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- DATE: 15 November 2010
- REPORT TO: Personal Files
- SUBJECT: Cooksey Associates: **Montgomery** County, Georgia: Preliminary Nutshells
- ASSOCIATES: Principal families: Lott, Watts and their in-laws, particularly:
- Thomas Aultman, son-in-law of Rev. John Watts
 - Moses Hansby, son-in-law of Rev. John Watts
 - Jesse Wiggins Jr., son-in-law of Rev. John Watts
- Secondary families:
- Boyd (Bani, m. Nancy Bowen; 1811 Letitia Cooksey's son Henry was bound to him)
 - Dougherty (John, a justice of Tattnall, m. ca. 1811, Letitia Cooksey)
 - Hall (Ignatius and apparent kin)
 - Hancock (James and son Cader, apparently named for Cader Price)
 - Price (John, son of Cader and first husband of Zilpha [Watts?])
- BACKGROUND: Zilpha [—?—], (ca.1775-80—24 June 1857), had at least three relationships:
1. John Price (son of Cader), who she married ca. 1798. In **1800** and **1802** she bore two children who used the Price surname. John sued for divorce in 1799; the case was continued and then cancelled. However, the couple did not stay married and Zilpha was treated as a sole feme on the 1805 land lottery (registration 1803–1804).
 2. John Cooksey (son of William), with whom she took out a license in 1809 but no subsequent marriage is on file. Meanwhile, about **1806** and **1808**, she bore two sons who used the surname Cooksey. John is last on record in March 1818.
 3. William Cooksey, R.W. (by whom she apparently bore James William in November 1819 and Elizabeth in 1821)
- Zilpha is also likely to be the mother of Nancy [—?—] Parks, born 12 April **1804**, allegedly in Savannah. Nancy, for whom no maiden name on record, is usually credited to William Cooksey. However, all evidence for William places the birth of his known children between 1785 and 1795. There is no evidence of children born after 1795 and all records on William establish his residency in Tattnall at the time of Nancy's alleged birth in Savannah. In 1803, Zilpha registered for the 1805 Land Lottery, as a resident of Tattnall; but her whereabouts in 1804–1809 are unknown.
- HYPOTHESIS: Zilpha was the daughter of Rev. John and Judith Watts who lived in Montgomery, Tattnall, and Laurens Counties concurrently with William Cooksey and subsequently moved to Covington County, Mississippi, concurrently with William and Zilpha. Considerable evidence supporting this hypothesis is detailed in my earlier reports.
- REPOSITORY: Family History Library, Salt Lake City

RESEARCH NOTES

FHL Microfilm 0,159,033
“Court Records & Deeds, Miscellaneous Dates”
[Loose papers]
Montgomery County, Georgia

ca. 1810

“Montgomery Co., Clerk’s Inventory, Record of Office Papers, abt. 1810”

[A running list, no discernible arrangement, except that people who made affidavits in same case are listed consecutively.]

p. 1, barely readable

p. 2, bottom line:

“John Jones vs. **John Price** Writ and Ansr.”

p. 3, line 4

“Price vs. Beaty and W. Wyne a Certiorari and answer – Levi Glasses affidavit, Obadiah Garrets affidavit”

p. 3, line 17

“Samuel M. Mordecai vs. **John Price**, Writ”

COMMENT: Mordecai, a businessman, was in Baldwin County at the time of the 1805 lottery.

p. 4, New Section Header:

p. 4, lines 16-17

“The State vs. **John Dougherty** assault Writ & bond

The State vs. **John Daugherty** Assault Indt.”

p. 5, lines 7-10

“The State vs. John Munroe, Malcom Munroe, Peter Munroe, Donald McIntosh, Murdock McIntosh, Charles McKinnon, Archd. Morrison, Malcolm J. William (Securities Alex McLean, **Wm. Cooksey**), Bond.”

p. 6, line 18

“The State vs. Peter Monroe, Malcom Monroe, Joel Smith & James Wiliams, Murder.”

“State papers in the Clerks Office ... Sept. the 2nd 1811” (cont.)

p. 6, 8 lines from bottom
"The State vs. William Monroe, Larceny."

p. 7, lines 24-29
"The State vs. Lemuel Williamson & William Silivant and Daniel McKenzie, Bond.
A State warrant John Munroe vs. Lemuel Williamson & John Williamson"
A Jury of Inquest summoned on the body of John Munroe – Murder

p. 8-9 [nothing]

p. 10 lines 5-7
"Eth. Hays vs. Patrick McGriff
Bearer of Embree Note to **Thomas Watts**
David Ross vs. **Abner Davis**, Executor"

p. 10, lines 22-25
"State vs. Joseph Phillips, John Bush witness
Mary Watson, attendance at Court
William Yarborough attendance at Court
James Miller attendance at Court
[end of page, see first entry on p. 11]

p. 11, lines 1-3
"**John Price**, attendance at court
Thomas T? Priestwood, attendance at court
William Cooper? Attendance at court"

p. 11, lines 12-18
"Clerks Fees" [a simple list of names]
 John Price – Oath
 William Nelson's -- Oath
 [skip 3]
 Thos. **Flournoy** vs. Jesse Moore fi fa
 Edwd. Blackshear vs. Jesse Moore fi fa
 Binum's Bond
 Thomas Walkers – Oath
 Mary Watson's attendance at Court
 Peter **Munroe** vs. Stith Parnum & Thos. Rains
 [skip 6 to end of page]

p. 12–15
[nothing more on these final pages]

**Montgomery County Superior Court Appearance Docket
May 1795—April 1803**

No date

pp. 3-4

Patrick Hays vs. **John Price** & William Hutchinson, Fi fa. Inquiry made from Hancock County. This Inquiry referred to the County of Hancock.

COMMENT:

Individuals were sued in the county in which they resided. The implication above is that *this* John Price was not a resident of Montgomery and the case was bounced back to Hancock.

March 1799

pp. 4 & 6

[Pages are out of chronological sequence; *data is copied exactly as it appears*]

“Appearance Docket March Term 1799”

[ATTORNEY]

[PARTIES]

[CAUSE]

[ACTION]

Caldwell

John Price

Divorce

Amended and Continued.

Vs.

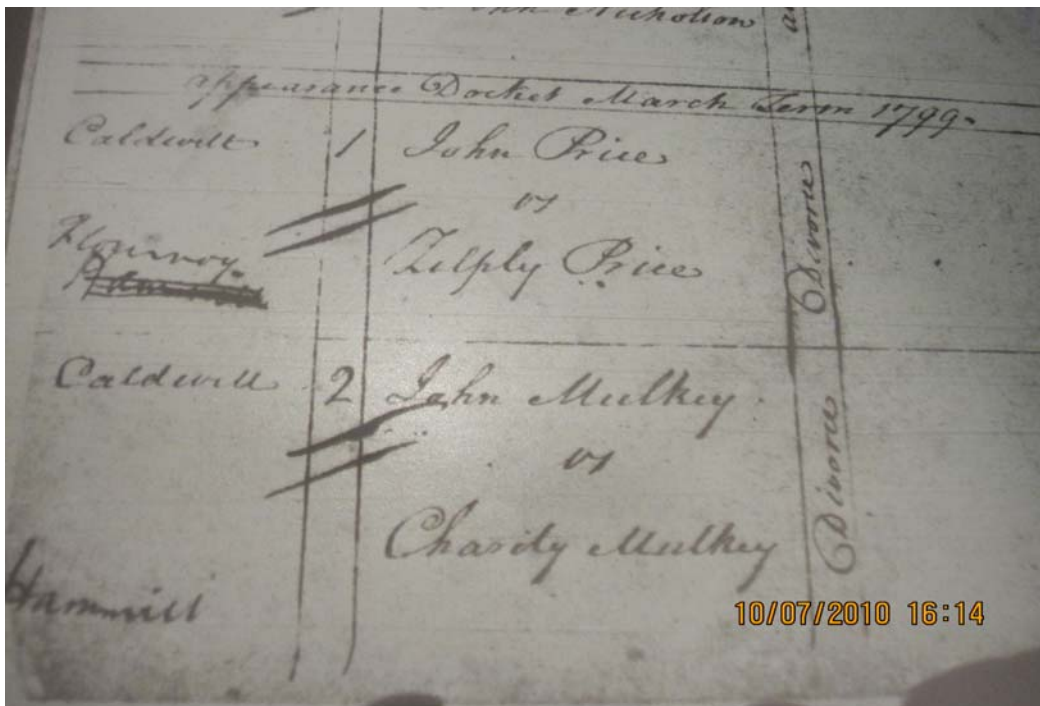
Dismissed by Plaintiffs request”

Flournoy

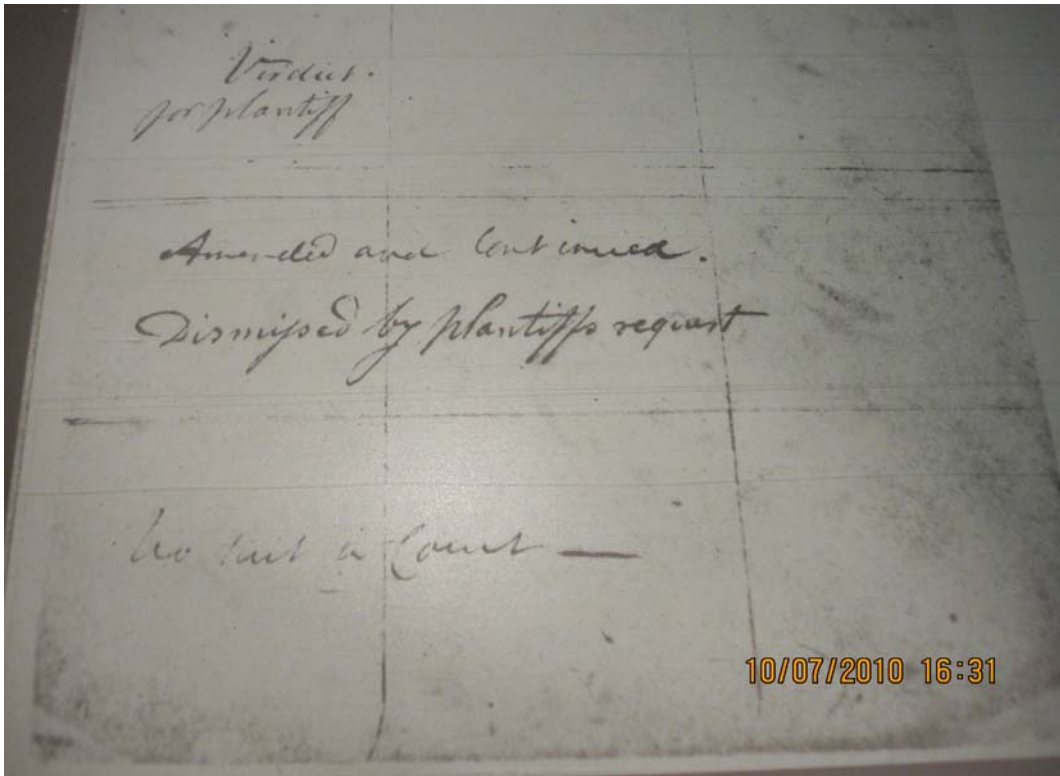
Hammill [sic]

Zilpha Price

Left page:



Right page:



COMMENT:

As the above images show, one other divorce case is cited for this term: John Mulkey (atty. Caldwell) vs. Charity Mulkey (atty. Hammill). No details are shown for this case either.

pp. 5 & 7

[top of page, immediate entry after the two divorces]

Hammill	Absalom Lott	Assumpsit	Judgt. by default
	Vs.		Verdict for plaintiff
	Arthur Lott		

pp. 11-12

"Moses Hornsby vs. Philip Logan, Debt, Neither party appeared in this case. Settled"

pp. 12-13

"Thomas Flournoy vs. Patric McGriff, Tresspass. Dismissed. **[Attorney] Flournoy**"

pp. 14-15

May Term 1801

"Abner Davis vs. Thos. Mitchell, Ejectment, Dismissed. [Attorney] Flournoy, Be[rrien] [A smear runs through this name] for Davis, Hammill for Mitchell.

(Montgomery County Superior Court Appearance Docket, Cont.)

pp. 15-16

Novr. Term 1801

“Richd Red on demise of **Abner Davis** vs. William White & Thos. Mitchell, Ejectment, No Court.”
Attorneys for Red-Davis were Srine, Flournoy, and Berrien.

pp. 20-21

Novr. Term 1801

“**John Lott Senr.?** [attorney Berrien] vs. Levi Bush [no attorney], Case. Discontd. Cost paid.”

pp. 24-25

October Term 1802

“**John Lott** [Atty Berrien] vs. Levi Bush [Atty. Skrine & Baldwin], Spl. Case, Ansr, filed. Verdict.” [Doesn’t say for who.]

COMMENT:

Note that both of the Lotts used the law firm of Skrine, Flournoy, and Berrien -- as did Zilpha when John Price sued her for divorce. Indeed, in all the litigations for whom an attorney was named, the Lotts and Watts consistently used Flournoy and/or Berrien. This pair were clearly the “family attorneys.”

There are, apparently, seven attorneys doing business in three legal firms in Montgomery County at this time:

- Henry G. Caldwell (used by John Price to sue Zilpha for divorce)
- Skrine, Berrien, and Flournoy¹ (used by the Watts, Lott, Davis cluster--including Zilpha)
- Jones, Walker, and Hammel

pp. 30-31

October Term 1803

“**Thomas Watts** for **Abner Davis** vs. James Bevan & Jesse Embry. Case. Judg. Default. Octr. Term 1804. Verdict for Plts.” **Attorney for Watts: Flournoy;** Atty for Bevan: R. Walker”

COMMENTS:

Thomas Watts was the eldest son of Rev. John Watts and husband of Elizabeth Lott. If my working hypothesis is correct, he was Zilpha’s brother. He, too, moved to Covington County, Mississippi, where the 1820 census enumerates him one dwelling away from William and Zilpha.

The above Watts-Davis-Flournoy document links four other pieces of evidence:

Jan 1798	Abner Davis bought land; witness was Cader Price, father of John
Mar 1799	John Price sues Zilpha [Watts?] for divorce; her attorney is Flournoy.
Oct 1799	John Price & father Cader exchange lands, using Abner Davis, J.P.

¹ Skrine was not an active attorney at this time because he was elected “Judge of the Middle District.” The active lawyers in the firm were only Berrien and Flournoy, the two used by the Watts and Zilpha. See Sabina J. Murray, abstractor, *Tattnall County, Georgia, Loose Papers, 1801-1845*, vol. 1 (Homerville, Ga.: Huxford Genealogical Society, 2005), 17, for abstract of 10 November 1805 petition by John Ragan.

1800-1802 Abner Davis's land grant adjoined land of John Watts, Zilpha's proposed father.²
Oct 1803 Thomas Watts, son of John, goes to court on behalf of Abner Davis.

pp. 32-33

April Term 1804

"William Price Jr. vs. William Neel & Mark Mayo. Case. Ansd. & Con?. Octo. Term 1804 Vide appearance. Octo. Term 1804. Settled & Costs." Attorney for Price: Baldwin. Attorney for Neel: F. Walker.

pp. 38-39

COMMENT:

This goes through November Term 1804. The next double-wide page jumps back to November Term 1800.

pp. 40-41

November Term 1800 with some subsequent action in **1802**.

pp. 42-43

"Appeal Docquet April Term **1803**"

"**Abner Davis** Resd. vs. Thos. Mitchell, Saml. Bugg et al. Ejectment. October Term 1804. Cont's affd. Dfd.
" Attorneys: Skrine, Berrien, and **Flournoy for Davis**, Jones, Walker and Hammel for Mitchell & Bugg.

"**John Lott Junr.** Apt. vs. Levi Bush Resd. Octo Term 1804 Special Case. Court Afd. Levi Bush." Attorneys:
Berrien for Lott, Baldwin for Bush.

End of book

[Superior Court minutes, unlabelled, identified only by content]

p. 1

"Montgomery, Pine Tree, **1802**

A petition was presented from Henry G. Caldwell Esquire, praying" to be admitted to practice law in Montgomery County.

p. 1

"Tatnall. Pine Tree," n.d.

"The following persons were drawn to serve on the Grand Jury at the next Superior Court:
[no names of interest]

p. 2

"The following were drawn to serve on the petite jury at the same court:

2. **Jno. Watts Jnr.**

² Montgomery County, Georgia, "Old Field Book – Plats, 1800-1882," p. 43; FHL Microfilm 218,814.

9. **Jesse Wiggin Jr.**

36. Jesse Price [connection to John Price: unknown]

“The Court adjourned.” [End of this item]

COMMENT:

This Jno. Watts [Jr.] is not included in most reconstructions of the family of Rev. John Watts. I suspect he should be.

Many online “trees” credit John and Judith Watts with a son John Jr., although most place him toward the end of their many children. If this is their son, the fact that he is an adult by 1802 would place his birth before 1781.

“Montgomery County Superior Court Minutes,

sheet 1

7 January 1795

Grand jurors drawn for next term of court. Entries 10-12 are torn away. Person no. 12 had a surname that ended in “y.”

14. **Jesse Wiggans**

15. **Kader Price**

Petit jurors for next term. Persons 1-14 are torn away. Ditto person 18.

No. 17 **John W_____**

Sheet 2

5 July 1797?

Grand Jurors for next term of Superior Court

19. **Jesse Wiggans**

Petit Jurors for next term of Superior Court

[Many names torn away]

“Montgomery County Civil Docket, 1823-1856”

[Not read]

“Montgomery County Deeds, 1821 & other dates”

[Nothing found]

“Montgomery County Sheriffs Minute Books 1846-47”

[Not read]

**“Montgomery County Inferior Court Minutes,
21 October 1818, 4 August 1819”**

[Nothing found]

“Montgomery County Schools (Poor) 1829, 1839”

[Not read]

“Montgomery County Tax Digests, 1807 & 8”

[1 page digest, unreadable]

“Montgomery County Tax Digest, 1822”

[Nothing found]

COMMENT:

Following this is a note by the filmers saying this series is to be continued. I have not found a similar set of film that could be the continuation.

**FHL Microfilm 0,218,755
“Deed Record CPG”
Montgomery County, Georgia**

Procedure:

- scanned the grantee column of every page
- skimmed entire book for witnesses

Bushnell, Robert To **Cader Price**, 13
Burney, David to **James Hancock**, 80-81

Carson, Samuel to **Robert Flournoy**, 449-52, 461-66

Flournoy, Thomas to **Robert Flournoy**, 22-26
Fulgham, H. to **Jesse Lott**, 452-56
Hancock, James to John Padgett, 78-79
Price, William to **Willis Wood**, 309
Price, Daniel to J. J. Taylor, 443-44
PEARSON: Nothing
Wiggins, Jesse et al. to **Willis Wood**, 71-72
Wiggins, Jesse to Sands Stanley, 4-5
Watts, John to A. Culbreath, 322-323
Warren, Hinche (Mill) to (Mill) His Children, 390-391
Warren, Caulos et al to **Josiah Warren**, 412

Montgomery Co., Ga.

7 February 1792

Deed Book CPG:4

Stephen Powell to Sands Stanley

Sale of Negro boy slave named Charley, aged about twelve. 60 pounds sterling

Witnesses: S. Wood & John Bryan

Attested: 23 May 1794

COMMENT:

Sands Stanley is no known connection at this point. I've made this note because of his association with Jesse Wiggins on 19 June 1790.

Montgomery Co., Ga.

19 March 1793

Deed Book CPG:4

James Herring to Sands Stanley

Sale of "Negro boy named Dave, aged about eleven years (being a Negro I raised myself)." No price given. Witnesses: Willis Wood, Jona. Eammes.

Attested: No date

Montgomery Co., Ga.

19 June 1790

Deed Book CPG:4-5

Sands Stanley of Washington County from **Jesse Wiggins of Effingham** County. Sale for 60 pounds sterling, 200 acres in Washington County "Butting and Bending on the Big Hoopey Creek on the South

Westward, being one half and the lower end of a tract of four hundred acres of land granted unto the said **Jesse Wiggins** by the Honourable George Mathews Esquire on the seventh day of February 1787.
Witnesses: Thacker Vivian, J.P., Mary Vivian.
Attested 23 Mat 1894 [sic]

COMMENT:

Jesse Wiggins also held a 154? acre grant adjoining Absalom Lott. See Image files for Tattnall grants.

Many of the Lott genealogies that are posted online say that they, too, came to Montgomery from Effingham.

Montgomery Co., ,Ga.

7 September 1790

Deed Book CPG: 13-15

Robert Braswell to **Cader Price**, both of Washington County, sale for 26 pounds sterling, 200 acres in Washington County on the North side of the Great Ohoopce River . . . “butted and bounded as follows: “Beginning at a bay and running along a line of marked trees North 50 degrees East 44 ch. 73 lks. To a stake thence running South 50 degrees East 44 ch 73 lks to a stake, thence South 50 degrees West to the Ohoopce, thence up the various courses of the same to the first station. ... agreeable to the original plat thereof.” Witnesses John Fleetwood, Geneper [Juniper] **Hall**.

(pp. 14-15) Similar sales of land on Great Ohoopce were made by Braswell to Hardy Hargrove and Jacob Hargrave on 2 January 1793.

pp. 22-23

[1793]

Thomas Flournoy to **Robert Flournoy**, both of Green County, sale for 1000 pounds sterling. all that large body of land lying and being in the County of Washington on the waters of Canoochee River in fifty separate surveys. Etc.”

Montgomery Co., Ga.,

1 November 1790

Deed Book CPG: 71-72

Jesse Wiggins of Effingham County to Willis Wood of Burke County. Sale for 48 lbs. sterling, land in Washington County on North side of the Great Ohoopce, “bounded Northwesterly by Nathaniel Hicks’ land and Southwestwardly by the various courses of the said Ohoopce and Southwestwardly by Sands Stanley’s land, it being part of the same tract, and Northwestwardly by lands laid out to the said Willis Wood ,” 200 acres “or half the tract of land granted to the said **Jesse Wiggins** the 7th of February 1787.” Signed **Jesse Wiggins** (x) and Christian Wiggins (x). Witnesses: William Wood, George Henry.

Montgomery Co., Ga.,

23 March 1797

Deed Book CPG:129

Arthur Lott to Thomas Powell, both of Montgomery County, sale for 10 pounds, “all that tract or parcel of land, supposed to contain one hundred and twenty-five acres ... in Montgomery County, ... bounding

south-west by great Ohoopie and South east by **John Lott's** land," grant dated 12 July 1790. Witness: Henry Gates, J.P., Culler Edwards.

Montgomery Co., Ga.,

13 May 1796

Deed Book CPG:148

John Phillips of Montgomery County "in consideration of the love and true affection ... for my well beloved children," gives "to Abraham, my homestead plantation, together with all my furniture together with twenty head of Cattle. To my son Ephrim, one roan mauer [sic] together with four head of cattle. To my son William, twenty three head of cattle." Phillips X'd. Witnesses: Haney Yaster, **Jesse Wiggins.**"

Montgomery Co., Ga.,

27 February 1799

Deed Book CPG:309

William Price (x) of Burke County to Solomon Wood of Jefferson, sale for \$75, 200 acres in Montgomery County on little Ohoopie Creek, surveyed for William Price "But through a mistake in the office the grant has come out in the name of **Thomas Price**, bearing date August 1, 1790." Witnesses: J. Raiford, J.P., Charlotte Minis?, her mark.

Montgomery Co., Ga.,

12 March 1798

Deed Book CPG:322-23

John Watts of Montgomery County to Archabald Culbraith of same, sale for \$171, **200 acres** "being **part of a tract of land containing four hundred and sixty acres, on which the said John Watts now lives, including a plantation.** Beginning at the mouth of the **Bluff Branch at the Ohoopie river**, running with the said Bluff Branch to the second line, thence N 60 West to the tract corner, thence N 30 E to the Ohoopie river, thence with the said river to the first station. Witnesses: Lazerus Solomon (x), James Erighich [sic], Aron Low, J.P. Recorded 23 July 1802.

Comment:

This appears to be the tract that adjoins the 425-acre grant of Cader Price's associate Abner Davis. See Davis plat in image files for Tattnall grants.

Montgomery Co., Ga.,

6 September 1798

Deed Book CPG:390-91

"I, **Hinche Warren** of the State of Georgia and County of Burke being aged but of perfect and sound in mind and memory do make and ordain this my last will and testament. Sons Carolus Warren , daughter Mary Green ("I send her ..."), daughter Rachel Green, son Henche Warren ("I send him..."), son Josiah Warren, son Richard Warren. Most get slaves (several each). Richard gets the plantation where the testator now lives, in addition to slaves. Josiah and Richard are to be executors. Witnesses: John Cocke & Demsey Murphey. Hinche signed.

**Montgomery Co., Ga.,
20 April 1801**

Deed Book CPG: 394-95

John Johnson (x) of Bulloch County to James Johnson of Burke County, for 30 shillings, sale of 200 acres in Montgomery County, etc. Witnesses: Francis Pugh, **Jesse Wiggans** (x).

**Montgomery Co., Ga.,
25 March 1796**

Deed Book CPG: 405

Isaac Perry of Burke County to James Sartain of Montgomery, sale for \$40, 500 acres of land in Montgomery ... Witnesses: **William Hall, Cadder Price** (x).

COMMENT:

James Sartain's 1800–1802 grant lay between Arthur Lott and Nathan Lott.³ Sartain was not a land speculator. The land he bought above should have been in the immediate neighborhood of his grant, which means that he and Cader Price were also in the neighborhood of Arthur and Nathan Lott.

**Montgomery Co., Ga.,
3 May 1796**

Deed Book CPG: 407

James Sartain of Montgomery to William Gary of Burke County, sale for \$40, 500 acres in Washington, now Montgomery, grant dated 28 November 1795. Witnesses: **William Hall, Cader Price** [*doesn't say he x'd*].

COMMENT:

As shown in various documents abstracted herein, Capt. William Hall and Ignatius Hall were neighbors of the Lotts and Watts on Old Saw Mill Creek. Both Halls were authorized to keep the ferry and operate a tavern.

Ignatius, in 1806, had a wife named Zilpha, one of only two other Zilphas I have been able to identify for Montgomery and Tattall Counties (and both of the other are kin).⁴ **However, Zilpha Hall is named in only one known record, that 1806 document.**

³ Montgomery County, Georgia, "Old Field Book – Plats, 1800-1882," p. 18; FHL Microfilm 218,814.

⁴ "1 August 1806 - (Petition) John P. Blackmon says **Ignatious Hall and Zilpha Hall, his wife**, owe him \$1,000 in damages. On 1 June 1806 they publicly said, 'He was a liar and a recorded liar in the Clerk's office of Tattall Co. and they could prove it'. They are required to appear at court th4 2nd Monday in October." See Sabrina J. Murray, abstractor, *Tattall County, Georgia, Loose Papers, 1801–1845*, vol. 1 (Homerville, Ga.: Huxford Genealogical Society, 2005), 27.

Apparently, Ignatius left a widow of a different name. According to one Hall researcher: "An Ignatius Hall, b abt 1755, was a Revolutionary War soldier of the North Carolina line, according to his pension application which was filed 11-04-1830 in Tattall Co Ga, which stated he was formerly of Halifax NC. He was probably the son of Ignatius and Mary. He may be the Ignatius Hall who was found in the 1790 Moore Co NC census. **He showed up in Ga in Washington then Tattall County where he lived in the early 1800's before moving to Thomas County Ga** where he was in the 1830 census, and where he died in 1840. **His wife was named Elizabeth**, no further information about her. Their children were Bethany, Jordan, Thomas Lant, Mary, and Lucinda Hall." See Carol B. Miller, "Ignatius Hall, Charles Co Md & Halifax NC," query 5 September 2008 (<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/MDANNEAR/2008-09/1220621411>).

FHL Microfilm 218,756
Deeds & Mortgages, Book D, 1794-1882
Montgomery County, Georgia

[Index in back of book. This volume seems to be a copy of many of the deeds from the preceding volume. I read all the index; but did not scan all pages for buried nams.]