



ELIZABETH SHOWN MILLS

Certified GenealogistSM Certified Genealogical LecturerSM
Fellow & Past President, American Society of Genealogists
Trustee & Past President, Board for Certification of Genealogists

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

- DATE: 27 October 2014 (*Addenda added 15 October 2015*)
- REPORT TO: File
- SUBJECT: Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County), Pre-1830
- TASK: Research in the microfilmed records for these counties held by the Family History Library, Salt Lake City.
- ASSOCIATES: Principal families: Duke, Hornsbie, Rawls, Wade, Watts
Principal neighbors: Gibson, Hollis, King, Kirkland, Knighton, Lewis, Perry, Pickett, Pigg, Tidwell, Winn, Woodward
- BACKGROUND: **John Watts** (ca.1749–ca.1820-22) and his son-in-law **Moses Hornsbie** appear on the 1790 census of Fairfield District, South Carolina, taken between August 1790 and Fall 1791.
- By February 1792, John had moved his family to Washington County, Ga., where he and son Thomas applied for headright land. The location of the tracts given to them would subsequently fall into Montgomery (1793) and Tattnall (1801) counties. In Montgomery County, John served as a justice ca. 1793–99.
- About 1809–10, John relocated in Telfair County, Ga., where he first appears on record as a minister in 1811. In 1816 he led his family to Covington County, Mississippi. There John died after the 1820 census but before the 1823 tax roll.
- No known document names a wife for John Watts. After his death, one “**Judith Watts**” appeared on the next two tax rolls and is presumed to be his widow. Any conclusion that Judith was the mother of his many children is called into question by the fact that his deeds of sale in Montgomery and Tattnall Counties, Georgia, did not have a wife’s participation¹—and by the fact that his children produced eleven daughters of their own (1795–1808) before one was given the name Judith.²
- Earlier researchers have presented John Watts as³
- a Revolutionary soldier from North Carolina—accepted by DAR as Ancestor no. 122826. (Neither John nor Judith applied for a pension.)

¹ Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Zilphy (Watts) Price Cooksey Cooksey,” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 102 (June 2014): 129–52. For the Georgia law mandating the wife’s participation in a sale of real estate by the husband, see Robert & George Watkins, *A Digest of the Laws of the State of Georgia ... to the Year 1798, Inclusive ...* (Philadelphia: R. Aitken, Printer, 1800), 529, 619; and Clayton, *Compilation of the Laws of the State of Georgia*, 63–64.

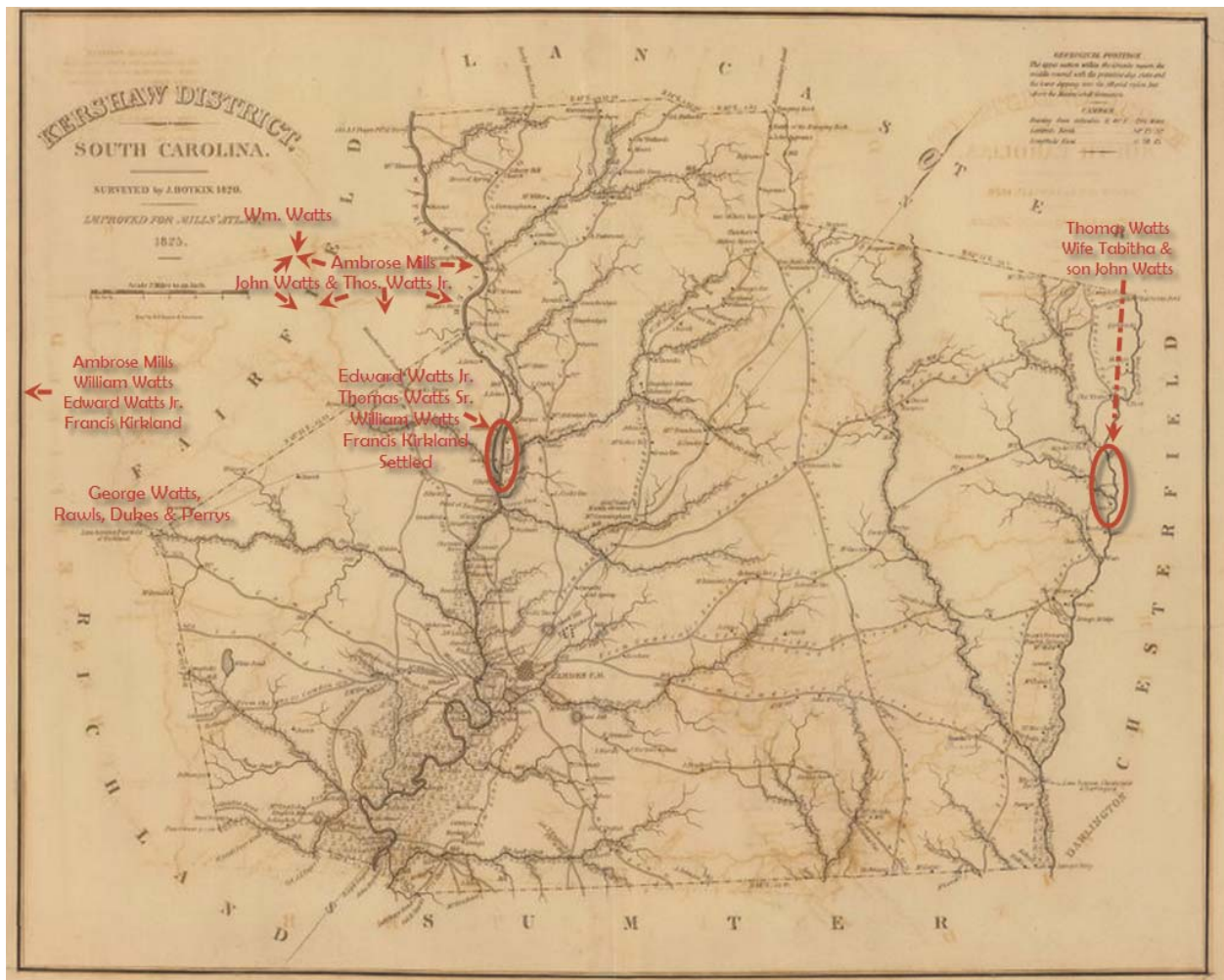
² For the identity of 62 of John Watts’s grandchildren and their birth dates or approximated period of birth, see Wynema McGrew, *Watts Is My Line: John and Judith (?) Watts, Settlers of the Mississippi Territory*, vol. 1 (Hattiesburg, Miss.: P.p., 2010), 34–35. Ten additional grandchildren of John, born to his daughter Zilphy, are not included on this list but are included in the tally in the narrative above. No Judith appears among John’s known children, either.

³ Wynema McGrew, *Watts Is My Line: John and Judith (?) Watts, Settlers of the Mississippi Territory*, vol. 1 (Hattiesburg, Miss.: P.p., 2010), 5–14, summarizes the most-common assertions about John’s origin and analyzes the problems with many of the assertions. This work does not note the signature problem on the Anson petition. Its focus is on the thousands of descendants of John. It does not pursue Anson, Fairfield, or Virginia research to discover John’s true identity.

- the same individual whose name appears as a signer of the 1769 petition from Anson County, North Carolina. (That assertion is demonstrably false. Consulting the original petition reveals that this John Watts could not sign his name, while John Watts of Montgomery County, Ga., signed many documents as a justice.)
- The son of William and Agnes Watts of Anson County, NC (no evidence presented).

LOCALE: Prior research has identified two clusters of Wattses in old Craven County
Wattses of the Wateree—at left on Map 1, below.
Wattses of Lynches Creek—at right on Map 1.

Map 1
Kershaw County, with Parts of Adjacent Fairfield along Western Border
(Annotated to show locations of Watts land grants & residences)⁴



⁴ From Robert Mills, *Mills's Atlas of the State of South Carolina, 1825*; available at David Rumsey Map Collection (www.DavidRumsey.com; downloaded 26 August 2014). Although Mills's collection of maps is dated 1825, many were made a number of years earlier. Some Fairfield locations annotated at left of map are from county-level deeds abstracted separately in E. S. Mills, "Watts: Literature Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them," report to file, 17 October 2014.

POTENTIAL KIN

(As identified through previous literature survey of published Upper SC records):⁵

- 1757 The earliest Watts in the region, **Thomas Watts** (wife **Tabitha**), received a warrant for 250 acres on south side of **Lynches Creek** (surveyed 1762, granted 1764), the first of several grants made to him along Lynches Creek and its tributaries, **Jumping Gully** and **Red Oak Camp Creek**. This land would later fall along **Kershaw** County's *eastern* border. The part of his land that lay across Lynches Creek later fell into **Chesterfield** County.
- 1762 **Ambrose Mills** (whose sister Sarah married one Thomas Watts) received 100 acres of headright land at the forks of **Little River** of the **Broad** in now-western **Fairfield** County, a bit below the **Mobberly/Mobley Settlement** made by fellow migrants from **Bedford County, Virginia**. Adjacent landowners were Jacob Bowers (of Bowers Mill) and *John Lee*.
- 1762 **William Watts** (3 months after Ambrose's land survey) received 100 acres of headright land on the east side of **Little River** at a site that became known as Watts's Branch of Jackson Creek of Little River. That "branch" fed upward into the 100 acres surveyed in 1762 for **Ambrose Mills**. Adjacent landowners were James Anderson and (soon) James Hawthorne.
- 1763 One **Thomas Watts** (not the man of 1757), **William Watts** (the man above), and "**Edward Watts Jr.**" petitioned for *adjacent* grants on **north (east) side of Wateree River**, on lower side of the mouth of **Dry Creek** at **Dry Run** and **White Oak Creek**. This land would be on **Keshaw's western** border, adjacent to Fairfield. During 1785–91 it was part of **Lancaster Co.**
- c.1763 **Edward Watts** of the Wateree River (laer Kershaw Co.) sold his land there to Francis *Kirkland* and patented new land on Little River (later Fairfield Co.) in the **Mobley Settlement**, just above the site of Ambrose Mills's 1762 grant.
- 1766 **Ambrose Mills** took out 600 acres on **Wateree River**, on the Fairfield side of the river. The tract lay between **Wateree Creek** on the north and **Layton's/Taylor's Creek** on the south. Adjacent landowners were **Micajah Pickett**, Richard *Kirkland*, *Francis Layton* and *Surls Lewis*.
- 1768 **Ambrose Mills** patented 100 acres at the **forks of Wateree Creek** that had previously been surveyed for *John Lee*.
- 1772 **Edward Watts** of the Wateree River (Kershaw) sold his land there to Francis *Kirkland* and patented new land on Little River in the **Mobley Settlement**, just above the site of Ambrose Mills's 1762 grant. Edward's neighbors were *Kennedys, Kirklands, Walkers, Winns, and Woodwards*.
- 1774 **George Watts**, witnessed a deed for *Robert Duke* on **25-Mile Creek of Wateree River**. In his RW pension application, George reported his birth as 25 December 1756 in **Bedford County, Virginia**. He married about 1780 Barbara **Crumpton/Compton** but had earlier sons James and Thomas, a possible daughter Elizabeth and (apparently by **Ruth Perry**) a **daughter Sarah**. By Barbara, his children included sons named **Thomas** and **Edward**.
- 1777 One **John Watts** witnessed a deed for **Thomas and Tabitha Watts** of **Great Lynches Creek** (eastern Kershaw Co.). This John is said to be Thomas and Tabitha's son.⁶

⁵ Summarized from E. S. Mills, "Watts: Literature Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them," report to file, 17 October 2014.

⁶ Neal Watts, "John Watts," *GeorgiaGenWeb* [Washington Co., Ga. page] (http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gawashin/famconnect/watts_j.htm : accessed 29 December 2013), citing *Louisville Gazette and Republican Trumpet*, legal notice, Josiah Watts and Tabitha Watts applying for letters of administration on the estate of John Watts, deceased, late of Washington County.

- 1783 Our **John Watts** of Fairfield County was among several men signing a character affidavit for *Lt. William Coggins*, a “former neighbor” who had lived “honestly” in their neighborhood for 15 years and was moving to Georgia. *Others signing the petition—Charles Pickett, Moses Knighten, John King, and John Hollis, Moses Hollis, and John Yarbrough—were 1790 neighbors of our John Watts.*
- 1786 Our **John Watts** sold land said to have been granted to **William Watts**, without explaining how and why he had the legal right to sell the land. The tract was **Ambrose Mills’s** 1768 grant at the **Forks of the Wateree**. *Both the purchaser (Nathan Sanders) and the j.p. (Charles Pickett) were 1790 neighbors of our John Watts.*
- 1786 Our **John Watts** is cited as an *adjacent landowner* on a plat surveyed for James Olgivie and patented that year by “**Thomas Watts Jr.**”
- 1790–1 **John Watts** and **Thomas Watts** are adjacent households on the first census of Fairfield.
- 1787–97 **Four Thomas Wattses** have been placed in Fairfield:
- **Thomas Watts “Jr.”**, apparent son of Thomas Watts “Sr.” of Dry Creek of Wateree (Kershaw), who was adjacent landowner to our John Watts in Fairfield.
 - **Thomas, son of Edward Jr.**, whose new land lay in Edward’s neighborhood.
 - **Thomas, son of George**, who moved to Pendleton as an adult.
 - **Thomas, son of our John**, born *ca.* 1770, who did not come of age until the time of the parental move to Georgia. His only known marriage did not occur until the late 1790s. There is no evidence that he was a head-of-household or landowner in South Carolina.

The prior work suggested two clusters of individuals carrying the same surname:

- Wattses of the Wateree
- Wattses of Lynches Creek

No overlap or interaction was found between these two clusters in old Craven County.

DNA EVIDENCE:

*Y-DNA tests by the descendants of the two clusters show **no genetic match**.*

- Three tested descendants of Fairfield’s John and Thomas-of-John are Y-haplogroup **I-M223**.
- Four descendants of Thomas of Lynches Creek, Kershaw, are **E-L117**.⁷

Thus far, posted results in the Watts Y-DNA project do not connect any other Watts lines to the Wattses of Fairfield or those along the waters of the Wateree.

Other posted test results do carry I-M223 and E-L117, but the individuals who tested appear to have done minimal genealogical research.

⁷ Barbara Van Camp and Neal Watts, group admins., “Watts/Watt/Watson Families Reconstruction Project,” database, *FamilyTreeDNA* (<https://www.familytreedna.com/public/wattsamilies/default.aspx?section=yresults> : accessed 27 Oct. 2014.

NEW FINDINGS

Executive Summary

Note:

All research notes in the body of this report are in chronological order. Documentation for any statement in this summary can be found by turning to the notes for the given date or time frame.

Overview for John Watts:

- Local recordkeeping began in 1785. The earliest reference found in Fairfield's local records for any John Watts is dated November 1784. It places him in the same neighborhood as the John Watts discussed in prior report⁸ who, in 1783, signed the character affidavit for an out-migrating "former neighbor" Lt. William Coggins, saying Coggins had lived "honestly" among them and had been in the state for 15 years.⁹ The 1784 record, like that of 1783, implies that this John Watts was well-entrenched in the community. The neighborhood in which this John Watts interacted throughout the 1780s is the same neighborhood in which our John was enumerated in 1790 as the only John Watts in Fairfield. The records place him consistently in that east central Fairfield neighborhood, with three specific but overlapping locales that fall within a radius of about five miles:
 - **Forks of Wateree Creek:** On 29 December 1784, he and one William Watts bought the 100-acre Ambrose Mills grant at this strategic site. John, alone, sold it in January 1786 via a document that called him "John Watts, Planter."
 - **Between Lower Wateree Creek & Dutchman's Creek :** In January 1786 one James Ogilvie had a land claim surveyed, showing **John Watts** as the adjacent landowner, with metes & bounds different from John's tract above. In 1787, "Thomas Watts Jr." bought the tract from Ogilvie, along with 2 adjacent tracts totalling 1,644 acres.
 - **Mill Creek:** The 1790 census enumerates John next door to "**Thomas Watts**" and Edward Pigg, a Baptist minister who had just moved into the county and bought the mill site on Mill Creek of Little Wateree Creek, about 2–3 miles downstream from the Forks. (See Map 4, Appendixes.)
- Local land records do not identify how or when John Watts acquired the land attributed to him on Ogilvie's plat. The SC land office closed 5 years after John Watts's marriage and did not reopen until 1784. In the interval, many lands that had been warranted and sometimes surveyed exchanged hands without benefit of a recorded title.
- The Thomas Watts who is enumerated next door to John in 1790—with an apparent wife and son—should not be John's son, born ca. 1770–71, who did not marry until their relocation in Georgia. *The Thomas adjacent to John would be the adjacent landowner*, discussed above, who identified himself as "Thomas Watts Jr." when he came into Fairfield and bought extensive lands in 1787.
- John's daughter and son-in-law, "**Caty**" and **Moses Hornsby** (son of Leonard Hornsby), sold their Fairfield land in January 1795, at which time Caty's sister "**Dicy Watts**" witnessed the deed. Part of Moses Hornsby's land had originated as a 1760s grant to the famed SC Regulator *Moses Kirkland* and was inherited by Moses Hornsby from *his father Leonard Hornsby*.
- In SC, as in Georgia, John is found living on or adjacent to mill sites.

⁸ E. S. Mills, "Watts: Literature Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them," report to file, 17 October 2014.

⁹ Pension application of William Coggin (Lt., Sumter's Brigade, SC, Rev. War), S2838; accessed at *Fold3* (www.fold3.com) : 25 April 2014), specifically image 12739959.

Overview for Thomas Watts ("Sr.") of the Wateree River:

- Thomas first appears in 1763 land grant documents for three adjacent tracts surveyed on Dry Creek of the Wateree River (Kershaw Co.). The patentees were "Thomas Watts," "**William Watts**," and "**Edward Watts Jr.**" Thomas is the only one of the three who stayed on the Wateree. (See Maps 1 and 2.) He eventually sold the last of his grant in 1796 *via a deed proved before a Fairfield j.p., Charles Pickett, who was our John Watts's 1783–91 neighbor*.¹⁰
- Records of the mid-1790s identify him as "Thomas Sr."¹¹
- Thomas appears to be a prime candidate for the **Thomas Watts** who married **Sarah Mills**, sister of Col. **Ambrose Mills**, later famed for the Battle at King's Mountain.¹² Ambrose arrived in the area a year before the first appearance of Thomas, William, and Edward Watts Jr. Upon William Watts's arrival in 1762, he obtained not only the Wateree tract but also a land grant contiguous to the land just surveyed for Ambrose on Fairfield's Little River. When, in 1765, Edward Jr. relocated from the Wateree to Little River, he chose land on the other side of Ambrose. A second Fairfield grant made to Ambrose in 1766 was later purchased by our John Watts in partnership with one William Watts. Ambrose came to Fairfield from **Bedford County, Virginia**—the same location that the Fairfield patriot **George Watts**, a later pensioner, cited as his own place of his birth.
- Of the three Watts settlers of the Wateree in 1763, *Thomas is the only one whose age and family status (as reflected by headright requests) is appropriate for him to be the father of the R. W. soldier George Watts (b. 1756) and the father of our John Watts (b. ca. 1748–49).*
- Thomas is the likeliest father of **Thomas "Jr."**, a man who in 1787 acquired 1,644 acres (three tracts) of Fairfield land on Dutchman's Creek of the Wateree. *One tract lay adjacent to our John*. Another adjoined Francis Layton, who settled on land adjacent to Ambrose Mills's home-place grant of 1768. (See Map 4.) Kershaw court minutes of 1796 distinguish between Thomas Sr. and Thomas Jr.
- Thomas is the likely father of **William Watts II**, the 1784 co-purchaser of land with our **John Watts**.
- Thomas is a possible father of **Elizabeth Watts**, **Francis Watts**, and **Moses Watts** who also emerge in the 1790s in those Kershaw court minutes.
- If Kirkland family tradition is correct in its identification of the wife of Fairfield's Francis Kirkland as **Mary Watts**, then Thomas is a prime candidate for her father, considering that Kirkland in 1772 bought Edward Watts's grant next door to Thomas Watts, at or about the time Kirkland married. This Thomas Sr. may also be the father of **Edward III**, who bought part of Edward Jr.'s Little River land but was not his son and heir.

Overview for William Watts (Sr.) of the Wateree and Little Rivers:

- William Watts, prior to obtaining his Wateree River grant (modern Kershaw), had requested 100 acres on Little River, waters of the Broad—100 acres being the headright allotment for a man and one dependent (wife, child, or slave).

¹⁰ See E. S. Mills, "Watts: Literature Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them," 17 Oct. 2014, for abstracts of 22–23 February 1796 published by Brent H. Holcomb, *Lancaster County, South Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1787–1811* (Easley, SC: Southern Hist. Press, 1981), 85, 92; citing "Book C&E," pp. 182 and 248–49.

¹¹ For example, see Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986), 87; citing p. 216.

¹² Mrs. P. W. Hiden, "Nicholas Mills of Hanover County," *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1833): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 700–1. Hiden cites the 1755 will of William Mills, naming children "Sarah Watts" and Ambrose Mills, and a 1749 deed of Thomas Watts and wife Sarah.

- William's Little River land lay just below the land grant laid out three months earlier, in the forks of Little River, for **Ambrose Mills**. A small stream to the right of Ambrose's land became known as **Watts's Branch of Jackson's Creek** of Little River.
- In 1763, William had another tract of 100 acres surveyed next door to **Thomas Watts** (above) and **Edward Watts Jr.** (below), with the three surveys being made the same week. After the survey, he let the land escheat to the province; there is no evidence he ever lived there.
- In 1803, one **William Watts** (possibly a son of William Sr.) purchased a tract on Little River from heirs of neighbors to William's first grant.
- In 1808, one **William Watts** who made another purchase on Sandy River in extreme NW Fairfield.
- No document has yet been found for the disposal of the 1762 grant made to William on Watts Branch of Jackson Creek of Little River. The implication is that he had offspring who inherited the land without a probate process.
- No known document names a wife or children for William. The fact that he chose his first Little River grant next to James *Anderson* and James *Hawthorn*, with vacant land on all other sides, suggests starting points for his wife's identity.
- William Sr. also remains a candidate for father of Francis Watts and Moses Watts, who emerged in court minutes of the 1790s but are herein eliminated as children of Edward Jr., George, or Thomas of Lynches Creek.
- Deed index entries in Fairfield, 1825–41 (for which the documents could not be examined on this research trip and are not available online) include a cluster of Wattses who may be offspring of William in possession of his land: "*William Jr., Joseph, Jonathan, Jacob, and Charles M.*

Overview for Edward Watts Jr. (later "Sr.") of the Wateree River and Little River:

- Edward appears to have stayed at his 1763 grant on Dry Creek of the Wateree River for only two years. In 1765, he petitioned for a grant on what would become **Watts Branch** of the **South Fork of Little River**, below the **Mobley Settlement** and just west of (but adjoining) **Ambrose Mills's** 1762 survey at the Forks of Little River. Principal neighbors were *Woodwards*, *Kirklands*, and Edward "Ned" Walker (See Map 2.) By 1772 he conveyed his 1763 tract to **Francis Kirkland**.
- Edward's neighborhood church, Mobley's Meeting House, was a Loyalist landmark of the RW years.¹³ After the demise of that church, Edward's neighbor, Rev. William Woodward, created another landmark institution. Both churches were Baptist.
- Edward remained there on Watts's Branch of Little River (not to be confused with Watts's Branch of Jackson Creek of Little River where William Watts settled) until his death about late 1809.
- Edward married Millender "Milly" [—?—] who survived him. After his death, she and six children sold parts of his estate, identifying themselves as: "*Milly Sr., Sarah* (wife of Crispin Morgan), *John, Thomas, Milly Jr., Susannah, and Elizabeth*.
- In 1787 Edward had his land resurveyed and divided into two tracts that would be taxed separately to two Edwards in 1792 (the only tax roll available). The second Edward (called Edward III in these notes) witnessed a document relating to the settlement of Edward Jr.'s estate in 1810, but he did not participate as an heir.
- One *James Watts* also served twice (once with Edward III) as witness to the estate events but he, like Edward III, was not identified as an heir. Subsequently "Edward III" would deed land to him—land that James eventually deeded back.
- The *Woodwards* and *Kirklands* are prime suspects for the birth family of Edward's wife or wives.

¹³ The best account of this community—and of Fairfield activities during the Revolution—seems to be Kenneth Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley's Meeting House, June 1780* (N.p.: Privately printed, 2005).

Overview for George Watts of the Wateree's 25-Mile Creek:

- As a RW soldier applying for a pension, George cited his birth on **Christmas Day 1756** in **Bedford County, Virginia**. In the records found to-date, this is the only point of origin explicitly cited by any of the Wattses who settled old Craven County.
- When George was fifteen—according to his later-stated age—someone applied for 150-acres in his name on **25 Mile Creek of the Wateree River**. It was surveyed in December 1772, shortly before his 16th birthday. He next appeared on record in 1774, witnessing a neighbor's deed.
- George would remain on 25 Mile Creek until 1807. His frequent associates were the intermarried Perrys and Wilsons and the intermarried Dukes and Doughertys.
- His land on 25-Mile Creek adjoined **Ralph Jones's Meeting House**. That Baptist minister, Ralph Jones, was a fellow signer and likely instigator of the 1783 character affidavit co-signed by our John Watts and several of John's neighbors.
- George apparently married (quite young) in the mid-1770s, fathering sons *James* and *Thomas* (both of whom he acknowledged while deeding land to them) and a likely daughter *Elizabeth* (see below). About 1780, he apparently married **Ruth Perry** daughter of Jacob Perry, who made his will 5 October 1780 citing his daughter Ruth Watts and his grandchild *Sarah Watts*; George witnessed that will.
- Between 1780 and 1782 George married **Barbara Crumpton** (*var.* Compton), daughter of Henry, who survived him and applied for a Revolutionary widow's pension. In 1852, when their youngest son Edward applied for an RW pension on his father's service, he stated that his parents had six surviving children: "*Sallie, Mary, Eleanor, Nancy, Margaret, and himself* (Edward).¹⁴ Edward-of-George was possibly confused as to the mother of his eldest sister Sally, who was an adult before his birth. He did not reference James or Thomas as a child of his parents. (When George donated land to "*my son Thomas*" in an 1818 deed of gift, Barbara acknowledged relinquishment of her dower interest, but she was not included in the "*my*" statement.)¹⁵
- In 1793, George and his former brother-in-law Jesse Perry were male bondsmen for one **Elizabeth Watts**, who was being charged with an unidentified offense. That situation typically occurred when a girl or woman conceived a child while still unmarried; male relatives then posted the bond to ensure that the child would not become dependent upon the state for support.
- The name "George," was passed on to a child by our John's eldest son Thomas. No other George has been found among these.

William Watts II, Fairfield & Kershaw:

- 29 December 1784, William Watts was co-purchaser of a tract of land with our John Watts. The pattern at which the Watts spread across the Wateree into Fairfield suggests that both were likely sons of Thomas Sr. of Dry Creek of Wateree River, Kershaw.
- 25 January 1792, he bought land in Central Fairfield, about two miles due west of Ambrose Mills's Forks of the Wateree tract that he and John had purchased in 1784.
- In February 1799, he sold a grant that had been made in 1791 to Thomas Watts [Jr.] on Dry Fork of Wateree Creek, about 5 miles from our John, without explaining how he had the legal right to sell it.
- In February 1800, after he and Thomas Jr. had left Fairfield and resettled in Kershaw County, he sold two tracts he had purchased in Central Fairfield.

¹⁴ George Watts Pension Application (Sgt., Sumter's Brigade, SC, Rev. War), File 11214, Widow Barbara; accessed via "Revolutionary War Pensions," database with images, *Fold 3* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 11 September 2014).

¹⁵ On 23 December 1818, George Watts made a donation to "my son Thomas Watts," which was co-signed by Barbara Watts and witnessed by William Watts, J.P. and Elizabeth Watts; see A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Pendleton District, SC, Books O and P (1818–1822)* (N.p.: P.p., 2007), 199. No record has been found in which George made a similar donation to William and William was not named as a surviving child by Edward in 1852; there is no evidence to propose that William of Pendleton was also a son of George, although that possibility should not be dismissed without a full investigation.

- In 1809, he and Thomas Jr. were two of several men appointed by the Kershaw Court to a jury of inquest into the sanity of one Joseph English.
- He appears to be the William Watts residing near one Thomas Watts and one George Watts in adjacent Richland County, 1820. Richland lay just below the 25-Mile Creek land that George had patented in his youth.

Unconnected Thomas Watts (Y haplogroup EL117) of Lynches Creek:

- Thomas and his wife Tabitha lived consistently on Lynches Creek from 1757 until his *ca.* 1792 death. The widowed Tabitha is enumerated adjacent to their Lynches Creek neighbors (particularly widow Elizabeth Rochelle) in 1810 Kershaw.
- Thomas and Tabitha had four identifiable children: John, Benjamin, Isaiah, and Julius. John in 1792, saying he was “of Washington County, Ga.,” sold his rights in the paternal inheritance to *Tabitha, Julius, Isaiah, and Benjamin*. This John Watts is the individual who achieved prominence in Washington County as a justice, land surveyor, lieutenant colonel of the militia, signer of the state constitution, and state representative.¹⁶
- In January and February 1824 (concurrently with Widow Elizabeth Rochelle’s sale of her adjacent land), Isaiah and Benjamin Watts sold their inherited Lynches Creek land, with the participation of their wives *Jenny and Sarah*.

INTERACTIONS:

Numerous connectors exist between all the Watts who settled on the waters of *Wateree River* and Fairfield’s Little River. For example:

- **Thomas Sr. – William – Edward Jr.:** In 1763 these three men applied for adjacent tracts at the mouth of Dry Creek of Wateree River (present western boundary of Kershaw County).
- **Edward – William:** After William relocated on Little River (present Fairfield), Edward followed him there. Both of their Little River lands flanked a previous grant to Ambrose Mills (whose sister Sarah married to one Thomas Watts).
- **William – John:** In December 1784, William and John bought a tract of land in the fork of Wateree Creek that had been granted to Ambrose Mills. On 29 January 1786, John sold that land, before his neighborhood justice of the peace, without explaining how he was legally entitled to sell the entirety of the property without William’s participation.¹⁷
- **William – John:** In November 1784, John purchased goods from the estate sale of Widow Barber.¹⁸ In 1792, William Watts bought land next door to the Widow Barber’s son John—buying that land from John Gowin/Goin who, in 1790 lived 4 households from our John Watts.¹⁹
- **Thomas Jr. – John:** In 1786, John is named as adjacent landowner to land surveyed for James Ogilvie, who transferred the land to Thomas Watts Jr. before filing for a patent.
- **Thomas Jr. – John:** In 1790, the first census of Fairfield places Thomas and John as adjacent households in that same neighborhood.
- **Thomas Sr. & Jr. – John Watts & Moses Hornsby:** When Thomas (Sr.) sold his 1763 land grant on Kershaw side of the Wateree River in 1796, the buyer was a neighbor of the land owned by Thomas Jr. on the Fairfield side of the Wateree. Witnesses were *Nicholas and Austin Peay*. The

¹⁶ Neal Watts, “John Watts,” states that the colonel received 15 grants in Georgia. On this point, his mostly reliable biography errs by including two grants (460 acres and 500 acres) actually granted to our John Watts, formerly of Fairfield.

¹⁷ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book A: 508–10.

¹⁸ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1899; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1,” 285–86.

¹⁹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 51.

j.p. used for the transaction was our John Watts's neighbor and former j.p., Charles Pickett.²⁰ The witness Nicholas Peay, the year before, had bought the home plantation of John Watts's daughter and son-in-law Caty and Moses Hornsby, as they prepared to move to Georgia.²¹

- **John – George:** In John's first document of record in Fairfield, 1783, he and *Rev. Ralph Jones* signed a character affidavit for a "former neighbor" who was moving to Georgia. Ralph Jones's Meeting House lay on 25-mile Creek, adjacent to the Bryan McClendon grant, which George's land also bordered.
- **George – Thomas – William:** The three men appear to be close neighbors on the 1820 census of adjacent Richland County, after county boundaries were changed to give Richland part of the area that had been Fairfield and Kershaw.

Naming patterns also suggest kinship. Although records on the SC frontier are rare before 1785 and spotty thereafter, enough evidence exists to inform us that

- Edward had sons Edward, James, Thomas, and John who lived to adulthood
- George had sons James, Thomas, and Edward who lived to adulthood.
- John named his first son Thomas; and Thomas named a son George.
- William apparently had son William Jr. (others unknown).
- Edward Jr., George, and John all named daughters Elizabeth.
- Edward named daughter a Sarah (the name of Ambrose Mills's sister who married one Thomas Watts). George named daughters Sarah and Eleanor (the latter name being that of the wife Ambrose married there in along the Wateree in the 1760s, Eleanor Morris).

Findings to-date suggest the following working-hypotheses:

- All of the Watts males who settled on waters of the Wateree prior to the Revolution (Edward Jr., Thomas Sr., William Sr., John, and George) are part of a family cluster
- Of this cluster, Thomas is clearly the oldest and George is clearly the youngest.
- Thomas Sr., Edward Jr., and William Sr. appear to be of the same generation.
- John, George, and Thomas Jr., and the William who co-owned land with John in 1784, all appear to be of the same generation.

If these hypotheses are correct, then future research in Bedford County, Virginia, George's birthplace, should reveal at least two things:

- this same cluster of men, likely in a neighborhood with Mobleys, Woodward's, and Ambrose Mills; and
- a migration pattern from their Bedford neighborhood to Craven/Camden/Fairfield.

²⁰ See E. S. Mills, "Watts: Literature Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them," 17 October 2014, for abstracts of 22–23 February, 1796, published by Brent H. Holcomb, *Lancaster County, South Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1787–1811* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1981), 85, 92; citing "Book C&E," pp. 182 and 248-49.

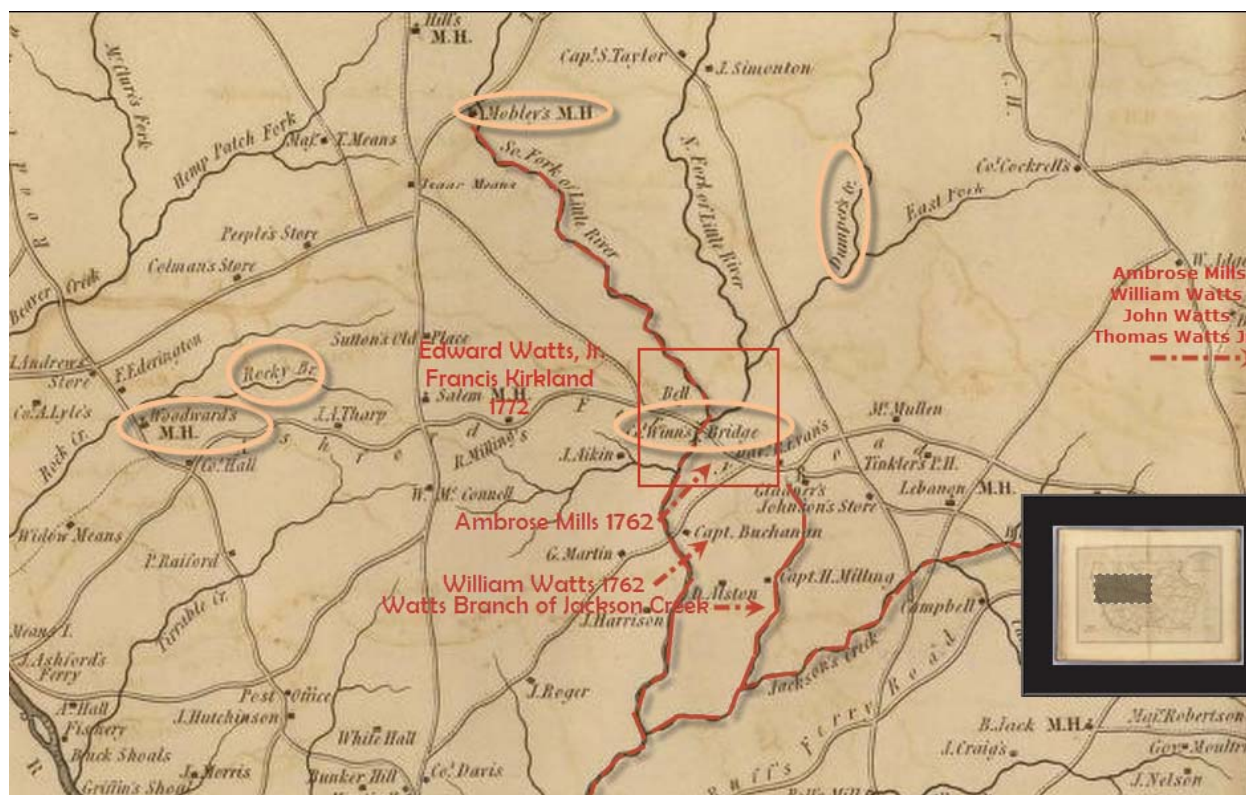
²¹ Fairfield Co., SC, Plat Book E: 23.

RESEARCH NOTES

Comment:

In this initial survey of materials and people of Fairfield and Kershaw, I am primarily doing “nutshells” rather than full abstracts. A few key documents are transcribed in full. In some cases, I quote passages to preserve language that identifies locations and relationships.

Map 2
Little River Area, Fairfield County²²



On this map, note the following:

- Dampier's Creek at top of map, east of Mobley's Meeting House. The Dampiers also moved to Tattnall County, Georgia, and are immediate neighbors of the Watts clan in Covington County, Mississippi.²³
- Edward Watts Jr. & Francis Kirkland (whose wife is alleged to be Mary Watts in numerous undocumented trees online) settled between the South Fork of Little River and Rocky Branch,

²² The map snippets shown in this report are taken from Robert Mills, *Mills's Atlas of the State of South Carolina*, 1825; available at David Rumsey Map Collection (www.DavidRumsey.com : downloaded 26 August 2014).

²³ See E. S. Mills, "Cooksey & Allied Families: Tax Data—Montgomery and Tattnall Counties, Georgia, 1798–1820," 3 January 2011; archived online at *Historic Pathways* (<http://www.historicpathways.com/download/2011-3Jan-CookAssocTattMontTAX.pdf>). Also Mills, "Possibility to Pursue: Were John and Judith [—?—] Watts the Parents of Zilpha [—?—] Price Cooksey?" 9 July 2010; archived at *Historic Pathways* (<http://www.historicpathways.com/download/Zilphaspossibleparents.pdf>).

²⁴ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book K: 359.

his land would be sold, after his *ca.* late 1809 death, to Rev. William Woodward. A small branch on which he settled (not shown here) was called “Watts’s Branch of Little River.”

- The square is the first Watts-connected grant in the region, approved for Ambrose Mills (brother of Sarah Watts) in 1761 and then surveyed for him in 1762.
- William Watts, in 1762, settled below and contiguous to the Ambrose Mills grant; his land lay between Little River and a waterway that became known as “**Watts’s Branch of Jackson’s Creek.**”

2 DECEMBER 1779

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

Edward Watts and **Millinder, his wife of Little River** in St. Mark’s Parish, Craven County, planter, to John Oston of Mill Creek in same parish. On 31 August 1774, Edward Watts had received a grant for 76 acres bounded NW by **Thomas Woodard**, SE on William Kennedy, SE on **Thomas Woodard** and E on **Oston’s** land, on north side of **Broad River**. They now sell the same to Oston for 30 pounds. Signed: **Edward Watts; Millinde Watts** (M, her mark). Witnesses: John Woodward, **Thomas Watts**. Proved 9 July 1796 by **John Woodward**, before H. Milling, J.P. Recorded 2 March 1796 [*sic*].²⁴

COMMENT:

The long delay between the 1779 sale and the 1796 recording is typical in this place and time. Prior to 1785, there was no provision for local recording; deeds could only be recorded at Charleston. After local offices were established, the population did not rush to record past transactions; they generally did so only when they needed to dispose of property they had bought via an unrecorded document.

Map 2 (p. 12) shows the general location of Edward’s Little River land, in relation to that of William Watts and Ambrose Mills.

The identity of “Thomas Watts,” witness to the above document, is uncertain. Records abstracted later in this report prove that Edward had a son Thomas, birth year unknown. The headrights allowed to Edward support a conclusion that he had a wife and three children prior to 1763. If one of those were Thomas, he would be of age to legally sign this document. It’s also germane to note the multiple instances in this project in which *minors* witnessed documents.

5 FEBRUARY 1779

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Witness.

Bryant McClendon of “South Carolina,” planter, sells for 700 pounds to Frederick Freeman of Craven County, land granted 10 June 1771 to Bryant McClendon, 100 acres in Craven on **25 Mile Creek of the Wateree River**. No neighbors named. Witnesses: **George Watts**, *John Taylor*, John Hiron. Proved 22 November 1794 by [not named] before *Zachariah Kirkland, J.P.* Recorded 10 June 1795.

Same day, same parties, same witnesses. Sale of land granted 3 June 1774 to Bryant McClendon, **200 acres** in Craven on **25 Mile Creek**, *adj. Ralph Jones*, James McMillon, Bryant McClendon & vacant lands. Signed Bryant McClendon (B his mark) Proved by **George Watts**, 22 Nov. **1792** before Z. Kirkland.²⁵

COMMENT:

This 200-acre tract would be sold by Freeman to George Watts who sold it in 1807.²⁶

²⁴ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book K: 359.

²⁵ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 415–22.

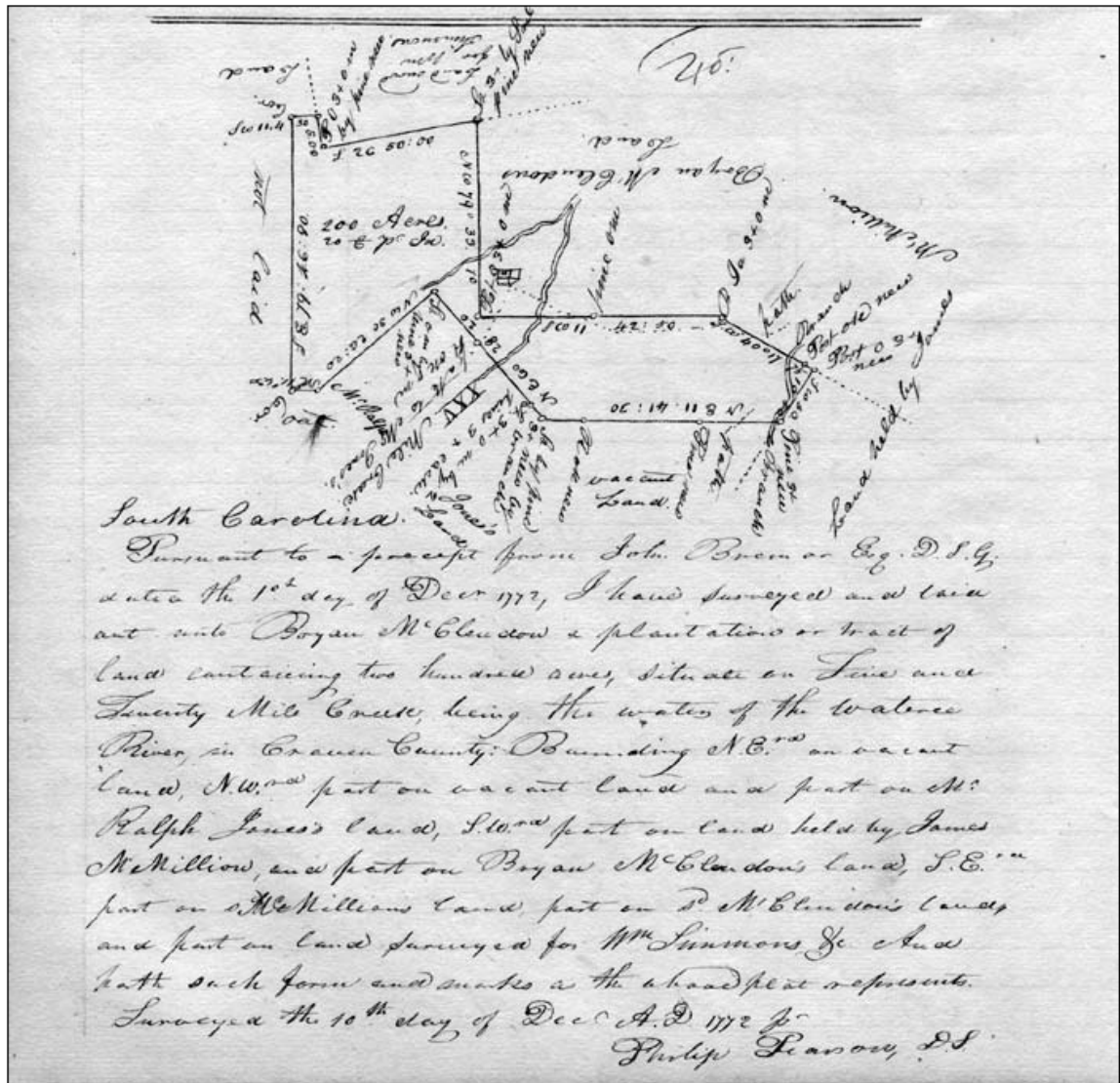
²⁶ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book R: 108.

Location of George Watts's Land Stradling Forks of 25-Mile Creek
Granted to Bryan McClendon, adjacent to Ralph Jones's Meeting House
(Rotate plat about 60° clockwise for proper N-S orientation)

S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series)

MCCLENDON, BRYAN, PLAT FOR 200 ACRES ON TWENTY FIVE MILE CREEK.

[Previous](#) | [Return to image index](#) | [Next](#)



COMMENT:

See Map 3 (p. 15), for the 25 Mile Creek neighborhood. Also see prior report dated 17 October, under date of 10 January 1772, for George's original grant.

- This 200 acre tract adjoining Ralph Jones would become the land of **George Watts**, who would sell it on 20 [month unstated] 1807. (See abstract of that date.)

Note also:

- George Watts's service as witness to a deed for a man living adjacent to the **Baptist minister Ralph Jones**—and George's own residence for decades next to Jones—forms one of many connectors between the initial Watts settlers of Fairfield. Four years after the above deed (November 1783), when a group of "former neighbors" of Lt. William Coggins drafted for him a character reference stating that he had lived "honestly" in their neighborhood for 15 years, two of the signers were **Ralph Jones** and **John Watts**.²⁷

Of the 14 signers of that affidavit (eleven of whom are repeatedly coupled in records with our John Watts), *Jones signed prominently as the first name in the first column*, suggesting that he may have been the instigator of the affidavit. It also presents the possibility that the signers—including John Watts—were members of Jones's congregation.

- Re the location of Ralph Jones's Meeting House, the standard history of S.C. Baptists tells us:
"Of the branches of Congaree in 1772, only Wateree Creek was constituted in the period under discussion. **John Blake** preached here for a time, but this came to be known as **Ralph Jones's Meeting House** because it was in this locality and with this church that Rev. Ralph Jones spent his life. **The first meeting house** twenty-five by twenty feet was built in 1770 on a lot given by **William Roden**. His plats were on **Wateree and Beaverdam Creeks**, and the first building was on this land, the church later moved about five and a half miles south of Winnsboro, a little east of the Charleston Road *near the headwaters of Wateree and Dutchman's Creeks*." Jones served this meeting house until at least 1803.²⁸

Townsend also states that Bryan McClendon donated the land for the Baptist Church on 25-Mile Creek, "probably" taken from his 1767 survey at the head of the Creek.²⁹

The original survey plat for the the McLendon-Freeman-Watts land helps us make a necessary correction to the published account above. The church apparently moved *twice*, not just once—and helps us define the residential patterns for the Watts who are associated with this church.

- 1779 The plat (see below) places Ralph Jones's own land to the NW of McClendon and places the meeting house squarely on McLendon's land between the *forks of 25-Mile Creek*.
- 1783 The meeting house at the *forks of Beaverdam and Wateree* (Map 4) would be the site of the church at the time Ralph Jones and John Watts signed the 1783 petition. This is the neighborhood of almost all the 1783 signers.³⁰
- 1790 The census places Ralph Jones 3 houses from *Francis Kirkland*—whose land adjoined one Thomas Watts. (See below for 24–25 January 1786.) Kirkland was the same man (alleged husband of Mary Watts) who in 1772 bought the original grant of Edward Watts on the Wateree when Edward moved over to Little River.³¹

²⁷ Pension application of William Coggin (Lt., Sumter's Brigade, SC, Rev. War), S2838; accessed at *Fold3* (www.fold3.com : 25 April 2014), specifically image 12739959.

²⁸ Leah Townsend, *South Carolina Baptists, 1670–1805* (1935; reprinted Baltimore: Clearfield, 2003), 147 for the quote; for Jones, also see 140, 145–47.

²⁹ Leah Townsend, *South Carolina Baptists, 1670–1805* (1935; reprinted Baltimore: Clearfield, 2003), 144; citing "Crozer MS, p. 30."

³⁰ The locations of John Watts's associates and neighbors are developed in this report and the preceding report: E. S. Mills, "Watts: Literature Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them," report to file, 17 October 2014. For the 1783 document specifically, see the 17 October report for notes under the date 5 December 1783.

³¹ See report of 17 October 2014, under dates of 18 July–19 August 1774 and 8 November 1774.

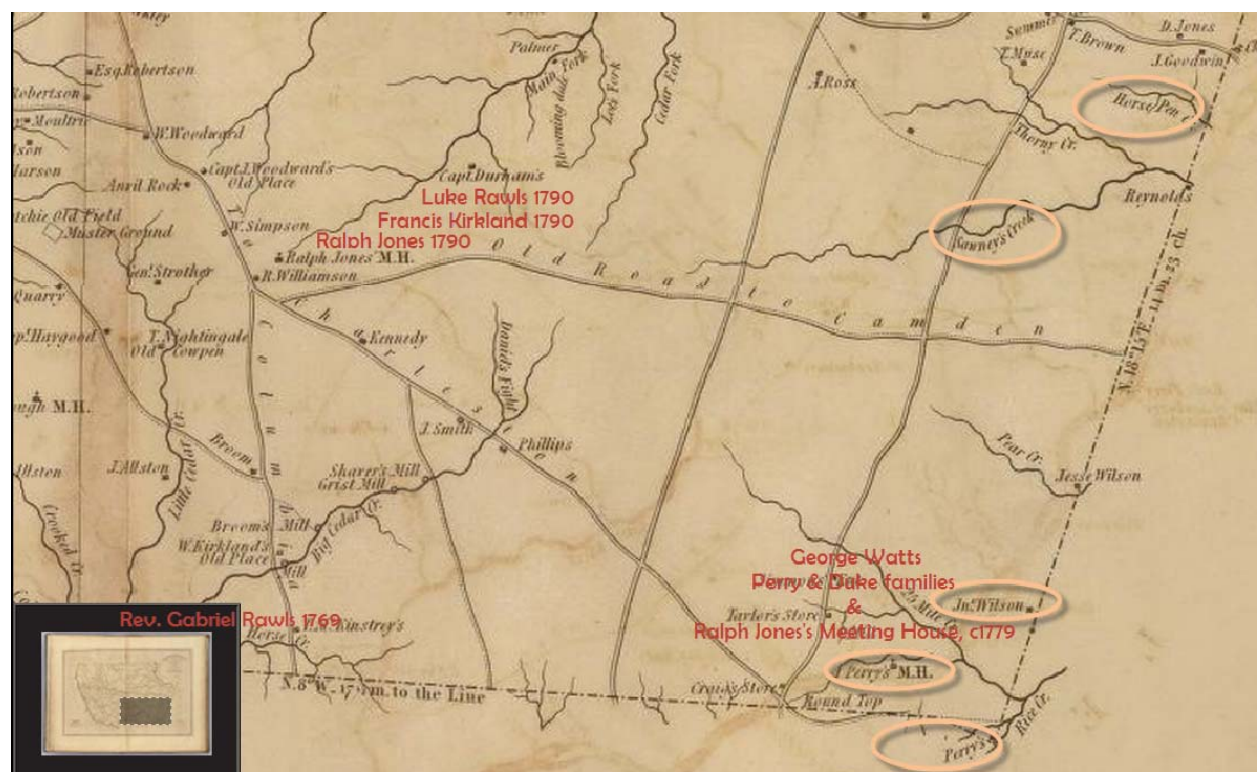
Jones in 1786 was also 6 houses from Luke **Rawls**—the family into which John Watts allegedly married. Rawls’s neighborhood lay between 25-Mile Creek and Little River in the Cedar Creeks area (See Map 3). This neighborhood coincides with the placement of “Ralph Jones Meeting House” on *Mills’s Atlas*, compiled 1815–25.

The survey plat for the land that George Watts would buy tells us the following:

19 December 1772

"Pursuant to a precept from John Bremar Esq. D. S. G. dated the 1st day of Decr. 1772, I have Surveyed and laid out unto **Bryan McClendon** a plantation or tract of land containing two hundred acres, Situate on **Five and Twenty Mile Creek**, being the waters of the Wateree River, in Craven County. Bounding N.E.rd part on vacant land and a part on **Mr. Ralph Jones's** land, S.W.rd part on land held by *James McMillion*, and part on *Bryan McClendon's* land, S.E.rd part on McMillians land, part on sd. McClendon's land, and part on land Surveyed for W^m Simmons &c. And hath such form and marks as the above plat represents. Surveyed the 10th day of Decr. A. D. 1772 pr Philip Pearson, D.S.³²

Map 3
Southeast Quadrant of Fairfield County
Showing 25-Mile Creek, Sawney's Creek, and Big/Little Cedar Creeks
Site of George Watts, Ralph Jones & the Perrys, Dukes & Rawls



³² *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "McClendon, Bryan, Plat for 200 acres on Twenty Five Mile Creek," S213184: Colonial plat Books (Copy Series).

COMMENT:

- Note on Map 3 the proximity of **25-Mile Creek (where George Watts lived)** to **Perry's Meeting House** and to **Jno. Wilson** (son-in-law of Jacob Perry who had a daughter "Ruth Watts" in 1780). One branch of the Duke family—Robert Duke specifically, also lived along 25-Mile Creek.
- In the top left of the map, note "Robertson." This notation overlaps the east border of Map 2, the Little River area settled by William Watts in 1762 and Edward Watts Jr. in 1772.
- Note also that, by 1790, Edward Watts's adjacent landowner Francis Kirkland (whose wife is alleged to be a Mary Watts) has settled between Luke Rawls and Ralph Jones's new location.

8 AUGUST 1779

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Will of **John King**, *daughter Ann*, lot of land in Camden [**Kershaw Co.**], *daughter Elizabeth*, a slave. Beloved wife *Priscilla King*, use of his house. Other property to be divided among his *children: Elizabeth, John, Joseph, George, Ann, and Sarah*. "N.B. my Estate consisting one Tract of Land containing one Hundred Acres Situate in Craven County on **Cedar fork, Dutchman's Creek, Waters of Wateree River [Fairfield Co.]** adjoining *Robert Campbell's Land* [and] one tract containing three hundred and fifty acres situate on the waters of **Black River [Kershaw Co.]**;" also two slave women. Executors: Joseph Kershaw, Esqr., and wife Priscilla. [Signed] John King (X his mark). Witnesses: *Thomas Jones, Jams. Brown, Reason Nelson*.³³

COMMENT:

- The date on which this will was probated (and the time of the testator's death) is not known.
- The 1790 census places one John King 11 households from our John Watts. King also appears in sundry records with our John throughout this report—including the 1783 character affidavit. A 1786 survey for James Ogilvies shows John King and John Watts as adjacent landowners.
- As shown on Map 4 (p. 19) Cedar Fork of Dutchman's Creek begins about 3 miles SE of Mill Creek, where John Watts's adjacent landowner Rev. Edward Pigg lived in 1790.

5 OCTOBER 1780

CAMDEN-FAIRFIELD CO. SC

Will.

Jacob Perry (JP, his mark), "lends" to wife **Judith**, his plantation whereon they live, for her to enjoy during his lifetime. Leaves to his "**youngest son Lewis Perry**," the plantation, its tools; a horse, bridle & saddle; one bed & furniture; four cows and their calves; and his wearing Cloathes. Leaves to **daughter Patience Perry** one bed and furniture, two cows 7 calves with their increase. Leaves to **daughter Ruth Watts** one Cow and Calf with their increase. Leaves to **daughter Mary Wilson**, one cow & calf and their increase. Leaves to **grandchild Sarah Watts** one black cow with her heifer Calf and their increase. Leaves to **son Samuel Perry** one Cow & calf. Leaves to **son Jesse Perry**, one cow and calf. His whip saw and crosscut saw shall be kept for the use of his plantation and his three sons. All other things to be sold and divided among children. **Executor: Robert Duke & Samuel Perry**. Witnesses: **George Watts & Henry Neal** (X his mark).³⁴

³³ Kershaw Co., SC, "Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1," 151–52; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

³⁴ Kershaw Co., SC, "Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1," 150; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1. The filmed index begins with this statement: "'Index to Wills: This Index was made by Mrs. Minnie Reese for

COMMENTS:

- szimmerman, "Franklin-Gose FamilyTree," *Ancestry.com* (http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/193_59922/person/19801932990?ssrc=&ml_rpos=6) asserts that Jacob Perry (1730–5 Oct. 1780) was the husband of **Judith Hunter** (b. 1735), and the son of James Perry and Patience **Rawls**. No evidence is provided.
- "U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560–1900," *Ancestry.com* asserts that **Jacob Perry** of SC married **Judith Hunter** of N.C. in 1753; no evidence is provided. This marriage date, if correct would allow for the *possibility* of a young **daughter Judith** to marry John Watts by 1768–69. However, Jacob Perry's will makes no reference to a daughter Judith.
- If Ruth were the wife of our John Watts, then she would have to be a second wife, with her predecessor bearing Catherine, Thomas, John, and at least two others. Otherwise, Jacob Perry would not have singled out just one of her children for recognition in his will.
- None of the trees viewed to date assert an identity for the husbands of the daughters. If Ruth (Perry) Watts was married to George Watts, then she died shortly after this will because George's RW pension application states that he married Barbara Crumpton "about 1780" by whom their first child "Sally" was said (by her younger brother) to have been born in 1781. In a 1792 deed record, George identified a son James, then a minor.³⁵
- Researchers often question whether a beneficiary of a will can legally be a witness to that will. The question is relevant here to any determination whether George Watts (witness) could be the husband of Ruth Watts (daughter and heir). That question might be answered, in this specific case, by the fact that Samuel Perry (son and heir) is also a witness.

1 AUGUST 1782

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Associates.

"Memorandum of Appraisement of Thomas **Milos's** estate." Signed: **Moses Knighten, John King, John Bird**. ... Memorandum of Sundrys Bought and Sold at the Estate of Thomas Milos. Isaac? *Knighton, Thomas Knighton, Wishart Gibson, Michael Byrd, Charles Lewis, Sarah Kniton, Micajah Pickett; Leah Tidwell; William Miller, Moses Knighton, James Hollis, Alice? Knighton, Charles Johnston, John Byrd, Isaac? Knighton, John Byrd, Charles Pickett.*³⁶

COMMENTS:

Most purchasers were 1790 Fairfield neighbors of John Watts and his adjacent landowner, Thomas Watts [Jr.] Various online trees say that *Michael Byrd was the son of Moses Smith's wife Catherine (John King's sister) by her first husband John Byrd*. These Byrds would relocate in Montgomery and Tattnall County with our John Watts.

20-21 SEPTEMBER 1783

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

By lease and release, **Robert Ellison** sold to **Hugh Milling** of Jackson Creek, planter, 200 acres known as half of a survey for 400 acres "**on a branch of Jacksons Creek, known as Watts Branch**, bounding S.E. on

W. L. McDowell & presented to Kershaw County, W. L. McDowell, May 3, 1934." Some of these wills go back as early as 1771. Most of the inventories are in the early 1780s. All have been neatly recopied, apparently at the time Kershaw was created.

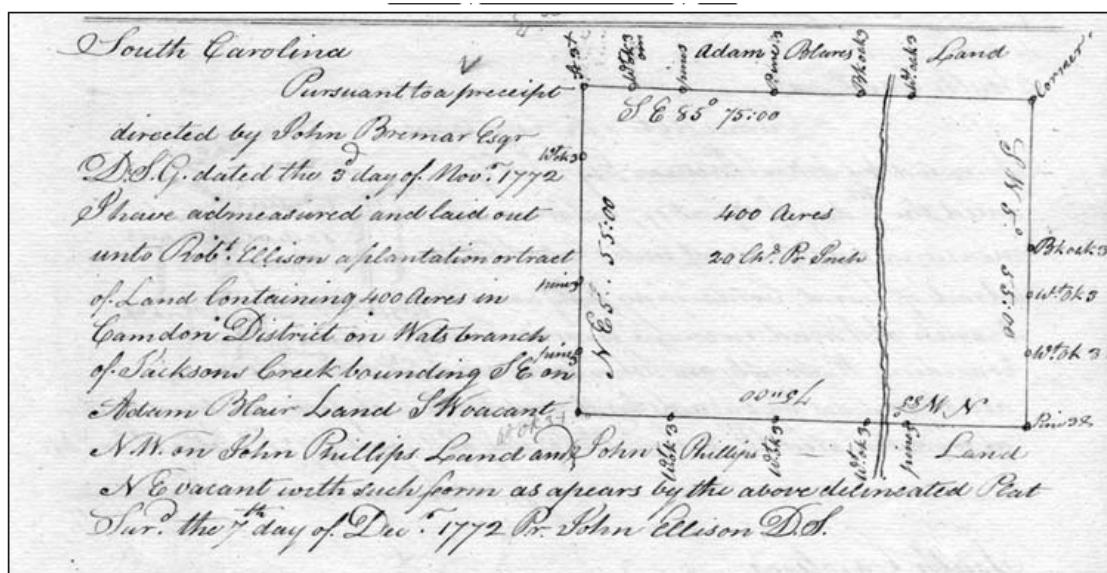
³⁵ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book R: 107 for George's 1792–95 purchase of land for his underage son James. This account of George's children was given in 1852 by his youngest child Edward—who may well have been confused about the 1780–81 marriage of his parents and the birth in this period of his oldest sister "Sally." It seems more likely that she was the Sarah born of Ruth Perry (who appears to have died about the time this will was written) after which George's new wife raised the infant.

³⁶ Kershaw Co., SC, "Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1," 2; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1. **Many early Fairfield documents are found in this book.**

Adam Blair, S.W. on vacant Land, N.W. on John Phillips, and N.E. on vacant land.” Signed: Rt. Ellison. Witnesses: Jno. Woodward, H. Hunter, Jno. Milling. Proved 25 January 1786 by John **Woodward** and Henry **Hunter**. Recorded 4 March 1786.³⁷

COMMENT:

- See Map 2 (p. 11) for Watts Branch, and the Woodward neighborhood.
- In 1790, Hugh Milling appears 28 households after John Watts. Four houses from Milling, we find Adam Blair who, in 1791, (Deed Book H:38–39) sold his Hog Fork of the Wateree land, saying it was bounded by *John Winn* and *John Gray*. The census taker appears to have gone from **Hornsby’s Fork** of the Wateree (p. 150 of the census, where he enumerated Moses Hornsbie) down to **Mill Creek** (p. 151, where he added John Watts, Thomas Watts, and Rev. Edward Pigg) down to Hog Fork—enumerating, between the last two streams, the Tidwells, Micajah Pickett, Obadiah Henson, John King, Moses Knighton, Charles Pickett J.P., and Charles Lewis (all of whom are a few doors past John Watts and appear with him in many records) and then on to the **Watts Branch** neighborhood of John Milling and Adam Blair (p. 153), and Robert Ellison (p. 154). Ellison’s survey plat for this land appears below.³⁸



17 AUGUST 1784
CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC
 Associate.

Thomas Starke’s Inventory. Submitted by Douglas Starke, Taken by Jno. Milhous, James Scott, Thomas Vaughan. Includes 9 slaves.³⁹

COMMENT:

This Thomas Starke appears to be the father of (a) Capt. Thomas Starke who cosigned, with John Watts, the 1784 character affidavit for William Coggins; and (b) Reuben Starke. See the

³⁷ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book A: 174–79; FHL microfilm 23,991. Also see: Tony Draine, *Fairfield County, S.C., Deed Book A, 1785–1788* (Columbia, SC: Draban Publications, 1991), 6–7.

³⁸ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Ellison, Robert, Plat for 400 acres in Camden District,” S213184: Colonial plat Books (Copy Series).

³⁹ Kershaw Co. Will Book “A-1,” 191–92; FHL microfilm no. 24,052.

subsequent notes from the later will of Capt. Thomas, naming Reuben as his brother.

21 OCTOBER 1784

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

John King, 100 acres on Waters of Wateree Creek, adj. **Moses Knighton** & vacant land.⁴⁰

COMMENT:

- This Moses Knighton should be Moses Jr., King's next-door neighbor on the subsequent 1790 census.
- The online land database offered by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History shows that John King received 950 acres of headright land prior to the closing of the land office in 1775. The above tract would be one obtained in the intervening decade. He would later purchase another tract of 170 acres from the state. In short, he was a substantial landowner, whose point of *residence* can't be determined from any one grant.

Map 4
Dutchman's Creek &
Wateree Creek (including Dry Fork, Mill Creek, and Hog Fork) Fairfield County



COMMENT:

This map graphically shows how the Wattses spread westward from the original cluster on the Kershaw side of Wateree River.

- In 1762 and 1772, **William and Edward Jr.** had a major move across the Wateree—about 35–40 miles to the next major waterway, Little River. (Their lands appear on Map 2, p. 11, which overlaps the above map on the west).

⁴⁰ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book C, 1786–1788," p. 110; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

- **Thomas remained at the original site and it appears to be his offspring that**, from 1772 to 1792, spread gradually across Wateree River—down to 25-Mile Creek (George), Dutchman’s Creek and Taylor’s Creek (Thomas Jr.), Wateree Creek from the forks to Mills Creek (John & William) and Dry & Hog Forks (William and Thomas).
- Note the appearance of **Ambrose Mills** in this Wateree cluster also. He held two tracts. His smaller tract, 100 acres marked with a square, is the one later purchased from his heir by **John Watts** in concert with one William Watts. His plantation of 600 acres lay along the Wateree River between Wateree Creek on the north and Taylor’s Creek on the South.
- Dutchman’s Creek (toward the SE corner of Map 4), is the location of “Rev. John Blake” of the 1790 census (see notes above about Blake and Rev. Ralph Jones’s Meeting House). Also in this area at the top of Map 4 the 1790 census enumerates
 - Nathan Sanders (who in 1786 bought from John Watts the Ambrose Mills land at the Fork of Wateree Creek)
 - Moses Knighton Sr. (whose son Moses Jr. in 1790 is 13 houses from John Watts)
 - Widow Ratcliff, Knighton’s next-door-neighbor (from whose husband’s estate in Summer 1785 John Watts bought a “lot” of pewter, consecutive with a purchase by Moses Knighton).

2 NOVEMBER 1784

CAMDEN & FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

“An Inventory of the Appraisement of the Effects Belonging to the Estate of the *Widow Barber* Deceased, taken this 2nd Day of November 1784.

[Signed] Samuel Armstrong (O, his mark) **John Watts** (X his mark) [*sic*] ; T__? [Jno.?] Johnson⁴¹

COMMENTS:

This “clerk’s record book” copy appears to have erred on the signatures. John Watts *signed* the other documents he executed in this county and in Georgia. In this instance, the witnesses’ names are scrunched and stacked tightly at the bottom of the page. It seems likely that the X shown for John was meant to be for Johnson.

The fact that this John Watts was assigned to make the appraisal not only suggests a connection to the Barbers (kinsman, in-law, or neighbor) but also suggests he had been in the county long enough for the community to respect his judgment. *He was not a new arrival.*

In this vein, see “Watts: Initial Survey of Fairfield ...,” for date of 5 December 1783, when John Watts and a dozen other residents of the neighborhood gave a character reference for Lt. William Coggin, their “former neighbor” who was moving to Georgia—a man they said had been in the state for 15 years.⁴²

The document above also negates the popular assertion that our John Watts was the man who saw RW service under Capt. Walton in North Carolina.

- Capt. William Walton (the only Capt. Walton in NC’s RW records) was—at the time John Watts was drafted—a paroled prisoner who had just returned to his home in Bertie County,

⁴¹ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1,” 287; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

⁴² Pension application of William Coggin (Lt., Sumter’s Brigade, SC, Rev. War), S2838; accessed at *Fold3* (www.fold3.com : 25 April 2014), specifically image 12739959.

N.C.⁴³ The militia in which that John Watts served was a drafted militia composed of men ordered to report to regional “collection points” where they were assigned to a particular company and its officers. Of the six regional depots, Halifax was the one that served Capt. Walton’s region. The NC John Watts was thereby assigned to Captain Walton.⁴⁴

- After the war (specifically 22 November 1784) the N.C. legislature passed an act authorizing a census that was to be taken within 6 months. **That census shows one John Watts in Martin County**—a county that lay adjacent to and between Halifax and Bertie (Walton’s home). John Watts would spend the rest of his life there, leaving a will in 1819.⁴⁵ This will be developed in a report now in progress on Martin and Bertie Counties.
- **The John Watts who appraised an inventory in Fairfield Dist., S.C. on 2 November 1784 and resided there through 1791 could not be the same John Watts enumerated on a northeastern North Carolina census taken between November 1784 and May 1785.**

4 NOVEMBER 1784

CAMDEN & FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land plat.



⁴³ For Walton, see Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army during the War of the Revolution; April, 1775, to December, 1783* (Washington, D.C.: Rare Book Shop Pub. Co., 1924), 417; and Sarah Walton pension application (Capt. William Walton, NC), application W1518, BLW 244; accessed via Fold3 (www.fold3.com : 2 June 2014).

⁴⁴ Hugh F. Rankin, *The North Carolina Continental Line in the American Revolution* (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1977), 65.

⁴⁵ For the draft of the NC militia, which forced the 1781 service of John Watts, see Hugh F. Rankin, *The North Carolina Continental Line in the American Revolution* (Raleigh: N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, 1977), 65

“Pursuant to a Warrt. to me directed by John Winn Esqr C.L. for Camden District dat. 23^d Oct^r 1784, I have admeasured and laid out to **Jesse Perry** a Tract of Land containing Ninety three acres Situate on 25 Mile Creek Bounded on the West by Jos. Bradley, SW & SE by 25-Mile Creek, E by **John Waits** [*sic*], NE by Mr. J. Milling’s Land and hath such Shape and marks as the above plat represents. Surveyed 4th Novemr. 1784. Alex^r Johnston DS. Deliv^d it to Jesse Perry. ⁴⁶

COMMENT:

- The adjacent neighbor on the east, spelled as John “**Waits**,” does not appear to be a misrendering of *Watts*. Colonial era plats show three grants in that area to John Waight, John Waight Jr., and Mary Waight.
- See also the plat of 25 January 1786, below, for Perry’s wealthy neighbor John Milling. That plat, covering 1,566 acres, shows many small landowners surrounding it and emphasizes the settlement cluster that Perrys and their in-laws created.
- Note the *ca.* 90° bend in 25 Mile Creek at Jesse’s property. This is seen again on Milling’s 1786 plat. The area is easy to locate on *Mills’s Atlas*. It now straddles the line between Fairfield and Kershaw.

5 NOVEMBER 1784

CAMDEN & FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

“An Inventory of the *Widow Barber’s Estate* Decd. Sold by Public Vendue the 5th Day of November 1784? Robert Ewing, Benjn. Harrison, James Arnett, John Shains, Elizabeth Lennox, John Connery, Thos. Robinson, Samuel Barber, Thos. Johnston, James Owen, John Winn, John McKeown, James McCreight, James Johnston, *Charles Lewis, Jarvis Gibson, Alexander Goyne, John Watts* (bought a “**Slide and Tacklings**” for 0.7.6), *John Barber, John Winn*, John Goodram, Allen Goodram, James *Hollis*, Jacob *Gibson*, Edward Morgan, Isaac Graham, John Jenkins. [Signed] John Barber (X his mark).⁴⁷

COMMENT:

Many of these John Watts neighbors can also be placed on Map 4.

NOVEMBER 1784

CAMDEN & FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Historical context.

The nature of the “slide and tacklings” that John Watts bought in 1784 is open to debate. They are rarely seen in 18th century inventories, so they were not in common usage among farmers.

Studies on historic tools and equipment do not associate these terms with farming or surveying. However, histories of **milling** depict their usage in both grain mills and saw mills:

Grain mills: a *hoist system* (i.e., tacklings) was used to raise the sacks of grain—sometimes as high as the third story of the mill, and then a *slide* fed the grain into the hopper.

Saw mills: Logs were hoisted into the mill on one side, via a slide and tacklings that pulled them in; then the trimmed lumber exited out the other.



⁴⁶ Fairfield Co., SC, Plat Book B: 110.

⁴⁷ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1,” 285–86; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

One distinctive feature is seen in almost all the early Watts land grants—as well as those of Ambrose Mills. They located their grants at the point that two or three streams converged. Coincidentally or not, that configuration was a common one for sawmills because logs could be floated down each stream to the mill site. Often sawmillers built a dam across from one fork to the other, a bit away from the fork itself, to keep floodstage waters from ruining the timber.

The land that John Watts and William Watts bought in 1784 and kept for 13 months—the Ambrose Mills land—was located precisely at the forks of the Wateree.

Again in 1790, after John sold the Mills tract, he was enumerated next door to the minister Edward Pigg, who had arrived the year before and bought an existing mill site on Mill Creek, at the next fork down the Wateree from the site John and William had bought but not kept.⁴⁸ Coincidentally or not, In Tattnall County, Georgia, in the first decade of the 1800s, multiple documents place John Watts, the retired justice, next to “Cox’s Old Mill” or show him living on the land of a mill owner.⁴⁹

The image above, an American sawmill about 1920, depicts the process that prevailed over several prior centuries—including the slide and riggings that pulled each log into the mill.⁵⁰

10 DECEMBER 1784

CAMDEN DISTRICT, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

William Mills of **Rutherford County, NC** to **Macajah Picket** of Craven County, SC. Lease and release. By virtue of a grant made 18? May 1773 to *Ambrose Mills*, 100 acres situated in Craven on a **small branch of the Wateree Creek** bounded NE by *John Lee*, and on other sides by vacant land. Sale for **20 pounds**, cash. Signed: *William Mills*. Witnesses: *John Mills, Surls Lewis, Ann Mills*. Proved 21 December 1784 by *Surls Lewis* before John Winn, J.P.[a Fairfield official] Recorded 26 June 1792.⁵¹

COMMENT:

This document involves several non-ordinary circumstances. As a foundation, we should first identify the land, its location, and some of the connections between the original grantee and the Wattses—one of whom, our John Watts—appears in 8 households from Micajah on the 1790 census. The forks of Wateree Creek, depicted in this plat below,⁵² appears on Map 4.

- Ambrose Mills also had three other lands surveyed in Fairfield County—two of which place him adjacent to a Watts or a Watts neighbor:⁵³
 - December 1761, Ambrose petitioned for 100 acres of headright land on Little River (present Fairfield), where William and Edward Watts petitioned for land in 1762 and 1765. Mills’s May 1762 survey was certified in September 1766 but he let the title lapse and in April 1773, he petitioned the Council at Charleston to recertify his plat and grant him title. The 1762 plat he submitted with that petition places the land at the site where Little River

⁴⁸ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book F: 35-36.

⁴⁹ See E. S. Mills, “Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749–ca.1822): Research Notes, last updated 30 September 2014.

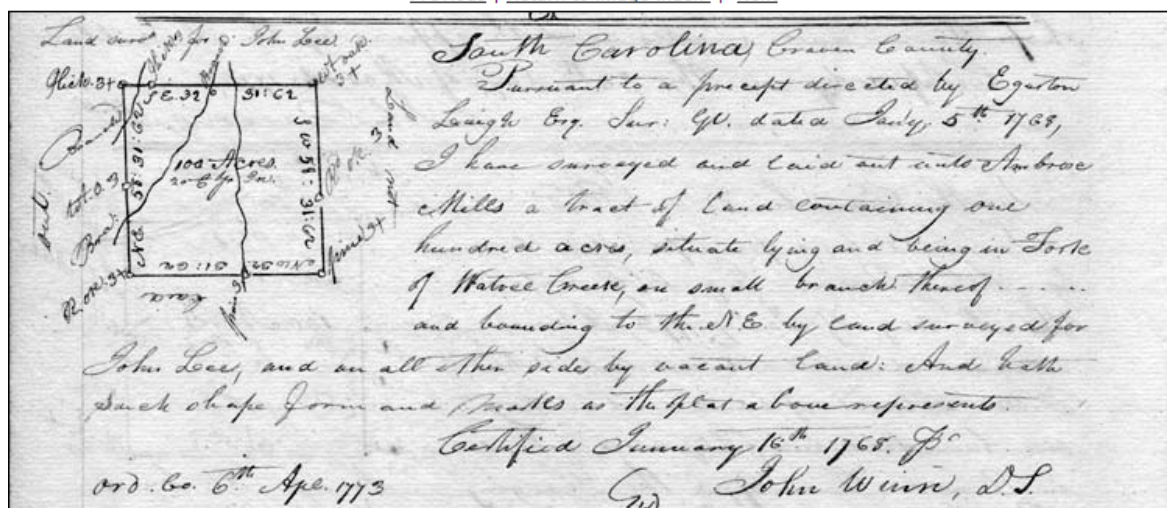
⁵⁰ Public domain image from “Sawmills,” *Wikipedia*, accessed 26 October 2014.

⁵¹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book H (1792–93): 9–11; FHL microfilm 23,993.

⁵² *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online-archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Mills, Ambrose, Plat for 100 acres in Craven,” S213184: Colonial plat Books (Copy Series).

⁵³ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 74, 96; Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia: SCMAR, 1999), 10, 26; Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia: SCMAR, 1999), 245.

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⁵⁷ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>: accessed 7 October 2014), Mills, Ambrose, "Plat for 600 acres in Craven County," S213184: Colonial plat Books (Copy Series).

- The 700 acres of headright land allowed to Ambrose reflect a household of 1 man and 13 dependents. How many of those were children and how many were slaves is unknown. He had married in Southside Virginia, about 1750 but after his removal to the Carolina frontier, about 1756, his wife and children (son William excepted) were massacred by Indians, after which he remarried and had other children prior to his execution as a Loyalist colonel in 1780.⁵⁸

The conveyances of 1784–86, dealing with Ambrose Mills's Forks-of-the-Wateree grant, have several irregularities.

- The 1784 document does not say where it was drafted. Ambrose's son and heir, William Mills, appears to have journeyed down to Fairfield, given that Macaijah Pickett executed another purchase that same day in the area of Winnsboro—the seat of Fairfield County. (See William Tidwell, 10 December 1784.) However, William's witnesses were John Mills and Ann Mills—the names of his half-brother and stepmother. If the transaction occurred in North Carolina, then they were the likely witnesses. If the sale took place in Camden/Fairfield, the John Mills of this record would seem to be an older (and still active) John who had arrived in Craven/Camden/Fairfield contemporaneously with William's father Ambrose in the 1760s.⁵⁹ No connection is known between them; the will of Ambrose's father includes no son John.⁶⁰
- The 1784 document appears to have been personally penned by William Mills—a man who had lived in "*Craven County, SC*" in his youth. At the time he lived there, it was indeed Craven County. At the time of the deed, the area had been *Camden District* for 15 years. As a contrast, in the second document executed that day by the purchaser **Macaijah Pickett**, Pickett identified his residence appropriately as "St. Mark's Parish, Camden District."
- Ambrose's Fairfield lands were "absentee landowner" lands for several years after his death. The fact that he was a well-known Loyalist, and yet his lands in South Carolina were not confiscated as the lands of other Loyalists were, seems to attest the strong Loyalist sentiment in that part of Fairfield.
- Eleven days would pass before the Mills-Pickett witness, **Surls Lewis** of Fairfield (the neighbor to Ambrose's 600-acre plantation), went before his neighborhood J.P. to prove the deed.
- Pickett disposed of the land six days later—making no profit on the sale. Using the lease-and-release form of conveyance, he executed the *lease* in favor of a **William Watts**, who was put in possession of the land for half the sale price; then Pickett executed the *release* to our **John Watts**, who paid the remaining half.
- Thirteen months later (January 1786) **John Watts** sold this land to a neighbor, without William's participation, using his neighborhood j.p., **Charles Pickett**. See abstract under that date.

⁵⁸ Lyman C. Draper, *Kings Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King's Mountain, October 7th, 1780* (Cincinnati: Peter G. Thompson, 1881), 481.

⁵⁹ For Ambrose's NC-based son to seek out a Fairfield man of the same surname to serve as witness would seem to imply some family connection. The John Mills of Fairfield speculated on land in disparate parts of Fairfield: Rocky Creek, Bush Creek, Cedar Creek, and Sandy River; see *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images ([http://www.archives.index.sc.gov/online archives/](http://www.archives.index.sc.gov/online%20archives/) : accessed 7 October 2014), "Mills, John," numerous database entries and some plats, series S213184: Colonial plat Books (Copy Series). I have found no evidence of military service by him on either side.

⁶⁰ Mrs. P. W. Hiden, "Nicholas Mills of Hanover County," *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1833): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 700–1.

10 DECEMBER 1784
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

William Tidwell of the Parish of St. Marks, planter, to **Micajah Pickett**, planter, of same. Sale of land granted 28 November 1771, to *Charles Hill*, lying on the **Wateree** in St. Marks Parish, Camden District, bounded NW by land laid out to *William Hill*, SW by land laid out to *Charles Hill Senr.*, the other sides bounding on vacant land. Sold by Charles Hill to *William Tidwell*. For 50 pounds sterling, Tidwell now conveys to *Micajah Pickett*. Witnesses: *Smallwood Owen* (X his mark), **Thomas Stone** (T his mark). Proved 12 December 1782 [sic] by Smallwood Owen before Charles Pickett, J.P.⁶¹

COMMENT:

- John King, Charles Pickett's next-door neighbor in 1790 and a near neighbor of John Watts, also owned land that adjoined Hornsby.⁶²
- In 1795, Thomas Stone was cited as adjacent landowner to the grant of Moses Hornsby on Hornsby's Branch of Wateree Creek.
- Ambrose Mills's first wife, Mourning Stone (William Mills's mother) is said by many undocumented online trees to have been the daughter of Marvel Stone and sister of Thomas Stone. The above Thomas would seem to be a generation contemporary with Mourning.
- Micajah Pickett (husband of Kinsanna *Hinson*) was executor of the will of his brother James in Camden District; James's will named wife Susan and children John, **Ruben**, Elizabeth, and Frankey.⁶³

TO DO:

- Consider Picketts, Hinsons, and Kings as possibilities for the unknown wife of John Watts, who named a son Reuben—a name not found in the family of John's father or mother (Sarah Mills).

18 DECEMBER 1784
CAMDEN & FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

"Memorandum of the Goods & Chattels of the Estate of Philip **Hinson**, Decd."

2 slaves, farm tools, tobacco, Lot of cotton, lot of leather, geese, beans, 2 meal sifters, etc. [Seems like the property of a single or widowed male.] Signed: **John King, John Watts, Thomas Gowin**.⁶⁴

COMMENT:

This John Watts is clearly the one who lived among these men in 1790—i.e., our John.

- Philip Hinson's will identifies his son as Obadiah Hinson and his daughter as Rosanna Pickett.⁶⁵ The 1790 census places Micajah Pickett (husband of Rosanna) and Obadiah Henson

⁶¹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book H (1792–93): 86–87; FHL microfilm 023,993.

⁶² Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 330.

⁶³ "Notes for Micajah Pickett and Kinsanna Hinson," *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m331x332.htm#FN1> : accessed 6 September 2014); citing "South Carolina Department of Archives and History, S108093, Reel 14, Frame 533."

⁶⁴ Kershaw Co., SC, "Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1," 223; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

⁶⁵ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), Phillip Hinson will, drawn 21 January 1777 in St. David's Parish (now Kershaw), recorded 20 November 1785; S108093: South Carolina Will Transcripts.

at 8 and 10 households from our John Watts. In 1766, Pickett had been an adjacent neighbor to Ambrose Mills's newly surveyed plantation.⁶⁶

- "Abediah" Hinson, on 6 February 1786, certified in his name a plat for 100 acres "between Wateree and Dutchmans Creeks ... Surveyed by William Glascock for Philip Hinson on January 22, 1770."⁶⁷ **This document also helps to identify John Watts's 1790 location.**
- John King, who made the inventory with John Watts, is shown as **adjacent landowner to John Watts** on the January 1786 survey for the land James Ogilvie sold to **Thomas Watts Jr.**⁶⁸
- The names *Philip Hinson* and *Macajah Pickett* both are found in Anson County, NC, in 1749 and 1763 respectively, living on the south side of the Great PeeDee.⁶⁹ Charles Pickett, the j.p. and neighbor of Macajah, has not been found there in the cursory study I've done thus far.
- In the 1790s, Micajah Pickett left his wife Kinsannah in Fairfield and moved to Rutherford Co., NC, where he settled adjacent to land owned by William Mills, son of Ambrose.⁷⁰

20 DECEMBER 1784

CAMDEN & FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Philip **Hinson**. Estate sale. Purchasers included John Hinson, **Obadiah Hinson**, **Bartlett** Hinson, Thomas Gavin [Gowin?], James **Hollis**, Isaac **Gibson**, Abraham **Gibson**, Charles Graham, **Nathan Sanders**, **Henry Sanders**, **Charles Pickett**, **John Lewis**. [Signed] John Hinson, executor.⁷¹

COMMENT:

- The name "Bartlett" was brought down as a given name among the descendants of John Watts's son Thomas and John's daughter Zilphy. Thus far, I have found two instances of its being used as a given name in Fairfield—*Bartlett Hinson*, above, and *Bartlett Sanders*, a son of Nathan, above.
- Philip Hinson had a tract surveyed for himself on Wateree and Dutchmans Creeks, Craven County, on 22 January 1770, as referenced in a plat of 6 February 1786 for Abediah Hinson.⁷²
- The Hinsons were inlaws to the Picketts—Micajah Pickett supposedly married Kinsanna Hinson on 24 December 1768 in Craven District.⁷³

⁶⁶ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Mills, Ambrose, Plat for 600 acres in Craven County"; series S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series).

⁶⁷ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), database entry, "Hinson, Abediah, Plat for 100 acres ... in Craven County," S213190: Plats for State Land Grants, 1784–1868.

⁶⁸ Fairfield Co., SC, Plat Book A:176.

⁶⁹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Anson County, North Carolina: Deed Abstracts, 1749–1766; Abstracts of Wills & Estates, 1749–1795* (1974; reprint, Baltimore: Clearfield, 2010), 1, 103.

⁷⁰ "Notes for Micajah Pickett and Kinsanna Hinson," *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m331x332.htm#FN1> : accessed 6 September 2014), citing "South Carolina Department of Archives and History, S108093, Reel 14, Frame 533."

⁷¹ Kershaw Co., SC, "Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1"; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

⁷² "Notes for Micajah Pickett and Kinsanna Hinson," *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m331x332.htm#FN1> : accessed 6 September 2014), citing "South Carolina Department of Archives and History, S213190, 10-232."

⁷³ "Notes for Micajah Pickett and Kinsanna Hinson," *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m331x332.htm#FN1> : accessed 6 September 2014), citing "Ethel Nerim Miner, *Hanson, Henson, Hinson, Hynson and Allied Family Names*, Vol. II (1993), 104."

29 DECEMBER 1784

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land purchase.

"This Indenture made the 29 of December in the year of our lord one thousand Seven hundred and Eight four. Between **Macajah Picket** of Cam. District of the one part and **William Watts** of the State afores^d planter, of the other part. Witnesseth That the said Macajah Picket for and in Consideration of the sum of **ten pounds Sterling** hath granted Bargained Sold aliened & released and Confirmed and by these presents doth bargain Sell alien and Confirm and release Unto the said **William Watts** *in his Actual possession now* being by virtue of a bargain and Sale to him thereof made for one whole year by an Indenture of lease bearing date the day next before the day of the date of these presents and by force of Statute for transferring Uses into possession and to his heirs & assigns forever: All that tract of land Containing one hundred Acres which said tract or parcel of land Containing **one hundred acres** Situate lying and being on the **fork of the Wateree Creek** Craven County bounded to the north West on land Surveyed for John **Lee** and on all other sides by vacant land at that time and hath such shapes form and mark as appears by a plat thereof to the grant annexed which said Grant was to **Ambros Miles** under the hand of Charles Montague Esquire Governor &C at that time and the seal of the state for that purpose affixed bearing date the Sixteenth day of May anno domini 1778. The said Ambros Miles deceased and by **William Milles his Son and Heir**, was the said tract of land Containing one hundred acres Sold and Conveyed unto the said Micajah Picket partie to these presents as appeared by deed of lease and release dated the ninth and tenth days of December anno domini 1784, reference being thereunto as will now fully and at large appear. Together with all and Singular the numbers and appurtenances whatsoever to the said Tract or parcel of land Containing one hundred acres belongs or in any wise Appurtaining and the reversion and levea___ [?] remainder and remainders rents Issues and profits thereof and allso all the Estate right title Interest possession profit Claim and demand whatsoever either in law or Equity of the said Micajah Picket of in or to the said tract or parcel of land Containing one hundred acres. To Have and to Hold the said tract of land Containing one hundred acres hereby granted and **released** or ment [meant] or Intended to be hereby granted and released or ment or intended to be hereby granted and released with their and every of their appurtenances **unto the said John Watts**, his heirs and every other person or persons Whatsoever Claiming or to Claim by from or Under him them or any of them shall and Will Warrant and for Ever defend by thes presents. In witness whereof the said Macajah Picket hath hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written. [Signed]

Macajah Picket {LS}

Sealed and Delivered in the presence of **Charles Lewis, Isaac Knighten**.

Received the day and year first above written **of the within named John Watts the sum of ten pounds Sterling**, it being the Consideration Money within mentioned. I say received pr me. Macajah Picket {LS}

South Carolina, Camden District. Be it Remembered that **Charles Lewis** appeared before me James Knox, Esquire and made oath that he was present and did see **Macajah Picket** sign seal and as his Act and deed deliver the the [sic] within Instrument of Writting to **John Watts** for the purposes therein mentioned and he acknowledged himself fully Satisfyed for the same and that this deponent Saw Isaac Knighton sign the same as a subscribing Evidence with himself. [Signed] Charles Lewis {LS}.

Sworn before this 29th of December 1787. James Knox J.P.

Rec^d [for filing and record] April 29 1789.⁷⁴

⁷⁴ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book C: 59.

COMMENT:

This document is typical of its place and time—in both form and wording. It represents a two-part transaction called a *lease and release*, by which real estate was sold. On “Day 1” the owner, for a usually token sum such as a peppercorn or a shilling (but in this case, 10 pounds), would execute a “lease” of the property to the buyer for a specific period of time. On “Day 2” (usually the next day), the owner would execute a “release” in which the buyer would pay the full sum of the property in exchange for being released from the obligation of returning the property at the end of the lease. In the counties cut from Craven County and Camden District, county clerks typically recorded just the second document, indexing it under the label “release.”

Beyond the legal form and legal language, this document has a puzzling circumstance: In the portion of the document that conveys full title by lease, the buyer is twice identified as **William Watts** and he is said to be the person put in possession of the property. In the last part of the document, which addresses the release, that release is given to **John Watts**, who is then said to have paid an additional 10 pounds sterling.

Unless the original scribe or the county clerk *twice* miscopied the name of the buyer in the Day 1 lease, then neighbors who were parties to the lease and release saw nothing unusual about William being put into possession of the land on Day 1, while John paid an equal share on the following day for the privilege of their keeping the land. In any event, the conflation suggests kinship.

Also worth noting: Macajah sold the land to the Wattses for exactly the sum he paid for it. He had kept the land only a matter of days and made no profit on his investments. The Wattses simply reimbursed him for what he had paid. *What, then, was Pickett’s motivation for buying the land? How did he find a new buyer so quickly? Did he, on a trip to Rutherford where the seller lived, buy the land specifically for William and John Watts?*

Re others involved in the Pickett-to-Watts transaction: **Charles Lewis** and **Isaac Knighton**, the two witnesses, like the Picketts, were frequent associates and 1790 neighbors of John Watts.

Neither John nor William would keep the land. In January 1786 (see below) John sold it to a neighbor, at which time no mention was made of the legal interest that the 1785 document vested in William’s name. The purchaser of the property was John’s neighborhood justice of the peace, Charles Pickett—the brother of Macajah—who would have been making the purchase with full knowledge of what had transpired and a reasonable understanding of the law.

No document suggests how this land was used by either Ambrose Mills or the Wattses. Clearly, Ambrose had a special intent for *this type of land*, considering that he petitioned not once but twice for tracts located in the forks of a major waterway—relinquishing one to acquire the second. In the South Carolina backcountry during that time frame, the forks of a creek had two special values:

- Timber was a major commodity and export for colonial South Carolina. Settlers used the forks of a major waterway as a **mill site**—particularly for lumber milling—building a dam across from one fork to the other, close to the fork itself. Logs could be floated down the streams to the mill site and chuted directly into the mill.
- Also, many **wild animals**—horses, cattle, and hogs—roamed the Carolina backcountry. Settlers **trapped and domesticated** these. That labor was simplified if one owned forks of a waterway, because wild animals could be driven into the forks and penned there.

[N.D. CA. 1785]

CAMDEN & FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

"Memorandum of Appraisement of the Estate of *Samuel Radclif, Decsd.*" Taken by **Moses Knighton, Isaac Knighton, Charles Lewis.**⁷⁵

COMMENT:

Re Charles Lewis:

1789 had 360 acres surveyed on Wateree Creek, adj. himself, Moses Hornsby (son-in-law of John Watts), John King, and Nathan Sanders (who, in 1786, bought from John Watts the Ambrose Mills tract at the Forks of Wateree Creek).⁷⁶

1790 was 5 households from Moses Knighton, 6 houses from John King, and 17 from John Watts and Thomas Watts [Jr.].

5 APRIL 1785

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

"Pursuant to a [precept] from John Winn Esqr, C.L. [commissioner of lands] for Camden Distr. date 7 Mar. 1785, I have laid out to **Francis Kirkland** a Tract of Land containing Two Hundred and Twenty Six acres Situate on **Little River** the Waters of Broad River, Bounded as above and hath such Shape and marks as the above plat represents. Surveyed 5 Apr 1785, James Winn D.S. Record^d 8th Apr 1785. [Neighbors shown on the plat are **Thos. Watts Land** at NW, *Spence Taylor's land* at SE, *John Buchanan's Land* at South, and *John Gray's land* at NW.]"⁷⁷



⁷⁵ Kershaw Co., SC, "Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1," 295; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

⁷⁶ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>; accessed 7 October 2014), "Lewis, Charles, Plat for 360 acres on Wateree Creek"; Series S21390, vol. 0024, p. 00199, item 2; Plats for State Land Grants, 1784–1868.

⁷⁷ Fairfield Co., SC, Plat Book B:186.

COMMENT:

- Kirkland was the man who bought Edward Watts's grant adjoining Thomas Watts Sr. on Wateree in Kershaw. **He is now in the Little River neighborhood of William and Edward Watts.** The repeated connection across two disparate locales *suggests a possible* identity for either Edward's wife or Francis's wife.⁷⁸
- The location of this land suggests the adjacent Thomas Watts was Thomas Jr. See 21 August 1786 for plat of Isaac Gibson, depicting one tract of John Gray on Waters of Wateree Creek in the area of Hog Fork.
- The plat above needs to be rotated about 170° counterclockwise, for proper N-S orientation. I've made this calculation from the calls penned on each line.

[N.D.; SUMMER 1785]

CAMDEN & FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

[Recorded between documents dated 3 August 1785 and 4 June 1785.]

"Memorandum of a Sale of Sundries bought & Sold of the Estate of *Samuel Ratcliff*, Deceased."

Buyers included: **John King, Charles Pickett, Stephen Ratcliff, Rachel Butler, Peter Tidwell, John Watts** (a lot of pewter for 5.0.0), **Moses Knighten, Zilpah Tucker, Amos Windham, Robert Roberts, Absolem Galloway, Robert Roberts, John Turner, Charles Kimbrell, Frederick Bell, Addison Scharborough, Charles Kimbrel, Susana Ratcliff.**⁷⁹

COMMENT:

Note the presence of 3 women. Females rarely appeared at publicly held (and liquor-fueled) estate auctions of this era unless they were family members. Susana Ratcliff was likely the widow. Rachel Butler and **Zilpah Tucker** are *likely* to be daughters. **Tuckers and Ratcliff should be pursued as a possible source of the name John Watts gave his ca. 1780 daughter, Zilpha.**

With regard to the purchaser **Moses Knighton**:

- This was likely Moses Knighton, Sr. of Dutchman's Creek and Taylor Creek of the Wateree River, a former neighbor of the land that **Ambrose Mills** took out on that creek. In 1790, Moses Knighton Sr. was a near neighbor of the Widow Ratcliff, whose husband's estate sale he attended above.
- **John Watts**, in 1790, was 12 houses from Moses Knighton Jr., living on Mill Branch of Little Wateree Creek.
- John's attendance at the Ratcliff estate sale on Dutchman's/Taylor's Creek would be only a 3 to 5-mile horseback ride. *It places him in the neighborhood shown on Map 4 (p. 19) for Thomas Watts Jr.*—the prior neighborhood of Ambrose Mills, whose Forks of Wateree Creek property John and William Watts had just bought.
- Moses Knighton Sr. made a will probated 16 April 1795 naming wife Susannah; sons Peter, Moses, and James; daughters Margaret & Mary; executors Moses Knighton and N. Peay; Witnesses: Wm. Lenox and Thomas Hear.⁸⁰

⁷⁸ For Edward's wife's identity, see Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Books K:359 (1779) and T:294–96 (1810). The latter document also identifies their surviving children.

⁷⁹ Kershaw Co., SC, "Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1," 295; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

⁸⁰ Elizabeth Wood Thomas and Sydney Starr Furr, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Wills 1773–1797* (Pass Christian, Miss.: Willo Institute of Genealogy, 1967), 18; citing Will Book 1:55.

- In 1795, when **John Watts's daughter and son-in-law (the Hornsbys)** sold their land, they sold it to Peay.⁸¹ In 1799, when one **William Watts** sold the Dry Fork of the Wateree Creek grant that had been made to one *Thomas Watts* in 1791, he also used Peay.⁸²

7 DECEMBER 1785

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

Thomas and Mary Duke to Robert and **John Ellison**. Second part of a lease and release. 50 pounds. Bargain and sell "by virtue of a Bargain and sale to him thereof made by the said Thomas and Mary Dukes by Indenture bearing date the day next before the day of the date of these presents for the term of one year Commencing from the Day next before the day of the date of the said Indenture and by force of the statute made for Transferring Uses into possession of force in this state."

Land on "**Wateree Creek** being bounded by a **branch called the Dry Branch** and running to the upper Line of the Tract hereafter mentioned to be granted to **John Aldridge**, thence a Long the said Line to the Creek, the said Creek being the Line down to the other Line which said one Hundred and fifty Acres of land *originally granted to the said John Aldridge the fifth day of September 1750* as by the said grant and plat. ... being a part or parcel of the said Three hundred and fifty Acres Tract so granted as aforesaid."

Signed: Thomas Duke; Mary Duke (X her mark). Witnesses: **Charles Picket**, *William Lewis*, Jeremiah Pearson. Recorded 28 Oct '88.⁸³

COMMENTS

- For the location of Duke's Ford, Aldridge's Shoals, Pickett's Mill & Store, and William Lewis—and the estimated location of **Dry Branch** based on these landmarks—see Map 4 (p. 19) for the NE corner of Fairfield.
- This was not the land granted in 1749 to **Benjamin Duke**. His land lay just across the *Wateree River*—i.e., later Kershaw.
- Was **Mary** née **Ellison**? Her participation in this "sale," which most wives did not do, suggests the land came to Thomas through her. However, the index to Kershaw deeds labels this document "Alimony," which suggests that the couple is separating. In cases of separation, the husband sometimes set aside property for the support of the estranged wife, but deeded it to her male kin to act as her trustee.
- In addition to "*Dry Creek of the Wateree River*" (site of the 1763 Watts grants in Kershaw) and "*Dry Branch of Wateree Creek*" (Thomas and Mary Duke's site in Fairfield), there was also a "*Dry Fork of Wateree Creek*" that will come into play in several documents below. None of the three "Dry ____" sites of the Wateree are named on contemporary or modern maps I have located. Using the land plats and deeds of the region, I have flagged "Dry Fork" on Map 4. The approximate location of "Dry Branch" also seems to lie on the north side of Wateree Creek but to the west of Ambrose Mills's 1766 survey, also shown on Map 4.

24–25 JANUARY 1786

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

William Duggins of Fairfield County, Planter, sells by lease and release, for 100 pounds to William Wright of the same place, Planter, 200 acres on the **Little River**, bounded by James Gray, William Barnet, **Thomas Watts**, and **Francis Kirkland**, originally granted to said William Duggins. (Signed) William

⁸¹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 330.

⁸² Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book N:194–95.

⁸³ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book B "Bonds and Notes of Hand," 152–55.

Duggins (X). Witness: Robert Stark, D. Evans. Proved 26 January 1786 in open court by William Duggins. Recorded 10 March 1786.”⁸⁴

COMMENT:

- This 1786 Thomas on Little River, in western Fairfield, could be Thomas-of-Edward, but the land seems to be southeast of Edward’s neighborhood.
- 8 November 1774, **Francis Kirkland filed a memorial declaring his ownership of a tract whose physical description identifies it as the land granted in 1763 to Edward Watts.** (See abstract in “Watts: Literature Survey of Published South Carolina Resources”)
- In 1790, Kirkland was 9 houses from **Luke Rawls** and only 4 from Rev. Ralph Jones—the minister who cosigned the 1783 character affidavit with our John Watts.
- Land documents for the **Rawls** place some of them in mid-to-lower Fairfield between William Watts’s location on Jackson Creek of Little River and the 25-Mile Creek homes of George Watts, the Perrys, and Robert Duke. (Other members of this Rawls family were below that point, just south of the Fairfield line on Crane Creek in Richland County; see “Watts: Literature Survey of Published South Carolina Resources” for their grant records.)
- Francis Kirkland made his will 12 Oct. 1790 (proved 18 Jan. 1793), naming wife *Mary*; sons William, John, Francis & *Ambrose*; daughters *Sarah*, *Elizabeth*, *Mary*, Abigail, and “Conestine” [Constantine]; executors Richard and John Winn; witnesses: T. Whitehouse and C. Brady.⁸⁵
- *Numerous* undocumented trees online allege that Mary was née *Mary Watts*. The evidence seen for the Kirklands up to the point could support that hypothesis, but much more evidence is needed before a proof argument could be mounted.
- Of the available candidates for her parents, Thomas Sr. of Kershaw would be the likeliest. It was he whom Kirkland settled beside in 1763. The facts that the eldest Kirkland daughter is Sarah and that sons include Ambrose and William might reinforce my current hypothesis that Thomas Sr. of Kershaw is the Thomas who married Sarah Mills, sister of Ambrose, and daughter of William and Mary Mills.

25 JANUARY 1786
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

“Pursuant to a Warrant from John Winn Esqr C.L. for Camden District, I have admeasured and laid out unto **Jno. Milling** a Tract of Land containing one Thousand five Hundred and Sixty Six acres Lying on Twenty five Mile Creek and Flat Branch, the West Side of the Wateree River and hath such Shape Marks Buttings and Boundreys as the above plat represents. Certified for this 25th day of January 1786. Alexr Johnston DS. Recorded 15 July 1786, delivd to J. Milling.”⁸⁶

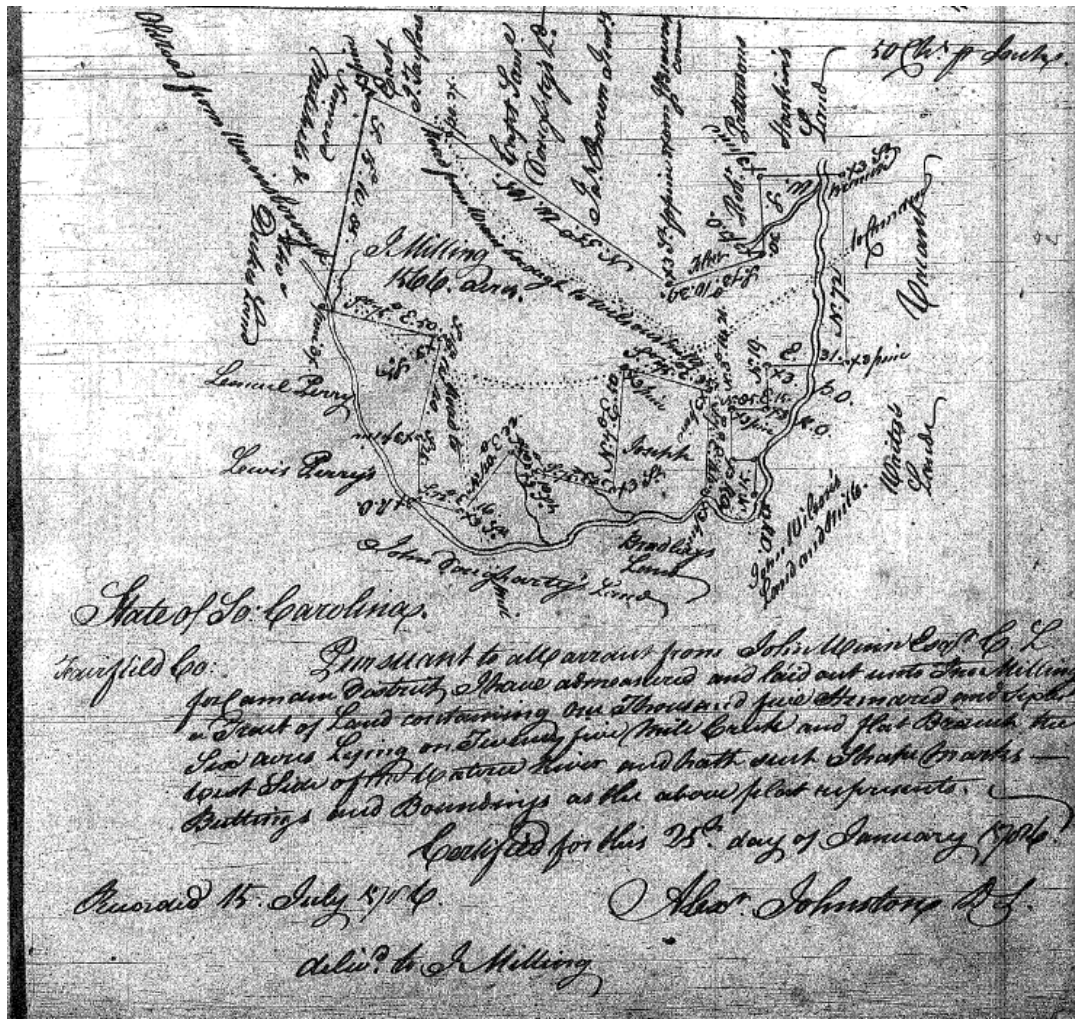
COMMENT:

See plat, next page.

⁸⁴ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book A: 188–92. Also abstract by Tony Draine, *Fairfield County, S.C., Deed Book A, 1785–1788* (Columbia, SC: Draban Publications, 1991), 7, confirmed by consulting the original.

⁸⁵ Fairfield Co., SC, Will Book 2 (1792–1800), 16–18.

⁸⁶ Fairfield Co., SC, Plat Book C: 14.



COMMENT:

Note the inter-connectedness of the families that surround the bottom half of the plat. From center left, we find

- **Lemuel Perry** and **Lewis Perry**. Lewis Perry and *Samuel* Perry were sons of the late Jacob Perry (wife Judith) who wrote his will in 1780, naming daughter **Ruth Watts** and **Mary Wilson**. Perry's estate was inventoried on 9 August 1784, by **John Wilson**, below.⁸⁷
- When John Dougherty (whose 1786 widow was Judith⁸⁸), bought land in 1782 from Thomas **Duke** (see neighbor above Lemuel Perry), the deed was was witnessed by **George Watts**.⁸⁹ Again in 1797, when Daughterty's son and heir, Samuel Daughterty (see landowner at top of plat above) sold his father's land, the witnesses were **George Watts** and Aaron **Duke**.
- Joseph Bradley, the next neighbor, also appears on Jesse Perry's plat. (On the larger Milling plat, above, Jesse Perry's small tract would be to the right of Bradley. He goes unmentioned, apparently because his sliver of land was so small and space at that corner of the plat is tight.

⁸⁷ John Wilson and Thomas Duke, on 9 August 1784, inventoried the estate of **Jacob Perry**,

⁸⁸ Kershaw Co., SC, "Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book C," 122–23; FHL microfilm 1,029,442.

⁸⁹ Kershaw Co., SC, Deeds A (1789–1800): 39; FHL microfilm 024,044, item 1.

- **John Wilson**, whose land lies between Bradley and “Waites’s,” was an inlaw.⁹⁰ He and **George Watts** appear together in many documents that are abstracted or transcribed in both this report and its predecessor of 17 October 2014.
- This property now straddles the Fairfield-Kershaw line. On the snippet of *Mills’s Atlas* shown in Map 3 (p. 15), note the position of “Perry’s Meeting House,” Perry’s branch of Rice Creek of 25 Mile Creek, and Jn. Wilson just above. The land of George Watts, patented to Bryan McClendon, lay at the forks of 25 Mile Creek where Ralph Jones had his meeting house. (See above under date of 5 February 1779.)

28–29 JANUARY 1786

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

John Watts of Fairfield County, *Planter*, to **Nathan Sanders** of same, planter. Lease & release, for 10 pounds sterling, 100 acres in the **fork of Wateree Creek**, bounded N.E. on land surveyed for *John Lee*, all other sides by vacant land. Originally granted to deceased *Ambros Mills* 16 May 1773 and sold by *William Mills*, son and heir of *Ambros Mills* to **Micajah Pickett** 9 & 10 December 1784. [Watts does not say, here, how he got the land from Pickett.] [Signed] **John Watts**. Witnesses: *Henry Sanders*, *William Tidwell* (X). Proved 13 November 1787 by Sanders and Tidwell [no j.p. named]. Recorded 16 January 1788.⁹¹

COMMENTS:

Re: John Watts

- The only John Watts that can be placed in Fairfield at this time was our John, father-in-law of Moses Hornsby.
- This document, which calls John a “planter,” is the only known document across the entire course of his long life that states an occupation. If this tract he is selling—one he held for only 13 months—was his only land, then it seems unlikely that his neighborhood j.p. would make a point of calling him a *planter*.

Re: Ambrose & William Mills:

- See the previous overview of Ambrose’s landholdings in Fairfield and their proximity to William Watts, Thomas Watts Jr., and associates of John Watts.

Re Nathan Sanders:

- Two Nathan Sanderses appear on the 1790 census. One Nathan was 10 houses from Moses Hornsby, son-in-law of John Watts. The other was in the Dutchman’s/Taylor’s Creek area with the father of John Watts’s neighbor, Moses Knighton.
- The elder Nathan made his will 2 December 1793 (proved 14 January 1794) naming wife Mary; sons **Bartlette**; daus. (mentioned having three but did not name them); executors: son and John Allison; witnesses: Thomas Watson and G. Coone.)⁹²

⁹⁰ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1,” 150; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1. The filmed index begins with this statement: “Index to Wills: This Index was made by Mrs. Minnie Reese for W. L. McDowell & presented to Kershaw County, W. L. McDowell, May 3, 1934.” Some of these wills go back as early as 1771. Most of the inventories are in the early 1780s. All have been neatly recopied, apparently at the time Kershaw was created.

⁹¹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book A: 508–10.

⁹² Elizabeth Wood Thomas and Sydney Starr Furr, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Wills, 1773–1797* (Pass Christian, Miss.: Willo Institute of Genealogy, 1967), 23; citing Will Book 1: 94.

- The name “**Bartlett**” was carried down in two separate lines of descent from John Watts. (1) John’s son Thomas named a son **Bartlett S[mith?] Watts**.⁹³ (2) Zilphy Watts Cooksey had a grandson **Bartlett Watts** Cooksey.

Re Henry Sanders:

- On 13 August 1787, Aaron Roberts of Camden District sold to **Mary Henson** of same, 150 acres on Taylors Creek, branch of Wateree, granted 5 June 1786. Witnesses were **Henry Sanders** and **Isaac Gibson**.⁹⁴

Re John Lee:

On 16 November 1786, John Lee of Little River made his will, with the following bequests:

- **Wife Mary**, plantation on which testator then dwelled.
- **Son Stephen**, **100** acres adjoining the **200** on which testator then dwelled; also “joining Turners and Stedmans Lines”; also **75** acres “joining the above said [200] acres on the other sides joining Jacob Bowers and a tract formerly run by Jacob Coftells [Cassells], ...with the mill thereon at his [John’s] mother’s decease or the end of her widowhood.”
- **Daughter Elizabeth**, “that body of Land Laying on the north Side of the Mill Creek Extending as high as the waggon Road and as Low down the said Mill Creek as said plot discovers”; land on Rocky Creek to her husband “**William Marchel**.”
- **Daughter Sarah** {Gordon?}, “my old place Laying on **the great waggon road** Containing two hundred Acres allso fifty acres run by one pinson warrent joining said two hundred acres at the upper end of the same[,] that is up the waggon Road.”
- **Daughter Agnis**, **350** acres “run by one James Jurden the same of which She and her husband now dwells.”
- **Son John**, “**100** acres runn by John Guinn also [200] acres run Clear round said one hundred acres by John Calvin.”
- **Daughter Rachel** {Cameron?}, **200** acres joining my **Daughter Sarrahs** tract on the one side northward.”
- **Son Francis** “that tract run by Jacob Caftels [Cassels] also [50] acres adjoining Said Land the other Side joining **Mr. Morrisse** Line ... also [100] acres of Land run by Capt. Jno. Turner Laying in the forks of the Roads.”
- **Daughter Rosana**, **100** acres “run by Curtis Caldwell and another hundred run by myself adjoining the other hundred Laying on the Mill Creek.”
- **Daughter Rebecca**, part of a tract “run by Jacob Bowers Lying where Mr. Willy Lived”
- Exectors: son John Lee and **son-in-law Alexander Gordon**.⁹⁵

⁹³ McGrew, *Watts Is My Name*, 32.

⁹⁴ Tony Draine, *Fairfield County, S.C. Deed Book A, 1785–1788* (Columbia, SC: Draban Publications, 1991), 23.

⁹⁵ Works Progress Administration, typescript of will of John Lee, Fairfield County, 1786; *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/Thumbnails.aspx?recordId=304725> : 6 September 2014), citing S108093, South Carolina Will Transcripts (Microcopy No 9).“

An image of this will, with the word “**Gordon**” pencilled beside the name Sarah and “**Cameron**” pencilled beside the name Rachel, has been posted by Holland Williams, “Balentine (SC) Family Research Tree Unproven,” user-contributed tree, *Ancestry* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/16941557/person/18980423603> : accessed 6 September 2014). Williams identifies the wife of John Lee as **Mary Cassells**, but does not identify the husbands of Agnis, Rosana, or Rebecca, and offers no information on John Jr. He asserts that all the above children were born 1754–1769, which ostensibly rules out any of these daughters as the wife of John Watts.

For a different reconstruction of this family, see ProudToBeOkie, user-contributed tree, “Black Family,” *Ancestry* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/6657516/person/-1253799535> : accessed 6 September 2014), which asserts that John Lee (1721–86) first married Margaret Howard by whom he had Stephen (1748–1806), Elizabeth, Greenberry, and John; then married Mary Cassels, by whom he had Rachel (1756–91), Rosana (1760–82 [sic], Agnes “Nancy,” Rebecca, Sarah, and Frances.

The bequests to Sarah and Rachel, along the Great Wagon Road, were Wateree Creek grants. The 200 acres left to Rachel, adjoining Sarah, also adjoined the tract patented by Ambrose Mills and owned (at the time of this will) by our John Watts in partnership with William Watts. Contemporary plats, when pieced together, show the following cluster:

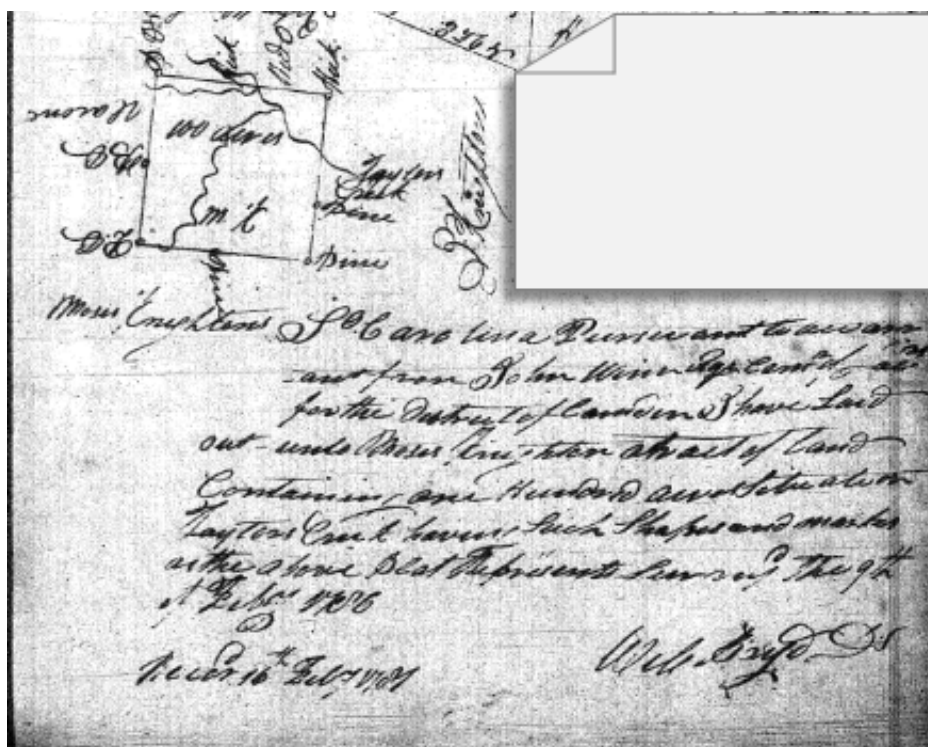
- North of Rachel was land patented to **Joseph Cate** before January 1753; beyond Cate (aka **Cates**) on the North was land patented by “**Michael Picket**” [**Micajah Picket**] in 1766.
- West of Rachel’s lower half was **Ambrose Mills’s** land owned by **John Watts, 1784–86**.
- South of Rachel and southwest of Watts was **John King**.

In 1818, the aged John Watts in Lawrence Co., Miss., was one house from a **Stephen Lee**, aged 45-plus. That Stephen Lee in 1820 Marion Co., Miss., was aged 60–69—i.e., born 1760–70. I have not yet found reliable birthdates for the John Lee family, above, but the fact that the testator received his first grant in 1753 implies that he married about that time.

Also note the reference to “**Mr. Morris**” and “**Turner**” who owned adjacent land on Little River. Ambrose Mills’s son William is said to have married there in the mid-1760s to one Eleanor *Morris*, parents unidentified. Several Fairfield plats along the Wateree cite **John Morris**, whose grant was purchased by John Turner, Esq.

9 FEBRUARY 1786
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC
Associates.

Moses Knighton, 100 acres on **Layton’s Creek**. No neighbors named.⁹⁶



⁹⁶ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, “Plat Book C, 1786–1788,” p. 220; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

COMMENT:

- When Ambrose Mills petitioned for 600 acres on Wateree River in 1766, the neighbors of the tract were Kirkland, Layton, and Pickett.⁹⁷ In 1792, Job Bass sold part of that land stating that it lay on “Taylor’s Branch” and adjoined Francis Layton and John Kirkling. The Taylor-Layton Creek area of the Wateree River can be seen on Maps 4 and 5 (just under Belton’s Store) between Dutchman’s Creek on the South and Wateree Creek on the North.
- This should place Mills’s 600-acre grant within one or two miles of the land requested by (and granted to) **Thomas Watts Jr.** in 1787.

19 APRIL 1786

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

“Inventory and Appraisement of the Goods and Chattels of *William Richardson, Esquire*, Deceased on the plantation commonly called **Bloom Hill**” includes:

- “**Edward Watts** order on *Isham Moore*, dated 28th June 1783 in favour of *Mary Thompson* for 20 Guineas.”

[skip about 20]

- *Isham Moore* order on *John Postell* dated 30th November 1785 for 43.16.6
- **Edwards Watts** note dated 20th Jany 1786, 17.10.0

[skip about 20]

- **Edward Watts** order on *Genl. Huger*, 130 Guineas, 28th January ’85 I the possession of Lockey Bradford & Co., 14.7.5
- **Edward Watts** Note “24 January ’85 (does not say where it is), 92.12.6”⁹⁸

COMMENT:

- William Richardson Jr. is linked with these Wattses on 5 January 1794, as an apparent next-door neighbor of William Watts, from whom he bought a ½ acre “spring” on the corner of Watts’s land. (See abstract of that date, below.)
- Richardson’s estate held many notes on very prominent Carolinians, including Matthew Gale, “Gen. Marion,” and Wade Hampton.

21 AUG. 1786

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Isaac Gibson, Survey of 114 acres on **Hog Fork of the Wateree Creek**, neighbors: “Old Survey of John Winn on S and SW, **Richd. Tidwell** on East, Samuel Boykin on North.”⁹⁹

⁹⁷ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 74, 96; Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia: SCMAR, 1999), 10, 26; Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia: SCMAR, 1999), 245.

⁹⁸ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1,” 372–73; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1

⁹⁹ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, “Plat Book C, 1786–1788,” p. 78; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

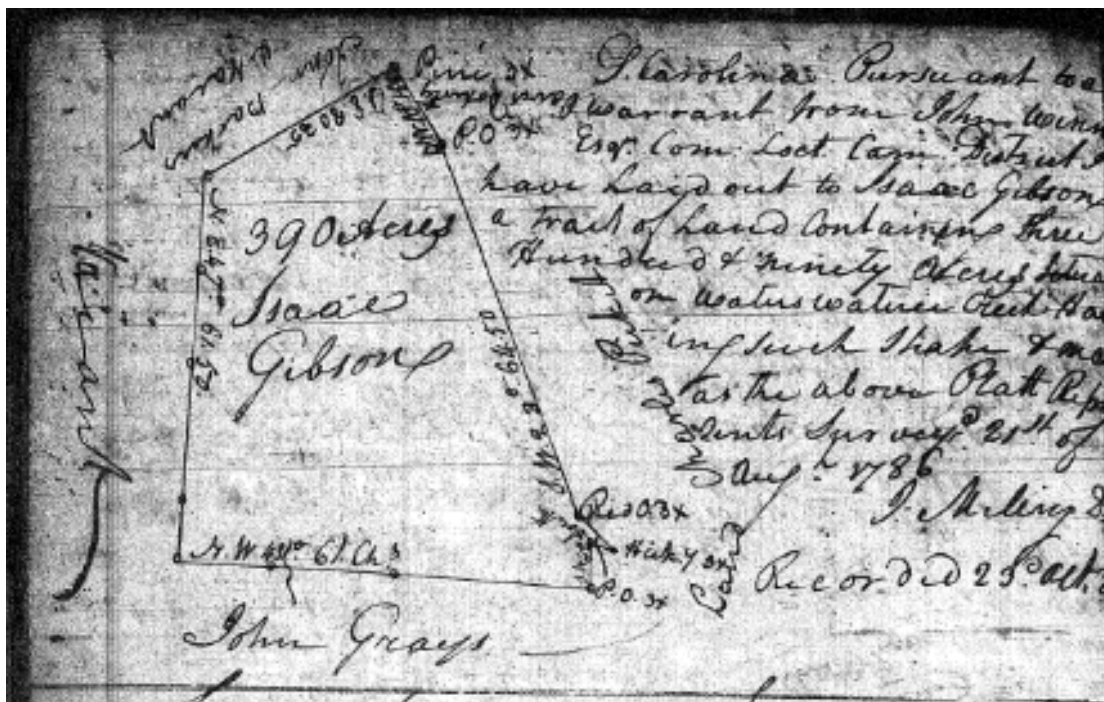


21 AUG. 1786

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Isaac Gibson, Survey of 390 acres on Waters of Wateree Creek. Neighbors: John Gray on S; Vacant on West; Charles Pickett on E; John Barker on NE.¹⁰⁰



COMMENT:

Plat Book E:23 presents John Gray as adjacent landowner to land surveyed for "Thomas Watts."

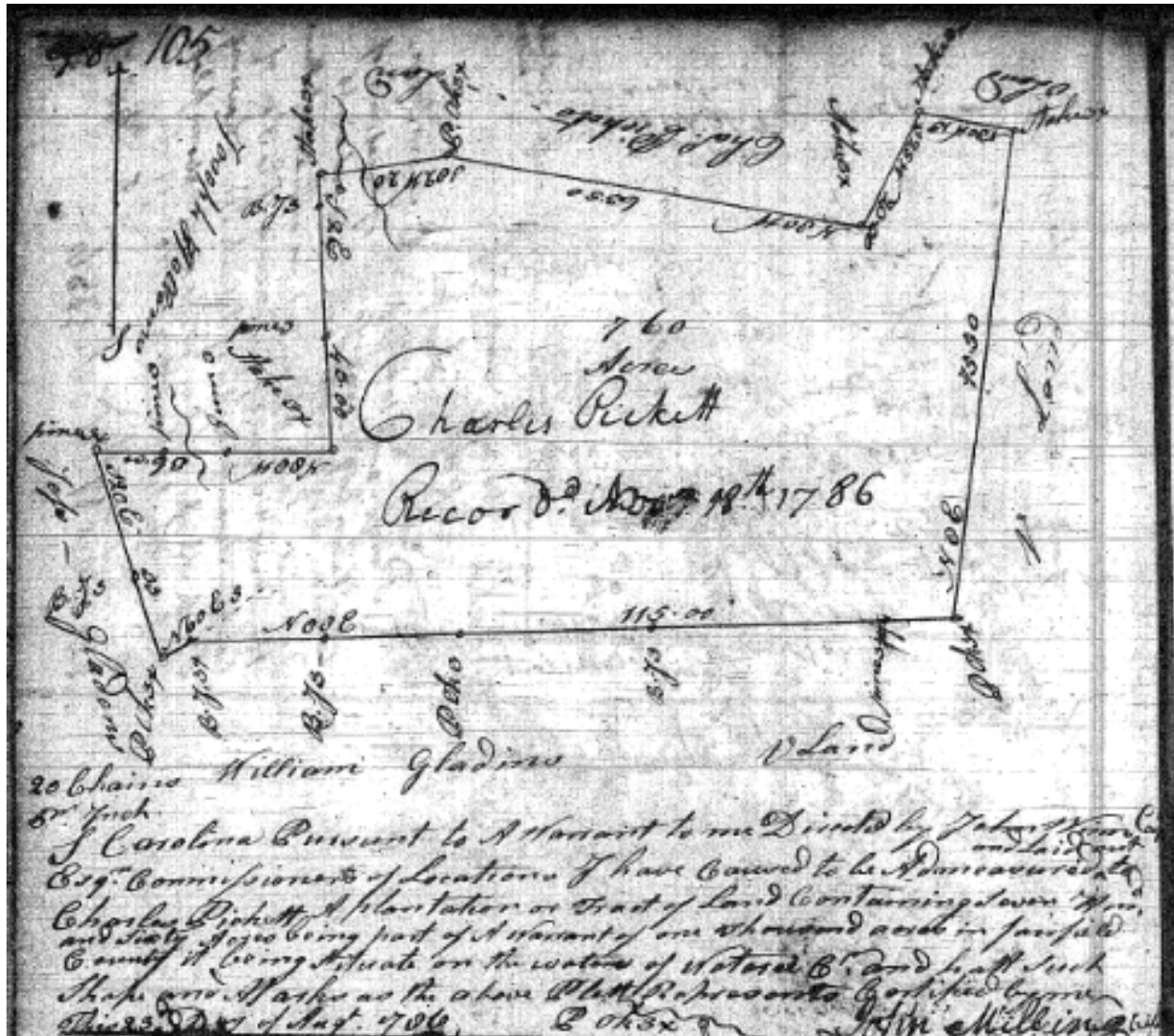
¹⁰⁰ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book C, 1786-1788," p. 78; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

23 AUGUST 1786

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Charles Pickett, 760 acres "being part of a warrant of one thousand acres in Fairfield County, ... on waters of Wateree Creek. adj. Pickett, Joseph Williams and Jesse Gladden."¹⁰¹



23 AUGUST 1786

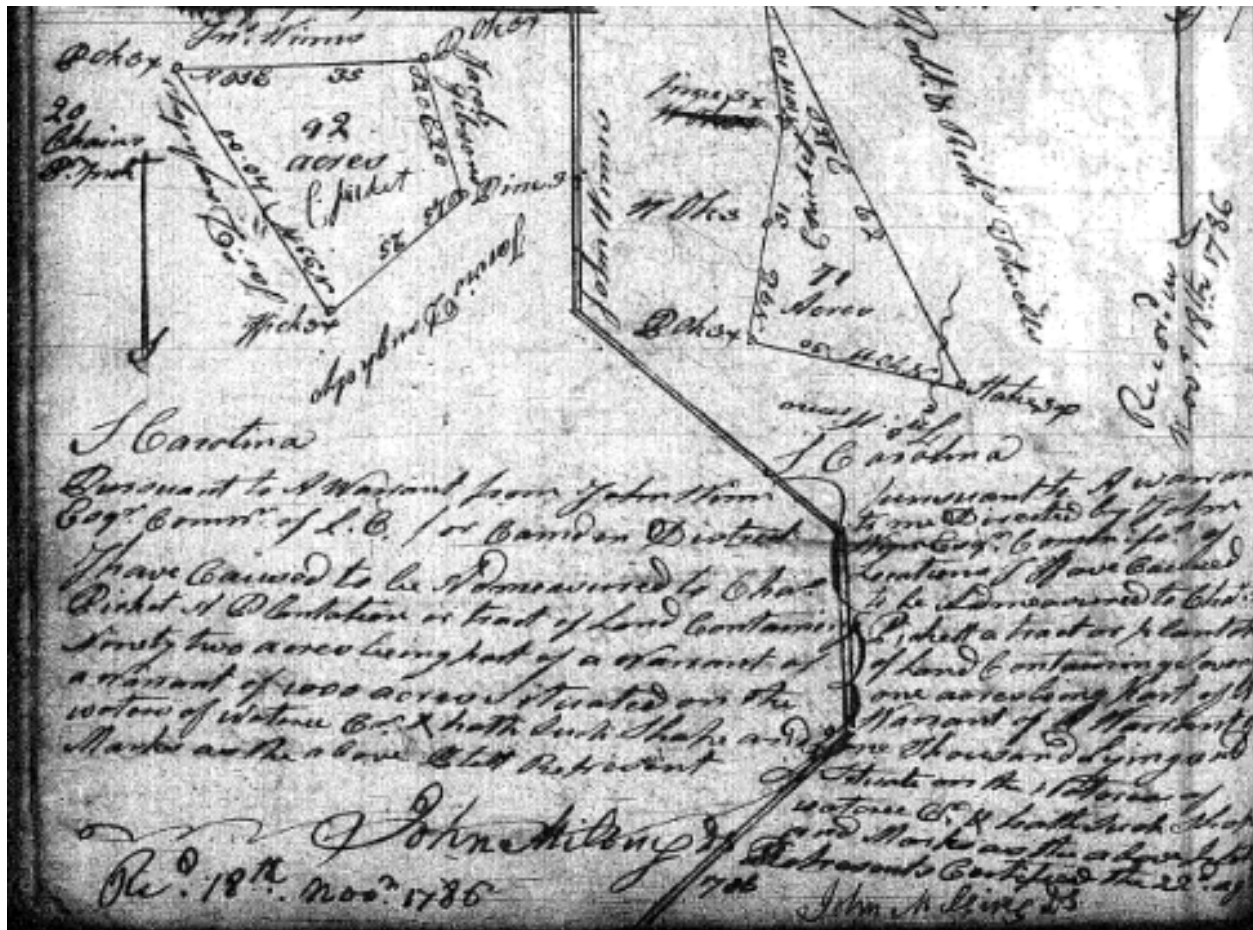
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Charles Pickett, 92 acres on **Waters of Wateree**, part of a warrant of one thousand acres, adj. *Jos. Dougherty* (on East) *Jno. Winn* (on South), *Jarvis Dougherty* (on NW).¹⁰²

¹⁰¹ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book C, 1786-1788," about p. 103; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

¹⁰² Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book C, 1786-1788," about p. 103; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.



COMMENT:

This document places Doughertys as neighbors of **Charles Pickett, John Watts's neighbor**. John Dougherty's land was inherited by Samuel Dougherty. When Samuel sold it in 1797, witnesses were **Rhodia Dougherty, George Watts, and Aaron Duke**.¹⁰³

In 1787, John and "Judah" Daugherty appear in adjacent Richland County (just below 25-Mile Creek of Fairfield) where they conveyed to John Lowrie of Lancaster County (now Kershaw), 200 acres in Lancaster on North side of Wateree "bounding NE on Nathaniel Hill's land, SE, NE, SE, and NW on John Brown's land, and NW on James Moore's land on the North side of the Wateree River." Both X'd. Witnesses were Robert Lee, William Brown, and William **Hornsby**.¹⁰⁴

About 1796, John Watts gave the name Rhoda to one of his daughters. The source of her given name has not been determined, but it is rarely found in these Fairfield records. At the time of Rhoda's birth, however, the John Watts family was in Montgomery Co., Ga. When their part of

¹⁰³ Kershaw Co., SC, Deeds E (1805-08): 18-19; FHL microfilm 024,025, item 2.

¹⁰⁴ "Lancaster County Deed Book A," *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)* 2 (Spring 1973): page number not given, citing Deed Book A: 150-51; accessed as *South Carolina Records and Reference*, CD-ROM (Orem, Utah: Ancestry.com, 1998). **William Hornsby is said to be the older brother of Moses Hornsby who married Catherine Watts**. See Rex McLauren, "Genealogy Report: Descendants of Leonard Hornsby," *Genealogy.com* (www.genealogy.com/ftm/m/c/l/Rex-McLaurin/GENE1-001.html : accessed 6 September 2014).

Montgomery was cut away into the new county of Tattnall, they were neighbors and neighbors and associates of a Daniel & John Daughtery. That may or may not be a coincidence.

23 AUGUST 1786?

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Charles Pickett, 71 acres on waters of Wateree Creek, part of the 1000 acre warrant (to John Milling), adj. *John Winn, Robt. & Richard Tidwell*.¹⁰⁵

COMMENTS:

- This was the first of several tracts on Wateree Creek that Pickett took out between 1786 and 1789. I did not have time to copy the (microfilmed) locally held plats on this research trip and none of the plats are available through the State Archives database. Most of the adjacent landowners are individuals who appear on the 1790 census in John Watts's neighborhood. The State database give these details:
 - 1786 71 acres adj. Charles Pickett, Robert Tidwell, John Winn¹⁰⁶
 - 1786 200 acres adj. Jarvis Doughartie and Charles Pickett¹⁰⁷
 - 1786 92 acres adj. Garvis Doughety, Isaac Gibson, Charles Pickett, John Winn¹⁰⁸
 - 1786 760 acres adj. Jesse Gladen, William Gladen, Joseph Hellam, Charles Pickett
- In 1790, **Robert Tidwell** was 6 houses from John & Thomas Watts; **Charles Pickett** was 12. **William Gladden** was next door to Nathan Sanders, who had just purchased the Forks of Wateree Creek land from John Watts.

SEPTEMBER 1786

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Robert Ellison, survey, 180 acres on **Jackson Creek of Little River of Broad River**, adj *Alexander Camron*.¹⁰⁹

COMMENT:

Jackson Creek of Little River was the neighborhood of William Watts. John Ellison (alleged to be Robert's brother or son) in 1790 lived adjacent to John Watts's son-in-law Moses Hornsby.

21 NOVEMBER 1786

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Survey plat.

¹⁰⁵ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book C, 1786--1788," about p. 103; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

¹⁰⁶ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Pickett, Charles, Plat for 71 acres on Wateree," S213190, vol. 0014, page 00200, item 2; Plats for State Land Grants, 1784--1868.

¹⁰⁷ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Pickett, Charles, Plat for 200 acres in Craven County," S213190, vol. 0014, page 00200, item 1; Plats for State Land Grants, 1784--1868.

¹⁰⁸ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Pickett, Charles, Plat for 72 acres on Wateree Creek," S213190, vol. 0014, page 00197, item 2; Plats for State Land Grants, 1784--1868.

¹⁰⁹ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book C, 1786--1788," p. 66; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

Gabriel Rawls, Survey, 472 acres on waters of **Namans Creek**. Neighbors: *Philips* and *John Pearson* (on South), *Alexander Kennedy* (East); **Gabriel Rawls** & Unknown on NW; Vacant (on W).¹¹⁰

COMMENT:

I have not yet been able to locate Namans Creek on period maps or in the USGS *Geographic Names Information System*. It would seem to be located in south-central Fairfield, above the Richland County line, between 25-Mile Creek (George Watts's neighborhood) and Jackson's Branch of Little River (Edward's Neighborhood).

1787?

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Jarvis Gibson, survey, 603 acres on **Wateree Creek**. Neighbors: *Isaac Gibson* (on NW), *Jas. Bishop* (on SW), Vacant on SE, and *John Gray* on NE.¹¹¹

COMMENT:

This land apparently lay next to the 92 acres patented to Charles Pickett on 23 Aug. 1786. See also the Isaac Gibson plat of 21 August 1786.

7 APRIL 1787

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land purchase.

James Oglivee of Newbury County, SC to **Thomas Watts Junior** of Fairfield, planter. Sale of a grant dated 1 May 1786 to James Oglivee, containing 737 acres on **Duchman's [sic] Creek, branch of Wateree river**, bounded on NE by lands laid out for *Thomas Parrot*, SE on vacant land, SW on *Garaner? Ford* and part vacant, and NW on *Dei Harts* land and part vacant. 100 pounds. Signed: James Oglivee. Witnesses: *Jas Buchannan*, James Davis, Jas. Greigg. Proved 2 October 1810 by James Greig before Abner Ross, Q. W. Recorded 5th August 1814.¹¹²

COMMENT:

This Thomas Jr. who is buying land along the Wateree River in Fairfield appears to be the same man called Thomas Jr. in court records of the 90s across the river in Kershaw. (See "Initial Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them," report to file, 17 October 2014.) At this point, at least three other Thomases are known to exist in the area that once was Craven/Camden:

- Thomas of Lynches Creek (later eastern boundary of Kershaw), who settled there in 1757 and died there about 1792. Wife Tabitha, sons John (the RW Captain and later Col. Watts of Washington County, Georgia), Isaiah, Benjamin, and Julius.
- Thomas of Upper Dry Creek of Wateree River (later western boundary of Kershaw), who got a grant there in 1763 and sold it in 1796 using a j.p. in Fairfield who was our John's close neighbor. Kershaw records of the 1790s call him "**Thomas Sr.**"
- Thomas-of-John who was only about 16 at this point.
- Geographically, this "Thomas Jr." who sought land on Dutchman's Creek of the Wateree River in the late 1780s was positioned to be a son of "Thomas Sr." who lived just across the Wateree in Kershaw. In the mid-to-late 1790s, Kershaw County minutes would actually

¹¹⁰ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book C, 1786–1788," p. 304; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

¹¹¹ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book C, 1786–1788," p. 308; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

¹¹² Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book X:82–84.

reference them as “Thomas Sr.” and “Thomas Jr.”). **Note the proximity of his land to that taken out in 1766 by Ambrose Mills, whose sister Sarah is the documented wife of one “Thomas Watts.”**

- Re “James Buchanan,” the witness to this document: One John Buchanan appears on Francis Kirkland’s plat of 5 April 1785, above. Buchanan is Kirkland’s adjacent neighbor to the north. Thomas Watts is shown there as Kirkland’s neighbor to the south.

14 JULY 1787

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land plat.

“Description: **Watts, Thomas**, Plat for 630 acres on Wateree Creek, Camden District, surveyed by W. Cato for James Ogilvie.

Names indexed: Barber, John; Bishop, James [should be Joseph]; Cato, W.; *Hinson, Bartly; King, John*; Ogilvie, James; **Watts, John; Watts, Thomas**

Locations: Camden District; Wateree Creek; Wateree River.

Document type: Plat”¹¹³

COMMENT:

- See prior report of 17 October, under date January 1786, for the local copy of the plat made when Ogilvie had the land surveyed. John Watts and John King were adjacent neighbors to these 630 acres that Thomas has bought—and adjacent neighbors to each other.
- See 18 February 1795, below, for Thomas Watts’s sale of this land.

16 JULY 1787

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

John Gray, Esqr. of Fairfield County to **Thomas Lewers, planter, of same**, note of hand for 56 pounds to be paid to Lewers. Gives mortgage on “land known as **Kennedy’s Old Place**, which land the above Thomas Lewers is now [in] possession of,” 100 acres. Witnesses: *Robt. Grey, Jos. Davidson*.

26 March 1789, recorded. ¹¹⁴

COMMENT:

I’ve not connected Lewers to the Wattses, other than the fact that Lewers was in Edward’s neighborhood. I’m noting the existence of his name here in Fairfield because (a) more than a few Fairfield County families migrated post-RW War to Burke/Jefferson Counties, Georgia, from which Washington Co. was created; and (b) in Jefferson-Burke, the land of one Thomas Lewers ended up in possession (sans surviving deed) of my Andrew Boyd in the 1790s.

9 AUGUST 1787

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

John Tidwell to **George Lott**, both of Fairfield, sale for 100 pounds sterling, 200 acres “situate, lying, and being in the District of Camden on a **small branch of the Wateree Creek called Dry Fork**, bounded S.E.

¹¹³ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/search.aspx> : 20 October 2014), “Watts, Thomas, plat for 630 acres on Wateree Creek ... surveyed ... for James Ogilvie”; citing Series S213190, vol. 0020, page 00028, item 001; Plats for State Land Grants, 1784–1868, Watts, Thomas, 20, page 00028, item 001; also see “Watts, Thomas, plat for 276 acres on Wateree Creek ... surveyed ... for James Ogilvie,” citing Series S213190, vol. 000B, page 00295; Plats for State Land Grants, 1784–1868.

¹¹⁴ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book B “Bonds and Notes of Hand,” 64–65; FHL microfilm 23,991.

by **Robert Tidwell** and on all other sides by vacant land” being a grant to Tidwell on 13 November 177__ [ink blot]. Signed: *John Tidwell (J, his mark)*. Witnesses: *D Evans, Wm Evans*.¹¹⁵

COMMENT:

See survey for **Thomas Watts**, 215a on Waters of the Wateree Creek on the **Dry Fork, in Fairfield County** bounded by *Jarvis “Galney,” Isaac Gibson*, and *John Gray*. (Plat Book E: 23) See Map 4 (p. 19) for Dry Fork’s apparent location.

31 DECEMBER 1787

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Micajah Pickett, survey of 400 acres on **Waters of the Wateree**. Neighbors: Vacant land (on South), *Saml Waugh* (on SE), “said Pickett” (on E) and *Micajah Pickett* (on N).¹¹⁶

31 DECEMBER 1787

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Minor Winn, survey. Bounded (on SE), Vacant land (on East), *Hugh McDonald* (on NE), **Micajah Pickett** (on N), *Abraham Miller* (on NW) and **Micajah Pickett** (on SW).¹¹⁷

COMMENT:

- See 21 August 1785 for “old survey” of John **Winn** on **Hog Fork** of the Wateree adjoining Isaac Gibson, Richard Tidwell, and Samuel Boykin.
- The “Old Survey” reference implies that Winn and his cited neighbors were there prior to the 1776 closing of the colonial land office, after which surveyed lands were left in limbo until the office reopened in 1784.

1787–1791

KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Context.

Clerk’s note: “For Records of the Ordinary’s Office of Kershaw County from 1787 to 1791, *vide* the Records of Claremont & Lancaster Counties; Kershaw County having been cut off from them & erected into or established as a county in Feby. 1791.”¹¹⁸

COMMENT:

At this point, the Kershaw deed book skips to 1817.

TO DO:

Thoroughly search Claremont and Lancaster Counties’ original records.¹¹⁹

1 FEBRUARY 1788

¹¹⁵ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book E: 38–39; FHL microfilm 23,992.

¹¹⁶ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, “Plat Book C, 1786–1788,” p. 380; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

¹¹⁷ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, “Plat Book C, 1786–1788,” about p. 380; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

¹¹⁸ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1,” 384; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

¹¹⁹ For Lancaster’s published deed abstracts, see transcripts in E. S. Mills, “Watts: Literature Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them,” report to file, 7 October 2014.

LANCASTER & KERSHAW COUNTIES, SC

Associates.

Will of **John Dougherty** (X his mark). Beloved **wife Judith**, to get 1/3 part of all his personal estate to dispose of as she thinks proper, together with “my plantation where I now live until my *Son Dennis*” arrives at Twenty-five years of age and after that period, she shall have the one third of the said Land During her natural life. After the death of Judith, then the estate is to be divided equally between his sons John and Dennis. If they die, then plantation to be sold and money divided between all children. Daughters **Margaret Perry** and **Mary Dukes** to have “Twenty Nine Pounds Sterlg. less than the rest.” Executors: *Wife Judith, Joshua English, John Belton Senior*. Signed: John Dougherty (X, his mark). Witnesses: John Belton, James *English*, Ann Belton. Recorded ca. May 1795, Kershaw.¹²⁰

Proved: 10 February 1795 by [not named] before Francis Boykin, C.C., Kershaw Co.

COMMENT:

- Yet another Judith connected to the Perrys—and the third Judith within the circle of John Watts who left a widow Judith.
- For the Beltons, who lived below John Watts’s Wateree Creek and above Thomas Watts Jr.’s Dutchman Creek, see Map 4 (p. 19).

26 MARCH 1788

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

Jo. Kirkland to *John Winn*, sale of Negro named Jim “and my part of the mills on **Cedar Creek**” for 150 pounds. Witnesses: Wm. O. Urphey, J. Winn.¹²¹

COMMENT:

Little Cedar Creek and Big Cedar Creek lay in South-central Fairfield, to the west of 25-Mile Creek. See Map 3 (p. 15).

16 MAY 1788

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Charles Picket of Fairfield Co. to **John Ellison** of same, for 70 pounds sterling. Second half of a lease-and-release. Land on “**Wateree Creek to the waters of the Wateree River.**” Bounded [north?] by **Moses Kirkland** and all other sides by vacant Land when first Surveyed or run out and hath such shape form and Marks, as appears by a plat thereof to the grant Annexed under the hand of his Excelency [*sic*] Charles Grevil Montague Esquire, bearing date the [25 September 1766] and also the said Charles Picket did purchase the said Tract of Land from *Robert Thompson* as appeared by a Certain Lease and Release the [6 and 7 April 1785].” 100 acres more or less. Signed *Charles Picket*; witnesses *Jno. Milling; D Evans*. Recorded 1 Nov ’88¹²²

COMMENTS:

- The seller, Charles Picket, lived 12 houses from our John Watts and his son Thomas in 1790.
- The purchaser, John Ellison, was the 1790 “next door neighbor” of John Watts’s son-in-law **Moses Hornsby**.

¹²⁰ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book C,” 122–23; FHL microfilm 1,029,442.

¹²¹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book B “Bonds and Notes of Hand,” 68–69; FHL microfilm 23,991.

¹²² Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book B “Bonds and Notes of Hand,” 155–57.

- In 1783, *John Milling* witnessed a sale by John Ellison to Hugh *Milling* on [William] Watts's Branch of Jackson's Creek.¹²³

10 AUGUST 1788

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Charles Picket of Fairfield Co. to **Isaac Gibson** for 100 pounds sterling. Second part of a lease and release. Land "in the district of Camden on **Hog Fork Creek part of the Waters of Wateree Creek** ... plat annexed ... Grant made to the said Charles Picket bearing date [3 December 1786]. Witnesses: **W. Lewis, Garves Gibson** (R his mark). Recorded 1 Nov '88.¹²⁴

COMMENTS:

- 1786:** **Isaac Gibson**, Survey of 114 acres on **Hog Fork of the Wateree Creek**, neighbors: "Old Survey of *John Winn* on S and SW, **Richd. Tidwell** on East, *Samuel Boykin* on North.
- 1791: *Adam Blare* sold **John Tidwell**, land in Camden District (county not named) on a branch of the Wateree Creek called **Hog Fork**, bounded by *John Winn, Esqr.* and *John Gray*. (Deed Book H:38-39) Earlier (1783) *Adam Blair* was adjacent owner to land on **Watts Branch** that Robert Ellison sold to Hugh Milling (A:174-9)
- 1794: **Rachael Tidwell** to *Bird Owen*, land on that branch of Wateree called **Hog Fork**, **granted 29 April 1768** at which time all land on all sides was vacant. Rachael X'd, Witnesses: *George Tidwell*; *Richard Tidwell* (R, his mark) and **Sarah Garret** (X, her mark). (Deed Book 1:260-62) In 1790, Sarah Garrett was 6 houses from our John Watts & his son Thomas—and next door to Robert Tidwell Jr., while Robert Sr. was John Watts's adjacent householder.

NOVEMBER COURT 1788

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Civic role.

"Bay Mare: Four feet two inches high, brand thus A M upon him near Buttock. Valued at £4.3.6 by *Moses Knighton, John Watts & John King Junr. J. King, J.P. Chas. Lewis, Witt.*¹²⁵

7 June 1789 [auctioned to] M. Winn £2.10

COMMENT:

Clearly, this John Watts is ours. In 1790,

- John King was 11 houses from John Watts and son Thomas. (The John King who drafted his will in 1779, naming son John, appears to be not yet dead.)
- Moses Knighton Jr. was adjacent to King.
- Charles Lewis lived 4 houses beyond Knighton.

24 MARCH? 1789?

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

William Smith, planter of Fairfield, to **Edward Pigg** of same [*Pigg is not called a planter*], for 16 pounds sterling, release of land "on a **branch of the Wateree Creek**, bounded NE on *Moses Hollis*, SW on *Nolle Hollis*, E on *Nazer Whitehead*, the other sides on vacant land," granted to *William Smith* on 3 August

¹²⁴ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book A: 174–79; FHL microfilm 23,991.

¹²⁴ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book B "Bonds and Notes of Hand," 170–71; Fairfield Co. Plat Book C: 78.

¹²⁵ Fairfield Co., SC, Court of Common Pleas, Record of Estrays, 1788–1799, p. 6 (counting back from legible p. 10); FHL film 1,294,199, item 1. Much of these pages are faded to the point of illegibility.

1774. Signed: William Smith (X his mark). Witnesses: *William Cason, John Hollis, Charles Filks Pigg* (X his mark) Recorded 1 Oct. '91.¹²⁶

COMMENTS:

- **Edward Pigg**, a controversial Baptist minister in this era, appears on the 1790 census *next door* to **John Watts** and Thomas Watts [Jr.].¹²⁷
- **John Hollis** appears that year about 17 houses below **John Watts & Thomas Watts**, while **Moses & Elijah Hollis** (see notes above and below) and other Hollises were 4-to-8 houses from John Watts's son-in-law **Moses Hornsby**.
- **Moses Hollis** and **John Hollis** cosigned, with **John Watts**, the 1783 character affidavit for Lt. William Coggins.
- **Moses Hollis** left a will dated 9 April 1793 (proved 17 July 1794) naming wife Rosanna; sons Moses, John, Elijah, & Berry; daughter Nancy Gladden; Granddaughter **Catherine Paterson**; Executor Zachariah Canty; Witnesses: Thos. Goodman and Ed. *Tidwell*.¹²⁸ **Peter Patterson** on 1790 census was 2 houses from **Moses Hornsby**.
- This **Catherine Paterson** is the second "Catherine" found among the families associated with John Watts, who named his first daughter Catherine—the daughter who married Moses Hornsby about 1790. (The earlier Catherine was the wife of Moses Smith and sister of John Watts's adjacent landowner, John King; see p. 17 of this report.)
- Note also the *Peter* associated with Catherine. Some descendants of John Watts, who began their work in the mid 1950s, alleged that he had a son Peter Watts.¹²⁹

26 MARCH 1789

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

Elijah Hollis of Fairfield County to **Edward Pigg** of same, for 16 pounds sterling, sale by lease and release, **10 acres** more or less on **Wateree Creek** in Fairfield, "beginning on **Moses Hollis** Corner tree on the west side of **Mill Branch**, running East to the **ford of the branch below the Mill**, from thence SE to a pine station from thence to Moses Hollis Line, **including the mill and mill seat**, which said grant was to **Moses Hollis** ... 1 Decr. 1772 and was conveyed by Moses Hollis to *Elijah Hollis* by Deeds of Lease and Release bearing date of 30th March 1784." Witnesses: *William Cason, John Hollis, Charles Filks Pigg*. Recorded 6 October 1795.¹³⁰

COMMENTS:

Given that John Watts was adjacent to Edward Pigg on the census taken the next year, his residence should have been in close proximity to Mill Branch of Wateree Creek.

When Pigg sold this land on 17 March 1794 (see below) the deed tells us that it was part of a grant to *Wm. Smith*, adjoining Moses Hollis on NW, Nottley Hollis on SW, and Nez. Whitted on East, and that it was "all that part of land lying on the west side of the Mill Branch. Smith's

¹²⁶ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book F: 22–23; FHL microfilm 23,992 (Deeds D, E, F, G: 1789–92).

¹²⁷ For Edward Pigg and Charles Filkes Pigg, see Leah Townsend, *South Carolina Baptists, 1670–1805* (1935; reprint, Baltimore: Clearfield, 2003), 80, 99, 100n, 102, 114, 146, 158, 212, and 212n.

¹²⁸ Elizabeth Wood Thomas and Sydney Starr Furr, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Wills, 1773–1797* (Pass Christian, Miss.: Willo Institute of Genealogy, 1967), 19; citing Will Book 1:49.

¹²⁹ Wynema McGrew, *Watts Is My Line: John and Judith (?) Watts, Settlers of the Mississippi Territory*, vol. 1 (Hattiesburg, Miss.: P.p., 2010), 31.

¹³⁰ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book F: 35–36.

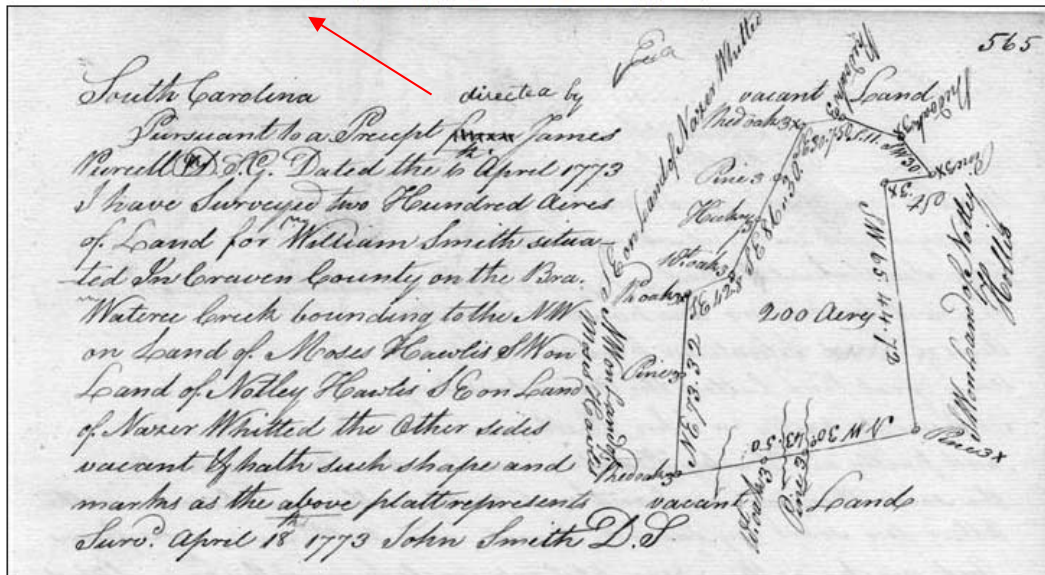
survey plat offers a beginning point for locating the land.¹³¹

On the *William Smith* plat, below, the red-arrow annotation points roughly North, based upon the calls in the survey.

S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series)

SMITH, WILLIAM, PLAT FOR 200 ACRES IN CRAVEN COUNTY.

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TO DO:

Working outward from here, I need to get plats for Smith's adjacent landowners, as well as plats for Moses Smith who married Catherine King.

The only one I have located to date is that of Moses Hollis ("Hawlis"), whose land lies along the lower-left almost upright line of Smith's plat. On the "Hawlis" plat below, the red arrow again marks the approximate north direction. The brown line is the line that adjoins Smith.

¹³¹ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Smith, William, Plat for 200 acres in Craven County," S213184: Colonial plat Books (Copy Series).

S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series)

HAWLIS, MOSES, PLAT FOR 300 ACRES IN CRAVEN COUNTY.

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Smith's neighbor "Nazer Whitted" is found in this land database under *Whitehead*, with his given name spelled in a variety of ways. A database entry states that the land was surveyed in 1775. However, by that time, the SC colonial land office had been suspended. The grant was made post-war, and I have not completed the study of locally recorded plats. I have not yet found a record of the grant to Notley Hollis under any conceivable spelling.

The Moses "Hawlis" plat can be placed at the first fork on Little Wateree Creek about a mile southwest of the land marked on *Mills's Atlas* as "J. Hollis." (See Map 4.) When Pigg sold this land in 1794, the purchaser was its near-neighbor, John Hollis.

This location enables us to place our John Watts in relation to several of his potential kin, as well as his 1790 census neighbors. The Pigg-Watts location is

- less than a mile from Poplar Springs Meeting House (*Mills Atlas*), the likely site of Pigg's ministry, 1789–1794.
- about 3 miles downstream from the Forks of Wateree Creek, granted to Ambrose Mills, which **John Watts** and **William Watts** bought in 1784 and sold in 1786.
- about 3 miles due west of the 660-acre "home place" grant Ambrose took out between Wateree Creek and Taylor's Creek.
- about 2 or so miles west of the land grant made in 1787 to "Thomas Watts Jr."
- *adjacent* to the 630-acre tract surveyed for James Ogilvie in 1786 and subsequently patented to **Thomas Watts Jr.** in 1787. (Thomas Jr. bought two other adjacent tracts from Ogilvie, 737 acres and 276 acres.¹³²)
- about 3 miles east of the Dry Fork land grant made in 1791 to **Thomas Watts** (possibly Thomas Jr.) and the nearby land taken out in 1792 by **William Watts** (possibly William of Thomas and the same man who bought the Ambrose Mills grant in partnership with our John in 1784).

¹³² Fairfield Co. Plat Book B:441 and C:308. Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book X:82–84. *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online_archives/), "Watts, Thomas, citing "Series: S213190; Volume: 0020; Page: 00023; Item: 001."

20 MARCH 1790

FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, SC

Associates.

*Richard Winn, Esq., to "my beloved brother John Winn ... our honored father Minor Winn ... "*¹³³

COMMENT:

Richard Winn was adjacent landowner to the 224-acre grant made in 1774 to **Edward Watts** on S fork of Little River.¹³⁴

5-6 JULY 1790

FAIRFIELD & KERSHAW COUNTIES, SC

Land sale.

William Hornsby, planter, of Fairfield County, to Phanuel Blake, Widow of same, deeds of lease and release. Sells for 60 pounds 75 acres lying on **North side of 25-mile Creek** in Camden District, on the south side of the **Wateree River**, Bounding on all sides by Vacant Land, the said being one half of one hundred and fifty acres of Land Originally Granted to Jno. Mottley ..." 4 May 1771. Signed: **William Hornby (H, his mark)**. Witnesses: **Charles Pickett, Samuel Windham, Seely Pickett (X, her mark)**.

Charles Pickett proved the deed 3 March 1792 before John Turner, J.P.

*Recorded in Kershaw County between documents "received in office 11th August 1796" and "sworn to this 16 September 1796 Before Me Francis Boykin, J.P."*¹³⁵

COMMENT:

- Phanuel "Fanny" Blake, widow of Rev. William Blake, is said to be the sister of Moses Hornsby, who married our John Watts's daughter Catherine.¹³⁶
- In 1790 "Fanny Blake" appears 4 houses from John Watts and his son Thomas—just past the residences of Rev. Edward & Charles Pigg. Clearly, after William Hornsby deeded the land to her, she did not move down to 25-Mile Creek.
- The witness Charles Pickett was in 1790 a close neighbor of John Watts. Subsequent deeds filed by Charles identify his wife as "Selah." (Undocumented trees online assert her maiden name to be "King.") John King Sr., who made his will on 8 August 1779 (see that date above) did not name a daughter Selah, Seely, or Celia.

14 NOVEMBER 1790

KERSHAW & LANCASTER COUNTIES, SC

Civic role.

Will of *William Norris*. Witnesses: *James Williams*, (R, his mark), John Netin?

Recorded 19 July 1791 *Reuben Cook*

24 June 1791: Order of Francis Boykin, C.C., to "**George Evans, Thomas Watts & Lewis F. Bryant**" to "divide unto Martha Norriss, Executrix & *George King & Reubin Cook*, Executors of *William Norris*," and appraise the property.

7 July 1791: Appraisement by George Evans, **Thomas Watts (X his mark)** and Lewis F. Bryant.¹³⁷

¹³³ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book B "Bonds and Notes of Hand," 62–63; FHL microfilm 23,991. This volume has very few land sales; most documents relate to slaves, mortgages, cattle, deeds of gift, etc. It's poorly indexed and *I merely skimmed the book*.

¹³⁴ Jesse Hogan Motes III and Margaret Peckham Motes, *South Carolina Memorials: Abstracts of Land Titles*, vol. 1, 1774–1776 (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1996), 284, citing "13-415:6."

¹³⁵ Kershaw Co., SC, Deeds B (1791–96): 595–96; FHL microfilm 024,044, item 2.

¹³⁶ See Rex McLauren, "Genealogy Report: Descendants of Leonard Hornsby," *Genealogy.com* (www.genealogy.com/ftm/m/c/l/Rex-Mclaurin/GENE1-001.html) : accessed 6 September 2014)

COMMENTS:

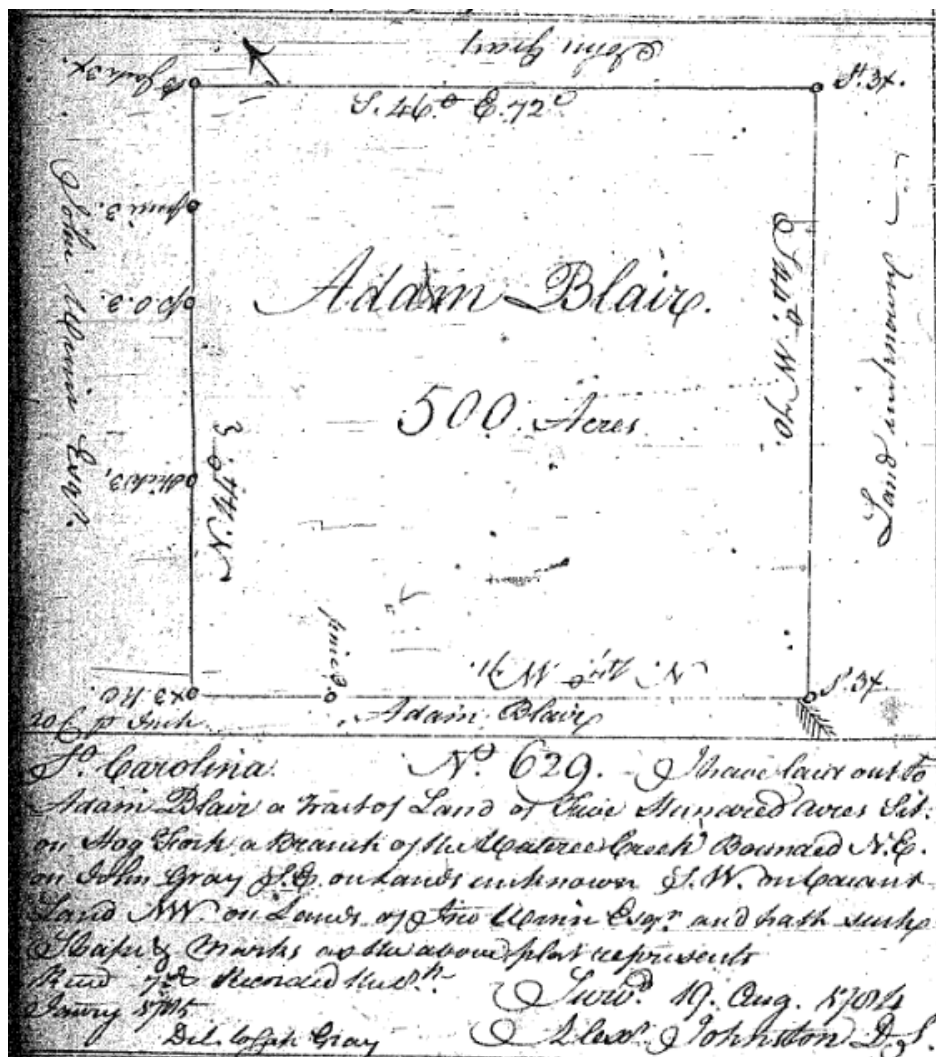
- One Susannah **Bryant** and **George Evans** witnessed the October 1792 deed in which [Lt. Col.] John Watts of Washington County, Georgia, conveyed his interest in his father's estate to Tabitha, Isaiah, Julius, and Benjamin Watts.
- Associations suggest that this Thomas Watts, above, should be **Thomas of Lynches Creek**, husband of Tabitha.

3 JUNE 1791

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Adam Blare, planter of Fairfield County, to John Tidwell of same, planter. Land in Camden District on a branch of the Wateree Creek called **Hog Fork**, bounded on NE by land surveyed to John Winn, Esqr; on SE by John Gray's Land; NE by land unknown; and SE by vacant land. Signed: Adam (X) Blare. Witnesses: Danl. Cockran; Thos. Lewers.¹³⁸



¹³⁷ Kershaw Co., SC, "Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book C," 1–2; FHL microfilm 1,029,442 ("Kershaw County, 1791–1799; Kershaw District, 1800–1811").

¹³⁸ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book H: 38–39.

COMMENT:

When Hugh Milling, in 1783, sold land "on a branch of Jacksons Creek, known as **Watts Branch**," Adam Blair owned the adjacent tract.¹³⁹ Watts Branch, named for William Watts of the 1762 grant, was a bit to the southwest of Blair.

1 AUGUST 1791

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

John King, survey 170 acres on **S. Side of the Wateree Creek, Waters of the Wateree**, bounding NE and NW on land granted to *John Sutton*, NE & SE on land granted to *Jos. Oats* and **Moses Hornsby**." **Thomas Stone** is also depicted on East, unknown lands on NE and *Jos. Oates* on NE. "Recorded 16 Aug. 1791 and Delivered to **Wm. Tidwell**."¹⁴⁰

TO DO:

Reconsult these records for thorough research on John King.

18 AUGUST 1791

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land survey.

"Pursuant to a warrant from John Winn Esqr. C. L. C. [Clerk of Land Court] dated 10th August 1791, I have admeasured and laid out to **Moses Hornsby** a tract of land containing two hundred and fifteen acres situate in Camden district on **Hornsby's branch**, waters of **Wateree Creek**, Bounding NW on *Thomas Stone's Land*, *John Kings*, and *Moses Kirklands land*; SE on lands granted to *Charles Lewis* and *John King*, NE on *John Saunders* lands, and hath such shape, forms and marks as the above plat represents. Certified for 18th Augst. 1791, Peter Cassity, DS. Recorded & del^d. To M^{es} Hornsby 21 August 1791."¹⁴¹



¹³⁹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book A: 174–79.

¹⁴⁰ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book D, 1788–1791," p. 181; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

¹⁴¹ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book D, 1788–1791," p. 184; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

COMMENT:

- The plat needs to be rotated about 160° for proper north-south orientation.
- When Moses and Caty Hornsby sold their land prior to moving to Georgia, Moses Hornsby stated that the land of **Moses Kirkland** had passed to the ownership of Leonard Hornsby, from whom Moses Hornsby inherited it. This may or may not imply a kinship. Doubt is created by the fact that South Carolina confiscated and resold the lands of many Loyalists; Kirkland, allegedly, was one of them.
- Charles Lewis and John King, the SE neighbors of this plat, were 12 and 17 houses from John Watts in 1790.
- Thomas Stone is alleged by some undocumented online trees to be the brother-in-law of Ambrose Mills, with whom he is said to have moved from Bedford Co., VA.
- This plat needs to be rotated about 160° for proper north-south orientation.

13 AUGUST 1791

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Obadiah Hinson, survey of 115 acres by warrant of 10 August 1791. "Bounding SE on lands of *John King* and *Thomas Stone*, NW and SW on lands of *Obadiah Henson*."¹⁴²

COMMENT:

- Obadiah Hinson was 10 houses from John and his son Thomas Watts in 1790.
- Thomas Stone needs to be pursued as a possible kinsman of Ambrose Mills's first wife, Mourning Stone.

9 SEPTEMBER 1791

KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Associates.

John King & wife Ally to Sarah King, John's sister. For 100 pounds sterling, sell "so much of said John King's Lot situate in the town or Vilage [*sic*] of Camden Described in plan thereof by the number 714 ..."
Witnesses: *Drury Goyen*; *William Davison*. John signed. "Alley King (X, her mark)"¹⁴³

COMMENT:

- There are two John Kings who were close neighbor of John & Thomas Watts in Fairfield, 1790. See the will under 1779 abstracts above (a will that was not probated until the 1790s), whereby John King Sr. named his wife Priscilla, son John King [Jr.] and daughter Sarah. They did not name a daughter Catherine.
- The 1779 will of John King did name a daughter Sarah, as well as a son John.
- The John above would appear to be John Jr.

4 DECEMBER 1791

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land survey.

"Pursuant to a Warrant from John Winn, Esq. C.L. for Cd. I have laid out to **Thomas Watts** a tract of land Containing 215 acres Situate on the Waters of the Wateree Creek on the **Dry Fork**, in Fairfield County

¹⁴² Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book D, 1788–1791," p. 184; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

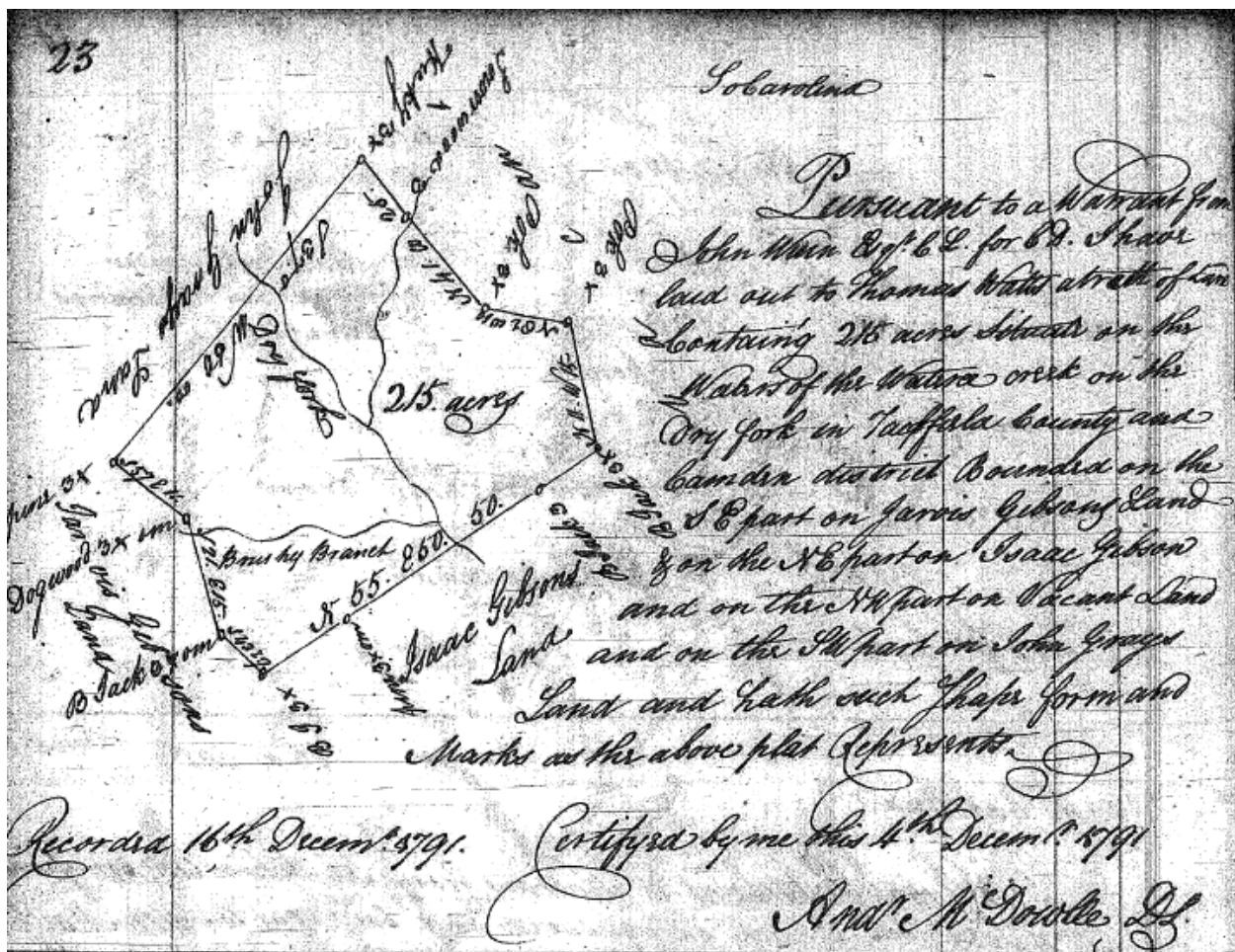
¹⁴³ Kershaw Co., SC, Deeds B (1791–96): 210–11; FHL microfilm 024,044, item 2.

and Camden District, Bounded on the SE part on **Jarvis** Galney's Land, and on the NE part on **Isaac Gibson**, and on the NW part on Vacant Land on the SE part on *John Gray's* Land, and hath such Shape form and Marks as the above plat Represents. Certified by me this 4th Decem^r 1791, Andr. McDowell, D.S.; Recorded 16th Decem^r, 1791."¹⁴⁴

COMMENT:

The probability is that this is land of Thomas Jr. who appears on the 1790 census as next-door neighbor of John Watts and 5 houses from John Goynes (the NW neighbor below).

The plat for this land shows the configuration of streams that enables us to place it on a map. The plat should be rotated about 90° counter-clockwise for proper north-south orientation.



25 JANUARY 1792
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC
Land survey.

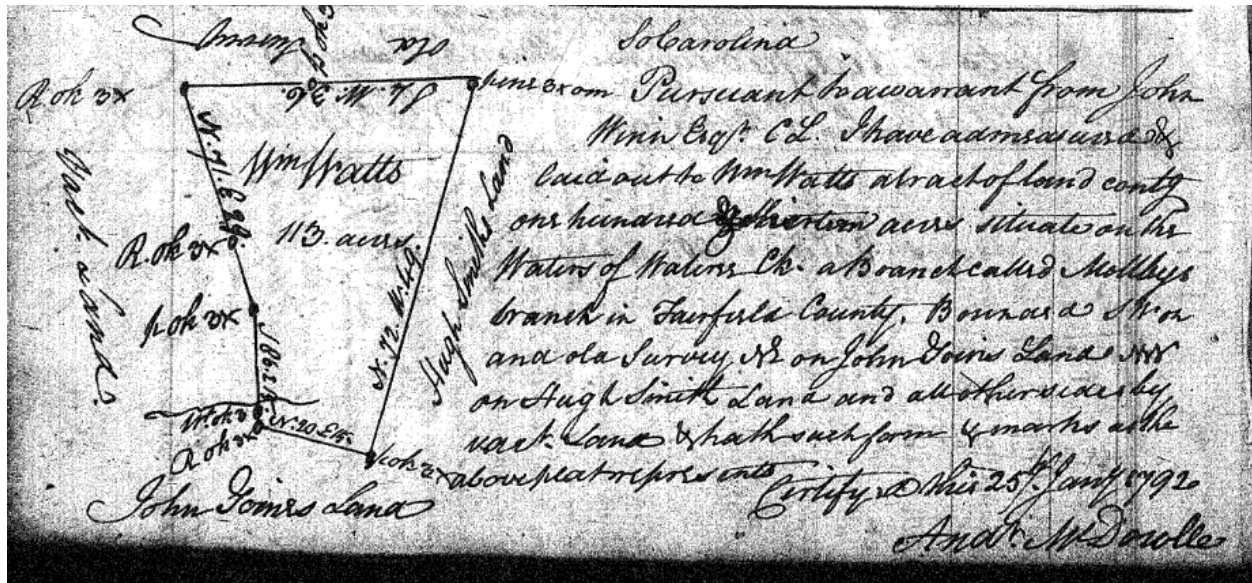
"Pursuant to a warrant from John Winn, Esqr. C.L., I have admeasured and laid out to **Wm. Watts** a tract of land contg. **One hundred & thirteen acres** situate on the **Waters of Wateree Ck.**, a Branch called **Motleys Branch** in Fairfield, Bounded SW on and [sic] old Survey, NE on John Goines? Land, NW on Hugh

¹⁴⁴ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book E, 1791-1795," p. 23; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

Smith Land and all other sides by vact. Land & hath such form & marks as the above plat represents. Certified this 25th Jany. 1792, Andw. McDowlle."¹⁴⁵

COMMENT:

In 1790, John Goin, above, was 4 houses from our **John Watts**, suggesting that this William Watts was the same man of that name who was John Watts's land partner in 1784–86.



12 MARCH 1792
KERSHAW COUNTY, SC
Witness.

Thomas Duke of Fairfield to **John Dougherty** of Kershaw. Debt: 71 pounds, 16 shillings & 6 pence sterling. Gives title to *Negro fellow named Titus*—also livestock branded TD and household goods, if debt not paid by 12 March 1799. Witnesses: **George Watts**, *Samuel Dougherty*.¹⁴⁶

COMMENT:

- In 1785, Thomas Duke and **wife Mary** of Fairfield sold land to John Ellison, the 1790 "next door neighbor" of Moses Hornsby. Witnesses were 1790 neighbors of our John Watts. (Fairfield Deeds B:152-55)
- **John Dougherty's** will drawn 1 February 1788 (see below) names his **daughter Mary Duke** and states that she and her sister **Margaret Perry** are to have 29 pounds sterling less than his other children.
- On 23 August 1786 **Charles Pickett** (John Watts's 1790 neighbor) received a land grant adjacent to **Joseph Dougherty**.
- 18 December 1797, John Dougherty's son and heir, Samuel, sold land on West side of Wateree River, on the Great Road, said to be John's grant. Witnesses were **Rhodia Dougherty**, **George Watts**, and Aaron Duke. (John Watts named a daughter Rhoda, born in the 1790s. The source of her name is not known.)

¹⁴⁵ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book D, 1791–1795," p. 40; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

¹⁴⁶ Kershaw Co., SC, Deeds A (1789–1800): 39; FHL microfilm 024,044, item 1.

7 APRIL 1792

KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Associates.

*Jesse **Knighton** to John Goyin, both of Kershaw County. For 15 pounds good money, Knighton sells 50 acres in NW corner of a tract granted to Aron Ferguson, conveyed by Israel Teague to Knighton, bounded by Lewis Collins and Richard Gardner. No location. Witnesses: Joseph **Knighton**, Wyatt Collins (X his mark).*¹⁴⁷

COMMENT:

- John “Goin” in 1790 was 4 houses above John Watts
- “Thomas” Kinghton was 6 houses above Goin.
- Daniel, Alexander and Henry “Gowen” were 1, 5, and 6 houses from **Moses Hornsby**.

12 MAY 1792

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Estray record.

“Bright Bay Horse. Near 12 years old, 13 ½ hands high, a large Star in his face, hind feet white, branded on the mounting shoulder thus M and on the Buttock thus I [with a horizontal line through the middle of the I] with a remarkable white Spot on the off Shoulder appraised by Wm. Kirkland, **George Watts**, Thos. Hodge, to £2.5. Told before Zach. Kirkland, J.P.

14 January 1793, £1.1.6 Sam Croslin.”¹⁴⁸

5 JUNE 1792

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Witness.

*Job Bass, of Richland County, SC, to John Yarbrough of Fairfield. Whereas a grant was made on 21 May 1772 to Surls Lewis, 400 acres in Craven County on **South side of Wateree River** on a branch called **Taylor’s Creek**, bounded N on land surveyed for **Ambrose Mills**, S on land surveyed for **John Kirkling** and James Wallace, and W on land surveyed for **Francis Layton** (grant recorded Book 222, page 161, Secretary’s office); and whereas Job Bass Sr. purchased 200 acres of this grant from **Surls Lewis** on 10 and 19 December [no year given] and recorded Book U [V?] No. 5, pp. 227-229 on 5 September 1786 ... Now Job Bass, son and heir of said Job Bass Sr. sells to *John Yarbrough* for a bond of 400 pounds dated 10 January 1772 and recorded in the county court of Fairfield? on 19 February 1787, conveys 100 acres on Taylor’s Branch bounded NW by land surveyed for **Francis Layton**, the boundaries being as follows: Beginning at Layton’s Corner pine on the N. side of Taylor’s Creek, then S38.72 crossing the said Creek to a corner formerly a pine, then SE 80 to an Ash Tree on **Aldrege’s Spring branch**, thence to a Large pine near the Creek so crossing the said Creek to a white? Oak station by a line of Marked Trees to a Black Jack a Corner tree on the opposite side of which said line was agreed to be the Division or Boundary Line between the said Job Bass Land and John Yarborough aforesaid, THENCE sw 76 TO THE FIRST Station or Beginning. All houses, etc. [Signed] Job Bass, William **Sanders**, **Zilpha Williams** (x), RACHEL **Sanders** (+ +). Proved 20 August 1792 by William Sanders before Zachariah Kirkland, J.P.*¹⁴⁹

COMMENT:

- Note that the 1772 Surls Lewis grant adjoined the 600-acre grant made in 1766 to Ambrose Mills.

¹⁴⁷ Kershaw Co., SC, Deeds B (1791–96): 206; FHL microfilm 024,044, item 2.

¹⁴⁸ Fairfield Co., SC, Record of Estrays, 1788–89, no visible page number, entries in chronological sequence

¹⁴⁹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book H: 92–94.

- In 1783, John Yarbrough co-signed with John Watts the character reference for Lt. William Goggans.
- In 1784, when William Mills sold Ambrose Mills's land to John Watts's neighbor Micajah Pickett (who promptly resold it to William and John Watts), the document was witnessed (in NC) by **Surls Lewis**, John Mills, and Ann Mills.
- In 1787, Thomas Watts "Jr." bought land adjacent to Francis Layton, above.
- This new deed offers an intersection of the same names, coupled with new one: **Zilpha**, a female name rarely seen in this county but one John Watts gave to his daughter ca. 1780. Additionally, the Sanders family used the given name **Bartlett**, as did John Watts's son Thomas and Zilpha Watts's offspring.
- Note that this document was executed before the same neighborhood j.p. used 3 weeks earlier by **George Watts**.

TO DO:

Pursue this Zilpha Williams to determine whether she might be the source of the name John Watts gave to his daughter Zilpha.

16 JUNE 1792

KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Neighbors.

Will of **Lewis Franklin Bryant**. To beloved wife, 100 acres during her widowhood, tools, etc. To son *Edmond* 200 acres lying on Fals Bay, being part of 600 acres, adjoining **Reubin Cook's land**. Son *William* 5 shillings. Son *Ambrose*, 100 acres on **Lynch's Creek**, part of the tract he lives on and part of the **Willey tract** joining the *Underwood* land, also 200 acres being the Middle part of the Fals Bay tract and one third of the household furnishings. Son *Lewis*, 200 acres of the **Fals Bay** land, being the lower part joining *Sowel's Land*, also Negro fellow Jim and 1/3 of household furnishings, his working tools and books. **Daughter Susannah** to share with Edmond and Lewis the balance of his estate. Except one feather bed to go to *Granddaughter Senthe Bryan*, daughter of his son *Ambrose*, and *Grandson Lewis Franklin Bryant*, son of *Ambrose*, who is to get 200 acres of land on NE side of **Lynch's Creek**, adjoining land laid out to **Thomas Watts**. Son *Ambrose* is to have the use of the land until the child comes of age. Witnesses: Richard Middleton, John Middleton, William Middleton.¹⁵⁰

COMMENT:

- No connection has been found between the Wateree Watts and this Thomas of Lynches Creek. As noted early in this report, their Y haplogroup is also totally different.
- If this land was on the NE side of GREAT Lynch's Creek, then it lay in Chesterfield County (where Benjamin and Isaiah Watts lived in the 1820s).
- If the land was on the NE side of LITTLE Lynch's Creek, then it lay in Kershaw.

30 JUNE? 1792

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Will.

Thomas Lewers.

COMMENT:

This half-page **Thomas Lewers** document is so blurred it's hardly readable. He does seem to

¹⁵⁰ Kershaw Co., SC, "Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book C," 118–19; FHL microfilm 1,029,442.

refer to himself as being “of said county.”¹⁵¹

22 AUGUST 1792

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Cullen Mobley (x) to Micajah Mobley, for 15 pounds, sale of land granted 16 July 1784 to David Hopkins and conveyed by Hopkins to Cullen Mobley by deed dated 10 August 1792, 60 acres, Camden District, on **Beaver Creek** of waters of Broad River, bounded by **Thomas Meador** at the time of the survey but now held and owned by Micajah Mobley—to extend from the E or SE line to the W or SW line of that tract. Witnesses Daniel?, Thomas (T) Mobley, Jethro Mobley. Proved 10 September 1792 by Danl. Mabry. Recorded 17 September 1792 by ___ Evans, Clerk of Court.¹⁵²

COMMENT:

Both the Mobleys and the Meadors came to Fairfield from Bedford County, Virginia, the 1756 birthplace of George Watts and the 1748–1756 place of residence for Ambrose Mills, whose sister Sarah married one *Thomas Watts* in Virginia. See report in progress on Bedford County Wattses.

TO DO:

To seek identification of John Watts’s wife, rework this county for all records relating to

- | | | | | |
|-------------|----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| • Coon/Kuhn | • Hinson | • Mobley | • Pickett | • Stone |
| • Dampier | • King | • Morris | • Sanders | • Tidwell |
| • Daugherty | • Lee | • Patterson | • Smith | |
| • Duke | • Meador | • Perry | • Starke | |

4 SEPTEMBER 1792

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land purchase.

John Gowin, planter of Fairfield, to **William Watts**, planter, of same. Sale of land granted 6? February 1792, to the said John “Goins,” 96 acres, bounded NW by vacant land, S by *John Barbera*, NW and SW by *Joseph Cameron’s* land and SE & NE by *Hugh Smith*. [Signed] John Gowin (G, his mark). Witnesses: Simeon **Tidwell**, William **Lewis**, Thomas Hughs. [Waterway not given].¹⁵³

COMMENTS:

- In 1790, John Gowin was 4 houses from John Watts, 3 from William Tidwell, and 5 from William Lewis. Clearly, William Watts is buying land from neighbors of John Watts.
- The “Barbera” family name was also spelled “Barber” in many of the deed records. *Mills’s Atlas* shows a “J. Barber’s Store” below the south fork of Big Wateree Creek and above Beaver Dam fork of Little Wateree—about 3 or so miles from Hog Fork where Tidwell bought land in 1791. Barber’s Store is also within a mile or so of Ambrose Mills’s Forks of Wateree Creek land that John Watts and William Watts bought in 1784 and sold in 1786.

13 OCTOBER 1792

KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Estate settlement.

¹⁵¹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book B “Bonds and Notes of Hand,” 97?

¹⁵² Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book H: 43–44.

¹⁵³ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 51.

John Wats of the County of Washington and State of Georgia of the one part and **Tabitha Watts, Benjamin Watts, Julius Watts, and Isaiah Watts** of the County of Kershaw and State of South Carolina of the one part. Witnesseth that the said John Watts for and in Consideration of the Sum of *thirty pounds* of good and lawful money of the State of South Carolina to him in hand paid by the said Tobitha Watts, Benjn. Watts, Julius Watts, and Isaiah Watts before the Sealing and Delivery of these presents to the receipt whereof is hereby Acknowledged, the said John Watts hath Granted bargained sold enfeofed conveyed and confirmed and by these presents do Grant bargain Sell alienate convey and Confirm to the said Tabitha Watts Benjm Watts Julius Watts and Isaiah Watts all the Estate right tittle Interest claim and Demand whatsoever of him the said John Watts to the estate of his Father Thomas Watts late of the County of Kershaw and state of South Carolina Deceased, to the only proper use benefit and behoof of the said Tabitha Watts Benjm Watts Julius Watts and Isaiah Watts their heirs and assigns forever the said John Watts the estate and premises aforesaid to the said Tabitha Watts Benjm Watts Julius Watts shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents against him the said John Watts his heirs & assigns. In Witness whereof, the said John Watts have hereunto Set his hand and affixed his Seal the Day and Year above Written.

Signed Sealed & Delivered in presence of

Susannah Bryant

George Evans

Rec'd in Office 23rd of April 1793.

John Watts (L.S.)

(p. 277)

"Received the Day and Year within mentioned of and from the Within named **Tabitha Watts Benjm Watts Julius Watts and Isaiah Watts**, the Consideration money within mentioned I say re'd by me.

South Carolina

Kershaw County

Personally appeared before me *George Evans* who make the Oath and Saith he was present and Saw **John Watts** Sign Seal and as his Act and Deed deliver the Within Instrument of Writing for the purposes therein contained and that **Susannah Bryant** with this Deponent Signed their names as Witnesses to the due Execution thereof.

Sworn to this 23rd April 1793

George Evans¹⁵⁴

Before me Francis. Boykin J.P.

COMMENT:

There were two John Watts in Washington County, Georgia, at this moment.

- On 6 February 1792 (8 months before this document) John Watts and son Thomas of the 1790 Fairfield Co., S.C., census appeared before the land court in Washington Co., Ga., requesting headright grants. A justice on that land court was also named John Watts.
- Lt. Col. John Watts, got his first grant there in 1785, the same year he received a gubernatorial appointment as a justice and lieutenant colonel of the militia of the new county of Washington. The evidence for this "Col. John" quite conclusively identifies him as the John of the Kershaw document above—and son of Thomas and Tabitha Watts of Lynches Creek.¹⁵⁵

5 FEBRUARY 1793

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Witness.

¹⁵⁴ Kershaw Co., SC, Deeds B (1791–96): 276; FHL microfilm 024,044, item 2.

¹⁵⁵ See E. S. Mills, "John Watts, Col., J.P. (1756–1803) ... Research Notes," 20 October 2014.

Harley Miles to Lewis Haygood. Sale of 50 acres, land granted to John Delahunt? 10 May 1773 on **Cedar Creek**. Witnesses: **Geo. Watts, Conrad Coon**, Saml. S. Miles.¹⁵⁶

COMMENT:

- Little Cedar Creek and Big Cedar Creek lay in South-central Fairfield, about 5 miles to the west of George Watts's location on 25-Mile Creek and about 10 miles east of Edward Watt's location on Jackson's Creek of Little River. See Map 2.
- In addition, *Mills's Atlas* also shows a **Cedar Fork** of Dutchman Creek which lies about 1 mile northeast of the tip of Big Cedar Creek. The configuration suggests that Cedar Fork and Big Cedar Creek might have once been a continuous stream.
- in 1790, George "Coon" was 6 households from **John Watts**.

2 JUNE 1793

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale

Henry Crumpton (H) to members of **Brick Meeting House** (many named) on **Little River**, sale of one acre, "including the above mentioned Brick Meeting House." Witnesses: Jno. McCoy, Thos Pollry. Proved by McCoy before John Gray, J.P. on 6 June 1793.

COMMENTS:

- Henry Crumpton's daughter Barbara, about 1780–82, married George Watts.¹⁵⁷
- Little River is known to have two meeting houses in this period. The oldest was Mobley's Meeting House in upper Fairfield. After the Whig rout of the Tory stronghold at Mobley's in 1780, that church waned. By the 1790s, there was a Gibson's Meeting House on Little River, in lower Fairfield. Whether Gibson's is one and the same as the Brick Meeting House is unclear.

18 JUNE 1793

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Estray record.

"Black Mare, 13 ½ hands high, no visible brand, Supposed to be 4 years old last Spring, appraised to the 3.5.0 by **Jesse Rawls, Aaron Smith & Robert Mitchell**. Tolloed by *John Smith*, before *Zach. Kirkland, J.P.* [Disposition illegible]¹⁵⁸

COMMENT:

Note that Jesse Rawls and George Watts of 25-Mile Creek are using the same neighborhood j.p.

29 JULY 1793

FAIRFIELD & KERSHAW COUNTIES, SC

Associates.

Administrator's bond for *Rebecca Lee*, as widow of *John Lee*, with *George Gaydon* and *Edwards Collins* as bondsmen. Francis Boykin issued order to William **Kirkland**, *Lewis Collins*, and **James Perry**, to appraise the estate.

COMMENT:

¹⁵⁶ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book H: 112–13.

¹⁵⁷ George Watts Pension Application (Sgt., Sumter's Brigade, SC, Rev. War), File 11214, Widow Barbara; accessed via "Revolutionary War Pensions," database with images, *Fold 3* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 11 September 2014).

¹⁵⁸ Fairfield Co., SC, "Record of Estrays, 1788–89," no visible page number, entries in chronological sequence.

- This John Lee appears to be John Jr.
- The assignment of a Perry (in-law of **George Watts**) to appraise the John Lee estate adds another strand to the web that ties all these families together.

5 JANUARY 1794

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

William Watt [sic] and *Howard* Robinson of Fairfield County, for 5 shillings sterling that they acknowledge having received, sell one half acre of land and a spring to William Richardson of same state and county. **The spring did formerly belong to James Hawthorn.** The half-acre and spring is to be laid off adjoining the said William Richardson land and to run two chains along the branch from the East hickory corner of said Watts & Bobinson [sic] plantations and to run ten Chains up the branch. Signed: Howard Robinson; William Watts [sic]. Witnesses James McMeekin; John Kennedy. Proved 5 November 1795 by James McMeekin before Burrell Cook, J.P. Recorded 13 November 1795.¹⁵⁹

COMMENT:

- Note that no location is cited. However, about 1796, "William Watt" bought land from Adam Hawthorn on "N side of Broad River on the Waters of Broad and Little River."¹⁶⁰
- The deed also does not say how "Watt" and Robinson acquired Hawthorn's spring or why they were holding it in common. The purchase of a spring at the corner of a neighbor's plantation would not be unusual, but the fact that William acquired it from Hawthorn *in common with Howard Robinson could suggest a relationship between them.*
- In Covington County, Mississippi, Hawthornes would later intermarry with offspring of Rev. John Watts.

20 JANUARY 1794

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Estray record.

"A Sow. Sandy Spotted with a Crop in left? Ear & w Slotts in the right Ear a slit, appraised to 9/4 by *John Jarvis & Thomas Watts*. Told by **William Watts** before *John Turner Esqr.* July 1794: Sold."¹⁶¹

COMMENT:

- The 1790 census of Fairfield places the **j.p. John Turner in the neighborhood settled by William Watts** between upper Little River (on the west) and Wateree Creek (on the east).
- The 1800 census of Fairfield places **John Jarvis next door to George Watts.**
- The Thomas Watts fathered by our John is already in Montgomery County, Georgia.

Other known Thomases include:

- Thomas, Sr., of the Kershaw side of Wateree River, whose 1763 grant adjoined that of William and Edward; he remained on that Kershaw land until 1796, at which time he sold 250 acres, calling himself "of Kershaw" although the j.p. was a Fairfield neighbor of John Watts.
- **Thomas Jr.,** who (1787) obtained two tracts on Dutchman's & Taylor's Creek (across the Wateree from Thomas Sr.), calling himself "Thomas Junior" but appears to be an absentee landowner; also appears as "Thomas Jun'r" on a Kershaw jury roll in 1796, in same term of

¹⁵⁹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book K: 73–74.

¹⁶⁰ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book R: 202–3.

¹⁶¹ Fairfield Co., SC, Record of Estrays, 1788–89, no visible page number, entries in chronological sequence.

court that “Thomas Sen’r” was sued for debt (a suit that prompted the sale above).¹⁶²

- Thomas who acquired the 1791 grant on Dry Fork of Wateree Creek, where William took out a new tract of land the next year before. In 1799–1800, William sold both his own land and the grant of this Thomas.

All things considered, the Thomas who appraised this sow was likely Thomas Jr. The cluster of names here: Thomas, William, and George suggests that they were all kinsmen.

7? FEBRUARY 1794

FAIRFIELD & KERSHAW COUNTIES, SC

Land sale.

Moses Duke of Fairfield, planter, as heir and executor of **Robert Duke**, sells for 20 pounds to **Mary Turner**, land on **Horse pen branch**, 100 acre, bounding on all sides by vacant land, laid out to **Robert Duke** 3 September 1774. Witnesses: *Dyvea? Ward, Peter Crim, John Crim*.¹⁶³ Recorded Kershaw Co.

COMMENT:

- Horse Pen Creek flowed out of the Wateree River, about 10 miles above 25-Mile Creek. Both creeks cross the Fairfield and Kershaw line and lie in both counties.
- Re *Turner*:
 - George Watts of 25-Mile Creek (according to his pension file) had a daughter “Sally” who married a Turner, apparently before they left Fairfield.
 - The will of Jacob Perry named a daughter *Mary Turner*, as well as Ruth Watts, who apparently married George. See 5 October 1780 above.
- The 10 December 1784 will of Robert Duke named daughter Rachel Crim.¹⁶⁴

1 MARCH 1794

KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Francis Boykin, C.C. issues order to **Benjamin Watts**, *Richard Marrs* and *Charles Powell* to appraise the estate. (All three men made their marks.)¹⁶⁵

COMMENT:

This Benjamin is the documented son of Thomas and Tabitha of Lynches Creek.

17 MARCH 1794

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Neighbors.

Edward Pigg, planter of Fairfield, to **John Hollis**, conveys (via a release) part? of 200 acres on a **branch** of the **Wateree**, now in his actual possession, bounding NW on *Moses Hollis*, SW on *Nottley Hollis*, E on Nez. Whitted, with the other sides vacant. Granted to **Wm. Smith** 23 Feby 1775 “**all that part of Land lying on the west side of the Mill Branch**, containing 100 acres more or less. Witnesses: *Berry Hollis, Elijah Hollis, John Yarbrough*.¹⁶⁶

COMMENTS:

¹⁶² Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book X: 82; Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (1986; Reprint, Westminster, Md.: Heritage Books, 2008), 87.

¹⁶³ Kershaw Co., SC, Deeds B (1791–96): 386; FHL microfilm 024,044, item 2.

¹⁶⁴ Kershaw Co., Will Book “A-1,” 240-41.

¹⁶⁵ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book C,” 118–19; FHL microfilm 1,029,442.

¹⁶⁶ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 123.

- Edward Pigg bought this land in 1789. In 1790, he was the **next door neighbor of John Watts** and Thomas Watts [Jr.].
- John Watts has now left Fairfield and settled in Montgomery Co., Ga.—newly cut from Washington Co. Subsequently, in Tattnall County, he would be found living on mill land he did not own.
- Pigg's Baptist congregation in Fairfield is said to have numbered just 24 members in 1790 and 26 in 1791. The congregation is said to have broken up shortly after that. Pigg was, in the 1780s and 1790s, under a heavy shadow of scandal that the historian of SC Baptists does not bother to explain. That blight on Pigg's reputation could have contributed to the meagerness of the cogregation. The family of his next-door neighbor John Watts, later a Baptist minister, would seem to be likely members. Considering the size of John's family and the low membership rolls, the Watts departure could have been the death knell for Pigg's congregation.¹⁶⁷
- The Rev. Pigg's sale of his millsite, shortly after John Watts moved, might also speak to John's occupation. (The Piggs did find another SC congregation outside Fairfield.¹⁶⁸)

14 NOVEMBER 1794

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Appraisement and sale of estate of William Tidwell, 14 November 1794, by **John King, Moses King & Jesse Ginn**. At the sale [n.d.], buyers were John Turner, Esq., Edmond Tidwell, John King Senr., Henry Rugeley, Simon Tidwell, John King Junr. **Charles Pickett**, Esq., William England, Robert Smith, Richard Land, Samuel Oats, Cordel Hogan, Benjamin **Hinson**, Thomas Goodrum, **Falby Tidwell** (a wheel, cards, Bed & Smoothing Irons), James Land, Charles Johnston, Moses King, **Leonard Hornsby**, **William Watts**, **John Morris**, **James Stone**, Bird Owen, John Barr, George Tidwell. Simon Tidwell, Adm. Recorded 7 April 1795.

17 NOVEMBER 1794

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Robert Tidwell to Bird Owen, 100 acres granted to *Richard Tidwell* by patent dated 29 April 1768 on **Hog Fork**. ...¹⁶⁹

26 DECEMBER 1794

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

James Smith, planter of Fairfield District, and **Sarah his wife**, to **William Smith**, sale of a plantation of 100 [sic] acres granted to Thomas *Kennedy* on 7 July 1717 [sic] [1777?] on Chapman Creek. Waters of [?] River bounding N. W. by John Philips, with all other sides vacant, which Thomas Kennedy then sold to *William Kenneday*, Eldest brother, who sold to *John Greagg*, 7 December 1785 and by Gregg [sic] to said **James Smith**; James now sells to William for 13 pounds, the 140 [sic] acres, 'being the one half and upper part of the said Robert,' [sic] Bound NW part of Wary [?] Ackison [?], SW on *Robert Ellison*, SE on *David Boyds*, NE on *James Smith*, the residence of the said [Smith], together with all woods [etc.]." Signed: James Smith (X, his mark), Sarah Smith (X, her mark). Witnesses: E. T. Bedford, Wm. *Rabb*.

¹⁶⁷ Leah Townsend, *South Carolina Baptists, 1670–1805* (1935; reprint, Baltimore: Clearfield, 2003), 80, 99, 100n, 102, 114, 146, 158, 212, and 212n.

¹⁶⁸ Leah Townsend, *South Carolina Baptists, 1670–1805* (1935; reprint, Baltimore: Clearfield, 2003), 80, 99, 100n, 102, 114, 146, 158, 212, and 212n.

¹⁶⁹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 262–63.

Receipt by James Smith for 20 pounds sterling from William Smith, no date. Wm. Rabb, witness. Proved 14 September 1803, by E. D. Bradford [*sic*] before Wm. Robertson, J.P. Recorded 27 May 1809. ¹⁷⁰

COMMENT:

This James Smith appears on the 1790 census in a locale that appears to be a tad northeast of Winnsboro. The 1790 census places him about 20 houses from Edward Watts (p. 167). His adjacent neighbor, Robert Ellison, in 1783, had owned land on Watts Branch of Jackson's Creek of Little River.¹⁷¹

(BEFORE 1795)

KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Will of **Jacob Evans** of Lynch's Creek, blacksmith. Youngest son *William Evans*, "all my land & maner plantation Lying on **Greate Lynches Creek**, which I purchased of Mr. *Davide Bumson*? Also Negroe man named Tom and Negro Woman named *Judah*. To youngest daughter *Martha*, Negro girl *Hannah* who is not to be mortgaged. To daughter **Susannah Ratcliff**, Negro Boy *Carey* to be given to her at the death of my wife **Sarah Evans**. Remainder of my property to be divided between my other children: *Burwell Evans, Elizabeth Johnson, Sarah Dun?* *Mary Stokes & Eleanor Acock?* Executors: Wife *Sarah* and son *William*. Witnesses: *Jeremiah Parish* (X his mark) and *William Teller* (H his mark)¹⁷²

COMMENT:

One **Susanah Ratcliff** in 1785 was the widow of Samuel Ratcliff, from whose *Fairfield* estate **John Watts, John King, Charles Pickett** and Peter **Tidwell** were purchasers. The site was in the Dutchman's Creek/Taylor's Creek area of Fairfield, on the waters of Wateree River—i.e., the opposite side of Kershaw County from which Jacob Evans lived.

NOTE:

I skimmed all pages of this Kershaw book through 1795, p. 265.

1 JANUARY 1795

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Rachael Tidwell to Bird Owen, land on that branch of Wateree called **Hog Fork, granted 29 April 1768** at which time all land on all sides was vacant. Rachael X'd, Witnesses: *George Tidwell; Richard Tidwell* (R, his mark) and *Sarah Garret* (X her mark).¹⁷³

COMMENTS:

- Sarah Garrett in 1790 was 4 houses from Edward Pigg and 5 from John & Thomas Watts.
- Robert Tidwell Sr. and Jr. lived a few houses below and after them.
- See 10 February 1796 for "Burd" Owen's purchase of other land adjoining Tidwells.

13 JANUARY 1795

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

¹⁷⁰ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book S: 208.

¹⁷¹ Tony Draine, *Fairfield County, S.C. Deed Book A, 1785–1788* (Columbia, SC: Draban Publications, 1991), 6-7, citing pp. 174–79.

¹⁷² Kershaw Co., SC, "Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book C," 162–64; FHL microfilm 1,029,442.

¹⁷³ Fairfield Co., SC., Deed Book I: 260–62.

Land sale.

Moses Hornsby of Fairfield County and *Nicholas Peay* of Same. “Whereas in and by Two Certain Grants bearing Date [*illegible word*] from the year **1757** and May Thirtieth, granted to **Moses Kirkland**, containing one hundred acres and from him to **Leonard Hornsby** and by him willed to **his son Moses Hornsby** situated on the **Wateree Creek** bounding on lands surveyed for *Frederick Pines* and on all other sides by vacant land when Surveyed and hath such shape form and marks as appears by a plat thereof to the said Grant annexed ... and duly recorded in the Secretaries office Book E folio 53. Also the other Tract Containing two hundred and fifteen acres granted to Moses Hornsby in the year 1791 and in November the 7th, situate on **Hornsby's Branch, a branch of Wateree Creek** bounded NW on lands belonging [to] **Thos. Stone, John King**, and the said old tract granted to Moses Kirkland, SE on lands Granted to **Charles Lewis and John King**, NE on lands belonging to John Saunders ... recorded ... Book D No. 5 page 184. Sale for 175 Pounds sterling money, paid in hand. [Signed] **Moses Hornsby, Caty Hornsby**. Witnesses: **Charles Lewis, Dicy Watts** (X her mark). 19 January 1795, proved by Charles Lewis before D. L. Evans, Clerk of Fairfield County. Recorded 24 March 1795.¹⁷⁴

COMMENTS:

- In 1790, John King, Charles Lewis and John Sanders were 12, 17, and 21 houses below John Watts and his son Thomas.
- **Dicey Watts** was the sister of **Catherine (Watts) Hornsby** and daughter of **John Watts**. By this time, her parents and other known siblings had been in Georgia for nearly three years.
- **Thomas Stone** does not show as a close census neighbor of any of the Watts on the 1790 Fairfield census; but he repeatedly appears in their earlier documents. The 1790 census places him adjacent to the Casons (an ancestral family of mine, heretofore unconnected to the Watts) who came to Fairfield from **Bedford County, Va.**

18 FEBRUARY 1795
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

Thomas Watts [Jr.] of Fairfield, Camden District, to *James Barber Junior* of same. Sale for 10 pounds of 100 acres being part of a tract of **630 acres originally granted to Thomas Watts**, situate lying and being on the **waters of the Watree Creek** in Fairfield County, bounded on E part of M[ose]s **Knighton's** land on the North part and West part on **Thomas Watts** land on the South part on **John Barber's** land. Signed: Thomas Watts (X his mark). No witnesses shown. Proved 14 January 1801 by Robert Barber.¹⁷⁵

COMMENT:

- This is the land Thomas Jr. bought adjacent to John Watts, as per the original survey made in January 1786 by James Ogilvie, from whom Thomas Watts bought the unfinished claim. (For that plat, see prior report of 17 October 2016, under date of January 1786. Also see 14 July 1787, above, for Thomas's filing of the survey in his name. Thomas also bought two other adjacent tracts from Ogilvie on Dutchman's Creek: 738 and 276 acres—making a total of 1,644 acres.
- The Barbers held several tracts between the forks of Wateree Creek and Dutchman's Creek (including one marked by *Mills' Atlas* as Barber's Store, as shown on Map 4, p. 19).

¹⁷⁴ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 330.

¹⁷⁵ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book N: 171–72; see also N:173–74 for James Barber's sale of this tract to Robert Barber on 14 January 1801.

- John Barber, neighbor of Thomas above, was also a neighbor of land **William Watts** (apparently William of Thomas Sr.) obtained in 1792 and sold in 1800 from Kershaw Co.)¹⁷⁶ and a small tract William bought in 1792.¹⁷⁷

25 MARCH 1795

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Catharine Smith (C, her mark) to **Bartlett Smith**, sale of “all and every Negroe or Negroes with all and every other property which is due me or devised to me by **my father Michael King’s** last will and Testament **Dupling County, North Carolina**, deceased (reserving [illegible] **what my Brother John King** has now in his possession.” Witnesses: Thos. Fulgham, Moses Dukes (his mark). Before Chas. Pickett, J.P.¹⁷⁸

COMMENT:

- Undocumented online trees say that Catharine is widow of **Moses Smith** [a man who cosigned the 1783 character affidavit with John Watts and John King]. Those accounts also allege that she was first married to a John Byrd, by whom she had a son Michael, that she had a son Bartlett by Moses Smith, and that she moved to Burke County, Georgia.
- John Watts and his unidentified wife named their first daughter *Catherine*. When she married Moses Hornsby, they named a son *Moses Smith* Hornsby. Meanwhile, Catherine’s brother Thomas Watts and his Georgia-born wife named a son “*Bartlett S*” Watts.

7 APRIL 1795

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Estate of William Tidwell. Appraised by John King, Moses King, Jesse Ginn. Purchasers included **William Watts & Leonard Hornsby, as adjacent purchasers** on a list of 25. **James Stone** was also a purchaser.

COMMENT:

John and Moses King and Jesse Ginn were all neighbors and associates of John Watts in the 1784–90 period.

7 MAY 1795

KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Estate of John Dougherty. Francis Boykin, C.C., issues order to Daniel Harkins (X his mark), James Wilson (X his mark) and **Lewis Perry** to appraise the estate.¹⁷⁹

COMMENT:

- This Lewis Perry was a son named in Jacob Perry’s 5 October 1780 will. Perry also named daughters “Mary Wilson” and “Ruth Watts.”
- See the 25 January 1786 plat, above, for John Willing, which shows the relative positions of lands held by Dougherty, Harkins, Wilson, and the Perrys. This is a tight-knit community on 25-Mile Creek.

¹⁷⁶ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book N: 78-80.

¹⁷⁷ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 51.

¹⁷⁸ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book L: 191.

¹⁷⁹ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book C,” 122–23; FHL microfilm 1,029,442.

24 JUNE 1795

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land purchase.

"The titles made by *Bryan* [Benj?] *Freeman* unto **James Watts** for one hundred and Seventy one acres of Land recorded in Book G Page 25, 26, 14th February 1792 are proved void by the said Freeman, being two years in his mortgage commenced at the time of his assigning the above record titles[,] likeways this do certify that **George Watts** has received a full satisfaction from the said Freeman Since he has come of age by the said Freeman making titles to **his Son James Watts** for part on other lands in lieu of seventy-one acres Lost, now the property of *James Laughton*—As witness hereof I have set my hand this 24th day of June 1795. Geo Watts.

"Therefore further do I certify as being administrator and Guardian to the above *Benjamin Freeman* an[d] told him not to Sell his land no[r] make letters t[ill] he come of age which by Register of his birth was not until Nov the thirteenth 1793. As witness my hand this 24th of June 1795. Signed Acknowledged & delivered In presence of *Chas. McDonell* (x); *Mary McDoneel* (x); proved before *John Wilson, J.P.* ¹⁸⁰

COMMENT:

The fact that George is acting for his son, without mention of any power of attorney, implies that son James is a minor. James is not included on the list of surviving children of George and Barbara (Compton) Watts in the 1852 RW pension application of those children. It appears that James was George's child by an earlier wife or relationship.

7 JANUARY 1796

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Witness.

Thomas Stone of Fairfield to William Bailey of **Amherst County, Virginia**. Sale for 40 pounds sterling, 200 acres lying in Amherst County on Dutch Creek bounded by Ralph Gobblings land, Statams, and Thomas Nash. Signed Thomas Stone (x). Witnesses: **John Watts**, *Micajah Picket*, Christopher Bowler. Picket proved the document on 7 January 1796 before Chas. Picket, J.P. L. Evans, Clerk of Court, then certified that *Charles Picket* was a duly appointed justice of Fairfield, 7 January 1796.¹⁸¹

COMMENT:

The identity of this witness John Watts is uncertain, but all the neighborhood connections imply that he should be our John:

- Thomas Stone in 1791 was a neighbor of Obediah Hinson and John King¹⁸²—two men who appear as immediate census neighbors of our John Watts in 1790.
- In 1791, Thomas Stone was a neighbor of a grant laid out to Moses Hornsby, adjacent to the land Hornsby had inherited from his father on Hornsby's Branch of Wateree Creek.¹⁸³
- The Picketts were also 1790 neighbors of our John Watts.
- In 1791, 170 acres were surveyed for **John King**, on **S. Side of the Wateree Creek, Waters of the Wateree**, bounding NE and NW on land granted to *John Sutton*, NE & SE on land granted to *Jos. Oats* and **Moses Hornsby**." *The accompanying plat depicts Thomas Stone on King's*

¹⁸⁰ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book R: 107; FHL microfilm 23,995 (Deeds R, 1807–9, to T).

¹⁸¹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book K: 105–6.

¹⁸² Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book D, 1788–1791," p. 184; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

¹⁸³ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book D, 1788–1791," p. 184; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

East, unknown lands on NE and *Jos. Oates* on NE. "Recorded 16 Aug. 1791 and Delivered to *Wm. Tidwell*."¹⁸⁴

- I have no 1795–96 documents for John in Montgomery County, Georgia, that would conflict with him being back in Fairfield at this time. On 13 January 1795, his daughter Dicey Watts was in Fairfield witnessing a document for her sister and brother-in-law, Moses and Catherine Hornsby. The family obviously did visit back and forth in the mid-1790s.
- Edward Watts did also have a son John, who was an adult by 1810. I've seen no record of him in this period to suggest that he was of age to witness documents by 1796. Moreover, this neighborhood was considerably east of his.

Re Thomas Stone:

- This document, by which he sells land in Amherst, suggests a point of origin for Stone.
- Earlier in this report, I questioned whether Thomas Stone, a John Watts neighbor, might be a kinsman of **Mourning Stone**, the wife Ambrose Mills married before leaving Virginia. The placement of Stone in Amherst (formerly Albemarle), where Ambrose and his sister **Sarah (wife of one Thomas Watts)** lived in their youth before Ambrose took employment as an overseer in Lunenburg County, strengthens the need to pursue Thomas Stone.

10 FEBRUARY 1796

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Jesse Ginn (s) of Camden District, Fairfield County, sells to Burd Owen of same, a tract situated on a branch of the Wateree Creek called **Hog Fork**, adjoining Samuel Boykin, McDowel, **John Tidwell**, Gray. Land had been patented to Isaac **Gibson** on 7 May 1787. Witnesses: Berrey **Hollis**, Rosemon **Hollis** (X her mark); Jene **Hollis** (X her mark). Proved 10 September 1796 by Berry Hollis, before **Charles Pickett, J.P.**

COMMENT:

- Jesse Ginn, Charles Picket, several Hollises and Gibsons, etc., were all John Watts neighbors on 1790 census.
- See 1 January 1795 for "Bird" Owens's purchase of land from Rachel Tidwell, with all involved individuals being neighbors of our John Watts.

19 MARCH 1796

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Witness.

John Willson sells to John Rush, both of Fairfield, for 20 pounds, land in Camden District on a branch called **Beaver Dam Creek**, bounded NW by land surveyed for James Lewers and vacant on all other sides at time of survey, granted to John Swiney on 15 July 1768; also 10 acres being part of 210 acres granted to Samuel Laughon—the total being 110 acres. Signed John Willson. Witnesses: **Geo. Watts** and Samuel Rush. Proved by Rush in Kershaw County before R. L. Champion, J.P. Recorded 27 July 1796 in Fairfield.¹⁸⁵

COMMENT;

The J.P. John Wilson Jr. appears in several earlier documents with George Watts of 25-Mile Creek.

¹⁸⁴ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, "Plat Book D, 1788–1791," p. 181; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

¹⁸⁵ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book K: 235.

2 APRIL 1796

KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Separation.

Stephen Duke of Kershaw gives to **wife Mary**, as a “sepret maintainance of part” title to three tracts of land containing 327 acres, being part of five tracts of land. Titles [chains not copied here] go back to 1768 and 1772 on waters of **Beaver Creek**, patented by others. Witnesses: *Charles Barber*, **George Perry**.¹⁸⁶

COMMENT:

- Both Kershaw and Fairfield had a waterway called Beaver____. Barbers, Perry, and Dukes lived in both counties also.
- This is the second separation agreement found for the Dukes in the decade since the creation of county-level records—the other being the Thomas & Mary Duke “alimony” agreement abstracted above under 7 December 1785. A third separation agreement also appears in the Pickett-Hinson family (Micajah Pickett and wife Rosanna Hinson), associates of John Watts.

4 MAY 1796

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Estray record.

“Red Cow & Yearling. Neither marked nor Branded, the Cow about 8 years old, Valued at L1.17.4 by **Geo. Watts, Aaron Dukes & Rob. H. Hughes** before **J. Wilson, Esqr., J.P.** Tolved by **Moses Dukes**.

July 1797 Sold John Wilson Junr. [Senr.?] for L203.¹⁸⁷

COMMENT:

- George Watts and the Dukes lived in the 25-Mile Creek area on west side of Wateree River (i.e., Fairfield County). The j.p. John Wilson should be in that area also.
- John Wilson and Thomas Duke, on 9 August 1784, inventoried the estate of **Jacob Perry**, whose 1780 will named daughters **Ruth Watts** and **Mary Wilson**; and granddaughter **Sarah Watts**. **George Watts** witnessed the will.¹⁸⁸
- Note under March 1796 that John Wilson sold land on Beaver Dam “Creek.”

7 MARCH 1797

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Witness.

Stephen Wallace (x) sells to Dennis Wallis “for diverse good Causes and Valuable Considerations me hereunto moving ... all my household stuff,” cattle, etc. Witnesses: **Geo. Watts, Elizabeth Watts**. Proved 23 March 1797 by **George Watts** before Wm. Robertson, J.P. Recorded 29 March 1797.¹⁸⁹

COMMENT:

- This is the third time that George is coupled with Elizabeth Watts. On the prior occasion, 18 June 1793, he posted bond for her when the State of SC charged her with some uncited infraction, at which time Jesse Perry (brother of Ruth Perry Watts) was his surety.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁶ Kershaw Co., SC, Deeds A: 220–21.

¹⁸⁷ Fairfield Co., SC, Record of Estrays, 1788–89, no visible page number, entries in chronological sequence.

¹⁸⁸ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1,” 150, 182–83; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

¹⁸⁹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book K: 413–14.

- This Elizabeth Watts would not be George's wife; the Barbara Crumpton that he married about 1780 would file for an RW pension as his widow.
- A possibility exists that this Elizabeth could be a sister, although the circumstances at bullet 1 suggest she was more likely a daughter, being accused of bearing a child out of wedlock, for which her male relatives had to provide surety that the child would not become a financial burden on the county.

24 APRIL 1797

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Henry Rugely estate. Widow "E Rugely." Appraisal made by **John Ellison, Thos. Stone** (x, his mark), **John King** (O, his mark).¹⁹¹

COMMENT:

On 20 April 1798, Rugely's estate was auctioned. Purchasers included "Thomas Starke Senr.," Reuben Starke, Austin Peay, Mrs. Starkes, Moses Aldridge, and Zachariah Canty."

18 DECEMBER 1797

FAIRFIELD & KERSHAW CO., SC

Witness.

Samuel Dougherty of Kershaw to *George Harbison*, planter, of the same, for 23 pounds sterling, sale of land on **W side of Wateree River** "on the Road from the Wateree River billed as the **great Road** bounded on all sides by Vacant originally granted unto **John Dougherty** ... " 18 May 1763. Signed: Saml. Daughters; **Rhodia Dougherty** (X her mark.) Witnesses: **George Watts**, Charles Harkins, **Aaron Duke**.¹⁹²

COMMENTS:

- This would be the land that was formerly in SE Fairfield, above 25-Mile Creek.
- John Dougherty died ca. 1788, leaving a will that named his wife Judith, sons John and Dennis (the latter a minor), and daughters Mary Duke and Margaret Perry.¹⁹³
- See the 25 January 1786 plat above for John Milling on 25-Mile Creek. **Capt. Samuel Dougherty's** land lay on one side, The land of **John Dougherty** (who left a widow **Judith**) lay on the other side of Milling, with intervening tracts owned by **Perrys** (sons of Jacob and **Judith** Perry) and **John "Waits."** [The Wait/Waight family has no apparent connection.]
- **Rhoda/Rhodia**, a name seldom seen in the records of this area, is a name **John Watts** gave to one of his daughters in the 1790s.
- Samuel's will of 1810 names [common-law] wife Rhody (formerly Rhody Crim), sister Judith "formerly Judith Frost," and her son John Frost.¹⁹⁴

16 FEBRUARY 1799

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

¹⁹⁰ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 87.

¹⁹¹ Fairfield Co., Will Book 2: 1155–56; FHL microfilm 292,431.

¹⁹² Kershaw Co., SC, Deeds E (1805–08): 18–19; FHL microfilm 024,025 [24,045?], item 2.

¹⁹³ Fairfield Co., SC, Estate Book C: 122–23.

¹⁹⁴ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/Thumbnails.aspx?recordId=3066160> : 14 October 2014), Samuel Daugherty Will, Typescript; Series S108093: South Carolina Will Transcripts (Microcopy No 9), citing Kershaw District, Apt. 21, Pkg. 721. The typescript presents Rhody's surname as "Erim" but the local family was Crim.

Land sale.

William Watts of Fairfield County to Wm. Owen, sale for 20 pounds sterling, 215 acres lying on **Dry Fork** of **Watree Creek**, bounded on SE by **Jarvis Gibson**, E by **Isaac Gibson**, and SW by **John Gray** and all other sides by vacant land. [Deed does not say how Watts got the land.] Signed: William Watts. Witnesses: Car^{ts} Baley, Daniel Williams (X, his mark), **Bird Owen** (B, his mark). Provided 4 October 1799 by Bird Owen before **Nicholas Peay, J.P.** Recorded 28 January 1801.¹⁹⁵

COMMENT:

- On 4 December 1791 there was executed for **Thomas Watts**, a survey of 215a on Waters of the Wateree Creek on the **Dry Fork, in Fairfield County** bounded by *Jarvis "Galney" [Gibson], Isaac Gibson*, and John Gray. (Plat Book E: 23)
- How the land got from the possession of that Thomas to William goes unexplained in the record.
- The j.p. used by William Watts, Nicholas Peay, is the man to whom Moses Hornsby sold both his own grant and his father's grant in 1795 as he prepared to move to Georgia.
- Bird Owen, in 1795 and 1796, bought land from two of John Watts's 1790 neighbors: Jesse Ginn and Rachel Tidwell.
- In February 1800, one "William Watts of Kershaw County" would sell the land granted to him in Fairfield in this same neighborhood. This William appears to be a son of Thomas Sr. of Kershaw. After settling this land he, like Thomas Sr. and Thomas Jr. of Kershaw and Fairfield, would drop from the records of both counties.

TO DO

Investigate whether he might be the William Watts, J.P., of Pendleton who George Watts (having moved from Fairfield to Pendleton) used to draft a deed of gift to George's son Thomas.¹⁹⁶

CA. 1790s

KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Associates.

John Pickett and wife **Charloote** of **Fairfield District** sell to **John Belton**, 80 acres, being part of a tract of 150 acres lying in Kershaw County on the **North Side of the Wateree River**, being one half of a tract of land containing 300 acres granted to *Edward Howard* 12 June 1751, bounding SW on said River, NW on *James Gambles'* and vacant land; NE on vacant Land & SE on *James McKee's* land. *Edward Howard* died intestate and "the aforesaid part of the half of a tract of land descended and came by Heirship unto *Sarah Rebecca and Elizabeth* (his daughters) & the said Tract ... containing three hundred Acres was Sold & Conveyd by Alexander Robertson, William Robinson, and Wm. Cheeves until James **Betee** [Beatty] and Conveyed by James Betee unto Andrew Presly Junr. And Conveyed from him and his wife Elizabeth to George Greer and Conveyed from George Greer unto Joseph Greer and Conveyed from Joseph and Nancy his wife of John Fagan and by Power of Attorney ... bearing date the 30 of May 1791 ... unto *Charles Barber* ... unto Samuel Belton deceased and legally descended from him the said **Samuel Belton** unto his daughter *Sharlotte, now wife of the said John Pickett*. ... Witnesses: **Ann Mickle, George Peay**.¹⁹⁷

COMMENT:

¹⁹⁵ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book N: 194–95.

¹⁹⁶ See report of 17 October for date of 23 December 1818.

¹⁹⁷ Kershaw Co., SC, Deeds E (1805–08): 21–22?; FHL microfilm 024,025 [24,045?], item 2.

- According to *Mills's Atlas* of Fairfield, about 5 miles below the county's northeast tip, on the Wateree River, lay **Peay's** Ferry. Clustered around it was **Belton's** Store & P.O., "A. **Peay**," "Col. **Peay**," and (just across Taylor's Creek) "W. **Belton**." The next ferry to the South was **Mickle's** Ferry. To the west of A. **Peay**, the next landmarks shown by *Mills's Atlas* are J. **Hollis** and "**Boller**" (the Hollises and "Bolands" being 1790 neighbors of John and Thomas Watts).
- This is the neighborhood in which Thomas Watts "Jr." in April 1787 bought the James Ogilve land and requested an adjacent grant.
- In 1795, when **John Watts's** son-in-law Moses **Hornsby** sold his land, he sold it to Nicholas **Peay**.¹⁹⁸ In 1799, when the older **William Watts** sold nearby Dry Fork land that had been granted to **Thomas Watts** (ostensibly Thomas-of-John), the j.p. he used was **Peay**.¹⁹⁹

19 FEBRUARY 1800

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

William Watts of **Kershaw County** to *James Barber* of Fairfield. Sale for 5 pounds sterling, 113 acres, being land granted to William on 6 February 1792 in Fairfield County on **Mottle** Branch, Waters of Watree Creek, bounded SW on McNeals Land, NE on **William Watts'** land, NW on land owned by the said James Barber. Signed: William Watts. Witnesses: Jesse Gladen (x), Jesse Harris; Abraham Sandifer. Proved August 1800 by Jesse Gladen before John Turner, J.P. Recorded 5 August 1800.²⁰⁰

COMMENT:

- This William has ostensibly moved into Kershaw, where Thomas Sr. is last of record.
- The purchaser of his land had, in 1795, also bought the land of Thomas Watts Jr.
- Mottle's Branch of the Wateree is frequently cited in deeds of this period. It appears to be in the area of Dry Fork of Wateree Creek, just west of the Forks of Wateree Creek—the area where Thomas Watts Jr. received his 1791 grant.
- This William of Motley Creek, who removed to Kershaw, does not seem to be William Sr. of Little River. William of Mottley is likely to be son of Thomas Sr. of Kershaw.
- Note, however, that a second document of the same day (below) does not give the Kershaw residence for him.

19 FEBRUARY 1800

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

William Watts "of the said county and state" to **Jesse Gladen** of Fairfield, sale for 15 pounds sterling. 96 acres on Mottle's Branch, Waters of Watree Creek, Fairfield County, bounded on S by John Barbers' land, SW by late *Joseph Cameron* and W and NW by *James Barber*, granted to *John Cowens* on 6 February 1792, conveyed to William Watts on 4 September 1792. Signed William Watts. Witnesses: James Barber, Jesse Haris, Abraham Sandifer. Proved 1 August 1800 by Haris and Sandifer.²⁰¹

COMMENT:

- Note, under 23 August 1786 above, that Jesse Gladden, the purchaser of William Watts's land, was an adjacent landowner to Charles Pickett (the 1783–91 neighbor of John Watts).

¹⁹⁸ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 330.

¹⁹⁹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book N: 194–95.

²⁰⁰ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book N: 77–78.

²⁰¹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book N: 78–80.

This William should be the William II who partnered with John Watts in the 1784–86 land deal at the Fork of Wateree Creek—and the son of Thomas Sr. of the Kershaw side of the Wateree.

- For *Cameron*, see the John Lee notes under date of 28–29 January 1786; Lee left to his daughter Rachel Cameron land adjoining the Mills-Watts Fork of Wateree Creek tract.
- At this point, this younger William has sold all of his known lands on branches of the Wateree Creek in Fairfield County.

2 OCTOBER 1800

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Richard Dugans, estate. **Elizabeth Dugans**, **administrator**, posts bond with Ambrose Kirkland and **Christopher Addison** as sureties. 150 pounds sterling. She and Addison marked. Kirkland signed. Recorded 30 December 1802.²⁰²

COMMENT:

This is the second association I have found between a Dugans (var. Duggins) and associates of the Wattses (specifically the family of Ambrose Kirkland). For Kirkland to serve as bondsman suggests a kinship.

TO DO:

Add Richard and Elizabeth Dugans to my list of associates still to be pursued.

27 JULY 1803

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land purchase.

Adam Hawthorn of Fairfield District for \$200 paid by **William Watt** of same, 100 on **N side of Broad river in the waters of Broad and Little Rivers**, bounded at the time of Survey (13 May 1768) on all sides by Vacant land ... 13 May 1768.²⁰³

COMMENT:

- The location implies that this William is William Sr., or possibly a same-name son.
- Note under 5 January 1794 that William Watt and Howard Robinson sold to a neighbor named Richardson ½-acre with a spring that they had previously purchased from James **Hawthorn**.

23 ____? 1807

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

George Watts, planter of Fairfield Co., posts indemnity bond for sale of land to *James Turner*, 200 acres originally granted to *Bryand McClellan* [*sic*, should be *McClendon*], plat shows the land's placement on **25-Mile Creek**; neighbors *Jo^s* [*Ja^s?*] *Willson* on SW, *John Milling* on SE, *Bryon McDonalds* [*sic*] on NE. Witnesses: *Elijah Jones*, *Mary Jones*.²⁰⁴

COMMENT:

²⁰² Fairfield Co., SC, Will Book B: 113, 123.

²⁰³ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book R: 202–3.

²⁰⁴ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book R: 108.

- 25-Mile Creek straddled both sides of Wateree River. After multiple county-boundary changes, most of it ended up in Kershaw County by this time. George's land appears to have been far enough westward (toward William Watts of Jackson Creek of Little River) that he remained in Fairfield.
- The neighbors are particularly critical:
 - Elijah Jones and Mary Jones are from the family of the Rev. Ralph Jones, whose meeting house stood on McClendon's grant at the time it was surveyed.
 - John Milling's plat of 25 January 1786, above, shows land of one John "Waits" and John Wilson as adjacent tracts—to him and to each other.
- McClendon, the original grantee, had sold his property to Frederick Freeman in 1779, with George Watts as witness.²⁰⁵ In 1792 and 1795, George would purchase a tract of the Freeman land for his son James—apparently born of a prior marriage to Ruth Perry whose brothers also appear as adjacent landowners on the Milling plat above. (For the investment on behalf of young James, see 24 June 1795 above.)
- The document below identifies George as a planter of Fairfield; however, the 1810 census would enumerate George in both Fairfield and in Pendleton where his son James and one John Watts also lived.
- While still in Pendleton, 1818, "George and Barbary Watts" executed a deed in favor of Thomas Watts, whom George explicitly identified as a son. He executed the deed, and Barbara relinquished her interest, before "William Watts, J.P."²⁰⁶ (Several Turners, Sanders, and related families appear to have made that migration with them.)
- We might entertain the possibility that George, who applied for a land grant when he was just short of 16 (at which point he had to swear that he was a head-of-household) had three wives:

Duke?	[The family with whom he first appears in 1774]
	1. James
	2. Thomas
	3. Elizabeth?
Ruth Perry	4. Sarah "Sallie"
Barbara Crumpton	5. Eleanor
	6. Mary
	7. Nancy
	8. Margaret
	9. Edward

17 DECEMBER 1807
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC
 Associates.

Robert Tidwell estate sale. Purchasers included Tidwells, Turners, Arledges, Gibsons, Picketts, Samuel Stone, "Hue" Smith, James Morrison, "Hue" Lavender (twice, bought corn), N__ Hansby, "Hugh" Lavender.²⁰⁷ (p. 123, wife Mary is administrator.)

26 FEBRUARY 1807
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

²⁰⁵ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 415–22.

²⁰⁶ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Pendleton District, SC, Books O and P (1818–1822)* (N.p.: P.p., 2007), 199.

²⁰⁷ Fairfield Co., SC, Will Book C: 360–63.

Mortgage.

Edward Watts, mortgage, to *John Dunlap & Hugh Barkley*. Debt due on or before 1 March 1810 by 3 notes of hand that Watts gave to Barkley for 20 pounds sterling, each, making a total of 60 pounds sterling, at which time Barkley will make a good title to Watts for a tract of land granted to **John Dunlap** 8 December 1774 for 229 acres, but appearing to contain (as surveyed by Henry Moore) only one hundred and eighty acres, 30 acres more or less taken off “by an ___er running into the same, granted to James Beaty.” Signed John Dunlap (J, his mark); Hugh Barkley. Witness: Joseph Belle, J. W. Yongue. Proved 11 March 1807 by Yongue.²⁰⁸

20 JANUARY 1808

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land purchase.

James Martin to **William Watt**, sale for \$750 of 150 acres granted to *John Winn* on 1 January 1787 “situated in the original district of Camden on the Road Leading from **Sandy River to Congaree on a branch of Little River** and hath such form Marks and Boundaries as a Plat [word bound in crack of book] to the original grant annexed ... also 165 acres on Little River (Being part of a Tract of 300 acres originally to *William Trunken?* the 22d day of February 1771, the said tract of 165 acres having such Form mark and Boundaries as a Plat thereof annexed to a sale thereof Maid by *Joseph Woodward* to James Martin dated the 1th day of Sept. 1800” Margret Martin (M) made her acknowledgment.²⁰⁹

COMMENT:

- Sandy River clips the *extreme* NW corner of Fairfield County, flowing into Union (on the West) and Chester (on the North).
- Edward Watts was the Watts closest to the region. The William Watts who settled Little River in 1762–63 was considerably removed. However, no evidence has been found to suggest that Edward Watts had a son William. George Watts of Southeastern Fairfield is also not known to have a had a son William.

5 OCTOBER 1808

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associate.

Estate of **James Smith**, deceased. James Stuart posts administrator’s bond.²¹⁰ John Barkley and G. Ried, bondsmen. Charles Bones and John McMaster, witnesses.

13 JANUARY 1809

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associate.

James Smith, inventory and appraisement made by William Welden, James Elliott, David A. Milling, and A. Stuart?, said to be made 31 February. [p. 467 gives the correct date of 31 January for the inventory.]²¹¹

13 FEBRUARY 1809

Sale of goods of **James Smith** Estate. “**Widow Smith**” bought household goods, feather bed, a lot of books, corn, mare, etc., \$107.28. Other purchasers: William *Kennedy*, Samuel Clark, James Rogers, Geo.

²⁰⁸ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book Q: 262–64.

²⁰⁹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book R: 201–2.

²¹⁰ Fairfield Co., SC, Probate Book C: 465–67

²¹¹ Fairfield Co., SC, Probate Book C: 392–93.

COMMENT:

- The original grant was 224 acres. They are selling 210 above. Ostensibly, the other 14 would be a reserve for “Widow Watts.”
- The issue is complicated by the fact that in 1786, Edward had 223 acres surveyed in two adjacent tracts—land adjacent to Edward Walker, as the original 224 were—and the configuration suggests that it could be the original tract being subdivided.
- The Woodwards, like Ambrose Mills, the Mobleys, and George Watts, came there from **Bedford Co., Va.**

2 JANUARY 1810

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

James Butter Junr of the “State of Caintucky” sells to *William Woodward* all that plantation or tract of Land containing two hundred and Seventy Six and one half acres which was granted to James Butter Senr. On 22 May 1795, lying on NE of Broad River on a Branch the waters of **Little River**, bounding on **Edward Watts** and *John Bell, Esqr.*²¹⁴

5 JANUARY 1810

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

Edward Watts of Fairfield District to *Nathaniel Major*, for three? Hundred dollars, sells 150 acres situate in Fairfield District on a **Branch of Terrible Creek**, bounded NW on **Cristian Morgan’s** land and at the original Survey on all others by vacant land ... **grant to James Beaty** 9 September 1774, transferred by Beaty to *Patrick Micall* on 19 July 1775 and by Micall to Samuel Gregory on 17 May 1785 and by *Gregory* to **Edward Watts on 20 March 1799**. Signed “**Edward Watts Senr.**” Witnesses Robert Martain, B. Smith, Howard Robertson, Arthur McNeal. Proved 10? January 1810 by Robert Martain and B. Smith, before P. C. Pearson, J. Qu.²¹⁵

COMMENT:

- The older Edward (originally called Edward Jr.), the husband of Millie, is already dead.
- The reference here to “Edward Sr.” informs us that this document was executed by Edward Jr./Sr. before his 1809 death; but is now being tardily recorded.
- No wife cosigned this deed, as occurred in 1779 when Edward and Millie together sold one tract of Edward’s 1772 grant totally 300 acres.
- Terrible Creek flows eastward from Broad River over to Little River—almost to Edward’s locus at the forks of Little River.

16 MARCH 1810

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

“We **Crispan Morgain and wife, John Watts, Thomas Watts, Thomas Watts** [sic, an apparent duplication by the clerk of this era who makes many such glitches; should one of these be *Edward III?*], **Milly Watts Senr** an[d] **Milly Watts Junr, Elizabeth Watts and Susannah Watts**, Widow and Heir[s] of the late **Deceased Edward Watts,**” for \$60 to them paid by *William Woodward* sell 60 acres, being part of a

²¹⁴ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book T: 296–97.

²¹⁵ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book T: 37–38.

tract originally granted to Edward Watts 9 September 1774, situated on a Branch of Little River Called Watts Branch, bounded as follows:

Beginning on a post oak corner of the aforesaid Williams [*sic*] Woodward by and [*sic*] old path Called the **Ridge path**, leading from *Burbage Woodward*s and to run Eastwardly and South Eastwardly withthe Crooks of siaid path to a pine Stump which is a mutual corner, thence running Southwardly to a pine Corner represented In the Orriginal Grant, thence running Eastwardly along the orriginal Line to a pine Corner in the Original plat, thence running northwardly along the old Line to a Stake Corner.

Witnesses: **Edward Watts, James Watts**, Wm. *Turner*, Joseph Caldwell.

Signed: Thomas Watts, Crispin Morgan, Milly Watts (X, her mark), Milly Watts (X her mark), Susannah Watts (X, her mark), Elizabeth Watts (X, her mark), John Watts

Proved by Oath of *James Watts* 21 December 1810, before D. R. Coleman, J.P.²¹⁶

COMMENT:

- This “settlement” between the heirs of Edward “Jr./Sr.” does not include a son Edward as an heir—only as a witness. However, subsequent records by a younger Edward show him in possession of one of the two tracts into which Edward split his land, by survey, in 1787.
- While this younger Edward (herein called Edward III) and James are witnessing documents settling the affairs of the older Edward, this younger Edward and James are not participating *as heirs*. By implication, they stem from another branch of the family—or else they were older sons of Edward, born to a marriage prior to Millie, who had already received their inheritance.

7 APRIL 1810

FAIRFIELD & KERSHAW COUNTIES, SC

Land sale.

“**Thomas Watts** of **Kershaw** District” to Margaret Rochell, “all that plantation or tract of Land Containing Eighty one acres Bounded South on *Thomas Nighten* land situate in Fairfield District on the Dreary [*sic*] of Duchman’s Creek.” Signed: Thomas Watts. Witnesses: Thos Nighton Senior, Thomas Nighten Junior. Proved by Thomas Nighten Junior before John Woodward, J.P., 11 August 1810.²¹⁷

COMMENT:

This Thomas of Kershaw, selling land along Dutchman’s Creek, should be Thomas Jr. who acquired 1644 acres there in 1787. The “Nightens” here should be the Knightons of the Fairfield records.

10 SEPTEMBER 1810

KERSHAW DISTRICT, SC

Will.

“I Samuel Daugherty of [Kershaw District] ... give and bequeath unto Joseph Mickle Esqr of Kershaw District all and singular my estate both real and personal of what nature or kind soever to be kept and held by him in Trust for the sole and exclusive use benefit and Maintainance of my **Wife Rhody** formerly **Rhody Erim [Crim]** with whom I have lived many years as husband & wife for and during the Term of her natural life and after the death of my said **Wife Rhody** I give devise and bequeath all and singular my above mentioned estate both real and personal unto My **Nephew John Frost** the son of my **Sister Judith**

²¹⁶ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book T: 295–96.

²¹⁷ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book T: 184.

formerly **Judith Frost** to him and his heirs forever. And lastly I do appoint the said Joseph Mickle executor of this my last Will. ... Samuel Daugherty. Witnesses: *Alexr Crumpton*,²¹⁸ James Seale, Daniel Seale.”

Filed September 7, 1815? [1818?] Ord. S. Mathis.

Apt. 21, Pkg. 721

Recorded in Book G, Page 60.²¹⁹

COMMENT:

- The wording of this will strongly implies that Samuel is not legally married to Rhody.
- The fact that the contingency heir is a nephew implies that Samuel and Rhody were childless.
- The reference to “sister Judith formerly Judith Frost” is ambiguous. Unless she is a half-sister on the maternal side, then she should have been a *Dougherty* by birth. If her marriage to [Mr.] Frost had been legal and she was now in a new and legal marriage, then she should have been named by her married name rather than a former name.
- On 18 December 1797, Samuel Dougherty sold land he had inherited from his father John (witnesses Rhodia Dougherty, **George Watts**, Charles Harkins and Aaron Duke.²²⁰ This John Daugherty’s widow was a *Judith*. However, John Dougherty’s own will did not name a daughter Judith. The only daughters named were Margaret Perry and Mary Duke.²²¹

12 NOVEMBER 1810

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Slave sale.

John Watts sells to **William Woodward** for \$600 a negro slave man named Frank, about 26 or 27. Sale proved 21 Dec 1810 by **James Watts**.²²²

COMMENT:

This should be the John who was son and heir of Edward, whose estate is being settled at this point.

12 DECEMBER 1810

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land purchase.

William Woodward sells for \$850 to **Susannah Watts**, 542 acres, 276 acres of which were part of a tract granted to **Edward Watts** on 9 September 1774, being the part whereon the said Edward died; also 276 acres granted to *James Butter Senr.* adjoining the aforesaid *Watts* land and conveyed by him to James Butter Junior and by *James Batter* until the aforesaid William Woodward, Situate in the District aforesaid Lying on a **Branch of Little River called Watts Branch**. Witnesses: **Thomas Watts; James Watts**.

The above named Parties agree “that if a older title or grant Should take from the above Susannah Watts the two hundred and Seventy Six acres Granted to James Butter Sinior the aforesaid Woodward

²¹⁸ Various online trees assert that Alexander Crumpton was son of Henry and sister of Barbary Crumpton who married George Watts.

²¹⁹ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/Thumbnails.aspx?recordId=3066160> : 14 October 2014), Samuel Daugherty Will, Typescript; Series S108093: South Carolina Will Transcripts (Microcopy No 9), citing Kershaw District, Apt. 21, Pkg. 721. The typescript presents Rhody’s surname as “Erim” but the local family was Crim.

²²⁰ Kershaw Co., SC, Deeds E (1805–08): 18–19; FHL microfilm 024,025 [24,045?], item 2.

²²¹ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book C,” 122–23; FHL microfilm 1,029,442.

²²² Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book T: 296.

Shall only Pay the Sum of four hundred and forty Dollars for the same.” Signed William Woodward; Susannah Watts (X, her mark). Witness: **Thomas Watts, James Watts.**

Proved 21 December 1810 by James Watts before D. R. Coleman, J.P.

Dower relinquishment 21 December 1810 by **Nancy Woodward.**²²³

COMMENT:

For a single female to purchase back her father’s plantation *and* an adjoining tract is highly unusual. For her to have the funds to do so and the means to operate it would be highly unusual. It is possible that Edward’s widow and her single daughter pooled their resources to buy the land in the name of the daughter—after which the daughter would care for the mother for the rest of her life and the mother’s share would then flow to the daughter without probate at the mother’s death. *Possibly*, that’s an explanation.

24 MAY 1811

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

“Know all men by these Presents that I **Thomas Watts** has bargained & Sold **Thomas Knighton** A Parsol of land Containing eight acres bounding on *Margaret Rachell* & the said *Thos. Watts* and *Jessie Harris* in the corner where the lines intersects.” Signed Thomas Watts. Witnesses: Thomas Knighton Junr, Samuel Knighton.”

“I do hereby relinquish all the right title intrest in and to **Thomas Nighton Junr** by these presents & do renounce all the Claim that I have to the above mentioned Eight acres of land. Signed and Sealed this twentieth seventh day of august” [1811?]. Signed Willis Whitaker. Witnesses: Abraham Furgerson. Proved by Abraham Furgason in Fairfield District 27 August 1816 before Jamse Elliott, J.Q.

“Fairfield District. Thomas Knighton Came Before me and made oath as the Law Directs that he was present and did see **Thomas Watts** sign and deliver the within Instrument of writing to Thomas Knighton for the uses and purposes therein mentioned and that he did see Samuel Knighton subscribe his name as witness at the same time ... before me this 29th day of July 1813. Nathaniel Lord, J.P. “

“12th February 1819. Thomas Knighton.”²²⁴

COMMENT:

This Thomas with land in the Knighton community would be **Thomas Jr.**

10 NOVEMBER 1811

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

Edward Watts of Fairfield, planter, to **James Watts** of same, for \$10 sells 120 acres in Fairfield on waters of **Little River**, bounded on NW by Minor Winn, NW by James Akin, NE by Shadrack Jacob, W by Thomas Means, as per plat annexed. Signed: **Edward Watts.** Witnesses: **John Watts, Thomas Watts.** Proved 18th? Of November 1811 by John Watts before Alexr Kincaid, J.P.²²⁵

COMMENT:

- The 1810 census of Fairfield places Alexander Kincaid, the J.P. and Minor Winn, the neighbor,

²²³ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book T: 355–56.

²²⁴ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book AA: 101.

²²⁵ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book U: 173–74.

amid Gladdens, Charnell Durham and other individuals who lived in the central Fairfield neighborhood of the William who took out land in 1792 and subsequently sold it from Kershaw.²²⁶

However,

- The 1787 survey division of Edward Jr.'s land divided it into two parts of 120 acres and 123 acres. The above tract appears to be one of them.
- This surviving Edward appears to be an older son who had already received his 120 acres. *This would account for why the 1792 tax roll shows two separate listings for "Edward Watts."*
- Presuming this Edward III was an adult at the time he received half of Edward Jr.'s land, then he is of age to have a grown son James.

12 NOVEMBER 1811

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Slave sale.

"Know all men by these presents that I **John Watts** of the State of South Carolina upon the receipt of four hundred Dollars to me paid by **Susanna Watts** have bargained and sold unto the aforesaid **Susannah Watts** a Certain negroe woman named *Priscilla* about twenty years old ... " /s/ John Watts. Wm. Woodward, witness.²²⁷

COMMENT:

As shown above, John and Susanna were heirs of Edward.

12 AUGUST 1815

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

John Watts, Thomas Watts, Susannah Watts, and Milly Watts, for \$400, sell to *Burbage Woodward* "all that plantation or tract of Land ... on **Woodward's Creek**, a branch of **Little River**, being part of a tract originally granted to **Edward Watts**, bounded on one side by the *remaining part of the original grant now in possession of William Woodward* and by Lands of *Robert Milling*, being the same on which the said Burbage Woodward now Resides Containing **one hundred acres** more or less." Signed John Watts, Thomas Watts, Susanah Watts (X, her mark), Milly Watts (X, her mark). Witnesses: **George Watts** and *Jacob Woodward* (X). Proved 9 Sept. 1815 by Jacob Woodward before Wm. F. Pearson.²²⁸

20 DECEMBER 1816

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

James Duggans, Robert Steel, Rachel Steel of Fairfield District, for \$407 paid to Robert Steel of said district, sell to **William Duggans** 94 acres "being parts of different tracts, one tract originally granted to **William Duggans** and part of another tract originally Granted to David Atcheson, with part of two other gracts originally Granted to **Richard Duggans**, Bounded by Lands of Wm. Linn, David Bradford, David Wilson, *Hugh Perry*, Jonathan Davis, Nathaniel Holley, Wlliam Dansby, [and] **Widow Kirkland**. Signed: Thomas Duggens, *Robert Steel, Rachel Steel*. Witnesses: *Henry Steel, John Steel*.

23 December 1816

²²⁶ 1810 U.S. census, Fairfield Co., pp. 834–37.

²²⁷ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book T: 288–89.

²²⁸ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book Z: 7.

Proved by John Steel before Wm. F. Pearson J.P. ²²⁹

COMMENT:

- This is the third time I've spotted a Duggans association with the family of the Widow Kirkland (allegedly née Watts). This time, but not the earlier instances, another associated family is involved: the Perrys.
- Re Steeles: George Watts's daughters Mary and Nancy successively married one Moses Steele; one Isaac Steele gave an affidavit on behalf of George's service.²³⁰

26 NOVEMBER 1818

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Christopher Addison to James Andrews & Robert Stevenson., all of Fairfield District. Sale of "all that plantation or part of a Tract of Land whereon I now live, Containing one hundred and ninety acres, it being a part of a certain tract of Land Granted to William McClintock in the year of our Lord 1773, for one [sic] hundred acres and was by him conveyed to Adam Lard and the said Adam Lard conveyed to the aforesaid Christopher Addison ... being the northeast part of said tract by me conveyed to the heirs of Samuel Montgomery, now owned by the Widdow Montgomery, east by James G. Buns[?] Land and North by Saml. Hamsen's Land, North wes[t] by James Stevenson Land & West by Alexander Douglass, Land situate in Fairfield District on the **North fork of Little River.**" **Signed: Christopher Addison** (X, his mark). Witnesses: Hugh Stevenson, James Nolen, Richard Nolen. Proved 26 November by James Nolen before D. R. Coleman, J.Q.

26 November 1818

Agnes Addison, wife of Christopher Addison, appeared before David R. Coleman, J.Q. to relinquish her dower. Recorded 4 March 1822.²³¹

COMMENT:

In 1800 Christopher Addison and Ambrose Kirkland (son of Mary Watts? Kirkland) served as bondsmen for Elizabeth Duggans, the apparent widow of Richard. That financial role suggests that Addisons and Duggans may be related to the Wattses or Kirklands.

TO DO:

Add Addison and Christopher Addison to the list of associates to pursue.

3 JANUARY 1819

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

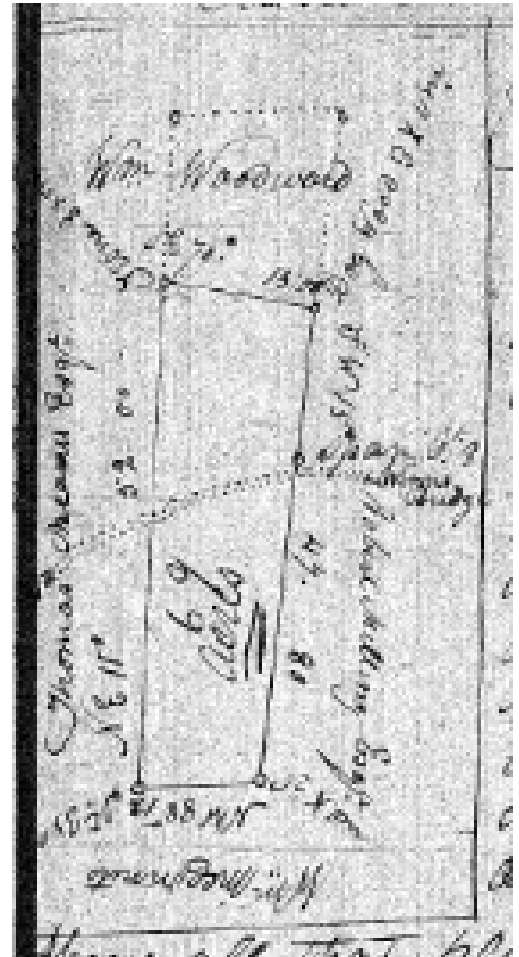
Land sale.

²²⁹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book Y: 195.

²³⁰ Edward Watts affidavit, 24 August 1852, George Watts Pension Application (Sgt., Sumter's Brigade, SC, Rev. War), File R11214, Widow Barbara; accessed via "Revolutionary War Pensions," database with images, *Fold 3* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 11 September 2014), particularly images 28052950 and 28052951 for the 1852 affidavit

²³¹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book CC: 319–22.

James Watts to **Edward Watts**, both of Fairfield District. Sale for \$10 of 120 acres on the waters of **Little River**, bounded SW on *Minor Winn*, NW on heirs of *James Aiken*, NE on *Shadrick Jacobs* and West on *Thomas Means*, having Such shapes form and marks as area represented by plat hereunto annexed and received in register's office Book W the 22^d November 1811. Signed: **James Watts**; Witnesses Hannah McCoy [no mark], **Mary Watts**. Proved 28 January 1819 by Hannah McCoy (X, her mark), before Wm. F. Pearson.²³²



8 APRIL 1819
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

Edward Watts to *William Woodward*. Sale for \$140 paid, 28 acres being the NE part of a tract of land **surveyed for Edward Watts for 120 acres** on 26 May 1787." Signed: Edward Watts. Witnesses: Jno. A. Tharp, John Aiken. Proved 12 April 1819 by John Aiken before Abner Gant, J[ustice]. Recorded 15 April 1819.²³³

Neighbors shown on Plat: William Woodward on N, Thomas Means on W, Waterway on S, Robert Miller on E.

8 APRIL 1819
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

Edward Watts to *John Akins*, merchant, both of Fairfield. Sale of 69 acres being the SW part of a tract of land surveyed for Ed Watts the 26th day of May 1787. Signed Edward Watts. Witnesses: John A. Hart, Wm. Blair Junr. Proved by Blair 9th July 1819 before Wm. F. Pearson J.P. Recorded 7 September 1819.

Neighbors shown on Plat: William Woodward on N, **Winn's Bridge**, and Robert Milling Esq. on E, Wm. McConnet on S, Thomas Means Esq. on W. The land is intersected by an unnamed waterway. The plat embedded here is recorded with the deed.²³⁴

COMMENT:

Mills's Atlas (compiled 1815–25) shows Col. Winn's Bridge" at the Forks of Little River on the main road from Winnsboro to adjacent Newberry County.

This tells us that Edward Watts, when he chose the site in 1772, chose land adjacent to the site Ambrose Mills first had surveyed in 1762, but forfeited.

1? JANUARY 1824
KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

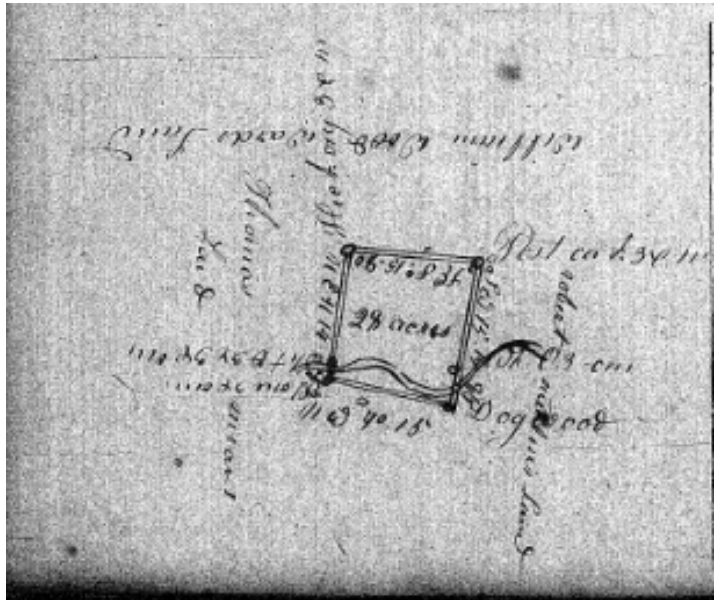
Land sale. **Benjamin Watts** and **Isaiah Watts**, both of Kershaw District, sell for \$1300 to **Genl. James Blair** of same, a tract on the SW side of **Great Lynche's Creek**, 300 acre plantation granted to *William Moore* on 7 May 1762 being 250 acres of a larger tract of 300. "The said whole three hundred acres of

²³² Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book AA: 185.

²³³ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book AA: 269.

²³⁴ Fairfield Co., SC, Deeds AA: 467–68.

Survey being on both sides of the said Creek but the premises hereby to be conveyed being all and no more of that Survey aforesaid which is situated on the SW side of the said Creek.” Also all that tract or parcel of land which was granted to me the said **Isaiah Watts** as one hundred and forty five acres on the 1st Day of October AD 1795, the whole of the premises hereby granted being estimated at Three hundred and ninety five acres and lying in one complete body bounded on the North and NorthWest by lands belonging to the **Estate of Louie Rochell** deceased, Southwest & South by lands belonging to *Lovec Young* and North east by the saide **Great Lynches Creek**, the said *Loveck Young’s* land coming in contact at a Lightwood tree and Black Jack Corner close together on the South side of a large path **Called Ben Watt’s Road** ... [considerably more metes and bounds follow]



Lightwood tree and Black Jack Corner close together on the South side of a large path **Called Ben Watt’s Road** ... [considerably more metes and bounds follow]

Signed: **Isaih Watts; Ben Watts**. Witnesses: *L. Young; Stringer Perkins*.

Proved in Chesterfield District by *Stringer Perkins* 21 January 1824.

1st January 1824

Jenny Watts (X her mark) and **Sarah Watts** (X her mark), wives of the within named **Isaiah & Ben Watts**, appeared before *John Middleton*, J.P. of **Chesterfield District**, to acknowledge their agreement to the sale.²³⁵

COMMENTS:

- See plat filed with this deed.
- Benjamin and Isaiah were sons and heirs of Thomas and Tabitha Watts of Lynches Creek.
- One month later, Wid. Elizabeth Rochell would sell the adjacent land to Genl. James Blair.
- The fact that Benjamin and Isaiah are selling jointly suggests that the first tract of land may have been part of the parental inheritance. Thomas died by early 1792. Likely, the widow Tabitha has recently died.

6 FEBRUARY 1824

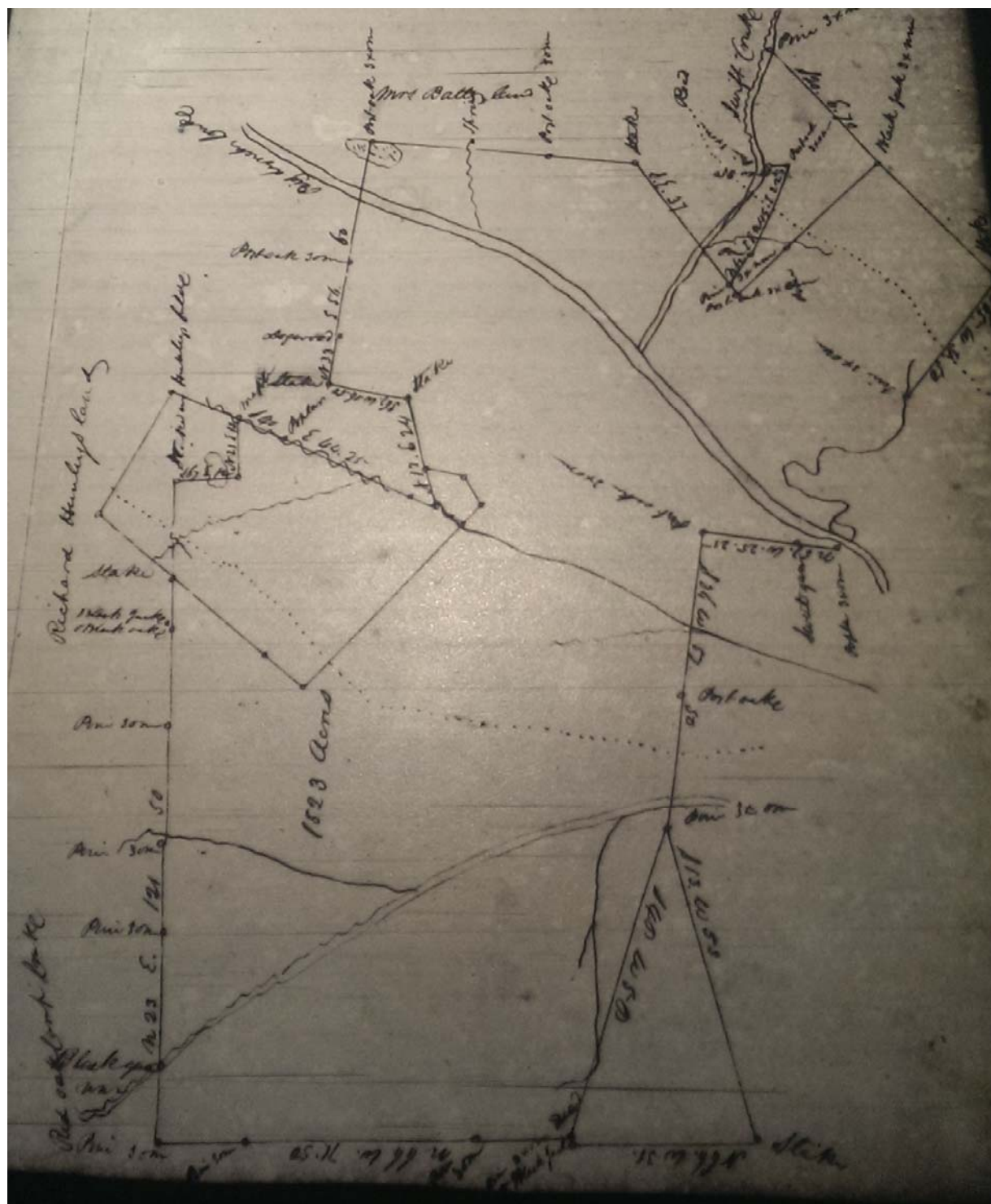
KERSHAW COUNTY, SC

Neighbors.

Elizabeth Rochelle of Kershaw District, for \$3550 paid by **James Blair** of the same district, sale of land “within the district of Kershaw or Chesterfield on the waters of **Great Lynches Creek & Red Oak Camp Creek**, formerly owned by **my husband and son Lewis Rochell** ... ” Plat shows Great Lynch running NW to SE, with Swift Creek jutting northward from Great Lynch, and Red Oak Camp Creek running SW to SE, bounding on *Richard Hunley* at NE, *Mrs Batty* at N. Witnesses: *William Blair & Samuel C. Dunlap*.²³⁶

²³⁵ Kershaw Co., SC, Deeds K (1805–08): 247–48; FHL microfilm 024,047, item 2.

²³⁶ Kershaw Co., SC, Deeds K (1822–26): 245–47; FHL microfilm 024,047], item 2.



COMMENTS:

- See plat following these comments.
- On 1 January, James Blair also bought adjacent **Watts** land on Lynch Creek (Deed K:247-48)

- **Red Oak Camp Creek** is in NE Kershaw, just below **Jumping Gully** where T. Watts got multiple grants from 1757-70.
- **Adam Blair** in 1783 owned land on **[Edward] Watts Branch of Jackson's Creek, Fairfield** (Deed Book A:174–79) Adam Blare in 1791 sold land on **Hog Fork of Wateree Creek, Fairfield**, to *John Tidwell*, 1790 (Deed Book H:38–39) neighbor of John and Thomas Watts.
- **In 1810 Elizabeth Rochelle was enumerated between Benjamin & Tabby Watts** (on one side) **and Isaiah Watts** (on the other), suggesting that she may be part of their family group. The 1810 census neighborhood follows the plat above.

1810 census neighborhood of Tabitha Watts, widow of Thomas of Lynches Creek

(stamped p. 171]

Thomas Simmons	Reddick Mosley
John Deeson	Daniel McLoud
George Seiper	James Evans
James Baskins	John Bradley
Samuel King	Williby Kirkland
Burrel Cato	James Purser
Josiah Milas	Edward Campbell
Lucy Milas	David Purser
[see next column]	William Margey{?]

Tabby Watts		2 females 45+
Benjamin Watts	1 male 45+	1 female 45+
	1 male 16–25	
	2 males 10–16	
	2 males 0–10	2 females 0–10
Elizabeth Rochel		1 female 45+
	1 male 26–45	1 female 26–45
James Marie		
Isaiah Watts	1 male 26–45	1 female 26–45
	2 males 10–15	2 females 0–10
	3 males 0–10	
Kenneth Morrison	Antho ^y Presley	
Richard Sanders	Finly McCaskill	
James Kershaw	Daniel McNaughton	
Isaac Willis	Adam Yeam[?]	
Reuben Brown	John McDaniel	
John Holland	Thomas Porter	
[see next column]	Turner Stark	



ADDENDA:
20 October 2015

Comment:

After completing the report above, research continued in numerous locales suggested by the results of this report and the previous literature survey of published works on Craven, Camden, Fairfield, and Kershaw. For that work, see:

- E. S. Mills, "Captain John Watts of Camden District, SC: Was He John Watts of Fairfield's Wateree Creek or John Watts of Kershaw's Lynches Creek?", report to file, 2 Nov. 2014.
- E. S. Mills, "Watts: Initial Survey of Published Resources for Colonial and Revolutionary Bedford County (formerly Lunenburg and Brunswick), Virginia," report to file, 5 January 2015.
- E. S. Mills, "Watts of Eighteenth Century Bertie and Hertford Counties, North Carolina: A Survey of Published Literature," report to file, 15 January 2015.
- E. S. Mills, "Watts Initial Survey of Published Resources for Colonial and RW Anson County, NC, and Its Parent and Daughter Counties: Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Montgomery," report to file, 15 January 2015.
- E. S. Mills, "Watts: Richland County, South Carolina," report to file, 16 October 2015
- E. S. Mills, "Watts: Thomas and Joseph of Ouachita Parish, Louisiana," report to file, 17 October 2015.

The Richland research uncovered the estate of the Thomas Watts known as **Thomas Jr. in Fairfield and Kershaw, 1787–1810**. Late in 1820, he died unmarried and without legal children. He left a will bequeathing \$6,000 to one "Joseph Watts," relationship unstated, with the residue of his estate to go to his unnamed "brothers and sisters." The settlement of his estate in 1832 named those residual heirs as "Wm. Watts, Geo. Watts, Jno. Watts, Edward Watts, Elizabeth Duggains, Mary Kirkland, Mrs. S. Smith & Mrs. A. Addison."²³⁷ No locations were cited for any of them. All bear extremely common given names, for which counterparts can be found across the South. However

- the names correspond to all the brothers that this report hypothesized for John Watts,
- the list specifically includes a sister proposed for John: Mary (Widow Francis) Kirkland, and
- the surnames of the other three sisters of the testator are those for whom some notes had been gathered in their capacity as "associates" of John.

The settlement also tells us the following:

"Charles Ellis has settled with **Wm. B. Watts**, who was authorized to settle for **William, George & Edward Watts** the full proportion of said Estate to which they were entitled, including certain Debts due the Estate, yet uncollected; and he has settled with & paid to **William Duggans** the full share of **Sally Smith & John Watts** of the whole Estate including the uncollected Debts, he being authorized to receive their shares. He has settled with & paid **Mrs. Mary Kirkland & Mrs. Elizabeth Duggans** their full shares of said Estate; and he has paid to **Stephen Nolan**, the agent & exr. Of **Agnes Addison** the full share of said Agnes, except of the uncollected Debts, which when collected, (if ever) she will be entitled to her distributive share of. The uncollected Debts are W. May's note

²³⁷ Fairfield Co., Will Book 2: 16–18, will of Francis Kirkland and its probate.

for about \$387.50, with Interest from the Jan. 7, 1822; Graham's Note, 86.50, Interest as above."²³⁸

On this basis, with just part of an afternoon left at the Family History Library before the end of my research trip, I returned to Fairfield County records to see what more could be found for the sisters. I am adding these limited notes to this report for organizational purposes.

24 MAY 1824

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

Thos. Duggins to **Constance Kirkland** sale of "a certain negro man slave named Mingo." Signed: Thos. Duggins. Witnesses: **Elizabeth Duggins** (E, her mark), **Mary Yarborough** (O, her mark). Proved 24 May 1824 by Mary Yarborough, who swore that she and "**Eliza Duggins**" witnessed the sale.²³⁹

24 MAY 1824

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Elizabeth Duggins, sister to **Thomas Watts**, deceased, [and] **Mary Kirkland** [and] **Constantine Kirkland**, daughters of **Mary Kirkland**, deceased who was sister to **Thos. Watts** deceased of Fairfield District, for \$1,000 paid by **Joseph Watts**, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, have sold all their right, title, and interest in the estate of "Thomas Watts, deceased, our near and dear relation, as above stated in the foresaid parish of Ouachita & hereby vest him the said **Joseph Watts** with all the rights & power [coming from] the will of Thos. Watts, State of Louisiana." Signed: "Elis Diggin [X, her mark], Mary Yarborough (X, her mark), Constance Kirklen (X, her mark). Witnesses: Geo. R. Hunter, M. Wm. Cathcart. Proved 1 February 1825, by Geo. R. Hunter who swore that he saw the above "E. Duggin, M Yarborough, and Con. Kirkland make their marks."

28 Jany 1825

"Personally appeared before me, one of the Justices of the Quorum for Fairfield District, **William Cato** Snr? Who being duly Qualified made oath that he has been long acquainted with the family of the **Watts, Kirklands & Duggins**, that **Mary Kirkland** has ever been considered and known as the **sister of Thomas Watts decd.** That also **Elizabeth Diggins** [*sic*] has ever been considered & known as **another sister of the said Thomas Watts deceased.**"²⁴⁰

²³⁸ *FamilySearch* > South Carolina Probate Records, Loose Papers, 1732–1964 > Richland > Probate Court, Estate Records > 1799–1955, Box 033, Packages 801–825, image 21.

²³⁹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book EE: 337–38.

²⁴⁰ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book FF: 113.