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DATE: 10 March 2018
REPORT TO: File
SUBJECT: Watts: George and Edward of Wilkes and Elbert Counties, Georgia, 1777–1800:
Preliminary Survey
REPOSITORY: Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta.
BACKGROUND: As a young man on the eve of the American Revolution, George Watts of Camden District, South Carolina (later Fairfield) served intermittently in both Patriot militias and regular army units. Service for his brother Edward remains unproved.

- George's records include campaigns that took him into Georgia and Florida. His Revolutionary War pension file reports settlement in Georgia before the 1830s. During the war, he married Barbara Crumpton of Fairfield's Little River. My previous research has tracked the couple post-war through residences in South Carolina's Pendleton District (between 1800 and 1818) and Richland District (1820), before a final settlement in DeKalb County, Georgia.¹
- Edward's life as an adult has been completely unknown. He may be the Edward Watts whose 1783 service is briefly outlined in a compendium of South Carolina's Revolutionary soldiers; but that outline does not place the soldier into any geographic location within the state or any family.² He is cited as a brother in the 1820–1832 probate file of Thomas Watts of Richland District—a file that identifies the decedent's siblings as John, William, and Edward Watts; Mary (Watts) Kirkland, Sarah (Watts) Smith, Elizabeth (Watts) Duggans, and Agnes (Watts) Addison.³

Amid research on Agnes Watts and her husband Christopher Addison, I have discovered the presence of George and Edward in Northeast Georgia across more than a decade. Records place George there intermittently during the Revolution and for some years thereafter before settling in Pendleton, which lay immediately across the Savannah River from Wilkes and Elbert. Those records specifically identify the George of Wilkes and Elbert as the George of Pendleton. Edward's records place him in Wilkes immediately after the Revolution, selecting land less than a mile from George. Edward would cycle through Wilkes, Elbert, and Burke Counties during the 1784–1795 period. He has not yet been traced after 1795, although the 1832 settlement of his brother Thomas's estate indicates that Edward was still alive at that time.

¹ For all that is now known about George, with documentation of each point, see E. S. Mills, "George Watts (1756–1834) & Wife Barbara Crumpton: Research Notes," report to file, 10 March 2018; archived at E. S. Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the "Research" tab.

² Bobby Gilmer Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985), 972. George served under Capt. Thomas Addison, father-in-law of his sister Agnes. Moss identifies Addison as Captain Thomas "Otterson," whose "name appears at times as Atterson" (pp. 744–45).

³ For bios of Edward, Thomas, and the other siblings and the evidence upon which the family is assembled, see E. S. Mills, "Frontier Research Strategies—Weaving a Web to Snare a Birth Family: John Watts (c.1749–ca. 1822)," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 104 (September 2016): 165–90.

This report identifies the evidence found for George and Edward in the course of that Northeast Georgia research project.

RESEARCH NOTES
(WILKES COUNTY: LATER ELBERT)

1777

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

Background.

Wilkes County was created in 1777 from land ceded by the Creek and Cherokee Indians. Elbert would be cut out of Wilkes, along the Franklin Co. line, on 10 December 1790.⁴

1777–3 MARCH 1778

WILKES COUNTY, GA

Minuteman service.

“State of Georgia. This is to certify, that George Watts, was enlisted to serve as a soldier in the _____ Battalion of Minute-Men, raised for the Defence of this State, by Resolve of Assembly, passed the 3d June, 1777; and that the said George Watts was not, at the Time of his Enlistment an Inhabitant of this State, nor had he resided in any Part thereof for Six Months preceding his Enlistment. And further, That he was in Service at the Time the said Battalion was reduced by a subsequent Resolve of March 1st, 1778. Given under my Hand at Washington this the 3rd Day of January 1785. [Signed] E. Clarke, Lt. Col. [Witness] Horatio Marbry.”

Reverse: “George Watts 10
No. 842”⁵

COMMENT:

The document is a printed form on which blank spaces were filled in. The blanks are represented above by underscoring.

George would use this service as a basis for bounty land. Several relevant records are chronicled in this report. However, all relevant documents do not still exist and the ones that survive leave specific details murky, as noted under 9 April 1778, below.

George’s own account of his service, given in his declining years, chronicles several of his campaigns but does not mention this short stint in Georgia.⁶

The Wilkes County minutemen of this era, raised by Col. Elijah Clarke, included many recruits from North and South Carolina. Post-war land office records show that Clarke, after the land office opened in 1785, prepared certifications for all his out-of-state recruits. For those who did not remain in Georgia or did come back promptly enough after the war, he submitted those certifications to acquire land in his own name or sold the warrants to others.

⁴ Michal Martin Farmer, *Elbert County, Georgia, Deed Books A–J, 1791–1806* (Dallas, TX: P.p., 1997), v.

⁵ “Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783–1909,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9M7-SBW1?i=462&wc=M61W-HTL%3A200740201&cc=1914217> : accessed 1 March 2018) > Warsdon, James—Watts, William > George Watts > image 463 of 527.

⁶ George Watts affidavit, 4 November 1833, DeKalb Co., Georgia; George Watts Pension Application (Sgt., Sumter’s Brigade, SC, Rev. War), File R11214, Widow Barbara; accessed via “Revolutionary War Pensions,” database with images, *Fold3* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 11 September 2014), particularly 28052942 and 28052948.

9 APRIL 1778

WILKES COUNTY, GA

Background.

“Lost Georgia Land Grants, 1775 and 1778. ... The Georgia land grant records for the years 1775 to 1782, or the period of the American Revolution, are a subject of controversy. No land grants for these years are on record at the Surveyor General and some researchers have theorized that because of the turmoil of the war years, no land grants were issued in Georgia during that period. ... Secretary of State S. G. McLendon, early in the century, claimed that a number of personal copies of land grants from the last years of the Revolution had been brought to his office for comparison only to discover that the State of Georgia had no record of the grants. Former Deputy Surveyor General Alex Hitz has suggested that there may have been a now lost colonial grant book ‘N.’ There may have also been a book ‘A’ from the American Revolution whose contents were recognized as land grants or as legal substitutes for grants. Researchers who have tried to piece together land plats in Wilkes County have discovered tracts of land owned by individuals after the Revolution for which neither grants, deeds, nor estate papers can be found that explain how these persons came to own their land. Possibly documents such as the Ceded Land Journal, the records of an early land court in what became Wilkes County, were recognized as substitutes for land grants. ...

“The following document from the Georgia Surveyor General is further proof that Georgia land grants were issued during the American Revolution. Apparently this record is a list of receipts issued for land grant fees paid by individuals in 1775 and 1778. A few of these 1775 grants were found in the surviving grant books but *for most of the 1775 grants and all of the 1778 grants, no further record can be found in the Surveyor General Department.* Possibly the individuals named on this list received their grants or were to have had their grants sent to them but for some unknown reason the grants were not recorded or the books of records in which they were recorded were lost long ago. ...

“This Document is officially titled, ‘Ledger, Fees Paid, Headright Grants, February 1775–December 1775, January 1778–November 1778.’ All information is included here except the actual amounts paid, which usually varied between 1 and £1.10.”

When paid: 9 April 1778
Grantees name: **George Watts**
Acres: 200
County: Wilkes
By whom paid: John Gorham DS⁷

COMMENT:

Apparently Gorham, as surveyor for several dozen tracts, passed on to the treasury the amounts the individuals had paid him to cover the grant fee. Others whose fees were paid on this same day were

“Chas. Sterns, Edwd. Crawford, Gabriel Davis, Willm. Nichols, Willm. Ryle, Willm. Kelly, James Thomas, Joseph Vann, **Michl. “Kingbird”,* George Watts**, Joshua Sloan, James Sally, Joshua Miller, Joseph Walker, Thos. Snelson, Thos. Snelson Junr., Calwell Wood, Rheubn. Ben, Willm. Poolhemm, James Poolhemm, James Warden, Willm. Elliott, James Elliott, Joseph Riley, Calibn. Nusom, Nathl. Thomas Kelly, John Williams, Absalom Horn, Mary Mann, John Garvin, Seth Slocumb, Davd. Greer, Nicholas Smith, and Thos. Stroud.”

⁷ Robert Scott Davis, *A Researcher's Library of Georgia History, Genealogy, and Records Sources* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1987), 69–70, 87–88. The emphasis in para. 2 above is the author's.

COMMENT:

***Michael King Bird** was the son of Catherine (King) by her first husband John King of Bertie Co., NC. With her second husband Moses Smith and her brother John King, she moved to Craven County (later Camden District and Fairfield), where they owned land *next door* to George Watts's brother John Watts. Both Moses Smith [Jr.?] and Michael King Byrd in the mid-1780s obtained land in Burke County (then adjacent to Wilkes), where Edward Watts would be a prominent county official 1789–1794. Moses Smith Sr. of Fairfield identified himself as a resident of Burke in Fairfield documents executed with his wife Catherine in 1795.⁸

The fact that Michael King Byrd and John Watts's brother George both left Fairfield for a Wilkes adventure in their youth reinforces the evidence pointing to likely marital ties between the Watts and the King-Smith family.

**MAY 1784–JANUARY 1785
WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Bounty land warrant.

Section "Washington, Franklin," consecutive entries, p. 42:

"John Bird, 287 ½ acres, Washington, No. 3196

Philip Wellford, 287 ½ acres, Washington, No. 3197

John Butler, 287 ½ acres, Washington, No. 3198

Richard Norwood, 287 ½ acres, Washington, No. 3199

Reubin Bacon, 287 ½ acres, Washington, No. 3200

Edwards Williams, 287 ½ acres, Washington, No. 3201

George Watts, 287 ½ acres, Washington, No. 3202

Moses Smith, 287 ½ acres, Washington, No. 3203

George Miller, 287 ½ acres, Washington, No. 3204"⁹

COMMENT:

John Bird

Michael King Byrd had a brother John Byrd/Bird. Whether he is the same as the John above is unproved. The coupling of the name "John Bird" in close proximity with George Watts and Moses Smith on this list is suggestive. The name John Bird/Byrd also is found among the associates of George Watts's brother John who migrated to Washington County in 1792 before part of Washington was cut off into Montgomery and then Tattnall counties.

Washington County has very few surviving records through which the fate of these three bounty-land tracts might be traced. None of the tracts appear in those records. Neither George Watts nor Moses Smith appear in those records. One "John Bird" did receive 150 acres on a headright warrant in 1785 Washington County. However, the name is so common that, without associations and context, it cannot be attributed to John Byrd [Jr.], son of Catherine (King) Bird Smith of Fairfield.¹⁰

⁸ See E. S. Mills, "Moses Smith & Wives Judith Ivey? (d. 1753–61); Catherine King (b. ca. 1707): Research Notes," a work in progress last revised 1 January 2018.

⁹ "Bounty Warrants: Proceedings of Executive Council Sitting as a Land Court in Augusta in 1784; May 24, 1784–Jan. 17, 1785, Washington Nos. 2560–3249, Franklin Nos. 450–941," transcribed in Nicole M. O'Kelley and Mary Bondurant Warren, *Georgia Revolutionary Bounty Land Records: 1783–1785* (Athens, GA: Heritage Papers, 1992), 218 (for title of document), 241 (for section data), and 247 (for the list on which Bird/Byrd, Watts, and Smith appear).

¹⁰ Mary Bondurant Warren and Jack Moreland Jones, *Washington County, GA, Land Warrants, 1784–1787* (Athens, GA: Heritage Papers, 1992), 33 (John Bird). Clifford S. Dwyer, *Washington County, Georgia, Surveyor's Plat Book A, 1784* (Gainesville, FL: Privately printed, 1985) yields no mention of these men.

Moses Smith (Sr. or Jr.?)

It is extremely unlikely that John and Michael King Bird's stepfather, Moses Smith, did this militia service in Georgia. That stepfather Moses first appears in deed and tax records of Granville County, NC, in 1746–47, at which time he would have been at least 21. By 1777, he would have been in his 50s.

Researchers have not identified any child for Moses other than a son Bartlett (apparently born of his second wife Catherine (King), Widow Bird.¹¹ I've found no records for Moses to-date that name any other son. Considering that Michael King Bird and George Watts were both in their early 20s when they volunteered for war-time militia service in Wilkes County, it is probable that the Moses Smith who accompanied them was also a young man.

12 JULY 1784

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land warrant.

"Plat. no. 901

Watts, George, position AL

Warrant dated 12 July 1784. 250 acres

Recorded Book A, page 8

Location: Cedar Creek, Savannah River."¹²

COMMENT:

The recently deceased, twentieth-century Northeast Georgia surveyor, Daniel Nathan Crumpton, published several volumes on a county-by-county basis in which he attempted to plat all grants in several of the older counties. Each published plat book is accompanied by his database in which he supplies the data that underpins each of his plats.

The details quoted above are Crumpton's database entry (in Wilkes Co., vol. 2) for land based on George's 1784 bounty land. Crumpton's plats (see Wilkes Co., vol. 1) provide a placement for a tract of land that George obtained under a warrant of 1785, but it does not seem to place this 1784 tract on a map.

"AL" is a notation Crumpton used to identify tracts whose position is determined by the person's reference as an adjacent landowner to another surviving plat.

Note that George's warrant is attributed to the same day as the Edward Watts warrant below.

12 JULY 1784

WILKES COUNTY, GA

Headright grant.

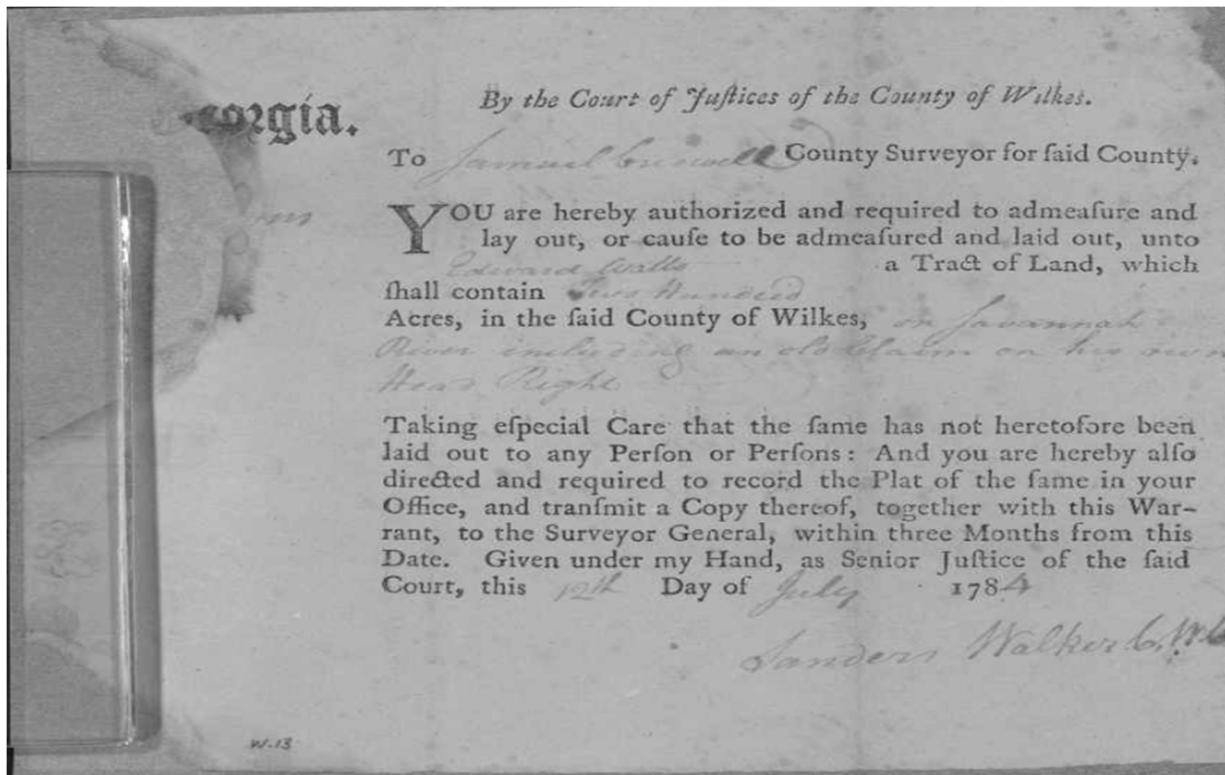
"By the Court of Justices of the County of Wilkes. To Samuel Creswell County Surveyor for said County. You are hereby authorized and required to admeasure and lay out, or cause to be admeasured and laid out, unto **Edward Watts** a Tract of Land, which shall contain Two Hundred Acres, in the said County of Wilkes, on Savannah River including an old Claim on his own Head Right. Taking especial Care that the same has not heretofore been laid out to any Person or Persons: And you are hereby also directed and required to record the Plat of the same in your Office, and transmit a Copy thereof, together with this

¹¹ Mills, "Moses Smith & Wives Judith Ivey? (d. 1753–61); Catherine King (b. ca. 1707): Research Notes."

¹² Daniel Nathan Crumpton, *Wilkes County, Georgia, Land Records*, vol. 2, *Boundaries as of 1777 (and Later Plats)* (Warrenton, GA: P.p., c.2014), 59.

Warrant, to the Surveyor General, within three Months from this Date. Given under my Hand, as Senior Justice of the said Court, this 12th Day of July 1784. [Signed] Sanders Walker C. W. C."¹³

[Reverse side] "Edwd. Watts 200 acres. Cert. Issued. Recorded in book B page 273 No. 776"



COMMENT:

The "old claim" reference tells us that Edward had been in this county earlier and had received a warrant at that time—one he had not acted upon. That earlier paperwork has not been found. Given the dearth of land-office records dated during the war, it is possible that Edward was in Georgia for several years by this time.

This land, which included three islands in the Savannah River, would be granted to Edward on 29 September 1784, according to his sale of the land on 2 April 1790. See 1790 below.

**3 JANUARY 1785
WILKES COUNTY, GA**

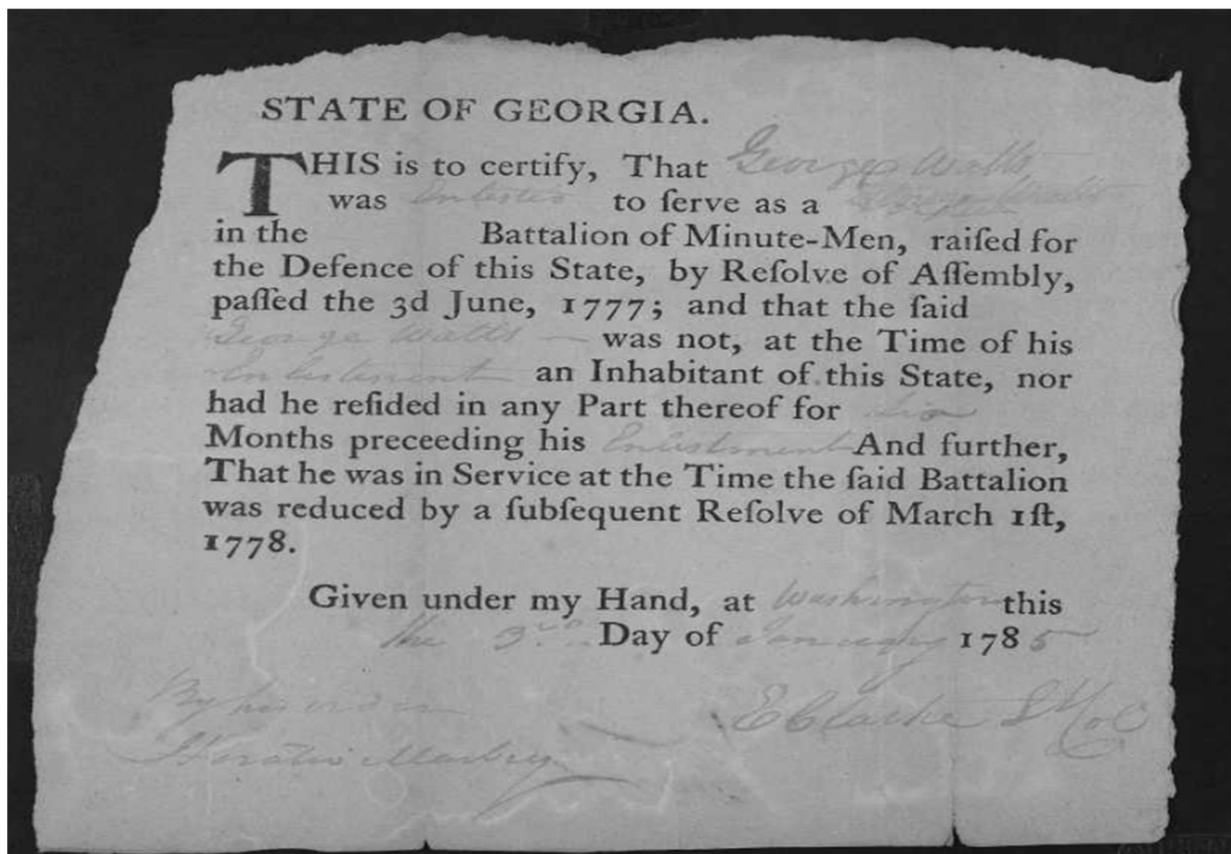
Bounty land certification.

"State of Georgia. This is to certify, that **George Watts**, was enlisted to serve as a soldier in the _____ Battalion of Minute-Men, raised for the Defence of this State, by Resolve of Assembly, passed the 3d June, 1777; and that the said George Watts was not, at the Time of his Enlistment an Inhabitant of this State, nor had he resided in any Part thereof for Six Months preceding his Enlistment And further, That he was

¹³ "Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783–1909," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9M7-S937-R?i=459&wc=M61W-HTL%3A200740201&cc=1914217>: accessed 1 March 2018) > Warsdon, James—Watts, William > Edward Watts > image 460 and 461 of 527.

in Service at the Time the said Battalion was reduced by a subsequent Resolve of March 1st, 1778. Given under my Hand at Washington this the 3rd Day of January 1785. [Signed] E. Clarke, Lt. Col. [Witness] Horatio Marbry.”

Reverse: George Watts 10
No. 842¹⁴



6 JUNE 1785

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land warrant.

“Plat. no. 1133 **Watts, George**, position AL

Warrant dated 6 June 1785

250 acres

Recorded Book B, page 244

Location: Cedar Creek, Savannah River.”¹⁵

COMMENT:

This database entry by Crumpton treats George’s “250 acres” on Cedar Creek as a separate tract from the one warranted in 1784 for 200 acres on Cedar Creek. The warrant date and recording data given in Crumpton database entry, above, suggests they were two separate tracts; but the tax rolls do not reflect two tracts for George in Wilkes County.

¹⁴ “Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783–1909,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9M7-SBW1?i=462&wc=M61W-HTL%3A200740201&cc=1914217> : accessed 1 March 2018) > Warsdon, James—Watts, William > George Watts > image 463 of 527.

¹⁵ Crumpton, *Wilkes County, Georgia, Land Records*, 2: 73.

It is possible that Crumpton has erred—certainly not for lack of expertise but because some documents for each land transaction in the county have been lost, some surviving records are copies of originals and are subject to error, and the challenge of converting surveyor descriptions from two centuries ago into tracts on the modern terrain is not an exact science.

1785

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

Tax roll.

Captain Nail's District

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 043 | Thomas Willmoth | | | | |
| 044 | Julian Nale | | | | |
| 045 | William Turk | | | | |
| 046 | John Hill | | | | |
| 047 | Joseph Nale | | | | |
| 048 | Edward Watts | Wilkes Co. land | 75a 1 st class | 125a 2d class | 100 a. 3d class |
| 049 | Richard Jones | | | | |
| 050 | Gabrael Smith | | | | |
| 051 | George Watts | Wilkes Co. land | 20 a 1 st class | 180a 2d class | |
| 052 | Richard Homes | | | | |
| 053 | Carter Harrison | | | | |
| 054 | John Paterson | | | | |
| 055 | Jacob Prewett | | | | |
| 056 | Nathan Morgan ¹⁶ | | | | |

COMMENT:

The land on which George is taxed here in 1785 is said to be 200 acres—not the 287.5 acres given as bounty to RW veterans and warranted to him in 1784 and not the 250 acres attributed to him in Crumpton's database. The 200 vs. 250 discrepancy remains unresolved. As for the 287.5-acre warrant for Washington County land, George likely sold that.

The compiler of this tax roll reports sixteen different (or differently identified) taxpayers surnamed Watts in Wilkes during 1785–1805:

- B 1800
- Bennet 1793, 1798
- Edward 1785, 1786, 1787
- George 1785, 1786, 1787, 1790
- J 1778
- Jacob 1792
- John 1793, 1794, 1796, 1799, 1800
- John H 1804
- Littleberry 1799
- R 1804
- Richard 1785, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1794, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797, 1799, 1800, 1804, 1805
- Richard Jr. 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797, 1799, 1801, 1802
- Richard Sr. 1793, 1801, 1802
- Thomas 1785, 1786, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793
- William 1790, 1801, 1802, 1804, 1805
- Watts & Lawson 1792

Some of these are known to come from a different branch of Wattses. All of these will be explored in a separate Wilkes County block of research.

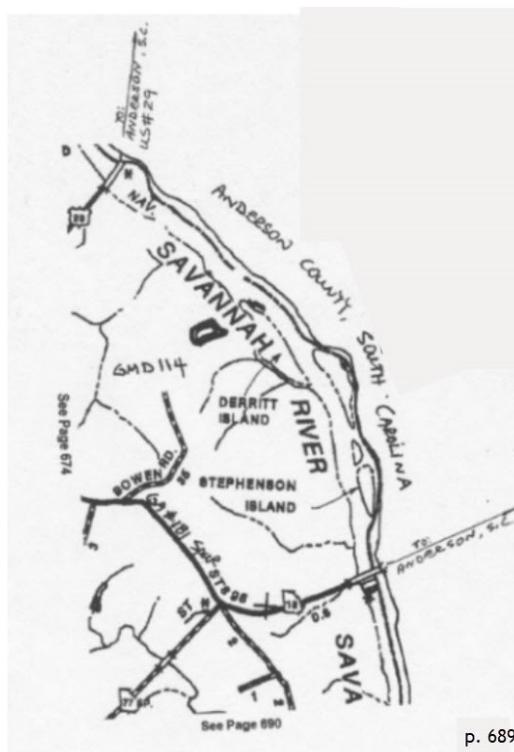
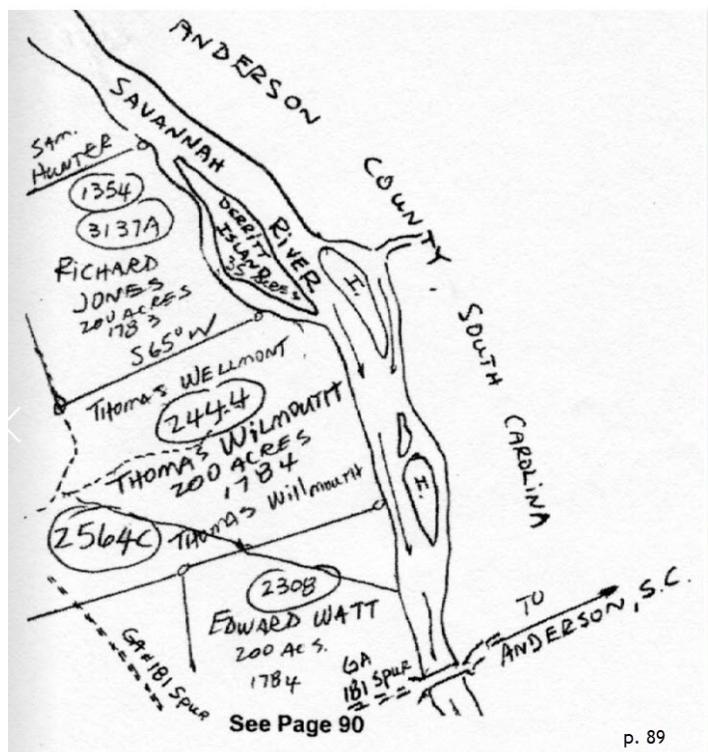
¹⁶ Frank Parker Hudson, *Wilkes County, Georgia, Tax Records, 1785–1805*, 2 vols. (Atlanta: P.p., 1996), 1: 49.

C.1785

WILKES (LATER ELBERT) COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land location.

About 2014, Edward Watts's land would be placed into neighborhood context in the mammoth series of Wilkes County grants platted and published by the surveyor Daniel Crumpton. The plat on the left shows the land as it would have been platted in 1785, the plat on the right shows the modern location.¹⁷



COMMENT:

Anderson County, South Carolina, across the river, was then Pendleton District where George and wife Barbara are found between 1799 and 1817.

6 MARCH 1786

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land warrant.

“Georgia. John King. [sic]

“By the Court of Justices of Wilkes County to Saml. Criswell Surveyor of Said County, You are hereby authorisd & Required to admeasure & Lay out or Cause to be admeasured & Laid out unto **George Watts** a Tract of Land which shall contain Two Hundred acres in Wilkes County on his own headright.

Taking especial care that the same has not heretofore been Laid out to any other person or persons whatsoever & You are hereby also directed & Required to Record a plat of the same in Your Office &

¹⁷ Crumpton, *Wilkes County, Georgia, Land Records*, 1: 89, 689.

Transmit a Copy thereof together with this Warrant to the Surveyor General within six months from this date Given under my hand as Senior Justice of said Court this 6th day of March 1786. [Signed] Henry Mounger J___; Benj. Catchings C. W.C. [Clerk, Wilkes Co.] [Reverse] George Watts 200 acres warrant”¹⁸

Georgia By the Court of Justices of Wilkes County
To Saml. Greenwell Surveyor of said County
You are hereby authorized & Required to admeasure
John King's lay out or Cause to be admeasured & laid out
unto George Watts — a Tract of Land which
shall contain Two Hundred acres in Wilkes County,
on his own headright

Taking especial care that the same has not heretofore been
laid out to any other person or persons whatsoever You
are hereby also authorized & Required to Record a plat of the same
in your Office & Transmit a Copy thereof together with this
Warrant to the Surveyor General within six months
from this date Given under my hand as Senior Justice
of said Court this 6th day of March 1786
Henry Mounger Jns
Benj. Catchings Clk

¹⁸ "Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783–1909," FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-89M7-S99D-2?i=464&wc=M61W-HTL%3A200740201&cc=19142171914217> : accessed 1 March 2018) > Warsdon, James—Watts, William > image 465 of 527.

1786

WILKES (LATER ELBERT) COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land location.



Crumpton’s published plats place one tract for George tracts. Note the proximity to Edward. This should be much less than a mile.¹⁹

Edward Watts

George Watts

Note that both tracts are just across the river from modern Anderson County, SC. At the time these grants were made, that northeast corner of SC was Pendleton District where George appears between 1799 and 1817.

Note also the proximity of the Elbert County line. The second tract of George’s property seemingly lay in Elbert, where we find a recorded deed for its sale by George and Barbara in 1797.

1786

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

Tax roll.

Captain Nail’s District

| | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 012 | John Nail | | | |
| 013 | Julian Nail | | | |
| 014 | Luck Hambelton | | | |
| 015 | Robt. Sulfrage | | | |
| 016 | Jacob Hill | | | |
| 017 | James Hill | | | |
| 018 | Wm. Woody | | | |
| 019 | George Watts | Wilkes Co. land | | 200a 2d class |
| 020 | Gabriel Smith | Wilkes Co. land | | 100a 2d class |
| 021 | Richd Jones | | | |
| 022 | Wm. Smith | Wilkes Co. land | 15a 1 st class | 185a 2d class |
| 023 | Isaac Jones | | | |
| 024 | Wm. Wilmouth | | | |

¹⁹ Crumpton, *Wilkes County, Georgia, Land Records*, vol. 1, 90.

| | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 025 | Stephen Wilmouth | | | | |
| 026 | Silas Teasley | | | | |
| 027 | James McDonnald | | | | |
| 028 | Wm. Twik | | | | |
| 029 | Andrew Sulivan | | | | |
| 030 | Hugh King | | | | |
| 031 | Alexr. Johnson | | | | |
| 032 | Moses Hill | | | | |
| 033 | John McGawin | | | | |
| 034 | Jesse Bond Jr. | | | | |
| 035 | James Greenstreet | | | | |
| 036 | Samuel Hunter | | | | |
| 037 | Wm. Thomas | | | | |
| 038 | Josiah Slide | | | | |
| 039 | Edward Watts | Wilkes Co. land | 75a 1 st class | 225a 2 nd class | ----- |
| 040 | Samuel Baker | | | | |
| 041 | Jesse Bond | | | | |
| 042 | John Beagley | | | | |
| 043 | George Cockburn | | | | |
| 044 | John Sullivan | | | | |
| 045 | Joseph Read | | | | |
| 046 | John King | Wilkes Co. Land | | 70a 2 nd class | 530a 3 rd class ²⁰ |

COMMENT:

This 1786 tax roll should not be taxing George on the headright land that was still in the survey process and would not be granted to him until September 1787.

22 SEPTEMBER 1787

ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA & PENDLETON DISTRICT, SC

Land patent.

[Described in deed of sale dated 15 January 1799.] “**George Watts** and **Barbara**, his wife, of **Pendleton Co., S.C.** to William Green of same co., for \$35, in Savannah River in Elbert Co., Ga., now in possession of sd. Green, being part of **tract confirmed to sd. Watts, 22 Se. 1787**, orig. grant, Island, in fee simple. (signed) George Watts, Barbara (x) Watts. Wit: Harman (H) Lovingood, Christopher Winder. \$35 received in full. Elbert Co.: proved by Chrisr. Winder, 8 Jan. 1800, S. Phark [sic], J.P. Regd. 15 Apr. 1800.”²¹

COMMENT:

Acreage is not stated in this published abstract. The official copy needs to be examined for that missing data.

This sale, identifying George and wife Barbara of Pendleton, establishes that the Wilkes County George Watts was the same as George Watts of Fairfield who married Barbara Crumpton and lived in Pendleton from roughly 1799 to 1817.

1787

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

Tax roll.

Captain Nail’s District

| | |
|-----|-------------------|
| 012 | Luek Hambleton |
| 013 | Joseph M. Russell |

²⁰ Hudson, *Wilkes County, Georgia, Tax Records, 1785–1805*, 1: 110–11.

²¹ Farmer, *Elbert County, Georgia, Deed Books A–J, 1791–1806*, 202–3; citing Deed Book F, 1799–1800, p. 221.

| | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 014 | Robt. Selfrage | | | |
| 015 | Thos. Jordan | | | |
| 016 | James Hill | | | |
| 018 | Saml. Ross | | | |
| 019 | George Watts | Wilkes Co. land | | 200a 3d class |
| 020 | Gabriel Smith | | | |
| 021 | Richd. Jones | | | |
| 022 | Wm. Smith | | | |
| 023 | Isaac Jones | | | |
| 024 | John Righley | | | |
| 025 | Edward Watts | Wilkes Co. land | 50a 2d class | 150a 3d class |
| 026 | Joseph Nail | | | |
| 027 | Joel Doss | | | |
| 028 | Josiah Hambleton | | | |
| 029 | Robt. Skelton | | | |
| 030 | Samuel Baker | | | |
| 031 | Saml. Hunter | | | |
| 032 | Lewis Bobo | | | |
| 033 | James Greenstreet | | | |
| 034 | Jno. <i>Tweedle</i> ²² | | | |

1 MARCH 1788

ELBERT & WILKES COUNTIES, GA

Land sale.

"**Edward Watts of Wilkes Co., Ga.**, to Thomas Turner of **Abeviel [Abbeville] Co., S.C.**, granted to Edward Watts, 200 acres, 29 Sept. 1784, 3 islands in Savannah River belonging to tract, for £5, the lowermost island containing about 2 acres, opposite to a piece of bottom ground sd Turner has cleared. (signed) Edward Watts. Wit: Jacob Gilleylen, John Buchannan. £5 received. Elbert Co.: proved by John Buchanan, 26 Jan. 1793, M. Haynes, H.P. Regd. 30 Jan. 1793."²³

1788–89

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

Tax roll.

Apparently no tax rolls exist for 1788 and 1789.

22 APRIL 1790

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land sale.

"**Edward Watts** to John Buchannan, both of **Wilkes Co.**, granted to sd. Watts, 200 acres, **29 Sept. 1784**, 3 islands in Savannah River, for £200, the lowest island excepted. (signed) Edward Watts. Wit: Jacob Gilleylen, Thomas Turner. £200 received. Elbert Co.: proved by Thomas Turner, 14 Jan. 1793, Moses Haynes, J.P. Regd. 29 Jan. 1793 [Elbert Co.]."²⁴

COMMENT:

Across the river in Pendleton District, SC, 1800, one John Buchanan is enumerated next door to George Watts, with multiple others nearby. In the interim, Buchannan had sold this land in 1792:

20 SEPTEMBER 1792

ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Neighbor.

"John Buchannan (Boughannan) of Pendleton Co., to William Lesley of Abbeville Co., for £200, 200

²² Hudson, *Wilkes County, Georgia, Tax Records, 1785–1805*, 1:172.

²³ Farmer, *Elbert County, Georgia, Deed Books A–J, 1791–1806*, 33–34; citing Deed Book A:122.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 32; citing Deed Book A, 1791–1793, p. 118.

acres in Wilkes Co., including 2 uppermost islands on Savannah River, adj. N. by Thomas Willmouth, E. by river, other sides vacant when surveyed, granted to **Edward Watts**, 29 September 1784. Sold by sd. Watts to John Buchanan, 2 Apr. 1790. (signed) John Buchanan. Wit: Matthew Reed, John Pickens, William Buchanon. £200 received. Proved before Reuben Lindsay, J.P. by John Pickens, 12 Jan. 1798. Rgbd. 12 Jan. 1798.”²⁵

This tract is referenced again as neighboring land in 1794:

12 JULY 1794
ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Neighbor.

“William Willmouth to Minor Marsh, both of Elbert Co., for £20, in sd. Co. on Savannah River, 50 acres, being part of 200 acres granted to Thomas Willmouth, 24 Feb. 1785, regd. Book GGG, fo. 170, **adj.** sd. Marsh, river, & **Edward Watts’ grant**, in fee simple (signed William Wilmoth. With: H. McDonald. Elbert Co.: proved by Hugh McDonald who saw William Wilmoth sign & Nichlas [sic] Clark witness, 26 July 1794, Moses Haynes, J.P. Regd. 28 Nov. 1794.”⁶

1790

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

Tax roll.

Captain Tweedle’s District

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 001 | Samuel Hunter | | |
| 002 | John Tweedle | | |
| 003 | Hugh McDonald | | |
| 004 | Robert Selfrage | | |
| 005 | Archilas Walker | | |
| 006 | James Highsmith | | |
| 007 | Thomas Scales | | |
| 008 | George Watts | Wilkes Co. land | 200a 3d class |
| 009 | Isaiah Harbers | | |
| 010 | John Fleming Sr. | | |
| 011 | Julian Nial | | |
| 012 | Thomas Hooker | | |
| 013 | John Fleming Jr. | | |
| 014 | John Dobbs | | |
| 015 | Randolff Depriest | | |
| 016 | Harmon Howard | | |
| 017 | James Greenstreet | | |
| 018 | Jephthah Rush | | |
| 019 | Julian Neal [Jr.] | | |
| 020 | John Neil ²⁶ | | |

COMMENT:

Edward Watts does not appear on this year’s roll. At least part of the land of both George and Edward would be cut away at the end of this year into the new county of Elbert.

1790–92

GEORGIA–SOUTH CAROLINA

Census.

George and his wife are not on the 1790 census of either Fairfield or Pendleton District, SC. The Wilkes County tax roll of 1790 suggests they were still in Georgia, whose 1790 census is lost.

²⁵ Ibid., 147; citing Deed Book E, 1781–1793, p. 6.

²⁶ Hudson, *Wilkes County, Georgia, Tax Records, 1785–1805*, 1: 248.

Edward Watts in 1790 was in Burke as shown by the following summary of his office-holding:

22 DECEMBER 1789–5 MARCH 1794

BURKE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Office holding.

Watts, Edward:

Representative, Burke Co., 1789 (resigned Dec. 20)

Clerk, Superior Court, Burke Co., 1790

Justice of the Peace, Burke Co., 1790

Justice, Inferior Court, Burke Co., June 11–Dec. 1, 1792

Secretary, Executive Department, Dec. 4, 1793–(Aug. 1795)²⁷

Extracts from Governor’s Journals.

Edward Watts, Clerk of the Superior Court (appointed by Senate 22 Dec 1789; A84)

Edward Watts, Justice of the Peace (A85)

Edward Watts, Member of GA House of Representatives, resigned 14 Jan 1790 (A139, A145)

Edward Watts, Clerk of Superior Court, Return, 11 Aug 1790 (B110)

Edward Watts, Clerk of the Superior Court, Returns, 24 Oct 1791 (C213)

Edward Watts, “one of 1st 5 Justices of replace Hugh Lawson,” 11 June 1792 (D258)

James Jones & William Baduly, “JPs to qualify Watts,” 11 June 1792 (D258)

Edward Watts “Had moved from Burke County; replaced as Commissioner of Courthouse & Jail 5 March 1794 (J65)²⁸

COMMENT:

The identity of Edward Watts of Wilkes-Elbert as Edward Watts of Burke is established by Elbert records below. No other Edward Watts can be placed in Georgia at this time and all details are consistent for concluding (a) that only one Edward was present in North Georgia; and (b) he was George’s known brother of that name.

(ELBERT COUNTY)

10 DECEMBER 1790

ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Background

“Created December 10, 1790, from Wilkes County ... county seat, Elberton 30635.

“Mary Warren has published a War of 1812 roster for Elbert County in Georgia Genealogist, #28, p. 12, that provides the name, place of birth, age, and physical description of each soldier.”

| Ordinary: | | Superior Court | |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Amnst | 1865 | Conf, | 1861 |
| Aptc | 1809 –1816* | Deed | 1791 –1912 |
| | 1830–1881 | Deed Index | 1793 –1912 |
| | 1867–1903 | Home | 1867–1933 |
| AnRns | 1791 –1907* | Jury | 1867–1872 |
| Birth | 1875–1878 | | |
| OMin | 1837–1846 ... | | |

²⁷ Louise Frederick Hays, *Georgia Service Records: State and Federal Officers, 1777–1936; County Officers, 1777–1800, with Sheriffs and Justices of the Peace through 1815; Military Officers, 1777–1860*, 2 vols. (Atlanta: Georgia Department of Archives and History, 1936), 489–90.

²⁸ Judy Swaim Kratovil, *Georgia Governors’ Journals, 1789–1798: County, State, and Militia Officers* (Fernandina Beach, FL: Privately published, 2000), 7–8, 13–15.

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Paup. | 1850–1869 |
| Sch | 1830–1880 |
| TMSup | 1883–1912 |
| Vote | 1896 |
| Wills | 1852–1918 |
| Tax rolls | 1848, 1849, 1851, 1860 ²⁹ |

“All of Wilkes County on the north side of Broad River from the mouth thereof to the main fork, then up the south main fork to where it intersects the line *dividing the County of Wilkes from the County of Franklin* shall be one county and called and known by the name of Elbert.:³⁰

6 SEPTEMBER 1797

ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land sale.

“**George Watts of Penelton [sic] Co., S.C.** to Ferdinand Phinizy of Oglethorpe Co., Ga., for \$400, in sd. Co. on Savannah River waters, **200 acres**, adj. bank of river, R. Hunt, Saml. Rose, H. Lovingood, on & down river, **granted to George Watt, 22 Sept. 1787.** (signed) **George Watts, Barbary (/)Watts.** Wit: R. Hunt, J.P., Jonathan Phair, J. P. Received 5 Sept. 1797, \$400. Elbert Co.: Barbara, wife of George Watts, rel. dower rights before R. Hunt, J.P., Jonathan Phair, J.P. Regd. 6 Jan. 1798.”³¹

19 DECEMBER 1798

ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Court minute.

Benajah Smith vs. **Edward Watts**, attachment. In this case, it appearing by the return of the Sheriff that a horse was lev[i]ed on [seized] by virtue of the above Attachment on the property of **Edward Watts** and not being replevied [recovered by Edward]. It is Ordered, that the Same be Sold in terms of the Law in Such case made and provided, & that the money arising on Said Sale be deposited in the Clerks office, Subject to the future direction of the Court.”³²

15 JANUARY 1799

ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA & PENDLETON DISTRICT, SC

Land sale.

“**George Watts and Barbara**, his wife, of **Pendleton Co., S.C.** to William Green of same co., for \$35, in Savannah River in Elbert Co., Ga., now in possession of sd. Green, being part **of tract confirmed to sd. Watts, 22 Se. 1787**, orig. grant, Island, in fee simple. (signed) George Watts, Barbara (x) Watts. Wit: Harman (H) Lovingood, Christopher Winder. \$35 received in full. Elbert Co.: proved by Chrisr. Winder, 8 Jan. 1800, S. Phark [sic], J.P. Regd. 15 Apr. 1800.”³³

COMMENT:

This document adds to the proof that George of Wilkes and Elbert was the George who married Barbara Crumpton in Fairfield County, SC, and subsequently lived in Pendleton County, SC.

COMMENT:

This land would be cited again, twice, in 1805 deeds:

²⁹ Robert Scott Davis Jr., *Research in Georgia* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1981), 105–6.

³⁰ Farmer, *Elbert County, Georgia, Deed Books A–J, 1791–1806*, v.

³¹ *Ibid.*, 202–3; citing Deed Book E, 1798–1799; p. 2.

³² Michael A. Ports, *Elbert County, Georgia, Inferior Court Minutes: February 4, 1791–July 14, 1801* (Baltimore: Clearfield Press, 2012), 161; citing p. 96.

³³ Farmer, *Elbert County, Georgia, Deed Books A–J, 1791–1806*, 202–3; citing Deed Book F, 1799–1800, p. 221.

20 MARCH 1805
ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Neighbor.

“Richmond Co., Ga. ... Ferdinand Phinizy & Margaret, his wife, to Abraham Jones, both of co. afsd., for \$500, in Elbert Co. on Cedar Creek, 272 acres, **adj.** Herman Lovinggood, **George Watts**, Archilus Walker, & Partrick [*sic*] Mitchel, being part of 200 acres granted to John Hill or Lovelill, 7 Feb. 1785. Also, part of 400 acres granted to John Lovelell, adj. sd. Phinizy, Hunt, McEwin, Alexander, John B. Alexander, Walker, Selfridge, Michel, Lovingood. (signed) F. Phinizy, Margaret Phinizy. Wit: Jonethan Vasser, Solom. Byrd, John Catlett, J.P. Ga.: before John Catlett, judge of Inferior Court of Richmond Co., Margare]t, wife of Ferdinand Phinizy, rel. dower rights. Regd. 18 Feb. 1806.”³⁴

20 MARCH 1805
ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Mention.

“Richmond Co., Ga. ... Ferdinand Phinizy & Margaret, his wife, to Abraham Jones, all of co. afsd., for \$400, in Elbert Co. on Savannah River waters, 200 acres, adj. river bank, R. Hunt, Samuel Rose, H. Lovingood, on & down river, was **granted to George Watts**, 22 Sept. 1787. (signed) F. Phinizy, Margaret Phinizy. Wit: Jonathan Vasser, Solomon Byrd, John Catlett, J.P. Ga.: before John Catlett, judge of Inferior Court of Richmond Co., Margaret, wife of Ferdinand Phinizy, rel. dower rights. Regd. 18 Feb. 1806.”³⁵

19 JULY 1799
ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Court minutes.

“Howell Cobbs vs. **Edward Watts**. In this case, it appearing to the Court that a Judgt was obtained by the Plaintiff against the defendant in the County of **Burk**, on the third day of Septempter 1798, and that an Execution Hath issued thereon, which is now in the hands of the Sheriff of this County, & it also appearing that there are in the hands of said Sheriff Sixty six dollars, being the overplus of property sold under a Mortgage to satisfy Wm. Bibbs and also others, money arising out of the sale of perishable property sold under an Attachment in behalf of Benajor Smith, both which sums of money are the property of said Watts. On motion.

“It is Ordered, that the Sheriff shew cause Tomorrow morning at ten O’Clock, why the money aforesaid shall not be paid over to satisfy the Execution aforesaid in behalf of said Cobbs.”³⁶

COMMENT:

If Edward still *owned land* in the county, the customary practice would have been to levy upon the land rather than on a horse that could die or upon perishable property. Why Edward would have a horse and perishable property in Elbert County, when he lived in Burke, goes unexplained. Possibly he had returned to Elbert for business—traveling on horseback and carrying some small bit of goods—and the horse was seized while he was there.

20 JULY 1799
ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Court minutes.

“Howell Cobbs vs. **Edward Watts**. In this Case, a Rule having been obtained against the Sheriff to Shew Cause why Certain monies in his hand belong to the Defendant Should not be paid over in satisfaction of an execution on behalf of the plaintiff & no Cause being Shown, it is ordered by the Court that the Sheriff pay over toward Satisfying Said Execution the sum of one hundred and six dollars out of monies So in his hands.”³⁷

³⁴ Ibid., 327; citing Deed Book K, 1806–1808, p. 160.

³⁵ Ibid., 360; citing Deed Book J, 1803–1806, p. 361.

³⁶ Ports, *Elbert County, Georgia, Inferior Court Minutes: February 4, 1791–July 14, 1801*, 163; citing pp. 94–95.

³⁷ Ibid., 163; citing p. 96.

20 JULY 1799

ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Court minutes.

“Benajah Smith vs. **Edward Watts**, Attachment. The same Jury as in the Case Morrow vs. McGuire. We the Jurymen find for the Plaintiff seven hundred seventy seven dollars twenty five Cents.”³⁸

COMMENT:

This represents the last record found for activity relating to Edward in published records for Elbert County. (There does exist one 1802 document, abstracted below, but it simply refers to the action above and does not suggest any new activity by Edward.) He is not named in any subsequent land-lottery list and does not appear on the earliest surviving U.S. census for Georgia: that of 1820. He apparently *was* still alive, somewhere, at the time of the 1832 settlement of his brother Thomas’s estate. By that time, Thomas’s heirs were in all the Lower South states from South Carolina to Louisiana. Multiple Edward Watts appear as Fairfield landowners during this period and a younger Edward Watts witnessed activity in the settlement of the estate of this Edward’s uncle Edward in 1810.³⁹ The Edwards of Fairfield County post-1800 have not yet been adequately sorted out.

20 JULY 1799

ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Court minutes.

“Benj. Smith vs. **Edward Watts**, Attachment. In this Case, by the Return of the Sheriff, it appears that one horse had been livered, and the same sold for seventy dollars, as pr Return of the Sheriff. On the Order of the Court for the Sale thereof, and an Eldder Execution and Judgment Claiming forty Dollars of the said sum. Ordered that the balance of thirty Dollars be paid to the plaintiff [*sic*] or his Atty, he having established his Demand against the Defendant.”⁴⁰

15 JANUARY 1799

ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA & PENDLETON DISTRICT, SC

Land sale.

“**George Watts** and **Barbara**, his wife, of **Pendleton Co., S.C.** to William Green of same co., for \$35, in Savannah River in Elbert Co., Ga., now in possession of sd. Green, being part of **tract confirmed to sd. Watts, 22 Se. 1787**, orig. grant, Island, in fee simple. (signed) George Watts, Barbara (x) Watts. Wit: Harman (H) Lovingood, Christopher Winder. \$35 received in full. Elbert Co.: proved by Chrisr. Winder, 8 Jan. 1800, S. Phark [*sic*], J.P. Regd. 15 Apr. 1800.”⁴¹

CA. 1801

ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Tax roll.

³⁸ Ports, *Elbert County, Georgia, Inferior Court Minutes: February 4, 1791–July 14, 1801*, 163; citing p. 97.

³⁹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book T: 295–96. For the research that has been done, see the following reports archived at my website *Historic Pathways*, under the “Research” tab.

- “Watts: Literature Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them,” report to file (92 pp.).
- “Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County, Pre-1820,” report to file, 27 Oct. 2014 (89 pp.).
- “George Watts (1756–1834) & Wife Barbara Crumpton: Research Notes,” report to file, 10 March 2018.

⁴⁰ Ports, *Elbert County, Georgia, Inferior Court Minutes: February 4, 1791–July 14, 1801*, 170; citing p. 99.

⁴¹ Farmer, *Elbert County, Georgia, Deed Books A–J, 1791–1806*, 202–3; citing Deed Book F, 1799–1800, p. 221.

“The original tax digest, which has been laminated, and rebound, is in the Elbert County Court House. Since no date of the tax, or recapitulation page was found by GA Archives at the time the digest was laminated, a rough date was assigned the digest as ‘1796–1805.’ In order to establish a date for the digest, the probate records of Elbert County, as abstracted by the late Mrs. Grace G. Davidson, in *Historical Collections of the Georgia Chapters N.S.D.A.R.*, Vol. 3, have been used. Although there is a danger in “matching” the probate abstracts with individuals in the tax digest, this method seems to be the most practical way to date the tax digest.”⁴²

COMMENT:

Addison: No

Watts: No

NOVEMBER 1802
ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Lawsuit.

“Joseph Wyatt Pl[aintiff] vs. Benajah Smith Def[endant]. Petition of Joseph Wyatt for debt due from Benajah Smith, to have been paid out of judgement Smith was to have received from Edward Watts of Elbert County, (s) A. Martin, Plffs. Atty.

“November Term 1802. Found for the defendant, [s] A. Burroughs, FM. Found for the appealant, [s] John Pope, FM.

“Letter to Sally S. Bibb from B. Smith, 2 March 1801. Mentions her son Penyton Bibb.

“Agreement 29 September 1798 with Captain Joseph Wyatt, [s] B. Smith. (On reverse side: ‘Rec’d. Thirty Dollars (s) Salley S. Bibb.’”⁴³

MAY 1803–1 MARCH 1804
ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land lottery.

The official land-office roster for the 1805 lottery presents entries in alphabetical order statewide. Registration was held 1 May 1803–1 March 1804.

Data drawn from the published editions of the statewide index:

Watts: No **“ADDISON, Thomas”** Elbert County No. 189 drew 2 blanks⁴⁴

COMMENTS:

Two draws were allotted to men who

- claimed to be white male citizens, aged 21 or older, with wife and/or legitimate minor children
- had been in state for one year⁴⁵

Whether this Thomas Addison—who apparently arrived between the end of 1801 and March 1803—is part of the family of Capt. Thomas Addison of Fairfield whose son Christopher married Agnes Watts, sister of George and Edward, is not yet known.

15 MARCH 1805
ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA

Neighbor.

⁴² [Mary Bondurant Warren], *Georgia Genealogist*, part III, *State Records; Newspapers, County Records A–Forsyth* (Athens, GA: Privately printed, n.d.), “Elbert County, GA, Tax Digest ca. 1801,” pp. 1-e45, with index.

⁴³ Robert Scott Davis Jr. *The Wilkes County Papers, 1773–1833* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 198.

⁴⁴ Virginia S. Wood and Ralph V. Wood, *1805 Georgia Land Lottery* (Cambridge, MA: Greenwood Press, 1964), 2. Also Paul K. Graham, *1805 Georgia Land Lottery: Persons Entitled to Draws* (Decatur, GA: The Genealogy Co., 2005).

⁴⁵ Paul K. Graham, *1805 Georgia Land Lottery: Fortunate Drawers and Grantees* (Decatur, GA: The Genealogy Co., 2006), p. ii.

“State of S.C.: William Lesly of Abbeville Dist., S.C., for \$100 to John Cox of **Pendleton Dist., S.C.**, 2 islands in Savannah River near mouth of Big Genotee Creek, supposed to contain 12 acres, granted to Thomas Wilmoth, the other below island, ½ acre, **granted to Edward Watts, 15 Mar. 1805** [*sic*; should be 1784] (signed) Wm. Lesly. Wit: Thomas Hanay, William (\) Cannon. Elbert Co.: proved by Thomas Hany, 20 July 1805, E. Ownes, J.P. Regd. 20 Apr. 1807.”⁴⁶

COMMENT:

This abstract creates an ambiguity that could be misleading. It seems to say that the island was granted to Edward Watts on 15 March 1805. However, the dates of proof and registration seem to suggest that 15 March 1805 was the date the deed was executed.

1812–1815

ELBERT COUNTY

Military records.

“Muster Roll and Inspection Return of the Detachment of Men Required from the First Brigade, 4th Division of the Militia of Georgia, Quota from the 28th Regiment—Col. Bibb’s {Elbert Co., GA}.”⁴⁷

COMMENT:

No Addisons, Watts, etc.

FUTURE WORK

Thorough research is needed in at least two additional jurisdictions:

- Wilkes County, whose records are abundant.
- Burke County, whose surviving holdings for the 1790s are extremely meager.

A preliminary survey should be made in the records of

- Jefferson County, which was cut from Burke in 1799; Edward’s residence could have been cut away into Jefferson
- Richmond County, whose seat (Augusta) was a commercial center in that era; residents of Burke are frequently found in Richmond County’s records.
- Baldwin County (Milledgeville), the seat of government where Edward would have resided during the time (1793–95) that he was secretary of the executive department of Georgia.

⁴⁶ Michal Martin Farmer, *Elbert County, Georgia, Deed Books K–R, 1791–1806* (Dallas, TX: P.p., 1997), 202–3.

⁴⁷ [Mary Bondurant Warren], “Muster Roll and Inspection Return of the Detachment of Men Required from The First Brigade, 4th Division of the Militia of Georgia; Quota from the 28th Regiment – Col. Bibb’s {Elbert Co., Ga.},” *Georgia Genealogist*, vol. 2 (1969-1970), no. 18 11-12. These pamphlets have been consolidated into a bound series titled *Georgia Genealogist*, part 1, *Military Records; Colonial Records; State Records, A-C* (N.P.: N.p., n.d.). This source is a rearrangement of bulletins issued from 1969. The rearrangement assembles materials according to type. The reassembly retains the original page numbers, but does not retain the original issue no. Although this set of records appears on pp. 11–12, there are numerous pages numbered 11 and 12 in this volume. Davis, *Research in Georgia*, 105, places the Elbert list on pp. 11–12 of issue 18.

Following this Elbert list, the *Georgia Genealogist* volume offers similar lists for Elbert (pp. 17–21), Clarke, Greene, Madison, Oglethorpe, Wilkes Counties, as well as stray desertion notices, officer lists, etc., from elsewhere in the state. According to Davis: “The original roster is in the Telamon Cuyler Collection, Special Collections, University of Georgia Libraries.”

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