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REPORT TO: File

SUBJECT: Mills & Associates: Rutherford County, NC, Its Parent Counties (Anson, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Tryon) and Its Offshoots (Buncombe, Burke, Henderson, and Polk Counties): Expanded Survey

KEY PERSONS: Two Mills brothers from Southside Virginia migrated into the Anson-Rutherford region between 1756 and 1770:

Col. Ambrose Mills (c1721–October 1780), formerly of Goochland, Lunenburg, and Albemarle Counties, VA. Lived intermittently on two frontiers:

- Anson > Tryon > Rutherford from 1757–80
- Craven County, SC (current Fairfield) c1756–57 and c1760–1773

A Loyalist colonel, Ambrose was captured and hung at King's Mountain.

By Mourning Stone, he is said to be the father of:

- **William Jr.** (1746–1834); his siblings and mother were massacred in Craven, c1756–58. A major in the Loyalist forces, he was married to Eleanor Morris, possibly in Old Craven > Camden > Fairfield.

By Ann Brown (who wed secondly John Carrick, 1790), he is said to be the father of:

- **Thomas** (b. c1765), **John** (1767–), **Mary “Polly”** (1770–1834; m. Russell **Twitty**); **Mildred “Milly”** (1775–1846; m. Merrimon **Featherstone**); **Ambrose** (1777–1848–50), **Anna “Nancy”** (1780–c1830; John Bird)¹

William Mills Jr., “English Billy” (c1728–1780). Apparently left Southside Virginia soon after he came of age. He was a resident of NC (county unstated) on 5 June 1770, when he sold the 330 acres he had inherited from his father.²

Several days before the Battle of King's Mountain, William Mills Jr. was one of several Loyalists captured in Rutherford. He was ordered hung by Lt. Jesse Walton³ (whose brother William Walton Sr. would marry William Jr.'s widowed sister Millie). William Jr. is said to have left offspring in Rutherford, Burke, and Buncombe. Many online trees

¹ See E. S. Mills, “Ambrose Mills, Co. (c1721–1780); Spouses 1. Mourning Stone; 2. Ann Brown: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 28 August 2018; archived at E. S. Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the “Research” tab. Ambrose's brother-in-law Thomas Fletchall and possible brother-in-law Thomas Brown were also Loyalist colonels.

² Unless otherwise cited, all details given for William Jr. are documented in E. S. Mills, “William Mills (c1699–1766); Spouse Mary (Walton?): Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 28 August 2018, particularly pp. 3–4 for William Jr.; archived at *Historic Pathways*.

³ William Walton (Private, Capt. John Loving's Co., Stevens' Regt., VA), no. S17184 in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25255701> and 33 subsequent numbers), particularly 20447300, 20447303, 20447306, 20447308.

assert that a daughter, “Mary Walton Mills,” married James Stepp, by whom she bore a Polly Stepp scalped by Indians in her childhood. This line remains to be researched.

EXCLUSIONS: Millses who belong to families *not* related to the cluster above will be covered only to the extent needed to distinguish them from the family of interest.

ASSOCIATES: **Micajah Pickett** and his **Hinson, Sanders/Saunders** in-laws. While a full study of these families is beyond the scope of this project, enough data needs to be captured to

- determine whether Micajah Pickett lived in Rutherford prior to his residence in Fairfield (a residence he abandoned in favor of Rutherford c1800); and
- determine whether the Philip Hinson of Rutherford County is one and the same as the Philip Hinson who also lived in Fairfield.

George Watts of Albemarle County, whose brother Thomas married Sarah Mills (sister of Ambrose and William Jr.) also migrated to Anson (subsequently Lincoln) contemporaneously with Ambrose and William Jr.

- GEO-BOUNDS: 1749 Anson County created from Bladen (courthouse fire, 1868)
1762 Mecklenburg County created from Anson County (no known courthouse losses)
1768 Tryon County created from Mecklenburg
1778 Lincoln County was cut from Tryon
1779 **Rutherford was created from Tryon County** & Tryon was abolished
1791 Buncombe County created from W part of Rutherford & Burke
1838 Henderson County created from S part of Buncombe
1841 Cleveland Co. created from E part of Rutherford & W part of Lincoln
1842 McDowell County created from N part of Rutherford & half of Burke
1855 Polk County created from SW part of Rutherford

The studied region also adjoined old Greenville District and current Spartanburg County, SC

REPOSITORY: North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh; augmented by land and military research in images of original documents provided by

<https://mars.archives.ncdcr.gov/BasicSearch.aspx>

<https://www.fold3.com>

<https://www.nclandgrants.com>

<https://www.FamilySearch.org>

<https://www.Ancestry.com>



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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS⁴

The 2018 block of research accomplished the following:

- It identified a contemporary nickname for William Mills Jr. that supports the alleged immigration of his birth family from England during his and Ambrose’s childhood: i.e., “English Billy.”
- It documented a previously unknown son for William Jr.: Jesse Mills, who applied for a grant of land in 1769. Jesse apparently set up housekeeping that same year, given that his father (18 July 1769) conveyed to him a small quantity of personal property of the type a young man needed to begin an independent life. Jesse fought in the American Revolution on the Patriot side.
- It documented William Jr.’s earliest known place of residence in NC—i.e., at the time of Jesse’s birth which Jesse placed “on Deep River in (I think) Chatham County in this state, the year I cannot tell.” Jesse’s 1769 application for land grant and his father’s simultaneous donation to him of household goods implies he was likely 16–18 at the time—i.e., born c1751–53. Chatham County, NC, was then Orange County.
- It provided the first known evidence of landholding by William Jr. in the Rutherford area and distinguished him from his namesake nephew, Maj. William, the son of Col. Ambrose.
- It disambiguated William Jr. from a third William Mills found contemporaneously with him in Anson (William of Clark’s Creek) and linked the Clark Creek Millses (William, Hugh, and Blenny) to August > Botetourt Co. VA.

⁴ All statements made in his summary are documented in the main body of this paper, the “Research Notes,” which present abstracts, transcriptions, and images in chronological sequence. For any statement of fact presented in this summary, use the attached date to find the record within “Research Notes.”

- It provided factual data for the life of William Jr.’s alleged son-in-law, James Stepp—along with the identities of probable offspring who settled around him: John, William, Abraham, James Jr., Robert, Esther and Mary Step. Of these, only Mary “Polly” Stepp has been identified by previous researchers.
- It clarified the treatment that Ambrose Mills’s widow and children received, after the war, as a result of the Tory allegiance of Ambrose, his brother William, and his son William.
- It provided disputed evidence that Ambrose’s teenaged son Thomas Mills was a Loyalist captain under Col. Ferguson at King’s Mountain.
- It made clear that the Philip Henson family of Mecklenburg was not the same as the Philip Henson family of Fairfield—although they may have a common root.
- It confirmed that George Watts, of Southside VA (whose brother Thomas married Sarah Mills, sister of Ambrose and William Jr.⁵) was indeed married to Frances Woodward, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Woodward of Albemarle.
- It identified the four children born to George and Frances Watts—Rachel, Leah, Jacob, and Frances—with approximation of their ages.
- It identified Frances’s second husband as James Taylor.
- It uncovered and assembled more than a hundred Mills documents, to lay a solid foundation for future accounts of the lives of Col. Ambrose Mills, his brother “Inglis Billy,” and their offspring.

Supplemental research in deed and probate records during 2019–2022 doubles the scope of the records collected and addresses two specific issues. The following briefly summarizes the body evidence for each that is detailed and documented in the main body of this report:

1. Sufficient evidence exists to identify the father of **Lavender Mills (c.1800–c.1859)** as John “Little” Mills (x) of Rotton’s Creek of Green River in Cooper’s Gap Township, current Polk County, North Carolina. (See Appendix 1 for a summary proof argument, as well as the abstracts and transcriptions throughout this report.)
2. **John “Little” Mills (x)** has been clearly separated from two same-name kinsmen: Col. John Mills, Esq. (s) of Rutherford’s White Oak Creek and John-of-Ambrose, who moved to Christian County, Kentucky. This report’s correlation and analysis of some 200 deeds, grants, and land surveys executed by and for these Johns, their siblings, children, and parents clearly establishes that
 - **Col. John Mills, Esq.**, b. c1766⁶, who has been extensively researched by others and long identified as the son of Maj. William Mills and wife Eleanor Morris, was—like William—a land speculator and slaveholder. His principal plantation lay at White Oak.
 - **John Mills, son of Col. Ambrose** and wife **Ann Brown**, b. c1768–69,⁷ married Miriam Wadlington, daughter of Thomas Wadlington who bought Mills land on Walnut Creek in 1779, adjacent to Ann’s growing family. About the time that John married Miriam, his father-in-law was appointed financial guardian to John’s minor siblings. Before December 1797, Wadlington moved his family to Christian County, KY, but John appears to have remained in Rutherford until

⁵ See E. S. Mills, “Thomas Watts (c1723–aft.1796); Spouse Sarah Mills: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 15 June 2016; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

⁶ His birth year is extrapolated from the fact that he first appeared as a tithable, assigned to a road crew, in 1787—i.e., aged 21. That correlates with all later censuses for him.

⁷ His birth year is extrapolated from the facts that (1) he was already of age in 1790 when financial guardians were appointed for his minor siblings; and (2) he was the second-born son of Ambrose by Ann Brown and, unlike his just-older brother Thomas, was not old enough to be a mid-teen participant in the Battle of King’s Mountain.

1801–2. (He was first taxed in Christian on 23 July 1803, and that first taxation usually happened after a new resident had been there for a year.)⁸ Thereafter, he appears on both the 1810 and 1820 censuses of Kentucky—in Christian in 1810 and in the cutaway county of Trigg in 1820. The latter enumerates him adjacent to Ambrose Mills, an apparent newlywed aged 18–25. John-of-Ambrose appears to be deceased by 1830, when he was replaced with a younger John aged 20–30 and the young Ambrose (also 20–30) who was a near neighbor of Thomas Wadlington Jr. Parentage of the John Mills of Kentucky is identified through an 1806 Buncombe Co. deed executed jointly with Ambrose Mills, Esq., of Rutherford, in which they stated they were selling their interest in land left by their deceased mother Ann Carrick.

- **John Mills (x) called “Little,”** b. c1766–70,⁹ was the last to come on record in Rutherford. In 1797, John appears to have bought his first land. (The tract was sold in 1804 at which time the owner, John Mills, made his mark as † — an antiquated form of the letter J, also used in 1769 by William “Inglish Billy” Mills as a cattle brand for his son Jesse). In July 1800, as John Mills (x), the man who would be called “Little” John witnessed a land sale by the soon-to-be “John Mills, Esq.” In 1808, “John Mills, Esq.” sold the remainder of that same tract of land to the John Mills who X’d his documents. The land was identified as part of a tract “originally granted to William Gilbert.” **In 1829, John Mills (x) gave this land, with matching description, to his son Calvin Garrett Mills.** In addition to the 1808 land purchase that distinguishes “John Mills, Esq.” from John Mills (x), three additional land documents help to establish his identity:
 - 15 January 1806, “John Mills” purchased **50 acres at the head of Rotton’s Creek** from **Peter Fisher**, attorney for a group of land speculators, one of whom was **Tench Coxe**. On 11 February 1825, as John Mills (x), he sold Lavender Mills **50 acres on the head of Rotton’s Creek**, stating that it was “part of a tract granted by patent to **Tench Coxe** & Conveyed by him to the sd. John Mills.”
 - 7 April 1808, a survey was made for Maj. William Mills of land on Rotton’s Creek that he had entered in October 1784. Twenty-four years had passed, while Maj. William speculated on thousands of other acres. In each and all of the other cases, he promptly commissioned the survey so that the patent could be issued to him. This one tract was a stark exception. One call in the survey that was eventually made is especially informative: “N 30 W 178 poles to the corner of the 50 acre tract JOHN MILLS got from Fisher.” That Fisher land is the tract John (x) purchased in January 1806 at the head of Rotton’s Creek.
 - 18 October 1826, “John Mills” entered a tract of land that was patented to him in December 1827 as “John Mills (little).” The survey calls show that he chose land adjacent not only to his 1806 purchase but also adjacent to the 1808 grant that Maj. William had claimed since 1784, along the line described as **N 30 W 178 poles**.

A man who farmed his land without enslaved labor, “Little” John appears rarely in the county records.¹⁰ No discovered record states a relationship between him and the other Millses of Rutherford. A relationship is certain, given his association with the Rotton Creek land that Maj. William Mills entered,

⁸ Christian Co., KY, Tax Rolls, 1797–1803, unpaginated; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7834413 > image 181 for John’s first appearance in 1803.

⁹ His birth period is extrapolated from (1) the 1810 census that places his birth at 1766–1784 and (2) the 1830 and 1840 censuses that place his birth between 1760 and 1770.

¹⁰ One major set of Rutherford records remain unread in this project: the county court orders from 1795 through 1850 or so.

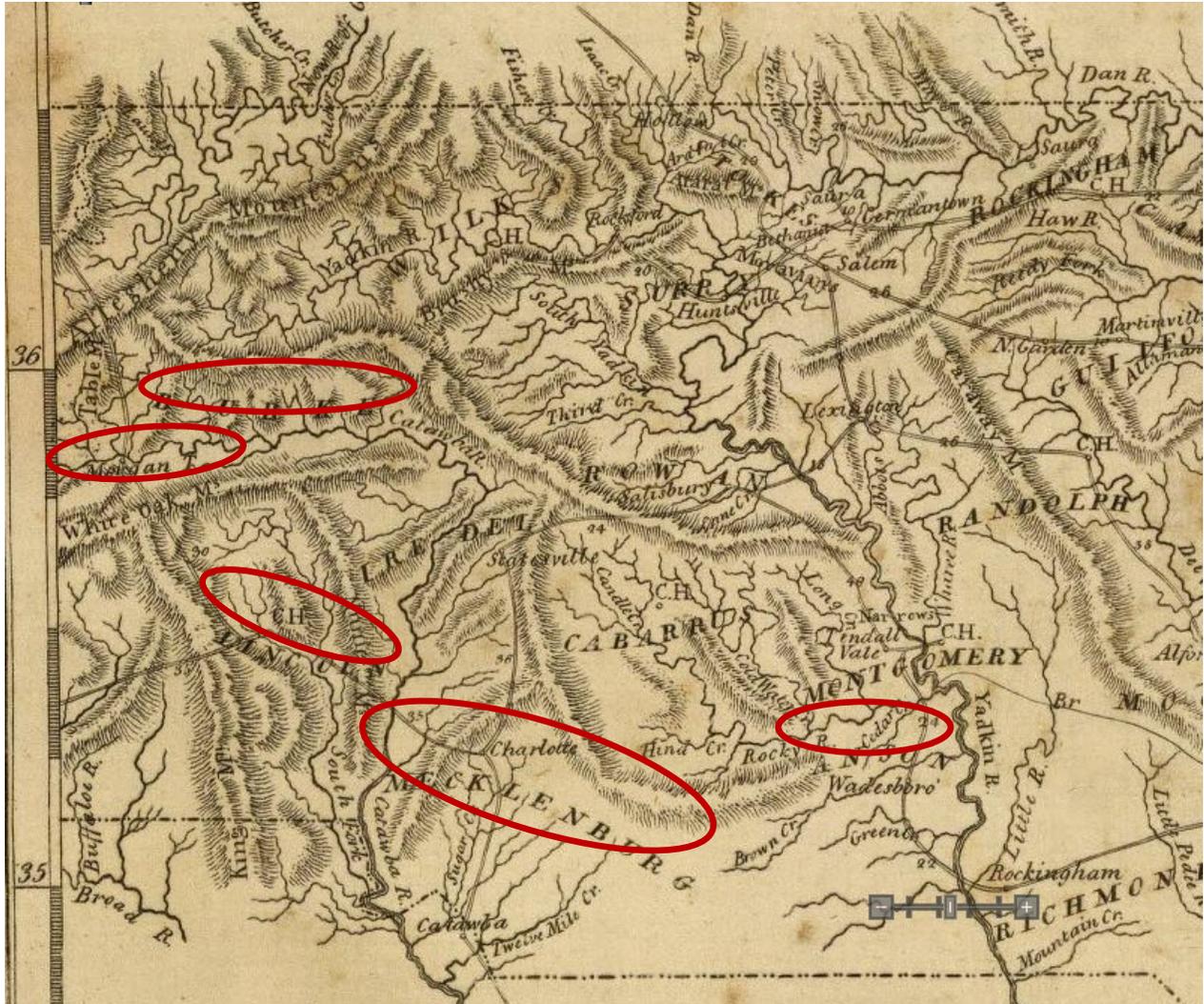
for someone, in 1784—as well as the number of times that Ambrose Mills Jr. (brother of Maj. William) acted with and on behalf of “Little” John.

Reconstructions of the families generated by Col. Ambrose Mills and his son Maj. William almost certainly eliminate both as a father for “Little” John Mills. Two possibilities exist for John’s father:

- **William “English Billy” Mills** who died in 1780, after which his widow went to live in Maj. William’s home (according to the affidavit Maj. William’s son made in the 1833 pension application of English Billy’s one proved son, Jesse). If English Billy, who owned no land at his death, left minors as well as a widow, the 1784 land to which Maj. William laid claim near the head of Rotton’s Creek may have been land on which he settled the widow and her children.
- **Jesse Mills, son of English Billy**, who appears (from records herein) to have had a teenaged marriage in 1769. His father, that year, gave him household goods and livestock to set up housekeeping on a grant Jesse simultaneously requested from the province. No children are known from that apparent marriage. Jesse’s pension application, and the subsequent application of his widow, reveals that he married Sarah Garrett on 8 December 1785. “Little” John Mills, who named a son Calvin *Garrett* and fathered his first son about 1797, was of compatible age to be born into Jesse’s possible first marriage. However, research thus not revealed for “Little” John and Jesse any associations or shared actions—a point strongly diminishing the possibility that “Little” John was Jesse’s **son**.

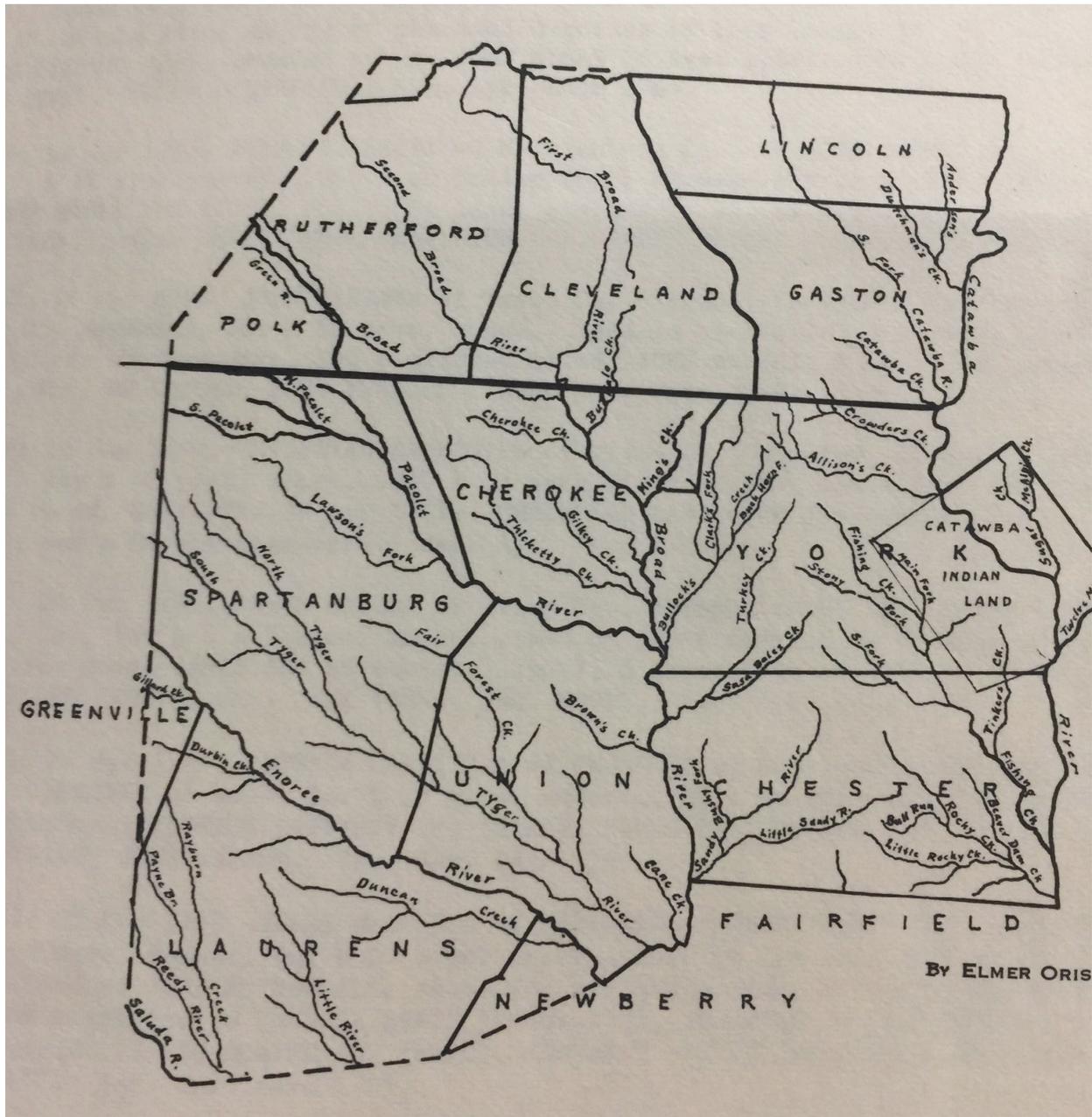


Map 1
Anson, Burke (formerly Tryon) & Lincoln Counties, NC¹¹



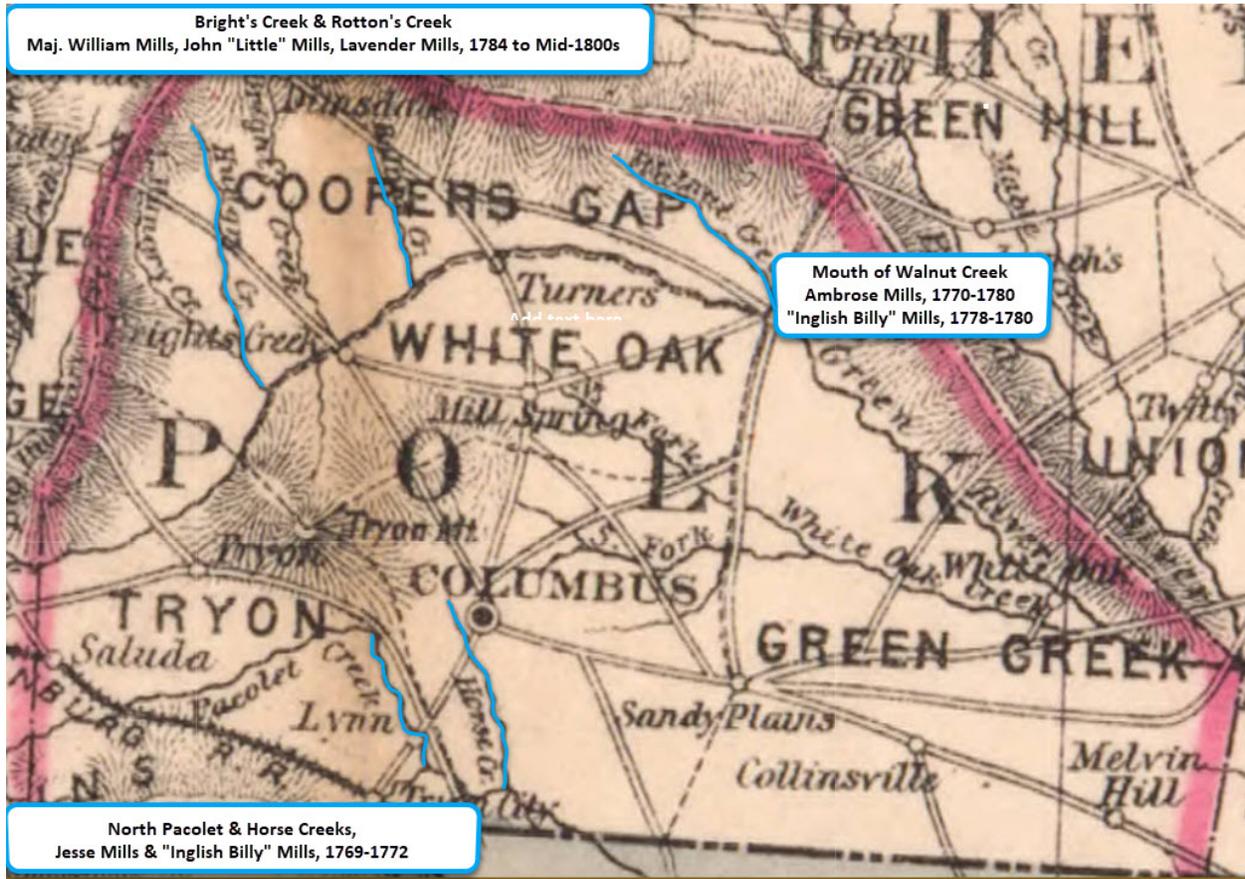
¹¹ Snipped from Samuel Lewis and Aaron Arrowsmith, "North Carolina," in *A New and Elegant General Atlas* (Boston: Thomas & Andrews, 1812), p718; imaged at David Rumsey Map Collection (https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~31709~1150504:NorthCarolina?sort=pub_list_no_initialsort%2Cpub_date%2Cpub_list_no%2Cseries_no&qvq=:North%20Carolina;sort:pub_list_no_initialsort%2Cpub_date%2Cpub_list_no%2Cseries_no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=29&trs=1079 : accessed 8 July 2018).

Map 3
Old Tryon County & the Regions Cut from It
(Particularly Lincoln, Rutherford & Polk, NC • Greenville District & Other SC Counties)¹³



¹³ "Approximate Boundaries of Tryon County at Its Formation," by Elmer O. Parker, in Brent H. Holcolm, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769-1786* Tryon County Wills & Estates (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), front matter.

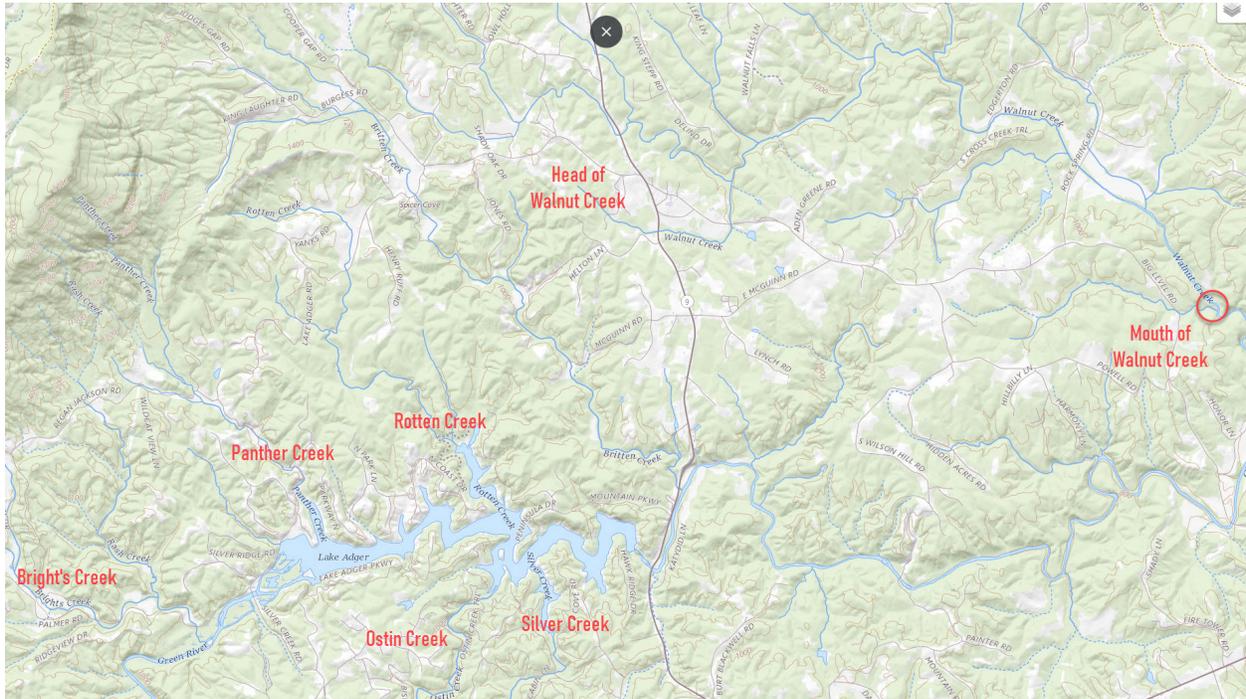
Map 4
Three Mills Settlements, 1769–1784
North Pacolet & Horse Creek, Walnut Creek, and Bright's & Rotton's Creek¹⁴



Roton's Creek (as identified on this map) is more commonly spelled Rotton's Creek or Rotten's Creek in Rutherford and Polk County records. *HomeTownLocator.com* and *TopoZone* present it as "Rotten Creek." The U.S. Geographic Names Information System (<https://www.usgs.gov/tools/geographic-names-information-system-gnis>) does not include Roton's/Rotten's Creek under any spelling, although it does depict an unnamed creek, east of Bright's in the same location shown for Roton's Creek above.

¹⁴ A. W. Shaffer, *Shaffer's Township Map of North Carolina* (Raleigh, NC: A. W. Shaffer, 1886); imaged University of North Carolina, Louis Round Wilson Library, Special Collections, *North Carolina Maps* (<https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/1185>; accessed 25 August 2022)

Map 5
Bright's, Panther, Rotten, Ostin, Silver, and Walnut Creeks of Green River¹⁵



RESEARCH NOTES

5 DECEMBER 1758
ANSON COUNTY, NC
Residence.

“William Nutt, Sr. of Anson, to son Andrew Nutt, all interest in 162 A where Ambrose Mills now dwells ... to son Wm. Nutt, Jr., 272 A, part of land I now live on, surveyed by Francis Beaty ... to son John Nutt 300 A where I now live ... my wife Elen ... Wm Nutt (W) (Seal), Wit: Nathaniel Walker, James McCorkel, Hugh McCain.”¹⁶

COMMENT:

Ambrose and William Mills do not appear on the published 1750–57 quit-rent lists for Anson.¹⁷ The above reference is the only record found to date that places Ambrose in Old Anson. Either he lived briefly there, before migrating down the Broad River to current Fairfield County, SC, or

¹⁵ “Topo Map of Streams in Rutherford County, North Carolina, *TopoZone* (<https://www.topozone.com/north-carolina/rutherford-nc/stream/>): 30 August 2022).

¹⁶ Brent H. Holcomb, *Anson County, North Carolina: Deed Abstracts, 1749–1766; Abstracts of Wills & Estates, 1749–1795* (Baltimore: Clearfield, 1974), 92; citing vol. 5: 305. For Blenny, see p. 12.

¹⁷ William D. Bennett, “Anson County, N.C., Quit Rents List, 1750–1757,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal* 18 (May 1991): 73–81.

else, after the massacre of his family that is alleged to have occurred along the Wateree (date unknown) he pulled back north into the more-settled Anson area until hostilities subsided.

For the next eleven years, I have found no other records that relate to the Mills brothers from James River, in the North Carolina region they pioneered. Two apparently unrelated families of Millses do appear in this area from the 1740s through the 1760s:

Pee Dee, Little River & Town Creek:

In 1746 (and possibly earlier), one Robert Mills obtained patented land on these waterways that lies now in South Carolina—land that he conveyed to his sons Nathan and Matthew. After 1753 they appear only as third-party mentions. One David Mills in 1764 is said to own an adjacent tract.¹⁸ The cluster of names suggest that they descend from the immigrant Nicholas Mills whose offspring were in Albemarle contemporaneously with the settlement there of Ambrose Mills and his father (later 1740s and early 1750s).

Clark's Creek

This set of Millses came out of Augusta County, Virginia.¹⁹ Three men, two of them brothers, can be placed on Clark's Creek of Anson (later Mecklenburg):

- **Blenny Mills** who purchased land from John Clark via a lease-and-release on 29–30 October 1755, with **William Mills** as witness, and remained there at least through 28 October 1756.²⁰ “Blenny” (aka Blany, Bleney) as a surname is also found contemporaneously in Albemarle.
- **William Mills of Clark's Creek**, who witnessed Blenny's lease-and-release in 1755. William's estate was opened for probate in Mecklenburg (created 1762 from western Anson) on 20 January 1767. Hugh Quine, was appointed his administrator; John Moor and John Fondren, were Quine's securities for £100 bond).²¹ See also this paper's notes for
 - 1765–79 which cite **Ann, Jean, and Sarah Mills**, along with their kinsman William Welsh, in a manner that suggests thee three girls are heirs to William of Clark's Creek.
 - 16 March 1784 showing a sheriff's levy on **John Mills** land on Clark's Creek, granted 23 April 1768, that included “his deceased father's William Mills improvements.”
- **Hugh Mills**, who entered land on Clark's Creek in 1761 and subsequently sold it (1771) as a resident of Botetourt County, Virginia. See notes under those dates below.

These Millses lived in the part of old Anson that became Mecklenburg, but not the part that became Tryon (i.e., the region settled by Ambrose, his brother William, and his son William). I have not placed the Clark's Creek Millses more precisely. Current Chester Co., SC, has both a Fishing Creek and a Clark's Creek; but a Clark Creek also exists today in Burke Co., NC, to the northeast of Charlotte (Mecklenburg County). The survey of Hugh's land places it on “Shadey

¹⁸ Brent H. Holcomb, *Anson County, North Carolina: Deed Abstracts, 1749–1766; Abstracts of Wills & Estates, 1749–1795* (Baltimore: Clearfield, 1974), 2, 24, 26, 28, 31, 53, 65, 68, 78, 94, 105, 111, 115, 116, 117.

¹⁹ See the following reports, all by E. S. Mills, archived online at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab:

- “William Mills of 1750 Tithe List, Lunenburg County, Virginia: Identification Needed,” report to file, 20 June 2018.
- “Mills: Bedford County, Virginia: Extended Survey of Resources,” report to file, 28 August 2018.
- “Mills & Associates: Montgomery, Fincastle & Botetourt Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey,” report to file, 28 August 2018.

²⁰ Brent H. Holcomb, *Anson County, North Carolina: Deed Abstracts, 1749–1766; Abstracts of Wills & Estates, 1749–1795* (Baltimore: Clearfield, 1974), 12, 151.

²¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Mecklenburg County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Wills, 1763–1790 (1749–1790)* (Greenville, SC: A Press, 1980), 77.

Branch”; one waterway by that name still exists in present Catawba County, NC,²² adjacent to Burke where the offspring of Ambrose and William (“English Billy”) Mills ended up after a series of county splits. I am including this family’s records of the 1760s, in this set of research notes, to provide the details needed to distinguish them from the Ambrose-William cluster.

Hugh Mills’s will was proved in Botetourt in 1785, naming his brothers “Blaney” and John. These brothers and their father John Sr are traceable backwards from Botetourt to Augusta to Bedford to Lunenburg, where John Sr. and William first come on record in the 1747–53 period.

10 APRIL 1761

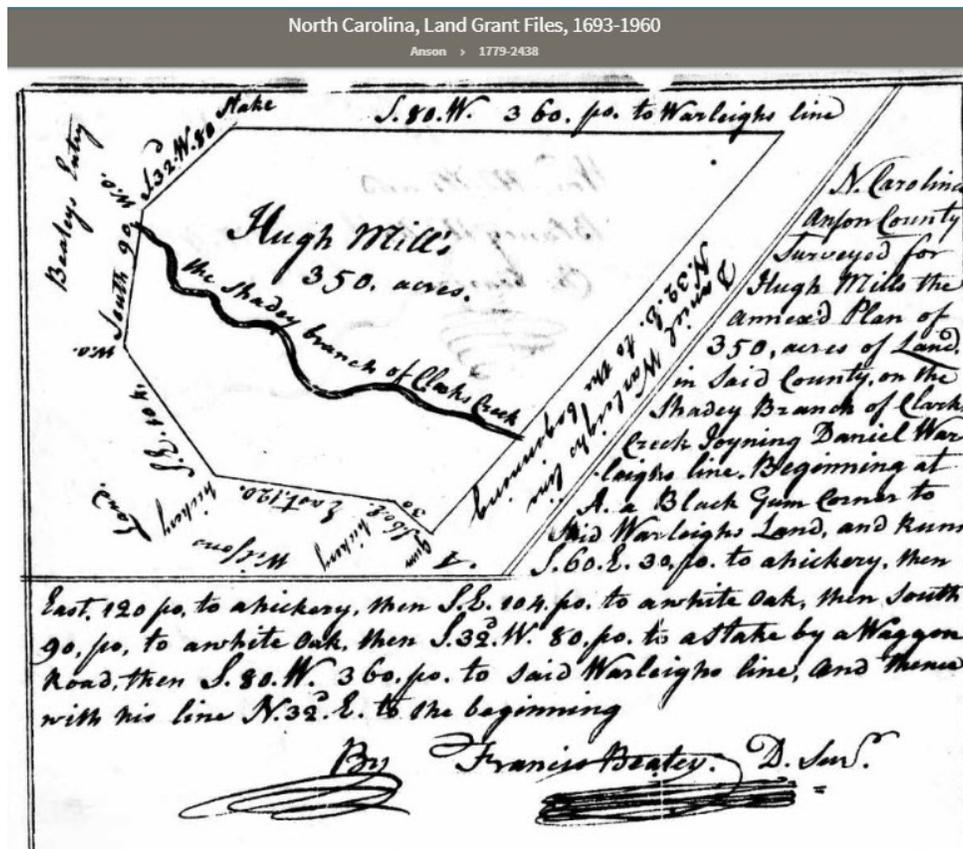
MECKLENBURG > TRYON > BURKE COUNTIES, NC

Land plat.

“A large platt diagram showing lands of (No. 5) Daniel McKissick’s 423 acres, (No. 4) **Hugh Mills** 350 acres of land granted 10 April 1761, and (No. 6) Daniel Warlock granted 1,000 acres 28 May 1751 on **Clarks Creek**, and shows the land “the patten in dispute Covrs.” Certified by Wm. Scott.”²³

COMMENT:

Hugh Mills’s undated survey plat appears below.²⁴



²² NC HomeTownLocator (<https://northcarolina.hometownlocator.com/ceatures> : accessed 13 July 2018).

²³ Edith Warren Huggins, *Burke County, North Carolina, Land Records, 1778*, vol. 1. (N.p.: P.p., 1977), 152.

²⁴ “North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018) > Anson > 1779–2438 > image 350 of 1224.

13 JULY 1765

MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NC

Deed.

“William Welsh of Meck., planter, for love and good will to my loving cousins **Sarah Mills & Ann Mills & Jeane Mills** of Meck., 640 A on Clark’s Creek, surveyed for **Will---Mills**, granted to William Welsh 19 Apr 1763 to Ann Mills for her part 200 A ... William Welsh (Seal), Wit: James Robison, Nicolas Welsh, Alexander Lockhart.”²⁵

23 JANUARY 1769

TRYON COUNTY, NC

“William Sims of N.C., surveyor, to *Perregreen Magnus*, planter, for £5 proc. Money ... land in Tryon Co., on both sides of a large fork of **Buffalow Creek** 300 A, granted ___ Dec 1769 (sic) ... William Sims (Seal), Wit: Thomas Welch, **George Watts**, Rec. July term 1769.”²⁶

COMMENT:

Buffalo Creek of Broad River, see Map 1 in the bottom left corner.

3 MARCH 1769

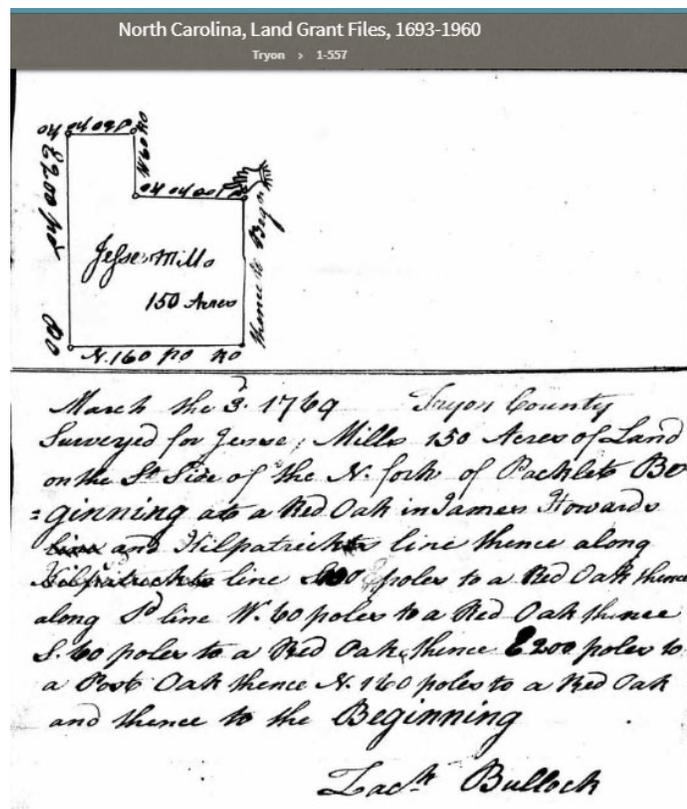
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land grant.

“Surveyed for **Jesse Mills** 150 Acres of Land on the S Side of the **N. Fork of Packett** Beginning at a Red Oak in *James Howards* line and *Kilpatrick’s* line, thence along Kilpatrick’s line S 100 poles to a Red Oak, thence along Sd line W. 60 poles to a Red Oak, thence S. 60 poles to a Red Oak, thence E. 200 poles to a Post Oak, thence N. 160 poles to a Red Oak, and thence to the Beginning. [Signed] Zach. Bullock.”²⁷

COMMENT:

- This Jesse is the son of William Mills Jr. See his father’s July donation, below, and the December 1769 patent issued to Jesse for this land. Ordinarily land was granted to males over the age of 21, although young men who married before that age



²⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Mecklenburg County, North Carolina: Deed Abstracts 1763–1779* (1979; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1991), 42; citing Deed Book 2: 159–60.

²⁶ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 5; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 1:51. Ellipses are those of Holcomb.

²⁷ “North Carolina Land Grant Files, 1693-1960,” database with images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018) > Tryon > 1-557 > image 531, Jesse Mills.

might qualify. The evidence detailed for Jesse, below, suggests he was still a teen.

- One alternate explanation should also be considered for the reason William provided Jesse with essentials to start an independent life: Given that no hint of children has been found for Jesse prior to his 1785 marriage to Sarah Garrett, *it is possible that Jesse's mother had died and that William himself was taking a new wife*. Many fathers, at the point of remarriage, “settled” with the children of the first marriage. Thereafter, anything they possessed at the time of their death would go to the wife and children of the second marriage.
- See Map 2 for the Packolet which runs from current Cleveland Co., NC, into SC.

19 MAY 1769

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

“Hugh Quin of Tryon Co., to **Menarter Saunders** of Malin (Mecklenburg ??) Co., Colony of Virginia, for £40 proc money ... 200 A on **E side Broad river**, granted 30 October 1765 ... Hugh Quinn (H), *Margaret Quinn* (O) Wit: *Geo. Blanton, William Grissom*. Rec. July 5 1769.”²⁸

COMMENT:

Broad River is shown on Map 1 in the bottom left corner and Map 2 in the bottom right corner.

18 JULY 1769

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Deed of gift.

William Mills of Tryon Co, **farmer**, for ‘love, good will and affection [for] my loving son **Jesse Mills**’ of same county give “all and singular my goods and chattles herein mentioned”: 20 head of “cattle mark’d with an under Keel in each ear,” 3 breeding mares branded thus *LM*, one feather bed, three dishes, two basins and eight and five pounds proclamation Money. **William Mills** [signed with an *A* with two curly feet, tilted 45 degrees to the right]. Witnesses: Thomas Gore *T* (a crude T with a cross-bar lower than this typed character represents), John Gore *Y* (a Y with a tall straight stalk). Recorded July term 1769.²⁹

COMMENT:

- See the imaged document following this commentary.
- This William Mills was Ambrose’s brother William Jr. (aka “Inglis Billy”). The nature of the gift is that of a father “setting up” a newlywed son. Consider this in conjunction with the land-grant survey made four months earlier.
- While the land-grant survey of March 1769 might suggest that Jesse had reached the age of twenty-one (i.e., born by March 1748), census records of 1790–1800 and guesstimates of his age at the time he applied for a Revolutionary War pension in 1832 suggest that he was a few

²⁸ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1768; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 6; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 1:65–66.

²⁹ Tryon Co., NC, Deed Book 1:45; imaged, *Lincoln County, NC ... Register of Deeds* (lincolnrod.com : accessed 5 May 2022) > Search Records Online > Land Records > Register of Deeds Inquiry System > Click here to Acknowledge Disclaimer > View Images > Deed Book 1, Page 45. Two published abstracts of this document have variations in their reading of words; both omitted his stated occupation and neither replicated the critical marks. Only one described the mark, interpreting it as “LM.” See Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 4; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 1:45. Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina, vol. 1, 1769–1772* (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 4.

years younger. There was no minimum age for a grant if the applicant was a married man with a wife or children to support.

- If Jesse did set up housekeeping in 1769, as this pair of records suggest, it is likely that he married in his mid-to-late teens.³⁰ At this point, I am estimating his birth at c1751–53.

Re the cattle mark:

- Note that the first character of the mark is an obsolete form used for both a capital I and a capital J: a vertical line with a footer, a header, and a cross-mark through it. In this case, it would appear to represent the new owner (and the teenager who likely raised those mares: *Jesse Mills*).
- That character (without the added M) also appears again in this set of notes, used in 1805 by one John Mills on a deed of sale. I have not yet determined, from other details, whether he was “Little” John or John-of-Ambrose.

To all People to whom these presents shall come, I William Mills do send greeting, Know ye that I the said William Mills of the County of Surgo and Province of North Carolina, Farmer, for and in consideration of the love and good will for and affection which I have and do have towards my loving son Jesse Mills of the said County and Province given and granted and by these presents do freely give and grant unto the said Jesse Mills his heirs executors or Administrators all and singular my goods and chattels herein mentioned, Viz. Twenty head of Cattle marked with an under Neck in each ear, and three breeding mares branded thus I M L and one feather bed, and three dishes two basins and eight and five Pound Ironware Money being all in the County and Province aforesaid of which (before the signing of these presents) I have delivered from the said Jesse Mills an inventory, signed with my own hand, and having seen set to have and to hold all the said goods and chattels in the said premises to him the said Jesse Mills his heirs executors or Administrators from thence forth as his or their proper goods and chattels absolutely without any manner of condition or Witnefs whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the eighteenth day of July 1769.

William Mills 

Signed Sealed & Delivered

in presence of

Thomas Gore 

John Gore 

North Carolina

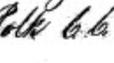
Surgo County 

July Term 1769.

This is

to certify that the execution of the within bill of sale was

duly acknowledged in open Court and recorded in the clerks office according to

Law - Let it be Registered - 

³⁰ An itinerant Anglican minister who rode circuit in upper SC in 1768 wrote scathingly of the practice of frontier youth marrying in their teens. See Richard J. Hooker, ed., *The Carolina Backcountry on the Eve of the Revolution: The Journal and Other Writings of Charles Woodmason, Anglican Itinerant* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: Univ. of N.C. Press, 1953), 39.

JULY 1769

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Deed.

“On Motion of *John Dunn* it was Ordered by the Court that Letters of Administration be granted to **Phillip Hinson** of the Goods & Chattles of **Nicholas Hinson** Deceased as being **Father** and highest Creditor of the Said Deceased—Who took the Oath of an Administrator and proposed for Security *Wm Sims* and *Zachariah Buollock*. Bound in the Sum of One Hundred & Twenty Pounds.

And in consequence of the above Order of Administration **Deanna Hinson** Widow & relick of the said **Nicholas Hinson** Deceased by *Saml Spencer* her Atty Enters a Caveat in the Lintoys(?) [*sic*; the word likely should be *Secretary’s*] office according to act of the Assembly in that Case made & Provided of the said **Phillip Hinson** having Administration pursuant to the above order till the Case be heard & determined by his Excellency the Governor and Council of this Province whether Letters of Administration ought to issue to the said **Phillip Hinson** or to the said **Denna Hinson** on the Estate of the Deceased the said **Denna Hinson** claiming Right to the same.”³¹

7 AUGUST 1769

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

“**Philip Hinston** (*sic*) of Tryon Co., Yeoman, to *John Scott* of same, yeoman, for £40 proc. Money ... land on N Side **Green River** on both sides **Walnut Creek** adj. **Reynolds’** line, 100 A granted 29 April 1768. ... Philip Hinston (x) (Seal), Wit: Willm. Cleghorn, **James Miller**. Rec. July Term 1770.”³²

COMMENT:

Both Green River and Walnut Creek are marked on Maps 4 and 5. Much of the Green, as well as Maple Creek, now lies in Polk Co. WSW of the town of Rutherfordton.

The location of this land, adjoining [Thomas] Reynolds on Walnut Creek, suggests a possible origin for this Philip Hinson. As noted in abstracts below:

- 25 January 1770, Reynolds’s line adjoined the Childers land, as described in a deed witnessed by their in-law George Watts, formerly of Albemarle County.
- 1 September 1770, when Ambrose Mills (formerly of Albemarle) chose land in Tryon, he bought a part of Thomas Reynold’s plantation—also on Walnut Creek.

7 AUGUST 1769

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

“A Deed of Sale from **Phillip Hinson** to Jno Scott Dated the 7th day of August 1769 for 100 Acres of Land. Proved by *Wm Clay* evidence thereto. Ordered to be Registered.” July Court 1770.³³

OCTOBER 1769

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Probate.

³¹ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 14–15.

³² Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 18; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 1:231–32.

³³ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 45.

“In pursuance of an Order of July Court it is Ordered that Letters Testamentary issue to **Phillip Hinson** of the Goods & Chattels of **Nicholas Hinson** Deceased.”³⁴

OCTOBER 1769
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Probate.

“A list of letters Testamentary granted in Tryon County from April Term 1769 till October Term the Same Year.”

What Court: Octor. Term 1769
Deceased: **Nicholas Henson**, Intestate
Exr. Or Adm. **Phillip Henson**
Security: William Sims & Zachh. Bullock³⁵

25 OCTOBER 1769
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

“*William Adams* of Tryon Co., planter, to **Philip Henson** of same, for £5 proc. Money on *Wm Robins* Creek, on the side of the North fork of **Broad River**, including **Bartlett Henson[?] Camps** ... 200 A granted to sd. Wm. Adams, Dec. 1768. ... William Adams (Seal), Wit: Wm. Sharp, Henry Clark. Rec. April Term 1770.”³⁶

COMMENT:

The name *Bartlett Henson* also appears amid the Philip Henson family that would soon settle Camden District (now Fairfield County), South Carolina.

16 NOVEMBER 1769
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land sale

“Joseph Carrol & **Thos Carrol** of Tryon Co., to *James Logan* of same, for £20 proc. Money ... 300 A on both sides **little Catawba Creek**, granted to sd. Joseph & Thos Joseph Carrol. (Seal), Thomas Carrol (Seal), Wit: John Venables, Joseph Carrol, Saml Carrol. Rec. Jan. Term 1770.”³⁷

COMMENT:

This land on the Catawba subsequently fell into old Greenville District, SC. See notes below.

Having encountered this surname in Tryon (variously written as McCarrol and McCarrell), I am examining all of their entries and taking notes selectively because

- William Mills of Franklin County, VA (parents and origin unknown) makes his first appearance on record on the 1806 Franklin personal-tax roll adjacent to Samuel Carrell/McCarrell, son of Thomas Carrell/McCarrell of Greenville District, SC. The Mills-McCarrell association continued

³⁴ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 18..

³⁵ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 124; citing “lists of probates from the Secretary of State’s papers. N.C. Archives S.S. 884.”

³⁶ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 16; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 1:211–12.

³⁷ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 12; citing Deed Book 1:158–59.

intermittently until c1815.³⁸

- Individuals surnamed Ferguson (the birth surname of Mrs. Thomas Carrell/McCarrell, mother of Samuel) are also in this county: Albert, Charles, Henry, James, Josh, Moses, Robert, William.

16 NOVEMBER 1769

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Association.

“A Deed of Sale from *Joseph Carrol* and **Thomas Carrol** to *James Logan* Dated the 16th November 1769 for Three hundred acres. Proved by **Saml Carroll** evidence thereto. Ordered to be Reg.”³⁹

COMMENT:

An entry in volume 2 of this series is for Nathaniel Carroll *aka* McCarroll, who entered land in Jesse Mills’s community and associated with the administrator of Ambrose Mills’s estate.

The following is also a possibility for Thomas McCarrell. It is the *only* entry for this man, under this spelling.

APRIL [JULY?] 1769

TRYON COUNTY, NC

“*Aaron Lockhart* Petitioned the Court that a Tool Grist mill Built and Erected by **Thomas McChal** on Broad River and now in the possession of the Petitioner; may be received as a public mill agreeable to Act of Assembly of this Province and under the Same Rules Restrictions and regulations as other mills. Granted.”⁴⁰

15 DECEMBER 1769

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land warrant.

“*Nicholas Welsh* 300 acres. On both sides of **Clarks Creek**, Joining *Peter Acker*, **Sarah Jean & Nancy Mills**, *Hugh Montgomerys* and *Phillip Anthonys* Land known by the name of **Mills Survey**.

Warrant 421. 15 December 1769. SS 946.3”⁴¹

COMMENT:

This set of Millses stems from the Scottish Mills family that settled Augusta County, VA, later Botetourt.

16 DECEMBER 1769

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land grant.

“**Jesse Mills**: 150 Acres Tryon on the South side of the N^o Fork of Packett.”

Beginning at a red oak in **James Howards** and **Kilpatricks Line** thence along said line S 100 poles

³⁸ See E. S. Mills, “William Mills (b. c1783–88; d. c1863); Spouse Drucilla Kemp: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

³⁹ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 31.

⁴⁰ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 2.

⁴¹ Miles S. Philbeck, *Tryon County, North Carolina, Land Warrants, 1768–1774* (Chapel Hill, N.C. P.p., 1987), unpaginated, entry 131.

to a red oak, thence said line W 60 poles to a red oak, thence E 200 poles to a post, thence N 160 poles to a red oak, thence to the beginning.

Entered [no date shown]; issued 16 December 1769.⁴²

COMMENT:

There is a problem with this land description as entered into the patent book. One does not go W 60 poles and then E 200 poles. A call is missing in between those two calls. See the 3 March 1769 survey above for the full metes and bounds.

The Pacolet River is a branch of Broad River, about 50 miles long. It lies now in NW South Carolina but its headwaters drain a small part of North Carolina. See the marked area in the bottom left corner of Map 1. The Broad ran down through Old Craven > Camden > Fairfield Cos., SC, where Ambrose Mills and Edward & William Watts took out land on Little River of the Broad in the early-to-mid 1760.

25 JANUARY 1770
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Association.

*Thomas Childers & wf **Urdice** of Tryon Co., to *Peregreene Magnis* of same, for –45 proc money ... 250 A on both sides **Buffalo Creek** adj. **Reynolds** lower line and *Francis Beattys* line ... Thomas Childers (T), Uradice Childers (U), Wit: Waightsell Avery, **George Watt**. Rec. Jan. term 1770.”⁴³*

COMMENT:

The attorney Waightsell Avery appears in various notes below as an associate of Ambrose Mills’s widow and sons.

JANUARY 1770
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Estate inventory.

“**Phillip Henson** Returns an Inventory of the Goods & Chattels Rights & Credits of **Nicholas Henson** Decd & Prays an Order of Sale which was accordingly granted.”⁴⁴

11 MARCH 1770
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

“*Abraham Clement* of Tyron Co., to **Bartlet Henson** of same, for –75 proc. Money ... 100 A adj. Wt. side of **Broad River** adj. *Thomas Hopers* uper [*sic*] line including a little Island, formerly conveyed by a deed from **Philip Henson** to sd. *Clements* ... Abraham Clements (O) (Seal), Wit: John McKinney, Jurate: Alexander Turner. Rec. Apr. term 1771.”⁴⁵

11 MARCH 1770
TRYON COUNTY, NC

⁴² David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 10:536; citing Tryon Co. File No. 209, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.5N, frame 608, State Archives.

⁴³ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 12; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 1:154–55.

⁴⁴ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 25. No Picketts.

⁴⁵ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 28; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 1:383.

Court order.

A Deed of Sale from Abraham Clements to **Bartlet Henson** Dated the 11th day of March 1770 for 100 Acres of Land. Proved by *Jno McKinney* evidence thereto. Ordered to be Registered.”⁴⁶

20 MARCH 1770
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Association.

“*Francis Beaty* of Mecklenburg Co. to *George Trout* or Tryon Co., for –30 proc. Money ... land on both sides of the **Sholy branch of Muddy fork of Buffalow Creek** including the three forks a few poles about *Benjamin Shaws* old place and near *Francis Beaty’s* lowest ridge place, land granted to *James Kelly*, then to Francis Beaty, 22 May 1767...Francis Beaty (seal), Wit: James Tate, James Pulley(?), **George Watts**. Rec. Apr. Term 1770.”⁴⁷

6 APRIL 1770
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land warrant.

“*John McKinny*. 200 acres. On the **So side of Broad river**, Joining his own upper line & **Phil Hensons** Lower Line. Warrant 318 6 April 1770. SS 946.3.”⁴⁸

14 APRIL 1770
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“A Deed of Sale from **Phillip Hinson** to *Abm Clemons* Dated the 14th of April 1770 for 100 Acres of Land. Proved by *Jonas Bedford* evidence thereto. Ordered to be Registered.” July Court 1770.⁴⁹

20 APRIL 1770
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

“**Phillip Hinson** of Tryon Co., to *Abraham Clements* of same, for £60 proc. Money ... 100 A on West side **Broad River** adj. *Thomas Hooper*, including a little Island ... **Philip Hinson (x)** (Seal), Wit: *Jonas Bedford*, *Jno. Sutton*, *Joshua Morgan*. Rec. July Term 1770.”⁵⁰

COMMENT:

Note the date variance between the Gardner-DePriest abstract and the Holcomb abstract—14 April vs. 20 April. Several such variances appear between their publications and need to be resolved by consulting the recorded deeds.

APRIL 1770
TRYON COUNTY, NC

⁴⁶ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 80.

⁴⁷ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 15; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 1:193–94.

⁴⁸ Miles S. Philbeck, *Tryon County, North Carolina, Land Warrants, 1768–1774* (Chapel Hill, N.C. P.p., 1987), unpaginated, entry 163.

⁴⁹ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 44.

⁵⁰ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 17; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 1:227–28.

Docket entry.

The King vs. **Phillip Henson Senr.**; presentment for drunkenness; x; the jurors; x; capias.”

COMMENT:

At July court, he was “not found.” At October court he was found guilty and fined /6. “All fees paid. “Recog^{ce} by Jno. Walker.”⁵¹

JULY 1770

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Estate inventory.

“**Phillip Henson** Administrator of the Estate of **Nicholas Henson** Deceased Returns an Inventory of the Said Estate as well as Debts and Credits. On Examination of the Disbursements there appears to be in the Admrs hands Twenty three pounds fourteen Shillings & sixpence to Inventory.”⁵²

JULY 1770

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

Phillip Henson appointed to petty jury in case of Stephen Jones vs. Hicks Farr.

OCTOBER 1770

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

“**Phillip Henson** appointed to grand jury.”⁵³

1 DECEMBER 1770

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

“*Thomas Reynolds* of Tryon co., to **Ambrose Mills** of same, for £100 proc. Money ... land on both sides **Green River** including the mouth of **Walnut Creek** by the upper end of a small Island above the mouth of the creek, 640 A granted 25 Sept. 1740 ... Thomas Reynolds (+) (seal), Wit: **William Mills**, *Mose Moore*, *Henry Reynolds* (+). Rec. Jan. term 1773.”⁵⁴

COMMENT:

The Green River is also a tributary of the Broad River. Now dammed, it flows through the mountains south of Ashville in Buncombe Co.

Ostensibly, the witness William Mills would be Ambrose’s son by Mourning Stone, born in 1746 and now a married adult. The N.C. land grant packets filmed by *Ancestry* do not include a grant to Thomas Reynolds (Runnels, etc.) in 1740; it shows none before 1753.

⁵¹ Miles S. Philbeck et al., *Tryon County, North Carolina Crown Docket, July 1769–April 1776; Tryon County, North Carolina, State Docket, October 1877–January 1779; Lincoln County, North Carolina State Docket, April 1779–April 1780* (Forest City, NC: Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, n.d.), 5–7.

⁵² Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 48.

⁵³ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 56.

⁵⁴ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 50; citing 1:680.

13 DECEMBER 1771

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

Hugh Mills of **Botetourt Co.**, Colony of Virginia, to *John Boyd* of Tryon Co., N.C. for £50 NC money, 350 A on **shady branch** of **Clark's Creek** adj. *Daniel Warbrights*, granted to sd. Mills 10 Apr 1761 ... Hugh Mills (seal), Wit: *William Ramsey, Joseph Love, John Andrew*. Rec. Apr. term 1774."⁵⁵

COMMENT:

See above note for 1761, for Hugh Mills's acquisition of this land on Clark's Creek. The placement of the land suggests that he was connected to the William Mills of Clark's Creek.

In my research notes from old Botetourt Co. (later Montgomery Co.) VA, the Boyds are shown to be kin to Fergusons and in-laws of the McCardell's, in whose company William Mills of Franklin first appeared.⁵⁶

21 MARCH 1771

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Association.

John Lusk of Tryon Co., farmer, and *James Wilson* of same, yeoman ... for £35 proc. Money pd. By *James Wilson*...land on **Shady Branch** of **Clarks Creek** adj. **Hugh Milles** Corner, granted 19 Apr 1763 to *John Ancrum*, and for £25 proc. Money sold by sd. *John Lusk*, Dec 1769...John Lusk (Seal), Sarah Lusk (S) (Seal). Wit: *Jonathan Gilkey, Jurate; Robt. Blackburn*. Rec. Apr. term 1771."⁵⁷

4TH TUESDAY APRIL 1771

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Probate.

"Ordered by the Court that **Frances Watts** Wife and Relick of **George Watts** Deceased have Letters of Administration on all & Singular the Goods & Chattels Rights and Credits of the Said Deceased. She proposes for Security *Moses Moore* and *Perrigrine Magnis*. Accepted."⁵⁸

4TH TUESDAY OCTOBER 1771

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Probate inventory.

"**Francis Watts** Returns an Inventory of the Estate of **George Watts** Deceased. As Administrator of Said Estate Prayed an Order of Sale which was accordingly Granted."⁵⁹

16 JANUARY 1772

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

⁵⁵ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 52; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 1:709.

⁵⁶ See E. S. Mills, "Mills & Associates: Montgomery, Fincastle & Botetourt Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey," report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways*.

⁵⁷ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 29; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 1:391–92.

⁵⁸ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 75.

⁵⁹ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 95.

“A Deed of Sale from *Richd Reynolds* to **Henry Sanders** Dated the 16th Jany 1772 for 250 acres of land. Proved by *Timothy Riggs* evidence thereto. Ordered to be Registered.” January term 1772.⁶⁰

COMMENT:

This is the only Sanders/Saunders entry in volume 1.

19 MAY 1772

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Association.

“*John Steen*. 200 acres. On both sides **Green River** Joining **Ambress Mills** on the lower Side and Including *Joells Blackwells* Improvement. Warrant 722. 19 May 1772. LOG [Land Office Grant?] original.”⁶¹

COMMENT:

On 1 December 1770 Ambrose Mills bought from Thomas Reynolds 640a at mouth of Walnut Creek of Green River.

JULY 1772

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Guardianship.

“Ordered by the Court that **Benjamin Hardin** be appointed Guardian of **Rachel Leah Jacob** and **Frances Watts** Orphans and Minors under the Age of Fourteen Years Children of **George Watts** Deceased. The Guardian proposes for Security William Gilbert and Jas Buchanan. Bound in 1000 pounds proclamation money. Accepted & bound.”⁶²

COMMENT:

This may be the period in which the widow Frances (née Woodward) remarried the Taylor husband under whose name she appears in the 1778 Bedford County, VA, will of Richard Woodward.⁶³ Her remarriage would have triggered the need for a guardian of the financial interests of her children by her first husband.

If all of the minors are under 14, then all were born after 1758. This coincides with my projected marriage date of George to Frances about June 1757.⁶⁴

See abstract under October 1777 for the identification of *James Taylor* as the likely husband of Frances—an hypothesis based upon the fact that when Jacob reached fourteen years of age, he chose James Taylor (likely stepfather) as the guardian of his inheritance and Taylor was assigned to the guardianship of Jacob’s two minor sisters.

⁶⁰ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 110.

⁶¹ Miles S. Philbeck, *Tryon County, North Carolina, Land Warrants, 1768–1774* (Chapel Hill, N.C. P.p., 1987), unpaginated, entry 454.

⁶² Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 129.

⁶³ For the body of evidence suggesting Richard Woodward’s daughter Frances as the wife of George Watts, see E. S. Mills, “Watts: Initial Survey of Published Resources for Colonial and Revolutionary Anson County, NC, and Its Parent and Daughter Counties: Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Montgomery,” report to file 15 January 2015; archived at *Historic Pathways*.

⁶⁴ See E. S. Mills, “Watts: Initial Survey of Published Literature for Colonial and Revolutionary Bedford County (formerly Lunenburg and Brunswick), Virginia,” report to file, 5 January 2015 (updated 1 June 2016, 21 June 2018), page 44 in particular; archived at *Historic Pathways*.

OCTOBER 1772

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Probate.

“Settlement of the Estate of **George Watts** deceased by the Administrator.”⁶⁵

25 NOVEMBER 1772

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Probate.

“List of Probates for Granting Letters testamentary and of Administration in Tryon Court in One Year Preceding the Date hereof together with the parties names and of their Executors or Administrators and Securities:”

Name of the Deceased: **George Watts**, Intestate

Exr. or Admr.” **Frances Watts**

Securities: *Robt. McAfee & William Yancy.*⁶⁶

4 JANUARY 1773

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“A Deed of Sale from *Thomas Reynolds* to **Andrew [Ambrose] Mills** for 640 acres dated 1 September [December?] 1770. Proved by *Moses Moore* evidence thereto. Ordered to be Registered.” Proved 4th Tuesday in January 1773.”⁶⁷

27 JANUARY 1773

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land warrant.

“*William Palmer*. 300 acres. On both sides of the head of **Long Creek** joining **Francis Watt’s** Land. Warrant 1196. 27 January 1773. LGO original.”⁶⁸

26 APRIL 1773

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

“*Walter Sharp* of Rowan Co., to **Willm. Mills** of Tryon Co., for £50 proc. Money...land on **Green River** and both sides **Panther Creek**, 300 A granted to Walter Sharp 28 Apr 1768. Walter Sharp (Seal), Wit: *Wm. Sharp, Wm. Butler*. Rec. Apr.. term 1775.”⁶⁹

COMMENT:

This William is the future Maj. William. On 6 Dec 1806, he and Eleanor sold this Panther Creek land to Micajah Pickett.

⁶⁵ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 137.

⁶⁶ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 123; citing “lists of probates from the Secretary of State’s papers, N.C. Archives S.S. 884.”

⁶⁷ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 2, 1773–1779 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 2. No Picketts.

⁶⁸ Miles S. Philbeck, *Tryon County, North Carolina, Land Warrants, 1768–1774* (Chapel Hill, N.C. P.p., 1987), unpaginated, entry 621.

⁶⁹ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 72; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 2: 155–56.

26 OCTOBER 1773
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

“A Deed of Sale from *Michael Engle & Barbara his Wife* to **Lemuel Saunders** for 250 Acres of Land Dated the 26th Day of April 1773. Proved by *John Rudisel* evidence thereto. Ordered to be Registered.” April Term 1774.⁷⁰

2 NOVEMBER 1773
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

“**William Mills** (x) of Tryon Co. to *Christopher Plunket* for 30£ proclamation money already paid, seale of 200 acres in Tryon Co. on both sides **Horse Crk. of N. Pacolet River**. Land is ‘one moitre’ [i.e., *moiety*, meaning *half*] of tract of 400 acres conveyed to *John Kerconal* (sic) 23 May 1772 and by him conveyed to sd. Mills.

Beginning at the beginning of the sd tract according to the plat thereof, at a black oak on the N side of sd. creek, running then N 43 W 254 poles to a stake, then crosses the said land to the opposite corner, in form of a triangle, then N 47 E 254 poles to beginning

Land joins *Richard Herrses* [Harris] line. Rec. 11 July 1794. [Witnesses:] *William Capshaw, John Ashly* (x).⁷¹

COMMENT:

This William who made his mark was William Jr. (“English Billy”), brother of Ambrose and father of Jesse who obtained land on the Pacolet in 1769. I have not yet found a record by which he acquired this land. Note, below under 18 October 1800, James Stepp (the alleged son-in-law of William Jr.) acquired 100 acres of land for his children adjacent to “Abraham Keykendall.”

Map 4 places Horse Creek and the North Fork of the Pacolet in the SW corner of Polk Township, Tryon County, running parallel about a mile apart. It lies below Tryon Mountain, with Bright’s Creek to the North of the Mountain.

This document appears in a “recopied” volume of deeds. William’s mark is copied as a simple X. However, his 1769 deed to son Jesse, which was recorded contemporaneously in Tryon Co., portrayed his mark as an A with curly feet, tilted almost horizontally to the right. See the image of that document under 1769, above.

2 FEBRUARY 1774
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

“A Deed of Sale from **Lemuel Saunders & Martha Saunders** to *James Freeman* for 125 Acres of Land Dated the 2d Day of February 1774. Proved by *Michael Rudisel* evidence thereto. Ordered to be Registered.” April 1774 term.⁷²

⁷⁰ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 2, 1773–1779 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 18.

⁷¹ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book J-L (transcribed copy): 245–46; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 7517761 > images 615–16. The location is misread as “Lewses” Creek in Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 97; citing K:245.

⁷² Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 2, 1773–1779 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 15.

11 FEBRUARY 1774
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Deed.

A Deed of Sale from **Philip Henson Senr** to *John McFadden* for 200 Acres of Land Dated the 11th Day of February 1774. Proved by *Saml McFadden* evidence thereto. Ordered to be Reg.” July 1775.⁷³

COMMENT:

On 16 Feb 1775, John McFadden Jur. of Tryon sold this tract to John Dennard, saying it was on William Robbins’ Creek on S side of N Fork of Broad River, “including **Bartlett Hensons** Camps, granted to Wm. Adams ...”⁷⁴

I am checking all Henson and Saunders entries but am making notes selectively, due to time limitations on this research trip.

26 FEBRUARY 1774
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

“**Lemuel Saunders & wf Martha** of Tryon Co., to **James Freeman** of same, for £10 s4 ... land on waters of **Killian’s Creek** adj. *Philip Erehart*, 125 A conveyed by them to a certain *Michael Engle*, and granted to *Mathias Peterson* 18 Apr 1771... Lemuel Saunders (Seal), Martha Saunders (Seal), Wit: John Rudsel, Michel Rudisill (German signature). Rec. Apr. term 1774.”⁷⁵

APRIL 1774
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Association.

“A Deed of Sale from *George Poss* to *George Sights* for 400 Acres of Land. Proved by **Lemuel Saunders** evidence thereto. Ordered to be registered.” April 1774 term.⁷⁶

24 APRIL 1774
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

“A Deed of Sale from *Thomas Reynolds & wife* to **Henry Sanders** for 200 Acres of Land Dated the 24th Day of April 1774. Proved by *Mader Hunt* evidence thereto. Ordered to be Registered.” April 1774 term.⁷⁷

COMMENT:

In 1770, Ambrose Mills bought land from Thomas Reynolds. In 1784, Micajah Pickett of Fairfield bought from Ambrose’s son William a tract of land that Ambrose owned in Fairfield. The next week he sold the land, for the same price, to John & William Watts, nephews of Ambrose. In

⁷³ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 66.

⁷⁴ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 73; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 2:177–78.

⁷⁵ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 54; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 1:727.

⁷⁶ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 2, 1773–1779 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 19.

⁷⁷ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 2, 1773–1779 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 12.

1786, John Watts sold that land to a neighbor named Nathan **Sanders**, putative brother of one **Henry Sanders**.⁷⁸ The Sanderses of Fairfield were associates of a Philip and Bartlett Hinson in Fairfield (same names that we're finding here in Lincoln) and Micajah Pickett was married to the only daughter of Philip Henson of Fairfield. When Philip of Fairfield died in 1785, one of the men appointed to inventory his estate was John Watts, nephew of Ambrose Mills.

Relationships are extremely likely between these families and need to be sorted out.

15 AUGUST 1774

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Deed.

"A Deed of Sale from *Samuel Sharp* to **Wm Mills** for 200 Acres of Land Dated the 1th of August 1774. Proved by *Walter Sharp* evidence thereto. Ordered to be Reg." April 1775.⁷⁹

COMMENT:

This William is Maj. William. On 6 December 1806, he and Eleanor sold this land to Micajah Pickett.

See also 26 April 1773, above, for an abstract of the deed by which he purchased 300 acres on Green River and Panther Creek from Walter Sharp of Rowan.

11 FEBRUARY 1774

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Deed.

A Deed of Sale from **Philip Henson Senr** to *John McFadden* for 200 Acres of Land Dated the 11th Day of February 1774. Proved by *Saml McFadden* evidence thereto. Ordered to be Reg." July 1775.⁸⁰

14 APRIL 1775

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

"**Bartlett Hinson** of Tryon Co., to *Jacob Clements* of same, for £85 proc. Money ... land adj. *Thomas Hopper*, granted to Philip Henson 26 Oct 1767 and deed by him to *Abraham Clements*, then to Bartlett Henson ... Bartlett Henson (Seal), Wit: Thomas Dill, I, Isham Safold. Rec. July term 1775."⁸¹

26 APRIL 1775

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Deed.

⁷⁸ For the sibling relationship alleged between Nathan and Henry, see Perianne Rantz, "Anderson-Flood Family," user-contributed trees, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/13329113/person/-86994990/facts> : accessed 11 July 2018), "Facts" page for "Henry B. Sanders Sr." The relationship is not documented but associations in Fairfield's legal records and their residential pattern in Fairfield support the contention. For the records supporting the connections sketched in my comment above, see E. S. Mills, "Watts: Initial Survey of South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them," report to file, 17 October 2014. Also E. S. Mills, "Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County), Pre-1830," report to file, 27 October 2014 (updated 15 October 2015). Both Mills reports are archived at *Historic Pathways*.

⁷⁹ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 62.

⁸⁰ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 66.

⁸¹ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 73; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 2:174–75.

“A Deed of Sale from *Walter Sharp* to **William Mills** for 300 Acres of Land Dated the 26th day of April 1775. Ackd in Open Court. Ordered to be reg.” April 1775.⁸²

19 JULY 1775

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

“A Deed of Sale from **Bartlet Henson** to *Jacob Clements* for 100 Acres of Land Dated the 1st Day of April 1775 Proved by *Thomas Dills* evidence thereto. Ordered to be Reg.” July 1775.⁸³

26 JULY 1775

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Military service.

“Minutes of a meeting of the Freeholders in Tryon County ... Pursuant to Notice ... in order to elect a Committee [of Safety] for said county, the following persons were chosen to wit: For Captain Paris’ Company: George Paris, **Ambrose Mills**.”⁸⁴

9 FEBRUARY 1776

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Military service.

“Resolved according to orders of Committee of Safety (of Salisbury District), each Capt in his District cause **every third effective {every third eligible man}** to go and joyn the forces raised in the other counties in this Province to suppress all insurrections that is raised & may be raising in our said Province that are against the Cause of American Liberty. Resolved that each man that refuses if allotted to go on this immergency shall be deemed enemies to their Country, & shall be dealt with according to the Resolves of the Congresses or otherwise.

“Resolved that Mr. William Moore be now appointed Commissary for the Regiment of Tryon County in the present immergency for this Province to go against those that are against the Cause of American Liberty, & that the said William Moore shall now on sight prepare wagons, provisions & such things as lies in his power for the support of the said Regiment, & be ready at Major Thomas Beatie’s by the 15th Instant {Feb. 15, 1776} with such support {signed} William Graham Chairman.”

Compiler’s Note: “The emergency preparations are due to intelligence received that Governor Martin had raised an army to rendezvous with British naval and land forces in Wilmington. This became known also the Battle at Moore’s Creek Bridge.”⁸⁵

12 JUNE 1776

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Military service.

“Gentlemen of the Commity of Rowan County, with these we send you under gard **Ambrous Mills** one of the greatest Enemys of our pese in Tryon County a companion of *Robinsons* and been lying out in the

⁸² Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 62.

⁸³ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 2, 1773–1779 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 67.

⁸⁴ Kathy Gunter Sullivan, *Tryon County Documents 1769–1779: A North Carolina County* (Forest City, NC: Genealogical Society of Old Tryon Count), 2000), 183.

⁸⁵ Kathy Gunter Sullivan, *Tryon County Documents 1769–1779: A North Carolina County* (Forest City, NC: Genealogical Society of Old Tryon Count), 2000), 192.

mountens since before the South Carolina campaign; has held a coraspondence with *Camron*; has acknowledged himself to have been in the Indian Nations, he seems simple but is subtile and insinuating and has had influence enough to pradgiduse {prejudice} not only his nighbours but many at a great distance against the Cause of American liberty, in short his character is so notorious that we expect that every gentleman in Rowan is acquainted with it and we hope that he will be confind till he has a fare tryel[.] Every article above mentioned and a great deal more can be proved against him when required. For further perticquelers inquire of Cpt Cook Commander of this guard {.} for fear of a resque will not inform you of our own circumstances but hope Mr. Cook will there to inform you {.} we are gentlemen with great respect your most obedient Humble Survents. [Signed] John Walker, June the 12 1776. *Jas Mcentire George Black, Jas. Cook.*

“We have sent the deposition of *Robert Ranken*, a worthy man of this neybourhood that may be depended on.”⁸⁶

15 JUNE 1776
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Military service.

Compiler’s comment: “Rowan Committee of Safety dealt with Mr. Mills as follows. Their order was written below the communications from the Tryon Committee.”

“To the Corronor or Keeper of the Publick Gole for the District of Salisbury ----

“We do hereby require you to take into your costeday the above named **Ambrous Mills** a Netorious offender against the common cause of america and him safely keep in the publick gole until discharged by order of Congress or Committee. Given under our hands this 15th of June 1776. [signed] Matthew Lock, Griffith Rutherford. This 15th of June 1776.

[Compiler’s comment: On the reverse is written] “Ambros Mills. Comitment. Disposition Salsburg Goal.”⁸⁷

OCTOBER 1777
TRYON COUNTY, NC

“**Jacob Watts** an orphan Child of **George Watts** Deceased came into Court and made choice of **James Taylor** as Guardian, then it was Ordered by the Court that **James Taylor** be appointed Guardian to **Elea & Frances Watts** orphan Children of the said Deceased. Securities proposed Thos Welch & James Balckburn [*sic*]. Bound for £100. Accepted.”⁸⁸

COMMENT:

Note that in 1772 and 1778 the minors are named as Rachel, *Leah*, Jacob, and Frances. If Jacob is now of age to choose a guardian in 1777 (i.e., age 14), then the two minors listed before him (Rachel and Leah) are likely 18 and 16 respectively.

James Taylor in 1774 was appointed a constable for Tryon Co.⁸⁹

⁸⁶ Kathy Gunter Sullivan, *Tryon County Documents 1769–1779: A North Carolina County* (Forest City, NC: Genealogical Society of Old Tryon Count), 2000), 192–93.

⁸⁷ Kathy Gunter Sullivan, *Tryon County Documents 1769–1779: A North Carolina County* (Forest City, NC: Genealogical Society of Old Tryon Count), 2000), 193.

⁸⁸ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 2, 1773–1779 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 85.

⁸⁹ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 2, 1773–1779 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 32.

On 31 July 1794, **James Taylor** is cited in a deed from John Woods, planter of Lincoln to John McKinnis, blacksmith, land on **Muddy fork of Buffalo Creek and Long Creek**, adjacent to “land James Taylor lived on and George Trout; includes **Warwick Woodard’s** improvement.”⁹⁰

JANUARY 1778

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Guardianship.

“Ordered that **James Taylor** Guardian of the orphan Children of **George Watts** Decd be Summoned to be and appear at the Next Court to give in further Securities as to his Guardianship of said Orphans.”⁹¹

27 JANUARY 1778

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Association.

“**Nathaniel McCarrol** a claim to 200 Acres of Land in Tryon County on both sides of **North Pacolet River** above Spriggs improvements. Jan 27th 1778. No. 35. A Claim set up for the same Land by **James Miller** 11th February.”⁹²

28 JANUARY 1778

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Association.

Nathaniel McCarrol a Claim to 200 Acres of Land in Tryon County on both sides of **North Pacolet River** below his other entry on Said River including Spriggs improvement. 28th January 1778.”⁹³

JANUARY 1778

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“A Deed of Sale from *John Ashby* to **James Saunders** for 150 acres of Land Dated the [*blank*] Day of Jan 1778. Ackd in open Court. Ordered to be Registered.” January term 1778.⁹⁴

JANUARY 1778

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Guardianship.

“*Benjamin Harden* produced in Court an account of the expenses he incurred in doing his duty when Guardian of the orphan Children of **George Watts** Decd amounting to £6.1 by which it appears that there is due from him to said Children or the present Guardian £26.1.7 which said amount is filed in this office.”⁹⁵

⁹⁰A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Lincoln Co., NC: 1793–1800 (Books 17, 18, and 19)* (N.p.: P.p., 1988), 30.

⁹¹ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 2, 1773–1779 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 94.

⁹² Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 2, 1773–1779 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 105.

⁹³ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 2, 1773–1779 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 105.

⁹⁴ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 2, 1773–1779 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 92.

⁹⁵ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 2, 1773–1779 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 94–95.

10 MARCH 1778
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“Granted. *Alexander Mackey* claims 100 ac in Tryon Co on both sides of a creek that runs into **Green R** at **Wm Mills** ‘on S side of river’: entered Mar. 10, 1778. £3.14.”⁹⁶

COMMENT:

At this point, the future Maj. William Mills is the only William in possession of land by a legal and recorded title. His uncle English Billy has disposed of his land on the Pacolet. However

- Maj. William did not subsequently sell this tract.
- “William Mills Sr.” (i.e., English Billy) would, six months after the July 1778 document above, be cited as a resident of land “claimed by” Ambrose Mills, on “**a branch of Green River** about 1 mile from Ambrose” (see 15 January 1779, below).

Alexander Mackey appears to be the person referenced in the following deed of 1815:

“Jonathan **Coward**, Peter Coward, James Coward, Stephen Coward, Ellihu Coward, David **Cockerham**, Abm. **Shatteen**, Absolom **Shatteen**, Milly Coward, and Rebekah Coward, all of Rutherford Co., to **Benjamin Coward** for \$55, sale of 25 acres in Rutherford “on a Branch that Runs into Green River **above Millses** on the South side of the River on both sides of said Branch being part of a tract granted to **said Macey**” [*sic*] on 13 August 1779:

Beginning at a black oak running E 40 poles to **Mills’ line**, then with **Mills’ line** S 100 poles to a stake & pointers in **his outside line**, then W 40 [46?] poles to a stake, then N 100 poles to the beginning.⁹⁷

31 MARCH 1778
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“Granted. *Anthony Metcaf* claims (page torn) ac in Tryon Co on N side of **Green R**; border: **Ambrose Mills** survey and his own land: entered Mar. 31, 1778; £2.0.6.”⁹⁸

COMMENT:

In October 1787, one “Metcalf” was assigned to “lay off & assess the damages of that part of the road that leads through Anthony Dicky’s plantation.” See the court order under that date below.

APRIL 1778
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Guardianship.

“*Benjamin Harden* late Guardian to the Children of **George Watts** Decd to wit Rachel Leah Jacob and Frances Minors &C produced in Court a Settlement of the Shares of Sd Deceaseds Estate becoming due to the sd Minors to wit a Balance of £22.9 which was approved of by the Court. Ordered that the sd Balance be Lodged with *Andrew Neel* Clerk of the Court and to be by him delivered to **James Taylor** the present Guardian when applied for.”⁹⁹

⁹⁶ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entries, Tryon and Lincoln Co., NC, 1778–1780* (N.p.: P.p., 1987), 13; citing page 36.

⁹⁷ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 27–28: 462–63; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517765 > images 748–49.

⁹⁸ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entries, Tryon and Lincoln Co., NC, 1778–1780* (N.p.: P.p., 1987), 14; citing page 37.

⁹⁹ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 2, 1773–1779 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 101–2.

26 APRIL 1778

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

“*John Wilson* of Rowan Co., N.C. to **John Earles** of Tryon Co., for £100 proc. Money ... land on both sides **North Pacolet River**, 300 A ... *John Wilson* (Seal), Wit: *Baylis Earle*, *George Neawethy*, *Peter Rentfro* (P).”¹⁰⁰

COMMENT:

One John Earle of Lunenburg County, c1749, is said to have married **Mary Elizabeth Watts**.¹⁰¹ The 1749 tax roll of Lunenburg places **Thomas Watts (husband of Ambrose Mills’s sister Sarah)** in the household of that John Earle.¹⁰²

APRIL 1778

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

“Ordered also that *Wm Nevil*, **John Earle**, *George Paris*, **Wm. Mills Junr.**, *Wm Capshaw*, *James Capshaw*, *Benjm Jenkins*, *John McFadin*, *Alexr Coulter*, *John Little*, *Elias McFadin* & *Andrews Hampton* be a Jury to try two disputed Claims to Lands between the Honorable *Saml Spencer Esqr* & *Wm Gilbert* & **James Miller** and two between **James Miller** and **Nathl. McCarroll**.”¹⁰³

COMMENT:

This William Mills Jr. should be son of Ambrose, now aged 32.

Nathaniel McCarroll raises a possibility that I’m going to pursue, considering the c1806–15 Franklin Co., VA, association of William Mills (parents unknown, carrier of a Witt Y) with Samuel McCarroll/McCarrell, son of Thomas McCarrell. The origin of the Franklin County William Mills (Witt) and Thomas and Samuel McCarrell are unknown. Note, below, that McCarrell is on North Pacolet (the site of Jesse Mills) and is associating with James Miller, the 1780 administrator of the estate of Ambrose mills.

21 JULY 1778

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“Granted. *John Scott* [Scoot?] claims 200 ac in Tryon Co on both sides of **Walnut Cr of Green R**; border: *Jno Phipher* desc and **Wm Mills** survey; entered Jul. 21, 1778; £3.14.”¹⁰⁴

COMMENT:

- On 7 August 1769, John “Scott” bought 100a from Philip Hinton on both sides of Walnut Creek adj. Reynolds—the latter being the man Ambrose bought his 640a from at Walnut’s mouth on Green River.

¹⁰⁰ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 139; citing Rutherford Deeds A-1:92.

¹⁰¹ For example, see “scanner5” [creator, “Murphy-MacDaniel Family Tree,” *Ancestry.com* (http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/11032083/person/6159613367?ssrc=&ml_rpos=37 : accessed 5 January 2015), “John Earl” page.

¹⁰² Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 108–15, particularly 114; no source cited.

¹⁰³ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina, vol. 2, 1773–1779* (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 107.

¹⁰⁴ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entries, Tryon and Lincoln Co., NC, 1778–1780* (N.p.: P.p., 1987), 13; citing page 46.

- This William should be “English Billy.” William-of-Ambrose did own land on Walnut Creek but he purchased already-surveyed land in 1774 from Samuel Sharp and, with wife Eleanor, sold in 1779 to Thomas Wadlington. I have found no reference to William-of-Ambrose entering or surveying land on Walnut Creek, or selling land granted to himself on Walnut Creek during this time frame.

23 JULY 1778

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“Granted. *Joseph More* claims 100 ac in Tryon Co on **Walnut Cr of Green R**; above **William Mills** land: entered Jul. 23, 1778; £3.15.”¹⁰⁵

COMMENT:

This document should reference William-of-Ambrose. Note its wording: *William Mills’ land*. It does not say “land claimed by William Mills” or “where William Mills lives” or simply “above William Mills.” It specifically attributes ownership of the land to William.

OCTOBER 1778

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Association.

“**James Miller vs. Nathaniel Carroll**. 200 Acres. 2 counts. Nothing done.”

“**James Miller vs. Nathaniel Carroll**. 200 Acres. 2 Counts. To issue to Wm Nevil Esqr. Issued.”¹⁰⁶

4 DECEMBER 1778

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“Granted. *John Auston* claims 150 ac in Tryon Co on **Brights Cr of Green R**; includes forks of said creek and a **cabbin where Jas Step** lived on N side of creek; entered Dec. 4, 1778; £6.4.”¹⁰⁷

COMMENT:

James Stepp is the alleged son-in-law of William “English Billy” Mills. Supposedly, Stepp married Mary Walton Mills. Those who make this assertion offer no evidence. In my own research, I have found no direct evidence to support it. That said, the repeated appearance of references to Stepp in land documents relating to the Millses does suggest a family connection; and the timing of all records relevant to Stepp and his apparent children is compatible with the proposition that he married William’s daughter.

5 DECEMBER 1778

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“Caveated by **Jas Step** Dec 1778; discontinued by *Aaron Reilly* Nov. 3, 1779. Aaron Reilly claims 100 ac in Tryon on both sides of **Green R**; below his own entry ‘and joining’; includes **Jas Step’s improvement**; entered Dec. 5, 1778. £3.1.4.”¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁵ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entrys, Tryon and Lincoln Co., NC, 1778–1780* (N.p.: P.p., 1987), 19; citing page 48.

¹⁰⁶ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 2, 1773–1779 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 127.

¹⁰⁷ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entrys, Tryon and Lincoln Co., NC, 1778–1780* (N.p.: P.p., 1987), 33; citing page 82.

¹⁰⁸ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entrys, Tryon and Lincoln Co., NC, 1778–1780* (N.p.: P.p., 1987), 35; citing page 404.

5 DECEMBER 1778

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“Entered by *Aaron Reilly* Dec. 5, 1778; granted to **James Step** Nov. 3, 1779. James Step claims 50 ac in Tryon on N side of **Green R** (White Oak – lined out); includes his own improvement; entered Dec. 9, 1778; –2.9.”¹⁰⁹

1778

BURKE COUNTY, NC

Legal suit.

“Miscellaneous Papers of Civil and Criminal Cases 1755–1790 ... small original handwritten court papers. ... Many reasons for court cases will be intentionally omitted, due to possible embarrassment to families. In some cases the names of the acting officers will not be listed because of tedious duplication of name.”

(File 1778, No. 1) ...

“Thomas **Stepp** vs **James Stepp**, yeoman, April [term].”

(File 1778, No. 2)

“James Mercer [*sic*] vs. Abner Smalley, May 20. ‘Baile:’ Joseph Murry and **James Stepp**.”

“**James Stepp, Jr.** vs. Thomas **Stepp**, March 15. Judgment.”

“James Minere [*sic*] vs. Abner Smalley, May 20. Bond: Jos. Murry and **James Stepp**.”

“**James Stepp, Jr.** vs. William Johnston, Planter, July 15.”¹¹⁰

COMMENT:

No further details on each item. The compiler of this volume tells us that copies of the original can be obtained at the State Archives, but provides no cataloging data for locating individual documents. **The originals need to be studied.**

15 JANUARY 1779

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land grant.

“487. Granted. *William Hall* claims 100 ac in Tryon Co on both sides of **Richland Cr** of **Green R**; border: **William Mills Jr** on N side; entered Jan. 15, 1779; £3.14.”¹¹¹

COMMENT:

William Jr., as called here in Tryon, would mean “William, the younger” and would refer to the son of Ambrose. See William Sr. entry below.

15 JANUARY 1779

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land grant.

“489. Granted. Discontinued Oct. 2, 1779 *William Hall* claims 100 ac in Tryon Co on branch of **Green R** about 1 mile from **Ambrose Mills**; border: land claimed by **Ambrose Mills** where **Wm Mills Sr** now lives; entered Jan. 15, 1779; £3.14.”¹¹²

¹⁰⁹ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entrys, Tryon and Lincoln Co., NC, 1778–1780* (N.p.: P.p., 1987), 36; citing page 89.

¹¹⁰ Edith Warren Huggins, *Burke County, North Carolina, Land Records and More Important Miscellaneous Records, 1751-1809* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1987), 57, 59-61.

¹¹¹ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entrys, Tryon and Lincoln Co., NC, 1778–1780* (N.p.: P.p., 1987), 42; citing page 103.

¹¹² A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entrys, Tryon and Lincoln Co., NC, 1778–1780* (N.p.: P.p., 1987), 42; citing page 103.

Map 6
Mouth of Walnut Creek and Unnamed Branches of Green River:
Last Residences of Ambrose Mills and Brother William “English Billy” Mills¹¹³



COMMENT:

The discontinuance of Hall’s claim suggests that he settled the disputed claim with Ambrose, leaving Ambrose to pursue the title.

William Sr. would be the brother of Ambrose. Their father, who had been called Wm. Sr. until his death, died in 1766. Also, here in Tryon, the William Jr. of Albemarle would not have been called William Jr. because he was the elder of the two adult Williams in Tryon.

The site of English Billy’s residence appears to be referenced in Maj. William’s deed of 27 September 1783, for land his father Ambrose obtained by deed and he (William) inherited:

Beginning at the **bend of the river** where the old line begins, then along old line to the first branch between **Powels Cabbin** & the river, then with said branch to where it enters into the river, then up the meanders of the river to the beginning.

The “branch of Green River about 1 mile from Ambrose ... where Wm. Mills Sr. now lives” appears to be the “first branch past “the bed of the river where the old line begins ... lying between Powels Cabbin and the river.”

¹¹³ “Topo Map of Streams in Rutherford County, North Carolina, *TopoZone* (<https://www.topozone.com/north-carolina/rutherford-nc/stream/> : 30 August 2022).

No branch shows in that position on the historic maps I have found. However, topo maps do show three unnamed branches just beyond the “bend of the River.” See Map 6 below. English Billy’s cabin, if it lay on the first of these, would be about a mile from the mouth of Walnut where Ambrose is said to have lived.

15 JANUARY 1779
TRYON COUNTY, NC

Association.

“Granted. *Randolph Kersey* claims 50 ac in Tryon Co on both sides of **Green R**; border: **Wm Mills**; includes *John Stuart’s* improvement; entered Jan. 15, 1779; £2.9.”¹¹⁴

COMMENT:

The adjacent owner in this case should be Maj. William, son of Ambrose.

29 SEPTEMBER 1779
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

William Mills to *Thomas Wadlington*, both of Rutherford, for 200£ proc. money of N.C. sale of 200 acres on both sides **Walnut Creek**, waters of **Green River**, adjoining *John Fisher*.

Beginning at a small post oak on a stony hill on N side of sd. Creek, about 40 poles from sd. Fisher’s upper corner, then N 53 W 80 poles to a black oak saplin, then N 80 W 170 poles to a pine, then S 100 poles crossing to a pine, then S 53 E 225 poles to a stake, then to the beginning.

Granted to *John McKnitt Alexander* 29 April 1768, conveyed to *Samuel Sharp*, then to *William Mills*. ... Signed: **William Mills, Elinor Mills**. Wit: **John Earle, Wm. Nevil**.¹¹⁵

COMMENT:

The seller is obviously Maj. William

27 OCTOBER 1779
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

“*John Kirkconnel* of Beaufort Co., N.C. to *Samuel King* of Rutherford Co., for £65 proc. Money ... land on both sides **S fork Broad river**. 200 A granted to sd. Kirkconnel by deed from *Andrew Neel*, 28 Mar 1778, and to sd. Neel by patton (sic) 2 Mar 1775 ... Jno Kirkconnell (Seal), Wit: **Wm. Gilbert, William Mills**.”¹¹⁶

COMMENT:

William Gilbert, in 1782, was surety for Ambrose Mills’s widow Ann, as administrator of Ambrose’s estate. One might assume that the William Mills associating with him above was her stepson William. However, see the 2 November 1773 sale of land granted 23 May 1772 to Kirkconnell (“Kerconal”). Taken together, one might conclude that the William who witnessed the Kirkconnel deed was Ambrose’s brother William.

3 NOVEMBER 1779
TRYON COUNTY, NC

¹¹⁴ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entrys, Tryon and Lincoln Co., NC, 1778–1780* (N.p.: P.p., 1987), 42; citing page 103.

¹¹⁵ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book A-D (transcribed copy): 321–321½; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 75517761.

¹¹⁶ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 139; citing Rutherford Deeds A-1:139.

Land entry.

James Step entered 30 acres on **Green River** “enclusing *Aaron Reiley’s* and his own Improvement.”¹¹⁷

C1780

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Historical context.

Col. John Mills, Esq.’s affidavit (barely readable in places) in the pension file of his cousin Jesse Mills, provides more detail on Jesse’s family:

“...During the Revolutionary War whence the [3 illegible words] was to [two illegible words], **the mother of Jesse Mills** whose Character & age the deponent [illegible word] in the Annexed? Declaration, **lived at the deponents Fathers House**_[v] that On A day & year that the Deponent cannot now p____, the Ap_____ in Some Person [Persons?] was seen Riding Towards the House. It was Said it was **Jesse Mills Returning from the Army**. His mother Run out to see? Him Claping His Hands—as He Jesse Mills Came up Close to her She Exclaimed it [to be?] Him the deponent further Say that Jesse Mills was Riding a Sorrel Stallion with A Ball [bald?] face. **Jesse’s father William Mills, Commonly cal^d Inglish Billy was a Virginia man whose Sucumstances would not Justify the Purchase of Sutch** to [illegible] as Jesse Rode Home & the Deponant further Say that he understood that Jesse got this Horse for His Services in the Revolutionary War—During the Course of this Services Part was Stationed at a Place Called White Hall in South Carolina in Abbeville District but then & at the time He the Said Jesse Performed those Services was in the District of Ninety Six of South Carolina. The deponent further States that he was Born? In _____ [three unclear words] the House or Station described by the Said Jesse Mills as Having been burned by the _____ Several of _____ being those Killed & wounded. **The House belonged to the Deponants father who with the deponent was Absent at the time of Attack & Conflagration**. The deponent knows nothing about the loss of [illegible word] & Property Stated by Jesse Mills of any other Sircumstance? By Jesse Mills. The Deponent Says no Knowledge & the Deponent from this Say that He has no Doubt of the Present Applicant being the Same Jesse Mills that [illegible word] from those Services Hereto first Described. Sworn to & Subscribed by me this 18th day of May 1833. Jn^o Mills.”¹¹⁸

OCTOBER 1780

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Context.

This month saw the hanging of both **William Mills Jr. (“Inglish Billy”)** and his brother **Col. Ambrose**, the first occurring in the week before King’s Mountain and the second in the wake of the battle.

4 AUGUST 1781

GRENE COUNTY, TN

Land grant.

“Warrant No. 391”

Ann Mills entered 100 acres that would be described in its 12 July 1794 patent as “lying and being in our County of Green.”

Beginning [*sic*] at a hictory standing on the E side of a hill, thence N 30 poles to a stake, N 70 E 80

¹¹⁷ “North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018) > Anson > 1779–2438 > images 135–39.

¹¹⁸ Jesse Mills Pension Application (Pvt., Miller’s Regt., NC Line), W7448, widow Sarah (née Garrett); imaged in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25852181> and 50 subsequent images : accessed 30 May 2018). For the affidavit of John Mills, see 25852227 and 25852229.

poles to a stake, N 60 poles to a stake, and two black oaks, 20 E 80 poles to a stake, S 130 poles to a Stake, W 163 poles to a stake, then by a right line to the beginning.¹¹⁹

COMMENT:

This Ann Mills is the widow of Ambrose. She is not the Ann Mills to whom William Welsh gave a part of the William Mills (kinsman of Blenny) survey in 1765.

OCTOBER 1781?

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Settlement.

“Book A (First two pages badly torn.) Oct. Term.

“An agreement between *Waightstill Avery and James Miller*. Lands mentioned on French Broad River, Cane Cr., Hoopers Cr., Davidson River. Other names mentioned, *Andrew Blanchard, Esq., Thomas Wadlington, Agnis Miller, Anna Mills, William Mills*, David Miller, **Widow Mills**, *Benjamin Davidson*. Dated Oct. ____?”¹²⁰

COMMENT:

This is the first document in Rutherford’s first court-order book. Anna Mills and Widow Mills are one and the same—i.e., Ann/Anna/Anne Brown, widow of Ambrose Mills. The William Mills of this document was Ambrose’s one surviving son by his first wife, Mourning Stone of Albemarle Co., VA. The next document is dated 14 April 1782 and proved July Term 1782.

Waightstill Avery was an attorney who presented his license at the first court held in Tryon, April? 1769.¹²¹

JANUARY 1782

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Probate order.

“Ord that Letters of Adm. Issue to **Ann Mills**, widow_[r] of [and] James Miller, on Estate of **Amrose** [sic] **Mills**, dec’d. She give [sic] bond with *John Earle* and *William Gilbert* in the sum of one thousand specia.”¹²²

COMMENT:

Ambrose’s widow is in powerful company. Rutherford court minutes identify Earle as a colonel and justice. Subsequently in this same term of court, James Miller and William Gilbert served as surety for the newly elected sheriff, Andrew Hampton, for a bond of 2000 pounds specia;¹²³ and “William Gilbert, Esq.,” who also signed the minutes as a county justice, was granted license to maintain a tavern.¹²⁴ The April 1782 term of court identified Miller as *Col. James Miller*.¹²⁵

¹¹⁹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 81:575; citing “TN Greene” File No. 1475, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.20N, frame 885, State Archives.

¹²⁰ James E. and Vivian Wooley, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Wills & Miscellaneous Records, 1783–1868* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1984), 1; citing Book A:1–2.

¹²¹ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 1.

¹²² Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 17; citing p. 47.

¹²³ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 19; citing p. 50.

¹²⁴ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 20; citing pp. 52–53.

JANUARY 1782

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“On Enquiry made by the Court Respecting **William Mills**, Charge of treason against the State, it appearing to the Court that sd Mills was in .. Service of the State, the Court therefore are of the opinion that his property is protected by law, and it is Ord. that the property of sd Mills remain in peaceable possession of his family till the law shall otherwise direct. **James Miller** being obligated to the Court, that the Estate now in the possession of sd **Mills** shall not be Entered, bound in the sum of five Hundred pounds specia.”¹²⁶

COMMENT:

The William Mills referenced here was the surviving Maj. William Mills.

JULY 1782

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land confiscation.

“Following lists 3577 & 578 are from Morgan District. Superior Court Miscellaneous records---DSCR 205.428.2]”

COMMENT:

The compiler of this published set of abstracts states “The material on Rutherford County is in the Pleas and Quarter Sessions Court minutes and Morgan District Court papers.” He does not state explicitly was DSCR stands for. The numeric citation seems to be a cataloging number within the NC State Archives system.

“577. Rutherford Co Pleas & Quarter Sessions Court second Monday in Jul. 1782 before **William Gilbert**, James **Withrow**, Jonathan Hampton, & other justices” a Grand Jury say the following people, all late of Rutherford Co planters, ‘aided and joined’ the army of Maj. Ferguson and are convicted as Tories.”

The list of 93 names start with **William Mills** and includes “**Allbros [sic] Mills**, William Hinson Sr., and William Hinson Jr.

“578. The following is only a partial list; part of sheet is lost. A petition mentioned for a case between William Gilbert vs.” 26 individuals, including **Ambros Mills**.”

“The following are from Rutherford Co Pleas & Quarter Sessions Court minutes CR 086.301.1 and 086.301.2.”

“579C, p. 42: On motion of **William Gilbert** esq and testimony produced by the Court it is ordered that the opinion of the Court be entered on the records to wit—it is the opinion of the Court that the said **William Gilbert** is not guilty of the charge laid against him to the General Assembly and we do certify that W Gilbert never plundered nor was guilty of plundering to our knowledge.”

“582F. Grand Jury returns an inquisition of treason forfeitures against **Thomas Mills** and others; jurors for the State present and find a bill against William **Withrow** and others; Grand Jury dismissed.”¹²⁷

¹²⁵ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 22; citing p. 57.

¹²⁶ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 18; citing p. 48.

¹²⁷ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Sales of Confiscated Loyalist Land and Property in North Carolina* (N.p.: P.p., 1989), 113–27.

COMMENT:

There follow several other abstracts from the county court minutes that I already have. Because of time restraints, I am not copying Newton's version.

JULY 1782

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

"Jurors find a Bill of Profacturas treason against **William Mills** and others. John Goodbread, one charged in sd ... appeared, pleads not Guilty." Estate of William Henry (agent: John Cook) was confiscated after a jury found him guilty. "The Grand Jury returns an Inquisition of treason against **Thomas Mills** and others."... [p. 67] "Ord. that the Commissioners of Confiscated property to advertise all persons (returned?) in the Enquisition by the Grand Jury for treason, forfeiture, confiscation against the State, to appear at next Court to answer the Charges. To advertise sixty days before next Court."¹²⁸

COMMENT:

The ellipses are as used by the compiler of this volume.

JULY 1782

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

"Ord. that the following **Justices** be appointed to take a list of taxable property for the year 1782, to wit: **John Earle, Esq.**, to take a list of *Capt. Nevils* District. ... *William Gilbert, Esq.* in *Capt. Russell's* Company."¹²⁹

1782

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Tax list.

Earl, John	Rutherford 1782 [No further data]	
Gilbert, William	Rutherford 1782	" ¹³⁰

COMMENT:

The compiled "statewide" list published by Ratliff includes Rutherford, but not any of its parent counties.

- No Millses are shown for Rutherford.
- No Picketts are shown for Rutherford.
- No Step(p)s are shown for Rutherford. "James Stepp" is shown for Northampton and Wilkes.

OCTOBER 1782

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

Various individuals are found guilty of treason in this term and their property subject to confiscation. In the case of the Widow Biggerstaff (the woman whom history credits with burying the corpses of

¹²⁸ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 24–26, 28; citing pp. 63–66, 73.

¹²⁹ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 26; citing p. 68.

¹³⁰ Clarence E. Ratliff, *North Carolina Taxpayers, vol. 2, 1679–1790* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1984), 59, 74, 132. Does not include Anson, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, or Tryon. Alphabetized statewide, so clues to neighboring entries are obliterated.

Ambrose Mills and seven others hanged on her farm) the court ordered the confiscation of "all her moveable property except Negroes and also all the lands possessed by her Deceased Husband in his lifetime, and also the rents of her land for the present year.

[but] it is ord. that the trial of Aaron Biggerstaff for forfeiture treason be laid over till next Court."¹³¹

"Ord. that an order of sale issue to **Ann Mills** and *James Miller, Adm.* On the Estate of **Ambros Mills**, dec'd. accordingly.

Ord. by Court that *James Miller* and **Ann Mills** have Authority (to) take into their possession all the Estate of **Ambros Mills** dec'd. in this State (or?) where to be found."¹³²

28 OCTOBER 1782

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land entry & grant.

James Step grant of land on **Green River** "Including Aaron Reileys and his own Improvement." Entered 3 November 1779. Surveyed 26 November 1779. Granted 28 October 1782.¹³³

22 DECEMBER 1782

LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

Court order.

"A Deed of Sale from **James Taylor** to *John Sloan* for (blank) acres dated December 22nd 1782 proved by *John Alexander* & ordered to be registered." 11 April 1783 term.¹³⁴

JANUARY 1783

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

"William Gilbert on Petition vs. Gideon Rucker, John Answorth, John Goodbread, Richard Ledbetter, James Chitwood, Joshua Chitwood, William Thomason, John Thomason, George Thomason, Barnaba King, Benjamin Biggerstaff, Samuel Biggerstaff, Thomas Welch of Sandy Run, John Camp, Thomas Camp, Mark Powel, Jeremiah McDaniel, Joseph McDaniel, Peter Dills, William Robbins, Joseph Underwood, Thomas Robinson, Thomas Townsend, Joseph Clark, Ursy Husbands of Burk County, Jonas Bedford, **Ambros Mills**, William Nettles, Shadrack Nettles, John Edgerton, Simeon Harris and others: Judgmt. By Default."

"James Gray, George Anderson, Joseph Young, David Moore, John Miller, Rodger Carson, James Hamilton, John Huddleston, James Armstrong, James Wilson, Alexander McFadin, and Patrick Watson was summoned, Impaneled and sworn to try the Enquiry do find for the plaintiff against the Several Defendants and assess Damages to 1206 pounds Specia and Costs; Verdict."¹³⁵

COMMENT:

The nature of the suit is not stated, but several of these (Goodbread, Chitwood, Biggerstaff,

¹³¹ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 35; citing pp. 87–88.

¹³² Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 36; citing p. 91.

¹³³ "North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018) > Anson > 1779–2438 > images 135–39.

¹³⁴ Anne Williams McAllister and Kathy Gunter Sullivan, *Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, Lincoln County, North Carolina, April 1779-January 1789* (Lenoir, NC: P.p., 1988), 50.

¹³⁵ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 41; citing p. 103.

Mills) are otherwise documented as Loyalists in this set of materials. Likely, they all are. The reference to Ambros would be a reference to Ambrose Sr. whose lands were to be forfeited if the court ruled him guilty of treason.

JANUARY 1783

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“John Walker, Esq., on petition vs. **Ambros Mills**, Elia Brock, Thomas Townsend, Jeremiah McDaniel, Joseph McDaniel, Benjamin Biggerstaff, Stephen Langford, Jonas Bedford, James Chitwood, Abram Green and William Green;

“William Morrison, William Porter, William **Withrow**, Thomas Welch, James Adair, Robert Rankin, Stephen Willis, Junr. James Gray, James McDaniel (of the Cove), John **Twitty**, James McDaniel (of Broad River), and James Armstrong was Summoned, Impaneled and Duly Sworn to try the Enquiry do find for the plaintiff against the Several Defendants and assess Damages to 540 pounds Specia and Costs.”¹³⁶

JANUARY 1783

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“Petition of John McClaine against **Ambros Mills** and other Enemies of the State. Judgmt. By Default.”¹³⁷

COMMENT:

Many widows are being allowed to retain the property left by a husband who was deemed an “enemy” of the state.

JUNE 1783

LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

Legal suit.

Col. Daniel McKissick vs. John Mills. Col. McKisack “made oath before me that John Mills is justly indebted to him the sum of £1.3. specie for the use of his stud horse to mare in the season of the year 1779 & that he hath sufficient reason & undoubted cause to believe that John Mills & a certain *Daniel Whitemore* late in the month of July stole & carried said horse into enemies hands in the State of South Carolina & that John Mills & Daniel Whitemore hath absconded & joined the enemies of this & the United States in the late War & made no satisfaction of any kind for the damages which he values at not less than £160 gold or silver at the common passing rate in North Carolina before the Revolution. 18 June 1783.” ... Levied on 606 acres owned by Mills. “Sold to Pltff for £150.” Etc.

COMMENT:

This John Mills, as seen under date of March 1784, below, was a son of William Mills of Augusta Co., VA, who settled Clark’s Creek.

1 AUGUST 1783

BURKE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

Anne Mills entered a tract of 247 acres that would be described in its patent of 15 December 1787 as

¹³⁶ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 42; citing p. 105.

¹³⁷ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 43; citing p. 107.

“lying and being in Our County of Burke on the Western Waters on the West Side of **French Broad River** above the mouth of **Mills Creek**.”

Beginning [*sic*] at a large black oak on the river bank marked WM and runs with this 80 poles to a white oak near **Mills Creek**, thence S 80 poles to a maple in a swamp at the head of a pond, thence W 80 poles to a black gum in a swamp, thence S 227 poles to a stake, thence E 83 poles to a black oak on the river bank, thence up the meanders of the river to the beginning.¹³⁸

1 AUGUST 1783
BURKE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 15 December 1787 patent as 131 acres “lying and being in Our County of Burke On the Western Waters on the East Side of **French Broad River**.”

Beginning at a sourwood tree on the river bank above the mouth of **Mud Creek** and runs E 400 poles to two large white oaks and a black oak marked W.M. then S 220 poles to a branch, the same course 40 poles to a black oak on a **high ridge**, then W 28 poles to a red oak and black oak on the river bank at the upper end of **the bottom**, then down the meanders of the river to the beginning.¹³⁹

1 AUGUST 1783
BURKE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 15 December 1787 patent as 640 acres “Lying and being in our County of Burke on the Western Waters on the **West Side of French Broad River** and on both sides of the mouth of **Mills Creek**.”

Beginning at a large black oak on the river bank marked W.M., the lower corner of **Anne Mills Survey** and runs with her line W 80 poles to a white oak near the creek, then with said line S 80 poles to two maple in a swamp at the head of a pond, then W 80 poles to a black gum in a swamp, **Anne Mills** NW corner the same course 156 poles to five red oaks and a post oak in a large meadow, then N 84 poles to the creek, the same course 260 poles to a stake, then E 316 poles to a stake on the river bank, then up the meanders of the river to the beginning.¹⁴⁰

AUGUST–SEPTEMBER 1783
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Military service.

“The following are in Morgan Dist. Criminal Action papers DSCR 205.326.1[,] file for 1783 and are grouped together even though there [*sic*] from different counties.]

“596. Aug. 19, 1783 a bond by **widow Mills, wife of Ambros Mills, & Wm Wills** [*sic*] to **Wm Gilbert** for £250 each for **Thomas Mills** to appear to answer charges as *captain under Maj. Forgison at Kings Mountain*.”

¹³⁸ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 65:491; citing Burke Co. File No. 1088, NC microfilm reel S108.160.15N, frame 750, State Archives.

¹³⁹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 65:490; citing Burke Co. File No. 1086, NC microfilm reel S.108.517, State Archives.

¹⁴⁰ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 65:490; citing Burke Co. File No. Burke file no. 1087, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.15N, frame 750, State Archives.

“589. Sept. 1783 a suit vs **Thomas Mills** (of Rutherford Co)—on Sept. 10, 1780, he was a captain in the King’s Army; evidence: **Wm Gilbert**, Ben Cleveland, Geo. Black, & Saml Hunter; ‘not a true bill’.”¹⁴¹

27 SEPTEMBER 1783

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Military service.

“**William Mills** of Rutherford Co. to **William Twitty** of same for 200£ specia, sells 150 acres in Rutherford on N side of Green River “being part of a tract of land Conveyed to Ambrose Mills by Deed of Conveyance & falling [to] the said William Mills by heirship from the said Ambrose:

Beginning at the **bend of the river** where the old line begins, then along old line to the first branch between **Powels Cabbin** & the river, then with said branch to where it enters into the river, then up the meanders of the river to the beginning.

Witnesses: **Ann Mills, John Mills**.¹⁴²

COMMENT:

This appears to be tract owned by Ambrose on which his brother William (“English Billy”) lived on 15 January 1779. See Map 6.

After the elder William’s death, his widow lived in the house of Maj. William’s family, according to the 1833 affidavit of Major William’s son John in the pension application of English Billy’s son Jesse. The cabin they had occupied on Ambrose’s land, and the land they tilled, appears to have then been let out to “Powel.”

13 OCTOBER 1783

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

“*John Smythe*, 100 A on **First Broad River** adj. **William Milles Jun.**, *Collinwood*, including a shoal ... 13 October 1783. *Alex Martin*. ”¹⁴³

COMMENT:

The reference to adjacent land owned by William Jr. implies that the land was taken out by Maj. William Mills prior to the September-October 1780 death of his uncle William Sr.

OCTOBER 1783

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

“**William Mills** ack. A deed in open court to **William Twitty** for 150 acres land. Ord. to be reg.”¹⁴⁴

OCTOBER 1783

LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

Court minute.

“*Daniel McKissick* vs. **John Mills**. Jurors: James Brison, Archd. Lytle, Saml McMin, Robt Barkey, John Gullick, Edward Hunter, Wm Armstrong, Wm Armstrong Jr., Richd. Jones, Jas. Baird, Benj. Armstrong,

¹⁴¹ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Sales of Confiscated Loyalist Land and Property in North Carolina* (N.p.: P.p., 1989), p. ?.

¹⁴² Rutherford Co., Deed Book A-D (a transcript): 182; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517761 > image 101.

¹⁴³ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 151; citing Rutherford Deeds A-1:241–42.

¹⁴⁴ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 61; citing p.162.

John Kinkaid.”¹⁴⁵

COMMENT:

This John Mills who was cut away into Lincoln, rather than Rutherford, was son and heir of William Mills of Augusta Co., VA, who settled on Clark’s Creek.

16 MARCH 1784

TRYON > LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“Joseph Henry, **Sheriff** of Lincoln Co., to *Daniel McKissick*, Esq. of same ... by a writ issued from Court of P & QS of Lincoln Co., to levy against goods & chattels of **John Mills**, £160 ... writ dated 8 Oct 1783 ... 606 A on waters of **Clarks Creek** including his deceased father’s **William Mills** improvements adj. *John Welsh*, *John Ramsour*, granted to sd. *John Mills*, 23 Apr 1768 ... *Joseph Henry*, Sheriff (Seal), Wit: *John Barber*, *Samuel Clouney*, *Jno. Wilson*. Rec. Jan. Term 1785.”¹⁴⁶

COMMENT:

- See 1758 notes for a William Mills, associate of Clark, connected to Blenny Mills.
- See June 1783 above for McKissick’s allegation that John Mills was a Loyalist who absconded to South Carolina with one Daniel Whitmore. (The 1790 and 1800 censuses of the Southern states do not include a Daniel Whitmore/Whitmore whose location might help to identify the more-commonly named John Mills.)

7 APRIL 1784

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Neighbor.

“*John Scoot* to *James Jeffrys* for 100 pds. Specia 100 a. on both sides **Walnut Creek** join. A new Survey of sd. Scoot between **Reynolds & Hinson’s line**. Land granted to *Phillip Hinson* by Pat. Dt’d. 29 Apr. 1768. Rec. 21 July 1792. Signed: John Scott, Lettic-o-Scoot. Charles Richardson, Jas. Scoot.”¹⁴⁷

COMMENT:

“Lettic-o-Scoot” was the compiler’s format for indicating that Lettic Scoot made her mark “o” on the document.

For prior transactions involving this land cluster, see:

- 7 August 1769 for Philip Hinson’s sale to John Scott/Scoot on Walnut Creek.
- 1 December 1770 for Thomas Reynolds’ sale to Ambrose of adjacent 640a at mouth of Walnut.
- 21 July 1778 for John Scott/Scoot’s land grant on Walnut adjacent to “Wm Mills survey.”
- Also see below, Scoot’s second deed of this same day, 7 April 1784.

7 APRIL 1784

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Neighbor.

¹⁴⁵ Anne Williams McAllister and Kathy Gunter Sullivan, *Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, Lincoln County, North Carolina, April 1779-January 1789* (Lenoir, NC: P.p., 1988), 59.

¹⁴⁶ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 115; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 2:706–7.

¹⁴⁷ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 55; citing I:398.

“*John Scoot to James Jeffry for 60 pds. Tract of 50 a. on N. side **Green River** on both sides of **Walnut Creek** adj. **Ambros Mills**. Land granted sd. Scoot 15 May 1772. Rec. 21 July 1792. Charles Richardson, James Scoot. Signed: John Scoot, Lettic-o-Scoot.*”¹⁴⁸

APRIL 1784

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“*James Jeffrey, bail for **William Mills** at the Suit of *Robert Campbell*, came into Court and surrendered the principal in discharge of the bail.*”¹⁴⁹

APRIL 1784

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“***William Mills**, principal, and *John Cummons*, bail, the principal bound in 50 pounds, the bail 25 pounds Sp. to be levied of their goods and chattels ... to be Void on condition that the principal make his appearance at next Superior Court held for Morgan Dist. On the first day of Sept. next, and not depart without leave of sd. Court.*”

“*John Allen bound in the sum of 50 pounds Sp. To prosecute the sd. **Wm. Mills**.*”¹⁵⁰

APRIL 1784

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Road order.

“*Ord. that **John Earle**, John Cummons, Abraham Music Jun., George Potts, (Terkub?) [*sic*] Potts, Matthies May..... Henry Wolf, Wm. Capshaw, George Green, William Thompson, John Fisher, John Thompson, Jonathan Potts, **James Step** be and is hereby appointed a Jury to lay off and mark a road...from *Hooper’s* ford on **North Pacolet** to **Mills Gap** on **Green River**, and that the Sheriff summons them to appear before **John Earle, Esq.** to qualify for their charge.”¹⁵¹*

COMMENT:

HomeTownLocator.com places Mills Gap in present Henderson County. *Google Maps* places it along Sugarloaf Mountain Road just NE of the intersection with Hwy 1602, immediately east of the Edneyville Fire & Rescue Station 3.

OCTOBER 1784

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Road order.

“*The court appointed overseers on that part of the public road leading from **Hoopers ford** on the **Pacolet** to **Mills Gap**. *John Cummons* overseer to *Michael Hawkins* place. **Tho. Justice** from there to the gap. That the inhabitants from *Capshaw Mill* to North Fork of **White oak**, as far as ... to work on *Cummons* road. The inhabitants from the **Widow Mills** to the extent of the County to work on *Justices**

¹⁴⁸ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 55; citing l:399.

¹⁴⁹ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 74; citing p. 194.

¹⁵⁰ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 77; citing p. 200.

¹⁵¹ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 77; citing p. 201.

road.”¹⁵²

COMMENT:

The ellipses are as they appear in the published extract. Widow Mills was Ambrose’s widow.

14 OCTOBER 1784

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“No. 103. Granted Riges. **William Milles** Entring 50 acres of Land in Rutherford County L[y]ing on Panter Creek of Green River, Joyinen my o[w]n Lin[e], this for Compliment.”

“No. 104. Granted to Riges. **William Mills** Entring 100 acres of Land in Rutherford County Ling on **Rotens Creek** of Green River, Including Robson’s **Lick Log**, this for Compliment.”¹⁵³

COMMENT:

Note that William Mills did not keep this piece of Rotton’s Creek land, despite the enhanced value given it by the lick log. He *would* keep another tract on *Rotton’s* that he entered four days later—the tract along “Gilbert’s old line.” See 18 October, below.

15 OCTOBER 1784

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“No. 105. Granted Riges. **William Milles** Entring 100 acres of Land in Rutherford county Lying on **Panter Creek** of Green River up nier the mountin, this for Compliment.”¹⁵⁴

18 OCTOBER 1784

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract on **Rotten’s Creek** of Green River that would be described in its 22 December 1808 patent as

Beginning at a black gum and pointers on **Gilberts** old line, thence S 30 E 80 poles to two white oakes, thence S 7 W 110 poles to a Spannish oak black oak one post oak, thence W 50 poles to a stake, thence **N 30 W 178 poles** to the corner of the corner of **the 50 acres tract John Mills got from Fish**, then N 33 W 60 poles to the beginning of said tract, thence **N 47 E 72** poles to a large black oak, thence SE 18 poles to a Spannish oak in the old line, thence S 8 E 80 poles to a stake, the old corner, thence with the other old line N 82 E 30 poles to the beginning.¹⁵⁵

COMMENT:

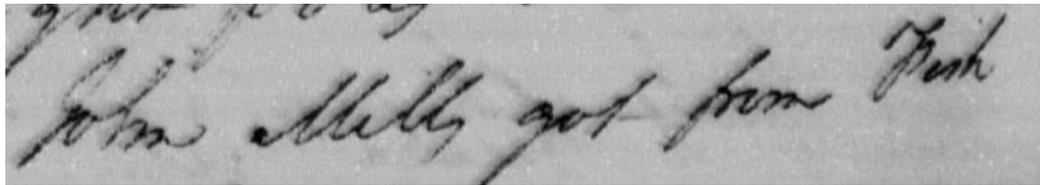
The document very clearly writes “Fish” as the name of the man from whom John Mills “got” his land.

¹⁵² Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 88; citing p. 232.

¹⁵³ Rutherford Co., NC, "Rutherford Land Entries, 1783–1788, unpaginated; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517759 > image 157.

¹⁵⁴ Rutherford Co., NC, "Rutherford Land Entries, 1783–1788, unpaginated; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517759 > image157.

¹⁵⁵ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 124:182; citing Rutherford Co. file 2711, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.33N, frame 352, State Archives.



This document is critical to the identity of “Little” John Mills (x)—the family member who actually settled there. Note three points:

1. The land would not be patented for nearly a quarter-century after the entry.
- 2. The John Mills reference does *not* place John on the adjacent tract in 1784, when William entered the land. That reference to John comes from the land survey, which was not made until 7 April 1808.** (See that date below.)
3. The land was not purchased from “Fish.” No such individual can be located in the deed or grant records of Rutherford County. As shown on the survey below, the name is written as Fisher, with the last couple of letters scrunched. Hence, the copying error on the patent.

Deed records offer only one document by which a John Mills acquired land from someone named Fisher. That deed provides the link between “Little” John Mills (x) and the John Mills cited in William Mills’s land survey:

- 15 January 1806, “John Mills” purchased **50 acres at the head of Rotton’s Creek** from **Peter Fisher**, attorney for a group of land speculators: William Tilghman, Peter Stephen Duponcian, Abram Kintzing Jr., George Warrel and **Tench Coxe**.
- 11 February 1825, John Mills (x) sold Lavender Mills **50 acres on the head of Rotten’s Creek**, stating that it was “part of a tract granted by patent to **Tench Coxe** & Conveyed by him to the sd. John Mills.”

The 1808 survey also connects to “Little” John Mills (x) in two other ways:

- 18 October 1826, “John Mills” filed for a land grant **adjacent to this tract**, along the call line highlighted in the 1808 patent extract above: **N 30 W 178 poles**. The grant was issued on 29 December 1827 in the name “John Mills (little).”
- On 17 October 1829, John Mills (x) donated to [his son] Calvin Garrett Mills a tract of land on **Rotton’s Creek** described as

Beginning at a black gum & pointers on **Gilberts’ old line**, thence S 30 E to the conditional line between the said John Mills & **Lavender Mills** to the old line, then with the old line to the beginning, the black gum & pointers.

No deed or land grant has been found by which John Mills (x) obtained any land “along Gilbert’s old line” or any land with a call “beginning at a black gum & pointers thence S 30 E.” Of more than 100 tracts found for the Millses in Rutherford during the life span of John Mills (x), **the only other Mills land carrying that call is the tract Maj. William Mills entered in 1784, but did not survey until 1808.**

Two questions remain to be answered:

1. Why did Maj. William Mills enter land in 1784, get the warrant in June 1785, and not have it surveyed or patented until 1808? No such delay can be found for any of the three-dozen-or-so other tracts he patented. The 1808 survey was made 27 days before John Mills (x) bought an adjacent tract from John Mills, Esq.—suggesting that the transfer was likely made in this time frame.
2. How and why did “Little” John Mills (x) obtain the land without a deed of sale or gift on record?

It is germane to note that when English Billy and Col. Ambrose were killed in October 1780, the 34-year-old Maj. William became the family head. His role and responsibilities are attested by various legal actions on behalf of his younger siblings and the assistance he gave his stepmother in physically staking out claims for her with marked trees (the “tomahawk grants” of lore, marked by him as “W.M.” according to the land entries) and, likely, representing her before the county land board where her claims were entered.

Maj. William’s role as family head suggests one possibility for “Little” John Mills: **William “English Billy” Mills owned no land at his death.** He lived on land of his brother Ambrose. It is a matter of record that William’s widow then went to live in the home of Maj. William, her husband’s nephew. (See affidavit of John Mills in the pension file of English Billy’s son Jesse, under 1833 below.) If English Billy left not only a widow but minor children, then Maj. William would likely have taken on the responsibility of providing those children a start in life as they came of age.

OCTOBER 1784

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Road order.

“The court appointed overseers on that part of the public road leading from *Hooper’s* ford on **Pacolet** to **Mills Gap**. John Cummons overseer to Michael Hawkins place. **Tho. Justice** from there to the **gap**. That the inhabitants from Capshaw Mill to **North Fork of White oak**, as far as ... to work on Cummons road. The inhabitants from the **Widow Mills** to the extent of the County to work on Justices road.”¹⁵⁶

COMMENT:

- The ellipses (here and below) are as they appear in the published extract.
- The “Widow Mills” referenced here was Ambrose’s wealth widow.

1784

BURKE COUNTY, NC

Legal suit.

“Miscellaneous Papers of Civil and Criminal Cases 1755-1790 ... small original handwritten court papers. ... Many reasons for court cases will be intentionally omitted, due to possible embarrassment to families. In some cases the names of the acting officers will not be listed because of tedious duplication of name.”

(File 1784, No. 1) ...

“Adlai Osborn vs. **James Stepp**, Sept. 6. Bond: John Carson, Jno. Cooper.”¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁶ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 88; citing p. 232.

¹⁵⁷ Edith Warren Huggins, *Burke County, North Carolina, Land Records and More Important Miscellaneous Records, 1751–1809* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1987), 93.

COMMENT:

No further details on each item. The compiler of this volume tells us that copies of the original can be obtained at the State Archives, but provides no cataloging data for locating individual documents.

1784 & 1787

NORTH CAROLINA

State censuses.

COMMENT:

There are no schedules for Rutherford County.¹⁵⁸

10 JANUARY 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 9 August 1787 patent as 100 acres “Lying and being in Our County of Rutherford on **Panters Creek** [Panthers Creek] of **Green River.**”

Beginning at a hickory on the N bank of the creek in **a bottom**, thence N 90 poles to a black oak, thence W 180 poles to a stake, thence S 90 poles to a stake, thence to the beginning.¹⁵⁹

COMMENT:

From this point forward, all William Mills references in Rutherford, before 1820, are references to Maj. William.

1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 9 August 1787 patent as 100 acres “Lying and being in our County of Rutherford on **Rottens Creek** of **Green River.**”

Beginning at a red oak on the S side of the creek, then N 100 poles to a Spanish oak, then W 160 poles to a stake, then S 100 poles to a stake, then to the beginning.

Entered [day and month not state].¹⁶⁰

COMMENT:

William Mills sold this land on 11 January 1793 to Richard Yielding who married **Milly Mills** in 1788. Milly’s parentage has not been identified. Like “Little” John Mills, she fits into the Rutherford Millses only as a daughter of English Billy or of Jesse Mills’ first marriage.

This land, **at the fork of Rotton’s Creek**, was surveyed on 23 January 1786, with John Shipley and **Marvel Mills** as chain bearers. See survey below.

12 JANUARY 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

¹⁵⁸ Alvaretta Kenan Register, *State Census of North Carolina, 1784–1787*, 2d ed. rev. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983).

¹⁵⁹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 65:320; citing Rutherford Co. file 302, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.15N, frame 665, State Archives.

¹⁶⁰ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 65:318; citing Rutherford Co. file 293, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.15N, frame 664, State Archives.

Land entry.

“No. 142. Granted to Rigs. **William Milles** Enteres 100 acres of Land in Rutherford Countey L[y]ing on Both Sides of **Roton’s Creek** a bout a mile a Bove the **old path** the waters of **Green River** this for Compliment.”¹⁶¹

COMMENT:

Several surrounding entries also carry the notation “Granted to Reges.” Entry 221 (image 176) cites one “Timothy Riggs.”

20 JANUARY 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 9 August 1787 patent as 100 acres “in Our County of Rutherford On **Silver Creek** of **Green River.**”

Beginning at a red oak marked thus WM, then N 180 poles to a red oak, then W 90 poles to a black oak, then S 180 poles to a black oak. then to the beginning.¹⁶²

JANUARY 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“A Writt of Error was moved by John Goodbread and others on the suit of **William Gilbert** against John Goodbread, Joseph Underwood, Thomas Townsend, John Camp, **William Mills**, Richard Ledbetter and Thomas Camp, and on the affidavit of John Crawford in open court. It is thereupon ord. that a Writ of Error be granted to the sd. John Goodbread, Joseph Underwood, Thomas (Townsend), **William Mills** and Thomas Camp – on the Judgement that the sd. William Gilbert recovered against them and that the Clerk Certify the same to Superior Court acco. to law.”¹⁶³

COMMENT:

All of these men are among those charged with being an enemy of the state. William Gilbert, who brought the charges against them, was also bondsman in 1782 for the widow of Ambrose Mills in her administration of the estate left by her husband. That financial support for the widow does not suggest it likely that he brought charges against Ambrose’s son out of animus for the family’s political position during the revolutionary activities. It is more likely that the court is “going through the motions” of trying and then exonerating certain individuals.

APRIL 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Road order.

“On petition, it is ord. by Court that **William Mills**, George Green, Benjamin Johnson, ... Justice [sic], Amos Justice, Abram Musick, John Cummons, George (Potts?) [sic], William Thompson, David Musick, **George Paris** and James Rice be ... hereby appointed a Jury to lay off and mark a road the nighest and best way from **Col. John Earles** to **William Mills**, and from thence tothe Mountain, and report the

¹⁶¹ Rutherford Co., NC, "Rutherford Land Entries, 1783-1788, unpaginated; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 7517759 > image 164.

¹⁶² David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 65:324; citing Rutherford Co. file 317, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.15N, frame 667, State Archives.

¹⁶³ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 98; citing p. 258.

same to our next court.”¹⁶⁴

APRIL 1785?

LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

Court minute.

“The Administrators of the Estate of **William Mills, Decd** came into Court & made a settlement of said Estate & the whole amount of the Estate was £374.5.10 Credit for vouchers filed £286.4.0.½ Balance in the hands of the adms. £88.1.9.½.”¹⁶⁵

COMMENT:

This Lincoln County estate was that of William Mills of Clark’s Creek (formerly of Augusta County, Virginia).

10 JUNE 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 9 August 1787 patent as 50 acres in Rutherford County “on **Panters Creek [Panthers Creek] of Green River.**”

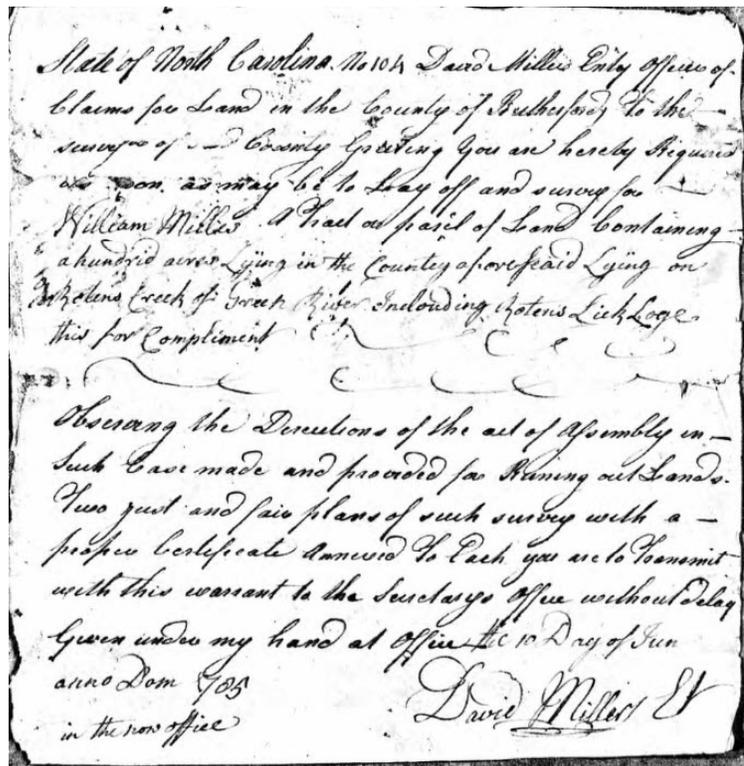
Beginning at a hickory on the N bank of the creek in a **bottom**, thence N 90 poles to a black oak, thence W 180 poles to a stake, then S 90 poles to a stake, thence to the beginning.¹⁶⁶

10 JUNE 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Survey warrant.

“State of North Carolina. No. 104. David Miller’s Entry Office of Claims for Land in the County of Rutherford, to the survey^r of said County, Greeting, You are hereby Required as soon as may be to Lay off and survey for **William Mills** a tract or parcel of Land Containing a hundred acres Lying in the County aforesaid Lying on **Rotens Creek** of Green River, Includng **Roten’s Lick Loge**, this for Compliment. — Observing the Directions of the act of Assembly in Such Case made and provided for Runing out Lands Two just and fair plans of such survey with a proper Certificate Annexed to Each you are to Transmit with this warrant to the Secretarys Office without delay. Given

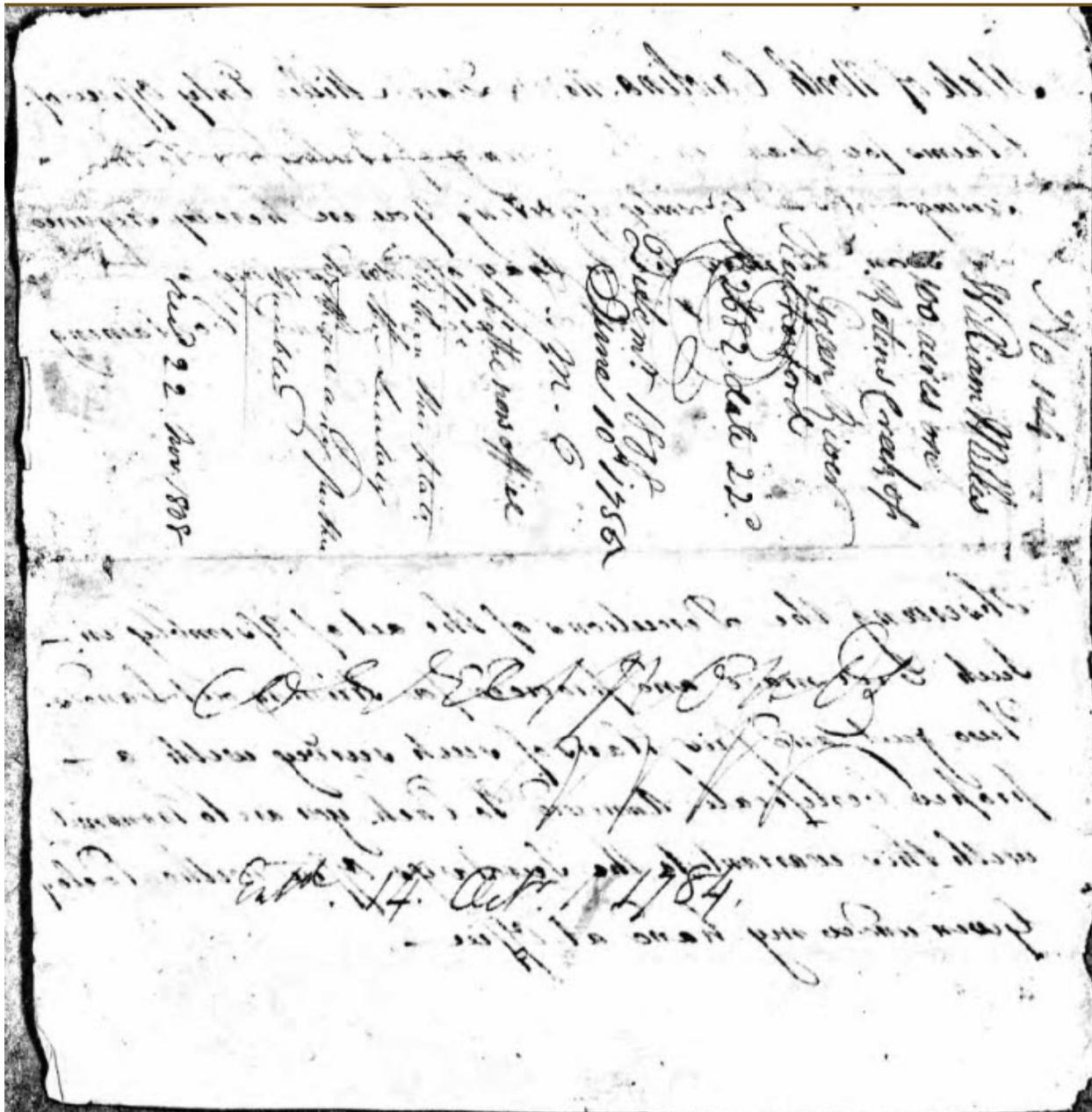


¹⁶⁴ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 103; citing p. 271.

¹⁶⁵ Anne Williams McAllister and Kathy Gunter Sullivan, *Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, Lincoln County, North Carolina, April 1779–January 1789* (Lenoir, NC: P.p., 1988), 92.

¹⁶⁶ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 54:292; citing Rutherford Co. file No. 191, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.15N frame 651, State Archives.

under my hand at office the 10 Day of June anno Dom. 1785. David Miller Et.” Note: “in the new office.”
Reverse: “No. 104, William Mills 100 acres on Rotens Creek of Green River, Rutherford • No. 2692. date
22d Decem^r 1808 • June 10th 1785 • E? M.O. • in the new office • then this plat to the Secretary without
any further trouble? • Corresponds —Entd. 14 Oct⁴ 1784.”



30 JUNE 1785
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC
Land sale.

“**William Mills** to *Samuel McBryer* for 100 pds. Proc. Money, 100 a. which formerly belonged to **Ambrose Mills** on **Green River** on N. side below mouth of **Walnut Creek**.”¹⁶⁷

COMMENT:

William is selling land inherited from his father—part of the 640 acres he purchased from Thomas Reynolds at the mouth of Walnut Creek.

15 JULY 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

“*Peter Johnston* of Mecklenburg Co., N.C. to **William Mills** of Rutherford for 50 pds. Spe. 200 a., in Rutherford Co. on both sides **Green River** incl. *Vaughns* imp. Land was granted *John Kerkonel* by Pat. Dtd. 9 July 1775. Rec. 4 Jan. 1794. [Witnesses:] *James Miller, Benjamin Adams*.”¹⁶⁸

22 AUGUST 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“No. 248. Granted to J. Miller. **William Milles** & James Miller Enters 100 acres of Land in Rutherford County Lying on the End of a **Litel Mountin** Betwin the **Ridey Pack & Cler Creek** Including a Spring for Compliment.”

“No. 249. Granted to F. Miller. **William Milles** & James Miller Enters 300 acres of Land in Rutherford County Lying Joyininger over other Entery nier the **Litel Mountin** for Compliment.” *Added note:* “**William Milles** payd Indentes £17.12.0 Sallerys & my fees 0-18-8.”¹⁶⁹

25 AUGUST 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“No. 251. Discon’d. **John Carrick** Enteres 100 acres of Land in Rutherford County Lying in the **Big Cove** of **Green River** Joyininger Abraham mousick Land on the north Sid for Compliment.”¹⁷⁰

OCTOBER 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Road order.

“The court appointed *John Russel* overseer of the ... road from Armstrongs Shop to **Widow Mills**, and the ... of **Green River** on both sides from *John Hughes* to Widow ... and the inhabitants of **Whiteoak** to Capshaws Mills are ... to work on sd. Road.”¹⁷¹

COMMENT:

¹⁶⁷ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 32; citing G:213?.

¹⁶⁸ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 80; citing J:127.

¹⁶⁹ Rutherford Co., NC, "Rutherford Land Entries, 1783–1788, unpaginated; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 7517759 > image 180.

¹⁷⁰ Rutherford Co., NC, "Rutherford Land Entries, 1783–1788, unpaginated; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 7517759 > image 180.

¹⁷¹ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 115; citing p. 301.

The ellipses are rendered above as they appear in the extract. It seems that the compiler of this published volume is using ellipses when she can't read certain words.

10 DECEMBER 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 26 November 1789 patent as 300 acres in Rutherford County on **Clear Creek**:

Beginning at a red oak in the N side of a **mountain**, then N 84 W 264 poles crossing the creek to a stake and pointers, then N 8 W 100 poles to a pine, thence N 33 E 62 poles to a white oak, then N 77 E 60 poles to three white oaks, thence E 180 poles to a stake, then to the beginning.¹⁷²

12 DECEMBER 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills & James Miller entered a tract that would be described in its patent of 26 November 1789 as 100 acres in Rutherford "Between the branches of **Broad river** and **Clear Creek** on the dividing ridge":

Beginning at a white oak on the NE side of a mountain, running N 15 E 100 poles to a black oak, thence N 55 E 40 poles to a red oak, then N 40 W 36 poles to a stake on the S side of a branch, thence N 75 W 80 poles to a hickory, thence S 15 W 235 poles crossing over a mountain to a stake thence to the beginning.¹⁷³

20 JANUARY 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

"No. 301. **Anne Mills** Enters 100 acres of Land in Rutherford County Lying on Both Sides of Green River Joining the north side of Sharp's Survey, Including her o[w]n Improvement. The 20 Day of Jentry [sic]."¹⁷⁴

JANUARY 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

"John Guffee vs. **William Mills**: Ralph Wilson, James Miller, Micajah Proctor, John Whiteside, Wallis Beaty, Robert Young, Thomas Rowland, Benjamin Huder, Alexander McFadin, William Webb and William Webb, a Jury sworn. Non suit."¹⁷⁵

¹⁷² David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 71:340; citing Rutherford Co. file 497, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.17N, frame 429, State Archives.

¹⁷³ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 71:322; citing Rutherford Co. file 447, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.17N, frame 420, State Archives.

¹⁷⁴ Rutherford Co., NC, "Rutherford Land Entries, 1783–1788, unpaginated; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 7517759 > image 188.

¹⁷⁵ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 120; citing p. 317.

23 JANUARY 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land survey.

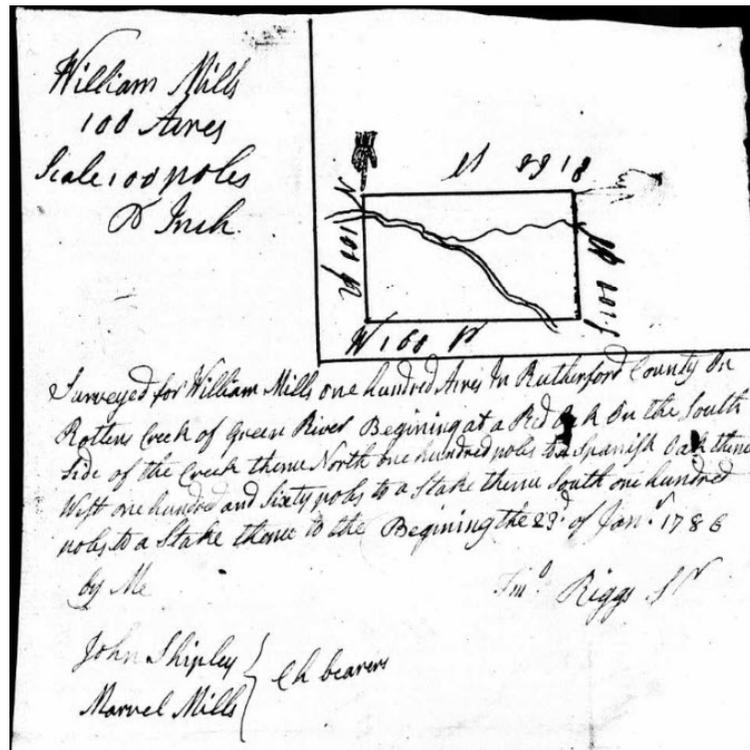
“William Mills. 100 Acres. Scale 100 poles p Inch.” Land on **Rotten Creek** of Green River:”

Beginning at a red oak on the S side of the Creek, then N 100 poles to a Spanish oak, then W 160 poles to a stake, then S 100 poles to a stake, then to the beginning.

“By me Jno. Riggs, Sr. John Shipley, Marvel Mills Ch[ain] bearers.”¹⁷⁶

COMMENT:

William conveyed this land on 11 January 1793 to Richard Yielding, who—on 5 November 1788—had married **Milly Mills**. Her parentage remains unproved.



JANUARY 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“William Capshaw proved a deed from **William Mills** to Christopher (Plunkett?) for 200 acres land. 5/ sh. Pd. To Walker.”¹⁷⁷

COMMENT:

This apparently in the deed executed 2 November 1773. See that date above.

1 FEBRUARY 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

“John R. Ratton, Jr. of S.C. to **William Mills** of Rutherford Co. for 15 pds. Proc. Money of N.C., 100 a. on **Green River above mouth of Alston’s Creek**. Land granted by Pat. To John Roten (sic) 28 Ocr. 1782. Rec. 4 Jan. 1794. [Witnesses:] *John Johnes, John Newport*.”¹⁷⁸

COMMENT:

This John R. Rotton appears to be the namesake of “Rotton’s Creek.”

¹⁷⁶ “North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960,” database with images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 March 2021) > Rutherford > 1–303 > image 1366.

¹⁷⁷ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 123; citing p. 326.

¹⁷⁸ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 80; citing J:126..

11 FEBRUARY 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“No. 304. William Pitman Entrs 26 acres of Land in Rutherford Countey Lying on Both Sides of Green River Joinin **the Widow Milles’** line on the north sid of Said River & Joining Samuel Ray’s Lin on the South Sid of the River.”¹⁷⁹

APRIL 1786

LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

Probate order.

“On motion ordered that Letters of Administration on the estate of **John Mills decd** issue to *James Lockhart* who took the Oath of an Administrator gave Bond Security, Daniel McKissick Esqr. In the sum of £300.”

COMMENT:

This John Mills was the son of William of Clark’s Creek (formerly of Augusta Co., VA). As shown under September 1786 below, his administrator, James Lockhart, was married to the Ann Mills whose “cousin” William Welsh gave her share of William Mills’s survey.

The above statement that John Mills (a man who was previously said to have absconded to SC) is deceased eliminates the possibility that he might be the John Mills referenced in this Pendleton District, SC, obituary:

5 SEPTEMBER 1832

Pendleton, *SC Messenger*

“Died on the 8th August 1832, **Mr. John Mills** in the 67th year of his age ... a Native of North Carolina, removed to this State in 1800, an inhabitant of this district ever since.”¹⁸⁰

8 APRIL 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

Thomas Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 18 December 1797 patent as 160 acres in Rutherford County “on the **South Side of Green River** Joining James Cowards land.”

Beginning at a chesnut on the top of an hill S side the river, then S 2 E 160 poles to a white oak, then N 88 E 160 poles to a stake, then N 2 W 160 poles to a stake, then to the beginning.¹⁸¹

COMMENT:

The website’s source data for this grant identifies the grantee as “Thomas Mills {assignee of William Mills}.” Neither the body of the document nor marginal notes mention William. The

¹⁷⁹ Rutherford Co., NC, "Rutherford Land Entries, 1783–1788, unpaginated; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 7517759 > image 188.

¹⁸⁰ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriage and Death Notices from Pendleton (S.C.) Messenger, 1807–1851* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press 1977), 39.

¹⁸¹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 96:381; citing Rutherford Co. file 1653, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.25N, frame 217, State Archives.

land's survey warrant carries an assignment of the warrant by William Mills to "my brother Thomas."¹⁸²

8 APRIL 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

"No. 326. Granted. **William Mills** Enters 100 acres of Land in Rutherford County Lying on Green River Including the mouth of Boardmans Briner Blow, a track of Land Blonging to Alxander Markey, this for Compliment."¹⁸³

10 APRIL 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract of land that would be described in its 16 November 1790 patent as 100 acres in Rutherford county "on **both sides of Rottons Creek of Green River.**"

Begining at a red oak on the north side of the creek, thence N 100 poles to a Spanish oak, then W 160 poles to a stake, then S 100 poles to a stake, then to the begining.¹⁸⁴

20 JUNE 1786

LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

Association.

"83. Jun. 20, 1786 *James Wilson*, planter (Lincoln Co) to *John Boyd*, planter (same); for 50£ sold 50 ac between **Shady Br** of **Clarks Cr** and heads of two branches of **Allens Cr**; border: Warleck, formerly **Hugh Mills'** corner now **John Boyd**, & 'the' road; part of 310 ac granted Dec. 23, 1768 to James Willson. Signed James Willson. Witness *Edward Hunter & Lemuel Patton*. Rec. Jul. 1786. Book 3, p. 101; Book 14 p. 75."¹⁸⁵

COMMENT:

In an abstract dated 13 December 1771, above, Hugh Mills is identified as a resident of Botetourt County, Virginia, where Boyds are also found.

JULY 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court minute.

William Mills is appointed to juror for next district term.¹⁸⁶

17 SEPTEMBER 1786

LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

Land sale,

"106. Sept. 18, 1786 *James Lockhart & wife Ann* (Lincoln Co) to *Andrew Wilson* (same) for 100£ NC

¹⁸² "North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 7 March 2021 > Rutherford > 1522–1817 > image 630 of 1539.

¹⁸³ Rutherford Co., NC, "Rutherford Land Entries, 1783–1788, unpaginated; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 7517759 > image 191.

¹⁸⁴ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com>) : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 77:114; citing Rutherford Co. file 745, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.19N, frame 381, State Archives.

¹⁸⁵ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Lincoln County, NC, 1786–1793 (Books 3, 4, & 16)* (N.P.: P.p., 1988), 9.

¹⁸⁶ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 138.

money sold 200 ac on both sides of **Bets Br of Clarks Cr**; part of a large grant Apr. 19, 1763 to *William Welsh* and by deed of gift Jul. 13, 1765 to **Ann Mills** now wife of *James Lockhart*; being middle lot of three 'divisions' of said old survey. Signed James Lockhart & Ann's mark. Witness: *Robt Blackburn & Martha Blackburn*. Rec. Oct. 1786. Book 3 p. 130; Book 14 p. 99."¹⁸⁷

COMMENT:

Lockhart, on 19 November 1787, executed a deed for land on Lockhart's Creek, bounding on **Mills' old line** and a branch; granted Nov. 15, 1762 to Nicholas Welsh who sold Mar. 30, 1774 to James Lockhart."¹⁸⁸

A similar deed was executed 30 Sept. 1791 by *Powers Lamkin* & wife Jean of Union Co., SC, identifying her as formerly **Jean Mills** and one of three (Sarah, Ann, and Jean Mills) who received a deed of gift from William Welch."¹⁸⁹

A third deed was executed 14 Oct. 1795 by Wm. Cumberland, *John Leek*, and wife *Sarah Leek* of Union Co. SC to Henry Cline. Sarah was the former Sarah Mills, who obtained land from William Welch, together with Ann and "John" [Jean] Mills."¹⁹⁰

I am not pursuing Lockhart or his wife Ann. These Millses of Clark's Creek, which fell into Lincoln, are clearly not part of the Millses on Green River, which fell into Rutherford and remained there for several decades.

26 JULY 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

"No. 362. Discon'ed. **Widowor Aney Mills** Enters 100 acres of Land in Rutherford Countey Lying a Long her South Line, Including the forkes of the Branches on the South Sid of Green River & **wher She now Lives** for Compliment. Discon'ed not payd."¹⁹¹

COMMENT:

The 1800 census does not cite Ann (Brown) Mills Carrick as a head-of-household. She appears to be living in the home of her son Ambrose Mills Jr., whose settlement and mill site was at the Ostin's Creek area of Green River.

23 SEPTEMBER 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

"No. 1036 ... **William Mills** to *John Young, Sr.* & *Robert Young* for 250 pds. Proc. Money, 200 a. **Green River** at mouth **Walnut Creek** above plantation where *John Young* now lives and run. Up branch to **Ambrose Mill's** line to *John Scoot's* new line. Rec. 13 July 1793. [Witnesses:] Thos. Wadlington, Francis Brown."¹⁹²

¹⁸⁷ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Lincoln County, NC, 1786–1793 (Books 3, 4, & 16)* (N.P.: P.p., 1988), 11.

¹⁸⁸ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Lincoln County, NC, 1786–1793 (Books 3, 4, & 16)* (N.P.: P.p., 1988), 25; citing Deed Book 3:311 and 14:255.

¹⁸⁹ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Lincoln County, NC, 1786–1793 (Books 3, 4, & 16)* (N.P.: P.p., 1988), 70; citing Deed Book 16:182.

¹⁹⁰ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Lincoln Co., NC: 1793–1800 (Books 17, 18, and 19)* (N.p.: P.p., 1988), 54.

¹⁹¹ Rutherford Co., NC, "Rutherford Land Entries, 1783–1788, unpaginated; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 7517759 > image 196.

¹⁹² Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 68-69; citing J:42.

OCTOBER COURT 1786

LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

Probate order.

“The amount of the Estate of **John Mills** £286.2.”¹⁹³

COMMENT:

The word “deceased” does not appear after Mills’s name in this abstract, although the reference is almost certainly to the John Mills, deceased, whose estate was opened earlier this year.

OCTOBER 1786

RUTHERFORD COUTY, NC

Court order.

COMMENT:

The transcriptions provided in this volume assert that a David Mills and Stephen Mills saw court actions in this term. No man of either name appears in other records of the county. Earlier in this volume of abstracts, we are given an abstract of a record for “James Mills” that is clearly James Miller in the original record. It is likely that the court order refers to David Miller and Stephen Miller. (This published volume is replete with misreadings discoverable by comparing its abstracts against the original records.)¹⁹⁴

18 DECEMBER 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

“I, *Peter Dills*, Junr. give to my beloved sister Molly Liles 5 shillings, I give to my beloved [brother?] *Bartlet Dills* 4 shillings, I give to my beloved brother Thomas Dills all my lands, Also I give to my sister Elizabeth Dills all my goods and chattles, etc. I desire that *Nathan Briscow & William Robbins* as executors. Wit: *William Johnson, Philip Henson, Jacob Davis*. Signed: Peter Dills.”¹⁹⁵

COMMENT:

In Sept. 1803, Philip (X, his mark) Henson witnessed Nathan Briscow’s will naming wife Elizabeth and children Phillips & Sarah Briscoe, Mary Crawford, Elizabeth Morrow, Nancy Robbins.¹⁹⁶

29 APRIL 1787

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Slave purchase.

“I, *James Walker*, in consideration of £133 lawfull money, in hand paid by **William Mills** have bargained, sold, and delivered a negro named Jean, about 16 years old, and will forever warrant and defend said negro unto William Mills against all claims. Wit: *David Music, Robert Brooks*. Signed: James Walker. Proved 6 April 1793.”¹⁹⁷

¹⁹³ Anne Williams McAllister and Kathy Gunter Sullivan, *Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, Lincoln County, North Carolina, April 1779–January 1789* (Lenoir, NC: P.p., 1988), 136.

¹⁹⁴ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014).

¹⁹⁵ James E. and Vivian Wooley, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Wills & Miscellaneous Records, 1783–1868* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1984), 2; citing Book A:9.

¹⁹⁶ James E. and Vivian Wooley, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Wills & Miscellaneous Records, 1783–1868* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1984), 35; citing Book A:207.

¹⁹⁷ James E. and Vivian Wooley, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Wills & Miscellaneous Records, 1783–1868* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1984), 6; citing Book A: 51.

30 JUNE 1787

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

William Mills to **Samuel McBryer**, both of Rutherford, sale for 100£ proclamation money already paid, sale of 100 acres (“supposed to be”), “part of a certain tract of land which formerly belonging to **Ambrose Mills** on **Green River** that part being on the N side of the river below the **mouth** of **Walnut Creek**”:

Beginning at a deep hole in the river at the lower end of **the bent**, then up the point of a **ridge hill** to the boundary line, then along the line to the river, then up the river to the beginning.

Witnesses: Thomas Wadlington, Robt. Young.¹⁹⁸

10 JULY 1787

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

William Mills to Henry Durham, both of Rutherford, sale for 100£, 100 acres in Rutherford

Beginning in **Green River** above **mouth** of **Alstons Creek** at a post oak, running then W 160 poles to a stake, then N 100 poles to a stake, then E 106 poles to a stake, then to the beginning

Land was granted to **John Rotten** by patent 28 October 1782. Witnesses: Thomas Wadlington and “Miller, E.”¹⁹⁹

7 AUGUST 1787

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land grant.

“No. 724, N.C. Grant No. 723, Caswell to **Ann Mills** for 50 shill. Every 100 a., tract of 100 a. on both sides **Green River**. 9 Aug. 1787.”²⁰⁰

COMMENT:

This Ann Mills is the widow of Ambrose. She has not yet remarried.

JULY 1787

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“A deed proved from *John Rotton* to **William Mills** containing by estimation one hundred acres & ord. to be registered. Fees to pay, paid.”²⁰¹

19 OCTOBER 1787

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Agreement.

“*Waightstill Avery* – *James Miller*, agreement, 19 Oct., 1787, Oct. Ct. 1791. Whereas divers suits and controversy by caviat for land have subsisted between said Avery and Miller and others hereafter named and a composite hath taken place in such a manner that said Avery is to have 348 a land in

¹⁹⁸ Rutherford Co. Deed Book E-I (transcribed copy): 213–14; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 75517761 > images 370–71.

¹⁹⁹ Rutherford Co. Deed Book E-I (transcribed copy): 107–8; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 75517761 > image 317.

²⁰⁰ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 24; citing F:153.

²⁰¹ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 188.

compute above the **Horseshoe of French Broad River** and 320 a land on **Cane Creek** claimed by Miller heretofore which he hath this day agreed to convey to said Avery, each party shall dismiss a caviat by himself in the name of Andrew Blanchard, Esq., against on and his caviats by him procured against said Avery in names of *Thomas Wadlington, Sarah Miller, Agnis Miller, Ann Mills, William Mills*, and Ann Haz . . . and that James Miller shall also dismiss all caviats by him procured against said Avery in names of Thomas Wadlington, Sarah Miller, Agnis Miller, Anna Mills or William Mills or other persons that each party shall pay their own attorneys fee in suit aforesaid same land against James Miller and David Miller and pay cost thereof except the attorneys fees for defendants of which he shall be clear or shall not pay more than a proportionable part accruing it is further agreed that all claimants on dismissal of the caviats aforesaid no judgments shall be entered for the defendants. Signed: Waightstill Avery, James Miller; Wit: Charles McDowell, James Greenlee, Reubin Wood.

“The said Avery agrees to disclaim in favor of said Miller and partners 640 a at the mouth of **Hoopers Creek**[,] Wadling on [an] entry at **Crabtree the Horse bottom**[,] Millers entry at and near the mouth of Davidsons Creek, the **Widow Mills** entries above the mouth of the same creek or the River and the said James Miller agrees to disclaim in favor of said Avery his entries on Benjamin **Davidson’s Creek** and the said Averys other entries on the creek below the Horse bottom and those for which the said Miller and partners have ... Surveys on interest. 19th 1787. Signed: Waightstill Avery, James Miller. R. Wood, Jurat.”²⁰²

COMMENT:

The ellipses are shown above as rendered by the compiler, Davis.

OCTOBER TERM 1787

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Road order.

“Ord by the court that Alexander McFaddin, Thomas Wharey, Thomas Weaver, David ?y, Saml. McFaddin, **John Mills**, ??, ?Metcalf, Joshua Taylor, James Killpatrick, William Ballard & Anthony Laughlin be & is hereby appointed to lay off & assess the damages of that part of the road that leads through Anthony Dicky’s plantation & report to next court proceedings on said order.”²⁰³

COMMENT:

Anthony “Metcalf” in March 1778 obtained land adjacent to Ambrose Mills. However, Ambrose’s son John Mills was not yet old enough to be a tithable—a man who would be taxed a head tithes and would be liable for road and jury service. By elimination, this first John Mills of record in Rutherford should be the son of Maj. William.

JANUARY 1788

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Sale of land.

“**William Mills** acknowledges a deed to Saml McBriar containing by estimation hundred [sic] acres & ordered ted [sic] 3/paid.”²⁰⁴

²⁰² Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts, Will Book B, 1791–1813* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1972), 1; citing Will Book B:1.

²⁰³ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 196. I have studied the original court order, as filmed by *FamilySearch* and, like Williams, am not able to read those names that are represented above by blanks and question marks.

²⁰⁴ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 211.

17 JANUARY 1788

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“No. 553. Granted to General McDowill. James Boilston Enteres 200 acres I Rutherford Lying on the West Side of French Broad River Joyining the **Widow Milles’s** upper Line & Elijaha Williames Lower Line, Including the mouth of a Creek & his o[w]n Improvement for Compliment. This 17 Day of Jenery 1780.”²⁰⁵

18 JANUARY 1788

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“No. 554. Discon’d. Andrew Miller & David Miller Enters 1000 acres of Land in Rutherford Countey Lyin on **Milles River** above John Cass’ Improvement on Clier River for Compliment.”²⁰⁶

“No. 555 Granted to Enlow [three illegible words]. David Miller & Andrew Miller Enters 200 acres of Land in Rutherford Countey, Lying on the **South fork of Milles river** or Clier River above the forkes of sead river for Compliment.” *Note:* “Bing Davis? Improvement. A paton for this.”

“No. 556. Granted to Enlow. David Miller Enters 200 acres of Land in Rutherford Countey Lying on **Milles River** or Clear River above my other Entery above Cass Improvement for compliment.” *Note:* “a paton for this.”²⁰⁷

COMMENT:

I will not continue to get references to “Milles River” or “Mills River” unless it sheds additional light on the family. This paper already establishes the connections between Maj. William Mills and the Miller brothers.

26 JUNE 1788

LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

Association.

“822. Jun. 26 1788 *James Wilson Sr & Daniel McKisick* (Lincoln Co) to *John Moore* (same; for 350£ sold 606 ac in Lincoln formerly Anson Co on waters of **Clarks Cr**; border: *John Welch* of E side Clarks Cr and John Rasour; includes **William Mills’** improvement; granted Apr. 23, 1768 to **John Mills** and sold Mar. 16, 1784, due to writ from Lincoln Co Pleas & Quarter Sessions Court, by Joseph Henry, Sheriff, to Daniel McKisick (sic). Signed James Willson & Danl McKisick. Witness *Jas Wilson & Jn Patton*. Wit. Oath Apr. 1793 by James Wilson jr (sic). Book 16 p 365.”

COMMENT:

This William Mills is the man from Augusta Co., VA, who settled on Clark’s Creek in old Anson Co.

JULY 1788

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

“The court exempted **William Mills** from serving on the jury the present term for certain lawful reason

²⁰⁵ Rutherford Co., NC, "Rutherford Land Entries, 1783–1788, unpaginated; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517759 > image 225.

²⁰⁶ Rutherford Co., NC, "Rutherford Land Entries, 1783–1788, unpaginated; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517759 > image 225.

²⁰⁷ Rutherford Co., NC, "Rutherford Land Entries, 1783–1788, unpaginated; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517759 > image 225.

shown.”²⁰⁸

JULY 1788

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Road order.

“Ordered by the court that a public road be marked & laid off the nearest & best way from the **great hills** below **Thomas Justice** plantation up the river by **Thomas Justice house** thence up the river into the **little cove** & that **Thomas Justice Jur.**, Caleb Biggs, William Davison, **Amos Justice**, Henry Atkinson, John Ball, Thomas Call, John Jones, **James Step**, Lewis Sartain, William Hix, Jesse Brimore, Thomas Hix, **George Saunders** and Thomas Hargitt be and is hereby appointed a jury to lay off & mark said road report their proceedings to our next how they have executed this order of court & the sheriff summons them to qualify before **John Earle** esquire for their charge.

5 NOVEMBER 1788

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage bond.

“Yealding, Richard & **Milly Mills**, 5 Nov 1788; William Henry, bm [bondsman].”²⁰⁹

COMMENT:

No known record explicitly states parents for this Milly Mills. While some genealogists insert her into the family of Maj. William and Eleanor, others disagree.

In 1858, William Mills’s grandson James M. Edney, a newspaper editor, sent to press a history of North Carolina by one Daniel K. Bennett. Therein, William and Eleanor are said to have two sons and five daughters.²¹⁰ Genealogical accounts for the couple identify those daughters as **Mourning** (m. Henry Graves Lewis, 1791), **Sarah** (m. Rev. Asa Edney), **Eleanor** (m. Rev. Samuel Edney, mother of James M.), **Elizabeth** (married George Washington Jones) and **Phalby** (m. David Myers, 1797). No evidence of parentage is provided in any case.

If Edney is correct in the number of his mother’s siblings, then Milly does not fit into this family. In that case, she fits only into the seriously under-researched family of William Mills Jr. (“English Billy”) who married about 1750 and settled Anson-Rutherford with Col. Ambrose. Whether Milly would have been a daughter of English Billy (whose wife was still alive in 1780) or a daughter of his son Jesse, who might have had a teenaged marriage about 1769, is debatable.

JANUARY 1789

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

John Mills is named among prospective jurors for the next (April) term.²¹¹

COMMENT:

This would appear to be John of the prior road order. The John Mills born to Col. Ambrose and Ann Brown was an adult by July 1790. Whether he was an adult in January 1789 is debatable.

²⁰⁸ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 226.

²⁰⁹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 166.

²¹⁰ Daniel K. Bennett, *Chronology of North Carolina, Showing When the Most Remarkable Events Connected with Her History Took Place, from the Year 1584 to the Present Time, with Explanatory Notes* (New York, James M. Edney, 1858), 19–25 “William Mills”; see also 97–100 for Rev. Samuel Edney.

²¹¹ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 252.

6 MARCH 1789
LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

Association.

“416. Mar. 6, 1789 *William Patrick* (NC) to *Thomas Huson* (Lincoln Co); for 600£ NC money sold 500 ac on W side of **Cuttawbaw R** at mouth of **South fork**; border: McLean, John Patrick, **Thomas Carrol**, & Robert Leeper; granted Dec. 26, 1768 to *William Patrick*. Signed Wm Pattrick. Witness *Robert Patterson, Moses Ratchford & John Faires*. Rec. July 1789. Book 3 p. 520; Book 15 p. 225.”²¹²

APRIL 1789
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

John Mills is chosen for jury service.²¹³

29 AUGUST 1789
LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

Association.

“451. Aug. 29, 1789 **Thomas Carrel** (York Co, SC) to *William Maclean* (Lincoln Co); for 3 ‘likely’ young Negroes sold 478 ac on **Little Cataba Cr** on S side of **Cataba R**; border: *Tyla Harris, Andrew Cathey, Henry Oneal & Alexander Osborn*. Signed Thomas Carrell. Witness Jno Leeper & Thomas Maclean. Rec. Jan. 1790. Book 4, p. 25; Book 14 p. 281.”²¹⁴

JANUARY 1790
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

John Mills is named among prospective jurors for the next (April) term.²¹⁵

JANUARY 1790
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Road order.

“James Miller, James Gray, William Gray, Benjamin Yardby, James Withrow, Patrick Scott, George Musick, **William Mills, John Mills**, James Doile, John Goodbread, *Charles Tailor [Taylor]*, Geo Green, *Freeman Jones*, Hugh *Kilpatrick*, John Hughs & Anthony Dicky a jury appointed to lay off the above mentioned road.” [The previous minute, as transcribed, reads] “a road joining the road that leads from the court house beginning ?bitheal George’s the ? by Thos Walker’s thence to **Thos Wadlington’s** ford on Wornest Creek thence to **Cooper’s Gap** thence to point lookout.”²¹⁶

COMMENT:

This John Mills coupled with William on the road order should be his son.

In May 1793, Freeman Jones sold land to David Jackson on Bright’s Creek, at which time his witnesses were “William Mills, John Mills, Marvil Mills”—a grouping that suggests Major William and his two sons John and Marvel (the latter spelling being the way Marvel wrote his name).

²¹² A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Lincoln County, NC, 1786–1793 (Books 3, 4, & 16)* (N.P.: P.p., 1988), 43.

²¹³ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 253.

²¹⁴ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Lincoln County, NC, 1786–1793 (Books 3, 4, & 16)* (N.P.: P.p., 1988), 47.

²¹⁵ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 289.

²¹⁶ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 290.

APRIL 1790

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

William Mills served as juror for the case State vs. Charles McCray, finding the defendant guilty of assault. Also **Col. James Miller** vs. *Matthew Jordan*, in which the jury found for the plaintiff “balance of acct £16.16.6.”²¹⁷

11 JULY 1790

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

“*Thomas Good* to **Philip Hinson** for 25 pds. Tract of 80 a. on both sides **Little Fork of Dilles Creek** near *Sharp’s* line. Land granted 19 July 1788 to *Thomas Good*. Rec. 25 Aug. 1792. Jas. Holland, Elias Alexander.”²¹⁸

JULY 1790

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“Ordered by the court that notice issue to **Ann Mills & James Miller Col.**, administrators on the estate of **Ambros Mills** decd to appear at next court with their sundary act & vouchers in order to settle with the court for said estate.

“Ordered by the court that the sheriff cite **Mary Mills, Milseed** [Mildred] **Mills, Ambros Mills & Nancy Mills** orphans & minors of **Ambros Mills** deceased to appear at our next court in order to choose their guardian &e [&c].”

John Mills is named among prospective jurors called for next term of court.²¹⁹

COMMENT:

As shown in 1797 notes below, the widowed Ann married John Carrick in February 1790. At that point, Carrick would by law take over the affairs of his wife. Hence the need for the former administrator to settle his account and for the appointment of a new guardian of the interests of the minors.

AUGUST 1790–1791

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Census.

“12th Company”²²⁰

Robt. Young

Robt. Caruth Rev.

Rd. Yielding 1 white male 16+ 2 white females

COMMENT;

Yielding married **Milly Mills**. Note Yielding’s proximity (5 houses) from Jesse Mills, her potential father or brother.

James Jeffery

²¹⁷ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publ., 2014), 297–98.

²¹⁸ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 58; citing I:416.

²¹⁹ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publ., 2014), 305–6.

²²⁰ 1790 U.S. census, Rutherford Co., N.C. p. 145, lines 1–16.

Henry Russell
Jno. Young

COMMENT:

- 1786 John Young and “son Robert” [see first line above] bought land from Col. Ambrose & Ann Mills’s son William, adjoining John Young’s own land.
- 1793, John Young bought a second tract from William, on which James Stepp [brother-in-law of Jesse Mills] had formerly lived.

Mary Garrett	1 white male 16+ 2 white males -16	5 white females	
Jesse Mills	1 white male 16+ 0 white males -16	3 white females	[son of “English Billy”]

COMMENT:

According to the Bible record submitted in the pension applications of Jesse’s widow Sarah (Garrett) Mills, he and Sarah were parents of

- **Nancy**, b. 26 October 1787
- **Mary**, b. 11 September? 1789
- **William**, b. 13 October 1791
- [*illegible*] born 1793
- **Sary**, 7 March 1795
- **Jesse**, b. 28 December 1797

The 1790 census data comports with the Bible record. However, Jesse’s family is unusually small for a man who received his first land grant and set up housekeeping in 1769. If he did marry at that time, no children have been identified from that marriage. At his marriage to Sarah Garrett, which occurred 8 December 1785, he was considerably past the age for a first marriage.

Note also that Jesse is living next door to one Mary Garrett, a likely candidate for Sarah’s mother.

This census, as well as that of 1800, understates Jesse’s age. Whether or not Jesse intentionally shaved years from his age upon marrying a woman at least fifteen years his junior is a point of speculation; but his uncertainty over his age is reflected four decades later in his pension application.

Sam. McBriers
Jno. Fisher

Wm. Mills	1 white male 16+ 2 white males –16	6 white females	8 slaves
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COMMENT:

The two male youths in William’s household should be his sons **John** (b. c1766, if he was the tithable/road-crew member of 1787) and **Marvel** (b. 1771, according to his undocumented *Find A Grave* memorial). The females should be his wife and five unmarried daughters who have long been identified as Mourning (b. 1773), Sarah (b. 1774), Eleanor (b. 1776), Elizabeth (b. 1780), and Phalby (b. 1782).

No members of the household are unaccounted for. By 1796, William’s household had been assigned to Morgan’s District of Buncombe, which had been created in 1791 from parts of Rutherford and Burke Counties.

Note **Sam. McBriers’** location next door to Jesse Mills and 1 house from Jesse’s uncle Maj. William Mills. This is relevant because

- In 1808, Samuel McBrayer “Jr.” fathered a son William who, on 4 June 1831 in adjacent Burke Co., married Elizabeth Fortune.²²¹
- Elizabeth Fortune was born 1808 in **Buncombe Co.** to Richard Fortune and Mary Lavender.²²²
- Mary (Lavender) Fortune was the daughter of William and Mildred “Milly” (Mills) Lavender.
- **Mildred (Mills) Lavender was sister to William “Inglish Billy” and Col. Ambrose.** With her second husband, William Walton, she moved from Amherst Co. VA in the mid-1790s to Buncombe (later Burke) where her nephew Maj. William was already acquiring land he would settle on about that same time.²²³
- The arrival of Milly and her Lavender offspring on Green River would have been a couple of years before John (x) Mills, Milly’s nephew or grand-nephew, gave the name Lavender to his eldest known son.

Jas. Logan
Yelverton Neville
Abr. Carter
Jno. Jones

Thos. Justus Jr.

[skip 11]

Allen Twitty	1 white male 16+	1 white female	1 slave
	1 white male –16		

[skip 24]

John Carrick	3 white males 16+	7 white females	6 slaves
	1 white male –16		

COMMENT:

The three males over 16 in Carrick’s household should be himself and his unmarried stepsons Thomas Mills (age 25) and John Mills (c20–21). The male under 16 should be his stepson Ambrose Mills Jr. (age 13).

The 7 females in Carrick’s household would include his wife Ann (Brown) Mills, Mary (age 20,

²²¹ As a starting point for the McBrayers, see merrillannejordan, “Merrill Family Tree,” user-contributed tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/17601673/person/539986468/facts> : accessed 2 May 2022), “Elizabeth Fortune” facts page.

²²² *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/77038692/elizabeth-mcbrayer> : 28 August 2022), “Elizabeth Fortune McBrayer” memorial for an image of her tombstone with birth and death dates.

²²³ For much more on Mildred, her Lavender family, and her Walton husband, see the following research reports archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the “Research” tab.

- E. S. Mills, “William Mills (c1695c1755) of Goochland, Albemarle & Amherst Counties, Virginia; Spouse Mary [?]: Research Notes,” last updated 16 May 2022.
- E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Amherst County, Virginia, Miscellaneous Business Records, 1782–1788,” report to file, 8 July 2016 (updated 30 June 2022).
- E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Amherst County, VA, Preliminary Survey of Published Resources, 1764–c1811,” report to file 28 August 2018 (updated 15 May 2022).
- E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Amherst County, Virginia: Land & Probate Records, 1761–1806,” report to file, 18 June 2019 (updated 27 May 2022).

OCTOBER 1790

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

“**Jesse Mills** charges his attendance in the appeal [of] **James Miller** against *Benjamin Yardly* for plaintiff three days & 100 miles mileage amt £1.18.8 & cost 8.” Jesse also does jury duty in the case of *Andw Johnson vs Charles McDonald*.²²⁶

OCTOBER 1790

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Guardianship.

“**Mildred Mills** aged sixteen years next March, **Ambrose Mills** aged fourteen years next February & **Nancy Mills** aged eleven years next June came into open court & chose *Thomas Wadlington* their guardian, who entered into bond with James Gray & Richard Singleton in the sum of five hundred pound.”²²⁷

COMMENT

Various online trees assert that John Mills, son of Maj. William Mills, married Mariam Wadlington, daughter of Thomas, and settled on Rotton’s Creek of Green River where they supposedly produced Lavender Mills and other sons.²²⁸

As shown by the documents presented in this paper, the John Mills who married Mariam Wadlington was son and heir of Col. Ambrose and wife Ann Brown. However, John and Mariam moved to Christian County, KY, with Mariam’s family.

OCTOBER 1790

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

“**John Mills** serves on jury for case of State vs. Thos. Walker.”²²⁹

OCTOBER 1790

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Probate order.

“*Adam Whiteside & Timothy Riggs* esquires a committee settled with **Ann Mills** alias **Ann Carrock** & James Miller admr on the estate of **Ambros Mills** decd see report filed.”²³⁰

NOVEMBER 1790

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills and **James Miller** would enter a tract described in its 9 July 1794 patent as 200 acres in Rutherford County “near the gap of the Mountain on the South Side of **Buckhorn fork**, the waters of **Clear Creek**.”

²²⁶ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publ., 2014), 310–11.

²²⁷ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 313.

²²⁸ For example, see Mark Mills, “Thomas Mills Family Tree2,” user-contributed tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/86411405/person/412168528487/facts>) and Hunter95Lighthall, “Gartrell-Johnson (Kelby) Family Tree,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/63821850/person/30515953976/facts> : 2 August 2022).

²²⁹ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 313.

²³⁰ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 314.

Beginning at a leaning forked white oak, runs N 64 E 40 poles to a red oak, then S 73 E 40 poles to a stake, then South 45 E 80 poles to a stake, then E 20 poles to a stake, then S 45 E 60 poles to a stake, then S 80 poles to a white oak and three chesnuts, then W 200 poles to a stake, then to the beginning.²³¹

3 NOVEMBER 1790
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage.

“Twitty, Russel & **Polly Mills**, 3 Nov 1790 [no bondsman named].”²³²

COMMENT:

“Polly Twitty” is named as a daughter of Col. Ambrose Mills in the April 1797 settlement of his probate.

6 JANUARY 1791
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

John Mills (s) to Jeconias Waldrop [Jeconias] both of Rutherford County, sale for 100£, NC money already paid, sells 100 acres on both sides of Green River.

Beginning on **Coward’s** lower line, then N 15 E 140 poles to a hickory, then S 70 E 115 poles, crossing the river to a pine, then S 15 E 140 poles to a pine, then N 75 E 115 poles to the said Cowards line.

Granted to **Ann Mills** by patent bearing date 9 August 1787, conveyed by her to **John Mills her son**. Witnesses: **John Young**, jurat; Rebeckah Young. Proved 5 December 1794.²³³

10 JANUARY 1791
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court minutes.

“**William Mills** administrator on the estate of *Wm. Mariam* decd returns an inventory of said estate & prays an order of sale.”²³⁴

John Mills served on jury for case of **James Miller** Col. vs. *Jeremiah Webb*. Jury found “for the plaintiff & assess damage to 1 & 6 cost.”²³⁵

COMMENT:

Across several years, one circumstance is noted: When William appears at a term of court, John does also—the two making together the journey across the mountain and into the county seat.

10 MAY 1791
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

²³¹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 82:309; citing Rutherford Co. file 908, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.21N, frame 177, State Archives.

²³² Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 148.

²³³ Rutherford Co., Deed Book J-L (transcribed copy): 309; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517761 > image 651. This transcribed record book has many such problems in the reading of names.

²³⁴ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 316.

²³⁵ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 327.

William Mills and **James Miller** entered a tract that would be described in its 9 July 1794 patent as 500 acres in Rutherford county on both Sides of **Clear Creek**:

Beginning at a post oak runing W 26 poles to a large white oak in **McCoys** line, then along said line N 54 poles to a pine **McCoy's** corner, then with the other line W 152 poles to a pine, then N 120 poles to a poplar, then N 45 E 114 poles to a white oak, then along **Lyda's** line S 84 E 306 poles to a red oak, then S 34 E 100 poles to a white oak, then S 46 W 210 poles to a stake and pointers in **Green's line**, thence to the begining.²³⁶

OCTOBER 1791

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“Ordered by the court that *Lewis Colwell*, a base born mullotto child six years old be bound to **William Mills** till he attain to the age of twenty one years who agrees to learn him the art & mistery of a **tailor** & give him such freedom dues as the law directs.”²³⁷

COMMENT:

William Mills's biography, written by his grandson J. M. Edney, identifies him as a miller. It does not identify him as a tailor. William is known to have held slaves. Whether one of his enslaved men was a skilled tailor—or whether William himself would be teaching the child “the art & mistery of a tailor”—has not been determined.²³⁸

1 NOVEMBER 1791

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry & grant.

William Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 9 July 1794 patent as 50 acres in Rutherford county “at the Junction of **three forks of Hungry**,”

Beginning at a white oak, then 20 poles to a white oak, then S 60 poles to a stake, then W 72 [22?] poles to a stake, then S 40 poles to a stake, then W 48 poles to a stake, then to beginning.²³⁹

15 NOVEMBER 1791

LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

Association.

“687. Nov. 15 1791. *Leonard Webb* (Ga) to *John Walker* (Lincoln Co); for 200£ NC money sold 200 ac on **Lick Br of Coburns Cr of Cataba R**; border: *Jacob Baker, John McCarthy, & John Baker*; includes my

²³⁶ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 82:309; citing Rutherford Co. file 907, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.21N, frame 177, State Archives.

²³⁷ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 343.

²³⁸ J. M.'s 1846 biography of his grandfather William Mills; location of original unknown. For a typescript, see “Public Member Photos & Scanned Documents,” *Ancestry* (<http://www.Ancestry.com> : accessed 23 June 2015), unidentified contributor, “Maj William Mills 1746 to 1834.” The contributor calls this typescript an “obituary written by his grandson J M Edney” without citing a source. However, the transcript itself states that it was written “October 30, 1845,” 11 years after Maj. William's death. It is more probable that the grandson wrote this as a sketch for Lyman C. Draper who was, at that time, combing the South for information about the men of King's Mountain. Draper's *Kings Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King's Mountain, October 7th, 1780* (Cincinnati: Peter G. Thompson, 1881), reports part of Edney's details in his brief sketch of Ambrose Mills on p. 481, but does not identify his source.

²³⁹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 82:301; citing Rutherford Co. file 889, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.21N, frame 173, State Archives.

improvement. Signed Leonard Webb's mark. Witness **Jns Mills** [*sic*], *Wm Luckey & John Luckey*. Rec. Jan. 1792. Book 16 p. 203."²⁴⁰

COMMENT:

This John Mills of the Catawba, Lincoln County, stems from William Mills of Augusta who settled Clark's Creek.

17 DECEMBER 1791

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage.

"Lewis, H. G. & **Mourning Mills**, 17 Dec 1791; James Miller, bm."²⁴¹

COMMENT:

Mourning was one of the five daughters of Maj. William Mills and Eleanor Morris.

APRIL 1792

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

William Mills serves on jury for case of State vs. Abraham Enloe."²⁴²

10 APRIL 1792

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

Andrew & David Miller and **William Mills** entered a tract that would be described in its patent of 9 July 1794 as 200 acres in Rutherford County on both sides of **Clear Creek**:

Beginning [*sic*] at a white oak in the line of a 300 acre survey, runs then N106 poles to a post oak, then runing near **Haslips** line E 130 poles to a stake in **John Miller's** line, then with the same S 46 poles to a post oak **Miller's corner**, then with Miller's other line E 200 poles to a stake, then S 90 poles to a stake, then W 200 poles to a stake, then N 30 poles to a stake, then to beginning."²⁴³

COMMENT:

Clear Creek is the site of the grants made this same year to James Stepp, alleged brother-in-law of Jesse Mills.

APRIL 1792

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

"Briggs admr vs **Thos McCarrel**. The same jury as above being duly impaneled find for the plaintiff & assess damage o[f] £50.9.0, reasons & arrest of judgment filed ordered a new trial."²⁴⁴

²⁴⁰ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Lincoln County, NC, 1786–1793 (Books 3, 4, & 16)* (N.P.: P.p., 1988), 71.

²⁴¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 89.

²⁴² James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 360–61.

²⁴³ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 82:421; citing Rutherford Co. File No. 1012, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.21N, frame 233, State Archives.

²⁴⁴ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 362.

JULY 1792

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Probate order.

“The court appointed *Felix Walker* and *William Graham* committee to settle with the admr of **Ambros Mills** decd & also with the admr of John Miggs decd.”²⁴⁵

JULY 1792

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

John Mills is among potential jurors to appear at next term of court.²⁴⁶

JULY 1792

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale proved.

“John Young proved a deed from **John Mills** to Jeremias [Jeconias] Waldrop conntaining by estimation 100 acres.”²⁴⁷

COMMENT:

The Mills-Waldrop deed, abstracted above under 6 January 1791, identifies this John Mills as the son of Ann [and, thus, Ambrose].

21 AUGUST 1792

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Survey warrant.

“No. 718. State of North Carolina. David Miller Entry taker of Claims for Lands In the County of Rutherford. To the surveyor of said County. Greeting — you are hereby Required as soon as may be to [lay] off and survey for **James Steep** [Stepp] a parcel of Land Containing a hundred Acres being in the County aforesaid Lying on Small branch of **Clear Creek** Including his on Improvement whear I [*sic*] now Live for Compliment. Observing the directions of the of [*sic*] assembly in such case made and provided for Running out Lands Two just and fair plans of such survey with a proper Certificate annexed to Each you are to transmit this Warrant to Secretary’s Office without delay. Given under my hand at Office the first day of Fbry AD 1791 in the _____ office. David Miller ET.”²⁴⁸

COMMENT:

The land was entered 1 February 1791. This file also includes the survey made 21 August 1792, showing its placement at a four-pronged fork of Clear Creek; Thomas Case and **William Step** were chain carriers.

21 AUGUST 1792

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Survey warrant.

“No. 719. State of North Carolina. David Miller, Esq. ... of the County of Rutherford ... You are hereby Required as soon as may be possible? to survey for **James Steep** [Stepp] a tract or parcel of Land

²⁴⁵ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 368.

²⁴⁶ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 374.

²⁴⁷ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 376, 378.

²⁴⁸ “North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018) > Rutherford > 637-987 > images 1376–79.

Consisting of fifty [acres] in the County aforesaid, Lying on the top of a Litel Mountin Includng his one Improvement for Compliment ...²⁴⁹

COMMENT:

The land was entered 1 February 1791. This file also includes the survey made on 22 August 1792, showing it's placement along an unidentified stream; Thomas Case and **William Step** were chain carriers.

I am not capturing all Step land grants. In brief, the North Carolina land grant files, digitized at Ancestry, offer the following—all in Buncombe. (Date is the date of entry.)

John Step	27 Jan 1797	In fork of Wolf Pen, join Abr. Keykendall, David Miller & John Case
John Step	27 Jan 1797	On branch of Cedar Creek (Cler) join Jas. Step & John Joans
James Stap	18 Oct. 1801	Waters of Mud Cr. near Grassy Mtn [See abstract below]
William Step	22 Apr. 1801	Waters of Clear Creek, joining his own line and James Step
James Step Sr.	19 June 1802	Joining his own land where he now lives & Thomas Joanes
William Step	19 June 1802	On waters of Turn Breaches Cr join Thos Miller & Thomas Case
James Step Sr.	19 June 1803	Waters of Broad R joining Rock House Mountain ²⁵⁰

12 SEPTEMBER 1792

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

"*John Cooper* of 'Pason' Co., N.C. to **John Mills** of Rutherford for 300 pds. tract of 200 a. land formerly granted to *William Gilbert* and conv. from sd. Gilbert to *Isaac Cooper*. Land on **Bullens Creek** bounded on upper side by tract granted to sd. *Gilbert*. Rec. 18 July 1794. [Witnesses:] John –x- Hide, Samuel –x- Mefner."²⁵¹

COMMENT:

This John is the man who became John Mills, Esq., as proved by two deeds:

- On 1 July 1800 John Mills (s) sold 156 acres of this tract to Jonathan King, with John Mills (x) as witness.
- On 4 May 1808 "John Mills, Esq." sold 40 [44?] acres of this tract to "John Mills"—i.e., John Mills (x).

6 OCTOBER 1792

GREENVILLE DISTRICT, SC

Association.

"Inventory [of estate of Joseph Goodwyn] includes a bond upon *Joseph Thomas* of the State of Georgia and a note upon **Thomas McCarrell**, 6 October 1792 by John Williams, Martin Adams, William Cornelius."²⁵²

OCTOBER 1792

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

²⁴⁹ "North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960," database with images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 7 July 2018) > Rutherford > 637-987 > image 1058–61.

²⁵⁰ Ancestry's database erroneously attributes this grant to "James V. Step," but the documents quite clearly say "James Step, Sr." William Step was chain bearer for the surveys of most of these grants.

²⁵¹ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 92; citing K:211.

²⁵² Brent H. Holcomb, *Greenville County, South Carolina, Will Abstracts, 1787–1853* (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2012), 8; citing Book A:57–58.

Jury service.

John “Hills” is said to be among jurors appointed to service. Several court minutes later, he is identified correctly by the transcriber as **John “Mills.”**²⁵³

OCTOBER 1792

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court minute.

“**William Mills** vs Peter Pride. The same jury sworn find the note not paid & assess damage to thirty two pound £32.0. Motion for arrest of judgment, motion overruled.”²⁵⁴

COMMENT:

The jury in this case was not the jury on which John Mills served.

30 NOVEMBER 1792

SUMNER COUNTY, TN

Land entry.

William & John Taylor, assignees of **Jesse Mills** of continental Line of Said State, entered 640 acres described in its 20 May 1793 patent as lying in Sumner County [Tennessee] “on waters of **Dixon’s Creek**, to join an entry of his own No. 2326 at the North West corner, an oak”

then N 320 poles to a Sugar tree, then E 320 poles to an oak, then S 320 poles to a Stake, then W 320 poles to the beginning.²⁵⁵

COMMENT:

Jesse has chosen to sell his bounty-land warrant rather than migrate to an area where the warrant could be used. In 1795, he would receive a grant of 100 acres on Green River—a tract he would expand with another 100 acres in 1797 and an additional 50 acres in 1802.

11 JANUARY 1793

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

“**William Mills** to **Richard Yielding**, both of Rutherford Co., for 30£ NC money paid in hand, 100 acres granted to him 16 November 1790 in Rutherford Co. on **both sides of Rotten Creek of Green River:**

Beginning at a red oak on S side of creek, then N 100 poles to a Spanish oak, then W 160 poles to a stake, thence S 100 poles to a stake, thence to the beginning.

Witnesses: Isham Ravis [Davis? Revis?], Thomas Justice. Recorded 25 March 1795.²⁵⁶

COMMENT:

This tract was surveyed for William in January 1787, at the fork of Rotten Creek. Yielding married **Millie Mills** in 1788.

JANUARY 1793

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

²⁵³ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 376.

²⁵⁴ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 382.

²⁵⁵ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 81:177; citing “TN Sumer” File No. 780, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.20N, frame 685, State Archives.

²⁵⁶ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book J-L (transcribed copy): 382; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517761 < image 688.

William Mills serves on jury in case of State vs. Thomas Camp. Defendant found not guilty. Charges not stated. Also on case of State vs. Stripling Byas, “jury withdrawn by consent.”²⁵⁷

12 FEBRUARY 1793
LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

Association.

“James Wilson (Lincoln Co) to Daniel McKisick (same); for 100£ sold 300 ac on **Shady Br of Clarks Cr**; border: **Hugh Mills**; granted Apr. 19, 1763 to *John Aninum* who sold to *John Lusk* who sold Mar. 21, 1771 to *James Wilson*. Signed James Wilson’s mark. Witness James Wilson Jr, Lewis Hunter, & John Patton. Wit. Oath Jul. 1795 by James Wilson jr. Book 17, p. 291.” Pruitt, A. B. *Abstracts of Deeds: Lincoln County, NC, 1786-1793 (Books 3, 4, & 16)*. N.p.: P.p., 1988.²⁵⁸

COMMENT:

Hugh Mills of Clark’s Creek came there with his brother William in the 1750s, from Augusta County. Hugh returned to Augusta before William’s death, and died in Botetourt.

13 APRIL 1793
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

“*William Twitty [Mills?]* to *Allen Twitty* for 200 pds., 150 a. on N. side **Green River** being part of tract from the property of **Ambrose Mills**, decd., and falling to **William Mills** by heirship. Oct. 20, 1794. [Witnesses:] Ad. Osborn, W. Alexander.”²⁵⁹

APRIL 1793
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

William Mills appointed to grand jury to serve the present term.²⁶⁰

APRIL 1793
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Probate order.

“Felix Walker and William Graham esquires a committee appointed to settle with the estates of John Miggs decd & the estate of **Ambros Mills** decd have report of the same to the court which settlements was accepted.”²⁶¹

APRIL 1793
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

John Mills serves on jury in case of State vs. William Pell, Sen. For trespass. Defendant found guilty, fined one penny and 15 days imprisonment; should remain in jail until fine and fees are paid.²⁶²

²⁵⁷ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 388–89.

²⁵⁸ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Lincoln Co., NC: 1793–1800 (Books 17, 18, and 19)* (N.p.: P.p., 1988), 42.

²⁵⁹ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 103; citing L:287.

²⁶⁰ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 391.

²⁶¹ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 392.

²⁶² James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 395.

1 MAY 1793

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

*“Freeman Jones to David Jection [Jackson] for 100 pds., 100 a. on S. fork **Brights Creek** of **Green River** above *Austin’s Entry* incl. *Pullums Imp.* [Witnesses:] **William Mills, John Mills, Marvil Mills.** Rec. 27 March 1795.”²⁶³*

COMMENT:

Logically, the John Mills who served as witness for William, along with William’s second son Marvel, would be William’s first-born son, John.

- This same month, William bought additional land on Bright’s Creek, adjoining **David Jackson**.
- In June 1830, John Mills (x) applied for land on **Bright’s Creek** adjoining **Ephraim Jackson**.
- The census taken that same month places David, Ephraim and Reuben Jackson 5–7 houses from the John-Lavender-Calvin Mills cluster.

16 MAY 1793

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

*“John Auston of Washington County “territory of the United States of America South Side of the Ohio” to **William Mills** of Rutherford for 100 pds. tract of 150 a. in Rutherford on **Bright’s Creek** of **Green River** incl. the **forks** of sd. Creek and a cabin where **James Slep** (sic) [Stepp] lived, on N. side **Green River.** Rec. 19 July 1794. [Witnesses:] *Thos. Wadlington, John Mills, Marvill Mills.*”²⁶⁴*

COMMENT:

Again, the John and Marvel who witnessed this deed should be William’s sons of these names. The recorded copy is a 20th century transcription of an older transcription of the original recorded copy. As a fourth-generation copy, it cannot be used to determine whether John Mills signed or X’d.

For the grant of this land to Auston, see 4 December 1778.

13 JULY 1793

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

William Mills to *John Young Senr.* and *Robert Young*, all of Rutherford, sale for 260£ proclamation money of NC, already paid, sells 200 acres on **Green River** at the **mouth of Walnut Creek**:

Beginning at the **mouth of a branch**, emptying into Green River, next above the plantation where said John Young now lives and running up sd. Branch to **Ambrose Mills’ line**—it being part of the same tract, then along sd. Line to John Scoot’s new line, then along Scoots line crossing **Walnut Creek** to the top of the **big ridge** below said Creek and along said ridge to where sd. Ridge joins to **Green River**.

Witnesses: Thos. Wadlington; Francis Brown.²⁶⁵

COMMENT:

²⁶³ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 115; citing L:384.

²⁶⁴ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 92; citing K:213.

²⁶⁵ Rutherford Co., Deed Book J-L (transcribed copy): 42–43; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517761.

These adjacent tracts on Walnut Creek, owned by the brothers William and Ambrose without a prior purchase, should be part of their inheritance from Col. Ambrose.

JULY 1793

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

John Mills serves on jury in case of State vs. William Pell, Sen. For trespass. Defendant found guilty, fined one penny and 15 days imprisonment; should remain in jail until fine and fees are paid.

William Mills serves on jury in case of State vs. Goodman Davis, found guilty of unspecified charges and fined “15/ & cost.”

John Mills and **William Mills** serve on jury in case of State vs. Abednego Adams, “indictment resque.” The defendant was found guilty and recommended to the mercy of the court.

Both John and William also served on case of State vs. William Tate & Charles Wilkins. Unspecified charges. Court ordered that “Robert Magness one of the prosecutors pay cost.”²⁶⁶

JULY 1793

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land deeds proved.

“**John Mills & Wm. Mills** proved a deed from Freeman Jones to David Jackson containing by estimation one hundred acres.”

“**William Mills** acknowledge a deed to *Richd Yielding* containing by estimation one hundred acres.”

“**John Mills** proved a deed from John Austin to **William Mills** containing by estimation one hundred and fifty acres.”²⁶⁷

COMMENT:

Note that John and William’s appearance at court to prove a series of deeds coincides with the jury service of John and William. Jurors in this time and place were frequently men who appeared at court to transact other business—even ones who were being sued.

OCTOBER 1793

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

William Mills named to jury panel. **John Mills** on jury for case of Jonathan Hampton vs. Gavin Irvine, finding for defendant. New trial ordered.²⁶⁸

10 JANUARY 1794

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 20 December 1796 deed as land in Rutherford County “on **Brights Creek of Green River.**”

Beginning at a pine on the S bank of the Creek, his own Corner, thence N 20 poles to a pine, thence W 20 poles to a stake in **David Jackson’s** lines, thence S 70 poles to a pine, thence E 160

²⁶⁶ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 403.

²⁶⁷ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 404.

²⁶⁸ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 405–6.

poles to a stake, thence N 50 poles to a stake in his own line, thence with said line W 140 poles to the beginning.²⁶⁹

11 JANUARY 1794

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

William Mills to Henry Russel, both of Rutherford Co., sale for 30£ NC money, previously paid, 100 acres on **Rotton Creek** described as

Beginning at a red oak on the S side of the creek, running then N 100 poles to a Spanish oak, then W 160 poles to a stake, then S 100 poles to a stake, then to the beginning.

Witnesses: William Hays, Martin Edwards.²⁷⁰

COMMENT:

The legal description of the tract above is exactly the same as the description for the land William sold Yielding. It would appear that the Yielding sale was rescinded for some reason and then William resold the land to Russell. I have not found any other 100-acre tract owned by William on Rottons Creek prior to this time, so it should not be a case of William copying from the wrong grant or prior deed when he or a local attorney drafted this deed.

Henry Russell in 1790 had been two houses from Richard Yielding and wife Milly Mills, and three houses from Jesse Mills.

See also the 19 August sale by William Mills to Edmond “Rushel” of 150 acres on Bright’s Creek where James Stepp had lived.

10 MARCH 1794

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry & grant.

Catalog description: 300 acres Both sides of **Richland Creek** of **Pidgeon [Pigeon] River**, File No. 997, **Andrew Miller, David Miller and Williams Mills.**” Entered 10 March 1794; issued 9 July 1794.²⁷¹

COMMENT:

No actual image appears.

1 NOVEMBER 1794

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract of land that was described in its 18 December 1797 patent as 200 acres in Rutherford County on the S side of **Green River** “Joining his own land and near Joining Land Claimed by **Thomas Justice.**”

Beginning at a Spanish oak near a **hollow** S side of the **school house**, then N 63 E 127 poles to a stake, then N 27 W 253 poles to a stake in his own line, then with said line S 63 W 127 poles to a Spanish oak in the same, then S 27 E 253 poles to the beginning..²⁷²

²⁶⁹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 91:396; citing Rutherford Co. file 1345, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.23N, frame 733, State Archives.

²⁷⁰ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book M-Q (transcribed copy): 94–95; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517762 < image 52.

²⁷¹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 82:341; citing Rutherford Co. File No. 997, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.21N, frame 193, State Archives.

COMMENT:

The survey warrant dated 1 April 1795 describes the land as “lying on the south side of Green River **on both the main Road** Joining my own lands & Extending out & **Including the School House** & Joining a tract of land claimed by Thomas Justice **Formerly called Spencer Williams’ Cabin where Huston Newman now lives.**”²⁷³

Cataloging data attached to the patent identifies this as a grant to **William Mills {assignee of William Hays}**.” That information is not stated in the warrant, the survey, or the patent.

3 NOVEMBER 1794

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

John Mills (s) to John McCann, both of Rutherford Co., sale for 60£ proclamation money of NC, already paid, 100 acres on “a branch of **Walnut Creek**, the waters of **Green River** emptying in on the N side of the creek:

Beginning at a small post oak, then W 90 poles to a white oak, then 80 poles to pointers, then E to a stake.

Land patented to Joseph Moore, conveyed by him to Perminster Morgan, from him to Charles Taylor, from him to **John Mills**. Witnesses: **Ferdinance Waddleton**, John Dalton.²⁷⁴

COMMENT:

In January 1790, Charles Taylor had been appointed to a road crew with William and John Mills, to work a road from the courthouse to Thomas Wadlington’s Ford at Wornest[?] Creek and on to Cooper’s Gap.

Ferdinand Wadlington is named as son of Elizabeth Wadlington (widow of Thomas) in her 1809 will in Christian Co., KY.²⁷⁵

This John Mills who sold land on Walnut Creek (adjacent to his own land, according to the next document below) would be Ambrose’s son John who inherited part of his lands on Walnut Creek.

3 NOVEMBER 1794

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

John Mills (s) to John McCann, both of Rutherford Co., sale for 50£ NC proclamation money, already paid, land on **waters of Green River**, emptying in on the N side of the Creek:

Beginning on a **ridge** between **Broad River** and **Walnut**, on a chestnut, then S 46 E 50 poles to a Spanish oak, then S 13 W 69 poles to a stake **in his own line**, then W 114 poles passing **his own corner** and crossing the creek to a B.O., then N 36 W 130 poles to a stake, then to the beginning.

²⁷² David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 96:374; citing Rutherford Co. file 1640, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.25N, frame 214, State Archives.

²⁷³ “North Carolina Land Grant Files, 1693-1960,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018) > Rutherford > 1622-1817 > image 566 of 1539.

²⁷⁴ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 4-6 (transcribed copy): 118–19; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517762 < image 372. An earlier copy of this deed is recorded in “Rutherford Land Entries, 1797,” unpaginated; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517759 > image 360. In this version, the witnesses’ names are rendered as Ferdinand Waddleton and John Dolton.

²⁷⁵ Christian Co., KY, Will Book A: 90 (inventory of Thomas Wadlington, including 13 enslaved people), 190 (will of Elizabeth Wadlington).

Granted to Perminster Morgan by patent 29 November 1790. Witnesses: Ferdernance Wadlington; John Dalton.²⁷⁶

10 MARCH 1795
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Deed of gift.

“Mary Cooper of Co. of Rutherford, widow, “for love and good will and affection I bear toward my loving Benjamin Shepard & John Sheppard” of sd. County, do freely give unto then [sic] a tract of land 50 a. on waters of **Bullens Creek** known by name of **Webers Place** in county and state aforesaid. Wit: Henry Lewis, John Mills, Richd. Yealdin.” Proved Oct. Ct. 1796.²⁷⁷

COMMENT:

The John Mills who bought Cooper land on Bullens Creek in 1792 would sell part of it in 1800 with John Mills (x) as witness; in 1808, “as John Mills, Esq.,” he sold the rest to John Mills [x].

1 APRIL 1795
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land survey.

“By Warrant Dated the 1st day of April 1795 for an Entry made the 13 Day Nov. 1794.” Survey for **William Mills** 200 acres, Rutherford County, S side Green River “Joining his Own land & near Joining land Claimed by Thomas Justice”:

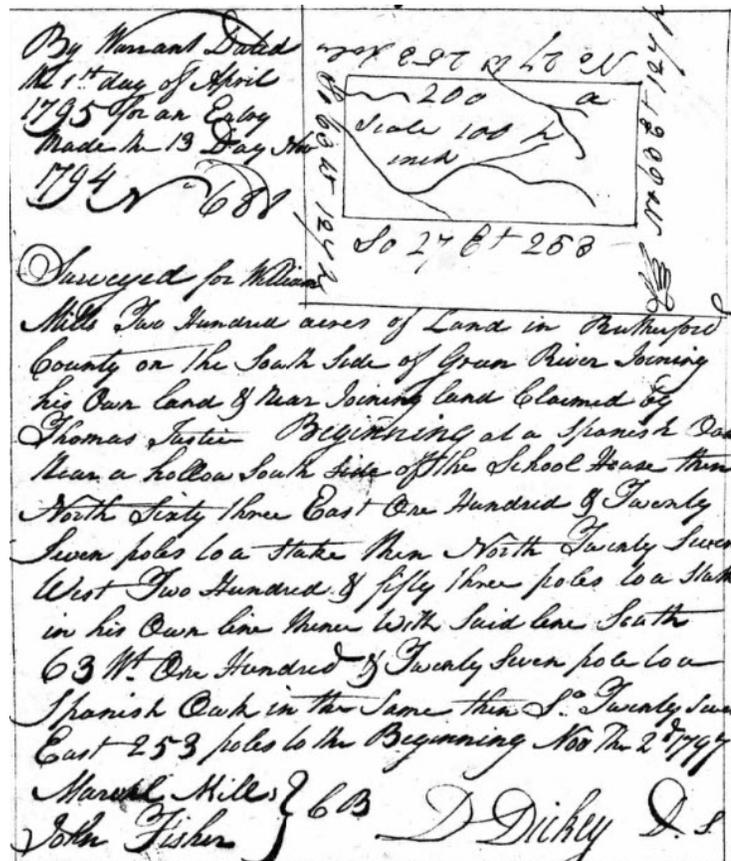
Beginning at a Spanish oak near a **Hollow** S side of **School House** then N 63 E 127 poles to a stake, then N 27 W 253 poles to a stake in **his own line**, then with said line S 63 W 127 poles to a Spanish oak in the same, then S 27 E 253 poles to the beginning

Chain bearers: **Marvel Mills**, John Fisher.
Signed: D. Dickey, D.S.²⁷⁸

1 MAY 1795
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

Jesse Mills entered a tract of land whose 18 December 1797 patent would describe as 100 acres in Rutherford County on “the **flat branch**” of Green River **above** said Mills’s:



²⁷⁶ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 4-6 (transcribed copy): 119–20; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 7517762 < images 372–73. An earlier copy of this deed is recorded in “Rutherford Land Entries, 1797,” unpaginated; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 7517759 > images 360–61. In this version, the witnesses’ names are rendered as “Fandenand” Wadlington and John Dolton.

²⁷⁷ Rutherford Co., NC, Will Book B:71; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 4779261 > image 140.

²⁷⁸ “North Carolina Land Grant Files, 1693-1960,” database with images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018) > Rutherford > 1622-1817 > image 568 of 1539.

Beginning at a chesnut not fare from his **new Cabbin** then N 25 W 100 poles to a post oak, then N 65 E 160 poles to a stake, then S 25 E 100 poles to a stake, then S 65 W to the beginning.

[Entry date not stated; but cataloging data identifies it as 1 May 1795].²⁷⁹

COMMENT:

The survey warrant would be issued this same day. The survey itself would not occur until 7 October 1797. See that date below.

1 MAY 1795

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Survey warrant.

David Miller, Entry Taker for Claims in Rutherford County issued an order of survey in favor of **Jessey Mills**, for a 100 acres “Lying on a Branch of **Green River** that Runes in to the River **Below** Said Milles’s **Wher hee now Lives** Caled the **Flat Brench** & the path Ledes throue Sead Land to Millses house for Compliment.”²⁸⁰

COMMENT:

The land was surveyed 17 October 1797 (see below); the patent was issued 18 December 1797.

13 AUGUST 1796

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract of land that would be described in its 31 August 1798 patent as 150 acres in Buncombe County:

Beginning at a White Oak in the line of the place he now live on, “which was the land he bought of the **Honl. Spence McCoy** on Clear Creek ...” then runing N 115 poles to a white oak and black tum, then W by or near **Chambles** land 230 poles crossing a creek, to a Spanish oak on a ridge, then S by or near land belonging to the **Heirs of Edward Hampton** 115 poles to a stake, then E on said **William Mills’s land** to the beginning.²⁸¹

COMMENT:

Henderson was created 1838 from Buncombe, which was created in 1791 from parts of Burke and Rutherford.

NOVEMBER 1796

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land grant.

(No. 1144) “Know ye that we have granted unto **Tench Coxe**, Assignee of James Greenlee, William Erwin & Lewis Beard, twenty-five thousand Six hundred and ninety [25,690] acres of land in **Rutherford County** on **Brites [Brights], Bullens, Walnut, and Sheltons Creeks** and **main Broad river**. ... **Beginning at a white oak on a line of survey No. 2 on the west side of miller path ... on W side of Brites Creek ... ridge that divides the waters of Brite’s Creek from Big Hungary [Hungry] Creek ... Millers path ... Millses**

²⁷⁹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 22 May 2021), imaging Book 96:395; citing Rutherford Co. Grant No. 1554, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.25N, frame 2242, State Archives.

²⁸⁰ “North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018) > Rutherford > 1522–1817 > image 741.

²⁸¹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 98: 282–83; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 591, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.25N, frame 731, State Archives.

road Leading from Green River to Buncombe ... several branches of Latas Creek ... near **James Lata** line ... near **Isaac Ledbetter's line** ... **Shelton's Creek** ... **William Deavenport No. 3** ... **John Deavenports** line ... **John McCann's** line ... **Francis Brown's** line ... Browns corner ... **Robert Yielding's** line ... tract of land run by **David Dicket** for said Erwin ... near Green River to the beginning."²⁸²

(No. 1156) "Know ye that we have granted unto **Tench Coxe**, Assignee of James Greenlee, Lewis Beard, and William Erwin [40320] acres in our County of Rutherford, on the Waters of the first Broad river, between said River and the line that Divides the Counties of Burke and Rutherford ... where the Waggon Road Crosses from Whitesides Settlement to Morgantown [I'm omitting many calls here] William McFarlin's line Little Brier Creek ... Brier Creek ... Phesent Creek ... **Devenny's** line ... first Broad river including the mouth of Nobusiness ... **William Queens** line ... Queens mill Creek Muddy Branch ... **Thos Hardins** line ... Wilkeys Creek ... **John Wilson old place** ... Burke Road ... Brush Creek ... line run by J. Riggs for **Greenlee & Co.** ... near **Covington's** line. ... Note the following quantity of land bviz: of 400 acres to **H. Harold**, 300 Acres to **David Beanch & James Street**, 100 Acres to John Jones, reserved to the persons named in the platt being heretofore appropriated"²⁸³

(No. 1164) "Know Ye that We have granted unto **Tench Coxe** assignee of James Greenlee, Lewis Beard and William Erwin {1920] acres of Landin Rutherford County on **Stoney Run**, ... **Spruce McCoy's** line ... **Thos. Tedfords** line ... **Ephm. Black's** line ... crossing first Broad River ... **Arthur buckhannon's** line ... **William Wilson's** line."²⁸⁴

(No. 1172) "Know ye that We have granted unto **Tench Coxe**, assignee of James Greenlee, Lewis Beach, and William Erwin [1460] acres in Rutherford County on the waters of **Webs Creek** and **Sandy Run**. ... **William Web [Webb]**, **Lewis Bailey** ... **Walkers old Road** ... Sandy Run ..."²⁸⁵

(No. 1173) "Know Ye that We have granted unto **Tench Coxe**, assignee of James Greenlee, Lewis Beard, and William Erwin, [2050] acres of land in Rutherford county between **Robinson's Creek** and **Puzzle Creek**. ... branch that falls into Robinsons Creek at the **Widow Wilsher** ... **Puzzle creek** ... **Eves** line ... waters of Robison' Creek ... **Widow Gaultney** ..."²⁸⁶

COMMENT:

On 15 January 1806, "John Mills" purchased 50 acres of from Tench Coxe and associates on **Rotten's Creek**.

In 1825, **John Mills (x)** sold to **Lavender Mills** 50 acres that he had **purchased from Tench Coxe** (date not stated). The land lay at "the head of Rotten's Creek" of Green River and described as 'Beginning at a post oak in the N side of sd creek in or near & above John Mills' old line, runing S 57 W 114 poles to a white oak, then N 33 W 24 poles to a hicory, then S 33 W 40 poles to a hicory at a branch, then S 33 E 150 poles to a stake, then to beginning."

The land appears to fall within Tench Coxe's first grant of 25,690 acres.

²⁸² David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 23 August 2021), imaging Book 90:57–59; citing Rutherford Co. Grant No. 1028 (entry 1144), NC State Archives.

²⁸³ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 23 August 2021), imaging Book 91:149–50; citing Rutherford Co. Grant No. 1027, NC State Archives.

²⁸⁴ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 23 August 2021), imaging Book 91:51; citing Rutherford Co. Grant No. 1038, NC State Archives.

²⁸⁵ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 23 August 2021), imaging Book 91:156–57; citing Rutherford Co. Grant No. 1046, NC State Archives.

²⁸⁶ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 23 August 2021), imaging Book 91:158; citing Rutherford Co. Grant No. 1047, NC State Archives.

15 APRIL 1797

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Probate settlement.

“Apr. Ct. 1797. **Ambrose Mills**, dec’d. died intestate in year 1780 leaving a widow **Anna Mills** and 7 surviving children to wit: **William Mills, Thomas Mills, John Mills, Ambrose Mills, Milly Mills** [cited as Mildred in 1790], **Polly Twitty** [cited as Mary in 1790] & **Amelia Mills** [apparently a copying error; not cited in 1790 and not named below] & **Anna Mills the younger** [cited as “Nancy” in 1790] and the sd. Widow Anna Mills and **Col. James Miller** in 1782 administrated the Estate of the dec’d. and the sd. Anna Mills in Feb. 1790 intermarried with **John Carrick** and such proceedings have been had and management with estate of dec’d as appear in this copy hereunto annexed—Certified by Richard Lewis, Esq.

“William Mills appointed Guardian by Court of his brother Ambrose Mills the younger and his sister Anna Mills the younger and as Guardian has caused 3 sales to be instituted against sd. John Carrick in order to compel sd. Carrick to give security for the Estate of the dec’d., suggested by Petition to be in hands of sd. John Carrick on action of debt supposed to be for price of a Negro wench Rachel as part of Estate as appears in account of 2nd sale in the annexed copy and a 3rd sale by Petition against sd. John Carrick, Anna, his wife & James Miller, Administrator and Administrix in order to compel them to account for a still, some wagon irons, a note on McCafferty for four half Johanas, a mare, yearling, 5 cows and calves, a yearling heifer, 1 gray horse, 9 guineas, 4 dollars and lock Chain suggested by Petition to be unaccounted for by Administrators and also to compel the sd. Administrators to account for the Estate of dec’d. in general and whereas some dispute has arisen between sd Carrick & sd. William Mills concerning right of dower in lands of dec’d, and also other claimants of that estate –

“Now this Indenture Wittnesseth sd. **William Mills** & John Carrick agree to settle sd. Law suits, the sd. Wm. Mills for himself and for sd. Wards Ambrose Mills & Anna Mills as their Guardian and also agent for sd. **Thomas & John Mills, Polly Twitty & Pamella** [Milly—i.e., Mildred; no Pamela appears in first paragraph] Mills, agree to dismiss sd. three law suits in Rutherford Court at his own expense and pay all costs—Also sd. Bond on John Carrick be cancelled. All lands descended from Ambrose Mills dec’d. to Anna Carrick his wife, to wit: a tract of 600 a. conveyed to Ambrose Mills dec’d. by *Thomas Reynolds* by deed dt’d. 1 Dec. 1770 on N. branch Green River, conveyed heretofore by sd. William Mills and now in possession of Edwards, adjoining Edwards line, assigned for dower to sd. John Carrick & Anna his wife during their joint lives. And John Carrick shall not recover any sums of money, 3rd share or dividend of sd. Ambrose Mills other than what he has rec’d. and such as he the sd. John had in possession and has as he left it at sd. Old Plantation where he went to Cumberland, including 1 negro Rachel, the beds, household and kitchen furniture, farming tools, 1 horse and some cattle. Signed: **William Mills**, John Carrick. [Witnesses] Waightsell Avery, John McKinny, John Goodbread.”²⁸⁷

COMMENT:

The recorded copy of this document (Rutherford Will Book B:76) has a glaring error. The document begins with these words:

“Whereas Ambross Mills, Deceased, died Intestate in the year 1780, Leaving a widow Anna Mills, and Seven Surviving Children to wit, **William Mills, Thomas Mills, John Mills, Ambross Mills, Milly Mills, Polly Mills Twitty** [*sic*], **Pamela Mills, and Anna Mills ...**”

While there are said to be seven children, eight are named. We see a corrected error with Polly. The “eighth” child stems from the duplication of “Milly” and “Pamela” whose names are

²⁸⁷ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts, Will Book B, 1791–1813* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1972), 16-17; citing Will Book B:76.

thereafter merged in the document. For example, the original register, p. 77 (imaged at *Family Search*, permalink <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:375Q-29XY F69>) carries three references:

“William Mills for himself and for his said Wards, Ambross Mills and Anna Mills as their guardian and also as agent for the said Thomas and John Mills Polly Twitty and **Pamilla [written over as Pamilly]** Mills doth by these presents agree

“and the said William Mills for and in behalf of his said wards Ambross and Anna Mills and also as agent for the said Thomas and John Mills and the said Polly Twitty and **Pamilla** Mills, doth further agree and covenant to and with the said John Carrick ... for the said William Mills and the said Thomas & John Ambross Polly **Pamilly** and Anna shall and will release and acquit and discharge the said John Carrick ...”

William Mills’s “guardianship” of the minors did not mean that he took physical custody of them. Rather, he was guardian of their inheritance. Their mother’s new husband appears to have helped himself to part of that inheritance, prompting the suit by William Mills.

29 APRIL 1797
GREENVILLE DISTRICT, SC

Association.

“A Return of Money paid to Different Creditors by Francis Goodwin, Administrator of the estate of Joseph Goodwin, decd: **Thomas McCarrel**, Benjamin Merit, Jno Paul to Elias **Earle**, Martin Addams, **Edmondson** & Farrar, Thomas Springs, William Cornelus, James Stevenson, William Goodwin, William Lynch, Thomas Stephens, William Shaw, Langley Cash.”²⁸⁸

7 OCTOBER 1797
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land survey.

“By a Warrant dated the 1st day of May 1795, No. 785, Surveyed for **Jesse Mills** one hundred acres of Land in Rutherford County on the **Flat Branch** of Green River **above Said Millses**,

Beginning at a chesnut not far from his **new cabbin** then N 25 W 100 poles to a post oak, then N 65 E 160 poles to a stake, then S 24 E 100 poles to a Stake, then S 65 W to the beginning.

Octo^r 7th 1797. **Richard Yielding**, David Dickey, CB [chain bearers]. [Signed] D. Dickey D.S. [Deputy Surveyor].”²⁸⁹

COMMENT:

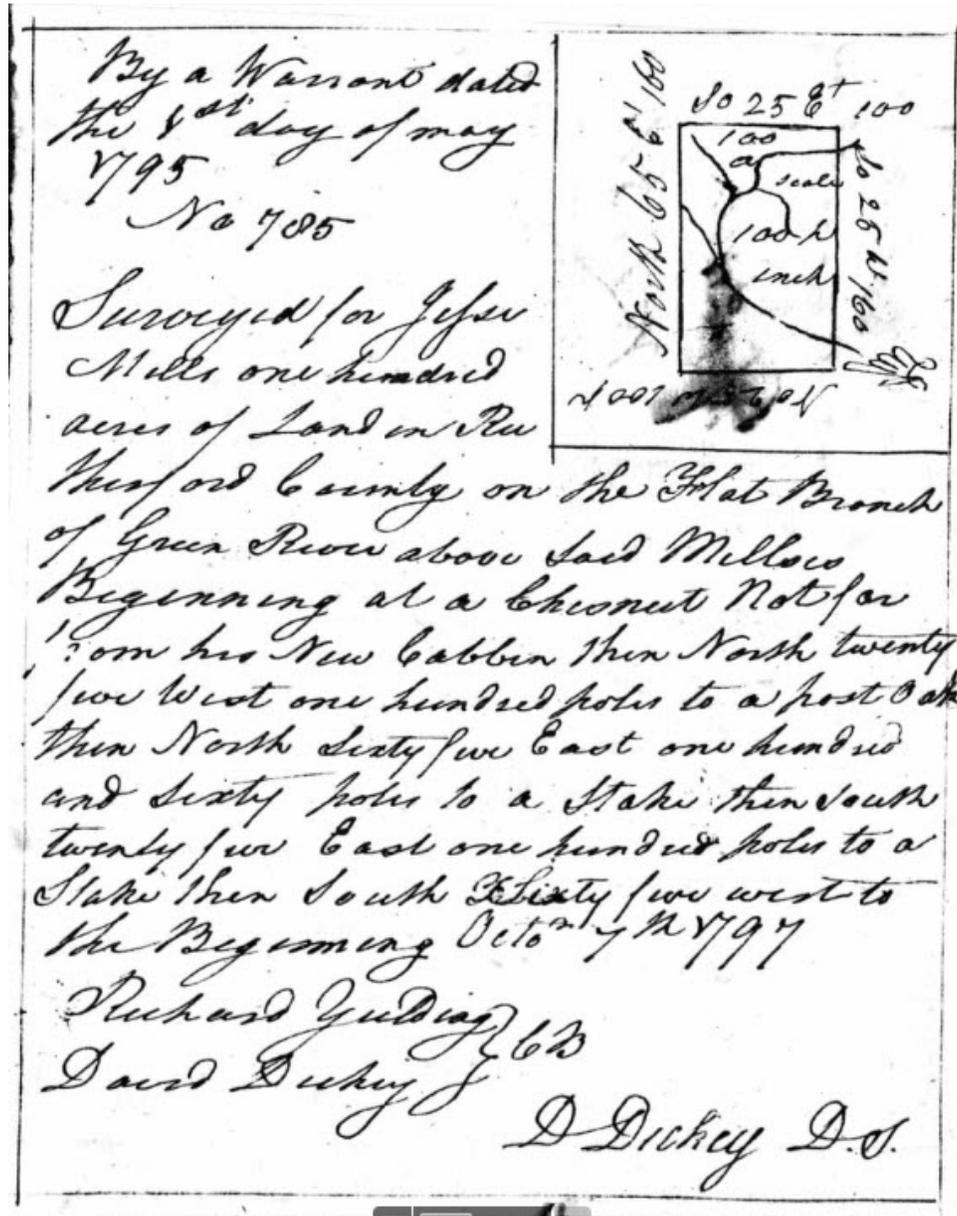
This land was entered on 1 May 1795, with the survey warrant issued the same day. Jesse has delayed the actual survey by two and a half years.

The service of Richard 1850 (husband of Milly Mills) as chain bearer suggests that Yielding was a close neighbor of Jesse. That weighs in favor of Milly being a sister (or daughter) of Jesse.

D. Dickey was surety on 1 February 1824, for the marriage bond of “Ambroses” Mills to wed Nancy Jones.²⁹⁰

²⁸⁸ Brent H. Holcomb, Greenville County, South Carolina, Will Abstracts, 1787-1853 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2012), 16; citing Book A:104-5.

²⁸⁹ “North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018) > Rutherford > 1522–1817 > image 743.



17 OCTOBER 1797

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills, Assignee, entered "100 acres Beg. on a large white oak on the path from Cane Cr. to the gap." Entered 17 October 1797; no issue date "because patent not recorded."²⁹¹

²⁹⁰ "North Carolina, U.S., Marriage Records, 1741–2011," database with images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/14481978:60548> : 24 August 2021) > Rutherford > Marriage Bonds (1783–1867, image 3333 of 5583).

²⁹¹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), no image; citing Buncombe Co. file no. 505, "William Mills, Assignee," NC microfilm reel S.108.536, State Archives.

9 NOVEMBER 1797

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage bond.

“Bird, Jno. and **Nancy Mills**, 8 Nov 1797; John McKinney Jr., bm.”²⁹²

COMMENT:

- 1797, John McKinney was a witness to the probate settlement or the estate of Col. Ambrose Mills, one of whose heirs was “Nancy Mills.”
- 2 October 1805, John Bird joined Ambrose Mills Jr. and the husbands of two other sisters of Ambrose Jr., in selling their shares of land patented to Ann Mills on the French Broad River “joining David Myers’ land”—thus proving that the “Nancy Mills” who married John Bird was Anna “Nancy” Mills, daughter of Col. Ambrose and Ann (Brown) Mills.
- In 1820, the widow “Nancy Bird” lived adjacent to William and Eleanor’s son Marvel.

18 NOVEMBER 1797

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

Ambros Mills [Jr.] entered land whose 22 December 1798 patent described it as 50 acres in Rutherford “joining his own land on **Panters [Panthers] Creek of Green River.**”

Beginning on a post oak on his old line, thence N 35 E 64 poles to a stake, thence W 126 poles to a stake, thence S 35 E 64 poles to his old line, thence with his old line to the beginning.²⁹³

18 NOVEMBER 1797

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

Milly Mills entered a tract of land whose 22 December 1798 patent would describe it as 50 acres in Rutherford County “on **Panters [Panthers] Creek of Green River**, joining **Ambros Mills** land.”

Beginning at his hichory corner, thence with his lines N 90 poles to his black oak corner, thence E 90 poles to a stake, thence S ninety poles to a stake, and from thence W 90 poles to the beginning.²⁹⁴

COMMENT:

This Milly Mills was the daughter and heir of Col. Ambrose by Ann.

13 DECEMBER 1797

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage bond.

“**Miers, David & Falliby Mills**; 13 Dec 1797; **Richd. Yeilding**, bm.”²⁹⁵

COMMENT:

²⁹² Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 9.

²⁹³ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 100: 264; citing Rutherford Co. file no. 1740, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.26N, frame 155, State Archives.

²⁹⁴ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 100: 264; citing Rutherford Co. file no. 1741, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.26N, frame 155, State Archives.

²⁹⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 105.

Phalby Mills was the daughter of Maj. William and Eleanor.

18 DECEMBER 1797

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

Jesse Mills entered land that was described on its 18 December 1797 patent as 100 acres in Rutherford County “on the **flat branch** of **Green River** above said **Mills’s.**”

Beginning at a chesnut not far from his **new cabbin** then N 25 W 100 poles to a post oak, then N 65 E 160 poles to a stake, then S 25 E 100 poles to a stake, then S 65 W to the beginning.²⁹⁶

22 DECEMBER 1797

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

John Mills purchased from David Millar, both of Rutherford County, sale for 70£ paid before signing, 100 acres on both sides of Green River described as

Beginning at a black oak on the N side of the river near **Potter’s line**, then S 37 E 162 poles to a Spanish oak, thence S 53 W 106 poles crossing Green River to a stake, thence N 37 W 162 poles to a stake, thence crossing the river to the beginning.

Witnesses: James **Morris**, John Jones.²⁹⁷

COMMENT:

David Miller has patented several tracts jointly with Maj. William Mills.

This John Mills **would sell the track in 1804, making his mark †**. Correlating that document against the three John Millses who grew to adulthood in Rutherford seems to eliminate two of them:

- **John Mills, Esq.**, can be eliminated as the purchaser above because his literacy is attested by his role as county justice and by the many sales that he signed. He never made a mark.
- **John-of-Ambrose** also appears to have been literate. Three deeds executed between 1803 and 1806 carry his name. On 23 May 1803, he witnessed a deed in Christian Co., KY. On 29 December 1804, again as a resident of Christian, he participated in a document settling one issue in the estate of his deceased father-in-law; he signed that document as well. On 12 August 1806, still residing in Kentucky, he joined his brother Ambrose in a deed filed in Burke Co., NC, disposing of their shares in land left by their mother; again, he signed. Unless the county clerks made copying errors in all three cases, then it would appear that he also was literate.²⁹⁸ (See those dates below for abstracts or transcripts of his documents)
- **“Little” John Mills of Rotton’s Creek** is the only John of record in Rutherford who made his mark rather than signing his name.²⁹⁹

²⁹⁶ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 96:395; citing Rutherford Co. File No. 1676, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.25N, frame 224, State Archives.

²⁹⁷ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 7-9, pp. 29–30; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517762 > images 412–13.

²⁹⁸ J. Estelle Stewart King, *Abstract of Early Kentucky Wills and Inventories* (1933, reprinted Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1997), p. 36, Thomas Wadlington, witness to will of John Dyer.

²⁹⁹ The time period in which John-of-Ambrose moved to Kentucky has not been established. His father-in-law was there by December 1797, according to J. Estelle Stewart King, *Abstract of Early Kentucky Wills and Inventories* (1933, reprinted Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1997), p. 36, Thomas Wadlington, witness to will of John Dyer.

Re Potter's Creek: The 5 February 1873 will of a yet-unidentified Ambrose Mills (c1801–Oct 1873; wife Phalby) places his land along **Potter's Creek** on S side of Green River.³⁰⁰

10 FEBRUARY 1798
BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract described in its 6 December 1799 patent as 50 acres in Buncombe County “joining his own line lying between **John Chamles** and the heirs of **Edward Hamptons** land and the **Green Mountain**.

Beginning in said Milles's own line on a chesnut oak on the top of a hill and runs N 68 degrees W 100 poles passing a B. oak on a **ridge** marked as a corner, to a stake on the side of a **ridge**, then S 80 poles to a stake in the land of [rest of document is missing].³⁰¹

19 AUGUST 1798
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

William Mills to Edmond Rushel, both of Rutherford co., sale for 50£ NC money, already paid, 150 acres on **Brights Creek** of **Green River** including the forks of said creek and a Cabbin where **James Step lived** [past tense] on the N side of Green River:

Beginning at a poplar, then N 150 poles to a stake, then W 100 poles to a post, then S 150 poles to a stake, thence to the beginning.

Witnesses: **Marvel Mills, Merryman Fetherston**.³⁰²

11 OCTOBER 1798
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

Ambrose Mills entered a tract that was described in its 16 December 1799 patent as 50 acres in Rutherford County, on the South side of **Green River**:

Beginning at a hiccory near the river, **Waldrops** corner, then with his line S 29 W 144 poles to a Spanish oak, then S 43 poles to a stake in his own line, then nearly **with his own line** E 70 poles to a stake, then N with his own old line to the beginning.³⁰³

COMMENT:

John Mills (“son of Ann”) sold inherited land in 1791 to Jeconias Waldrop.

25 _____ 1798
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC
Marriage bond.

³⁰⁰ “North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate records, 1665–1998,” database with images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/004779894_00032 : accessed 30 August 2022) > Polk > Record of Wills, 1855–1909 > image 32 of 631.

³⁰¹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 103: 230–31; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 672, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.26N, frame 750, State Archives.

³⁰² Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 15–17 (transcribed copy): 257–59; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517763 < images 611–12.

³⁰³ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 105:423; citing Rutherford Co. File No. 2057, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.27N, frame 228, State Archives.

“Randels, Gidon & Amey Cockrum, 25 ____ 1798; **Jesse Mills**, bm.”³⁰⁴

COMMENT:

On 26 February 1802 Jesse Mills entered land that was adjacent to his own land; the survey and patent referenced “Widow Cockran’s lane.”

13 FEBRUARY 1799

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract that was described in its 6 December 1799 patent as 150 acres in Buncombe County “on both sides of **Henderson Creek**, joining his own lands ...”

Beginning upon a white [no genus named] upon the E side of said creek on his own at the edge of a swamp, and runs S crossing said creek 120 poles to a pine & B. oak, then E 200 poles crossing said creek to a white oak and two post oak in **Henry Lewis** line, then N 120 poles in said **Milles’** [*sic*] line, then W 200 poles to the beginning.³⁰⁵

COMMENT:

Henry Lewis was married to Mourning Mills, a daughter of William and Eleanor.

16 JULY 1799

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Land entry.

William Mills and **Joseph Henry** entered a tract that would be described in its 15 December 1801 patent as 50 acres in Buncombe County “on the head of the S branch of **Kyles Creek** joining **Chambles Gap** as the path runs thro towards **Hoopers Gap**.”

Beginning on a white oak **Mills** and **Millers** corner and runs W 32 poles to a black oak, thence N 15 poles to a black oak at a **clift of rocks**, thence N 52 W 66 poles to a maple on the E bank of **Kyles Creek**, thence down the meanders thereof S 120 poles passing a Spanish oak marked as a corner, to a stake and then E 86 poles to a stake, thence N 60 poles to the beginning.³⁰⁶

17 OCTOBER 1799

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Land entry.

William Mills and **Joseph Henry** entered a tract that would be described in its 11 December 1800 patent as 250 acres in Buncombe County “on the North side of the big Mountain between Bald Top Mountain and the waters of **Hoopers Creek**, extending toward the **Bear Wallow Mountain** and including the **Springs** of **Kyles Creek of Clear creek**, also including the **locust spring** of Hoopers creek and the head of **Camp Creek** of Clear Creek.”

Beginning upon three chesnuts on the NW side of said mountain a small distance from a **clift of rocks**, and runs N 38 E 295 poles crossing some branches to a gum near said **Mills** and **Henrys** line in the fork of a branch, then S 52 E 145 poles to a stake, then S 38 W 295 pole to a stake,

³⁰⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 126.

³⁰⁵ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 103: 224–25; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 662, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.26N, frame 747, State Archives.

³⁰⁶ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 114:110 citing Buncombe Co. file 908(A), NC microfilm reel S.108.160.30N, frame 166, State Archives.

thence N 52 W 145 poles to the beginning.³⁰⁷

1 NOVEMBER 1799

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills and **Joseph Henry** entered a tract that would be described in its 11 December 1800 patent as 200 acres of land in Buncombe County “including the head spring that **James Withrow** lives on and the **Old horse trail** on the Mountain and **Henry Dunehams lick log** and extending up towards the **Bear Wallow Mountain** for compliment.”

Beginning upon three Chestnuts on the top of said mountain at the edge of the path lettered thus W.M. and J.H. and runs with the top of said **mountain** crossing on the E side and crossing some branches of **Clear creek** N 38 E 254 poles to a black oak on a **ridge**, thence N 50 W 127 poles to two forked chesnuts on the W side of a **ridge**, thence S 38 W 254 poles crossing some branches of **Hooppers** creek to a Chesnut on the W point of a **ridge** above a **clift of rocks**, thence S 52 E 127 poles to the beginning.³⁰⁸

1 NOVEMBER 1799

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 11 December 1800 patent as 200 acres in Buncombe County on S side of **Henderson’s Creek of Clear Creek** in the gap of a mountain “including an Older spring and some marked trees and gum W.M. below the old ford on the **Saludy Path**.”

Beginning upon a crooked chesnut lettered thus WM on the N side of a mountain near the **gap** below a **clift of rocks** and runs W 40 poles to a pine on said mountain at a rock, thence N 30 poles to a chesnut oak on said **mountain**, thence N 72 degrees W 14 poles to a white oak in the **gap** of said mountain, thence N 28 poles to a chesnut on the side of said **mountain**, thence N 52 degrees W 80 poles to a pine on the W bank of a small branch in or near **Vandikes**, thence N 200 poles to a stake in said Mills’ line, thence E 120 poles with said line to a stake, thence S 300 poles to the beginning.³⁰⁹

5 NOVEMBER 1799

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage bond.

“Featherston, Mn. & **Milly Mills**, 5 Nov 1799; **Ambrose Mills**, bm.”³¹⁰

COMMENT:

This Milly Mills was the bondsman’s sister—both being children and heirs of Col. Ambrose by wife Ann, according to the probate documents previously abstracted under 1790 and 1797.

³⁰⁷ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 112:110; citing Buncombe Co. file 887, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.29N, frame 434, State Archives.

³⁰⁸ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 112:111; citing Buncombe Co. file 888, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.29N, frame 434, State Archives.

³⁰⁹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 112: 108–9; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 842 (A), NC microfilm reel S.108.160.29N, frame 433, State Archives.

³¹⁰ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 43.

18 OCTOBER 1799

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

Jesse Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 4 December 1800 patent as 100 acres on **Green River**:

Beginning on a past oak near a cabbin, runing then S 72 W 100 poles to a chesnut, then N 20 W 156 poles to a white oak on the river bank, then N 45 E 40 poles to a stake, then N 72 E 85 poles to a stake, then with **his old line** S 105 poles to a [word missing] by his old corner, then with his line E 40 poles to a stake on his line, then S 60 poles to the beginning.³¹¹

7 DECEMBER 1799

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 11 December 1800 patent as 250 acres in Buncombe County “on both sides of the road that leads from Point Look out to **William Mills** near the Rock house and including a small branch of the **Ready Fork** of **Broad River** and **Lydia’s Meadow** and the plan where **Anderson’s Cabbin** was burned.”

Beginning upon a black oak on the W side of Point Look Out in a line of survey of 150 acres made for **John Step** and runs N 22 degrees W 50 poles to a white oak, thence N 47 degrees E 20 poles to a poplar on the bank of a small branch, then S 55 degrees E 28 poles to a Spanish oak, thence N 20 degrees E 60 poles to a Spanish oak on the side of a mountain at a **clift of rocks**, then N 70 degrees W 200 poles to a pine, then S 43 degrees W 160 poles, crossing a creek to a post oak, then S 32 degrees E 60 poles to a white oak, then S 50 degrees E 76 poles to a stake in said **Step’s** line, thence N 20 E 50 poles to a hictory said **Step’s Corner**, then W 150 poles to the beginning.³¹²

19 DECEMBER 1799

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land grant.

“Know Ye that we have granted unto **Philip Henson** fifty Acres of Land in Rutherford County on **Crawford’s branch**.”

Beginning on a post oak on **Samuel Crawford’s** line on the S side of the branch, runing thence S 50 W 100 poles to a chesnut, thence N 46 W 80 poles to a stake in or near **David Miller’s** line, thence N 50 E 100 poles to a stake, thence S 46 E 80 poles crossing the branch to the beginning.

Entered 19 October 1799; issued 4 December 1800.³¹³

7 JANUARY 1800

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

³¹¹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 112: 46; citing Rutherford Grant No. 2007, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.29N, frame 400, State Archives. The source description provided at this site mistakenly says that the land was entered 18 Oct 1795.

³¹² David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 112: 110; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 886 (A), NC microfilm reel S.108.160.29N, frame 434, State Archives.

³¹³ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 112:46; citing Rutherford Co. File No. 2230, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.29N, frame 400, State Archives.

Deed.

Thomas Mills to **Ambrose Mills**, both of Rutherford, for 80£, sells 160 acres described as

On S side of Green River joining James Coward's lines, beginning at a chesnut on the top of a high hill S side the river, then S 2 E 160 poles to a white oak, then N 88 E 160 poles to a stake, then N 2 W 160 poles to a stake, then to the beginning.

Witness: **Rus^l [Russell] Twitty**. Recorded 16 May 1805.³¹⁴

COMMENT:

This is the last record I've found for Thomas Mills (son of Col. Ambrose) in Rutherford. Note that he could sign his name, as could his brothers William and Ambrose, as well as Col. John Mills, Esqr. This underscores the other evidence identifying Col. John Esq. as the son of Col. Ambrose.

Russell Twitty was the new husband of Thomas and Ambrose's sister Polly.

1 JUNE 1800

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land survey.

By Warrant No. 1683, for land entered 18 October 1799 by **Jesse Mills**, Francis Alexander surveyed 100 acres on **Green River** of Rutherford County described as

Beginning on a post oak near a cabin, running then S 72 W 100 poles to a chesnut, then N 20 W 156 poles to a white oak on the river bank, then N 45 E 40 poles to a stake, then N 72 E 85 poles to a stake, then with his old line S 104? poles to a [word missing] by his old corner, then with his line E 40 poles to a stake on his line, then S 60 poles to the beginning.

Chain bearers: Robert Waldrop, William Garrot.³¹⁵

COMMENT:

The survey warrant was issued 9 February 1800.

1 JULY 1800

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

John Mills (s) to Jonathan King, sale for 200£, 156 acres described as

On both sides of **Bullen's** Creek joining the **widow Cooper's** land, **John Mills'** land, beginning at a black oak on the E side of sd. creek then N 8 W 168 poles to a white oak, then S 82 W 180 poles to a black oak, then S 8 E 65 poles to a marked line on the hill, then S 81 E 20 poles to a chesnut oak, then S 70 E 34 poles to a Spanish oak, then along a line of marked trees nearly S 26 E to a chesnut, then with the old line to the beginning: the same being part of a **tract granted to William Gilbert** by patent bearing date 1775.

Witnesses: John Doyle, **John Mills (x)**, Rubin Jeeks. Recorded 20 March 1802.³¹⁶

COMMENT:

John Mills, Esq., on 4 May 1808, sold a piece of this land to the "other" John Mills who remained

³¹⁴ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 22-23: 307–8; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517764 > image 470.

³¹⁵ "North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 March 2021 > Rutherford > 2066-2323 > image 944 of 1462.

³¹⁶ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 15-17: 469–71; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517763 > images 716–17.

in Rutherford—almost certainly the one who witnessed his 1800 sale above.

Note that the metes and bounds of this document does not say that it adjoins *the said John Mills*—i.e., the man previously named as seller. This leaves open the question whether the adjacent John Mills land was that of John Mills (x).

On 17 October 1829, John Mills (x) donated to [son] Calvin Garrett Mills a part of his land, saying that it began at pointers on **Gilberts’ old line**.

**AUGUST 1800
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC**

Census.

Morgan District³¹⁷

Ambrose Mills	1 white female 45+	[his mother Ann?]
1 white male 16–25	1 white female 16–25	1 slave
1 white male 10–15		
1 white male 0–10		

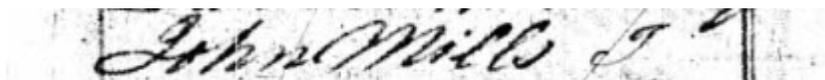
COMMENT:

Ambrose, the youngest child of Ambrose and Ann, was born in February 1777 and would now be 23. He appears to be married now, with one child.

This leaves unexplained the identity of the male 10–15, unless his mother bore a son to Carrick before he left her.

[skip 12]

John Mills T [I? J?]	1 white male 26–45	1 white female 16–25	0 slaves
	2 white males 0–10		



Marvel Mills	1 white male 26–45	1 white female 16–25	0 slaves
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COMMENT:

This is the only John Mills on this year’s census of Rutherford, although *three* John Millses have come to adulthood in Rutherford by this time:

- **John Mills, Esq.**, who had relocated in “Chester or Camden” District SC, during this period.³¹⁸ The John Mills of 1800, who held no slaves, would not be John Mills, Esq.
- **John-of-Ambrose**, who had sons by this time (according to the 1810 and 1820 censuses of Christian and Todd Counties, KY).³¹⁹ He would not move to Kentucky until c1802.³²⁰ The household data above matches his data on the 1810 and 1820 Kentucky censuses.

³¹⁷ 1800 U.S. census, Buncombe Co., N.C., pp. 127–31 (stamped). All households are arranged into semi-alphabetical order, thereby destroying neighborhood context.

³¹⁸ Mrs. J. R. Baird, T. C. Catchings, and Mrs. M. C. Torrey, *The Clendinen, Myers, and Mills Families and Various Related Families in the South* (Atlanta: A. B. Caldwell Publishing, 1923), 156–81, particularly 177–78.

³¹⁹ Christian Co., KY, Will Book A: 90 (inventory of Thomas Wadlington, including 13 enslaved people), 190 (will of Elizabeth Wadlington, drafted 1809 and proved 1811, leaving household furniture and plantation tools to son **Ferdinand Wadlington**, her saddle and bridle to daughter **Miriam Mills**, and \$30 to each of other children: Thomas Wadlington, Elizabeth Cooper, and Sabre Brown). **The nature of the gift to Miriam implies that she resided locally.** Census data reveals the following:

- **John Mills (x)**, whose son Lavender was born between 2 June 1796 and 1 June 1797 according to Lavender’s 1850 Polk Co. census.

The initial added *after the surname* of this John on the 1800 census calls to mind the John Mills who, in 1804, sold land using the now obsolete I-J character (‡) as his “mark.” It also calls to mind the use of this character by William ‘English Billy’ as a cattle brand for his son Jesse.

[skip 3]

Jesse Mills	1 white male	26–45	1 white female	26–45	[son of Wm., Jr.]
	2 white males	0–10	1 white female	10–15	
			1 white female	0–10	0 slaves

COMMENT:

Jesse’s given age and inferred birth year (1755–1774) is not compatible with other known details. The affidavit of his cousin Col. John Mills, Esq., in Jesse’s pension application states that Jesse was the son of William Mills, aka “English Billy.” William’s son Jesse received a land grant in 1769, the same year that William set up “my son Jesse” with household goods and cattle

These two events suggest that either young Jesse had just married or that William himself was remarrying and making a settlement with the surviving child of a first marriage. If Jesse did marry at this time, and was at least 18, then his birth would have occurred by 1751. If he married younger (and some frontier boys did marry as young as 15) then he would have been born before 1754.

[skip 11]

Jacob Mills [Miller]	1 white male	26–45	1 white female	26–45	0 slaves
	2 white males	10–15	1 white female	16–25	
	1 white male	0–10	1 white female	10–15	
			1 white female	0–10	

COMMENT:

Jacob “Mills” appears to be Jacob *Miller*, living amid Millers. No Jacob *Mills* has been found in the deeds and other records of Rutherford.

AUGUST 1800
BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC
Census.

1810 Christian Co. One John Mills is enumerated on p. 572 (17 houses from Thomas Wadlington) as a male 26–44, with a female 26–44, male 16–26, male 10–16, 4 males 0–10, and 1 female 0–10—implying a marriage by 1793 and a birth before 1770. The census also includes, at some distance from the Wadlingtons, an older John Mills (p. 579) aged 45+ and a third John Mills (p. 582) in the 26–45 age bracket.

1820 Trigg Co. The Wadlington-Mills neighborhood was cut away this year to create Trigg, where Ferdinand and Thomas Wadlington Jr. are enumerated on unnumbered p. 14. **John Mills** (male 45+ and family) is enumerated next to **Ambrose Mills** (male 18–25) on unnumbered p. 4; an Ignatius w. Mills, age 18–25, appears on unnumbered p. 6.

1830 Trigg Co. John Mills (20–30) and Thomas Wadlington (male 40–50) are nine houses apart on p. 1. Ambrose Mills (30–39), p. 4. No other Millses.

³²⁰ Christian Co., KY, Tax Rolls, 1797–1803, unpaginated; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7834413 > image 181 for John’s first appearance in 1803.

Morgan District³²¹

Samuel Edna	1 white male 26–45	1 white female 16–25	[Nellie Mills b. c1776] 1 slave
Essa [Asa] Edna	1 white male 45+ 1 white male 16–25	1 white female 16–25	[Sarah Mills b. c1774]
Henry Lewis	2 white male 26–45 3 white males 0–10	1 white female 16–25 2 white females 0–10	[Mourning Mills b. c1773]
William Mills	1 white male 45+	1 white female 45+ 1 white female 16–25	20 slaves

COMMENT:

- 3 Twitty households are in Morgan District of *Rutherford* this year: Allen, **Russel**, and William.
- Note that only one daughter remains at home with William and Eleanor.

17 OCTOBER 1800

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

Ambrose Mills entered a tract described in its patent of 7 December 1802 as 150 acres in Rutherford County “on the **waters of Green River** Joining his **old survey** including an **old House** and part of the **Improvement where John Byrd now lives.**”

Beginning on a pine near Mills’s old corner, runing thence N 87 E 170 poles with Mills’s old line to a red oak, thence S 124 poles to a red oak near **Allen Twitty’s line**, thence S 87 W 213 poles to a stake near **Ambrose Mills’s** other line, then N 2 W 100 poles nearly with said line to a stake on his other line, thence with said line E 50 poles to a stake his own corner, thence N 3 W 28 poles to the beginning.³²²

COMMENT:

In 1797, John Bird married Ambrose’s sister Anna “Nancy” Mills.

18 OCTOBER 1800

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Survey warrant.

“Warrant of Survey No. 8196. Joseph Henry Entry Taker of Claims for Land in the County afforesaid to the Surveyor of said County: You are Hereby Required as soon as may be to lay of[f] and Survey for **Abraham Step, James Step, Robert Step, Esther Step, and Mary Step**, one hundred acres of Land on the Waters of **Mud Creek** near the **Grassey Mountain** and Joining *Abraham Keykendalls* Land.” Order issued 29 January 1801. Survey made 26 August 1801, William Constant and Abraham Keykendall, chain bearers. Granted 20 December 1803.³²³

³²¹ 1800 U.S. census, Buncombe Co., N.C. pp. 167 (Edney [“Edna”], 176 (Lewis), 178 (Mills). All households are rearranged into semi-alphabetical order, thereby destroying neighborhood context. No other Millses appear.

³²² David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 116:411; citing Rutherford Co. File No. 1355, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.30N, frame 791, State Archives.

³²³ “North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018) > Buncombe > 906–1257 > images 1238–1242.

COMMENT:

Mary “Polly” Stepp is said to be the daughter of James Stepp and wife Mary Walton Mills. Supposedly, she or her same-named daughter was injured by Indian attack as an infant. It is likely (but I have not attempted to prove) that all of the individuals above are heirs of James and Mary. The cover of the file cites “James Stapp” as the grantee; apparently he was the individual who filed for the land on behalf of the minors.

The issuance of the warrant in the name of five steps suggests that James Stepp first entered the land and that he has now died, leaving his claim to his children.

The fact that James Stepp sought out land adjoining Abraham *Keykendall* harks back to the 2 November 1773 land sale (see that date above) in which one John “Kerconal” sold one half of his tract of 400 acres to William Mills, Step’s alleged father-in-law.

The Keykendall/Kerconal/Kuykendall family has not yet been explored as a possible birth family for William Mills’s wife—but should be.

10 OCTOBER 1801

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

Joseph Henry and **William Mills** entered a tract whose 10 December 1804 survey described as 125 acres in Buncombe County, “on the waters of **Hoopers Creek**, joining their 200 acre Survey of their own that includes **Dunham’s Lick Log** at the N° West corner.”

Beginning on their corner double chesnut on the S side of the top of the **mountain**, and runs with their line S 52 E 60 poles to a chesnut on the E side of a **ridge**, then N 40 E 40 poles on the top of the mountain, thence with the same N 85 W 26 poles to a hickory on the same, then with the same N 70 W 88 poles to a hickory, thence with said **mountain** N 60 W 30 poles to three chesnuts from one root, at a **rock**, thence S 10W 80 poles to a chesnut, thence S 64 W 210 poles passing a chesnut oak marked as a corner, to a stake, thence S 47 E 115 poles to a stake opposite their corner, thence passing the same with their line N 38 E 280 poles to the beginning.

Entered 10 October 1801; issued 10 December 1804.³²⁴

COMMENT:

The website’s description of this document states: “125 acres on East side of Pigeon River on waters of Hoopers Creek.” The text of the grant does not reference Pigeon River. Apparently that reference comes from the corresponding plat that is not imaged here.

26 FEBRUARY 1802

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

Jesse Mills entered a tract whose 3 December 1803 patent described as 50 acres in Rutherford County on both sides of **Green river**:

Beginning on two poplars and a B.O. on **his old line** on the N side of the river, then E with his line 57 poles crossing the river to a stake in his **old corner**, thence S with another ____ of his line 63 poles to a stake [at] his other corner, thence E 34 poles to a stake on the **Widow Cockrans** line,

³²⁴ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 120:98; citing Rutherford Co. File No. 1373, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.32N, frame 71, State Archives.

thence with her line N 122 pole crossing the river to a stake, then W 94 poles to a stake, thence S 63 poles to the beginning.³²⁵

COMMENT:

See survey made 1 September 1803, below.

5 OCTOBER 1802

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

David Miller's will bequeaths several dozen tracts of land to "son John Miller ... lying in the Counties of Buncombe & Rutherford," including:

- 100 a. on both sides of **Mills River** No. 407
- 200 a on **Clear & Mud Creek** No. 1161, also my part of the unsold land that is between me and **William Mills** in partnership.
- 400 a. lying in Buncombe Co. on both sides Mud Creek above John Earle's Mill seat, No. 171

Also other tracts to son Andrew Miller, son-in-law **Allen Twitty** "husband of my daughter Martha," grandson David Briggs, son John Miller, son-in-law Jesse Briggs "husband to my daughter Esther."³²⁶

COMMENT:

- October 1792, David and James Miller patented land jointly with William Mills.
- December 1797, David Miller sold land to John Mills (apparently William's brother) who sold it in 1804 as John Mills ↓.

10 JUNE 1803

YORK COUNTY SC & BURKE COUNTY, NC

Inheritance sale.

"York Co. (S.C.) June 10 1803, Joseph, John, Moses, Matthew **Corrill** & James Clinton, Samuel & Elizabeth Crofts, John M. & Jane Gollogher, **Children of Thomas Carrell & Wife Easther (formerly, dau. of Matthew Armstong, dec'd. of N.C.)** for 15 Sh to John Armstrong, our legacy left our deceased mother by her father, Matthew Armstrong, as assigned by our father **Thomas Carroll** to sd. John Armstrong."³²⁷

1 SEPTEMBER 1803

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land survey.

By Warrant No. 2390 for land entered 26 February 1802, Francis Alexander surveyed for **Jesse Mills** 50 acres in Rutherford lying on **both sides** of Green River:

Beginning on 2 poplars & a B.O. on **his old line** on the N side of the River, then E with his line 50 poles **crossing river** to a stake, his old corner, then S with another sgr? of his line 63 poles to a stake, his other corner, then E 34 poles to a stake on **Widow Cochran's** line, then with her line N 122 poles **crossing river** to a stake, then W 94 poles to a stake, then S 68 poles to the beginning.

³²⁵ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 118:171; citing Rutherford Co. File No. 2444, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.31N, frame 342, State Archives.

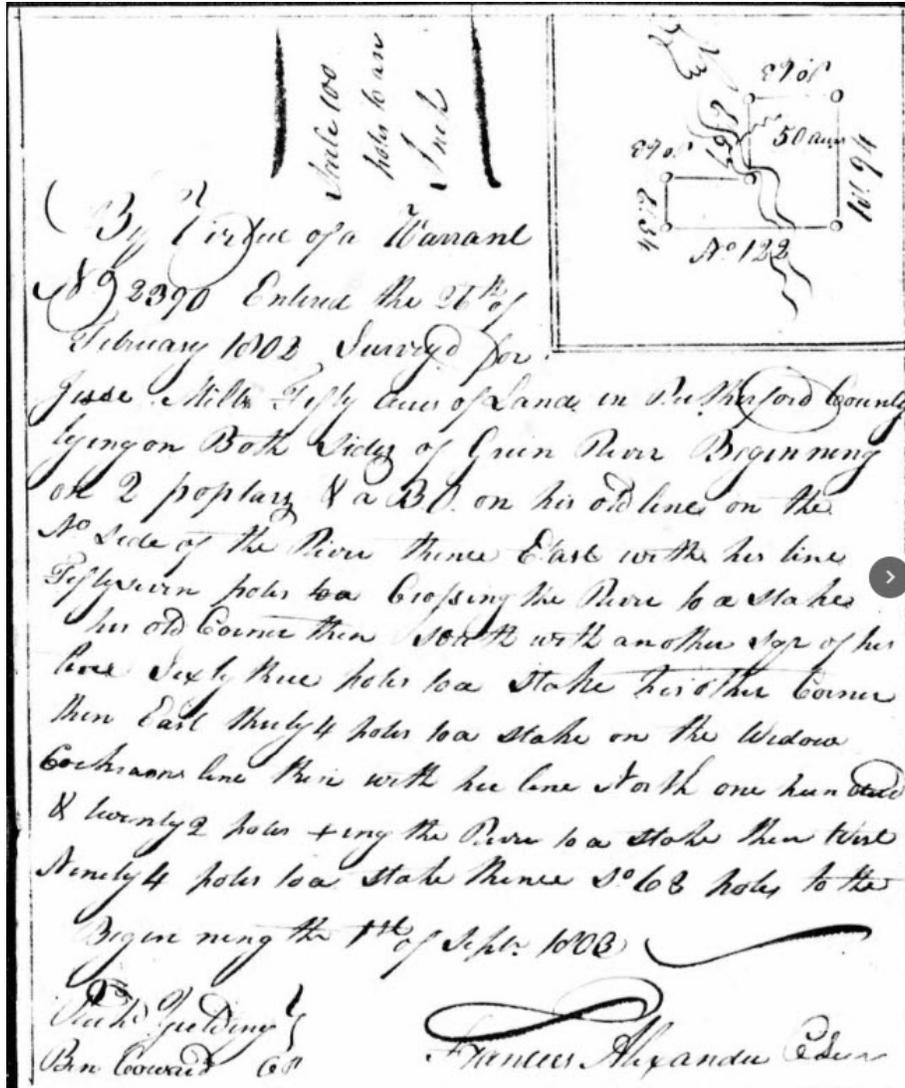
³²⁶ Rutherford Co., NC, Will Book B:162 ff. Note: Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts, Will Book B, 1791–1813* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1972), 31–37; misreads the "Mill seat" passage, presenting it as "**John Earle Mills seal.**" There as no John Earle Mills.

³²⁷ Edith Warren Huggins, *Burke County, North Carolina, Land Records, 1755–1821 (Including Wills Index 1784-1900)* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1987), 38.

Chain bearers: **Richd. Yielding**, Ben Coward.³²⁸

COMMENT:

The survey warrant dated 30 June 1802 states that the entry was made 26 February 1802.



7 OCTOBER 1803
BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC
 Land sale.

“**William Mills and James Miller** of Rutherford County to **Samuel Edney** of Buncombe County, 35£, part of 500 acre tract granted to Mills and Miller in 1794 on Clear Creek - McCoy's Line, adjoining **Lyda** and **Justus**, near Stills old cabin, 385 acres.³²⁹”

³²⁸ “North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960,” database with images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018) > Rutherford > 2324-2579 > image 704 of 1485; also 702 for warrant. Ancestry indexes this as “Jepse” Mills.

³²⁹ Marshall Styles, “Henderson County, NC – Wills – Asa & Sarah Mills Edney Estate, Part 2,” USGenweb Archives (<http://files.usgwarchives.net/nc/henderson/wills/edney12.txt> : accessed 27 June 2015), citing Deed Book B, page 266, Buncombe County.

COMMENT:

Samuel Edney married the daughter of William and Edney Mills.

21 MARCH 1804

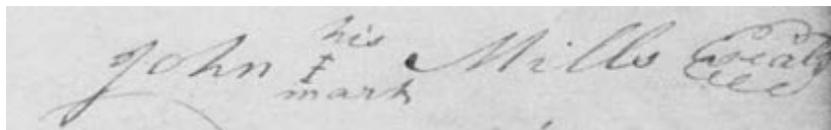
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

John Mills † to Jonathan Harris, for \$125, sale of 100 acres on both sides of Green River, described as

Beginning on a black oak on the N side of the river near **Potter's line** then S 37 E 152 poles to a Spanish oak, thence S 53 W 106 poles crossing Green River to a stake, thence N 37 W 162 poles to a stake, thence crossing the river to the beginning.

Witnesses: **Richard Yielding**, John Chisholm. Recorded 16 September 1804.³³⁰



COMMENT:

John † bought this land from David Miller in 1797; see Deed Book 7–9: 29. At Miller's death in 1802, his will cited land that he owned together with **William Mills**³³¹ who was by then a resident of the offshoot county of Buncombe.

We should also consider this John † alongside the census entry, four years earlier, for a John Mills who was assigned an extra letter *after his surname* on the census—a character that could be read as T, I, or J. That John was listed consecutively with William Mills's son Marvel, who in 1804 owned land on Bright's Creek where William Mills and his son John also owned land.

Note that this sale occurred two or so years *after* John-of-Ambrose removed to Kentucky.³³² The deed does not say that the seller resided in Kentucky and it does not involve any other person to whom the owner had given his power-of-attorney as an absentee owner typically did.

Re: Harris:

On 2 November 1773, Richard Harris adjoined land entered by the future Maj. William Mills.

12 APRIL 1804

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage bond.

"Jackson, Tandy & Eliz. Smith, 12 Apr 1804; **Marvel Mills**, bm."³³³

20 SEPTEMBER 1804

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

³³⁰ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 22-23:93–99; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517764 > image 362.

³³¹ Rutherford Co., NC, Will Book B:162 ff.

³³² Christian Co., KY, Tax Rolls, 1797–1803, unpaginated; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7834413 > image 181 for John's first appearance in 1803. How long he had been in the county is not stated (and would not be), but he was not on the roll compiled in the first half of 1802 or any prior year.

³³³ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 77.

Joseph Henry and **William Mills** entered a tract that would be described in its patent of 16 September 1809 as 60 acres in the County of Buncombe, “on the waters of **Clear Creek**, joining their own one hundred and twenty five Acre tract on the East and continuing towards the **Bear Wallow Mountain** for Complement.”

Beginning upon their NE corner leaning black oak on a **ridge** of their 200-acre tract, and runs with the line of the same N 52 degrees W 67 to their corner chesnut on the E side of a **ridge** of their own 125-acre tract, thence with the line of the same N 40 degrees E 40 poles to their corner hickory on the top of the **mountain**, then with the same S 85 degrees E 14 poles to a red oak, thence with said mountain S 75 degrees E 30 poles to a hickory in a **gap** of said mountain, thence with the same S 50 degrees E 126 poles to a stake, thence S 40 degrees W 60 poles to a stake, then to beginning.³³⁴

18 DECEMBER 1804

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

“**Marvel Mills** to Gabriel Jackson, for 150£ NC money, sale of a “plantation or tract of land” on **Bright’s Creek** of **Green River** “including the forks of said Creek, Including a Cabbin where **Jas. Step** formerly lived on the N side of **Green River**:

Beginning at a poplar, then N to a **moved lined** then W to the **old line**, then S 150 poles to a stake, then to the beginning.

“The number of acres unknown.” Signed: M. Pickett [Micajah Pickett], Ephraim Jackson (x).³³⁵

COMMENT:

I have found no deed or grant by which Marvil obtained this land.

On 19 August 1798, Marvel’s father William sold to one Edmond Rushel what appeared to be this same tract (“150 acres on **Brights Creek** of **Green River** including the forks of said creek and a Cabbin where **James Step lived** [past tense] on the N side of Green River ... Beginning at a poplar, then **N** 150 poles to a stake, then W 100 poles to a post, then S 150 poles to a stake, thence to the beginning”). The Rushel sale appears to have fallen through—perhaps due to the uncertainty over the amount of acreage involved.

29 DECEMBER 1804

CHRISTIAN COUNTY, KY

Agreement.

Thomas Wadlington, John Mills & Moria [Miriam] Mills, David Cooper and Elizabeth Cooper of Christian County, and William Brown and Sabra Brown his wife of Livingston County, Common Wealth of Kentucky, of the one part, and **Ferdinan Wadlington** and **Elizabeth Wadlington** his wife of Christian county ... of the other part. Whereas the said **Thomas Wadlington Deceased** in his life time did verbally give unto Ferdinand Wadlington aforesaid two hundred Acres of Land, it being the same Tract whereon the said Thomas Wadlington Deceased lived at the time of said Gift and at the time of his Death, now this Indenture Witnesseth that the said Thomas Wadlington, **John & Moria Mills**, David Cooper and Elizabeth Cooper & William Brown and Sabra Brown, his wife, Being the lawful heirs and Representatives of the aforesaid Thomas Wadlington Deceased” for \$550 paid by Ferdinand in his lifetime to the

³³⁴ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 1837; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 1837, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.33N, frame 510, State Archives.

³³⁵ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 24–26:313–14; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517762 < images 156–57.

deceased and the further sum of 5 shillings now paid by Ferdinand, do give him title to the 200 acres on Little River [metes and bounds not copied]. Signed: William Brown, Sabra Brown, Thomas Wadlington, David Cooper, Elizabeth Cooper, John Mills, Moriam Mills. Witnesses: **Asa Estes**, David Wood, John Potts. Proved 11 February 1805 by the three witnesses.³³⁶

COMMENT:

On 23 May 1803, **John Mills** and **Asa Estes** were joint witnesses to a power of attorney given by Andrew Rogers of Christian County, Kentucky, to John Rogers (residence not stated) to demand two deeds from Thomas P. Earle for lands in Christian.³³⁷

Multiple John Millses lived in Christian before 1810. However, the fact that the 1803 John Mills acted together with Asa Easter, one of the witnesses to the 1804 Wadlington-Mills deed, implies that the two John Mills references are to the same man. **That point places John Mills (son of Ambrose and husband of Mariam Wadlington) in Kentucky by 23 May 1803.**

Note: By reading the Christian Co., deed books page-by-page, I found a third instance of a John Mills signature in this time frame. On 24 June 1809, a Christian County deed from A. Buford to John McKee of Montgomery County, TN, was witnessed by Matthew Patton, **Jno. Mills**, and Ths. Alsbury. On that same day, as “Jno.” Mills, he also purchased land from McKee with Albury as witness.³³⁸ This John who signed as “Jno.” would appear to be a different John.

11 JULY 1805

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

John Mills of Rutherford from Sheriff William Carson Esq. of Rutherford. The County Court of Rutherford ordered the seizure and sale of the property of Joseph Hawkins, who owed **Marvill Mills** 31£ 5 shillings, 3 pence. At auction, on 11 July 1805, John was the last and highest bidder (at 4£) of three tracts, the first lying on both sides of **Silver Creek** of Green River:

Beginning at a Spanish oak on the side of a **mountain**, then with said mountain 30 W 62 poles to a Spanish oak, then S 60 E 60 poles to a stake, then S 30 W 30 poles to a stake, then N 60 W 60 poles to a stake, then S 30 ... [sic] 102 poles to a stake, then N 60 W 82 poles crossing the river to a stake, then N 30 E 168 poles ... then S 60 E 82 poles to the beginning.

Also 100 acres on the N fork of Creek Granted to Jas. Fisher:

Beginning on a post oak **David Millers** line, thence S 28 poles crossing the creek to a dogwood, then S 65 W 80 poles to a Spanish oak, then S 15 W to a pole to a red oak, then N 45 W 220 poles to a stake, then S 45 E 250 poles to the beginning.

Also 50 acres, the waters **Ostens Creek** of Green River:

Beginning at a poplar on the side of a **hollow**, then N 30 E crossing a branch & pond 80 poles to a black jack near **David McClers** line, then N 70 W 100 poles to a stake, then S 30 W 80 poles to a stake & from there to the beginning.

Deed “Acknowledged Jany the 30th 1823, No. 176.”³³⁹

³³⁶ Christian Co., KY, Deed Book A: 184–87; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7896002 > images 134–36.

³³⁷ Christian Co., KY, Deed Book A: 73; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7896002 > image 61.

³³⁸ Christian Co., KY, Deed Book B:242, 250; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7896002 > images 462, 473.

³³⁹ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 34: 116–17; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517767 > image 63.

2 OCTOBER 1805

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Agreement.

“This indenture made ... between the claimants or legatees of **Anne Carrick** deceased, that is, **Ambrous Mills (s)**, Mereman Featherston (s), John Bird (s), and Russell Twitty (s) of the one part, all of the County of Buncombe ... and Samuel King Snr. of the same, sale for \$258.66 2/3, sale of 129 1/3 acre on W side of French Broad River joining David Myers’ land:

Beginning at a black oak on W bank of river, running with sd Myers line W 160p to a stake, then S running “as fare” along the line as will include or contain the above quantity or acres mentioned, turning toward the river.”

Witnesses: Jeremiah Taylor, B. King, Samuel King Jr.³⁴⁰

25 OCTOBER 1805

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills: “Two hundred acres joining his own line and **John Justice’s** line.” Entered 25 October 1805; no issue date “because patent not recorded”³⁴¹

15 _____ 1806

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

Marvel Mills to Martin Bailey, both of Rutherford Co., sale for \$38 already paid, 50 acres on a branch of the S fork of **White Oak**:

Beginning on a red oak on the S side of the branch on a hill, running N 126 poles crossing the branch to a pine, then E 63 poles to a black oak, then S 126 poles to a stake, then W 63 poles to the beginning.

“except what is taken off by McKinney’s survey.” Witness: **A. Mills**, Andrew Hamilton. Filed 23 March 1816, no. 206.³⁴²

COMMENT:

The man who signed habitually as “A. Mills” was Ambrose Mills, Esq. (aka Ambrose Mills Jr.), son of Col. Ambrose and Ann (Brown) Mills.

15 JANUARY 1806

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

John Mills of Rutherford purchased from William Tilghman and Peter Stephen Duponcian Esqrs., Abram Kintzing Junr., George Warrel & **Tench Coxe**, represented by **Peter Fisher**, their “attorney in fact,” 50 acres **on the head of Rotton’s Creek** of Green River:

Beginning at a post oak on N side of said creek in or near and above **his old line**, runing S 57 W 114 poles to a white oak, then N 33 W 28 poles to a hictory, then S 33 E 60 poles to a stake, then N 57 E 150 poles to a stake, then to the beginning.

³⁴⁰ Buncombe Co., NC, Deed Book A: 39–41; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7551933 > images 23–24.

³⁴¹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), no image; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 1130, NC microfilm reel S.108.539, State Archives.

³⁴² Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 27–28: 460–61; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517765 > images 747–48.

Witnesses: Richd. Allen, Jeremiah Conner.³⁴³

COMMENT:

John Mills (x) conveyed this land in 1825 to Lavender Mills.

Prior to this, [Maj.] William Mills and the John Mills who, in 18 owned land adjacent to William's land entry of October 1784 are the only Millses that have been placed on Rotton's Creek. The John Mills who now purchases raw, unimproved land on Rotton's Creek from a speculator would seem to be the same John.

On 7 April 1808, John Mills of Rotton's Creek was named as an adjacent landowner to a tract surveyed for Maj. William Mills—land William had first entered in October 1784 and, for some unexplained reason—had never surveyed or patented. The land was at prime spot, the forks of Rotton. The delay in having it surveyed and patented was an inordinate one not seen with any of the three dozen or so other lands entered by William.

5 JULY 1806

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

John Mills from **Micajah Pickett**, both of Rutherford County, purchase for 700£, one tract on both sides of **White Oak Creek**, "one of which contains 105 acres both same more or less):

Beginning at a white oak on the N side of the creek, running S 65 E &c as is represented by a plat of the same.

"Also three other tracts adjoining on sd Creek containing 290 acres more or less, being the **land which the sd. Mills now lives**, conveyed from Wm. Griffin to Sd. Pickett." Witnesses: Thos. Moore, **A. Mills.**"³⁴⁴

COMMENT:

The value of the property suggests strongly that the purchaser is John Mills, Esq., as opposed to being John Mills (x) of Rotton's Creeks of Green River. This purchase marks the time frame of John, Esq.'s settlement at the White Oak site to which history attaches him.

The identity of the witness—Ambrose Mills, Esq., son of Col. Ambrose—also suggests that the purchaser is Col. Ambrose's son John.

Micajah Pickett was from Fairfield County, SC, where he was a frequent associate of Col. Ambrose's nephew **John Watts** (son of Sarah Mills).³⁴⁵

12 AUGUST 1806

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Agreement

³⁴³ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 22–23: 156; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > image 83.

³⁴⁴ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 32-33: 46–47; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517766 > image 325.

³⁴⁵ For more on the Mills-Pickett connections in SC, see the following three research reports posted at Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the "Research" tab:

- E. S. Mills, "Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.149–ca. 1822); Spouses: 1: [Smith?]; 2: Judith "Judy" [Rawls?]: Research Notes," a work-in-progress last updated 22 March 2018).

- E. S. Mills, "Watts: Initial Survey of South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them," report to file, 17 October 2014).

- E. S. Mills, "Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County), Pre-1830," report to file, 27 October 2014 (updated 15 October 2015, 10 March 2018).

John Mills of Christian County, Kentucky, and Ambrose Mills (s) of Rutherford County, North Carolina to **Joseph King** of Buncombe County, sale for \$129.66 2/3 sale of “Sixty four and half one third acres” [64.16 acres] in Buncombe on the W side of **French Broad River**, being “a Balance of a tract of Land sold and Conveyed by the Legatees of Anne Carrick Deceast in presence of Benjamin King, Samuel King Junr. and Jerrey Taylor.” Witnesses: B. King (Jurat), Samuel King “his S mark.”³⁴⁶

COMMENT:

There is no evidence that John Mills was physically present—i.e., that he had traveled back to NC from KY to transact this document. The typical process was for the distant co-owner to send a power of attorney to the local one, who would then act for him (or her).

This is the third document found for John of Kentucky in which his signature is represented in a county deed book. In all three cases it is represented as a signature, not a mark. If the representations are accurate, then he should not be the John Mills who sold land in Rutherford in 1804 over his mark ⊕.

6 DECEMBER 1806

RUTHERFORD & BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

William Mills and wife **Ellener** of Buncombe Co. to **Micajah Pickett** of Rutherford, sale for \$1500£ already paid, 100 acres on both sides of Green River, both sides of **Panther Creek**, “including the improvement where the [said] Pickett now lives, which was previously granted to Walter Sharp on 26 April 1768:

Beginning on a post oak and red oak on the N side of the river at the mouth of a **gully**, thence N 45 W 260 poles to a hicory on **Panther Creek**, then S 45 W 187 poles to a stake, then S 45 E 260 poles to a stake, then to beginning

Also 175 acres granted to **John Kirkonell** and conveyed to the said **William Mills** by **Peter Johnson**, the heir & Executor of the said **Kirkonell**, situated on both sides of Green River, including the **mouth of Bright’s Creek**:

Beginning at a Spanish oak on the top of a hill on the N side of the river above the mouth of the creek & near the path leading up the river, runing then N 48 E 200 poles, crossing the creek to a stake, then S 36 E 140 poles, crossing the River to a post, then S 58 W 200 poles to a stake, then crossing the river to the beginning.

Also one tract of 200 acres granted to the said **William Mills** on the S side sd. river adjacent the aforementioned lands & hath such shape form & marks as a plat of the same represents.

Also one tract of 50 acres granted to sd. **Wm Mills** joining the first named premises & hath such shape form & marks as appears from a patent thereof.

Also one tract of 50 acres Granted to **Richard Newport** lying on **Panthers Creek** & hath such marks & shape & form as a plat of same.

The whole contains 775 acres more or less. Witnesses: Asa Edney, **Gabriel Jackson** (x).³⁴⁷

COMMENT:

³⁴⁶ Buncombe Co., NC, Deed Book A: 426–27; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7551933 > images 218–19.

³⁴⁷ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 25: 260–61; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517765 > images 496–97.

Pickett, in this pair of 1806 deeds, sold his extensive lands at White Oak to John Mills, Esq., and then relocated to Panther's Creek on land John's brother William had purchased on speculation. In October 1808, Pickett would buy another two tracts of Panther Creek land from John and William's brother Ambrose Jr.

27 APRIL 1807

RUTHERFORD & BUNCOMBE COUNTIES, NC

Neighbor.

"I, John Miller of Rutherford Co., N.C. Now lying in the house of Andrew Erwin, Esq. in the town of Asheville in the County of Buncombe. Being of perfect mind and memory, I give to my beloved wife Susanah Miller the plantation she lives on with two other plantation with the grist mill & distillery, & two negroes named Bradick & Dave and negro woman named Bet, All household furniture at her death to be equally divided between my two sons David & William. I give to my son David a man negro named Dick, with a set of blacksmith tools, one negro man named James, one negro girl named Nancy, with 140 acres of land, **another tract of 50 acres between myself & William Mills, in the County of Buncombe,** and \$125 for a horse, bridle and saddle. I give to my son William Miller, two negroes named Stephen & Jack and a negro girl named Serena. Also 200 acres of land known as the Patterson place on **French Broad River**, another tract on **Little River in Buncombe County**, A note of \$350. Also \$125 for a horse, saddle and bridle. I give to my dtr. Sucky a negro woman Sally & her three children. A negro woman named Annie. One horse worth \$100. Also \$100 in money, a good saddle & bridle, two feather beds & her household furniture. I give to my dtr. Betsy one negro girl named Liza, two negro boys the chn. of (from here over a half of a page is too blurred to be read) He wish the children stay with their mother until they come of age. The negroes left to **sons David & William** to be rented out for their use. Robert McAfee is not to have any share of the notes or bonds. I appoint my friends John Lewis, Jonathan Hampton, David Dicky, Robert McAfee and my wife Susannah executrix & executors. Witnesses: _____ Ferguson, Andrew Erwin, Daniel Mathews. Signed: John Miller."³⁴⁸

19 OCTOBER 1807

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract of land whose 30 May 1808 patent would describe as 50 acres in Buncombe County, "lying on both sides of the **Main road** Including **Bartlet Anderson's** improvement and some of the **waters of Hoopers Creek.**"

Beginning at a large poplar and forked Spanish oak, on N side of a mountain at a large **rock**, below a large **clift of rocks**, then S 30 degrees E 117 poles to a stake, then N 60 degrees E 64 poles to a stake in **John Smith's** lines, then N 30 degrees W 127 poles to a stake **Millar's** line, then S 60 degrees W 64 poles to a stake, then S 30 degrees E 10 poles to beginning.³⁴⁹

7 APRIL 1808

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land survey.

"By virtue of an Entry made [18 October 1784, warrant dated 10 June 1785], [I, D. Dickey, Deputy Surveyor, have] Surveyed for **William Mills,**" 100 acres of land in Rutherford County on **Rotton's Creek**

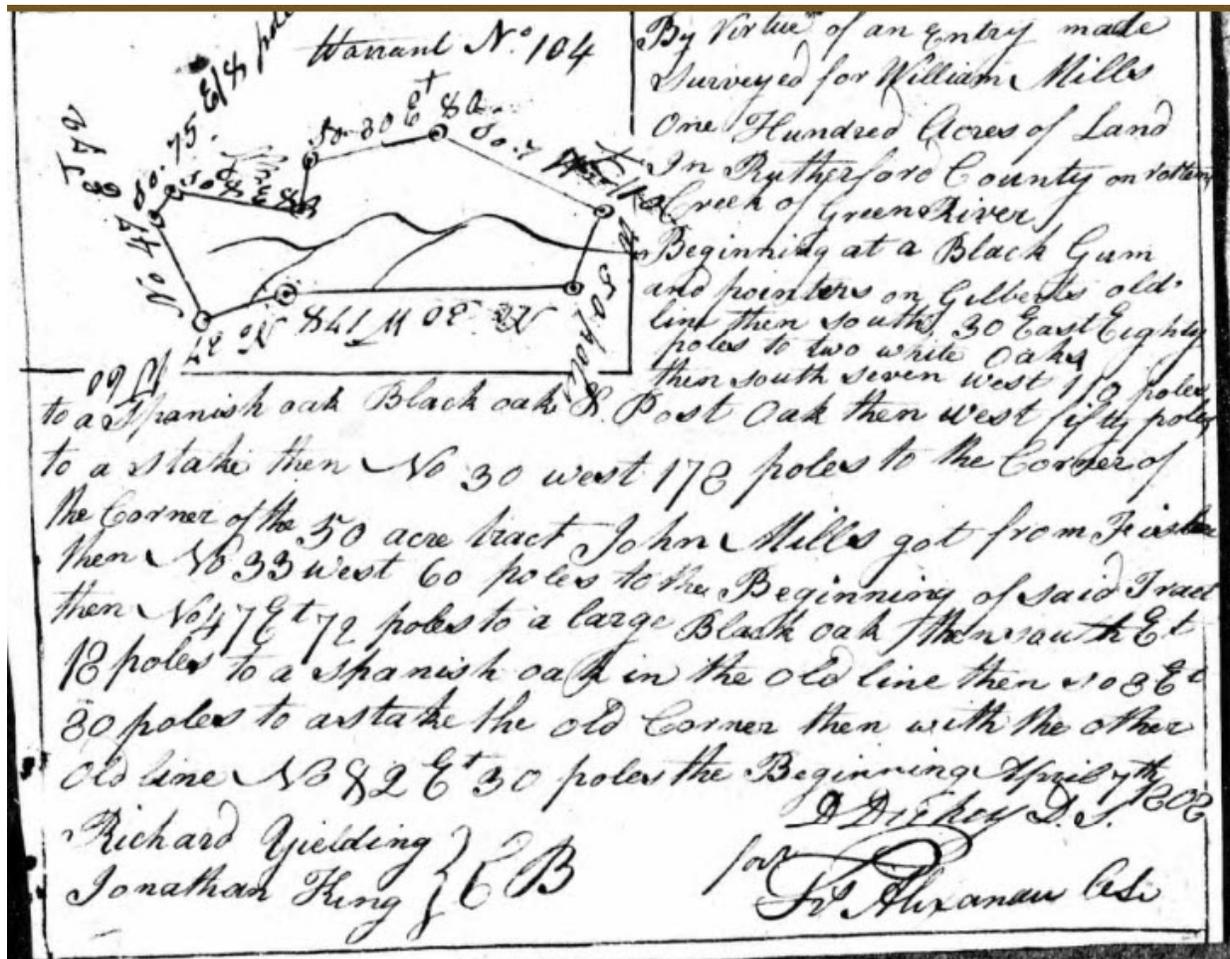
³⁴⁸ James E. and Vivian Wooley, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Wills & Miscellaneous Records, 1783–1868* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1984), 34; citing Deeds & Wills Book A:196.

³⁴⁹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 123:157; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 1102, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.33N, frame 103, State Archives.

of Green River:

Beginning at a black gum and pointers on **Gilbert's old line**, then S 30 E 80 poles to two white oaks, then S 7 W 110 poles to a Spanish oak, black oak & post oak, then W 50 poles to a stake, then n 30 W 178 poles to the corner of the 50-acre tract John Milles got from Fisher, then N 33 W 60 poles to the beginning of said tract, then 18 poles to a Spanish oak in the **old line**, then N 8 E 80 poles to a stake, the **old corner**, then with the **other old line** N 82 E 30 poles to beginning.

Chain bearers: Richard Yielding, Jonathan King. Signed: D. Dickey, D.S.³⁵⁰



4 MAY 1808
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC
Land sale.

“John Mills Esqr.” (s/ Jn^o) to John Mills, both of Rutherford, sale for 5£, 44 acres described as

Originally **granted to William Gilbert** by patent dated 2 March 1775, No. 296, conveyed from him to Isaac Cooper and by Mary Cooper to the said **John Mills Esqr.** ... Beginning at a Spanish oak [on] **King's conditional line**, thence along the **old line** S 8 E 116 poles to the old corner

³⁵⁰ “North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960,” database with images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018) > Anson >2580–2829 > image 757 of 1435. Images 755–56 present the land entry and warrant.

stake, then with the other **old line** N 82 E to a chesnut [at] King's corner, then along a line of **marked trees** [on] King's line nearly N 26 W 87 poles to a Spanish oak, then N 70 W 34 poles to a chesnut oak, then N 81 W 20 poles to the beginning.

Witnesses: D. Dickey, Anthony Dickey. Recorded 20 August 1808.³⁵¹

COMMENT:

John Mills [Esquire] purchased this tract of 200 acres, for 300£, on 12 September 1792 from John Cooper via a deed that placed it on "Bullen's Creek" [Rotten's Creek?] bounded on upper side by tract granted to "said William Gilbert." For most of the intervening years, this John had been a resident of SC. As an absentee owner, he either left the land unoccupied or leased the land to a tenant.

In 1800, John (s) sold part of this land, at which time John Mills (x) witnessed the document.

In 1808, Maj. William Mills paid for a survey of land that he had entered in 1784. It cited "Gilbert's old line." The tract lay adjacent to the 50 acres John Mills (x) had purchased in 1806 from Peter Fisher as agent of Tench Coxe.

I have not located *Bullen's* Creek in Rutherford. It is possibly a misreading of *Rotten's* Creek. The letters in each are often confused: *B* for *R*, *u* for *o*, *ll* for *tt*.

John Mills (x) now owns 94 acres (two tracts) by recorded titles:

- 50 at head of Rotton's Creek, bought from Tench Coxe on 15 January 1806; sold to Lavender Mills in 1825.
- 44 he is now purchasing. He gave this tract to Calvin Garrett Mills in 1829, by deed that also cites Rotton's Creek and "Gilbert's old line." [Transferred from Calvin to Ambrose when Calvin moved from Rutherford County to Georgia.]

I've found no evidence of a purchase or grant of the 50 acres John (x) sold to William Williams in 1821. The only way it fits into the evidence covered by this research project would be for John (x) to be in possession of the adjacent 100 acres Maj. William entered in 1784 and patented in 1808.

31 OCTOBER 1808

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

Ambrose Mills to Micajah Picket, both of Rutherford, sale for \$60, two tracts on **Panther's Creek of Green River:**

Beginning at a hictory on the bank of the creek in a **bottom**, then N 90 poles to a black oak, then W 180 poles to a stake, then S 90 poles to a stake, then to the beginning

Also 50 acres adjoining the above on **Panthers Creek** beginning on a post oak in the other line, then N 35 W 64 poles to a stake, then W 126 poles to a stake, then S 35 E 94 poles to the other line, then with the line to the beginning.

Witnesses: Richard Allen, William Riddle.³⁵²

COMMENT:

³⁵¹ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 24-26: 265; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517765 > image 133.

³⁵² Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 25: 253; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517765 > image 492.

The siblings William, Ambrose, and Millie (children of Ambrose Sr. and Ann) all received grants on Panthers (aka Panters) Creek in the 1790s.

17 DECEMBER 1808

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract of land that would be described in its 17 December 1808 patent as 200 acres in Buncombe County, “Joining his own lines and joining **John Justice’s** lines and **John Witherow’s** line, including the **Clear Branch** of **Clear Creek** and a small Improvement made by **John Morison** for Compliment.”

Beginning in the line of 150 acre tract of said **Mills** upon a chesnut and sowerwood on the point of a **narrow ridge** near the head of a **steep hollow** and runs E 50 poles to his chesnut corner, thence with his other line S 20 degrees W 160 poles to his corner white oak in the line of his 500 acre tract, then with the line of the same N 50 degrees E 150 poles to its corner white oak on a ridge, then with his other line E 40 poles to **John Justice’s** corner white oak, N 10 degrees W 200 poles to a Stake supposed to be in **John Witherow’s** line, thence with the same W 160 poles to a Stake on a mountain, then S 150 poles³⁵³

COMMENT:

The text of the document continues onto the next page, but I do not see a mechanism for moving from one page to the next.

23 MARCH 1809

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

Ambrose Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 11 December 1811 patent as 50 acres in Rutherford County “on the south side of **Green river** Joining his own land **James Cowart’s**.”

Beginning on a post oak on **James Coward’s** line, thence S 80 poles to a red oak, thence E 180 poles to a stake, thence N 40 poles to a stake on his old line, then with said line W 160 poles to a white oak his old corner, thence N 40 poles to a stake, thence W 20 poles to the beginning.³⁵⁴

COMMENT:

The 8 April 1786 land grant to Ambrose Jr.’s brother Thomas was also adjacent to James Cowart.

12 JUNE 1809

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

Thomas Moore makes his will saying “a considerable part of my Estate depends on the issue of suits in Courts of Law & equity in S.C.” Names “Brother Michael Moore of **Fairfield District ... S.C.**, ... **Brother John Moore** of Rutherford Co., N.C., Children of William Moore Dec’d. of Rutherford Co., N.C.,” and

³⁵³ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 123:435; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 1738, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.33N, frame 242, State Archives.

³⁵⁴ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 126:272; citing Rutherford Co. File No. 2766, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.34N, frame 153, State Archives.

“obligations for money due to me [including] “John Brown, Fairfield Rowland Williams, Fairfield, William Mills Fairfield ... Elisha Hagwood, Fairfield.” Probated April Ct. 1810.³⁵⁵

COMMENT:

On 20 July 1832, John Moore made his will naming wife Sarah, who was to get land he bought from **Robt. Hamilton**. Executors: Robert G. Twitty, **Ambrose Mills Esq.**, and James Nesbitt Jr. Moore referenced “my children” and “my daughter” [singular], but named none of them.

In a codicil dated 28 April 1834, he added: “William T. Graham having left my employ—all that part of my said will so far as regards him is of course rescinded and I hereby recommend **Thos. Mills** who is now in my employment to be contained therein so long as he acts prudently and that he be liberally compensated.” A second codicil, undated, states “I have erased the names of Jas. Nesbitt and **Ambrose Mills** mentioned above as two of my Executors—not from any Desmonstartion [*sic*] of confidence in them but think it unnecessary to continue them one of the lives [*sic*] too inconvenient to act and **Mr. Mills** is Generally much engaged in his own business.” The executor was to be his wife Sarah’s “brother Robert G. Twitty.”³⁵⁶

James Nesbitt married Narcissa Bird in 1823. I should investigate the possibility that she was a daughter of John Bird and wife Nancy Mills.

Thomas Mills of this document has not yet been identified.

24 FEBRUARY 1810
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

Jesse Mills to **Benjamin Coward**, sale for \$150, 100 acres described as lying

on the **flat branch** of Green River above sd. Mills not far from his new cabin, then N 25 W 100 poles to a post oak, then N 65 E 165 poles to a stake, then S 25 E 100 poles to the beginning.

Jesse’s ownership is said to be based on a land entry he made on 1 May 1795. Witnesses: **A. Mills**, Jas. Black. Recorded 24 February 1810.³⁵⁷

AUGUST 1810
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Census.

(p. 119, stamped)

Ambrose Mills	1 white male 26–44	1 white female 26–44	4 slaves	6 total
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[skip 34 ...]

(p. 120, stamped)

Mills, John Esq.	1 white male 26–44	1 white female 26–44	17 slaves
	1 white male 10–15	1 white female 0–9	
	3 white males 0–9		

³⁵⁵ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts, Will Book B, 1791–1813* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1972), 48; citing Will Book B:238.

³⁵⁶ Rutherford Co. Will Book B:240–42 (typescript copy), citing original book E; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 4779260 > images 158–59.

³⁵⁷ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 25:137; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517765 > image 434.

[skip 8]

(p. 121, unstamped top of page)

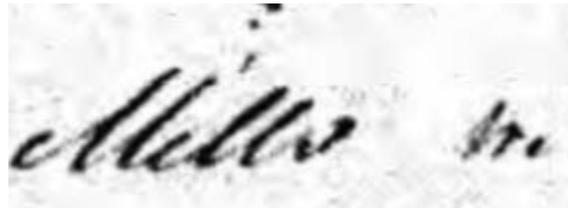
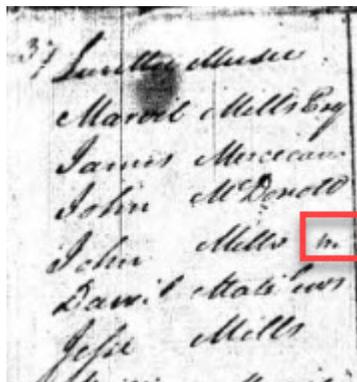
Mills, Marvel Esq.	1 white male 26–44	1 white female 26–44	10 slaves
	1 white male 10–15	1 white female 16–25	
	4 white males 0–9	1 white female 0–9	

Mercican? James
McDonald, John

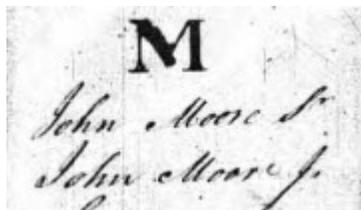
Mills, John [w.]	1 white male 26–44	1 white female 26–44	0 slaves
	2 white males 0–9	3 white females 10–16	

COMMENT:

- The data in this household does not correspond to that of 1800. The two young males of 1800 (one of whom should be Lavender) do not appear above. The three females in the household above were not there in the 1800 household.
- Note that this John is three houses from Maj. William’s son Marvel (above) and two from Jesse Mills Sr. (below)
- The small “w” after John’s name appears on the original



- This particular suffix does not appear after any other name on the census.
- The formation of this character does not represent the manner in which the enumerator wrote “Sr.” or “Jr.” as demonstrated by this example:



- The enumerator *did* use an abbreviation after several other names when there were multiple men in the county by the same name. For example:



Abbreviated suffixes of this type, when added by census takers and tax assessors, typically identified the person’s father or the waterway on which they lived.

Matthews, David

Mills, Jesse	1 white male 45+	1 white female 45+	0 slaves
	1 white male 10–15	1 white female 16–25	
	2 white males 0–9	1 white female 10–15	

COMMENT:

The Bible pages provided by Jesse’s widow in her pension application do not include children born after 1800. Correlating the two data sets gives us this:

- Nancy, b. 26 October 1787 [now 23, either she or Mary is not in family home]
- Mary, b. 11 September? 1789 [now 21, either she or Nancy is not in family home]
- William, b. 13 October 1791 [now 19, seemingly deceased or has moved out]
- [illegible] born 1793
- Sary, 7 March 1795 [now 15, ostensibly the female 10–15]
- Jesse, b. 28 December 1797 [now 13, ostensibly the male 10–15]

Either the Bible pages submitted with the pension application omitted a page with post-1800 births or the two males 0–9 might be grandchildren, born of one of the daughters.

Morris, William
McClain, Charles

**AUGUST 1810
BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC**

Census.

[District not stated]³⁵⁸

Henry G. Lewis [married in 1791, Mourning Mills, a consensus daughter of William and Eleanor Mills]³⁵⁹

John Laughter
Shadrack Lew Allen
Samuel Laughter
George Marshal
Ephraim Jackson

COMMENT:

- In 1804, Ephraim Jackson witnessed the sale of land by Marvel Mills to Gabriel Jackson on Green River.
- In 1810, Ephraim Jackson was enumerated two houses from Marvel.
- In June 1830, John Mills applied for land on **Bright’s Creek** of Green River adjoining **Ephraim Jackson**.

Boaz Still
Jacob Lyday
James Smith
Isaac Shelton

³⁵⁸ 1810 U.S. census, Buncombe Co., N.C. p. 242 (penned), entire page abstracted above.

³⁵⁹ *Find A Grave* (<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=114368978&ref=acom> : accessed 6 June 2015), memorial 114368978, “Maj William Mills,” created by Holt Felmet, 25 July 2013.

Stephen Shelton

William H. Cross

John Lockhart

James Withrow

Andrew Lockhart

John Justice Senr.

John Justice Junr.

Samuel Edney [husband of Sarah Mills, daughter of William and Eleanor Mills]

Andrew Maxwell

James Kincaid Senr.

William Mills 1 white male 45+ 1 white female 45+ 15 slaves 2 fpc

Asa Edney [son-in-law of William and Eleanor Mills]

John Low

William Justice

COMMENT:

One of the fpc may be Lewis Colwell, a “free molotto” aged 6 who was bound to William Mills in October 1791 (see note under that date) until he reached the age of 21. Mills was to teach him the craft of tailoring. The child’s mother was not named.

20 SEPTEMBER 1810

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

Ambrose Mills purchased from Ezekiel Waldrop, both of Rutherford, for \$200 already paid, 100 acres on both sides of **Green River**:

Beginning at a hicory on the S side of the river at the bank at or **near sd. Mills line**, then S 30 W 100 poles to a stake, then N 60 W 160 poles crossing the river to a stake, then N 30 E 100 poles crossing the river, then to a pine, then S 60 E 96 poles to the river, then down to the beginning.

Also one other tract containing 50 acres on **Green River**

Beginning on a red oak on the river bank, runing thence N 34 W 20 poles to a black oak, then S 64 W 42 poles to a black oak, then S 7 W 122 poles to a black oak, then S 58 E 73 poles to a stake, then N 32 E 40 poles to a stake on the **old line**, then N 30 E 100 poles to a stake, then N 60 W 20 poles to the beginning.

Witnesses: **Anna Williams (x), Sarah Mills.**³⁶⁰

COMMENT:

Neither an Anna Williams nor a Sarah Mills are named in Ambrose Jr.’s will as a child or heir. Ambrose Jr. did have a sister Anna but she married a decade or so earlier. Neither Anna nor Sarah should be Ambrose’s wife, given their service as witnesses. Jesse Mills’s wife was named Sarah.

In 1820, Ezekiel Waldrop was 5 houses from Marvel Mills, who was 4 houses from William Williams.

12 FEBRUARY 1811

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

³⁶⁰ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 25: 263–64; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517765 > images 497–98.

Land sale

Ambrose Mills to Russell Twitty, both of Rutherford, sale for \$400 already paid, 150 acres on N side of **Green River** below the mouth of **Walnut Creek**:

Beginning in a **deep hole** in said river at the lower end of the **bent**, then up the p[oint] of the **ridge** towards the **Waggon Road** along said ridge to the boundary line, as was deeded to **Saml. McBrayer** & from there running to the river along the old line, passing part of a tract of land granted to **Jno. Haden**, then across the river to the S bank of the river to a stake, then down the River and including **one half of the Fish trap**, then up the N bank of the river to **Haden Chrishat corner**, then N 112 poles to a hickory, then W 18 poles to an oak, **Twitty's survey**, then S 103 poles on his line crossing the river to a stake, then to the N bank, then up the meanders to the beginning.

Also one other tract of 50 acres on the N side of Green River, joining the above lands:

Beginning at a large R. oak near a large chesnut oak, both marked with M.A. at the road where the above lands & **Allen Twitty's** join, running then E 20 poles to a stake at **Wheeler's corner**, then N 45 E 120 poles to a stake, then W 100 poles to a stake in or near **Allen Twitty's** line, then with said line E 80 poles to the beginning.

Witness: John Black.³⁶¹

COMMENT:

Russell Twitty, married to Polly Mills, was Ambrose Mills' brother-in-law.

20 MAY 1811

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

Jesse Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 24 November 1813 patent as 150 acres in Rutherford County, lying on both sides of **Green River**:

Beginning at a small white oak on the S side of the river on **his own line**, thence with his line S 70 E 84 poles to a red oak by the path side, then S 65 W 134 poles to 3 post oaks, thence S 65 W 45 poles to a stake, thence N 20 W 97 poles to a red oak, thence N 47 E 74 poles crossing the river to a stake, then N 50 poles to a stake, thence E 102 poles to a stake, thence S 20 E 40 poles to the beginning.³⁶²

9 MARCH 1812

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

"John Mills" entered a tract that would be described in its 15 December 1814 patent as 50 acres in Rutherford County "on both sides of **Silver Creek**, below Hills' land."

Beginning at a large black oak near a branch, thence S 75 E 100 poles, crossing the creek to a stake in Hills [*sic*] line, thence N 15 E 80 poles to a stake in his own line of **Hopkins place**, thence with said line N 75 W 100 poles crossing the creek to a stake, thence to the beginning.³⁶³

³⁶¹ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 29-31: 258–59; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517766 > image 134.

³⁶² David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 127:507; citing Rutherford Co. File No. 2889, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.34N, frame 512, State Archives.

³⁶³ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 129:84; citing Rutherford Co. File No. 2949, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.35N, frame 64, State Archives.

COMMENT:

John Mills, Esq. in 1805 bought Silver Creek land at the sheriff's-sale auction of land of one *Hawkins*.

22 MAY 1812

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

"John Mills" entered a tract that would be described in its 15 December 1814 patent as 30 acres in Rutherford County "on the waters of **North Pacolet**, on both sides of Skicuskey? [Skyweeke]."

Beginning at a post oak where his two lines intersects and runs thence with the line of the **round bottom** tract N 48 poles to a pine on **Green or Chisholms** line, thence with said line E 100 poles crossing Skicurkey [?] to a stake, thence S 48 poles to a sourwood bush, his own corner, to the **Henry Tract**, thence with said line W 100 poles to the beginning.

Entered 22 May 1812; issued 15 December 1814.³⁶⁴

COMMENT:

The waters of the North Pacolet was the region in which John Mills, Esq., purchased most of his land; he still held land there at the time of his 1842 will. In January 1821, he patented additional land at Skyweeke.

27 JULY 1812

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

"200 acres on S. side of White Oak, J^{no} [John] Mills."

Entered 27 July 1812; issued 15 December 1814.³⁶⁵

COMMENT:

The John Mills who signed as J^{no} was Col. John, Esq.

The imaged pages do not match the described document. Pages 88–89 are imaged, and the header tells us to look for "number 1953 circled on the left margin of page 89," but the two circled numbers on page 89 are 1988 and 1989. The missing document appears to be this one that I found immediately after another tract issued to John:

"John Mills" also entered this day another tract that would be described in its 15 December 1814 patent as 200 acres in Rutherford County, "on the south side of **White Oak or Mill Creek**, including a shoal on said creek."

Beginning at a pine **Twitney's** corner, thence with **Twitney's** line S 62 E 200 poles to a pine **Twitney's** corner, thence S 62 E 46 poles to a stake on **Camps** line, thence with his line S 10 E 12 poles to a pine on **Camps** line, thence S 60 W 170 poles to a pine, thence S 75 W 100 poles to a stake, thence to the beginning.³⁶⁶

³⁶⁴ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 129:80; citing Rutherford Co. File No. 2943, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.35N, frame 62, State Archives.

³⁶⁵ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 129:89; citing Rutherford Co. File No. 1953, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.35N, frame 66, State Archives.

³⁶⁶ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 129:86; citing Rutherford Co. File No.2952, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.35N, frame 65, State Archives.

13 OCTOBER 1812

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“**John Mills**” entered a tract that would be described in its 15 December 1814 patent as 20 acres in Rutherford County, “on the waters of **Alstons [Ostens] Creek**, Including part of his Improvement at Lodon?”:

Beginning at a B.O. **Hambleton’s corner** about 150 yards from the house at Sodom? and runs thence with Hambleton’s line N 67 W 50 poles to a pine [at] Hambleton’s corner, thence S 30 W 14 poles to a chesnut in the line of his Sodem place, thence with said line S 60 E 100 poles to a stake, thence N 30 E 50 poles to a stake in or near **Cockram’s** line, thence N 50 W 45 poles to a stake in **Hambleton’s** line, thence with his line S 40 W 37 poles to the beginning.³⁶⁷

COMMENT:

- On 10 December 1827, John Mills would enter an additional 50 acres adjoining this tract, described as being on Alston’s Creek and Silver Creek.
- On 18 November 1846, William S. Mills sold this land as executor of his father **Col. John Mills**.

15 JANUARY 1813

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

“**John Mills**” purchased from James Logan, both of Rutherford Co., for 40£ NC money, already paid, 100 acres on Saywikey, waters of **No. Pacolate** adjoining the **Big Bottom**:

Beginning at a poplar, the old original corner, runs then N 104 poles to a stake, then W 160 poles to a white oak, then S 136 poles to a stake or white oak on **Carooths [Carruth’s] line**, then with **Bearden [Bradon]’s line** to the Beginning

Land is known as the **Henry Tract** “as Reference to the original.” Witness: Jas. O. Lewis, J? C. Elliott.³⁶⁸

COMMENT:

The 1842 will of Col. John Mills, Esq., cited lands he had purchased from Bradon and Carruth, as well as other lands on the North Pacolet.

25 OCTOBER 1813

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

“**John Mills**” purchased from Patrick Morrow, both of Rutherford, for **\$900**, 150 acres on S side of **Green River** patented to “French” on 4 March 1780:

Beginning at a Poplar in **Saml. French Senr.** line, running then N 2 E 112 poles to a chesnut, then N 38 E 50 poles to a stake, then N 71 [for] 128 poles to a post oak, then S 2 W 190 poles to a post, thence to the beginning.

Also another 50 acres on S side of Green River patented to **Benjamin Cook** on 18 November 1801:

³⁶⁷ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 129:86; citing Rutherford Co. File No.2952, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.35N, frame 65, State Archives.

³⁶⁸ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 27-28 (Transcribed copy): 27–283; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > images 525–26.

Beginning on a pine by **his old corner** running then W 52 poles to a red oak in **Eastwood's** line, then N 135 poles to a stake in **Waltons** line, then with said line N 50 E 70 poles to a stake in his own line then with his line S 180 poles to the beginning.

Total: 150 acres. Witness: Charles Richardsen.³⁶⁹

COMMENT:

- The value of these two tracts (\$900) strongly suggests that the buyer is John Mills, Esquire, rather than John Mills (x).
- That point is confirmed by the will of Col. John Mills, Esq. in 1842, in which he cites “my *Patrick Murrow* lands.”

30 NOVEMBER 1813

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

Ambrose Mills sells to Samuel Wheeler, both of Rutherford, for \$150 received, 50 acres on N side of **Green River** “joining said Mills’ other land Deed to him from P? Wheeler”:

Beginning at the mouth of the first branch below the **Fish trap** running up said branch to where Wheeler’s upper line crosses the branch, then with or to the upper line of his new entry that joins the old survey to where it strikes the second branch below the **Fish Trap** then down said branch to the river, then up with the river to the Beginning.

Witnesses: Jas. Doyle, Allen Doyle.³⁷⁰

3 JANUARY 1814

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

Ambrose Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 15 December 1814 patent as 40 acres in Rutherford County on the north side of **Green River** on the **Flat Branch**, including **his Mill**.”

Beginning at a post oak in or near his own lines on a **ridge**, NE from the mill near the top of a hill, thence S 70 W 96 poles to a pine, thence S 7 W 36 poles to a p.o. in the forks of the branch, thence S 60 E 44 poles to a white oak, thence E 72 poles to a stake in his own line, thence with his line of his 50 acre tract N 7 W 90 poles to the beginning.

Entered 3 January 1814; issued 15 December 1814.³⁷¹

COMMENT:

- Previous documents placed Ambrose only on “Green River.” This document focuses his location upon the juncture of Green and Flat Branch.
- **Jesse Mills’s land was also at Flat Branch and Green River.**
- Three Mills households remained on the waters of Green River after Maj. William was cut away into Buncombe County: Jesse, Ambrose Jr., and John Mills (x), Ambrose Jr. This proximity explains why the wealthier and literate Ambrose Jr. was regularly involved in the affairs of his cousin John (x).

³⁶⁹ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 27-28 (transcribed copy): 143–44 imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > image 584.

³⁷⁰ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 27-28 (transcribed copy): 306; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > image 670.

³⁷¹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 129:75; citing Rutherford Co. File No. 2935, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.35N, frame 59, State Archives.

2 JANUARY 1815

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“**Col^o John Mills**” entered a tract that would be described in its patent of 29 November 1817 as 100 acres in Rutherford County “on both sides of **Little Creek** on the South side of **N^o Pacolett.**”

Beginning at a W.O. **Robert and Rachael Logan** deed corner by the side of a ridge path leading from **Beardons** [Bradon’s] to the **Dobey** place, then with Robert **Logan’s** line S 62 E 36 poles to a pine on said line, then S 69 poles crossing the **Little Creek** to a black oak **Carruth’s** corner formerly, then E 127 poles to a stake, then S 38 poles to a stake, then W 200 poles to W.O. in **Logan’s** line, then N 20 W 14 poles to a large B & W.O. Bearden’s corner, then N 30 E 68 poles to a pine Bearden’s corner, then N 60 W 145 poles to a stake on the line of the **Big Bottom Tract**, then with said line E 90 poles to a stake corner to the **big bottom tract**, then to the Beginning.³⁷²

COMMENT:

See 7 May 1817 for John’s purchase of land adjoining Logan and Carruth. The 1842 will of Col. John Mills, Esq., cited his “Robert Logan tract” and his “Bradon” and “Corruth” tracts. The 1790 census placed John’s cousin Jesse Mills six dwellings from “Rev. Robt. Caruth.”

21 FEBRUARY 1815

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

Jonathan **Coward**, Peter Coward, James Coward, Stephen Coward, Elihu Coward, David **Cockerham**, Abm. **Shatteen**, Absolom **Shatteen**, Milly Coward, and Rebekah Coward, all of Rutherford Co., to **Benjamin Coward** for \$55, sale of 25 acres in Rutherford “on a Branch that Runs into Green River **above Millses** on the South side of the River on both sides of said Branch being part of a tract granted to **said Macey** [sic]” on 13 August 1779:

Beginning at a black oak running E 40 poles to **Mills’ line**, then with **Mills’ line** S 100 poles to a stake & pointers in **his outside line**, then W 40 [46?] poles to a stake, then N 100 poles to the beginning.

Witnesses: Wm. **Dimpsdale**; John Gragray his **3** mark.³⁷³

COMMENT:

The Mills reference above would appear to cite Jesse:

- 1810 Jesse Mills sold 100 acres to Benjamin Coward on Flat Branch of Green River “not far from his [Jesse’s] new cabbin.”
- 1820 Benjamin Coward was enumerated 5 houses from Jesse Sr.’s son William; and George Dimpsdale was adjacent to Jesse Sr. and Jr.
- 1830 Jesse sold another parcel of his land to Benjamin Coward.

13 MAY 1815

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

Marvel Mills, Esqr. to John Niel, both of Rutherford Co., sale for \$30 already paid, 30 acres being part of

³⁷² David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 131:413; citing Rutherford Co. File No. 3072, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.35N, frame 746, State Archives.

³⁷³ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 27–28: 462–63; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517765 > images 748–49.

an entry made by **Luke Waldrop** 26 December 1807, on W side of Main Road leading through his land:

Beginning at a white oak on the road, Niels line, then with said line to a Spanish oak, Niels corner, then S 37 E 56 poles to a red oak on **Allen Twitty's** line, then S 65 W 34 poles to a red oak on Twitty's line, then N 15 W 46 poles to a stake, then N 40 e 3 poles to a white oak on **Littlejohn's** line, then N 10 W 100 poles to a pine know on **Waldrop's** own line, then S 61 E 28 poles to a poplar, then with Waldrop's old line to the main road, then with said road to the beginning.

Witnesses: John Roddy (s), **John Mills (s)**.³⁷⁴

7 MAY 1817

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

"**John Mills**" bought from Mansfield Braden, both of Rutherford Co., for \$25, 100 acres on the waters of "Packolate":

Beginning at a stake, running thence N 80 poles to a post oak on **Collins line**, then W 100 poles to a P. oak, then S 100 poles to a black oak **Logan's** line., then with sd line E 60 poles to a Spanish oak, then S 54 poles to a hickory, then E 104 poles to a hickory in **Henry's line**, then N 74 poles to a stake on **Collins line**, then with sd line W 64 poles to the beginning.

Originally patented to Shadrack Green 20 November 1800. Witnesses: Jonathan Allison, James Braden.³⁷⁵

COMMENT:

On 2 January 1815, **Col. John Mills** entered land adj. Logan, Braden, and Henry. His will of 1842 also cited his "Bradon tract."

AUGUST 1820

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Census

(p. 352, bottom half)

Lewis, Charles?

Hill, William

Wills, Humprey

Wells, William

Padget, Elias

Kilbreath, Edward

Kilbreath, Daniel

Kilbreath, John

Prator, Thomas

Prator, Amos

Andrews, Benjamin

Bridges, Aaron

Mills, John	1 white male	45+	1 white female	45–	10 in ag
	1 white male	16–25	1 white female	16–25	19 slaves
	2 white males	10–15	1 white female	0–10	
	1 white male	0–10			

³⁷⁴ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 44: 9–10; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > images 10–11.

³⁷⁵ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 29–31 (transcribed copy): 249–50; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517766 > image 129.

COMMENT:

This John, with 19 enslaved people, would be Col. John Mills, Esq., of White Oak Creek.

Barnett, Joseph
 Bowen, Alexander
 Jones, John
 Lewis, John Majr?
 Hudsoph? John
 Williams, Thos.
 Williams, John

(p. 354)

Humphries, James
 Cunningham, Thomas
 McGauchey, Ben
 Mitchel, John
 Hogan, John Snr.
 Edwards, Jessee
 Curtis, Ruth
 Cooper, William
 Freeman, Robertson

Jessee Miles [Jr.]	1 white male	16–25	1 white female	26–44	1 in ag
			4 white females	0–9	
Dimmsdale, George					
Jesse Mills	1 white male	45+	1 white female	45+	3 in ag
	1 white male	16–25	1 white female	16–25	
	1 white male	10–15			

COMMENT:

The Bible pages provided by Jesse’s widow in her pension application do not include children born after 1800. Correlating the two data sets gives us this:

- Nancy, b. 26 October 1787 [now 33; ostensibly married]
- Mary, b. 11 September? 1789 [now 31, ostensibly married]
- William, b. 13 October 1791 [now 29, one William 16-25 is enumerated below]
- [illegible] born 1793
- Sary, 7 March 1795 [now 25, ostensibly the female 15–25]
- Jesse, b. 28 December 1797 [now 23, head of his own household]

The two males aged 10–15 and 16–25 correlate with the two males under 10 in 1810. However, they do not correlate with the Bible pages. Either a page of the Bible was not submitted (or has been lost from the file) or else Jesse and Sarah appear to have grandchildren living with them.

Stice, Philip
 Keith, John
 Shelton, Solomon

(p. 378, bottom half)

Hutchinson, William
 Lankford, Robert

Henderson, Lemuel
 Logan, James Esqr.
 Hobbs, Nathan
 Crumley, Anna
Crumley, John
 King, Robert
 Hannon, Edwin
 Denton, John
Coward, Benjamin
 Brock, George
 Lankford, Nathan
 Coxe, William
 Lankford, John

Mills, William	1 white male	16–25	1 white female	16–26	2 in ag
			4 white females	0–9	1 sl fem

COMMENT:

Four possibilities exist for the father of this William. Jesse, Ambrose Jr., and Col. John, Esq., all had *documented* sons named William. Marvel Mills was also a slaveholder, although no document names his sons. The following points need to be considered:

- Ambrose’s son William E. was much too young to be this William.
- Col. John Esq.’s son William S. remained on the father’s land, and his father is enumerated this year in a different locale.
- Jesse’s son William’s birth is recorded at 1791 in Jesse’s Bible. If the age is accurate above, then he was at least four years younger than Jesse’s son. However:
 - In 1810, Jesse sold 100 acres on Flat Branch to Benjamin Coward; in 1830 he sold Coward another tract, indicating a continuity of residence for Coward at Flat Branch.
 - In 1830, the census places John Crumley (Crumney) 4 houses from Noah, 5 from Jesse Jr., and 6 from Jesse Sr.
 - The location weighs in favor of the above William being Jesse’s son b. 1791. If so, then he died or left Rutherford before 1830.
- William’s age bracket (if correct)—and the fact that he engaged in slavery like Col. John, Ambrose Jr., and Marvel—also leaves Marvel as a potential father.

Identifying this William is further complicated by the 1830 census data that cites a William Mills whose household is not compatible with that above. Three points are germane here:

- The age of William of 1830 (20–30) overlaps that of the William above. Correlated, the two entries present a man born 1800–4. However,
- The 1830 census credits William with 1 male 0–5 and 1 female 0–5. The four females of 1820, would be 10–19 in 1830, are not in the 1830 household.
- The location of the 1830 William is not the same as the 1820 William above.

Brown, Joshua
 Whorly, Thomas
 Shearer, Andrew Junr. & Sr.
 Foster, Daniel

(p. 381)
 Linch, Elias

Mills, Ambrose	1 white male	26–44	1 white female	26–44	10 in ag
	1 white male	16–25	1 white females	0–9	17 slaves
	3 white males	0–9			

Lankford, John
 Childers, Robert
 Friddle, John
 Prince, William
 Turner, Felix
 Whitesides, John

(p. 383)

Williams, Leroy
 Wordy? [Whorly?] Susanna
 Williams, Andrew
 Jackson, Ephraim

COMMENT:

- In 1804, Ephraim Jackson witnessed the sale of land by Marvel Mills to Gabriel Jackson on Green River.
- In 1810, Ephraim Jackson was enumerated 2 houses from Marvel.
- In June 1830, John Mills applied for land on **Bright’s Creek** of Green River adjoining **Ephraim Jackson**.

Moore, John “W. Oak”

COMMENT:

Note on Map 4 that the North Fork of White Oak extends almost to Green River (opposite and between “Roton’s” Creek and Bright’s Creek). The land of Jackson, Moore, and “Marville” Mills, below, would seem to be in this area, above Tryon Mountain.

Mills, Marville	1 white male	45+	1 white female	26–44	8 in ag
	3 white males	16–25	1 white females	10–15	1 in comm.
	2 white males	16–18	1 white female	0–10	16 slaves
	1 white male	10–15			
	4 white males	0–9			

Bird, Nancy	[Nancy Mills m. John Bird]	1 white female	45+	[b. bef. 1775]
		1 white female	10–15	
		2 white females	0–10	

Roddy, John
 McGuinn, Alexander
 Williams, William
 Waldrope, Ezekiel

COMMENT:

On 20 September 1810, Ambrose purchased 150 acres from Ezekiel Waldrop on Green River.

Izzard, Lewis
 Aldridge, Jonathan
 Jackson, Harmon

COMMENT:

In 1830, Harmon Jackson is 3 households from William Mills, aged 20–30, and 5 from Lavender.]

Price, John “mountain”
 Price, Susanna
 Jones, Stephen
 McKinney, James
 Belton, Jesse

(p. 392, bottom half)

Griggs, Burwell
 Grigg, Bowling
 Hamrick, Nathan
 Spicer, M. Widow
 Fraday, William
 Fraday, Ephraim
 Fraday, Charles
 Cross, John [sic]
 Ownsby, Robert
 Jones, Stephen
 Lynch, Laxton
 Quinton, James
 Laughter, Saul [Sam’l?]
 Hill, Harbert
 Jones, Benjamin

Mills, Lavender	1 white male	16–25	1 white female	16–25	2 total
	1 white male	16–18			

Cross, William
 Copeland, William
 Hoats, Lawrence

COMMENT:

- The 1820 census double-counts males 16–18, first in that age bracket and then as 16–25. Lavender’s appearance in both columns asserts that he was 16–18.
- According to the 1850 census, however, Lavender was born c1796–97. It is more credible that Lavender married at 23, than as a boy in the 16–18 age range.
- **The household of Lavender’s father John seems to be missing this year.**

6 JANUARY 1821

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“**John Mills**” entered a tract that would be described in its 29 November 1821 patent as 20 acres in Rutherford County, “on both sides of **Skywekee Creek**, waters of North Pacolet.”

Beginning at a post oak and pine by **his own corner** stake, on the lower line of the **big bottom tract**, thence with his line S 30 E 72 poles to a S. oak in the bent of the river, then with his line N 60 E 40 poles to a walnut his corner, thence with his line N 22 poles to a stake in **Alexander Carruth’s** line, thence with his line to the beginning.³⁷⁶

³⁷⁶ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 134:483; citing Rutherford Co. File No.2952, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.356N, frame 721, State Archives.

COMMENT:

The database's catalog description of this document identifies the waterway as "Skywekee Creek {Skyuks Creek}."

This is Col. John, Esq. As "John Mills" in 1813, he purchased land adjoining "big bottom" and then as "Col. John Mills" in 1815 purchased land adjoining "big bottom."

8 JANUARY 1821

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

"**John Mills**" bought from John Lankford and wife Sarah Silena (x), all of Rutherford, for \$1000, about 190 acres on both sides of **N. Pacolet** River below the **Big Bottom tract**, including all land and improvements known by the name of **Rachel Logan's land**:

Beginning a white oak corner to the **Rock house Tract** by the **ridge path**, then N 64 W 25 poles to a B.O. or chesnut, corner to the **Big Bottom** tract, then with sd. line N 164 poles in crossing the river to a stake & pointers, then S 75 E 80 poles along a **conditional line** between sd land and **Alex Carruth's** land to a chesnut & pointers, then N 15 E 53 poles to a stake, then S 63 E 46 poles to a stake and pointers, then N 40 poles to a stake, then S 65 E 84 poles to a small hickory by a branch, thence S 15 W 80 poles to a O.O., then W 68 poles to a **rock** at the **Rock House**, thence with the line of the **Rock House** tract S 40 E 122 poles to a pine on the **ridge**, the old dividing corner between **Robert & Rachel Logan**, then S 80 W 172 poles crossing the river to the beginning.

Witness: M. A. Alexander.³⁷⁷

COMMENT:

This is Col. John, Esq. His 1842 will mentions his Rock House tract, his "Jack Lankford" tract, and his Logan land.

24 AUGUST 1821

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

"**John Mills**" bought from William Kirkpatrick (x) [Kilpatrick] and wife Mary (x) all of Rutherford, purchase for 50£ current money of NC, 100 acres on S side of Green River adjoining lands belonging to **Umphrey Parris's** tract, **Smith, Thos. Liles & John Mills**:

Beginning on a Lynn in an island of Green River just below the **fish trap**, then S 180 poles to a red oak, then E 180 poles to a stake, then up the river to where it crosses and then to the beginning.

Witnesses: Basel Shaw, **Gavan Mills**.³⁷⁸

COMMENT:

- The presence of Gavan Mills as witness tells us that this was Col. John Mills, Esq., whose will named son Gavan. Col. John's will also mentioned his "Kilpatrick" land.
- Note at 30 November 1813 above that Ambrose Mills, Esq., seemed to own half the Green River fish-trap.

³⁷⁷ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 32-33: 314–15; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517766 > images 461–62.

³⁷⁸ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 32-33: 563–64; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517766 > images 580–81.

7 SEPTEMBER 1821

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“**John Mills**” entered a tract that would be described in its 8 December 1823 patent as 50 acres of land in Rutherford County on the S side of Green River:

Beginning at a pine **Madden’s** corner, thence with his line S 40 poles to a P.O. on **Liles’** line, then E 160 poles to a stake, then N 40 poles to a stake in **Kirkpatrick’s** line, formerly, now John Mills’, then with said line W 150 poles to a chesnut, his corner, then N 180 poles to a sweet gum in the **Island**, his old corner, then W 10 poles to a stake, then with **Madden’s** line S 150 poles to the beginning.³⁷⁹

COMMENT:

- This would be Col. John, Esq., who two weeks earlier bought a Green River tract from Kirkpatrick.
- Rutherford File No. 3310 (the next consecutive number and the next entry in this grant book) assigned to the 8 December 1832 grant of “**Col^o John Mills.**” The sequence continues with No. 3311 issued to “**John Mills.**”
- This John Mills who owned land adjoining Madden entered an additional 50 acres adjoining Madden on 31 October 1834; granted 21 September 1835.

22 OCTOBER 1821

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

John Mills (x) to William Williams, sale for \$50, 50 acres described as

beginning at a post oak, runing thence down to head of the **spring branch**, thence with sd branch & by a persimon crossing the creek to a pine, then nearly an E course to the **ridge path** to a red oak, then S to a Spanish oak, thence SW to a chesnut, then W to a Spanish oak, then crossing the creek & up the “pount” of a **ridge** with the markers to a black oak, then to the beginning.

Witnesses: *James Gibbs*, **Lavender Mills**. Recorded 2 January 1822.³⁸⁰

COMMENT:

No acquisition has been found that matches the details of this tract of land.

Re William Williams:

The 1820 census enumerates three men of that name in Rutherford. In all three entries, the head-of-household is said to be over the age of 45; none of the households were in the neighborhood of this John Mills.

In 1830, only one William Williams is enumerated in Rutherford: a man 70–80, with a female 60–70, and a male 10–15. The family lived about 100 households from the John-Lavender-Calvin Mills cluster. Their own census cluster was as follows:

³⁷⁹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 23 August 2021), imaging Book 135:469; citing Grant 3273, NC State Archives microfilm S.108.160.37N.

³⁸⁰ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 23 August 2021), imaging Book 135:469; citing Grant 3273, NC State Archives microfilm S.108.160.37N.

Gibbs, John
Williams, William
Edwards, John
Ferguson, Milley
Dimsdale, George
Hicks, Mary
Payne, William
Ruffe, George
Mills, Jesse Sr.

This William Williams did not occupy the land that John Mills carved out of his farmstead. Instead, he installed there his son **Walter Williams**. On 22 August 1823, William conveyed the land to Walter (see that date below) and the 1830 census places Walter in the John-Calvin-Lavender Mills cluster. For William’s paternity of Walter, see the abstract of William’s will under 6 August 1834, below.

The 1830 census portrays the Walter Williams household as that of a young couple in their 20s, with 5 children under the age of ten. Surviving marriage records report that Walter Williams wed “Milly Green” by bond dated 25 December 1821, with Elijah Searcy as bondsman and Wm. Richardson as J.P.³⁸¹

Walter and Milly’s choice of the John Mills farm is not explained. No kinship is obvious through the Mills side. However, the couple would eventually move to adjacent Henderson Co. where the 1870 census³⁸² places Walter amid numerous offspring of the 1780–1800 Rutherford settler James Stepp whose wife is alleged to be a daughter of William “English Billy” Mills.

Meanwhile, Lavender Mills—son of John Mills (x)—is *said* by various online trees to have married one Phalby **Williams**. No evidence is provided by those who make this assertion. The only known record for her, the 1850 census, identifies her only as “Phalby.”

17 NOVEMBER 1821
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“**John Mills**” entered a tract of land that would be described in its 8 December 1823 patent as 75 acres in Rutherford County on the S side of **White Oak**:

Beginning at a pine, then N 65 W 200 poles to a pine, then N 25 E 60 poles to a stake in his own **old line**, thence with his line S 65 E 200 poles to a stake in **Stephen Camp’s** line, then with his line S 25 W 60 poles to the beginning.³⁸³

COMMENT:

This John of Pacolet River’s White Oak Creek was Col. John Mills, Esq.

³⁸¹ “North Carolina, U.S., Marriage Records, 1741–2011,” database with images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/60548/images/42091_342727-00347 : 22 April 2022) > Rutherford > Marriage Bonds-Abstracts (1782–1867) > image 348; the depicted image displays, not the originals, but a page from “Rutherford County, North Carolina, Marriage Bonds” (Typescript, Genealogical Society of Utah, 1943), p. 337.

³⁸² 1870 U.S. census, Henderson County, NC, pop. sch., p. 237, Blue Ridge Township, dwelling/family 151. Stepps are in household 149, 152–53, 155, 158, 163, 165, 176.

³⁸³ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 23 August 2021), imaging Book 135:469; citing Grant 3273, NC State Archives microfilm S.108.160.37N.

25 NOVEMBER 1822

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

“John Mills” from Samuel Young, both of Rutherford County, purchase for \$800 already paid, land “whereon James Young’s Mill stands ... on both sides of **White Oak Creek**, containing by estimation 200 acres, included in two surveys as bounded as follows:

1st one hundred on both sides of **Whiteoak Creek** adjoining to land of **James Capshaw** including a shoal & its improvements

Beginning at a chestnut on **Capshaw’s** line, runing thence N 65 W 136 poles to a PO, then S 25 W 134 poles to a pine, then S 65 E 120 poles to a chesnut, then with Capshaw’s line N 25 E 134 poles to the Beginning

Also the other 100 acres on both sides of **Whiteoak Creek**, including a large Shoal known by the name of the Big Mill Shoal,

Beginning at a PO, **Wadlington’s** corner, then N 83 W 126 poles to a chesnut near **Daniel Brown’s** corner, then with Brown’s line S 129 poles xing the creek to a hictory, then to the Beginning.

The said two tracts are joining. Witnesses: Frs. Alexander, **George R. Mills**. Filed 4 February 1823, No. 179.³⁸⁴

COMMENT:

Col. John Mills, Esq., of Whiteoak, named son George in his will.

20 DECEMBER 1822

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“Col^o John Mills” entered a tract of land that would be described in its 8 December 1832 patent as 130 acres in Rutherford County on the N side of **Pacolet**:

Beginning at a pine, the dividing corner between **Robert and Rachael Logan’s land** by a path on a ridge, then N 35 W 78 poles to a stake, then E 21 poles to a large pine **Eleazar Smith’s** corner, then E 160 poles to a hictory, Smith’s corner, then N 35 E 9 poles to a large pine on **Hobbs’s** line, then S 26 poles to a hictory, Hobbs’s corner, then with his line S 45 E 57 poles to a maple, Hobbs’ corner, then S 16 E 12 poles to a Spanish oak, Hobbs’ corner, then E 91 poles to a black gum, Hobbs’ corner, then S 42 E 11 poles to a P.O. sapling, then S 12 E 12 poles to a stake, then S 63 E 40 poles to a B.O. **Logan’s** and Hobbs’ corner, then with Logan’s line W 127 poles to a chesnut, then S 20 poles to a stake, then W 30 poles to a pine, **Mills’s own corner**, thence with his line N 40 poles to a chesnut, Mills’s corner, then W 40 poles to a stake, Mills’s corner by the **Waggon Road**, thence S 5 poles to a B.O., Mills’s corner, then with his line W 90 poles to a hictory and P.O., Mills’s corner, then S 13 poles to a pine, his corner, then N 35 W to the beginning.”³⁸⁵

³⁸⁴ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 34: 119–207; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517767 > images 64–65.

³⁸⁵ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 135:469; citing Grant 2375, NC State Archives.

COMMENT:

Col. John Mills, Esq., made a number of other purchases and sales after this point. To curtail the scope of this project, I will note only those that have bearing on his identity.

22 AUGUST 1823

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

William Williams to Walter Williams for \$125, 50 acres on **Rotten' Creek** of Green River:

Beginning at a post oak, running down the **head of the spring branch** and with sd. Branch by a persimon crossing the creek to a pine, then nearly an E course to the **ridge path** to a red oak, then S to a Spanish oak, then SW to a chesnut, then W to a Spanish oak, then crossing the creek & up the front of a **ridge** with the markers to a black oak, then to the beginning.

Witnesses: Jas. Gibbs, Jane Gibbs. Filed 21 May 1827, No. 126.³⁸⁶

11 FEBRUARY 1825

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

John Mills (x) to Lavender Mills, sale for \$30, 50 acres on the head of **Rotten's Creek** of Green River, described as

Beginning at a post oak in the N side of sd creek in or near & above John Mills' old line, runing S 57 W 114 poles to a white oak, then N 33 W 24 poles to a hicory, then S 33 W 40 poles to a hicory at a branch, then S 33 E 150 poles to a stake, then to beginning.

"Tract is part of a tract granted by patent to **Tench Coxe** and conveyed by him to the sd John Mills."

Witness: **A. Mills**. Recorded 19 May 1825.³⁸⁷

COMMENT:

- Online trees present a "Tench Francis Coxe" b. 1912 to Otis Mills Cox (b. 20 August 1864 in Philadelphia), son of Franklin Coxe and **Mary Mitilda Mills** (b. 22 October 1839; d. 27 November 1914, Rutherford Co.), daughter of Otis Prentis Mills (1805–1844, parents unknown) and Rachel Rebekah Carson.³⁸⁸ No evidence is cited for the relationships.
- The 1800 census has only one householder in U.S. named Tench Cox: Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania (p. 39): male 45+, female 26-45, with 12 youth in household. In 1790 Tench Cox, with compatible data, was in Philadelphia (p. 23, West side of Second Street). 1810 Philadelphia: T. S. and T. W. Cox (pp. 608, 658). 1820 Philadelphia: Tench (p. 332, penned) and Tench (p. 232, stamped)
- The Rutherford grantor index shows Coxes named Abraham, Grace, Green, James, John, John H., Lettice, Priscilla, Reubin, Susanah, and Thomas—but no Tench Coxe. The transaction by which John Mills (x) bought land from Tench Coxe is indexed under the name of Coxe's agent.

16 JULY 1823

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage bond.

³⁸⁶ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 36: 78; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517767 > image 368.

³⁸⁷ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 35:40; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517767 > image 209.

³⁸⁸ For example see, Halpreet, "Ancestors of Harold Prestridge," user contributed tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/17839226/person/29797992307/facts>), "Mary Mitilda Mills" Facts page.

“Nesbitt, James & **Narcissa Bird**, 16 Jul 1823; **Ambrose Mills**, bm.”³⁸⁹

1 AUGUST 1826

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage bond.

“Camp, Joseph T. & **Harriet Mills**; Stephen Camp, bm.”³⁹⁰

COMMENT:

Harriet Mills was the daughter of Col. John Mills, Esq.

18 OCTOBER 1826

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land grant.

“**John Mills**” entered a tract of land this day that would be patented on 29 December 1827 to “**John Mills (little)**.” That document identifies it as 50 acres of land in Rutherford County, on both sides of **Rotten’s Creek of Green River**:

Beginning at a B.O. and P.O. thence S 20 E 36 poles to a P.O. then S 53 E 46 poles to a S.O., then S 44 E 32 poles to a S.O. then S 70 E 12 poles to a P.O. [at] **Williams’** corner of his entry, thence with his line N 74 E 135 poles crossing the creek to a S.O. then N 20 W 40 poles to a P.O., then S 60 W 64 poles to a P.O. on Mills’s **own old line, Williams’s** beginning corner, then S 7 W 48 poles to a P.O., the old corner, then with the old line W 50 poles crossing the creek to a stake Mills’s old corner, then **N 30 W 178** poles to a stake, then to the beginning.³⁹¹

COMMENT:

- The appellation “Little” is not one by which John identified himself. It does not appear on the survey warrant made in response to his land entry at the courthouse or on the Comptroller’s receipt for John’s “purchase-money.” It appears on the survey itself—i.e., an identifier used by the surveyor Francis Alexander—and was copied from there onto the patent by the state land office in Raleigh.
- The survey warrant dated 28 January 1827 states the land “joins lines of **James McKinney**, his own [John’s own], and Walter Williams.”³⁹² McKinney is omitted from the survey.
- John has obtained a tract adjacent to the land entered by Maj. William Mills in 1784 on Rotten’s Creek (which William did not have surveyed or patented until 1808). **Note that one of the survey calls in the new grant matches one line of the 1808 survey in which John is cited:**

Beginning at a black gum and pointers on **Gilbert’s old line**, thence S 30 E 80 poles to two white oakes, thence S 7 W 110 poles to a Spanish oak black oak one post oak, thence W 50 poles to a stake, thence **N 30 W 178 poles to the corner of the 50 acre tract John Mills got from Fisher**, then N 33 W 60 poles to the beginning of said tract,

³⁸⁹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 115.

³⁹⁰ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 21.

³⁹¹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 23 August 2021), imaging Book 137:282–83; citing Grant 3464 NC State Archives.

³⁹² “North Carolina, U.S., Land Grant Files, 1693–1960,” database with images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/60621/images/44173_355856-00829 : 24 August 2021) > Rutherford > > 3327-3562 > image 829 of 1416.

thence N 47 E 72 poles to a large black oak, thence SE 18 poles to a Spanish oak in the old line, thence S 8 E 80 poles to a stake, the old corner, thence with the other old line N 82 E 30 poles to the beginning.

The new grant appears to adjoin the 1784 tract along that N 30 W 178 poles line. John's Tench Coxe land adjoined Maj. William Mills' tract on a different side. As seen when John Mills conveyed land to Lavender Mills, that land was also said to lie on **Gilbert's old line**.

Overall:

- John Mills (x) in 1821 sold William Williams 50 acres "crossing the creek" and along a "pount of a ridge" but the creek was not named and the deed carried no metes to match with the document above.
- When John (x) sold Lavender part of his land in 1825, the land description did carry metes as well as bounds, but none of the calls matched the 1826 grant above.
- When John (x) gave land to Calvin Garrett in 1829, the land description carried metes and bounds that matched Lavender's land.
- The tract referenced by William Mills's 1808 survey ("50 acre tract John Mills got from Fisher") is the tract otherwise described as a purchase from Tench Coxe. Peter Fisher acted on behalf of Coxe in that transaction.

13 MARCH 1837

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land survey.

"Survey for John Mills (little)" 50 acres in Rutherford County on both sides of **Rotten Creek of Green River** described as

Beginning at a B.O. and P.O. thence S 20 E 36 poles to a P.O., then S 53 E 46 poles to a S.O., then S 44 E 30 poles to a L.O., then S 70 E 12 poles to a B.O. **William's Corner** of his Entry, then with his line N 74 E 135 poles crossing the Creek to a S.O., then N 20 W 40 poles to a B.O., then S 60 W 64 poles to a P.O. on **Mills' own old line**, Williams' Beginning corner, then S 7 W 48 poles to a P.O., the **old Corner**, then with the **Old linen** West 40 poles crossing the creek to a stake **Mills's Old Corner**, then N 30 W 170 poles to a stake, then to the beginning.

Chain carriers: **Ambrose Mills, Lavender Mills**. Signed: Fs. Alexander D.S.³⁹³

³⁹³ "North Carolina, U.S., Land Grant Files, 1693–1960," database with images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : 24 August 2021) > Rutherford > > 3327-3562 > image 831 of 1416.

By Release of a
Warrant 1825
the 18th day of October 1824

Survey of the John Mills (Celle) fifty acre tract
in Rutherford County, situated on both sides of Cotton
Creek. Beginning at a B.O. & P.O. thence
South Twenty East Three Six poles to a P.O. thence
South fifty three East forty six poles to a P.O. thence
South forty four East Thirty two poles to a P.O. thence
South Twenty East Twelve poles to a B. J. Williams
Corner of his early thence with his line North Seventy
four East one hundred & thirty poles to the
Creek to a S.O. thence North Twenty West forty poles
to a B.O. thence South Sixty six West four poles to a
P.O. on Mills own old line Williams Beginning corner
thence South West forty eight poles to a P.O. the old
Corner thence with the old line West fifty poles to the
Creek to a State Mills old corner thence
North Thirty six West poles to a State thence to the
Beginning the 13th day of March 1827.

Andrew Mills
Lawson Mills
James

10 DECEMBER 1827

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry & grant.

“**John Mills**” entered a tract that was described in its 20 November 1829 patent as 50 acres of land in Rutherford County on the waters of **Silver Creek** and **Alston’s Creek**:

Beginning at a stake his corner to his 20-acre tract, then N 50 W 45 poles to a stake, his corner, on **Hambleton’s** line, then with Hambleton’s line N 40 E 90 poles to a stake on **Miller’s** line, then S 50 E 75 poles to a stake in or near **Wm. Thompson’s** line, then S 40 W 135 poles to a stake in **Cochram’s** line, then N 60 W 20 poles to a stake, his corner to his 20-acre tract, then with said line N 30 W 50 poles to the beginning.³⁹⁴

COMMENT:

The grantor was **Col. John Mills**. The land was sold 18 November 1846 by William S. Mills acting as executor of his father Col. John.

15 FEBRUARY 1828

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

Ambrose Mills to **Benjamin Coward**, both of Rutherford, sale for \$7.00, 10 acres on N side of Green River in Rutherford:

Beginning on a maple on the S side of a branch on said **Mills’ line**, then S with sd line until it strikes said **Cowards** own line, then E with his line to a branch, then up the branch of a long conditional line to the beginning.

Signed: **A. Mills**. Witnesses: **William Mills**, John Skipper (x).³⁹⁵

COMMENT:

- 1810: Benjamin Coward bought 100 acres from Jesse Mills on Flat Branch.
- 1815: BC bought other Coward land adjoining “Mills.”
- 1820: BC is 6 houses from William Mills, near Ed Hannon.
- 1832: Col. John Mills, Esq. sold land adjacent to Hannon.
- 1840: BC is enumerated adjacent to Jesse Mills Sr.

15 MAY 1828

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

Deed Book 1, page 256, 15 May 1828, Buncombe County, **William Mills** to Asa Edney, 50 acres at mouth of Little Clear Creek. {Area later became Henderson County}.³⁹⁶

COMMENT:

Asa Edney was married to Sarah Mills, daughter of William.

³⁹⁴ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 23 August 2021), imaging Book 138:174; citing Grant 3467, NC State Archives.

³⁹⁵ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 44: 274–75; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > image 144.

³⁹⁶ Marshall Styles, “Henderson County, NC – Wills – Asa & Sarah Mills Edney Estate, Part 2,” *USGenweb Archives* (<http://files.usgwarchives.net/nc/henderson/wills/edney12.txt> : accessed 27 June 2015), citing Deed Book 1, page 256, Buncombe County.

10 JULY 1828

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage bond.

“King, Jonas & **Jane Mills**, 10 July 1828; Noah King, bm.”³⁹⁷

COMMENT:

Jane was the daughter of Ambrose Mills, Esq. (Ambrose Jr.) and was named in his will.

11 JULY 1829

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry & grant.

“**Jesse Mills**” entered a tract that was described in its 22 December 1831 patent as 42 acres in Rutherford County on the waters of **Green River**:

Beginning at two Black Gums on **his own old line & Noah Mills** by the conditional corner on the E side of **Jas. Allen’s Still House Branch**, thence S 20 E 44 poles to a pine by a Branch, thence S 70 W 24 poles to a pine, thence S 30 W 22 poles to a poplar & White Oak on **James Allen’s line**, thence with his line W 126 poles to a Black Oak on said line, thence N 22 poles to a stake in **George Dinsdale’s line**, thence with said line & his own line N 70 E 152 poles to the Beginning.

Entered 11 July 1829; issued 22 December 1831.³⁹⁸

COMMENT:

This Noah Mills should be one of the males in Jesse’s household who was born after 1800 and not named on the surviving Bible pages. The index to deeds does not have an earlier land purchase by Noah, which suggests that Noah has obtained a grant or that Jesse has split his land with him.

17 OCTOBER 1829

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Donation of land.

John Mills (x) to **Calvin Garrett** [Calvin Garrett Mills] sale “for the consideration of the Servises Done for the said John Mills by the said Calvin Garrett,” conveys “fifty acres more or less” on **Rotton’s Creek** of Green River:

Beginning at a black gum and pointers on **Gilberts’ old line**, thence S 30 E to the conditional line between the said John Mills & **Lavender Mills** to the old line, then with the old line to the beginning, the black gum & pointers.

“Said John Mills keeps the said land During his life & at his Death the said Calvin Garret or his heirs takes possession.” Witness: John Cave. Filed 20 March 1830.³⁹⁹

COMMENT:

This is a deed typically made by an aging man to a child who has agreed to take care of him until death.

³⁹⁷ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 84.

³⁹⁸ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 139:406; citing Rutherford Co. File No.3638, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.38N, frame 463, State Archives.

³⁹⁹ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 37–38:116; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517768 > image 64.

John Mills (x) bought this land on 4 May 1808 from John Mills, Esquire. (Deed Book 24-26: 265)

30? JANUARY 1868

POLK COUNTY, NC

Sale of land.

William A. Mills to Jacob Jackson, both of Polk. Sale for \$154.50 in hand paid, 50 acres more or less on Rotten Creek, both sides of creek, described as

Beginning on a Spanish oak at the **Cross Path** and running with said path through said **lane** to a poplar at the head of **John Mills’ lane**, thence to the head of a branch to a **conditional line** between **Williams** & said Mills, Crossing Said creek with a **Conditional line** to the aforesaid John Mills’ old line, to a Red oak, thence north? to the beginning.

Signed: Wm. A. Mills. Witnesses: Nisbet Dimsdale, Wm. R. Jackson. Proved in court 15? July 1882? by witness N. Dimsdale.

16 JANUARY 1830

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

“Garrot, William & Nancy Spicer, 16 Jan 1830; **Ambrose Mills**, bm.”⁴⁰⁰

1 JUNE 1830

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Census.

(p. 520)

Bigham, John

Hyder, Benjn. Sr.

Bagwell, Drury

McFaddin, John

Bagwell, John

Mills, John Jr.	1 white male	30–39	1 white female	30–39	0 slaves
	1 white male	20–29			

COMMENT:

This “John Mills Jr.” should be the son of Marvel who on 13 August of this year served as surety for the marriage bond of Paul H. Young to Marvel’s daughter Penelope E. Mills.

Butler, William Sr.

Mosley, David

John, James

Hester, John

Little, Ambrose

(p. 527)

Cockrum, Mary

Jackson, Gabriel, David & Reuben

Waldrop, William

Jackson, Harman

Morris, Mary & John

Williams, Walter

⁴⁰⁰ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 48

Mills, William	1 white male	20–29	1 white female	20–29	0 slaves
	1 white male	0–5	1 white female	0–5	

COMMENT:

This William’s location on the unalphabetized census suggests that he is a son of John Mills (x) or else has married a daughter of John Mills (x). Three other points are relevant here:

- The fact that this William did not receive land from John, as Lavender and Calvin did, weighs in favor of him being a son-in-law.
- The marriage of a daughter of John to a son of Ambrose (whose offspring by his first wife are not identified in any known record) would also explain the repeated presence of Ambrose Mills in the life of John and his sons.

Constant, William

Mills, Lavender	1 white male	30–39	1 white female	20–29	0 slaves
	2 white males	5–9			
	2 white males	0–5			

Mills, John	1 white male	60–69	1 white female	50–59	0 slaves
			1 white female	30–39	
			1 white female	10–14	

Mills, Calvin [Garret]	1 white male	20–29	1 white female	20–29	0 slaves
	2 white males	0–5	1 white female	0–5	

COMMENT:

In 1829 John Mills gave 50 acres of his homelace to “Calvin Garrett” (the name “Mills” was not appended to him in the deed) in exchange for services promised him. Calvin Garrett does not otherwise appear on the 1830 census. No “Calvin Mills” appears Rutherford in 1840 or 1850.

Between 1835 and 1840, Calvin Mills moved to Cherokee County, GA, where he was enumerated (see 1840 below). In 1850 the census taker found him in neighboring Lumpkin Co., where he married a second wife that year: Margaret Jackson. Enumerated adjacent to him in 1850 was his apparent son: Adolphus. (Only one other Adolphus has been found amid the Rutherford Millses, a son born c1815 to Marvel Mills, the second son of Maj. William Mills.

Ruffe, Enoch
 Kilpatrick, Joseph
 Young, Asey
 Latter, Joseph W.
 McGuison, William

(p. 529)

Alexander, Francis
 Tenison, Micajah
 Williams, Thomas
 Williams, Sealy
 Burnett, Lowry

Mills, William	1 white male	30–39	1 white female	30–39	4 slaves
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COMMENT:

- The fact that this William holds 4 slaves suggests that he is the son of Col. John, Ambrose, or Marvel. The age and household data does not match that of Ambrose’s son William E. Mills and his location does not match that of Col. John, whose son William S. stayed on the family land. That would leave only Marvel as a possible father.
- Note the presence of Andrew Shearer below. In 1820, Andrew Shearer was three households from William Mills, a young slaveholding male, aged 18–25 with an inferred wife and three daughters 0–9.
- If the William of 1830 is the William of 1820, then the other members of his household appear to be missing. No children in the household of a couple in their thirties is not common.

Hasty, Mark
 Liles, Thomas
 Shearer, Andrew
 Shearer, Alexander
 Fugares? Henry

(p. 531)

Gibbs, John
Williams, William
 Edwards, John
 Ferguson, Milley
 Dimsdale, George
 Hicks, Mary
 Payne, William
 Ruffe, George

Mills, Jesse Sr.	1 white male	70–79	1 white female	60–69	0 slaves
			1 white female	30–39	
Skipper, John					
Mills, Jesse Jr.	1 white male	30–39	1 white female	30–39	0 slaves
	1 white male	5–9	3 white females	10–14	
	1 white male	0–5	2 white females	5–9	
Mills, Noah	1 white male	20–29	1 white female	15–19	1 slave fem
	1 white male	0–5	1 white female	0–5	

Butta_, Hinchin
 Henderson, Moses
 Kimmins, Thos.
 Crumney, John
 Hurley, James
 [skip 4]
Earle, Aspasia Agent
 [skip 4]
 Freeman? Roberson

COMMENT:

In 1832 John Mills (s) sold Aspasia Earle 100 acres on N side of North Pacolet, adjoining John Benson and Elizabeth Carles [Earles?], citing it as “part of Edwin Hannon’s Plantation where he

died.⁴⁰¹

(p. 532)

Lewis, John Sr.
Owen, Hampton
Greenway, William
McAbee, Wiley
Waldrop, Edmd.

Mills, Jesse Jr.	1 white male	30–39	1 white female	30–39	0 slaves
	1 white male	5–9	4 white females	10–14	
	1 white male	0–5	2 white females	5–9	

Pender, Hezekiah
Forster, David
Harris, John W.
Ezell, Lewis
Owen, James

(p. 534)

Owensly, Ambrose
Gilliam, Minyard
Souther, Joshua
Gilliam, Harris

Mills, John Sr.	1 white male	50–59	1 white female	40–49	23 slaves
	1 white male	20–29	1 white female	15–19	
	1 white male	15–19	1 free col. fem.	10–23	

COMMENT:

This slaveholding John was Col. John.

King, James
Doggett, George, William, Susannah
McDanal, Reuben
Sutton Jr., William
Butler, Othnial
Wadkins, Ambrose
Sutton, Robt

(p. 535)

Hinson, Benjn. R.
Splawn, Nancy
Robbins, Joseph
Roberson, Tennsen
Roberson, Permelia

Mills, Ambrose	1 white male	50–59	1 white female	40–49	16 slaves
	1 white male	15–19	1 white female	5–9	
	2 white males	10–15			

COMMENT:

Ambrose's household has unidentified children. His will names three children:

⁴⁰¹ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 37-38: 510–11; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517768 > image 219.

- **Jane married Jonas King, 10 July 1828** (see that date); thus, she is not in this household.
- **William E.** was an adult in 1834 when he served as a bondsman for the marriage of Elizabeth Mills to Hosea J. Dean (see that date). The 1850 census places his birth at 1813–14; thus, he should be the male in the 1830 household above.
- **Mary Amanda married Adolphus Mills** about 1840; thus, she could be the female 5–9 in 1830.

The two white males 10–15 would appear to be the children of Ambrose’s second wife. At their marriage in 1824, she was called *Mrs. Nancy Jones*.

Dimsdale, Winniford
 Lincy, Elias
 Meleny? Anderson
 Whiteside, John Sr.
 Cockerham, Charles
 Linch, Norman
 Littlejohn, Francis A.
 Walker, Martin
 McClure, Mary
 Edwards, Sealy
 Blalock

Mills, Marvel	1 white male	50–59	1 white female	40–49	10 slaves
	1 white male	15–19	1 white female	20–29	
	1 white male	10–14	1 white female	15–19	
	2 white males	5–9	1 white female	0–5	
			(9 free colored persons)		

Peoples, George
 West, Charles
 Lilly, Susanah

(pp. 540–41)
 Champion, John
 Parker, Elis
 Edwards, Wesley
 Coward, Benjn. Chisteen

Mills, Ambrose Jr.	1 white male	20–29	1 white female	20–29	0 slaves
	1 white male	0–5			

COMMENT:

- No parents have been proved for this “Ambrose Jr.” Researchers occasionally propose that he was one of the two males born 1800–5 to Marvel (cited on 1810 census as born 1800–10; cited in 1820 as 1800–05). However, Ambrose is considerably removed from Marvel on this census. His economic status is also significantly below that of Marvel and Marvel’s children.
- The age of this Ambrose Jr. (born c1803–4 according to the 1850 census) suggests that he may be one of the males of that age in Jesse’s 1810 household.

- The 5 February 1873 will of this Ambrose Mills (whose wife was named Phalby) places his land along **Potter's Creek** on S side of Green River.⁴⁰²
- The only Mills previously placed along Potter's Creek was John-of-Ambrose who held land there from 1797–1804. He, too, named a son Ambrose; but his Ambrose was enumerated this year in Todd County, KY.

Metcalf, Warner
Weathers, Willis
Scoggin, Joseph
McFaddin, Alexander
Grant, Andrew

28 JUNE 1830

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry & grant.

"John Mills" entered a tract of land that would be described on its 12 December 1832 patent as 420 acres in Rutherford county on **Brights Creek**,

Beginning at a pine **Gabriel Jackson's** corner, then N 40 W 26 poles to a pine **Ephram Jackson's** corner, then N 20 E 42 poles to a poplar, Jackson's corner, then N 36 E 20 poles to a spruce pine, Jackson's corner, then N 40 E 18 poles to a pine, then N 22 poles to a white Oak, on the **speculation line**, then with said line S 87 E 226 poles to a stake on **James Blackwell's** line, then with his line S 45 W 36 poles to a black oak, Blackwell's corner, then with his line S 45 E 80 poles to a pine, thence S 45 E 80 poles to a stake on Blackwell's line, then with his line S 40 W 240 poles to a stake, then W 70 poles to a stake, then N 60 poles to a stake on Gabriel Jackson's line, then with his line E 40 poles to a poplar, Jackson's corner, then with his line N 150 poles to a stake, Jackson's corner, then with his other line W 160 poles to the beginning.⁴⁰³

COMMENT:

This John of Bright's Creek appears to have been the young John Mills Jr., enumerated as 30–39 on the August 1830 census—and the "John Mills Jr." who served two months later as the surety for the marriage bond of Marvel Mills' daughter. This assignment is based upon the following:

- Neither the survey nor the survey warrant issued that same day, nor any other document in the land grant file used the appendage "Little" for this claimant, even though the surveyor was the same man who added it three years earlier to John (x)'s Rotten's Creek land.⁴⁰⁴
- The acreage (420 acres) differs radically from the land-acquisition pattern of John Mills (x), who bought his land in increments of 44 to 50 acres. The significantly large size of this grant would be compatible with the economic status of Marvel's son.

Also for consideration and correlation:

⁴⁰² "North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665–1998," database with images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/004779894_00032 : accessed 30 August 2022) > Polk > Record of Wills, 1855–1909 > image 32 of 631.

⁴⁰³ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 23 August 2021), imaging Book 140:188; citing Grant 3646, NC State Archives.

⁴⁰⁴ "North Carolina, U.S., Land Grant Files, 1693–1960," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : 24 August 2021) > Rutherford > > 3563–3811 > image 689 of 1463.

- 1804, Gabriel Jackson bought from Marvel Mills, land on Bright’s Creek described as “including a Cabbin where **Jas. Step** formerly lived.” James Step was the brother-in-law of Jesse Mills.
- 1806, Gabriel Jackson witnessed deed of William and Eleanor Mills.

The Jacksons appear on the 1810–1830 censuses in the following clusters:

- 1810: Ephraim is 15 houses from Major William Mills in Buncombe Co.
- 1820: Ephraim is 2 houses from Marvel Mills (son of Major William) in Rutherford.
- 1830: (the time of this land grant) Gabriel is 5 houses from the Lavender–John–young William Mills cluster in Rutherford.

Re James Blackwell:

John (x)’s son Calvin, after he removed to Georgia with (presumably) at least one other Rutherford family, married Marguerite *Jackson*. The surviving record places that marriage in 1850. However, genealogical constructions of Calvin’s family assert that his first son, born 1823, was named William *Jackson* Mills. If accurate, the assignment of that name to the 1823 son implies that Calvin’s first wife was also a Jackson.

Regarding possibilities for the individuals who would have moved from Rutherford to Georgia with Calvin, research might begin with James Blackwell—named as a neighbor in the document above. The 1840 census of Cherokee County, Georgia, enumerates one James Blackwell one page before Calvin’s household.

13 AUGUST 1830

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage bond.

“Young, Paul H. & **Penelope E. Mills**, 13 Aug 1830; **John Mills Jr.**, bm.”⁴⁰⁵

COMMENT:

Penelope was a daughter of Marvel. The John who served as surety for their marriage bond would seem to be one of Marvel’s two sons born 1805–10 who have not yet been identified.

24 AUGUST 1830

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage announcement.

“Married in this county, on Tuesday, the 24th ult., *Mr. Paul Young* of **Greenville, S.C.** to **Miss Penelope Mills**, daughter of **Marvel Mills, Esq.**” Published 3 September 1830.⁴⁰⁶

11 JANUARY 1831

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage bond.

“Sanders, Ruben & Mary Blackwell, 11 Jan 1831; **Ambrose Mills**, bm.”⁴⁰⁷

⁴⁰⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 85.

⁴⁰⁶ Helen M. Lu and Gwen B. Neumann, *North Carolina Spectator and Western Advertiser (1830–1835); Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts* (Dallas: Lu & Neumann, 1982), 8.

⁴⁰⁷ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 167.

13 JULY 1831

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage bond.

“Young, James L. & Elvira Laughter, 133 Jul 1831; **Ambrose Mills**, bm.”⁴⁰⁸

4 JUNE 1831

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Newspaper notice.

“Dr. O. P. Mills. Having located himself at Rutherfordton, tenders his professional service to the citizens of the village and its vicinity. He would add, that having had considerable experience in private as well as public practice, he hopes to receive a liberal share of patronage. His office will be kept in a front room of *R. C. Twitty’s* Hotel. **Otis P. Mills**, Rutherfordton, June 4 1831.”⁴⁰⁹

COMMENT:

He is identified as Otis Prentice Mills in the 1924 death certificate of his son Joseph Carson Mills.⁴¹⁰ As Otis P. Mills, he posted bond to marry Rachel Carson, 28 November 1833, Rutherford Co., with Thomas Dews Jr. as bondsman.⁴¹¹ His tombstone cites his birth at 22 March 1805 and his death at 4 March 1844.⁴¹²

This young man who has just set up professional practice fits only into the parental household of the prosperous, slaveholding, Marvel Mills, Esq. Marvel, who also had a son who went into professional practice as a lawyer, has an otherwise unidentified son born 1805–10. That age span is appropriate. In his place and time, young doctors did not normally go to medical school; instead, they trained under a licensed physician. The “considerable experience” he references would appear to be that experienced under his tutelage.

20 NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 1831

YORK COUNTY, SC

⁴⁰⁸ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 85.

⁴⁰⁹ Helen M. Lu and Gwen B. Neumann, *North Carolina Spectator and Western Advertiser (1830–1835); Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts* (Dallas: Lu & Neumann, 1982), 73.

⁴¹⁰ State of NC, Standard certificate of Death, Burke County Register No. 7 (1924) Joseph Carson Mills, son of Otis Prentice Mills and Rachael Carson; imaged “North Carolina, U.S. Death Certificates, 1909–1976,” database with images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1121/images/S123_128-2649 : accessed 23 April 2022).

⁴¹¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 106.

⁴¹² *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/38023062/otis-prentis-mills> : accessed 23 April 2022), “Otis Prentis Mills” memorial, photo by Kay Miyagawa Ennis. The creator of this 7 June 2009 memorial, identification now deleted, asserted that Otis was the son of Marvel Mills (1772–1849) but provided no evidence. The Marvel Mills memorial created by Jennie Jones Giles” also identifies Otis as a child but provides no evidence; see *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/143095814/marvel-mills> : accessed 23 April 2022), “Marvel Mills” memorial. Jones does provide a transcription of Marvel’s obituary in the 10 August 1849 *Mountain Banner*, but it names no children: “Died on the 22d ult., at his well-known residence in Rutherford County, N.C., Mr. Marvel Mills, in the 77th year of his age. He was born on Green River, about five miles distant from the spot where he died. He married Mary Chamblis in the year 1798, near Columbia, S.C., and shortly after settled on the estate where he died. He was by profession a merchant. On the day succeeding that of his death, his funeral was impressively preached and his body attended to the grave by a large concourse of citizens. He leaves a most worthy widow and five children, together with a large number of relatives and friends to mourn his loss.” Jones also quotes “The Cemeteries of Polk County, North Carolina,” stating, in its “Errata”: “two of their [Marvel and Mary’s] children are buried here: Mary Selena Mills (1823-1840) and George Jones Mills (1813-1891) whose wife, Ella Boylston Mills (1828-1863) also has a grave site here. Again, there is no evidence for the assertion that Mary Selena and George Jones Mills were their children.

Marriage announcement.

“Married – In York district S.C., on the 20th inst., at the residence of Mr. John *Carruth*, by Rev. M. Davis, **Mr. John Mills**, of this county [Rutherford] to **Miss Eliza Graham**, daughter of the late John Graham, of Buffalo, Lincoln co., N.C.” Newspaper noticed published [date torn] December 1831.⁴¹³

25 JANUARY 1832

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

John Mills (s) to Aspasia Earle for \$500, sale of 100 acres on N side of North Packolet River, described as

Beginning at a black walnut on the river bank, running a N course to outside boundary of original tract, running thence to John Benton’s line, from thence to Elizabeth Carles’s [Earle’s?] tract & with her line a S direction back to a mulberry on bank of the river, thence down and with the meanders of the river to the beginning, it being known by a part of Edwin Hannon’s plantation where he died.

Witnesses: Richard McClure, Jonas B. Jones. Recorded 25 January 1832.⁴¹⁴

COMMENT:

This John with land on the North Packolet is Col. John Mills, Esq. See deed of 20 December 1838 in which his son Columbus sold him land, with Aspasia Earle as witness.

12 OCTOBER 1832

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Will.

Russel Twitty wills that “my brother **Robert G. Twitty** pay over to Jane Emily and William [no last names] when they arrive at proper age the balance of Money that is due me for my lot of Land Deeded to him & the Two Negroes boys Ransom and Reuben now in the possession of him & **my mother** making in all nine hundred dollars. ... I will my watch to **William** to be given him at proper age.” Notes due to him go to brother Robert for him to expend “in educating the children as he may think best. In case any or all the above named children which are the three youngest children of Matilda Coulter so called should die then such estate shall revert to my Brothers and sisters.” Brother Robert G. Twitty is to be his sole executor. Witness: Guilford Eaves.⁴¹⁵

COMMENT:

This Russell Twitty would not be the Russell Twitty who married Mary “Polly” Mills and moved with her to Missouri.

The tenor of the document suggests that Robert G. Twitty is providing for his own children by Matilda, whom he has not married.

25 OCTOBER 1832–c1848

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

RW Pension application of Jesse Mills.⁴¹⁶

⁴¹³ Helen M. Lu and Gwen B. Neumann, *North Carolina Spectator and Western Advertiser (1830–1835); Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts* (Dallas: Lu & Neumann, 1982), 30.

⁴¹⁴ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 37-38: 510–11; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517768 > image 219.

⁴¹⁵ Rutherford Co., NC, Will Book E:84–85; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 4779261 > image 483.

⁴¹⁶ Jesse Mills Pension Application (Pvt., Miller’s Regt., NC Line), W7448, widow Sarah (née Garrett); imaged in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” Fold3 (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25852181> and 50 subsequent images : accessed 30 May

(image 25852214)

25 October 1832

Affidavit of **Jesse Mills** of Rutherford County. His mind and memory was never strong and is now impaired by age and infirmity. Cannot state after so long a time the day or month he went into service or “circumstances connected therewith.” He entered in Rutherford with Lieutenant Thomas Prince in a company of infantry of the state troops of South Carolina; John Bowie was Captain and Samuel Earle Ensign. Cannot recall time of year but thinks that he received his discharge at White Hall, SC “about the time stated in the annexed probate of Saml. Earle [which] says in June 1780.” He served about two years in that company. His original enlistment was for three years or during the war. Was at Ninety-Six and Fort Independence, Augusta, Georgia, and other places—not at the battle of Stone or the Siege of Savanna because he and a few other men were left at White Hall. After discharge from first tour, he did two other tours of duty in 1780 with the militia against the Indians on the frontier of what is now far western part of Rutherford County and Buncombe County, which was he thinks then called Tryon County. He was then under the command of Colo. James Miller and Capt. Lewis Musick. He cannot specify the precise time but the whole was in the fall and winter of 1780 and 1781 .. about three months. Enlisted in 1781 at Rutherford Court House, then called Gilbert Town ...

(image 25852219)

Answers to questions: I was born on Deep River in (I think) Chatham County in this state the year I cannot exactly tell. I have no record of my age and none was kept to my knowledge. I lived in Rutherford county when called and have lived there since. I volunteered in every instance. I’ve previously identified men I served with. I received a discharge for my final term of service, but from no other.

(image 25852221)

Jesse X’d his affidavit. Joel Blackwell, minister of the Baptist Church and **John Mills Esqr.** made joint affidavit attesting his service. [Much of page is illegible.]

(image 25852223)

25 October 1832. Affidavit of **Wm. Williams** attesting that he served with Jesse Mills in a troop commanded by Capt. James McEcheny.

(image 25852275)

Attachment dated 12 October 1832. Samuel Earle (s) of Pickens District, SC states his own service details and attests that Jesse Mills served with him.

(images 25752226 & 25852229)

18 May 1833. Affidavit of Col. Ambrose Mills’s son John, who would have been about 12–13 at the time of the events of which he speaks.

“During the Revolutionary War ... the mother of Jesse Mills [i.e., wife of Ambrose’s brother William] ... lived at the deponents Fathers House. On A day & year that the Deponent cannot now [remember] Some Person was seen Riding Towards the House. It was Said it was Jesse Mills Returning from the Army. His mother Run out to see Him Claping His Hands—as He Jesse Mills Came up Close to her She Exclaimed it [to be] Him. ... Jesse Mills was Riding a Sorrel Stallion with A Ball [bald?] face. Jesse’s father **William Mills, Commonly cal^d English Billy** was a Virginia man whose Sucumstances would not Justify the Purchase of Sutch. ... Jesse got this Horse for His Services in the Revolutionary War. ... The deponent

2018). For the affidavit of John Mills, see 25852227 and 25852229.

further States that he was Born in ... the House or Station described by the Said Jesse Mills as Having been burned by the _____ [illegible]. The House belonged to the Deponants father who with the deponent was Absent at the time of Attack & Conflagration. ... Sworn to & Subscribed by me this 18th day of May 1833. Jn^o Mills.”⁴¹⁷

(image 25852206)

25 November 1842

Affidavit of **Sarah Mills** (x), resident of Rutherford County, aged 75. She is the widow of **Jesse Mills** “who was a Pensioner at his Death,” having married him on 8 December 1785. **Jesse died 11 October 1842.** “She was not married to him prior to his leaving service but the marriage took place previous to the first of January Seventeen Hundred & Ninety four” as required by the act under which she is applying—that of 7 July 1838. Robt. G. Twitty, J.P.

(image 25852208)

25 November 1842

Affidavit of **Ambrose Mills** (signed “A. Mills”) who swears “that he was at the wedding & saw Jesse Mills & Sarah Garret Married at the time set fourth in Sarah Mills’ Declaration. ... He has been acquainted with Jesse Mills & Sarah his wife ever since their marriage up to the Death of Jesse Which took place on the 11th of October last.”

Affidavit of **Benjamin Coward (s)**, aged 69. He has lived in the “nabour Hood” of Jesse Mills since 1784. He was not at the wedding of Jesse but believes he was married at the time set forth in Sarah Mills’ declaration and knows they have lived as man and wife up to the death of Jesse.

(image 25852198)

Bible pages. Most entries are barely legible.

_____ born 1793?

Sary? Mills born the March 7? Day 1795

Jesse Mills was born desember 28 day 1797 [the only clear entry on page]

JESSE MILLS SARY GARRIT WAS MARRIED _____

[turn page upside down]

_____ Daniel? Shehane? Was Born _____ the Year of our Lord and _____ Jesus? _____ 177_

I _____

Daniel Shehane? _____ 178_

[totally illegible line]

(image 25852202)

SARY GARRIT WAS BORN MAY THE 10 Day 1766 [each 6 is written backward]

NANCY MILLS WAS BORN OCTOBER THE 26 Day 1787

MARY MILLS [was] BORN this December the 11 Sep? 1789

William Mills Was born October the 13 day 1791

(image 25852259)

⁴¹⁷ Jesse Mills Pension Application (Pvt., Miller’s Regt., NC Line), W7448, widow Sarah (née Garrett); imaged in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25852181> and 50 subsequent images : accessed 30 May 2018). For the affidavit of John Mills, see 25852227 and 25852229.

9 March 1844. Notice by R. G. Twitty to Pension Office. “Mrs. Sarah Mills is dead & I understand there will [be] no administration as she has no property & what she is entitled to under this claim will not pay Expenses in Getting.”⁴¹⁸

COMMENT:

I have yet found no record of this William, b. 1791, as an adult.

31 AUGUST 1833

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

John Mills (x) to **Lavender Mills**, sale for \$175, 50 acres on **Rotten’s Creek**, both sides, described as

Beginning on a Spanish oak bush on the foresaid Mills’ own line at the **cross paths** and runs with Sd path through sd **Mills’s lane** to a poplar at the head of **sd John Mills’s lane**, thence W to the head of a branch to a conditional line, thence down the sd branch along **conditional line** between **Williams** & foresaid Mills crossing the foresd creek with the sd conditional line to the foresd John Mills’ old line, to a red oak, then N to the beginning.

Witnesses: Wyley Laughter, John Lyon. Recorded 17 December 1842.⁴¹⁹

COMMENT:

This land was sold in January 1868 by William A. Mills to Jacob Jackson via Polk Co. Deed Book 5:455. (See abstract immediately below, to compare the legal description of the land.) No deed exists by which Lavender sold this tract to anyone. No probate was opened at the time of Lavender’s death. William’s possession of Lavender’s land, without deed or probate, attests that he was Lavender’s heir who assumed the land without probate—either he was Lavender’s only heir or else the other heirs consented to his inheritance.

30? JANUARY 1868

POLK COUNTY, NC

Sale of land.

William A. Mills to Jacob Jackson, both of Polk. Sale for \$154.50 in hand paid, 50 acres more or less on Rotten Creek, both sides of creek, described as

Beginning on a Spanish oak at the **Cross Path** and running with said path through said **lane** to a poplar at the head of **John Mills’ lane**, thence to the head of a branch to a **conditional line** between **Williams** & said Mills, Crossing Said creek with a **Conditional line** to the aforesaid John Mills’ old line, to a Red oak, thence north? to the beginning.

Signed: Wm. A. Mills. Witnesses: Nisbet Dimsdale, Wm. R. Jackson. Proved in court 15? July 1882? by witness N. Dimsdale.⁴²⁰

25 APRIL 1834

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

⁴¹⁸ Jesse Mills Pension Application (Pvt., Miller’s Regt., NC Line), W7448, widow Sarah (née Garrett); imaged in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25852181> and 50 subsequent images : accessed 30 May 2018). For the affidavit of John Mills, see 25852227 and 25852229.

⁴¹⁹ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 44:391; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > image204.

⁴²⁰ Polk Co., NC, Deed Book 5: 455; imaged, *Polk County, North Carolina, Recorder of Deeds* (<https://cotthosting.com/ncpolkexternal/HTML5Viewer/ImageViewer.aspx> : 8 December 2022).

Marriage bond.

“King, Samuel & Evelina Lynch, 25 Apr 1835; **Ambrose Mills**, bm.”⁴²¹

28 MAY 1834

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

Jesse Mills to **Benjamin Cowart**, sale for \$25, 50 acres on Green River described as

Beginning [at a] small white oak on the S side of the river on his own line, thence [with his] own line S 20 E 84 poles to a red oak by the path, thence ____ty [bound into crack of book] W to a conditional line to big rock on the river bank, thence down [the meanders of the ri]ver to the beginning.

Witnesses: **Noah Mills**, Samuel Pack. Proved March court 1846 by Noah Mills. Recorded 9 July 1846.⁴²²

6 AUGUST 1834

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

Will of **William Williams** (signed Wm Williams), everything to dearly beloved wife **Nancy Williams**. Son **Walter Williams** to be executor. Witnesses: Peter Coward, Wm. Gibbs.⁴²³ No other kin named.

13 OCTOBER 1834

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage bond.

“Dean, Hosea J. & **Elizabeth Mills**; **William E. Mills**, bm.”⁴²⁴

COMMENT:

William E. Mills was a son of Ambrose Mills, Esq., named in his will. Elizabeth was not named therein. I have not found her or Hosea in 1840 or 1850.

14 JANUARY 1835

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage bond.

“Waldrop, Caswell & Rachel Bagwell, 14 Jan 1835; **Ambrose Mills**, bm.”⁴²⁵

21 SEPTEMBER 1835

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“**John Mills**” entered a tract that would be described on its 21 September 1835 patent as 48 acres in Rutherford County on the SW side of Green River:

Beginning on a post oak and dogwood on **his own line**, thence with his line W 19 poles to a red oak his own corner to his **Cook** 50-acre tract, then with said line N 100 poles to a stake on **Jo**.

⁴²¹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 85.

⁴²² Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 45:375; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > image 466.

⁴²³ Rutherford Co., NC, Will Book E:8; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 4779261 > image 442.

⁴²⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 33.

⁴²⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 150.

Carson's line, then with his line S 33 W 130 poles to an old pine, **John Liles's** corner known by the name of **Clarke's** corner formerly, then with said line S 60 E 125 poles to a stake on Liles's line of the **Madden** 50-acre tract, then with said line N to the beginning.⁴²⁶

COMMENT:

The grantee for this land on the South side of the Green would be the same John Mills who entered 50 acres on 7 September 1821 adjoining Madden, which was patented 8 December 1823. That entry was entered consecutively, at the Rutherford Office, with a grant to **Col^o John Mills** that was entered in 1822 and patented in 1832. Col. John's 1842 will was witnessed by Joseph M. D. Carson who owned land patented by "John Mills" in 1839 with Joseph M. D. Carson and "Clarke" as neighbors.

In 1840, John Liles was enumerated two households from the slaveholding John Mills, called "John Mills Sr."

All points considered, the grantee in this case should be Col. John Mills, Esq.

6 NOVEMBER 1835

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage bond.

"Hutchinson, John & Winifred Hilton, 6 Nov 1835; **Ambrose Mills**, bm."⁴²⁷

7 MAY 1836

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry & grant.

"**John Mills**" entered a tract of land that would be described in its 27 November 1839 patent as 100 acres of land in Rutherford County on the S side of Green River:

Beginning at a post oak and pine **Joseph M. D. Carson's** corner on **Clark's** old line, then with Clark's line and his own line N 33 E 133 chains to a black oak, then E 17 chains to a stake, then S 26 chains to a stake on the river bank, then N 57 W crossing the River to a stake, then up the various courses of the river ... to the beginning.⁴²⁸

COMMENT:

This should be **Col. John Mills**, whose 1842 will was witnessed by Joseph M. D. Carson.

4 MAY 1837

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

Ambrose Mills of Rutherford Co. to **Otis P. Mills** of Burke Co. NC, sale for \$450 already paid, 200 acres in Rutherford Co. on **Wheats Creek**, part of the waters of Green River:

"Beginning at a chesnut in **John Moor's line** runing then E 220 poles to a pine & black oak, then S 146 poles to a post of stake, then W 220 poles to a stake in said Moore's line, then with his line to the beginning.

⁴²⁶ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 23 August 2021), imaging Book 142:28; citing Grant 3786, NC State Archives.

⁴²⁷ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 76.

⁴²⁸ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 23 August 2021), imaging Book 143:203; citing Grant 3847, NC State Archives.

Also another tract lying N of the aforesaid, containing 46 acres, being a part of two Surveys belonging to the Estate of **George Musick** deceased, bounded as follows:

Beginning at a stake near the **Wagon Road** in the corner of **Smith Randal's** 150-acre tract, then S 28 W 64 poles to a black oak, then W 120 poles to a maple in said Randal's lot, then with his line N 28 E 95 poles to a stake, then S 62 E 110 poles to the beginning.

Signed: **A. Mills**. Witness: Larkin Bryan [*sic*]. Proved in July Court 1837 by Larkin Bryan [*sic*].⁴²⁹

COMMENT:

Ambrose's will did not name Otis as a son. By elimination, Otis should be the son of Marvel.

12 SEPTEMBER 1837

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

Ambrose Mills to Mildred Bowen, both of Rutherford County, sale of 577 acres on **Mountain Creek of Broad River** described as

Beginning on a red oak, then S 45 E 58 chains to a red oak, then N 65 E 35 ch to a P.O., then S 45 E 8 ch to an ash, then N 70 E 28 ch & 25 links to a B. oak, then N 49 W 5 ch, 50 links to a pine, then N 5 E 16 ch to a pine, then N 35 E 11 to a Spanish oak, then N 17 East 6,50 [6 chains, 50 links] to a white oak on the S bank of the right-hand forang of the **Knob Branch**, then down the branch about 15 ch to a maple, then S 15 W about 6 ch to a Spanish oak, then N 76 W 6 ch to a poplar, then N 47 E 3,70 to a W.O., then N 76 W 16,25 5o a P.O., then S 66 E 2,50 to a W.O., then S 3 W 17 to a chesnut up the branch, then S 80 W 28 to W.O., then about 30 ch to the beginning red oak corner.

Signed: **A. Mills**. Witnesses: **Thos. Mills**, William W. Taylor. Acknowledged in court, June term, by **Ambrose Mills**.⁴³⁰

COMMENT:

In 1834, one Thomas Mills was in the employ of William T. Graham whose will named Ambrose executor.⁴³¹ However, Ambrose's will did not name Thomas as a son.

7 AUGUST 1838

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

Ambrose Mills to Lavender Mills, sale for \$50, 50 acres described as

"Beginning at a Spanish oak [at] King's conditional line, thence along the old line S 80 E 116 poles to the old corner stake, then with the other old line to the conditional, then following the marks to a Spanish oak, then N 80 poles to the beginning.

Witnesses: Claton Brown and Stephen Coward. Filed 14 July 1842.⁴³²

COMMENT:

John Mills (X) bought this land on 4 May 1808 from John Mills, Esq. (Deed Book 24-26: 265). At

⁴²⁹ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 43: 25–26; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517769 > image 363.

⁴³⁰ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 43: 647; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517765 > image 675.

⁴³¹ Rutherford Co. Will Book B:240–42 (typescript copy), citing original book E; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 4779260 > images 158–59.

⁴³² Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 44:31; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > image 174.

that time the land was said to be granted to William Gilbert, sold to Isaac and Mary Cooper, and conveyed by Cooper to John Mills Esq.:

Beginning at a Spanish oak [on] King's conditional line, thence along the **old line** S 8[0] E 116 poles to the old corner stake, then with the other **old line** N 82 E to a chesnut [at] King's corner, then along a line of **marked trees** [on] King's line nearly N 26 W 87 poles to a Spanish oak, then N 70 W 34 poles to a chesnut oak, then N 81 W 20 poles to the beginning.

"S 8 E" in 1808 along the old line appears to be correct, with the 1838 deed adding a y to the end of *eight*." That "S 8 E" line appears in multiple deeds referencing this property, including Maj. William's survey of 1808.

John Mills (x) gave this land to Calvin Garrett Mills in 1829.

13 SEPTEMBER 183

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

John Mills Jnr. to William Wilkins & James T. Wilkins, all of Rutherford Co., sale for \$1500, land on both sides of **Green River** in the **Cove**, "including the plantation whereon the said **John Mills Jnr.** Now lives, it being the lands that was sold to said Mills by Abram Steel" containing 300 acres in three tracts:

Beginning at **Spencer's** beginning corner of his 600-acre tract on N side of Green River near the confluence of a branch, then N 15 E 212 poles to a poplar & chesnut on the original line, then with a line of marked trees to the mouth of **Big Cove Creek** thence up the creek to a small poplar & dogwood tree at the lower end of a canal, S 35 E 18 poles to a maple at the upper end of the canal, then S 45 E until it strikes the fourth line of the Spencer survey, then with said line N 75 W to where a line of a tract granted to **Thomas Justice** 13 December 1785 strikes said line, then with said line of said Justice's tract S 50 W 87 poles to a stake on said line and on the line between him & **Coleman Bradley**, then with said line N 35 W 55 poles down a small branch to three sycamores at the mouth of said Branch, then N 80 W 14 poles crossing the river to a hickory at the mouth of a Branch on the W side of the river, then up the branch as it meanders to the **Forks** to two ashes and a rock, then up the left hand **hollow** S 80 W 28 poles to a black oak, then on the **top of a ridge**, then N 40 W 32 poles to a stake on the W line of a tract of 100 acres granted to **Thomas Justice** 18 December 1797, then N 50 E 123 poles to a stake, corner to said tract, then E 22 poles to a hickory, the beginning of said tract on the first line of **Spencer's** tract, then with said line S 15 W 86 poles to the beginning. 250 acres

Also another 50 acres granted to **Abraham Steel** 20 November 1818

Beginning at a Stooping black oak on his own line on the E side of **Cove Creek**, then S 5 E 90 poles to a hickory Bush, then S 85 W 90 poles crossing the creek to a stake, then N 5 W 90 poles to a stake in his own line, then N 85 E 90 poles to the beginning.

Signed: **John Mills (s)**. Witnesses: Terrell Wilkins, John Caruth.⁴³³

COMMENT:

This "John Mills Jr." also served as bondsman to the marriage of Paul Young and Penelope Mills, after which the newspaper announcement of the marriage identified her as the daughter of Marvel. John Jr. should be Marvel's son also.

⁴³³ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 44: 151–52; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > images 81–82.

On 19 February 1841, James T. Wilkins sells to William Wilkins his share of the land bought above from “John Mills Jnr.” F. A. Littlejohn, witness.⁴³⁴

Re Thomas Justice:

- 1784 mentioned in a road order centering upon Mills Gap on Pacolet, near Widow [Ann Brown] Mills.
- 1788 mentioned in a road order, at Little Cove
- 1793 witnessed deed for [Maj.] William Mills on Rotten Creek
- 1794 adjoined land granted to William Mills; ditto 1805.

20 DECEMBER 1838

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

“I, **Columbus Mills** ... have bargained [and] Sold unto **my Father John Mills**,” both of Rutherford, 640 acres in Russell Co., Alabama, adjoining Ingram and Gill “including the plantation that was Cleared by Father’s Hand[s] ...” Witness: Aspasie Carle.⁴³⁵

COMMENT:

A slew of online trees assert that “John Columbus Mills” (the seller above) was the son of “Col. John Columbus Mills.” Note that the seller identified his father *only* as “John Mills.” None of the dozens of other records found for the father (Col. John Mills, Esq.) use a middle name or initial for him.

9 MARCH 1839

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

Govan Mills to **John Mills**, both of Rutherford Co., sale for \$100, all of Govan’s interest “or the one half of that tract, piece, or parcel of Land in Rutherford County situate on **Mill Creek** known by the **Beas tract** containing 200 acres

Beginning at a white oak & running N 127 poles to a stake & pointers, then E 254 poles to a stake, then S 187 poles to a post oak, then W 254 poles to the Beginning.

Witnesses: **Columbus Mills, Adolphus Mills**.⁴³⁶

COMMENT:

- The will of Col. John Mills, Esq., in 1842 names Govan and Columbus as his sons; it does not include Adolphus.
- The will of Ambrose Mills, Esq. in 1845 names Adolphus as husband of his daughter Mary Amanda.
- The educated Adolphus appears to be the son of Marvel, Esq., not a son of Jesse or John (x).

1 JUNE 1840

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Census

(p. 322)

⁴³⁴ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 44: 152–53; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > image 82.

⁴³⁵ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 43: 498; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517769 > image 599.

⁴³⁶ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 44:18–19; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > image 15.

Thompson, Jno.
 Splawn, Wm.
 Waldrop, Geo.
 Gibbs, Jno.
 Nelson, Jesse

Mills, Noah	1 white male	30–40	1 white female	20–30	0 slaves
	1 white male	10–15	2 white females	10–15	
	1 white male	5–10	2 white females	0–5	

Edwards, Tho.
 Smith, Tolliver
 Jackson, David
 Waldrop, Luke
 Holbird, Rese?
 [skip 13 to next page]

(p. 323)
 [skip 13]
 Morris, Mary
 Jackson, Jas.
 Morris, Jno.
 Gagle, Jno.
 Jackson, Peggy

			1 white female	30–40	0 slaves
	1 white male	5–10	2 white females	5–10	
			1 white female	0–5	

Mills, Lav.	1 white male	30–40	1 white female	20–30	0 slaves
	2 white males	15–20	1 white female	5–10	
	2 white males	10–15			
	1 white male	0–5			

Mills, Jno. Sr.	1 white male	70–80	1 white female	60–70	0 slaves
Constant, Mary			1 white female	30–40	0 slaves
	1 white male	5–10	1 white female	15–20	

COMMENT:

This census assigns “Sr.” to both of the elderly John Millses of Rutherford—this John of Rotton’s Creek and the slaveholding Col. John, Esq. of White Oak, below.

Guinn, El.
 Johnson, Biddy
Mills, Ambrose Jr.

	1 white male	30–40	1 white female	20–30	0 slaves
	1 white male	10–15	2 white females	0–5	
	1 white male	5–10			
	1 white male	0–5			

COMMENT:

This Ambrose Jr. appears on the 1850 census as aged 46 (i.e., born between 2 June 1803 and 1 June 1804), with wife “Phalby” and children whose data is compatible with the entry above.

Smith, Jas
 [skip 6 to next page]

(p. 335)
 Newman, Lee?
 Porter, David
 Henderson, Harpe
 Ray, Alex

Mills, William S.	1 white male	40–50	1 white female	40–50	6 slaves
Mills, Columbus	1 white male	30–40	1 white female	20–30	12 slaves
Mills, Geo.	1 white male	30–40			4 slaves

COMMENT:

William S., Columbus, and George were all sons named in the will of Col. John Mills, Esq.

Ellison, Elisha
 Overton, Jas.
 Bruce, Bailey
 Thomas, Henry
 Sullavin, E. F.
 [skip 7]
 Williams, Geo.
 Caruth, Mary

(p. 337)
 Newman, William
 Waldrop, Geo.
 Case, William
 Morris, Jas.
 King, Jonaⁿ Sr.

Mills, Ambrose	1 white male	60–70	1 white female	50–60	0 slaves
	2 white males	5–9	1 white female	15–20	
	2 white males	0–5			

Coxe, Wm.
 Dillinay, Logan
 Edgerton, Jim
 Griffin, Jno.
 Whitsides, William

COMMENT:

I have not found “Calvin Garrett” or “Calvin Mills” in the county. The only Calvin Garrett in the U.S. census index for the year is the following:⁴³⁷

CHEROKEE COUNTY, GA

Calvin Mills			1 white female	50–59	
	1 white male	30–39	1 white female	30–39	0 slaves
	1 white males	10–14	1 white female	15–19	
	2 white males	5–9	1 white females	10–14	
			2 white females	5–9	

⁴³⁷ 1840 U.S. census, Cherokee Co., GA, p. 174, line 5.

1850 census data increases the likelihood that this Calvin is one and the same. No Calvin Mills is in 1850 Cherokee Co, but a man of that name with compatible household is found in neighboring Lumpkin Co:

LUMPKIN COUNTY, GA

Yellow Creek, p. 72 (stamped) verso

#41 **Calvin Mills** 46, farmer, \$130, b. NC

Margaret 41, b. NC

Thomas, 18, b. NC

Jane, 16, b. NC [Jane and Thomas's birthplaces suggest the family moved 1835–40]

#42 **Adolphus Mills**, 23, farmer, \$0, b. NC

Caroline, 22, b. GA

William, 1, b. GA.

It would appear from the 1840 census household that Calvin's mother-in-law moved with them.

Online trees assert that Calvin Mills (b. 1798 Rutherford; d. 20 July 1901, Cherokee Co., GA) married 17 October 1850 to *Margaret Jackson*. That marriage does appear on record in Lumpkin Co.

They also assert that Calvin was born to John Mills (1772–1830) and Mariam Wadlington, whom John is said to have married in 1798 in Columbia, Lexington Co., SC. The compilers of these trees have Calvin assigned to the wrong John.

Calvin is also said (without evidence) to have a brother Noah, and his father John is said (without evidence) to be the son of Col. Ambrose. Only one of these statements has evidence to support it: Calvin was assuredly the son of the John Mills (x) who gave him land—but that would not be the John who married Mariam Wadlington of Col. John Mills, Esq., who did spend his early years of marriage in SC.

Calvin's children, born to his unidentified first wife, are said to be William *Jackson* Mills (1823–89), Zilpha Marena Mills (126–1901), Margaret Caroline Mills (1826–1870), Adolphus John Mills (1828–1875), Thomas Mills (1833–1913), Jane Mills (1834—) and Caroline Ann Mills (1834—).⁴³⁸ If the name of the first-born is correctly given (William *Jackson*), then I should investigate the possibility that Calvin's first wife was also a Garret.

20 FEBRUARY 1842

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Will.

"**Col. John Mills** [filed] Spring Ct. 1842. **Son William** land he now lives on include. The *Robert Logan* tract, *Leander Corruith* entry of 100 a. also back of the **Rock house tract** as his below the new road. **Son George Mills**, land where Mansion house is and plantation is situated include. All land on both sides **Whiteoak** above my *Patrick Murrow* lands on S. side of the creek & above to the Wagon Road, on N. side then on until it strikes land I purchased of *Samuel Young's* heirs; also tract on which is situated my **Grist Mill** purchased of *Jos. Young*, also *Ross place* & lands purchased of *Frank Alexander*; also lands on **Mill Creek** and all land on **Rocking branch**. **Son Garvin** lands called the *George Logan* lands I pur. of Dr. *McEntire* with the *Shields* tract and *Cloud Euling* (?). The *Corruith* entry named to my **son William** divided

⁴³⁸ For example see, WilkersonC, "Boring Family Tree, <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/43257809/person/12638125532/facts : 2 February 2021>), "Calvin Mills Facts page.

as to give one half to Wm. & other to **son Garvin. Son Columbus** all **Pacolet lands** above son William's including *William Logan* tract, *Rock house* tract, place I purchased of *Bradon* & the *Jack Lankford* place on condition he release a certain note or notes he holds on me and to give up to my **son Rufus** all claims, title he may have to land in Alabama, 640 a. land in **Russel Co., Ala.** where sd. Rufus now lives. **Grandson John C. Camp** land on **Whiteoak** adj. lands below those be quested to son Geo. Which I pur. of *Paddy Morow*, also lands I pur. of the Old *Samuel Young* estate and *Andrew Young* tract. **Grandson John M. Dean** land on **Whiteoak** called East Wood cont. 200 a. **Grandau. Louisa Camp** land on **Green River** include. place I pur. or [of] *Paddy Murrow* & my *Kilpatrick* pur. & adj. lands on S. side of River. Remaining land to be sold and money divided among all my children & grandchildren. Son, William Negroes, hooks, rifle, shot bag; **Son George**, Negroes, shot gun, powder horn, sideboard, etc. Son, Gavin Negroes, shot gun, powder horn; son Columbus, Negroes, books; Son Rufus, Negroes. Grandson John C. Camp, Negroes. Grandau. Louisa Camp Negroes, bed & furn. And her mother's fruit baskets, candlesticks, etc. Sons William & Columbus to be Guardians of my two grandchildren John & Louisa Camp. Extrs: sons William, Columbus, Gavin. Wit: Jos. M. D. Carson, Walter Duffy.

"CODICIL: #1 6 Mar. 1842. Bequests made to son Rufus void. Sd. Bequests to son Columbus to be kept for son Rufus with interest for maintenance of Rufus's lawful children for education etc. Rufus may sell any part of legacy jointly given him with my son Columbus. Negro given to Rufus to be taken & given to Grandau. Lydia Camp. Legacy given in will to Grandson John M. Dean in event of his death without children to go to wife he may have. [Witnesses:] Jos. M. D. Carson, Walter Duffy.

"CODICIL #2: Mar. 12, 1842. Negro given to Louisa be taken & given to son Columbus; Negro Fred given to Grandau. Louisa. [Witnesses:] Jno. D. Carson, Walter Duffy."⁴³⁹

COMMENT:

Joseph L. Camp posted bond 1 August 1826 in Rutherford, to marry Miss Harriet Mills, with permission of Stephen Camp.⁴⁴⁰

16 MARCH 1842

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry & grant.

Ambrose Mills entered a tract of land that was described in its patent as 25 acres in Rutherford County lying on NE side of Green River on a **Shoaly Branch**:

Beginning at a post oak on a line of his 41 acre tract and corner of **Aaron Fowler's** land, runs thence N 41E 74 poles with Aaron's line, crossing a **Little Branch** two [or] three times to a persimmon sapling on the bank of the branch, thence N 49 W 70 poles to a stake, thence S 55 W 41 poles to a big maple and a little one by it at the head of a **gully** and **Mills' old corner**, thence S 28 E 84 poles, crossing the branch on a **shoal** and with **Mills'** own line to the beginning line then with said line N 40 poles to a post oak then E 71 poles to a stake, then N 87 poles to a stake then W 157 to the beginning."⁴⁴¹

⁴³⁹ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Wills 1822-1858* (Rutherfordton, N.C.: P.p., 1973), 48-49; citing E:87 [and ff. to 91 or 92].

⁴⁴⁰ "North Carolina, U.S., Marriage Records, 1741–2011," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/14481978:60548> : 24 August 2021) > Rutherford > Marriage Bonds (1783–1867, image 697 of 5583.

⁴⁴¹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 23 August 2021), imaging Book 149:470–71; citing Rutherford Grant No. 4077, NC State Archives.

15 MAY 1842

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

Will of **Ephraim Carruth**. Son Edwin Luster Carruth to inherit his mountain tract adjoining his home tract and **Ambros Mills' Molvo?** Tract ... 82.5 acres. Home tract on which he resides to go to his two youngest sons jointly to be equally divided between William rry Carruth and Ephraim Alexander Carruth. Wife Susannah Carruth to retain possession and full control over the tract ... whereon my dwelling house stands, she having a life estate. She also receives cattle, household goods, fruit trees to be distilled, etc. for support of minor children; also "two work horses for her benefit and family as to the shares I purchased of Benjamin Lankford in my mother-in-law's estate on the waters Skinea on Tryon Mountain. ... Executors to be Lemuel Lucas and his wife Susanah. Witnesses: **William S. Mills, Columbus Mills.**⁴⁴²

COMMENT:

William S. Mills and Columbus Mills were sons of Col. John Mills, Esq., named in his will. (The will does not include William's initial, but William used that initial in documents relating to his settlement of the estate.)

13 JULY 1842

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

Ambrose Mills to Lavender Mills, sale for \$25, 50 acres on **both sides of Rotton's Creek** described as

beginning at a black gum and pointers on **Gilberts old line**, thence S 30 E to conditional line between the said John Mills [*sic*] and **Lavender Mills** to the old line thence with the old line to the beginning.

'The said John Mills [*sic*] to hold said Land during his life, then the said Lavender Mills or his heirs take possession.' Witnesses: Stephen Coward and Claton Brown. Filed 13 July 1842, No. 407.⁴⁴³

COMMENT:

The legal description of this land echoes the survey of the land entered in October 1784 by William Mills:

Beginning at a black gum and pointers on **Gilbert's old line**, thence S 30 E 80 poles ... then with the other old line N 82 E 30 poles to the beginning.

Note, in this 1842 deed, the phrase "the said John Mills." John Mills had not been previously mentioned in this document. **The creator of this deed is copying the text from an earlier deed that would have been created by John Mills. The cited metes and bounds are exactly the same as the metes and bounds at Deed Book 37–38: 116**, wherein John Mills "for the consideration of the Servises Done for the said John Mills" conveyed this land to **Calvin Garrett**, for Calvin to take possession after John's death.

Clearly, there has been another deed by which Calvin conveyed this land (and the implied pledge to take care of John until his death) to Ambrose. Ambrose is now conveying the land (and the pledge) to Lavender. Given that Calvin moved to Georgia between 1835 and 1840, it is likely that he sold the land (with its pledge) to the wealthy Ambrose to raise the funds for the move.

⁴⁴² Rutherford Co., NC, Will Book E:98–99; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 4779261 > image 490.

⁴⁴³ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 44:326; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > image 172.

Ambrose then sold the property (with the pledge) to John's son Lavender when Lavender raised the funds to purchase it.

John Mills (X) bought this land on 4 May 1808 from John Mills, Esq. (Deed Book 24-26: 265).

14 JULY 1842

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

COMMENT:

This day is the filing date for the deed that Ambrose made to Lavender in 1838. Note that it is one day after the Ambrose-to-Lavender deed of 13 July 1842.

10 OCTOBER 1843

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

Will of William Thompson of the town of Rutherfordton. Funds donated for the support of the Presbyterian church, etc. Witnesses: **W. E. Mills**, Mat M. Davis.⁴⁴⁴

26 APRIL 1844

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

Otis P. Mills of Burke County, NC, sells to William Wilkins for \$500, land on **Wheats Creek**, "part of the waters of Green River, 246 acres in two tracts ..."⁴⁴⁵

COMMENT:

These are the two tracts that Ambrose Mills, Esq., sold to Otis in May 1837.

OCTOBER 1845

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Will.

Ambrose Mills of Green River being of "sound & disposing mind & memory" ... 1. Body to be buried in a Christian-like manner. 2. Just Debts to be paid. 3) Nine "Negroe Fellows (Patrick, Perry, Harvy, Jeff, Aramsten, Brison, Ben, Guy & Lucas) to be hired out privately or at public auction to pay debts and then divided equally among his children (to wit) **Jane Ann**, the wife of Jonas King, **William E. Mills**, and **Mary Amanda**, the wife of **Adolphus Mills**. "My beloved wife **Nancy Mills** [has] the right & privilege of residing in my Mansion House, together [with] the use of a sufficient quantity of adjoining Lands to support her well & completely" but is to be under the management of son William. Also bequeaths to wife Negroe Girl Moriah, old Guy & Milley his wife & Moriah's children Buller Larkin Frank & George, 2 horses, four cows & calves, 10 head of sheep, 20 head of hogs. At her death, property to be equally divided "between my three Children Jane Ann, William E & Mary Amanda" except for Moriah's four children who are to go to his grandsons **Ambrose Mills** (son of William E.), **Ambrose Walter** (son of daughter Amanda) and **William Ambrose Washington King** (son of daughter Jane). Grandchildren are minors. [Much more not abstracted here]. Signed: "Ambrose Mills or A Mills." No witnesses named.

28 October 1848. Codicil by "Ambrose Mills of Polk County." Witnesses: James Morris, "Tadon pog".⁴⁴⁶

⁴⁴⁴ Rutherford Co., NC, Will Book E:116–20; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 4779261 > images 498–500.

⁴⁴⁵ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 44: 274–75; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > image 144.

⁴⁴⁶ Rutherford Co., NC, Will Book E:182–86; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 4779261 > image 531–33.

COMMENT:

- There is no mention of younger children born to him by “my beloved wife Nancy.”
- The 1850 census, below, cites Adolphus’ wife as “Margaret,” rather than Mary Amanda. Either Mary Amanda has died or else the census taker—in making his second copy to send to the Census Bureau—mistranscribed Mary Amanda as Margaret.
- The 1850 census also identifies his eldest son as **A. W. Mills**—which corresponds to Ambrose Walter, confirming that the 1850 household is the correct one even though the wife’s name is not that of Ambrose’s daughter.

18 NOVEMBER 1846

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

William S. Mills one of the executors of [**Col.**] **John Mills Decd.** to Thos. Egerton, both of Rutherford, sale of land on **Alston’s Creek** described as

Beginning at a post oak, **Hamilton’s** corner, about 150 yards from the house, then with Hamilton’s line N 17 W 50 poles to a pine [at] Hamilton’s corner, then S 30 W 14 poles to a chesnut in the [bound into crack of book] of the **Sodom place**, then with said line S 60 E 100 poles to a stake, then N 30 E 50 poles to a stake in or near **Cockerham’s** [aka Cockrum’s] line, then S 40 W 37 poles to the beginning.

Also another tract on Alston’s Creek:

Beginning at ___lar on the side of a **hollow**, then N 30 E crossing the Branch and Rock___ to a black jack near **David Miller’s** line, then N 70 W 100 poles to a ____, then S 20 W 80 poles to a stake, and from there to the beginning.

Total: about 55 acres, “except for four acres that Thompson’s land may cover in the NE corner.” Signed: Will S. Mills, Executor: Witness: Jonathan Aldridge. Fall Court 1846, Aldridge proved the deed in open court.⁴⁴⁷

COMMENT:

The Hamilton-Cockerham (Cochram) land should be the tract entered by “John Mills” in 1812.

1 MARCH 1850

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage bond.

“Cagle, John & **Evaline Mills**, 1 Mar 1850; **William S. Mills**, bm.”⁴⁴⁸

COMMENT:

I have not identified this Evaline. In 1840, one Jno. Gagle was two houses from Lavender Mills. In 1840, Lavender had one daughter aged 5–10.

1 MAY 1850

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Gift.

“I, **Anne F. Mills**, for and in consideration of the Sum of one dollar to me in hand paid and for the further consideration of the natural love and affection which I bear unto **Sarah Louisa** and **Ann Eliza**, Daughters

⁴⁴⁷ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 44: 459–60; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > images 508–9.

⁴⁴⁸ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 20.

of **William E. Mills**, ... sell ... “a certain Negro woman named Mariah,” whose possession and management Anne F. will have until her death. Signed: Anne F. Mills.⁴⁴⁹

COMMENT:

Note that this document is a month before the 1850 census on which William E. is enumerated. William E.’s will (see below) was written in August 1850. Given that William E. was the son of Ambrose Jr., this suggests that “Anne F.” may be his stepmother who married Ambrose under the nickname “Nancy.”

**1 JUNE 1850
HENDERSON COUNTY, NC**

Census.

(p. 254, stamped, *verso*)

Dwelling/Family 514/514

Mills, Adolphus	34	male	white	farmer	\$3000	b. NC
Margaret	30	female	white			b. NC
A. W.	9	male	white			b. NC
Otus	7	male	white			b. NC
W. E.	5	male	white			b. NC
Mary	2	female	white			b. NC

(p. 277, stamped, *verso*)

825/825

Mills, Noah	45	male	white	School Teacher	\$___	b. NC
Martha	40	female	white			b. NC
Janer	22	female	white			b. NC attended school
Marvell	15	male	white	farmer		b. NC attended school
Sarah	13	female	white			b. NC attended school
Martha	11	female	white			b. NC attended school
Thomas	9	male	white			b. NC
Elenor	7	female	white			b. NC
D. F.	3	male	white			b. NC

**1 JUNE 1850
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC**

Census.

Polk District

(p. 231, stamped, *verso*)

8/8

Mills, William E.	36	male	white	Lawyer	\$8000	b. NC
Eliza [Bryan]	25	female	white			b. NC
Ambros	6	male	white			b. NC
Sarah L.	4	female	white			b. NC
Anna E.	1	female	white			b. NC
Cudd, Anna	32	female	white			b. NC

⁴⁴⁹ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 45: 842–43; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > image 707.

COMMENT:

William E. Mills posted bond to marry Eliza Bryan, 10 November 1842, with D. J. Twitty as bondsman.⁴⁵⁰

9/9

James Mathews 45 farmer &c

10/10

Mills, Ambros	46	male	white	farmer	\$300	b. NC	
Phalby	35	female	white			b. NC	
William B.	21	male	white			b. NC	attended school
J. C.	18	male	white			b. NC	attended school
R. L.	13	male	white			b. NC	attended school
Selina	12	female	white			b. NC	attended school
Jane	10	female	white			b. NC	attended school
Elizabeth	8	female	white			b. NC	
Nancy	5	female	white			b. NC	

COMMENT:

W. B. Mills posted bond to marry Sarah A. N. Blanton in Rutherford, 12 November 1850, with James Helms as bondsman.⁴⁵¹

11/11

Edgington, J. N. 65, Assilla 61, Elizabeth 24, B. F. (male) 18

(p. 233, stamped, *verso*)

41/41

Mills, Columbus	42	male	white	Physician	\$1200	b. NC	
Susan	32	female	white			b. SC	

(p. 243, stamped, *verso*)

Dwelling/Family 198

Jackson, Jacob 41, Mary 37, William 17, Elmina 11

199/199

Mills, Lavender	53	male	white	Farmer	\$400	[birthplace not stated]	
Phalby	48	female	white			"	cannot r/w
Noah	20	male	white			"	attended school
Jesse	14	male	white			"	attended school

COMMENT:

- The age given for Lavender, if correct, would place his birth between 2 June 1796 and 1 June 1797.

⁴⁵⁰ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 106.

⁴⁵¹ "North Carolina, U.S., Marriage Records, 1741–2011," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/14481978:60548> : 24 August 2021) > Rutherford > Marriage Bonds (1783–1867, image 3338 of 5583. Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 106.

- The age given for Phalby, if correct, would place her birth between 2 June 1801 and 1 June 1802.

Various online trees assert that Phalby, wife of Lavender, was née Williams, and that she was a daughter of Jesse Mills’s daughter Mary “Polly” whose birth date is given in Jesse’s Bible as September 1789. No evidence is cited for Phalby’s surname, or for a marriage between Mary “Polly” Mills and someone named Williams. The time sequence is highly improbable.

Mary “Polly” Mills, b. September 1789 according to the Bible record submitted for her mother’s pension application, would be only 11–12 in the time frame of Phalby’s conception.

Dwelling/Family 200

Weaver, Jesse 47, Nancy 41, William 21, Elizabeth 13, M.T. 16, Green 12, Rachal 9, Depha 6, Adaline 4

(p. 244, stamped)

201/201

Mills, W. A.	23	male	white	[no occ]	[no prop]	b. NC	
Mary	23	female	white			b. NC	
Hosa [Posey]	5	male	white			b. NC	attended school
A. L.	3	female	white			b. NC	
William	1	male	white			b. NC	
Weaver, Sarah	80	female				b. NC	

202/202

Mills, Willis	25	male	white	Farmer	\$200	b. NC	
Rena	28	female	white			b. NC	
Lewis	5	male	white			b. NC	
Columbus	2	male	white			b. NC	
Kilpatrick, Jones	20	male	white			b. NC	can’t r/w

COMMENT:

Willis L. Mills posted bond to marry Lorena McMury, 8 January 1843, Rutherford County, with Rhd. Whiteside as bondsman.⁴⁵²

Also “Willis L. Mills” posted bond to marry Susan Mc King, 8 January 1843, Rutherford county, with Richd. **Whiteside** as bondsman.⁴⁵³

203/203

Ruff, Enoch	40	male	white	farmer		b. SC	
Mary	28	female	white			b. NC	can’t r/w
Martha	15	female	white			b. NC	
Elizabeth	13	female	white			b. NC	
Wiley	11	male	white			b. NC	
George	5	male	white			b. NC	
John Latter	7	male	white			b. NC	

⁴⁵² Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 106.

⁴⁵³ “North Carolina, U.S., Marriage Records, 1741–2011,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/14481978:60548> : 24 August 2021) > Rutherford > Marriage Bonds (1783–1867, image 3342 of 5583).

Walter “	4	male	white		b. NC
Nancy “	2	female	white		b. NC
Ruff, Emely	10/12	female	white		b. NC

(p. 245, stamped)

Dwelling/Family 214

Gibbs, Thos. 29, Sarah 22, J.M. 4, William 1.

Dwelling/Family 215

Mills, P. P.	24	male	white	Farmer	b. NC
Susan	20	female	white		b. NC

COMMENT:

Peter P. Mills posted bond to marry Susanna Crowder, 30 September 1849, Joseph C. Waldrop, bondsman.⁴⁵⁴

216/216

Crowder, Richard 21, Michal (female) 25

217/217

Brown, James 31, Elizabeth 29, A. L. 8, D.C. 6, M. Sercy 13

218/218

Blanton, Wm. J. 27, L. E. 25, M. E. 5, J. E. 3, M. J. 1

219/219

Brown, Claton 52, Louisa 45, John 28, William 25, Nancy 22, Mary 20, J.C. 17, M 15, Peter 13, William 10

220/220

Latter, John H. 48, Mary 38, Elizabeth 16, Allen 14, William 12, M.R. 10, Lewis 7, Martin 4, Joseph 4/12

221/221

Coward, Lewis 32, Z 32, William 7, Thos. 5, Roda 3

(p. 250, stamped, *verso*)

#287/287

Mills, William	50	male	white	Farmer	b. NC
Nancy [Garrett]	33	female	white		b. NC
Sarah	17	female	white		b. NC

COMMENT:

William Mills (his mark) took out bond to marry Nancy **Garret** 16 April 1846, with Noah Mills as bondsman.⁴⁵⁵

Previously (22 March 1823), one William Mills posted bond to marry Winny Coward, with Noah Mills as bondsman.⁴⁵⁶

⁴⁵⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 106.

⁴⁵⁵ “North Carolina, U.S., Marriage Records, 1741–2011,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/14481978:60548> : 24 August 2021) > Rutherford > Marriage Bonds (1783–1867, image 3340 of 5583).

#334/334

Mills, G. R. 45 farmer \$4500 Farmer \$4500 b. NC
[alone, living amid Millers]

COMMENT:

Son of Col. John Mills, Esq.

9 JULY 1850

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage bond.

“Allen, James B. & **Nancy Mills**, 9 Jul 1850; Wm. Rucker, bm..”⁴⁵⁷

4 AUGUST 1850

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Will.

William E. Mills. To pay debts, his Negroes Ellis, Sam & Luke should “be sold on as twelve months for that purpose.” Wife **Ann Eliza** to receive one third of his real estate. His three children: Ambrose, Sarah Louisa, and Ann Eliza are to receive all his real estate on Green River and waters thereof. His lot and premises in the Town of Rutherfordton should be sold at the discretion of his wife and her uncle Larking b. Bryan, to pay debts and for the mutual benefit of his legatees. Son Ambrose to receive his Gold Watch to be delivered to him at a proper age and in the meanwhile to be worn by his [Ambrose’s] mother. “My mutual friends **L. A. Mills** & Larkin B. Byran to be appointed ... administrators with the will annexed.” Witnesses: E. Bryen, Jonathan King.⁴⁵⁸

31 MARCH 1851

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land division.

Pursuant to an order of the Superior Court held in Spring Term 1850, commissioners have proceeded to lay off the dower land of **Mary Mills**, widow of **Marvill Mills Decd.** ... **Taber’s** line ... Cochran ... Hawkins’ corner .. Garner tract ... Edwards corner ... Daniel Edwards’ corner ... Wagon Road Fishers & Millers corner ... Signed: W. B. Rutherford, Jas. B. Allen, **Luke Waldrope**, **Jeco. Waldrope**, James **Kilpatrick**, J. M. **Hamilton**, Jas. Carpenter, E. M. Lynch, Robt. J. Allen, Martin Walker, **John Littlejohn**, Eli F. Littlejohn.”⁴⁵⁹



⁴⁵⁶ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 106.

⁴⁵⁷ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 2.

⁴⁵⁸ Rutherford Co., NC, Will Book E: 202–4; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 4779261 > images 541–42.

⁴⁵⁹ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 45: 890–91; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > image 731.

Appendix 1

PROOF ARGUMENT:

Parentage of Lavender Mills (c1800–c1859) Rutherford County, North Carolina

No known document provides direct evidence—an explicit statement of fact—for the parentage of Lavender Mills.⁴⁶⁰ However, the identity of his father can be established beyond reasonable doubt through indirect evidence gleaned from land transfers and the circumstances under which those transfers were made.

Between 1825 and 1833, an aging John Mills of Rutherford, a farmer on Rotton's Creek (now Rotten Creek), executed three deeds in which he disposed of the land he had spent more than four decades accumulating. This John Mills was not a land speculator. He was a small-scale farmer, deprived of an education on the colonial frontier, who doggedly accumulated 200 or so acres without resorting to the enslavement of laborers that enriched several of his kinsmen.⁴⁶¹ He appears to have died about 1842, leaving no probate.

John's disposals of his land followed the usual pattern of modest-scale farmers who approached old age: landholdings were parceled—equally in size or value—among sons and sometimes sons-in-law. Sometimes the land was gifted. More commonly the deed specified some nominal value. Eventually one son, typically the youngest, would be given a tract outright in exchange for a promise to care for the aging parent(s). That strategy gave sons a start in life and sheltered them from the expenses of probating the parental estate while ensuring that the parents would have a home until their deaths.

This is the pattern of the three documents by which the aging John Mills transferred land to Lavender Mills and Calvin Garrett Mills—two young men who bracketed him on the 1830 census⁴⁶²—via the following string of deeds:

- (1)
11 February 1825

⁴⁶⁰ Online trees assert various parents for him, but provide no supporting evidence. Censuses provide the following data for the period of his birth: **1820: age 16–18 = b. 1802–4**; see Rutherford Co. p. 392. **1830: age 30–39 = b. 1790–1800**; see Rutherford Co., p. 527. **1840: age 30–40 = b. 1800–10**; see Rutherford Co., p. 323. **1850: age 53 = b. 1797**; see Rutherford Co., NC, Polk District, p. 233, dwelling/family 199.

⁴⁶¹ For much other evidence separating John of Rotton's Creek from the other John Millses of Rutherford County, see Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Mills & Associates: Rutherford County, NC, Its Parent Counties (Anson, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Tryon) and Its Offshoots (Buncombe, Burke, Henderson, and Polk Counties): Expanded Survey," report to file, 28 August 2018 (expanded 2 November 2021 and 5 September 2022, 171 pp.; archived online at Mills, *HistoricPathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com/download/MillsRutherfordTryonLincolnSurvey.pdf>)). A number of other related research reports about this Mills family in VA, NC, and SC are posted at this same website, under the "Research" tab. The preparation of a proof argument for John's own parentage is in progress.

⁴⁶² 1830 U.S. census, Rutherford County, NC, p. 527, lines 13–15: Lavender Mills (30–39), John Mills (60–69), Calvin Mills (20–29). John is missing from the census of 1820. His 1810 household data shows two young males 0–10; see 1810 U.S. census, Rutherford Co., NC, p. 121.

John Mills (x) to Lavender Mills, sale for \$30, 50 acres on the **head** of **Rotten’s Creek** of Green River, described as

Beginning at a post oak in the N side of sd creek in or near & above John Mills’ old line, runing S 57 W 114 poles to a white oak, then N 33 W 24 poles to a hicory, then S 33 W 40 poles to a hicory at a branch, then S 33 E 150 poles to a stake, then to beginning ... ‘being part of a tract granted by patent to **Tench Coxe** & conveyed by him to the sd John Mills.’ Witness: **A. Mills** [Ambrose Mills Jr., Esq.]. Recorded 19 May 1825.⁴⁶³

The delay of three months between execution of the deed and its delivery to the county court for filing and recording was typical. The deed would be “proved” in court by the acknowledgment of the seller on his next trip into the county seat. If he did not do so, then the buyer (to whom the recording of the deed was most critical) would arrange for at least one of the witnesses to appear at the next term of court to attest the validity of the document.

Four years later, John Mills cut off another parcel of his land via a deed that indirectly tells us something more. After he conveyed part of his land to Lavender, neither he nor Lavender had seen a need to have Lavender’s land surveyed to protect Lavender’s legal interest. The two men simply agreed between them on where the dividing line would be drawn between their two parts. Absolute trust in each other is evident.

The new deed also spoke indirectly to a parent-child relationship without specifying the relationship.

(2)

17 October 1829

John Mills (x) to “Calvin Garrett” [Calvin Garrett Mills], “for the consideration of the Servises Done for the said John Mills by the said Calvin Garett, John gave another 50 acres on **Rotton’s Creek**

beginning at a black gum & pointers on **Gilberts’ old line**, thence S 30 E to the conditional line between the said John Mills & **Lavender Mills** to the old line, then with the old line to the beginning, the black gum & pointers.

“Said John Mills keeps the said land During his life & at his Death the said Calvin Garret or his heirs takes possession.” Witness: John Cave. Filed: 20 March 1830, a five-month delay.⁴⁶⁴

Calvin did not fulfill the pledge. He remained in Rutherford through the 1830 census, then moved in the mid-1830s to Georgia.⁴⁶⁵

In the meanwhile, John would sell one final tract of his land—again, to Lavender.

(3)

31 August 1833

John Mills (x) to **Lavender Mills**, sale for \$175, 50 acres on **Rotten’s Creek**, both sides, described as

⁴⁶³ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 35:40; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517767 > image 209.

⁴⁶⁴ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 37–38:116; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517768 > image 64.

⁴⁶⁵ 1840 U.S. census, Cherokee Co., GA, p. 174, line 5. 1850 U.S. census, Lumpkin Co., GA, p. 72 (stamped), *verso* dwelling/family 41 (Calvin Mills, 46, farmer \$130 b. NC; Margaret 41 b. NC, Thomas 18 b. NC, Jane 16 b. NC; also see dwelling/family 42 (Adolphus Mills 2 farmer \$0 b. NC, Caroline 22 b. GA, William 1 b. GA). If the 1850 census is correct, then Calvin was born between 2 June 1803 and 1 June 1804.

Beginning on a Spanish oak bush on the foresaid Mills' own line at the cross paths and runs with Sd path through sd **Mills's lane** to a poplar at the head of sd John Mills's lane, thence W to the head of a branch to a conditional line, thence down the sd branch along conditional line between Williams & foresaid Mills crossing the foresd creek with the sd conditional line to the foresd John Mills' old line, to a red oak, then N to the beginning.

Witnesses: Wyley Laughter, John Lyon. Filed 17 December 1842.⁴⁶⁶

This document presents one striking difference: Unlike the prior deed to Lavender, neither Lavender nor John took this document to the county court for filing. Not for nine years. The 1840 census came and went, John was still alive; but he did not record the deed and Lavender did not demand that it be proved in court to ensure his legal right to the land.

Five months before this deed was ultimately recorded, Lavender acquired the piece of land that John had gifted to Calvin. He did not acquire it from Calvin, however. He bought it—and Calvin's obligation—from their kinsman Ambrose Mills, Esq. Calvin's move South to Georgia would have required funds. Often, young men who did not own property acquired those funds by selling to a family member their "interest" in a parental estate. The wealthy Ambrose Mills would have been in a position to buy that interest.

And so, shortly before Lavender filed the deed that he had held for nine years, he executed one more purchase:

(4)

13 July 1842

Ambrose Mills to Lavender Mills, sale for \$25, 50 acres described as 50 acres on both sides of **Rotton's Creek** of Green River:

Beginning at a black gum and pointers on Gilberts old line, thence S 30 E to conditional line between the said **John Mills** [*sic*] and **Lavender Mills** to the old line, then with the old line to the beginning, ...

'The said John Mills [*sic*] to hold said Land during his life, then the said Lavender Mills or his heirs take possession.' Witnesses: Stephen Coward and Claton Brown. Filed 13 July 1842.⁴⁶⁷

One conspicuous error exists in the fourth deed: the phrase, "the said John Mills." John Mills had not been mentioned previously in that document. It is clear from the context that the scribe who penned the document was copying from an earlier deed. The description of the land itself identifies the deed from which it was copied: the 1829 donation from John Mills to Calvin.⁴⁶⁸

Lavender's filing of the unrecorded 1833 document on 17 December 1842 was likely triggered by John's death. John has not been found on record thereafter.

⁴⁶⁶ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 44:391; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > image204.

⁴⁶⁷ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 44:326; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517770 > image 172.

⁴⁶⁸ The scribe was likely Ambrose himself, given his years of service as a county justice. Ambrose filed the document the same day it was drafted and his verbal acknowledgment was accepted by the clerk without waiting for the next term of court. Rutherford Co. NC, Clerk of Superior Court Minutes, County Court, 1838–1844, p. 348, for Ambrose's status as a county justice, and 345–78 for July term of court; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7640781 > images 203–21.

Appendix 2
RESOURCES USED

ORIGINAL RECORDS ONLINE:

FamilySearch.org > Records > Rutherford County, North Carolina

- Deeds and Grants Labeled Ledger, 1796–1797
- Deeds Books, A-Z and 1–45, 1779–1853
- Land Entries, 1782–1797
- Minutes, Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1868
- Miscellaneous Probate Records, 1784–1850
- Will Books, A–E, 1782–1868
- Will Records and Cross Index, 1782–1968
- Wills, 1663–1987; Estate Papers, 1802–1968 (Rutherford County)

“North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960.” Database with images. *Ancestry* <https://www.ancestry.com>.

North Carolina. “District Superior Court Records.” *North Carolina Digital Archives*. <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/home/collections/district-superior-court>. Nothing relevant found for Henson, Mills, Pickett, Moses Smith, or Watts.

———, State Library. “Colonial Court Records.” *North Carolina Digital Archives*. <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/home/collections/colonial-court>. Nothing of relevance found for Henson, Mills, Pickett, Moses Smith, or Watts.

McCorkle, David M. *NC Land Grant Images and Data*. <http://www.nclandgrants.com>.

———. “Secretary of State Wills.” *North Carolina Digital Archives*. <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/home/collections/district-superior-court>. Nothing relevant found for Henson, Mills, Pickett, Moses Smith, or Watts. The one Mills document was for George, 1689, county not given.

———. “Tax Lists and Records” *North Carolina Digital Archives*. <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/home/collections/tax-lists>. Mostly colonial. Available for Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Caswell, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dobbs, Gates, Granville, Halifax, Hertford, Johnston, Jones, Martin, Montgomery, Nash, New Bern District, Northampton, Onslow, Orange, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Richmond, Rutherford, Sampson, Surry, Tyrrell, Warren, and Wilkes.

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- . *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786. Tryon County Wills & Estates*. Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977.
- . *Greenville County, South Carolina, Will Abstracts, 1787–1853*. Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 2012.
- . *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986.
- . *Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Early Wills, 1763–1790 (1749–1790)*. Greenville, SC: A Press, 1980.
- . *Tryon County, North Carolina, Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1769–1779*. Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1994.
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- . *Burke County, North Carolina, Land Records, 1779–1790 and Important Miscellaneous Records, 1777–1800*. Vol. 2 of her variously titled land series. N.p.: P.p., 1981. Nothing on Henson, Hinson, Saunders, James or Mary Stepp, James & Frances Taylor, or Watts. Bartlett Hinson appears in various records of the 1785–1790s. William Mills & Ann Mills also appear, but only for transcriptions of “Western Waters” land grants I already have.
- . *Burke County, North Carolina Land Records and More Important Miscellaneous Records, 1751–1809*. Vol. 3 of her variously titled land series. Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1987.
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