

# James Mills (bef. 1750–c1823–24)

Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]

## Research Notes

### James Mills Family Summary:

Born: before 1750,<sup>1</sup> allegedly Ireland or Scotland (no evidence provided by online trees)<sup>2</sup>  
Married: by 1767 or by 1773  
Spouse: Unknown but widely alleged (without evidence) to be Octavia Breckinridge.<sup>3</sup>  
Occupation: Farmer  
Died: last taxed in 1822; allegedly died 24 April 1824, Franklin County, Va.<sup>4</sup>  
Military: None found  
Residences: Bedford Co., Va., 1782–86  
Franklin Co. (cut from Bedford & Henry, 1786), 1786–1822

### CHILDREN OF JAMES MILLS:

1. **WILLIAM MILLS**, b. c1774–75; first appears on Franklin Co. tax roll of 1796; married 1796 (bond dated 29 March), **Elizabeth Abshire**;<sup>5</sup> children Burrell W., Hiram, George, Leona, Elizabeth “Betsy,” Katherine (m. Rucker), Patsy, and James Otey. Grandson William A. B. Mills. Lived on Elliott’s Creek.<sup>6</sup>
2. **ARTHUR MILLS**, b. c1776–77; first appears on Franklin Co. tax roll of 1798; posted marriage bond 19 August 1800 to wed **Nancy West**.<sup>7</sup>
3. **JAMES MILLS JR.**, b. c1778; first appears on Franklin Co. tax roll of 1799; last taxed 1805; marriage bond posted 5 May 1799, to marry **Nancy Frame**, apparent daughter of “Happy” Frame.<sup>8</sup>
4. [A 10-year gap in children. The tax rolls of 1799–1804 suggest the presence of a male who was born c1783.]
5. **GEORGE MILLS**, b. c1789; first appears on Franklin Co. tax roll of 1810. Appears to have been carried as an extra male 16+ in James Sr.’s household from 1805–9.

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<sup>1</sup> Extrapolated from the age of first provable child, William, b. c1774–75.

<sup>2</sup> For example see bootiekeys, “DNA Connection for Lang Family,” user-contributed tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/108329254/person/280085653012/facts> : accessed 13 May 2018), James Mills “Facts” page,

Given that James was in Bedford by 1782, owning no land, I am investigating a possible connection to John Mills Jr. of Augusta and Botetourt who was an absentee owner of Bedford after 1782 until he sold the land in 1786. For work done to date, see the following reports posted at my website *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the “Research” tab:

- “Augusta County & the Virginia Frontier, Mills & Watts: Initial Survey of Published Literature, report, 8 February 2019.
- “Mills: Bedford County, Virginia: Extended Survey of Resources,” report, 28 August 2018.
- “Mills & Associates: Montgomery & Fincastle Counties, Virginia: Preliminary Survey,” report, 28 August 2018 (updated 24 June 2019).

<sup>3</sup> For example see bootiekeys, “DNA Connection for Lang Family.”

<sup>4</sup> For example see bootiekeys, “DNA Connection for Lang Family.”

<sup>5</sup> “Franklin County, Virginia, Marriage Bond Index, 1786–1858,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 April 2018), citing Marshall Wingfield, *Marriage Bonds of Franklin County, Virginia* (Memphis: West Tennessee Historical Society, 1939), 162.

<sup>6</sup> Franklin Co., Will Book 5:455, 551; Deed Book 17:45–46; 20:125.

<sup>7</sup> “Franklin County, Virginia, Marriage Bond Index, 1786–1858,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 April 2018), citing Marshall Wingfield, *Marriage Bonds of Franklin County, Virginia* (Memphis: West Tennessee Historical Society, 1939), 161.

<sup>8</sup> “Franklin County, Virginia, Marriage Bond Index, 1786–1858,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 April 2018), citing Marshall Wingfield, *Marriage Bonds of Franklin County, Virginia* (Memphis: West Tennessee Historical Society, 1939), 161. The marriage bond does not name Nancy’s parents. For the probable identity of her birth family, see the research notes dated August 1787 and September 1788, herein.

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**

**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

#### BACKGROUND:

In reassembling the life and children of James Mills, I am attempting to determine whether a kinship exists between him and a younger William Mills who lived contemporaneously in Franklin and gave the name “James H. Mills” to his first-born son. Key facts about this William Mills are<sup>9</sup>

- His parents are unknown. Male line descendants carry a Witt “Y,” common to descendants of a John Witt who settled Virginia in the 1600s.
- William was born about 1784–85, judging from his first appearance on the 1806 Franklin tax roll as an adult responsible for paying his own taxes (theoretically, age 21).
- William appears intermittently on the Franklin rolls from 1806 through 1820. Only one roll in this time frame places him in the same tax district as James Mills and his family of Maggoty and Elliott Creeks. (William returned to the county in 1830, after an inheritance from his father-in-law.)
- William’s first appearances on the tax roll couple him with three families rooted in Bedford: Samuel McCarrell (grandson of John Ferguson of Bedford), Thomas Musgrove, and the family of Booker Mullins.
- William married 1815, Drucilla Kemp, daughter of Robert Kemp by his first wife Millie Edmondson. That association placed him on the Black Water River, the earlier dividing line between Bedford and Henry. Through that marriage, William was associated with the Kemp (aka Camp). family formerly of Henry, and the Standifers and Maddox families formerly of Bedford (Maddox being the family of Drucilla’s stepmother Sarah, daughter of Nathan Maddox).
- At least two of William’s sons, in young adulthood, are later taxed in close proximity with James’s Mills offspring: Samuel E. and William B.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

**1748–83**

**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Tax rolls.

#### COMMENT:

This set of rolls, for Bedford’s parent county, includes no James Mills,<sup>10</sup> although the name appears in Lunenburg court records of 1751, 1753, and 1756, as noted below.

**1754–81**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Context.

Whether James Mills was a native of Bedford or whether he moved there at the close of the war remains unknown. Four earlier men named Mills have been found in Bedford, all tied first to Lunenburg.

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<sup>9</sup> For extensive details on his life, with documentation of each point, see E. S. Mills, “William Mills (b. c1785–88; d. c1863); Spouse: Drucilla Kemp: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>10</sup> Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 135–38.

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**

**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

1. **James Mills**, randomly cited in Lunenburg court records of 1751, 1753, and 1756. These references cannot be attached to James of Bedford and Franklin. Indeed, they appear considerably early for him.<sup>11</sup> The name *James* is relatively uncommon among Millses of eighteenth-century Virginia. He may be the James Mills whose importation was reported to the Orange County court on 23 July 1741, together with John Newport and Thomas Brown.<sup>12</sup> The whereabouts of this Lunenburg James after 1756 are unknown.
2. **John Mills Sr.**, who first appeared in Lunenburg Co. in 1749 in company with **William Mills** (see no. 3 below), Edmund Smith (wife Ann and son Henry), William Hays, John Beard, and Robert Ewing, Esq. When Bedford was cut away in 1754, John Mills and Ewing fell into Bedford. His Bedford activities involved (1753 and 1764) Alexander and William **Sayers** of Augusta Co. In 1769, he sold his Bedford land, identifying himself as a resident of Augusta Co—apparently the part of Augusta that became Botetourt, where his probate was opened in 1782.<sup>13</sup> His offspring appear to be William (who predeceased him), Hugh, Blaney, and John Jr.<sup>14</sup>
3. **William Mills**, a close associate and likely son of John Mills Sr., below. He appears to be the William Mills who moved to Clark's Creek of Anson County in the 1760s, with Hugh and Blaney Mills. William died in Anson; Hugh returned to Botetourt; and Blaney remained in the Carolinas.<sup>15</sup>
4. **John Mills Jr.**, who married in Botetourt in 1772, Martha "Patty" Ewing (daughter of Robert Ewing of Bedford). He bought Bedford land in 1777, appears on Bedford's personal tax roll in 1782 but not thereafter. As Capt. John Mills he heads a 1783 roll of Botetourt militia. In 1786, as stated residents of Botetourt, John and Patty sold the land he had left behind in Bedford. His activities are detailed and documented in the previously cited research reports for Augusta, Bedford, and Botetourt.

Four activities have been found for the name "James Mills" prior to the emergence of the Bedford James on the 1782 personal tax roll:

**23 JULY 1741**

**ORANGE COUNTY, VA**

Importation.

"John Newport John Crawford **James Mills** & Thomas Brown ... were immediately imported into this Colony from Great Britain."<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> E. S. Mills, "Mills: Southside Virginia: Initial Survey of Published Resources for Brunswick, Goochland, and Counties Cut from Them—Principally Albemarle, Amherst, Bedford, Cumberland, and Prince Edward—with Peripheral Research in South Carolina and Tennessee to Pursue Leads," report to file, 28 May 2016, updated 25 July 2018; archived at E. S. Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the "Research" tab.

<sup>12</sup> Barbara Vines Little, "Importations in the Orange County, Virginia, Order Books 1-8, 1735–1770," *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 26 (November 1988): 248, citing Order Book 2:433; imaged in "Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>), image 14.

<sup>13</sup> For John Mills Sr. and Jr., see E. S. Mills, "Mills: Bedford County, Virginia: Extended Survey of Resources," report to file, 28 August 2018. Also Mills, "William Mills of Haile's Tithe List, 1750, Lunenburg County, Virginia: Identification Needed," report to file, 20 June 2018. Both are archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

<sup>14</sup> See the data assembled in Mills, "Mills & Associates: Montgomery, Fincastle & Botetourt Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey," report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways*.

<sup>15</sup> See the lengthy analysis of his associations in E. S. Mills, "William Mills of Haile's Tithe List, 1750, Lunenburg Co., Virginia: Identification Needed," report to file dated 20 June 2018. Also E. S. Mills, "Mills & Associates: Rutherford County, NC, Its Parent Counties (Anson, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Tryon) and Its Offshoots (Buncombe, Burke, Henderson, and Polk Counties): Survey of Published Resources," report to file 28 August 2018. Both are archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

<sup>16</sup> Barbara Vines Little, "Importations in the Orange County, Virginia, Order Books 1-8, 1735–1770," *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 26 (November 1988): 248, citing Order Book 2:433; imaged in "Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>), image 14.

**1751**

**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Possibility.

“1751 Folder ... John Harvie shows that John Long is in debt to him. Account of John Long with Harvie for attorney’s fees agst **James Mills** and agst Molly Johnson, for 1 Pound, 10 shillings (2 items).”<sup>17</sup>

**31 OCTOBER 1753**

**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Possibility.

“**Jas Mills** on attachment (mare & colt) agst Jeremiah Morah dfdnt; plaintiff to recover debt by public sale attachment.”<sup>18</sup>

**8 SEPTEMBER 1756**

**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Possibility.

“**Jas Mills** on attachment agst Jeremiah Moray dfdnt in debt; dfdnt’s debt not fully recovered by public sale attachment, further execution ordered.”<sup>19</sup>

**24 MARCH 1777**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility.

Court order: “A deed Crawford to **Mills** fur. Pvd. & o. rd.”<sup>20</sup>

COMMENT:

- This publication continues through Court Order Book 7, 1783, and offers no further Mills entries.
- The deed needs to be located to determine the identity of the purchaser and other relevant details. The likeliest candidates are the John Mills Sr. and Jr. of Lunenburg and Bedford from 1749–86. I also need to work the original deeds of Bedford, beginning with vol. C-3, 1766.

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**1782**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Land tax roll.<sup>21</sup>

COMMENT:

James Mills does not appear on the land roll. He *does* appear on the personal tax roll for this year:

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<sup>17</sup> Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Papers, 1744–1783* (Richmond, VA: P.p., 1987), 8.

<sup>18</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-B, 1753–1754* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaiad Publication, 1998), 50; citing Order Book 2 ½-B: 562.

<sup>19</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 24, 1755–57* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaiad Publication, 1998), 38; citing Order Book 4:198

<sup>20</sup> Bevin J. Creel, *Bedford County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1774-1783* (N.p.: N.p., 2011), 42; citing Book 6: 123.

<sup>21</sup> Bedford County, Land Tax Book, 1782; Land Tax Books, Reel 32, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

James Mills (*bef. 1750–c.1824*)

Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]

19 JULY 1782

BEDFORD COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.<sup>22</sup>

Burton: Robert, but no William

Edmundson: NO

Kemp: NO

Meadors, John, son of Joel

Meadors, Joel

Meadors, Isham

Meadors Jarvis?

<b>MILLS, James</b>	1 free white male 21+	1 white tithe above 16
	0 slaves	0 black tithes
	2 horses	9 cattle

McEllarry, Richard

Miller, William

Mitchel, John [on land tax list, he is 2 taxpayers from Esther Morgan

Mitchel, Aquila C.

Morgan, Evan?

Melson, William

Morgan, Esther [on land tax list she is listed next to Nathan Mattox]

[*skip 37*]

Meadors, Ambrose

Meadores, Thomas

Meadors, William

Meadors, Jeremiah

Mausley Walter

Meadors, Jeremiah

Meadors, James

[7 to end of "M" list]

COMMENT:

The taxable ages in Virginia from 1782 forward are ambiguous. Prior to the Revolution the tithable age was 16.<sup>23</sup> Beginning in 1782, "the tax commissioner in each district [was] to record in 'a fair alphabetical list' the names of the person chargeable with the tax, the names of white male tithables over the age of twenty-one, the number of white male tithables between ages sixteen and twenty one, the number of slaves both above and below age sixteen," etc.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Bedford County, Personal Tax Rolls, 1782–1800; imaged from the microfiled rolls at the library of Virginia, available at Steve and Yvonne Binn, *Binn's Genealogy* (<http://binnsgenealogy.com/TaxListClubInfo.htm>) as part of the subscription-based Binn's Tax Roll Club. Land and personal property are taxed separately. Each year's roll is arranged alphabetically by first letter of the surname. Many pages do not have visible numbers. Because the population is relatively small, identification by tax district is sufficient to locate a specific entry.

<sup>23</sup> "Colonial Tithables (Research Notes Number 17," *Library of Virginia* ([http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/rn17\\_tithables.htm](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/rn17_tithables.htm)) : accessed 26 November 2015).

<sup>24</sup> "Research Notes No. 3: Using Personal Property Tax Records in the Archives at the Library of Virginia," *Library of Virginia* ([http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/rn3\\_persprop.pdf](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/rn3_persprop.pdf)) : accessed 26 November 2015).

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**

**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

The 1782 list abstracted above follows this pattern. However, as seen in the notes that follow, the assessors of Bedford and Franklin were highly erratic. Rarely did they provide both age groups for white males. In some years, they provided a list of only those over age 21. In some years, they specified “over 16.” In most years, they simply stated “white tithes” and gave no indication of age at all.

While the tax for black tithes varied according to age and free or enslaved status, there was no “head tax” on white tithes. Post-war Virginia abandoned the head tax completely for whites and then, in 1787, for free people of color. In 1813, it resumed the head tax for “free Negroes and mulattoes” who were not bound out as apprentices” but repealed that in 1816 and did not reinstitute it until 1850. An 1860 law reinstated (for only that year) a capitation tax for white males of twenty-one years or more, as well as fpc.<sup>25</sup>

**1783**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Land Tax Roll

[not alphabetized]

“A Return of Alterations in the Book kept for Bedford County since May 1782.”<sup>26</sup> **No Millses.**

**1783**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll.<sup>27</sup>

Mitchell, John

Mattox, John

Mouseley, Walter

Mason, Elizabeth

Mattocks, Nathan

Mitchell, Thomas

McDonald, James

Morgan, David

McGrady, Laughlin

**Mills, James**

1 white over 21

2 horses

11 cattle

McEllarry, Richard

McDowell, Michael

Markum, Abner

Martin, Sarah

McCommack, Micajah

Meadors, James

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<sup>25</sup> Conley L. Edwards, “A Political History of the Poll Tax in Virginia, 1900–1950” (M.A. Thesis, University of Richmond, 1973), 1–2; archived at University of Richmond, *UR Scholarship Repository* (<https://scholarship.richmond.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.bing.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1466&context=masters-theses>) : accessed 26 November 2015).

<sup>26</sup> Bedford County, “Land Book Alterations, 1783”; Land Tax Books, Reel 32, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

<sup>27</sup> Bedford County, Personal Tax Rolls, 1782–1800; imaged from the microfilmed rolls at the library of Virginia, available at Steve and Yvonne Binn, *Binn’s Genealogy* (<http://binnsgenealogy.com/TaxListClubInfo.htm>) as part of the subscription-based Binn’s Tax Roll Club. Each year’s roll is arranged alphabetically by first letter of the surname. Many pages do not have visible numbers. Because the population is relatively small, identification by year and district is sufficient to locate a specific entry.

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**

**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

Mayse, John  
McKinnie, Charles

COMMENT:

John Mills, who was taxed here in 1782, is now missing. He does not appear on the personal rolls hereafter. In 1786, he and wife Patty (Ewing) sold a tract of land via a deed that identified them as residents of Botetourt County.

One possibility needs to be investigated: During the years that John Mills of Botetourt was an absentee owner of Bedford land, might that land have been farmed by James Mills?

**9 APRIL 1784**

**BEDFORD & FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Association.

"I, John Early of F[ranklin], in perfect sense & memory. First, all my just debts shall be paid.

"To my **2 natural children, Sally and Dolly** – all the land I hold in **Henry County**, at the confluence of the **horse Pasture Cr & the Mayho River**, containing about 900 acres, together with the following slaves: Lewis, Absalom, Lucy, Jinney, Dilcey, and Poll. Also 2 feather beds & furniture, 2 horses at 25 £ each.

"To my natural daughter **Jinney and her mother Elizabeth** – my mansion house on **Gills Cr** [Franklin Co.] near Capt Skelton Taylor's together with all the lands I hold on the south side of said creek, adjoining the lands of Skelton Taylor, Amos Elison, **Jubal Early's orphans**, and James Boards, and with his lines so as to intersect with Pike's survey, John Hale. Also Negro slave Price and his wife Winny & their 3 children, Patt, Solomon, and Charles. Also Negro woman Sall. Also 2 feather beds & furniture, 2 brood mares, 30 barrels of corn, 2 milk cows, 1000 pounds of pork, and enough plantation utensils to carry on the farm.

"To **James Callaway Early** – all my right that I hold in copartnership with **James Callaway on Pig River** in F, he being **my natural son**.

"To my 3 natural sons, **Samech, Jubal, and Melchizedech** – the rest of my estate, to be equally divided between them by my executors, except Negroes Hannah and her 7 children (Bacchus, Ruth, Courtes, Betty, James, and Sam), who I desire shall be free; as Hannah was born free, the children consequently are.

"Executors: James Callaway Sr, James Callaway Jr, William Crump and John Callaway Jr., son of John Callaway Sr. I wish that my executors shall only return an inventory, and that they can make legal contracts. I further ordain that James Callaway Sr, James Callaway Jr, Abner Early, Henry T Callaway William Callaway, William Crump and John Callaway Jr, son to John Callaway Sr. or any of them 'to to— my within named natural children'." [sic]

"Signed Apr 9, 1784 – John Early. Wit – Guy Smith, John Hall, **James Mills**.<sup>28</sup>

COMMENT:

- This transcription's identification of the testator as a resident of Franklin County is puzzling if the will was indeed written in April 1784. Franklin was created by law of 17 October 1785.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> *Franklin County, Virginia, Wills, 1786–1812* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1991), 69–70; citing Will Book 1:242.

<sup>29</sup> *FamilySearch Wiki* ([https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Franklin\\_County,\\_Virginia\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Franklin_County,_Virginia_Genealogy) : accessed 4 August 2018), "Franklin County, Virginia, Genealogy."

James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)  
Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]

- Early's will was probated in 1804, at which time Elizabeth (whom Early had by that time married) rejected the terms of the will. The published abstracts for the probate do not include any further involvement by James Mills. **I need to examine all surviving records of this probate.**
- The Jubal Early named above was not the Confederate General Jubal Early. The latter was born in 1816 to John Early's nephew Joab Early and wife Ruth Hairston.
- See also Map 1 for the proximity of John Early's land (Gill's Creek) to Elliott's Creek of the Maggoty where James Mills bought land from James Slone (alleged wife Alice Mills) in 1789.
- John Early and James Callaway's land on Pigg River, at Washington Iron Works (in southern Franklin, formerly Henry County) lay on the road to Montgomery (later Floyd) County.

Map 1  
Maggoty Creek & Gills Creek, Northwest & North-Central Franklin County<sup>30</sup>



<sup>30</sup> Gertrude C. Mann, J. R. Hildebrand, and George A. Kegley, *A Settlement Map of Franklin County, Virginia ... 1786 to 1886* (Rocky Mount: Franklin County Historical Society, 1976).

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**  
**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

**1784**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll.<sup>31</sup>

Burton, William                      1 white over 21              1 horse                      9 cattle

Murphy, John

Mullins, Thomas

Mitchell, Abraham

[*Skip 13*]

Maxey, Jeremiah |

Marcum, Thomas | [All are later found in Franklin County]

Maxey, Walter |

Martin, William

McKennie, Charles

**Moreman, Charles**

[*skip 6*]

Meador, Ambrose

Meador, William

Mosely, Walter

Mosely, William “under 21”

**Mason, Elizabeth**    1 white over 21                      4 horses                      10 cattle

Moore, Thomas

Meador, Jeremiah

Meador, John

Morgan, Esther

Mitchell, John

Mitchell, John Jr.

Mitchell, Aquila

Miller, William

Molander, Abraham

Molando, Jacob

**Mills, James**              1 white over 21

**Mitchell, Enos**              1 white over 21                      3 horses                      8 cattle

[*skip 11* –

*mostly Mitchells & Millers*]

**Moreman, Charles**

[*skip 48*]

**Mattox, Nathan**              1 white over 21                      3 horses                      6 cattle

[father of Sarah who married, 1802 in Franklin, Robert Kemp]

Josiah Maxey

**1784 [9 MAY 1785]**

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<sup>31</sup> Bedford County, Personal Tax Rolls, 1782–1800; imaged from the microfilmed rolls at the library of Virginia, available at Steve and Yvonne Binn, *Binn’s Genealogy* (<http://binnsgeology.com/TaxListClubInfo.htm>) as part of the subscription-based Binn’s Tax Roll Club.

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**  
**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**  
Land Tax Roll<sup>32</sup>

COMMENT:

No Millses. John Mills still owned his Bedford land but, as a non-resident of Bedford, would be taxed for that land in his county of residence, whose assessor would forward his tax to Bedford.

**1785**  
**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**  
Personal tax roll.<sup>33</sup>

Burton, William	Not there [Robert Burton continues to appear]		
<b>Mills, James</b>	1 white over 21	1 horse	0 cattle

COMMENT:

The “M” list is significantly rearranged from the prior year. Most of the individuals named for 1784 are still there. Enos Mitchell is 11 from James, with other Mitchells intervening. Thomas Mullins also appears between James and Enos.

**1786**  
**BEDFORD & FRANKLIN COUNTIES, VA**  
Personal tax roll.

COMMENT:

James Mills is not found on the roll of either county.

**MAY 1786**  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**  
Civic Service.

“**James Mills** is Appointed Sur’v of the road Down Maggoty from the fork of the road Leading to **Lute [Luke] Abshires** to the Black Water Road Above **Tho. Wattses** Xing Ayletts Creek & List filed to his Gang &c. Luke Abshire is appointed Surveyor of the Road Down Maggoty from the Caroline Road to the fork of the Road leading to the Said Abshire & A List fil’d to his Gang &c.”<sup>34</sup>

COMMENT:

No record has been found of land ownership by James at this time. However, he would seem to hold some measure of standing in the community, given his appointment to supervise road maintenance. This typically falls to men in the landowner class, although the “gangs” of laborers would include non-landholders, the sons of landowners, and enslaved people.

This appointment of James occurred in the same period that he witnessed the will of John Early who referenced his own “mansion house” on Gills Creek of the Maggoty.

The Abshires, like James, were previously in Bedford County.

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<sup>32</sup> Bedford County, “Land Book 1784”; Land Tax Books, Reel 32, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

<sup>33</sup> Bedford County, Personal Tax Rolls, 1782–1800; imaged from the microfilmed rolls at the library of Virginia, available at Steve and Yvonne Binn, *Binn’s Genealogy* (<http://binnsgeology.com/TaxListClubInfo.htm>) as part of the subscription-based Binn’s Tax Roll Club.

<sup>34</sup> Marshall Wingfield, *An Old Virginia Court: Being a Transcript of the Records of the First Court of Franklin County, Virginia, 1786–1789* (Memphis: West Tennessee Historical Society, 1948), 18; citing p. 22.

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**

**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

**1787**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Tax roll abstract.

Moses Greer's District: "M" section<sup>35</sup>

Mullendore, Jacob

Miller, Daniel

Miller, Thomas Sr.

**Mills, James**                    1 white over 21  
   0 whites under 21 [16–21]  
   0 blacks 16+  
   0 blacks -16  
   1 horses, mares, etc.  
   6 head of cattle

Meadow, Jesse

Martin, Martin

Miller, Jacob Jr.

Martin, William

Miller, Joseph

Meadow, Jonas

**COMMENT:**

- This roll suggests that all sons of James were born after 1771. That correlates with the years his sons William, Arthur, and James Jr. began to appear on the Franklin County rolls.
- The Kemps—family of Drucilla Kemp who married William Mills (with Witt Y) in 1815—are on Tax List B. No Millses appear there.

**AUGUST 1787**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Association.

"Nancy Frame & Chrisly Frame is Bound to Chrisn. C. Long."<sup>36</sup>

**COMMENT**

- On 5 May 1799, a bond would be issued for Nancy Frame to marry James Mills [Jr].
- On prior tax rolls of Bedford County, I found no Frames to whom Nancy (and her apparent mother Happy) might be attached.
- The given name "Chrisly" is somewhat rare. One Chrisley Miller is found on the 1787 tax roll of Moses Greer's District.

**9 APRIL 1788**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll.

Moses Greer's District: "M" section<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Netti Schreiner-Yantis and Florene Speakman Love, *The 1787 Census of Virginia: An Accounting of the Name of Every White Male Tithable ...*, 3 vols. (Springfield, VA: Genealogical Books in Print, 1987), 1: 623–38.

<sup>36</sup> Marshall Wingfield, *An Old Virginia Court: Being a Transcript of the Records of the First Court of Franklin County, Virginia, 1786–1789* (Memphis: West Tennessee Historical Society, 1948), 82; citing p. 153.

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**  
**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

**Mills, James**            1 white male 16+  
                              0 blacks 16+  
                              0 blacks –16  
                              1 horse, mare, etc.

**SEPTEMBER 1788**  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

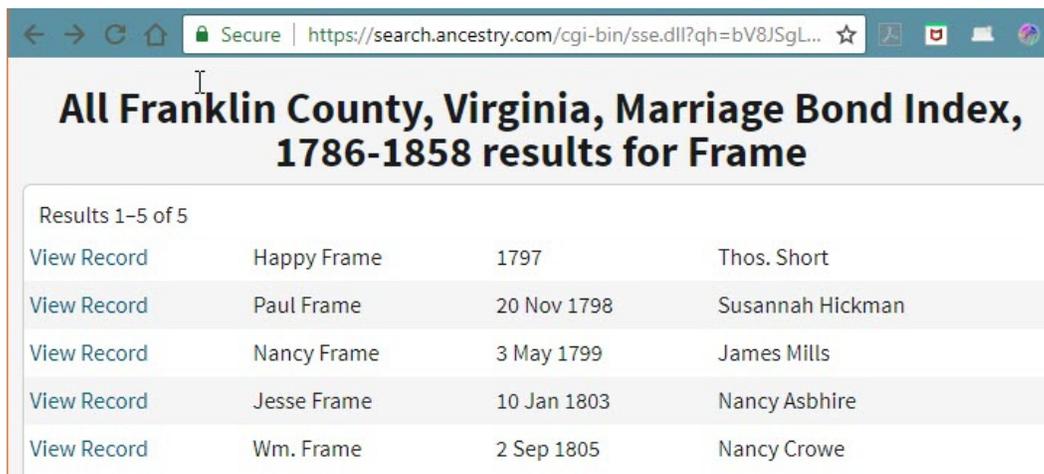
Possibility.

“Ordered that the Overseers of the Poor do Bind **William Fram** a Bastard Child of **Happy Frame** to Lewis Bryant.”<sup>38</sup>

COMMENT:

See August 1787 note for Nancy and Chrisly Frame being bound out. Nancy, upon reaching adulthood, married James Mills Jr.

This set of Frames intermarried repeatedly with Millses and their associates in Franklin. Ancestry shows the following:



All Franklin County, Virginia, Marriage Bond Index, 1786-1858 results for Frame			
Results 1-5 of 5			
<a href="#">View Record</a>	Happy Frame	1797	Thos. Short
<a href="#">View Record</a>	Paul Frame	20 Nov 1798	Susannah Hickman
<a href="#">View Record</a>	Nancy Frame	3 May 1799	James Mills
<a href="#">View Record</a>	Jesse Frame	10 Jan 1803	Nancy Asbhire
<a href="#">View Record</a>	Wm. Frame	2 Sep 1805	Nancy Crowe

**26 APRIL 1789**  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll.

Moses Greer’s District: “M” section

**Mills, James**            1 “white”  
                              0 blacks 16+  
                              0 blacks –16  
                              1 horse, mare, etc.

<sup>37</sup> Bedford County, Personal Tax Rolls, 1782–1800; imaged from the microfilmed rolls at the library of Virginia, available at Steve and Yvonne Binn, *Binn’s Genealogy* (<http://binnsgenealogy.com/TaxListClubInfo.htm>) as part of the subscription-based Binn’s Tax Roll Club. **From this point forward, all tax roll data is taken from Binns. I will not repeat the same citation for every instance.**

<sup>38</sup> Marshall Wingfield, *An Old Virginia Court: Being a Transcript of the Records of the First Court of Franklin County, Virginia, 1786–1789* (Memphis: West Tennessee Historical Society, 1948), 150; citing p. 281.

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**

**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

**3 OCTOBER 1789**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Association.

“Anthony Pate of Franklin to John and Jubal Early. £15 15 acres. **Gills Creek** beg at pointers in Wade and Bowker old line; S55 W46 to white oak; S85W16 to red oak; S57W51 to Spanish oak. M/B. Signed: Anthony Pate. Wit: William Charter, John Charter, **James Mills**, Wray (x) Pate. Proven: 4 Jan 1790 by akn.”<sup>39</sup>

COMMENT:

Anthony Pate and the Earlys previously lived in Bedford. Pate is traceable back to the 1750 Nicholas Haile tax roll of Lunenburg on which we find William and John Mills.<sup>40</sup>

**5 APRIL 1790**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase.

“James/Alice Slone of Franklin to **James Mills** of same. £60 334 acres.” **Elliott’s Creek** beg Doran’s white oak crn on south side of creek; new line S61W4 to small white oak; S38E156 to chestnut and black jack. M/B. Signed: James Slone. Wit: None. Proven 5 Apr 1790 by akn, R/Dower by Alice.”<sup>41</sup>

COMMENT:

Online trees assert (without presenting evidence) that James Sloan/Slone was b. before 1733, **Hanover Co.**, that he married **Alice Mills** (b. 1739–49), and that their children (1756–68) were William, Patrick, Thomas, Milly, Clifford, and Reuben.<sup>42</sup>

Some trees allege that Alice (“d. 5 April 1790”), was the daughter of “John Mills Jr. (1712–1794) and Sarah Beals (1713–1800) of Chester Co., Pa., and Guilford Co., NC. The latter also assert that after Alice’s death, James married 8 September 1797, Franklin Co., Sarah McGuire, and d. 4 April 1808 on Maggoty Creek of Franklin Co.”<sup>43</sup>

James Slone was in Bedford as early as 1778 and received three grants on the Maggoty: 1780 (677 acres), 1786 (334 acres surveyed 1784), and 1787 (300 acres surveyed 1786). In 1783 a Bedford court ordered referenced “James Sloan’s Mill” on Maggoty.<sup>44</sup> Mills bought the tract patented in 1786.

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<sup>39</sup> Barbara Crumpton, *Franklin County, Virginia: Deed Book 2, 1788–92* (Duncan, OK: Creative Copies, 1999), 12; citing DB 2: 75.

<sup>40</sup> See E. S. Mills, “William Mills of Haile’s Tithes List, 1750, Lunenburg Co., Virginia: Identification Needed,” report to file dated 20 June 2018; archived at E. S. Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the “Research” tab.

<sup>41</sup> Barbara Crumpton, *Franklin County, Virginia: Deed Book 2, 1788–92* (Duncan, OK: Creative Copies, 1999), 14; citing DB 2: 94. I’ve checked the original document on film; nothing of value has been omitted.

<sup>42</sup> For example, see robin24910, “Robin24910 Tree,” *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/67818995/person/40304548153/facts?\\_phsrc=Wle588&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/67818995/person/40304548153/facts?_phsrc=Wle588&_phstart=successSource) : accessed 15 May 2018), James Sloan “Facts” page.

<sup>43</sup> For example, see Tom Cauley, “My Tree,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/117040835/person/270190397628/facts> : accessed 15 May 2018, Alice Mills “Facts” page. For the 1808 Sloan-McGuire marriage, Cauley cites “Virginia, Compiled Marriages, 1660–1800,” database, *Ancestry*, a database that is at least a third-hand source.

<sup>44</sup> For the court minutes, see Bevin J. Creel, *Bedford County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1774–1783* (N.p.: N.p., 2011), 57 (citing Book 6: 155), 148 (citing 7:8), 167 (citing 7:57), and 184 (citing 7:108). For the land grants, see Library of Virginia, *Virginia Memory* (<http://image.lva.virginia.gov> : accessed 21 April 2018), query for James “Slone.”

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**  
**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

**APRIL 1790**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll.

Moses Greer's District: "M" section

**Mills, James**            1 "white"  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 1 horse, mare, etc.  
                                 tax: 0.1.0

**AUGUST 1790**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Census

COMMENT:

The Virginia census for this year has been destroyed.

**1791**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

**Mills, James**            [not found on tax roll]

COMMENT:

Binn's Virginia tax roll database (not complete) places a James Mills in Prince Edward County in 1792. I have not found evidence to link that James to Franklin County—but I cannot explain the non-appearance of James on Franklin's tax rolls of 1791–92, and 1794.

**1792**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Tax roll

**Mills, James**            [not found on tax roll]

**1793**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll.

Moses Greer's District: "M" section

**Mills, James**            1 "white"  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 2 horses, mares, etc.

**1794**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

**Mills, James**            [not found on tax roll in either district, Greer's or Hairston's]

**23 MAY 1795**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer's District: "M" section

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**  
**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

**Mills, James**            3 “whites”  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 2 horses, mares, etc.  
                                 tax 0.0.8

COMMENT:

The two extra males in his household should be William and Arthur.

**APRIL-MAY 1796**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

George Turnbull’s District (formerly Greer): “M” section

**Mills, William**            1 “white tithe”                    (turned in list on 30 April)  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 0 horses, mares, etc.  
                                 tax 0.0.0

[skip 8 “M” entries]

**Mills, James**            2 “white tithes”                    (turned in list on 13 May)  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 2 horses, mares, etc.  
                                 tax 0.0.8

COMMENT:

James’s son William has left the parental home, leaving there one son who is 16–21. That son should be Arthur, who went on the tax roll in his own name in 1788 and married in 1800.

**1797**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Marriage

**Thomas Short m. Happy Frame.**

COMMENT:

Happy Frame is the the apparent mother of four other Frames who married in Franklin, 1798–1805, to James Mills Jr. and associates and neighbors of the Mills family.

1797	Happy Frame	Thomas Short
1798: 20 November	Paul Frame	Susannah Hickman
1799: 3 May	Nancy Frame	James Mills
1803: 10 January	Jesse Frame [Chrisley of 1786?]	Nancy Abshire
1805: 2 September	William Frame	Nancy Crowe <sup>45</sup>

The following data is relevant:

1787 court order            Nancy & Chrisley Frame were bound to Christian C. Long<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> “Franklin County, Virginia, Marriage Bond Index, 1786–1858,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : last accessed 15 May 2018).

<sup>46</sup> Marshall Wingfield, *An Old Virginia Court: Being a Transcript of the Records of the First Court of Franklin County, Virginia, 1786–1789* (Memphis: West Tennessee Historical Society, 1948), 82; citing p. 153.

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**

**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

1788 court order William Frame “bastard of Happy” was bound to Lewis Bryant<sup>47</sup>  
1810 roll Thos Short is listed amid Slones from whom James M bought his land  
1810 census With over 1300 households in Franklin County, we find Michael Crowe  
two houses from those Slones, who are 8 houses from James Dudley,  
brother-in-law of William Mills (Witt)<sup>48</sup>  
1850 census St. Joseph County, Indiana, shows

- Jesse Frame, b. Va. about 1781; wife Nancy b. Va. about 1784
- William Frame, b. Va. about 1784; wife Nancy b. Va. about 1785<sup>49</sup>

**17 MARCH 1797**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

George Turnbull’s District (formerly Greer): “M” section

**Mills, James**            2 “white persons”            (turned in list on same day as William)  
0 blacks  
1 horses, mares, etc.

[skip 5 “M” entries]

**Mills, William**        1 “white person”  
0 blacks  
1 horses, mares, etc.

COMMENT:

Again, the extra male in James’s household would appear to be Arthur.

**MAY 1798**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

George Turnbull’s District (formerly Greer): “M” section

**Mills, James**            2 “white tythes”            (turned in list on 7 May)  
0 blacks  
1 horses, mares, etc.  
tax 0.0.9

[skip 8 “M” entries]

**Mills, Arthur**            1 white tythe            (turned in list on 19 May)  
0 blacks  
0 horses, mares, etc.

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<sup>47</sup> Marshall Wingfield, *An Old Virginia Court: Being a Transcript of the Records of the First Court of Franklin County, Virginia, 1786–1789* (Memphis: West Tennessee Historical Society, 1948), 150; citing p. 281.

<sup>48</sup> 1810 U.S. census, Franklin Co., VA, p. 7, lines 9–11 and 13 (Slone-Crowe) and p. 6 (Dudleys). James Dudley and William Mills (Witt) married daughters of Robert Kemp; Franklin Co., Va., Will Book 4: 163. Dudley married Nancy Kemp in 1804 and William Mills married Drucilla Kemp in 1815; “Franklin County, Virginia, Marriage Bond Index, 1786–1858,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : last accessed 15 May 2018).

<sup>49</sup> 1850 U.S. census, St. Joseph Co., IN, Warren Township, p. 86verso, dwelling/family 592 (William and Nancy), p. 88, dwell./fam. 605 (James and Nancy).

[skip 3 “M” entries]

**Mills, William**      1 white tythe      (turned in list on 19 May)  
0 blacks  
1 horses, mares, etc.  
tax: 0.0.9

COMMENT:

The extra male in James’s household this year should be James Jr., who married in 1799 and came on the roll in his own name in 1799.

**APRIL–MAY 1799**  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

William Turnbull’s District (formerly Greer): “M” section

**Mills, William**      1 white tithe      (turned in list on 1 April)  
0 blacks  
0 horses, mares, etc.

[skip 6]

**Mills, Arthur**      1 white tithe      (turned in list on 1 April)  
0 blacks  
0 horses, mares, etc.

[skip 8]

**Mills, James [Jr.]**      1 white tithe      (turned in list on 1 April)  
0 blacks  
1 horses, mares, etc.  
tax 0.12

[skip 28]

**Mills, James [Sr.]**      2 white tithes      (turned in list on 6 May)  
0 blacks  
1 horses, mares, etc.  
tax 0.12

COMMENT:

James Jr., son of James, has also married and gone on the roll in his own name.

The extra male attributed to James Sr. this year is unaccounted for amid the list of James’s probable sons. He is too old to be the George who went on the roll in his own right in 1810. Local records do not indicate that James took apprentices. His family operation was not so large that he, with three grown sons needing land to farm, would have hired help.

This new male aged 16+ corresponds to the age of William Mills (Witt), who named his first son James H. Mills. However, it would have been highly unusual for James to have given the name William to two different sons. Connecting William Mills (Witt) to James would be logical only if James took in an orphaned kinsman—perhaps a sister’s child. This extra male in his household in the 1799–1804 period is the only evidence to suggest that; and the suggestion is only an hypothesis to be further investigated.

James Mills (*bef. 1750–c.1824*)

Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]

**APRIL–AUGUST 1800**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Turnbull's District (formerly Greer): "M" section

**Mills, Arthur**            1 "white tithe"                            (turned in list on 7 April)  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 0 horses, mares, etc.  
                                 tax 0.24

[*skip 12*]

**Mills, James Jr.**        1 "white tithe"                            (turned in list on 24 \_\_\_)  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 0 horses, mares, etc.

[*skip 7*]

Mille[r], James        [follows several other Millers]

[*skip 20*]

**Mills, William**        1 "white tithe"                            (turned in list on 12 August)  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 2 horses, mares, etc.  
                                 tax 0.24

[*skip 4*]

**Mills, James Sr.**        2 "white tithes"                           (turned in list on 16 August)  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 3 horses, mares, etc.  
                                 tax 0.36

COMMENT:

The new male, aged 16–21, in the household of James Sr. has not been identified.

**AUGUST 1800**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Census

COMMENT:

The Virginia census for this year has been destroyed.

**1 AUGUST 1801**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Richard French's District (formerly Greer): "M" section

**Mills, Arthur**            not found

[*consecutive entries*]

**Mills, James Jr.**        1 "white tithe"                            (turned in list on same day as Wm & James Sr.)  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 1 horse, mare, etc.  
                                 tax 0.12

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**  
**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

**Mills, William**            1 “white tithe”  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 1 horse, mare, etc.  
                                 tax 0.12

**Mills, James Sr.**        2 “white tithes”  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 2 horses, mares, etc.  
                                 tax 0.24

COMMENT:

Again, the extra “dependent” tithe is in James’s household.

**APRIL–AUGUST 1802**  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Richard French’s District (formerly Greer): “M” section

[consecutive entries]

**Mills, James Sr.**        2 “white tithes”                    (turned in list on 24 April)  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 4 horses, mares, etc.  
                                 tax 0.48

**Mills, James Jr.**        1 “white tithe”                    (turned in list on 1 May)  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 0 horses, mares, etc.

**Mills, William**        1 “white tithe”                    (turned in list on 1 May)  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 1 horse, mare, etc.  
                                 tax 0.12

[skip 25]

**Mills, Arthur**        1 “white tithe”                    (turned in list on 25 August)  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 1 horse, mare, etc.  
                                 tax 0.12

COMMENT:

Again, the extra “dependent” tithe is in James Sr.’s household.

**MAY 1803**  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer’s District: “M” section

**Mills, James Jr.**        1 “white tithe”                    (turned in list on 4 May)  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 0 horses, mares, etc.

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**

**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

[skip 2]

<b>Mills, William</b>	1 “white tithe” 0 blacks 1 horse, mare, etc. tax 0.12	(turned in list on 7 May)
<b>Mills, James Sr.</b>	2 “white tithes” 0 blacks 4 horses, mares, etc. tax 0.48	(turned in list on 7 May)
<b>Mills, Arthur</b>	1 “white tithe” 0 blacks 1 horse, mare, etc. tax 0.12	(turned in list on 7 May)

COMMENT:

Again, the extra male aged 16+ is in James Sr.’s household.

**1805**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Land tax roll

Moses Greer’s District

**Mills, James** 334 acres / .21 per acre / \$70.14 total value / .34 tax

**MAY & OCTOBER 1805**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer’s District

<b>Mills, William</b>	1 white tithe 0 blacks 1 horse, mare, etc. tax 0.12	(turned in list on 3 May)
<b>Mills, James Jr.</b>	1 white tithe 0 blacks 0 horses, mares, etc. tax 0.0	(turned in list on 3 May)

[skip 7]

<b>Mills, James Sr.</b>	2 white tithes 0 blacks 3 horses, mares, etc. tax 0.36	(turned in list on 3 May)
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[skip 22]

<b>Mills, Arthur</b>	1 white tithe 0 blacks 1 horse, mare, etc. tax 0.12	(turned in list on 26 October)
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COMMENT:

Again, the extra male aged 16+ is in James Sr.’s household.

1806

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Moses Greer's Dist.

**Mills, James** 334 acres / .24 per acre / \$70.14 total value / .34 tax

APRIL MAY 1806

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer's District: "M" section

**Mills, James Sr.** 2 white tithes (turned in list on 7 April)

0 blacks

3 horses, mares, etc.

tax 0.36

**Mills, James Jr.** [missing]

[skip 25]

**Mills, William** 1 white tithe (turned in list on 24 May)

0 blacks

1 horse, mare, etc.

tax 0.12

[skip 4]

**Mills, Arthur** 1 white tithe (turned in list on 24 May)

0 blacks

0 horse, mare, etc.

tax 0.0

COMMENT:

Again, the extra male aged 16+ is in James Sr.'s household. *However*

- William Mills (Witt) is added this year in Hairston's District, between Booker Mullins and Samuel McCarrell. Ostensibly, that eliminates him from consideration as the extra male in the household of James Sr. *this year*.
- The extra male this year (and likely in 1804 and 1805) would seem to be George who comes onto the roll in his own name in 1809 (i.e., born c1788).
- James Jr. is also missing. If he and James Sr. had combined their households, then James Sr.'s second male could be James Jr. However, that seems unlikely given that the next year's roll also has an extra male in James Sr.'s household (ostensibly George) when both James Jr. and William Mills (Witt) are both taxed separately.

1807

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Moses Greer's Dist.

**Mills, James** 334 acres / .21 per acre / \$70.14 total value / .34 tax

James Mills (*bef. 1750–c.1824*)  
Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]

**MARCH–APRIL 1807**  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer's District: "M" section

**Mills, Arthur**            1 white tithe                            (turned in list on 13 March)  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 0 horse, mare, etc.  
                                 tax 0.0

[*skip 3*]

**Mills, James Sr.**        2 white tithes                        (turned in list on 6 April)  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 2 horses, mares, etc.  
                                 tax 0.24

**Mills, William**        1 white tithe                        (turned in list on 6 April)  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 2 horse, mare, e

**Mills, James Jr.**        1 white tithe                        (turned in list on 6 April)  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 0 horses, mares, etc.  
                                 tax 0.0

COMMENT:

Again, the extra male aged 16+ is in James Sr.'s household.

**1808**  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Land tax roll

Personal tax roll

COMMENT:

Virginia did not assess a tax this year.

**1809**  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Land tax roll

Moses Greer's District

**Mills, James**            334 acres / .21 per acre / \$70.14 total value / .34 tax

**APRIL 1809**  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer's District: "M" section

**Mills, George**        1 white tithe                        (no date in this district for turning in list)  
                                 0 blacks  
                                 1 horse, mare, etc.  
                                 tax 0.12

[*skip 5*]

<b>Mills, James Sr.</b>	1 white tithe 0 blacks 1 horses, mares, etc. tax 0.12
<b>Mills, James Jr.</b>	1 white tithe 0 blacks 0 horses, mares, etc. tax 0.0
<b>Mills, Arthur</b>	1 white tithe 0 blacks 0 horses, mares, etc. tax 0.0
<b>Mills, William</b>	1 white tithe 0 blacks 1 horse, mare, etc. tax 0.12

COMMENT:

This is the first appearance of George. Note that the 2<sup>nd</sup> tithe in James's household has been dropped.

Throughout this period the Wimmer family appears in the same district with James Mills's family. Wimmers would later intermarry with James's offspring.

**1810**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Land tax roll

Moses Greer's Dist.

**Mills, James** 334 acres / .24 per acre / \$70.14 total value / .34 tax

**APRIL 1810**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer's District: "M" section

<b>Mills, William</b>	1 white tithe 0 blacks 1 horse, mare, etc. tax 0.12	(no dates)
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[*skip 10*]

<b>Mills, James Jr.</b>	1 white tithe 0 blacks 0 horses, mares, etc. tax 0.0
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[*skip 11*]

<b>Mills, George</b>	1 white tithe 0 blacks 1 horse, mare, etc. tax 0.12
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**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**

**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

[skip 1]

**Mills, James Sr.**      1 white tithe  
0 blacks  
1 horses, mares, etc.  
tax 0.12

[skip 15]

**Mills, Arthur**      1 white tithe  
0 blacks  
0 horses, mares, etc.  
tax 0.0

**2 JUNE 1810**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Witness

Clifford Slone and Peggy Slone his wife sell to George Wright, for 37£ 10s, all their interest in the estate of Harthman Doran, deceased, of Franklin Co., father of Peggy. Witnesses: Joseph Wright, Solomon Wright, **William Mills**.<sup>50</sup>

COMMENT:

Online trees assert that Clifford is the son of James Slone/Sloan and wife Alice Mills. James and Alice (no surname given for her) sold their Elliott Creek land to James Mills in 1790. Ostensibly, the William Mills who witnessed this deed would be James's son William. It should not be William Mills (Witt) who has been taxed in the Blackwater area but is, in fact, missing from the Franklin tax rolls of 1810 and 1811.

**AUGUST 1810**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Census

[consecutive entries]<sup>51</sup>

Isreal Davis

Henry Dishorn

Joshua Davis

**Clifford Slone**      [alleged son of Jas. Slone and Alice Mills; Jas. S sold his land 1790 to Jas. Mills]

George Teel

John Stove

Edward **Absheir**

**William Mills**      1 male      26–45      1 female      26–45

2 males      10–16      2 females      10–16

3 males      0–10

**Arthur Mills**      1 males      45– [James?]      1 female      26–44 [Nancy Frame?]

2 males      26–44 [Arthur? & James Jr?]      1 female      16–25 [Nancy West?]

4 males      0–10      1 female      0–10

Justis Boitnetts

<sup>50</sup> Franklin Co., Deed Book 6: 10–11.

<sup>51</sup> 1810 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Va., p. 12, lines 22 (William Mills) and 23 (Arthur Mills).





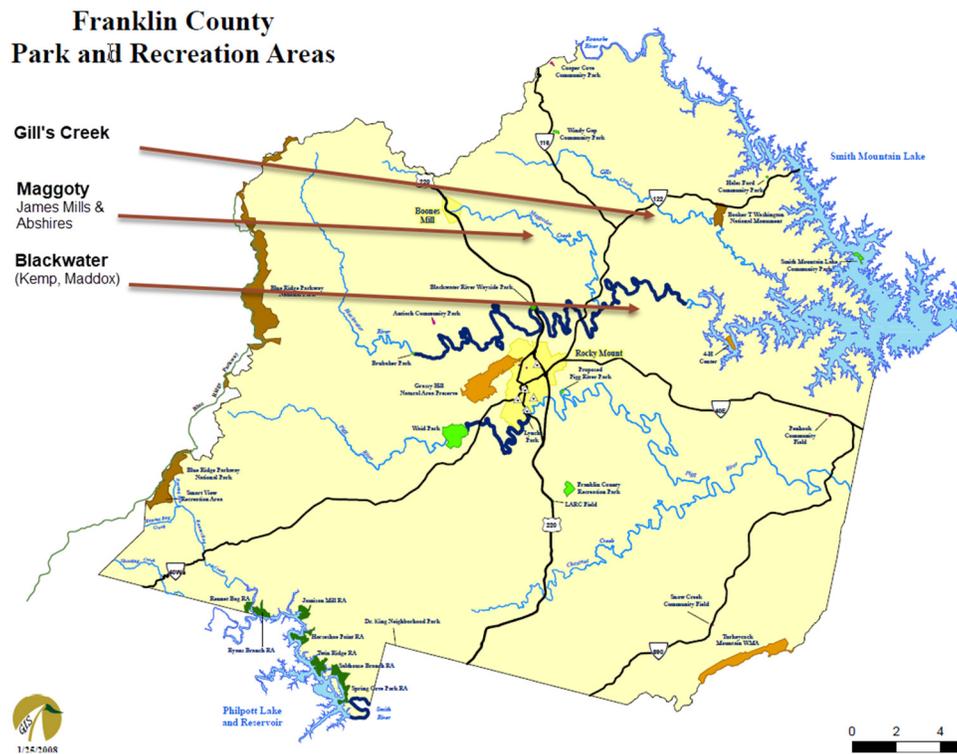


**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**  
**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

Note that only one James is now taxed and no “Sr.” or “Jr.” is used with his name. Coupled with the emergence of Widow Nancy on the 1820 census, it appears that Jr. has died and James Sr. is now the only James in the county.

Note that George is also dropped. Given the time frame, an enlistment in the War of 1812 is a viable possibility; but I have not found evidence to confirm or disprove that.

**Map 3**  
**Key Waterways in Greer’s District, Franklin County**



Franklin County Park and Recreation (<http://www.franklincountyva.org/parks/> : accessed 14 April 2018), annotated by ESM.

**1815**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Land tax roll

Moses Greer’s District

**Mills, James**                    334a “Maggoty” /12m. N of ctise / .21 per a / \$70.14 total value / .60 tax

**APRIL 1815**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer’s District: “M” section

**Mills, Arthur**            1 white tithe                            (list of 24 \_\_\_\_)  
1 head of cattle  
tax: .03

[*skip 6*]

**Mills, William**            1 white tithe                            (list of 16 \_\_\_\_)  
2 horses, mares, etc.  
4 head of cattle  
tax: .33

[*skip 16*]

**Mills, James**            1 white tithe                            (list of 14 April)  
1 horses, mares, etc.  
7 head cattle  
tax 0.63

COMMENT:

By this time, assessments were also being made on desks, chests of drawers, clocks, and watches, as well as slaves. The Millses reported ownership of none of these.

1816

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Moses Greer's District

**Mills, James**            324a [*sic*] "Magoty" /12m. N of ctise / .21 per a / \$70.14 total value / .53

COMMENT:

Note that James Mills owns 10 acres less than usual. This does not seem to be an error because (a) his tax has also been reduced; and (b) he's taxed for 324 acres going forward.

FEBRUARY–APRIL 1816

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer's District: "M" section

**Mills, William**            1 white tithe                            (4 March)  
2 horses, mares, etc.  
tax: .36

**Mills, James**            1 white tithe                            (4 March)  
2 horses, mares, etc.  
tax 0.36

**Mills, Arthur**            1 white tithe                            (4 March)  
tax: 0

[*skip 7*]

**Mills, William** "G.C." 1 white tithe                            (25 March)  
2 horses  
\$.36 tax

COMMENT:

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**

**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

William Mills (Witt), who formerly had been taxed in the other district with Kemps and Maddoxes, has just married a Kemp daughter (and Maddox step-daughter), but he no longer appears in their district.

The Kemp in-law is the only candidate found for the William Mills of Greer's district who bears the annotation "G.C." Two possible explanations are likely for that "G.C." notation:

- A reference to *Gill's Creek*, which runs off the north side of the Black Water in east central Franklin Co.
- A reference to *Giles County*, where a William Mills makes a rare appearance in May 1816 as a witness to leases made by **John Toney** (of the Franklin County Toney) to John Connors and Zachariah Crawford. I have read all pages of all surviving registers in Giles (deeds, probates, order books, tax rolls, etc.) through 1830 and have found no other reference to any William Mills. Clearly, he was not a resident (or "regular inhabitant") of the county.

No William Mills "G.C." is cited as such, in Franklin, on any subsequent tax roll. In 1817, William Mills of the Kemp clan was again enumerated in Prunty's District (the old Hairston District).

**1817**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Land tax roll

Moses Greer's District

**Mills, James** 324a "Magoty Waters" /12m. N of cthse / .21 per a / \$70.14 total value / .53 tax

**FEBRUARY–APRIL 1817**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer's District: "M" section

**Mills, William** 1 white tithe (no date)

2 horses, mares, etc.

tax: .36

**Mills, James** 1 white tithe

1 horses, mares, etc.

tax 0.18

**Mills, Arthur** 1 white tithe

tax: 0

**Mills, William** "G.C." [no entry]

COMMENT:

Note that William "G.C." is dropped after one year. Meanwhile, William Mills (Witt) is again assessed with the Kemps and Mattox on Jesse Prunty's list (formerly Hairston's).

**1818**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Land tax roll

Moses Greer's District

**Mills, James** 324a "Magoty" /12m. N of cthse / .21 per a / \$70.14 total value / .53 tax

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**  
**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

**APRIL 1818**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer's District: "M" section

<b>Mills, William</b>	1 white tithe 2 horses, mares, etc. tax: .36	(6 April)
<b>Mills, James</b>	1 white tithe 1 horses, mares, etc. tax 0.18	(6 April)
<b>Mills, Arthur</b>	1 white tithe tax: 0	(6 April)

**1819**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Land tax roll

Moses Greer's District<sup>52</sup>

**Mills, James** 324a "Magoty" /12m. N of ctise / .21 per a / \$70.14 total value / .53 tax

**APRIL 1819**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer's District: "M" section

<b>Mills, Arthur</b>	1 white tithe 1 horse, mare, etc. tax .18	(30 April)
<b>Mills, William</b>	1 white tithe 3 horses, mares, etc. tax: .54	(30 April)
<b>Mills, James</b>	No listing	

**1820**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Land tax roll

Moses Greer's District

**Mills, James** 324a "Magoty" /12m. N / \$1. / \$324 total value / 0 house / .41 tax  
"Franklin in fee"

**COMMENT:**

This year's roll adds a house column but it is blank for James's land. Ostensibly, there was no house or it was not worth more than a set minimum at which house-tax would be assessed. If no house is on the land, where was he living?

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<sup>52</sup> Bedford County, Personal Tax Rolls, 1782–1800; imaged from the microfilmed rolls at the library of Virginia, available at Steve and Yvonne Binn, *Binn's Genealogy* (<http://binnsgenealogy.com/TaxListClubInfo.htm>) as part of the subscription-based Binn's Tax Roll Club.

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**

**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

The roll carries no explanation of the “Franklin in fee” comment. It appears for many taxpayers. It should mean that the land was in Franklin and was held by fee-simple title (i.e., full title).

**MARCH 1820**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer’s District: “M” section

**Mills, William**            2 white tithes                            (6 March)  
                                 2 horses, mares, etc.  
                                 tax: .36

**Mills, Arthur**            2 white tithes                            (6 March)  
                                 0 horses, mares, etc.  
                                 tax 0.0

**Mills, James**            0 white tithes                            (6 March)  
                                 1 horse, mare, etc.  
                                 tax 0.0

COMMENT:

The reason why no adult male is cited for James’s household is puzzling. Virginia has not charged a poll tax for many years, by decree of state assembly. Counties were allowed to tally males 16+ or 21+, but not to charge them a head tax. Thus, this should not be a case in which James has requested relief from the tax on the basis of advanced age.

A page-by-page reading of Franklin’s court orders through 1820 has not revealed any order of exemption for him.

**1820**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Census

[consecutive entries]

William McCall

Nathan Mason

Nehemiah Mullin

Mordica Moseley

Judith Mullin                    [apparently Judith Stanley, widow of William Mullins]

James McVey (McDay?)

Caty Minnia

Francis Moss

**Nancy Mills**            5 males 0–10            1 female 26–45 [née Nancy Frame, sister of Wm. Frame]  
                                 [1846 Samuel E. Mills, son of Wm Mills (Witt) is taxed 4 entries after “Widow Mills”]

Jacob Mangus

George McVey

George Mars                    [1830 William Mills (Witt) is listed next to to a Permelia Mars]

Benjamin Mars

John M. Marr

James Mills (*bef. 1750–c.1824*)  
Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]

Archibald McClardy  
William Mitchell  
Benjamin Marshall  
Richard Mitchell  
James Mitchell  
William Mullin  
John Mason

[*skip 11*]

**Bowker Mullins**

Edward McDaniel  
John Matthewws  
Gabriel Mattock

**William Mills**      1 male    26–45      1 female    26–45<sup>53</sup>      [Husband of Drucilla Kemp]  
                         3 males    0–10

James Merril  
Jesse Mavity  
William Mavity  
John Manning  
William Moore  
Henry Manning  
Mary Mullins

[*skip 21*]

Josiah Maxcy  
Jeremiah Maxcy  
William Mitchell Sen.  
Robert Martin  
Jonathan McGuire

**Arthur Mills**      **2 males**    **45—**      1 female    26–45<sup>54</sup>  
                         1 male    16–25      2 females    16–25  
                         1 male    16–18      2 females    0–10  
                         2 males    10–15  
                         4 males    0–10

**William Mills**      1 male    45–      1 female    16–25<sup>55</sup>  
                         1 male    16–25      3 females    0–10  
                         1 male    10–16  
                         3 males    0–10

James Martin, Sr.  
Hezekiah Meador  
John Martin, Jnr.

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<sup>53</sup> 1820 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Va., p. 156, line 18, William Mills [and Drucilla].

<sup>54</sup> 1820 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Va., p. 157, line 13, Arthur Mills.

<sup>55</sup> 1820 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Va., p. 157, line 19, William Mills [brother of Arthur and son of James].

1821

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Moses Greer's District

**Mills, James** 324a "Magoty" /12m. N / \$1. / \$324 total value / 0 house / .41 tax  
"Franklin in fee"

5 FEBRUARY 1821

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer's District: "M" section

**Mills, William** 2 horses, mares, etc. (5 February)  
tax .27

**Mills, James** 1 horse, mare, etc. (5 February )  
tax .13½

**Mills, Arthur** No listing

1822

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Moses Greer's District

**Mills, James** 324a "Magoty" /12m. N / \$1. / \$324 total value / 0 house / .41 tax  
[*skip many*]

**Mills, William** 67a "p. J. Early" / Magoty / 15 N / \$2. 0 house / \$134 value / .12 tax

COMMENT:

- For both James and William, the "Franklin in fee" notation appears.
- "p J. Early" was the style of notation to indicate that William had bought the land "per J. Early." Early executed many deeds in the several months preceding this tax roll.

FEBRUARY 1822

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer's District: "M" section

**Mills, William** 2 horses, mares, etc. (4 February)  
tax .27

**Mills, Arthur** 1 horse, mare, etc. (23 February )  
tax .13½

**Mills, James** No listing

1823

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Moses Greer's Dist.

**Mills, James** 324a / "Elliott's Creek" /12m. N / \$1. / \$324 total value / 0 house / .26 tax  
[*skip many*]

**Mills, William** 67a / "Elliott's Creek" / 15 N / \$2. 0 house / \$134 value / .12 tax

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**

**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

COMMENT:

For both James and William, the “Franklin in fee” notation appears.

Note the new location for the land. The land obviously has not moved. Instead, we now have identified the specific “waters of the Maggoty” on which the James Mills family lived.

**6 MARCH 1823**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer’s District: “M” section

<b>Mills, William</b>	1 horse, mare, etc. tax .12	(6 March)
<b>Mills, Arthur</b>	1 horse, mare, etc. tax .23	(6 March)
<b>Mills, Hiram</b>	1 horse, mare, etc. tax .12	(6 March)

**1824**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Land tax roll

Moses Greer’s Dist.

**Mills, James** 120a / “Elliott’s Creek” / 12m. N / \$1. / \$120 total value / 0 house / .19 tax  
[skip many]

**Mills, William** 67a / “Elliott’s Creek” / 15 N / \$2. 0 house / \$134 value / .11 tax

COMMENT:

James has disposed of 124 acres. Reading all letters of the alphabet, I find the following crossreference:

Boon, Peter, “pr James Mills” 200a / Magoty / 12m. N \$1 / 0 house tax / \$200 / .16 tax

TO DO:

Deeds and court suits need to be searched for additional information.

**3 MARCH 1824**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer’s District: “M” section

<b>Mills, William</b>	1 horse, mare, etc. tax .12	(3 March)
<b>Mills, Arthur</b>	2 horses, mares, etc. tax .24	(3 March)
<b>Mills, Hiram</b>	No entry	

**1825**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Land tax roll

Moses Greer's Dist.

**Mills, James** [no entry]

**Mills, William** 100a "fr. James Mills" / "Elliott's Creek" / 12m. N / \$1. / \$120 total value / .19 tax  
67a / "Elliott's Creek" / 15 N / \$2. 0 house / \$134 value / .11 tax

COMMENT:

24 acres of James's land is still missing.

Note that James is dropped from tax rolls after 1824. This parallels the common assertion in online trees that he died in 1824.

I am not adding further *land* tax notes here in James's summary. James's son William continues as the only Mills landowner in this district, taxed for 167 acres, until 1830 when he is reduced to 129 acres. In 1832, the land tax rolls begin to call him William Sr. In 1836 he is said to have sold 2 acres to "H. Stover." In 1842, 89 acres of his land was charged to "Widow Elizabeth Mills (Life)," meaning she held a life interest, and Henry Stover has added 38 acres "From William Mills in 1842."

**FEBRUARY 1825**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer's District: "M" section

**Mills, Arthur** 1 horse, mare, etc. (7 February)  
tax .12

[skip 20]

**Mills, William** 1 horse, mare, etc. (no date)  
tax .12

**Mills, Hiram** No entry

**FEBRUARY–MARCH 1826**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer's District: "M" section

**Mills, Arthur** 2 horse, mare, etc. (6 February)  
tax .24

[skip 26]

**Mills, Jesse** 1 horse, mare, etc. (6 March)  
tax .12

[skip 18]

**Mills, William Sr.** 2 horses, mares, etc. (6 March)  
tax .24

COMMENT:

Given that William is now called William Sr. on the tax roll, one would expect to find a William Jr. on the roll also—not necessarily as a son but simply a younger same-name man. That does not happen this year.

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**

**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

William Mills-Witt has been missing from Hairston's District since 1821—and he would not return until 1831 when he inherited land from his father-in-law Robert Kemp. I have read Bedford County personal tax rolls for 1819–30 and do not find him there.

**26 MARCH 1827**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer's District: "M" section

**Mills, Arthur**            1 horse, mare, etc.            (26 March)  
tax .12

[skip 13]

**Mills, Hiram**            2 horses, mares, etc.            (26 March)  
tax .24

[skip 14]

**Mills, William Sr.?**    2 horse, mares, etc.            (26 March)  
tax .24

**3 MARCH 1828**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer's District: "M" section

**Mills, Arthur**            1 horse, mare, etc.            (3 March)  
tax .12

[skip 1]

**Mills, William J[r]**    1 horse, mare, etc.            (3 March)  
tax .12

[skip 8]

**Mills, Hiram**            1 horse, mare, etc.            (3 March)  
tax .12

[skip 4]

**Mills, Jesse**            1 horse, mare, etc.            (3 March)  
tax .12

[skip 6]

**Mills, William**        1 horse, mare, etc.            (3 March)  
tax .12

**FEBRUARY–APRIL 1829**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA**

Personal tax roll

Moses Greer's District: "M" section

**Mills, Arthur**            2 horses, mares, etc.            (7 March)  
tax .20

[skip 2]

**Mills, William Jr.**    1 horse, mare, etc.            (7 March)  
tax .10

[skip 7]

**Mills, Hiram**            1 horse, mare, etc.            (1 February)

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**  
**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

tax .10

[skip 2]  
**Mills, Jesse**            1 horse, mare, etc.            (6 April)  
tax .10

[skip 6]  
**Mills, William Sr.**    2 horse, mare, etc.            (4 April)  
tax .20

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**ADDENDUM: 25 JUNE 2019**

The following summary analysis was prepared today for Joseph A. Borkowski, whose wife Sharyn Annette (Mills) Borkowski, descends from James via the following line:

- Stafford Woodrow Mills (1924 – 1970) & Billie Joyce Broome
- Stafford Whitlow Mills (1882 – 1946) & Myrtle Mae Nicely
- Doctor Taylor Mills (1854 – 1942) & Sallie Frances Frailin
- Cornelius Mills (1814 – unknown) & Sarah Wray
- Arthur Mills (Abt 1770 – 1855) & Nancy West
- James Mills, Sr. (Abt 1730 – 1824) (and questionably Octavia Breckenridge)
- Unconfirmed John Mills and Jane Collins from Ireland

**MILLS TO BORKOWSKI:**

Regarding the Breckinridges, I've seen no records to suggest a relationship between them and James Mills and no "slot" in the Breckenridge family into which she could fit.

In all this cluster of counties I've working through in central and western Virginia, a James of Botetourt is the only one I've found of the same generation as James of Franklin. The following string of indirect evidence suggests that the various references *possibly* relate to the same man. (All of these items are documented in my reports on Augusta, Bedford, and Botetourt-Montgomery, which you've used at my website *Historic Pathways*):

1782-85            James was taxed in Bedford, charged for a tithe but no land, in the same time period in which John Mills Jr. was an absentee landowner of Bedford land, living in Botetourt.

1785                James was cut away into Franklin County.

1786                James was appointed a road overseer in Franklin, a post that went only to landowners, they were to care for the road that ran by or through their land.

1787                John Jr. sold his Bedford land.

1790                James bought his own land in Franklin; no record of prior ownership has been found. (He bought from James Slone, a name that also appears in Botetourt; and James Slone's wife is widely said, without evidence, to be Alice *Mills*.)

*Hypothesis:* James was managing the land of John Jr., the absentee landowner. If so, James is a good candidate for John Jr.'s brother.

Meanwhile ...

**James Mills (bef. 1750–c.1824)**

**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

- 1782 One James Mills served in the Botetourt militia company of John Mills Jr. No other Mills served in that company. Again, the suggestion is that they may have been kin.
- 1784 24 Mar One James Mills married Elizabeth Phipps/Phillips, daughter of Josiah, in Botetourt.
- 1784 One James Mills was added to the Botetourt tithe roll on its “supernumary” list—one year only. He’s not on any subsequent Botetourt tax roll, unless my eyes became too bleary and I missed him.
- 1789 One James Mills is named as coexecutor of the Botetourt will of Samuel Baldwin, who identified James as the brother of his (Baldwin’s) wife Mary.

*Evaluation:* This James of the random Botetourt appearances could, possibly, be James of Bedford-Franklin. If so, then the Elizabeth Phipps/Phillips whom he married in 1784 was not the mother of his older children. At least William, Arthur, and James Jr. were born prior to that marriage. There does seem to exist a ten-year break in James’s children, with the next child, George, being born c1789. That break and the last child’s birth is compatible with the 1784 Botetourt marriage.

If these are indeed one and the same James, twice married, then we might ask: Could the first wife have been a Breckenridge? What I’ve seen thus far might be boiled down to this:

- 1751 Robert Breckenridge makes his first appearance in Augusta’s court minutes.
- 1755 RB is sheriff of Augusta.
- 1769 RB in Augusta posts bond as executor of the large-scale landowner James Patton (who is widely said to be RB’s second father-in-law; I’ve not verified it). His sureties were, in this order: **John Mills [Sr.]**, David Robinson, Wm. Campbell, George Skillern, John Taylor, and Patrick Campbell.
- 1773 RB’s will was probated in Botetourt, naming his wife Lettice and children William, John, Alexander, Robert, James, Preston, and Elizabeth. I’ve not yet examined the original will, but the published abstracts do not name an Octavia or mention children of a deceased wife. (James Mills’s first wife bore children c1774–1778, suggesting that the marriage occurred about the time of RB’s will.) The one named daughter, Elizabeth, is widely said to have married a Meredith; I’ve not attempted to prove or disprove that assertion.

This is the sole connection I have found thus far between Breckenridge and Millses—but its nature is a significant one that speaks strongly to a close association.

Regarding your tradition that James of Franklin was the son of “John Mills and Jane Collins of Ireland.” This set of Augusta Millses *appear* to be *Scottish* immigrants, Presbyterians. As you will have seen from my posted Augusta County report:

- 1754 John and “Ann” sold a tract of their Augusta County land in 1754 to Irwin/Erwin Patterson, while a resident of Lunenburg—according to a published abstract whose reading I’ve not yet verified.
- 1761 John and “Jane” Mills witnessed Patterson’s sale of that land, according to the same set of abstracts.
- 1761 John and “Mary” of Lunenburg sold another tract of John’s Augusta County land; same source.

**James Mills (*bef. 1750–c.1824*)**

**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

1764            John and “Mary” (now back in Augusta) sold two tracts of their Augusta land; ditto.

The original documents—or at least the officially recorded versions of the deeds—need to be examined to work out the seeming discrepancies in the identity of John Sr.’s wife or wives.

You ask whether the Breckinridge possibility has been thoroughly worked. Absolutely not! I’ve put over 2,000 hours thus far in extracting and correlating Mills records from central and western Virginia—most counties past the first tier of coastal settlement. I’d be surprised if I managed to work them reasonably well in 5,000 hours. For Augusta, Bedford, and the counties cut from them, most research in the original courthouse records remains to be done.

Bottom line: If James were my ancestor, I’d focus in two areas, in this order:

#### **Botetourt**

I’d read every record book, every document, every line, in search of

- even the thinnest of threads between Millses and Breckenridges.
- all documents for the Arthurs of Botetourt as a possible birth family for James’ (first?) wife, considering that James named his first son Arthur and settled among Arthurs in northern Franklin County.
- All documents that exist for William Baldwin, husband of Mary Mills.
- every document that exists for Millses, starting with the probate of John Sr.’s estate, in search of any ties between those Botetourt Millses and James.

#### **Augusta**

- Repeat the same process, including Collins—a name you propose as a possible family for James’s mother.
- Also include every other individual who is known to associate with either John Mills or Robert Breckenridge.

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### **SHARING POLICY**

**James Mills (*bef. 1750–c.1824*)**  
**Wife: [?Octavia Breckinridge?]**

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, “James Mills (*bef. 1730–c.1824*), Spouses: [–?–] and Wife [–?–]: Research Notes,” a working file updated 28 December 2019,” p. \_\_\_\_.

If I have made an error in any abstract or transcription—or if my analyses prove invalid—you would not want to be blamed for my errors. And I, as I continue to circulate this work, would be mortified if others thought I had committed plagiarism because my words appear elsewhere without attribution.

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