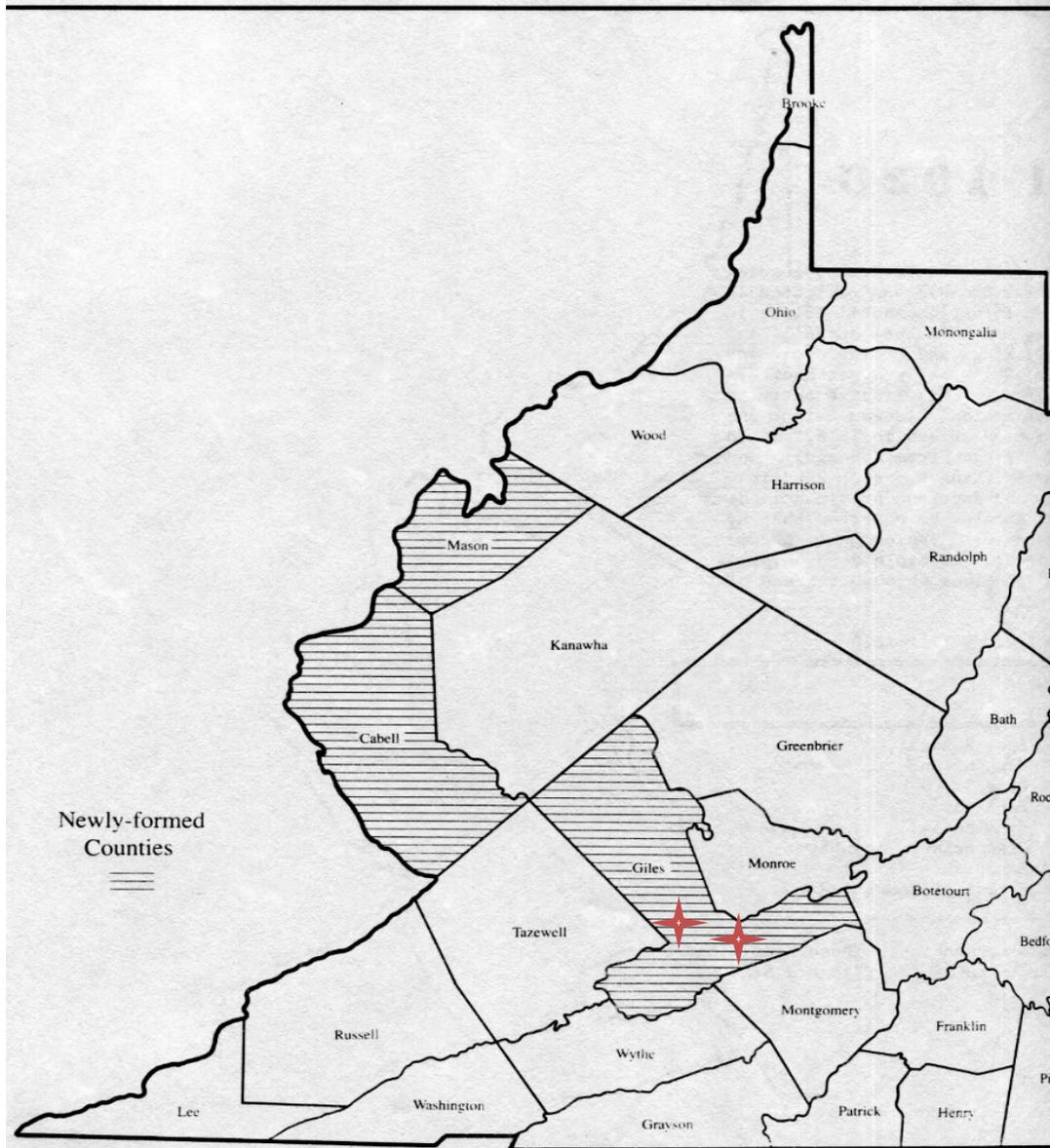
Big Spring Mountain is shown on Map 1 as East River Mountain. See the 7 December 1804 petition below that identifies Big Spring as “the head of East River.”

Map 6, below, shows the location of the two “White” clusters that developed in the part of Montgomery that would soon become Giles:

- **John Sr.** and his son **Benjamin** between East River and Wolf Creek.
- John Sr.’s son **John Jr.** (who settled among his Copley inlaws around Copley’s Ford, Camping Hollow, and Bear Springs, on the west side of New River); and **James** (who settled two small tracts between Doe Creek and Salt Pond Mountain on the east side of New River).

⁸⁷ Virginia, Land Office Grants, vol. 48, 1801–1802, p. 320; imaged at *Library of Virginia*(https://va.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01LVA_INST:01LVA&lang=en : accessed 20 June 2019); searches by name must be made at this gateway.

Map 6
Western Virginia Counties, 1801–1810⁸⁸



3 AUGUST 1803

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Rachel Mills, orphan of **Francis Mills**, deceased, came into Court and made choice of **William Preston**

⁸⁸ Snipped from Michael F. Doran, *Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia, 1634–1895* (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1987).

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

as her guardian, whereupon he entered into Bond According to Law.”⁸⁹

3 AUGUST 1803

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Marriage bond.

“Know all men by these presents that we **John Bowen & Wm. Preston** are held and firmly bound unto John Pope, Esquire, Governor or Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the just and full sum of one hundred and fifty dollars ... this 3d day of August 1803. The condition of the above Obligation is such that whereas the above bound John Bowen hath this day obtained a license for his Marriage with **Rachel Mills** now if there should be no lawful cause to obstruct said Marriage, then this obligation, to be void, else to remain in full force and virtue. [Signed:] John Bowen Wm Preston.”

KNOW all men by these presents that we *John Bowen & Wm. Preston* are held and firmly bound unto *John Pope* Esquire, Governor or Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the just and full sum of one hundred and fifty dollars, to which payment well and truly to be made, to our said Governor and his successors, for the use of the said Commonwealth: We bind ourselves our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents, sealed with our seals, and dated this 3^d day of *August* 1803.

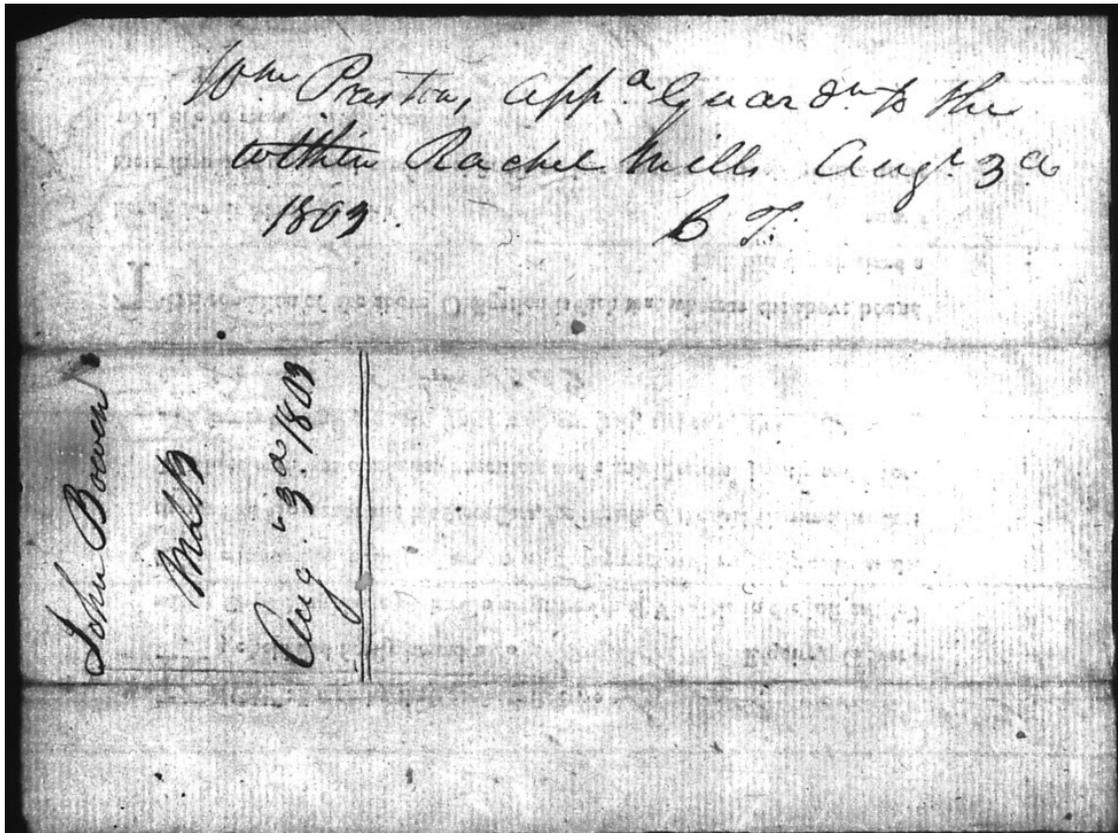
THE condition of the above Obligation is such that whereas the above bound *John Bowen* hath this day obtained a license for his Marriage with *Rachel Mills* now if there should be no lawful cause to obstruct ^{said} Marriage then this obligation, to be void, else to remain in full force and virtue.

Teffe,
John Bowen
Wm. Preston

[Backside of bond:] “Wm. Preston, Apptd Guardn to the within Rachel Mills Augt. 3d 1803, C.T.”⁹⁰

⁸⁹ Montgomery Co., VA, County Court Order Book 13, 1801–1803, p. 130; LoV Montgomery Co. microfilm 22.

⁹⁰ Montgomery County Marriage Bonds, 1796–1803; LoV Montgomery Co. microfilm 39..



8 DECEMBER 1803

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Petition to legislature

Freeholders and Inhabitants of Montgomery Co. request a new county from parts of Montgomery, Tazewell, & Monroe. [Text is much the same as that fully transcribed below for December 1804.]

{image 3, col. 1} **Tom Copley**, Edward Burges, Jr., Edward Burges Sr., John Burges, Henry Burges, William Burges, Garland Burges, Phillip Miller, David Toller, **Benjamin White**, **Ritchard Whitt**, **John White**, **William White**, James Copley.⁹¹

COMMENT:

This cluster of signers—including the three sons of John Sr. and a Whitt in-law—apparently were broached by the petition’s promoter in the area marked on Map 1 as Walker Creek, Doe Creek, and “Copley’s Ford.” Tom Copley Sr., father of the signer James, operated that ford across New River on his land.

After Giles was cut away in 1806, **John Sr.**, **John Jr.**, and **Benjamin White** all fell into Giles County—as did Thomas Copley.

⁹¹ Legislative Petitions Digital Collection,” database with images, Library of Virginia, *Virginia Memory* (<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions> : accessed 19 February 2019), citing record no. 000248592, Accession Number 36121, Box 171, Folder 58.

Richard Whitt, uncle of the Robert Whitt who married Mary White in 1792, remained on the Montgomery side of the line. His known land was at Meadow Creek of Little River, a waterway on the east side of New River, a few miles south of Copley Ford.⁹²

James Copley is widely said to be the James Copley who married (1) Celia Hearn, 18 March 1800 in Wythe Co. and (2) Rebecca **Marcum**, 20 February 1817, Floyd Co., KY. I have not begun systematic research on him.⁹³ After this petition, James Copley moved northward to settle on branches of East River near John and Frankey White, as well as John's son Benjamin White and his wife Ann. The land tax roll of 1813 places James Copley on Five Mile Fork of East River. On 13 September 1808, James Copley would serve as special bail for young Benjamin H. White when that young man was sued by John Toney.⁹⁴ Again on 25 April 1815 James was a surety for the performance bond of the newly elected constable Cornelius White (Benjamin's proposed son).⁹⁵

William White, who signed in the family cluster on 8 December 1803 and again on 7 December 1804 has not been otherwise identified. Points to consider:

- He was not taxed in Montgomery County or, subsequently, in Giles. He has not been found in any other records of those two counties—not as the subject of a court order, a participant in a road crew, a buyer at an estate sale, or witness to a deed.
- The 1803 petition, on which he signed with Benjamin, one of the Johns, and James Copley—and the 1804 petition on which he signed with John Sr., John Jr., and Benjamin—both imply that he may be another son of John Sr.
- John Sr., in 1801, did have a new tithe charged to him (a new male 16 or above). In 1802, that male was not charged to him, suggesting that the male had left the family home and was working elsewhere. This tithe has not yet been identified. (The possibility that the new tithe of 1801 might be a hireling is discounted here. No evidence suggests that John Sr. had either means or need to employ outside help.)
- At least one other possibility deserves to be explored: Possibly this William could have been Frankey's son, using his stepfather's surname as many boys in this era did when their own fathers were not known to them.⁹⁶ The William Mills proposed earlier as Frankey's son would have become a tithable in 1801.

⁹² For Richard Whitt data, see E. S. Mills, "Mills & Associates: Montgomery & Fincastle Counties, Virginia: Preliminary Survey," report to file, 28 August 2018 (updated 24 June 2019); archived online at *HistoricPathways* under the "Research" tab.

⁹³ mtbjrb, "Barlow Family Tree," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/37955696/person/19369073199/facts> : 8 November 2019), "James Copley" fact page. This reconstruction does not indicate Rebecca's relationship to Susannah Marcum who married John "S" White in 1796, Montgomery Co.

⁹⁴ Giles Co., VA, Order Book 1: 183; imaged as *Family Search* digital film 008151678.

⁹⁵ Giles Co., VA, Probate Book A: 155; imaged as FHL digital film 007645086, image230.

⁹⁶ For example, see the affidavit of the "fatherless" John Mills alias Ripley who, at fourteen, joined the Patriot cause under his step-father's surname but, as an adult, began using his mother's surname. That mother, Elizabeth Mills was the widow of Thomas Learwood when John was born. Elizabeth was the aunt of the Sarah Mills who migrated into Montgomery as a teen and married Elijah Sartain before the pastor of the Walker Creek Baptist Church just a year before that pastor officiated the marriage of Frankey Mills and John White Sr.

For testimony as to the change of surname, see 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 : accessed 1 June 2016). In his affidavits, John also states that he was born in Prince Edward Co., VA, in 1762 and he specifically identifies his stepfather as John Ripley. He refers to his mother without naming her.

7 DECEMBER 1804

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Petition to Legislature

“Freeholders and Inhabitants of the County of Montgomery ... request to create new county “from parts of Montgomery, Tazewell, & Monroe.” “The said County comprehended a large tract of Territory near one Hundred and eighty miles by forty or fifty Broad. ... [Because] of the Ferocious Disposition of the savage Nation then at arms and ravaging the Westren or frontier parts, the Settlements were confin^d to a small part of the Eastern end of the County. ... The emigration to those uninhabited part of the said County has so rapidly progressed since the Treaty with the Indian Tribes ... that some of [the settlers are] situated seventy, eighty and ninety miles Distance from the present Judicial seat of Justice, Large Mountains and water courses Intervening: At some seasons of the year [these] are almost impassiable by reason of which your Petetioners are almost Depriv^d of the previledge of Justice.”

Thus, they seek “a New County off the western end of the said County of Montgomery including a small part of the Counties of Monroe and Tazewell ... to be constructed and Established by a Line Beginning on New River at end of **Gaulley Mountain**, where the Counties of **Greenbrier Kanhawa and Montgomery intersect**. Thence up the River with the Greenbrier and Montgomery Line to the intersection of Monroe Line. Thence with Monroe and Montgomery Line to the mouth of **Indian Creek**, thence a strait Line to the Top of **Peter Mountain** where the path crosses from **Jacob Millers** on **Rich Creek** to **Hatfields Mill** on **Stoney Creek**. Thence along the Top of said Montain [*sic*] and with the Montgomery and Monroe Line to the Intersection of **Botetourt County Line**: and with the Botetourt and Montgomery line to the Top of the **Gap Mountain**. Thence along the Top of said Mountain to New River, crossing the same to the end of **Walkers Creek Mountain**. Thence along the Top of said Mountain to the intersection of **Wythe County** Line. Thence Northwestwardly with said line to the intersection of Tazewell Line: and with the Tazewell and Montgomery Line to the Top of **Wolf Creek Mountain**. Thence southwestwardly along the said Mountain to a point Two Miles below the mouth of the **Clare fork** of **Wolf Creek**, then a Strait Line to the **head of East River called and know[n] by the name of the Big Spring**. Thence a Straight Line to the head of **Crane Creek** on the Top of the **Flat Top Mountain**. Thence a strait Line to the three forks of **Guyandott River**. Thence down said River until it intersects **Kanhawa County** line. Thence with the said Line to the Beginning, forming a County about one Hundred miles Long and about forty Broad, Leaving each of the Old Counties compact, without any reasonable cause for Removing the present Public Buildings.”⁹⁷

COMMENT:

The six signature pages attached to this petition show duplications of more than a few names— including those of the White family. Typically, when a petition was created, multiple copies were made and taken to the major “community gathering spots” in the county: the courthouse on court days, the muster grounds on muster days, and the local taverns, mills, and ferries. Sometimes a determined instigator of a petition might even go door to door. Signatures would be taken on separate sheets. Eventually, the signature sheets would be attached to one copy of the petition and then forwarded to the legislature.

Evaluating the petition against tax rolls and other county records strongly suggests that the John White cluster were approached on two different occasions, by petition gatherers with distinctly

⁹⁷ Legislative Petitions Digital Collection,” database with images, Library of Virginia, *Virginia Memory* (<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions> : accessed 19 February 2019), record no. 000248595; citing Accession Number 36121, Box 171, Folder 60.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

different handwriting.

{Signature sheet 1, cols. 2 and 3} ... Loe Brown, Wm. Brown, James Mustard, Noah Mullet, Frank Scott, William **Shannon**, John **Shannon**, John Connally, **John Marcum**, John **Hammonds** ...

COMMENT:

The Shannons and John Hammond were adjacent neighbors to the land of John 'S' White on Little Sugar Run. Note that no Whites appear.

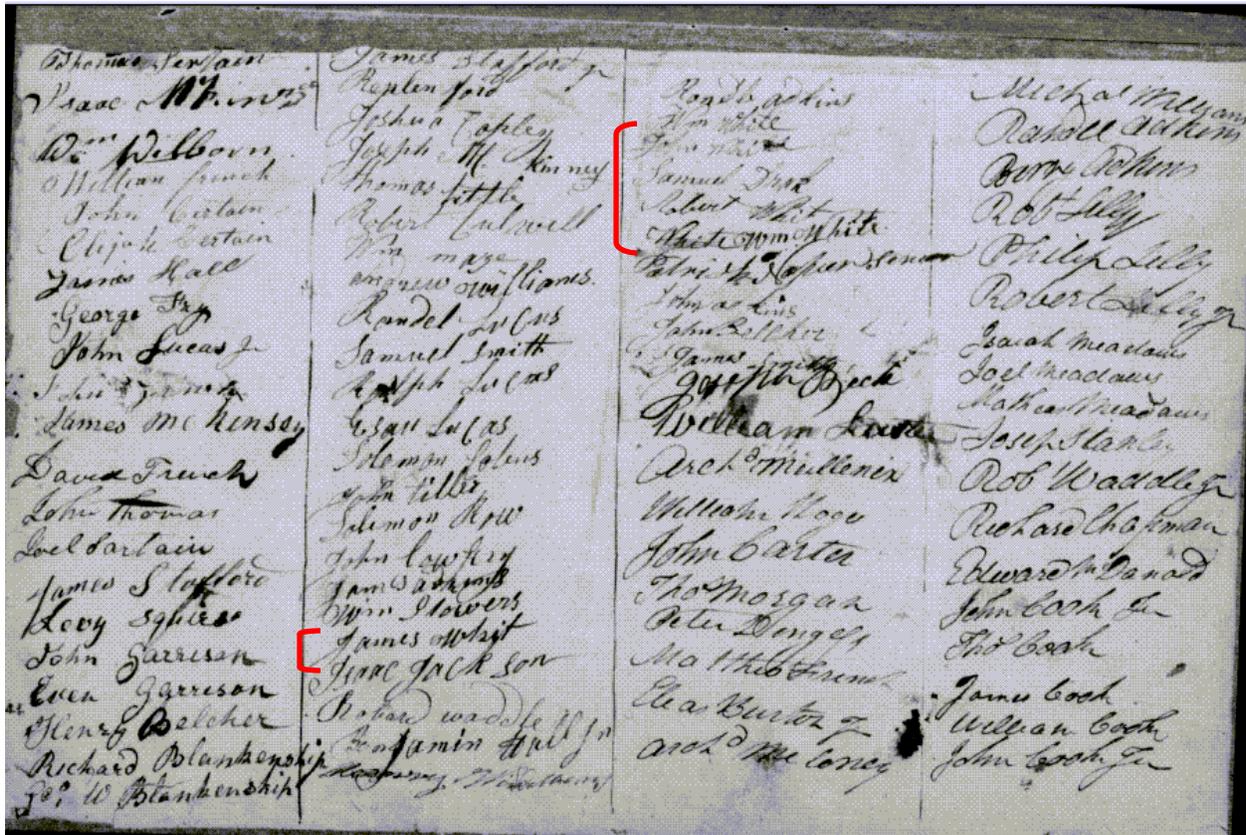
{Signature sheet 3, cols. 2 & 3} John Stafford, John Stafford S^{er}, **Arter White** ...

COMMENT:

No other Whites appear in this cluster. The appearance of the landless Arter adjacent to the Staffords suggests that may have been in their employ. This cluster of names should be in and around Staffordsville on Walker's Creek, a couple of miles south of John 'S' Walker's land on Little Sugar Run. (See Map 7, below.)

{Signature sheet 4, col. 2} James Stafford Jr., Reuben Ford, Joshua **Copley**, Joseph M. McKinney, [skip 14] James **Whit**[e]

{Signature sheet 4, col. 3} Randle **Adkins**, **Wm. White**, **John White**, Samuel Drake, **Robert Whit**, ~~White~~ **Wm. White**, Patrick Napier Senior, John **Adkins**.



COMMENT:

- The man whose name is written as “James Whit” was James White. No James “Whit” appears in the county tax rolls or other county records of this period.
- The men on this signature sheet straddled New River, above and below Copley’s Ferry.
- Note “Wm. Stowers” adjacent to James Whit[e] and seven names from John White. In 1807, James and John White [Jr.] were indicted for brawling with William and Caleby Stowers.⁹⁸
- Note also the duplication of the name “Wm White” and the visible error made in recording the second entry for that name.

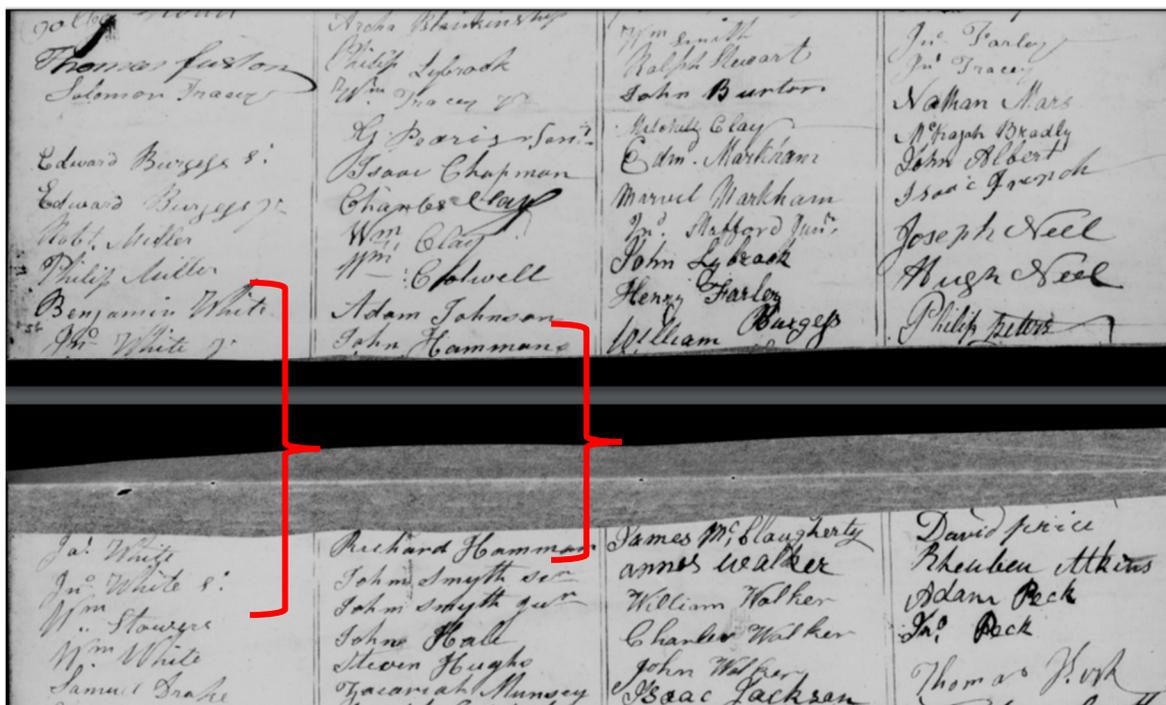
{Signature sheet 5, col. 1} ... Edward Burgess Jr, Robt. Miller, Philip Miller, **Benjamin White, Jn^o White Jr.** [end of column]

{Signature sheet 6, col. 1} [start of column] **Ja^s White, Jn^o White Sr., W^m Stowers, W^m White,** Samuel Drake, Augustune Comer Jr., Frederick Comer, Jacob Comer, Augustine Comer Sr. ...⁹⁹

COMMENT:

As the image below shows, signature sheet 5 and signature sheet 6 were originally a single sheet that was cut apart for filming. Piecing the two sheets back together makes visible the fact that we’re dealing with a family cluster that was abitrarily divided by the dissection of the page.

Note also that Edward Burgess and Philip Miller signed just above these Whites in the previous 1803 petition. Burgess signed just before the Whites in the 1801 and 1804 petitions also.



⁹⁸ Giles Co., VA, Order Book 1: 69-70; imaged as *Family Search* digital film 008151678.

⁹⁹ Legislative Petitions Digital Collection,” database with images, Library of Virginia, Virginia Memory (<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions> : accessed 19 February 2019), Record No. 000248596; citing Accession Number 36121, Box 171, Folder 61.

1806

MONTGOMERY > GILES COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

“W” section ¹⁰⁰

John White & William Preston, 95 acres, value \$34, \$.16 tax

COMMENT:

This entry first appears on the Montgomery Co. tax roll of 1806. At the creation of Giles Co. that year, the Preston-White land was cut off into Giles. The tax data remained the same for the next three years. In 1809, the responsibility for the tax shifted to Preston, although White was still listed as an “owner or occupant,” that being the header for the column in which both his and Preston’s names appear.

1806

GILES COUNTY, VA

Historical context

“Be it enacted by the general assembly, That all the part of the counties of **Montgomery, Monroe and Tazewell**, contained within the following boundaries, to wit:

Beginning at the end of **Gauly mountain** on **New river** where the counties of **Greenbriar** and **Kanawha** intersect; thence up the river with the **Greenbriar** and **Montgomery** line to the intersection of **Monroe** line; thence with the Monroe and Montgomery line to the upper end of **Pine’s plantation**; thence a straight line to the mouth of **Rich creek**, leaving the plantation of **Hugh Caperton** on the right; thence with the Montgomery and Monroe line to the intersection of **Botetourt** county line, and with the Botetourt and Montgomery line to the top of **Gap mountain**; thence along the top of said mountain to **New river**, crossing the same to the end of **Walker’s creek mountain**; thence along the top of said mountain to the intersection of **Wythe county** line; thence north-westwardly with said line to the intersection of **Tazewell** line, and with the Tazewell and Montgomery line to the top of **Wolf creek mountain**; thence along Wolf creek mountain to a path leading from the **Round Bottom** to **Harman’s mill**, about three miles below the mouth of **Clear Fork** of **Wolf creek** [current **Bland Co.** area]; thence a straight line to the **Big Spring** on **East river**; thence a straight line to the mouth of **Militin’s fork**; thence a direct line to the head of **Crane creek** on the top of the **Flat-top mountain**; thence down said river until it intersects with **Kanawha county** line; thence with the said line to the beginning

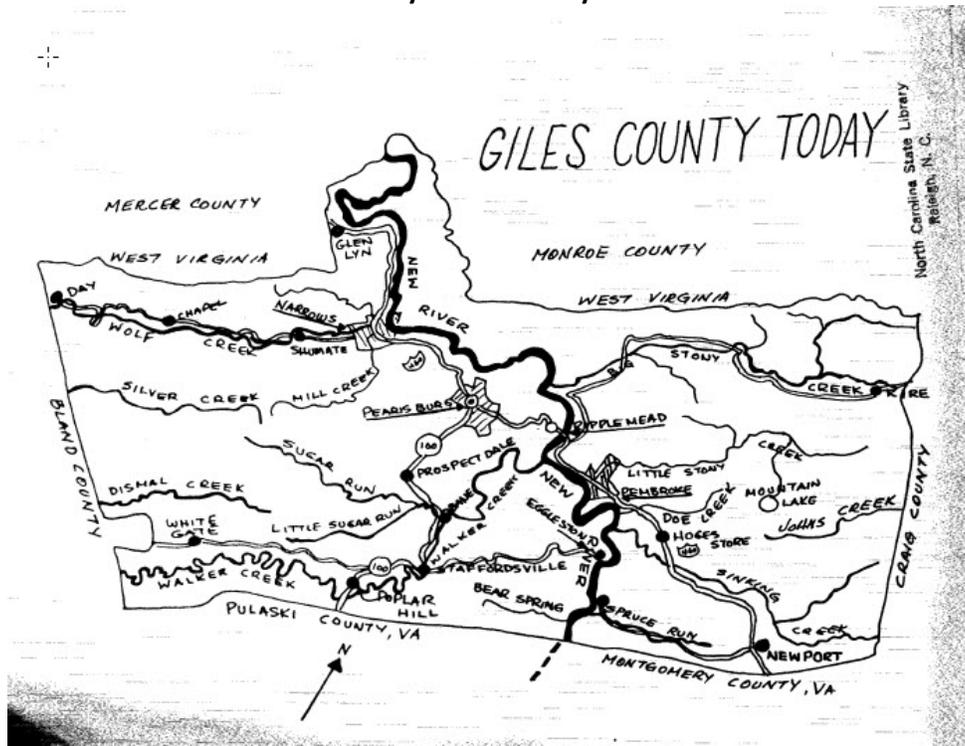
shall, from and after the first day of May next, form one distinct county, and **be called and known by the name of Giles county. ...”**

“The said county of Giles shall remain in the same district with the county of **Monroe**, for which district courts are holden at the Sweet springs, and be of the same brigade district.”¹⁰¹

¹⁰⁰ Montgomery Co., VA, 1806 Land Book, unnumbered pages, semi-alphabetical entries; imaged on LoV Land Tax Books microfilm 197.

¹⁰¹ Charley L. Davis, *Giles County, Virginia, Personal Property Tax List 1806 and Giles County Land Tax List 1806; County Court Order Book Minutes and Selected Marriages* (Oakton, VA: P.p., 1980), preface, pp. A-1 and A-2.

Map 7
Giles County: 20th Century Bounds¹⁰²



13 JULY 1806
GILES COUNTY, VA

County appointments

At its first session, held at the house of George Pearis Gent., **George Pearis**, Thomas Shannon, Christian Snidow, David French, David Johnston, Edward McDonald, Isaac Chapman, John Kirk, John Peck, Christopher Champ, John Burk, and James Bane Junr, were recognized as justices of the peace for the county. Henley Chapman Gent. produced his license to practice law in the superior and inferior courts and was appointed attorney for the commonwealth.¹⁰³

John Toney, ferry keeper, was granted license to keep an ordinary. ...

“On the application of **John Toney** to have a new road Opened from the seat of Justice of this county county [*sic*] to the mouth of **East River** it is Ordered that **James McClougherty**, Gabriel Moppings [Maupin], and John Peters Jnr. [after] being sworn before a Justice of the Peace, do view the Ground along which such road is proposed to be conducted and report to this court Truly and impartially the course... which will result as well to individuals as to the public ...

“On the application of **George Pearis** to have a new road opened from **John Toney's** to Pearis' Mill on the **Black Lick Creek**, It is ordered that Robert Clendenen, Charles Walker Jr., **James White** and **John**

¹⁰² Charley L. Davis, *Giles County, Virginia, Personal Property Tax List, 1806; and Giles County Land Tax List, 1806; County Court Order Book Minutes and Selected Marriages* (Oakton, VA: Privately Printed, 1980), unnumbered page.

¹⁰³ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 1: unnumbered pp. 1–3; imaged on *Family Search* digital film 008151678.

White Jnr. Or any three of them” whould view the region and choose the best path for the road.¹⁰⁴

COMMENT:

I have not located “Black Lick Creek.” **Toney’s ferry** and **mill** were at or near the mouth of East River on New River. The next waterway below Toney’s was **Wolf Creek at The Narrows**, where a Mill Creek flowed SE toward **Pearis Mountain**. This appears to be the site of Pearis’ Mill. Pearisburg, the county seat, lay about 5 miles east (downriver) of the narrows, between Wolf Creek and Sugar Run of Walker Creek.

On 15 April 1816 and again on 15 April 1817, while Toney owned land adjacent to the Whites, he executed two land leases for which **William Mills** was the witness. No other records have been found for this William Mills in Giles County. He appears to be the William Mills (with the Witt Y) of Franklin County—proposed brother of Samuel—appears on the 1816 Franklin tax roll with an unexplained notation after his name: “William Mills G.C.”

1806

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

List of John Hoge, 86th Regiment Militia, Montgomery Co. Arranged semialphabetically by first letter of surname.¹⁰⁵

“W” section. Consecutive entries:

James White	1 tithe, 0 slaves, 2 horses or mules, 24¢ tax	5 Apr
Robert Wilburn		5 Apr
Benjamin White	1 tithe	5 Apr
[skip 5]		
John White Jur.	1 tithe, 0 slaves, 1 horse or mule, 12¢ tax	8 Apr
John White, Sr.	3 tithes, 0 slaves, 2 horses or mules, 24¢ tax	8 Apr
[skip 21 other Ws]		
William Wilburn	2 tithes, 0 slaves, 1 horse or mule, 12¢ tax	23 Apr
Arthur White	1 tithe, 0 slaves, 1 horse or mule, 12¢ tax	23 Apr

COMMENT:

All White entries for Giles County are extracted for this year, to provide an overview of the family in this year that Giles was created and the year before Samuel Mills left the parental home and married. In brief:

- **Arthur (“Arter”) White**, if we evaluate solely from the 1799–1807 tax data, could be a son to either John White Sr. or John ‘S’ White. (If the latter, then John ‘S’ White and John White Sr. were almost certainly close kin, given the associational overlaps.) However, other records suggest John Sr. as his likely father. In 1800, for example, he signed a petition with John Sr. and the latter’s sons Benjamin, John Jr., and James. Again, in 1807, “Arther” and “Arter” White, together with James White, witnessed marriage documents for Samuel Mills and Rachel

¹⁰⁴ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 1: unnumbered p; imaged on *Family Search* digital film 008151678.

¹⁰⁵ Giles Co., 1806 Personal tax roll; imaged at *Family Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 7 September 2019) > image 46 of 250.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

Prince; “Arter” also served as one of Samuel’s bondsmen. He has not been found in Giles County courthouse records past those actions for Samuel.¹⁰⁶

- **Benjamin White**, the apparent eldest of John’s sons, owned land on Wolf Creek that he would sell in 1808 to John Toney.¹⁰⁷ Robert Wilburn who is listed adjacent to Benjamin White on this 1806 tax list was (according to an 1818 road order) a neighbor of John Toney’s Ferry, off East River.¹⁰⁸ Together, these two documents suggest that Benjamin’s land was very near the point that Wolf Creek emptied into East River. Robert Wilburn also appears adjacent to John White Sr. on the 1810 and 1820 censuses, as well as the 1814 and 1816 tax rolls. The fact that all these lists are roughly alphabetized by first letter of surname leave exact neighbors open to speculation, but given that there were several dozen “W” households in the county, the consecutive position of these two men on four separate rolls is suggestive.
- **James White**, who came onto the tax roll in 1799, should also be the son of John Sr. He would later file for land at Salt Pond Mountain, above Doe Creek on the west side of New River and opposite Walker Creek; but in this year 1806, he was still landless. Given that his tax list was collected this year on the same day as Benjamin, odds are he was living and working with the landed Benjamin. (Because Benjamin married in 1787 and James was 16–21 in 1797, they would not be father and son.)
- **John White Jr.** (who variously appears on the tax rolls as “John White, Hunter,” “John White, H,” John H. White, John Hunter White, and Jack White) was married to Nancy Copley. In 1804 he patented land near his inlaws at Camping Hollow, on the West side of New River near Walker’s Creek, which he sold in 1809.¹⁰⁹ Camping Hollow should be his location this year.
- **John White Sr.**, husband of Frankey Mills, should be on his 95 acres at Big Spring between East River and Wolf Cr., several miles west of New River.

The three tithables in John Sr.’s household this year should include

- **John** himself
- Frankey’s son **Samuel Mills** who is a year short of marriage.
- A family member not yet identified.

With regard to the unidentified tithe:

- Any son of John White, by Frankey, would be four years shy of tithable age.
- The tax rolls show no males coming onto the rolls across the next five years, who might be the extra youth over 16 in John and Frankey’s 1806 household.

Multiple possibilities exist for exploration, particularly these two:

- In 1801, John Sr. was charged with a new tithe, one who was dropped in 1802. In 1803 and 1804 (as noted above) one “**William White**” signed petitions together with John Sr. and his sons; but that William was never taxed in Montgomery. Either he lived outside the county or

¹⁰⁶ All known evidence for Arthur is laid out in the previously cited report, “Whites of Montgomery & Giles Counties, VA: Disambiguation between Johns & an Overview of Offspring, Based on Tax Rolls, Legislative Petitions, and Other Legal Records.”

¹⁰⁷ Giles Co., VA, Deed Book A: 198-99.

¹⁰⁸ Giles Co., VA, Order Book 4 (1817-1822), unnumbered page; imaged as *Family Search* digital film 008151679 > image 227.

¹⁰⁹ Virginia, Land Office Grants, vol. 56, 1797–1798, pp. 588–89; imaged at *Library of Virginia* (https://lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01LVA_INST:01LVA&lang=en : accessed 5 October 2019); currently, searches by name must be made through this gateway). Giles Co., VA, Deed Book A: 181–82.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

was else in the employ of someone who was charged with his tithes. If this William was John's son by his first marriage, then he may have temporarily returned to the family.

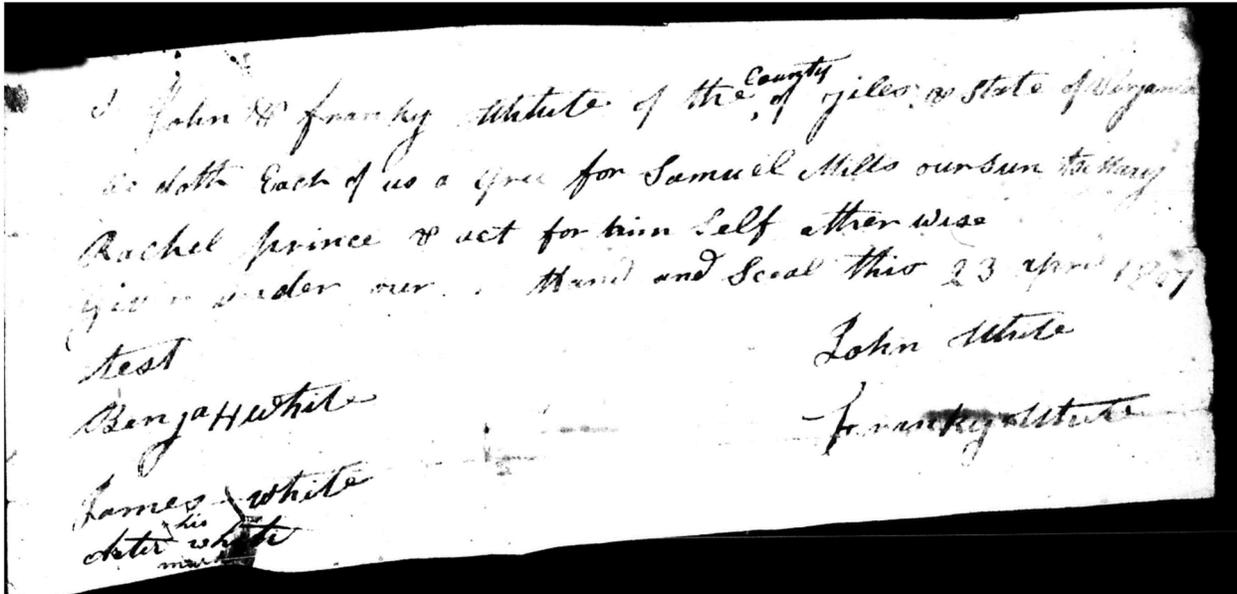
There also exists the possibility that this William could have been Franky's son, using the stepfather's surname as many boys in this era did when their fathers were not known to them.

RESEARCH NOTES:
SAMUEL'S ADULTHOOD

23 APRIL 1807
GILES COUNTY, VA

Marriage permission

I, John & Franky White [sic] of the County of Giles & State of Virginia do doth [both] & Each of us agree for **Samuel Mills** our sun [sic] to marry [marry] **Rachel prince** & act for him Self other wise. Given under our Hand and seal this 23 April 1807. [Signed] **John White. Franky White.** Test: **Benj^a H White, James White** (X his mark), **Arter White** (X his mark).¹¹⁰



I John & Franky White of the County of Giles & State of Virginia
do doth Each of us a agree for Samuel Mills our sun to marry
Rachel prince & act for him Self other wise
Given under our Hand and Seal this 23 April 1807
Test
Benj^a H White
James White
Arter White
his mark
John White
Franky White

29 APRIL 1807
GILES COUNTY, VA
Marriage bond

¹¹⁰ Giles Co., VA, Marriage Bonds [and Permissions], 1806–1820, unindexed, unnumbered, rough chronological order; LoV Giles Co. microfilm 21.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

We, John & Rachel Prince of Giles County do here by Each of us a gree for **Samuel Mills** to obtain License for matrimony for him self & our Daughter Rachel Prince a gree able [sic] to their wish given under our hands & Seals this 29th Day of April 1807. [Signed] John Prince (his X mark). Rachel Prince (her mark).
Test: **Arther White** (his X mark).

The image shows a handwritten document in cursive script. The text reads: "We John & Rachel Prince of Giles County do here by Each of us a gree for Samuel Mills to obtain Licence for matrimony for him self & our Daughter Rachel Prince a gree able to their wish given under our hands & Seals this 29th Day of April 1807". Below the main text, there are two signatures: "Arther White" with "his mark" written below it, and "John & Rachel Prince" with "her mark" written below it. The document is aged and has some staining.

6 MAY 1807
GILES COUNTY, VA
Marriage bond

"Know all men by these Presents that we **Samuel Mills** William Murphy and **Arter White** are held and firmly bound unto William H. Cabell Esqr. Governor of the commonwealth of Virginia for the time being and his Successors in the pannel Sum of one Hundred and fifty dollars to be Leveed of our Several goods and Chattels Lands and tenements for the use of the said commonwealth upon condition If there is no Lawful cause to obstruct a marrage between **Samuel Mills** and **Rachel Prince** for which a marriage License have been obtained then this obligation to be Void. Otherwise to remain in full force & _____. Signed & Sealed this 6th day May 1807 **Samuel Mills** {LS} Arter white {LS}¹¹¹ & William Murphy {LS}. Test: David French [Clerk of court]."¹¹¹

COMMENT:

Vogt's abstract is as follows:

"**Samuel Mills** & Rachel Prince. 6 May 1807; b[ondsman] Arter **White** & William Murphy. Perm[ission] **John & Franky White**, parents; wit[nesses] **Benjamin H. & James White**. Per[mission] John & Rachel Prince, parents (29 Apr); wit[nesses] **Arther White**.¹¹²

¹¹¹ Giles Co., VA, Marriage Bonds [and Permissions], 1806–1820, LoV Giles Co. microfilm 21.

¹¹² John Vogt and T. William Kethley Jr., *Giles County, Marriages, 1806–1850* (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1985), 53–54.

Know all men by these Presents that we Samuel
Mills William Murphy and Arter White are held and
firmly bound unto William H. Cabell Esq. Governor
of the Commonwealth of Virginia for the time being and
his Successors in the pecuniary Sum of one Hundred
and fifty dollars to be Levied of our Several goods
and Chattels Lands and Tenements for the use of the
Said commonwealth upon conditions If there is
no Lawfull cause to obstruct a marriage between
Samuel Mills and Rachel Prince for which
a marriage License have been obtained
then this obligation to be paid otherwise to remain
in full force and effect Signed Sealed this
17th day May 1807

David French
Samuel Mills
Arter White
William Murphy

Seal
Seal
Seal

COMMENT:

- Arter's repeated involvement in the Mills-Prince marriage plans suggests that he, like James, was a son of John White Sr.—i.e, the two Whites were stepbrothers of Samuel Mills. (Countering this hypothesis, however, are Arter's repeated tax-roll connections to a John

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

Mills whose tax data suggests he was the son and heir of John 'S' Mills's 35 acres on Little Sugar RUn.)

- When Samuel applied for bounty land in 1855, he cited his age as 67, placing his birth before within twelve months before November 1788. At marriage, he would have been nineteen or twenty.¹¹³
- The marriage entry in the reconstructed Giles Co. register, imaged below, names no parents for Samuel at all and only Rachel' father.¹¹⁴
- **William Murphy** was about to be Samuel's brother-in-law. On 14 October 1806, Murphy married **Nancy Prince**.¹¹⁵ On the 1810 census of Giles, he is one house from Samuel and Rachel. He typically appears one or two listings from Samuel on Giles' personal-tax rolls until he left the county between the tax rolls of 1818–19.

6 MAY 1807
GILES COUNTY, VA
Marriage

REGISTER OF MARRIAGES																	
DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE	FULL NAME OF THE PARTNER		AGE AND CONDITION BEFORE MARRIAGE				PLACE OF THEIR BIRTH		PLACE OF THEIR RESIDENCE		NAMES OF THEIR PARENTS		OCCUPATION OF HUSBAND				
			HUSBAND		WIFE		HUSBAND	WIFE	HUSBAND	WIFE	HUSBAND	WIFE					
			Yrs	Mo	Days	Yrs	Mo	Days	Married	Widow							
August 17, 1806	John	Elizabeth	25	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806		
August 18, 1806	John	William	25	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806		
August 19, 1806	John	William	25	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806		
August 20, 1806	John	William	25	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806		
August 21, 1806	John	William	25	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806		
August 22, 1806	John	William	25	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806		
August 23, 1806	John	William	25	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806		
August 24, 1806	John	William	25	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806		
August 25, 1806	John	William	25	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806		
August 26, 1806	John	William	25	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806		
August 27, 1806	John	William	25	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806		
August 28, 1806	John	William	25	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806		
August 29, 1806	John	William	25	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806		
August 30, 1806	John	William	25	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806		
August 31, 1806	John	William	25	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806	18	1806		

1807
GILES COUNTY, VA
Land tax roll¹¹⁶

Consecutive entries:

¹¹³ Samuel's bounty land affidavit is filed within his widow's pension application, previously cited. See images 322481947, 322481950.
¹¹⁴ Giles Co., Register of Marriages, 1806–1870; p. 23; imaged at *Family Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 7 September 2019) > image 31 of 25; citing microfilm 1928317, digital film 7490220.
¹¹⁵ "Virginia, Compiled Marriages, 1740–1850," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : 13 October 2019); citing Jordan R. Dodd, *Early American Marriages: Virginia to 1850* (Bountiful, UT: Precision Index Publishing, n.d.), n.p.
¹¹⁶ Giles Co., VA, 1807 Land Book, unnumbered pages, semi-alphabetical entries; LoV Land Tax Books, roll 115.

“W” section

Wm Preston & **John White**: 95 acres, \$34 value, \$.16 tax

COMMENT:

- No Mills entry in the county.
- The tax roll contains one other John White entry: the 35 acres that remained in the possession of John ‘S’ White on Sugar Run of Walker’s Creek was taxed this year for the first and last time. The tax payer was said to be “John White,” apparently the John who emerged with Arter on the 1799 tax roll. The 35 acres appears to have been sold. This 1807 entry marks the last record found for the land or for Whites on Sugar Run.

1807

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

No entry for Samuel Mills.

15 APRIL 1807

GILES COUNTY, VA

Court orders

Grand jury returned a presentment against **James White** and Caleby Stowers for fighting on 14 April 1807. Also against **John White** and William Stowers for fighting the same day. Also against Mordecai Stowers and Archibald Blankenship, same charge, same day.¹¹⁷

COMMENT:

As subsequently seen, John White Sr. (husband of Frankey) would later serve as bondsman for the charges against James White and John White Jr.

14 JULY 1807

GILES COUNTY, VA

Court orders

John Toney petitions for a ferry at “one computed mile below the mouth of Wolf Creek.”¹¹⁸

COMMENT:

As previously hypothesized, this should place him below the crosshatched area (The Narrows) on Map 7.

24 JUNE 1807–1825

GILES COUNTY, VA

Estray notices

COMMENT:

I read this register through 1825. Nothing relevant found.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁷ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 1: 69-70; imaged on *Family Search* digital film 008151678.

¹¹⁸ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 1: 92; imaged on *Family Search* digital film 008151678.

¹¹⁹ Giles Co., VA, Estray Book 1; imaged on FLHL microfilm 1928291, item 1.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

15 AUGUST 1807
GILES COUNTY, VA

Land sale

William McComas to **Elijah McComas**, all of Giles. Sale for 50£, 170 acres part of 460 acres granted to the said WM by bargain and Sale by **David McComas**, granted to David McComas by George Pearis and Rebeca his wife and granted to **George Pearis** by Letters Patent in Montgomery **W side** of **New River**. Signed: **David McComas, William McComas**. Witnesses: **J. Burk, John Sartain, James Aldredge**.¹²⁰

COMMENT:

George Pearis was an adjacent landowner to the William Preston–John White tract at Big Spring. He (the founder of Pearisburg) owned several tracts in the county. I have not yet researched him closely enough to determine whether or not he lived on the tract adjoining John White.

Elisha Sartain, who was married to Sarah **Mills** by Rev. Ross of Walker Creek Baptist Church had a brother, uncle, and cousin named **John Sartain**.

The McComases appear frequently amid subsequent records relating to Samuel Mills, who named his first son David. That forename was not a common one in Giles.

1808
CABELL & GILES COUNTIES, VA

Personal tax roll

COMMENT:

No such roll exists. The State of Virginia did not pass a tax act this year.

13 SEPTEMBER 1808
GILES COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Benjamin White (x) and **wife Ann** of Giles to **John Toney and John McClaugherty** of same, sale for \$326.67 in hand paid, 98 acres on **Woolf Creek**, a branch of **Bluestone**. No witnesses.

Proved December Court 1808 by witnesses John Brown, John Burk, and John Snidow.¹²¹

Proved 13 December 1808, by witnesses John Snidow & John Brown & John Burks. Ordered to be recorded.¹²²

COMMENT:

Benjamin White married Ann Goodwin, daughter of Micajah Goodwin, in Amherst Co. on 10 July 1787.¹²³ After selling the land above (on which Benjamin was never taxed, and for which no deed is recorded in county records), they appear to have moved onto new land a bit westward—land that would soon fall into the county of Cabell (created 1809).

The first personal-tax roll of Cabell, dated 1809, includes not only Samuel Mills but also a Benjamin, James, and John White. The young James and John would soon leave. Benjamin remained on the roll there.

¹²⁰ Giles Co., VA, Deed Book A: 51–52; imaged on LoV Giles Co. microfilm 1.

¹²¹ Giles Co., VA, Deed Book A: 198–99; imaged on LoV Giles Co. microfilm 1.

¹²² Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 1: 219; imaged on *Family Search* digital film 008151678.

¹²³ Amherst Co., VA, Marriage Bonds & Consents, 1783–1788; imaged on LoV Amherst Co. microfilm 105.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

No 1810 census exists for Cabell. The Benjamin White household appears to be enumerated in 1810 on the Giles side of the line. Their entry identifies the newly adult Benjamin H. White as the head of household but includes an older couple of age of his parents and younger family members of age to be his siblings.

Re the co-purchaser of this land, **John McLaugherty**: In 1811, he married Sally Dingess, the apparent mother of one **Sally Mills** who in 1824 reached the age of fourteen and chose John McLaugherty as her legal guardian.

Meanwhile, in the 1810–15 timeframe, Sally Dingess’s brother Charles A. Dingess had a daughter by one **Elizabeth White**; both the mother and the daughter were named in Charles’s 1835 will.¹²⁴ In 1815, Charles Dingess served as surety for the constable bond posted by Cornelius White.¹²⁵

See subsequent discussions under 1824 and 1835.

1809–1819

GILES COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll¹²⁶

Consecutive entries:

“M” section

MILLS: No

“P” Section

Wm Preston & John White: 95a, \$34, \$.16

COMMENT:

Note that John White is still listed as an “owner or tenant” of the land—that being the columnar heading used on this tax roll. However, the responsibility for paying the tax has shifted to Preston. This situation would remain through 1819. In 1820, Preston dropped John White’s name from their joint entry.

1809

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

No entry for Samuel Mills.

20 JUNE 1809 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

CABELL COUNTY, VA

Tax roll

M List of 6 May¹²⁷

McNealy, Richard

McNealy, David

¹²⁴ Giles Co., VA, Will Book B: 110–13

¹²⁵ Giles Co., VA, Probate Book A: 155; imaged as *FHL digital film* 007645086 > image 230.

¹²⁶ Giles Co., VA, 1809 Land Book, unnumbered pages, semi-alphabetical entries; LoV Land Tax Books, microfilm 115.

¹²⁷ Cabell Co., VA, 1809 Personal Tax Roll, unnumbered pages, semi-alphabetical entries, LoV Personal Property Tax Records, microfilm 64.

Moore, Thos.

Mills, Samuel 1 white male 16+, 0 horses or mules

McComas, Elisha

McNealy, Wm. Sr.

McNealy, John

W List

Workman, Joseph

Workman, James

White, John 1 white male 16+, 2 horses or mules, .24

White, James 1 white male 16+, 0 horses or mules , 1 stud horse @\$1.50, .36

White, Benjn. 1 white male

Workman, Jacob

COMMENT:

A quick survey of Cabell deeds show this Benjamin there until at least the early 1820s, during which time this cluster of Whites interacted in Cabell with John Toney of Giles, as well as Toney's brother William who had also moved to Cabell and become the county sheriff.

James White of Cabell in 1810 purchased 300 acres on the Guyandotte and dropped off the tax list in 1812. John dropped off the Cabell tax list in 1811. In 1822, "James White of Guyan" would be taxed in Giles Co., in the Brush Creek neighborhood of William and Thomas White who appear to be sons of Benjamin.

Benjamin H. White, son of Benjamin, is routinely in Giles Co. records of the 18-teens. Giles seems to have been his home. But he can also be found Cabell court records of the 1820s.

Many other Giles Co. families are also in Cabell, including Blankenship, Brumfield, Chapman, Peter Dingass, Guttery/Guthry, Hatfield, Marcum, Marrs, Maupin, Maxey, McComas, Muncey, Napper [Napier], Snodgrass, and Toney. Cabell deeds show that several of them also moved out to the Guyandotte.

12 APRIL 1809

GILES COUNTY, VA

Court order

Philip Miller vs **John White [Jr.] & James White.**

"**John White [Sr.]** who was appearance bail for the Defendant John White [Jr.] comes into Court and offers to enter himself Spl bail to which the att^o for the plff objected as the appearance bail was insufficient and filed an objection to that, whereupon the Court Desided that the appearance bail was Sufficient & admitted Special bail for the **Defendant John White [Jr.]**."¹²⁸

COMMENT:

It is obvious from this and subsequent court orders that there were two John Whites involved. The first was the defendant John who, with James White, had participated in a brawl with the Stowers brothers in 1807. The second John in the Miller case, who served as financial surety for the younger men, should be John Sr., their father.

¹²⁸ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 1: 234; imaged on *Family Search* digital film 008151678.

1 JUNE 1809
GILES COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Peter Dingess Senr to John Dingess & Charles Dingess, all of Giles. In consideration of 100£ and the promise of John and Charles to “feed clothe and support the said Peter Dingess and Mary his wife their father and mother during their natural lives and to find them a quiet decent and comfortable support, grants 100 acres in the “vallies of **East River.**” Witnesses: *David French, Wm. Smith, John Toney*, Peter Blankenship (x), **Benj H White.**” Proved June Court 1809 by witnesses French, Smith, and White.¹²⁹

COMMENT:

As seen below:

- 25 April 1815, Charles Dingess served as surety for Cornelius White’s performance bond as a newly appointed constable for Giles.
- 12–13 November 1835, Samuel Mills, his brother-in-law William Prince, and Thomas White were purchasers at Charles Dingess’ estate sale.
- David French who witnessed the above gift with Benjamin H. White and the Toney is named as “son-in-law” in the Dingess will below. French was
 - brother-in-law of the justice John McClaughterty who Sally Mills chose as her guardian in 1824;
 - brother-in-law of Charles Dingess who fathered a daughter by Elizabeth White, c1810–15;
 - the county justice before whom Samuel Mills posted his bond to marry in 1807.

A Dingess son not named in this document, Peter Dingess Jr., had by this time removed to Cabell where he, too, interacted with the Whites.

2 JUNE 1809
GILES COUNTY, VA

Association

Peter Dingess makes his last will and testament. Wife Mary, sons Charles, John, daughters Elizabeth *Smith* and Nancy Henderson, and Peggy Dingess; son-in-law *David French* to be executor with son John, Negro woman Jude. Witnesses: **John Toney, Benj. H White**, Peter Blankenship (x), Shaderick Blankenship (x). Proved November Court 1809, Giles, by oaths of John Toney and Peter Blankenship.¹³⁰

COMMENT:

No marriage record has been found yet for Benjamin H White. The cluster of families in this record would be an appropriate starting point to seek his wife.

Re **Nancy Henderson**: On 11 November 1796, the widowed Ann Henderson, Samuel Henderson, and John Hutchison, as administrators of John Henderson, petitioned the legislature to establish a ferry across New River from the Henderson land in Greenbrier Co. to John Toney’s land in Giles.¹³¹

¹²⁹ Giles Co., VA, Deed Book A: 132-33.

¹³⁰ Giles Co. VA, Probate Book A: 24–25; imaged on FHL digital film 007645086 > image 158.

¹³¹ “Legislative Petitions Digital Collection,” database with images, Library of Virginia, *Virginia Memory* (<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions> : accessed 27 October 2018), Record No. 000601006; citing Accession Number 36121, Box 93, Folder 39.

13 JUNE 1809
GILES COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Philip Miller against **James White & John White [Jr.]**. In Debt. **John White [Sr.]** who was Spl bail for John White [Jr.] surrendered the said John White [Jr.] in Court In discharge of his recognizance and he is prayed In custody of the Sheriff.”¹³²

COMMENT:

Philip Miller signed the 1803 and 1804 petitions in very close proximity to John White Sr. and Jr., Benjamin, James, and William White.

15 SEPTEMBER 1809
GILES COUNTY, VA

Court order

“**John Toney** against **William Murphy**. *Nimrod Smith*, **Benjⁿ H White**, Thomas Little & Jesse Blankinship who Justified Spl bail.

“**Toney & Co.** vs Same, the same, the same Justifi^d Spl bail.”¹³³

COMMENT:

William Murphy, for whom Benjamin H. White serves as special bail, was brother-in-law of Samuel Mills, having married Rachel Prince’s sister. Murphy also served as a surety on Samuel Mills’s marriage bond.

Nimrod Smith married 6 January 1795 to Sally Walker, daughter of Charles Walker Sr. Her brother Charles Jr. signed the 1800 petition from Wolf Creek in very close proximity to the White cluster “John White Sr.,” “John White Jr.,” and James, Benjamin, and Arter White.”¹³⁴

1810
CABELL & GILES COUNTIES, VA

Personal tax roll

No entry for Samuel Mills.

25 APRIL 1810
GILES COUNTY, VA

Court order

Grand jury returned a true bill against “**John White**” and others. Charges not shown.¹³⁵

AUGUST 1810
GILES COUNTY, VA

Census

Semi-alpha by first letter of surname, as per tax roll

¹³² Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 1: 258; imaged a *Family Search* digital film 008151678.

¹³³ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 2 (1809–1811): 7; imaged on *Family Search* digital film 008151678.

¹³⁴ Legislative Petitions Digital Collection,” database with images, Library of Virginia, *Virginia Memory* (<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions> : accessed 19 February 2019), citing accession Number 36121, Box 337, Folder 16.

¹³⁵ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 2 (1809–1811): 63; imaged on *Family Search* digital film 008151678.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

“M” section

(p. 627, line 15, first “M” entry)

Sam^l Mills	1 white male 26–44	1 white female 16–25	4 in household
	2 white males 0–10		

COMMENT:

Sequence in which he appears: MILLS, John *Manning*, **William Murphey**, William *Manning*, Frederick Mock, James Mustard.

The census appears to overstate Samuel’s age by four or five years. A minor in 1807 when he married, he could not possibly be 26+ in 1810. His widow’s pension file places his age as 67 on November 1855—i.e., born 1788 and aged 22 at the time of the census.

“W” section

(p. 642; start with line 1)

Williams, John

Wilhite, Joel

Waddle, Robert

Woodlen, Robert

White, John [East River]	1 white male 26–44	1 white female 26–44	10 in household
	1 white male 16–25		
	3 white males 10–15		
	4 white males 0–10		

COMMENT:

This has to be the household of John Sr. and Frankey White. However, the age of the household head is not compatible. Apparently the census taker erred and put a tick mark in the wrong age column. Otherwise the data *is* compatible with the man that the tax rolls occasionally call John Sr.—the man who married Frankey White as “John Senr.” in 1792.

2 MARCH 1811

GILES COUNTY, VA

Marriage

Henry Belsher to Willy Prince. No date other than year. John Prince father. No other data.¹³⁶

COMMENT:

Samuel Mills has now acquired another brother-in-law.

28 APRIL 1811

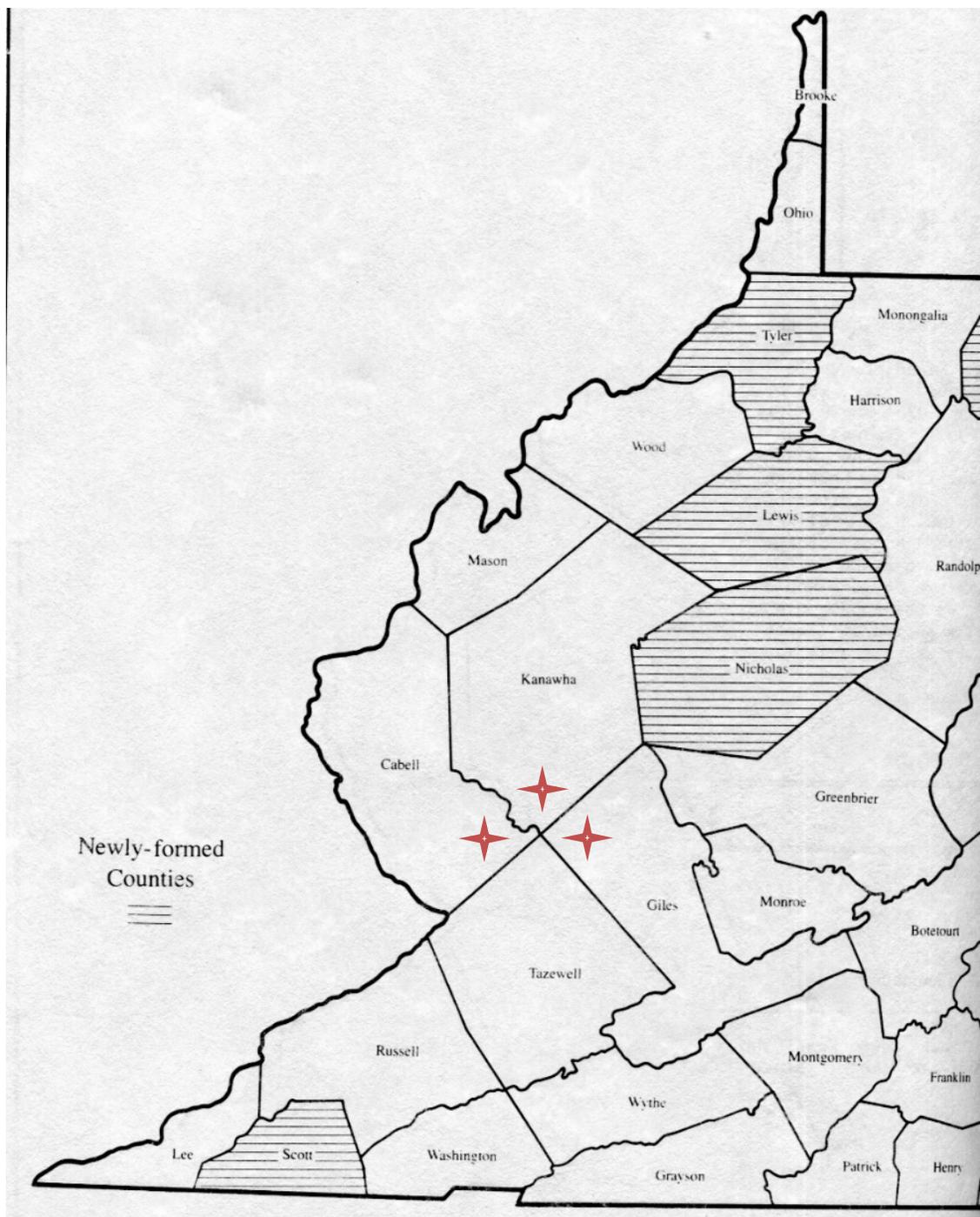
GILES COUNTY, VA

Court order

“On motion of **John Tony**, [*sic*] ferry keeper, leave is Given him to keep an ordinary at his own house in this County under the Law of Ferry keepers and without paying The tax imposed on Ordanary Keepers w

¹³⁶ Giles Co., Register of Marriages, 1806–1870, p. 24; imaged at *Family Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 7 September 2019) > image 32 of 25; citing microfilm 1928317.

Map 8
Western Virginia Counties, 1811–1820¹³⁷



¹³⁷ Snipped from Michael F. Doran, *Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia, 1634–1895* (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1987).

28 MAY 1811

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Giles, 86th Regt. Semi-alpha by first letter of surname.¹³⁸

"M" Consecutive entries:

McLaugherty, James Jr.

[brother of John McClaughterty who (a) bought Benjamin White's land next door to John Toney in 1808; and (b) became the guardian of Sally Mills in 1824]

Meadows, John

Meadows, Edmond

Mills, Samuel

1 tithe, 0 slaves, 1 horse or mule, 12¢

Mullenix, Archabald

Moser, Francis

William Miller

[end of "M" section]

1811

GILES COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll¹³⁹

"M" section

MILLS: No

26 JUNE 1811

GILES COUNTY, VA

Court order

"Ordered that the Sherif collect from Each Tithible inhabitant within the County one dollar and twenty-five Cents to be applyd to ward [*sic*] paying the Claims against the County."¹⁴⁰

COMMENT:

This would be a special assessment in addition to the regular tax assessments on land and personal property.

As noted in this series of tax-roll extracts, tithables had to report themselves annually; but they were not assessed a tithe by the State of Virginia after 1787.¹⁴¹ Counties could levy a special assessment on tithables, as we see here in 1811.

22 OCTOBER 1811

GILES COUNTY, VA

Court order

"Philip Miller for the benefit of Robert Clendenen against **John White Sr., John White Jr., and Benjamin**

¹³⁸ Giles Co., 1811 Personal tax roll.

¹³⁹ Giles Co., VA, 1811 Land Book, unnumbered pages, semi-alphabetical entries; imaged on LoV Land Tax Books microfilm 115.

¹⁴⁰ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 2 (1809–1811): 190; imaged on *Family Search* digital film 008151678.

¹⁴¹ Conley L. Edwards, *A Political History of the Poll Tax in Virginia, 1900–1950* (M.A. Thesis, University of Virginia, August 1973), abstract posted at University of Richmond, *UR Scholarship Repository* (<https://scholarship.richmond.edu/masters-theses/452/>; accessed 12 December 2014).

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

H. White. On a fourthcoming bond. "Notice Proven as to **John White Jr.** and **Benjamin H. White,** Judgt is therefore Granted the Plaintiff for one hundred and forty Eight dollars & Sixty Eight Cents to be discharged by the Payment of Seventy four Dollars thirty four Cents and the costs Subject to a credit of thirty three Dollars paid the tenth day of Decr. 1809, also twenty Seven Dollars paid the 10th day of October 1810 and thirteen Dollars paid on the 25th day of Septr. 1810. [Marginal note:] Cost \$5.26."¹⁴²

1812

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Giles, 86th Regt. Semi-alpha by first letter of surname.¹⁴³

[Start of "M" list, consecutive entries]

Murphey, William

[brother-in-law of Samuel Mills]

McKinzey, James

Mills, Samuel

1 tithe, 0 slaves, 1 horse or mule, 12¢

Maupins, Gabriel

Meadows, Jesse

McDaniel, Edward

Meadow, Joab

Meadows, John

Mares [Marrs], Archibald

[etc.]

COMMENT:

- On 13 July 1806, when **John Toney** petitioned to have a new road opened from East River to the county seat, *Gabriel Maupins* was one of the Toney neighbors appointed to decide the path of the road.
- Maupin—like Obediah Bias, the Napiers, and Sarah Mills—came to Montgomery Co. from Amherst Co. There, Maupin owned land on Grubb Creek & Rocky Creek of the Piney River.¹⁴⁴
- While the tax roll above is semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname, the fact that Samuel Mills's assessment is adjacent to Gabriel Maupin's suggests they were at least in the same neighborhood.
- More specifically, Samuel Mills appears to be in the John Toney community where William Mills of Franklin Co. would emerge in April 1816 and April 1817 witnessing leases for Toney.

26 MAY 1812

GILES COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll¹⁴⁵

"M" section

MILLS: No

¹⁴² Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 2 (1809–1811): 238; imaged on *Family Search* digital film 008151678.

¹⁴³ Giles Co., 1812 Personal tax roll.

¹⁴⁴ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia (1761–1852) & Albemarle County, Virginia (1748–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), many references easily located via index.

¹⁴⁵ Giles Co., VA, 1812 Land Book, unnumbered pages, semi-alphabetical entries; imaged on LoV Land Tax Books microfilm 115.

25 MAY 1813 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

James McClaugherty Company, 86th militia. Semi-alpha by first letter of surname.¹⁴⁶

[Start of "M" list, consecutive entries]

Mulinix, Archibald

Mills, Samuel 1 tithe, 0 slaves, 1 horse or mule, 16¢

Miller, William

McKenzie, Sarah

26 MAY 1813

GILES COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll¹⁴⁷

"M" section

MILLS: No

30 MAY 1814 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Semi-alpha by first letter of surname.¹⁴⁸

Consecutive entries

McKenzie, Sarah

McKinny, Joseph [husband of Elizabeth Copley; brother-in-law of John White Jr¹⁴⁹]

Mills, Samuel 1 tithe, 0 slaves, 2 horses or mules, 42¢

Murphy, William [brother-in-law of Samuel Mills]

Maupin, Gabriel

Miller, William

Muncey, Holton

1814

GILES COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll¹⁵⁰

"M" section

MILLS: No

27 DECEMBER 1814

GILES COUNTY, VA

Court order

¹⁴⁶ Giles Co., 1813 Personal tax roll.

¹⁴⁷ Giles Co., VA, 1812 Land Book, unnumbered pages, semi-alphabetical entries; imaged on LoV Land Tax Books microfilm 115.

¹⁴⁸ Giles Co., 1814 Personal tax roll.

¹⁴⁹ Montgomery Co., VA, Marriage Bonds, 1789–1796, unnumbered documents in rough chronological order; imaged on LoV Montgomery Co. microfilm reel 38.

¹⁵⁰ Giles Co., VA, 1812 Land Book, unnumbered pages, semi-alphabetical entries; imaged on LoV Land Tax Books microfilm 115.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

“On motion of John Newman for an award of an Execution on a forth coming against **Benjamin H White** and **Cornelius White** notice being Proven Judgement is therefore granted the Plt against the said defendents according to bond interest & cost and the Defendents in mercy &c. Absent Isaac Chapman Gent. [one of the justices]”

“John Peters Senr against **Benjamin H White & Cornelius White**. The same.”¹⁵¹

25 APRIL 1815
GILES COUNTY VA

Association

Cornelius White posts bond as constable of Giles County with James **Coplea** [Copley] Charles **Dingess**, and Joshua **Coplea** as sureties.¹⁵²

COMMENT:

Cornelius makes his first appearance on the 1816 tax roll of Giles, suggesting he came of age in 1815. That would place his birth at 1793–94, a time frame suggesting he *could* be Frankey’s first son by John White. However, online trees compiled by descendants of Cornelius claim (without providing evidence) that he was the son of Benjamin by his wife Ann Goodwin. That claim cannot be dismissed, given that Cornelius was a given name within the Goodwin family of Amherst, where Benjamin married Ann in 1787.¹⁵³

The Dingess family bears a connection to the Millses that has not been defined. In 1835, when Charles A. Dingess died, Samuel Mills bought a 1/9 share of a 1/2 share of a piece of land that Charles Dingess was in possession of at the time of his death. The purchase strongly suggests a close relationship.

17 JUNE 1815 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

District of James McClaugherty, Commissioner of the Revenue. Semi-alpha by first letter of surname.¹⁵⁴

“M” Consecutive entries:

McKenzie, Isaac McKenzie

McKinny, Joseph [Samuel Mills’s brother-in-law]

Marrs, Archibald

McKenzie, Henry

Mills, Samuel 1 tithe, 0 slaves, 1 horse or mule, 2 cattle, 21¢

McComas, David

Murphy, William [Samuel’s brother-in-law]

Martin, John

McKenzie, William

Martin, Danie

Muncey, Tunas, Holten, Jacob, Samuel [several of these Muncey men are also taxed in Cabell]

¹⁵¹ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 3 (1812–1817), unnumbered page; imaged on *Family Search* digital film 008151679 > image 112.

¹⁵² Giles Co., VA, Probate Book A: 155; imaged as *FHL digital film* 007645086 > image 230.

¹⁵³ Cornelius Goodwin was one of the administrators of the estate of Ann (Goodwin) Mills’s father Micajah Goodwin, who died before 18 June 1818. See Amherst Co. Probate Book 6: 10 and 6: 31.

¹⁵⁴ Giles Co., 1815 Personal tax roll.

1815
GILES COUNTY, VA
Land tax roll¹⁵⁵

“M” section

MILLS: No

17 FEBRUARY 1815
GILES COUNTY, VA
Militia service

Samuel Mills was drafted this day as a private under Capt. Andrew Johnson of the Virginia Militia and served until 2 March 1815. On 29 August 1878 his widow applied for a pension under the act of 9 March 1878, from Princeton, Mercer County, West Virginia. Although Samuel received bounty land warrant for his service in the early 1850s, his widow’s pension application was rejected “on the grounds of insufficient service prior to Feby. 17, 1815.”¹⁵⁶

2 MARCH 1815
GILES COUNTY, VA
Military discharge

“I Certify on honour that **Samuel Mills** a private in my Company of Rifle now deteached from the 19th Brigade 86th Regt. Vir^a militia in the Service of the United States have faithfully Served as Such from the 17th day of February 1815 to the 2nd day of March 1815 both inclusive and is hereby honourably Discharged agreeable to general orders of the 20th of February Last given under my hand at Giles Court house this 2nd day of March 1815. A. Johnston, Capt.”¹⁵⁷

15 MAY 1816
GILES COUNTY, VA
Lease

Articles of agreement entered into by **John Toney** of Giles Co. and **John Conner** of same. “Witnesseth 1816 where as the above Named John Toney hath Leased to the above named John Conner a Sertain parcel of Land containing of **Sixty acres** it Lying at the East end of a tract of Land containing [194] acres, it being a part of the Same Survey that is Near **Toneys Mill** for the term of Seven years Commensing [15 May 1816] which term Expiers on the [15 May 1823] at which time Said Conner is to leave all the Cleared Land in good order for farming. Or Should Conner Leave the place before the above mentioned term Expiers he is to return it back to the said Toney or his heirs as the case may be and I John Toney being the prier owner do preveledge the said Conner to Clear or improve where he may think proper on said Land in witness my hand and Seal this day and date as above written signed & delived in the presence of us. [Signed] John Toney. Test [witnesses]: Jonathan Toney, **Zachariah Crawford, William Mills.**

¹⁵⁵ Giles Co., VA, 1812 Land Book, unnumbered pages, semi-alphabetical entries; imaged on LoV Land Tax Books microfilm 115.

¹⁵⁶ Nancy Mills, widow’s pension application file, service of Samuel Mills (Pvt., Johnston’s Co., Va. Militia, War of 1812), application 31152, certificate 33868; imaged at “War of 1812 Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files,” database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/322481910> : 14 October 2019), 73 images; especially see image 322481911.

¹⁵⁷ Nancy Mills, widow’s pension application, image 322481948.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

“At Giles **April Court 1819**. This lease from John Toney to John Conner was acknowledged in Court and ordered to be Recorded. Teste David French C.G.C.”¹⁵⁸

COMMENT:

Note under 15 May 1817, Toney made another lease with same general wording, to Zachariah Crawford (witness in the document above), with William Mills again serving as witness. Two such documents, exactly one year apart, with the same set of witnesses can call into question the accuracy of their dates.

It is possible that Toney habitually executed rent contracts on 15 May. (I’ve done so for years on 15 October with a renter’s farm lease.) If this is the case, then William Mills would seem to have been employed by Toney from at least 15 May 1816 through 15 May 1817.

Also note:

- September 1824: When John Toney and his **son Jonathan** were sued for debt in Giles, *Cornelius White* was their special bail.¹⁵⁹
- When James White (son of Benjamin) died in 1828, buyers at his estate sale included Samuel Mills and his son David Mills, **Jonathan Toney**, and a half dozen or so offspring of John White Sr. and Benjamin White.¹⁶⁰
- At the death of **Jonathan Toney** in 1839, purchasers included Samuel Mills and son Robert Mills, Cornelius White, William White and Thomas White—even though Robert and Samuel were residents of the new county of Mercer.¹⁶¹

In short: the Toney and the Mills-White clan were connected across at least four decades, from the 1790s through the 1830s.

25 MAY 1816
GILES COUNTY, VA
Marriage

Cornelius White to Polly Garrason. No parental or other data.¹⁶²

COMMENT:

Rev. William “Garrotson” was the minister who officiated the marriage of Samuel Mills’s son Robert in 1832 and his son William in 1833—as well as Samuel Sr.’s own marriage to Nancy Rinehart c1833. Both Cornelius White and Anna Garrotson, widow of William, made an affidavit in the pension file of Samuel’s widow Nancy.

25 JUNE 1816 [CERTIFICATION DATE]
GILES COUNTY, VA
Personal tax roll

¹⁵⁸ Giles Co., VA, Deed Book B: 85; imaged at *FamilySearch* (<https://222.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4C-MSLD-8?i=826&cat=388492> : downloaded 6 September 2019) > Film 007894524 > image 673 of 860.

¹⁵⁹ Giles Co., VA, Order Book 5 (1822–1829): unnumbered page; imaged on FHL digital film 008151679 > image 463.

¹⁶⁰ Giles Co., VA, Probate Book A: 480?

¹⁶¹ Giles Co., VA, Probate Book B: 177–81; imaged on FHL digital film 007645086 > images 544–46.

¹⁶² Giles Co., Register of Marriages, 1806–1870, p. 26; imaged at *Family Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 7 September 2019) > image 34 of 250. The marriage bond also needs to be obtained for additional data.

Semi-alpha by first letter of surname.¹⁶³

"M" Consecutive entries:

Marrs, John
Mannon, John
Mongold, John
McKinney, Joseph [brother-in-law of John White Jr.]
Mller, William
McKinzie, Daniel
McKinzie Sarah
McCommas, James
Murphey, William [brother-in-law of Samuel Mills]
Maxey, Elizabeth
Mangold, Michael
Mills, Samuel 1 tithe, 0 slaves, 2 horses or mules, 36¢ [cattle are not taxed his year]
Muncey, Jacob
Muncey, Holton

1816

GILES COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll¹⁶⁴

"M" section

MILLS: No

15 MAY 1817

GILES COUNTY, VA

Lease

Articles of agreement entered into by **John Toney** of Giles Co. and **Zachariah Crafford** of same. "Witnesseth 1817 Whereas the above Named John Toney hath Leased to the above named Zachariah Crafford a Certain parcel of Land containing of Fifty acres by Survey in the **Bent of East River above Toney's Mill** for the term of Seven years Commencing this [15 May 1816] which term Expiers on the [15 May 1824] at which time Said Crafford is to leave all the Cleared Land in good order for farming. Or Should Crafford Leave the place before the above mentioned term Expiers he is to return it back to the said Toney or his heirs as the case may be and I John Toney being the prier owner do prevaledge the said Crafford to Clear or improve where he may think proper on Said Land in witness my hand and Seal this day and date as above written signed & delived in the presence of us. [Signed] John Toney. Test [witnesses]: **John Conner**, Jonathan Toney, **William Mills**.

"At Giles April Court 1819. This lease from John Toney to Zachariah Crawford was acknowledged in Court and ordered to be Recorded. Teste David French C.G.C."¹⁶⁵

COMMENT:

¹⁶³ Giles Co., 1816 Personal tax roll.

¹⁶⁴ Giles Co., VA, 1812 Land Book, unnumbered pages, semi-alphabetical entries; imaged on LoV Land Tax Books microfilm 115.

¹⁶⁵ Giles Co., VA, Deed Book B: 84–85; imaged on LoV Giles Co. microfilm 1.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

Map 7 suggests that the “Bent of East River above Toney’s Mill” was the dip (about 1 or 2 miles) west of East River’s juncture with New River. Toney’s Mill should be below the “Bent” (i.e., close to New River). This places the leased land between Toney’s Mill and Five Mile Creek.

23 JUNE 1817

GILES COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll¹⁶⁶

Book 1, Compiler not identified

“M” section

MILLS: No

24 JUNE 1817 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Semi-alpha by first letter of surname.¹⁶⁷

“M” Consecutive entries:

McNeeley, James

McDaniel, Joseph

Murphy, William

[Samuel Mills’s brother-in-law]

McComas, James

Mills, Samuel

1 tithe, 0 slaves, 2 horses or mules, 36¢

McClagherty James

[see the note of 29 September 1818, for his location]

McKiney, Joseph

[m. Eliz. Copley, whose bro. Thos. Jr. was bondsman for John to marry Frankey]

21 JULY 1817

GILES & AUGUSTA COUNTIES, VA

Land sale

Andrew Fulton & Archibald Stuart Jr., executors of the estate of **Benjamin Stuart**, decd. of Augusta Co., to **Benjamin White**, for \$200 Virginia money, sale of land [acreage not given] in Giles (formerly Montgomery) on **Christians Fork** of **Brush Creek**, **joining the lands of John Toney** and **Charles Neil**, decd. Land was granted 7 July 1791 to Benjamin Stuart. Described as:

Beginning at two white oaks & hickory Corner to **Toney’s Land**, Running thence with the same N 13° 210 poles to two white oaks in a hollow, Corner to **Toney**, N 60° W 108 poles to two white oaks by the creek, S 79° W 140 poles to a double swamp white oak by the Creek, S 220 poles up a branch to a double poplar on the N Side of a ridge, thence S 87° E 278 poles to the Beginning.

“Being the Same Land that was granted to the said Benjamin Stuart by patent dated” 7 July 1791.

No witnesses. Proved in Augusta by certification of Claudius Buster and William Davis, magistrates saying Fulton and Stuart had acknowledged the deed before them on 26 July 1817. Proved in Giles Court, March 1818.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁶ Giles Co., VA, 1812 Land Book, unnumbered pages, semi-alphabetical entries; imaged on LoV Land Tax Books microfilm 115.

¹⁶⁷ Giles Co., 1817 Personal tax roll.

¹⁶⁸ Giles Co., VA, Deed Book B: 16–17; imaged on LoV Giles Co. microfilm 1.

COMMENT:

- The purchaser is Benjamin **H.** White. See his signature on the sale of this land on 26 April 1819, below.
- Benjamin H. White, who is now about 30, has suddenly come into money. He is making two payments of \$200 each for about 400 acres adjoining John Toney. This might signal an inheritance from the unidentified family of his wife. His own father, if he died by this time, did so without leaving property that was probated. The estate of his mother's father in Amherst Co. was not opened until 1818.¹⁶⁹
- Claudius Buster was previously of Albemarle > Amherst.

25 NOVEMBER 1817

GILES COUNTY, VA

Land sale

Travis Stowers and wife **Elizabeth** to **Cornelius White**, all of Giles sell for \$225 in hand paid, 127 acres in Giles County, on **East River**, surveyed for James Turner, beginning at mouth of **Harmons branch** on conditional line of **Wm Garrison**, running past Richard **Blankenship's** "conditional marked line." Proved in Giles Court December 1817 by Acknowledgement by Stowers after examination of Elizabeth.¹⁷⁰

COMMENT:

- This East River location places Cornelius in the region of Benjamin and John Sr.
- Harmon's Branch of East River was the next major stream above Five Mile Creek. See Map 9.

Travis Stowers and Benjamin H White were in close proximity or a close relationship as early as February 1810 when both were summoned to appear before the Superior court at the next term as witnesses in the trial of Adam, Eziel, and Benjamin Smith who were charged with grand larceny for carrying away hemp from the premises of Isaac French. (Other witnesses were John and William French, Jeremiah Jones, James Purdue, Sarah Boling, John Caperton, William Boling, and Susanna Jones.)¹⁷¹ The Bolings were the inlaws of Zachariah Crafford, the John Toney renter whose land lease was witnessed by William Mills in 1817.¹⁷²

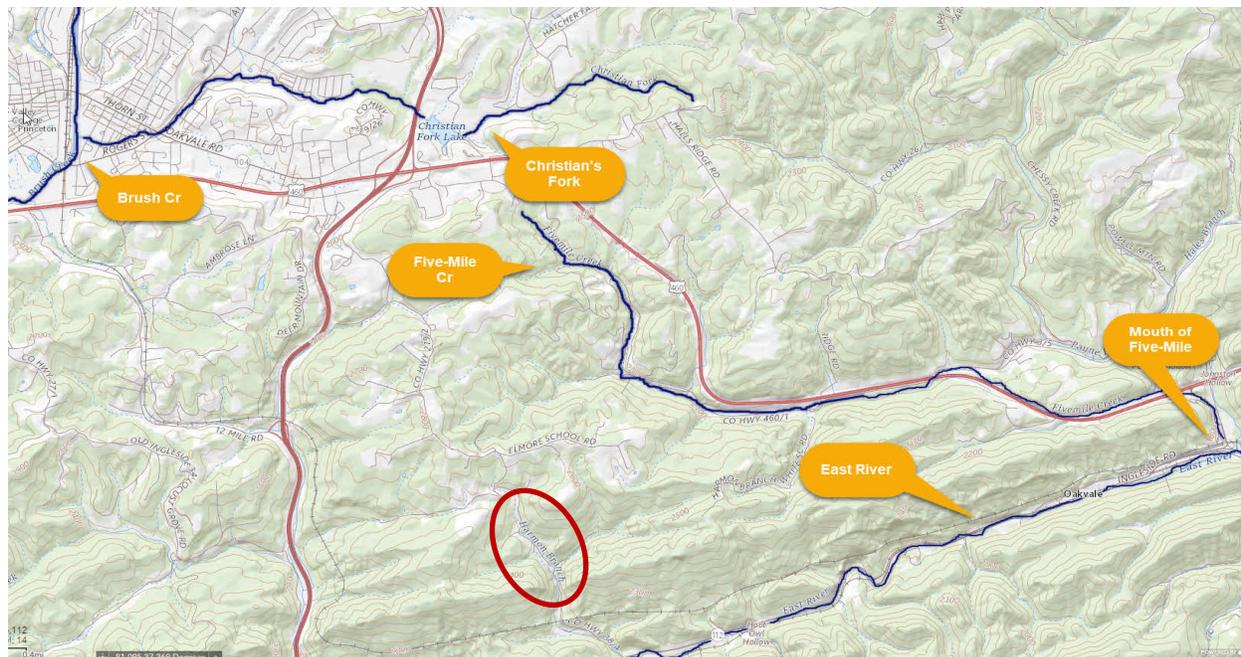
¹⁶⁹ Amherst Co., VA, Probate Book 5: 10, estate of Micajah Goodwin.

¹⁷⁰ Giles Co., VA, Deed Book A: 515–16; imaged on LoV Giles Co. microfilm 1.

¹⁷¹ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 2 (1809–1811): 49–51; imaged on FHL digital film 008151678.

¹⁷² Zachariah Crafford (aka Crawford) married Jane Boling, daughter of Jesse, on 24 December 1811. See Giles Co., Register of Marriages, 1806-1870, p. 24; imaged at *Family Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 7 September 2019) > microfilm 1928317 > image 32 of 250.

Map 9
Harmon's Branch of East River



25 JUNE 1818 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Semi-alpha by first letter of surname. Only some entries are dated.¹⁷³

"M" Consecutive entries:

McNeeley, James

McDanold, Joseph

Murphy, William

McComas, James

[brother-in-law of Samuel Mills]

Mills, Samuel

1 tithe, 0 slaves, 2 horses or mules, 36¢

McClagherty James

McKinney, Joseph

Maxey, Elizabeth [skip 3]

Muncey, Holton, etc.

[brother-in-law of John White Jr.]

30 JUNE 1818

GILES COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

"M" Section

MILLS: No

¹⁷³ Giles Co., 1818 Personal tax roll.

Two new White entries:

White, Cornelius	120a \$43, \$.33 “on E. River Joining Peashure land 20 NW Deeded by Wm. _____ Mont ^y & Co.”
White, Benjamin H	388a \$200, \$1.50 “Christians fork of Brush Cr. By Toneys L. 25 NW, deeded by Benja. Stuarts Exrs. 248a, \$140, \$1.13 Sd fork near the same, deeded by same

29 SEPTEMBER 1818

GILES COUNTY, VA

Court order

“On the application of **Benjamin H White** and **John White** for an alteration of the road from the **mouth** of the **Five mile fork** of **East River** to the poney crossing of **Brush Creek**, it is ordered that **James McClagherty, John McClagherty, Robert Wilbern, and Philip Peters** or any three of them ... view the way perposed [*sic*] ... and report to this Court.”¹⁷⁴

COMMENT:

Requests for alterations in roads were made by landowners who lived on those roads. Unfortunately, the identity of the “John White” of this record is ambiguous. The two possibilities would be these:

- John Sr., who was still an occupant or co-owner of the 95 acres at Big Springs on East River, being taxed to William Preston.
- John, son of Benjamin. The 1809–10 Cabell County tax rolls suggest that Benjamin H.’s father (Benjamin, son of John), had a son named John who was taxed in 1809 and 1810 but left the county in 1811. That John would be brother to the Benjamin H.

Re McClagherty:

- As shown in the road minute above under 2 July 1818, McClagherty and Wilbern lived on East river “near” [above] Toney’s Mill.
- As noted above under December 1808, John McClagherty and John Toney bought the Wolf Creek land of Benjamin H. White’s father Benjamin in 1808.
- As shown below, McClagherty is also the man who would become the financial guardian of Sally Mills in 1824.

Brush Creek of the Bluestone, near 5-Mile Fork of East River on west side of New River, fell into Mercer County after 1837, as did Samuel Mills’s land.

The 1850 census of Mercer places the “Philip Peters Estate” next door to Samuel Mills. I have not yet investigated Philip Peters.

26 APRIL 1819

GILES COUNTY, VA

Land sale

Benjamin White and wife **Nancy** to **Daniel McKinzie**, all of Giles Co., sale for \$400 cash in hand paid, 388 acres in Giles County (formerly Montgomery) on the S side of **Christian’s Fork of Brush Creek, Joining**

¹⁷⁴ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 4 (1817–1822), unnumbered page; imaged on *Family Search* digital film 008151679 > image 234.

20 SEPTEMBER 1819

GILES COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Christian Peters makes an *en masse* title clearance to 1700 acres for \$34 in favor of Ely Blankenship, **Francis Prince**, Jeremiah Jones, William Tiller, **Travis Stowers**, Lindsey Davis, Robert Stuart, David Payne, Lewis Ford, Samuel B. Blankenship, **Samuel Mills**, **John Copley**, Henry Bailey, Jonathan Bailey, George Bailey, **John White Senr.**, **William White**, **John White Junr.**, **James White**, William Miller, John Clendenon, William Swinney, John Gunoe Sr., John Gunnoe Junr, William Gunnoe, Jacob Gunnoe, Robert Gunoe, John Smith, James Rowland, Isaac Cole, and Jacob **Straley** Junr., all of Giles. Said land was part of a tract of 75,000 acres patented to Robert Pollard and sold for taxes, then conveyed by the Sheriff of Wythe County to John Headrick and others and by them to Joseph Fletcher and others and by them to Christian Peters and James **Mullins**. The 1700 acres being conveyed are in Giles Co. on **East River Mountain, beginning at the Tazewell County line ... up the N side of the Mountain to the top, thence down the Mountain toward New River.** ... No adjacent landowners are named. No witnesses. Acknowledged by Peters and proved at April Court 1820.¹⁷⁸

COMMENT:

- 31 men are named. \$34 is said to be the price for all of them. At the typical token sum of \$1 each, three men would be missing.
- Benjamin H. White is not included in this neighborhood grouping.
- 1819 is the year that John White Sr. is dropped from co-ownership of the Big Springs tract with William Preston. His inclusion in the title-clearance document strongly implies that he has acquired a piece of land of his own in the same neighborhood. However, no probate has been found for him by which the land was passed to his heirs or sold to settle the estate.
- William White of this record is not the William White who signed petitions with John Sr. in 1803 and 1804. Tax rolls show this William of Brush Creek coming on the roll in 1815. Tax groupings are ambiguous as to whether this is a son or grandson of John Sr. John's son Benjamin had sons coming to tithable age at the same time.
- Note on Map 1 that the Tazewell-Giles County line runs beside "Big Spring" near the western end of East River Mountain. *The National Map* shows the county and state line between present Bland County, VA (formerly Giles) and Mercer County, WV (formerly Giles) running with the peak of the mountain range. It also marks a Mercer County site "**Mills Valley**" about **1.5 miles north of the county/state line on "Big Spring Branch"** where Interstate 77 crosses Jug Neck Road.

5 JUNE 1820 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Semi-alpha by first letter of surname.¹⁷⁹

"M" Consecutive entries:

Miller, William

¹⁷⁸ Giles Co., VA, Deed Book B: 166–67.

¹⁷⁹ Giles Co., 1820 Personal tax roll.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

[skip about 20]

McDonald, Stephen		14 Mar
McDonald, Edward		14 Mar
McDonald, Joseph		14 Mar
Mills, Samuel [East Riv Mtn]	1 tithe, 0 slaves, 2 horses or mules, 36¢	14 Mar
Mullins, John		20 Mar
Mannon, John Jr		
Mustard, James		
Miller, Charles [skip 4]		
McComas, David		
Melvin, Hezekiah		
Marrs, Archibald		
Marrs, Andrew		
Marr, Hugh		

COMMENT:

Samuel's brother-in-law William Murphy is not on the Giles Co. tax roll or census this year or thereafter. Men of his name were heads of households in the following Western Virginia counties:

- Berkeley
- Monongalia
- Rockbridge
- Wood
- Brooke
- Nicolas
- Stafford

About twenty more were in Ohio, but not in Gallia or Lawrence counties, to which other Giles kith and kin moved.

I have not had time to track these various William Murphys to determine whether one represents Samuel's missing kin.

AUGUST 1820
GILES COUNTY, VA

Census

Semi-alpha by first letter of surname, as per tax roll

(p. 119 verso, stamped; begin line 13)

Muncy, Zachariah
Muncy, Holten
Mullens, James
Mares, Archabald
Marshal, James
Mare, Daniel
Mare, Amos
Miller, Sarah

Mills, Samuel	1 male 26–44	1 female 26–44	8 in household
	1 male 10–15	1 female 0–10	2 in agriculture
	4 males 0–10		

Meadows, William
Meadows, William Jr.
[Mc] Graw, William
Mglaughlin, William
Mongolet, William
[*end of M's*]

2 NOVEMBER 1820

GILES COUNTY, VA

Court orders

“Goodbille Lesse vs Blankenship, Cont’d.”

“Same vs. **White**, the same. “Same vs. **Mills [Mitts?]** the same.” “Same vs. Dillion, the same.”¹⁸⁰

COMMENT:

The name almost certainly is Mills. The two tall upstrokes have a line through them but that line appears to have been meant for the “t” in the word that followed the name.

“Goodbille Lesse” was not a real person. The plaintiff in this case should be read as “Goodbille, Lessee (i.e., renter). “Goodbille” or “Goodtitle” were fictional names that courts sometimes used in process suits to clear titles to property.

This suit appears to be precursor to the 2 August 1827 title clearance (see below) from James Hector and wife to Peter and William Moore Blankenship, Green Dillion, David Mills, et al.

30 JANUARY 1821

GILES COUNTY, VA

Court orders

“Ordered that **Cornelius White, William White**, John Walker & Chrispyanos Walker or any three of them being first Sworn do appraise the personal Estate of **William Prince & Matthew Erickson** and make a report thereof to the Court.”¹⁸¹

COMMENT:

William Prince’s widow married Matthew Erickson. By 1821, she was Erickson’s widow also. Erickson’s estate appears to have been commingled with property left by the first husband.

26 JUNE 1821

GILES COUNTY, VA

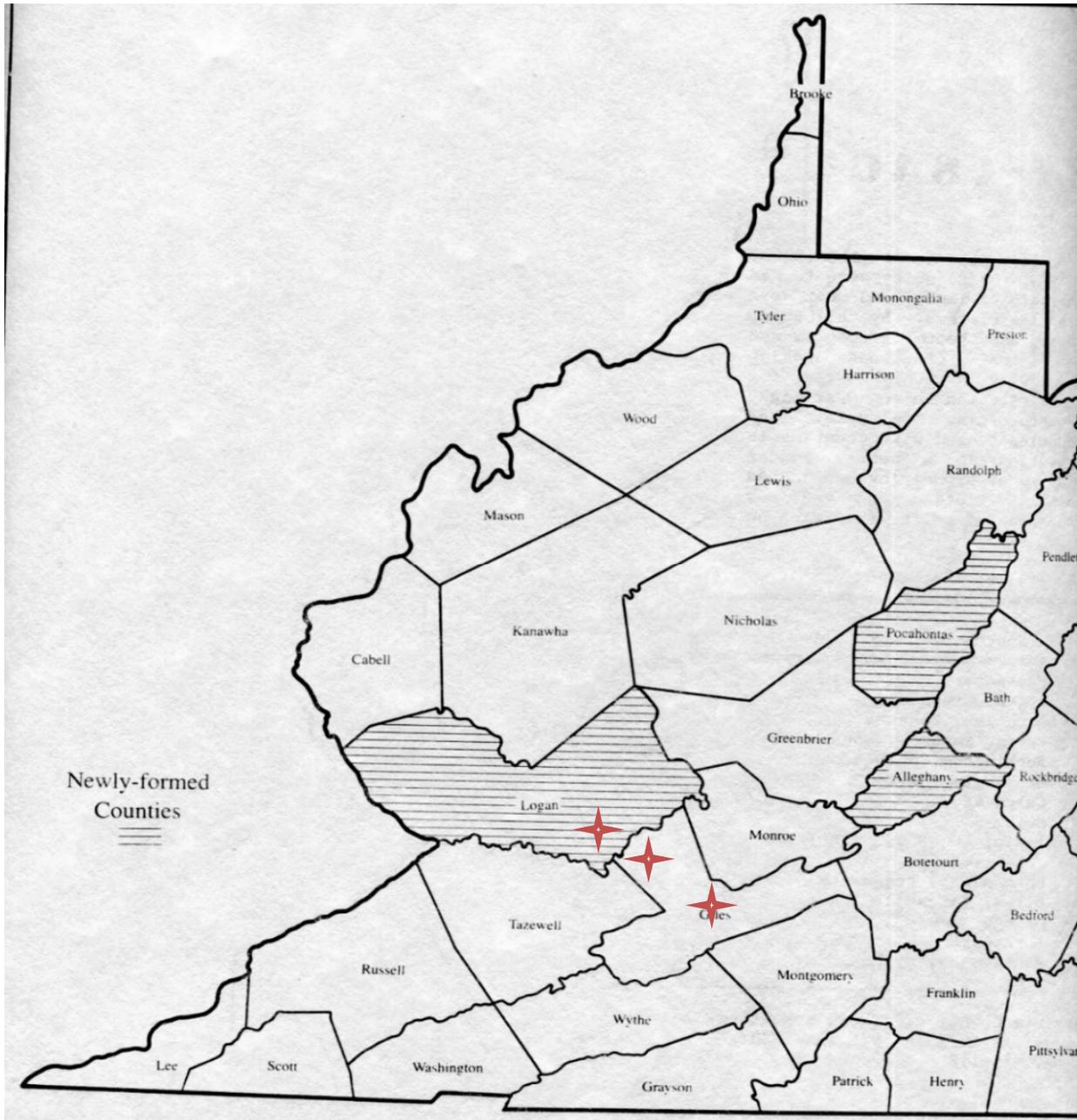
Tax roll

Samuel Mills apparently was not taxed on either the personal or land rolls.

¹⁸⁰ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 4 (1817–1822), unnumbered page; imaged on FHL digital film 008151679 > image 292.

¹⁸¹ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 4 (1817–1822), unnumbered page; imaged on FHL digital film 008151679 > image 299.

Map 10
Western Virginia: 1821–30¹⁸²



¹⁸² Snipped from Michael F. Doran, *Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia, 1634–1895* (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1987). Logan County was created in 1824 from parts of Cabell, Giles, Kanawha, and Tazewell. The Bias, Brumfield, and other Giles associates of the Millses and Whites ended up in Logan—as did a dozen or so apparent offspring of John Sr., who are itemized on the 1830 census. **Logan County records have not yet been studied.**

25 SEPTEMBER 1821

GILES COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Edmund Morgan of Montgomery Co. to **John White Seigner** of Giles Co., sale for \$20 of 65 acres being part of 365 acres patented to John Grant on 23 November 1798 lying in Giles County on the **Side of the Buckeye Mountain** and on the **Waters of the Bear Spring**, Waters of New River,

Beginning at two white oaks and a black oak on the Patent line and with the same N 60° E 68 poles to two black oaks in a **hollow on Alsups** line and with the same N 18° E 100 poles passing his corner to a black oak and two white oaks on the spur of the Mountain, N 8° W 40 poles with the patent line thence leaving the same S 84° W 72 poles to a chesnut oak and Locust On the mountain S 10o E 162 poles to the beginning

No witnesses named. Acknowledge by Morgan “before two Justices of the peace and returned into Court. September term 1821.”¹⁸³

COMMENT:

The John White “Seigner” of this Bear Springs in lower Giles is the John who married Hannah “Nancy” Copley. Prior records call him “John Jr.” and “John Hunter White.” (In 1822, the couple would sell part of this land; see Deed Book G: 389.)

The word “Seigner” in this document is written very clearly. The index entry that was made contemporaneously is “White, John, Sen^r.” Clearly, “Senior” is the designation intended.

This use of *Sr.* for the former John *Jr.*, implies that **the older John who married Frankey has died**. Note that when Giles split in 1824, the John “*Sr.*” who ended up in Logan County is the age of “John Jr.” (aka John H.), not that of Frankey’s husband.

31 JULY 1821 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Semi-alpha by first letter of surname; no dates.¹⁸⁴

“M” Consecutive:

McKenzie, Daniel	1 tithe, 0 slaves, 2 horses or mules, 27¢
McKinney, Joseph	2 tithes, 0 slaves, 4 horses or mules, 54¢
Mills, Samuel [East Riv Mtn]	1 tithe, 0 slaves, 1 horse or mule, 13.5¢
Mullins, James	1 tithe, 0 slaves, 1 horse or mule, 13.5¢
Meadoes, Jacob	1 tithe, 0 slaves, 1 horse or mule, 13.5¢
Martin, Guidian	
Meadows, George	
Meadows, William Jr.	

29 MARCH 1822

GILES COUNTY, VA

Court orders

¹⁸³ Giles Co., VA, Deed Book B: 327–28; imaged on LoV Giles Co. microfilm 1.

¹⁸⁴ Giles Co., 1821 Personal tax roll.

“Goodtitle Lessee vs. Dillion. In ejectment, cont’d.”

“Same vs. **White** in ejectment, same.

“Same vs. Blankenship in ejectment, same.

“Same vs. **Mills** in ejectment, same.”¹⁸⁵

24 JUNE 1822 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Semi-alpha by first letter of surname; no dates.¹⁸⁶

“M” Consecutive entries:

Maxy, John

Maxy Thomas

Maxy, Josian

McKenzie, Alexander

McKinney, Joseph 2 tithes, 0 slaves, 5 horses or mules, 67.5¢

Mills, Samuel 1 tithe, 0 slave, 1 horse or mule, 13.5¢

Medder, Jacob

Martin, Guidian

Meadder, George

Meadder, William

26 JUNE 1822

GILES COUNTY, VA

Court orders

~~“Goodtitle vs. Dillion same [cont’d]~~

~~Same vs. **White** same.”~~

~~Same vs. Blankenship same.”~~

~~“Same vs. **Mills** same.”¹⁸⁷~~

27 AUGUST 1822

GILES COUNTY, VA

Court orders

“Goodtitle Lessee of on the demise of Pollard &c against Richard Blankenship – the same vs. John Dillon – same versus **Cornelius White**, & against **Saml Mills** – on four ejectments. The plaintiff come into court & dismisses his said actions, therefore it is considered by the court that they severally recover their costs against Christian Peters Lessee of the plaintiff.”¹⁸⁸

30 SEPTEMBER 1823 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Semi-alpha by first letter of surname.¹⁸⁹

¹⁸⁵ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 4 (1817–1822), unnumbered page; imaged on FHL digital film 008151679 > image 343.

¹⁸⁶ Giles Co., 1822 Personal tax roll.

¹⁸⁷ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 4 (1817–1822), unnumbered page; imaged on FHL digital film 008151679 > image 357.

¹⁸⁸ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 4 (1817–1822), unnumbered page; imaged on FHL digital film 008151679 > image 363.

¹⁸⁹ Giles Co., 1823 Personal tax roll.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

"M" Consecutive:

Mannon, John Jr.

Mannon, Andrew

Mills, Samuel [East R Mtn] 1 tithe, 0 slaves, 2 horses or mules, 24¢

McKenzie, Alexander

Maxy, Thomas

Miller, William

McKenzie, Daniel

25 MAY 1824

GILES COUNTY, VA

Court orders

"Sally Mills comes here into Court and made Choice of **John M. McLaugherty** hir Guardian whereupon the said John McLaugherty appeared in Court and intered in to bond with Henry Harmon his Security in the Sum of one hundred dollars conditioned as the law directs."¹⁹⁰

COMMENT:

To choose a legal guardian, Sally would have achieved her fourteenth birthday but still be under twenty-one—i.e., born 1803–10. Typically these guardianships were assigned for minors in two situations:

- They were about to be married and had no living parent to sign for them. This significantly impacts the claim that Sally was a daughter of Samuel Mills and Rachel. Given that Samuel is still alive, he would be the male legally required to give permission for his daughter's marriage.
- They were minors who had some inheritance to be "guarded." Given that Samuel and Rachel (Prince) Mills were the only Mills couple in the county from 1807, Sally's 1810 birth and the fact that a Prince administration was in progress might suggest that she was Samuel and Rachel's daughter, that Rachel is now dead, and that Sally is in line to receive a share of her mother's share of the estate. *However:*

The pension application file for Samuel's second wife places Rachel's death as a year or so before his marriage to Nancy Rinehart. If Rachel was still alive (as the 1830 census implies) then she would be the heir to the parental property, not her daughter. Also, if this appointment was made for inheritance purposes, then a daughter of Samuel and Rachel would have had at least one older brother who was also of age to choose his guardian; the order books offer no such record for him.

All points considered, no legal predicate seems to exist for us to assign this Sally to the household of Samuel and Rachel.

Another explanation should be explored:

- This John McLaugherty was a county justice in 1824. In the previous decade, John's brother James McLaugherty had been the county justice to whom Cornelius White had gone to post a marriage bond. In 1808, John McLaugherty and John Toney, in partnership, bought Benjamin White's Wolf Creek land. The McLaugherty were steady associates of this Mills family.

¹⁹⁰ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 5 (1822–1829): unnumbered; imaged on *Family Search* digital film 008151679, image 442.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

- John McLaugherty, on 12 August 1813, had married one Sally Dingess,¹⁹¹ a woman of full legal age whose family also were neighbors and associates of the Whites and Samuel Mills.¹⁹² Sally's choice of McLaugherty as her guardian when she reached the legal age to do so suggests that she may be a daughter born to Sally Dingess before the older Sally married McLaugherty.
- For more evidence on this subject, see 12–13 November 1835, below.

29 JUNE 1824 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Semi-alpha by first letter of surname.¹⁹³

"M" Consecutive entries:

Mares, Nathan

Mullins, John

McLaughertys

Medder, Ephrem

Medder, Jordan

Meder [*sic*], Jacob Senr.

Mills, Samuel 1 tithe, 0 slave, 3 horses or mules, 36¢

Mullins, James

McKenzie, Alexander

McKinney, Joseph [brother-in-law of Samuel Mills]

28 JUNE 1825

GILES COUNTY, VA

Court orders

"A Report of the road from Joseph Fletchers to William McDowells on Bluestone returned into Court under the signatures of **Joseph Fletcher, William White** and **James White**. Therefore it is Considered by the Court the said road will be public utility and the same is accordingly established, and that Joseph Fletcher be appointed overseer of the same and that he with the hands to be allotted him by William Garrison, Abram Garrison, Thomas Little and **Cornelius White** open and keep the same in repair."¹⁹⁴

COMMENT:

From this location, we can see that this William and James White would not be the same-named men who were sons of John Sr. The full run of Giles tax rolls and other documents in my previously cited Giles County report suggests these are newly adult sons of Benjamin—siblings to Benjamin H.

7 OCTOBER 1825 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

¹⁹¹ Therese A. Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley, Virginia: Montgomery, Floyd, Pulaski, and Giles Counties* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2008), 155.

¹⁹² For example, see the will of Peter Dingess, 2 June 1809, and the land transfer by Peter Dingess and his wife to two of their sons on 1 June 1809; both documents were witnessed by Benjamin H. White (grandson of John Sr.) and John Toney; Giles Co., VA, Probate Book A:24–25; and Deed Book A: 132–33.

¹⁹³ Giles Co., 1824 Personal tax roll.

¹⁹⁴ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 5 (1822–1829): unnumbered; imaged on *Family Search* digital film 008151679, image 494.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

Mares, Archabald		14 April
Mares, Samuel		“
Mills, Samuel [East R Mtn]	2 tithes, 3 horses, .36	“
Martin, David		“
Martin, Mary		“
Miller, Tobias		“
Meaders, John		“
[skip 8]		
Maxey, Josiah & Thomas		20 April

COMMENT:

Samuel now has a tithable-aged son, apparently. This should be David, who is added adjacent to him on the next year’s tax roll.

11 JULY 1827 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Semi-alpha by first letter of surname¹⁹⁹

“M” Consecutive entries

Maxey, Thomas		25 March
Maxey, Thomas		“
Maxey, Josiah		“
Mills, Samuel [E River Mtn]	2 whites, 3 horses, .36	“
Mills, David	1 white	“
McDaniel, John		“
Mahood, Alexander		

COMMENT:

David should be Samuel’s oldest son and the young tithable for whom Samuel was charged in 1826, presumably the first tax year after he turned 18. This suggests David’s birth about 1808.

The new tithable in Samuel’s charge should be son William, first taxed in his own name in 1828.

2 AUGUST 1827

GILES COUNTY, VA

Land sale

James Hector and **wife Charlotte** to Thomas Walker, Cornelius Haldron, Hezekiah Melven, Israel Jones, Peter **Blankenship**, Green **Dillion**, William Moore Blankenship, Elijah Browning, **David Mills**, Joel Davis, **Benjamin White**, Jesse Davis, **James White**, John Shrewsbury, Samuel Thomas, William **Prince**, **Wesley White**, James **Prince**, Joseph **Workman**, William Bowling, Benjamin **Workman**, Jeremiah Shrewsbury, Jesse Thomas, Charles Spangler, Jacob Meadows Junior, George Spangler, Joseph Ball, John **Maupins**, John Purdue, Parkinson Shoewmate, Thomas Perdue, **Thomas White**, Archibald Clendenning, James Thompson, **Isaac White**, **John Conner**, **Zachariah Crawford**, Jeremiah Cockburn, Andrew Thompson (as undivided but joint purchasers) of **Giles, Tazewell, and Monroe Counties, VA**, on the other part and

¹⁹⁹ Giles Co., VA, 1827 tax roll; imaged on FHL digital film 007849123.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

their heirs forever, a certain tract of Land lying on the **N side of Bluestone River**, Giles County, Virginia, containing” 1973.5 acres (be the same more or less) and bounded as follows ...²⁰⁰

Beginning at a Spanish Oak, poplar and White oak on a **south side of a ridge, near the forks of a branch & near Jas. White’s** Corner, Thence S 58° W 592 poles to two Black oaks and a locust near a cave, Thence S 41° E 615 poles crossing Several branches and a high ridge to three White oaks near a **Swampy place**, Thence N 61° E 563 poles Crossing two branches to two white oaks & a red oak in a **brush Hill side**, Thence N 39 ½° W 637 poles to the Beginning

“being part of a Survey granted to W. C. Nicholas and legally Conveyed to the said James Hector by deed recorded in Tazewell County County [sic] books.”

Signed: James Hector, Charlotte Teresa Hector. Witnesses: *Wm. Smith*, Efraim Meadows, “on 27 Sept’ 1827 at Dingess.” Introduced Giles October court 1827 by oaths of *William Smith* and Ephaime Meadows and continued for further proof. ... And on the 17th day of April 1828 the same was acknowledged before me in my office by James Hector and ordered to be recorded.” Signed: David French CGC.²⁰¹

COMMENT:

- Note that **John Conner** and **Zachariah Crawford**, whose 1816–17 leases of **John Toney’s** land were witnessed by **William Mills**, are still together a decade later. By this time, both Conner and Zachariah have acquired land in the Samuel Mills-White-Prince neighborhood.
- Note the **Bowlings** in the neighborhood of Mills, Conner, and Crafford. Zachariah Crafford married Jane Bowling, the daughter of Jesse Bowling, in 1811.²⁰²
- The Bluestone, today, flows into New River in Summers County. It peters out in Mercer County, near Brush Creek, a few miles NW of Mills Valley.
- **Isaac White** and **Jesse White** were of age to be either John Sr.’s sons by Frankey or Benjamin’s sons by Ann. Given the names of the surrounding landowners, it appears more likely that these two newly adult Whites are sons of John and Frankey—thereby half-brothers of Samuel Mills. Much deeper study of these men must be done before a sound conclusion can be reached.

17 JUNE 1828

GILES COUNTY VA

Probate sale

“A list of sales of **James White’s** Decd property. ... **Thomas White** ... **Samuel Mills** (plow, ax), **Jonathan Toney**, **Cornelius White**, ... *Wm. Bowling* ... **Ribin [Reuben] White**, **Cornelius White**, **Wm. Bowling**, **Wm. White**, **David Mills**, **Jonathan Toney**, **Thomas White**, **David Mills**, **Cornelius White**, **Meeky White** [many items, apparent widow] ... Note on Jonathan Toney ... *William Wilson*, *Reuben Garretson*, **Samuel Mills**, **William White**. Adm: **Cornelius White & William White**. Proved 17 June 1828 term of court.

COMMENT:

- The deceased James should be the James earlier proposed as son of Benjamin and Ann—grandson of John White Sr.

²⁰⁰ Giles Co. Deed Book C: 414; imaged as FHL microfilm 31728. DB C has no individual index at back or front.

²⁰¹ Giles Co. Deed Book D: 414–15; imaged as FHL microfilm 31728.

²⁰² Giles Co., Register of Marriages, 1806–1870, p. 24; imaged at *Family Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 7 September 2019) microfilm 1928317 > image 32 of 250.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

- David Mills should be the oldest son of Samuel Mills.
- “Ribin” White would appear to be a misspelling of “Reuben”—a likely son of John & Frankey.
- Jonathan Toney was son of John Toney and heir to the land that John Toney leased to John Conners and Zachariah Crafford, with **William Mills** as witness in 1816–17.

14 JULY 1828 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Semi-alpha by first letter of surname²⁰³

“M” Consecutive entries, undated]

Mills, Samuel	1 white, 3 horses, .36
Mills, David	1 white
Mills, William	1 white

COMMENT:

Samuel now has two sons over the age of 18.

30 JUNE 1829 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Semi-alpha by first letter of surname. Undated lists.²⁰⁴

“M” Consecutive entries

Mullins, John

Mills, Samuel	2 whites, 3 horses, .30
----------------------	-------------------------

Meadows, Ephraim

McKenny, Joseph Sr & Jr.

Meadows, Adam

McPherson, Joseph

Mills, David	1 white
---------------------	---------

Morgan, John

28 JUNE 1830 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Semi-alpha by first letter of surname. Undated lists.²⁰⁵

“M” Consecutive entries

Mullins, John

Mills, Samuel	2 whites, 4 horses, .32	[Samuel & Wiliam]
----------------------	-------------------------	-------------------

Mills, David	1 white
---------------------	---------

Meadows, Ephraim

AUGUST 1830

GILES COUNTY, VA

²⁰³ Giles Co., VA, 1827 tax roll; imaged on FHL digital film 007849123.

²⁰⁴ Giles Co., VA, 1829 tax roll; imaged on FHL digital film 007849123.

²⁰⁵ Giles Co., VA, 1830 tax roll; imaged on FHL digital film 007849123.

Census

Penned; semi-alpha by first letter of surname; consecutive entries from start of "M" section

(p. 229)

McCormic, Dennis

McHood, Alexander

McHood, Thomas

Meluloi? (Melvin?), Kirs.

Mills, Samuel	1 wh male 40–50	1 wh female 40–50	5 in household
	1 wh male 15–20	1 wh female 5–10	
	1 wh male 10–15		

McKinny, Joseph

[brother-in-law of Samuel]

Meadows, Ephraim

(p. 230)

Mills, David	1 wh male 20–30	1 wh female 15–20	2 in household
---------------------	-----------------	-------------------	----------------

Meadows, Jurstin [*sic*]

McClagherty, Hugh [*etc.*]

30 JUNE 1831 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Semi-alpha by first letter of surname. Undated entries. The order of names under all letters is radically different from the year before.²⁰⁶

"M" consecutive entries

Martin, John Sen.

Mills, Samuel	2 whites, 3 horses, .18
----------------------	-------------------------

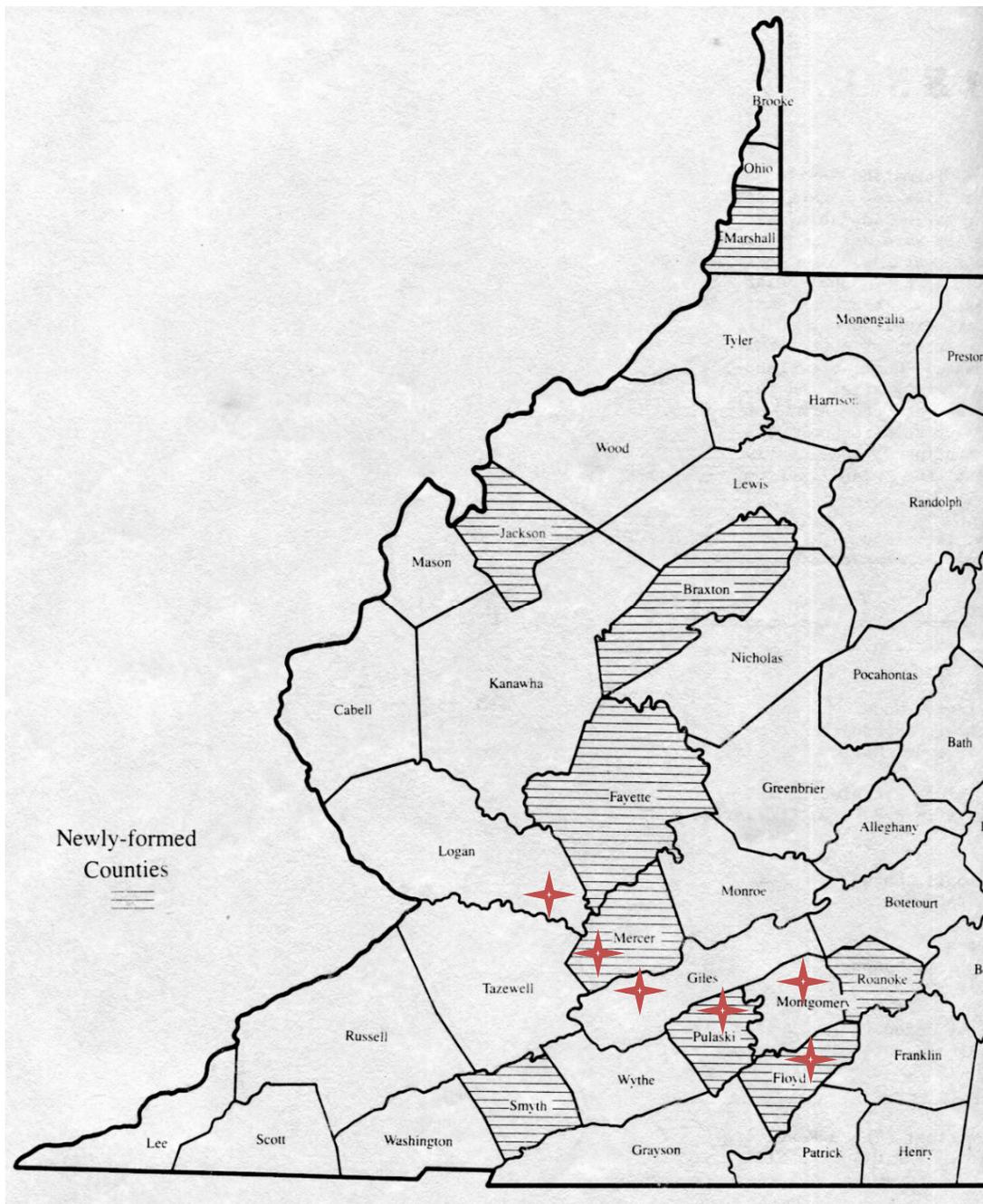
Mills, William	1 white, 1 horse, .06
-----------------------	-----------------------

Mills, David	1 white,
---------------------	----------

COMMENT: Samuel's 3d son has reached 18. This should be Robert.

²⁰⁶ Giles Co., VA, 1831 Personal tax roll; imaged on FHL digital film 007849123.

Map 11
Western Virginia Counties, 1831–1840²⁰⁷



²⁰⁷ Snipped from Michael F. Doran, *Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia, 1634–1895* (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1987). Floyd was created from Montgomery in 1831. Pulaski was created from Montgomery and Wythe in 1839.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

Mills, William	1 white, 1 horse, .06	4 Mar
Mills, David	1 white	4 Mar
Meadows, Adam [skip several dozen to end of "M" section]		

20 SEPTEMBER 1833

GILES COUNTY, VA

Marriage

Samuel Mills and Nancy Rinehart.²¹²

COMMENT:

This alleged date is at least third-hand and the publication from which the database entry took its data does not identify a source for the date. In Nancy's pension application, she gave only the year 1833. Her agent, the attorney **R. B. McNutt**, stated that no record of the marriage existed in the courthouse of either Giles or Mercer. Those who were deposed provided contradictory approximations ranging 1832–34. The only solid evidence is the fact that they were married by Rev. William Garretson, whose widow and son testified to being present at the wedding.²¹³

11 JUNE 1834 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Semi-alpha by first letter of surname²¹⁴

"M" list, consecutive entries, new names added here at first of list]

McLaugherty, John Jnr.	1 white, 1 slave, 3 horses, .43	6 Feb
------------------------	---------------------------------	-------

Mills, Samuel Jnr.	1 white, 1 horse, .06	6 Feb
---------------------------	-----------------------	-------

[no others on list with this date]

[skip 7]

Mills, Joseph W.	1 white, 3 horses, .18	17 Feb [only 1 for this day]
-------------------------	------------------------	------------------------------

[skip 73]

Meadows, Ephrain		22 March
------------------	--	----------

Mills, Samuel Snr.	1 white, 1 horse, .06	22 March
---------------------------	-----------------------	----------

Mills, Robert	1 white, 1 horse, .06	22 March
----------------------	-----------------------	----------

COMMENT:

- Samuel Jr. would have been born c1818.
- William Mills, son of Samuel, is now missing.
- Joseph W. Mills has just moved into the county from Pittsylvania County, according to his War of 1812 pension application.²¹⁵ I've found no connection between him and Samuel's family.

²¹² "Virginia, Select Marriages, 1785–1940," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : 7 April 2018); citing Jordan R. Dodd et al., *Early American Marriages: Virginia to 1850* (Bountiful, UT: Precision Indexing Publisher, n.d.), n.p.

²¹³ Nancy Mills, widow's pension application, image 322481951, 322481974, 322481976.

²¹⁴ Giles Co., VA, 1834 Personal tax roll; imaged on FHL digital film 007849123.

²¹⁵ Ellen Jane Mills, widow's pension application, service of Joseph W Mills (Pvt., Otey's Co., Va. Militia, War of 1812), S.O. 28312, S.C. 20122, W.O.43854, W.C. 34933; imaged at "War of 1812 Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files," database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/322411930> : 14 October 2019), 127 images; for his place of enlistment and residence prior to moving to Montgomery and Giles Counties, see image 322411999.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

- John McLaugherty, listed immediately before Samuel Jr., was the man Sally Mills selected as her guardian when she turned fourteen.

10 JUNE 1835 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

“M” Consecutive entries

Melvin, Hezekiah		25 February
Moore, Richard		“
McKinney, Joseph	[brother-in-law of Samuel Sr.]	“
Mills, Samuel Snr.	2 white, 1 horses, .06	“
Mills, Robert	1 white, 1 horse, .06	“
[skip 9]		
Mills, Joseph W.	1 white, 4 horses, .26	12 Mar
[skip 31]		
McPherson Stephen		28 March
McPherson, Jesse	“	
McPherson, Joseph	“	
Mills, Samuel Jr.	1 white, 1 horse, .06	“
[skip 36 to end of “M” section]		

12–13 NOVEMBER 1835

GILES COUNTY, VA

Association.

“An Inventory of the Sales of the real and Personal Estate of **Charles A. Dingess** Decd.” Purchasers in sequence: Adam Meadow, William Smith, **James McLaugherty**, William Boling, John Walker, French Smith, Jesse Thomas, Jeremiah Jones, Garland Fannon, Moses E. Kear, William Alvis, Thomas Solesbury Jeremiah Solesbury, Hiram Burgess, James Floyd McLaugherty, William Furgason, Giles Burdit, **Thomas White**, James Searer?, Guy D. French, William **Prince**, Henry P. Davidson, Stephen Blankinship, John Garrison, **Samuel Mills (Hackle 1.00, one corner cupboard 5.43 $\frac{3}{4}$ = 6.43 $\frac{3}{4}$)**, William Tiller, Berry Blankinship, Alexander Frazier, John Thomas, Parkison Shumate, Napo & U^m H French, Augustus W. Cole, Peter Boulton, Samuel Pack, Capt. T. Boyd, S. Clair French, Jacob Meadows, James Thompson, John Ensor, Philip P. Bailey, Rufus A. French, Jordan Meadows, Augustus W. J. Caperton, Israel Jones, **Samuel Mills (1/9 of 1/2 of 200 acres of Land on Harmans branch, payable in 2 years)**, John McLaugherty, Joseph Alvis, John Garrison, Joseph McKinney, Archd Burditt, Gordan French, Thomas Little, Abraham Garrison, John P. Bailey, John Jones, William Milam, Andrew Thompson, Lorinzo D. Little, Charles Spangler, Arch. S. Clendenen, John Bailey, Thomas Kirk, James Bailey, Hugh **McLaugherty**, Elizabeth Smith, Ben Dingiss, Hiram Tracy, David McCommas, Wm. Smith, Guy D. French, William Smith.²¹⁶

COMMENT:

The 1/9 of 1/2 of 200 acres that Samuel purchased indicates that the deceased, Charles A. Dingess (a) died in possession of one undivided half of a tract to which he was an heir or, less likely, one he bought in partnership with someone else; and (b) he had nine heirs who were to

²¹⁶ Giles Co., VA, Probate Book B: 130–32.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

divide his property equally. That might be 9 children or 8 children and a widow who agreed to take a child's part as her dower.

In any event, a man rarely bought 1/9 share of a piece of land—much less 1/9 of ½ share—unless there was a family connection and he could foresee buying the rest. Otherwise, he was spending money on what would certainly become a passel of problems. Online trees state, without evidence, that Charles Anderson Dingess married Sarah Farley and “Elizabeth White.”

If the latter were true, and if the widowed Elizabeth chose a child's share, then the most obvious connection to Samuel would be the widow. However, considering that he was only a step-child in the White family, that does not explain his willingness to take on the problems of a 1/18 share—unless Elizabeth was a daughter of Frankey and John White, i.e., Samuel's half-sister.

Dingess's will makes clear the fact that he did not marry Elizabeth White. He was, at death, unmarried and quite wealthy. His legatees are named in the will in this order:

- Children of his deceased sister *Mary French*, each of whom were to receive “an extra allowance of \$100.”
- Children of his deceased sister *Sally McClagherty* [wife of John McClagherty], who were said to be three in number. Each should receive “an extra allowance ... of \$100.
- “**Evalina White, daughter of Elizabeth White,**” still a minor, who was left \$1000. Her “education and clothing was to be paid from this \$1000; when she arrived at lawful age or married, she was to receive the remainder in cash or bonds.
- “*Eliza Jane French, daughter of Naomi French,*” a minor who was given a plantation of 235 acres in East River Valley that Charles purchased from John Blankenship. Her clothing and education was to be paid out of the rents and she would receive full possession at lawful age or marriage.
- Brother John Dingess
- Mother “Mary Smith Dingess”
- Three heirs whose relationships were not stated: Cynthia McComas, Napoleon B. French, and William H. French.²¹⁷

Dingess' final provision relates directly to the land from which Samuel Mills purchased a 1/9th of a ½ share:

“I also will that my executors sell all my land not heretofore devised at public sale [and] collect all debts now due. [Proceeds] shall be equally divided between

- children of my brother Peter Dingess, deceased;
- children of my sister, Mary French, deceased,
- children of my sister, Nancy Henderson, deceased, and
- children of my sister Sally McClagherty, deceased.”

In sum: the heirs to the undevised lands, from which Samuel Mills inexplicably bought that 1/18th part, included a child of Sally McClagherty. Under 1824 notes above, this same Sally (Dingess) McClagherty is presented as the likely mother of the Sally Mills who in 1824 turned 14 and chose Sally (Dingess) McClagherty's husband as her guardian.

²¹⁷ Giles Co., VA, Will Book B: 110–13.

COMMENT:

This should be Samuel's second-born son.

13 MARCH 1837

GILES COUNTY, VA

Marriage

William Mills and **Mahala Perdue**.²²¹

16 JUNE 1837 [CERTIFICATION DATE]

GILES COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Semi-alpha by first letter of surname. No list dates.²²²

"M" consecutive entries

Mills, Joseph W. (Precep.)	1 white, 0 horse, 0 tax	3 Feb.	
Mozer, Francis			"
Mozer, William			"
[skip 19]			
Mills, William	1 white, 1 horse, .06		27 Feb.
Moody, Martin			
Morrison, William			
Mills, Joseph W. [<i>sic</i>]	1 white, 5 horses, .30		1 Mar
McClanahan, David			

COMMENT:

This Joseph W. Mills is the new arrival from Henry County.

1 JULY 1839

GILES COUNTY, VA

Association

Settlement of the estate of **Johnathan Toney** ... By Paid Note to [Long list] ... Cornelius White \$5.50.

"To cash recd of ... William White (.60) ... Robert Mills (10.30), **Samuel Mills** (6.56) ... Ths White (.75)²²³

COMMENT:

Jonathan Toney was the son of John Toney for whom William Mills of Franklin Co. witnessed the Toney-Conner and Toney-Crawford leases of 1816 and 1817. In 1814, Jonathan was already operating his father's ferry.²²⁴ In 1819 John Toney sold all his goods to Jonathan, who apparently did not buy land elsewhere. This trio of documents place William Mills of 1816–17 in the same small neighborhood as Robert and Samuel Mills and the Whites of 1809–39.

²²⁰ Giles Co., Register of Marriages, 1806–1870, p. 39; imaged at *Family Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 7 September 2019) > microfilm 1928317 > image 47 of 250.

²²¹ "Virginia, Select Marriage Records, 1785–1940," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : 8 April 2017); citing Giles Co. "pg 39" [no book identified], FHL microfilm 31740.

²²² Giles Co., VA, 1837 tax roll; imaged on FHL digital film 007849123.

²²³ Giles Co., VA, Probate Book B: 177–81; imaged as FHL digital film 007645086 > images 544–546.

²²⁴ Giles Co., VA, County Court Order Book 3 (1812–1817), unnumbered page; imaged on FHL digital film 008151679 > image 77.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

In 1839, Robert and both Samuel Mills lived in the new county of Mercer. Apparently their land lay very near the Mercer-Giles line; hence, their appearance at the Toney sale in Giles.

AUGUST 1840

MERCER COUNTY

Census data

(p. 254, stamped, verso; semi-alphabetical; begin line 20]

McClagherty, Hugh

Mills, Robert	1 wh male	20–30	1 wh female	20–30	5 in household
	1 wh male	0–5	1 wh female	5–10	
			1 wh female	0–5	

Mills, Samuel Sr.	1 wh male	40–50	1 wh female	30–40	7 in household
	1 wh male	20–30	1 wh female	20–30	
	1 wh male	0–5	1 wh female	10–15	
			1 wh female	0–5	

Meadows, Jeremiah

Mills, William	1 wh male	20–30	1 wh female	30–40	6 in household
	2 wh males	0–5	1 wh female	20–30	
			1 wh female	0–5	

Mills, David	1 wh male	30–40	1 wh female	20–30
	1 wh male	0–5	3 wh females	5–10
			1 wh female	0–5

Meadows, ___ram

Mustard, Joshua

Meadows, Jacob Senr.

(p. 255; begin line 16)

Moony, John L.

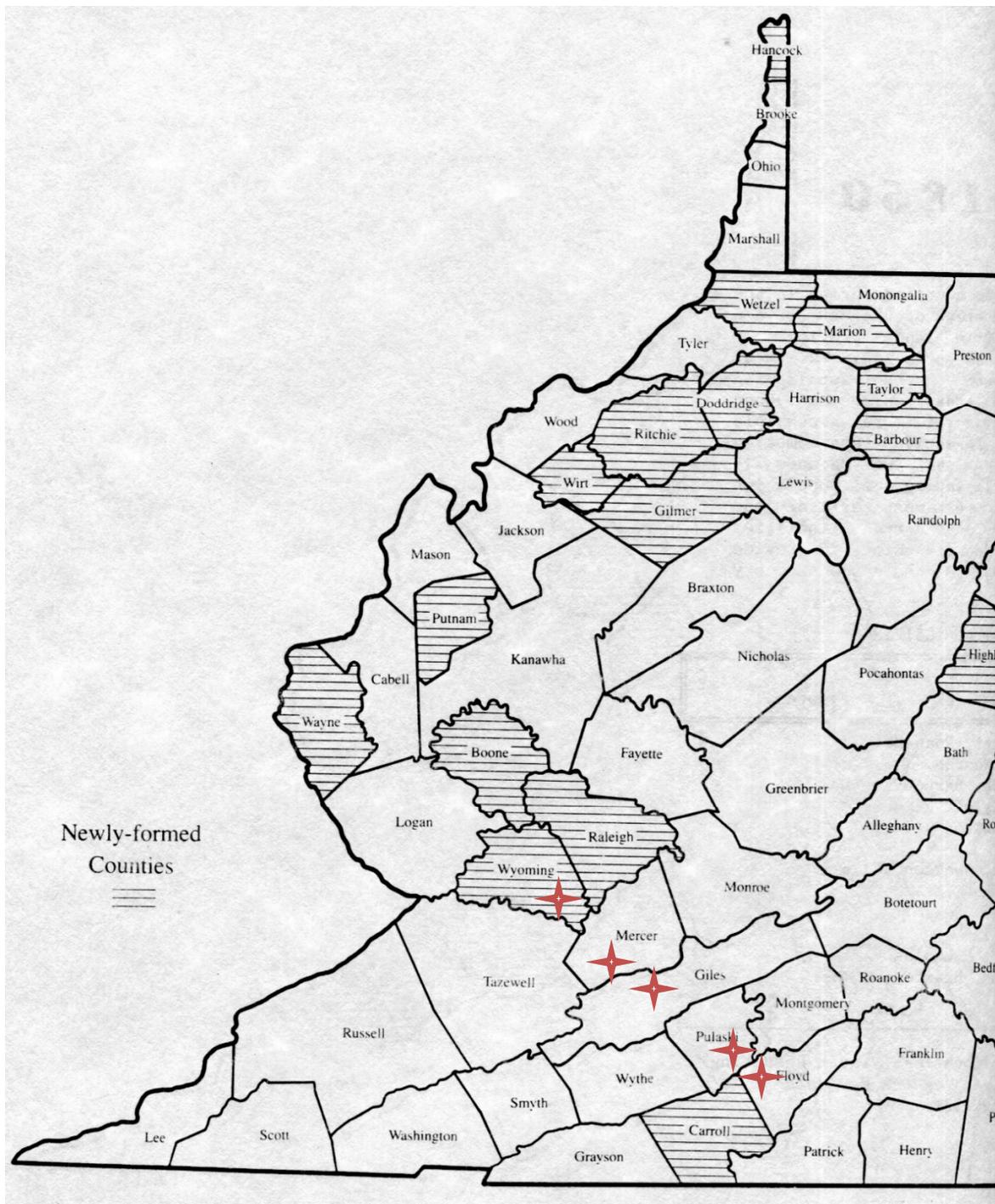
Meary, John

Mills, Samuel Jr.	1 wh male	20–30	1 wh female	20–30	6 in household
	1 wh male	5–10	1 wh female	15–20	
			2 wh females	0–5	

Meadows, Ephraim

McKinzie, Alexander

Map 12
Western Virginia Counties, 1841–1850²²⁵



²²⁵ Snipped from Michael F. Doran, *Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia, 1634–1895* (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1987).

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

28 AUGUST 1850
MERCER COUNTY, VA

Census

Samuel Mills	55	male	farmer	\$200	b. Va.
Nancy “	50	female			b. Va.
Priscilla “	15	female			b. Va.
James H. “	13	male			b. Va.
William H. H. “	10	male			b. Va.
Louisa “	7	female			b. Va. ²²⁶

COMMENT:

Neighbors: Robert Stewart, Alex. Makinza, Elias Stewart, MILLS, Philip Peters Est., John W. Davis.

The age is clearly wrong. Note that his son David’s age, below, is also understated.

In September 1818 (see note above), when Benjamin H. White and John White petitioned for an alteration to the road that ran from the **mouth** of the **Five mile fork** of **East River** to the poney crossing of **Brush Creek**, Philip Peters was one of the neighbors who was appointed to determine the best path.

Benjamin Mills	33	male	farmer	\$500	b. Va. [William?]
Mary “	29	female			b. Va.
Sarah E. “	7	female			b. Va.
Mary M. “	6	female			b. Va.
George W. “	3	male			b. Va.
Charles W. “	2	male			b. Va.
Margaret Cooper	15	female			b. VA. ²²⁷

COMMENT:

Neighbors: George R. Davis, Hiram Cassaday, MILLS, Patten A. McCinna, John Makinsey, John Smith, Daniel Martin.

(6 September)

David Mills	35	male	farmer	\$100	b. Va.
Nancy “	30	female			b. Va.
Sarah “	16	female			b. Va. [née Bailey?]
James H. “	13	male			b. Va.
Frances E.	14	female			b. Va.
Naomi “	12	female			b. Va.
Samuel W. “	10	male			b. Va.
James R. “	8	male			b. Va.
John “	6	male			b. Va.
Elizabeth “	4	female			b. Va.
Bailey “	2	male			b. Va. ²²⁸

²²⁶ 1850 U.S. census, Mercer Co., VA, population schedule, p. 182 (stamped), verso, dwelling/family 464/464.

²²⁷ 1850 U.S. census, Mercer Co., VA, population schedule, p. 183 (stamped), dwelling/family 470/470.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

COMMENT:

Neighbors: Jamison Bailey, Edmund Hatcher, Lafayette Ferguson, MILLS, Joseph Wright, Anos W. Bailey (wife Rhoda, 32), Madison Kerns.

(7 September)

Samuel Mills	30	male	farmer	\$100	b. Va.
Zerna "	30	female			b. Va. [Zerusha]
Nathaniel "	16	male	laborer		b. Va.
Priscilla "	13	female			b. Va.
Frances "	10	female			b. Va.
Charlotte "	9	female			b. Va.
John D. "	6	male			b. Va.
Ballad "	3	male			b. Va. ²²⁹

COMMENT:

Neighbors: Joseph Wright, Amos W. Bailey, Madison Kerns, MILLS, Archibald McComas, Jonathan Bailey

31 AUGUST 1850
WYOMING COUNTY, VA

Census

William Mills	36	male	farmer	\$200	b. Va.
Marilla "	30	female			b. Va.
Jerrimiah "	12	male			b. Va.
Anderson "	10	male			b. Va.
Hiram "	8	male			b. Va.
Rodah "	6	female			b. Va.
Ellen "	4	female			b. Va.
William F. "	2	male			b. Va.
Elener Perdue	65	female			b. Va. ²³⁰

COMMENT:

Neighbors: Joseph McKinney, Samuel McKinney, Luke Graham, Jacob Akers, Powatan McKinney, MILLS, Henry Clark, Jerrimiah Salesbury, **Robert Mills**

Robert Mills	32	male	farmer	\$300	b. Va.	cannot read/write
Rebecca "	30	female			b. Va.	cannot read/write
Miley E. "	16	female			b. Va.	
Emelia. "	14	female			b. Va.	
Green "	11	male			b. Va.	
Marila "	7	female			b. Va.	
Tabitha "	1	female			b. Va. ²³¹	

²²⁸ 1850 U.S. census, Mercer Co., VA, population schedule, pp. 188v & 189 (stamped), verso, dwelling/family 554/554.

²²⁹ 1850 U.S. census, Mercer Co., VA, population schedule, pp. 188v & 189 (stamped), verso, dwelling/family 558/558.

²³⁰ 1850 U.S. census, Wyoming Co., VA, population schedule, p. 219 (stamped), verso, dwelling/family 198/198.

²³¹ 1850 U.S. census, Wyoming Co., VA, population schedule, p. 219 (stamped), verso, dwelling/family 201/201.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

COMMENT:

Neighbors: **William Mills**, Henry Clark, Jerrimiah Salesbury, MILLS, Josiah Cooper, Christy A. Walker, Esq., Christian Walker, James Wyley.

28 AUGUST 1850
MERCER COUNTY, VA
Census

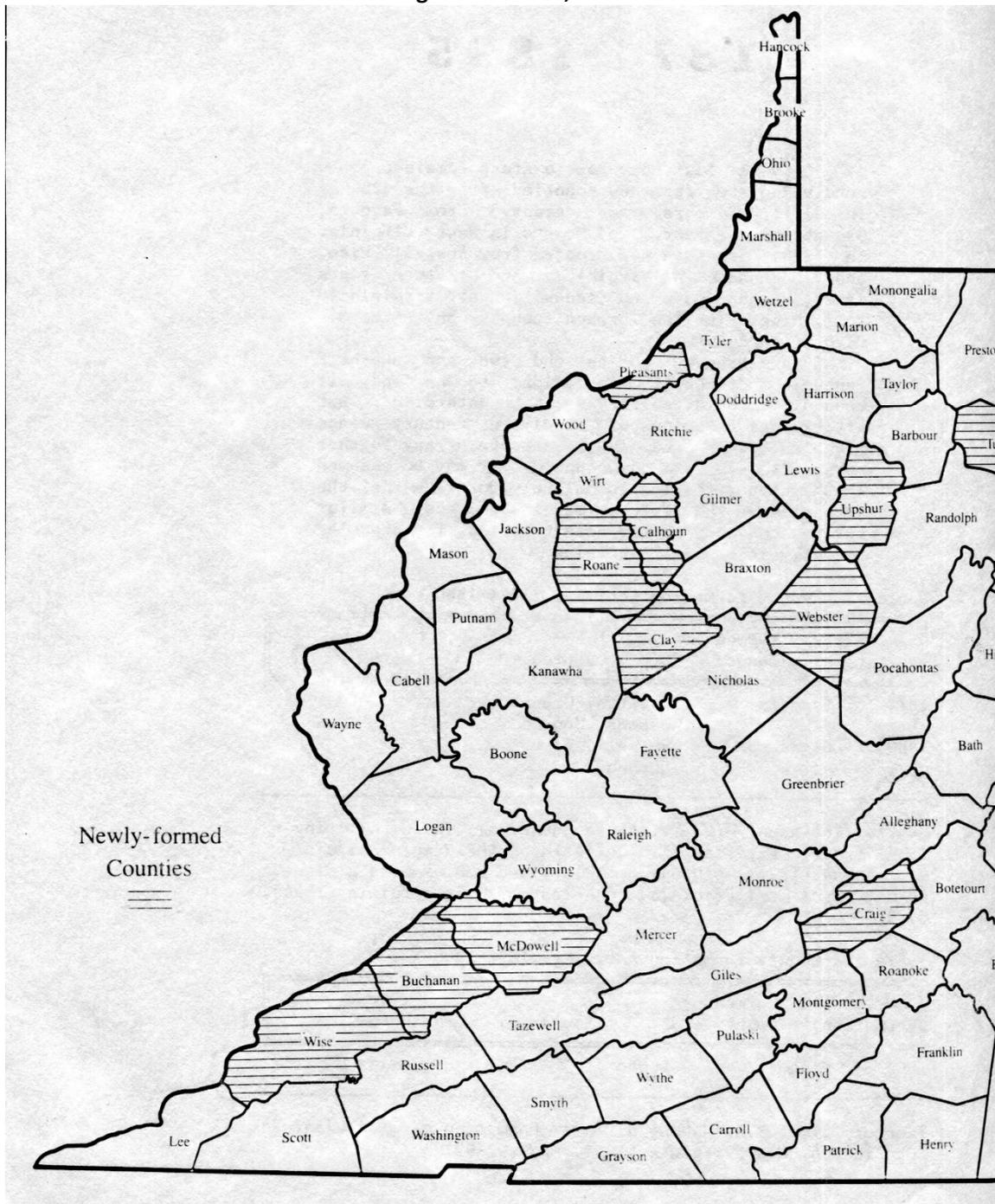
William Mills	35	male	Laborer	b. Va.
Barbara “	30	female		b. Va.
James “	12	male		b. Va.
Mary “	10	female		b. Va. ²³²

COMMENT:

Neighbors: William Whittain, John Bones, Nancy Bones, James Trump, MILLS, John **Muncey**, David Craig, Cabinis H. Gearheart.

²³² 1850 U.S. census, Montgomery Co., VA, population schedule, p. 80 (stamped), verso, dwelling/family 1083/1083.

Map 13
Western Virginia Counties, 1851–1860²³³



²³³ Snipped from Michael F. Doran, *Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia, 1634–1895* (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1987).

8 NOVEMBER 1855
MERCER COUNTY, WV
Pension application

“State of Virginia, Mercer County } On this 8 day of November A. D. One thousand Eight hundred and fifty five, personally appeared before me, a Justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid, **Samuel Mills**, aged Sixty Seven years, a resident of Mercer County in the state of Virginia, who being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is the identical Samuel Mills who was a private in the Company commanded by Captain Andrew Johnston, detached from the 19th Brigade of the 86th Regiment of Virginia Militia commanded by Capt. Andrew Johnston in the war with Great Britain, declared by the United States on the 18th of June 1812, that he was drafted at Giles Court House on or about the first of February A. D. 1815 for the term of Six months, and continued in actual service in said war for the term of fourteen days and was honorably discharged at Giles Court House on the 2nd day of March A. D. 1815, as will fully appear by his discharge herewith filed. He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which he may be entitled under the Act approved March 3rd 1855. He also declares that he has not received a warrant for bounty land under this nor any other act of Congress, nor made any other application therefore. Samuel Mills his X Mark.

“We, **Cornelius White** and **Daniel Straley**, residents of Mercer County in the State of Virginia, upon our oaths declare that the foregoing declaration was signed & acknowledged by Samuel Mills in our presence, and that we are personally acquainted with the said Samuel Mills, and know that he is the identical person he represents himself to be. [Signed] Cornelius White, Daniel Straley.

“The foregoing declaration and affidavit were sworn to and subscribed before me on the day and year above within, and I certify the affiants to be credible persons that the claimant is the person he represents himself to be and that I have no interest in this claim. [Signed] S. Thompson J.P.

“I, Joseph H. Alvis, Clerk of the County Court of said County in the State aforesaid do certify that Syms Thompson, the Justice before whom the foregoing declaration and affidavit was made was at the time of so doing duly commissioned and qualifie to act as such and that his signature thereto is genuine. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Court this 22nd day of December 1855. Joseph H. Alvis, Clerk.”²³⁴

15 DECEMBER 1858
MERCER COUNTY, VA
Will

“**Samuel Mills**, This December 15th 1858. This is my last Will and Testament:

1st I bequeath to my **son James** all the farming utensils

2nd to my **daughter Priscilla**, one Cow & Calf

3d to my **Louisa [sic]** one Cow

4th to the above mentioned son and daughters, 16 head of Hogs, 12 head of Sheep, all the household and kitchen furniture divided equal with a reserve of One dollar to each of the other heirs. Given under my hand and seal. Samuel Mills {seal} Teste: A. J. Davis, John Mc Thompson.

²³⁴ Nancy Mills, widow's pension application, images 322481947, 322481950.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

“At a monthly Court held for the County of Mercer at the Court House thereof on Thursday the 7th day of April 1859. The last Will and Testament of **Samuel Mills Sr.** deceased was proved according to law by the oaths of Andrew J. Davis and John M. Thompson witnesses thereto, and is ordered to be recorded. On the motion of Robert G. Clendenon who made oaths and together with Patton A. MKinney his security, entered into and acknowledged a bond in the penalty of \$100 conditioned as the law directs, certificate is granted the said Robert G. Clendenon for obtaining letters of administration on the said decedents Estate with his Will aforesaid annexed, in due form. Teste. H. Scott, D.C.”²³⁵

COMMENT:

Note that his will does not name an executor. As seen below, R. J. Clendenin was the court appointed administrator. Benjamin G. McNutt purchased much of the goods. When the widow Nancy applied for a pension, her “agent” was Benjamin’s brother Robert B. McNutt (a physician on the 1870 census). No relationship has been found yet between Samuel Mills and either R. J. Clendenin or the McNutts.

30 APRIL 1859
MERCER COUNTY, VA
Estate appraisement

“Appraisement of the personal estate of **Saml. Mills** Apr. 30, 1859

11 head of sheet	7 head of lambs	\$13.62	½
9 head of hogs	valued by description	27.00	
1 Cow & bell \$12	1 yearling heifer \$5	17.00	
1 Bay Marr \$10		10.00	
1 cutting box & blad 1.50	1 Pair of gears & plow 4.50	6.00	
1 Madax [mattock] – 2 hows – 1 shovel & 1 log chain		2.50	
1 Grind Stone .75	1 pair plow gears 1.25	2.00	
2 Bee Stands 1.50	1 Mans Saddle 1	2.50	
1 pair Steelyards chain & 1.00	3 Augur 1.00	2.00	
1 lot of Sundries 2.50	1 half bushel .50	3.00	
1 Bed and furniture 5.00	1 <u>Candle mould?</u> 75	5.75	
1 Clock 2.50	Brass Kettle 2.00	Cupboard 2.50	7.00
Shaving implements .37	37 Chest ovin & lid .38		1.00
1 Big Wheel .50	1 Scyth blade .25		.75
1 Pot hanger			.38

“We the undersigned do hereby certify upon oath that the above list is true. [Signed] William L. Bridiss, Hiram Copely his S mark, Patton A. McKinney

“West Virginia – In the Records Office of Mercer, Apr. 2 1870 – An appraisement of the personal estate of **Saml Mills** having been this day filed in this office by R. J. Clendenin admr. the same is orderd to be recorded. Teste J. H. Alvis, R. M²³⁶

²³⁵ “West Virginia, Wills and Probate Records, 1724–1985.” database with images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/9087/007145487_00017?pid+395577 : 14 Octobeor 2019), image 72 of 495; imaging Mercer Co., VA, Will Book 1: 87.

²³⁶ Mercer Co., WV, Will Book 1:87; imaged in “West Virginia, Wills and Probate Records, 1724–1985,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancsetry.com> : accessed 14 October 2019) > Mercer > Wills, Vol. 1-2, 1838–1886 > image 72 of 495.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

1859–1870

MERCER COUNTY, VA

Estate sale

“A Sale bill of the personal estate of Saml. Mills decd. Aprl. 30 1859.

1 Old Axe — iron Coaller & _____	pr 1.12	Benjn Mills
1 Scythe blade shovel plow & Chains	.50	Same
1 Scyth & S Smeed?	.86	ditto
1 Grubbing how & shovel	.31	ditto
1 log Chain	1.00	P. A. McKinsey
1 Cutting box & blade	1.25	Geo. R. Davis
1 Madaxe	1.33	ditto
3 Wooden Cans?	.12	Benj. Mills
1 Grind Stone	.60	ditto
1 half Bushel &c	.50	ditto
1 pair Candle Mould	.30	Saml. Mills
1 Coffee Mil	.06	B. G. McNutt
1 Churn &c	.35	Benj. Mills
3 Augurs	1.00	P. A. McKinsey
2 Hammers & drawing Knife	.25	B. Mills
2 roap hooks & pair Pot hooks	.63	ditto
1 pair Steelyards	1.00	Saml. Thomas
1 pair Place gears & Chisel	.75	James Mills
1 Mans Saddle	.25	Same
1 Wool Wheel	.26	B. Mills
1 Copper tea Kettle	2.76	ditto
1 Meal Sifter & Razor	.25	Jas. Mills
1 Oven & lid	1.00	And. <u>iller?</u>
1 Clock	2.00	B. G. McNutt
1 Count na__?	.25	ditto
1 Bed & furniture	6.25	Jas. Mills
1 Chest	.12	Benj. Mills
1 Cupboard	.50	Jas. Mills
1 Pot rack	.12	B. G. McNutt
1 Patent plow	1.37	Jas. Mills
1 Yearling Calf	6.25	Benj. Mills
18 head of Sheep	29.90	Saml. Mills
1 Bee Stand	2.01	Jas Mills
1 do.	1.25	B. G. McNutt
1 Cow	11.87	Jas Mills
1 Bell	1.00	Benj Mills
5 hogs 1 st choice	8.00	B. G. McNutt
4 “ 2d Choice	5.99	ditto
1 Bay Mare	20.00	Jas. Mills

R. G. Clenden, Adm. of

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

Saml Mills Dec.

West Virginia. In the Recorder Office
of Mercer County Apl. 2 1870
A sale bill of the personal property of
Saml. Mills decd. – having been filed
in this office by R. J. Clendenin adm.
the same is now to be recorded
Teste J. H. Alvis, R.M. C.

Estate of Saml. Mills dec. in a/c with R. G. Clendenin Adm.

1860						
June 2	To paid [by]	B. Mills, Voucher 1		50.37 Prin[ciple]	29.70 Int.	
Ap. 4	" " "	J. A. McKinzie, [Voucher] 2		22.83	13.40	
1859						
Apl 30	" " "	E. Bailey, [Voucher] 3		10.50	6.88	
1861						
Mar. 8	" " "	B. G. McNutt [Voucher] 4		3.81	1.98	
" "	" " "	B. G. McNutt [Voucher] 5		1.59	.81	
1859						
Apr 11	" " "	R. Hale [Voucher] 6		1.30	.77	
1849						
Apl.	" " "	C. W. Calfer [Voucher] 7		3.40	2.20	
1861						
Apl.	" " "	C. W. Calfre [Voucher] 8		.58	.27	
1859						
Jany.	" " "	Wm F. Martin [Voucher] 9		1.98	1.22	
1859						
Apl 30	" " "	P. A. McKinsey [Voucher] 10		1.00	.66	
1859						
Apl. 30	" " "	Gooch [Voucher 11]		1.00	.66	
1857 [sic]						
Oct.	" " "	W. L. Brodgress app.		1.60		
10 per Cent Comm on disbursements				15.85		
				\$115.82	58.55	
" int brought down				58.55		
				174.37		
bal. to Square				6.23		
				=====		

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

\$180.60

List of Claims proved & filed, outstanding against estate to wit

Bal of Mch to R. B. McNutt on the 7 th Oct 1857	\$1.07	
Int. to Apl. 2d 1870	.78	\$1.85
Recorders fees		4.75
		\$ 6.60

1860

Apl 30 By amt. of Sale Bill due this day		\$113.26
" interest on Same to Apl. 2 1870		67.34
		\$180.60

1870

Apl 2 By bal due Est due this day		\$ 6.23
-----------------------------------	--	---------

West Virginia Recorders Office of Mercer Co. Apl. 2 1870

The foregoing settlement of R. G. Clendenin admr. of **Saml. Mills decd** was this day made by me, and I find a balance in hands of Admr. of \$6.23 including interest to this day – There are claims outstanding against the estate of Six dollars and Sixty Cents which have been proved and filed.

J. H. Alvis, R.M.C.

West Virginia In the Recorders Office of Mercer May 2d 1870

A settlement of the estate of Saml. Mills decd. with R. G. Clendenin having been filed in this Office by the Recorder of the County, and no exceptions having been filed thereto, the same is Confirmed and ordered to be recorded.

Teste J. H. Alvis, R.M.C.²³⁷

1860

MERCER COUNTY, VA

Census

Nancy Mills	63	female	farmer \$50	b. Va.
Priscilla "	25	female	domestic	b. Va.
James H "	24	male	farm laborer	b. Va.
Louisa "	17	female	Serving	b. Va.
Martha J.	3	female		b. Va. ²³⁸

COMMENT:

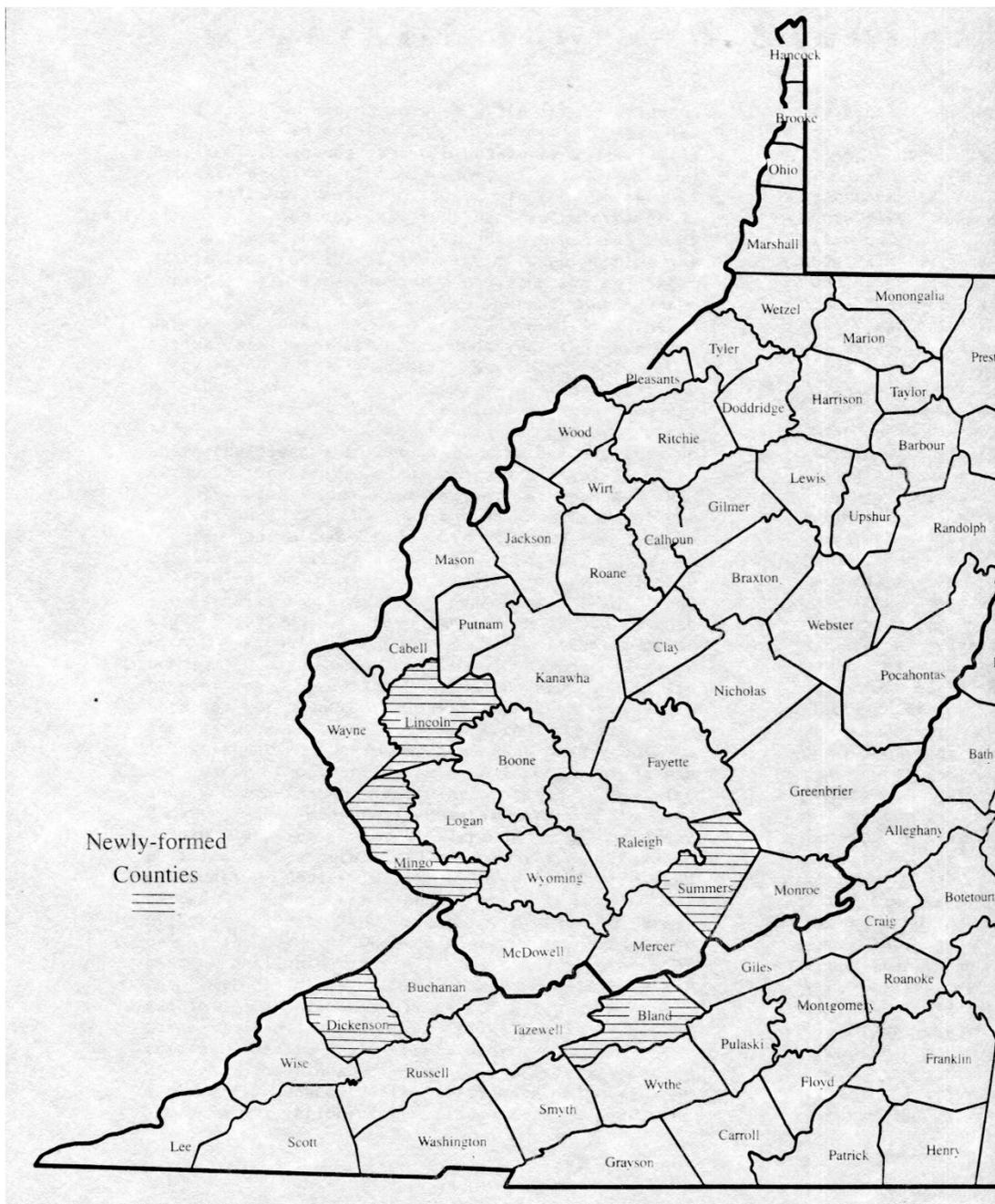
Neighbors: Nimrod J. Whittaker, Matthew Woodall, MILLS, John C. Boling, Mary A. Plaster?, Robert Stewart, Detita Bolling (female), Andrew Bolling, Isaac M. Graley

²³⁷ Mercer Co., WV, Will Book 1: 372–73; imaged in "West Virginia, Wills and Probate Records, 1724–1985," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 14 October 2019) > Mercer > Wills, Vol. 1-2, 1838–1886 > image 217 of 495.

²³⁸ 1860 U.S. census, Mercer Co., WV, pop. sch. p. 395, princeton P.O. p. 53, dwell./fam. 358/330.

I am not including, here, all census data on all other offspring, wherever they have moved.

Map 14
Western Virginia Counties, 1861–1895²³⁹



²³⁹ Snipped from Michael F. Doran, *Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia, 1634–1895* (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1987).

AUGUST 1870
MERCER COUNTY, WV

Census

Nancy Mills	69	female	House keeper \$50	b. Va.
Priscilla Ellis	33	female	"Residing"	b. Va.
Martha J. Ellis	13	female		b. VA
Harriet E. Ellis	4	female		b. VA ²⁴⁰

COMMENT:

Neighbors: Benjamin Mills; Burrel Winfrey, James Bowling, MILLS, Andrew Bowling, Deliah Foley

Note that Martha J. was enumerated in 1860 with Nancy and Priscilla, at which time both she and Priscilla were recorded under the surname "Mills."

9 MARCH 1878
MERCER COUNTY, WV

Pension application

"Widow's Brief. "**Nancy Mills** [*Red-and-blue penned remarks:*] Deceased. Applica[n]t under Sec. 4718 **Priscilla Mills**, Princetown W.V.

Identifying witnesses R. B. McNutt and **J. H. Mills** [*red-penned notation:*] affidavit Sub.

J. O. Cassaday and N. B. French testify clients lived and obtained bounty land warrants. Residence of soldier on B.L. and Client same P.M. & C."

Submitted Oct 1st 1884, to a pension of Eight Dollars per month from Mch 9 1878 the date of the Ct Pension to end date of claimants death [*blue-pencilled:* October 13 1882). Approved Oct. 17th 1884.²⁴¹

Reverse of Widow's Brief:

"Marriage Date 1833, Samuel Mills to Nancy Rhinehart, averment of client. **Anna Garretson** testifies she saw them married, she thinks in 1832. [*Red pen:*] Mercer Co. June 17/34? J. O. Cassaday and N. B. French testify to cohabitation. John Garritson testifies he saw them married.

"Proof [of] capacity to marry: Anna Garretson testifies that the soldier first wife died prior to his marriage to claimant. [*Red pen:*] Sept. 5, 34?"

"Death of soldier. Date About 1858 averred by client. [*Red pen:*] Correct date July 28th 1859.

J. O. Cassaday and N. B. French testify the soldier died in the year 1860. Priscilla and J. H. Mills testify soldier died Feb. 17 1859. [*Red pen:*] July 28/54. John Garritson testified died in 1859 or 1860.

"Widowhood. Testified to by Anna Garritson, J. O. Cassaday, and N. B. French."

"Incidental Mattter: Claim originally rejected on ground of insufficient service prior to Feb 17th 1815."²⁴²

17 JUNE 1878

²⁴⁰ 1870 U.S. census, Mercer Co., WV, pop. sch., stamped p. 497 vers, Princeton P.O. p. 7, dwell./fam. 48/48.

²⁴¹ Nancy Mills, widow's pension application, image 322481911.

²⁴² Nancy Mills, widow's pension application, image 322481913.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

MERCER COUNTY, WV

Pension application

"**Anna Garretson**, widow of **William Garretson Sen. decd.** having been first duly sworn Says that she was present and witnessed the marriage of **Nancy Rinehart** with **Samuel Mills** about the year 1832, that to the best of her information and belief she the said **Nancy Mills** and **Samuel Mills** lived together as husband and wife from the date of their alledged marriage to the death of said Samuel Mills and that she has not since intermarried. [Signed] Anna Garretson her X mark. Sworn and Subscribed before me in my said County this 17th day of June 1878. R. A. Shumate J.P."²⁴³

5 AUGUST 1878

MERCER COUNTY, WV

Pension application

"Claim of Soldier for Service Pension." Before B. G. McNutt, Clerk of Co. Ct., "appeared **Nancy Mills** aged about 80 years, a resident of Beaver Pond District in the county of Mercer in the State of West Virginia, **who being duly sworn according to law, declares that she is the widow of Samuel Mills**, who served under name of Samuel Mills as a private in the company commanded by Captain [blank]; that he was drafted ... and continued in actual service in said war for the term of fourteen days and was honorably discharged. ... That since his discharge from said service he resided in the County of Giles Virginia (Now Mercer County West Virginia) that she was married to said Samuel Mills under the name of Nancy Rinehart on the ___ day of ____ 1833 by William Garretson at his Garretson's residence, that her husband died about 1858 in the County of Mercer and that she has never intermarried since. She make this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the pension to which she may be entitled under sections 4736 to 4740, inclusive, Revised Statutes, and the act approved March 9, 1978, and hereby appoints R. B. McNutt of Princeton, Mercer Co. West Va. her lawful attorney to prosecute her claim. She also declares that the said Samuel Mills has heretofore made application for bounty land and that a warrant was Issued to him for Same about the year 1854. [Signed] Nancy X Mills. Attest: R. B. McNutt, **James H. Mills.**"²⁴⁴

23 APRIL 1883

MERCER COUNTY, WV

Pension application

Wm. W. Dudley, Commissioner, Department of the Interior, Pension Office, Washington D.C. to postmaster, Princeton, Mercer Co., WV: "In pension Claim of **Nancy Mills** under Act of March 9th 1878 No. 31,152, you are requested to inform this office whether an old lady of the above name resides in your vicinity, reputed to be the widow of **Samuel Mills** A soldier of the War of 1812. Known to Jas. H. Mills."

Response: "I knew **Nancy Mills** Well. She was the widdow of **Samuel Mills** A Soldier of the war of 1812. But She Died about Four Months ago. Yours & C. Z. Fellers, P.M. P.S. She left no Heirrs intitled [to] Pension."²⁴⁵

2 MAY 1883

WASHINGTON, DC

²⁴³ Nancy Mills, widow's pension application, image 322481974.

²⁴⁴ Nancy Mills, widow's pension application, image 322481976.

²⁴⁵ Nancy Mills, widow's pension application, image 322481914.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

Pension application

Wm. W. Dudley, Commissioner ... to "Heirs &c of **Nancy Mills**, Care R. B. McNutt & J. H. Mills, Princeton Mercer Co. W. Va. In pension claim of Nancy Mills widow of Samuel Mills under Act of March 9th 1878 No. 31,152 in view of obtaining reimbursement for sickness and burial Expenses of decedent under Sec. 4718 Rev. Statutes, the applicant must give his or her Name and Post Office Address. Please return this letter with the information."²⁴⁶

COMMENT:

On 5 July 1883, a similar letter was sent to "Miss Priscilla Mills, Care C. R. McNutt Esq., Princeton Mercer Co W VA by the acting commissioner (image 322481918).

The file at this point contains several letters to Priscilla advising her that this-or-that evidence wasn't acceptable because it didn't have the right signatures and attestations.

20 FEBRUARY 1884

MERCER COUNTY, WV

Pension application

Letter to "Comr. of Pensions ... Dear Sir: After an interval of several Months I return herewith the official certificate of the Clerk of the County Court of Mercer, of the Official Character of Saml. P. Pearis, a Notary of this County. As to the evidence of the marriage of the deceased claimant to the Soldier, search has been made in the Clks Offices of the County of Giles (the County in which the soldier was married) & the Office of Mercer in which he died, without obtaining the sought for evidence. At the time of and for a number of years afterward of his marriage, the law did not require a record to be made of Marriage Certificates. They were merely filed away in the Office, hence the uncertainty, and in a majority of Cases it is impossibility, of obtaining evidence. The Claimant has furnished the best evidence in her power. ...

"I thought claimant had proved that Soldier had been twice married and that his first wife had died and that his **(Soldiers) last wife had not previously been married** and had not remarried after death of Soldier. The Claimant is very poor and Needy and I am attending to her interest in this particular as a matter of Charity. Yours, R. B. McNutt."²⁴⁷

18 JUNE 1884

MERCER COUNTY, WV

Pension application

Letter of R. B. McNutt, agent for Miss Priscilla Mills, to [Commissioner, Pension Office]. "I send you the affidavit of **Jno. Garratson**, showing that he lived in the immediate neighbourhood of both Mills (Soldier) and **Garretson the preacher who performed the marriage ceremony**. Also showing the death of Soldiers' first wife about 1833 or 1834 and his marriage of second wife in the Course of two years thereafter—and of the fact and date as near as practicable of Soldiers death by Garretson & Clendenin."²⁴⁸

17 JUNE 1884

MERCER COUNTY, WV

²⁴⁶ Nancy Mills, widow's pension application, image 322481916.

²⁴⁷ Nancy Mills, widow's pension application, images 322481930, 322481940.

²⁴⁸ Nancy Mills, widow's pension application, image 322481951.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

Pension application

“**John Garretson**, a citizen of the County & State aforesaid, sayd that he lived in the County of Mercer, in the immediate neighbourhood of **Saml. Mills** (the soldier) for several years during his first wife’s lifetime and until his death which took place in the year 1859 or 1860. Said Soldier (Mills) was married to **Miss Nancy Rinehart** his second wife by **Wm. Garretson** a duly authorized Minister in my immediate neighbourhood more than a year after the death of his (Soldiers) first wife. Affiant says that he was present and witnessed the marriage of said Saml. Mills to his second wife. Affiant further says that said Soldiers second wife Maiden Name was Nancy Rinehart and that she was never previously married before marrying said Mills. Affiant further says that he is positive that said **Soldier’s first wife died more than twelve months prior to his marriage with his second wife**. Affiant says that to the best of his recollection he (affiant) was at the burial of the first wife; thinks that **soldier’s first wife died about the year 1833 or 1834**. [Signed] John Garretson.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of June 1884. Given under my hand & Official Seal the day aforesaid. Chas. R. McNutt, Clerk.”²⁴⁹

18 JUNE 1884

MERCER COUNTY, WV

Pension application

“R. G. Clendenin a witness of lawful age, being Sworn says that he was well acquainted with **Saml Mills** a Soldier of the War of 1812 who lived and died in the County and State (then Virginia) aforesaid in my immediate neighbourhood about the commencement of the year 1859. I administered on his estate in April 1859. I know that he was an applicant for a pension. [Signed] R. G. Clendenen. Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 18th day of June 1884 ... C. R. McNutt, Clerk of Mercer Co. Ct.”²⁵⁰

28 JULY 1884

MERCER COUNTY, WV

Pension application

“We, **Priscilla Mills** and **James H. Mills**, Children of **Samuel Mills Sr.** decd. who was a soldier of the war of 1812 do solemnly swear that said Samuel Mills, soldier as aforesaid, departed this life on the 17th day of February 1859. We were both present and witnessed his death. [Signed] Priscilla Mills her + mark, Ja^s H. Mills. Witnesses: H. B. Kitts, H. V?. Straley. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of July 1884, N. B. French, J.P., Mercer County West Va.”²⁵¹

5 SEPTEMBER 1884

MERCER COUNTY, WV

Pension application

“I, **Anna Garretson** do solemnly swear that I was well acquainted with **Sam^l Mills Senr.**, a Soldier of the War of 1812—that he lived for a number of years immediately preceding his death, in my immediate neighbourhood—that his first wife died before his marriage to his second wife—that I was present and witnessed his marriage to his second wife (whose maiden name was **Nancy Rinehart**)—that they were

²⁴⁹ Nancy Mills, widow’s pension application, image 322481971.

²⁵⁰ Nancy Mills, widow’s pension application, image 322481972.

²⁵¹ Nancy Mills, widow’s pension application, image 322481958.

Samuel Mills
Wife 1: Rachel Prince
Wife 2: Nancy Rinehart

married at my house by my husband who was a minister and duly authorized to celebrate the rites of Matrimony. [Signed] Anna Garretson her X mark; Witnesses: Elliot Pennington, Julia A. Pennington.

“Taken, sworn to and subscribed before me in my County the 5th day of September A. D. 1884 by Anna Garretson, And I also certify that Elliott Pennington and Julia A. Pennington, whose names appear appended to the above affidavit as witnesses to the same, were present at the time said affidavit was made, and saw the said Anna Garretson make her mark (she being unable to sign her name) thereto; that the said signatures as^{said} Elliott Pennington and Julia A. Pennington are genuine. In Witness Whereof I have hereunto signed my name and affixed My Official seal, in my County, the 5th day of September 1884. C. R. McNutt, Notary Public for Mercer County, West Va.

“I, Charles R. McNutt, Clerk of the County Court of said County do certify that C. R. McNutt who hath given the preceding certificate is now and was at the date of said certificate a Notary Public of said County duly Commissioned ... Given under my hand and official seal this 10th day of September 1884.”²⁵²

11 NOVEMBER 1884
MERCER COUNTY, WV

Pension application

“I, **Priscilla Mills** do solemnly swear that my Mother, **Nancy Mills**, died the 13th day of October 1882 and that said Nancy Mills at her death was the widow of Saml Mills Senr. Decd., a soldier of the war of 1812. [Signed] Priscilla X Mills. Witness: Thos. C. Gooch, A. Gott. Subscribed & sworn to before me this 11th day of Nov^r 1884. N. B. French, JP.”²⁵³

12 NOVEMBER 1884
MERCER COUNTY, WV

Pension application

Letter to “Com. of Pensions ... Dear Sir. Enclosed please find the evidence sought for as to date of death of Nancy Mills. Hoping that everything is now satisfactory, I remain Yours &c. R. B. McNutt, Agent for **Priscilla Mills**.”²⁵⁴

17 NOVEMBER 1884
WASHINGTON, DC

Pension application

O. P. G. Clark, Commissioner, to [unnamed]. Sir: You are hereby directed to inscribe on your Roll the name of **Nancy Mills** (Dec’d) widow of **Samuel Mills**, who was a Pvt. [in] Capt. A. Johnson’s Co. Va. mil. at the rate of Eight Dollars per month commencing March 9, 1878 and ending Oct. 13, 1882 date of death.”²⁵⁵

²⁵² Nancy Mills, widow’s pension application, image 322481955, 32281956.

²⁵³ Nancy Mills, widow’s pension application, image 322481964.

²⁵⁴ Nancy Mills, widow’s pension application, image 322481911.

²⁵⁵ Nancy Mills, widow’s pension application, image 322481937.

SHARING POLICY

I am happy to share this file, as a PDF, with anyone who can use it. If you wish to extract a portion of it into your own notes or correspondence, please place quotation marks around any material you extract and credit it as follows:

Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Samuel Mills (c1788–1859); Spouses Rachel Prince & Nancy Rinehart: Research Notes," a working file updated 12 December 2020, p. ____.

If I have made an error in any abstract or transcription—or if my analyses prove invalid—you would not want to be blamed for my errors. And I, as I continue to circulate this work, would be mortified if others thought I had committed plagiarism because my words appear elsewhere without attribution.
