

George Watts (c.1753–c.1812) & Wife Ruth Perry

Research Notes

George Watts Family Summary:

Born: c.1753¹
Married: before December 1772, **Ruth Perry**² (b. before 1758;³ d. 1812–1832⁴)
Died: before 2 March 1812⁵
Residences: Camden District, SC (1772–1785)
Fairfield Co., SC (1785–c.1812)
Parents: Unknown
Potential Kin: Two separate George Wattses lived in Camden-Fairfield contemporaneously. A slightly younger George Watts (husband of Barbara Crumpton) was the son of a Thomas Watts who came to the Wateree from Bedford County, VA, before 1763 with brothers William and Edward Jr. A fourth brother George migrated in that same period from Bedford to North Carolina (Anson-Lincoln Counties), dying in Lincoln the winter before the George of this paper appeared in Fairfield with sufficient funds to apply for land and begin his farming operation.⁶ Offspring of the Bedford-Lunenburg George have not been identified.

If this set of research notes assembles the family of George and Ruth correctly, then autosomal DNA suggests that the two Georges of Fairfield are related. See the following children's list for comments attached to George and Ruth's son Jacob.

CHILDREN:

1. JAMES WATTS, b. c. late 1774–75;⁷ d. before 5 November 1832.⁸

¹ Calculated on the premise that he was at least nineteen when he applied for a grant of 150 acres in Dec. 1772; that acreage would have been allotted to a single male aged 21 or above with one servant—or a married male of any age with one dependent.

² "Ruth Watts" is named as a married daughter in the 1780 will of Jacob Perry. While Perry died in the area that is now Fairfield, his will is recorded in a volume now in Kershaw Co., SC: Camden District Estate Records, Book A-1: 150, probate date not shown. As "Ruth Watts" she is named as applicant for administrator of George's estate in a 2 March 1812 summons to "kindred and creditors" of George; see Fairfield Co. Probate Records, file 34, package 546, John Watts. I thank Nancy Hoy (nacha.lin@gmail.com), co-administrator of Fairfield Co., SC, DNA Project, *FamilyTreeDNA* (<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/fairfield-co-sc>), for providing the critical Fairfield document confirming the survival of Ruth (Perry) Watts until 2 March 1812.

³ Calculated on the premise that she was at least 14 when she married—14 for females and 19 for males being the typical age for marriages in Camden District, according to the diary of a contemporary minister; see Richard J. Hooker, ed., *The Carolina Backcountry on the Eve of the Revolution: The Journal and Other Writings of Charles Woodmason, Anglican Itinerant* (Chapel Hill, NC: Univ. of NC Press, 1953), 39.

⁴ The summons to kindred and creditors of George Watts, 2 March 1812 is the last known document for Ruth. A summons to heirs of Ruth's unmarried brother Lewis Perry, Fairfield Co. Will Book 11, 1826–37: 58, does not name Ruth as a surviving heir but includes her living children.

⁵ Summons to kindred and creditors, Estate of George Watts, 2 March 1812.

⁶ See Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Frontier Research Strategies—Weaving a Web to Snare a Birth Family: John Watts (ca. 1749–ca. 1822), *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 104 (September 2016): 165–90. At the time this article was published, known evidence was insufficient to separate the two George Wattses. The current paper and a companion—"George Watts (1756–1834) and Wife Barbara Crumpton: Research Notes," a working file dated 1 December 2017, both posted at E. S. Mills, *Historic Pathways* (www.historicpathways.com) under the "Research" tab—represent my effort to disambiguate the two Georges of Fairfield.

⁷ In 1792, George of 25-Mile Creek bought land in the name of "his son James" from someone who turned out to be (like James) a minor. While it was legal for land to be purchased in the name of a minor, a minor could not legally sell land without a parent or guardian acting for

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

- JUDITH WATTS, b. 1774–75; died after 1 June 1850;⁹ married **Elisha Jones**.¹⁰
- ELIZABETH WATTS, b. c. 1777;¹¹ died after 7 March 1797¹² but before 5 November 1832.¹³
- SARAH WATTS, b. c.1779–80;¹⁴ named as “wife” of **Benjamin Freeman** in the 5 November 1832 summons to partition the estate of her brother James and the December 1832 summons to heirs of her uncle Lewis Perry.¹⁵ Neither she nor her husband have been identified on any census to help verify her birth position but her husband came of age in 1793, at which time he sold off his share of family land to Sarah’s brother James, with their father George acting on James’s behalf.¹⁶ Benjamin and Sarah (Watts) Freeman do not appear thereafter in records of Fairfield or adjacent counties.¹⁷
- JACOB WATTS, b. c.1783; named in both 1832 summonses; appears to be the Jacob, b. SC, who d. September 1849 in Talladega Co., Alabama, at age 66,¹⁸ leaving a widow **Permelia “Millie” Hollingsworth**. Children are said to be Isaac (b. 1804, SC), George (b. 1807, SC), Moses (b. 1812, GA), Lucinda (b. 1817, GA), Jacob Jr. (b. 1819 GA), Elizabeth (b. 1821 GA), Hollingsworth (b. 1824 GA), Nancy J. (b. 1824), Permelia “Millie” (b. 1825, GA), John W. (b. 1825, GA), and James Thomas (b. 1828, GA).¹⁹

him. In June 1795, when the seller turned 21, George executed a new agreement for his son, who was thus still under the age of majority. See Kershaw Co., SC, Deed Book R: 107. Given that James was the only son for whom George bought land as he came to adulthood, the possibility exists that James was born of a marriage prior to Ruth. Sometimes the purchase of land for only the oldest child or two in a sibling set occurred because he or they had an inheritance from the first wife’s family. Sometimes it occurred because the father was “settling up” with offspring of his first family, after which his estate would be left to offspring of the new marriage.

⁸ Summons on partition, estate of James Watts, 5 Nov. 1832; in Fairfield Co., Will Book 11, 1826–37: 67–68.

⁹ The 1850 census cites her age as 75, placing her birth between 2 June 1774 and 1 June 1775. See 1850 U.S. census, Fairfield Co., SC, stamped p. 271 verso, dwelling 1060, family 1061.

¹⁰ Summons on partition, estate of James Watts; summons on partition, estate of Lewis Perry.

¹¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 87; George Watts and Jesse Perry (brother of Ruth) post bond for Elizabeth in 1793, in what appears to be a bastardy case. Typically a father, brother, or other male kin posted the bond as sureties to guarantee that the child would not become a financial burden on the county. Elizabeth’s case was continued until the July 1795 court session, then dropped. See Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799*, 114.

¹² Fairfield Co., Deed Book K: 413–14, for George Watts and Elizabeth Watts as witness.

¹³ No Elizabeth is named among the heirs of James in November 1832 or Ruth (Perry) Watts in Dec. 1832. If she was a child of George and Ruth, then she died before November 1832, leaving no heirs.

¹⁴ This Sarah is almost certainly not the Sarah named as “granddaughter Sarah Watts” in the 5 October 1780 will of Ruth’s father Jacob. See the discussion in the “Research Notes” section under that date.

¹⁵ The estate summonses for heirs of brother James and her uncle Lewis—a type of document that typically names siblings in birth order—lists Sarah in last place. However, both documents seem to name first the heirs that are living in Fairfield, followed by the “absent heirs” who have moved to other locales. For the 1830 locations of the two overlapping sets of heirs and representatives who remained in Fairfield see especially pp. 389–90 of the 1830 U.S. Fairfield census, which presents the following in sequence: Johnathan Watts, [skip 5] Lewis Perry, Isaac Perry, [skip 14] Littleton Crankfield, James Duke, [skip 2] Epsy Wright, John Wilson, Jane McCreight, [skip 1] David Dunn, Daniel Watts, Elisha Jones.

¹⁶ Fairfield Co., Deed Book R: 107.

¹⁷ 1790–1850 censuses: No provable candidate has been found for Benjamin or Sarah, in SC or elsewhere. If they removed to Georgia or East Tennessee, there are no surviving censuses before 1820. One Benjamin Freeman appears on the 1820 Richland District, SC, census, p. 12, last line: Benjamin Freeman, 1 male 45+, 1 female 45+, 1 female 26–45, no children. However, this Benjamin Freeman drafted his will 8 Oct. 1823 (proved 29 Nov. 1823), leaving all property to be divided between “John Malors and Sarah Hathcock.” See Richland Dist. Probate Box 43, pkg 1059½; imaged in “South Carolina Probate Records, Files and Loose Papers, 1732–1964,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939L-F6R1-R?i=132&cc=1911928> : accessed 15 July 2017). One Benjamin Freeman was in Clarke County, GA, between May 1803 and March 1804 when he registered for the 1805 land lottery (in which he drew two blanks, the allotment for males over 21 with a wife and legitimate children under 21); see Paul K. Graham, *1805 Georgia Land Lottery Persons Entitled to Draws* (Decatur: The Genealogy Company, 2005), i-v (background discussion), p. 187 (Benjamin Freeman). Clark Co.’s resources have not yet been researched for this Benjamin or Sarah.

¹⁸ 1850 U.S. census, Talladega Co., Ala., mortality schedule, p. 291, line 7; imaged at *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/8756/32787_1220706416_0001-00161 : accessed 20 Nov. 2017).

¹⁹ Among the best of assembled data online for this Jacob of Alabama is Marsha Watts Foreman (user name: sallymfw), “MJWatts (I2B1-M223 YcAll 17-19) Family Tree,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/28469234/person/12048976420/facts> : accessed 3 Dec. 2017). This Jacob’s wife Permelia is said to be born in North Carolina as the daughter of one Isaac Hollingsworth, mother unknown. The birthplaces of these children are all from the 1850 census of Talladega County.

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

6. MOSES WATTS, b. c.1786; named in the 1832 summons; may be the Moses P. [Perry?] Watts who briefly appeared in Natchitoches Parish, LA, in 1819–20.²⁰
7. PATIENCE WATTS, b. c.1789; d. before 1 June 1850;²¹ named as wife of **John J. Wilson** in the 1832 pair of summonses.
8. ?JONATHAN WATTS, born 1791–92; died 1850–1858.²² Not in George's household in 1800. Left a widow **Delphos D[uke?] Watts** and two daughters: Caroline E. Watts (wife of David H. Montgomery) and Emiline L. Watts.²³

RESEARCH NOTES

17 MARCH 1767

CRAVEN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Survey.

"Pursuant to a precept directed by John Troup Esq. D.S.G. [Deputy Surveyor General] dated the 3d day of March 1767, I have admeasured and laid out unto **Jacob Perry** a tract of land containing one hundred and fifty acres situate lying and being in Craven County on the waters of Wateree River, called **five and twenty mile creek**, about twelve or thirteen miles above Isaac Roses Tan Mill, on the Same Water

Descendants of this Jacob Watts of Talladega are autosomal matches to descendants of my contemporary Watts family in Fairfield: offspring of the Edward Watts Sr. (b. c.1700) who moved from Spotsylvania>Orange>Culpeper to Lunenburg>Bedford about 1752. In 1763, three of Edward's sons (Thomas, William, and Edward) settled Wateree and Little River tracts about 10 or so miles from the 25-Mile Creek site chosen by George when he arrived c.1772. (See my previously cited article, "Frontier Research Strategies.")

As one example of the DNA matches: Marsha Watts Foreman's aunt Sara Frances (Watts) Morris and my own aunt Mae (Jeffcoat) Mitchell share 30.69cM across 6 segments—the largest of which is 17.58cM on chromosome 11 from position 99286356–115660225. Sarah is the 3d-great-granddaughter of Jacob and Permelia. Mae is the 3d-great-granddaughter of Zilphy Watts, born in Fairfield contemporaneously with Jacob. From Fairfield backward, Mae's line is Zilphy > John > Thomas of the Wateree > Edward Sr. of Bedford & Orange. Reconciling the predicted kinship between Mae and Sara must include the distinct possibility that Mae also has Hollingsworth ancestry. No other lines have been found in common between Mae and Sara.

²⁰ Natchitoches Parish, La., Parish Court Files, 1819 Alexander DeBlieux vs. Moses P. Watts and John B. Trezzini vs. Moses P. Watts, Louisiana State Archives microfilm PC12; also 1820 Alexander DeBlieux vs. Moses P. Watts, PC14. (Before filming by the State Archives in the late 1970s, the case files were disassembled and individual documents were rearranged in folders by whatever year appears on the document, then sorted alphabetically by plaintiff. Hence, files for a single case often appear on multiple rolls of film.)

²¹ 1850 U.S. census, Fairfield Co., SC, stamped p. 271 verso, dwell. 1056, fam. 1057 (John J. Wilson, 61; no wife; 4 children aged 18–28: Jane, George, Elizabeth, and Martha).

²² 1850 U.S. census, Fairfield Co., SC, stamped p. 261 verso, dwell. 906, fam. 907, Jonathan Watts, age 58. Also 1830 U.S. census, Fairfield Co., SC, p. 359, line 1, Jonathan Watts, male b. 1790–1800 living amid the cluster of heirs named in both the James Watts and Lewis Perry estate documents—along with a Daniel Watts who cannot be fitted into this family of George and Ruth.

This placement of Jonathan as a child of George and Ruth is problematic. Jonathan administered the estate of their son James in Fairfield Co. in November 1832. However, the Dec. 1832 summons to heirs of Ruth (Perry) Watts's intestate brother Lewis does not summon Jonathan as a Perry heir; those representing Ruth's interests were Judith, Patience, Jacob, Moses, and Sarah. Given that Jacob and Moses had both left the state long before James died, leaving no other brother there, it is possible that a *male cousin Jonathan* stepped in to administer his estate. This possibility is reinforced by George's 1830 residence near an unidentified Daniel Watts, who was not an heir of James Watts or Lewis Perry.

²³ Estate of Jonathan Watts, petition by David H. Montgomery, Esqr., for administration, 13 Sept. 1858, and subsequent documents; Fairfield Co., Estate Packets 1780–1868, files 112–13 of packages 583–602, and files 114–16 of packages 1–24, filed Estate Record Book 29: 473, 29 Oct. 1858; imaged in "South Carolina, Wills and Probate Records, 1670–1980," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/9080/007649388_00289 : accessed 20 Nov. 2017). The estate held notes on Daniel Watts, Jonathan Watts Jr., and George Watts who were not heirs. Lands of the deceased included "the old Watts place on 25-Mile Creek" (which Jonathan had bought from the estate of James) and an adjoining 15 acres that Jonathan had purchased from Jacob Watts. Online trees assert (reasonably but without evidence) that Jonathan's wife was Delphus Duke; and that their daughter "Emma Louise" married Arthur Burgess Kennedy; see, for example, MJRKSC, "Kennedy & Associated Families," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/46453322/person/6581294021/facts?phsrc=aam709&phstart=sucsource> : accessed 20 Aug. 2016).

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Wife: Ruth Perry

Course, Butting and bounding on all sides by a vacant land. And hath such Shape form and marks as appears by the above delineated plat. Certified by me this 17th day of March 1767, J. F. Buttell, D.S.”²⁴

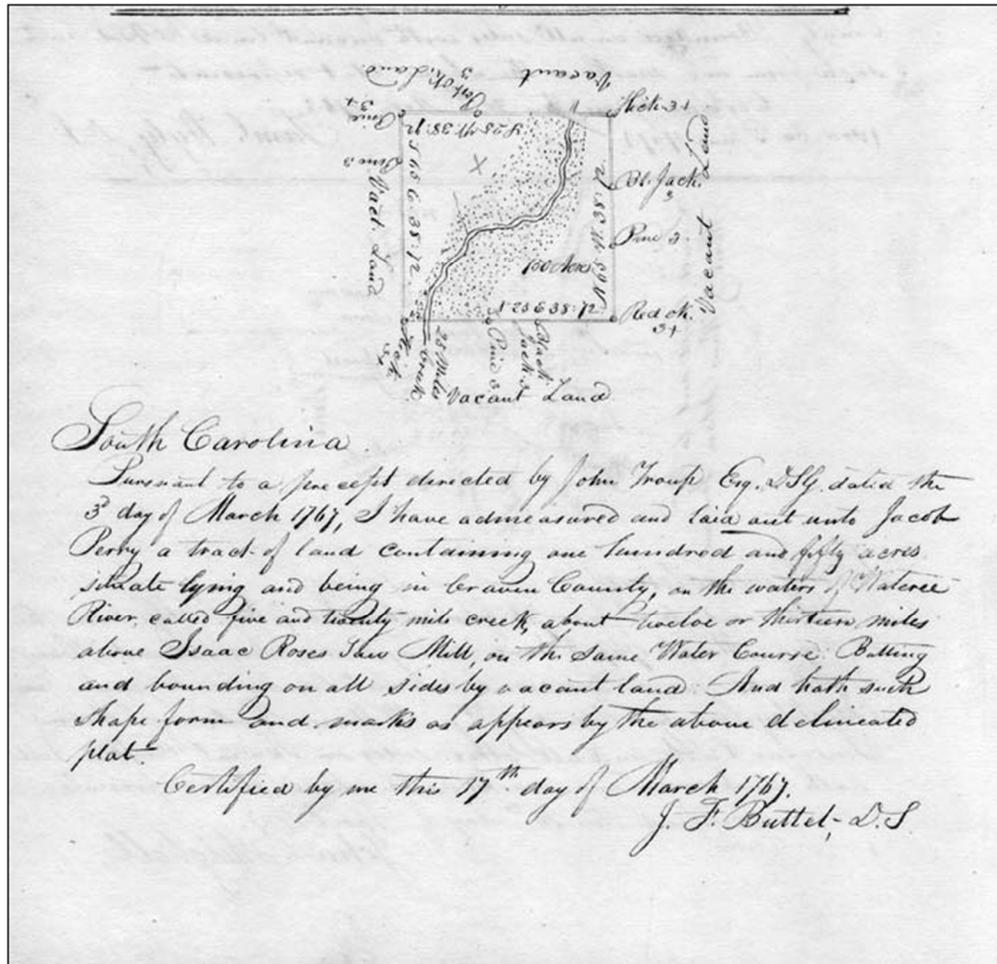
COMMENT:

This establishes the presence of Ruth Perry’s father on 25-Mile Creek before her marriage to George Watts. Hence, the Watts-Perry marriage likely occurred there. See Jacob’s plat below.

S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series)

PERRY, JACOB, PLAT FOR 150 ACRES ON WATEREE RIVER.

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1 DECEMBER 1772

CRAVEN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Land Petition.

“For warrants of Survey”

George Watts

150 “in South Carolina”²⁵

²⁴ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database with images ([http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online archives/](http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online%20archives/) : accessed 7 October 2014), “Perry, Jacob, Plat for 150 Acres on Wateree River,” citing “S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series).”

COMMENT:

By Carolina law, grants were made to single males over 21 or *heads-of-households* if younger. Either status entitled the male to 100 acres. Each spouse, child, or slave qualified for an additional 50 acres.²⁶ Given that no evidence of slaveownership has been found for this George, it would appear that he was already married.

1 DECEMBER 1772

CRAVEN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Survey.

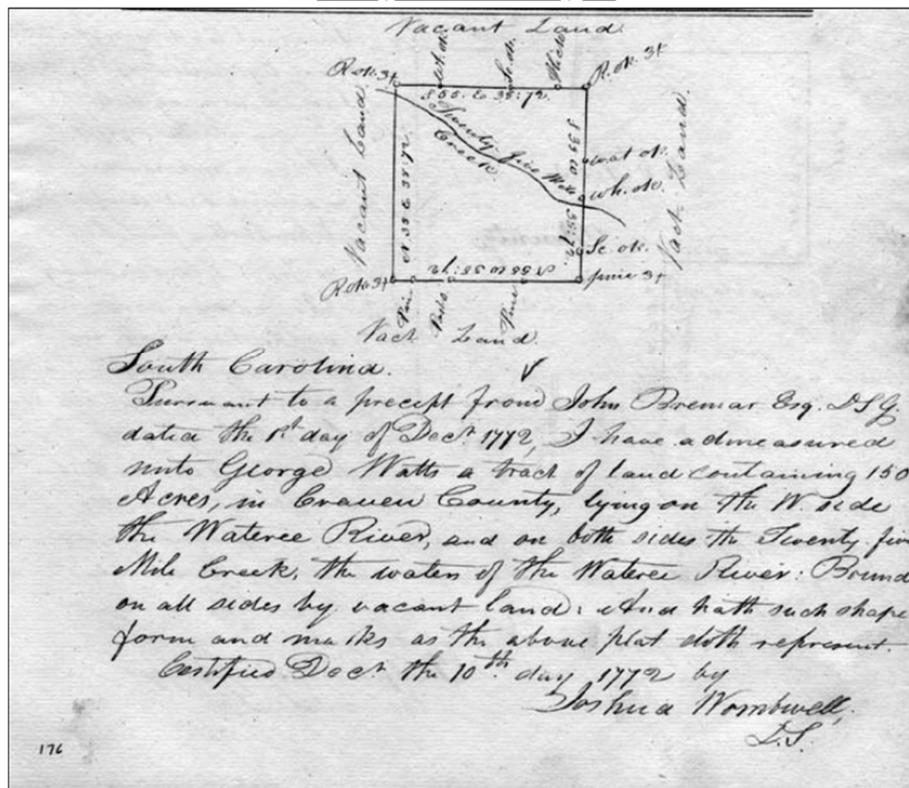
"Pursuant to a precept from John Bremar Esq. D.S.G. dated the 1st day of Decr. 1772, I have admeasured unto **George Watts** a tract of land containing 150 Acres, in Craven County, lying on the W. side of the Wateree River, and on both sides the Twenty-five mile Creek, the waters of the Wateree River. Bound on all sides by vacant land. And hath such shape form and marks as the above plat doth represent.

"Certified Decr. the 10th day of 1772 by Joshua Wombwell, D.S."²⁷

S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series)

WATTS, GEORGE, PLAT FOR 150 ACRES IN CRAVEN COUNTY.

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²⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia: SCMAR, 1999), 167, 171, 173.

²⁶ For the headright law, see "South Carolina Archives Series Description: Colonial Land Grants, 1731–1775," article, *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/Terms/Series/SeriesDescriptions/s213015.html).

²⁷ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online_archives/; accessed 7 October 2014), "Watts, George, Plat for 150 acres in Craven County," citing "S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series)."

29–30 DECEMBER 1774

Craven County, South Carolina

Deed.

“Lease and release ... **Robert Duke** of Craven County, Parish of St. Marks, planter, to *Henry Miley* of same, for £500, tract granted to said Robert Duke 7 May 1774, recorded in Book QQQ, page 148, 100 acres on **south side** of the **Wateree River** on **Twenty five mile Creek**. *Robert Duke* (LS), Wit: Jeremiah Pierson, *James Lewis*, **George Watts**. Proved 1 May 1775 by the oath of *Jeremiah Pierson* before John N. Oglethorpe, J.P. Recorded 12 March 1787.”²⁸

COMMENT:

- On 1777 juror lists: Robert Duke and Henry Miley are cited 3 names apart, between Broad and Catawba Rivers.²⁹ “South side of the Wateree” on 25-Mile Creek fits this description; it later fell into Fairfield. George Watts does not appear on this list—suggesting that he may have refuged from South Carolina during the war.
- In 1790, George Watts had 3 Duke neighbors, 2 to 5 households on either side.
- This Duke land sold to Miley was resold in 1786, telling us more about the neighborhood:

“Lease and release. 30 & 31 May 1786, *Henry Miley* of Camden Dist., planter to *Martha Johnson*, widow, for £150 sterling, two tracts of land each 100 acres on **Twenty-five mile creek** in the District of Camden, *one granted to Robert Duke* and the other to *Caleb Doud*.... Henry Miley (X), Wit: James Denton, Will Luten. Proved in Charleston District by the oath of James Denton of Charleston, tavern keeper, 12 May 1787 before D.I. Mazyck, J.P. Recorded 12 March 1787.”³⁰

1775–1782

Camden Dist., SC

Military service.

No Revolutionary War service has been proved for this George. A compendium of records for SC soldiers offers two entries under the name *George Watts* and links them with a single Accounts Audited file “A.A. 8278”:

“Watts, George R11214

b. Bedford County, Va.

d. 12 April 1834

m. Barbara Compton, 1780

“He was drafted, while residing in Fairfield District, under Lt. Thomas Otterson [Addison?], Capt. John Winn, Col. Joseph Kershaw and Gen. Richardson. He was in the Snow Campaign [November–December 1775]. His next tour was after John Winn became a colonel and Otterson became a captain. Next, he was in the Third Regiment under Ensign William Caldwell, Lt. Oliver Tolls, Capt. Richard Winn, and Col. Thompson. He marched to Florida and was taken prisoner. After three or four months, he was exchanged and he returned to serve until the close of the war. At sometime, he was a lieutenant under Captain Thomas Parrott. (Moved to Ga.) A.A. 8278; U423.”

²⁸ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1783–1788; Books 1–5 through Z-5* (Columbia: SCMAR, 1996), 362, citing “W-5, 554–559.”

²⁹ GeLee Corley Hendrix and Morn McKoy Lindsay, *The Jury Lists of South Carolina, 1778–1779* (Greenville, SC: Privately Printed, 1975), 53.

³⁰ Holcomb, *South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1783–1788; Books 1–5 through Z-5*, 362, citing “W-5, 564–568.”

“Watts, George

“He served in the light dragoons under Capt. Jacob Barnett, Col. Henry Hampton and Gen. Sumter during 1781. Salley, Doc., p. 54; **A.A. 8278**; M281.³¹

COMMENT:

A pension file exists for the patriot in the first entry: the George Watts (son of Thomas) who married Barbara Crumpton. Both the pension file and the Accounts Audited file make it clear in two ways that two separate George Wattses did patriot service:

- The service laid out for George of the pension file did not include service under Capt. Barnett and Colonel Hampton.
- The Accounts Audited documents crossfiled in the pension file show that the second George was a likely resident of Old 96—one who used a justice of the peace in Old 96 to handle his claims—and that he gave power of attorney to one Richard Watts, a man who has not been placed in Camden and Fairfield.³²

After Old 96 was split into Newberry and Laurens Counties, that George Watts and Richard Watts both fell into Laurens. George died there in 1812 leaving a will that named his son Richard.³³

Lack of Revolutionary participation for George of 25-Mile Creek:

This remains to be explained. No evidence has been found to suggest a logical reason as to why and how he would have escaped service or was not forced to contribute goods. His brother-in-law Jesse Perry, did serve and lived long enough to file for a pension in which he stated:

“A few days after his discharge [from his second tour of duty] he moved his wife to her mothers, three miles distant, and *believing that he could no longer live in security or peace at home*, he took his horse and as a volunteer joined the American Army at a place called Brown’s Old Fields on the Congaree.” After that tour of duty, “being at home, he was taken prisoner by a company of Tories ... and taken to the British commander at Campden [Camden], by which he was discharged upon his parole, not again to appear in arms against his Majesty. [He] left his family and came up about *twenty miles above Kings Mountain, and remained there with his friends* until the termination of the war.”³⁴

The various Wattses in Fairfield were ideologically split by that Revolution. Some were Loyalists, some supported the Revolution, some tried to avoid the conflict entirely.

5 FEBRUARY 1779
CRAVEN COUNTY, SC
Witness.

³¹ Bobby Gilmer Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985), 972–73.

³² 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).

³³ Laurens Co., Will Book D-1: 90, proved 26 October 1812; original copy in loose probate files box 74, pkg. 1.

³⁴ Declaration of applicant, 18 August 1832, Knox County, TN, in Jesse Perry (Pvt., Capt. Wm. Long’s Co, Sumter’s Brigade, S.C.) pension application S3655; imaged in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com> : accessed 4 Nov. 2017), images 27194948, 27194951, 27194957, 27194980, 27194983, 27194986, 27194992. Perry’s affidavit is one of the most detailed I’ve yet to see, although his signature was extremely shaky. He states that he was born 13 March 1755 in Granville Co., NC, and that he had a family Bible that belonged to his father but it burned in “his brother-in-law’s house several years ago.” After the war, he lived in Fairfield until 1806, moved to Duck River in Tennessee until 1812, then moved to his current neighborhood in Knox County.

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

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 Hirons. 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.³⁵

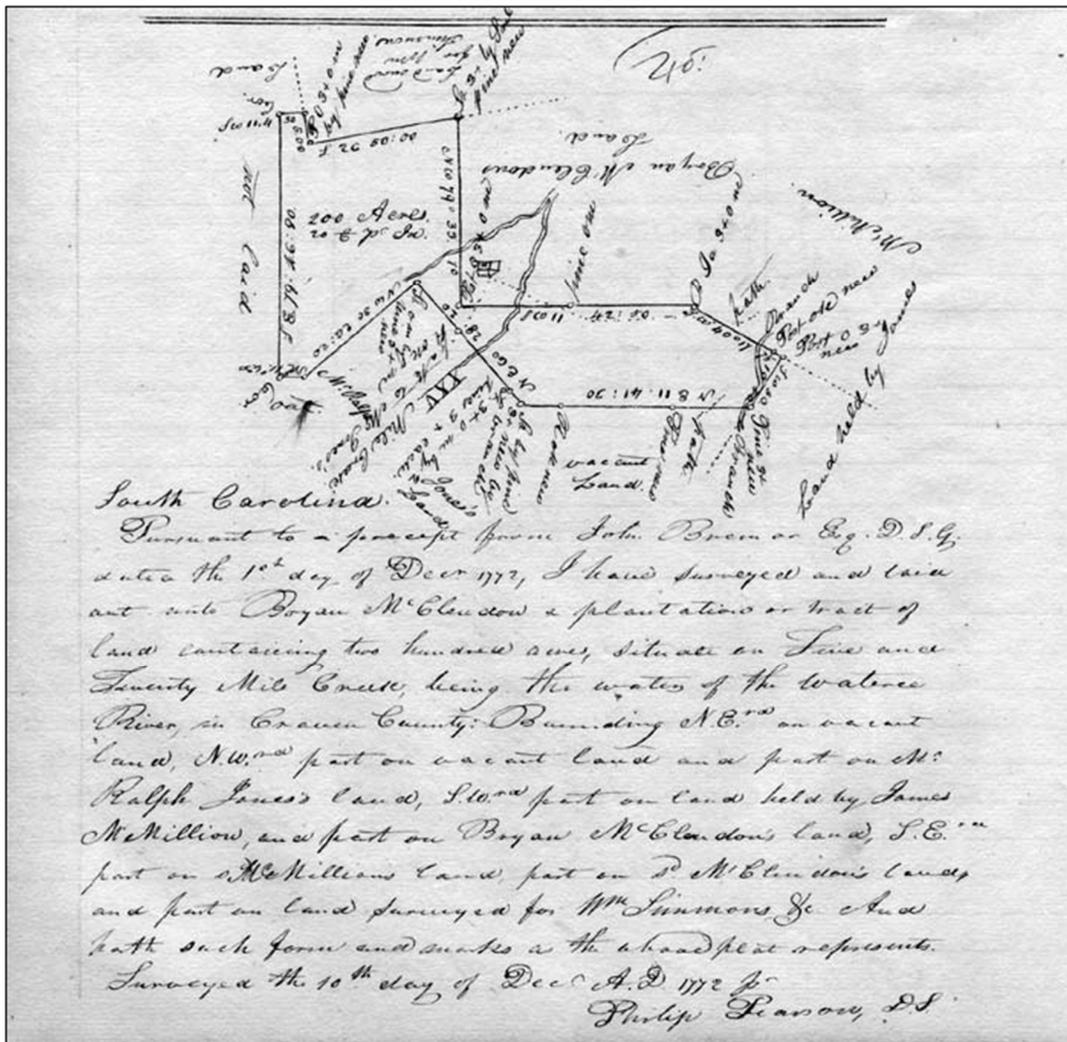
COMMENT:

This grant was surveyed for McClendon in 1772.³⁶ See plat below.

S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series)

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

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³⁵ Fairfield Co., Deed Book I: 415–22.

³⁶ 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).

[Transcript of plat]

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”

The McClendon-Freeman deed of 1779, citing Ralph Jones as an adjacent landowner, also presents a red herring for the identity of this George Watts but provides a needed correction for the activities of Rev. Jones:

Red herring:

Four years after the above deed (November 1783), 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 fifteen years. Two of the fourteen signers were **Ralph Jones** and **John Watts**.³⁷ The close association of Jones with both John Watts (of Wateree Creek) and George Watts (of 25-Mile Creek) suggests a kinship between the two Wattses. The fact that John Watts had a brother George Watts has been proved, but John’s brother George (husband of Barbara Crumpton) is not the George who was Rev. Jones’s neighbor.

Clarification of sites for Ralph Jones’s Meeting House(s):

Of the fourteen signers of that affidavit (ten of whom are repeatedly coupled in records with 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 likelihood that the signers were members of Jones’s congregation. However, all the individuals resided in Central Fairfield, between Dutchman’s Creek and Wateree Creek—not in the 25-Mile Creek area.³⁸ (See maps 1 and 2, appended at end of these research notes.)

Re the location of Ralph Jones’s Meeting House, the standard history of SC 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**.³⁹ 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

³⁷ 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.

³⁸ See Mills, “Frontier Research Strategies.”

³⁹ The Roden (Roaden, Rhoden, etc.) family was connected to John Watts’s family in multiple ways. For example, Thomas Roden was a cosigner of the affidavit with Ralph Jones and John Watts. Jeremiah Roden (Rhoden) married Mary Hornsby, whose brother Moses married John Watts’s daughter Catherine. For more on the Rodens, see McLaurin, “Genealogy Report: Descendants of Leonard Hornsby,” *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/m/c/l/Rex-Mclaurin/GENE1-0003.html>), citing “The actual old 1756 (printed date) Hornsby/Stroud bible ... archived at Winthrop University-Dacus Library (rare books section), Rock Hill, York Co., SC; Winthrop University Manuscripts acc. 1015, box 1, folder 1.”

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

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 1803.⁴⁰

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.⁴¹

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 Wattses who are associated with this church.

1779 The survey plat above 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* in east-central Fairfield would be the site of the church at the time Ralph Jones and John Watts signed the 1783 petition. This is the 1783–90 neighborhood of almost all the signers of Rev. Jones's letter of recommendation for Lt. Goggins.⁴²

1790 The census places Ralph Jones 3 houses from *Francis Kirkland* (husband of Mary Watts and sister of the John Watts who signed the Coggins petition with Rev. Jones).⁴³ This neighborhood coincides with the placement of "Ralph Jones Meeting House" in *Mills's Atlas*, compiled 1815–25, as shown in the snippet below.

5 OCTOBER 1780 CAMDEN DIST., SC

Witness.

Will of **Jacob Perry** (JP, his mark)

Lends to **wife Judith**, his plantation whereon they live, for her to enjoy during his lifetime. 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 & 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 the proceeds divided among children. **Executor: Robert Duke** & Samuel Perry. Signed: Jacob I. P. Perry [*sic*]. **Witnesses: George Watts** & Henry Neal (X his mark).⁴⁴

⁴⁰ Leah Townsend, *South Carolina Baptists, 1670–1805* (1935; reprinted Baltimore: Clearfield, 2003), 147 for the quote; for Jones, also see 140, 145–47.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 144; citing "Crozer MS, p. 30."

⁴² The locations of John Watts's associates and neighbors are developed in E. S. Mills, "Watts: 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; and E. S. Mills, "Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County), Pre-1830," report to file, 27 October 2014. Both are archived at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<http://www.historicpathways.com>) under the "Research Reports" tab. For the 1783 document specifically, see the 17 October report under date of 5 December 1783.

⁴³ This (Rev.) John Watts, his sister Mary (Watts) Kirkland, and their brother George (who by then was living in DeKalb Co., Ga., with his wife Barbara Crumpton), are named as siblings and heirs to Thomas Watts Jr., who died in December 1820 in Richland Dist., SC, just south of 25-Mile Creek. Both John and Thomas Jr. in the 1780s and 1790s owned land between Wateree Creek and Dutchman's Creek, ten or so miles north of George and Ruth's location on 25-Mile Creek. See Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Frontier Research Strategies—Weaving a Web to Snare a Birth Family: John Watts (ca. 1749–ca. 1822), *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 104 (September 2016): 165–90. At the time this article was published, known evidence was insufficient to separate the two George Wattses; I thank Nancy Hoy for providing the 2 March 1812 Fairfield document that has facilitated the separation.

⁴⁴ Kershaw Co., Estate Records, Book A-1: 150, 1780 will of Jacob Perry, with George Watts as witness; probate date not shown.

COMMENT:

There is a noticeable and significant pattern to George's bequests:

- The youngest son (who, in this society, was often expected to remain at home and take care of the widow) was given the plantation and almost all personal property—but would not receive it until the death of the widow.
- All other sons and married daughters received a cow and a calf.
- The youngest daughter, still single and at home, received that cow and calf, but also was promised a bed and furniture and an extra cow and calf—items that the married daughters likely received when they married and started their own homes.
- Only one grandchild is named, even though two sons and two daughters were married with children. That one grandchild received the same bequest that Jacob made to his married sons and daughters.

The bequest to just one grandchild—out of all the grandchildren he had—and the fact that she received a share equal to the married children strongly imply that *she was the daughter and sole heir to another Perry daughter who had predeceased her father.*

If this premise is correct, only one candidate seems to exist for the Watts male who married the unidentified Perry daughter and, before her death, fathered Sarah. In 1762 **William Watts** (son of Edward Sr. of Bedford) was given a warrant to survey 100 acres on a small branch of Jackson's Creek of Little River—a few miles to the west of 25-Mile Creek. The acreage was that of a single man who had no slaves or dependents. He did not then act upon the warrant to have the land surveyed. Instead, he applied for substitute land on the Wateree River adjoining his brothers Thomas and Edward Jr. In 1768, before finalizing the Wateree land title, he changed course again, returned to Little River, renewed the 1762 warrant, had the land surveyed, and got his patent. (His Wateree land was then taken over by his brother Thomas's new son-in-law, Francis Kirkland.)⁴⁵

Thereafter, adjacent tracts on Little River cite "Watts's Branch of Jackson's Creek," indicating that William established a well-recognized presence there. He disappears from Fairfield records during the turmoil of the Revolution but did not sell his land. Nearly 50 years later, on 30 January 1811, he surfaced again in the Fairfield records selling his homestead to William Yarbrough.⁴⁶ Across those decades, he left no known record identifying a wife or children, although censuses of the post-1800 period place unidentified Watts households in his neighborhood, suggesting that he had children in the 1770s. In 1828, one of those younger Watts, under the name "William Watts Jr.," bought land adjacent to William Sr.'s purchaser William Yarbrough.⁴⁷ The implication (which remains to be proved) is that William Sr. did marry and had children. He was in the time and place to have wed another daughter of Jacob Perry.

⁴⁵ For more on this William, see:

- E. S. Mills, "Watts: 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; archived at *Historic Pathways* (<https://historicpathways.com>) under the "Research Reports" tab.
- E. S. Mills, "Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County), Pre-1820," report to file, 27 October 2014; archived at *Historic Pathways*.
- E. S. Mills, "Frontier Research Strategies," 177, 182.

⁴⁶ Fairfield Co., Deed Book U: 4.

⁴⁷ Fairfield Co., Deed Book II (the letters "eye"): 34.

Regarding the identity of Jacob and his wife Judith:

- szimmerman, “Franklin-Gose FamilyTree,” *Ancestry* (http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/19359922/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,” an *Ancestry* database, asserts that **Jacob Perry** of SC married **Judith Hunter** of N.C. in 1753; no evidence is provided.
- None of the trees seen to date assert an identity for the husbands of Jacob and Judith’s married daughters.

1 OCTOBER 1784

COLUMBIA, SC

Acct. Audited Receipt.

“Lib. [Book] M, No. 281

“Issued the first October 1784 to **Mr. George Watts** late private in Barnetts troop, G. Hampton’s regiment, Sumpter’s Brigage [*sic*], State troops for ninety four pounds Sterling being ballance pay and Bounty due him for Services in that troop together with interest thereon from the first April 1782 to date hereof agreeable to resolution of General Assembly of the Eleventh March last.

£86.10.8

Principal 94.9.9

Interest 6.11.7

Compt. Genls. Office. Columbia.

16 May 1853.

“I hereby certify the above to be a true copy from Indent Book M, page 281. Given uner my hand (there being no saeal of office). W. T. Arthur For Compt. Genl.”⁴⁸

COMMENT:

This indent appears in the pension application file of the George Watts of Fairfield, Camden District, who married Barbara Crumpton. **However, the service belongs to the George Watts of Old 96 District. See comment below, at the end of these account-audited documents.** The record is included here for the details it provides—details needed for disambiguating between the three George Wattses in Upcountry South Carolina during the Revolution: two in Fairfield and one in Old 96.

1 APRIL 1785

COLUMBIA, SC

Account audited receipt.

“Lib. O[?] No. 150.

“Issued first April 1785 to me **George Watts**, for twenty-three pounds eighteen Shillings & Six pence Sterling, for a horse lost in 1777, and for eighty days militia duty done in 1782, pr. account audited.

Principal £23.18.6

Interest 1.13.5

COMMENT:

⁴⁸ Filed with 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), image 28052989.

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

The possibility remains that this particular warrant does apply to one of the Fairfield Georges.

No. 15

Compt. Genl's Office

Columbia

16 May 1853

"I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy from Indent Book O, page 150. Given under my hand (there being no seal of office), W. T Arthur, for Compt. Genl."⁴⁹

7 JULY 1785

COLUMBIA, SC

Accounts audited receipt.

"Lib. W. No. 423

"Issued the 7th July 1785 to **George Watts** for forty pounds eight shillings & eleven pence for militia Duty per account audited.

Principal 40. 8.11

Annual Interest 2.16.7

State of South Carolina

To **George Watts** Dr. [Debtor]

Duty pr **Col. Anderson's** Return

Currency 283.2.6

Mg [?] 40.8.11

Recd. 7 July 1785, full satisfaction for the within in an Indent No. 423, Book 2. **Richd. Watts.**

1 April 1786

State of South Carolina

"Gentleman: Please to deliver to Mr. Ricd. Watts my Indent & Indent for Services done the State & Returnd. by **Col. Robert Anderson** & in so doing Gentleman you will much oblige, yours. **George Watts**

"I do hereby certify that I see the above named George Watts 'assign' his name to this order this 17 day of April 1786. **Robert Gillam, J.P.**"

16 May 1853

"Compt. Genl's Office. Columbia, So. Carolina. I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy from Indent Book W, page 423 & also of the account &c upon which said Indent was issued. Given under my hand 16 May 1853 (there being no seal of office), W. T. Arthur, For Compt. Genl."⁵⁰

COMMENT:

While none of these records appear to apply to George of Twenty-Five Mile Creek, I am including them here in his summary—with commentary—to address questions that might be raised by other researchers wondering why these records should not be assigned to George.

These indents of July 1785 and April 1786 appear in the pension application file of George Watts, son of Thomas of Kershaw and Fairfield, Camden District (the George who married Barbara

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid., images 28052996, 28052999.

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

Crumpton). As with the indent of 1 October 1784, **the service belongs to the George Watts of Old 96 District**. Both positive and negative evidence supports this conclusion:

- George Watts of Fairfield identified completely the officers under which he served—in two different affidavits. He claimed no service under Col. Robert Anderson or Gen. Hampton.
- Old 96 District was subdivided postwar into Newberry and Laurens Counties. Four years after the 1786 document above, the J.P. **Robert Gillam** was enumerated in what is now Newberry County; the George (of this service) fell into Laurens where he is enumerated in 1790 and died in 1812 leaving a will that named his son Richard.⁵¹
- Hundreds of hours of research in the published and unpublished records of Old Camden District have yielded no Richard Watts in the Watts cluster to which either of the Fairfield Georges belonged; indeed no trace of a Richard Watts has been found in Camden District.

Stub indents unrelated to the pension applicant do occasionally appear in pension files. Typically, the irrelevant material is introduced when a pension applicant wrote the Comptroller General's office and asked for a copy of audited receipts for a certain name. If the inquirer did not supply details as to units, officers, etc., the CG's office made copies of whatever documents they had for that name. In this case, George and Barbara's son Edward, eighteen years after George's death, attempted to get a children's pension, needed proof that his father was not there to supply, and wrote the South Carolina Comptroller to see what indents existed under the name "George Watts."

25 JANUARY 1786

FAIRFIELD CO., SC

Court Minutes.

"Ordered to proceed in calling over the Docket. **George Watts** vs. Dicksey Ward. Default.⁵²

COMMENT:

This George should be George of Twenty-Five Mile Creek—the neighborhood of Dicksey Ward. Under 11 December 1832, below, see the Lewis Perry estate record that provides a fuller view of the kinship web within that community.⁵³

25 JANUARY 1786

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

"Pursuant to a Warrant from John Winn Esqr C.L. [Commissioner of Locations] 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."⁵⁴

⁵¹ Laurens Co., Will Book D-1: 90, proved 26 October 1812; original copy in loose probate files box 74, pkg. 1.

⁵² Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 13.

⁵³ Fairfield Co., Will Book 11, 1826–1837: 58.

⁵⁴ Fairfield Co., Plat Book C: 14.

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

George Watts.⁵⁷ Again in 1797, when Daugherty's son and heir, Capt. Samuel Daugherty (see landowner at top of plat above) sold his father's land, the witnesses were **George Watts** and **Aaron Duke**. As shown under dates of 23 August 1786 and 12 March 1792, John Dougherty also was closely associated with the Wateree Creek community that was home to the offspring of Thomas and Sarah (Mills) Watts—i.e., John, Thomas Jr., William, and the George Watts who married Barbara Crumpton.

- **Joseph Bradley**, the next neighbor, also appears on Jesse Perry's plat. (On the Milling plat, above, Jesse Perry's small tract would be to the right of Bradley. He goes unmentioned on this plat, apparently because his sliver of land was so small and space at that corner of the plat is tight.
- **John Wilson**, whose land lies between Bradley and "Waites's,"⁵⁸ appears with **George Watts** in several documents that are abstracted or transcribed in both this set of research notes and my previously cited report of 17 October 2014. Wilson does not appear to be the husband of Ruth's sister "Mary Wilson" (cited in the 1780 will of their father Jacob Perry), because John Wilson's will that George Watts witnessed on 23 December 1799 (see that date below), named John's wife as Rebeccah.⁵⁹

23 AUGUST 1786

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Survey.

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), *J. Dougherty* (on NW).⁶⁰

COMMENT:

See, below, the survey plat for these 92 acres.

Charles Pickett was a neighbor of John Watts and a neighborhood J.P. whose services were frequently used not only by John but also his father Thomas Sr., his brother Thomas Jr., and their brother William—all landholders between Wateree Creek and Dutchman's Fork, several miles above 25-Mile Creek.

This survey plat (image below) places Pickett as adjacent landowner to the Doughertys who were associates of the George Watts of 25-Mile Creek. *John Dougherty's* land was inherited by Samuel Dougherty. When Samuel sold it in 1797, witnesses were **Rhodia Dougherty**, **George Watts**, and **Aaron Duke**.⁶¹

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,

⁵⁷ Kershaw Co., Deeds A (1789–1800): 39; FHL microfilm 024,044, item 1.

⁵⁸ Kershaw Co., "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.

⁵⁹ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online_archives/; accessed 7 October 2014), "Wilson John of Fairfield County ... Fairfield District Estate Record Book, Vol. 3, page 14; estate packet: File 7, Pkg. 233"; image of WPA-era transcript cited as "S108093: South Carolina Will Transcripts (Microcopy No 9)."

⁶⁰ Camden District, 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.

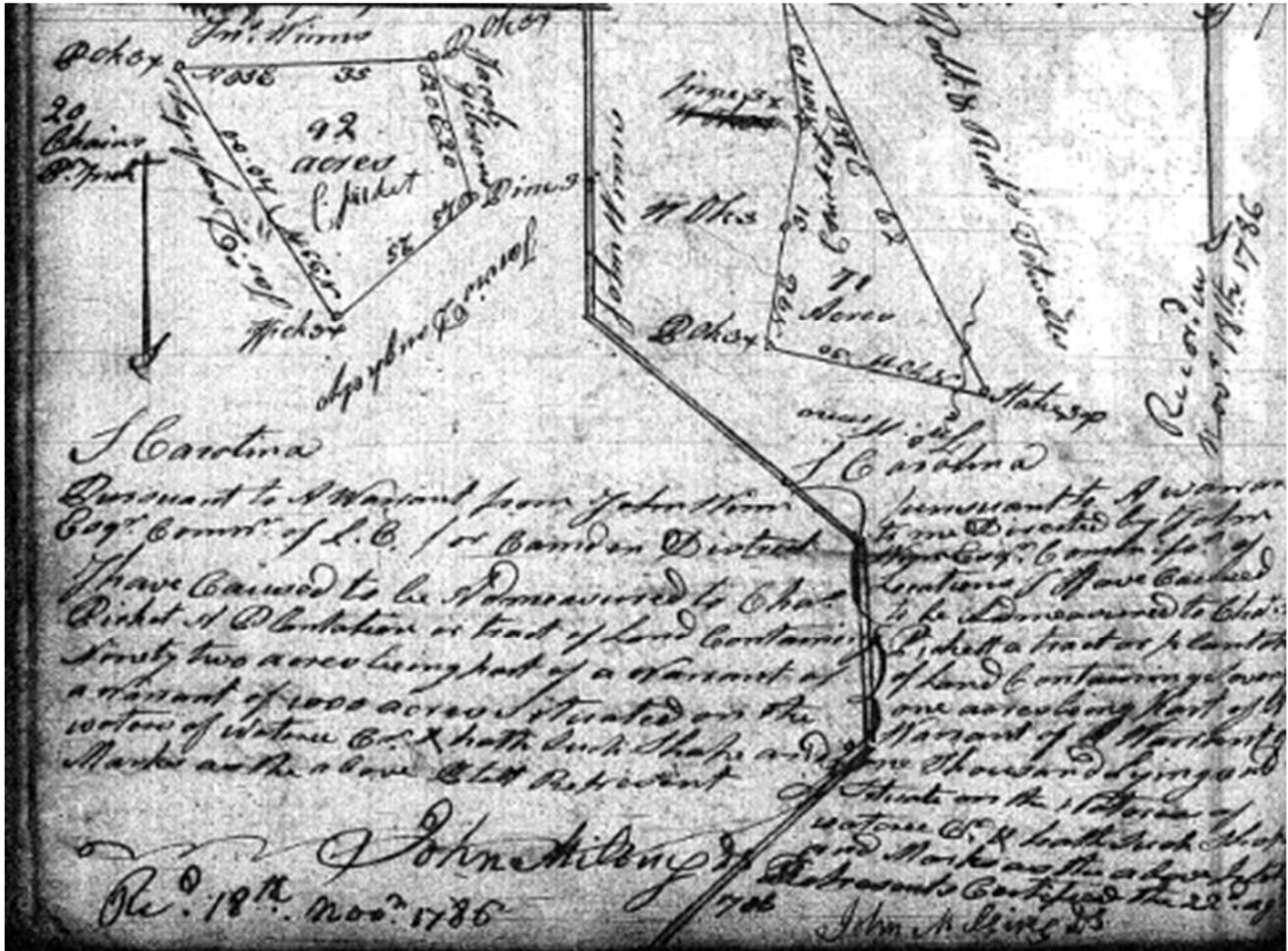
⁶¹ Kershaw Co., Deeds E (1805–08): 18–19; FHL microfilm 024,025 [24,045?], item 2.

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

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 (putative brother of Moses Hornsby who married ca. 1789 to the daughter of John Watts of Wateree Creek).⁶²

Charles Pickett Survey, 1786



AUGUST 1790–FALL 1791

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Census.

Background: The official census date was the 1st Monday in October 1790, but the final copy was not completed until August 1792. Page 130 of the census begins with certifications by the census officials, including these statements:

⁶² "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). For William Hornsby as older brother of Moses Hornsby who married Catherine Watts, daughter of John, 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).

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

14 June 1792 “Before John Winn, Esqr. Personally appeared Martyn Atken and made oath that he received from James Craig a Copy of a return of the number of Inhabitants in Camden District assigned by James Craig and John Gray, assistants to the Marshall of the State aforesaid, which said Copy he put up in the Town of Columbia **some time last fall**. Sworn to **June 14th 1792**. Martyn Atken.”

4 August 1792. David Evans, Clerk of Fairfield County, attested that he posted a copy, signed by James Craige and John Gray, Assistants to the Federal Marshal of S.C., “upon the Court-House Door in Winnsborough. Done before J. W. Yongue, J.P.

Overview:

p. 150	Moses Hornsbie	[Hornsby branch, Wateree Cr.; son-in-law of John Watts]
p. 156	John & Thomas Watts	[Wateree Creek down to Dutchman’s Creek]
p. 167	Edward Watts , Senr.	[Little River, brother of Thomas Sr. of Wateree River]
p. 170	George Watts	[25-Mile Creek neighborhood]
Missing:	Thomas Watts, Senr. George Watts, son of Thomas William Watts, br of Thos & Edw.	

(p. 170)

George Watts	2 males 16+	[George & James]
	2 males –16	[Jacob & Moses]
	5 females ⁶³	[Ruth, Judith, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Patience]

NEIGHBORHOOD

(p. 169)	David Dunn	John Kelly
John Walker	Daniel O Harkins	George Watts
Reuben Johnson	James Hoy	John Stewart
Samuel PERRY	Quintin Hoy	Samuel Duke
Moses Duke	Jesse Simonds	John Sims
(p. 170)	John Swett	Wm. Randolph
Lewis PERRY	James Wilson	John Wooten
Jesse WILSON	Thomas Duke	Benjn. Hodge
Randolph Simonds	Robert Duke	James Pierson
Jacob Lewis	Aaron Wooten	Andw. Spradley
Jesse PERRY	Moses Wooten	Joseph Sims

COMMENT:

- George’s purchase of land for his son James in 1792 suggests that James was approaching adulthood, tagging him as the second male over 16 above.⁶⁴ The number and gender of individuals in the household also corresponds to known data for George and Ruth. The household composition does not match that of George and Barbara Crumpton.
- Benjamin Freeman, who married George and Ruth’s daughter Judith, does not appear as a head-of-household on this census because he was still an unmarried minor. Under 24 June 1795, below, see the convoluted proceedings by which he in 1793 had attempted to sell his inherited land to George Watts for the benefit of George’s oldest son James—a sale that was not legal because he was then under age.

⁶³ 1790 U.S census, Fairfield Dist., SC, p. 150.

⁶⁴ Fairfield Co., Will Book 11, 1826–1837: 67–68.

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

- The absence from this “1790” census of the slightly younger George Watts and his wife Barbara Crumpton suggests a time frame for their removal from Fairfield to Pendleton. As shown above, the first draft of Fairfield’s census of 1790 was not ready for public posting until “sometime in the fall” of 1791. The Pendleton census was taken in March–May 1791 and certified on 20 May 1791.⁶⁵

1792

FAIRFIELD CO., SC

Tax List.

Watts, Edward	24 acres, state tax	0 acres, county tax	
Weaver, Morris	250 acres, state tax	250 acres, county tax	1-1 poll
Walker, Andrew	200 acres, state tax	0 acres, county tax	1-0
Wells, Thomas	100 acres, state tax	0 acres, county tax	
Waugh, Samuel	150 acres, state tax	0 acres, county tax	1-0
Watts, George	200 acres, state tax	200 acres, county tax	
Wooten, Aaron	100 acres, state tax	100 acres, county tax	
Wilson, Jesse	100 acres, state tax	0 acres, county tax	
Wilson, Robert	250 acres, state tax	250 acres, county tax	1-1
Watts, Edward	100 acres, state tax	100 acres county tax	
[skip 35 “W” entries]			
Watts, William	[son of Thomas Sr.]	93 acres, county tax ⁶⁶	

COMMENT:

The only George Watts for whom land has been documented in Fairfield is the George of 25-Mile Creek. The fact that George above is charged for no poll suggests one of three things: (1) he is an absentee landowner; (2) he is past the poll age; or (3) he is an invalid who has requested exemption from paying the poll. With regard to Possibility 2, South Carolina’s 1790 Constitution does not put a maximum age for the payment of poll tax. Nor does it set forth any occupational exemptions from the poll tax.⁶⁷

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**.⁶⁸

COMMENT:

The identity of this George who is associated with Dukes and Dougherty (here, above, and below) remains ambiguous. Consider the following:

- In 1785, Thomas Duke and wife Mary of Fairfield sold land to John Ellison, the 1790 “next door neighbor” of Moses Hornsby—son-in-law of John Watts of Wateree Creek. Witnesses

⁶⁵ 1790 U.S. census, Pendleton Dist., p. 15 (verso).

⁶⁶ Tony Draine and Edd Bannister, *Fairfield County, SC, Tax Returns, 1792* (Columbia, SC: Draban Publications, ca.1991).

⁶⁷ “South Carolina—Key State Documents: South Carolina Constitution of 1790,” J. D. Lewis, *Carolana* (http://www.carolana.com/SC/Documents/sc_constitution_1790.html): accessed 20 November 2017), HTML transcript.

⁶⁸ Kershaw Co., Deeds A (1789–1800): 39; FHL microfilm 024,044, item 1.

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

were 1790 neighbors of John Watts.⁶⁹

- **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. The Perry connection suggests the George who was John Dougherty's close associate was the George of 25-Mile Creek.
- On 23 August 1786 **Charles Pickett** (1790 neighbor of John Watts of Wateree Creek) received a land grant adjacent to **John 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.

23 MAY 1792

FAIRFIELD CO., SC

"Bright Bay Horse. Near 12 years old, 13½ 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. Tolloed before *Zach. Kirkland, J.P.*

14 January 1793, £1.1.6 Sam Croslin."⁷⁰

COMMENT:

In 1779 George of 25-Mile Creek appeared before Zachariah Kirkland, J.P., to witness a sale of land on 25-Mile Creek; in 1792, he made an attestation regarding that land before Zachariah Kirkland, J.P. The George of this estray record should also be 25-Mile George.

JANUARY 1793

FAIRFIELD CO., SC

Court minutes.

"John Wilson vs. **George Watts** & Daniel Williams. Debt. Discontinued."⁷¹

14 JUNE 1793

FAIRFIELD CO., SC

Court minutes.

"John Wilson vs. **Geo^e Watts** & Danl. Williams. Debt. Jud^t. Considered by George Watts according to Specialty."⁷²

5 FEBRUARY 1793

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Witness.

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.⁷³

COMMENT:

⁶⁹ Fairfield Co., Deed Book B: 152–55.

⁷⁰ Fairfield Dist., "Record of Estrays, 1788–1799," unnumbered page, entries in chronological order.

⁷¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 74.

⁷² Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 83.

⁷³ Fairfield Co., Deed Book H: 112–13.

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

The possibility exists that this document was witnessed by George-of-Thomas Watts, husband of Barbara Crumpton, considering that

- Little Cedar Creek and Big Cedar Creek lay in South-central Fairfield, about 5 miles to the west of George and Ruth's location on 25-Mile Creek and about 10 miles east of William Watts's location on Jackson's Creek of Little River.
- 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**, whose brother George married Barbara Crumpton.

18 JUNE 1793

FAIRFIELD CO., SC

Court Minutes.

"State vs. Eliz^h **Watts**, Geo^e **Watts**, Jesse **Perry**. Recognizances forfeited scire facias to issue."⁷⁴

COMMENT:

- Unlike most court cases, this one does not state the charge—not in this court order or the subsequent one in January 1795. The typical reason why a female was charged as the main party in a suit, with two males in a supporting role, is a bastardy case for which the first male posted bond to ensure that the child would not become a public charge and the second acted as surety on the bond.
- In these cases, the man who posted the bond was commonly a father or brother. The George Watts who married Barbara Crumpton did have a sister Elizabeth, but she was at the time married to Richard Duggans.⁷⁵ It is more likely that Elizabeth of this 1793 record was the daughter of 25-Mile George.

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: *Dyxia [Dixcy] Ward*, Peter Crim, John Crim.⁷⁶ 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 and Barbara (Crumpton) Watts, according to the pension affidavit of their son Edward, had a daughter "Sally" who married a Turner; but that marriage occurred after that removal to Pendleton. *Meanwhile, Dixcy Ward and the Dukes were also neighbors of George & Ruth Watts of 25-Mile Creek.*

⁷⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 87.

⁷⁵ 1800 U.S. census, Fairfield Co., p. 239 (verso), line 6, shows the widowed Betty Duggans, age 45+ with children described as 1 female 16–26, 2 females 10–16, 1 male 10–16, and 2 males 0–10, living next door to her widowed sister Mary Kirkland.

⁷⁶ Kershaw Co., Deeds B (1791–96): 386; FHL microfilm 024,044, item 2.

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

- Re *Crim*: Samuel Dougherty, son of John and Judith, left a will naming his common-law wife as Judith *Crim*. See abstract under 18 December 1797, below.

5 MAY 1794

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

Benjamin Freeman of Fairfield to James Laughon of same, for 30£ sterling cash in hand, sells land in Laughon's actual possession by virtue of a one-year lease "bearing date the day next before the day of the date hereof," being "all that plantation or Tract of Land containing one hundred acres be the more or less, Situate in Fairfield County on the head of **Twenty five mile Creek** of the Wateree River, Bounding at the time of the survey all sides on Vacant land originally granted Bryant McClendon ... 10th day of January ... 1771, ... recorded in the secretaries' office at Charleston in Book GGG page 78...." Signed: Benjⁿ Freeman." Witnesses: Nimrod Smith, Charles McDaniel.⁷⁷

COMMENT:

Benjamin is now of age and possibly already married to Sarah Watts, daughter of George and Ruth. No wife participated in this sale. However, he sold it under a deed of lease and release, a document that did not require a wife's participation. One cue to the type of document is the peculiar language of the phrase beginning with "bearing date ... ," which purports to explain why Laughon was already in possession of this land. Under a lease-and-release agreement (a contrivance that originated under English common law to evade paying taxes on a sale), on "Day 1" the seller would "lease" the property to the buyer for a specified term such as one year or ninety-nine years, in exchange for a token payment such as a grain of corn. On "Day 2" (usually the next day), the buyer would "release" the purchaser from the obligation to return the land at the end of the lease. The consideration shown for the release (30£ above) would be the value of the land. In Fairfield, we often see the *release* recorded (under that term) but not the earlier *lease*.

JULY 1794

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Court minute.

"James Hanna vs **George Watts**. S.P. Decree for Eight pounds with interest from the 10th June 1792, the note cost by D. Brown Esqr."⁷⁸

COMMENT:

I have not yet associated these two men (Hannah and Brown) with George Watts of 25-Mile Creek, suggesting that the record may relate to the younger George-of-Thomas who married Barbara Crumpton.

1 SEPTEMBER 1794

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

Benjamin Freeman of Fairfield to Charles McDaniel of the same, for 50£ sterling, sale by lease and release of 200 acres situate on **Twenty-Five Mile Creek**, waters of the Wateree River, "bounding NE on vacant land NW on vacant land and part on Ralph Jones's land, SW partly on land held by James

⁷⁷ Fairfield Co., Deed Book I: 422–23.

⁷⁸ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 105.

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

McMillion and part by Bryant McClendon's land, and SE partly on McMillian's land and partly on McClendon's land, and part on land surveyed for William Simmons. Grant dated 23 June 1774, recorded in the Secretaries' Office [in Charleston] in book B222, page 657 [659?]." Signed Benjⁿ Freeman. Witnesses: Nimrod Mitchel, James his mark ++ Laughon. Proved 14 February 1795 by James Laughon before John Wilson, J.P.⁷⁹

24 JUNE 1795

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land purchase.

"The titles made by **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 Laughon*—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)." Signed: *John Wilson, J.P.*

17 July 1795. "Charles McDanial" appeared before "John Willson Esqr" to prove the validity of the two documents executed on 24 June. Recorded [illegible date] 1807.⁸⁰

COMMENT:

- The fact that George is acting for his son, without mention of any power of attorney, implies that son James is still a minor.
- The identity of Benjamin's guardian and the administrator of his father's estate is ambiguous above, but appears to be Charles McDonnell.
- This proved son James Watts is critical to the identification of the children of George and Ruth Watts. The 1832 "Summons in Partition" to James's "heirs and representatives" does not cite any relationships. Research on each named individual indicates that, agewise, they all fall within James's own generation. If he died without a wife and children, then the heirs named in that document should be his siblings. Under common law, the heirs of a childless and unmarried man who died intestate were his siblings or (if dead) their offspring. Parents and other kin were not heirs unless he left a will with specific bequests to them.
- This is the last known record for Benjamin Freeman in Fairfield. Apparently he and his new wife Sarah Watts left Fairfield at this time.

JULY 1795

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Court Minutes.

"State vs. **Elizabeth Watts** et alias [and others—i.e., George Watts and Jesse Perry]. Sci Fa. Judgement on recognizance."⁸¹

⁷⁹ Fairfield Co., Deed Book I: 424–46.

⁸⁰ Fairfield Co., Deed Book R: 107; FHL microfilm 23,995 (Deeds R, 1807–9, to T).

COMMENT:

I have found no further commentary on this case in these minutes and no further action in subsequent court sessions.

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.⁸²

COMMENT;

The J.P. John Wilson appears in several earlier documents with George Watts of 25-Mile Creek, including one in which he sued George.

4 MAY 1796
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC
Estray record.

“Red Cow & Yearling. Neither marked nor Branded, the Cow about 8 years old, Valued at £1.17.4 by **Geo. Watts, Aaron Dukes & Rob. H. Hughes** before **J. Wilson, Esqr., J.P.** Tolded by **Moses Dukes**. July 1797 Sold John Wilson Junr. [Senr.?] for £203.⁸³

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 1797.⁸⁴

COMMENT:

- This is the third time that one of the Georges is coupled with an Elizabeth Watts. On the prior occasions, 1793 and 1795, 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.⁸⁵
- This document suggests that Elizabeth was born by 1776.

18 DECEMBER 1797
FAIRFIELD & KERSHAW CO., SC
Witness.

⁸¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 114.

⁸² Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book K: 235–35.

⁸³ Fairfield Co., SC, Record of Estrays, 1788–89, no visible page number, entries in chronological sequence.

⁸⁴ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book K: 413–14.

⁸⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 87.

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

Samuel Dougherty of Kershaw to *George Harbson*, 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 [land] originally granted unto **John Dougherty** ...” 18 May 1763. Signed: Saml. Daughtery. Rhodia Dougherty (X her mark.) Witnesses: **George Watts**, Charles Harkins, **Aaron Duke**.⁸⁶

COMMENT:

- This would be the land that was formerly in SE Fairfield, above 25-Mile Creek. When Kershaw was created, it took in a sizable block west of the Wateree that had formerly been southeastern Fairfield County.
- 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.⁸⁷
- 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.]
- Samuel’s will of 1810 names [common-law] wife Rhody (“formerly Rhody Crim”), sister Judith “formerly Judith Frost” [see 1800 census below], and Judith’s son John Frost.⁸⁸

23 DECEMBER 1799

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Witness.

Will of **John Wilson** of Fairfield, weak in body but sound of mind. Witnessed by **George Watts**, Randal (x) Simmons and Patrick (x) Marvin. A long and complex document leaving much land and slaves, and some token bequests, to family members identified as wife Rebechah, son James, son Theophilus, son Jesse, daughter Susanah Rush, daughter Martha Norris, son Jack, grandson William Wilson (son of John Wilson), grandson James Wilson, grandson John Norris, daughter Mary Laughon, and son William Willson. Mentions land he purchased from James Freeman (former owner of James Watts’s land), a slave bought from “Old Captain Kirkland,” and various other slaves.

COMMENT:

The original of this document needs to be obtained to compare the George Watts signature with that of the 1802 petition below.

1800

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Census.

[25-Mile Creek area]⁸⁹

Judith Frost

[skip 8 houses]

George Watts

1 male	45+	[George]	1 female	45+	[Ruth]
2 males	16-25	[James, Jacob]	1 female	26-45	[Judith]

⁸⁶ Kershaw Co., Deed Book E (1805–08): 18–19; FHL microfilm 024,025 [24,045?], item 2.

⁸⁷ Fairfield Co., Estate Book C: 122–23.

⁸⁸ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/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.

⁸⁹ 1800 U.S. census, Fairfield Co., SC, pp. 34–37, especially p. 35 for George Watts.

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

1 male 10-15 [Moses]
1 male 0-10 [Jonathan?]

1 female 16-25 [Elizabeth?]
1 female 10-15 [Patience?]
5 females 0-10 [unknown]
[possibly one of these unknown was
Elizabeth's apparent child of 1793]

Francis Miles
William Miles
Joel Dunn
Aaron Outen
Patrick Mirvin
John Simmons
[skip 15]

Moses Dukes

Aaron Dukes

Edward Simms
Nancy Hatcher
Johnson Atkins
Ann Doude
Edward Grimes
Robert Love
Stafford Grimes
Sampson Taylor

Eliza Dukes

Samuel Perry

Judith Doherty

Rebeckah Wilson

1 JANUARY 1802

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

“Description: Perry, Lemuel, plat for 500 acres on **25 Mile Creek**, Fairfield District, surveyed by Adam McWillie.

Names indexed: **Dukes, Elizabeth**; McWillie, Adam; *Perry, Lemuel*; *Perry, Lewis*, **Watts, Moses**.

Locations: Fairfield District, 25 Mile Creek.⁹⁰

1 DECEMBER 1802

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Petition.

“To the Honorable the Speakers of the house of representatives for State of South Carolina —

“The Honorable petition or Sundry Inhabitantsof this District of Fairfield —

“Worthy Sirs, your humble petitioners lay before you a grievance, we Labour under and have for many years past that is for want of the line being made out that Divides Fairfield and Kershaw Districts—for the want of the Same Some many persons Deny Mustering or doing any Duty in either of the Districts. Gentlemen we hope your honour will please to Order the Same Line Completed &c. Dec^{br} 1st 1802.

⁹⁰South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images ([http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online archives/](http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online%20archives/) : accessed 7 October 2014), “Perry, Lemuel”; citing Series S213182, Vol. 0038, Page 00643; Item 002.

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

[Signed] Alexr. Crumpton, Patrick Norris, **Geo. Watts**, Joⁿ Gregg, Thomas Mitchel, Theophilus Wilson, Samuel Laidhon[?], Daniel ___le.⁹¹

1802-37-01

To the Honorable the Speaker of the house of
representatives for State of South Carolina

The Humble petition of ^{Inhabitants} ~~the~~ ~~the~~
District of Fairfield

Writing Sir, your humble petitioners lay before you
and shew, we Labour under and have for
many years past that is for want of the
line being made but that Districts Fairfield
and Keyhouse Districts as for the want of
the same Done many persons being suffering
or doing any Duty in either of the Districts
Gentlemen we hope your honours will please
to order the same Line completed &c

Dec^r 5th 1782

Alex^r Crumpton
Patrick Norris
Joⁿ Gregg
Thomas Mitchel
Theophilus Wilson
Samuel Laidhon
Daniel ___le

39-1

COMMENT:

The George who affixed his signature to this document would appear to be George of 25-Mile Creek—the affected region. The younger George (married to Barbara Crumpton) had already left Fairfield and were enumerated in Pendleton in both 1800 and 1810.

However, note that the first signer of this petition was Alexander Crumpton, brother to Barbara Crumpton who married the younger George Watts.⁹²

⁹¹ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database with images ([http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online archives/](http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online%20archives/) : accessed 7 October 2014), Inhabitants of Fairfield District, Pentition"; citing "S165015: Petitions to the General Assembly.

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

The number of overlapping associates between these two Georges (Crumplers, Dohertys, the Rev. Jones, etc.) adds to the implication that the two Georges are part of the same extended family.

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*.⁹³

COMMENT:

- 25-Mile Creek straddled both sides of Wateree River. As a result of multiple county-boundary changes, much of this creek was at this time in Kershaw County. George's land appears to have been far enough westward (toward William Watts of Jackson Creek of Little River) that he remained in Fairfield.
- McClendon, the original grantee, had sold his property to Frederick Freeman in 1779, with George Watts as witness.⁹⁴ In 1792 and 1795, George would purchase a tract of the Freeman land for his son James. (See above under date of 24 June 1795.)

7 NOVEMBER 1808

FAIRFIELD CO., SC

Witness.

"Found in Hollingsworth Genealogical Card File on microfilm. Deed of Gift, Fairfield district, SC. 11-7-1808, by **Lewis Duke** for 'natural love & good will' to 'my natural born sons **Enoch Duke and Darling Duke**.' 50 acres on **25 Mile Creek** adj. **Moses Duke** & Edward Sims. Also 40 bu. corn; 1 bay stud 3 yrs. old; two cows & 'all my household furniture that are now at present in my dwelling house.'" Wit: **Geo. Watts**, Edward Sims. Recorded 7-13-1818. Deed Book Z, p. 374."⁹⁵

1810

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Census.

[25-Mile Creek area]⁹⁶

John Duke

John Turner [Justice of the peace used by brothers George, Thomas & William Watts in 1790s]

Elisha Jones [Elijah Jones, 4 houses from George & Ruth in 1800, married to their daughter]

John Outen

Aaron Outen Jr. [3 houses from George in 1800]

Stephen Smith [close neighbor in 1800]

⁹² *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online_archives/ : accessed 7 October 2014), "Crumpton, Henry of Fairfield ... Fairfield District Estate Record Book C, vol. 5, page 182; Estate Packet File 11, pkg. 77"; image of WPA-era transcript cited as "S108093: South Carolina Will Transcripts (Microcopy No 9)."

⁹³ Fairfield Co., Deed Book R: 108.

⁹⁴ Fairfield Co., Deed Book I: 4 15–22.

⁹⁵ Joe Lineberger, *Data Abstracts of the South Carolina Duke(s) Families* (<http://genealogy.ztlcox.com/~xcc2all/scduke/jlscdata.html> : accessed 24 June 2015).

⁹⁶ 1810 U.S. census, Fairfield Co., SC, p. 588.

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

Elijah Jones
John Neely
John Simmons
Meredith Taylor
John Henson
Rody Doude

[Dougherty?]

George Watts	1 male	45+	[George]	1 female	45+	[Ruth]
	2 males	16-25	[Moses & Jonathan?]	1 female	16-25	[Elizabeth?]
				1 female	10-15	[E’s child?]

COMMENT:

Re the composition of George’s household.

- James, the oldest son, has been a nearby landowner since 1793, but he does not appear on this census. Unmarried adult children, in this era, did commonly live at home. If James *is* still his age is underestimated by some ten years.
- Jacob also does not appear. If he is the Jacob who married Permelia Hollingsworth, then he has left home and begun his own family. Descendants of that couple have not identified an 1810 location for the couple, but the name of Permelia’s father (Isaac Hollingsworth) appears on this 1810 census in two counties adjacent to Fairfield: Abbeville and Union.
- The 5 female children shown for George in 1800 (all aged 0–10) are almost all missing, reduced now to just one female child born during that 1790–1800 decade. Note, however, the emergence of a new adult female of the Watts surname, with 5 children, 3 houses below George:

Jane McReight	[1832 heir of Lewis Perry]					
David Dunn	[1832 heirs of Lewis Perry included Dunn’s wife; they were also neighbors in 1800]					
Mary Watts	1 male	10-16		1 female	26-45	
	2 males	16-25		1 female	10-16	
				1 female	0-10	

John Wilson [possibly this is the John J. Wilson who married George’s daughter Patience.]

COMMENT:

Judging from the household entry above, “Mary Watts” was either a widow or a single woman who had a prior union with someone she could not marry. Prior to this, no other Mary Watts has been placed in Fairfield, aside from Thomas Watts Sr.’s much older daughter Mary, the widow of Francis Kirkland. The 1832 estate summons for heirs of Lewis Perry names “Mary Watts” as one of those heirs. While Lewis Perry had a sister named Mary, identified in their father’s will of 1780 as *Mary Wilson*, the Mary Watts above is too young to be Lewis’s sister. She should be the daughter of a deceased brother—seemingly Samuel Perry. Lewis’s other brother Jesse was still alive (living in Tennessee) at this time at the time of the 1832 settlement of Lewis’s estate.

Note that two other heirs of Lewis Perry, Jane McReight and the wife of the David Dunn (who are also too young to be Lewis’s sisters) are next door neighbors to Mary Watts above. No will has been found for Samuel, naming his children.

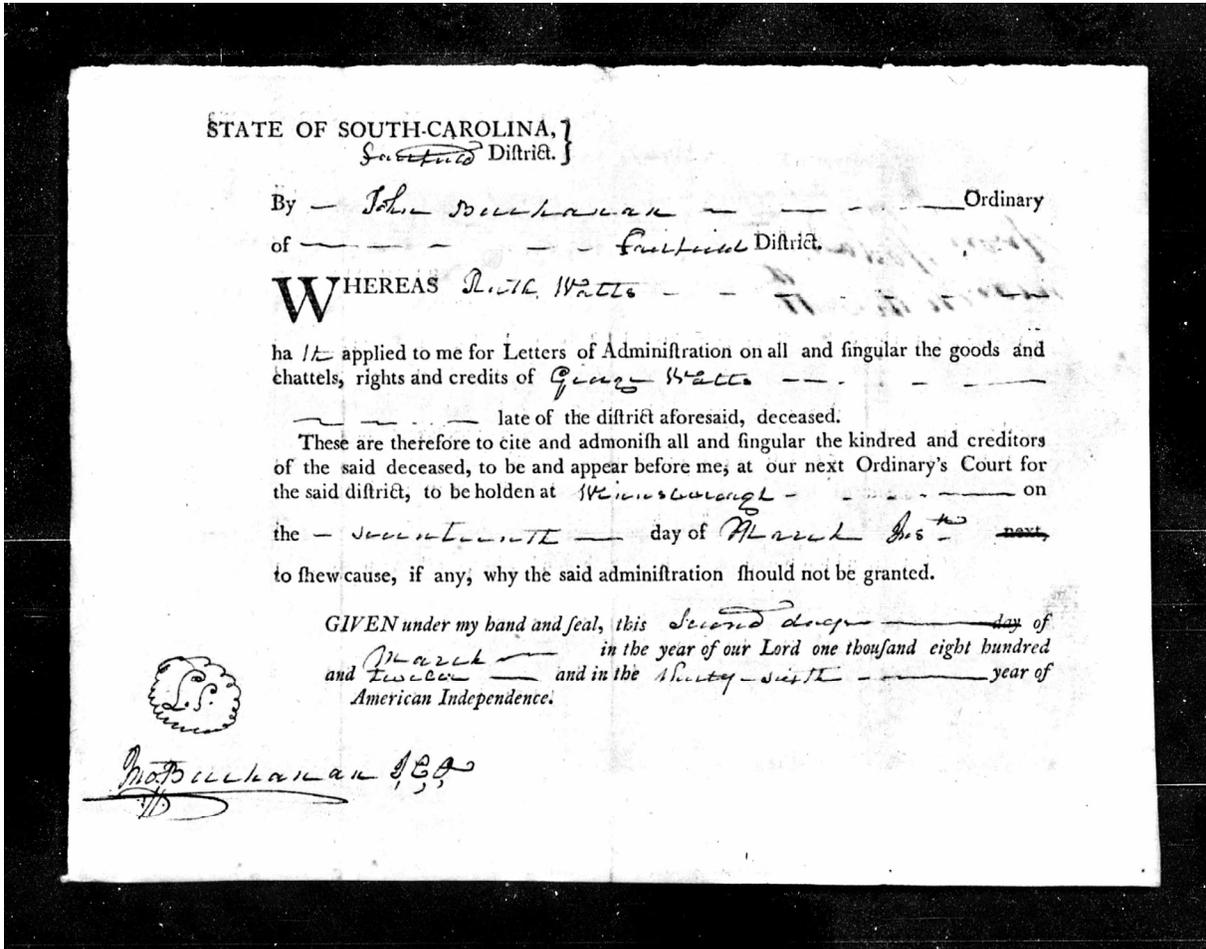
George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)
Wife: Ruth Perry

2 MARCH 1812
FAIRFILED COUNTY, SC

Summons

“By John Buchanan, Ordinary of Fairfield District. Whereas **Ruth Watts** hath applied to me for Letters of Administration on all and singular the goods and chattels, rights and credits of **George Watts**, late of the district aforesaid, deceased. These are therefore to cite and admonish all and singular the kindred and creditors of the said deceased, to be and appear before me, at our next Ordinary’s Court for the said district, to be holden at Winnsborough on the seventeenth day of March Inst., to shew cause, if any, why the said administration should not be granted.

“Given under my hand and seal, this second day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve and in the thirty-sixth year of American Independence. [Signed] Jno. Buchanan, J,F,D,”⁹⁷



⁹⁷ Image copy provided 19 November 2017 by Nancy Hoy, co-administrator of the Fairfield County DNA project, citing Fairfield Co. probate records, file 34, package 546, George Watts. Mrs. Hoy states that this is the only record in the file.

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)

Wife: Ruth Perry

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.⁹⁸

COMMENT:

- The Wattses named as sellers in this deed are the children and heirs of Edward Watts Jr. of Little River (brother of Thomas Watts Sr. of the Wateree).⁹⁹
- This 1815 witness George Watts cannot be the George who married Ruth, given that Ruth requested administration on the estate of George Watts on 2 March 1812.
- Possibly, this is the George who married Barbara Crumpton. Between 1810 and 1818, that couple moved from Pendleton (above Fairfield) down to Richland District, just below the 25-Mile Creek area, as evident from this document:

23 DECEMBER 1818

PENDLETON DIST., SC

Witness.

“**George Watts** {or Wats} (**Richland Dist, SC**) to my son **Thomas Watts**; for regard gave 138.75 ac on waters of Little Generestee {Cr}; reference to plat Dec. 17, 1818 by *Joseph McPherson* for metes & bounds; part of 2 grants: (a) in 1784 to *Joseph McClesky* and (b) in 1787 {to J McClesky?}. {signed) **George Watts & Barbary Watts**’ mark ‘X’ (sic); (witness) **William Watts & Elizabeth Watts**; wit. Oath Feb. 14, 1819 by ‘**Elebeth**’ **Watts** before **William Watts JP**; Feb. 25, 1822 recorded & examined by Joseph Grisham, D clerk; book P p412.”¹⁰⁰

5 NOVEMBER 1832–4 FEBRUARY 1833

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Summons

“In Partition. ... To **Jonathan Watts**, John J. Wilson and **Patience [Watts]** his wife, Elisha Jones and **Judith [Watts]** his wife, **Jacob Watts, Moses Watts**, Benjamin Freeman and **Sarah [Watts]** his wife, legal heirs and representatives of **James Watts**, who died intestate. Greeting.

“You are hereby required to appear at the Court of Ordinary to be holden at Fairfield Court House for Fairfield District, on Monday the Seventh day of January next next [*sic*] ensuing to Shew cause, if you can, why the real Estate of **James Watts** deceased, Situate in said district on **twenty-five Mile Creek**, waters of the Wateree River, bounding on lands of *Meredith Taylor, Elisha Jones, and James Wilson*, and containing one hundred and two and a half acres more or less should not be divided or Sold, attesting to the several heirs and representatives of said James Watts deceased, their respective portions of said real

⁹⁸ Fairfield Co., Deed Book Z: 7.

⁹⁹ See Mills, “Frontier Research Strategies.”

¹⁰⁰ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Pendleton District, SC, Books O and P (1818–1822)* (N.p.: P.p., 2007), 199.

Estate. Given under my hand and Seal **this 5th day of November** AD one thousand eight hundred and thirty two. [Signed] John R? Buchanan, O.F.D. [Ordinary, Fairfield District]

“Order for Sale. **Jonathan Watts** Applicant vs. John J. Wilson & **Patience** his wife, et al.

“On due examination it is Ordered and Decreed that the lands described in the Summons in Partition in this case be Sold by the Sheriff of Fairfield District on the first Monday in February next, or on Such other Sale day as will be most for the advantage of the parties in interest, on a credit of twelve months (excepting Costs of Partition, which must be paid on the day of Sale), the purchaser to give Bond with approved Security, and a Mortgage of the premises and to pay for Mortgage and Titles. Given under my hand this 14th January 1833. [Signed] John Buchanan O.F.D.

“Sold the within described tract of land to Jonathan Watts, for Six and one fourth cents per acre. 4th February 1833.” [Signed] A. W. Yongue S.F.D. [Sheriff, Fairfield District].”¹⁰¹

COMMENT:

Typically, the individual who applied for the sale (and thereby initiated a “friendly suit” against the heirs of the estate) was the administrator. That administrator might or might not be one of the heirs.

The document below raises a critical question as to whether Jonathan *was* one of the sibling-heirs to James. Even though the summons below, issued to the heirs of Ruth Perry’s brother Lewis, was issued just a month after the summons to James’s heirs, *Jonathan is not included as a Perry heir*. Two considerations are in order here:

- The 1830 census of the Perry-Watts neighborhood includes not only Jonathan but also a Daniel Watts (same age bracket) who does not fit into George and Ruth’s family, suggesting that there’s another branch of Watts kin in the region. (Siblings and uncles of the other George Watts did remain above, below, and west of 25-Mile Creek—leaving offspring that have not yet been assembled into family groups.)
- Given that James’s only two other male siblings, Jacob and Moses, had left the state decades before, Jonathan *as a male cousin*, could have been called in to administer the estate and divide it among the heirs.
- There are at least two potential fathers for Jonathan and Daniel:
 - **William Watts Jr.** (apparent son of the William Sr. who settled Little River and possible father of the Sarah Watts who was Jacob Perry’s granddaughter and heir). See comments attached to Perry’s 1780 will.
 - **Edward Watts III** (son of Thomas Watts, the brother of William Sr.) of Wateree River. He appears on record in Fairfield as late as 1819 and was still alive in 1832 when the estate of his unmarried brother Thomas Jr. was settled.¹⁰²

The previously cited case study, “Frontier Research Strategies: John Watts ... ,” published in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* in 2016, accounts for the children of the other known Wattses who settled in the area that is now Fairfield.

¹⁰¹ Fairfield Co., SC, Will Book 11, 1826–1837: 67–68.

¹⁰² Mills, “Frontier Research Strategies,” 181–83.

11 DECEMBER 1832

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Summons.

“Lewis Perry’s Estate. Summons in Partition. The State of South Carolina. To Littleton Crankfield and Lucy his wife, David Montgomery and Mary his wife, **Mary Watts**, Elizabeth Ruff, Elisha Jones and **Judith [Watts]** his wife, Jesse Wright and Espsey his wife, David Dunn and Charity his wife, John Wilson and **Patience [Watts]** his wife, James Duke and Judith his wife, Mack? Perry, John Perry, **Moses Watts**, **Jacob Watts**, Benjamin Freeman and **Sarah [Watts]** his wife, John McCreight and Jane his wife, and Jesse Perry,¹⁰³ legal heirs and representatives of Lewis Perry, deceased, who died intestate, Greeting.

“You are hereby required to appear at the Court of ordinary to be holden at Fairfield Court House on Monday the Seventeenth day of December instant to Shew cause, if you can, why the real estate of Lewis Perry deceased, Situate in said district on **twenty-five Mile Creek**, waters of the Wateree River, bounded by lands of *John Ricks*, **Dixcy Ward**, and others and containing two hundred acres more or less Should not be divided or Sold allotting to the several heirs and representatitives of said Lewis Perry deceased their respective portions of said real Estate. Given under my hand and Seal this Eleventh day of December A.D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty two and in the fifty Seventh Year of American Independence. [Signed] John R? Buchanan, C.J.D. {legal seal}

“Order for Sale. Littleton Crankfield sci fi.

Applicant vs. David Montgomery and wife & others, Defts.

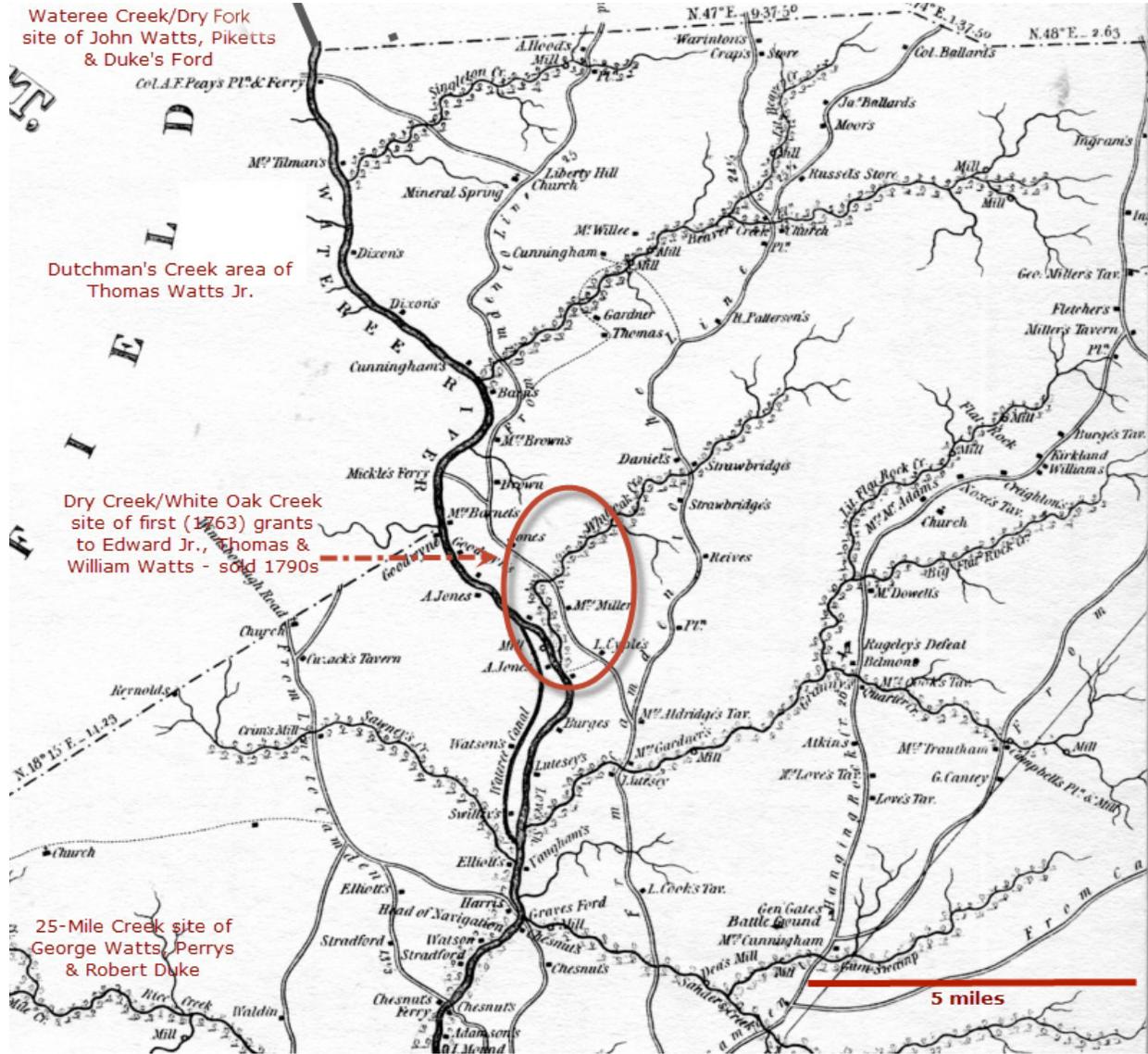
“Summons in Partition. On due examination, it is Ordered and Decreed that the lands described in the Summons in Partition in this case be Sold by the Sheriff of Fairfield District on the first such? day in January next or as Such other Sale day as will be most for the advantage of the Parties in interest on a Credit of twelve months (excepting Costs of partition which must be paid on the day of Sales) the purchasers to give Bond with approved Security and a mortgage of the premises and to pay for Mortgage and Titles. [Signed] John R? Buchanan, C.J.D.

“Sold the within mentioned tract of land on the 7 day of January 1833 to Sanders S. Hogan, for the sum of two dollars fifty Six [and] 2 ¼ cts per acre, ___ at that price being the highest and last bidder. [Signed] A. W. Yongue, S.F.D.”¹⁰⁴

¹⁰³ Jesse Perry is at this time

¹⁰⁴ Fairfield Co., SC, Fairfield Co., SC, Will Book 11, 1826–1837: 58–59.

Map 1
Fairfield & Kershaw Counties:
Watts Settlements along the Wateree River, 1763-ca.1800¹⁰⁵

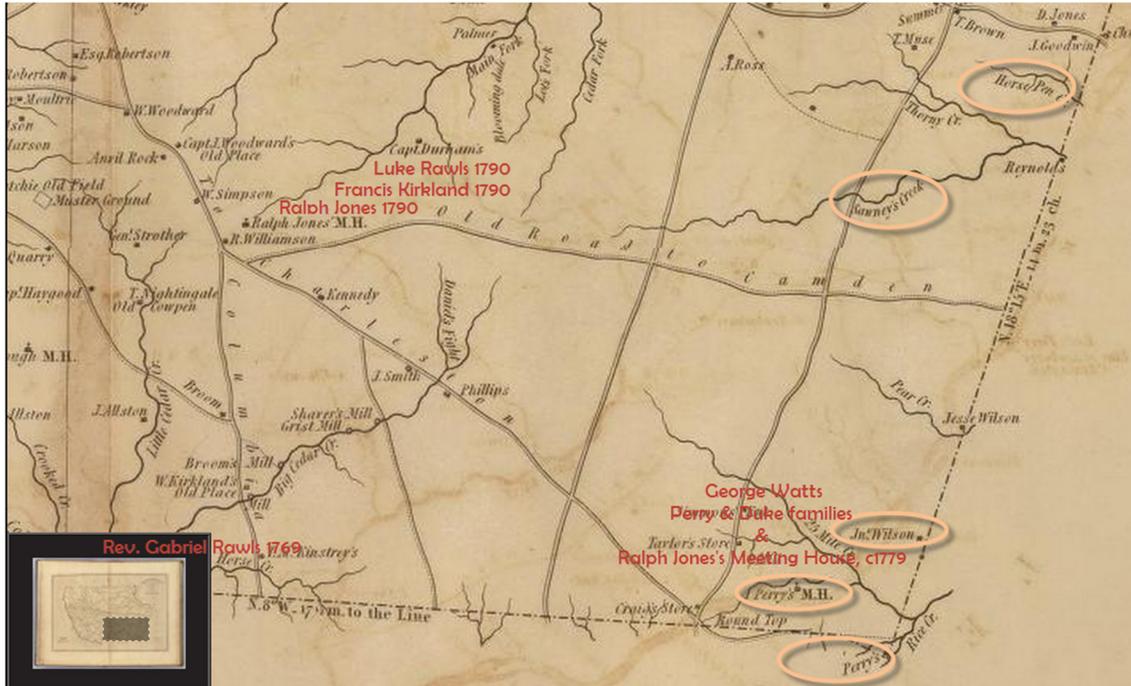


Map 2

¹⁰⁵ Map is extracted from Robert Mills, *Mills's Atlas: Atlas of the State of South Carolina, 1825* (reprinted, Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1980), "Kershaw County."

George Watts (c.1753– c.1812)
Wife: Ruth Perry

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



COMMENT:

- Note on this map 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, whose 1780 will named his daughters "Ruth Watts" and "Mary Wilson"). Robert Duke, whose deed George witnessed in his first local document of record, also lived along 25-Mile Creek.

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Elizabeth Shown Mills, "George Watts (c.1753–c.1812) & Wife Ruth Perry: Research Notes," a working file updated 14 December 2017," p. ____.

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