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REPORT TO: File

SUBJECT: Watts: Initial Survey of Published Resources for Colonial and Revolutionary Anson County, NC, and Its Parent and Daughter Counties: Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Montgomery

BACKGROUND: John Watts and his son-in-law Moses Hornsby (Hornsbie) appear on the 1790 census of Fairfield District, South Carolina (taken between August 1790 and Fall 1791). By August 1792, John had moved his family to Washington County, Georgia, where he and his one adult son applied for headright land. The location of the tracts given to them would subsequently fall into Montgomery (1793) and Tattnall (1801) counties. In Montgomery County, John Watts served as a justice from *ca.* 1793–1799. About 1809–10, he relocated in Telfair County, Ga., and in 1816 he removed to Covington County, Mississippi. There he died after the 1820 census but before the 1823 tax roll.

Earlier researchers have presented John Watts as

- a Revolutionary Soldier from North Carolina (accepted by DAR as Ancestor No. 122826, although that organization does not accept the maiden name proposed for Judith: Rawls).
- the same individual whose name appears as a signer of the 1769 petition from **Anson County, North Carolina.**
- The son of William and Agnes Watts of Anson County.

No known document names a wife for John Watts. After his death between 1820 and 1822, one *Judith "Judy" Watts* emerged on the 1823 tax roll being assessed for the same kind and amount of property charged to him in prior years. Any conclusion that Judith was the mother of his many children is called into question by two facts:

- his deeds of sale in Montgomery and Tattnall Counties, Georgia, did not have a wife's participation; and
- he had 11 granddaughters born across 12 years before any granddaughter was given the name "Judith"; and his daughter Barbara, who bore 12 granddaughters, gave that name to none of them. The first Judith among his granddaughter was born 1808, suggesting that the widowed John may have married her about that time.

GOAL: Determine whether any ties can be found between John Watts of Fairfield and North Carolina Watts living in Anson, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, or Montgomery.

ASSOCIATES: Known neighbors and associates in SC include Dukes, Gibson, Hollis, Holmes, Hornsbie, King, Kirkland, Knighton, Lankford, Lewis, Mills (Ambrose & William), Mobberly/Mobley, Perry, Pickett, Pigg, Rawls, Stone, Tidwell, Wade, Winn, and Woodward.

MISCELLANY: In the abstracts that follow, curly brackets { } are used where the abstractor I'm quoting added additional information in square editorial brackets. When traditional editorial brackets appear in this report, they flag my own editorial comments.

See also

- E. S. Mills, "Watts: Initial Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them," research report, 17 October 2014. (92 pp.)
- E. S. Mills, "Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County), Pre-1830," research report, 27 October 2014. (89 pp.)
- E. S. Mills, "Captain John Watts of Camden District, SC: Was He John Watts of Fairfield's Wateree Creek or John Watts of Kershaw's Lynches Creek?", report to file, 2 November 2014. (28 pp.)
- E. S. Mills, "Watts: Initial Survey of Published Resource for Colonial and Revolutionary Bedford County (formerly Lunenburg and Brunswick), Virginia," report to file, 5 January 2015 (70 pp.)
- E. S. Mills, "Watts of Eighteenth Century Bertie and Hertford Counties, North Carolina: A Survey of Published Literature," report to file, 15 January 2015. (9 pp.)

Executive Summary

This survey of published literature on Anson County and its offshoots has justified five conclusions:

- **The John Watts who served as a Revolutionary soldier in Walton's Company, 1781–82, cannot be connected to Anson County.** John's one-year service term appears to result from the North Carolina Assembly's draft of *local militia* companies into the Carolina line, in the wake of losing the Battle of Guilford's Courthouse. John's officer, Walton, was from Bertie and Hertford County in extreme Northeastern North Carolina—not Anson on the extreme southern border of what was then Western North Carolina. The John Watts caught up in the militia draft of that summer 1781 should also be from the Bertie-Hertford area (extreme Northeast North Carolina), not from Anson on middle North Carolina's extreme-southern border.
- **The John Watts who served from North Carolina cannot be tied in any way to our John Watts.** Known evidence places him "somewhere" in North Carolina in 1783 and *ca.* 1792, when he filed his claims for Revolutionary pay. Known records document the continued residence of the John Watts in Bertie (later Martin) throughout the 1780s and 1790s.
- **The John Watts whose name appears on the 1769 petition from Anson County was, beyond reasonable doubt, a totally different man.** Our John, a later county justice, signed many documents. The John Watts of the 1769 Anson petition made his mark—specifically an O with a line through it.
- **The John Watts who was appointed administrator of the estate of William Watts (wife Agnes) in 1772 cannot be tied in any way to our John Watts.**
- **Several other John Watts also lived in North Carolina contemporaneously with the events mistakenly credited to our John.**

- **The Y-haplogroup assigned to the most-prominent of the Anson Wattses (Garrett) is not the haplogroup of Rev. John Watts, Esq. (Ancestor No. 122826).** One descendant of Garrett has posted in the Watts/Wats/Watson Surname Project; his haplogroup is E-L117—the same haplogroup as Thomas Watts (wife Tabitha) of Lynches’s Creek, Kershaw County, SC. Three descendants of Rev. John Watts, Esq. have posted in this database; both are I-M223. Known Y-databases carry no entry for the William who died in Anson leaving a widow Agnes and an estate administered by one John.¹

The traditional assertions that our John was from Anson, where he lived as the son of William and Agnes Watts, signed the 1769 petition, and later served in the Revolutionary War are unsupported by any evidence. Apparently this “biography” of him was cobbled together by early genealogists who found random references to the name in a few published sources and assumed that (a) all references dealt with the same man; and (b) must deal with their ancestor because the name was the same.

Research Notes

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Context.

“The fire of April 2nd, 1868 destroyed most of Anson County’s records but it is, by no means, what genealogists call ‘a burned county,’ for the fundamental wills and deeds remain. There were, also, some charred pages of the minutes of the Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1771–1777, which have been made available by Mr. R. E. Little, of Wadesboro, who, during his tenure as Clerk of the Superior Court, 1930–1942, had these records copied and indexed. These minutes are mines of information, the proving of the deeds, alone, being practically a list of real estate transfers for that period. Unfortunately there are a few gaps, which, however, make us more grateful for the exceptional data preserved in these Court Orders.

“Another source of valuable information is several hundred pages of probate reports in the back of Will Book 1, dating from 1749 through 1789, but not entered chronologically, as if copied from a lot of loose papers. These have been indexed through the late Mr. W. K. Boggan’s appreciation of their genealogical value. Mr. Boggan was Clerk of the Superior Court from Dec. 10, 1910 to Dec. 1, 1930.

“Until 1760 letters of administration were granted and wills probated at the Office of the Secretary of State. However, there are on record in Anson County a number of administration papers before that date and five wills.”²

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Context.

“Anson County was formed in 1750 from Bladen County. Parts of Anson County were separated at times to form ... **Rowan in 1753, Mecklenburg in 1762, Richmond in 1779, Montgomery in 1779**, and Union in 1842. So some of the land mentioned in this book [Deed Book 4] may be located in Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, or Union Counties. Earlier records for the land mentioned in this book may be found in Bladen and New Hanover Counties. Among early records of Anson County ... which have been published are: deeds (1749–1766, books 1, 3, 5, 6, B & C1) by Brent Holcolmb; wills (1750–1880) by R. N.

¹ Barbara Van Camp and Neal Watts, group admins., “Watts/Watt/Watson Families Reconstruction Project,” database, *FamilyTreeDNA* (<https://www.familytreedna.com/public/wattsamilies/default.aspx?section=yresults> : accessed 27 Oct. 2014.

² May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), iii.

Carpenter; wills (1790–1846 by Laura Wills; various early records including deeds by May W McBee; 1800 and 1810 census by Mr. and Mrs. Paul W Gregory and Samuel E Sebestan; 1850 census by G. L. Garner.”³

COMMENT:

Brent’s books are missing from the FHL shelves. As a temporary substitute, I’ve used Bruce Pruitt’s *Index to Anson County, NC, Deeds 1749–1854*, which purports to cover all individuals named in both Brent’s and Bruce’s abstracts. As a broad-brush overview:

Benjamin: 1797 and later,

Cornelia J.: 1849 and later

David: 1757–70 and ca. 1831–34

Frances: 1842–46

Garrot: 1787 and later

Jemima: 1771–78

John: 1797–1799

Malachi: 1779–ca. 1838

Thomas: 1797 and later; Thomas H: 1834 and later

Thomas Jr: 1831 and later; Thomas Sr: 1831 and later

1750–1757

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Quit rent rolls

Published lists for the 1750–57 period carry no Watts.⁴

1755

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Tax roll.

“Watts, John Orange 1755”⁵

COMMENT:

- No other John Watts appears in this statewide compilation of surviving North Carolina tax rolls from 1701 to 1796, except for a reference to John Watts of Anson in 1763 (see below under that date).
- No Meadors or Mills appear on this list. Their outmigration from Bedford Co., VA, appears to have started the following year.

5 DECEMBER 1758

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Associates.

“William Nutt, Sr. of Anson, to son Andrew Nutt, all interest in 162 A *wheron* **Ambrose Mills** now dwells ... to son Wm. Nutt, Jr. 272 A, part of land I now live on, surveyed by Francis Beaty ... to son John Nutt 300 A where I now live ... my wife Elen ... Wm Nutt (W) (Seal), Wit: Nathaniel Walker, James McCorkel, Hugh McCain.”⁶

³ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Anson County, NC, Books 4, 7, & B2* (N.p.: P.p., 1998), preface, unnumbered page.

⁴ William D. Bennett, “Anson County, N.C., Quit Rents Lists, 1750–57,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal* 18 (May 1991): 73–84.

⁵ Clarence E. Ratcliff, *North Carolina Taxpayers, 1701–1796* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1984), 213.

⁶ Brent H. Holcolmb, *Anson County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1749–1766; Abstracts of Wills & Estates, 1749–1795* (1974; reprint, Baltimore: Clearfield Publishing, 2010), 92; citing vol. 5: 305 (apparently a volume in which deeds, wills & estates are all recorded).

COMMENT:

- The 1752 tax roll of Lunenburg specifically identifies Ambrose Mills as an “overseer.” It looks as though he may be serving that roll here in Anson six years later. Either that or else he is leasing the land.
- **Other Mills** in this volume, of no apparent connection, are Blenny (12), Bleny (150), David (105, 117), John (135), Matthew (24, 26, 28), Nathan (28, 31, 111), Robert (2, 24, 26, 28, 31, 53, 63, 68, 78, 94, 103, 111, 115, 116), William (12).
- **Meadors**, whom I am not extracting at this time but will revisit later, are Drusilla (125), Elizabeth (125), Jacob Jr. (108), Jason (125), Job (98, 125), John (102), Lewis (125), Mariah (125), Marion (125), and Thomas (125).

1763

ANSON COUNTY

Tax roll.

“Anson County List of Taxables for the Year 1763 Thomas ffrohock, C.C.”

[Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname]

“Wats, John 1 [tithe]”⁷

COMMENT:

- No other Watts. Either there is a second tax district whose roll is entirely missing, or else George Watts of Bedford, along with the Henry, Malachi, Peter, and William Watts cluster that appears here in Anson from 1770 onward, has not yet moved into the county.
- The “K” through “P” section of this tax roll does not appear. Apparently it is missing. Thus, we do not know whether Medders or Millses were in the county in 1763.
- If this John Watts of Anson 1763 is from Lunenburg-Bedford, then at least two candidates exist from that locale
 - o John Watts the elder (a contemporary of Edward Sr., William Sr., and Jacob) who was heavily indebted and imprisoned for debt in the 1750s. He disappears from Lunenburg about the time of a 6 November 1753 garnishment against him for a debt of Jacob Watts.⁸ No Lunenburg record connects him to the Wattses who removed to Wateree River, S.C.—as we would expect, given the difference in their Y-DNA.
 - o John Watts, probable son of Edward Watts in whose home he is taxed in 1752.

21 NOVEMBER 1763

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Associates.

“William Irby of Anson, to Randolph Cheek of same, for £50 proc. money ... land on S side Pee Dee, Brown Cr., 180 A... William Irby (SEAL), Wit: David Dumas, Benj. Smith (B), **Macagah Pickett.**”⁹

COMMENT:

⁷ Brent H. Holcolmb, *Anson County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1749–1766; Abstracts of Wills & Estates, 1749–1795* (1974; reprint, Baltimore: Clearfield Publishing, 2010), 123.

⁸ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-B, 1753–1754* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaid Publication, 1998, 45; citing Order Book 2 ½-B: 509. For an overview of all Watts in Southside Virginia in the relevant period, See E. S. Mills, “Watts: Initial Survey of Published Resources for Colonial and Revolutionary Bedford, Brunswick, and Lunenburg Counties, Virginia,” report to file, 5 January 2015.

⁹ Brent H. Holcolmb, *Anson County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1749–1766; Abstracts of Wills & Estates, 1749–1795* (1974; reprint, Baltimore: Clearfield Publishing, 2010), 103; citing vol. 3:83.

- A younger Micajah Pickett was a close neighbor and associate of the Watts in Fairfield, ca. 1783–91, and an apparent brother of Charles Pickett, J.P. He would move, in the 1790s, to Rutherford Co., N.C., where he bought land adjacent to Ambrose Mills's son, William.¹⁰
- No Charles Pickett appears in this Anson volume.
- Other Picketts include James Sr. & Jr., John, Martha, Morning, Thomas, and William.
- I have read the entire index to this slim volume in search of other names connected to the Watts in Anson.

11 JANUARY 1763

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Associates.

"**Micajah Pickett** of Anson to Sarah Cheek ... one mair ... Micajah Pickett (SEAL), Wit: Michael Weeks (x), Mary Weeks (X)."¹¹

PRE-1820

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Land grant.

No land grants to anyone surnamed Watts or associated names, except Meadows and Wades:

Meador, Lewis #4763 – 16 Nov. 1795 – adj. Jesse Ballard

Meador, Job #4801 – 16 Nov. 1790

Meadows, Lewis #2530 – 4 May 1769 – Thompson's Creek

Meadows, Job #2620 – 9 Apr. 1770 – Thompson's Creek

Meadows, Jason Jr. #2663 – 11 Dec. 1770 – Jones Cr.

Meadows, Jason Sr. #2585 – 24 Dec. 1770 – Jones Cr.

Meadows, Thomas #4726 – 7 Aug. 1787

Wade, John #2349 – 30 Oct. 1765 Brown C.

Wade, Thomas, #2672 – 11 Dec. 1770 – Davis Br.¹²

COMMENT:

Meadows/Meadors/Medders of these given names can be found amid the Watts and Mobberlys (Mobleys) in both Fairfield Co., South Carolina, and Bedford County, Virginia.¹³ The Meador migration from Bedford to Anson began before 1762 and continued for several years. For example:

26 January 1762. Bedford County.

"Deed from **Job Meador of Anson Co., N.C.** to John Williams of Bedford County, 70 acres lying on the South side of Otter River for 14 Pounds, 15 Shillings. Wit. Thos. Pullen, John Robertson, Giles Williams and Giles Williams Jr. Rec. Jan. 26 1762."¹⁴

¹⁰ See the extensive and well-documented treatment of Micajah at "Notes for Micajah Pickett and Kinsanna Hinson," *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m331x332.htm#FN1> : accessed 6 September 2014).

¹¹ Brent H. Holcolmb, *Anson County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1749–1766; Abstracts of Wills & Estates, 1749–1795* (1974; reprint, Baltimore: Clearfield Publishing, 2010), 109; citing vol. 3:174.

¹² May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 14, 21.

¹³ For example, see the 1752 tax list of Lunenburg County (parent of Bedford), Field Jefferson's division, for Jason, Job, Joel, and Lewis Meaders—all on same list and in close proximity with the Watts cluster that migrated to Fairfield; the list is published in Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: Lists of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 202–8.

¹⁴ Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 22.

(before) 23 November 1762. Bedford County.

“Deed from **Joel Meador** to **William Hollaway**, 118 Acres on Stanton River. Wit. **John Meador, Joab Meador, Ambrose Meador**. Rec. Nov. 23, 1762.”¹⁵

I have done no systematic research on any of the Meadors in any of their known locales.

1769

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Context.

“Tryon County was formed from Mecklenburg in 1769, Mecklenburg having been formed from Anson in 1763. ... **The first courts of Tryon County were held in what is now York County, South Carolina.** The court house site was moved into present Gaston County, North Carolina, when the border survey of 1772 determined the other site to be in South Carolina. ... **The Tryon County lands south of the border were then in Craven or Berkley (sometimes spelled Barkley) counties and/or Camden or Ninety-Six District, or occasionally St. Mark’s Parish was used for location.** After the border survey, the lands formerly granted by North Carolina were registered in the South Carolina Land Memorials and often called ‘North Patents.’ South Carolina issued new grants for some of these lands. ... The few remaining wills and estate papers from Tryon County are in the North Carolina Archives filed with the Lincoln County records. All those pertaining to Tryon County are abstracted here as well as the lists of wills and estates from the Secretary of State’s papers.”¹⁶

COMMENT:

St. Mark’s Parish, Camden District, became Fairfield County, SC—the locale settled between 1757 and 1763 by interrelated Watts, Mills, Meador, Mobberley, and Woodward families of Lunenburg and Bedford Counties.

23 JANUARY 1769

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Witness.

“William Sims of N.C., surveyor, to Perregreen Magnus, planter, for £5 proc. Money ... land in Tryon Co., on both sides a large fork of Buffalow Creek 300 A, granted ___ Dec 1769 {sic} ... William Sims (Seal), Wit: Thomas Welch, **George Watts**. Rec. July term 1769.”¹⁷

COMMENT:

This **George Watts** came from Bedford to Anson with wife Frances soon after the Meadors migration—suggesting a relationship between the two families. A correlation of Watts data from Bedford County’s colonial records suggests this George is George-of-Edward Sr., one of five named males over the age of 16 for whom Edward paid a tithe in 1752 in Bedford’s parent-county Lunenburg.¹⁸ As the third-listed of the four youths, George-of-Edward was probably about 18 at the time of the list (i.e., **born about 1734**).

George’s last records in Bedford are dated in the summer of 1765, but note the date discrepancies between these published abstracts for the same document:

¹⁵ Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 7; citing B2: 105.

¹⁶ Brent H. Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills and Estates* (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1977), preface, unnumbered page.

¹⁷ Brent H. Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills and Estates* (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 5; citing Deeds 1: 51.

¹⁸ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: Lists of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 202–8.

(Before) 27 July 1765. Bedford County.

"Deed from George Watts to William Callaway. 100 Acres on N. side of Ivy Cr. Rec. July 27, 1765. Teste Ben Howard, CBC."¹⁹

27 August 1765. Bedford County.

"From **George Watts** of B, to Wm. Callaway, for 50£, one certain tract of land in B on the north side of Ivy Cr, containing about 100 acres bounded by {trees}. Signed – George Wats. Wit – none. Recorded Aug 27, 1765. **Frances, the wife of George Watts**, voluntarily relinquished her right of dower to the lands conveyed."²⁰

TO DO:

Examine the original deeds to clarify the date discrepancy.

9 OCTOBER 1769

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Petition.

"The Petition of the Inhabitants of Anson County ... humbly sheweth ... that the Province in general labour under general grievances, and the Western part thereof under particular ones ... Permit us to conceive it to be our inviolable right to make known our grievances ... 1. That the poor inhabitants in general are much oppress'd by reason fo disproportionate Taxes ... [signed]: John Snor, Isaac Armstrong, Wm. Thomson, Seamor Almond, Isaac Falconberg, Francis Smith, John Ryle, John Culpepper, John Jones Sr., Wm Grifen Hogon, Richard Maner, **John Watts**, John Davis, Saml Gaylor, Richard Sands, Jason Iron Hinsinbru, Thoms Preslar, Thompson Culpepper, Daniel Culpepper, John Snider [*skip 61*] **Jason Meadow Jr., Jason Meadow** ..."²¹

COMMENT:

176 other names follow. Only the bolded ones above are known former residents of Bedford-Lunenburg, VA, or later residents of Craven-Camden, SC. No other Watts signatures appear.

The presence of John Watts as a signer of this petition is frequently cited as proof that our John Watts was in Anson County, North Carolina. However, all those who make this assertion cite the published version of the petition. An examination of the original reveals that the John Watts of Anson 1769 *could not sign his name*, while our John Watts (a later county justice) left his signature on many documents from 1783 to 1811.

An image of the John Watts page from this petition is inserted below. Note particularly

- the proximity of this John Watts's signature to Thomas Preslar, the man who served as his surety for administering the estate of William Watts.
- The distance (shown in the abstract above) between this John Watts and the Bedford Meadors who signed.²²

¹⁹ Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 41; citing B2:619.

²⁰ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deeds, 1761–1766* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1991), 56; citing Deed Book 2: 629.

²¹ William I. Saunders, *Colonial Records of North Carolina; Published Under the Supervision of the Trustees of the Public Libraries, by Order of the General Assembly*, vol. 8, 1769 to 1771 (Raleigh: Josephus Daniels, 1890), 75–80.

²² 1769 petition from Anson County, File "Oct.-Nov., 17 Lower House Committees, Committee of Propositions & Grievances"; Box "General Assembly Session Records, Colonial (Upper and Lower Houses), Oct.-Nov., 1769; Dec., 1770–Jan., 1771 (Lower House Papers-Dec. Bills)"; N.C. State Archives, Raleigh; document photocopied for ESM by Vickie Young.

[illegible]

25 JANUARY 1770

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Witness.

"Thomas Childers & wf Urdice of Tryon Co., to Peregreen Magnis of same, for L45 proc. Money ... 250A on both sides **Buffalo Creek** adj. Reynolds lower line and Francis Beattys line ... Thomas Childers (T), Uradice Childers (U). Wit: Waightsell Avery, **George Watt**. Rec. Jan Term 1770".²³

20 MARCH 1770

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Witness.

"Francis Beaty of Mecklenburg Co., to George Trout of Tryon Co., for L30 proc money ... land on both sides the sholy branch of **Muddy fork of Buffalow Creek** including the three forks a few poles above Benjamin Shaws old place and near Francis Beattys lowest ridge place, land granted to James Kelly, then to Francis Beaty 22 May 1767 ... Francis Beaty (SEAL), Wit: James Tate, James Pulley {?}, **George Watts**. Rec. Apr. Term 1770."²⁴

1770

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Petition.

"To Governor, Council and Assembly by Inhabitants of Anson County against the court at Salisbury, saying that they spent of necessity much gold and silver there which finds its way to Virginia and South Carolina from the Province of North Carolina; asks that a court at Campbellton be established for Anson, Orange and Cumberland Counties. Signed by ...

[skip 80 names],

John Westmoreland, William Bennett, William Pratt, **Malachi Watts**, Jacob H_____, Isaac Falconberry Jr., Owing Slaughter, Abraham Busham, Richard Bushan, Robert Rushing, James Langford, **Andrew Watts**, **Andrew Watts Jr.**, Isaac Belyeu, _____ Belyeu, Vick Moon

[skip 26]

Sylvanus Walker, **Jason Meador Jr.**, **Jason Meador** ..."²⁵

COMMENT:

Malachi Watts and the two Andrew Wattses have not been placed into any family. As adults by 1770, they *could* be the sons of George. That is at least a possibility to pursue for George.

A cursory examination of online trees does not reveal one that identifies Andrew Sr. or Jr. Many online trees assert (without evidence) that Malachi was the son of the Indian trader and translator John Watts.

CA. 1770–71

MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

²³ Brent H. Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills and Estates* (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 12; citing Deeds 1: 154–55.

²⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills and Estates* (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 15; citing Deeds 1: 193–94.

²⁵ May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 133.

"13 Sept 177- [sic] Benjamin Cohorn of Meck., to **Henry Watts** of same, for £50 proc. Money ... land on E side of Cataba on waters of Armor Mill branch, adj. Downs, Miller, 1000 A granted 25 Apr 1767 to Thomas Jarret, then sold to Amos Alexander, 3 Nov 1767, then to Benjamin Cohorn 26 Dec 1767 ... Benjamin Cothran (Seal), Wit: ____ Cathey, ____ Martin. Rec. Jan. Term 1772."²⁶

COMMENT:

Henry also seems to remain unpursued in the online tree-collections.

16 JULY 1772

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

"Wm. May to **Malachi Watts**, 100a, pr. By Thomas Ford."²⁷

25 NOVEMBER 1772

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Probate.

"A List of Probates for Granting Letters Testamentary and of Administration in Tryon Court in One Year Preceding the Date hereof together with the parties names and of their Executors or Administrators and Securities ...

George Watts Intestate **Frances Watts** Robt. McAfee & William Yancy²⁸

15 JANUARY 1773

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Court minute.

"**Agnes Watts**, wife and relict of **William Watts**, decd., relinq. admrn on decd's estate."²⁹

COMMENT:

- Agnes and William are widely alleged (without evidence) to be the parents of John Watts of Fairfield. The only basis for that assertion seems to be the document abstracted below under 15 October 1774, in which one John Watts is granted administration of William's estate. However, "name's the same" does *not* mean the person is.
- Given the paucity of John Watts references in this county, it is more likely that this 1773 John is the signer of the 1769 petition who made his mark of an O with a line through it.

19 JULY 1773

CHATHAM COUNTY, NC

Witness.

Indictment of John Hudgins by Chatham County Court, submitted to Secretary of State by Alex. Martin, "Att^o pro D^y R. Witnessed by John Fyke, and **John Watts**."³⁰

²⁶ Brent H. Holcomb and Elmer O. Parker. *Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1763–1779* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 236.

²⁷ May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 79.

²⁸ Brent H. Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills and Estates* (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 125; citing "lists of probates from the Secretary of State's papers. N.C. Archives S.S. 884."

²⁹ May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 84.

COMMENT:

Chatham County is not associated with the NC counties under study here. This note is included to make the point that other John Watts did exist contemporaneously in other NC counties. In this vein, an index to all the State Records series through vol. 25 (1790) includes the following John Watts entries:

Watts, John, a J.P., 4:713; administrator, 4:1125
Watts, Jno., army rank, 16:1190
Watts, John, Imports persons, 1:513; law suit 1:480
Watts, John, Indian interpreter, 11:179, 186, 190, 195
Watts, John, regulator, 8:78
Watts, John, Jr., imported, 1:523
Watts, John, Sr., imported, 1:523.

Other Watts entries includes: Alla [Eli? Alec?] Andrew, Catherine, Elijah, Ignatius, James, Malachi, Mary, Michael, Richard, Rush, Spencer, Thomas, William.³¹

13 JULY 1774

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Court minute.

"**Malachi Watts** and wife to Moses Grice, deed, pr by Thos. Creal."³² [Proof of Deed]

15 OCTOBER 1774

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Court minute.

"Admr. On estate of **Wm. Watts**, decd., gr to **John Watts** with bond, John Preslar, James Long. £100."³³

COMMENT:

No evidence has been found to connect this John Watts to John Watts of Fairfield. Neither Preslars nor Longs are among the many associates and neighbors established for the Fairfield Wattses.

14 APRIL 1775

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Court minute.

"Ord: **Malachi Watts** be Constable in room of Wm. Gullledge."³⁴

13 OCTOBER 1775

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Court minute.

³⁰ William I. Saunders, *Colonial Records of North Carolina; Published Under the Supervision of the Trustees of the Public Libraries, by Order of the General Assembly*, vol. 8, 1771 to 1775 (Raleigh: Josephy Daniels, 1890), 673.

³¹ Stephen B. Weeks, *Index to the Colonial and State Records of North Carolina, Covering Volumes 1--XXV* (Goldsboro: Nash Brothers, 1911), 346.

³² May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 92.

³³ May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 97.

³⁴ May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 101.

“Ord: road be laid out from Wm. Holly’s crossing Brown Cr at Wm. Johnson’s to road leading to the Province line by: Wm. Ruching, Wm. Johnson, Richard Rushing, Solomon Rushing, Wm. Holley, John Jackson, Robert Rushing, James Lowry, Jesse Bates, Benj. Fuller, Thos. Chivers, Moses Green, John Rushing and **Malachi Watts**.”³⁵

20 SEPTEMBER 1776

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Witness.

“Abraham Strickland to John Dunkin, both of Anson, for _____ [sic], 200 acres southwest of Peedee, west of Williams Cr. Part of grant to Wm. Leverett 17 Nov. 1775. Wit: **Mallachi Watts**, William Gulledge. Prov. Jany. Ct. 1779 by Malachi Watts.”³⁶

1777

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Petition.

“Because of PeeDee River dividing the county, it is very inconvenient to many of the inhabitants; they ask for a division of the county with the river as the dividing line. ... [Signed:] ... **Malachi Watts**.”³⁷

23 NOVEMBER 1778

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Witness.

“Chas. Clark and Eliz., his wife, of Anson, to David Jemison, of Prince Frederick Parish, S.C. for £400, 700 acres west side of Lick Br. Of Gould’s Fork of Brown Creek. Wit: Burwell Lanier, Cornelius Clark, **David Watts**. Prov. April Ct. 1779 by Burwell Lanier.”³⁸

COMMENT:

On 7 January 1778, one “David Watt” appeared n Bedford as witness to the will of Peter Bennett who named a wife Frances; sons William, Reubin, Micajah, Abner, and Richard; daughters Mary Lawson and Elizabeth Pevy. That David, like the one above, has not been fitted into any family.³⁹

JANUARY 1779

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Witness.

“William May to James Gordon, both of Anson, for L17/10, 123 ½ acres, patented 25 July, 1775. Wit: Jeremiah Gulledge, **Mallachi Watts**. Prov. Jany Ct. 1779 by Mallachi Watts.”⁴⁰

³⁵ May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 106.

³⁶ May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 45.

³⁷ May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 133–34.

³⁸ May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 47, citing Deed Book 7: 110.

³⁹ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Will Book 1, 1759–1787; Will Book 2, 1787–1803* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1988), 28; citing Will Book 1: 292.

⁴⁰ May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 46; citing Deed Book 7: 53.

COMMENT:

The date of the deed itself is not shown.

FEBRUARY 1779

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Petition.

"From the inhabitants of the upper end of the county for a division to form Montgomery County. ... [List 1]: ... **Will Watts, Peter Watts** [consecutive names; then skip 23] **David Watts**."⁴¹

COMMENT:

This cluster of Watts clearly lived in the part of old Anson that remained in North Carolina.

OCTOBER 1779

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Petition.

"Petition of Inhabitants of Anson County who think that notwithstanding the said county was divided by the last Assembly, yet the inhabitants labour under the greatest hardships by reason of great distance from the Court House; the sd County being 90 miles in length and 38 in breadth and the River running through near the middle, which seldom can be crossed without expense of ferriages and sometimes not at all passable; pray to have the county divided into two counties with the Peedee River the dividing line. ... **David Watts** [skip 36; then start of second section] **Malachi Watts** [skip 4; then 3d 4th and 5th sections, which have no Watts; then start of 6th section] ... **Elleck Watts Jr.** ..." ⁴²

COMMENT:

"Elleck" should be "Alex," aka Alexander.

23 OCTOBER 1779

ANSON COUNTY NC

Context.

"Law passed in H.C., dividing Anson County. Richmond Co. created. Commissioners: Henry Wm. Harrington, John Donaldson, William Legate, John Coal, Robert Wells, Robert Thomas and Richard Pemberton, Esquires and commrs. To erect court house, prison, and stocks.

CA.1779-1791

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Land deeds.

Index entries:⁴³

Watts: 211, 665, 692

Watts, David: 357

Watts, Garriett: 666

Watts, **John: NO**

Watts, Malachi (Mallachi) 16, 26, 81, 129, 184, 229, 308, 316, 317, 367, 390, 417, 584, 672, 675, 684, 693, 707, 733-736

⁴¹ May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 136; citing "Legislative Papers (House of Commons), February 1779, No. 22, Dept. of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C."

⁴² May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 136-38; citing "Legislative Papers (House of Commons) Oct. 18-25, 1779. No. 24, Dept. of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C."

⁴³ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Anson County, NC: Books 4, 7, & B2* (N.p.: P.p., 2000), 121.

COMMENT:

The published abstracts were not available at the Family History Library and I did not have time to work the microfilmed records. Both need to be worked.

1778-95

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Land deeds.

Index entries⁴⁴

Watt, Peter, 905

Watts: 1298, 1056

Watts: Benjamin 1526 [a 1794 document]

Watts: **John: No**

Watts: Malachi: 776, 1149, 1163, 1214, 1461, 1467

Watts: Mallica: 406, 407

Watts: Thomas 1589 [a 1795 document]

1781–JUNE 1782

COUNTY UNKNOWN, NC

Military service.

“Roster of the Continental Line from North Carolina. 1783. Copy of a Register showing the names alphabetically, rank, dates of Commissions and enlistments, periods of service and occurrences, taken from the original muster and pay rolls of the North Carolina Line of the late Army of the United States. ...

10th Regiment: **Watts, Jno., pt. Walton’s Company**. Enlistment 1781, “Time out 14 June ’82.”⁴⁵

COMMENT:

Several DAR applications for the John Watts accepted as Ancestor 122826—all of which allege him to be the above man—identify Walton as “Capt. Ewman Walton.”⁴⁶

No such officer of the Continental Line has been found on record. The only Capt. Walton who has been identified for North Carolina is one William Walton who Heitman summarizes as follows:

“Walton, William (N.C.). 2d Lieutenant 7th North Carolina, 20th April 1777; transferred to 1st North Carolina, 1st June, 1778; 1st Lieutenant, 15th August, 1778; taken prisoner at Charleston, 12th May, 1780; exchanged, April 1781; Captain, 1st August, 1781; retired 1st January 1783.”⁴⁷

Walton’s widow Sarah and his brother Isaac, in the widow’s pension application, tell us the following about Capt. William Walton:

- he entered at the commencement of the war, but no place is stated and no battles named.
- he was discharged at Winton, NC.
 - he married Sarah Jones at Winton, Hertford Co., in December 1783.

⁴⁴ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entries: Anson Co., NC 1778-1795* (N.p.: P.p., 1987)

⁴⁵ Walter Clark, *State Records of North Carolina; Published under the Supervision of the Trustees of the Public Libraries, by Order of the General Assembly*, vol. 16, 1782–’83 (Goldsboro, N.C.: Nash Brothers, 1899), 1002 (start of list), 1190.

⁴⁶ For example, see Application of Neva F. Thompson, National No. 429125, applied 7 May 1987, service on “John A. Watts,” Ancestor 122826; accessible via “Ancestor Search,” DAR: *Daughters of the American Revolution* (http://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search/?Tab_ID=1 : downloaded 1 December 2014). The database is free; a download fee applies for the actual application. (I have downloaded all applications for this John Watts as of 1 December 2014.)

⁴⁷ Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army during the War of the Revolution; April, 1775, to December, 1783* (Washington, D.C.: Rare Book Shop Publishing Co., 1924), 417.

There is no affidavit by Walton himself, who died in 1816.⁴⁸ An early history of Sumner County, Tennessee, where he settled (and where his brother Isaac was the first coroner), reports that he was **born in Bertie Co., adjacent to Hertford** where he married Sarah Jones.⁴⁹

No records are known to identify the battles in which he served. However,

- His promotion to captain occurred on 1 August 1781, in the wake of his April 1781 release from a Tory prison at Charleston, after which he returned home
- At the time of his promotion, the North Carolina Assembly had just imposed upon the state's local militias a 1-year draft, in the wake of the disastrous battle of Guilford Courthouse. Experienced officers of the line were appointed to head the new militia units.⁵⁰
- The enlistment of John Watts coincides with this 1-year draft.
- Together, these factors suggest that the John Watts who performed this service was a man from the Bertie-Hertford area (extreme NE North Carolina), not from Anson, which lies on middle North Carolina's extreme-southern border.

With regard to the alleged Tenth Regiment service: The Tenth existed only in 1777 and 1778. Government clerks, compiling a roster of the N.C. line in 1791, erroneously assigned to the 10th all soldiers who whom they could not identify a regiment.⁵¹

CA 1783

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Neighbor.

"Sales of est. of William McHenry: Most of items to Mary McHenry; other buyers: Arthur Davis, Jesse Miller, **Peter Watts**, Jesse McHenry, and John McClendon. Jonathan Jackson, Sheriff."⁵²

26 APRIL 1783

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Petition.

"Petition of inhabitants of Anson County to General Assembly sheweth that whereas an act of the Assembly appointed commissioners to fix a place in Anson County to build a courthouse within two miles of the center of sd county, it appears from the plan thereof to be remote from the bulk of

⁴⁸ Sarah Walton pension application (Capt. William Walton, NC), application W1518, BLW 2445; accessed via *Fold 3* (www.fold3.com : 2 June 2014).

⁴⁹ For example, see Jay Guy Cisco, *Historic Sumner County, Tennessee: Genealogies of the Bledsoe, Cage and Douglass Families and Genealogical Notes of Other Sumner County Families* (Nashville: Folk-Keelin Printing Co., 1909), 303–4; also p. 100 for Isaac.

⁵⁰ Hugh F. Rankin, *The North Carolina Continental Line in the American Revolution* (Raleigh: N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, 1977), 65.

⁵¹ Stephen A. Rails, "A Case Study of the Tenth Regiment, NC Continental Line," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal* 18 (May 1991): 66–72.

⁵² May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 129; citing Will Book 1: 207.

inhabitants and a very poor settlement of barren black-jack land unfitting for public roads, etc. ... [Jason, Job, and Thomas Meador] ... **Malachi Watts** ...⁵³

25 JULY 1783

COUNTY UNKNOWN, NC

Military pay.

"Halifax, July 25, 1783. Journal of the proceedings of the Commissioners appointed by Act of Assembly passed in May, 1783, to liquidate and finally **settle the accounts of the officers & soldiers of the Continental Line**, of the State of North Carolina. ...

"NOTE [by compiler of *Roster of Soldiers from N.C.*]... No remarks to tell the status or service of the persons whose names are within the book. ... Vol. II. Book A.A.—Pages 1–44 Inclusive ... Page 25, ... {Folio Page 1} Moses Deen, Soldier; Thomas Smith, Soldier; Capt. Anthony Sharp; Lt. Jesse Steed; Mingo Stringer, Soldier; Ursell Goodson, Soldier; Jno. Messer, Soldier {Folio Page 2} Upshaw Roberson; Francis Williams, Soldier; Finehas Latham, Sergt.; Lt. Philip Jones; Warren Brown, Soldier; David Vance, Soldier; {Folio page 3} James Ives, Soldier; William Boon, Soldier; John Morgan, Soldier; William Powers, Soldier; **John Watts, Soldier**; Philip Jones, Soldier; Lt. John Carstaphen (resigned) {Folio page 4} David Love, Surgeon (resigned); William Fomes, Soldier; Mathew Creekman, Soldier; Richard Weaver, Soldier; William Drew, Soldier; James Amos, Soldier; Joel Davis, Soldier. ..."⁵⁴

COMMENT:

Note that no identification whatsoever is given for this John Watts. The entries appear to have been made in the register in the order in which claims were submitted; they are not grouped by military companies. I am showing the surrounding names in the event that someone develops methodology for identifying soldiers in this record book on the basis of their cluster.

AUGUST–SEPTEMBER 1783

NC

Military service.

"An Explanation of the Revolutionary Army Accounts in the N.C.S. Archives. S.115.38N Treasurer's and Comptroller's Papers, RAA Volume II, Book I Heading: 'Journal of the preceedings [*sic*] of the Commissioners appointed by Act of Assembly passed in May 1783 to Liquidate and finally Settle the accounts of the Officers and Soldiers of the Continental Line of the State of No. Carolina.'

"Officers and soldiers were to present their claims to the board, and for those claims approved by the board they were to receive one-fourth part in currency and the balance in specie certificates bearing six percent interest. No rules of evidence were laid down for determining what claims were to be allowed.

... The board met at Halifax on July 25, 1783, and elected John Craven as clerk. He then began the journal or proceedings. An entry was made in the journal as each claim was presented. ... The board reviewed claims from July 26, 1783 to April 29th. 1784. The journal ends on that date. ...

⁵³ May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 138–39; citing "Legislative Papers, House of Commons, April 26, 1783, L.P. 47, Dept. of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C."

⁵⁴ *Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1977), 179 (for start of list), 186–87 (for the names extracted above).

“Sept. 23rd. ... Allowed **John Watts** Soldier 6 Mo. pay to the 1 Jany. 1782 with Interest to August 1, 1783.... 17.11.9.”⁵⁵

COMMENT:

- This John Watts was apparently still in N.C. in August–September 1783.
- *Note, under May 1792*, the subsequent John Watts claim for “Sundries and Cash.”
- On 5 December 1783, John Watts of Fairfield was one of 14 men who signed a character reference for their “former neighbor” Lt. William Coggins, who was moving to Georgia after 15 years residency in S.C. Clearly John of Fairfield had been a resident there for some time before John Watts of N.C. applied for his Revolutionary pay.

1783 & LATER

COUNTY UNKNOWN, NC

Military bounty land.

“List of Warrants for Lands Granted the Officers and Soldiers in the Continental Line out of the Secretary’s Office [showing]

- To whom granted and rank
- No. acres
- Service in months
- Location and to whom deeded and date of warrant. Within the limits of the lands allotted the officers and soldiers of the Continental Line, by Law, 1783, Oct. 14.”

No. 3190.

The heirs of **Garrot Watts, Sgt.**, 1000 acres. 84 months. Deed [with many others] to “Maj. Tatum.”
[skip 4 “W” entries]

No. 3195.

The heirs of **Thomas Watts, Sgt.**, 1000 acres, 84 months, Maj. Tatum.

No. 3553

The heirs of **William Watts**, 640 acres, 84 months “Dec. 27 [no year but listed between Feb. 2, 1786 and August 1787], allotted to “**Alt. Watts.**”⁵⁶

COMMENT:

Again, no location is shown for any of these men. Garrot is the only one with a name distinctive enough to place him in Anson County. The names *Thomas* and *William* are much too common to justify conclusions—or even hypotheses—without significant context.

However, the fact that both Garrot and Thomas served under Maj. Tatum suggests that Thomas, like Garrot, served from Anson.

1784–1786

COUNTY UNKNOWN, NC

Military pay.

“Vol. XVII—1781-1785, Pages 189-263, inclusive. Abstract of the Army Account, of the N.C. Line. Settled by the Commissioners at Halifax, from 1st Sept. 1784 to the 1st Feb. 1785, and at Warrenton in the year 1786, designating by whom the claims were receipted for respectively.”

⁵⁵ Weynette Parks Haun, *North Carolina Revolutionary Army Accounts, Secretary of State, Treasurer’s & Comptroller’s Papers*, Vol. 1, Vol. II, Part II (Durham, N.C., P.p., n.d.), introduction and 267.

⁵⁶ *Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1977), 233 (for start of list), 297, 303.

No. 1870. **Ignatius Watts** [received by] Thomas Butcher” [who received many others]⁵⁷

11 DECEMBER 1789

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Petition.

“To the honourable the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, the Humble Petition of the Inhabitants of Anson County sheweth that your Petitioners are informed that a District Court of Law and Equity is erected at Fayetteville, that Town being about the same distance from the other District Towns in the State aforesaid as such District Towns are distant from each other that your Petitioners are sensible of the great advantage that would arise to them in consequence of their being annexed to and composing part of the Fayetteville District, etc., etc., pray that County of Anson be annexed to the District of Fayetteville. ... **Garrett Watts** ... [skip about 100] **Henery Watts**.”⁵⁸

MAY 1792

NC

RW claim.

“Book 2 Heading ... ‘An Account of allowances made Officers and Soldiers of the late Continental line of this State for pay &c. by the Commissioners of Army Accounts at Hillsborough May 1792.’ The legislature of 1785 apointed ... a board of commissioners to meet at Warrenton in 1786 and settle the claims fo the officers and soldiers of the North Carolina Line. Some of these claims had been settled at Halifax [in 1783] but *there remained many soldiers who had back service pay due them or who had claims for subsistance rations and clothing due them which they had never received in service*. These were the claims settled at Warrenton. The settlement was no sooner closed than evidence of fraud began to appear. The General Assembly was forced to declare the Warrenton settlement void and all certificates issued by the board invalid. It was 1792 before the State was able to re-settle these claims ...”⁵⁹

“The United States of America to the State of North Carolina DR: For Sundries furnished and Cash paid the Militia of North and South Carolina and Virginia as allowd by the Auditors of Hillsborough District as p:Report 84. ...

Entry 3436. To **John Walls [Watts]** No. 3636 6: 4: —“⁶⁰

COMMENT:

This derivative source types the name as “John Walls” on p. 1935 above; but indexes it as John “Watts.” If this is the same John Watts who applied earlier, received part pay, and vouchers for the rest, then it would appear that he was still in N.C. as late as 1792.

22 MAY 1793

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, NC

Civic role.

⁵⁷ *Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1977), 504 (for start of list), 568.

⁵⁸ May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 139–40; citing “Legislative Papers (House of Commons) Nov. 3–13, 1789, L.P. 85, Dept of Archives and History, Raleigh N.C.”

⁵⁹ Weynette Parks Haun, *North Carolina Revolutionary Army Accounts, Secretary of State, Treasurer’s & Comptroller’s Papers, Vol. 1, Vol. II, Part II* (Durham, N.C., P.p., n.d.), introduction.

⁶⁰ Weynette Parks Haun, *North Carolina Revolutionary Army Accounts; Accounts of the United States with North Carolina [Treasurer, State], Book C, Part XIV* (Durham, N.C., P.p., n.d.), 1935.

“William Morgan 100 ac; warrant #216 issued Nov. 20, 1779 by John Crump, from Benjn. Beard’s records, to Wm ‘Morgin’ for 100 ac joins land where he lives; 100 ac surveyed May 22, 1793 by James Cotton; on Little Baptist Prong of Clarks Cr; border: begins at his beginning corner red oak of land where he lives & joins his 50 ac survey; **Valentine Watts** & Augustine Lunsford, chain carriers; grant #698 issued Jul. 9, 1792.”⁶¹

22 MAY 1793

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, NC

Civic role.

“William Morgan 100 ac; warrant #213 issued Dec. 16, 1780 by Benjamin Baird to William Morgan for 100 ac on waters of Clarkes Cr, joins his own line, & Going Morgan {belongs in shuck #434}; warrant #807 issued Jan. 4, 1793, by John Crump to William Morgan for 100 ac joins my own line on Baptist Prong of Clarks Cr; 100 ac surveyed May 22, 1793 by James Cotton (due to warrant #807); on Clarks Cr; border: begins at a red oak; “**Vallintine**” **Watts** & Augustine Lunsford, chain carriers; grant #729 issued Jul. 9, 1792.”⁶²

28 JULY 1796

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

“(2811 (274). ... **John Watts** (Anson Co) to **Isham Davis** (same); for £50 NC money sold 150 ac; border: begins at Martin Johnson’s corner red oak in Robert Key’s second line, crosses a branch, & Beard; granted Dec. {omitted}, 1795 by Gov. Saml Ashe to **Garrott Watts**. (signed) **John Watts**; witness Vincent Self & Reubin Phillips; wit. Oath Oct. 1796 by Vincent Self; book 3 p. 317.”⁶³

COMMENT:

- This Garrott Watts is widely claimed (without evidence) in online trees to be the son of the Indian trader/interpreter John Watts. Usually an Indian mother is asserted for him.
- The context of the above document is that a younger John is selling land granted to an older Garrott.

31 MARCH 1796

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

“2813 (2776). ... **Garot {or Garrott} Watts** (Anson Co) to Isham Davis (same); for £30 NC money sold 200 ac; border: begins qat a post oak on N side of Glade Lick and joins Palmer’s line. (signed) Garrot Watts; witness Jesse Tatum, William Morris, & William Maynard; wit. Oath Oct. 1796 by William Maynard.”⁶⁴

COMMENT:

- This volume has numerous entries for Garrott and Malachi. Nothing else for John.
- I have not extracted all the published abstracts for want of time on this research trip.

15 JANUARY 1797

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Neighbor.

⁶¹ A. B. Pruitt, *Land Warrants & Surveys: Montgomery Co., NC., 1778-1833*, 2 vols. (N.P.: P.p., 2006), 78, entry 719.

⁶² A. B. Pruitt, *Land Warrants & Surveys: Montgomery Co., NC., 1778-1833*, 2 vols. (N.P.: P.p., 2006), 81, entry 750.

⁶³ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Anson County, NC: Books D, C2, & E* (N.P.: P.p., 2000), 85; citing Book E: 317.

⁶⁴ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Anson County, NC: Books D, C2, & E* (N.P.: P.p., 2000), 96; citing Book E: 319.

MILLS: Watts: Initial Survey of Anson (and Daughter Counties), North Carolina15 January 2015

“[No.] 1632 (718). John Davis {write over} enters 150 ac; border: Charles Benton and **Benjamin Watts**.”⁶⁵

2 JUNE 1804

IREDELL COUNTY, NC

Land grant.

“796 (415) ... **John Watts** enters 100 ac.”⁶⁶

COMMENT:

This volume has other entries for James, Malachi, and William.

1818–1835

UNKNOWN COUNTY, NC

“The State Records of North Carolina (Clark), Vol. XXII—Miscellaneous, pages 55 to and including 92. North Carolina Revolutionary pensioners under the Acts of 1818 and 1832, as reported by Secretary of State to Congress in 1835. ...

No. 1626. **Watts, James, Privt.**⁶⁷

DNA POSSIBILITIES for Anson County Wattses

The above notes identify nine Watts males in Anson and Mecklenburg during the period that Rev. John Watts, Esq., is said to have lived there: Andrew, David, Ellick, Garrett, Henry, John, Malachi, Peter, and Valentine.

The Y-Search database offers no possibilities for these nine men.⁶⁸ The Watts/Wats/Watson project at Family Tree DNA offers five possibilities. The details shown there do not provide enough data in any case to ensure that the person listed as “earliest ancestor” is the same-name person of Anson, although the Garrett Z Watts” is placed in Anson, contemporaneously, in many online trees. Below, as an overview, I am only noting the haplotype—not the values for all 25, 37, or 67 markers.⁶⁹

⁶⁵ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entries: Iredell Co., NC, 1789–1804; Cabarrus Co., NC, 1793–1795; Anson Co., NC 1795–1797* (N.p.: P.p., 1990), 95; citing SS 593 [State Archives] p. 718.

⁶⁶ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entries: Iredell Co., NC, 1789–1804; Cabarrus Co., NC, 1793–1795; Anson Co., NC 1795–1797* (N.p.: P.p., 1990), 38; citing “Iredell Co Entrys from Aug. 22, 1799 {sic} to Dec. 31, 1804,” [and] “Transcript of Iredell Co Entry Taker’s Book from Jan. 1, 1804 to Dec. 31, 1803” [sic].

⁶⁷ *Roster of Soldiers from Morth Carolina in the American Revolution* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1977), 571 (for start of list), 587.

⁶⁸ Y-Search (www.Ysearch.org : last accessed 15 January 2015).

⁶⁹ “Watts/Watt/Watson Families Reconstruction Project,” database, *FamilyTreeDNA* (www.ftdna.com : last accessed 15 January 2015).

Ancestor ID	Country Origin	Haplogroup	Kit No.
David Russell (Watts?) b. 1733 NC; d. 1802 Meckleburg, NC ...	Unknown	R-U106	232555
John Watts Caroline Cty VA ca1730; Garrett Z Watts	Unknown	E-L117 ⁷⁰	52343
John Watts b1741 VA m Mary Johnson	UK	E-L677	81912
Malachi Watts, TN-Ft Smith AR	Unknown		1753
Malachi Watts (adopted)	Unknown	IP37	1797

Meanwhile, three descendants of our John Watts have tested with the following results:

Ancestor ID	Country Origin	Haplogroup	Kit No.
Thomas Watts b1771 NC/SC m Elizabeth Lott	Ireland	I-M223	20376
John Watts / Judith Rawls?, Mississippi	Unknown	I-M223	20203
Francis Marion Watts (Abt. 1833, MS—Abt. 1864, LA)	Unknown	I-M223	57850
<i>Other Watts sharing this haplogroup in the "I2b family"</i>			
Elias (Aley) Watts b. abt 1769 / Eleanor (Mills?)	Unknown	I-M223	124467
William Watts, b. c1760, Orange Co, VA	England	I-M223	N84482
William Watts, b. abt. 1786, Anson Co., NC [no evidence shown] [The testee is likely a descendant of John, who is following the mistaken belief that John was son of William of Anson]	Unknown	I-M223	127151
Commodore Perry Watts [b. ca. 1834 Mississippi; possible descendant of John]	Unknown	I-M223	70698

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⁷⁰ This E-L117 haplogroup attributed to Garrett Watts and (father?) John, is the same haplogroup carried by descendants of Thomas Watts (wife Tabitha) of Lynches Creek, Kershaw County, SC.

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