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REPORT TO: File

SUBJECT Watts: Initial Survey of Published Literature for Colonial and Revolutionary Bedford County (formerly Lunenburg and Brunswick), Virginia

BACKGROUND: In old Craven County, Camden District, South Carolina, we find a cluster of men surnamed Watts who were heads of household at the close of the Revolution. Their associational and residential patterns between 1763 and the early 1800s suggest kinships.¹ A common thread running throughout their records is a connection to individuals who migrated there from Bedford and Lunenburg Counties, Virginia, particularly

- Col. Ambrose Mills, whose sister Sarah married there, by 1749, one Thomas Watts.
- The interrelated families of Mobberly (*variant* Mobley), Meador, and Woodward.

The Wattses who belong to this cluster include:

- **Thomas Watts** (later “Thomas Watts Sr.”; d. after February 1796), who received a land grant 1763 on Dry Creek of the Wateree (Kershaw side), adjacent to one **William Watts** and **Edward Watts “Jr.”** (See below, for each). When Thomas sold part of his Dry Creek grant in 1796, the deed was proved before a Fairfield j.p. who lived two farms from our **John Watts**. No document explicitly names his wife or children. At this point, Thomas appears to be the likeliest parent for a cluster of next-generation Watts who interacted extensively along the Wateree River:
 - **John Watts**, below (b. ca. 1749), who named his first son Thomas.
 - **George Watts**, below (b. 25 December 1756, **Bedford County**, according to his Revolutionary War pension application), who named sons Thomas and Edward.
 - **William Watts** (b. before 1763).
 - **Thomas Watts Jr.**, below (b. before 1766) of Fairfield and Kershaw, 1787–97 and possibly
 - **Edward Watts III**, who purchased land from Edward Watts Jr. (see below) in 1787, but was apparently not a son and heir of Edward Jr.
 - **Elizabeth Watts** for whom George posted a court bond in 1793.
- **William Watts I** (d. after 1799) had land surveyed *adjacent to Thomas [Sr.]* on Dry Creek of the Wateree in 1763, although there is no evidence that he lived there. He had already (September 1762) petitioned for a grant on **Jackson’s Creek** of **Little River** in what is now west-central Fairfield. The site he chose lay just below and

¹ For the records that document this factually-dense summary, see

- Elizabeth Shown 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.
- Mills, “Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County), Pre-1820,” research report, 27 October 2014, 88 pp.
- 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.

contiguous to the **Forks of Little River** survey made 4 months earlier for **Ambrose Mills of Bedford**. A stream on William's land that came to be known as **Watts's Branch** of Jackson Creek, flowed into Mills's land. No known record identifies William's wife or children.

NOTE:

I am particularly pursuing the possibility that this man is the Thomas Watts who married Ambrose Mills's documented sister **Sarah Mills of Albemarle**, before 1749, while a resident of Lunenburg, the parent-county of Bedford.

- **Edward Watts Jr.** (d. 1809) held a land grant *adjacent to Thomas* in 1763, on Dry Creek of the Wateree (present Kershaw County, SC). In 1765, he moved across the Wateree into Fairfield and settled two tracts on Little River. One lay just below the Mobley/Mobberly meeting House area that had been settled by the **Mobberlys of Bedford County, Virginia**. The other lay just northwest of (and contiguous or adjacent to) the Forks of Little River land granted to **Ambrose Mills of Bedford**. Edward died 1810 leaving wife **Melinder "Millie" [—?—]**; sons *John* and *Thomas*; daughters **Sarah**, Millie Jr., Elizabeth, and Susanne.

NOTE:

The explicit identification of Edward as Edward **Junior** in his first record in South Carolina (the land grant) implies the existence of an Edward **Senior** either in the area or in the family cluster.

- **John Watts** (b. *ca.* 1749; d.1820–22), of Fairfield, later justice of Montgomery County, Georgia, and minister in both Georgia and Mississippi. He is identifiable in Fairfield from the onset of county records at the close of the Revolution—beginning with a 1783 record that implies he was a well-established member of his community. In 1784, John and one **William Mills** bought, from **Ambrose Mills's** son William, a **Forks of the Wateree** grant made in 1768 to Ambrose. In 1786, John was shown as adjacent landowner on a plat for a proposed grant purchased shortly thereafter by "**Thomas Watts Jr.**" and the 1790 census places John and Thomas next door to each other in Fairfield. Neighbors of both men resided between Wateree Creek (on the north) and Taylor's Creek of the Wateree River (on the south). That site lay just west of the ferry that connected their community to the east-of-the Wateree grants made in 1763 to Thomas, William, and Edward Jr.
- **George Watts**, the only Watts on the waters of the Wateree to serve in the Revolution, was **born 25 December 1756 in Bedford County, Virginia**, according to his Revolutionary pension application. His residence on **25-Mile Creek** of the Wateree River in Fairfield places him 4–5 miles across the Wateree from Thomas Sr. (of Kershaw) and 4–5 miles below Thomas Jr. of Fairfield's Taylor and Dutchman's Creek. George most closely associated with Dukes and Perrys who also straddled the Fairfield-Kershaw line. In the mid-70s (by a mother unknown), he fathered sons **James** and **Thomas** and possibly a daughter **Elizabeth** (the one for whom George served as bondsman in 1793). By 1780 he was married to **Ruth Perry**, by whom he had a daughter **Sarah**. About 1780–82, he married Barbara **Crompton [aka Compton]**, by whom he was the father of Sallie, Mary, Eleanor "Nellie," Nancy, Margaret, and **Edward**. He was enumerated in Pendleton District, S.C. in 1800 and 1810, drafted a document in Richland District in 1818 for a

Pendleton-based son (Thomas); was enumerated in Richland in 1820; and moved to DeKalb County, Ga., by 1830.

Research now focuses in the stated place of George's birth: Bedford County, Virginia.

GOAL: Determine

- whether any of the Fairfield and Kershaw Wattses can be placed in Bedford County with Ambrose Mills and the Mobleys;
- whether parents can be identified for George, who cited his 1756 birth in Bedford;
- whether a larger pattern of migration can be established from Bedford to Fairfield that would identify other associated families.

ASSOCIATES: Principal families associated in South Carolina: Duke, Gibson, Hollis, Hornsby (aka Hornsbie), King, Kirkland, Knighton, Lewis, Mills (Ambrose & William), Mobberly (aka Mobley), Perry, Pickett, Pigg, Rawls, Tidwell, Winn, and Woodward.

MISCELLANY: I am including some published abstracts relating to Witts—inlaws for some of the Bedford Co. Millses on whom I have previously worked for a different project.

Curly brackets { } are used below to indicate cases in which the derivative source I am quoting has added bracketed information not in the original record from which its compiler worked. Where square editorial brackets appear in my research notes below, they reflect my own added comments.

New Findings

Executive Summary

Note:

All points made in this summary are documented in the Research Notes section of this report. There, the transcripts, abstracts or images appear in chronological sequence for easy location.

- A cluster of same-name men did exist in Lunenburg/Bedford County—most notably linked in one 1752 tax household in which **Edward Sr.** paid tithes for himself and **Edward Jr., William, George, and John** (in that order). The assignment of responsibility to Edward Sr. for taxes on the other four subserviently listed males implies that the tithables are a father and his sons.
- Edward first surfaces in adjacent Albemarle in 1748, amid a cluster of Watts, Mills, and Stone land patentees on Pedlar River, In 1754 he bought Bedford Co. land from George Walton on Elk Creek.
- Also in the same tax district, 1748–51, was a **Thomas Watts** whose activities suggest he was a young adult.
- From the tax records, we can extrapolate that the four younger Watts in Edward Sr.'s household were **born ca. 1730, 1732, 1734, and 1736** respectively. **Thomas, if an older brother of these four, would be born by 1728.** This comports with the fact that he was, by 1746, selling wolf bounty warrants in his own name [i.e., **born by 1725–28**].
- These extrapolated ages for Thomas, Edward Jr., and William of Lunenburg-Bedford are compatible with the ages of the same-name men on SC's Wateree. The two youngest males in the home of Edward Sr. (John and George), are too old to be the same-named men on the Wateree.
- Evidence continues to support the hypothesis that Thomas Watts "Sr." of the 1763 Wateree River grants should be the same **Thomas Watts** whose documented wife **Sarah Mills**, was sister of the

Loyalist colonel **Ambrose Mills**. (Ambrose's Little River grant of 1762 bordered **Edward and William Watts**; and his Wateree Creek grant of 1768 was sold by his son William Mills to **William and John Watts** in 1784, after Ambrose was captured at the Battle of King's Mountain and hung.²

- When Lunenburg County was divided in 1754, both **Thomas Watts** and **Edward Watts Sr.** were cut away into Bedford County. The other Lunenburg Wattses were not.
- In August 1755, **Edward Watts** and **Ambrose Mills** were jointly sued in Bedford Co.—the nature of the charge was not stated.
- By December 1759, **Edward Watts Jr.** owned Albemarle Co. land adjacent to **William Mills**, father of Ambrose.
- **Edward Watts Jr.**, in Bedford, was also closely associated with the family of **Richard and Elizabeth Woodward**. In South Carolina, after Edward Jr. left his Wateree grant in 1763, he relocated on Craven/Fairfield's Little River amid a cluster of Woodwards from this Bedford-Lunenburg family.
- **Thomas Watts** and **Ambrose Mills** both drop from Bedford records about mid-1756. Both were heavily in debt (as was Edward Sr.) with judgments against them. Both sold—in advance—the wolves-head bounties they were entitled to collect in the November court session. A suit Thomas had initiated against one of his own debtors was then dropped by the court—apparently because Thomas was no longer there to prosecute the suit.
- **Edward Sr.**, **Edward Jr.**, and **William-of-Edward** all drop from Bedford records by 1763, the year that Edward Jr., William, and Thomas received their adjacent grants on Dry Creek of the Wateree River in old Craven County, SC.

With regard to the other Wattses of Lunenburg-Bedford:

- The **Fairfield George Watts**, born in Bedford in 1756 and suspected to be a son of Thomas and Sarah (Mills) Watts, was clearly a generation younger than George-of-Edward Sr. in Lunenburg-Bedford.
- **George-of-Edward Sr.** married one Frances in Bedford (the possible daughter of **Richard and Elizabeth Woodward**); and moved to Anson County, North Carolina. George died in 1772 in Anson's offshoot county, Lincoln. Some of the Bedford **Meadors**, who had been part of George's Bedford-to-Anson migration, subsequently moved to Fairfield's Little River where they owned land next door to **Edward Watts Jr.** and near William Watts.
- **John-of-Edward Sr.** can also be eliminated from consideration as John of Fairfield. Aged sixteen by 1752, he was likely a dozen or so years older than his Fairfield counterpart, whose first known child was born about 1769.³ As seen in this report, the evidence suggests that John-of-Edward may have remained in Bedford or, possibly, preceded George in his migration to Anson.
- The tax rolls, land deeds, and court records of Lunenburg (but not Bedford) also report the existence of a **Richard** who sought exemption from taxes in 1747 and later—apparently on the basis of age

² Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book A: 508–10, and C: 59.

³ None of the 76 records known for the Fairfield John, across the course of his life, provide an age for him. However, his birth can be assigned to the year 1749 by the following;

- John was dropped from Georgia's jury lists after April 1809; Georgia law at that time decreed 60 as the maximum age for jury service. See Robert & George Watkins, *A Digest of the Laws of the State of Georgia ... to the Year 1798, Inclusive* ... (Philadelphia: R. Aitken, Printer, 1800); digitized at *Archives.org* (<https://archive.org/details/digestoflawsofst1800stat> : accessed 22 January 2014), 440 (1791 jury selection process), and 627 (1797 revision).
- The minister who likely married him and his wife along Fairfield's Wateree River left a contemporary journal in which, that same year, he described marital and childbearing practices of the Wateree settlers, including: "When the Boys are 18 and Girls 14, they marry." 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, N.C.: Univ. of N.C. Press, 1953), 39. John, whose first two children were born ca. 1769 and 1771, would have been 18 or 19 at marriage and 19 or 20 at birth of first child.

(i.e., likely over age 60). These records also show three other adult Wattses in Lunenburg whose activities suggest they were a generation younger than Richard—that is, the same generation as Edward Sr.: **William, John, and Jacob**. After Bedford was cut from Lunenburg, these men did not appear in Bedford records.

- The tax rolls divide these Lunenburg-Bedford Wattses into two clusters:
 - **Jacob, William-the elder, and John-the elder** in a district between Hounds Creek and Meherrin River.
 - **Richard, Edward Sr. (with his Edward Jr., William, George, and John), and Thomas** in the Jefferson neighborhood with **Ambrose Mills, William Mills, Mobberlys, Meadors, and Dukes**—families they interacted with in both Virginia and South Carolina.
- **John-the-elder** drops from Lunenburg-Bedford records in 1753, shortly after he was imprisoned for debt. He is a possible candidate for the John Watts who appeared in Anson County, NC, in 1763 and signed the famed Anson County petition of 1769 with his mark Θ.
- **Jacob**, also in debt and financially linked to John in the court actions, also seems to drop from records in 1753. Whether he is Rev. Jacob Watts of adjacent Amherst, as others assert, is unproved.
- **William-the-elder** appears to have remained and possibly left progeny.
- **Thomas Watts and Ambrose Mills** both drop from Bedford records in mid-1756. Both were heavily in debt (as was Edward) with judgments against them. Both sold—in advance—the wolves-head bounties that were due to be paid them in November. A suit Thomas had initiated against one of his own debtors was then dropped by the court—apparently because he was no longer there to prosecute the suit.
- **Edward Sr., Edward Jr., and William-of-Edward** all drop from Bedford records by 1763, the year that Edward Jr., William, and Thomas received their adjacent grants on Dry Creek of the Wateree River in old Craven County, SC. Edward Jr., in Bedford, was closely associated with the Richard and Elizabeth Woodward family; after he left his Wateree grant in 1763, he relocated on Craven-Fairfield's Little River amid a cluster of Woodwards from this Bedford-Lunenburg family.

CONCLUSIONS:

- An unquestionable pattern of migration can be defined from Bedford County, Virginia, to the Wateree and Little Rivers of old Craven/Camden/Fairfield, South Carolina. The migrants of the 1750s and 1760s notably included the **Mobberlys/Mobleys** who founded the famed Mobley Meeting House on Little River, **Field Farrar** (first cousin of President Jefferson) who was a close Fairfield neighbor of John Watts's son-in-law Moses Hornsby), **John Taylor Duke** (who settled on Little River with the Mobleys); **Cargills, Dendys, Gibsons** (who settled Fairfield in the John Watts–Moses Hornsby community), and **Woodwards** (who settled Fairfield in Edward Watts's community).
- Of the Wattses who migrated from Bedford to Fairfield, only Thomas (probable husband of Sarah Mills) was old enough to have fathered **(a) John** of Fairfield, b. 1749, and **(b) George**, born 25 December 1756. Both John and George named sons Thomas. John is said to have given that name to one of his still-unidentified sixteen children; and the name Sarah is the most-common female name given by John's children to their own daughter.

FUTURE WORK:

Thoroughly work Orange County, its parent county Spotsylvania, and Culpeper County. Two indicators suggest this focus:

- Y-DNA in this Watts line matches that of several Wattses with roots in **Orange County, VA**—particularly “William Watts, b. c. 1760, Orange Co., VA” whose descendant in the Watts Y database is N84482.⁴
- Thomas Markham’s online genealogy of Wattses asserts that Edward Sr. of Lunenburg/Bedford is the Edward named in the 1745/1749 will of **Thomas Watts of Culpepper Co. (formerly Orange) VA**, who named the following heirs: wife Esther; sons Edward, John, Benjamin, Thomas, Jacob, William; daughters Esther, Ann, Elizabeth, Sarah, Franky (no husbands identified). Markham presents no evidence that these two Edwards are the same. However, the time frame is compatible and several associational points suggest that thorough research of Culpeper and Orange could satisfactorily prove the supposition. Of particular note:⁵
 - Markham asserts (without evidence) that Esther, the wife of the testator Thomas, was Esther **Stone**. The Stones associated with our Wattses in both Lunenburg/Bedford, VA, and Fairfield District, SC. For example: Ambrose Mills, the brother-in-law of Thomas-of-Edward in Lunenburg, married Marvel Stone.
 - Markham shows (with evidence) that the testator Thomas lived adjacent to one **James Barbour**. In Fairfield, SC, the first recorded document for our John Watts (proposed great-grandson of the Culpeper testator) was his appraisal of the estate of one Widow “Barber,” who left a son James.
 - Markham shows (with evidence) that the Culpeper testator’s son Thomas Jr. named his first son **Reuben Watts**. Our John Watts gave that name to a son and no source of the name Reuben has previously been found amid his known relatives. However, the kinship and residences here are not close. This Reuben of Thomas, who died in the Revolution as a Patriot soldier from Virginia, would be a first-cousin-once-removed of John, who was reared in South Carolina.
 - Markham shows (with evidence) that Thomas Jr.—the proposed brother of Edward of Lunenburg—also named a son **Aaron Watts**. One Aaron makes a cameo appearance in mid-1750s records of Lunenburg below.
 - Markham asserts (without evidence) that Thomas Jr. was the father of **Rev. Jacob Watts**—a man who also appears in Lunenburg in the 1750s before settling in Albemarle.
 - Markham asserts (without evidence) that Edward [Sr.] of Lunenburg/Bedford married **Elizabeth Downs**, by whom he had three children: Thomas, Edward [Jr.] and Anna, b. 1758, who married Thomas Buford. Four issues exist here. (1) Markham offers no evidence to connect Edward to any of the three alleged children; (2) Anna, wife of Buford—for whom notes appear in this report—was born considerably too late to be a daughter of Edward Sr. of Lunenburg; and (3) the several other sons and one likely daughter identified in this present report are not included on Markham’s list of children. (4) no Downs connections have yet been found for Thomas-of-Edward or his son Rev. John Watts, Esq.⁶

⁴ Barbara Van Camp and Neal Watts, group administrators, “Watts/Watt/Watson Families Reconstruction Project,” database, *FamilyTreeDNA* (<https://www.familytreedna.com/public/wattsamilies/default.aspx?section=yresults> : last accessed 4 Jan. 2015).

⁵ Thomas A. Markham, *The Descendants of Edward Watts, 1650–1728* (<http://www.tommymarkham.com/Watts/edwardwatts-1.htm> : accessed 5 January 2015).

⁶ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782-1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1,” 285–86; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

Research Notes (Geo-Historical Background)

1720

SURRY & ISLE OF WIGHT > BRUNSWICK

County formation.

"Brunswick County is created from pieces of Surry and Isle of Wight, Peaks of Otter are within it. Many Presbyterians migrate from Scotland to Philadelphia. Gov. William Gooch offers free land and 10 year tax exemption to settlers. ... 1738 John Irvin and other Presbyterians get reassurance of freedom of worship—so they settle at Hat Creek area of today's Campbell County."⁷

1746

BRUNSWICK > LUNENBURG

County formation.

"Lunenburg County is carved off from Brunswick. John **Wall** [?] is Lunenburg's Delegate, New London is county seat, a long trip for east county residents."⁸

COMMENT:

Penmanship of this era is such that *Wall* and *Watt* are frequently misread, one for the other.

1753–1754

LUNENBURG > BEDFORD

County formation.

"Bedford County is created by the Virginia Assembly, partly from Lunenburg, to take effect May 10, 1754. ... Court convenes in New London, for first time, in home of Matthew Talbot with seven justices. Ben Howard is the first County Clerk.—May 17, Monday. ... [1754] George Washington and Virginia troops clash with French troops at Fort Necessity, and withdraw. ... [1756] British declare war after French troops occupy Fort Duquesne. So-called French & Indian War begins. Two years later, in Europe, begins the so-called '7 Years War.'—May 18. Quaker Society of Friends petition to have monthly meeting at Goose Creek.—October 9. [1757] 17 year old John **Lynch** starts a ferry service across James River. [1760] Grist mills are built near Goose Creek and Little Otter rivers."⁹

AUGUST 1713

SURRY CO., VA

Court order.

"Judgmt. Is granted Thos. Cock against the Estate of **John Watts** (who hath privately departed this County) returned attached for three pounds eighteen Shillgs & Seven pence due by Acct. with Costs of Suit the said Cock having made oath that the same is justly due.

"John Hix, John **Hawthorn** & Robt. Jones or any two of them being first sworn before one of her Majesties Justices of the Peace for this County are appointed to value & appraise the Goods of **John Watts** returned attached by Thos. Cock & to report their proceedings to the next Court."¹⁰

⁷ Peter Viemeister, *Historical Diary of Bedford, Virginia, U.S.A. from Ancient Times to U.S. Bicentennial* (Bedford, Va., Hamilton's, 1986), 5.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid., 5-6.

¹⁰ Weynette Parks Haun, *Surry County, Virginia, Court Records, 1712–1718* (Durham, NC: P.p., 1993), 28; citing Court Minutes Book 7: 39.

COMMENT:

In Craven/Camden/Fairfield in the 1770s–90s, one James **Hawthorn** was an adjacent neighbor to William Watts [Sr.]. That may or may not be coincidental. I have not included Hawthorn on my study list for the Bedford research.¹¹

15 JUNE 1714

SURRY CO., VA

Court order.

“In the difference between Thos. Cock plt. & the Estate of **John Watts** returned Attatcht. The Appraisers having failed to ... Report of their Proceedings it is ordered that they make the same at the next Court.”¹²

COMMENT:

The compiler shows 15 June 1714 as the preceding court date, then shows an adjournment (same page) until Dec. 16, 1713.

DECEMBER 1714

SURRY CO., VA.

Court Order.

“In the difference depending between Thos. Cock Plt. & the Estate of **John Walls** [sic], Returned attached the Appraisers having failed to make a Return the same is Ordered to be Continued to the next Court.”¹³

COMMENT:

Four court minutes later, all on same page, the compiler shows the court reconvening on 8 January 1713 [sic]. The next document in this case, page wise, is dated March 1713.

CA. MARCH 1713 [1714?]

SURRY CO., VA

Court order.

“In the difference depending between Thos. Cock Plt. & **John Watts** deft (the Appraisers having Valued the Goods belonging to the said deft. Returned Attached to two Pounds Nineteen Shills. The same is Ordered to be Recorded & Judgment is granted the Plt. against the said Deft. For three Pounds Eighteen Shillings & Seven Pence Curr. Money due by Accot he having made Oath that the same is Justly due with Costs.”

COMMENT:

- The compiler shows March 1713 as the preceding court date, but then shows 13 May 1714 as the next date.
- Note that there is a 20-year gap before the next known appearance of Wattses in this county.

3 JULY 1735

BRUNSWICK CO., VA

Land purchase.

¹¹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book K: 73–74.

¹² Weynette Parks Haun, *Surry County, Virginia, Court Records, 1712–1718* (Durham, NC: P.p., 1993), 32; citing Court Minutes Book 7: 45.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 47.

“Thomas Wilson ack. Deeds to [several dozen people] including **Richard Watts**.”¹⁴

COMMENT:

This is the only Watts entry in this 1732–37 court order book. Dukes also appear. No Woodwards.

9 JANUARY 1737

SURRY CO., VA

Witness.

“John Carr of Southwark Parish, Surry. Carpenter. Will. Date: 9 January 1737. Rec.: 15 Feb. 1737. Richard Ransom, Executor. Legatees: Friend: Matthew Current of Prince George County; Richard Ransom of Brunswick County. Witnesses: Ellin Rookings, Stephen Mercer, Richard Steward and **James Watts**.”¹⁵

COMMENT:

This is the only reference found for James. The name James would be used for his first- or second-born by the George Watts who was born in Bedford in 1756; but the possibility exists that George’s James was named for the family of the child’s unknown mother.

2 MARCH 1737

BRUNSWICK CO., VA

Neighbor.

“Cornelius Cargill & his wife Elizabeth (E) (late Elizabeth Daniel) of Brunswick Co. to John Johnson of Goochland Co. 2 Mar 1737. £40 VA. 466 acres which had been a patent to the sd Elizabeth Daniel dated 25 Aug 1731 on the south side of Jeneto Creek, joining **William Watts**, George Hicks. Wit: Clem Read, Drury Stith, Moses Dunkley. Proved 2 Mar 1737. Drury Stith CC.”¹⁶

COMMENT:

This William Watts Sr. stayed in Bedford after the family of Edward Sr. left for South Carolina.

JUNE 1746

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

“Ann Smith is granted a certificate for obtaining letters of administration of the estate of Edmond Smith deceased, giving security. She, together with John Beard and **John Mills**, her securities, entered into and ack[nowledged] Bond for the administration of the estate.”¹⁷

AUGUST 1746

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

“On hearing the petition of **Richard Watts**, and for reasons appearing to the court, he is exempted from the payment of public and county levies for the future.”¹⁸

COMMENT:

¹⁴ TLC Genealogy, *Brunswick County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1732–1737* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1992), 57; citing Brunswick Orders, 1732–1737, p. 99.

¹⁵ Lyndon H. Hart III, *Surry County, Virginia, Wills, Estate Accounts and Inventories, 1730–1800* (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1985), 19; citing “Will & Deed Book 1715–1730,” p. 796.

¹⁶ Stephen E. Bradley Jr., *Brunswick County, Virginia, Deed Books*, vol. 1, 1732–1745 (Lawrenceville, Va.: P.p., 1997), 41; citing “Deed Book/Will Book 1,” p. 371.

¹⁷ TLC Genealogy, *Lunenburg County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1746–1748* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1990), 6, citing Book 1, page 9.

¹⁸ TLC Genealogy, *Lunenburg County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1746–1748* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1990), 18; citing Book 1, p. 36.

- In all probability, he was *over 60*. Unless he were disabled, the typical reason for an exemption was that the man had reached the upper end of his productive years.
- This age extrapolation suggests him as a possible father for Jacob, William Sr., and John Sr., who resided in his district. No suggestion of a connection has been found to the Edward-Thomas cluster.

DECEMBER 1746

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

"A State of the County Levy" [Payments to various individuals]

"To Whom Granted; By Whom Granted; Dates of Certificates; Wolves Heads; [pounds tobacco]"

[*consecutive entries*]

"To **John Taylor Duke**, assignee of James Hicks; W Howard; 11/7/1746; 1"; 140.

"To John Speed, assignee of **Thomas Watts**; " [W Howard]; 9/12/1746; 1 young " [wolf's head]; 70."

COMMENT:

- **John Taylor Duke was also in Fairfield with the Watts.**¹⁹ Like Edward Watts, he settled in the Mobberly Meeting House area on Beaver Creek between Little River and Broad River.
- For Thomas to be selling his wolf-head bounty, in his own name, he should be at least 18–21—i.e., born about 1725–28. The September 1747 document below suggests that he *might* have been a young adult with at least one child old enough for schooling. If so, then he was likely born about 1720—roughly a generation younger than Jacob, William Sr., John Sr., and Edward Sr. His migration to the Wateree of South Carolina with Edward Sr.'s sons, as well as the fact that the three of them chose adjacent lands, suggests that he might also have been a son of Edward.

MAY 1747

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

"Michael Cannaday Plt. vs. **Richard Watts**, Deft. For reasons appearing to the court, suit dismissed."²⁰

COMMENT:

To be sued, Richard had to be at least 21—i.e., born before 1726.

SEPTEMBER 1747

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

"Upon the attachment obtained by William Howard, Gent, against the estate of William Clark (who is said to be a runaway or so absconded that the ordinary process of law cannot be served on him) for 14£ 15 shillings and 10 pence, this day came said Howard by his atty, and the sheriff having returned that he had executed the attachment in the hands of George Holloway, John Speed, **Thomas Watts**, Reuben Morigin, David Dodd, Field Jefferson [uncle of Thomas and grandfather of Field Farrar, a Watts-Hornsby neighbor in Fairfield, SC], John Darby, and William Abbot, the said **garnishees** appeared in court and declared as follows:

¹⁹ TLC Genealogy, *Lunenburg County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1746–1748* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1990), 46; citing Book 1, p. 97.

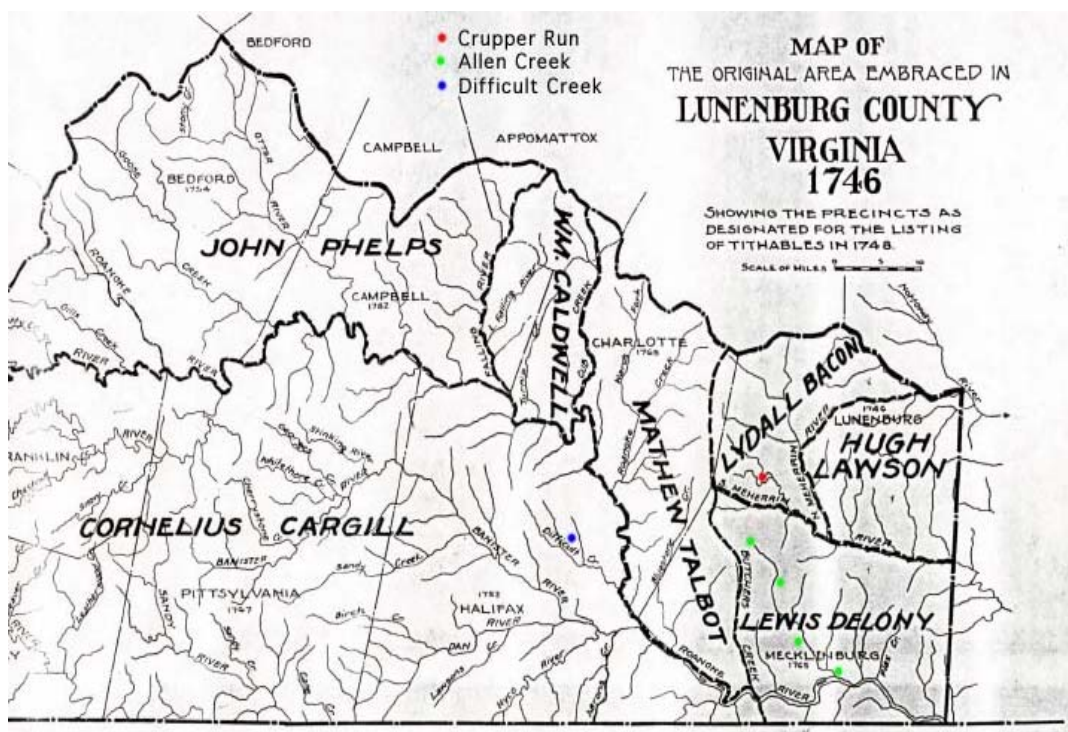
²⁰ TLC Genealogy, *Lunenburg County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1746–1748* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1990), 88; citing Book 1, p. 204.

- George Holloway says he has in his hands of the estate of William Clark, 1 waist coat, 1 pair of stockings, 2 pair of breeches, 1 shirt, and no more.
- John Speed says he has 20 shillings and no more.
- **Thomas Watts** says he has 3 shillings and 9 pence and no more.
- Reuben Morgan says he has 2 shillings and 6 pence and no more.
- David Dodde says he has 4 shillings and 4 pence half penny and **a book entitled Cockers Arithmatick** and no more.
- Field Jefferson has 14 shillings and 9 pence and no more.
- John Darby has nothing.
- William Abbot has 16 shillings and 6 pence, and no more.”²¹

COMMENT:

For this many men to be “holding” such precise sums for Clark suggests that they owe him money for services. Overall, the evidence provided in this court record implies that William Clark may have been a school teacher who boarded with George Holloway and left an arithmetic book with David Dodd, while the 7 men who are said to have money belonging to him might owe him these sums for teaching.

Map 1
Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1748²²



1748
LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA
Tax roll.

²¹ TLC Genealogy, *Lunenburg County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1746–1748* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1990), 113; citing Book 1, p. 266.

²² Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: Lists of Tithes; Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1748–1783* (1931; reprint, Baltimore: Clearfield Co., 1998), 58; color-annotated copy, source not identified, accessed via Google Images.

“List of Tithes Taken Between Hounds Creek and Meherrein {River} 1748

[skip 8 households]

Edward Jackson

Ritchard Thomson

Joseph Blanks

Henerey Gill

James Daws

Jacob Watts 1

At John Edloe Junrs. Quarter

William Saffold

At Edward Broadanack’s Quarter

Phillamon Russel

William Beckenham

William Dunman

Joseph Dunman

Robert H. Dyer, Gent.

Robert Dyer, Junr.

William Rhods

At Philip Edloe’s Quarter

Benjamin *Dugger*²³

COMMENT:

Jacob Watts is at least 16—i.e., born before 1732. He is likely over 21 and likely married, given that he is living independently.

“Lists of Tithables for 1748; List Taken by William Caldwell”

[skip 45]

John Nevels

John McDead

David Emanuel

Abreham Abney

2

Wm. Watts

1

Wm. Cunningham

Thomas Cunningham

Francis Grimes

John Caldwell

James Caldwell

Thomas Vernnon, Junr.

John *Prat*

[skip about 50]

Jno. *Wotton*²⁴

[Wooten? As in Fairfield and Tattnall Cos., Ga.?)

COMMENT:

- **William Watts is at least 16—i.e., born before 1732.** He is found consistently, on his own, from 1748–52, suggesting he is not the minor William charged to Edward Sr. in 1752.
- The fact that he is charged to Abreham Abney suggests that he is employed by Abney or has married an Abney daughter and is living in his father-in-law’s household.

²³ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 58, 60–61; no source cited.

²⁴ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 176–78; no source cited.

- Whether he is the William Watts who owned land adjacent to Cargill on 2 March 1737 is debatable.

“List of Tithables for 1748; List Taken by {Lewis} Deloney”

[skip 35 households]

Lewis Delony

John Freeman 8

[skip 17 households]

Henry Delony

John Challis

Jas. Vincent 3

[skip 4 households]

Edward Whitt

1 [his brother Lewis supposedly m. Ann Mills, sister of Ambrose]

[skip 26 households]

Field Jefferson

Thos. Jefferson

George Farrar

Joseph Aking

Wm. Edwards

David Dodd 16

John Tayloe Duke

2 [later an Edward Watts & Mobberly neighbor in Fairfield]

John Duke

3

[skip 32 households]

Wm. Sandifer

John Young

6

[skip 22 households]

Nickolas Calyham

John Callyham

David Caliham

3

[skip 30 households]

David Allen

1

John Robinson

Mark Robinson

Edward Robinson 4

Wm. Douglas

1

Thomas Watts

1

Wm. Hagood and

Wm. Hagood, Junr.

2

Matthew Robinson and

Wm. Gamblin

2

[13 households to end of list]²⁵

COMMENT:

Two Wattses are noticeably missing from the 1748 rolls:

- **John-the-elder** has not been found on this list. The earliest record found for him is in November of this tax year. See below.
- **Edward Sr**, who will not appear in these tax rolls until 1752.

²⁵ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 67–73; no source cited.

TO DO:

Surrounding counties need to be thoroughly worked, particularly Albermarle and Amherst.

28–30 MARCH 1748

ALBEMARLE COUNTY (ADJACENT TO LUNENBURG)

Land survey.

“Thos. Stone, 200 ac; Mar 28, 1748; joyning South side Pedlar River; joyning **Geo Watts, Horsly’s creek, Thos Stone.**”

“**Thos. Watts**, 335 ac; Mar 30, 1478 [sic]; branches of Pedlar River; by Thomas Turpin; joining Robt. Davis, **Edwd Watts.**”²⁶

20 SEPTEMBER 1748

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Witness.

“Know that Mary Trayler of O in Cumberland Parish sold to Henry Talley of L[unenburg], 1 Negro fellow named Dick. Signed Sep 20, 1748 – Mary (X her mark) Trayer. Wit – John Williams, Francis Williams, **Jacob Watts** (X his mark). ...²⁷

9 NOVEMBER 1748

SURREY COUNTY, VA

Associate.

“Morris Pritchard, Overseer, of Surry. Will. Date: 9 Nov. 1748. Rec.: 20 Dec. 1748. Elizabeth Pritchard, Execu 335 actrix. Wife: Elizabeth. Sons: John, Richard and Casey. Friends: **John Watts** and John Gillam[sic]. Mentions: children (or child) not of age; land on the Roanoke River. Witnesses: Ann Prescott, Rachell Prescott and Samuel Peete.”²⁸

COMMENT:

This John Watts should have been at least 21 (i.e., born before 1727), in which case he would not likely be the John Watts who is listed last among the four younger Watts on whom Edward Sr. was charged a tithe in 1752. In this analysis, I am calling this man **John-the-elder**.

1749

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Tax roll.

“The List of Tiths taken Between Hounds Creek and Meherrin 1749” by Hugh Lawson

[skip about 75 households]

Hugh Lawson

Roger Lawson

Nicklas Calleham

John Calleham

Jacob Watts

1

6 heads & scalps

Seth Petteypoll

²⁶ Eric G. Grundset, “Land lying in the County of Albemarle:” Albemarle County, Virginia Surveyors’ Plat Books, Volume 1, Parts 1 and 2, and Volume 2, 1744–1853 [and 1891] (Fairfax, VA: Privately printed, 1998), 18; citing vol. 1, pp. 64 and 68.

²⁷ TLC Genealogy, *Lunenburg County, Virginia, Deeds, 1752–1757* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1990), 46; citing Deed Book 3:546.

²⁸ Lyndon H. Hart III, *Surry County, Virginia, Wills, Estate Accounts and Inventories, 1730–1800* (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1985), 42; citing “Deed & Will Book, 1738–1754,” p. 599.

John Petteypool
 Peter Petteypool
 Seth Petteypool, Jr.
 Charles Weatherfoard
 Edward Jackson
 John Forrest
 William Rivers
 John Elmoor
 At Philip Edlow's qutr.
 Benjemein *Dugger*
 At Henery Soons {?} qutr.
 William Saffold
 John Edloe²⁹

COMMENT:

The description of the tax/militia district is the same as in 1748. Note, however, that Jacob Watts's "neighbors" now include the "Callehams" who, the year before were in the tax district with **Thomas Watts**. It is likely that the two districts adjoined. Part of one may have merged into the other as boundaries changed to keep militia districts of roughly equal population.

"William Howard's List of Tithables, 1749"

[Skip 8 households]

John Robinson		
Mark Robinson		
Edward Robinson	4 tithes	24 heads & scalps

[Skip 9 households]

Henry Deloney
 William Tait, Constable

[Skip 17 households]

William Hagood, Senr. & William Hagood, Junr.	2 tithes	
Francis Ellidge		
John Parnold		
Jacob Mitchell		
John Earl		
John Carril		
Thomas Watts	3 tithes	18 heads & scalps ³⁰

COMMENT:

- This William Howard District was the Lewis Delony District the previous year.
- Note that Thomas Watts is still listed near the Hagoods, as in the previous year. However, he is now listed in the "household" of John Earl.
- Many online trees at Ancestry and elsewhere assert (without evidence) that John Earl was married to **Mary Elizabeth Watts**.³¹

²⁹ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 67–73; no source cited.

³⁰ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 108–15, particularly 114; no source cited.

³¹ For example, see "scanner5" [creator, "Murphy-MacDaniel Family Tree," *Ancestry.com* (http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/11032083/person/6159613367?ssrc=&ml_rpos=37 : accessed 5 January 2015), "John Earl" page.

This year, three Watts are noticeably missing:

- **John** of the November 1748 record.
- **William** of the 1748 tax roll
- **Edward Sr.**, who first appears in 1752

TO DO:

Include John Earl on my future worklist to confirm or disprove the Watts connection. (He is not found in Bedford County's court minutes after Bedford was cut out of Lunenburg.)

JANUARY 1749

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

"John McDaniel to **John Watts**, indenture of {blank}."³²

COMMENT:

Several surrounding entries dealt with "indenture of *feoffment*" (a deed of conveyance). From this deed, we might project that this John Watts was at least in his late teens, although he did not have to reach majority (age 21) before buying land. It is more likely that he was the adult John Watts above—i.e., John-the-elder.

9 AUGUST 1749

ALBEMARLE-AMHERST COUNTIES, VA [ADJACENT TO LUNENBURG]

Land sale.

"Apparently Wm. Mills's dau. **Sarah Watts**, named in his will, was the wife of **Thos. Watts**, as in Albemarle Rec. D. B. 1, p. 96, Aug. 9, 1749, **Thos. and Sarah Watts** sell to Peter Bays 400 a. on north side of Pedlar River."³³

COMMENT:

- Pedlar River lies solely in Amherst (formerly Albemarle), the county adjacent to Lunenburg.
- The statement quoted above appears as part of a series of abstracts relating to the family of Bedford's Ambrose Mills. The passage possibly tracks his father William Mills back to 1732 in Goochland County. After a recital of various land transactions, the compiler writes:

"In the first order book of **Albemarle**, several references to Wm. Mills occur. ... His will, dated Sept. 26, 1755, probated Aug. 4, 1766, is in **Amherst Co.** Rec. W. B. 1, p. 73. In this will, describing himself of Albemarle Co., Wm. Mills mentions the following persons: *wife Mary son Ambrose, dau. Sarah Watts, to son Wm.* the 350 a of land that is unsettled (evidently the land for which the patent was recorded in 1756), *dau. Elizabeth Learwood and Ann Mills, son Jesse Mills, dau. Milly Mills, son Thos. Mills's* children, viz., **Ambrose Mills, Jr.**, and **Elizabeth Mills**, son and dau. of Thomas Mills, deed [dec'd? dead?]. Wife & Thos. Jopling exors. Witt: John Staples, Isham Davis, Wm. Floyd, Charles Truly, and Robt. Davis. According to Miss Lucy Stone, Hollins, Va., Ambrose Mills, son of Wm. was b. 1723 and m. about 1745 **Mourning Stone**..."³⁴

COMMENT:

³² June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2, 1748–1742* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffyliaid Publications, 1995), 54; citing Order Book 2:251.

³³ Mrs. P. W. Hiden, "Nicholas Mills of Hanover County," *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1933): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2:700–1.

³⁴ Mrs. P. W. Hiden, "Nicholas Mills of Hanover County," *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1933): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2:700–1.

- Anne Mills, sister of Sarah Watts, apparently married Lewis Witt/Whitt.³⁵
- The original volume cited by Hiden has been checked. A fuller abstract of the deed follows.

9 AUGUST 1749

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Thomas Watts and Sarah, his wife of Albemarle County, sell to **Peter Bays**, “of aforesaid county,” for 35 pounds, land in Albemarle County, on the North side of **Pedlar River**, containing 400 acres, described as “Beginning at a Hicory saplin, Running from thence by marked Trees to a White Oak in a valey, from thence to a Hicory saplin from thence to a pine, from thence to four Dogwood saplins, and Thence along a line to pointers, and Thence along a line to pointers [*sic*], and Thence along a line to the place Began.” Signed: Thomas (WT his mark) Watts. Witnesses: Edmond Harrison, Richard Powell, Thomas Smith. August Court, 1749: Thomas Watts acknowledge the deed.³⁶

COMMENT:

- Sarah did not sign or make her mark. The evidence does not show she was actually present. In most other deeds in this record set, the wife did sign or acknowledge the sale.
- Skimming this “Will & Deed” book reveals that most men who appear in these records (i.e., yeoman class and above) could sign their names. Most women could not.
- In skimming this volume, I did not see any other references to Watts as a witness or estimator at an estate sale—i.e., *no other evidence of his residence in the county*. This is important to establishing that he was the same Thomas Watts who appears regularly in adjacent Lunenburg County.
- I did not read closely enough to determine whether he was named as a neighbor, etc., in any deed; as a rule, most deeds in this volume do not name neighbors, former owners, etc.
- Other associates found:
 - o **Marvel Stone** as early as 1750 (p. 155)
 - o **Thomas Smith** (Watts’s witness above), with one John Smith, served as witness for Charles Lynch in 1750 (p. 162). In 1752, Charles Lynch sold land to Peter Jefferson of Goochland Co., with Thomas Smith and “John Smith Junr.” as witnesses. (484–85)
 - o **Richard Woodward** of Albemarle (later of Lunenburg/Bedford) bought 800 acres of Albemarle land on 29 March 1751, on branches of Blackwater near Fleming’s Mountain, from Nicholas Davis, Gent., of Cumberland County), with James Callaway as witness. (278–79) Callaway, same day, bought land from Davis, with Woodward as witness (280–81). James Fair, bought land from Davis same day, with Callaway and Woodward as witnesses (281–82). Edward Bright also witnessed these documents. Then on 14 May 1751, Woodward sold to Bright 200 of his acres. (282–83). In the 1750s, he would divide

his remaining land between sons Isaac and John (see 1755, below) and George Watts (see 1757, below).

13 NOVEMBER 1749

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order,

³⁵ Bedford Co., Va., Order Book 6: 84, Nov. Court 1774; and Bedford Co. Will Book 4: 276–77 establishes the fact that Anne was the widow of Lewis Witt and that she named her first son *Mills* Witt; a proof argument is in progress to support her identity as Anne, daughter of William and Sarah.

³⁶ Albemarle Co., Va., Wills & Deeds, Book 1: 96–97.

Payment of wolf bounties.

"To Henry Delony, assignee of **Thomas Watts/Walls**, granted by Wm. Howard, Cert. 3 Oct. 1749, 1 old Wolf head, 140 lbs. tobacco."

[skip several]

"To **Ambross Mills**, granted by John Phelps, cert. 25 Feb 1748, 1 old wolf head, 140 pounds tobacco." ³⁷

COMMENT:

After moving to Fairfield, where his wife and all children except son William were massacred in the Indian uprisings of ca. 1760, Ambrose apparently pulled back into North Carolina. As a Loyalist colonel during the Revolution, he would be among 32 men captured at the Battle of King's Mountain and among the 9 prisoners subsequently hanged (1780) at Aaron Biggerstaff's plantation in Rutherford County, N.C.³⁸

1750

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Tax roll.

"For 1750: List taken by Nicholas Haile." [about 120 taxpayers; skipping first 75 or so]

John Keeth

John Macfaull

William Mills 1 [father of Ambrose who took a land grant in Fairfield, 1773]

William Hays

John Richardson

William Bennet

Peter Bennet

Joseph Bennet

Nicholas Welsh

[skip 15]

Charles Simmons

William Linch

Thomas Wats 1

John Boon

John Smith

Peter Kinsey

Joshua **Bartlet** [In the Fairfield family: John Watts's eldest son, Thomas Watts, named his own son **Bartlet S. Watts**]³⁹

John Anderson

³⁷ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2, 1748–1742* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffyliad Publications, 1995), 51; citing Order Book 2:246–47.

³⁸ John A Robertson et al., "Biggerstaff's Old Fields," *Global Gazetteer of the American Revolution* (<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/biggerstaffsoldfields.htm> : accessed 4 December 2014). Also see Jeremy Wayne Baker, "Col. Ambrose Mills," *Geni* (<http://www.geni.com/people/Col-Ambrose-Mills/6000000027454075886> : accessed 4 December 2014). Baker echoes many undocumented trees that say Ambrose Mills was born in England about 1722, came to America with his father William, married (1) **Mourning Stone** about 1745; then (2) **Anne Brown** before settling in Rutherford County, N.C. Research in original records of South Carolina show that Ambrose owned land in the Forks of Wateree Creek area of modern Fairfield County; in 1784 his son William Mills of Rutherford, N.C., sold that land (from Virginia) to **John Watts's** neighbor Micajah Pickett. Just days later, Pickett sold the land—at the same price he paid for it—via a lease made to **William Watts** and a release the next day to **John Watts**. In 1786, John sold the land to another neighbor (Pickett's brother-in-law Nathan Sanders) without explanation of how he had the right to sell William's interest in the land. See Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book C:59 (Pickett to William Watts and John Watts); and Deed Book A:508–10 (John Watts to Nathan Sanders, before Pickett, J.P.).

³⁹ Wynema McGrew, *Watts is My Line: John and Judith (?) Watts, Settlers of the Mississippi Territory*, vol. 1 (Hattiesburg, Miss.: P.p., 2010), particularly 158–59.

Jeremiah Scafe

[end of list]⁴⁰

COMMENT:

Note that Thomas Watts is cited in a new district with a new set of neighbor. While in 1749 he was in the household of a man supposedly married to “**Mary Elizabeth Watts,**” he is now in the neighborhood of **William Mills [Jr.?,]** who had a sister Sarah, wife of **Thomas Watts.** (See 1749 deed above.)

TO DO:

Include Joshua Bartlett on my future worklist to determine whether a Watts connection exists.

“List Taken by William Howard”

[includes Farrars, John Taylor Duke, William Sandefur (with Young dependents again) and then ...]

Edward Whitt 1

James McDaniel

Field Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson

Steven Houseman 12

[skip 6 households]

John Robinson

Thomas Moore

James Smith

Thomas Avery, Senr.

John Avery

Thomas Avery, Junt.

John King [a man of this common name was Fairfield n’bor of our **John Watts**]

Baxter Davis

Edward Davis

John Sanboth

John Gain Davis

Thomas Watts 1

William Taber

John Taber

Henry Sage

William Daniel

Francis Lett

[etc.]⁴¹

COMMENT:

It appears that Thomas Watts is double-listed in this year 1750. Each Thomas has “neighbors” that appear for the one Thomas in previous years. A second Thomas Watts has not been found in county records or on these lists. It is likely that a short move occurred amid the compilation of the tax rolls, and that one assessor/collector or the other did not remove him—or that one of the tax assessors went beyond his jurisdictional bounds in creating his list. In such cases, taxpayers typically appealed the extra tax and the correction would be shown amid the

⁴⁰ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 135–38; no source cited.

⁴¹ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 138–44, particularly p. 140; no source cited.

assessor's corrections (usually appended to the tax roll). This set of published tax abstracts show no such corrections for any list.

"List taken by Hugh Lawson"

[skip 22 households]

William White

John Williams

Henerey Gill

John Blackwell

Jacob Watts 1

John Ambros

Humphry Garret

[skip 6 households]

Nicolas Calleham

John Calleham

David Calleham

Henerey Moor⁴²

COMMENT:

- Jacob remains in the same neighborhood as in 1749. As in 1748, he's two listings from Henerey Gill, although Gill, each year, is taxed in a different home.

Again, 3 Watts are noticeably missing:

- John, who was there in November 1748
- William, who was taxed in 1748
- Edward Sr., who does not appear until 1752.

"1750 List taken by John Phelps"

William Mobberley 1

Benjn. Turman

John Jennings 2

Edwd. Mobberly, Junr.

Thomas Mobberly

Roger Conner 3

Edwd. Mobberly 1

Benjn. Mobberly 1

[skip 10 households]

Clemt. Mobberley 1

[These Mobberlys removed to Fairfield; some—including a Clement—show up 2 generations later in our John Watts's neighborhood in Tattnall Co., Ga.]

[skip 7 households]

Capt. Linch

[Wm. Linch is cited adjacent to Thos. Watts in Hailes Dist.]

Harry Cockram 3

Jno. Mobberley

Mordecai Mobberley

Hamon Mobberley 6

[skip 2 households]

Jno. Payne

⁴² Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 144–47, particularly p. 145; no source cited.

Chs. Spurlock
Ambrose Mills **4** [Mills is shown on next year's list as Payne's overseer]
[skip 5 households]
Wm. Stone [Ambrose Mills is said to have married **Mourning Stone**]⁴³
Robt. Irons [Irons were also associates in Fairfield]
Wm. Stone Junr.
Eusebius Stone **4**

12–14 APRIL 1750
ALBEMARLE COUNTY
Land survey.

"**Wm Mills**' 350 ac; Ap 12, 1750; on branches Buck Creek; by William Cabell, joining **Edward Watts Jr.**"
"**William Mills**; 330 ac; Ap 13, 1750; on branches Buck branch; by William Cabell; joining **Thos. Mills**, John Davis, Isham Davis."
"Thos. Smith, 350 ac; Ap 14 1750; on Pedlar River; by William Cabell; joining **Wm Mills**, **Edward Watts**, **John Stones**."⁴⁴

JULY 1750
LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA
Court order.

"Silvanus Junon petitioner agst **Thos Watt**; petitioner to recover £3/5/5/ debt."⁴⁵

COMMENT:

To have been sued in his own name, Thomas was at least 21—i.e., born before 1729.

1751
LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Tax List.

"For 1751 List taken by Field Jefferson"

[Skip about 40]

Thomas Evins
John Evins

[skip 9]

Charles Evins
And son Tom
Gilbird Evins

[skip 20]

William Sandefur {?}
Saml. Young

Thomas Wats **1**
Edward Henry
David Robertson

⁴³ Lyman C. Draper, *Kings Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King's Mountain, October 7th, 1780* (Cincinnati: Peter G. Thompson, 1881), 481. Draper, the famed collector of the Draper Manuscripts at the Wisconsin Historical Society, corresponded from the 1840s with thousands of families of participants in the Revolution to acquire privately held records, memoirs, etc. His brief biography of Col. Ambrose Mills does not identify his sources.

⁴⁴ Eric G. Grundset, "Land lying in the County of Albemarle:" Albemarle County, Virginia Surveyors' Plat Books, Volume 1, Parts 1 and 2, and Volume 2, 1744–1853 [and 1891] (Fairfax, VA: Privately printed, 1998), 31–32; citing vol. 1, pp. 127, 133.

⁴⁵ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2, 1748–1742* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaid Publications, 1995), 71; citing Order Book 2:322.

Robert Hudson
 Ephraim Hudson
 Thos. Burnee
 John Lankford 1
 Thomas Macklin
 James Lett
 Francis Lett
 John **Hopson**
 James Mcdannold and son James
 Francis Wray
 George Vaughan
 David *Boring*
Richard Wats 0
 James Thompson
 Edward White and son John
 Saml. Holms
 Saml. Holms, Jun.
 Wm. Holms
 Isaac Home

[sic; he had been exempted in 1747]

[skip 8]

Henry Delony [a Jefferson in-law]

[skip 23]

George Farrar [husband of Judith Jefferson; father of Field, below]
 Edward Epts
 Morris **Evins**

[skip 10]

David Calleham

[skip about 50]

Field Farrar [later moved to Camden District, SC—now Fairfield Co.]

[skip about 40]

Nicho. **Hobson**
 John Hobson⁴⁶

COMMENT:

Hobson is of interest to me because our William Mills-Witt of this region (b. ca.1785) had a son Samuel who married one Mary Ann Hobson.

“For 1751, List taken by Hugh Lawson”

[skip 13 households]

Henery Moor

[skip 18 households]

James Daws

[skip 5 households]

George Phillips
 Samuel Meanly
 Richard Williams
 John Taber

⁴⁶ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 154–73; no source cited.

Jacob Watts 1

Robert Moor, Junr.

William Pettey

Richard Brooks

Robert Moor, Senr.

[skip 16 households to end of list]⁴⁷

COMMENT:

In 1748, Henery Moor, James Daws, and Jacob Watts were all consecutive entries.

OCTOBER 1751

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

"Petition of John Willis agst **Richd Watts** for debt; dismissed."⁴⁸

1752

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Tax List.

"For 1752, List taken by John Phelps."

[skip 28]

"Mr. John Payn's list

Ambrose Mills, Overseer 7

[someone has penciled into the book "of Goochland"]

[RW Loyalist colonel; 1761–62 grant on Little River in old Cheraw > Camden > Fairfield District adjoined Edward Watts Jr.'s' "Watts Branch"]

[skip 12]

Edwd. Mobberley 1

[1756 on Little River in Cheraw > Camden > Fairfield]⁴⁹

Clemt. Mobberley 1

[also settled on Little River, Camden > Fairfield SC]⁵⁰

Benjn. Mobberley 1

[also settled on Little River, Camden > Fairfield SC]⁵¹

Thos. Halsey

Richd. Hill

Robt. Baber

Israel Peterson

Wm. Verdeman

Robt. Verdeman

Wm. Verdeman, Junr.

Jonas Anderson

Stepn. Hudson

Petr. Hudson

Col. Wm. Randolph

Frs. Luck, overseer

[skip 19]

⁴⁷ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 173–75, particularly 174; no source cited

⁴⁸ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2, 1748–1742* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaid Publications, 1995), 109; citing Order Book 2: 495.

⁴⁹ Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 7, citing B-2: 94; "Deed from Edw. Mobberly (Craven Co., S.C.) to Samuel Drake, 330 Acres on Otter River," Bedford Co.

⁵⁰ Kenneth Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley's Meeting House, June 1780* (P.p.: P.p., 2005), 22.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵³ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 22; 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.” The Mobberlys/Mobleys who moved to Fairfield also lived on Otter River in Bedford. The Wattses of Bedford owned land on Elk and Ivy Creeks, as did the Woodwardes who also moved to Fairfield where they were Watts neighbors.

24

[skip 39]

Jas. Gibson	1	[Fairfield, SC, 1790]
Randal Gibson	1	[Fairfield, SC, 1790]
Thos. Prather		
Adam Biard		
Thos. Walker		
Wm. Briant		
Jno. Davison		
Henry Farguson		
Matw. Amory		
Wm. Armstrong		
Thos. Carr		
John Mills	2	[relationship to Ambrose not known; he is not named as a son in the published abstract of William Mills's will made 1755 and probated 1766 ⁵⁵]

[skip 7, to end of list]⁵⁶

COMMENT:

- Thomas is not taxed in Lunenburg in 1752, even though he is being sued there.
- Note that the Edward Watts family has moved into Lunenburg, in the same district in which Thomas was last taxed—the same district in which Ambrose Mills and the Mobberlys and Meadors (later migrants to Fairfield) resided.
- Note the age of the four males in the household of Edward “Wats” Sr. Males became tithable at age 16. When a cluster of same-name males are charged to an older male, the pattern almost always signifies a father and his still-single, still-at-home sons who are 16 or older.
- **On this premise, John-of-Edward would have been born ca. 1736**, George **1734**, William **1732**, and Edward Jr., **1730**. Thomas, who was on his own by 1748, would be born **ca. 1728** or earlier—as early as 1720 if he engaged William Clark to teach a child of his.
- If there has been no shift in county boundaries, then **Edward Watts Sr.** appears to have just moved into Lunenburg—choosing the district of **Thomas Watts** who (as Ambrose Mills's apparent brother-in-law, also appears in the records of Albemarle).

TO DO:

Thoroughly work Albemarle and its offshoot Amherst for Watts and Mills.

“1752 List taken by Hugh Lawson”

[skip 4 households]

Henery Moor

[skip 13 households]

William Barry

Humphery Garret

James Garret

Jacob Watts 1

Arthur Freeman 3

⁵⁵ Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1933): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 657–701, particularly 701.

⁵⁶ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: Lists of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 202–8.

John Watts	1
William Watts	1
"Barshaba Jones, Negro"	1
Nicholas Callyham	
John Callyham	
Nicholas Callyham	
John Kerbey's Quarter	
[skip 8 households]	
Hugh lawson	1
[skip 3 households]	
James Daws	2
[skip 22 households]	
At Mr. William Edlow's Quarter	3
[skip 15 to end of list] ⁵⁷	

COMMENT:

- William-the-elder and John-the-elder have returned
- **This roll gives us two clusters**
 - o **Jacob, William, and John**—in the district between Hounds Creek and the Meherrin River.
 - o **Edward Sr. (with Edward Jr., William, George, and John)** in Thomas's old neighborhood with Ambrose Mills, the Mobleys, the Dukes, the Meadors, and the Jeffersons.
- The compiler of these published tax rolls for Lunenburg did not include surviving rolls from 1753–63.

TO DO:

- Determine whether the omitted Lunenburg tax rolls still exist in the Virginia State Archives and use them to further analyze the family.
- Search for the existence of Bedford tax rolls after the county's creation in 1754, to better define the outmigration to the Fairfield area.

27 FEBRUARY 1752

LUNENBURG > BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

County creation.

The legal act creating Bedford County was passed this day.

COMMENT:

It would be 1753 before an administration was in place to start recordkeeping in the new county, In the meanwhile, we continue to find the Watts in Lunenburg's records.

JULY 1752

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Civic role.

"Alexander Mackie agst Amey Jones, Godfrey Jones, David Jones exorts Thos Jones decd., defendant; **jury:** James Arnold, Saml Perrin, **Thos Watts**, Wm. Bevil, Lewis Morgan, Henry Parrish, Joseph Perrin, James Thomason, Christopher Johnson, Richd Thompson, Wm Jones, Reuben Vaughn; plaintiff to recover for nonperformance."⁵⁸

⁵⁷ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 199–202, especially p. 200; no source cited.

⁵⁸ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-A, 1752–53* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffyliaiad Publications, 1997), 15; citing Order Book 2 ½-A:103.

5 AUGUST 1752

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

"John Willis agst **Richd Watts** defendant in debt; dismissed."⁵⁹

7 AUGUST 1752

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale

William Mills of Albemarle County to Martha Massie of new Kent County, sale of 400 acres in Albemarle Co. on Pedlar River described as:

"Beginning at two Spanish Oaks on the North side of the said River, running thence down the same and across making in a Right line two hundred & twenty Poles to a Willow tree on the South Side of the River, thence into the woods North twenty five Degrees west at one hundred & Seventy a branch, in all two hundred & thirty Poles to a red oak near a branch, North two hundred & Sixty Poles Crossing two branches & Dancing Creek & two Dogwoods & Gum South twenty Six Degrees East at Seventy Six, Pedlar River, in all two hundred & Sixteen Poles to Pointers on the side of a vallee & South twenty Degrees West two hundred & twenty Poles to the Beginning."

7 August 1752, Mills put Massie in possession of the property.

13 August 1752, Mills acknowledged receiving 200 pounds from Massie in full payment. Mary, William's wife, also appeared in court to be privately examined about the relinquishment of her dower rights.⁶⁰

COMMENT

- Why would a single woman buy this land from Mills? It's rural; part of it is in woods. It's not a town lot where she would have close neighbors. ***Typically, in such a case, Mills would be part of Martha's support network.*** This conclusion is strengthened by the point that Mills legally put her in possession of the property a week before he received payment.
- **Martha Massie should be studied as a potential mother-in-law or sister of William Mills.**

21 AUGUST 1752

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Witness.

"From Nicolas Calleham of Cumberland Parish in L, to John Calleham of same. Nicolas Calleham gives to his son, John Calleham, after his decease and his wife, Joyce Calleham's decease, a certain parcel of land in Cumberland Parish and L on the north side of Kettlestick Branch and bounded by {trees} containing 250 acres granted to the said Nicolas Calleham by letters. Signed – Nicolas (X his mark) Calliham. Wit – William Pearson, John Atkerson, **Jacob Wats** (his mark). Recorded Aug 7, 1753."⁶¹

SEPTEMBER 1752

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

⁵⁹ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-A, 1752–53* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaid Publications, 1997), 22; citing Order Book 2 ½-A:190.

⁶⁰ Albermarle Co. Wills & Deeds, Book 1: 475-76.

⁶¹ TLC Genealogy, *Lunenburg County, Virginia, Deeds, 1752–1757* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1990), 26; citing 3:298. The mark that Jacob made was a small raised horizontal arc, similar to the bottom arc of an "O" or "U". I can't reproduce it here, typographically.

Court order.

"John Williams agst **Jacob Watts** defendant; dismissed.

"On motion [of] Leonard Claiborne, widow of John Williams decd summoned to next Ct re not producing will of sd Williams."⁶²

3 SEPTEMBER 1752

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court suit.

"Wm Calloway agst **Paul Palson** (James Daniel & **Thos Watts** bail) defendant; plaintiff to recover debt."⁶³

TO DO:

Add Paul Palson/Paulson to list of Thomas Watts's associates who need to be thoroughly researched—to explain why Thomas Watts would financially obligate himself on Palson's behalf.

DECEMBER 1752

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

"County Levy ... [paid] to Wm. Calloway, asgne [of] ... **John Watts**, granted by John Phelps, 26 Jun 1750[?], 4 young wolf heads, 200 pounds tobacco."⁶⁴

COMMENT:

This would be John-the-elder.

5 SEPTEMBER 1753

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

"John Thompson agst **Ambrose Mills** for debt due; dismissed."

"John Clack agst **Jacob Watts** dfdnt; plaintiff to recover agst dfdnt & Jas Mitchell late sheriff."

"John Harvie agst **Edwd Watts**, dfdnt; plaintiff to recover agst dfdnt & Jas Mitchell late sheriff."⁶⁵

COMMENT:

- Jacob drops from Bedford County records at this time. His out-migration has not been proved. He may or may not be the Rev. Jacob Watts who subsequently appears in adjacent Amherst County, VA.
- The description of the Clack vs. Watts and Harvie vs. Watts documents imply that Clack and Harvie had property sold by the sheriff at judicial sale, for which Jacob and Edward Watts were the purchasers.

10–11 OCTOBER 1753

ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Land survey.

⁶² June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-A, 1752–1753* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaid Publications, 1997), 30; citing Order Book 2 1/2-A:272.

⁶³ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-A, 1752–53* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaid Publications, 1997), 30; citing Order Book 2 ½-A:273.

⁶⁴ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-A, 1752–53* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaid Publications, 1997), 45; citing Order Book 2 ½-A:433.

⁶⁵ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-B, 1753–1754* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaid Publication, 1998), 33, 35; citing Order Book 2 ½-B: 373, 386, 391.

“Micajah Clarke; 400 ac; October 11, 1753; North fork of Maple Creek; by William Cabell, joining **Marvel Stone**.”

“Micajah Clarke; 350 ac; October 10, 1753; branches Pedlar River on West side of the Tobacco Row Mountains, by William Cabell; joining Peter Bays, **William Watts**.”⁶⁶

31 OCTOBER 1753

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

“Nicholas Edmunds & Robt Jones Jr on attachment (in hands of **Wm Watts**: old cart & wheels, old spinning wheel, sm[all] grindstone, old bagg with some vinegar, horse collar) agst **Jacob Watts** (sd to be absconded) dfdnt; plaintiffs to recover debt by public sale attachment.”⁶⁷

“**John Mills** aptd surveyor rd from Euing’s fence to the Blew Ridge in room of **William Mills**.”⁶⁸

COMMENT:

- The 1755 will of Ambrose Mills’s father William (proved 1766) names a son William, in addition to Ambrose and daughter Sarah Watts, but it does not name a son John.
- *If this John were William’s son, then he would have had to die before 1755, likely without heirs. The will does name two children born to his deceased son Thomas, but not children for a deceased son John.*⁶⁹

(BEFORE) 27 NOVEMBER 1753

BRUNSWICK CO., VA

Land sale.

“William Simmons of Southampton Co to Edmund Ruffin of Prince George Co. 27 Nov 1753, £15 VA. 100 acres which was part of a tract John Simmons dec’d the father of sd William Simmons purchased from **John Watts** & from sd Simmons dec’d to his sd son William Simmons, joining sd Edmund Ruffin. Witnesses omitted. Proved 27 Nov 1753. Litt Tazewell CC.”⁷⁰

COMMENT:

This would be John-the-elder, who was an adult by 1746—rather than John-of-Edward who first appears on Lunenburg tithable rolls as the youngest of 5 tithables in Edward’s 1752 household (i.e., about age 16).

6 NOVEMBER 1753

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

“Nicholas Edmunds & Robt Jones Jr on attachment agst **Jacob Watts** dfdnt; sale attachments not sufficient, plaintiff to recover residue of debt agst **John Watts** garnishee.”⁷¹

⁶⁶ Eric G. Grundset, “Land lying in the County of Albemarle.” Albemarle County, Virginia Surveyors’ Plat Books, Volume 1, Parts 1 and 2, and Volume 2, 1744–1853 [ad 1891] (Fairfax, VA: Privately printed, 1998), 56; citing vol. 1, p. 244.

⁶⁷ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-B, 1753–1754* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaid Publication, 1998), 40; citing Order Book 2 ½-B: 461.

⁶⁸ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-B, 1753–1754* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaid Publication, 1998), 41; citing Order Book 2 ½-B: 469.

⁶⁹ Amherst Co., VA, Will Book 1: 75–78.

⁷⁰ Stephen E. Bradley, Jr., *Brunswick County, Virginia, Deed Books, vol. 2, 1744–1755, 1764* (Lawrenceville, Va.: P.p., 1997), 86; citing Deed Book 5:483.

⁷¹ 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.

COMMENT:

This also should be John-the-elder.

DECEMBER 1753–1 JANUARY 1754

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

Wolf bounty payment to “Thos. Bouldin assignee of **Wm Watts**, justice William Caldwell, 31 Dec 1753 5 young wolves, 250 pounds tobacco.”⁷²

COMMENT:

The William taxed to Edward Sr. in 1752, as the second of four over-16 sons, should now be over 21.

6 FEBRUARY 1754

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

“**Jas Mills** on attachment (mare & colt) agst Jeremiah Morah dfdnt; plaintiff to recover debt by public sale attachment.”⁷³

5 MARCH 1754

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

“Geo Walton to **Edwd Watts**, indenture bargain/sale”

“Saml Harris, **John Cargill**, **Thos Dendy** return valuation 3800 ac of Wm Byrd.”⁷⁴

COMMENT:

A large grant to George Walton appears to have been subdivided and sold to various members of the Mills-Watts family:

- o Edward Watts, father- or brother-in-law of Sarah Mills, bought the above tract in 1754.
- o Ambrose Mills, brother of Sarah, bought 800 of his acres *ca.* 1750–55; he sold it to William Callaway.⁷⁵
- o Thomas Learwood, whose wife Elizabeth was sister of Ambrose Mills and Sarah, in 1760 owned land next door to a tract owned by George Walton.⁷⁶
- o Lewis Witt, whose wife Anne is widely believed to be the sister of Ambrose Mills and Sarah Mills (Mrs. Thomas Watts), obtained 75 acres on Otter River at mouth of Bear Branch from George Walton b a deed that was not recorded until 1771.⁷⁷

⁷² June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-B, 1753–1754* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaid Publication, 1998), 44; citing Order Book 2 ½-B: 526.

⁷³ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-B, 1753–1754* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaid Publication, 1998), 50; citing Order Book 2 ½-B: 562.

⁷⁴ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-B, 1753–1754* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaid Publication, 1998), 52; citing Order Book 2 ½-B: 578-79.

⁷⁵ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 8.

⁷⁶ Abstract, sale of land by William Moore to Moses Watkins; see Roberta J. Estes (restes@comcast.net), “Re: Moore in Charlotte and Prince Edward Counties,” 24 June 2007; posted at “Moore-L Archives,” *RootsWeb* (newsarch.rootsweb.com/th/read/MOORE/2007-06/1182731829 : accessed 23 May 2016. No citation of the source is provided in this extensive list of abstracts focusing primarily on the Watkins family.

⁷⁷ 1771 is the date of recording, according to “General Index to Real Estate Conveyances, Bedford County, Va., Grantees”; citing Deed Book 4:47; page image supplied to me by Warren Pratt. A proof argument for Anne’s identity is in progress.

- o Thomas Watts in March 1755 (see below) was assigned to survey a prospective new road between Peaks of Otter River and the Campbell County line.

Note the absence of “Sr.” or “Jr.” for the Edward Watts above. Edward Sr.’s son Edward Jr. should now be over 21. The absence of a Sr./Jr. designation might imply that this purchaser is the only adult Edward in the county. Given that Edward Jr. does buy land there 3 years later, the absence of Sr. or Jr. in this present case could simply mean that Edward Jr. was not yet active in the county. However, “Edward Watts Jr.” *would* appear as bondsman for the county sheriff, just 3 months later.

The Cargills and Dendys (ancestors of ESM) were also part of the migration from Lunenburg/Bedford counties, Va., to Old Cheraw (later Fairfield and Kershaw Cos.), SC.

5 MARCH 1754

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Land purchase.

“From George Walton of L, to **Edward Watts** of L, for 32£, a certain tract of land in L on both sides of **Elk Cr** containing 402 acres and bounded by Bryant. Signed George Walton. Wit – Joseph Walton, Wm. Walton, Francis Moor Petty. Recorded Mar 5, 1754.”⁷⁸

Beginning at Bryant’s Corner White Oak, Thence off South Seventy five degrees West one hundred and sixty Poles to a White Oak, South forty degrees West one hundred and forty Poles to a red Oak, South Sixty degrees East Three hundred and Eight Eight Poles to Pointers, North Fifty one degrees East fifty two Poles to Bryants Corner white Oak, and Thence along his Line North twenty three degrees West three hundred and Thirty eight Poles to the first Station.

COMMENT:

Elk Creek lies today in eastern Bedford Co., between the Otter River and the Campbell County line. See Map 2. Ivy Creek, where Edward Jr. later bought land from the Woodwardes (see abstract under “(Before) 27 June 1757”), lies about 10 miles to the east in what is now Campbell County.

For locations of these landmarks, see Map 2, next page.

12 APRIL 1754

ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Land survey.

“Nicholas Davis Gent, 25,000 ac; April 12, 1754; on both sides Fluvanna River [south branch of the James]; 3,450 acres part thereof was formerly granted 21,550 acres New Land included by Order of Council and survey’d by William Cabell; joining Colo Fry & Company, N. Davis, Jno. Anthony, Rev’d Wm Stith, Rich’d Burk Braton & Co., Carrington & Mayo, **Wm Mills**, Jno. Davis, Rob’t Davis, Cornelius Nevil (400 ac), Nich. Davis. Shows the following watercourses: Hunting Creek, Tuckahoe Creek, Cabbin Creek, Indian Camp Creek, Vineyard Creek, Tumblin Creek, Cold Camp Creek, Wide Mouth Creek, Salt Creek, and **Pedlar River** along with numerous islands in the river.”⁷⁹

JULY 1754

⁷⁸ TLC Genealogy, *Lunenburg County, Virginia, Deeds, 1752–1757* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1990), 38; citing 3:443-44. I checked the original volume and confirmed accuracy of this abstract. Metes & bounds are from the actual document.

⁷⁹ Eric G. Grundset, “Land lying in the County of Albemarle:” *Albemarle County, Virginia Surveyors’ Plat Books, Volume 1, Parts 1 and 2, and Volume 2, 1744–1853 [ad 1891]* (Fairfax, VA: Privately printed, 1998), 63; citing vol. 1, p. 277.

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Civic role.

"A Commission from the Lieutenant Governor to Joseph Ray, Gent, to be Sheriff of this County, was produced in Court by the said Ray, and thereupon he, together with Obadiah Woodson, Turner Hunt Christian, Richard Birk, John Partree Birks, **Edward Watts Jr.**, James Walker, and Thomas Walker, Benjamin Orrick, Joseph Mayses, and John Goad, **his sureties**, entered into bond for Ray's due performance of his Office, which is ordered to be recorded, and then the said Ray took the usual oaths."⁸⁰

AUGUST 1754

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

"James Johnson and Samuel Hairston, Petitioners, against **Thomas Watts**, Defendant, on a petition. This day came the parties by their attorneys, and the matter fully heard on both sides, it is the opinion of the Court that the said Petitioners recover against the Defendant the sum of 1 £ 19 shillings and his costs, and a lawyer's fee."⁸¹

6 AUGUST 1754

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

"John Hanna agst **Thos Watts** dfdnt; petitioner to recover debt/costs."⁸²

COMMENT:

Note that the suits against Watts are being prosecuted in both Lunenburg and Bedford. 1754 is the year that the county split. Some suits apparently were filed in Lunenburg before the split.

Map 2

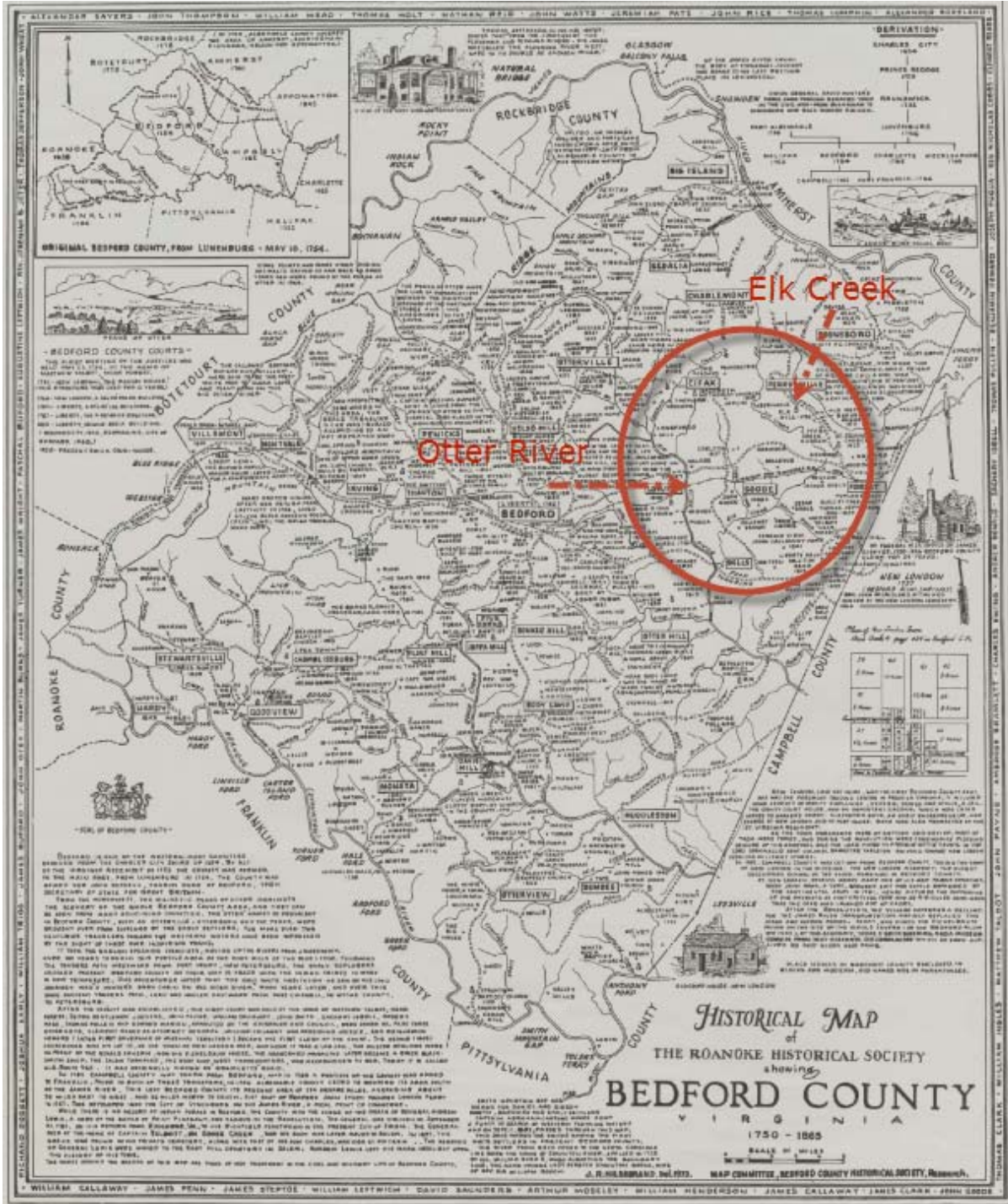
"Historical Map ... of Bedford County"⁸³

⁸⁰ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 7; citing original p. 4.

⁸¹ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 12–13; citing original p. 12

⁸² June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 3, 1754–1755* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaiad Publication, 1997), 26; citing Order Book 3: 170.

⁸³ J. R. Hildebrand, "Historical Map of the Roanoke Historical Society Showing Bedford County, Virginia, 1750–1865 (N.P.: The Society, 1973); accessed at Virginia Tech University Library Special Collections, *ImageBase* (<http://spec.lib.vt.edu/imagebase/08MAPS/screen/HM200701241556.jpg> : accessed 4 January 2015). **Ivy Creek, where George and Edward Jr. bought land from the Woodwards, lies about 10 miles to the east of Elk Creek, in modern Campbell Co.**



SEPTEMBER 1754
BEDFORD COUNTY, VA
 Legal suit.

“Abraham Venable, Plaintiff, against **Edward Watts Sr.**, defendant, in debt. This day came the parties and John Sutton, **Edward Watts Jr.** and **William Watts** of this County come into Court and undertake for the Defendant that in case he shall be cast in this suit, that he shall satisfy and pay the condemnation of this Court or render his body to prison in execution for the same, or that they, the said John Sutton,

Edward Watts Jr., and **William Watts**, will do it for him, and the Defendant says nothing to bar or obstruct the action of the Plaintiff. Therefore it is considered by the Court that the Plaintiff recover against the Defendants 27 £ 9 shillings and 10 pence, the debt in the declaration mentioned, and his costs and. [sic] But this judgment, except as to the costs, is to be discharged by the payment of 13 £ 14 shillings and 11 pence, with 5% interest from July 1, 1752, and the costs.”⁸⁴

OCTOBER 1754

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Associate.

“George Walton, Plaintiff, against *John Partree Birks*, Defendant, In Debt. This day came the Plaintiff by his attorney, and the defendant in his proper person, and **Ambrose Mills** came into Court and undertook for the Defendant that in case he shall be cast in this suit that he shall satisfy and pay the condemnation of the Court or render his body to prison in execution for the same or that the said Mills will do it for him, and the said Defendant acknowledging the Plaintiff’s action, therefore it is considered by the Court that the Plaintiff recover against the Defendant 7 £ 18 shillings and 3? pence, the debt in the declaration mentioned, and his costs. But this judgment is to be discharged by the payment of 3 £ 9 shillings and 4 pence half penny, together with 5% interest from March 1, 1754, and the costs, and the plaintiff agrees to stay execution of this judgment one month.”⁸⁵

COMMENT:

- Note that Ambrose Mills is supporting Birks in this suit lodged by Walton. Genealogists have long asserted that Ambrose’s mother was one Mary *Walton*.⁸⁶ None have presented evidence, to my knowledge.
- Before May 1755 (see below), apparently to clear this debt, John P. Birks and his wife Sarah would sell a tract of land on Elk Creek adjoining “Watts.” Edward Watts had earlier bought Elk Creek land from George Walton.

NOVEMBER 1754

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Jury duty.

“A Grand Jury, to wit, George Walton, foreman, Thomas Gaddie, Edmond Mannion, Augustine Leftwich, *William Stone*, William Boyd, John Partree Birks, James Tilly, William Bryant, **Edward Mobberly**, **Edward Watts Sr**, James Walker, Thomas Walker, William Wyley, & William Irvine, who being sworn a Jury of Inquest for the Body of this County, retired to consult of their presentments.”⁸⁷

NOVEMBER 1754

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

“To Joseph Ray as Jailer; his acct. for dieting **Edward Watts** – 200.”⁸⁸

⁸⁴ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 18; citing original p. 21.

⁸⁵ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 23; citing original page 29.

⁸⁶ Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1933): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 700–1.

⁸⁷ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 27; citing original p. 3

⁸⁸ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 31; citing orig. p. 44.

COMMENT:

Edward Watts Jr. had served as surety for Joseph Ray's bond when Ray was sworn in as sheriff just months earlier. Now one of the Edwards (father or son) is in Ray's jail for debt—more probably, Edward Sr., who was being sued for debt by Abraham Venable.

DECEMBER 1754

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

"Archibald Buchanan, John Bowman and Co., Plaintiffs, against **Ambros Mills**, Defendant, **in debt**. This day came the Plaintiffs by their attorney, and the Defendant in his proper person, and the Defendant acknowledging the Plaintiff's action, therefore it is considered by the Court that the Plaintiffs recover against the Defendant 7 £, the debt in the declaration mentioned, and his costs. But this judgment, except as to the costs, is to be discharged by the payment of 3 £ 16 shillings, with 5% interest from May 3, 1753."⁸⁹

FEBRUARY 1755

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

"James Mitchell, Plaintiff, against **Edward Watts Sr.** and **Edward Watts Jr.**, Defendants, in debt. This day came the parties by their attorney, and thereupon came also a jury, to wit, Samuel Drake, *Henry Bunch* ... who say that the Defendants owe the Plaintiffs 10 £ 7 shillings and 2 pence. Therefore it is considered by the Court that the Plaintiff recover against the Defendants the said sum and his costs."⁹⁰

COMMENT:

A free man of color, Henry Bunch, is allowed to serve on the jury.

4 FEBRUARY 1755

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

"Robt Wooding agst **Thos Walls [Watts?]** dfdnt in debt; dismissed."⁹¹

FEBRUARY 1755

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

"Joseph Ray, Plaintiff, against Pharoah Reyley (Ryly), *John Partree Burks*, William Kerr, & *Henry Bunch*, defendants, In Case. This day came the Plaintiff by his attorney, and thereupon came a jury, to wit who say the Plaintiff has sustained damages by occasion of the non performance of a Writing Obligatory in the declaration specified, and they assess the Plaintiff's damages by occasion thereof, to 2 £ 15 shillings and 4 pence, besides his costs. There it is considered by the Court that the Plaintiff recover

⁸⁹ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 33–34; citing original p. 49.

⁹⁰ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 40; citing original p. 61.

⁹¹ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 3, 1754–1755* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffyliaiad Publication, 1997), 43; citing Order Book 3: 273.

against the Defendant and John Sutton and **Edward Watts**, who were returned Security for the appearance of the said Defendants, his damages aforesaid, and his costs.”⁹²

COMMENT:

See July 1759 for a suit by Edward Watts against Ray.

MARCH 1755

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Civic duty.

“James Callaway, **Thos. Watts**, and Alexander Boyles are appointed to view a way petitioned for a Road, from Robert Davis’ ford on Nevils Land below his plantation to the Peaks of **Otter River**, and make report to the next Court, the convenience or inconvenience thereof.”⁹³

COMMENT:

- Road duties of this type are typically assigned to men who lived along the route.
- Otter River was also the location of the land owned by the Mobberlys who migrated to old Craven ahead of the Watts.
- In March 1751, James Callaway and Richard Woodward both bought part of the Nicholas Davis patent which was then said to be in Albemarle but became Bedford. This implies that Callaway, Thomas Watts, and Woodward were all in the same neighborhood. Given that George Watts got Woodward land (possibly as a son-in-law), with Edward Sr. and Jr. as witness, this implies a link between Thomas Watts and the other three.

MARCH 1755

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Jury duty.

“Thomas Moore, Plaintiff, against John Richardson, Defendant, in Debt. This day came the Plaintiff by his Attorney, and thereupon came a jury, to wit, Samuel Brown, David Irvine, William Wyley, Joseph Miller, **Edward Watts**, **George Watts**, Stephen Chinalt, Barnabas Arthe, *Randle Gibson*, **William Watts**, John Currie, & James Dillard, who say that the Plaintiff has sustained damages by occasion of the Defendant’s breach of the promise and assumption in the declaration specified, to 28 £ 10 shillings and 11 pence, besides his costs. ...”⁹⁴

COMMENT:

“Randle” Gibson also appears on the 1790 Fairfield District SC census, living a bit beyond John Watts on the road to the Little River plantations of Edward and William Watts.

MARCH 1755

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Jury duty.

“Josias Randle, Plaintiff, against Joseph Ray, Gent, Sheriff of Bedford, Defendant, In Case. This day came the Plaintiff by his Attorney, and thereupon came also a jury, to wit, *Henry Bunch*, **William Watts**, David Irvine, William Wyley, William Boyd, Michael Poor, Stephen Chinalt, William Verdeman, John Eckols, **Edward Watts Sr.**, John Curree, & *Randle Gibson*, who say that the Plaintiff has sustained, by occasion of

⁹² TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 42; citing original p. 63.

⁹³ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 44; citing original p. 67.

⁹⁴ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 47–48; citing original p. 74.

the Defendant's breach of duty in the declaration specified, to 19 £ 18 shillings and 8 pence, and his costs. Therefore it is considered by the Court that the said Defendant [recover] his damages aforesaid and his costs."⁹⁵

MARCH 1755
BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Witness.

"On the motion of **Edward Watts**, a witness for John Dunahoe in his suit against James Gibson, it is ordered that the said Dunahoe pay him for one days attendance, 25 lbs of Tobacco."⁹⁶

6 MAY 1755
LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

"**John Watts**, jailed for 22+ days, takes oath of insolvent debtor; discharged."⁹⁷

COMMENT:

- Again, this is likely to be John-the-elder, who had land by 1746, but lost it to debt, rather than John-of-Edward who appears to have just turned 16 at the time of the 1752 tax roll.
- At this point, John-the-elder drops out of the Lunenburg-Bedford records that have been studied up to this point. If, as some researchers speculate, the John Watts who received a land grant in Anson County in 1763 and subsequently signed the famed Anson petition of 1769 was from Bedford, then John-the-elder seems an appropriate candidate.
- Suits for debt were rampant in this era. Order Book 4:196–97, for example, has suits against Field Jefferson and "Thomas Jefferson" (who is said to have absconded, leaving 3 horses in the possession of Field Jefferson). This Thomas is likely Field's son, rather than Field's famed nephew.

(BEFORE) 26 MAY 1755
BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Neighbor.

"Deed from John P. Birks and wife Sarah to **Jacob Anderson** of Orange County, 400 acres on both sides of **Elk Creek**, adjoining **Watts & Co.** for 65 Pounds. Rec. May 26, 1755. Pg. 25."⁹⁸

COMMENT:

- Before 1754, Edward Watts [Sr.] bought land on **Elk Creek** from George Walton.
- In July 1754, John Partree Birks and Edward Watts appeared together, cosigning a bond for the incoming sheriff.
- Note that Jacob Anderson is of Orange, the county from which the Watts seem to have come.

TO DO:

Check the original deed to see if this is truly "Watts & Co." or if it is written as "Watts &c" meaning "etc."

⁹⁵ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 46–47; citing original p. 72.

⁹⁶ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 49.

⁹⁷ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 3, 1754–1755* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaid Publication, 1997), 55; citing Order Book 3: 348; citing original p. 77.

⁹⁸ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 2.

23 JUNE 1755

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land sale

Richard Woodward to Isaac Newton Woodward "his son," for 12 pounds, 100 acres on Ivy Creek, part of a larger tract of 800 ? acres, conveyed to Richard by Nicholas Davis, the patentee. Witnesses not named. 28 July 1755, Elizabeth Woodward, wife of Richard, acknowledged her consent.⁹⁹

JULY 1755

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

"Abraham Venable Jr, Petitioner, against **Edward Watts Sr**, Defendant, on a Petition. This day came the Plaintiff by his Attorney, and the Defendant not appearing to gainsay the justness of the Petitioner's demand, therefore it is considered by the Court that the Plaintiff recover against the Defendant, 1 £ 16 shillings, and his costs, and a lawyer's fee. But this judgment is to be discharged by the payment of 17 shillings and 11 pence, and 5% interest from March 24, 1755 and the costs."¹⁰⁰

AUGUST 1755

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

"Ordered that the Sheriff of this County summon **Ambros Mills & Edward Watts** to appear at next Court to answer the complaint of Robert Ewings, Gent."¹⁰¹

COMMENT:

- The coupling of Edward Watts with Ambrose Mills in some business or personal relationship here in Bedford, before the two families migrated to Old Craven, SC, adds to the mounting evidence of a kinship between the two families.
- No further mention of this case has been found.
- After Ambrose Mills moved to Fairfield, where his wife and some children were massacred in the Indian uprisings of *ca.* 1760, he pulled back into North Carolina, obtaining land in Rutherford County.

22 SEPTEMBER 1755

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Deed.

Richard Woodward of **Cumberland Parrish**, to **John Woodward**, 170 acres free and clear for natural love and affection being the land purchased by Richard Woodward of **Nicholas Davis**. Rec. Sept. 22, 1755. Pg. 50."¹⁰²

NOVEMBER 1755

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Civic duty.

⁹⁹ Bedford Deed Book 1:35-36.

¹⁰⁰ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 59; citing original p. 92.

¹⁰¹ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 69; citing original p. 108.

¹⁰² Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va, Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 44; citing original p. 128.

“**Thomas Watts** is appointed Surveyor of the Road whereof **Francis Stone** was late Surveyor & it is ordered that he, together with all the hands that assisted the said Stone on the said Road, do forthwith clear & keep the same in repair.”¹⁰³

COMMENT:

- No prior court reference can be found for the assignment of any road to Francis Stone—indeed these court minutes have no reference to a man of that name at all.
- In September 1754, **William Stone** was appointed Surveyor of the road “from Falling Mountain into **Mobberlys** Road.”¹⁰⁴ However, he was replaced by Peter Holland in the March 1755 term.¹⁰⁵
- Meanwhile, in March 1755, **Francis Callaway** was appointed Surveyor of “the Road leading from Moselys Quarter in William Calloways Road” at the same time that **Thos. Watts**, James Callaway and Alexander Boyles were appointed to select a route for a road from Robert Davis’ ford to the Otter River. The many records in Lunenburg and Bedford that place the Watts in the vicinity of the Callaways suggest that the Francis _____ who Thomas Watts was ordered to replace was Francis Callaway.
- I have examined the original volume and it does, indeed, state “Francis Stone.”

NOVEMBER 1755

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Jury duty.

“A Grand Jury, to wit, John Sutton, foreman, William Rentfro, William Wyley, John Thompson, Jeremiah Shrewsbury, Isaac Woodward, James Tilly, Thomas Overstreet, Richard Woodward, William Stone, Edward Phair, William Rutherford, John Woodward, David Irvine, & **Edward Watts**, returned to consult of Presentments.”¹⁰⁶

JANUARY 1756

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

“Archibald Buchanan, John Brown and Co., Petitioners, against **Thomas Leirwood** and James Wheeler, Defendant, on a Petition. This day came the Petitioners by their attorney, and the Defendant did not appear. Therefore it is considered by the Court that the Petitioners recover against the Defendant, 3 £ 3 shillings and 5 pence and their costs and a lawyer’s fee.”¹⁰⁷

COMMENT:

Thomas Leirwood/Leerwood was married to Elizabeth Mills, a sister of Ambrose Mills and Sarah Mills (wife of Thomas Watts).¹⁰⁸

¹⁰³ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 81; citing original p. 126.

¹⁰⁴ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 17; citing original p. 19.

¹⁰⁵ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 45; citing original p. 68.

¹⁰⁶ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 82; citing original p. 126.

¹⁰⁷ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 87; citing original p. 136.

¹⁰⁸ Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1933): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2:657–701; particularly 700–1 for the quotes above.

JANUARY 1756

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

“David Bell, Plaintiff, against **Thomas Watts**, Defendant, **in debt**. The Defendant failing to find Special Bail, and the attachment awarded at the last Court being returned executed on a hoe of the Defendant’s estate, on the motion of the Plaintiff by his attorney, it is considered by the Court that the Plaintiff recover against the Defendant 41£ 16 shillings and 11 pence, the debt in the declaration mentioned, and his costs. But this judgment is to be discharged by payment of 20 £ 16 shillings and 11 pence, with 5% interest from September 1, 1752, and the costs, and it is ordered that the Sheriff sell the said hoe by him attached and to pay the money arising from said sale to the Plaintiff towards paying this judgment and costs.”¹⁰⁹

JANUARY 1756

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

“John Hall, Petitioner, against **Thomas Watts**, Defendant, on a Petition. This day came the Petitioner by his attorney, and **the Defendant not appearing**, therefore it is considered by the Court that the Petitioner recover against the Defendant, 350 lbs of net tobacco & his costs & a lawyer’s fee.”¹¹⁰

MAY 1756

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

“The Grand Jury returned their several presentments in these words, to wit ‘We present Philip Morris for not coming to hear divine service, we present Cain Davis for ditto, Edmund Franklin for profane swearing, David Shelton for not coming to hear divine service, and David Hues for ditto, Ambros Bryan for profane swearing, Richard Burks for not coming to hear divine service, **Thomas Watts**, Surveyor of a Road from the Peaks {of Otter} to James River, Stephen Chinalt for retailing liquors without license, [signed] Jer. Early, foreman’ and having nothing further to present, they are discharged.”¹¹¹

COMMENT:

Thomas is being charged with not fulfilling the court’s previous order for him to take over the supervision of a road previously assigned to “Francis Stone” [Callahan?]. Considering his debt problems at this time, it seems unlikely that he had the funds to do so. It also seems he has left the county.

6 JULY 1756

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Witness.

“Philemon Russell & David Garland granted probate sill [sic] *Henry Chiles* decd.; Jas Stuart, **Wm Mills**, witnesses; John Jenings, Jas Arnold security”¹¹²

¹⁰⁹ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 88; citing original p. 138.

¹¹⁰ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 90; citing original p. 141.

¹¹¹ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 101; citing original p. 161.

¹¹² June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 4, 1755–1757* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffyliaiad Publication, 1998), 32; citing Order Book 4: 461.

AUGUST 1756

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Civic duty.

"Upon the Presentment of the Grand Jury against **Thomas Watts**, for not keeping a Road in repair whereof he is Surveyor (**the said Watts was solemnly called and did not appear**), it is considered by the Court that he forfeit and pay to the Church Wardens of Russel Parish, 15 shillings, and that he pay the costs of this prosecution."¹¹³

COMMENT:

- Thus far, I've found no later reference for him in the county—aside from the November 1756 note below, showing that he had sold to Thomas Hunt the wolves' head bounty that was due to him that year.
- The year 1756 definitely appears to be the time that Thomas out-migrated. Note below that their Otter River neighbor **Edward Mobberly** had already established himself in Craven Co., SC, by 10 September 1756, at which time he was back in Bedford to sell his Bedford land.

8 SEPTEMBER 1756

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

"**Jas Mills** on attachment agst Jeremiah Moray dfndt in debt; dfndt's debt not fully recovered by public sale attachment, further execution ordered."¹¹⁴

COMMENT:

James Mills is not named in the 1755 will of William Mills, Sr. It seems increasingly likely that there are multiple Mills families in this county.

(BEFORE) 10 SEPTEMBER 1756

BEDFORD CO., VA

Land sale.

"Deed from **Edw. Mobberly** (Craven Co., S.C.) to Samuel Drake. 330 Acres on **Otter River**. Wit. Jos. Drake, Philip Preston, Ephrain Drake. Rec. Sept. 10, 1756. Teste Ben Howard CBC."¹¹⁵

NOVEMBER 1756

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Bounty warrant.

"To Benjamin Howard, Assignee of **Thomas Hunt**, who was Assignee of **Thomas Watts**, for 1 old and 2 young Wolves Heads, 1756, Zach. Isbel, 200."¹¹⁶

COMMENT:

- In assigning his bounty to someone else, who would have to wait for payment until the court session where the payments were made, Thomas would have sold it at a discount. He obviously needed funds.

¹¹³ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 108; citing original pp. 170–71.

¹¹⁴ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 24: 1755–57* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaid Publication, 1998), 38; citing Order Book 4: 198

¹¹⁵ Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 7, citing B-2: 94.

¹¹⁶ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 115; citing original p. 183.

- Note, below, that Ambrose Mills also had signed away his wolf's head bounty and, past this point, has not been found in the county records.

Regarding the hypothesis that Thomas Watts was the father of George Watts of Fairfield, whose pension application gives his birth as 25 December 1756 in Bedford County, Va.:

If Thomas (and his presumed brother-in-law Ambrose) did leave the county in the summer of 1756, the timetable does not negate the hypothesis. It is probable that Thomas and Ambrose went ahead without their wives and children, located land on which to settle (land being free in SC) and set up some rudimentary accommodations before actually moving their families.

NOVEMBER 1756
BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Jury duty.

"Richard Woodward, John Woodward, Isaac Woodard, James Fear, Edmund Manion, Edward Bright, Alexander Parish, Thomas Reed, William Rogers, Lewis Franklin, Natthaniel Patteson, John Caffery, John Caffery {sic}, Charles Caffery, David Rosser, Edward Phair, **Edward Watts**, William Irvine, and Jeremiah Shrewsbury, who were summoned to a Grand Jury of Inquest for the Body of this County, and not appearing, it is ordered that each of them forfeit and pay to the King, 400 lbs. of Tobacco for the use of this County, unless legal cause of nonappearance be shown and allowed at the next Court held for this County. Signed, Matthew Talbot."¹¹⁷

NOVEMBER 1756
BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Bounty sale.

To Thomas Prather, Assignee of **Ambrose Mills**, 1 ditto [old wolf's head], December 29, 1755, Marck Cole, 100."¹¹⁸

5 APRIL 1757
LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

"**Thos Watts** against **Charles Evens** for debt; dismissed."¹¹⁹

COMMENT:

Several Evanses also migrated to Craven/Camden District S.C., where they were neighbors and associates of the Wattses.

MAY 1757
BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

"Joseph Ray, Assignee of **Edward Watts**, Petitioner, against James Fair, Defendant, on a petition. For reasons appearing to the Court, this petition is ordered to be dismissed."¹²⁰

¹¹⁷ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 116; citing original p. 185.

¹¹⁸ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 116; citing original p. 184.

¹¹⁹ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 4, 1755–1757* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaiad Publication, 1998), 53; citing Order Book 4: 280.

¹²⁰ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 124; citing original p. 198.

27 JANUARY 1757

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

“Deed from **Edward Watts, Elder** of Parrish of Russell, County of Bedford to Alexander Mackie of Chesterfield County, 200 acres situated on **both sides of Elk Creek**, this being part of a larger tract E. Watts purchased from Geo. Walton. Wit. Rich. Stith, Jas. Callaway and P. Carrington. Rec. June 27, 1757, Pg. 124.”¹²¹

COMMENT:

The wife of William Mills Sr. and mother of Sarah (Mrs. Thomas Watts) is said to be née Walton.¹²² No evidence is presented.

27 JUNE 1757

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land purchase.

“WOODWARD, RICH., Deed from **Richard Woodward** to **George Watts**, 100 acres situated on the North side of **Ivy Creek** beginning at a White Oak, this being part of a tract Granted to Nicholas Davis. **Elizabeth Woodward** appeared and relinquished her Right of Dower. Wit. **Ed Watts, Ed. Watts Jr.** Rec. June 27, 1757. Pg. 128.”¹²³

COMMENT:

(Same page of Chilton) In July–Sept. 1755, Richard had given 100 & 170 acres of his **Ivy Creek** land, bought from Nicholas Davis, to his sons Isaac and John Woodward “for love and affection.”

This George Watts, the apparent son of Edward Sr., may have married Frances Woodward, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth, about the time of this deed. When he left Bedford for Anson Co., NC (see 27 July 1765 below) he had a wife “Frances.” In 1772 he died in Anson’s daughter county, Lincoln, leaving a widow Frances.¹²⁴ Six years later (see 24 January 1778, below), Richard Woodward drew up his will naming his daughter “Frances Taylor.”

TO DO:

Reconsult Anson and Lincoln County records to determine whether the widow Frances Watts subsequently married a man named Taylor.

JUNE 1757

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land purchase.

¹²¹ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754 – 1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 42. Checked original: Deed Book 1:124-26, document calls seller “Edward Watts, THE elder,”

¹²² Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1933): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 657–701, particularly 701.

¹²³ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 44. Checked. The original is at 1: 128–29.

¹²⁴ 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.”

"A deed from Richard Woodward to **George Watts** was acknowledged by the said Woodward, and Elizabeth, the wife of the said Richard relinquished her right of dower in all and to the land and premises conveyed by the said deed, all of which are ordered to be recorded."¹²⁵

JUNE 1757

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

"A deed from **Edward Watts** to Alexander Mackie was acknowledged by the said Watts and ordered to be recorded."¹²⁶

JUNE 1757

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

"To Archibald Buchanan, John Bowman and Co., Plaintiff, against **Edward Watts Jr.**, Defendant, **in debt**. For reasons appearing to the Court, this suit is ordered to be dismissed."¹²⁷

JUNE 1757

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

"Abraham Venable Jr., Plaintiff, against **Edward Watts Sr.** and **Edward Watts Jr.**, Defendant, **in debt**. For reasons appearing to the Court, this suit is ordered to be dismissed."¹²⁸

JUNE 1757

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

"David Loony, Assignee of Thomas Camp, Petitioner, against **Edward Watts Jr.**, Defendant, on a petition. This day came the Petitioner by his attorney, and the Defendant in his proper person, and the Defendant says he cannot gainsay [rebut] the justness of the Petitioner's demand. Therefore it is considered by the Court that the Petitioner recover against the Defendant, 3 £ 4 shillings and 6 pence and his costs."¹²⁹

20 AUGUST 1757

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

"Deed from **Edward Watts Sr.** to **Edward Watts Jr.**, 100 acres situated on the West side of Elk Creek beginning at Mackie's corner, being part of 402 acres conveyed to E. Watts Sr. by Deed acknowledged by Geo. Walton in Lunenburg Court **March 5, 1754**. Wit. Rich. Stith, **J. Woodward** and **Geo. Watts**. Rec. Sept. 26, 1757. Pg 144."¹³⁰

¹²⁵ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 126; citing original p. 199.

¹²⁶ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 126; citing original p. 199.

¹²⁷ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 127; citing original p. 201.

¹²⁸ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 127; citing original p. 201.

¹²⁹ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 128; citing original p. 203.

¹³⁰ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 43. Checked original. It is dated 20 August 1757, Book 1: 144–45.

COMMENT:

By 1763 Edward Jr. (using the “Jr.” appellation) would be in possession of a land grant on SC’s Wateree River, adjacent to land of Thomas and William Watts. Before the year was out, he would follow William’s move one river over (to Little River) where he settled amid the Bedford Woodwards, on a small branch (later known as Watts’s Branch) that fed into the May 1762 grant of Ambrose Mills at the Forks of Little River.

Meanwhile:

- Edward Sr. bought 402 acres in 1754. In 1756 he sold 200 to Mackie, leaving him with 202. He is now halving that with his son.
- The timing of these three June 1757 transactions suggest that Edward Sr. raised the funds to clear these two debts by selling a part of his land to Mackie.

SEPTEMBER 1757

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

“A deed from **Edward Watts** to **Edward Watts Jr.** was proved by the oaths of Richard Stith, John Woodward, and **George Watts**, witnesses thereunto subscribed, and ordered to be recorded.”¹³¹

COMMENT:

Note George’s continued association with the Woodwards.

SEPTEMBER 1757

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

“James Mitchell, Plaintiff, against **Edward Watts** and **Edward Watts Jr.**, Defendants, **in debt**. This day came the parties by their attorneys, and thereupon came also a Jury, to wit ... who say that the Defendants have not performed the conditions of the Writing Obligatory in the Plaintiff’s specified, but has [*sic*] broken the same, as the Plaintiff has declared, and they do assess the Plaintiff’s damages by occasion thereof, to 5 £ 10 shillings and 7 pence besides his costs. Therefore it is considered by the Court that the Plaintiff recover against the Defendants his damages aforesaid, in form aforesaid assessed, and his costs.”¹³²

24 SEPTEMBER 1757

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land Sale.

Thomas Leerwood and wife Elizabeth of Prince Edward County, to Moses Helm, 55? Pounds, land on headwaters of Ready Creek, 154 acres. Signed Thomas (W his mark) Leerwood; Elizabeth (X her mark) Leerwood. Witnesses: Nathaniel Patterson, Joseph McMurtray, James Patterson.¹³³

SEPTEMBER 1757

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

¹³¹ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 134; citing original p. 213.

¹³² TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 136; citing original p. 217.

¹³³ Bedford Co. Deed Book 1: 139–41.

“A deed from **Thomas Leerwood** and **Elizabeth, his wife**, to Moses Helm was acknowledged by the said Thomas Leerwood and Elizabeth his wife, and ordered to be recorded.”¹³⁴

COMMENT:

Elizabeth, wife of Thomas, was a sister of Ambrose Mills and Sarah (Mills) Watts.¹³⁵

20 OCTOBER 1757

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Edward Watts to Jeremiah Early, sale for 21 pounds, land on **Elk Creek**, beginning at Stith & Howard’s line, etc.¹³⁶

MARCH 1758

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit. Turner Hunt Christian, Richard Burks, John Partree Burks, **Edward Watts Jr.**, James Walker, Thomas Walker, Benjamin Orrick, Joseph Mayse, and John Goad, Defendants, on a writ of sciens facias. For reasons appearing to the Court, this suit is ordered to be dismissed.”¹³⁷

COMMENT:

In 1754, when the county was created, Joseph Ray was sworn in as sheriff, with Watts and these other men as sureties on Ray’s performance bond guaranteeing that he would uphold his duties of office. In September Term 1757, “A Commission from the honorable the Lieutenant Governor” installed Matthew Talbot as sheriff, whereupon Talbot immediately protested the “insufficiency” of the county jail.¹³⁸ It seems likely that this complaint is part and parcel of the above suit against Ray for non-performance.

CA. 1755–58

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Military.

“The following entries are taken from William Waller Hening’s collection of the laws of Virginia. During the French and Indian War, the House of Burgesses passed an act for the defense of the frontier of the colony on 14 September 1758. The soldiers mentioned in the schedule attached to this act appear below: ...

Augusta County:	“ Edward Watts
Bedford County:	“Jeremiah Early, Jacob Henderson, Ambrose Bryan, Samuel Brown, James Fair, Charles Bright, John Watts , and John Handy, 0.4.0 each.
	“Jeremiah Earley, Lt., 8.2.0; George Watts, Sgt. , and Edmund Fair, Sgt., 3.12.0 each

¹³⁴ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 134; citing original p. 213..

¹³⁵ Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1933): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2:657–701; particularly 700–1 for the quotes above.

¹³⁶ Bedford Co. Deed Book 1: 310–11.

¹³⁷ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 146; citing original p. 235.

¹³⁸ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 135–36; citing original pp. 215–16.

“James Fair, Samuel Brown, James Callaway, Richard Woodard, Sr., Charles Bright, Edward Bright, John Jones, Richard Maples, Richard Woodard, Richard Burks, William Burks, Bolling Burks, William Woodard, John Woodard, James Orchard, and **Edward Watts**, 2.14.0 each. Richard Pritchard, 2.4.0; John House, 1.17.0; Thomas Duly, James Duly, and Thomas Maclin, 1.11.0 each; James Wine, 0.16.0; **John Watts**, 0.14.0; Jeremiah Early, Lt., 8.11.0; **George Watts, Sgt.**, and Jacob Anderson, Sgt., 3.16.0 each

“Edmund Fair, James Callaway, Samuel Brown, Richard Woodward, Charles Bright, James Fair, Edward Bright, Richard Maples, John Jones, Thomas Thirman, Richard Woodward Sr., and John Hughes, 2.17.0 each; James Bromlet, 2.14.0; Richard Burks, Jr., William Burks, Boling Burks, **Edward Watts**, and James Orchard, 2.11.0 each; William Woodward, John Bush, John Woodward, Isaac Woodward, Michael Poore, and Richard Pritchard, 2.6.0 each; Andrew Poore, 1.16.0; Leonard Hall, for conducting Indians, 1.10.0; John Hues, for conducting Indians, 2.0.0.”¹³⁹

COMMENT:

These three Watts from Bedford—Edward, George, and John—should be the young men for whom Edward Sr. paid tithes in 1752.

CA. 1758

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Military.

“ ... warfare with the Indians, French and British before the Declaration of Independence, as appears from Hening’s Statutes at large and the records of the County Court, and a few in the Revolutionary War. The records do not contain a complete list of those engaged in any war.

Sergeants: **Geo. Watts**

Privates: *Richard Woodward, John Watts, Saml. Woodward, Rich. Woodard, Sr., Wm. Woodward, John Woodward, John Watts, Isaac Woodward, Robert Witt ... Aaron Watts.*

“The foregoing seven pages copied in part from ‘Virginia Colonial Militia,’ edited by William Armstrong Crozier, 1651–1776. Bedford County, 1758.

Source: Hening, Vol. 8.”¹⁴⁰

COMMENT:

The time frame in this derivative source is so broad that it is meaningless unless and until we track down the original rolls and determine a specific conflict for each man. The data *seems* to parallel the abstracts offered by Bockstruck, with the exception of “Aaron Watts” who does not appear on Bockstruck’s lists. Markham’s genealogy of the Watts of Orange and Culpepper Counties demonstrates that one Aaron was the son of Thomas Watts Jr. of Orange—who Markham asserts (but does not prove) to be the brother of Edward of Lunenburg/Bedford. No attempt yet has been made to verify Aaron’s identity or possible kinship.¹⁴¹

23 AUGUST 1758

¹³⁹ Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, *Virginia’s Colonial Soldiers* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988), 201–2, 208–9.

¹⁴⁰ *Historical Sketch of Bedford County, Virginia, 1753–1907* (N.P., N.p., n.d.), 37, 43.

¹⁴¹ Thomas A. Markham, *The Descendants of Edward Watts, 1650–1728* (<http://www.tommymarkham.com/Watts/edward-watts-1.htm> : accessed 5 January 2015).

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

Edward Watts Junr. to Richard Stith and Benjamin Howard, sale of 100 acres conveyed to Edward Junr. by **Edward Senr.**, 20 August 1757, for 25 pounds. Witnesses: Wm. Irvin, Saml. Drake, James Callaway, Henry Ball, George Rust.¹⁴²

COMMENT:

As with all these Watts sales, there are no renouncements by a wife, even though other wives in the county were signing. This trait prominently characterizes Rev. John Watts of SC, GA, and MS.

3 FEBRUARY 1759

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Witness.

"From Jonathan **Ashworth** of L, to John Bonds of the County of Cumberland, for 30L to John Mindon paid by Bonds and acknowledged by Ashworth, a certain tract of land in L on both sides of Sandy Cr, and bounded by said Jonathan Ashworth, Francis Linsy, it being part of an Order of Council obtained by the said Jonathan Ashworth. Signed – Jonath: Ashworth. Wit – Chas Allen, David (D his mark) Bradly, **Richard Watts** (+ his mark). Recorded Feb 5, 1760.¹⁴³

COMMENT:

- Ashworth descendants also appear among my autosomal DNA matches, with relationships that apparently date to this time frame. As such, they present a possibility for a Watts wife or mother.
- This is the first appearance of the name Richard Watts since 1747.

1758

(BEFORE) 26 MARCH 1759

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

"Deed from **Edward Watts Jr.** to Richard Stith and Ben Howard, a tract of land containing 100 acres, conveyed to **E. Watts Jr.** from **Ed. Watts Sr.** Aug. 20, 1757, situated on the West Branch of **Elk Creek** beginning at Mackie's corner. Wit. Wm. Irvine, James Drake, J. Callaway, H. Bell and Geo. Rust. Rec. March 26, 1759."¹⁴⁴

COMMENT:

By 1763, Edward Jr., William, and Thomas Watts would have land on Dry Fork of the Wateree River in present Kershaw County, SC (then Craven-Camden). By 1762 William Watts and Ambrose Mills had grants on Little River in present Fairfield County.

The Stith and Howard deed of March 1759 says Ed Jr. sold to Stith & Howard in 1758.

MARCH 1759

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

¹⁴² Bedford Co. Deed Book 1: 215–16.

¹⁴³ TLC Genealogy, *Lunenburg County, Virginia, Deeds, 1757–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1990), 49; citing 5: 572.

¹⁴⁴ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 43.

“Watts’ deed to *Stith* and *Howard* proved by three witnesses and ordered to be recorded.”¹⁴⁵

MAY 1759

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Militia service.

“George Watts, Lieutenant, and Ambrose Bryant, Ensign of the Militia of this County, took the usual oaths.”¹⁴⁶

MAY 1759

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Jury duty.

“George Grundy, foreman, Stephen Hudson, John Woodard, Isaac Woodard, David Irvin, William Thompson, **George Wats**, Francis Pollard, William Wiley, Edmund Fear, Paul Chiles, James McRennals, Charles Caffery, Thomas Cooper, and John Anthony, Gent, sworn a Grand Jury of Inquest for the Body of this County, and having received their charge were sent out of the Court.”¹⁴⁷

JULY 1759

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Jury duty.

“Buchanan and Co. vs. Vance’s administrator – Isaac Woodard, David Irvin, Nicholas Welch, William Scrugs, John Wood, George Grundy, John Woodard, Robert Pepper, George Harberson, Jacob Read, **Edward Watts Jr.**, and Henry Brown, sworn to inquire of damages, returned verdict for the Plaintiff and judgment accordingly.”¹⁴⁸

JULY 1759

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Witness.

“George Watts allowed three days attendance for Birks at the suit of Walton.”¹⁴⁹

COMMENT:

The minutes of this court session also covers Walton vs. Birks suit, but gives no detail other than the judgment was for Walton.¹⁵⁰

JULY 1759

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

“Watts vs. Ray – dismissed.

“Randal vs. Ray – ditto.”¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁵ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 165; citing original p. 104

¹⁴⁶ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 169; citing original p. 109.

¹⁴⁷ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 168; citing original p. 108.

¹⁴⁸ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 172; citing original p. 113.

¹⁴⁹ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 172; citing original p. 113.

¹⁵⁰ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 172; citing original p. 113.

COMMENT:

In February 1755 Joseph Ray had won a judgment against Pharoah Reyley (Ryly), John Partree Burks, William Kerr & Henry Bunch—also John Sutton and **Edward Watts** who had been sureties for the defendants. This Watts vs. Ray case may be a countersuit or appeal by Edward Watts.

AUGUST 1759

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Witness.

“Woodard vs. Mosley – Commission awarded the Plaintiff to take the depositions of Charles Bright and **George Wats**, he giving legal notice to the Defendant.”¹⁵²

AUGUST 1759

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Jury duty.

“Peterson vs. Wheeler – Benjamin Thurman, John Boswell, Richard Mapels, George Grundy, **Edward Wats Jr.**, James Fear, William Fuqua, John Addams, Samuel Brown, Jacob Anderson, James Rentfro, and Andrew Harstone – sworn to try this issue, returned verdict for the Defendant and on the motion of Plaintiff, a new trial is granted, paying costs of this court.”¹⁵³

13 DECEMBER 1759

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Neighbors.

“This indenture ... Between Thomas Smith of the **Parish of St. Anns** in County of Albemarle of one part and John **Tooley** of the same County & Parish Witnesseth that Thomas Smith for sum of ten pounds Curr. money of Virginia to him paid doth sell John Tooley & to his heirs one certain parcell of land containing three hundred & fifty acres (be the same more or less) which sd parcell of land was granted to the sd Thomas Smith by Patent at Williamsburg bearing date the twentieth day of March one thousand seven hundred & fifty nine lying in the County of Albemarle on **Pedlar River** and bounded Beginning at pointers in **William Mills’s** line & with his lines North & East to pointers & North & West crossing **Maple Creek** to **Edward Watts’s Junr.** his corner Maple on the same thence up the Creek with his line according to its meanders to **Stone’s** line & with the same South & East cross **Pedlar River** to pointers by the River thence down the same according to its meanders to other pointers thence South & West to a Sorrell Tree South & West crossing Pedlar River to pointers North & West to Maple Creek one hundred & four poles to Pointers & North twenty three degrees West ninety two poles to the Beginning [Signed] **Thomas + Smith**.

At a Court held for Albemarle County the thirteenth day of December 1759

This Indenture Memorandum & Receipt was acknowledged by Thos. Smith party thereto & ordered to be recorded. Sarah Wife of the said Thomas personally appeared in Court & being first privately examined as the Law directs Voluntarily relinquished her right of Dower to the Estate conveyed in the said Indenture.”¹⁵⁴

¹⁵¹ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 175; citing original p. 115.

¹⁵² TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 179; citing original p. 118.

¹⁵³ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 174; citing original p. 114.

¹⁵⁴ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1758–1761* (N.P., The Antient Press, 1988.), 59; citing Deed Book 2:205–6. (Checked the actual deed.)

COMMENT:

Albemarle deeds have now placed three key couples on Pedlar River.

- In 1749, shortly after their marriage, **Thomas Watts and wife Sarah Mills** (daughter of William) sold a tract on north side of Pedlar River.
- In 1752, **William Mills (wife Mary)** is already a substantial landowner on Pedlar Creek, selling 400 acres; in 1756 he got another grant of 350 acres on Buck Creek of Pedlar River.
- Thomas Smith witnessed the land sale of Thomas & Sarah (Watts) Mills in 1749. In the actual Deed three different samples of Smith's mark places it in a circle.
- In 1759, **Edward Mills Jr.** (proposed brother of Thomas) owns land adjacent to William Mills on north side of Pedlar River. **Edward's ownership coincides with the time of his marriage to one "Millie."** William Mills, in his 1755 will that was not probated until 1766, named a daughter Millie; however, numerous online trees assert (without documentation) that his daughter married William Lavender.¹⁵⁵

(BEFORE) 23 FEBRUARY 1760

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Witness.

"PATE, Anthony, Deed from Anthony Pate and wife Sarah to John Keef son of the late John Keef of Bedford County, 100 acres of land. It was originally Surveyed for Pate being part of the tract whereon said Pate now lives and beginning at a corner pine above Plantation where said John Keef, Dec'd, formerly lived. It was east across Beaver-dam Creek South to Walton's corner. Wit. **Geo. Watts, Jos. Gibson**, and Robert Allen. Rec. Feb. 23, 1760. Pg. 255."¹⁵⁶

(BEFORE) 25 FEBRUARY 1760

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Neighbor.

"WALTON, GEO., Deed from George Walton of Lunenburg County to James Orchard of Bedford County, 204 acres lying on the West or supper side of **Elk Creek** beginning where Jeremiah Early's land crosses said Creek to *corner of the land sold by Walton to Edward Watts*. Rec. Feb. 25, 1760. Pg. 16."¹⁵⁷

FEBRUARY 1760

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Jury duty.

"Peterson vs. Wheeler – jury, to wit, John Quarles, **George Wats**, Charles Bright, Paul Chiles, William Walker, William May, Richard Woodard, Joseph Greer, William Irvin, Randolph Woodard, Zachary Addams, and Richard Woodard Jr., being sworn, returned a verdict for Plaintiff for £7 and judgment accordingly."¹⁵⁸

FEBRUARY 1760

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Witness.

¹⁵⁵ For example, see "Leigh Anne Hagerman Ashley's Family Trees – Part 3," *Ancestry* (<http://person.ancestry.com/tree/8403895/person/-955132141/facts:1/5/2015>).

¹⁵⁶ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 25.

¹⁵⁷ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 41.

¹⁵⁸ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 188; citing original p. 123.

“**Edward Watts Jr.** allowed eight days attendance for Woodward against Mosley. James(?) Brown – the same. **George Wats** allowed six days for the same. Charles Bright allowed two days for the same.”¹⁵⁹

MAY 1760

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Jury duty.

“Grand Jury (to wit) George Grundy, foreman, Stephen Hudson, William Rentfro, Richard Woodward, **George Watts**, Isaac Woodward, John Woodward, John Burks, John Haynes, William Wyly, Joseph Miller, Thomas Coper, Charles Cafferry, William Rutherford, Francis Pollard, James Turner, Stephen Clements, who being sworn and charted, were sent out to find their presentments.”¹⁶⁰

COMMENT:

- Earmarks were also recorded at this term of court. Nowhere in this set of court minutes do we find earmarks registered by the Watts.
- Note the insertion of George’s name into a cluster of Woodwards.

7 MAY 1760

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

“Leonard Claiborne Jr agst **Wm Langford** dfndt; dfndt not inhabitant in this county; suit abates.”¹⁶¹

COMMENT:

By 1762, *one* William Langford/Lankford and a Thomas Watts (origin unknown but a different Y-DNA line of Watts from those under study¹⁶²) were getting land grants on Lynches Creek, Craven/Camden/Kershaw SC. No link has yet been found for them and Bedford County, other than the similarity of the names.

AUGUST 1760

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

“Pleasants and Co. vs. Thomas – a Jury (to wit) Richard Edwards, Robert Hairston, William Edwards, John Bryant, William Wyly, **George Watts**, **John Watts**, Richard Woodward Jr., Henry Etson, John Prather, William Verdeman, and Thomas Cooper, sworn to inquire of damages, returned verdict for the Plaintiff for £ 16.5.9 ½ and judgment accordingly.”¹⁶³

COMMENT:

This John Watts should be John-of-Edward Sr., and a brother of George.

20 OCTOBER 1760

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

¹⁵⁹ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 189; citing original p. 123.

¹⁶⁰ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 197; citing original p. 130.

¹⁶¹ June Banks Evans, *County, Virginia: Order Book 6, 1759–1761* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaid Publication, 1998), 37; citing Order Book 6:101.

¹⁶² “Watts/Watt/Watson Families Reconstruction Project,” database, *FamilyTreeDNA* (www.ftdna.com : last accessed 5 January 2015).

¹⁶³ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 201; citing original p. 133.

Edward Watts [doesn't say Sr. or Jr.] to Jeremiah Early for 21 pounds, land on south side of Elk Creek, beginning at the white oak at Howard & Stith's corner, 102 acres. Witnesses: Ambrose Bramlett, Joseph Scruggs, Darby Caves? Proved 24 November 1761.¹⁶⁴

COMMENT:

- The Howard & Stith land is the land that Edward Sr. sold Edward Jr. in 1757 and then Jr. sold to Stith & Howard in 1758.
- Edward Watts has now sold the last of his 402 acres purchased in 1754 from George Walton. Note, below, that one month later, Edward Jr. bought back 100 acres of his father's land that had previously been sold to Howard & Stith, who had then conveyed it to James Orchard.

TO DO:

Hypothesis to investigate: The circumstances suggest a *possibility* that Orchard may be part of the family cluster and that—having some financial resources—he bought the family tract from Howard & Stith to keep them from selling it elsewhere, after which Orchard held it until the Wattses could buy it back.

24 NOVEMBER 1760

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

"**Watts'** deed proved by the witnesses and to be recorded."¹⁶⁵

24 NOVEMBER 1760

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land purchase

James Orchard for Bedford County to **Edward Watts Junr.**, for 7 pounds, 102 acres of Elk Creek. Witnesses: William Daniel, Ambrose Bramblett.¹⁶⁶

26 JANUARY 1761

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land purchase.

"WOODWARD, ISAAC, Deed from *Isaac Woodward* to **Edward Watts ["Junr."]**, 100 acres located on the Branches of **Ivy Creek**, being part of 800 acres conveyed by Deed to **Richard Woodward** by Nicholas Davis. Rec. Jan 26, 1761. Pg. 319."¹⁶⁷

COMMENT:

- In 1755, Richard Woodward deeded two parts of his Davis land to his sons Isaac and John for love and affection.
- In 1757, Richard Woodward sold a third part to George Watts, a possible son-in-law.
- Now George's brother Edward Jr. has disposed of his own paternal land on Elk River (see "(Before) 24 November 1761," below) and is joining George on Woodward land.

¹⁶⁴ Bedford Co. Deed Book 1: 310–11.

¹⁶⁵ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 211; citing original p. 140.

¹⁶⁶ Bedford Co., Deed Book 1: 307–8.

¹⁶⁷ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 44. Checked: Bedford Deed Book 1: 319–20, 26 January 1761.

- In Craven County, 1763, after getting a grant next door to Thomas and William Watts, Edward would sell that grant and move one river over to the Little River where he settled amid Woodwards.

JANUARY 1761

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

“Woodard to **Watts**, deed, acknowledged and ordered to be recorded.”¹⁶⁸

COMMENT:

The buyer was Edward Watts. See above.

MARCH 1761

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Civic duty.

“Ambrose Bryant, Richard Callaway, and **George Watts** to view the way for a Road from Calloway’s Wagon Road to the Courthouse and make report.”¹⁶⁹

MARCH 1761

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

“William Daniel and **Edward Watts**, having behaved themselves in a disorderly manner, ordered that the Sheriff take them into custody till they shall give security for their good behavior and pay costs.”¹⁷⁰

(BEFORE) 27 APRIL 1761

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

“CALLAWAY, WILLIAM, Deed from William Callaway to Thomas Pullen, 204 acres for 23 Pounds beginning at a white oak binding on the land Thomas Pullen bought of George Walton. (This being part of 898 acres which Geo. Walton surveyed for **Ambrose Mills**, who later sold it to Wm. Callaway). Rec. April 27, 1761. Pg. 430.”¹⁷¹

COMMENT:

- By the 1790s, when Franklin County emerged from parts of old Bedford, the Callaways (and Sanderfurs who also appear in this set of notes) were neighbors of our Mills-Witt and Kemp family.
- William Callaway appears to be the county clerk. When the April 1761 term ended, the last item reads: “Ordered that the Court be adjourned Signed, William Callaway.”¹⁷²

APRIL 1761

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

¹⁶⁸ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 216; citing original p. 144.

¹⁶⁹ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 221; citing original p. 148.

¹⁷⁰ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 226; citing original p. 152.

¹⁷¹ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 8.

¹⁷² TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 233; citing original p. 158.

“**Watts** vs. Earely – nonsuit.”¹⁷³

COMMENT:

See the sale from Edward Watts to Jeremiah Early under 24 March 1761, below.

APRIL 1761

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Witness.

“**George Watts** allowed two days attendance for Wood vs. Smith.”¹⁷⁴

COMMENT:

The preceding court minute reports the verdict in the Woods vs. Smith case (for Wood 1.7.0, plus costs) but gives no details. It would seem to be a routine debt case.

MAY 1761

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Legal suit.

“Haisty and Co. vs. **Watts** – Gross Scruggs Special Bail and judgment confessed for £ 10.0.9 and costs.”¹⁷⁵

MAY 1761

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Jury duty.

“A Grand Jury (to wit) Robert Allen, foreman, **Edward Watts** Jr., Richard Woodward, **George Watts**, Alexander Parish, William Boyd, William Verdeman, George White, John Haynes, Stephen Chenalt Clements, William Thompson, Charles Caffery, Pat Hennice, John Ward, John Woodward, and Robert Russel, sworn a Grand Jury of Inquest for the Body of this County, were sent out to make their presentments.”¹⁷⁶

22 AUGUST 1761

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Neighbor.

Jacob Watts is among the buyers at the estate sale of Wm. Dobbys, Dec’d.¹⁷⁷

COMMENT:

Jacob has not appeared as a resident of Lunenburg or Bedford since he left there as a debtor in 1753. Is he visiting now or has he returned there to live?

(BEFORE) 24 NOVEMBER 1761

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

¹⁷³ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 231; citing original p. 156.

¹⁷⁴ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 233; citing original p. 158.

¹⁷⁵ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 235; citing original p. 160.

¹⁷⁶ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 234; citing p. 159.

¹⁷⁷ June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Will Book 2, 1762–1778* (New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffylliaide Publications, 1999), 18; citing 2: 110.

Deed from **Edward Watts** to Jeremiah Early a tract of land lying on the South side of **Elk Creek** beginning at a White Oak on Howard and Stith's corner. Rec. Nov. 24, 1761. Pg. 310."¹⁷⁸

COMMENT:

The seller in this case is Edward Jr. See note of 13 March 1763.

(BEFORE) 10 DECEMBER 1761

BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

p. 22

"MAPLES, RICH. Bill of Sale from Richard Maples to John Talbot, one Negro man, Henry about 45 years of age, for 25 Pounds. Negro was left to Richard Maples by his father Richard Maple Sr. Wit. **Geo. Watts, Richard Woodward** and **Edward Watts**. Rec. Dec. 10, 1761. Pg 509."¹⁷⁹

COMMENT:

Note the Woodward-Watts cluster again. Both George and Edward left the parental home on Elk Creek and bought Woodward's Ivy Creek land—all part of a tract that from which Richard had earlier carved away two portions for his sons John and Isaac.

(BEFORE) 26 JANUARY 1762

BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Deed.

"MEADOR, JOB. 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."¹⁸⁰

25 MAY 1762

BEDFORD CO., VA

Neighbors.

"John Staples (attorney for Mr. John Dawson), to Roland Hosly **Birks (Burks)** of B, for 11 pounds, 200 acres on both sides of **Ivey Cr** in B, and bounded by John Mackinnie, **Richard Woodward**. Signed – John Staples. Wit – Jas Cheetwood, **Isaac Woodward, William Woodward**. Recorded May 25, 1762."¹⁸¹

(BEFORE) 4 SEPTEMBER 1762

BEDFORD CO., VA

"Deed from **Edm. Mobberly (from Craven Co.) S.C.** to Phillip Preston. 400 acres on **Island Creek, Branch of Otter River**. Wit. Jos. Drake, Ephrain Drake, Sam Drake. Rec. Sept. 4, 1762. Teste: Ben Howard CBC."¹⁸²

28 SEPTEMBER 1762

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

"**Sep 28, 1762** from **Edward Watts** of B, to John Talbot of B, march't {merchant}, for 8L, one certain tract of land in B on both sides of a branch of **Elk Cr**, containing about 102 acres, and bounded by Earley's line

¹⁷⁸ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 42.

¹⁷⁹ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 22.

¹⁸⁰ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 22.

¹⁸¹ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deeds, 1761–1766* (Miami Beach, FL: T.L.C. Genealogy, 1991), 3; citing 2: 10.

¹⁸² Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 6, citing B-2: 89.

on Bryant's Ridge path, Terril. Signed – **Edward Watts Jr.** Wit – Jeremiah Early (Earley), Wm. Mead, Gross Scruggs. Recorded Dec 23, 1762.”¹⁸³

(BEFORE) 23 NOVEMBER 1762

BEDFORD CO., VA

Land sale.

“Deed from Joel Meador to William Hollaway 118 Acres on **Stanton River**. Wit. John Meador, **Joab Meador, Ambrose Meador**. Rec. Nov. 23, 1762.”¹⁸⁴

(BEFORE) 23 DECEMBER 1762

BEDFORD CO., VA.

Land Sale.

“Deed from **Edward Watts** to John Talbot 102 Acres on Both Sides of Branch of **Elk Creek**. Wit. Jeb. Early, Wm. Mead, G. Scruggs. Rec. Dec. 23, 1762. Teste Ben Howard CBC.”¹⁸⁵

COMMENT:

- The recorded document has a filing date of 28 September 1762. There is no date on the deed, which apparently was executed about 1757. Edward Sr., at this point has already sold his last 102 acres, although Edward Jr. in 1760 bought back 100 of those. However, Edward Jr. sold his 100-acre tract below.
- I've found no further records on Edward Sr. in Bedford. Possibly, he moved with Thomas, William, and Edward Jr. to the Wateree of old Craven Co.—thereby explaining why his namesake son applied for a grant there in the name “Edward Watts Jr.”

TO DO:

Check the original documents for these Edward Watts transactions to ensure that one or another of them might not have been mortgages rather than outright sales.

JANUARY 1763

BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Land sale.

Jan 19? 1763 from **Edward Watts** of B, to William Stamps of B, for 17£, one certain tract of land in B, containing 100 acres, and bounded by Brite. Signed – **Edwards Watts Jr.** Wit – John Partrick (Fitz: Partrick), Francis Thorp, Stockley Brent. Recorded Aug. 28, 1764.”¹⁸⁶

COMMENT:

This is the last known appearance of Edward Watts Jr. in Bedford. On 4 October 1763 he petitioned for land on Dry Fork of the Wateree River, in what became Lancaster County, then Kershaw County, SC.¹⁸⁷

¹⁸³ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deeds, 1761–1766* (Miami Beach, FL: T.L.C. Genealogy, 1991), 12; citing 2: 125. I checked. It's at B: 125–27.

¹⁸⁴ Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 7, citing B-2:105.

¹⁸⁵ Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 9, citing B-2:125. I checked the original; it's on pp. 125–27.

¹⁸⁶ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deeds, 1761–1766* (Miami Beach, FL: T.L.C. Genealogy, 1991), 39; citing Deed Book 2:446.

¹⁸⁷ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 130. Also p. 91 for 7 Sept 1762 “To pass Fiats on Elapsed cert'd Plats: Thomas Simpson: 150 in Craven County.

13 MARCH 1763

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

“Mar 13, 1673 [1763] from Richard Stith & Benjamin Howard to Jeremiah Early of Culpepper County, for 20£, one certain tract of land containing 100 acres (being conveyed by **Edward Watts Sr** to **Edward Watts {Jr}** by deed dated 20 August 1757, and by the said **Edward Watts Jr** conveyed to the said Stith & Howard by deed dated Aug 28, 1758) in B on the **West Branch of Elk Cr, bounded by McKie’s corner in Bryan’s line. Signed** – Richard Stith, Ben Howard. Wit – none. Recorded Mar 22, 1763.”¹⁸⁸

COMMENT:

The next deed (2:53) refers to Gibsons and Gibson’s Branch of Elk Creek. In Fairfield, the Gibsons would live between William Watts (on Little River) and John Watts (on Wateree Creek).

EARLY 1763

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Witness.

“___2, 1763 from **Richard Woodward** of B, and Elisabeth, his wife, to *William Callaway* of B, for diverse good causes and for 100£, one certain tract of land in B on the branches of **Ivery Cr**, [Ivy] and bounded by {trees}, containing about {blank acres}. Signed – Rich’d (R his mark) Woodward, **Elisabeth** (U her mark) Woodward. Wit – James Callaway, **George Watts**, Julas [Julius] Woodward. Recorded May 24, 1763.”¹⁸⁹

2 ___ 1763

(BEFORE 24 MAY 1763)

BEDFORD CO., VA

Land sale.

“Deed from **Rich. Woodward** to *William Callaway*. Tract of Land on Branches of **Ivy Creek**. Wit. James Callaway, **Ge. Watts**, Julius Woodward. Rec. May 24, 1763. Teste Ben Howard CBC.”¹⁹⁰

COMMENT:

The date is bound into the crack of the book.

All these interactions between the Woodwards and Watts are too frequent to dismiss as casual or coincidental. As previously noted,

- it appears that George may be a son-in-law of Richard Woodward.
- Edward Watts Jr.—George’s apparent brother who settled in Fairfield—settled there adjacent to several Woodwards from Bedford. However, Edward’s only known wife, Millinder “Milly,” who cosigned a deed with him in 1779 and survived as his widow,¹⁹¹ is not named as a daughter of Richard in the published abstract of Richard’s 1777 will.

Again, in the document above, Richard is conveying a part of his land under circumstances that suggest a kinship.

¹⁸⁸TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deeds, 1761–1766* (Miami Beach, FL: T.L.C. Genealogy, 1991), 6; citing Deed Book 2:51. I checked the original deed book. The document was executed 23 March 1763.

¹⁸⁹ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deeds, 1761–1766* (Miami Beach, FL: T.L.C. Genealogy, 1991), 18; citing Deed Book 2: 204. Checked: It’s 2: 204–5, plus second doc, same to same, on 205–6.

¹⁹⁰ Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 13, citing B-2: 204. Checked: It’s 2: 51–53.

¹⁹¹ Fairfield Co., S.C., Deed Book K: 359; Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book T: 294–96.

1764

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Tax list.

“Richd. Witton, Gent., List of Tithes for 1764, St. Jas. Parish”

[Semialphabetized by first letter of surname, thereby destroying any semblance of neighborhood order—except when a head-of-household was charged with tax for other men.]

Wm. Traylor

Wm. Watts	2	400 acres
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COMMENT:

- The land would not belong to Watts. Tithes for Watts & Traylor are both assigned to Traylor.
- This William Watts, who is working for or boarding with Traylor, has not been identified. William of Edward is already the owner of two land grants in SC.
- This William would seem to be the William Watts, Attorney, who was sued in 1767 (below) for non-performance of a commission taken in 1765. If so, he may have moved into the county from elsewhere, representing a different branch of Wattses.

2 JULY 1764

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Witness.

“Jul 2, 1764 from Alexander Sayers of Augusta County, to Israil Christian of same, for 40£ and by virtue of deeds of conveyance made by Benjamin Howard, *Richard Callaway*, and William Mead, Gent Trustees for the Town of New London in B dated May 26, 1761, Sayers grants to said Christian one certain lot of 4.5 acres of land adjoining New London Town in B, which said lot is denoted in the plat of the said town by the Figures No. 36. Signed – Alex’r Sayers. Wit – Anthony Bledsoe, Francis Thorp, **John Mills**, William Christian, James McFaul, Thomas Barnes, Francis Smith. Recorded Feb 26, 1765.”¹⁹²

2 JULY 1764

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

“Jul 2, 1764 from Alexander Sayers of Augusta County to Israil Christian of same, for 40£ and by virtue of [etc. as per deed above] one certain lot of 6 acres of land ... No. 37. Signed – Alex’r Sayers. Wit – Anthony Bledsoe, Francis Thorp, **John Mills**, James McFall, Thomas Barnes, Francis Smith. Recorded Feb 26, 1765.”¹⁹³

(BEFORE) 26 JULY 1764

BEDFORD CO., VA

Witness.

“Deed from Alexander Sayers of Augusta Co., to Israil Christian. 6 Acres Adj. New London Town. Wit. An Bledsoe, Fran Thorp, **John Mills**, James Mfall, Thos. Barnes, Francis Smith. Rec. July 26, 1764. Teste Ben Howard CBC.”¹⁹⁴

27 AUGUST 1765

¹⁹² TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deeds, 1761–1766* (Miami Beach, FL: T.L.C. Genealogy, 1991), 45; citing Deed Book 2:214.

¹⁹³ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deeds, 1761–1766* (Miami Beach, FL: T.L.C. Genealogy, 1991), 45–46; citing Deed Book 2:515.

¹⁹⁴ Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 33, citing B-2: 515.

BEDFORD CO., VA

Occupation.

29 July 1767: Dalton vs. Watts

"To worshipful Court of Bedford Sitting in Chancery. ... Your Orator *Timothy Dalton* [saith] that sometime **in the year 1765** your orator gave to **William Watts** the Defendant to this bill, your orator's Note for forty Shillgs. being the Ballance of the fees for three Such in this Court in which your Orator had employed the said **Watts as his attorney**. And your Orator further sheweth that the said Watts afterwards quitted the Practice of an Attorney in this Court without finishing your Orator's said Suit, and that he did not give up to you Orator his note as he ought to have done, but that the said Watts has brought Suit by Petition and Summons agt. your Orator in this Court and recovered Judgt. for the said forty Shillgs, all which Actings and Doings of the said Watts are contrary to Equity and good Conscience and ought to be manifest Injury of your Orator ..." Dalton's note is dated 27 August 1765. **May 1767**, judgment against Dalton. Dalton appeals and posts bond for £50 to stay the injunction. (Signed "Tim T Dalton, Js. Talbot.") **11 Sept. 1769, William Watts** rejoined, denying the truth of the allegations. **February 1770–July 1771**, continued at request of defendant. **19th day, Fourth? Year of [King George's] Reign**, sheriff of Bedford County ordered to "Attach **William Mills**" [Watts?] and have him in court on Tuesday of the next month on charges of contempt. He did not appear and judgment was issued by Js. Talbot in favor of Dalton.¹⁹⁵

COMMENT:

This William, according to Markham's genealogy of the Orange/Culpeper Wattses, was a brother of Edward Sr. of Lunenburg/Bedford and died 4 March 1808 in Albemarle. He offers no evidence of the kinship other than the names "William" and "Edward" appear in the 1745 will of Thomas of Orange/Culpeper.¹⁹⁶

27 AUGUST 1765

BEDFORD CO., VA

Land Sale.

"Deed from **George Watts** to William **Callaway**. 50 pounds, 100 Acres on N. side of Ivy Cr. Rec. July 27, 1765. Teste Ben Howard, CBC."¹⁹⁷ Acknowledged by Frances Watts, his wife, 27 August 1765.

COMMENT:

At this point, George Watts and wife Frances (as well as the Job and Jason Meador families) have settled in Anson County, NC. George would die in Lincoln Co. (cut from Anson) before 25 November 1772, leaving Frances as his widow.¹⁹⁸

27 AUGUST 1765

BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Land sale.

¹⁹⁵ Virginia, Library of. "Chancery Records Index: Bedford," database with images, *Virginia Memory*. <http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/default.asp#res : 5 January 2015>), Dalton vs. Watts, index number 1771-005, Bedford Co.; the database entry erroneously calls the complainant "Findly" Dalton.

¹⁹⁶ Thomas A. Markham, *The Descendants of Edward Watts, 1650–1728* (<http://www.tommymarkham.com/Watts/edwardwatts-1.htm> : accessed 5 January 2015).

¹⁹⁷ Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 41, citing B-2: 619. Checked. Actually at 2: 629–31.

¹⁹⁸ 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."

“Aug 27, 1765 from **George Watts** of B, to **Wm Callaway**, for 50L, one certain tract of land in B on the north side of Ivy Cr, containing about 100 acres bounded by {trees}. Signed – **George Watts**. Wit – none. Recorded Aug 27, 1765. **Frances**, the **wife** of George Watts, voluntarily relinquished her right of dower to the lands conveyed.”¹⁹⁹

(BEFORE) 2 NOVEMBER 1766

BEDFORD CO., VA.

Witness.

“Deed from James Franch of Co. of Prince Edward to John Gollaway. 100 Acres on Head of Branch of Molly’s Cr. Wit. Paul Carrington, Arch Buchanan, **Will Watts**, Sam Cobb, Js. Read, Jas. Pleasants. Rec. Nov. 2, 1766 Teste Ben Howard CBC.”²⁰⁰

(BEFORE) 3 JUNE 1767

BEDFORD CO., VA

Bill of sale.

“**Elener** Franklin, Bill of Sale to Lucreasey Franklin, **Dicey** Franklin, **Lucilla Witt**. Personal Property. Wit. John Creasy, Thos. Creasy. Rec. June 23, 1767. Teste Ben Howard CBC.”²⁰¹

COMMENT:

- It is likely that Lucilla Witt was nee Franklin.
- As an aside that could be coincidence, John Watts of Fairfield named a daughter Dicy and (by some accounts) named another Eleanor.

(BEFORE) 24 JANUARY 1769

BEDFORD CO., VA

Land purchase.

“Deed from James Johnson to **Richard Woodward** 170 Acres joining land of Edward *Bright*. Wit. Joseph Anthony, John Davis, Jos. Anthony Jun. Rec. Jan. 24, 1769. Teste Ben Howard CBC.

12 APRIL 1771

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Witness.

“William Stokes, executor of the will of Young Stokes, late of L, to Henry Stokes of L. Young Stokes, in his life, owned 292 acres in L, which he had purchased of Silvanus Stokes by deed of Mar 30, 1765, recorded L [in] Sep 1764. Young Stokes, by his will, ordered that this land be sold, and he appointed his two sons, William & Henry Stokes, his executors. The executors exposed the land to sale, and Henry Stokes became the purchaser for 140£. Now this indenture witnesses that the said William Stokes, executor, for 140L, sells to Henry Stokes, the aforesaid tract of land of about 292 acres. Signed – Willm Stokes. Wit – P Carrington, Richd Claiborne, **Wm Watts**, Walter Spens. Recorded Jun 13, 1771.”²⁰²

10 SEPTEMBER 1772

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Witness.

¹⁹⁹ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deeds, 1761–1766* (Miami Beach, FL: T.L.C. Genealogy, 1991), 56; citing Deed Book 2: 629.

²⁰⁰ Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book C3* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 10, citing C-3: 112?

²⁰¹ Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book C3* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 11, citing C-3: 113.

²⁰² TLC Genealogy, *Lunenburg County, Virginia, Deeds, 1771–1777* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1990), 6; citing 12: 21.

“Richard Crews of L, to Josiah Crews of L, for 70£, provided that the said Richard Crews and his wife have their natural lives therein, a certain tract of land of 240 acres in L on the lower side of **Dry Cr.** And bounded by {trees}. Signed – Richd (R his mark) Crews. Wit – **Wm Watts**, Elisha Betts, Wm Littlepage. Recorded Oct 8, 1772.”²⁰³

1 MAY 1774

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

“Appraisement of estate of **Lewis Witt**. By: Robert Mitchell, Thomas Robinson, William Adams. Recorded May 23, 1774. Teste: James Steptoe.”²⁰⁴

COMMENT:

Lewis Witt’s first-born son by his wife Anne, was *Mills Witt*.²⁰⁵ It is widely believed (with no evidence or proof argument) that Lewis married Anne Mills, sister of Ambrose and sister of Sarah who married Thomas Watts.

10 OCTOBER 1774

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Military.

“Captain Buford’s Volunteers in 1774. List of Captain Thomas Buford’s Volunteer Company, raised in Bedford County, who formed part of the army under General Andrew Lewis at the battle with the Indians at Point Pleasant, the 10th of October 1774. ...”²⁰⁶

COMMENT:

No Watts, Woodward, Witt, Mills, or known associate appears on this list.

1774--

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Biographical.

“**Thomas Buford, Captain.** Thomas Buford owned land on both sides of Goose creek in the vicinity of Montvale, and on Bore Auger creek in the western part of the county. In 1754 and 1755 he served as sergeant under General Braddock, in 1756 as lieutenant under Colonel Washington, and in 1758 and 1759 as lieutenant under Colonel Byrd, and in his lifetime received no satisfaction in land for his services. His will, made in August, 1774, and proved the following November, mentions wife, Ann (who was **Ann Watts**); sons, John and William; and daughter Nancy. His inventory and appraisement were recorded January 23, 1775. The division of his estate, October 23, 1797, which, according to the terms of his will, did not take place until after the death of his wife, mentions four lots of land on Bore Auger creek—1433 acres in all—and his three children, John, William and Nancy, now the wife of Martin Wale (Wales).”²⁰⁷

COMMENT:

- Parker does not offer evidence for the identification of Thomas Buford’s wife as Ann Watts.
- One Ann Scott in 1798 Bedford would be named as daughter in the will of a younger Edward Watts. See below.

²⁰³ TLC Genealogy, *Lunenburg County, Virginia, Deeds, 1771–1777* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1990), 26–27; citing 12: 184.

²⁰⁴ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Will Book 1, 1759–1787; Will Book 2, 1787–1803* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1988), 18; citing Will Book 1: 211.

²⁰⁵ Bedford Co., VA, Will Book 4: 276–77, for will of widow Anne Witt.

²⁰⁶ *Historical Sketch of Bedford County, Virginia, 1753–1907* (N.P., N.p., n.d.), 44.

²⁰⁷ Lula Jeter Parker, *Parker’s History of Bedford County, Virginia*, Peter Viemeister, ed. (Bedford, Va.: Hamilton’s, 1988), 35.

7 JANUARY 1778

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Witness.

“Will of Peter Bennett. January 17, 1778. Wife: Frances. Son: William, Reubin, Micajah, Abner, Richard. Daughters: Rachel, Mary Lawson, Elizabeth Pevy. Exec: sons, William, Reubin. Witnesses: **David Watt**, William Ward, David Pevy, William Goad. Recorded: May 25, 1778. Teste James Steptoe.”²⁰⁸

24 JANUARY 1778

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

“Will of **Richard Woodward**. January 24, 1778. Wife Elizabeth. Sons: Lance, Randolph, Isaac, John, William, Richard, Warwick. Daughters: Urcilia Hall, **Frances Taylor**. Exec: wife Elizabeth, son Lance. Witnesses: Richard Gilliam, Zacharias Gilliam, Peter Ferguson, Leanard Hall. Recorded April 24, 1786. Teste James Steptoe.”²⁰⁹

COMMENT:

The actual document shows the will was proved 24 April 1786. Elizabeth Woodward, widow, and Lance Woodward were appointed executrix and executor. The inventory was conducted by Joseph Poindexter, **Simon Mills**, and Richard Gilliam.

24 FEBRUARY 1778

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Military service.

“**Thomas Watts**: Corporal from Bedford Co., Va., Feb. 24, 1778. (Burgess List).”²¹⁰

COMMENT:

- No date shown for the actual appraisement.
- We have a reemergence of the name Thomas, after a 15 year absence. Below, we also see a new David “Watt.” A younger generation of Watts appears to have come to adulthood—possible sons of John-of-Edward Sr.—or else another family has moved into the area.

28 SEPTEMBER 1778

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Civic role.

“Inventory of Estate of John Brown. By: **Thomas Watts**, William Hix, Stephen Goggins. Recorded September 28, 1778 Teste James Steptoe.”²¹¹

14 MAY 1779

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Witness:

²⁰⁸ 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.

²⁰⁹ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Will Book 1, 1759–1787; Will Book 2, 1787–1803* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1988, 55; citing Will Book 1: 505. Checked. The original document is at 1: 505–6, with inventory at p. 517.

²¹⁰ C. B. Heinemann, “Southern Watts, Colonial and Revolutionary Soldiers,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 15 (1933): 32–38; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed., 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1981), 4:419–25; particularly 424.

²¹¹ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Will Book 1, 1759–1787; Will Book 2, 1787–1803* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1988), 32; citing Will Book 1: 323.

MILLS: Watts: Initial Survey of Colonial & Revolutionary Bedford Co., Va.5 January 2015

Appraisement of Estate of William Burgess, May 15, 1779. By: Nathaniel Tate, James Davis, **William Watts**. Recorded: June 28, 1779. Teste James Steptoe CBC.²¹²

15 MAY 1779

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Civic Duty.

"May 15, 1779. Appraisement of estate of William Burgess. By: Nathaniel Tate, James Davis, **William Watts**. Recorded: June 28, 1779. Teste James Steptoe CBC.²¹³

26 JANUARY 1784

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Marriage. Samuel Huddleston and **Sarah Watts**. Wagman Sinclair, surety.²¹⁴

12 MARCH 1793

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Will.

"Will of **Edward Watts**, 12 March 1793. Wife: **Elizabeth**. Daughters: **Ann Scott, Elizabeth Snell, Milly Richards, Mary Sinclair, Mary, [sic], Sarah Huddleston, Betsey**. Exec: sons, **William, Benjamin**. Teste: Joseph Brown, Charles Simmons, Isaac Sinclair. Recorded: April 27, 1795. James Steptoe C"BC [sic].²¹⁵

COMMENT:

This Edward's parentage has not been identified. The family has not appeared there consistently since the time that Edward Sr. and Jr., William, and Thomas left for SC.

26 MAY 1797

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Witness.

"Appraisement of estate of Capt. John Jones. May 26, 1797. By: C. Clay, Edmund Cobbs, **John Watts**. Recorded: July 24, 1797. Teste James Steptoe."²¹⁶

19 DECEMBER 1798

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Marriage. Jeremiah Swain and **Elizabeth Watts**. Charles Swain and **Benjamin Watts**, securities.²¹⁷

28 JULY 1801

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Civic role.

"Account of Estate of William Austin. July 28, 1801. B: **John Watts**, Nathan Reid, William Irvine. Recorded: September 26, 1801. Teste James Steptoe."²¹⁸

²¹² Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Will Book 1, 1759–1787; Will Book 2, 1787–1803* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1988, 33; citing Will Book 1: 338.

²¹³ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Will Book 1, 1759–1787; Will Book 2, 1787–1803* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1988), 33; citing Will Book 1: 338.

²¹⁴ Earle S. Dennis and Jane E. Smith, *Marriage Bonds of Bedford County, Virginia, 1755–1800; Reprinted with Bedford County, Virginia: Index of Wills, from 1754 to 1830, Edited by Rowland D. Buford* (Reprinted, Baltimore: Clearfield, 1975), 31.

²¹⁵ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Will Book 1, 1759–1787; Will Book 2, 1787–1803* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1988), 76; citing Will Book 2: 158.

²¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 80; citing Will Book 2: 204.

²¹⁷ Earle S. Dennis and Jane E. Smith, *Marriage Bonds of Bedford County, Virginia, 1755–1800; Reprinted with Bedford County, Virginia: Index of Wills, from 1754 to 1830, Edited by Rowland D. Buford* (Reprinted, Baltimore: Clearfield, 1975), 62.

28 DECEMBER 1804

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Heir.

“**Wright, John**. Will signed 28 Dec 1804; will proved 26 Dec 1814. Signature: John Wright. Executor: son Benjamin Wright. Witnesses: W. J. Walker; John Hopkins; Price Hopkins. Bequests, devises, etc.—wife; son Benjamin Wright; son Joseph Wright; grandchildren **Mary Watts, Benjamin Watts, & John Watts**, children of **William Watts** by my daughter **Ann Watts**; son John Wright; son Thomas Wright; daughter **Mary Watts**; daughter Elizabeth Wright; son William Wright. Slaves—Jack, Dick, Hannah, Dolly & Grace, Dolly’s son Armstead.

DECEMBER 1805

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Civic role.

“Allotment of Estate of Arthur Moody. December 18, 1805. By: **John Watts**, Joshua Early, William Callaway. Recorded: December 23, 1805. Teste: J. Steptoe.”²¹⁹

DECEMBER 1805

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Civic role.

“Division of Estate of Arthur Mosely. By: **John Watts**, Joshua Early, William Callaway Sen. Recorded: December 23, 1805. Teste: J. Steptoe.”²²⁰

COMMENT:

The time frame is appropriate for this to be John-of-Edward Sr., the youngest tithe in Edward’s household in 1752 Lunenburg.

18 NOVEMBER 1803

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Civic role.

“Inventory of Estate of William Cobbs. November 18, 1809. By: Nathan Reid, **John Watts**, Joshua Early. Recorded: December 20, 1809. Teste: J. Steptoe.”²²¹

OCTOBER 1804

BEDFORD CO., VA

Occupation.

“List of Lawyers. The following is a list of the persons that qualified in the County Court between 1754 and 1829 inclusive, to practice as attorneys at law, and the respective dates of qualification. Courthouse at New London up to 1782. ... **Edward Watts**, October 1804, Roanoke.”²²²

²¹⁸ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Will Book 1, 1759–1787; Will Book 2, 1787–1803* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1988), 90; citing Will Book 2: 315.

²¹⁹ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Will Book 3, 1794–1810* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1988), 13; citing Will Book 3: 106.

²²⁰ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Will Book 3, 1794–1810* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1988), 12; citing Will Book 3: 101.

²²¹ Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Will Book 3, 1794–1810* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1988), 23; citing Will Book 3: 193.

²²² *Historical Sketch of Bedford County, Virginia, 1753-1907* (N.P., N.p., n.d.), 22, 26.

13 MARCH 1811
BEDFORD CO., VA

Appraiser.

“Saunders, James. Inventory & appraisement dated 13 Mar 1811. Appraisers: James Turner; **James Watts**; John P. Gray. Returned 25 Mar 1811.”²²³

6 MAY 1811
BEDFORD CO., VA

Witness.

“*Earley, Joshua*. Will signed 6 May 1811; will proved 28 Dec 1812. Signature: Joshua Earley. Executors: friend Abner Earley; sons Joshua & John Earley. Witnesses: **John Watts**; Thomas T. Scott; **Eliza R. Watts**. Bequests, devises, etc.: wife Mary Earley; son Joshua Earley; son Joel Earley; my son Tubal Earley; son Thomas Earley; son John Earley; son Jabez Earley; my daughter Polly Moorman, 200 acres in Kentucky; grandson, Achilles Moorman, son of my daughter Polly Moorman, 200 acres in Kentucky; daughter Sally Word {Ward?}; granddaughter Patcey Earley, daughter of Wm. Earley; daughter Betsy Strange. Slaves—man Peter & woman Frank, his wife; Will; Venus; Randal & Hannah; Joe, his wifie Siley {?}, and their children.”²²⁴

COMMENT:

Note that Earlies, in the 1750s, were neighbors of Edward Watts Sr. for whose son John no outmigration has been established.

22 DECEMBER 1811
BEDFORD CO., VA

Executor.

“Lee, Richard. ... Will signed 22 Dec 1811; will proved 23 Aug 1814. Executors: friends **Edward Watts** and John Dabney (who refused to act at probate). Witnesses: Christopher Anthony, Jr.; Roderick Taliaferro. Bequests, devises, etc.: wife Tabitha Lee; nephew Alexander Lee, son of my brother John; Garret Lee & his children; Tabitha Andrews & her children; Richard Lee, son of William, & his children; Nancy Lee, daughter of William Lee, & her children; John Lee, son of William, & his children; Avy, or Evy, Hicks, wife of William Hix {sic}, & her children; Elizabeth Fowler & her children; Patey Arnold & her children.”²²⁵

24 MAY 1813
BEDFORD CO., VA

Civic role.

“Austin, William, inventory & appraisement dated 24 May 1813. Appraisers: **John Watts**; Henry Brown; William Irvine. Returned: 24 May 1813. ... legatees: Esther Austin, widow; Susan Austin; Charlotte Crawford; Peter Austin; Esther Austin; Alexander Austin; Archibald Austin.”²²⁶

²²³ Belle Garraghty Harrell and June Mackey Slaughter, *Will Book 4-A and 4-B, Feb 1811–Nov 1817; Including Appraisements and Inventories, Sales, and Allotments: Bedford County Circuit Court, Bedford, Virginia* (Athens, Ga.: Iberian Publishing Co., 1998), 74; citing Will Book 4-A: 6.

²²⁴ Belle Garraghty Harrell and June Mackey Slaughter, *Will Book 4-A and 4-B, Feb 1811–Nov 1817; Including Appraisements and Inventories, Sales, and Allotments: Bedford County Circuit Court, Bedford, Virginia* (Athens, Ga.: Iberian Publishing Co., 1998), 23; citing Will Book 4-A: 71–73.

²²⁵ Belle Garraghty Harrell and June Mackey Slaughter, *Will Book 4-A and 4-B, Feb 1811–Nov 1817; Including Appraisements and Inventories, Sales, and Allotments: Bedford County Circuit Court, Bedford, Virginia* (Athens, Ga.: Iberian Publishing Co., 1998), 56; citing Will Book 4-A: 169–70.

²²⁶ Belle Garraghty Harrell and June Mackey Slaughter, *Will Book 4-A and 4-B, Feb 1811–Nov 1817; Including Appraisements and Inventories, Sales, and Allotments: Bedford County Circuit Court, Bedford, Virginia* (Athens, Ga.: Iberian Publishing Co., 1998), 3; citing Will Book 4-A: 87–91.

27 MARCH 1815

BEDFORD CO., VA

Civic role.

"Coger, Josias, division of land dated 27 Mar 1815. Appraisers: **John Watts**; Dudley Jones; William Callaway, Sen. Returned 28 Mar 1815. Legatees: Geoge Cofer; Thomas Cofer; Jamima Dawson."²²⁷

4 OCTOBER 1815

BEDFORD CO., VA

Civic role.

"Ballard, William. Will dated 4 Oct 1815; will proved 21 Feb 1817. Signature: Wm. Ballard. Executors: Wife Nancy Ballard, John Wats {sic} of Bedford Co., VA & Benjamin Butterworth of Warren Co., Ohio. Witnesses: Bartlet Wily {Wiley}, Thos. Johnson & Josiah Carter. Bequests, devises, etc.—wife Nancy Ballard; four children—Granderson, Samuel, William, & Elizabeth Ann Ballard."²²⁸

28 JUNE 1827

BEDFORD CO., VA

Marriage.

"Joseph Scott & Elizabeth Watts."²²⁹

8 FEBRUARY 1828

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Baptism.

"Baptized 3 infant children of **Edward Watts** of **Botetourt**."²³⁰

29 JULY 1832

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Baptism.

"Infant daughter of **Edward Watts**."²³¹

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1836

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Funeral.

Sept. 14. "Mrs. **Mary Watts** of Flat Creek, Campbell Co., [by] Rev. N. H. Cobbs"

Oct. 14. "Mrs. **Eliza. Watts**, widow of **Col. John Watts**, [by] Rev. N. H. Cobbs"²³²

²²⁷ Belle Garraghty Harrell and June Mackey Slaughter, *Will Book 4-A and 4-B, Feb 1811–Nov 1817; Including Appraisements and Inventories, Sales, and Allotments: Bedford County Circuit Court, Bedford, Virginia* (Athens, Ga.: Iberian Publishing Co., 1998), 14-15; citing Will Book 4-A: 160.

²²⁸ Belle Garraghty Harrell and June Mackey Slaughter, *Will Book 4-A and 4-B, Feb 1811–Nov 1817; Including Appraisements and Inventories, Sales, and Allotments: Bedford County Circuit Court, Bedford, Virginia* (Athens, Ga.: Iberian Publishing Co., 1998), 4; citing Will Book 4-B: 306–07.

²²⁹ Helen Strange Patterson, comp., *St. Stephen's Episcopal Church of Bedford County, Forest, Virginia; Historical Records & Registers, Russell Parish 1824 to 1846; Hamner Parish 1846 to 1915; Cemetery Records from 1824 to 1980* (Forest, Va.: St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 1983), 37.

²³⁰ Helen Strange Patterson, comp., *St. Stephen's Episcopal Church of Bedford County, Forest, Virginia; Historical Records & Registers, Russell Parish 1824 to 1846; Hamner Parish 1846 to 1915; Cemetery Records from 1824 to 1980* (Forest, Va.: St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 1983), 26.

²³¹ Helen Strange Patterson, comp., *St. Stephen's Episcopal Church of Bedford County, Forest, Virginia; Historical Records & Registers, Russell Parish 1824 to 1846; Hamner Parish 1846 to 1915; Cemetery Records from 1824 to 1980* (Forest, Va.: St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 1983), 30.

N.D.

Genealogy.

"The children of Spottswood A. Major and his first wife Catherine H. Douglas are:

- (1) Walter Pendleton Major, born November 19, 1854; died June 12, 1927. Never married.
 - Edna Douglas Major, born October 7, 1856; married, February 3, 1885, **William Beverlery Watts**, born 1851; died 1927, eldest son of **Ludwell and Nancy Sallings (Davis) Watts**. Maternally, he was the grandson of Charles Lewis Davis and his second wife, Nancy Morris, of Amherst. On his father's side he was the grandson of **Curtis and Nancy (Brown) Watts**, and great grandson of Caleb Watts of Amherst County, who was a son of **Thomas** and Elizabeth **Watts**. Mrs. Edna D. (Major) Watts is living at Big Island, Va."²³³

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- Witt: No. Significant items not pursued for want of time:

²³² Helen Strange Patterson, comp., *St. Stephen's Episcopal Church of Bedford County, Forest, Virginia; Historical Records & Registers, Russell Parish 1824 to 1846; Hamner Parish 1846 to 1915; Cemetery Records from 1824 to 1980* (Forest, Va.: St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 1983), 261.

²³³ Mary Denham Ackerly and Lula Eastman Jeter Parker, *Our Kin: The Genealogies of Some of the Early Families Who Made History in the Founding and Development of Bedford County, Virginia* (Harrisonburg, Va.: C. J. Carrier Co., 1976), 93.

Meadow, Job, 22 (Also Elizabeth, Jason, Joel, John)

Mills, Ambrose 8

Mobberly, Clement, 10, 20, 21, 19

Chilton, Ann. *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2*. Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992.

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Watts: No reference. No Watt applied or testified. No one said they served under an officer named

Watts. One Coney C. Witt swore affidavit ca. 1833 for Phillip Bailey (p3).

Dennis, Earle S. and Jane E. Smith. *Marriage Bonds of Bedford County, Virginia, 1755–1800; Reprinted with Bedford County, Virginia: Index of Wills, from 1754 to 1830 Edited by Rowland D. Buford*. Reprinted, Baltimore: Clearfield, 1975.

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Evans, June Banks. *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 6, 1759–1761*. New Orleans, La.: Bryn Ffyliaid Publications, 1998. **No Watts. Several entries for James, John, & William Mills that I did not get.**

COMMENT: No Wattsrd appear in the next several volumes of this series. By now, our branch is in Bedford Co., VA, and Craven/Camden, SC, and apparently owned no land in Lunenburg that had to be disposed of. **Millses**, by 1761, included James, John, Robert Rowland, William, and William Terrell.

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Evans, June Banks. *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Will Book 4, 1791–1799*. New Orleans: Bryn Ffyliaid Publications, 1991. **Pp. 50-51 has Charles & Elizabeth Watts as 1791 witness to will of William Willson of Lunenburg.**

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- COMMENT:
From this point on, a new Watts appears: Charles; no other Watts covered in our time frame.
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