

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
of Bedford County, Virginia;
Spouse: Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

Research Notes

Lewis⁵ Witt:

Born: b. about 1730, likely Goochland County, Virginia¹
Married: 1755–60, **Anne (Mills)**, Albemarle or Prince Edward Co., Virginia²
Parents: Benjamin³ Witt (William,² John¹) and Marianne Chastain³
Died: between 9 February 1773 and 1 April 1774; Bedford Co., Virginia⁴

Anne (aka Anna) Mills:

Born / died: c1732, Goochland County, Va.⁵; will probated 28 October 1816, Bedford Co.⁶
Parents: William Mills⁷ and (possibly) wife Mary [–?–]⁸

¹ Lewis's father Benjamin was a resident of Goochland by 1732, when he witnessed a land sale by Peter Dupuy to James Bryan, together with his in-law Peter Chastain; see Goochland Co., Wills & Deeds, 1728–1736: 324.

² The period of the marriage can be dated from two documents: (1) Amherst Co., VA, Will Book 1: 73–74, for September 1755 will of William Mills, naming daughters "Elizabeth Learwood" and "Anne Mills."; (2) June 1760 tax roll of Prince Edward County listing Lewis Witt as a head of household adjacent to his father and the widowed "Elizabeth Learewood."

³ David F. Whitt, *Ancestors and Descendants of William Whitt, 1774–1850* (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 2004), 53–54. For abstracts of records created by Benjamin's father William Witt and his children who remained north of James River, see E. S. Mills, "Witt & Associates: Albemarle & Amherst Counties, VA Court Orders, 1745–1800," report, 16 January 2016 (rev. 10 May 2022); archived online at <https://www.historicpathways.com/download/WittsAlbemarleAmherstCourtOrders.pdf>.

Marianne's maiden name is established by the 1732/3 baptismal record of their daughter, Marianne Witt; see *Register Containing the Baptisms Made in the Church of the French Refugees at Mannikintown, in Virginia: in the Parish of King William [Beginning] in the Year of Our Lord 1721, the 25 March*, ed. Thos. H. Wynne (Boston: Boston Public Library, 1860), p. 5; imaged at Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/details/registercontaini00mana/page/4/mode/2up> : accessed 16 June 2026).

⁴ Lewis' death date is bracketed by two documents. LAND PURCHASE CONTRACT, 9 February 1773, cited in Petition of Ann Witt, admx. of Lewis Witt, through attorney Innes & Camp, admitted to court 28 June 1784; in Witt vs. John Cooper, Bedford Chancery Records, 1785–1811; imaged, "Chancery Records Index," *Library of Virginia*, (<https://old.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/> : accessed 14 May 2016). PETITION OF WITT'S ADMX, 1 April 1774, Bedford Co. Court Order Book 6: 188.

⁵ Birthplace based on parental residence in Goochland from c1729 through 1744, See E. S. Mills, "William Mills I (c1695–1755) of Goochland and Albemarle Counties, Virginia; Spouse, Mary [–?–]," last updated 10 May 2024; archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com/download/MillsWilliamMaryofGoochAlbemarle.pdf>).

⁶ Bedford Co., Will Book 4: 276–77, will of Anne Witt; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9P6-285J> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 007645310 > item 3 > images 361–62 of 408.

Lewis Witt's aunt Agnes³ Witt (daughter of William²) married John Key; their son George⁴ Key wed Susanna Craghead and settled in Franklin Co. where they were closely associated with, and subsequently intermarried with, the Mills-Kemp family. See E. S. Mills, "William Mills (c1788–c1862); Spouse, Drucilla Kemp: Research Notes," updated 1 May 2026, 98 pp.; archived at <https://www.historicpathways.com/download/MillsWilliamDrucilla.pdf>. William Mills (who carried a Witt Y) was, through Drucilla, heir to part of the Kemp's Ford/Fish Trap land on Blackwater River patented to Susannah's father John Craghead.

⁷ No direct, contemporary evidence specifically names a parent or sibling for Anne. The given name of her son Mills Witt has long fueled a belief that she was a Mills by birth. Records developed for Anne in this set of research notes provide sound indirect evidence connecting her to the other children of William Mills who died in 1755 as a planter on Albemarle County's Pedlar River. Anne and Lewis Witt also gave three other children names carried by Anne Mills's siblings: *Jesse* (the name of Anne Mills' youngest brother), *Millie* (whose brother-in-law, Allen Lavender, married Lewis and Anne's firstborn daughter Aggie), and *Elizabeth* (the young Widow Learwood who was taxed adjacent to Lewis Witt, his father Benjamin, and his brothers

CHILDREN OF LEWIS AND ANN:

1. **AGNES⁵ “AGGIE” WITT**, born, say, 1760; died between 9 December 1811, when named among living children in the will of her mother Anne,⁹ and 6 October 1818, when her children began to receive their portions of their mother’s share of Anne’s estate.¹⁰ Aggie married before 29 October 1785,¹¹ **Allen Lavender** of Amherst Co., son of Charles Lavender Sr. and brother of William Lavender who had wed Aggie’s aunt Mildred “Milly” Mills.¹² Allen’s will of 17 October 1797 (in which he mentioned his wife but did not name her) was probated 18 June 1798.¹³ Aggie left eight children, also named in their grandmother’s estate settlement: **Charles Lavender**, **William Lavender** (d. before 1818), **Nancy Lavender**, **John W. Lavender**, **Bird Lavender**, **Dosha Lavender**, and **Elizabeth Lavender** (wife of Pleasant Crews in October 1818).¹⁴

Documents disagree as to whether Aggie’s formal name was Agnes or Agatha. Her mother’s will, the most credible source, calls her **Agnes**. The estate settlement created under the administration of her brother Jesse in 1820 calls her “Agatha.” While Aggie appears to have created no documents of her own, her Amherst neighbor Elisha Peters created two in which he named her: In a deed of 1805, he cited two neighbors as “Aggey Lavender” and “Dolly Key”;¹⁵ in 1807, he deeded land to the adult heirs of Allen Lavender, citing them as **Agnes**, Nancy, Charles, William, Clough, Elizabeth, and Jonathan.¹⁶ The confusion over Aggie’s formal name appears to be due to the fact that her nickname was a diminutive for both Agnes and Agatha—and to the habit of some lawyers and court clerks of

John and Absalom on the 1760 tithe list of Prince Edward Co.). The enslaved man London, taxed that year to Elizabeth Learwood, would become the property of Anne Witt by 1780, when Anne petitioned the Bedford court to declare him “levy-free” (i.e., too old to labor productively); see Bedford Co., Order Book 6, 1774–1772: 288; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKH-73CJ-P> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 008141118 > item 4 > image 499 of 542.

⁸ This first William Mills of Central Virginia appears to have had two sets of children; his only known wife, Mary, married him before 1734. After William’s death, all of his children born between 1721 and 1730 moved away. Only his last two children who were clearly born of Mary—Mildred and Jesse—remained in Albemarle with the widowed Mary. The fact that Anne left Albemarle after her father’s death and emerged in Prince Edward with her older sister Elizabeth (who had married before 1755), suggests that Anne and Elizabeth were born to the earlier wife. See E. S. Mills, “William Mills (c1695–1755) of Goochland and Albemarle Counties, Virginia: Correcting His Identity and Identifying His Y-Signature,” archived online at Mills, *HistoricPathways.com* under the “Articles” tab.

⁹ Bedford Co., Will Book 4, 1811–1817: 287; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L9P6-2DVX> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 007645310 > item 3 > image 367 of 408.

¹⁰ Bedford Co., Will Book 5, 1817–1823: 196–97; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99P6-2DHC> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 007645311 > item 1 > image 119 of 511.

¹¹ See the charge against Allen Lavender for purchases made “by wife,” in Thompson & Teas Co. Journal, Ledger C, 1785–1788; Amherst County Business Records, Local Government Records Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond; microfilmed as LoV Amherst County roll 132.

¹² See E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Amherst County, Virginia, Court Orders,” report, 28 Oct. 2019 (updated 15 Dec. 2022), pp. 3–5, “Lavender Family Reconstruction”; archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com/download/MillsAmherstCoCourtOrders.pdf>).

¹³ Amherst Co., Will Book 3: 503; Allen named his brother Charles Lavender [Jr.] as his executor.

¹⁴ Bedford Co., Will Book 5, 1817–1823: 196–97; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99P6-2DHC> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 007645311 > item 1 > image 119 of 511.

¹⁵ Amherst Co., Deed Book K: 355.

¹⁶ Amherst Co., Deed Book L: 61.

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substituting formal names in lieu of nicknames used by family members. In the 1820 court settlement calling her “Agatha,” the scribe appears to have substituted wrongly.

2. **JESSE⁵ WITT**, born 11 May 1762; died 3 February 1842 in Bedford Co.¹⁷ On 6 May 1786, Jesse posted a bond to marry **Alice Brown**, daughter of Henry, with Henry Brown Jr. of Bedford as his surety.¹⁸ Jesse fought with the 14th regiment of the Virginia line during the Revolutionary War, seeing action in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, and wintering at Valley Forge.¹⁹ Discharged as an invalid less than three years into the war, he would receive, for the rest of his life, a pension from first the county court, then the state of Virginia, and then the U.S. Pension Bureau.²⁰ His wife Alice, born 9 September 1764, died 9 July 1844 leaving six living children: **Lettice Witt, Elizabeth Witt, Daniel Witt, Alice Witt, Milly Witt**, and **Jesse Witt Jr.**²¹ The couple’s Bible record identifies two children born before Lettice: “Lewis the Eldest Son” born 23 February 1787 (no death date), and Henry, born 25 August 1798 (died 12 June 1809), as well as a son John (b. 6 December 1794; no death date).²²
3. **MILLY⁵ WITT**, born about 1764, was charged by Bedford Co. court in May 1789 with “having a bastard child” and “fined according to law.” In that same court, **William Whitton** was charged with “keeping Milly Witt,” a charge that was then dismissed.²³ Milly and William wed before 23 December 1816, when her share of Anne Witt’s estate was paid to “her husband Wm. Whitton.”²⁴ No record has been found of a marriage for the couple. Their only known child is the infant cited but not named in the 1789 court order. Milly’s profile in the FamilySearch *Family Tree* asserts the daughter’s name as **Susannah Witt Whitton** but provides no evidence and no further information.²⁵

¹⁷ Petition of applicant, 30 August 1832, Bedford Co., saying he was aged 70 on 11 May 1832, in pension application of Jesse Witt (Pvt., Capt. George Lambert’s Co., 14th Va. Line, Revolutionary War) and Widow “Alice or Alcy, W6524; imaged at *Revolutionary War Pension Files*,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/2815082> and 54 subsequent images : 14 May 2018). Also “Witt Family Bible Record, 1762–1867,” call No. 20500, Library of Virginia; online at *Virginia Memory* (<http://image.lva.virginia.gov/Bible/20500>).

¹⁸ An 1843 transcript of the bond is filed in Jesse and Alice’s pension file; see image 28158104. Alice, in that pension application, specifically stated that she and Jesse were married “in the year 1788 by Parson Holt” (page 8, image 28158110), an apparent mis-recollection given the date of the marriage bond. The Witt Family Bible shows the first child, Lewis, born 1787, timing that correlates with the 1786 marriage bond.

¹⁹ Bedford Co., Order Book No. 9, 1786–1790: 255; Bedford Co. Reel 41, Library of Virginia.

²⁰ Bedford Co., Order Book No. 9, 1786–1790: 49; Bedford Co. Reel 41, Library of Virginia. ALSO: “Revolutionary War Virginia State Pensions,” *Library of Virginia* (https://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/drawer?retrieve_image=Revolution&type=rp&reel=15&start=426&end=445 : accessed 7 August 2026) > Jesse Witt, pension 462, 20 images; citing records of the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts (1776–1928), microfilmed on 15 reels. ALSO: Petition of applicant, 30 August 1832, Bedford Co., saying he was aged 70 on 11 May 1832, in pension application of Jesse Witt (Pvt., Capt. George Lambert’s Co., 14th Va. Line, Revolutionary War) and Widow “Alice or Alcy, W6524; imaged at *Revolutionary War Pension Files*,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/2815082> and 54 subsequent images : 14 May 2018).

²¹ Jesse and Alice Mills federal RW pension application, particularly images 28158107 and 28158136.

²² “Witt Family Bible Record, 1762–1867,” previously cited.

²³ Bedford Co., Order Book No. 9, 1786–1790, p. 255; Bedford Co. Reel 41, Library of Virginia.

²⁴ Bedford Co., Will Book 5, 1817–1823: 195; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-99P6-2DHZ> : accessed 1 May 2020) > IGN 007645311 > item 1 > image 118 of 511.

²⁵ *FamilySearch Family Tree* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/details/M1W7-8LF> : 7 June 2026) > “Susannah Witt Whitton (1789—) M1W7-8LF.”

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4. **ELIZABETH⁵ “BETSY” WITT**, born about 1765, married **Francis Calvert** by bond dated 20 December 1791, with her brother Rowland Witt as surety on the marriage bond.²⁶ She died before her mother’s 9 December 1811 will that cited her as the deceased “Betsy Calvert” who left five children mentioned therein: **Robert Calvert** (who was paid as an adult in March 1817), **Polly Calvert** (paid as an adult in April 1817), and “ballance to three of Elizabeth Calvert’s children” (apparently minors, paid in October 1818).²⁷
5. **JOHN⁵ WITT**, born between Spring 1766 and 9 March 1767, first appeared on Bedford Co. personal tax roll in Spring 1788.²⁸ Within months, he had left the county and the state,²⁹ emerging on the 1790 (1791) census of Edgefield Co., SC, where he had married **Kesiah Kilcrease**.³⁰ Before August 1807, John and Kesiah had moved westward to Logan County, KY.³¹ In 1818, they would sell their Logan Co. land and move yet again, settling in Maury Co., TN, where the 1820 census places them near Kesiah’s brother William W. Kilcrease.³² John is last found in Maury County, 1840, when he sold the land he had farmed there.³³ Elaine Perryman’s reconstructed list of eleven children for John and Kesiah (supported by sound evidence-based reasoning) identify them as follows:³⁴ **Lewis B. Witt, William M. Witt, Robert L. Witt**, (2 unknown females born 1790–1800), **John Witt Jr., Jesse R. Witt**,

²⁶ Bedford Co., “General Index to Marriage Bonds, Wives A-Z, 1754–1870,” section W, p. 47, “Dec. 20 1791, Witt: Elizabeth & Francis Calvit, Rowland Witt surety on Bond; M.R. in Burlap book”; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9BK-RQM5-L> : accessed 16 June 2026) > IGN 007725259 > item 2 > image 602 of 607.

²⁷ Bedford Co., Will Book 5, 1817–1823: 196–97; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-99P6-2DHC> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 007645311 > item 1 > image 119 of 511.

²⁸ Virginia revised its tax laws multiple times in the 1780s. Between 1782 and 1787, the lists were to itemize every man 21 or over, although 16 remained the tithable age. Under the 1787 revision, tax rolls from 1788 forward would itemize all free males over 16, with the age determined as of 9 March each year. The fact that John⁵ Witt, son of Anne, was not itemized in his own right in Spring 1787 (i.e., not yet 21) but was taxed in 1788 (at least 16) places his birth after 1766 and before Spring 1772. The fact that he was charged in his own right in Spring 1788, while three younger (unnamed) brothers were charged to his mother, suggests that he had reached legal age. The correlated data places his birth between Spring 1766 and 9 March 1767.

For an introduction to historic taxation in Virginia, see John B. Robb, “Virginia Taxes & Tax Lists for the Colonial and Early Federal Period,” and “Interpreting the Annual Virginia Tax Lists from 1782 on, and Their Basis in Law,” *Johnbrobb.com* (<https://www.johnbrobb.com/Content/VA/VA-Taxes.pdf> : accessed 8 May 2018).

²⁹ John’s departure occurred before Spring 1789, when he was omitted from that year’s tax list.

³⁰ South Carolina did not maintain marriage registrations until 1911. The 1790 U.S. census, Edgefield Co., p. 570 (penned number) , col. 2, places the John Witt household in this cluster: Wm. Kilcrease, **John Witt**, Elizth Holmes, Nathiel Cochram, Robt Kilcrease.

³¹ Logan Co., KY, 1807 personal property tax list, p. 24, John Witt; imaged at *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS3J-C9XG-F>) > digital film 007834476 > image 508 of 1012.

³² Logan Co., Deed Book F (1817–1819): 168–69; imaged at *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLX-2SM3-Y>) > IGN 008192734 > image 90 of 545. For the most-complete research published on John, Kesiah, and their offspring, see Elaine M. Perryman, “Uncovering the Family of Kesiah: John Witt of Bedford County, Virginia & His Wife Kesiah Kilcrease of Edgefield County, SC,” *The South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research* 52 (Winter 2024): 9–24.

³³ Maury Co., TN, Deed Book X1, 1840–42: 220–21; John Witt; imaged at *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS54-43L5-X> : accessed 25 June 2025) > digital film 008265229 > image 119.

³⁴ Elaine M. Perryman, “The Children of John and Kesiah Witt of Virginia, South Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee,” *The Johnson Family of Kemper County, Mississippi* (<https://johnsonfamilyofkempercounty.com/the-children-of-john-and-kesiah-witt/> : accessed 13 July 2026).

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(1 unknown female b. 1803–1810), **Elizabeth Witt** (wife of Thomas Truelove³⁵ and Albert Huckaby³⁶), **Agnes Witt** (wife of William Jackson³⁷), and **Jane Witt** (wife of Hosea Jamison³⁸).

6. **ROBERT⁵ WITT**, born about 1769;³⁹ married **Nancy Reese** by bond dated 18 August 1790, Bedford County.⁴⁰ Prior to 1810, he joined his brother John in Logan Co., KY.⁴¹ Robert and Nancy made Logan their home and both would die there: Nancy in 1836⁴² and Robert in 1849.⁴³ A legal suit instigated in 1858 between his children identify their children as **Mills Witt, Patsy Stroud, Betsy Young, Sally Willard, Robert Witt, Rody Reese, Polly Witt** (deceased), **Nancy Stroud, Calib Witt** (deceased), and **Crawford Witt** (deceased).⁴⁴
7. **ROWLAND⁵ WITT**, born before 20 December 1770 (being a legal adult on that date when he served as surety for his sister Elizabeth's marriage bond, although—as a temporary resident of adjacent Campbell Co.—he was not taxed on Bedford Co. personal tax rolls until Spring 1793); died before 27

³⁵ Maury County, TN, "Marriage Records, 1807–1870," no. 3477, Thomas Truelove & Elizabeth Witt, 22 May 1823; imaged, "Tennessee County Marriages, 1790–1959," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YC48-9> : accessed 12 June 2026) > Maury > Marriage Records, 1807–1870, True, Leonidas P.—Zollicoffer, John L. > images 11–14 of 2,187. See also, 1840 U.S. census, Maury Co. TN, P. Gordon District, unpaginated, line 16, Thomas Trulove, which places his wife's tick-mark in the wrong age bracket.

³⁶ Maury Co., unidentified recopied register (no cover, beginning 1838): p. 50, stating Elizabeth Trulove and A. Huckaby m. 12 Feb. 1844; imaged, "Tennessee, U.S., Marriage Records, 1780–2002," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1169/images/VRMUSATN1780_070623-00246 : accessed 12 June 2026) > Maury > 1808–1867 > image 247 of 661.

³⁷ Williamson County, TN, "Marriage Records vol. 1" [archive label; the recopied register has no cover]: 271, William Jackson and Agnes Witt, 8 January 1826; imaged, "Tennessee County Marriages, 1790–1959," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1169/> : accessed 12 June 2026) > Williamson > 1800–1866 > image 191 of 804.

³⁸ Maury County, "Marriage Records, 1807–1870," no. 518, Hosea Jameson and Jane Witt, bond and license 18 January, marriage return 19 January 1841; imaged, "Tennessee County Marriages, 1790–1959," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YH9K-YV> : accessed 12 June 2026) > Maury > Marriage Records, 1807–1870, Jack, Robert D.—McMillian, Angus. > images 91–92 of 3,182.

³⁹ Robert made his first appearance on Bedford's personal tax roll as a white male, 21 or over, in Spring 1791, suggesting a birth in late 1769 or early 1770. See Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1791: 21–22; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X9FC-L> : 2 July 2022) > IGN 007846308 > item 1 > images 232–33 of 706.

⁴⁰ Bedford Co., VA, General Index to Marriage Bonds, Wives A–Z, 1754–1870: 5; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9BK-RQ99-4> : accessed 8 June 2026) > IGN 007725159 > item 2 > image 218 of 294.

⁴¹ Logan County, KY, Deed Book C, 1810–1813: 240–41; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4T-MSWJ-T> : 4 September 2023) > IGN 007900780 > images 465–66. The most complete research published for Robert is found in Elaine M. Perryman, "The Days of Robert L. Witt of Hamilton County, Illinois and His Same-Name Cousin," *The Quarterly Journal of the Illinois State Genealogical Society* 54 (Winter 2022): 242–47; in this article, Perryman separates Robert L. Witt (son of Lewis and Anne's son Robert⁵) from Robert (son of Lewis and Anne's son John⁵).

⁴² *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101815800/nancy-witt>), memorial for "Nancy Reece Witt," stating a death of 9 October 1836 and a burial in Young-Morehead Cemetery, Russellville, Logan Co. No headstone image or other documentation is provided.

⁴³ *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101815645/robert-witt>), memorial for Robert Witt Sr., asserting a burial on the "Robert Witt Farm." No headstone image or other documentation is provided. Perryman, "The Days of Robert L. Witt," note 9, asserts the 1849 death year, but cites only the undocumented *Find A Grave* memorial.

⁴⁴ Logan Co., KY, Equity and Criminal Court, Equity Case 2217-EC-87, 1858, Mills Witt vs. Patsy Stroud et al.; Logan Co. Archives, Russellville, KY.

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March 1837 (date of land division among heirs).⁴⁵ On 31 January 1793, he posted a marriage bond in Campbell Co., Va., to wed **Sally Duvall**.⁴⁶ On 14 September 1822, also in Campbell, he supposedly posted a bond to wed **Sophia Wright**.⁴⁷ His will names his children as **John** [who inherited most of his property], a married daughter **Kessia Vest** [wife of Joshua Vest⁴⁸], a deceased daughter Elizabeth Pollard [husband John⁴⁹], and four unmarried daughters: **Ann**,⁵⁰ **Milly** [subsequently married **Littleberry Overstreet**⁵¹], **Agnes**, and **Polly** [subsequently married James Hamilton].⁵²

8. **MILLS⁵ WITT**, born about 1773 (first taxed on Bedford Co. personal tax rolls in 1794); married by bond dated 25 April 1797, **Bethani Creasey**, with Thomas Creasey as surety, and remained in Bedford Co.⁵³

⁴⁵ Bedford Co., Will Book 9, 1835–1838: 371–72; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-99P6-2ZX1> : accessed 8 June 2026) > IGN 007645301 > item 1 > image 205 of 487.

⁴⁶ Campbell Co., Register of Marriages, 1: 178, “Roland Witt & Sally Duvall Jan 31 1793 [by] Joseph Drury” (an aggregate register; entries not entered contemporaneously); imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-89XF-V6P9> : accessed 3 February 2023) > IGN 007578854 > item 2 > image 358.

⁴⁷ No record of this has been found in the Campbell Co. marriage registers or databases at either *FamilySearch* or *Ancestry*. It is alleged at FamilySearch’s *Family Tree* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/details/LV4F-9NJ> : accessed 16 June 2026), “Rowland Witt (1771–1834) LVAf-9NJ),” in a post dated 9 August 2018 by “ColleenLarson,” stating “Family records of Marcia Witt given to me from a researcher named Wayne Witt Bates before he passed.”

⁴⁸ Bedford Co., “General Index to Marriage Bonds, Wives A-Z, 1754–1870,” section W, p. 47 “Jan. 7 1825, Witt: ‘Keziah or Rebecca’ and Joshua Vest, Rowland Witt surety on bond; M.R. in Burlap Book”; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9BK-RQM5-L> : accessed 16 June 2026) > IGN 007725259 > item 2 > image 602 of 607. **Her name was Keziah, not Rebecca and not “Keziah Rebecca” as rendered in many trees.** The statement “Keziah or Rebecca” in this typed register implies that the typist could not confidently read the bride’s name—not that the bride had two given names. She appears as “Keziah,” aged 50, on the 1850 census, Campbell Co., population schedule, stamped p. 129 (recto), dwelling 9, family 9, Joshua Vest household.

Joshua’s older half-brother Benjamin Vest lived in the portion of Bedford that became Floyd Co. When William Mills-Witt, about 1848, left his Franklin land in the hands of his son William B. Mills, moved to Floyd, and rented farm land, he chose land adjacent to Joshua’s nephew Charles Vest. See 1850 U.S. census, Floyd Co., VA, pop. sch., Western Dist. No. 15, p. 391b, families 204/205, dwellings 204/205.

⁴⁹ Bedford Co., “General Index to Marriage Bonds, Wives A-Z, 1754–1870,” section W, p. 47, “Dec. 21 1824, Witt: Elizabeth & John Pollard, Rowland Witt Surety; bond; M.R. in Burlap Book”; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9BK-RQM5-L> : accessed 16 June 2026) > IGN 007725259 > item 2 > image 602 of 607.

⁵⁰ Bedford Co., “General Index to Marriage Bonds, Wives A-Z, 1754–1870,” section W, p. 47 shows two marriages for Witt females named Anne:

- “Oct. 24 1836, Witt: Ann & Claiborne Creasy, Reuben Witt surety on marriage bond.”
- “Dec. 13, 1837, Witt: Ann & Isaac Wright, James Hambilton on Bond, M.R. in Burlap Book.”

⁵¹ Bedford Co., “General Index to Marriage Bonds, Wives A-Z, 1754–1870,” section W, p. 47, “Dec. 18 1832, Witt: Mary & James Hamilton, Dau. of Rowland; Bond, M.R. in Burlap Book”; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9BK-RQM5-L> : accessed 16 June 2026) > IGN 007725259 > item 2 > image 602 of 607.

⁵² Bedford Co., “General Index to Marriage Bonds, Wives A-Z, 1754–1870,” section W, p. 47, “Dec. 21 1824, Witt: Elizabeth & John Pollard, Rowland Witt Surety; bond; M.R. in Burlap book”; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9BK-RQM5-L> : accessed 16 June 2026) > IGN 007725259 > item 2 > image 602 of 607.

⁵³ Bedford Co. VA, “General Index to Marriage Bonds, Wives A-Z, 1754–1870,” section C, p. 41, “Creasey: Bethani & Mills Witt, Thomas Creasey surety on bond; M.R. in Burlap Book”; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9BK-RQ9K-P> : accessed 16 June 2026) > IGN 007725259 > item 2 > image 373 of 607.



WITT-MILLS DNA PROBLEM & EVIDENCE:

One William Mills appeared in 1806 along the Blackwater River of adjacent Franklin County (cut from Bedford and Henry Counties in 1785). Three records supply a wide age bracket for him, suggesting a birth between 1783 and 1790, with mid-1788 being compatible with two of the three documents.⁵⁴ The 1850 federal census of Virginia also states county of birth for each person; William, who then resided in adjacent Floyd Co., Virginia (created 1831, partly from Bedford) is said to have been born in Franklin Co.⁵⁵

A page-by-page combing of all known documents surviving for Franklin Co. has revealed no evidence of parentage for this William Mills. While a James Mills family lived in Franklin, on Maggodee Creek north of the Blackwater, at the time of William birth, surviving records of the county show no association between that family (who also had a contemporary son William) and the William Mills of our research problem.⁵⁶

Extended research into all Virginia counties,⁵⁷ with a reconstruction of all Millses found therein, has presented ***one sole candidate for William's mother: Sarah Mills, daughter of Jesse and Lucy (Tilman) Mills of Amherst—a niece to Anne (Mills) Witt.*** Sarah, like Anne's daughter Millie, bore at least one child prior to marriage. That previously known daughter, who used the name Elizabeth Mills, was born about 1790—roughly two years after William's birth. In 1791, before Sarah could be reported to county officials and charged with bearing a baseborn child, she married one Elijah Sartain in Montgomery, a county that then lay adjacent to Franklin, on its west.⁵⁸

⁵⁴ William Mills's Spring 1806 first appearance on the personal tax rolls of Franklin County implies that he had turned sixteen during the previous twelve months (i.e., born Spring 1789 to Spring 1790) although, in that era of no birth records, youth who appeared younger did not always immediately self-report themselves for taxation. The 1850 U.S. census, Floyd Co., Va., pop. sch., Western Dist. No. 15, p. 391b, fam. 204, dwell, 204, dated 25 July 1850, cites his age on 1 June 1850 as 62—suggesting that his **birth was between 2 June 1787 and 1 June 1788**. The 1860 U.S. census, Pulaski Co., VA, pop. sch., Western District, p.o. Newbern, p. 29 (also 721), dwell. 197, fam. 192, gives his age 76—i.e., born 2 June 1783 and 1 June 1784. If the 1860 census were accurate, William should have appeared on tithable rolls from 1799 forward. Correlating the two records that are most-compatible, the tax roll and the 1850 census, it is likely that his birth occurred in mid-1788, that he turned sixteen in 1804 but was not reported as a tithable in 1805.

For all known evidence on this William Mills, see E. S. Mills, "William Mills (b. c1787–88; d. c1862); Spouse Drucilla Kemp: Research Notes," a work in progress last updated 22 August 2026, 98 pp.; archived at <https://www.historicpathways.com/download/MillsWilliamDrucilla.pdf>.

⁵⁵ 1850 U.S. census, Floyd Co., VA, pop. sch., Western Dist. No. 15, p. 391b, fam. 204, dwell, 204.

⁵⁶ For this James Mills family, who first settled in Bedford shortly before the first (1782) tax roll, see E. S. Mills, "James Mills (bef. 1750–c1823–24; Wife [?Octavia Breckinridge?]: Research Notes," a work in progress last updated 28 December 2019, 41 pp.; archived online at *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com/download/MillsJamesofBedfordFranklin.pdf>).

⁵⁷ Formal research reports for Millses in several of these counties, including Franklin and Bedford, are archived online at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

⁵⁸ For a biography of Sarah, an analysis of her life, a reconstruction of the lives of her parents, and a summary of her siblings, see E. S. Mills, "Jesse Mills Sr. (c1740–aft.1811) of Albemarle & Amherst Counties, Virginia; Spouse Lucy Tilman: Research

Autosomal DNA tests by descendants of William have generated matches by 60 of his descendants to 39 descendants of Sarah, through Sarah's daughter Lucy Tilman Sartain and her pre-marital daughter Elizabeth Mills. No other ancestral lines in common have been discovered between these matches and William's descendants.

Y-DNA tests by William's male descendants assign all of them a Witt Y signature, traceable to an immigrant John Witt who married the Huguenot Anne Daux about 1673.⁵⁹ Two descendants of different sons of William Mills-Witt have taken the Big Y (aka Y-700) test. Both are full matches with no genetic distance (GD) between them. The testing company, Family Tree DNA, has assigned them to a "private branch" with three individuals (all a GD1 or GD2) who have identified their Witt ancestor as a son of Lewis and Anne (Mills) Witt. Y-matches to proved descendants of other branches of the Witt family are significantly more distant.⁶⁰

Autosomal tests by William's descendant Richard H. Mills have produced 80 identifiable matches to Lewis Witt, his siblings, and his mother's Chastain siblings. No atDNA matches exist yet to other Witt branches—a not-surprising situation given the number of generations that have intervened. The current state of genetic genealogy places the limits of autosomal matching at typically fifth-to-sixth cousins, although exceptions have been documented. A proposal that William Mills of Franklin was fathered by a son of Lewis and Anne (Mills) Witt creates eight generations from modern testers to Lewis and Anne. However, descendants of William Mills-Witt would be double-cousins to descendants of any son of Lewis and Anne—thus, increasing the level of DNA—because William would carry Mills ancestry through both his mother (Sarah) and his father (the son of Anne).

This paper's genealogical reconstruction of children of Lewis and Anne, presented above, identifies five sons as potential candidates to father William Mills-Witt *circa* 1788.⁶¹

Notes," a work in progress last updated 28 August 2026), 101 pp.; imaged, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com/download/MillsJesseSrLucyTilman.pdf>).

For underlying research on Sarah Mills and her husband, see Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Gallia County, OH: Preliminary Research on Elijah Sartain, Wife Sarah Mills, and Related Families from Montgomery and Giles Counties, VA," report, 1 September 2021 (updated 19 June 2023), 89 pp.; archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com/download/MillsSartainGalliaCountyOhio.pdf>).

⁵⁹ John's first known appearance in the colony occurred in 1673 when he and Richard Rawlins petitioned the Charles City County Court in an unspecified matter that was deferred to the next court so that Coff. Wynn could be present to "give some light on the matter." See Charles City County Court Orders, 1672–1674: 549. For the most thorough examination of John, Anne, and their colonial descendants, see David F. Whitt, *Ancestors & Descendants of William Whitt, 1755–1850* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2004). For a conveniently online, *documented* overview of all that is *proved* for the first John Witt, see Holly Witt, "John Witt (abt. 1656 – abt. 1700)," *WikiTree* (<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Witt-678>).

⁶⁰ The two descendants of William Mills-Witt who have tested at the Y-700 levels are Clay Mills (my son, a descendant of William's son Samuel) and Edward Eugene Mills (a descendant of William's son Robert). The three other close matches assigned to the same "private branch" are Warren C. Pratt (a descendant of Lewis and Anne's son Jesse), Carlton Johnson, and Mark A. White (the latter two of which have not yet published their proof arguments for descent from Lewis and Anne's son John). Pratt's proof argument for descent from Jesse is published as Warren C. Pratt, "Finding the Father of Henry Pratt of Southeastern Kentucky," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 100 (June 2015): 85–104.

⁶¹ The proof arguments (DNA and documentary) for William Mills as son of Sarah Mills by a son of Lewis and Anne (Mills) Witt are consolidated in E. S. Mills, "Unreasonably Exhaustive Research? Finding a Father and Mother for a Man of Common Name, Born c1788, Virginia," *Legacy Family Tree Webinars* (<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/unreasonably-exhaustive-research-finding-a-mother-a-father-for-a-man-of-common-name-born-c1784-88-virginia> : 30 September 2026).

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

- Jesse, born 1762, who wed 1786 in Bedford.
- John, born c1766–67, who **left Virginia March 1788–1789** and married in SC before early 1791.⁶²
- Robert, born c1769, who wed 1790 in Bedford.
- Roland, born c1771, who wed 1793 in adjacent Campbell Co.
- Mills, born c1773, who wed 1797 in Bedford.

Of the five candidates,

- **Jesse**, the oldest son, was newly wed at the time his cousin Sarah conceived William. While that fact does not remove him from consideration, it suggests that he is a less-likely candidate.⁶³ Autosomal tests have uncovered no matches who descend from Jesse Witt.
- **Robert**, also of age to father William, is the only one of the five brothers whose name appears among the sons of William Mills-Witt. William's fifth son, b. c1826, was named Robert Wiley Mills. However, William and his wife likely named Robert for her father, Robert Kemp. Y-DNA and atDNA tests offer no match.
- **Mills** and **Roland**, the younger brothers, were about 14 and 16 at the time Sarah conceived William. While they were biologically of age to father a child, social practices of their place and time suggest they were less likely to be the father. Y-DNA tests offer no match.
- **John**, who left Bedford (and Virginia) during the year of his cousin Sarah's pregnancy and childbirth, appears the likeliest candidate. Two Big-Y testers, whose Witt Y also traces to unmarried mothers, have reconstructed evidence trails leading from them to John:
 - Family Tree DNA Kit No. 937252, a descendant of John Witt White (born c1784 to the single-woman Elizabeth White in Bedford County), is a Genetic Distance of **1** from William's descendant Clay Mills with **4** STR differences out of 616. He is also a GD **2** from William's descendant Edward E. Mills, with **2** STR differences out of 641.⁶⁴
 - Family Tree DNA Kit 815200, a descendant of John 'Jack' Johnson *aka* Kimbrough, born c1820), is a GD of **2** from Clay Mills with **5** STR differences out of 609. This descendant is a GD **2** from Edward E Mills, with only **3** STR differences out of 628.⁶⁵
 - By comparison, Clay Mills (descendant of William's son Samuel) and Edward E. Mills (descendant of William's son Robert) are a GD of **0** with **3** STR differences out of 612.

⁶² The 1790 census of Edgefield Co., SC was not completed for public inspection until 5 May 1791; see 1790 U.S. census, Edgefield Co., p. 518, for certification of posting by the assistant marshal, Bartley Martin. For John's household, see p. 510.

⁶³ On the Big-Y 700 test, Jesse's descendant Warren Clark Pratt is a Genetic Distance of 2 (GD 2), with 6 STR differences out of 591, from William Mills-Witt's descendants Clay Mills and Edward Eugene Mills.

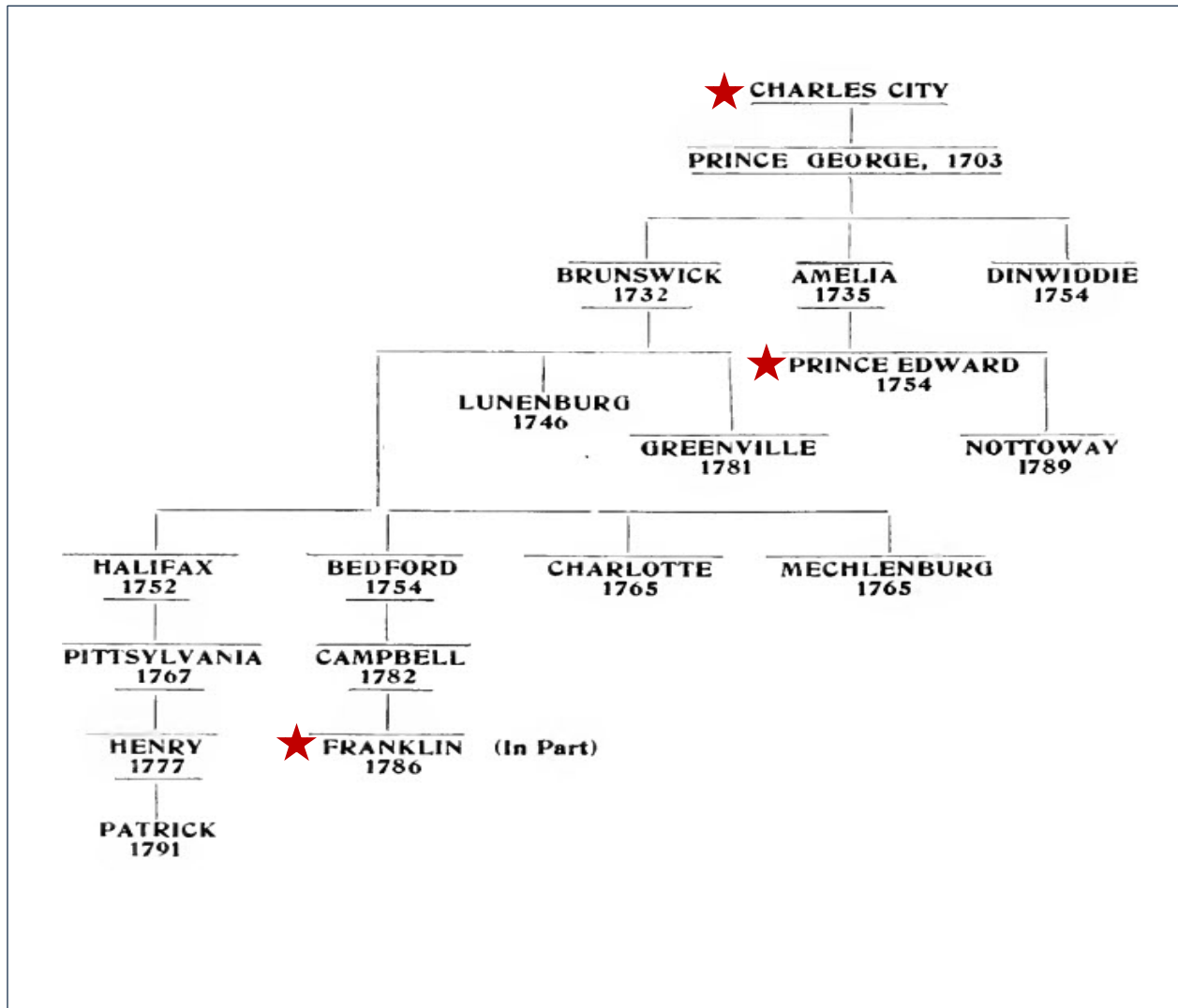
⁶⁴ "John Witt White" and "Ann White," children of Elizabeth White, ages unstated, were bound out by the Bedford Co. court on 22 July 1793 to James Rather (Wrather), with whom John Witt White moved to Tennessee. See Bedford Co., Court Order Book 1790–1795: 246; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 563.

⁶⁵ The enslaved John 'Jack' Johnson *aka* Kimbrough (c1820–1903) first appears with his children in the 1856 Greene County, AL, estate inventory of John Caldwell Johns(t)on, a migrant from Union County, SC. Jack's descendant, Elaine Perryman, working believes she has traced Jack back to Maury County, Tennessee, where John Witt resided at the time of Jack's birth, but she has not yet published her proof argument for Jack's descent from John. For further identification of Jack, see Perryman, "John 'Jack' Johnson," *The Johnson Family of Kemper County, Mississippi* (<https://johnsonfamilyofkempercounty.com/john-jack-johnson/>).



RESEARCH NOTES

Figure 1
Geographic Ancestry of Bedford & Franklin Counties, Marking Counties in Lewis Witt Line⁶⁶



⁶⁶ Charles Edward Burrell, *A History of Prince Edward County, Virginia, from Its Formation in 1753, to the Present* (Richmond: Williams Printing Co., 1922), 22; imaged, *Library of Congress* (https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/public/gdcmassbookdig/historyofprincee00burre/historyofprincee00burre_bw.pdf : accessed 17 June 2026).

1754

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

"Genesis of Prince Edward ... The original division of the Old Dominion into "Shires," after the English fashion, was performed by the Assembly of 1624, at which time the State was divided into eight such "Shires," as follows: James City; Henrico; **Charles City**; Elizabeth City; Warrick River; Warrosquyoake; Charlies River; and Accawmack ...

In **1703 Prince George** was erected out of Charles City, and from Prince George was later carved, **Brunswick** in 1732; **Amelia** in 1735; and Dinwiddie in 1754. In 1753 an Act was introduced to separate the present **Prince Edward county from Amelia** and the separation took place accordingly in 1754."

A further division of the ancient "Shire" of Charles City, introduced **Lunenburg** county from Brunswick, in 1746; Halifax, in 1752; **Bedford**, in 1754; Charlotte, in 1765; Mecklenburg, in 1765; Greenville, 1781. Pittsylvania was separated from Halifax in 1767; and Henry in 1777. In 1791 Patrick was taken from Henry. In 1782 **Campbell county** was separated from Bedford and, in 1786, a part of the present Franklin county was erected out of Campbell county [sic].⁶⁷

1755

BEDFORD COUNTY

"Bedford was formed because settlers had already come into its territory and were too far removed from the seat of government for their convenience, due to the primitive means of travel at their disposal. ... Bedford was formed in 1754 from Lunenburg and a small portion of Albemarle was added. ... Campbell County was taken from Bedford in 1782. Again in 1786 [sic], *Bedford gave of her territory for the formation of still another county, Franklin.* ...

"This left Bedford with 791 square miles ... bounded on the north by the James River for a distance of 18 miles, on the south by Staunton River for a distance of 20 miles, on the east by Campbell County for 21 miles, and on the west by the counties of Roanoke, Botetourt, and Rockbridge for 31 miles. It is about 35 miles in length—east to west—with an average breadth of 25 miles.

"**Goose Creek** ... rises about eight miles west of Montvale and flows through the rich 'Goose Creek Valley' in a southeasterly direction into Staunton River near Leesville, in Campbell County. ... **Big Otter Creek** flows also in a southeasterly direction into **Staunton River**. The numerous headwaters of this beautiful stream may be likened to the ribs of a palm leaf fan, reaching out in every direction so as to enable the gurgling spring waters from the mountain sides to have a sure outlet to the sea. Battery, Hunting, and Read Creeks flow into James River at and below *Big Island*, and Cove Creek near Coleman Falls, and Judith and Ivy Creeks empty into the James still farther down. Falling and Beaverdam Creeks, in the western part of the county, rise between Green's Knob and Weaver's Knob and flow south into Staunton River."⁶⁸

⁶⁷ Charles Edward Burrell, *A History of Prince Edward County, Virginia, from Its Formation in 1753, to the Present* (Richmond: Williams Printing Co., 1922), 21. Pages 343–45 carry a biographical sketch of "Rev. Daniel Witt, D.D. 1801–1871 ... noted divine ... son of Jesse Witt and Alice Brown," saying "both his father and mother were ardent Baptists. ... He was thrice married. In 1829 he was married to Miss Mary C. Cocke, of Cumberland county, who died in 1834. In 1836 he was married to Miss Mary A. Woodfin, who died in 1842. In 1849 he was married to Mrs. Mary Ellen Temple, who survived him ... four sons."

⁶⁸ Lula Jeter Parker, *The History of Bedford County, Virginia*, Bicentennial Edition, 1765–1954 (Bedford: Bedford Democrat, 1954), 5, 9; imaged at *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/historyofbedford00park/page/2/mode/2up> : accessed 17

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

1755

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

Typescript: "List of Tithables from Buffalo to the County Line. ... "Mr. Ewings List, 1755"⁶⁹

Beneman Witt :
Charles Witt : 3
Lenil [Lewis] Witt :

10 JUNE 1760

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY, VA

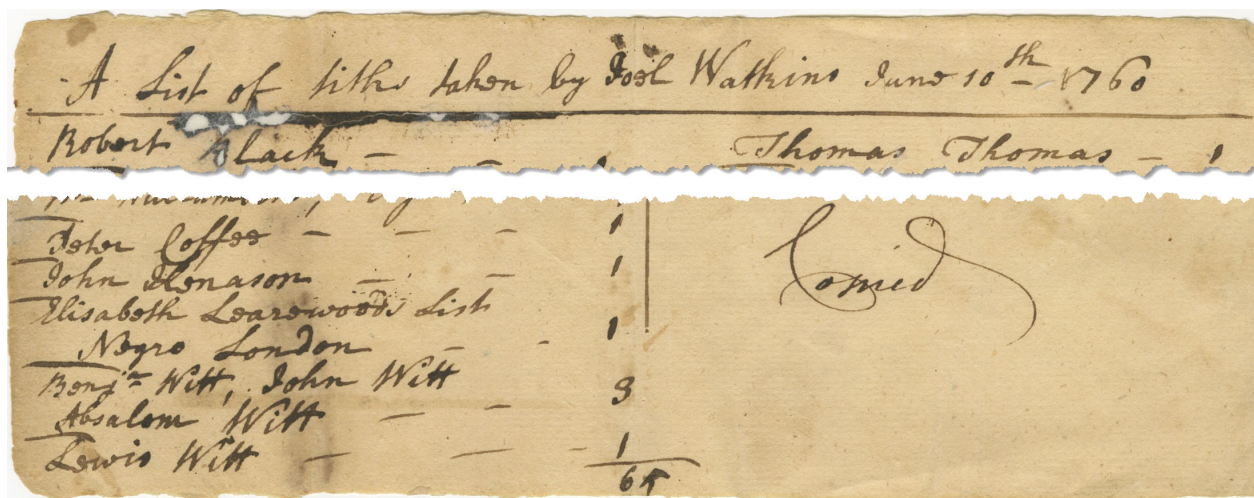
"A List of Tithes Taken by Joel Watkins:

John Coffee:	1 tithe	
John Henason?	1 title	
<i>Elisabeth Learewood's List, Negro London:</i>	1 tithe	[née Mills, sister of Anne (Mills) Witt]
Benjⁿ Witt, John Witt, Absalom Witt:	3 tithes	
Lewis Witt	1 title	

Figure 2

1760 Prince Edward County Tithe List:

Anne Mills (Mrs. Lewis) Witt & Elizabeth Mills (Widow Thomas) Learwood⁷⁰



COMMENT:

Elizabeth Learwood was the widow of Thomas whom she married before the November 1755

March 2019).

⁶⁹ "Miscellaneous Papers: Prince Edward County, Virginia" (typescript: Genealogical Society of Utah, n.d.), p. 5; attested by Irene Leake, Bedford Co. deputy clerk, 1939; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS3W-R9Z2-S>) > IGN 007832038 > item 2 > image 266 of 323.

⁷⁰ "Prince Edward County (Va.) Tithables, 1750–1787," 10 June 1760, random sheets, by year; barcode 1204962, Local Government Records Collection; Library of Virginia.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

will of her father, William Mills of Pedlar River, Albemarle County. In that will, William named two of his daughters as “Elizabeth Learwood” and “Anna Mills.”⁷¹

The Learwoods had first settled Bedford before 1756, while it was part of Lunenburg County.⁷² Thomas and one James Wheeler were sued there in 1756.⁷³ In 1757, the Learwoods sold that Bedford grant at the headwaters of Reedy Creek, on the north side of Pilot Mountain,⁷⁴ adjacent to land taken out by Ambrose Mills (brother of Elizabeth and Anne). The patent to the Learwood land in Bedford, on west side of Elk Creek, was finalized in 1760, after Thomas’s death.⁷⁵ Elizabeth and Ann’s brother Ambrose Mills sold his land to William Callaway prior to receiving the patent, after which he moved to the Wateree River of South Carolina with their sister Sarah Mills, her husband Thomas Watts, and his brothers William and Edward Jr.⁷⁶

26 MARCH 1771
BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

George Walton of Prince Edward County to **Lewis Witt** of Bedford, sale for £11, a tract of 75 acres on South side of Otter River described as

Beginning at the mouth of **Bear Branch**, then up the same as it meanders to *Adams’* line, then along his line to the said **Otter River**, then down the same as it meanders to the first station.

No witnesses. Acknowledged in court, same day, by Walton.⁷⁷

⁷¹ Amherst Co., VA, Will Book 1: 73–74

⁷² Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* (http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=799&last=&g_p=P33&collection=LO_Patent: downloaded 20 May 2016), “Learwood, Thomas, grantee ... Bedford County ... 230 acres on west side of Elk Creek”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 33, 1756–1761 (v.1, 2, 3 & 4 p.1–1095), p.799 (Reel 31–32).”

⁷³ TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 87.

⁷⁴ Bedford Co. Deed Book 1: 139–41. For the 1756 suit, see TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 87.

⁷⁵ Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* (http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=799&last=&g_p=P33&collection=LO_Patent: downloaded 20 May 2016), “Learwood, Thomas, grantee ... Bedford County ... 230 acres on west side of Elk Creek”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 33, 1756–1761 (v.1, 2, 3 & 4 p.1–1095), p.799 (Reel 31–32).”

⁷⁶ Bedford County Deed Book A-1: 430, for Ambrose’s sale of 898 acres in Bedford to William Callaway. The patent, issued to Callaway on 15 July 1760 identified Ambrose’s land as lying on the East side of Elk Creek. See Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* (http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=539&last=&g_p=P288&collection=LO_Patent: downloaded 20 May 2016); citing “Land Office Patents No. 34, 1756–1765, p. 602 (Reels 33–34).”

For all known records created by Anne’s brother Ambrose, see E. S. Mills, “Ambrose Mills, Col. (c1721–1780); Spouses, 1. Mourning Stone; 2. Ann Brown: Research Notes,” last updated 3 November 2023); archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com/download/MillsAmbroseResearchNotes.pdf>).

For Sarah (Mills) Watts, and the settlement her husband Thomas made with his brothers on the Wateree in South Carolina, see Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Frontier Research Strategies—Weaving a Web to Snare a Birth Family: John Watts (ca. 1749–ca. 1822),” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 104 (September 2016): 165–90; archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com/download/JohnWattsNGSQSep2016FINALGalleys.pdf>).

⁷⁷ Bedford Co., Deed Book 4: 47; imaged *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKN-1SJW-6>: accessed 1 June 2021) > IGN 1940778 > image 72 of 357.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

JUNE 1771

BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. **Ripley vs. Witt** N Pro [*nolle prosequi* = unwillingness to continue prosecution]⁷⁸

COMMENT:

Elizabeth Mills, sister of Anne (Mills) Witt, married the significantly older John Ripley before 1767, when Ripley sued Mary Mills of Amherst, widow of Elizabeth's father William, for an unspecified matter dealing with the settlement of William's estate. It seems likely that this Ripley vs. Witt case is a related matter dealing with Elizabeth and Anne's inheritance from their father's estate—with the *nolle pros* being declared after the Ripleys moved off to South Carolina. As noted under 1780 below, Anne (Mills) Witt was in possession of the slave man London, for whom the widowed Elizabeth had paid a tithe in 1760. While the father's estate had not yet been probated at the time of this 1760 tithable roll, the enslaved people held by the late William appears to have been parceled among adult heirs pending the coming-of-age of the youngest son Jesse and the probate of the estate.⁷⁹

25 JULY 1771

BEDFORD COUNTY

Court orders. **Lewis Witt** served on jury.⁸⁰

Lewis Witt is allowed payment for 1 day's attendance in the case of Coffee vs. Jones.⁸¹

9 FEBRUARY 1773

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Lewis Witt contracted with John Cooper to buy a parcel of land on **Otter River**, giving his bond in the penal sum of £8, "to be discharged by the payment of Four pounds on or before the first day of February 1774." Shortly after executing the bond, the **Witts** learned that the land "appeared to be the property of a certain *George Walton* [surveyor and land speculator], who sold the said Land to "a certain **James Chastain**" & conveyed it to him by a Deed bearing date the 28th day of March 1774." During this interval, Lewis Witt died. His widow and administratrix, Ann, refused to pay Cooper; and Cooper launched a suit against the estate—one that would not be settled until 1785. See notes below for 1774, 1784, and 1785.⁸²

⁷⁸ Bedford Co., Order Book 3, 1763–1771: 740; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKH-772N-9> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 008141117 > item 4 > image 389 of 432.

⁷⁹ For Elizabeth as the wife of Ripley, their known activities, and their proved children (including the natural son "John Mills" born to the widowed Elizabeth while she lived adjacent to the Witts in Prince Edward), see E. S. Mills, "William Mills I (c1695–1755) of Goochland and Albemarle Counties, Virginia; Spouse Mary [–?–]: Research Notes," pp. 4–9; archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com/download/MillsWilliamMaryofGoochAlbemarle.pdf>).

⁸⁰ Bedford Co., Order Book 3, 1763–1771: 781; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKH-7728-2> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 008141117 > item 4 > image 409 of 432.

⁸¹ Bedford Co., Order Book 3: 774; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKH-772F-D> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 008141117 > item 4 > image 406 of 432.

⁸² Petition of Ann Witt, admx. of Lewis Witt, through attorneys Innes & Camp, admitted to court 28 June 1784; in Witt vs. John Cooper, Bedford Chancery Records, 1785-011; imaged at Library of Virginia, *VirginiaMemory* (www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=019-17885-011 : accessed 14 May 2016).

COMMENT:

Cooper's rejoinder in this file, sworn before W. Leftwich on 24 August 1784, stated:

"Many years ago he purchased of *Peter Pinkstone* a Tract of Land the legal Title to which was in **George Walton**, whose Bond for a Conveyance was assigned to this Respondant; that he afterwards sold the same to **James Chastain**, who on the 25th of June 1773 accepted the same Bond of Walton for a Title; that the Intestate **Lewis Witt** purchased of **James Chastain** a Small Part of the Same Land & gave to the Respondant [Cooper] his Bond for £4, knowing and contenting himself with Chastain's appearance of a Right, which the Complainant [Widow Anne Witt] confesses was completed in 1774; So that the Complainants, Intestacy, had the Title in the Way & by the Means first proposed & approved by him before he gave his Bond to the Respondent."

Also in the file:

25 JUNE 1773

"This is to Sartify that I have Receved a bond of *John Cooper* Which I inDorst to the said Cooper Which I had from *Alexander Daverson* for twenty pounds & the said Bond I am to Collect the money and Remet the money to him the Said John Cooper. I allso Recved from him a Bound [bond] he had of *Mr. George Walton* to make me a Right to a peac of Land on Otter River, as Witness my hand this twenty fifth of June 1773. [Signed] **James Chastain**. N.B. I am to give the said John Cooper in his Bound that he give to make me a Right. [Signed] J.C. Test: Arthur Cooper, Noth Cooper."

8 FEBRUARY 1774

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Court order. "On the motion of **Ann Witt**, letters of Adm^{on} is Granted her on the Estate of **Lewis Witt** Decd. who made Oath & gave Bond wth Sec^y. acd^g to Law."⁸³

1 APRIL 1774

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Court order. "At a court held for Bedford County, Cooper vs. Chasteen—A. caps; Same vs. **Witts adm^x**—A. Caps ..."⁸⁴

COMMENT:

- "Witts adm^x" [administratrix] was Anne, widow of Lewis Witt.
- An "A. caps" (*alias capias*) was a second writ issued to take someone into custody.
- Almost certainly, this represents the beginning of the 1784–85 Bedford chancery case, Ann Witt vs. John Cooper, for which a few records survive as Cooper vs. Witt. (See notes for 9 February 1773, above; also 24 May 1774 and the years 1784–85, below.) Shortly before his death Lewis Witt had contracted with Cooper to buy land. Witt's widow Anne, as administratrix of his estate, discovered that the land had previously been sold by George

⁸³ Bedford County, Order Book No. 5, 1772–1774, p. 263; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKH-73CF-N> : accessed 22 May 2026) > IGN 008141118 > Item 2 > image 190 of 542.

⁸⁴ Bevin J. Creel, *Bedford County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1774–1783* (N.P.: Lulu.com, 2011), 69; citing Order Book 6:188.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

Walton to James Chasteen. Checking prior entries for Cooper and Chasteen here in this order book, I find

28 MARCH 1774

“A deed Walton [to Chasteen ack^d & o. r^d.” (citing Order Book 6:1)

21 MAY 1774

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

“List of the Estate of **Lewis Witt** Decd, appraised by Robt. Mitchell, Thomas Robinson & William Addams.

1 Mare £6.10.0 — 1 Ditto £6	£12.10.0
1 Spinning Wheel 10/ — 1 Drawing knife & hd. saw 7/6	0.17.6
1 Cotton Wheel 8/ — 1 Razor and case 1/	0.9.0
Sundry Books 5/6 — 1 pockett Book 1/0	0.6.6
Sundry Shoe Tools 3/6 — 1 froe 2/6	0.6.0
3 Cows and Calfs 8.0.0 — 4 Heifers 4.0.0	12.0.0
17 Head of Hogs 66/ — 2 Axes 10/ — 1 Howell 1/6	3.17.6
1 Hatchet and 1 Rond Shear	0.3.0
3 hoes & mattock 8/ — 2 pieces Leather 2/6	0.10.6
1 Gun 15/ — 1 plain [plane] wt. Stock and a Chizel 3/9	0.18.9
1 Read 4/6 — 3 pr. Cards 6/3 — 1 Sifter 6 ^d	0.11.3
1 Sadle and Bridle 15/ — 1 Hatchel [<i>sic</i>] 5/	1.0.0
a parcel of pewter 20/ — a parcel of Delphs [plates, dishes, crockery] 6/	1.6.0
1 Copper Coffee Pott 9/ — 15 spoons and 1 Kettle 5/16	0.14.6
a parcel of Stone ware and a Candle Stick	0.2.6
A Table & Chest w ^t 2 Chairs	0.10.0
2 potts, 1 Skillet & 1 Frying pan	0.11.0
2 pails 4/6 — 6 ^{te} Cotton 9/ — 2 ^{te} Wool 3/0	0.16.6
a parcel of Flax 2/6 — Cotton Yarn & Thread Do. value 33/	0.15.0
a plough w ^t hoe &c	0.3.0
2 Beds [mattresses] wt. Bedsteds and furniture	5.15.0
2 Sad Irons [handheld irons for pressing clothes] 4/ — 1 Cow Hyde 6/	0.10.0
Signed: Robert Mitchell, Thomas Robinson, Wm. Adams (his X mark)	
Teste: R. Cowan	

23 May 1774 presented in court and order^d to be recorded.⁸⁵

“An Inventory and Apraisment of the Estate of **Lewis Witt** Deceased was Exhibited in Court and Ordered to be Recorded.”⁸⁶

⁸⁵ Bedford Co., Will Book 1, 1763–1787: 211–12; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-89P6-2FS3> : accessed 5 June 2026) > IGN 007645309 > item 1 > images 146–47 of 563.

⁸⁶ Bedford Co., Court Orders 1774: 291; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKH-73CZ-4> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 008141118 > item 3 > image 125 of 156.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

Figure 3
Mills Lands on Elk Creek & Island Creek of Otter River (Bedford County)
Buck Creek of Pedlar River (Albemarle > Amherst County)



Island Creek at Otter River
1771-1811 Land of
Lewis & Anne (Mills) Witt

**Elk Creek & Otter Branch
of Otter River,**
Lands of Ambrose Mills &
Thomas & Elizabeth (Mills) Learwood

Buck Branch & Pedlar River
Land of William & Mary Mills
& son Thomas Mills

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

24 MAY 1774

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Court orders. John Cooper, Plt^f against **James Chastain**, Def^t. In Debt.

The same, Plt^f, against **Ann Witt**, Admx &c of **Lewis Witt** Deceased, Def^t. In Debt.⁸⁷

NOVEMBER 1774

BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. "Guy Smith, Robert Cowan & Robert Alexander are appointed to lay off & allot to **Ann Witt**, Widow of **Lewis Witt**, her one third part of the said Estate."⁸⁸

24 JULY 1775

BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. "Collins vs. Smith. **Ann Witt** a Garn[nishee] being 1st Sworn saith she owes the Deft. nothing."⁸⁹

COMMENT:

Other garnishees are cited after Ann in this same court order, wherein Collins sought to recover the money Smith owed him by "garnisheeing" moneys that other individuals owed to Smith.

28 JULY 1777

BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. "Isham Talbot Gent. Appointed to lay off and allot to **Ann Witt**, Widow of **Lewis Witt** Decd. her part of the said Decedants Estate in the room of [as a replacement for] Robert Cowan who is removed out of this country."⁹⁰

15 FEBRUARY 1778

BEDFORD COUNTY

James Chastain to **Anne Witt**, both of Bedford, sale for £4, 15 acres on **Otter River**, being part of 150 acres which the said Chastain now lives on, Conveyed by deed to him from **George Walton**, situate on Otter River and bounded "by the lines of William Mead and Thomas Roberson, and a new line Concluded upon Between James Chastain and Ann Witt."

Acknowledged in court 23 March 1798 by James Chastain.⁹¹

⁸⁷ Bedford Co., Order Book 5-B, 1774: 336; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKH-73Z9-X> : accessed 1 June 2022) > IGN 008141118 > Item 3 > image 339 of 542.

⁸⁸ Bedford Co., Order Book 6, 1774–1792: 84; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSPG-PLLZ> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 008249423 > item 1 > image 55 of 462.

⁸⁹ Bedford Co., Order Book 6, 1774–1782: 99; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKH-73CT-S> : accessed 5 June 2026) > IGN 008141118 > item 4 > image 404 of 542.

⁹⁰ Bedford Co., Order Book 6, 1774–1792: 129; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSPG-PG8N> : accessed 5 June 2026) > IGN 008249423 > item 1 > image 79 of 462.

⁹¹ Bedford Co., Deed Book 6: 12; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQQ-V9MC-2> : accessed 5 June 2026) > IGN 007842541 > item 2 > image 339 of 557.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

24 FEBRUARY 1778

BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. "A Deed **Chasteen** to **Witt** ack^d & OR^d [acknowledged and ordered to be recorded]." ⁹²

27 JULY 1778

BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. "**Ann Witt**, all^d [allowed] £15 for the support of her & her family [for one] year in the absence of her son a soldier in the Service of the United States, which is ordered to be certified." ⁹³

COMMENT:

This, and the payment of 1779 below, would be an allowance from the county, not an allowance from her late husband's estate, which should already be settled.

Anne's son Jesse, born in May 1762, was barely 16 when he enlisted.

MAY 1779

BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. "On the motion of Mrs. **Ann Witt**, as she has a son in the Continental service, she is allowed £30.0.0 for the support of her & her family which is ordered to be certified to the Treasurer." ⁹⁴

JULY 1780

BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. "On the motion of **Ann Witt** her negroe fellow **London** is set Levy Free." ⁹⁵

COMMENT:

The 1760 tax roll of Prince Edward Co., on which Ann and Lewis Witt lived adjacent to his parents, taxed "Negro London" to Anne's sister, "Elisabeth Learewood," within the Witt family cluster. ⁹⁶ By 1780, the remarried Elisabeth had moved with her new husband, John Ripley, to South Carolina. ⁹⁷ They apparently transferred London to Ann before they left Bedford.

8 JULY 1780

BEDFORD COUNTY

Grant to **Ann Will [Witt]** for 230 acres on the *mouth of Island Creek* on the south side of **Otter River**, described as

⁹² Bedford Co., Order Book 6, 1774–1792: 142; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSPG-PL6K> : accessed 1 June 2021) > IGN 008249423 > item 1 > image 88 of 462.

⁹³ Bedford Co., Order Book 6, 1774–1782: 165; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKH-73CL-R> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 008141118 > item 4 > image 437 of 542.

⁹⁴ Bedford Co., Order Book 6, 1774–1772: 230; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKH-73CG-5> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 008141118 > item 4 > image 470 of 542.

⁹⁵ Bedford Co., Order Book 6, 1774–1772: 288; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKH-73CJ-P> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 008141118 > item 4 > image 499 of 542.

⁹⁶ "Prince Edward County (Va.) Tithables, 1750–1787," 10 June 1760, random sheets, by year; barcode 1204962, Local Government Records Collection; Library of Virginia.

⁹⁷ For an assembly of known documents for Elisabeth (Mills) Learwood Ripley, see "William Mills I (c1695–1755) of Goochland and Albemarle Counties, Virginia; Spouse Mary [–?–]: Research Notes," pp. 4–9; archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com/download/MillsWilliamMaryofGoochAlbemarle.pdf>).

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

beginning at mouth of said **Island Creek** thence up as it meanders to a corner hickory off South 30° E 100 poles to a hickory, S 86p to a hickory in **White's** line, thence along his line S 87 degrees E 20p to his corner white oak, [thence] N 87 E 94p to a red oak, [thence] N 40 E 194p to a red oak, [thence] N 40 East 128p to **Waltons Corner** white oak, thence along his line N 21 E 78p to a dogwood on **Otter River**, thence up the said river as it meanders to the first station.⁹⁸

1782

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Land Tax Roll

"W" section.

Walton, George by Smith

Wilson Joseph

Witt, Ann 5/6 200.15

White, George

Wilks, John

Witt, John [Sr.] 2/6 200.25 [son of Benjamin and brother of Lewis Witt]

Wade, Isaac

Wright, John "(Little Otter)"

White, Stephen⁹⁹

19 JULY 1782

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Personal Tax Roll. *"W" section:*

Witt, Ann 2 horses, 9 head cattle, 0 taxable slaves, 0 tithes

20 JUNE 1783

BEDFORD COUNTY

Jesse Witt to James Mitchell, both of Bedford Co., sale for £35, land on S side of **Otter River** containing 75 acres, described as:

Begining [*sic*] at the mouth of **Bear Branch**, then up same as it meanders to *Addams'* line, then along his line to the said Otter River, then down the same as it meanders to the first station.

[Signed:] Jesse Witt. No witnesses. Acknowledged by him in court same day.¹⁰⁰

COMMENT:

This is the tract that Lewis Witt purchased from George Walton on 26 March 1771. Jesse, as eldest son, at the time of Lewis' death would have inherited the tract under the law of primogeniture that colonial Virginia followed.

⁹⁸ Library of Virginia, "Land Office Grants," database with images, *Virginia Memory* (http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=589&last=&g_p=PA&collection=LO Grant : downloaded 14 June 2018), citing "Land Office Grants A, 1779–1780 (v.1 & 2 p.1–685), p. 589 (Reel 42)." The library's database misreads her name as Ann "Will."

⁹⁹ Bedford Co., Land Tax Book, 1782; Land Tax Books, Reel 32, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

¹⁰⁰ Bedford Co., Deed Book 7, 1780–1787: 216; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQN-T9CY-R> : accessed 5 June 2026) > IGN [not stated] > image 165 of 449.

OCTOBER 1783

BEDFORD COUNTY,

Court order. “Jesse Witt proved that he lost an auditors warrant for £24 & has entered into Bond Conditioned accord⁸ to law, which is ordered to be Certified.”¹⁰¹

1784

BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll

[Consecutive entries:]

George White |

Jacob White |

Joseph White |

John White |

[One of these Whites should be the father of the Elizabeth White who bore John Witt White in this year 1784]

Ann Witt

1 white tithe/ 0 blacks/ 1 horse &c/ 7 cattle

John Witt [Sr.]

1 white tithe/ 0 blacks/ 3 horses &c/ 6 cattle

John Wright

Joshua Wade

William Whitten

1 white tithe 0 blacks / 0 horses &c / 0 cattle

No certification date¹⁰²

COMMENT:

- This John Witt was Ann’s brother-in-law, not her son.
- William Whitten would, in 1789, be charged with “keeping Milly Witt” who was also charged with having a “bastard child.” Anne’s probate presented her daughter Milly as Whitten’s wife, implying that they eventually married.

28 JUNE 1784

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Bond. “Know all men by these Presents that we **Ann Witt** Admx of **Lewis Witt** decd. & **William Whitten** are held and firmly unto *John Cooper* in the Sum of Sixteen Pounds —Current money of Virginia to ~~him~~ in the which payment well and truly to be made to the said John Coper, we bind our selves and and each of our joint and several Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these presents sealed with our seals and dated this 28th day of June 1784.

“The Condition of the above Obligation is such that whereas the above bound **Ann Witt** hath obtained an Injunction to stay further proceedings on a Judgment obtained by the above named *John Cooper* against her in the County Court of Bedford until the matter thereof be recused[?] in Equity in the said Court. Now if the said **Ann Witt** shall satisfy and pay all such Damages and Costs as shall be awarded against ~~him~~ her in Case the Injunction aforesaid shall be dissolved, then the above Obligation

¹⁰¹ Bedford Co., Order Book 7, 1782–1783: 104; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSPG-PPM7> : accessed 4 June 2026) > IGN 008249423 > item 2 > image 61 of 67.

¹⁰² Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1784, pp. 39–40; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X96F-J> : 2 July 2022) > IGN 007846308 > item 1 > images 69–70 of 342.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

to be void. Otherwise to remain in full force and virtue. [Signed] Ann (W her mark) Witt; Wm (+ his mark) Whitton. Sealed & delivered in presence of J. Steptoe.”¹⁰³

29 JULY 1784

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Bond. “The CommonWealth of Virginia To the Sheriff of Bedford County, Greeting: We Command You that You attach *John Cooper* so that you have his body Before Our Justices of Our said County at the Court House On the fourth Monday in Next month to answer us as well of a Certain Contempt by him to us Offered as ~~upon~~ it is said as upon those things which shall then and there by Objected & ~~further~~ Against him & further to do and Receive what our said Court shall in this Part Consider and have then there this Writ. Witness *James Steptoe* Clerk of our said Court at the Court House aforesaid the 29th day of July 1784 in the Ninth Year of The CommonWealth. [Signed] Ja. Steptoe.”¹⁰⁴

1785

Franklin County is created from Bedford & Henry Counties
(the portion of Bedford lying between Staunton and Blackwater rivers)

1 NOVEMBER 1785

BEDFORD COUNTY

Charles Jones & Frances his Wife to *Thomas Lumpkin*, all of Bedford, sale of 106 acres for £100, bounded “by the Lands of Capt. John Otey, Mr. Holt & Wm Woody & being the same he purchased of said Woody.” Witnesses: **Jesse Witt**, James Bramblett, William Leftwich Jr., Isaac Otey. Acknowledged in court by Jones, 24 April 1786.¹⁰⁵

1786

BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll

William Whitton	1 tithable 21+ / 0 blacks/ 3 horses &c / 1 cattle
[skip 13 ‘W’ entries]	
Ann Witt	0/0/2/6
[skip 4 ‘W’ entries]	
John Witt [Sr.]	1/0/3/7 [brother-in-law of Anne]

¹⁰³ Petition of Ann Witt, admx. of Lewis Witt, through attorneys Innes & Camp, admitted to court 28 June 1784; in Witt vs. John Cooper, Bedford Chancery Records, 1785—011; imaged at Library of Virginia, *VirginiaMemory* (www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=019-17885-011 : accessed 14 May 2016).

¹⁰⁴ Witt vs. John Cooper, Bedford Chancery Records, 1785—011; imaged at Library of Virginia, *VirginiaMemory* (www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=019-17885-011 : accessed 14 May 2016).

¹⁰⁵ Bedford Co., Deed Book 7, 1780–1787: 612; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSYD-2QGH> : accessed 5 June 2026) > IGN 008358459 > item 2 > image 594 of 612.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

No certification date¹⁰⁶

31 MARCH 1786
BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. “Newman ads. Irvine’s Ex^r —**John Witt** alld. [allowed] 3 Days Att^{ce} [attendance].” Same for **John Overstreet**.¹⁰⁷

Court order. **Jesse Witt** served on jury.¹⁰⁸

6 MAY 1786
BEDFORD COUNTY

Jesse Witt and **Henry Brown Jr.** of Bedford post bond for Jesse to marry **Alice Brown**.¹⁰⁹

“To the Clerk of Bedford County ... I being of age intend marriage to **Jesse Witt**, certified by me, *Alcy Brown*, May 6th 1786. Teste: Henry Brown Jr., Samuel Brown.”¹¹⁰

COMMENT:

On 25 January 1772, Henry Brown Sr. filed with the court a statement of his marriage date to Alce Beard followed by a list of their children born up to that date, with birthdates. The list includes this line: “Alce Brown was Born September 9th 1764.”¹¹¹

26 JUNE 1786
BEDFORD COUNTY

“William Leftwich, Robert Clark, James Buford, and James Turner, Trustees of the Town of Liberty, to **Jesse Witt**, for £2 11 shillings, sell Lot no. 11 from the town plat. Peaceable possession given the same day. Acknowledged in court by the trustees on 26 June 1786.”¹¹²

1787
BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

¹⁰⁶ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1786, pp. 26–27; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X96D-P : 2 July 2022>) > IGN 007846308 > image 110 of 706.

¹⁰⁷ Bedford Co., Order Book 8, 1784–1786: 239; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSPG-PL8Q : accessed 1 July 2022>) > IGN 008249423 > item 3 > image 425 of 462.

¹⁰⁸ Bedford Co., Order Book 8, 1784–1786: 250; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSPG-PL5J : accessed 1 July 2022>) > IGN 008249423 > item 3 > image 151 of 182.

¹⁰⁹ Transcript dated 29 March 1843, filed by Alcy in her federal pension application as “Alice or Alcy” Witt, widow of Jesse (Pvt., Capt. George Lambert’s Co., 14th Va. Line, Revolutionary War), W6524; imaged at *Revolutionary War Pension Files*, “Fold3” (<https://www.fold3.com/image/2815082> and 54 subsequent images : 14 May 2018). For an 1843 transcript of the bond, see image 28158104.

¹¹⁰ Revolutionary War Pension Application, Jesse Witt’s widow “Alice or Alcy” (Private, Lambert’s Co., Lewis’ Regt., Virginia Line), W6524; imaged, “U.S., Revolutionary War Pensions, 1800–1900,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/28158104/witt-jesse-page-6-us-revolutionary-war-pensions-1800-1900> : accessed 12 April 2026).

¹¹¹ Bedford Co., Deed Book 4, 1771–1773: 455–56; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKN-1SJ6-N : accessed 5 June 2026>) > IGN 008151903 > image 314 of 357.

¹¹² Bedford Co., Deed Book 7, 1780–1787: 623–24; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSYD-2QRS : accessed 5 June 2026>) > IGN 008358459 > item 2 > images 599–600 of 661.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

Thomas Jones to **Jesse Witt**, sale of Lots 59 & 60 in town of Liberty. Witnesses: William McCulloch, J. H. Otey, Wm. Leftwich Junr., Samuel Mead. Proved in court 23 July 1787 with the oaths of witnesses Otey, Leftwich and Mead.¹¹³

APRIL 1787

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Court order. “**Jesse Witt**, a Pensioner came before the Court who examined him respecting his infirmness contracted in the Service of the United States and it is the Opinion of the Court that he be recommended as a Person still to be Intitled to the Annual Pension of £12, as formerly settled upon him.”¹¹⁴

1787

BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll

16 May **John Witt** [Sr.] 1 white tithes/0 blacks/4 horses &c/0 cattle

[illegible] **Anna Witt** 0 white tithes/0 blacks/0 horses &c/1 cattle

[skip 1]

William Whitten 0 white tithes/0 blacks /3 horses &c /4 cattle

No certification date¹¹⁵

OCTOBER 1787

BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. “Ordered that Col. William Fleming of Botetourt be requested to Examine **Jesse Witt** respecting his Infirmities contracted in the Service of the United States & report to his Excellency the Governor & Council his Opinion of his Infirm & whether he is still entitled to a Pension of £12 per annum.”¹¹⁶

1788

BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll: Henry Buford’s District

24 March **William Whitten** 1 white tithes/0 blacks/3 horses &c

26 March **John Witt** [Sr.] 1/0/3 [brother-in-law of Ann]

12 June **John Witt** 1/0/1 [son of Ann]

Ann Witt 3/1/2 [sons Robert, Roland, and Mills Witt = 3 tithes]

No certification date¹¹⁷

¹¹³ Bedford Co., Deed Book 7, 1780–1787: 742; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSYD-2Q2M> : accessed 5 June 2026) > IGN 008358459 > item 2 > image 659 of 661.

¹¹⁴ Bedford Co., VA, Order Book 9: 49.

¹¹⁵ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1787, p. 14; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X967-4> : 2 July 2022) > IGN 007846308 > item 1 > image 123 of 706.

¹¹⁶ Bedford Co., Order Book 9, 1786–1790: 105; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-V382-WSXG-N> : accessed 6 July 2022) > IGN 008704362 > item 1 > image 64 of 572.

¹¹⁷ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1788, pp. 11–12; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X964-R> : 2 July 2022) > IGN 007846308 > item 1 > images 139–41 of 706.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

COMMENT:

This is the first reference in Bedford to Anne's son John⁵ as an adult (tithable age 21 in early spring of 1788). It is also the **last reference found to his presence in Bedford**. By Spring 1791 he had established himself in Edgefield County, South Carolina, where he married one Kesiah Kilcrease.¹¹⁸ This last year of his residence in Bedford was the one in which Sarah Mills bore her "fatherless" son William Mills.

At the time of his decision to leave Bedford, John had both kith and kin in Edgefield to help him establish himself there:

- **Key.** John's father's sister, *Agnes Witt*, had been for nearly four decades the wife of John Key Jr. Her brother-in-law Henry Key made the move from Amherst County to Edgefield Co. SC in December 1773,¹¹⁹ purchasing land on **Turkey Creek** from the Kilcreases¹²⁰ into which John Witt would marry after his arrival there.
- **Ripley.** John's mother's sister *Elizabeth (Mills) Learwood Ripley* had moved to SC by 1772, but settled first in Laurens Co. Elizabeth and her husband John Ripley relocated to Edgefield between 1785 and 1790, settling on Beaverdam and Cyder branches of **Turkey Creek**.¹²¹

1789

BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll

16 March	John Witt [Sr.]	1 tithe (white or black) / 0 blacks 16+ / 3 horse, etc.
30 May	Ann Witt	2/1/4 [sons Robert and Roland]
No certification date ¹²²		

COMMENT:

This John Witt is John Sr., brother of the late Lewis, whose presence in Bedford has been continuous since the start of the tax rolls.

¹¹⁸ 1790 U.S. census, Edgefield County, SC, p. 510 (part C), col. 2, lines 19–23 for John Witt in the Kilcrease cluster. The 1790 census was not completed in South Carolina until well into 1791. The certifications attached to the Edgefield census show that the completed census was posted in two places in the county on 4 and 5 May 1791. Marriage records were not maintained in SC until 1911. The May 1791 census return is the first record found for John in Edgefield. He does not appear in court, land, or probate files—as a principal or an unindexed secondary party—until 20 December 1794, when he witnessed a deed for neighbors Robert and Ann Brooks, making his ± mark. See Edgefield Co., Deed Book 12: 100–2. (Brooks was 7 households from John Witt on the 1790 census.)

Also see Elaine M. Perryman, "Uncovering the Family of Kesiah: John Witt [John⁵] of Bedford County, Virginia & His Wife Kesiah Kilcrease of Edgefield County, South Carolina," *SC Magazine of Ancestral Research* 52 (Winter 2024): 9–24.

¹¹⁹ Amherst Co., Deed Book D: 113, Henry Key & wife Mary to [brother] Martin Key, land sale stating that Henry & Mary were about to move to South Carolina.

¹²⁰ Edgefield Co., SC, Deed Book 1: 58–62, will of Henry Key citing land purchased from *Nimrod Kilcrease* (patented to *Robert Kilcrease*) and land purchased from William *Holms*. The 1790 census places John Witt in that neighborhood, in the following sequence of families: William *Kilcrease*, **John Witt**, Elizabeth *Holms* [widow of William], Nathaniel Cockram, and Robert *Kilcrease*.

¹²¹ Laurens Co., SC, Deed Book A: 46, 208. Edgefield Co., Deed Books 9: 50, 57, 72–75, and 10: 347–48.

¹²² Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1789, Ben Rice's list, p. 11; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X967-6 : 2 July 2022>) > IGN 007846308 > item 1 > image 157 of 342.

APRIL 1789

BEDFORD COUNTY

Court Order. “**Jesse Witt** late a private in the 14th Virginia Regt.” exhibited in Court a Certificate of his being allowed the sum of Twelve pounds Annually as a pensioner from the first day of January one thousand seven hundred & eighty six and having made Oath thereto according to Law and the Court having compared the same with the List of Pensioners & finding it to be right, it is Ordered that the same be recorded & that the Sheriff pay the said Jesse Witt the sum of Thirty Six pounds, the Balance due to him in the three years past.”¹²³

25 MAY 1789

BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. “Commonwealth vs. **Milly Witt** — for having a Bastard Child — fined acc^g [according] to Law — Deft. [defendant] not app^g [appearing].”

“Same vs. **Wm. Whitton** for keeping **Milly Witt** — Dism^d [dismissed].”¹²⁴

COMMENT:

The subsequent settlement of Anne’s estate identifies Milly as the wife of Whitton. The same page has similar charges against the Witt neighbor Eliz. Pratt, living “in adultery” with Barna. Lyne. This same court session fined another another man for “not acquaint^g the Church Wardens of the parish of Russel of a Base born Child being born in his House within six months.”¹²⁵ Milly and Wm. Whitton were not fined for non-reporting within six months, suggesting that their child was less than six months old.

Re William Whitten:

- In 1778, Amherst County, William Whitten posted bond as adm. on the estate of his father **Jeremiah Whitten** of Amherst.¹²⁶ A 1765 land sale by **Robt. Whitten** places his and Jeremiah’s land “on both sides of Beavour Creek.”¹²⁷ In 1779 Jeremiah signed a petition with Anne (Mills) Witt’s brother **Jesse Mills** of Amherst, protesting taxation on “certain enumerated commodities.”¹²⁸ A 1788 road order places Jeremiah Whitten Jr. on the stretch of “*Thomas’s road* that leads to **Davis’s Ferry** at *Thomas Vaughn’s*.”¹²⁹

¹²³ Bedford Co., Order Book No. 9, 1786–1790: 255; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-J382-WSCR-T> : last accessed 24 May 2026) > IGN 008704362 > item 1 > image 139 of 572

¹²⁴ Bedford Co., Order Book 9, 1786–1790: 261; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-V382-WSFH-7> : last accessed 9 June 2026) > IGN 008704362 > image 142 of 572.

¹²⁵ Bedford Co., Order Book No. 9, 1786–1790: 259; Bedford Co. Reel 41, Library of Virginia. Under 19 April 1802 there appears another administration bond for William Whitten as administrator of estate of Jeremiah Whitten (Davis, *Wills of Amherst*, 390; citing Book 4: 345). However, the abstracted bond is not found on that page of the original will book.

¹²⁶ Amherst Co., Will Book No. 1, 1761–1780: 414–15; image Amherst microfilm reel 17, Library of Virginia (LoV).

¹²⁷ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807; and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 94; citing Amherst DB: 89.

¹²⁸ Jean Pickett Hall, “Legislative Petitions from Virginia Counties with Significant Record Losses: 1. Buckingham County,” *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 28 (May 1990): 87–114, specifically 91.

¹²⁹ Amherst Co., Court Order Book 1787–90: 276–77.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

- On 6 April 1796, “Wm. Whitten & wife **Sarah**” of Bedford County sold 136 acres on the N side of Otter River, adjoining lines of “Hog.” and “his own,” to Jeremiah Whitten Jr.¹³⁰ It appears that Milly Witt and William Whitten did not legalize their union until after 1796 (specifically, after Sarah’s death).

NOVEMBER 1789
BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. “A Report of a road from *Mrs. Pratts* to **Mrs. Witts’ Ford** on **Otter River**, thence across the River to **Thomas Lumpkin’s** from thence into the Road by *Richard Lee’s*. Retd & Established ans. to Report Ord that *Richard Deason* be app^d Surv of Sd Rd from Mrs. Pratts to **Jos. White’s** Old Place & with the List of Hands filed & *Roger Williams* appd. Sur of Sd Rd from Joseph Whites old Place to Otter River & the Hands as p[r] List filed.”¹³¹

COMMENT:

- On 14 June 1770 in Amherst Co., Anne (Mills) Witt’s brother Jesse Witt sold **Thomas Lumpkin**, then a resident of Amherst, a tract of 297 acres.¹³² In 1772, Lumpkin sold those 297 acres, lying on Rucker’s Run, to Lucas Powell.¹³³
- “Mrs. Pratt” was Mary, widow of James Pratt Sr. Her husband’s great-niece, a younger Elizabeth Pratt, born about 1790 in Bedford and bound out as a child to two masters who were neighbors of Anne (Mills) Witt, bore a pre-marital child in 1809 by Anne’s grandson Henry Witt (son of Jesse).¹³⁴ See Figure 4, below, for the Pratt-Witt neighborhood.

JANUARY 1790
BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Court order. “**Jesse Witt** [is] allowed £12.0.0 for his claim as a Pensioner which is ordered to be certified.”¹³⁵

¹³⁰ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807; and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 296; citing Amherst DB G: 533.

¹³¹ Bedford Co., Order Book No. 9, 1786–1790: 337–38; Bedford Co. Reel 41, Library of Virginia.

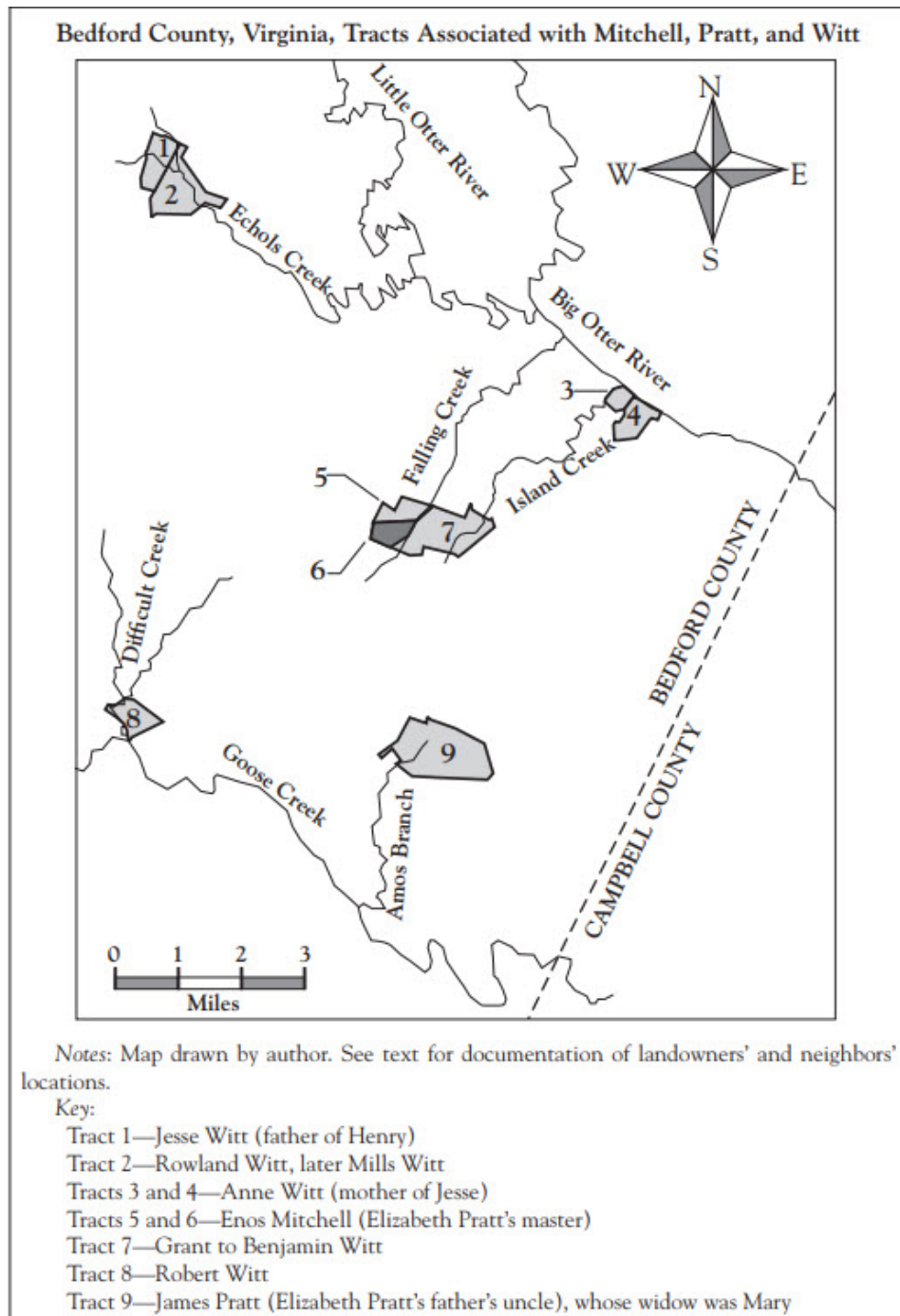
¹³² Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807; and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 127; citing Amherst Deed Book C: 178.

¹³³ Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807; and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 137; citing Amherst Deed Book C: 331.

¹³⁴ Warren Pratt, “Finding the Father of Henry Pratt of Southeastern Kentucky,” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 100 (June 2012): 85–103, particularly pp. 96–103. Pratt, who carries a Witt Y, matches the offspring of William Mills-Witt at a genetic distance (GD) 2; on the Big Y-700 test, the Y-STR differences between Pratt and Kit 54047, Clay Mills, are only 6 out of 579. Similar matches occur between Clay Mills and Edward Eugene Mills (both descendants of William Mills-Witt, with a GD 0 and 3 STR differences between them) and descendants of two other sons of Lewis and Ann Witt: Mark A. White (descendant of their son John Witt: GD 2, 4 STR differences out of 616) and “C.J.” (descendant of their son John Witt: GD 2, 5 STR differences out of 609). See “Match Report” for C Mills at *FamilyTreeDNA* (<https://www.familytreedna.com/my/ytDNA/matches/detail-view>) (1 May 2026; and “W(h)itt” DNA Results ([https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/w\(h\)itt/dna-results](https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/w(h)itt/dna-results)) : 1 May 2026).

¹³⁵ Bedford Co., Order Book 9: 342 Bedford Co. Reel 41, Library of Virginia.

Figure 4¹³⁶



¹³⁶ Pratt, "Finding the Father of Henry Pratt of Southeastern Kentucky," 101, fig. 2.

27 MARCH 1790

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Court order. “Ord: that the overseers of the Poor bind Edy Dabney Daughter of Rachel Dabney to Nicholas Mead acc^s to Law (memo. *Child said to be four years old*).”

“Ordered that the Order made at last ____ of Court Allow^s **Jesse Witt’s** Claim as a Pensioner be Quashed & that the Clerk be Ordered not to certify the same.”¹³⁷

COMMENT:

The Dabney note provides useful context for the legal situation of William Mills-Witt, born about two years before this in the portion of Bedford that split off into Franklin. The court order suggests the age considered appropriate for binding out a “fatherless” child.

24 MAY 1790

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Court order. Commonwealth vs. **William Whitton** Surv[eyor of] Rd. from Callaway’s Mill Creek to Coffee’s old Shop, fined accg to Law & C.¹³⁸

24 AUGUST 1790

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Court order. **William Whitton** served in jury in case of Boothe vs. Frith.¹³⁹

25 OCTOBER 1790

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Court order. “Ordered that Abner Early be appd Sur. Rd. [surveyor of road] in room of [in place of] **William Whitton** from Colo Callaway’s to Campbell’s Line with the usual Hands.”¹⁴⁰

“Ordered that *Isaac Wade, Enos Mitchell, Wm. Butler & James Austin* Surveyors of Roads do attend with their Hands who work under them & assist *Richard Dearen & Roger Williams* Surveyors of the Road from *Mrs. Pratts* to **Mrs. Witts ford** on the **Otter River** with the Hands allotted to them And It is Ordered that John Thompson be appd Surv. of the Road from **Witt’s ford** on Otter River, thro Lumpkins’s Land nearly along a path way to the road at *John Robert’s*, thence along Roberts’s Plantation into the Rd. leading to the main Rd. where *Archelaus Moon* formerly lived, now *Lee’s*, and their Hands who are allotted him to open the same.”¹⁴¹

COMMENT:

The November 1789 road order identified “Lee’s” line as “Richard Lee’s.”

OCTOBER 1790

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

¹³⁷ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 10, 1790–1795: 14; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 008141119 > image 428.

¹³⁸ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 10, 1790–1795: 16; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 008141119 > image 429.

¹³⁹ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 10, 1790–1795: 32; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 008141119 > image 437.

¹⁴⁰ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 10, 1790–1795: 43; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 008141119 > image 442.

¹⁴¹ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 10, 1790–1795: 44; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 008141119 > image 443.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

Court order. “Ordered that the Overseers of the Poor bind John Smith son of George Smith accd. to Law to **Jesse Witt**.”¹⁴²

1790

BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll

13 March	John Witt [Sr.]	1 tithe (white or black) / 0 blacks 16+/ 3 horse, etc.
24 April	William Whitten	1/0/0
9 July	Ann Witt	2/0/4 [sons Robert and Roland]
No certification date ¹⁴³		

18 AUGUST 1790

BEDFORD COUNTY

Marriage. “**Reece, Nancy & Robert Witt**; Isaac Wade surety on bond; M.R. in Canvas Bk.”¹⁴⁴

27 MARCH 1791

BEDFORD COUNTY

Jury duty. **William Whitton** serves again.¹⁴⁵

1791

BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll

27 March	William Whitton	1 tithe (white or black) / 0 blacks 16+/ 2 horse, etc.
29 May	Jesse Witt	0/0/1
10 July	John Witt [Sr.]	1/0/4 [brother of the late Lewis]
11 July	Ann Witt	2/0/3 [sons Roland and Mills]
No certification date ¹⁴⁶		

27 DECEMBER 1791

BEDFORD COUNTY

Elijah Turner to **Robert Witt**, sale for £8 133 acres “on Dificle” [**Difficult Creek**] and **Goose Creek**, described as:

Begining [*sic*] at *Milton’s* corner dogwood on the bank, the E side of Goos[e] Creek, then along his line N 62 E 194 poles to *Robert’s* corner pointers, formerly a red oak, thence by a new line N 52.25 W 206p to *Gilliams* “ded” red Oake corner, then along his line S 84 W 48p to *Turner’s* corner white oak, then a new line SW 116p crossing “Diffult” Creek to a maple on the bank, the W side, then due

¹⁴² Bedford Co., Order Book 9: 342.

¹⁴³ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1790: 14–15; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X96S-6 : 2 July 2022>) > IGN 007846308 > item 1 > image 181 of 342.

¹⁴⁴ Bedford Co., General Index to Marriage Bonds, Wives A-Z, 1754–1870: 5; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9BK-RQ99-4 : accessed 8 June 2026>) > IGN 007725159 > item 2 > image 218 of 294.

¹⁴⁵ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 1790–1795: 141; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 491.

¹⁴⁶ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1791: 21–22; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X9FC-L : 2 July 2022>) > IGN 007846308 > item 1 > images 232–33 of 706.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

W 26p to a white [oak]? on *Holland's* line, then along his line S 6 E 62p to his corner red oak on the bank at the E side of Goose Creek, then along the said creek as it meanders to the first station.

Acknowledged in court 26 [sic] December 1791.¹⁴⁷

COMMENT:

For the location of Robert's land on Difficult Creek and Goose Creek, see Figure 4.

1792

BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll: Mathew Pate's District

27 Mar	William Whitton	1 tithe (white or black) / 0 blacks 16+ / 2 horses, etc.
29 May	Jesse Witt	0/0/1
10 July	John Witt [Sr.]	1/0/4
11 July	Ann Witt	2/0/3

No date of certification.¹⁴⁸

22 OCTOBER 1792

BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. "A Deed. Boothe & ux [& wife] to **Whitton** – Ackd. & O.R^d. Tomsey the wife [of Booth] relinq^d. &c."¹⁴⁹

27 NOVEMBER 1792

BEDFORD COUNTY

William Whitton served again on the jury.¹⁵⁰

22 JULY 1793

BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. "Ordered that the Overseers of the Poor bind Ann White & **John Witt White**, children of *Elizabeth White*, to James Rather according to Law."¹⁵¹

COMMENT:

The presence of two given names for the child John is not common in this society. In most cases in which I have seen these in the court minutes of Amherst and Bedford, it has been instances in which a child was born out of wedlock but the child's father was known. The child's legal surname would be that of the mother, while the father's surname was tacked onto the given name.

¹⁴⁷ Bedford Co., Deed Book 9, 1791–1795: 10–11; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSYD-L37L-G> : accessed 5 June 2026) > IGN 008358460 > item 2 > image 15 of 301.

¹⁴⁸ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1793: 21–22; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X9FC-L> : 2 July 2022) > IGN 007846308 > item 1 > images 232–33 of 342.

¹⁴⁹ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 1790–1795: 183; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKH-79CC-6> : accessed 5 June 2026) > digital film 008141119 > image 531 of 625.

¹⁵⁰ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 1790–1795: 189; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 534.

¹⁵¹ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 1790–1795: 246; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 563.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

This court order suggests that one Witt male *is* fathering children without marrying the mother.

Note under 27 March 1790, above, the court order binding out a fatherless child at age four. If this was the common practice in Bedford, then John Witt White would have been born about 1789—the time frame in which John⁵, Lewis⁴) Witt left the county and the state. However, the 1850 census of Wilson Co., TN, where John Witt White settled as an adult, gives his age as 66. This is the only known record supplying an age for him. While census ages have a high rate of inaccuracy, if this one is correct then he would have been born about 1784. John⁵ Witt, son of Lewis and Anne, would have been about 18 at that time.¹⁵²

25 MARCH 1793
BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

William Whitton served again on the jury.¹⁵³

23 MAY 1793
BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll

23 May	John Witt [Sr.]	1 tithe (white or black) / 0 blacks 16+ / 3 horses, etc.
28 May	Ann Witt	1/0/1
31 July	Jesse Witt	1/1/1
	Robert Witt	1/0/0
	[skip 5]	
	Roland Witt	1/0/1

Certified 11 February 1794.¹⁵⁴

2 JUNE 1793
BEDFORD COUNTY

Charles Lynch & Robert Cowan, Attorneys for Thomas Pleasants & Co. of Goochland County, to Michael Graham of Bedford, for £193 2 shillings, 6 pence sell 309 acres on S side of **Little Otter**, formerly the property of George Walton, surveyed 19 February 1787, described as

Beginning at *Smith's* corner white oak, then along his lines N 37° E 150 poles to a small dogwood, then N 5 W 46p to a branch (it being Smith's line) then down the same as it meanders to Little Otter, then down the same as it meanders to *Hilton's* line, on said River, and then along Hilton's line S 8p to his corner hicory S 31 E 118p to pointers & then a dividing line S 31 W 308p to *Mead's* corner hicory, then along Mead's line S 75 W 112 p to pointers S 45 W 45 p to a white oak, and then N 75 W 132p to the first station.

¹⁵² 1850 U.S. census, Wilson Co., TN, population schedule, Civil District No. 7, p. 407 (stamped), dwelling 1278, family 1278. See also Mark White, "White Family Tree," user-contributed tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/19725932/person/260167106180/facts> : accessed 9 June 2026), "John Whitt White" fact sheet.

¹⁵³ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 1790–1795: 211; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 545.

¹⁵⁴ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1793: 23–24; imaged, *Ancestry* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X9FQ-P:2_July_2022) > IGN 007846308 > item 1 > image 256 of 706.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

Witnesses: Isaac Otey, **Jesse Witt**, John Trigg. Proved 26 February 1793 by the oaths of the three witnesses.¹⁵⁵

COMMENT:

The fact that Jesse Witt is said to have proved this deed by *oath* implies (as did his RW service) that he was not a practicing Quaker. However: (1) his brothers Robert and Rowland would, in 1810–11, prove two deeds by *solemn affirmation*; and Jesse's pension affidavit in 1823 carried his own "solemn affirmation."

Robert Cowan, the agent in the above sale, was the bondsman when Jesse Witt's cousin George Key married Sukey Craghead in 1785.¹⁵⁶ In April 1796, Franklin Co., Robert Cowan and John Pratt owned land adjacent to a tract granted to Sukey's father John Craghead and the latter's nephew Thomas Camp (uncle of Drucilla who married William Mills-Witt).¹⁵⁷

26 AUGUST 1793

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

William Whitton again serves on jury.¹⁵⁸

23 SEPTEMBER 1793

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Court order. "**Whitton** vs. Allen & al – Dismd. at the debt. Allen & Samuel Best's Costs."¹⁵⁹

23 DECEMBER 1793

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Court orders. "John Nichols [to be] Surveyor of the Road from James Eckhols's to the Cross Roads at **William Whittons** with the list of hands filed.

"Robert Dollar [to be] Surv^r Rd from the forks of the Road at **Goose Creek** Meadows to the Cross road at **William Whitton's** with the List of hands filed."¹⁶⁰

23 DECEMBER 1793

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Court orders. "John Nichols [to be] Surveyor of the Road from James Eckhols's to the Cross Roads at **William Whittons** with the list of hands filed.

"Robert Dollar [to be] Surv^r Rd from the forks of the Road at Goose Creek Meadows to the Cross road at **William Whitton's** with the List of hands filed."¹⁶¹

¹⁵⁵ Bedford Co., Deed Book 9, 1791–1795: 183; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-2J5R> : accessed 28 May 2026) > IGN 007846225 > item 2 > image 408 of 534.

¹⁵⁶ Bedford Co., "Processioners Book 1796–1812 and Marriage Returns, 1785–1811," p. 216 for the marriage date. Hinshaw, *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, 6: 897, gives 22 August 1785 as the date of the bond. Rev. Shrewsbury's profile at *Geni* (<https://www.geni.com/people/Nathaniel-Shrewsbury/6000000001737719037> : 30 June 2026) identifies him as a Baptist minister and a Revolutionary Patriot by standards of the Daughter of the American Revolution.

¹⁵⁷ Virginia Land Office Grants Book 33, 1795–1796, p. 593; microfilm reel 99, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

¹⁵⁸ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 1790–1795: 251; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 565.

¹⁵⁹ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 1790–1795: 264; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 572.

¹⁶⁰ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 1790–1795: 280; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 580.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

26 AUGUST 1794

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Wm Whitton again serves on jury.¹⁶²

1795

BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll

29 Mar	John Witt	1 tithe (white or black) / 0 blacks 16+ / 3 horse, etc.
11 Apr	William Whitton	1/0/2
	Jesse Witt	1/1/1
16 May	Robert Witt	1/0/2
26 May	Mills Witt	1/0/2

[Ann Witt: No entry]

No certification date¹⁶³

31 MARCH 1796

BEDFORD COUNTY

John Witt served on jury.¹⁶⁴

1796

BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll

23 Apr	John Witt [Sr.]	2 tithes (white or black) / 1 blacks 16+ / 3 horse, etc.
26 Apr	William Whitton	1/0/3
	Jesse Witt	1/1/1
17 June	Robert Witt	1/0/1
26 May	Mills Witt	1/0/2

[Ann Witt: No entry]

No certification date¹⁶⁵

1797

BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll

24 April	Jesse Witt	2 tithe (white or black) / 2 blacks 16+ / 1 horse, etc.
12 May	Robert Witt	1/0/1 horse, etc.

¹⁶¹ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 1790–1795: 280; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > image 580.

¹⁶² Bedford Co., Court Order Book 1790–1795: 327–28; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008141119 > images 603–4.

¹⁶³ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1795: 23; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X9XY-S> : 3 July 2022 > IGN 7867308 > item 1 > image 322 of 706.

¹⁶⁴ Bedford Co. Circuit Court Order Book 11, 1795–1799: 78; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-V382-478> : accessed 5 June 2026) > IGN 008704362 > item 3 > image 434 of 572.

¹⁶⁵ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1795: 28; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X9FM-T> : accessed 2 July 2022) IGN 007846308 > item 1 > images 340–41 of 706

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

1 June	Mills Witt	1/0/1
3 June	John Witt	1/0/3

[Ann Witt: No entry]

Certification of license list for 1797 on 26 November 1798¹⁶⁶

25 APRIL 1797

BEDFORD COUNTY

Mills Witt married *Bethani Creasey*.¹⁶⁷

24 JULY 1797

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Jesse Witt to Dudley Gatewood, £4, sale of Lot 11 on map of Town of Liberty. No witnesses.

Acknowledged same day by Jesse in county court.¹⁶⁸

25 JULY 1797

BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. "**Else Witt** wife of **Jesse Witt** came into Court & relinq^d her right of Dower to a Lot No. 11 Sold by **Jesse Witt** her husband to Dudley Gatewood, which is Ordered to be recorded."¹⁶⁹

1798

BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll: Matthew Pate's District

26 Mar **Robert Witt** **1** tithe (white or black) / **0** blacks 16+ / **2** horse, etc.
[skip 2]

John Witt

2/1/3 horse, etc.

26 July	Jeremiah Wade	1/0/2
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Mills Witt

1/0/1

[Ann Witt: No entry]

Certification date not given.¹⁷⁰

1799

BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll

¹⁶⁶ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1797: 30–31; imaged, *Ancestry* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X9X5-5> : 2 July 2022) > IGN 007846308 > item 1 > image 371 of 706.

¹⁶⁷ “Virginia, County Marriage Records, 1771–1789,” database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6ZHQ-S9WL> : accessed 6 June 2026).

¹⁶⁸ Bedford Co., Deed Book 10, 1795–1798: 329; imaged, *Ancestry* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X6CQ> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 007846226 > item 2 > image 274 of 378.

¹⁶⁹ Bedford Co., Order Book No. 9, 1795–99: 194; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4H-8QHS>; accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 007893735 > item 1 > image 105 of 578.

¹⁷⁰ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1798: 33, 36; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X9X2-6> : 2 July 2022) > IGN 007846308 > item 1 > images 403–4 of 706.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

25 Mar **John Witt** | 1 tithe (white or black) / 0 blacks 16+ / 3 horses, etc.
 Robert Witt | [adjacent] 1/0/2 horse, etc.
25 April **Jesse Witt** 2/2/2
 [Ann Witt: No entry]
No certification date.¹⁷¹

22 SEPTEMBER 1800
BEDFORD COUNTY

William Stone and wife Nancy of Bedford to **Rowland Witt** of **Campbell County**, sale for £100, 110 acres on waters of **Little Otter Creek** in Bedford, described as:

Begining at *Read's* corner white oak in *Woods'* line, along Woods line N 73° W 176 poles to a white oak on a branch, then along *Donald's* line S 73 W 66p to a white oak, then a new line S 21 E 102p to a white oak, then S 50 E 30p to pointers, then N 65 E 200p to the beginning.

Acknowledged same day in court by Stone & wife.¹⁷²

COMMENT:

Rowland has been missing from the personal property and tithe rolls of Bedford since 1793, having wed Sally Duvall of Campbell County on 31 January 1793.¹⁷³

22 JUNE 1801
BEDFORD COUNTY

Roland Witt and wife **Sally** to Thomas Lowry, all of Bedford, for £150, sale of 110 acres Witt purchased of William Stone, in Bedford County, described as

Begining at *Read's* corner white oak in *Woods* line, along Woods' line N 73° W 176 poles to a white oak on a branch, then along *Donald's line* S 73 W 66p to a white oak, then new lines S 21 E 102p to a white Oak, then S 50 E 30p to pointers, then N 65 E 200p to the beginning.

Acknowledged same day in court by Roland and Sally.¹⁷⁴

26 AUGUST 1801
BEDFORD COUNTY

John Witt served on jury. ... "By Consent, **John Witt** a Juror withdrawn if a new jury ordered & cont^d."¹⁷⁵

1801
BEDFORD COUNTY

¹⁷¹ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1799: 37–38; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X9XF-9> : 2 July 2022) > IGN 007846308 > item 1 > images 102–3 of 364.

¹⁷² Bedford Co., Deed Book 11, 1799–1805: 249–50; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSYD-LQZM-X> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 008358461 > item 1 > images 136–37 of 735.

¹⁷³ "Virginia Marriages, 1785–1940," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XRWH-YLY>), citing "Campbell, Virginia, United States, volumes 1-3."

¹⁷⁴ Bedford Co. Deed Book 11, 1799–1806: 379–80; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSYD-LQCB-4> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 008358461 > item 1 > images 218–19 of 735.

¹⁷⁵ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 12, 1799–1803: 195; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-V382-WSC2-8> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 008704363 > item 2 > image 146 of 451

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

Personal Property Tax Roll

20 Apr	Mills Witt	1 tithe /0 blacks over 12 /2 horses &c
22 Apr	Robert Witt	1/0/3
	George Welch	
	Jesse Witt	2/0/2
25 May	John Witt	3/2/3
	Ben Witt	1/0/2

[Ann Witt: No entry]

No certification date¹⁷⁶

22 FEBRUARY 1802

BEDFORD COUNTY

“Nathan Hale to **Robert Witt**, both of Bedford, for £35, sale of 40 acres on *Difficult Creek*, bounded as follows:

Beginning at a corner white oak on *Mead's* patent line, then S 11° W 116 poles to a maple, then due W 26p to a white oak on *Holland's* line, then on sd. line N 16 W 38p to a white oak, then N 45 W 46p to a corner white oak on *Curles* line, then N 52 W 24.5p to a white oak, then N 27 E 29p to a white oak, then S 64 E 31p to a white oak, then S 87 E 42.5p to a white oak, then N 57 E 32p to the first station.

Acknowledged by Hale, same day in court/¹⁷⁷

1803

BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll

12 March	John Witt	1 wh tithable 16+ / 0 blacks 12+ / 0 blacks 16+ / 3 horses, etc.
31 March	Jesse Witt	1/0/0/3
3 May	Mills Witt	1/0/0/3
	Rowland Witt	1/0/0/2
	Robert Witt	1/0/0/4
20 May	Benjamin Witt	1/0/0/1

[Ann Witt: No entry]

No certification date¹⁷⁸

28 MAY 1804

BEDFORD COUNTY

Processioning report for Capt. James Quarles Company presented to court by James Quarles and Joshua Early Junr.; ordered to be recorded. Includes:

¹⁷⁶ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1801: 26–27; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X9XX-6> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 007846308 > item 2 > image 508 of 706.

¹⁷⁷ Bedford Co., Circuit Court Deed Book 11, 1799–1806: 530; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQN-T9RP-5> : accessed 5 June 2026) > IGN 007846227 > image 290 of 547.

¹⁷⁸ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1803: 21–22; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X9X7-1> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 007846308 > item 2 > image 571 of 706.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

10 March **Jessey Witt** & Joshua Early, present: Jessey Witt & John A. Antony
Jesse Witt & _____, present: Jessey Witt & John A. Antony
Thomas Lumpkin & **Jesse Witt**: present Jessey Witt & John A. Antony
Gabrill Minor & **Jesse Witt**: present: John A. Antony & Jesse Witt

COMMENT:

These four entries document the processioning of all 4 sides of Jesse's property.

MAY 1804

BEDFORD COUNTY

Jesse Witt served on jury.¹⁷⁹

1 OCTOBER 1804

BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll

"I hereby certify that the foregoing List of taxable property in the Southern District of the County for the Year 1804 is a true Copy from the original Vouchers. Given under my hand this 1st day of October 1804. James Steptoe, C.B.C."

26 Mar	John Witt Senr. William Wlson Thomas West Obediah West Thomas Woodford Robert Witt William Whitton William Watts [skip 13]	1 wh tithable 16+/ 0 blacks 12+/ 0 blacks 16+/ 2 horses, etc. 1/0/0/4 1/0/0/4	
23 April	Thomas Williams John Witt, Junr. George Wilson Joseph White Rowland Witt Mills Witt George West Anthony Wright John Walden William Weeks Benjamin Witt Asa Wilson William J. Walker [skip 11]	1/0/0/0 1/0/0/2 1/0/0/1 1	[Son of John Senr.] [Son of John Senr.]

¹⁷⁹ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 13, 1803–1806: 106; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-J382-WSW5-5> : accessed 4 June 2026) > IGN 008704363 > item 3 > image 300 of 451.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

19 July John Watson Senr.
John Witt (Buckingham) 1/0/0/2 [resident of Buckingham, owning land in Bedford]
[**Jesse Witt**: not listed]
No date of completion.¹⁸⁰

NOVEMBER 1804
BEDFORD COUNTY

Robert Witt served on jury.¹⁸¹

25 JANUARY 1805
BEDFORD COUNTY

Robert Witt (x) and **Nancy** (x) his wife to William Harden, all of Bedford County, for \$158, sale of 30 acres in Bedford County described as

Beginning at *Melton's* corner red oak and pointers on **Goos[e] Creek**, then on *Melton's* line, N 63° E 200 poles to *Melton's* and *Roberts'* corner pointers, then on *Robert's* line N 52 W 26.5p to a stake, then S 63 W 192p to a white oak at Goos Creek by the mouth of a small branch, then down Goos Creek as it mayanders [*sic*] to the first station.

Witnesses: Joel Lewis, Thos. Creasey. Acknowledged by Robert and Nancy in court, 26 February 1805.¹⁸²

25 FEBRUARY 1805
BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. "A Deed. **Witt** & ux to Hardin —ckd. & OR^d. **Nancy** the wife ret'd. &c."¹⁸³

29 MARCH 1805
BEDFORD COUNTY

Robt. Witt served on jury.¹⁸⁴

1805
BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll

25 March John Witt	2 wh tithable 16+/ 0 blacks 12+/ 0 blacks 16+/ 2 horses, etc.
Jesse Witt	2/0/0/3
Robert Witt	1/0/0/4

[skip 11]

¹⁸⁰ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1804: 65–71; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X96B-S> : 2 July 2022) > IGN 007846308 > item 2 > images 672–775 of 706.

¹⁸¹ Bedford Co., County Court Order Book 13, 1803–1806: 159; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-V382-WS84-X> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 008704363 > item 3 > image 326 of 451.

¹⁸² Bedford Co., Deed Book 11, 1799–1806: 1178–79; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQN-Y9HX> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 007846228 > item 1 > image 88 of 466.

¹⁸³ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 13, 1803–19-6: 170; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-V382-WSZJ-J> : accessed 4 June 2026) > IGN 008704363 > item 3 > image 332 of 451.

¹⁸⁴ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 13, 1803–19-6: 188; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-J382-WS71-K> : accessed 4 June 2026) > IGN 008704363 > item 3 > image 341 of 451.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

10 May **John Witt (Buckingham)** 1/0/0/4
Finalized 12 March 1806¹⁸⁵

7 APRIL 1808
BEDFORD COUNTY

“In Obedience to the appointment of the Court of Bedford, we have prosessioned the *East side* of *Falling Creek* to *Leftwich’s road*, and along that road to *Blackwater road* in *Capt. Jabez Leftwich’s* bounds, beginning between Henry Bagwell & Thomas Tucker [skip 10 boundary lines, then:]

- Roger Williams and **Ann Witt**, no one present;
- **Ann Witt** & Colo. James Callaway, **Milles Witt** present;
- between **Ann Witt** & Joseph White, Joel Crumpecker present”¹⁸⁶

1 MARCH 1810
BEDFORD COUNTY
Personal Property Tax Roll

Benjaⁿ	Witt	1 wh tithable 16+/ 0 blacks 12+/ 0 blacks 16+/1 horses, etc.
[skip 6]		
John	Witt	1/0/0/1
[skip 4]		
Jesse	Witt	0/1/0/3
[skip 1]		
Rowland	Witt	1/0/0/2
[skip 56]		
John B.	Witt	1/1/0/3
[skip 11]		
George	Witt?	1/0/0/4
[skip 15]		
Mills	Witt	1/0/0/3

[Dated 1 March 1810 on p. 1]¹⁸⁷

JUNE 1810
BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. “Ordered that **Anne Witt** be allowed one dollar for timber used on road by Richd Roberts Senr.”¹⁸⁸

¹⁸⁵ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1805: 66–67; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-X96L-T> : 2 July 2022) > IGN 007846308 > item 2 > image 673 of 706.

¹⁸⁶ Bedford Co. “Processioners Book 1796–1812: 189–90; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9XF-HC16> : accessed 4 June 2026) > IGN 007578830 > item 1 > image 102 of 199.

¹⁸⁷ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1810: 60–68; imaged, *Ancestry* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-LF36> : 2 July 2022) > IGN 007846309 > item 2 > images 233–35 of 733.

¹⁸⁸ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 15, 1808–1811: 236; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-V382-WS8G-Y> : accessed 24 May 2026) > IGN 008704364 > item 2 > image 331 of 433.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

1 MARCH 1811

BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll

Ben	Witt	1 wh tithable 16+/ 0 blacks 12+/ 0 blacks 16+/2 horses, etc.
Jack R	Witt	1/0/0/1
William	Weeks	
Roland	Witt	2/0/0/2
Mills	Witt	1/0/0/3
[skip 21]		
Jesse	Witt	
[skip 37]		
John	B Witt [sic]	1/1/1/3
George	White	
Jeffery	Wade	
John	Witt	1/0/0/2
John B	Wills	
John	Winacock?	
Thomas	Wood	
Justinian	Wills	
Joseph	White	
Little B	White	
Milly	Wood	
John B	Wood	
Uriah	White	
Jack	Witt	1/0/0/0
Isaac	Wade Sr.	
Isaac	Wade Jr.	
Joseph	Wright	
Reubin	West	
Robert	Woodcock	
Thomas	White	

[Dated 1 March 1811 on first page]¹⁸⁹

23 FEBRUARY 1811

BEDFORD COUNTY

Anne Witt to John Wood, both of Bedford County, sale for \$200, 70 acres described as follows:

Beginning on Otter River at the ***mouth of Island Branch***, then up said branch as it meanders to the first large fork, then up the W fork as it meanders [to?] Callaway's lines, then along his line to Island Creek, then down the said Creek as it meanders to Otter River, then down said river as it meanders to the beginning.

¹⁸⁹ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax Roll, 1810: 39–40; imaged, *Ancestry* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-LF36> : 2 July 2022) > IGN 007846309 > item 2 > images 280–81 of 733.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

Witnesses: **Henry Brown, Rowland Witt**. Proved in court 25 November [year illegible] by the [oath] of Henry Brown and the *solemn affirmation of Joel Crumpacker & Rowland Witt* subscribing witnesses. Ordered to be recorded.¹⁹⁰

COMMENT:

The wording seems to say that both Crumpacker and Rowland Witt made a solemn affirmation. It might be that the scribe forgot to revert back to oath after citing Crumpacker and before citing Witt. However, on 25 September 1811, Rowland's brother Mills Witt made his "solemn affirmation" to prove the validity of a deed. The attribution of that statement to both brothers suggest that they both were Quakers. Note that Jesse Mills in his pension affidavit of 30 August 1832 also made his solemn affirmation, rather than swearing an oath.

MAY 1811

BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. "Ordered that **Rowland Witt** be appointed surveyor of the road from Burks ford to *Richd Lees* with the usual hands."¹⁹¹

25 SEPTEMBER 1811

BEDFORD COUNTY

James Penn and wife Peggy of Campbell County to **Rowland Witt** of Bedford, sale for £400, 400 acres in Bedford "bounded by the lands of William Walker, **Jesse Witt**, James Peters & others it being the whole of the tract or parcel of land conveyed from John A. Anthony to James C. Anthony & from James C. Anthony unto the same James Penn." Witnesses: Henry Brown, **Mills Witt**, Saml. Mitchell, Pleasant Hazlewood. Proved 28 October 1811 by oaths of Henry Brown and Samuel Mitchell and by the "*solemn affirmation of Mills Witt*."¹⁹²

9 DECEMBER 1811

BEDFORD COUNTY

The widow **Anne Witt** made her will. The recorded copy, made when the will was probated on 28 October 1816, names seven living children: **Mills, Jesse, John, Rowland, Robert, "Agnes,"** and **Milly**—also a deceased daughter "**Betsy Calvert**" who had left five children.¹⁹³ Anne's executor ("son Jesse Witt") sold the land on 23 December 1816. Witnesses: Henry Brown, Joel Crumpacker, George White. Executors: son Jesse Witt, friend Henry Adams.¹⁹⁴

22 FEBRUARY 1812

BEDFORD COUNTY

¹⁹⁰ Bedford Co., Deed Book 13, 1809–1813: 580; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSYD-139P-J> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 008358462 > item 2 > image 329 of 475.

¹⁹¹ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 15: 358.

¹⁹² Bedford Co., Deed Book 13, 1809–1813: 631–32; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQN-Y8W2> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 007846229 > item 1 > image 126 of 514.

¹⁹³ Bedford Co., Will Book 4: 276–77; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9P6-285J> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 007645310 > item 3 > images 361–62 of 408.

¹⁹⁴ Bedford Co., Will Book 4, 1811–1817: 287; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9P6-2DVX> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 007645310 > item 3 > image 367 of 408.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

Rowland Witt (s) and wife **Sally** (x) to **Mills Witt**, sale for £400, a tract of 400 acres on **Little Otter** bounded by the lines of William J. Walker, James Peatross, **Jesse Witt** & others (“it being the same tract of Land lately conveyed to the said Rowland Witt by James Penn & his wife Peggy”). Witnesses: Henry Brown, Cunl.? Mitchell, Wm. Creasey Jr. Proved in court 24 February 1822 by oaths of Henry Brown, Saml. Mitchell, Wm. Crecey Jr.¹⁹⁵

APRIL 1812

BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. “Ordered that John Garrat be app^d surveyor of the road from Burks ford to Richard Lee’s in the room of **Rowland Witt**, with the usual hands.”¹⁹⁶

1813

BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property Tax Roll

“W”

[skip 9]

John R. **Witt** [“**Jack**” in 1811] 1 wh tithable 16+/ 0 blacks 12+/ 0 blacks 16+/2 horses, etc.

[skip 12]

John **Witt** “(Son of Jn)” 1/0/0/0

[skip 13]

Benjamin **Witt** 1/1/0/1 1 Gigg \$70

Roland **Witt** 2/0/0/2

[skip 2]

Jesse **Witt** 0/1/0/3

Archibald Wade

William **Whitten** [Pr? Jr?] 1/3/0/3

Abner **Whitten** [Pr? Jr?]

[skip 7]

John **Witt** [Pr? Jr?] 1/0/0/2

[skip 26]

Mills **Witt** 1/0/0/3

William **Wills**

[skip 14]

John B. **Witt** 1/1/1/4

[skip 5]

Jacob **White (Staunton)** 1/0/0/2 [i.e., living on Staunton River]

[skip 17 to end of “W” list] No certification/completion date¹⁹⁷

¹⁹⁵ Bedford Co., Deed Book 15, 1808–1811: 335; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-V382-WS8B-3> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 008704364 > item 2 > image 382 of 433

¹⁹⁶ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 16, 1811–1814: 55; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-98CS> : accessed 2 June 2026) > IGN 008190024 > item 3 > image 438 of 595.

¹⁹⁷ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax List 1813: 70–76; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQN-XFQX> : accessed 25 May 2026) > IGN 007846309 > item 2 > images 388–92 of 733.

NOVEMBER 1813
BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. “On the motion of **Jesse Witt**, it is ordered that it be certified to the Executive of this state that the s^d **Jesse Witt** who is on the list of Pensioners is yet alive.”¹⁹⁸

MARCH 1814
BEDFORD COUNTY

Personal Property 1815 Recapitulation. List of David W. Quarles.

25 March	John R. Witt	1 wh male 16+ / 0 slaves 9-12 / 0 slaves 12+ / 0 stud horses / 0 covering mares / 1 head cattle ... 21¢
27 March	Mills Witt Benjamin Wright	2/0/0/3/0/0/5 ... 78¢
7 April	Jesse Witt	1/0/1/3/0/0/10 ... \$1.73
21 April	Roland Witt	2/0/0/3/0/0/8 ... 87¢
22 May	John B. Witt	1/0/2/3/0/0/9 ... \$2.50 ¹⁹⁹

COMMENT:

Others on list were taxed on bureaus, chest of drawers, secretaries, and bedsteads—for which the Witts were not taxed.

26 SEPTEMBER 1814
BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. “**Bathaniah Witt**, wife of **Mills Witt** came into Court & voluntarily relinquished her right of Dower in 37½ acres of Land sold by her husband to Wm. J. Walker.”²⁰⁰

SEPTEMBER 1814
BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. “**Rowland Witt** came into court & exhibited satisfactory evidence of his having bec^m [become] prior to 1 June 1812 a bonafide purchaser and had a deed to a certain tract of land returned delinquent in the name of James C. Anthony ... took the oath prescribed by law. Judgement is given in his favour exonerating the sd land so claimed by him from all the arrears of taxes & damages due to the date of such purchase, the attorney for the Commonwealth being present.”²⁰¹

OCTOBER 1814
BEDFORD COUNTY

¹⁹⁸ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 16, 1811–1815: 228; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-J382-49F7>; accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 008704365 > item 1 > image 129 of 528.

¹⁹⁹ Bedford Co., Personal Property Tax List 1814, “W” section; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-LVC8>; accessed 28 May 2026) > IGN 007846309 > item 4 > images 530–32 of 733.

²⁰⁰ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 16, 1811–1815: 325; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-98M4>; accessed 28 May 2026) > IGN 008190024 > item 3 > image 574 of 595.

²⁰¹ Bedford Co., Court Order Book 16, 1811–1815: 328; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-98M4>; accessed 28 May 2026) > IGN 008190024 > item 3 > image 575 of 595.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

Court order. “**Rowland Witt** came into court & exhibited satisfactory evidence of his having been prior to the 1st June 1812 a bonafide purchaser & had a deed to 109 acres of land, part of a tract of 240 acres return^d delinquent in the name of Abner Earley for the years 1804 & 1807–1809 ... Judgement given in his favour.”²⁰²

28–30 OCTOBER 1816
BEDFORD COUNTY

Will of **Anne Witt** proved 28 October 1816. Inventory & appraisement, 30 October 1816, by Roger Williams, **Henry Brown**, George White. Returned to court 23 December 1816.²⁰³

23 DECEMBER 1816
BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. “An Inv^y &c of the Est. of **Anne Witt** Decd’, Ret’d & OR^d.”²⁰⁴

23 DECEMBER 1816
BEDFORD COUNTY

Jesse Witt, executor of **Anne Witt**, to Benjamin Wright. Sale of 186 acres on S side of Otter River at **head of Island Creek & Big Otter**, described as

Beginning at a stone in an old field (formerly a post oak) thence along *Roger Williams’* line S 37° W 128.5 poles to his corner red oak, then along *White’s* line to *White’s* corner on said line, passing said corner and along his line S 85.75 W 93.5p to his corner white oak, then along **Creasy’s** line N 87.25 W 21p to pointers along *Caloway’s* line, then N ¼ W 80p to pointers on the **head of Island branch** then down said branch as it meanders N 45 E 18p & S 82.25 E 18p & N 27 E 48p & N 1 W 28p & N 39 E 80p to big Otter River, then down said River as it meanders S 59 E 89.5p & S 65 E ___p & S 55 E 51p to an Elm, then along Williams’s line S 24.5 W 45p to white oak, then N 67.5 W 36.5p crossing a branch & road to the first station.

Acknowledged in court by Jesse on 23 December 1816.²⁰⁵

28 OCTOBER 1817
BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Thomas Holt, attorney in fact for Amelia Davis, late Amelia Holt, daughter of David Holt of Chesterfield, Dec’d; Philip Barbour, son of Ann Barbour, late Ann Holt, daughter of David Holt aforesaid; and Samuel D. Rice, son of Jane Rice, late Jane Holt, daughter of said David Holt Decd., of the one part, to **Jesse Witt** of the other part. Whereas David Holt died in possession of 1100 acres granted to him by patent dated 2 August 1771 in Bedford County, surveyed by William Callaway at 1280 acres—out of which land Holt

²⁰² Bedford Co., Court Order Book 16, 1811–1815: 336; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-98WC>) : accessed 28 May 2026) > item 3 > image 579 of 595.

²⁰³ Bedford Co., Will Book 4: 276–77, 287; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9P6-285H>) : accessed 28 May 2018) > IGN 007645310 > images 362 and 367 of 408.

²⁰⁴ Bedford Co., Order Book 17, 1815–1820: 303; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C373-C8MT>) : accessed 4 June 2026) > IGN 008572320 > item 1 > image 178 of 437.

²⁰⁵ Bedford Co., Deed Book 15, 1816–1819: 132–33; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-792M-R>) : 1 June 2021) > IGN 007846230 > item 2 > image 226 of 553.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

sold Ambrose White 200 acres, which White sold to **Jesse Witt**—Holt's heirs now make a title to Witt. Acknowledged in court, same day.²⁰⁶

Report of settlement of Estate of Anne Witt. Her land has been sold: 186 acres on *Big Otter River* at the head of *Island Creek*. Distribution of proceeds to **Jesse Witt, John Witt, Rowland Witt, Robert Witt** of Kentucky (via his attorney), **Milly Whitton**, "**Elizabeth Calvert's children**" (two are named: *Robert* and *Polly*), and "**Agatha Lavender's children**."²⁰⁷

SEPTEMBER 1818
BEDFORD COUNTY

"**Jesse Witt** of Lawful age personally appeared in court & made solemn oath that *Jacob Wade* of the county of Bedford was in the continental service of the United States during the Revolutionary War, that he belonged to Ca. **George Lambeth's** Company of the 14th Virginia Regt, that he thinks Wade served 12 months in said Service, that to the best of his knowledge & belief said Wade was regularly Honorably discharged, and that from his reduced circumstances he thinks he needs the assistance of his country for support."²⁰⁸

18 SEPTEMBER 1818
BEDFORD COUNTY

Pleasant M. Goggins and wife Polly to **Rowland Witt**, all of Bedford, sale for \$3765, 151 acres on **S Fork** of **Little Otter**, described as

Beginning at the mouth of Same at **Jeremiah Whitton's** corner stump and pointers, then along his line ___ degrees E 189 poles to pointers, then along *David Saunders'* line S 53 E 164p to pointers, then still in Saunderses line S 31 W 30.5 p to a white oak stump and pointers, then on Saunderses line S 35.75 E 93p to a large white oak and double chesnut pointers in a hedge row, then new line the old plantation S 65.75 W 175 p to a persimmon tree, then N ___ W 164 p to the first station.

No witnesses. Acknowledged in court same day by Goggins and wife "*Mary*."²⁰⁹

25 JANUARY 1819
BEDFORD COUNTY

Rowland Witt and wife **Sarah** of Bedford Co. to **Henry Brown** of same, for \$1308, sale of land on N side of **Otter River** "being the tract of Land whereon the said Rowland Witt lately lived" containing 109 acres described as:

Beginning at a Spanish oak on Burks Road, it being *Cobb's* Corner, then along his S 38° W 126 poles to his corner red oak, then S 65 W 24p to his corner pointers, then S 28 W 64p to his corner mulberry on Otter River, then down the river S 65 E 86p to a red oak and mulberry on the said

²⁰⁶ Bedford Co., Deed Book 15, 1816–1819: 289; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-79KP-P> : accessed 1 June 2021) > IGN 007846230 > item 2 > image 331 of 553.

²⁰⁷ Bedford Co., Probate Records, Book 5: 195–97

²⁰⁸ Bedford Co., Common Law Order Book 2, 1817–1821: 97; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSPG-2QSV-X> : accessed 4 June 2026) > IGN 008249391 > item 1 > image 61 of 466.

²⁰⁹ Bedford Co., Deed Book 15, 1816–1819: 452–53; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSYD-1WVK-C> : accessed 2 July 2022) > FS digital film 008358463 > item 2 > image 543 of 633.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

Brown's own line, then along his lines N 33 E 232p to pointers on the said Road, then along the road at N 45 W 25p and N 59 W 56p to the first station.

Acknowledged in court by Rowland and Sarah on 22 February 1819.²¹⁰

MARCH 1820
BEDFORD COUNTY

Court order. "Ordered that Joseph Flood, Thomas Lumpkin, and Littleberry Leftwich do settle the account current of the estate of **Ann Witt** with the exor & make report to court."²¹¹

3 JUNE 1820
BEDFORD COUNTY

Mr. Jesse Witt, Exr. of **Ann Witt** Deceased in account Current with the Estate of the said Ann.

"To Amount of Sale of 186 acres of Land lying on Otter River sold pursuant to the Testator's Will

to Benjamin Wright at \$11 pr acre payable [credit terms through 1819]

\$2044.00

"Cash ...

164

\$2210.19

"Estate to be divided as pr Will, Viz

1/7 to Agatha Lavender

1/7 to Milly Whitton

1/7 to Jesse Witt

1/7 to John Witt

1/7 to Elizabeth Calvert's five Children

1/7 to Rowland Witt

1/7 to Robert Witt

\$2088.82

"To Ballance to Jesse Witt as pr contra

\$297.00

"To Ballance to Wm Lavender's children which 1/8 part of

Agatha Lavender's share of the estate as pr contra

37.12

"To Ballance of Polly Calvert as pr contra

36.88

"To Ballance to Three of Elizabeth Calvert's children as pr ditto

178.14

To Error in calculation on making division of Estate

10.00

\$559.14

Expenditures included:

11 Jan 1817 Services for 3 commissions for selling accounts ... Colo^o Littlebury Leftwich

Joseph Flood & **Thomas Lumpkin**,

6.00

30 Sept 1818 Paid **Robert Witt** by his attorney Aaron Campbell

2210.19

6 Oct 1818 Paid **Nancy Lavender, John W. Lavender, Bird Lavender & Dosha Lavender**,
children of **Agatha Lavender** by their attorney **Charles Lavender**

148.12

²¹⁰ Bedford Co., Deed Book 15, 1816–1819: 533–34; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-792F-5> : accessed 2 July 2022) > FS digital film 007846230 > item 2 > image 487 of 553.

²¹¹ Bedford Co., Order Book 17, 1815–1820: 760; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C373-CZBW> : accessed 2 July 2022) > FS digital film 008572320 > item 1 > image 410 of 623.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

	Paid Charles Lavender , son of ditto by his attorney Charles Lavender	37.03
22 Mar 1817	Paid Robert Calvert , son [of] Elizabeth Calvert	22.50
	Paid ditto pr his attorney John Deardoff , as pr power of attorney	36.88
3 April 1817	Paid Polly Calvert , daughter of Elizabeth Calvert , by Robert Calvert	22.50
23 Dec 1816	Paid Milly Whitton by her husband Wm Whitton	67.00
26 May 1817	Ditto	40.00
23 June 1817	Ditto	5
25 Aug 1818	Ditto	104. (297.00)
24 May 1819	Ditto	31. ??
10 Oct 1816	Paid Roland Witt	16.00
21 June 1817	Ditto	96.00
27 Nov 1817	Ditto	7.00
Sep 1818	Ditto	97.00
29 Mar 1820	Ditto	85.00 (301.00)
20 Oct 1818	Paid John Witt by his attorney Chas Lavender pr power of attorney	296.27
	Paid Pleasant Crews & wife Elizabeth , dtr of Lavender , by attorney Charles Lavender , as per power of attorney	37.03
	By Balance to Jesse Witt	197.00
	By Ballance to Wm Lavender's children, which is 1/8 part of Agatha Lavender's share of estate	37.12
	By Ballance to Polly Calvert	36.88
	By Ballance to Three of Elizabeth Colvert's Children	178.14
		\$2090.25

Returned to Court & ordered to be recorded, 26 June 1820²¹²

26 JUNE 1820?

BEDFORD COUNTY

"Account of Sales of **Ann Witt** Deceased Estate

John Hewitt	1 bed	Bond out	29.25
George Nowell	1 ditto		12.00
George White	pewter		7.00
	Earthern Ware &c		1.00
	2 Books		1.25
Rowland Witt	1 chest		1.00
John Hewitt	1 Small Oven		.85
			5.25
Rowland Wheels	Oven &c		1.01
			54.36

26 June 1820?, returned to court and ordered to be recorded.²¹³

²¹² Bedford Co., Will Book 5, 1817–1823: 196–97; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-99P6-2DHC> : accessed 2 July 2022) > IGN 007645311 > item 1 > image 119 of 511.

²¹³ Bedford Co., Will Book 5, 1817–1823: 195; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-99P6-2DHC> : accessed June 201) > IGN 007645311 > item 1 > image 118 of 511.

c1821

BEDFORD COUNTY

Biography of Reverend “Jeremiah Bell Jeter ... born near Otterville, Bedford County, July 18, 1802. ... He was converted at the age of nineteen and began preaching soon after. For several years he and a co-worker, **Daniel Witt**, labored as missionaries in the then undeveloped counties of Southwest Virginia. The work was hard and there was no salary attached, but the Baptist Church is largely indebted to these two men for laying the foundation of a work which has grown to its present large proportions.

“Both of these young men felt very deeply their lack of preparation for the ministry and when an older preacher became interested in them and offered to secure means for educating them, they were greatly disappointed that the older brethren of the church felt that the need for ministers was so great that these two boys could not be spared to take time for further study.”²¹⁴

9 JULY 1834

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Revolutionary War Pension Application of **Jesse Witt**’s widow “**Alice or Alcy**” W.6524²¹⁵

—
“Brief in the case of Jesse Witt”

Enlisted 1 March 1777 for 2 years, 6 months, 10 days, as a resident of Bedford Co.. Private under **Capt. Geo. Lambert**, 14th Regmt. Va Line. Col. Lewis, Major Buford, Gen. Weiden & Gen. Washington.” Engaged in battles of Brandywine & Germantown. Provided no statement by living witnesses, documentary proof, traditionary evidence, incidental evidence, or rolls. “He says he recd. a pension from being on the pension rolls of Virginia, for a number of years.”²¹⁶

28 November 1783

“This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 28th day of November 1783, in the name of **Jesse Witt**, as a Soldier of the Infantry, for £48.14.2, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to Mr. Lumkin and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782. Given under my hand at the Auditors Office, Richmond, this 28th day of May 1844. p318.”²¹⁷

25 March 1823

“Personally appeared Jesse Witt who on his solemn **affirmation** declares that he is the same person who enlisted in the company commanded by Capt. George Lambert, served in the same company afterwards under the command of Capt. Thomas Holt, in the 14th Virginia Regiment commanded by Colo. Lewis,

²¹⁴ Lula Jeter Parker, *The History of Bedford County, Virginia*, Bicentennial Edition, 1765–1954 (Bedford: Bedford Democrat, 1954), 129–30; imaged at *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/historyofbedford00park/page/2/mode/2up> : accessed 17 March 2019).

²¹⁵ Revolutionary War Pension Application, Jesse Witt’s widow “Alice or Alcy” (Private, Lambert’s Co., Lewis’ Regt., Virginia Line), W 6524; imaged, “U.S., Revolutionary War Pensions, 1800–1900,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/28158082/witt-jesse-page-1-us-revolutionary-war-pensions-1800-1900> : accessed 12 April 2026).

²¹⁶ *Ibid.*, page 4, image 28158100.

²¹⁷ *Ibid.*, page 23, image 28158163.

then by Colo. Davis & afterwards by Colo. Parker in the services of the United States, that his name was placed on the pension roll of the State of Virginia but that he has never received a formal certificate and now wishes to obtain one. **Affirmed** and subscribed to before me the day and year aforesaid.²¹⁸

7 April 1823

“**Jesse Witt**, private in the Army of the U.S., inscribed on the roll of the Virginia Agency at the rate of \$3.32 increased to \$5.32/3 by the Law of the 24 April 1816, to take effect from the passage of the act. Formal Certificate issued 7 April 1823 and sent to J. Leftwich, Esqr., Liberty, Va.”²¹⁹

30 August 1832

“Personally appeared before the County Court of .. Bedford ... **Jesse Witt** a resident of the County ... aged according to his belief **seventy years** on the **11th day of May** last past, who being first duly **affirmed** according to law, doth on his **affirmation** make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832,

- that he enlisted in the army of the United States on the first day of March 1777 under Capt. George Lambert and served in the 14th Regiment of the Virginia line under the following named officers, to wit: Col^o Lewis, who commanded the Regiment in the first instance and Abraham Buford who was the Major of the same, George Lambert the Captain, **Moon** the 1st Lieutenant, **Roberts** the 2nd Lieutenant, and **Mead**, the Ensign of the Company in which the applicant enlisted.
- He resided in the said County of Bedford in the aforesaid State at the time of his enlistment and marched from the said County on the 25th of March 1777 with his company, which was joined by the companies at Fredericksburg,
- The route was subsequently through Alexandria, Georgetown, and Baltimore to the main Army under General Washington, then lying at Middlebrook in New Jersey. Upon joining the army the 14th Regiment was part of the brigade under General Weider? in the first instance.
- He continued in the service under the immediate command of General Washington during the whole subsequent period of his service and was in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown in the Course of the last mentioned year.
- After the battle of Germantown (but at what particular period or in whatever he cannot remember) Col. Davis & Col. Parker Commanded the regiment and Genl. Muhlenburg the Brigade to which he belonged.
- The army to which he was attached went into Winter quarters at Valley Forge and in the Spring of 1778 crossed the Delaware River and pursued the British Army through New Jersey to Monmouth and thence they marched to the White Plains in New York and afterwards to West Point.
- At the latter place he was Compelled by sickness to quit the field & was sent to a hospital. His company quartered that winter (as he understood), at Middlebrook in New Jersey, at which place he joined it in the month of May 1779 but his infirmities and disability were such that he was shortly afterwards sent back to the Hospital and did not join his company again til shortly before his discharge.

²¹⁸ Ibid., page 37, image 28158214.

²¹⁹ Ibid., page 19, image 28158150.

On the 10th of September in the year 1779 in the high lands of New York, he received his discharge, which was signed by Col. Parker & Genl. Muhlenburg.

- He enlisted for the term of three years and after serving as will be seen from the foregoing dates more than two years, was discharged in consequence of disability incurred in the performance of his duty. This discharge given him by Col. Parker & Genl. Muhlenburg bore testimony to the fidelity with which he has served his Country and recommended him to the Legislature of Virginia as deserving the attention and assistance of the Government.
- This discharge he shortly afterwards placed in the hands of the delegates representing his county in the General Assembly and was in consequence thereof placed on the invalid pension list and drew for many years half pay or forty dollars per year, which was subsequently increased to sixty four dollars per year. The discharge above mentioned he has never seen since he sent it to Richmond and supposed it may be filed and preserved in the archives of the State.
- He hereby relinquishes his every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present & he declares that his name is not in the pension roll of any agency in any state except in the State of Virginia
- **Affirmed** and subscribed the day and year above before Saml. Hancock, J.P. [Signed] Jesse Witt.”²²⁰

20 November 1832

Certificate of Pension “sent to R. C. Mitchell, Liberty, Va.” Jesse Witt of Bedford County was “a Private in the Comp^y commanded by Captain Lambert of the Regt. commanded by Col. Lewis in the Virginia Line, 2 ½ years from 1777.” Inscribed on roll at rate of 80 Dollars per annum to begin 4 March 1831.²²¹

25 March 1843

“Mrs. Alice Witt (formerly Alice Brown)” (X), a resident of Bedford County, aged 79 years, widow of Jesse Witt deceased, appeared before Frederick Annspaugh, J.P. to make the following declaration: “She is the widow of Jesse Witt deceased who was a Revolutionary Soldier and Pensioner and who died on the 3^d day of February 1842; she has frequently heard her husband, the said Jesse Witt, before his death, speak of his services during the War of the Revolution, but she cannot speak definitely concerning them and would refer to the Evidence upon which he established his claim, that after his death she drew the amount due him, at the time of his death, and gave up his original certificate, that **she was married to** the said Jesse Witt in the County above named **in the year 1788 by Parson Holt**, that she has not intermarried since the death of her above mentioned dec^d husband.”

“I furthermore certify that Mrs. Witt, the above named Widow of Jesse Witt deceased, is a Lady of high respectability and that his declaration is entitled to full Credit, that from her age &c it would be inconvenient for her to attend Court. [Signed] Fredk. Annspaugh, J.P.”²²²

11 September 1843

“Personally appeared before William Terry, a justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, **Alice Witt**, a resident of the County and State aforesaid, **aged 80 years**, who being first duly

²²⁰ Ibid., pages 12–14, images 28158125, 28158128, 28158131.

²²¹ Ibid., page 2, image 28158090.

²²² Ibid., page 8, image 28158110.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

sworn according to Law, doth on **her Oath** make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed on the 3d March 1843, granting pensions to widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary War.

“That she is the widow of **Jessee Witt** decd, who was a private in the War of the Revolution, as regards his services, she can say nothing definite, refers to the evidence upon which he established his claim, that she has need [of] five years pension at the rate of Eighty dollars per annum under the Act of July 7th 1838. She further declares she is still a Widow. [Signed] Alice (her X mark) Witt.”

“I furthermore certify that I am personally acquainted with Mrs. Witt, Widow of Jesse Witt decd., that she is a Lady of high respectability and that her declaration is entitled to full credit. Given under my hand this 11th day of September 1843. William Perry, J.P.”²²³

3 April 1844

Certificate of Pension “sent to W. T. Barret, Richmond, Va.” Inscribed on roll at \$80 per annum to begin 4 March 1843.²²⁴

28 May 1844

“This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the *28th day of November 1783*, in the name of **Jesse Witt**, as a Soldier of the Infantry, for £48.14.2, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to Mr. Lumkin and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782. Given under my hand at the Auditors Office, Richmond, this 28th day of May 1844. p318.”²²⁵

23 March 1846

Evidence presented to Bedford Co. Clerk of Court that “Mrs. Alice Witt,” a pensioner of the United States and resident of Bedford County “died on the 9th day of July 1844 in said county [leaving] the following named children then living Viz: **Lettice Witt, Elizabeth Witt, Daniel Witt, Alice Witt, Milly Witt**, and **Jesse Witt** [and] that Jesses Witt has become the administrator de bonis non of her will.”²²⁶

25 October 1846

Application for pension by **Jesse Witt, Son** and Admin of Mrs. Alice Witt, widow of Jesse Witt, a pensioner under Act of 7 June 1832.

The claimant asks the pension under Act 15 May 1828, the said Jesse Witt having served to the end of the War in the Va. Continental line.

²²³ Ibid., page 29, image 28158185.

²²⁴ Ibid., page 3, image 28158093.

²²⁵ Ibid., page 23, image 28158163.

²²⁶ Ibid., page 7, image 28158107.

Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774)
Anne Mills (c1732–1816)

“The Applicant is a pious man, a preacher & has the entire confidence of his brothers & sisters, whose interest would be promoted by issuing the pension certificate (if one is allowed) in his own name as admin. I am yr. ob^t sev^t [obedient servant] Thomas Green.”²²⁷

11 November 1846

To Thomas Green, Esq., Richmond, Va., from Pension Office. “Sir. Your letter of the 10th inst. covering a transcript of Jesse Witts account by Commissioner Dunscomb has been received and filed. It appears from that paper that Witt was in service to the conclusion of the War, but no evidence has been produced to identify him with the soldier of the 14th Va. Regiment, late a pensioner under the act of 7 June 1832. If, however, their identity should be established, as he is not returned with these who were entitled to bounty land, it is very clear that he did not enlist for, and during the war, and consequently could have no claim under the act of 15 May 1828.”²²⁸

7 July 1903

Letter of Mrs. Anna F. Cole, Berwyn, MD, to Commissioner of Pensions, Washington, D.C.: Requests a statement showing “military history of my great-grandfather Jesse Witt, soldier of the American Revolution ... also Statement of his son **Bergess Witt**, who received pension in **McMinn Co., Tennessee**.”²²⁹

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I am happy to share this file, as a PDF, with anyone who can use it. If you wish to extract a portion of it into your own notes or correspondence, please place quotation marks around any material you extract and credit it as follows:

Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Lewis Witt (c1734–c1774) of Bedford County, Virginia & Spouse Ann Mills: Research Notes,” a working file updated 28 August 2026, p. ____; archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the “Research” tab.

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²²⁷ Ibid., page 24, image 28158166.

²²⁸ Ibid., page 33, image 28158199.

²²⁹ Ibid., page 47, image 28158254.