

William Mills (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)

Spouse:

Drucilla Kemp

Research Notes

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

- Born:** c1784–88,¹ Franklin County, Virginia²
- Married:** c24 August 1815 (date of bond; return not filed), **Drucilla Kemp**, born about 1792–93 to Robert Kemp³ and Milly Edmundson who m. 2 November 1786;⁴ stepdaughter of Sarah Mattox who married Robert Kemp on 9 December 1802.⁵
- Died:** cDecember 1862, presumably Pulaski County, Virginia⁶
- Birth Family:** Unproved; cannot be fit into any Mills family established in Franklin County. Descendants in the male line carry Y-DNA (haplogroup I-L338) with markers that match offspring of the Witt/Whitt family that spread through numerous counties in central Virginia.⁷ William's two daughters were named **Sarah** and **Milly Frances**. The names *Sarah* and

¹ 1860 U.S. census, Pulaski Co., VA, population schedule, Western District, post office Newbern, p. 29 (also 721), dwelling/family 197/192, William Mills, age 76; census taken 22 June 1860. That census calls for citing age as of 1 June. If given accurately, William's birth would have occurred between 2 June 1783 and 1 June 1784. 1850 U.S. census, Floyd Co., VA, pop. sch., Western Dist. No. 15, p. 391b, fam./dwell, 204/204, dated 25 July 1850, cites his age as 62—suggesting that his birth was between 2 June 1787 and 1 June 1788. He first appears as a tithable on personal tax rolls in 1806; the tithable age at that time appears to have been 21, placing his birth before 1785. See tax notes for that year, abstracted in this report.

² 1850 U.S. census, Floyd Co. This census cites county of birth for individuals born in Virginia. All members of William's household are said to have been born in Franklin Co. The data seems not to be a default used by the enumerator because surrounding households have considerable diversity in birthplaces.

³ Franklin Co., Will Book 4: 163, estate of Robert Kemp, dec'd., partition of goods among heirs, 8 June 1830.

⁴ Marshall Wingfield, *Marriage Bonds of Franklin County, Virginia* (Memphis: West Tennessee Historical Society 1939), 52, "Robt. Camp" and "Milly Edmundson, daughter of Richard." The surviving documents I have seen for the estate of Richard Edmundson do identify Kemp as an heir, but do not specifically mention a daughter Milly.

⁵ Franklin Co., VA, Marriage Bond Register, 1786–1853, p. 54.

⁶ 1863 registers are missing from the local series; and the state series is missing an overlapping block of three years. A death in late December, not reported until January 1863, is suggested by a furlough petition that son William B. made to the Confederacy on 4 January 1863 stating that he had "some transactions to manage with regard to my land which requires my personal attention," and that, if unaddressed, "it will be very much against the interest of myself and [my] wife and seven children." William B. owned no land in his own name; he was then in possession of and paying taxes on his father's land. For the furlough petition, see Beverly Merritt, *Civil War Records of Franklin County, Virginia, 1861–1865* (Ferrum, VA: Privately printed, 2007), 231; also Beverly Merritt and Jane Zarn, *Voices of Franklin County, Virginia, 1861–1865* (Henry, VA: Jane Zarn, 2013), 290. In both volumes, the notes for "William Breckenridge Mills" have the semblance of credibility but they do not identify the source of any document (aside from Mary Ann's petition) or the source of the middle name assigned to William.

⁷ On 67-marker tests taken by Clay and Dan Mills, fourth-great-grandsons of William and Drucilla, they match Kenneth Allen Whitt (descendant of Rev. Richard Whitt of **Montgomery Co.**, VA, c1729–1813 < Richard Sr. < John I) at a genetic distance of 2.

On 111-marker tests, Clay and Dan match

- Mark A. White (desc. of John Witt White, b. c1788 in **Amherst** to Elizabeth White; bound out 1793), at GD 1.
- David Charles Bray, proposed desc. of John William < William Edward (**Halifax Co**) < John Witt I, at GD 1.
- Warren Clark Pratt, desc. of Anne (Mills) Witt & husband Lewis Witt (**Bedford**) < William (**Albemarle**) < John I at GD 2.
- Gerald Witt (descendant of Charles Witt (b. 1718) to John Witt II & Elizabeth Harbour of **Goochland & Halifax**) at GD 3.

I find no Mills couple or female past puberty in the direct line who can be placed in proximity to a Witt male at the time a direct-line son was born—until we reach the generation of this William Mills who married Drucilla Kemp.

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Milly could be attributed to Drucilla's mother and stepmother; or they might represent William's mother and Drucilla's mother, respectively. The name also *Frances* suggests a name for William's mother.

The fact that William does not fit into any established marital unit and that he carried the Mills surname but the Witt Y combine to suggest that his mother may have been a Mills who bore him out of wedlock by a Witt/Whitt male in her community.

OCCUPATION: Possible fisherman in his youth (1814, Montgomery Co.);⁸ tobacco farmer, 1830s– c1850⁹

LOCATIONS: 1806–10 Franklin County
1811 *Missing*
1812–20 Franklin County
1821–29 *Nothing found* (Franklin Co. tax rolls did not include propertyless males)
1830–47 Franklin County
1848 Moved to Floyd but not taxed there; typically a one-year lapse at move
1849–51 Floyd County (Franklin land taxed to him in Floyd; on Floyd 1850 census and 1849–51 tax rolls)
1849–65 Franklin County land apparently occupied by son William B.
1851–52 *Nothing found*
1853 Montgomery tax roll along with Sparrel and "William Jr."
1854–59 *Nothing found*
1860 Pulaski County census with grown children
1861–62? Pulaski County apparent death place; death records missing
1865 Franklin County tax roll shows disposal of 25 acres
1867 Montgomery County (widow Drucilla died while living with offspring)
1872–83 Franklin County land still taxed to him but paid by Wilson Cundiff
1884–93 Franklin County land still taxed to him but paid by Cundiff heirs
1894 Court-ordered deed to James H. Cundiff for acreage sold to Wilson Cundiff 'by William Mills in his lifetime'

CHILDREN OF WILLIAM & DRUCILLA:¹⁰

1. **JAMES HARRISON MILLS**, b. c1816; first appeared on Franklin Co. tax rolls, adjacent to William, in 1837. Last taxed

⁸ Legislative Petitions Digital Collection," database with images, Library of Virginia, Virginia Memory (<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions> : accessed 19 February 2019); citing accession Number 36121, Box 171, Folder 95.

⁹ The 1850 enumeration of his household in Floyd County called him simply a "farmer." However, a mortgage he executed in 1834 included—in addition to land, horses, and cattle— "a house of tobacco." See Franklin Co. Deed Book 14: 214; Office of the County Clerk, Rocky Mount.

¹⁰ Many online trees erroneously assign two other "sons" to this couple: Larkin Preston Mills (said to be b. c1814, husband of Hannah Wimmer) and Anderson Mills (said to be b. c1816, husband of Hannah Smith and Sarah Gearhart). However

- The license for Anderson's second marriage identifies his parents as "John and Nancy" Mills. For an image copy, see "olé Paul," Rena Worthen & BarbR (contributors), "Index to Marriages of Floyd County, Virginia 1831–1940," RootsWeb (sites.rootsweb.com/~vafloyd/1_Marriages : downloaded 19 April 2020).
- Censuses, tax rolls, and legal records for these two men more often associate them with the family of William Mills Sr. (son of James Sr.) who married Elizabeth Abshire and lived in the Maggoty/Elliott's Creek region of Franklin Co.. None associate them with the Black Water River area where William and Drucilla lived with her Kemp and Maddox family. For example, see the 1830 census of Franklin which enumerates Anderson and Larkin consecutively with Hiram Mills; Hiram is named as a son in the 1841 will of William Mills, the son of James Mills of Elliott's Creek and the husband of Elizabeth Abshire (Franklin Co., Will Book 5:336).

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in 1844; he is cited in October 1845 as debtor to a neighbor's estate.¹¹ His middle name is provided in the case *Commonwealth v. William H. Sneed*, in which Sneed is accused of assaulting "Harrison Mills" and Samuel E. Mills.¹²

2. **SAMUEL E(DMUNDSON?) MILLS**, b. 26 February 1818; died 31 July 1894, Talbot Co., GA;¹³ married (1) Mary Ann Hobson, 17 December 1841, Franklin Co., VA, with James Patterson as bondsman;¹⁴ (2) Rebecca Amy Collier, 19 March 1868, Upson Co., GA.¹⁵ The daughter of Charles V. Collier, Rebecca was living 1924 in Thomaston, GA.¹⁶ Samuel was the second son of William and Drucilla to emerge on the Franklin rolls, being first taxed at the age of 21 in 1839.
3. **WILLIAM B(RECKENRIDGE?) MILLS**, b. c1820 (apparently 1 January to 1 June 1820 if the 1840 census data is correct) should be the third son aged 0–5 in William and Drucilla's 1820 household. He makes his first appearance in Franklin on the 1841 tax roll, appeared again in 1842, was dropped in 1843, was back again in 1844; and on 19 October 1847, in Franklin County, he married **Mary M. Matthews**.¹⁷ He died as a soldier on 30 April 1865, from a gunshot wound.¹⁸

Two "William B." Millses existed in Franklin at that time. Both were sons of a William Mills and both married women named Mary in 1847. They can be separated by the use of other records:

- *William A. B. Mills* (William A. Burrell Mills), as "William Mills," took out a bond to marry Mary Abshire, with Anderson Starkey as surety, 4 January 1847.¹⁹ This William was taxed among the Abshires of Maggoty and Elliot Creeks. He was the son of William Mills and wife Elizabeth Abshire, and the grandson of James Mills who settled on Elliot's Creek in the 1780s. In 1847, the widowed Elizabeth (Abshire) Mills, her son "William A. B. Mills" and his "wife Mary E." sold their inherited land on Elliot's Creek to Anderson Starkey.²⁰ They left Franklin before the 1850 census.
- *William B. Mills*, as "William Mills," took out a bond to marry Mary M. Matthews, with Wm. C. Barber as surety, 19 October 1847.²¹ When his wife "M. Mills" reported his death to Franklin County officials, she identified him as "William B. Mills, aged 47" and son of "W. Mills," saying that his 30 April 1865 death was from a gunshot wound. This William and Mary are represented on the 1850 to 1870 censuses that identify the children in their household as follows:

1850: John W. (aged 3) and James W. (age 1)²²

1860: Jno. W. (11), Jas W. (10), Thomas R. (9), Jos A. (8), Mildred (5), and Saml M. (4/12)²³

1870: Joseph (16), Mildred (14), Samuel (10), Ruthy (7), and Henry (6)²⁴

¹¹ Franklin Co., Will Book 6 With Inventories & Accounts, 1845–49, pp. 177–79.

¹² Franklin Co., Determined Papers, 1844, unnumbered, unalphabetized; imaged as *FamilySearch* digital film 8573784, images 680–88.

¹³ Tombstone, Woodbury Cemetery, Woodbury (Meriwether Co.), GA.

¹⁴ Franklin Co., Marriage Bond no. 2857. In 1834 James Patterson m. Sarah Wade, daughter of John Wade.

¹⁵ Upson Co., GA, Marriages Book B, 1859–1877, p. 121; return by E. S. Harris, MG.

¹⁶ Inez Mills to Elizabeth Shown Mills, letter, 26 July 1972.

¹⁷ Franklin Co. Marriage Bond Book 1, nos. 2861.

¹⁸ Franklin Co., Register of Deaths, p. 67; Clerk's Office, Rocky Mount.

¹⁹ Franklin Co., Marriage Bond Book 1, nos. 2861 and 2862.

²⁰ Franklin Co., Deed Book 20: 25.

²¹ Franklin Co., Marriage Bond no. 2862.

²² 1850 U.S. census, Franklin Co., pop. sch., p. 197 verso, dwelling 2012, family 2001, with sons John W. (aged 3) and James W. (age 1).

²³ 1860 U.S. census, Franklin Co., pop. sch., SW Dist., p. 127 (penned), dwell. 902, family 901, with children Jno. W. (11), Jas W. (10), Thomas R. (9), Jos A. (8), Mildred (5), and Saml M. (4/12).

²⁴ 1870 U.S. census, Franklin Co., pop. sch., Rocky Mount township p. 18, dwelling/family 120/120, which assigns to Mary the children Joseph (16), Mildred (14), Samuel (10), Ruthy (7), and Henry (6).

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Descendants of these children have traditionally identified their father as William *Breckinridge* Mills. All contemporary documents found to date only use the middle initial *B*.

William B. apparently joined the same CSA company as his brother Sparrel. Both their names appear in an August 1862 notice naming eight “Montgomery Co.” soldiers from Co. C, 54th regiment of Virginia Volunteers who were absent without leave.²⁵ The fact that both William B. and Sparrel returned to service, and that CSA soldiers frequently returned home without leave in times of family need or crisis, suggests the possibility that this was the death period of their father William.

4. **SPARREL MILLS**, b. c1824, Franklin Co., VA; first appears on the Franklin Co. tax roll of 1845; married **Martha Susan Jarrett**, 1848, in Henry Co., VA, where her Franklin-rooted family then lived. By 1850, Sparrel, his in-laws, and his parents were all in Floyd Co. Sparrel enlisted in Co. C, 54th Inf., on 10 April 1862 at the Montgomery Co. courthouse in Christiansburg, for the duration of the war. He was said to have deserted in August 1862, but returned to service and was captured by the enemy on 19 June 1863 at LeNoir Station, TN.²⁶ Postwar, he remained in Montgomery, and died after 3 May 1900, when he filed an application for a Confederate pension as a resident of Radford,²⁷ an independent city in Montgomery Co., originally known as Lovely Mount.
5. **ROBERT WILEY MILLS**, b. c1826; died 31 May 1862, Battle of Seven Pines near Richmond, VA.²⁸ He married 18 December 1843, Henry Co., VA, **Mary Jarrett**, daughter of Allen Jarrett.²⁹ In 1850, as “Wiley Mills,” he farmed in Floyd Co.’s militia district 15³⁰ (Beaverdam Creek, allegedly).³¹ He enlisted at the Floyd Co. courthouse on 14 March 1862 (age 36) in Co. A, 24th VA Infantry, under Lt. G. M. Helms.³² After his death, his wife Mary is said to have taken their four youngest children to Illinois to live with her brother, William Jarrett. Following the war,

²⁵ “Deserted,” *Wytheville (Virginia) Dispatch*, 22 August 1862, p. 3.

²⁶ *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/12474935> : accessed 4 August 2018) > Civil War Service Records > Confederate Records > Virginia > Fifty-fourth Infantry > M > Mills, Sparrill. The first Franklin Co. male to carry that unusual name in this county appears to be Sparrell Hale, born about 1798 to a Franklin County kingpin John Hale, by his wife Theodocia Saunders (daughter of Col. Peter Saunders and wife Mary Sparrel). Beginning about 1820, a spate of Franklin County’s male children were given his name.

²⁷ **1850** U.S. census, Floyd Co., VA, pop. sch., p. 391, dwell./fam. 214/214, cites Sparrel’s age as 23. This census states county of birth for those born in Virginia. **1860** U.S. census, Montgomery Co., VA, pop. sch., dwell./fam. 873/800 shows Sparrel 33, laborer, /\$75, (b. VA), Martha S. 24, Juliana F. 11, Nancy J 9, Robert W 7, Mary A. 5, Alexander 3, Ellen 1. **1870** U.S. census, Montgomery Co., VA, pop. sch., dwell./fam. 288/323 shows Sparrell 39 farmer, Martha S. 37, Irelina F. 21, Nancy J. 19, Robert W. 16, Mary A. 14, Alexander 12, Sarah E. 9, Eliza S. 8, Maggie E. 6, Lucy E. 3, Laura G. 3/12; living with them (if that year’s duplicate copy of the census is copied correctly, were Bradberrys who in 1860 were children in the household of George and his first wife. **1880** U.S. census, Montgomery Co., VA, pop. sch., enumeration district (ED) 49, p.6-B, “Shanell” Mills, citing his age as 56. **1900** U.S. census, Radford City, VA, pop. sch., ED 90, sheet 30-A, dwell./fam. 542/570, Sparrel? “Milles” [first name taped over], age “85” [age written over]. Also see “Alabama, Texas and Virginia, Confederate Pensions, 1884–1958,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 June 2018), image 353 of 797; in his application of 3 May 1900, Sparrel gave his age as “about 75.”

²⁸ *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/20/10785072> : accessed 4 August 2018) > Civil War Service Records > Confederate Records > Virginia > Twenty-fourth Infantry > M > Mills, Robert W.

²⁹ Virginia Anderton Dodd, *Henry County Marriage Bonds, 1778–1849* (Richmond: Privately printed, 1953), 36. The 1850 census entry for the household of “Wiley” and Mary states his age as 26.

³⁰ 1850 U.S. census, Floyd Co., VA, pop. sch., p. 408, dwell./fam. 451/451. In the adjacent household in 1850 was “Francis Holoway 17,” b. Franklin; one “Francis” Holoway/Holiday, about same age, supposedly a female, is also 6 houses from William and Drucilla. Robert is also two households from Whitlock, another family in the neighborhood of his parents that year.

³¹ Edward E. Mills, query, “MILLS, JARRETT,” *RootsWeb: Query Page for Floyd County, VA* (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~vafloyd/floyd-query-1998.htm> : posted 30 March 1998; accessed 15 March 2002). Edward E. Mills is a descendant of Robert Wiley and Mary Jarrett.

³² *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/20/10785072> : accessed 4 August 2018) > Civil War Service Records > Confederate Records > Virginia > Twenty-fourth Infantry > M > Mills, Robert W.

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Robert and Mary's oldest son, William Allen Mills, also joined the family in IL.³³ Male line descendants of Robert Wiley Mills carry the same Witt/Whitt Y-DNA as male-line descendants of Samuel E. Mills, above; the match is a genetic distance of 0 on a 111-marker test. (The source of Robert Wiley's name has not been discovered. One Robert Wylie does appear on the 1787 personal tax roll of Montgomery Co., List B.³⁴ The name is also prominent in Monroe County from c1800–1820s; and is found in Giles County in the vicinity of Frances "Franky" Mills and her husband John White Sr.)

6. **CHARLES T. MILLS**, b. c1828,³⁵ or 1833,³⁶ Franklin Co., VA; married **Sarah E. Fleeman**, daughter of Elias and Patsy Fleeman," 22 December 1857, Montgomery Co.,³⁷ where they were enumerated in 1860. By 1870, they had moved to Claiborne County, TN, by 1870. Both died after 1880 census of Claiborne.³⁸
7. **SARAH "SALLIE" ANN MILLS**, b. ca. 1830; Sarah died 1 July 1889 in Summers Co., WV.³⁹ Married **William H. Key**, c16 December 1850.⁴⁰ He appears on the 1850 census of Floyd, aged 23m living with George Key, aged 36, (both born in Giles Co.) and George's wife Hannah Kester (28, b. Montgomery Co.); the Keys were listed consecutively with the Allen Jarrett family and Jarrett's son-in-law, Sarah's brother Sparrel Mills.⁴¹ The census data suggest that William and George were brothers—in which case William would be the son of James Arphax Key (who married Betsy Snidow in Montgomery Co., by bond of 5 April 1815), grandson of Franklin Co.,'s George Key and wife Susanna Craighead (a first cousin of Drucilla Kemp's father Robert), and geat-grandson of John Key and wife Agnes *Witt* of Amherst. In 1860, the Sarah and William Key lived in the Mills-Jarrett family cluster in Pulaski County's Western District. On 6 April 1864, as "Sarah A. Key," age 35, daughter of "William Mills" and "Drucella Mills," she m. a widower from Lovely Mount (now Radford) in Montgomery Co., **George Bradbury** (aka Bradberry), son of Mark and Mary.⁴²

³³ Edward E. Mills, query, "MILLS, JARRETT," *RootsWeb: Query Page for Floyd County, VA* (<http://www.rootweb.com/~vafloyd/floyd-query-1998.htm> : posted 30 March 1998; accessed 15 March 2002).

³⁴ 1788 Montgomery Co., VA, tax roll, arranged semi-alphabetically by first letter of surname; imaged, *FamilySearch* > digital film 1870165. The entire 1788 roll was read for possible references under other letters of the alphabet.

³⁵ 1850 U.S. census, Floyd Co., VA, pop. sch., p. 391, family/dwelling 214/214. This census states county of birth for those born in Virginia. It states Charles T.'s age as 21, which means he was born between 2 June 1828 and 1 June 1829.

³⁶ 1860 U.S. census, Montgomery Co., VA, pop. sch., Lovely Mount P.O., p. 106, dwell./fam. 776/719, Charles T. 27, laborer, and Sarah Mills 27, no children.

³⁷ Therese C. Fisher, compiler, *Marriages in the New River Valley, Virginia: Montgomery, Floyd, Pulaski, and Giles Counties* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2008), 165.

³⁸ Census data for the Tennessee couple is radically "off" in 1870 but compatible in 1880. See **1870** U.S. census, Claiborne Co., TN, Post Office: Cumberland Gap, TN, 4th Civil District, p. 236, dwelling/family 87/86: Charles Mills 50 "works on farm," Sarah 33, Martha 10 (all b. VA), with Sarah F. 6 and Rachel 3 (both b. TN). **1880** U.S. census, Claiborne Co., TN, stamped p. 143-D, ED 105, dwell./fam.: Charles Mills 50, Annie 47, Martha 20 (all b. VA), Sarah 16 and Rachel 14 (both b. TN).

³⁹ "West Virginia Deaths, 1804–1999," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NMTN-DFY> : 10 March 2018), Sarah N. Mills Bradberry, daughter of "William and Drucilla Mills" and wife of George Bradberry, 1 Jul 1889; citing Summers County, West Virginia, County Records, v A p 54 and FHL microfilm 589,344. The N initial is almost certainly a misreading of A [*Ann*], made by the clerk when entering into the register whatever written details the family provided for the recording.

⁴⁰ "Virginia Compiled Marriages, 1740–1850," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : 6 February 2020), database entry for William H. Key and Sarah Ann Mills. Also 1860 U.S. census, Pulaski Co., TN, "Western District: Newbern P.O.," p. 29, dwelling/family 198/193.

⁴¹ 1850 U.S. census, Floyd Co., pop. sch., p. 406, dwell./fam. 421–23/421–23. George W. Key m. "Hannah Kester d/o John," 22 April 1841, Giles Co.; Therese C. Fisher, compiler, *Marriages in the New River Valley, Virginia: Montgomery, Floyd, Pulaski, and Giles Counties* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2008), 130.

⁴² "Virginia Marriages, 1785–1940," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XRS5-64F> : 11 February 2018), Geo. Bradbury and Sarah A. Key, 06 Apr 1864; citing Montgomery, Virginia, reference n 21; FHL film 2,048,462.

Bradberry in 1860 had a different wife and children who were not living with him and Sarah in 1870. See **1860** U.S. census, Montgomery Co., VA, pop. sch., Post Office: "Snowville Pulaski County," p. 131, dwell./fam. 532/500; George (40), Catharine 41; Charlton W. 15; James T. 15; Edward T. 10; Patrick A. 8; Richard M 5. Also **1870** U.S. census, Montgomery Co., Christiansburg

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8. **MILLY FRANCES MILLS**, b. April 1832⁴³ (variously 1830⁴⁴ 1832,⁴⁵ 1833⁴⁶) in Franklin Co., VA;⁴⁷ died after the 6 June 1900 census visitation⁴⁸ and, apparently before the April 1904 death of her husband whose obituary cites children but not a wife. On 27 July 1854 (by license of 22 July) in Floyd Co., VA, Milly married **John B. Lawrence**, who had been born in Bedford Co., VA, as son of William and Agnes Lawrence.⁴⁹ Online trees identify his mother as Agnes Smith, supposedly b. 1813 in Russell County, VA to “Col. Henry Harry’ Smith, 1774–1850) and Mary McCanless Taylor.”⁵⁰ John’s Confederate tombstone in Sunset Cemetery, Christiansburg (Montgomery Co.) states his birth date as 15 April 1832 and his death date as 24 April 1904.⁵¹

P.O., p. 143, dwell./fam., 287/322 for George Bradberry 50, male, white, carpenter \$500/125, b. Va.; and Sarah 41, female, white, keeping house, b. VA. Bradberry’s children, on the federal (imaged) copy of the 1860 census are listed in the next-door household of Sarah’s brother Sparrel Mills, which may be a clerical error. George Bradberry was the informant for the 1867 death certificate of Drucilla (Kemp) Mills. Records differ as to Sarah’s age. In brief: 1850 census: 21; 1860 census, 29; 1864 remarriage: 35; 1870 census, 41; 1880 census, 51.

⁴³ 1900 U.S. census, Montgomery Co., VA, Town of Christiansburg, ED 67, sheet 4-B.

⁴⁴ 1850 U.S. census, Floyd Co., VA, pop. sch., p. 391, family/dwelling 214/214. This census states county of birth for those born in Virginia.

⁴⁵ 1870 U.S. census, Montgomery Co., pop. sch., Christiansburg P.O., p. 132-A, dwell./fam. 125/152, John Lawrence 37, farmer \$900/300; Milly F. 38, William T. 13, John W. 12, Drucilla 11, Mary F. 9, Alice 3, Richard 1.

⁴⁶ 1860 U.S. census, Montgomery Co., VA, P.O. Christiansburg, p. 118, dwell./fam. 869/797 John B. Lawrence 26, laborer (b. VA), Mary [sic] F. 27 (b. VA), William T. 4 (b. VA.), John W. 3 (b. VA), Drucilla 1 (b. VA). At 873/800 is Sparrel Mills and family.

⁴⁷ 1850 U.S. census, Floyd Co., VA, pop. sch., p. 391, family/dwelling 214/214. This census states county of birth for those born in Virginia.

⁴⁸ 1900 U.S. census, Montgomery Co., VA, Town of Christiansburg, ED 67, sheet 4-B.

⁴⁹ “Virginia, Select Marriages, 1785–1940,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>), Milly A. [sic] Mills, 22, born 1832, Floyd Co. VA, marriage 27 July 1854, Floyd County, Virginia, daughter of William and “Pricilla” [sic] married John B. Lawrence, age 16 [sic], son of William and Agnes, b. Bedford Co.; citing FHL microfilm 31345 “P10.”

For documentation of her middle name as “Frances,” see marriage of the 70-year-old Mary Frances “Fannie” (Lawrence) Viar to Walter E. Martin, 17 December 1940 (Montgomery Co., VA), at which time Fannie identified herself as daughter of “John B. Lawrence” and “Frances Mills.” “Virginia, Marriage Records, 1700-1850,” database and images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 2012); citing Christiansburg, Virginia, United States, certificate 52050, Virginia Department of Health, Richmond.

For documentation of her middle initial as “F.” see:

- The marriage record of her daughter Rosa L. Lawrence to William J. Bradberry (son of Charlton and Ann), identifies Rosa’s parents as “Jno. B. Lawrence” and “Mary F. Lawrence”; see “Virginia Marriages, 1785-1940,” database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XRQ7-B3D : 11 February 2018>), William J. Bradberry and Rosa L. Lawrence, 19 Sep 1892; citing Montgomery Co., Virginia, reference n 80; FHL film 2,048,462.

- The marriage record of her daughter Drucilla (Lawrence) Wade to James W. Foote (son of S. and R. Foote), identifies Drucilla’s parents as “J. B. Lawrence” and “M. F. Lawrence”; see “Virginia Marriages, 1785-1940,” database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XRQW-81D : 11 February 2018>), James W. Foote and Drucilla Wade, 10 Aug 1898; citing Montgomery Co., Virginia, reference 81; FHL film 2,048,462.

- The birth registration of her son William T. Lawrence, born 26 July 1855, identifies his parents as “John Lawrence” and “Milly F. Lawrence”; see “Virginia Births and Christenings, 1584-1917,” database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X5V7-GG3 : 10 March 2018>), Wm. T. Lawrence, 26 July 1855; citing Montgomery, Virginia, reference p 14; FHL film 2,046,951.

⁵⁰ For example see ARMSTRONGFAMILY11, “Armstrong Family File,” user-contributed trees, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/77744062/person/120078301189/facts> : accessed 27 April 2021), Agnes Smith “Facts.” In 1880, Agnes Lawrence, aged 76, lived in the household of her son Geo. T., three houses from John B. Lawrence and wife Milly F.; see 1880 U.S. census, Montgomery Co., pop. sch., stamped p. 320-D, Christiansburg, ED 49, p. 4, dwellings 27 & 30, families 29 and 32. The claim for Agnes’ parentage is not documented in the online trees trees.

⁵¹ *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/52752773/john-b-lawrence> : accessed 27 April 2021), memorial page with photograph of tombstone, by Brenda Dudley Eames, who offers a transcript of his obituary from an undated newspaper clipping:

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9. **THOMAS R[ICHARD?] MILLS**, b. 11 March 1833, according to his death certificate;⁵² married *ca.* 27 August 1855, **Sarah S. Nunnally [var. Nunley]**, daughter of Richard and “B” Nunnally.⁵³ The couple are cited on the 1860 census, Pulaski Co., VA, next door to both sets of parents. As a Confederate soldier, he saw action in the Battles of Missionary Ridge and Chickamauga. In 1880, he resided in Montgomery Co.;⁵⁴ but by 1900, he and Sarah had returned to Pulaski County where he was employed as a “river ferryman.”⁵⁵ Thomas died 5 April 1915 of “chronic Bright’s disease.”⁵⁶ His widow remained in Pulaski County, where the 1920 census enumerates her as an 82-year-old widow living on Rockford Road next door to the families of their sons **John** (a 52-year-old watchman for the rail road) and son **Robert T.** (a 42-year-old laborer). Most neighbors either worked for the railroad or were farm laborers.⁵⁷ Sarah is said to have died 19 October 1920. Son **Thomas Jr.** was the informant for the deaths of both his father and mother. Her *Find A Grave* memorial lists two other children: **Isaac William Mills** and **Laura Alice Purdy**.⁵⁸
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“Again the dread messenger of death has entered our home and claimed for its victim our dear old father, who passed quietly away on April 24th after an illness of many weeks, which was borne with great patience and christian fortitude. He was born April 15, 1832, and was marred to Millie F. Mills July 27, 1854. The result of this union was ten children--eight living and two dead. He was an ideal friend and neighbor, his friends legion and him enemies few. He was a faithful and consistent member of the Presbyterian church for many years. He was liked by all who knew him. For over two years he had been suffering with cancer of the eye, and while on his bed of affliction he was often heard to make the remark that he wanted to go home to the better world, and we feel sure today he is there. He left a message for the ones left behind to meet him in heaven. We realize that his work is done and feel that it was only meet that he should go to his rest and to his reward. But we possess a hope—a hope whose infinite fulness of strength saves the soul from shipwreck, and though the death angel has flapped his broad wings over his couch and has claimed him for his own, and though he has vanished from our sight and the clods of the valley cover his breast, yet he knew no death, and so we wait trying to feel content with the Master will. We must forever part, dearest loved one We have laid thee in the peaceful grave's embrace; But thy memory will be cherished, til we see thy heavenly face.”

⁵² This is compatible with the 1870 U.S. census, Montgomery Co., VA, P.O. Shellsville, p. 78, dwell./fam. 43/44, Thomas Mills 36, farm laborer, Sarah 26, Richard 13, Issac 11, Mary 9, Alice 7, Thomas 4, John 2. The same month and day, but the year 1832 is asserted at *Find A Grave* ([https://www : accessed 16 January 2020](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/156878402)), “Thomas Mills,” with tombstone image of a Confederate marker from Kirkwood-Peppers Family Cemetery, Fairlawn, Pulaski Co. The memorial page gives exact dates of birth and death but they are not visible on the image of the stone. A March 1832 birth is incompatible with the April 1832 birth given for his sister Milly Frances in 1900.

⁵³ “Virginia Marriages, 1785-1940,” database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XRS5-C2L : 11 February 2018>), Thos. R. Mills and Sarah S. Nunnally, 27 Aug 1855; citing Montgomery, Virginia, reference n 34; FHL microfilm 2,048,462.

⁵⁴ 1880 U.S. census, Montgomery Co., VA, P.O. Blacksburg, ED 52, p. 401-A , dwell./fam. 112/112, Thomas Mills 45, farm laborer, Sarah 38, Isaac 21, Mollie 19, Laura 17, Thos. 12, Jno. 10, Samuel 8, James 6, Annie 3 Robt. 5, Harriet A. aged “0”.

⁵⁵ 1900 U.S. census, Pulaski Co., VA, Dublin Magisterial dist., ED 43, sheet 17-B. 1910 U.S. census, Pulaski Co., VA, Dublin Magisterial Dist., stamped p. 27, ED 44, Sheet 1A, dwell./fam. 3.

⁵⁶ “Alabama, Texas, and Virginia, Confederate Pensions, 1884–1958,” database with images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1677/31867_B034420-00384/1095503 : accessed 16 January 2020). Also, “Virginia, Death Records, 1912–2014, database with images, *Ancestry*(https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/9278/43004_42-y172028004349_0002-00320/607792 : accessed 16 January 2020), Thomas Mills, Pulaski County, 5 April 1915. Also *Find A Grave*, “Thomas Mills” memorial page, previously cited. Also untitled, brief genealogies of Franklin Co. Mills families, compiler not identified, 3 pp. dated 8 February 2001, *RootsWeb* (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~barbr/Mills.htm : downloaded 15 March 2002>). The link no longer works and the material has not been found elsewhere.

⁵⁷ 1920 U.S. census, Pulaski Co., VA, Dublin District, New River precinct, ED 58, sheet 9-A, dwells. 176–189, fams. 180–182.

⁵⁸ *Find A Grave* ([findagrave.com/memorial/156878402](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/156878402)), “Sarah Nunley Mills” memorial page with data apparently taken from her death certificate, citing the undertaker (W. W. Seavor, Radford, VA) and the informant “Thomas Mills New River VA.”

Map 1
Counties Associated with William Mills-Witt of Franklin:
Bedford, Floyd, Franklin, Henry, Montgomery & Pulaski⁵⁹



OVERVIEW

1783–88 Born in Franklin Co., VA, according to 1850 census.
1806 first appearance on Franklin Co. tax rolls, owned nothing; listed adjacent to **Samuel McCarrell**, who was first taxed in 1805 and married 1806.
(McCarrell was son of Thomas McCarrell whose wife Mary was daughter of John Furgeson Jr. of Bedford, Franklin, and **Montgomery** counties. Thomas and Mary were in Greenville District, SC, by 1790.) In 1804, Samuel took possession of land he inherited through the will of his grandfather Ferguson. In 1811, Samuel sold land to Benj. Chavis, an in-law of the fpc Marrs family that included Permelia, a near-neighbor of William Mills-Witt in 1830. In 1814, Samuel bought from his father land inherited from

⁵⁹ J. T. Lloyd's *Official Map of the State of Virginia* (New York: J. T. Lloyd, 1862); imaged at David Rumsey Map Collection. <https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~3695~350006:Lloyd-s-official-map-of-the-State-o/>.

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- Mary's brother Ananias Ferguson. Samuel sold his town lot in Mt. Pleasant the next year.⁶⁰ Samuel McCarrell is said to have left a son named William *Menafee* Carroll.⁶¹ In Franklin, we find a Menafee family adjacent to *Ferguson* land, contemporaneously with Samuel.)
- 1807–09 Cited on Franklin Co. personal tax rolls, still between **Samuel McCarrell** and **Booker Mullins**, whose father's family also resided in **Montgomery** Co.⁶²
- 1810 Still on Franklin tax roll, adjacent to McCarrell; **neither he nor McCarrell enumerated 1810 Franklin Co.**
- 1811** Not on a Franklin County roll and not found elsewhere.
- 1812 Reappears on Franklin tax roll, consecutive with **Thomas Mullins**; he and a new resident "Thos. Musgrove" both turned in their lists on 6 April.
(1810 Montgomery Co. census includes Thos. Musgrove and Samuel "Carrells." Bedford Co. tax rolls of 1782–86 include a Thomas Musgrove and Mullinses as near neighbors.)
- 1813–14 Now taxed on a horse.
- 1815 Married Drucilla Kemp, daughter of Robert Kemp, the 3d richest man in the county—an incongruous marital pattern considering that William owned absolutely nothing but a horse and had owned that for only two years. (Kemp's economic standing is calculated from individual and aggregate tax data.) Bondsman Stephen Standifer also served 1815 as surety for Walter Kemp and Jerusha Key.
- 1816 The Franklin County personal tax roll carries "G.C." by his name. That appears to be an abbreviation for either "Giles County" or "Gill's Creek."
- 1816 On 15 May, in Giles County (cut 1806 from **Montgomery**), one William Mills witnessed a lease contract between John Toney (whose parents resided in Franklin Co. on the Blackwater) and Toney's tenants John Conner and Zachariah Crawford.⁶³ Toney was a long-term associate of the **John & Benjamin White family of Amherst, Montgomery and Giles**. This John White Sr. married secondly in **Montgomery** Co., 1792, one Frankey Mills, who had at least two children prior to her marriage to John: Rachel Mills, b. c1786 (married John Bowen and William Berryhill) and Samuel Mills, b. c1788.⁶⁴ I have extensively

⁶⁰ All McCarrell details in this summary are documented in the chronological notes that follow. For Chavis see 1810 U.S. census, Franklin Co., stamped p. 316, line 1.

⁶¹ For example, see kooltrainer48, "Bobbie's Family Tree," user-contributed tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/71206085/person/40235777959/facts> : accessed 15 May 2018). For the marriage, see Marshal Wingfield, *Marriage Bonds of Franklin County, Virginia* (Memphis, TN: West Tennessee Historical Society, 1939), 154." Online trees primarily make two separate groups of claims for Samuel McCarrell:

- Allegedly b. 1780 in Franklin Co. (as son of Thomas McCarroll and Mary Carrie Ferguson. and died 3 November 1837 in Greenville, Spartanburg Co., SC. For example, see kooltrainer48, "Bobbie's Family Tree," user-contributed tree, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/71206085/person/40235777959/facts?_phsrc=Wle491&_phstart=successSource : accessed 11 May 2018), Samuel McCarrell "Facts" page.

- Allegedly b. 1765 in Virginia (parents unknown); married Polly Menefee; d. 15 March 1834, Franklin Co. See Gay1244, "Wynn-Stanton Family Tree," user-contributed trees, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/12954270/person/1273227838/facts?_phsrc=Wle492&_phstart=successSource : accessed 11 May 2018), Samuel McCarrell "Facts" page.

⁶² Booker Mullins (aka Bowker Mullins) married Judith Stanley by bond dated 12 May 1803 in Franklin Co.; see "Franklin County, Virginia, Marriage Bond Index, 1786–1858," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 11 May 2018), citing "page 166." Descendants assert that his mother was Nancy Jane Stanley (wife of William Mullins Jr.), but provide no evidence. The typical family reconstruction, in online trees, does not place a Thomas or Joseph Mullins in the family. See, for example, canogues60 "Mullins/Bryant," user-contributed tree, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/19845881/person/230152500875/facts?_phsrc=Wle488&_phstart=successSource : accessed 11 May 2018), Booker Mullins "Fact" page.

One Booker Mullins, b. before 1770, appears as a Montgomery County tithable from 1787–92; however, that man's age is not compatible with the Booker Mullins age data on censuses of 1850 and 1860.

⁶³ Giles Co., VA, Deed Book B: 85; imaged at *FamilySearch* (<https://222.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4C-MSLD-8?i=826&cat=388492> : downloaded 6 September 2019) > Film 007894524 > image 673 of 860.

⁶⁴ For this White-Mills family, see the following research reports I have archived online at *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the "Research" tab:

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
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investigated the possibility that Frances might also have borne William Mills-Witt c1784; more than 1,000 hours of targeted research in records of Giles and Montgomery has not yielded sufficient evidence to support a conclusion that Frances bore William. No known DNA-tested descendants of the two children proved for Frances amid this study share autosomal or Y DNA with descendants of William and Drucilla. However, *very* few descendants of either child has tested and the number of generations intervening between Frances and current testers greatly reduce the odds that any two descendants carry a sufficient quantity of Frances' DNA to meet the current minimum centiMorgan requirements to be flagged as a match by the algorithms of the testing companies. No descendant carrying Frances' mtDNA has been identified.

- 1817–20 William reappears amid the Kemps on S side of the Blackwater, according to tax rolls; in 1820 (and frequently in the 1840s) he is listed on the tax rolls next to very near the Kemp neighbor, **Samuel Manning**.
- 1819 Bought goods from estate sale of William English, in company with Kemps and Dudleys.
- 1820 William and family appear on Franklin census (semi-alphabetized); nearest "M" listing is Gabriel Mattocks [Maddox].
- 1821–29 Does not appear on Franklin County tax rolls. He owned no land, and apparently no horse or other animals to trigger a listing on the personal tax roll. During this decade, Franklin County's assessors did not list propertyless tithables.
- 1829–31 Drucilla's father died and left them land.
- 1830 William and family appear on census (semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname), adjacent to Joseph **Mullins** (son of Booker of 1806–10) and **Permelia Marr**.
- 1830–48 William is taxed on the land roll in Franklin Co. and appears through 1837 on the personal rolls with a horse. At that point, Franklin Co. rolls resume the listing of tithables for the remainder of the family's residence in that county.
- 1834 Mortgaged Drucilla's inherited land to Solomon Pasley, along with all household gods and crops; debt cleared.
- 1838 Eldest son James H. Mills appears on record, a joint debt (with J. Cundiff) owed to William A. Street & Co.
- 1840 Second son Samuel E. appears on record, sued by Commonwealth for an unidentified misdemeanor.
- 1841 Son Samuel married Mary Ann Hobson, with erstwhile sheriff and tax collector James Patterson as bondsman.
- 1842–44 Sued by William A. Street & Co. for debt of \$71, with Samuel E. Mills as surety and co-defendant.
- 1845 Served on jury with Richard Nunally in June term.
- 1846 Summoned with martin Tyree to testify in case of Thomas J. Draper against Thomas J. & Ebenezer Holland, tobaccoists.
- 1846–47 Newlywed son Samuel E. is taxed on Greer's list near the James Mills family of Maggidy Creek.

• E. S. Mills, "John White Sr. (c1740–1821); Spouses: 1. Unidentified & 2. Frances "Frankey" Mills: Research Notes," a working file last updated 20 December 2020.

• E. S. Mills, "Samuel Mills (c1788–7 April 1859); Spouses 1. Rachel Prince & 2. Nancy Rinehart): Research Notes," a working file last updated 12 December 2020.

• E. S. Mills, "Mills & Associates, Giles County, Virginia: Principally Whites with Selective Records for Byas, Brumfield, Chapman, Dingess, Sartain & Toney Families," report to file, 8 February 2020 (updated 8 July 2020 and 20 December 2020).

• E. S. Mills, "Mills, Whites & Associates, Giles County, Virginia: Tax Roll Data, 1806–1823 & (Partially) 1824–1841; Including Selective Entries for Marcum, Preston & Toney," report to file, 10 September 2020.

• E. S. Mills, "Mills & Associates: Montgomery & Fincastle Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey," report to file dated 28 August 2018 (updated 10 September 2020)

• E. S. Mills, "Mills & Associates: Montgomery County, Virginia, Extended Research," report to file, 10 September 2020.

• E. S. Mills, "Mills-White-Witt: Montgomery County, Virginia, Tax Roll Data, 1782–1807," report to file, 15 February 2020.

• E. S. Mills, "Mills & Associates, Montgomery County c1850–1870: Preliminary Survey of Resources for Bradberry (esp. George), Fleeman, Jarrett (esp. Allen), Lawrence (esp. John B.), Nunley/Nunally (esp. Richard)," report to file, 1 September 2021.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
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- 1847 Son William B. married Mary M. Matthews, with Wm. C. Barber as surety.
- 1849 William is taxed on the Franklin Co. land as a resident of Floyd Co. Son William B. and Samuel remain on the Franklin Co. personal roll. Concurrently, William and sons Sparrel and Robert W. are cited on the Floyd Co. personal roll.
- 1850 William is a Floyd Co. farmer on the census.
- 1850 William served one stint on the petit jury of Floyd County.
- 1850–62 William’s land in Franklin continued to be taxed to William Mills of Floyd.
- 1851 William and sons Robert W. and Sparrel are named as tithables on Floyd’s personal property roll
- 1851–53 Sparrel and Robert W. are charged with “assault” and “breach of peace” in Floyd Co.
- 1852 William and Sparrel are dropped from the Floyd Co. tax rolls **and not found elsewhere**; Robert Wiley continues on the Floyd roll.
- 1853 January: probate opened in Floyd for Allen Jarrett, father-in-law of Sparrel and Robert W.
March: warrant issued for Sparrel to the sheriff of **Montgomery Co.**, re pending charges in Floyd.
August: “William Sr.” and “Sperel” are both taxed a poll in **Montgomery Co.**; William was also taxed on 1 head of cattle and furniture worth \$50.
Robert Wiley was again taxed in Floyd
- 1853–63 William Mills’s Franklin County land is taxed to “William Mills, Franklin Co.”—apparently son William.
- 1854–60 William Sr., Robert Wiley and Sparrel are all missing from Montgomery and Floyd tax rolls; **Pulaski Co.** rolls have not yet been searched, for want of access.
- 1860 William and Drucilla are in Pulaski Co. next door to youngest son Thomas; none of them owned anything. Apparently they moved to a large plantation on which Thomas’s father-in-law was an overseer. The owner of that plantation was Gordon Cloyd Jr., son of Gen. Gordon Cloyd whose land (and the land of his father Joseph) in the early 1790s lay in **Montgomery Co.** in the Cloyd’s Mountain/ New River region where Frances “Frankey” Mills surfaced as a single mother in 1788.
- 1861 Tax entry for William Mills’s land in Franklin Co. is now taxed to “William Mills, Franklin Co.”
- cDec 1862 William apparently died in Pulaski. *From late 1862 through 1863 is the only year for which Pulaski’s death records are missing at local level.* (State collection has a 3-year gap.)
- Jan 1863 William B. Mills requested furlough from C.S.A. to go home and attend to an issue involving “my land” because issues had arisen that might cause his family to lose it.
- 1864 William’s land (still taxed to “Wm. Mills, Franklin Co.” is reduced to 126 acres “by recent survey.”
- 1867 Drucilla died in **Montgomery**. In reporting her death, her new son-in-law George Bradberry (who m. the widowed Sarah Mills Key in 1864) said Drucilla was born c1793 in **Montgomery Co.** (To the contrary, her father Robert Kemp/Camp and grandfathers John Camp and Richard Edmundson were taxpaying landowners in Franklin, every year, from 1785.)
- 1872–84 William’s land is still taxed to “Wm. Mills, Franklin Co.” with notation “Wilson Cunniff to pay.” [Cunniff, aka Cundiff, apparently rented the land from the widow of William B. Mills.]
- 1885 William’s land is still taxed in his name, with notation: “J. W. Hutt & Rhoda Cundiff pays.”
- 1886 William’s land is reduced to 60 acres, with notation “66 A to James Hutt.”
- 1887–93 William’s 60 acres is taxed under his name, with no notation as to who paid the taxes.
- 1894 Commissioner made title for William’s 60 acres to James A. Cundiff; Cundiff charged for it on tax roll.
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ABSTRACTS & TRANSCRIPTS

COMMENT:

I am including selected notes on the James Mills family of Maggoty/Maggidy Creek to help distinguish them from the family William Mills created on the Blackwater.

MAY 1786

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“May 1786 ... **James Mills** is Appointed Sur’v of the road Down Maggoty from the fork of the road Leading to Lⁱke Abshire’s to the Black Water Road Above **Thos. Wattses** Xing, Aylett’s Creek & filed to his Gang &c. Luke Abshire is appointed Surveyor of the Road Down Maggoty from the Caroline Road to the fork of the Road leading to the said Abshire & A List fil’d to his Gang &c.”⁶⁵

COMMENT:

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

This James Mills (whose wife is widely alleged to be Octavia Breckinridge) is the only Mills head of household in Franklin County during the period of William’s childhood. In 1790, this James bought land from James Sloan and wife Agnes, who is alleged to have been Agnes *Mills*. Proof of the identity of these two wives has not been found.⁶⁶

No connection has been found between William Mills-Witt and this James Mills family of the Maggoty and Elliott’s Creek.

2 JUNE 1806

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

William Mills, 1 taxable white male. Hairston’s District, added just after “**Boker**” **Mullins**.

Mullins, Mills, **Samuel McCarrell** (the latter taxed on both land and personal property rolls) and McCarrell’s in-law Willis “Manifee” all turned in their lists on **2 June**. No one else in the district turned in their lists on 2 June. In fact, no one else turned in their lists between 7 May and 4 July. Most lists were submitted in March, April, and September.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ Marshall Wingfield, *An Old Virginia Court: Being a Transcript of the Records of the First Court of Franklin County, Virginia, 1786–1789* (Memphis: West Tennessee Historical Society, 1948), 18; citing p. 22.

⁶⁶ See E. S. Mills, “James Mills (bef. 1750–c1823–24) & Wife [?Octavia Breckinridge?]: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

⁶⁷ Unless otherwise cited, all tax rolls cited in this set of notes have been viewed on (a) microfilm at the Library of Virginia in Richmond; or (b) images of that film duplicated by *FamilySearch*. All lists are arranged by county, by year, and then by district. Tithables or landowners within a district are grouped semi-alphabetically under the first letter of the surname, with additions and corrections sometimes added to the end of a roll. All tax data cited in this set of notes can be easily located within this framework without repeating, for each year, the basic citation to the county rolls. All rolls have been read, page-by-page, for related entries.

COMMENT:

Ages:

- In 1788, the commonwealth’s legislature revised the tax act to set the age of tithables at 16, although the payment of tithes was not required and none is collected on these personal tax rolls for Franklin County. Counties had the option of charging each tithable an annual assessment or charging them for occasional special assessments. Counties also varied the tithable age, with some tax roll headers stating “above 21.”
- The Franklin County tax lists of this period do not indicate what ages are included in the white tithable male category.
- This year’s list for District 2, Moses Greer, also does not identify the age for white male tithables, but places the age for fully-taxable blacks at 16.

Also:

- One Robert Mills (apparently from Bedford; parents unknown, but possibly the Robert born to Jesse of Amherst⁶⁸ whose widowed sister Anne Witt was a Bedford resident⁶⁹) appears on Franklin’s 1804 personal-tax list, in Hairston’s District, but only for that year).
- Three retail licenses were issued within the district—one of those for **Thomas McCarrell & Co.** Thomas McCarrell was the father of Samuel McCarrell.

Re William Mills

- This is the first record found for William Mills-Witt. Either he has just come of age (presumably 16) or else he has just moved into the county.
- Both Booker Mullins and Samuel McCarrell were there in 1805. Neither reported a second male tithable in their household.
- William Mills in 1850 reported his birthplace as Franklin County. If he was reared in Franklin, and reached age 16 in Franklin, then **his emergence in the Booker Mullins household suggests that this may be the family in which he was reared.**
- The county’s court orders do not show him being bound out to any family as a child. If he were taken from an unmarried mother, at time of weening, and placed in another household, then either that court order was not recorded. If his original placement in a household did not prove satisfactory to the family that took him in, then the overseers of the poor had the authority to reassign him—but no such record exists. That two such records being omitted from an otherwise complete set of court orders is even less likely.

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- Franklin Co. land tax rolls, 1787–50, are on LoV tax reels 102–107; personal rolls are on LoV tax reels 120–133; and FS film 2024540–2024543.
 - Floyd Co., VA, land rolls, 1831–50, appear on LoV tax roll 98; personal rolls for 1831–50 are on LoV tax roll 117 and FS film 2024537.
 - Montgomery Co., VA, land tax rolls, 1782–1870, appear on LoV tax rolls 197–200, 501–503; personal rolls for 1782 are on LOV 241 and FS film 1870170 (item 1); personal tax rolls for 1787–1857 are on LOV film 242, 242a, 243, 243a, and 243b; and on FS film 1870165–1870169.

⁶⁸ For Jesse and his son Robert, see E.S. Mills, “Jesse Mills Sr. (c1740–aft1811); Spouse Lucy Tilman: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 8 April 2021; archived online at *HistoricPathways* under the “Research” tab.

⁶⁹ For brief notes on Anne (Mills) Witt, see E.S. Mills, “William Mills (c1695–1766) of Goochland, Albemarle & Amherst Counties, Virginia; Spouse Mary (Walton?): Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 19 February 2020, pp. 8-9; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
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- If William Mills had just turned 16 and had been bound to Mullins or any other Franklin family, then **he would not have been free to leave that home and hire himself on another farm without the permission of the family to whom he was bound.** Having raised him, they were entitled to his labor until he turned 21.
- The fact that William’s tax list was grouped with Mullins in 1806–7 and that he did not turn in his list on the same day as either of them in 1809–10 (i.e., he was living and working independently of them), suggests
 - that **he was of full age by 1809**—if not by 1808, a year in which tax rolls were not compiled.
 - that he was about 18 or more in 1806 when he first appeared on Booker Mullins’ list.
 - that he was not cited on a prior list during the years he was 16–17 because (a) either Mullins tried to postpone his tax liability as long as possible; or else (b) William Mills-Witt lived in a different county.

Re McCarrell

Samuel McCarrell’s first appearance on the tax rolls of Franklin is in 1805, in this sequence:

18 May	Mullins, Booker , 1 tithable, 2 horses/etc. \$.24 tax [only person under this date]
1 April	Mitchell, James, B Maker, 2 tithables, 4 horses/etc., \$.48 tax
	Manning, Samuel [no date], 1 tithable, 0 property, 0 tax
21 March	McCarrell, Samuel , 1 tithable, 3 slaves, 4 horses/etc., \$1.80 tax
	McGuire, Stephen [no date], 1 tithable, 0 property, 0 tax
	Manifee , Willis, [no date] 1 tithable 3 horses/etc., \$.36 tax
	More, William Junr. [no date] 1 tithable, 0 property, 0 tax
	Moss, James [no date, 1 tithable, 0 property, 0 tax
1 April	Martin, Jesse, 1 tithable, 0 property, 0 tax

The assessor’s practice (demonstrated above and throughout the list) *applies no date to a tithable who appears to be part of another man’s list.* Sometimes those are subservient kinsmen. More often they seem to be male laborers working for the landowner who submitted the list. *Note that Manifee, an in-law of McCarrell, is grouped with McCarrell on the 1806 tax roll.*

The assessor also seems to have followed the common practice of announcing, in advance, his planned appearance at a specific neighborhood locale (usually a tavern or store), to which those in the neighborhood were to bring in their list of taxable items—explaining why kinsmen frequently turned in their list on the same day. It also serves to identify the individuals living in the neighborhood in which William Mills first appeared.

Individuals turning in their list on **21 March 1805—same day as Samuel McCarrell**—were Noah Doss, Joshua Doss, Jeremiah **Ferguson** [part of McCarrell & Menafee clan], George **Ferguson**, Elizabeth **Ferguson**, Matthew Farmer, William Farmer, John Finney Senr. & Junr., Paul Fraim, Williamson Fortin, John Farmer, John Fishburn, John Fortin, David Good, Thomas Gibs, William Hunter Senr., John William Hodges Senr., Ignatious Harrison, Toliver Hensley, Ephram Hodges, William Horsley, Rivers Hodges, Lewis Hodges, Reuben Hodges, Grisford Hogard, Grigory Hoggard, John Lasey, Robert Lark, Edward Law, Daniel Law, Chidle Law, Robert Law, “Henry Law John Son,” Robert Loyd, Mordica Mosley “George **Manifee** and mother,” Richard **Mullins**, Hugh Nale, Elizabeth **Napper [Napier]**, Booth Napper, William Newberry, James Napper, “Maryann Napper and Son Ashford,” Luke **Standifer**, Buck **Standley**, Robert Scarberry, Rowland Salmond, Mary Smith, “Stephen Smith B Run,” Micajah Stone, Stephen Smith, “James **Standley** Robt. Son,”

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

“William Standley Robt. Son,” Jacob Sevey, “Joseph Standley Joseph Son,” “Luke Standley Joseph son, Jesse Shavers, Ben Shavers, “John Turner Town Creek,” Samuel Taylor, Josiah Turner Senr., Haphey Talley, Allen Thornton, Daniel Turner, Stephen Turner, “John Turner William Son,” Starling Thornton, Littleberry Thornton, Henry Thornton, Jonathan Tomas, Caleb Tate, Josiah Turner Junr.

The Kemps and Maddoxes, the future in-laws of William Mills, turned in their lists on 1 April, suggesting that the McCarroll-Mullins neighborhood was not in close proximity to the Kemp-Maddox neighborhood.

In 1806, the land roll taxed McCarrell on three tracts in Hairston’s District:

- (1) McCarrell, Samuel / 139 acres / .50 per acre / \$68 total value / .33 tax
[skip 9]
Mattox, Nathan [father of Drucilla Mills’s stepmother]
[skip 16]
Mattox, Gabriel [in-law of Drucilla Mills’s stepmother]
[skip 2]
- (2) McCarrell, Samuel / 139 acres / .50 per acre / \$68 total value / .33 tax
Mavety, John
Marcum, Barnet
- (3) McCarrell, Samuel / 105 acres / .30 per acre / \$30.63 total value / .15 tax

McCarrell’s third tract was purchased in 1805. No purchase has been found for tracts 1 and 2 of although one of the two tracts that carry the same exact data may be the 6 January 1806 item on his list of acquisitions below:

- 4 Feb. 1805, Samuel McCarroll of Franklin bought 105 acres in Franklin from Abraham Stober (s/ Stover) and wife Chatrathen (s/Caty), for 105£. No watercourse is cited, but it adjoined Mary Barret, John Wood, John Martin, and James Martin.⁷⁰ See 1810 census notes under that date.
- 6 Jan. 1806, Thomas McCarroll and Alexr. Wilson bought from the trustees of the town of Mt. Pleasant, Lot 3 for \$72.⁷¹
- 1 Mar. 1814, Thomas MCarrell and wife Mary (x), legatees of Chas. Furgeson, sold to [their son] Samuel McCarrell, land formerly owned by [her father] John Furgeson, decd., of Bedford > Franklin—land that had been devised by John to his son Charles Furgeson, who had died without legal offspring. Acknowledged by Thomas 1 March 1814 in Greenville Dist., SC.⁷²
- Oct 1811 “Deed from Sam’l McCarroll to Benja. Chavis provd & ord.”⁷³
- 2 Jan 1815 “Sam’l McCarroll to Charles Ward, lot.”⁷⁴

McCarrell has not been found on the 1810 census. His adjacent landowners of 1805 are scattered widely on that 1810 return.

⁷⁰ Franklin Co., Deed Book 5: 49.

⁷¹ Franklin Co., Deed Book 5: 199.

⁷² Franklin Co., Deed Book 7: 193–94.

⁷³ Franklin Co., Order Book, October 1811–1817: 1.

⁷⁴ Franklin Co., Order Book, October 1811–1817: 240.

Re Mullins:

One of the two potential mothers for William Mills-Witt, Frances Mills of Montgomery County, bore a pre-marital son Samuel in 1788. Descendants of Samuel carry a Y-signature shared by descendants of one Booker Mullins and his putative father, an Adkins.⁷⁵

Booker (aka Bowker) Mullins of Franklin Co. married Judith Stanley in Franklin, by bond of 12 May 1803.⁷⁶ Online trees assert that his legal parents were William Mullins and Nancy Stanley and that her parents were William Stanley and Nancy Mullins. As shown under 1810 below, the Mullinses and Stanleys were neighbors in Franklin Co., as well as close associates in **Montgomery Co.** Several of their immediate neighbors in 1810 also appear in this set of notes. Most critical is this set of adjacent entries from that census:

- Obediah Stover (who sold land to **Samuel McCarrell**)
- **Bowker Mullins** (who married Judith Stanley)
- William Standley Sr.
- Thomas Standley
- William **Mullins**
- David Robertson
- John Young
- James Martin (adjacent neighbor of the Stover land sold to Samuel McCarrell)

All things considered, William Mills-Witt appears to have been living in the Mullins-McCarrell-Ferguson-Menafee community when he first emerged on record in 1806.

Prior tax rolls of Franklin from 1786 show the following adult male Mullinses:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------|
| • William Mullins, Sr. | 1786–91 |
| • William Mullins, Jr. | 1786— |
| • Ambrose Mullins | 1789–91 |
| • John Mullins | 1791 |

⁷⁵ The Y-DNA of Bowker/Booker Mullins male-line descendants, on a 111-marker test, matches at 0 distance that of at least one male-line descendant of **Samuel Mills** who was born c1788 in Montgomery County (later Giles Co., VA, and its offshoot Mercer Co., WV). Samuel's father has not been identified. His mother, Frances "Frankey" Mills, first appears on record in Montgomery in late 1788, when one John Abram Glymph took out a bond to marry her, with Milliton **Adkins** as bondsman; the marriage did not then occur. Glymph left the region and Frances, in 1792, married John White Sr. in Montgomery. See "Mills & Associates: Montgomery & Fincastle Counties, Virginia: Preliminary Survey," report to file, 28 August 2018 (updated 10 September 2020); archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

That Y-DNA signature is also shared by male-line descendants of the Adkins family of Montgomery Co. and its offshoots. Some online trees assert that Booker Mullins of Franklin County (whose wife is said to be Mary Bench, not Judith Stanley) was the son of Sherwood Adkins and Mary Mullins of Montgomery; for example see Mary Mullins Cordeiro, "Mullins Family Tree," user-contributed tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/58100149/person/48102201816/facts> : accessed 8 February 2019), "Old Booker Mullins," Facts page.

One Booker Mullins was taxed in Montgomery in 1788 (aged 16–21), along with an Ambrose Mullins (aged 16–21). Booker, but not Ambrose, reappears in 1789, 1790, and 1791 (again 16–21). He was dropped from the Montgomery rolls in 1792. See E. S. Mills, "Mills-White-Witt: Montgomery County, Virginia, Tax Roll Data, 1782–1807," report to file, 15 February 2020; archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

⁷⁶ Marshall Wingfield, *Marriage Bonds of Franklin County, Virginia* (Memphis: West Tennessee Historical Society, 1939), 166.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

- Richard Mullins 1791–96, 1797–98, 1805—
- Booker Mullins 1804—

The groupings suggest that all of these were offspring of William Sr. The tax rolls from 1800–6 suggest that

- Booker Mullins came of age in the household of William Mullins Jr.
- **only the Richard Mullins household contained an extra male who might represent William Mills at the time he was 16–17.**

1800	Mullins, William	2 male tithes	[Booker as the second tithe]
1801	Mullins, William	2 male tithes	[Booker as the second tithe]
1802	Mullins, William	2 male tithes	[Booker as the second tithe]
1803	Mullins, William	1 male tithe	[Booker does not appear in his own name, but married this year; 1850 census shows Booker, aged 71 (b. 1779—i.e., 21 in 1800)]
1804	Mullins, William	1 male tithe	
	Mullins, Booker	1 male tithe	
1805	Mullins, William	1 male tithe	1 April
	Mullins, Bowker	1 male tithe	1 May
	Mullins, Richard	<u>2</u> male tithes	21 March [has been absent since 1799] [no William Mills on roll]
1806	Mullins, William	1 male tithe	7 April
	Mullins, Booker	1 male tithe	2 June [with William Mills added under him]
	Mullins, Richard	<u>1</u> male tithe	7 April
1807	Mullins, William Sr.	1 male tithe	6 April
	Mullins, Booker	1 male tithe	4 April [with William Mills under him]
	Mullins, Richard	1 male tithe	4 April
1808	[no tax roll created]		
1809	Mullins, William Sr.	1 male tithe	3 April
	Mullins, Booker	1 male tithe	8 March
	Mullins, Richard		Missing [not found <i>anywhere</i>]

e thereafter]

Mullins, Jesse	1 male tithe	8 March
Mullins, Nehemiah	1 male tithe	8 March

On the semi-alphabetized 1830 census, Booker’s son Joseph is enumerated next to William Mills.⁷⁷ Shortly before the census, Joseph married Frances “Fanny” Prillamon, who was also rooted in *Montgomery* Co. (See 1810 census notes for the Prillamon position in the neighborhood.)

As I continue to gather data on William and Drucilla, I have not found further connections to those individuals with whom William was taxed in 1806–10.

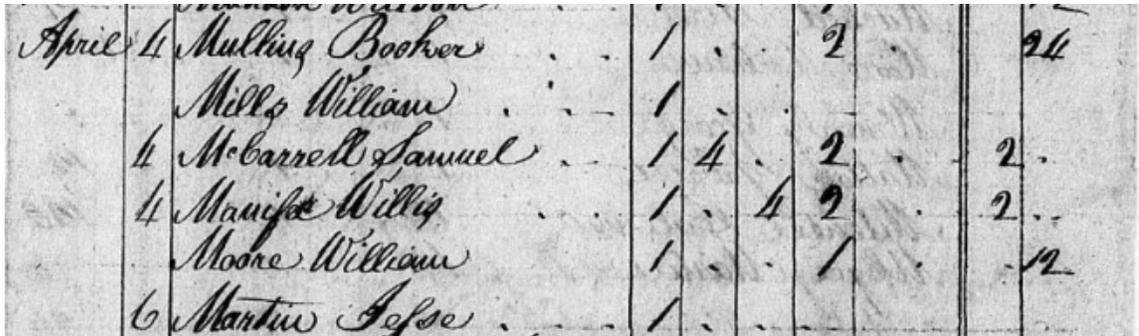
⁷⁷ As subsequently shown under 1830 notes, this census is semi-alphabetized by the first letter of the surname. There are 127 “M” entries. The fact that William and Booker’s son Joseph are adjacent would suggest close proximity of residence.

4 APRIL 1807

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

William Mills, 1 male tithe. Hairston's District, again he, **Booker Mullins**, **Samuel McCarrell**, and Willis Manifee submitted their lists on the same day. However, the groupings suggest that Mills was reported in the household of Booker Mullins.



Date	Name	Tithe	Tax	Amount
April 4	Mullins Booker	1	2	2
	Mills William	1		
4	McCarrell Samuel	1	4	2
4	Manifee Willis	1	4	2
	Moore William	1	1	12
6	Martin Jesse	1		

COMMENT:

Also taxed in this district: **George Key**, sandwiched between Thomas Kemp and Jourdan Kemp. All submitted their lists on 4 May.

1808

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Tax roll

Virginia did not assess or collect taxes this year.

13 APRIL 1809

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

William Mills, 1 male tithe. Appears on Jesse Prunty's roll (formerly Hairston's District) in this cluster: **Nathan Mattox**, William Martin, Nathan Mason, George McAllister, Wilson Mattox, **Booker Mullins** (5 March), **William Mills** (13 April), **Samuel McCarrell** (1 May).

COMMENT:

- All taxpayers in this district who turned in their list on 13 April: Jarvis Burdit, Thomas Davis, John Dunman, Archibald Denton, **William English**, **Nathan Mattox** ("levy free," **William Mills**, John Mason, William Powell, Frail Payne, John Paine, William Wright.
- The dates of submission by Mullins, Mills, and McCarrell suggest that William is no longer associated with either of them—rather, he has moved into the Mattox neighborhood.
- The continued placement of Mullins, Mills, and McCarrell in sequence on the tax roll apparently stems from the common habit of simply copying names from the prior year, then adding the appropriate data.

2 APRIL 1810

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll

William Mills, 1 male tithe, Jesse Prunty's District (formerly Hairston's). Mills, **Samuel McCarrell**, and John Kemp Jr. and Sr. (as well as James Napier and Booth Napier) all turned in their lists on 2 April. Mills is still listed in the same sequence as in 1806, 1807, and 1809, immediately after Bowker Mullins, but Mullins turned in his list on 5 March.

1810

VIRGINIA

Census

COMMENT:

I have not found William Mills as a head-of-household in any county. That point is not surprising given that he was a single male and was likely a boarder in another household.

Samuel McCarrell and their two nearest "M" taxpayers (John Mavety and Barnet **Marcum**) are also missing. One Samuel "Carrell" is in adjacent Montgomery County but the household data does not seem to be that of a man who married in 1806.

Booker Mullins appears on the Franklin census in this sequence:

- Mary Barrett, female 45+, male 26–45, female 16–26, male 16–26
- Joshua Doss
- Jesse **Mullins**, male 26–45, female 26–45, male 16–26
- Nehemiah **Mullins**, male 26–45, female 16–26, male 0–10
- John **Lavender**, male 45+, female 45+, 2 males 16–26, 1 female 16–26, 4 males 10–16, 1 female 10–16, 1 female 0–10⁷⁸
- William Campbell
- Hugh Oneal
- David Goode [offspring married Mullins]
- George Lamb
- Richard Guilliams | [Guillaums were Ferguson/McCarrell associates in adj. Montgomery Co.⁷⁹
- Robert Guilliams | They are also in Floyd County contemporaneous with William & Drucilla.]
- George Turner
- James and Jeremiah Ferguson [cousins of Samuel McCarrell]
- Townley Riggs
- Andrew Ree
- Jacob *Prillimin* [Frances Prilliman m. 1829 Joseph Mullins, son of Booker, was in 1830 itemized consecutively with William Mills-Witt on the federal census. The Prillimans also were rooted in **Montgomery Co.** Part of their Montgomery land was cut off to create Floyd Co.]

⁷⁸ John Lavender supposedly was the grandson of "immigrant Richard Lavender," son of [unidentified], and brother of Thomas Lavender; Richard is said to have had a brother who settled in S.C. This family is of interest to me because (a) their descendants share atDNA with descendants of William Mills-Witt; (b) William Lavender of Albemarle/Bedford, son of one Charles Lavender, married in the 1750s to Millie, daughter of William Mills of Albemarle/Amherst and sister of my ancestress Sarah (Mills) Watts; and (c) descendants of the SC Lavenders of Fairfield also share DNA with both me and descendants of William Mills-Witt. For a brief and undocumented bio of the Lavenders of Franklin, see Marshall Wingfield, *Pioneer Families of Franklin County, Virginia* (Berryville, VA: Chesapeake Book Co., 1964), 141–42. According to Wingfield, the John above married Mary Depit and had children Thornton, William, James, Joseph, Chilton, John, Mary, Frances, Nancy, Emily, and Jesse (b. 1791).

⁷⁹ See E. S. Mills, "Mills & Associates: Montgomery & Fincastle Counties, Virginia: Preliminary Survey," report, 28 August 2018.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

- John Briant [In 1788, the courts bound to Lewis Briant one William Frame, “the bastard child of Happy Frame” whose daughter Nancy Frame in 1799 married James Mills Jr. of Maggoty Creek. “Happy’s Cabin” in 1804 was said to be on Maggoty Creek.⁸⁰]
- Levi Martin
- John Hixon
- Joseph Bowls
- Daniel *Prillimin*
- *Nathaniel Dixon*
- John *Prillimin*
[skip 8]
- Obediah Stover (who sold land to **Samuel McCarrell**)
- **Bowker Mullins** (who married Judith Stanley)
- William Standley Sr.
- Thomas Standley
- William **Mullins**
- David Robertson
- John Young
- James Martin (adjacent neighbor of the Stover land sold to Samuel McCarrell)

Bowker Mullins’s household on this 1810 census did not contain another male who might be William Mills. However, *the William Standley household adjacent to Mullins* had a male 45+, **two extra adult males 26–45 and 16–26**, as well as a male 0–10, 1 female 0–10, 1 female 10–16, 2 females 16–26, and 1 female 45+.

1811

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William Mills is not taxed. McCarrell is there on Jacob Prunty’s list (formerly Hairston’s list—the district in which Kemps and Maddoxes also appear).

COMMENT:

This 1811 roll tallies all tithables in each household, whether or not a tithable had taxable property, therefore William was not excluded on the basis of owning no property.

Note that when William reappeared the following year (1812) he is added at the end of the “M” list where “new additions” were entered.

6 APRIL 1812

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William Mills, 1 male tithe, is back on Prunty’s list, at the end of the “M” section where new additions were made. There, he is sandwiched between **Thomas Mullins** and **Thomas Musgrove**. All turned in their lists on 6 April.

COMMENT:

- One Thomas Musgrove was taxed in Bedford in the 1780s, before Franklin split off.

⁸⁰ Barbara Crumpton, *Franklin County, Virginia: Deed Book 4, 1799–1804* (Duncan, OK: Creative Copies, 1999), 92; citing p607.

- One Thomas Musgrove was taxed in Bedford in 1801, 1802, 1803.
- One Thomas Musgrove was taxed 1832–33 in Floyd Co., where William Mills lived 1848–51.

OCTOBER 1812
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Disambiguation

William Mills served on jury.⁸¹

COMMENT:

The juror almost certainly was William Mills, son of James of Maggoty Creek. The court order itself provides no further identification, even though two William Mills appear on the personal/tithable roll. One distinction enables us to identify the juror: William Mills-Witt was a tithable, but not a taxpayer. William Mills, son of James of Greer's district, paid taxes this year on two horses.

No William Mills name would be drawn for jury duty after 1813 until at least 1820. (I have not yet read the court order books past 1820.)

5 APRIL 1813
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William Mills, 1 male tithe, 2 horses, 32¢ tax. Prunty's list. 5 April.

QUESTION:

This is the first year in which William Mills owned a horse. **Why would he purchase two?** In some years and some counties, the "horse" category of the tax roll included mules. This Franklin roll does not specify the inclusion of mules and the pre-printed headings on Prunty's summary sheet explicitly states "horses."

COMMENT:

No Kemps or Maddoxes turned in their list on the same day. Others who submitted their lists on 5 April included James Patterson (a man of that name would serve as bondsman for the marriage of William Mills's son Samuel in 1841), Mathew Farmer, and **John Mason of Bull Run**.

Bull Run of Blackwater River was in extreme east-central Franklin, meandering southwest some 2–5 miles southeast of Kemp's Ford. William almost certainly has moved to a different neighborhood, apparently **a couple of miles from the Pittsylvania County line**.

NOVEMBER 1813
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Jury service.

One **William Mills** serves on jury. Again, no indication as to which William Mills.

12 MARCH 1814
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William Mills, 1 male tithe, **0 horses**. 0 tax paid. Prunty's District. 12 March (Saturday)

COMMENT:

⁸¹ Franklin Co., Order Book October 1811–1817: 58.

**William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp**

Others turning in their lists on adjacent days:

- 11 March: James Ferguson, Britain Fuller, Matthew Farmer Snow Ck,” Peter Finney, Lewis Finney, Zachariah Finney John Finney Sr. & Jr., Nathaniel Law, “Thomas Ramsey G^{d?} Ck,” Fanny Sutherland, David Stuart Sr., Robert Woods
- 12 March: Samuel Cook, **Isham Cundiff**, Jacob Clowers, Thomas Campbell (Wm Son), Daniel Cockran, John Cottright, Nelson Cottright, **William Mills**
- 13 March: William Dillion, Jonathan Davis, Burwell Law, Nathaniel Newbill, Henry Smith

COMMENT:

The Cooks, Finneys, and Napiers were in the Snow Creek area, implying that William Mills was there as well. Cundiff’s offspring later adjoined the land William inherited from Robert Kemp.

14 OCTOBER 1814

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Petition to legislature

Subject: “Fishing/Oyster Industry”

Request “for a law compelling owners of dams and other obstructions across the Roanoke River to make slopes or otherwise to provide for the passage of fish.”

{image 2, col. 1} Jacob Kent, William Britt, Jesse Hall, **James Light**, Bolin Childress, John Thrash, Thos. Henderson, Silas Davis, Samuel Davis, **Samuel Maddox**, Robert Barnitt Senr., John Barnitt Junr., Bird Wilson, John H Stratten, George Snuffer, Mical Losders, Andrew Childress, James Rayburn, Andrew Thrash, John Robinson, David Thrash, Thomas Illott, Andrew Wilson, **William Mills**, John **Shockey**, Cyrus Robinson, Green Will.⁸²

COMMENT:

- This William Mills is a viable candidate for the William who married a few months later in Franklin County to Drucilla Kemp, the stepdaughter of Sarah **Maddox**. I have found no other William Mills in any of 20+ surrounding counties who might be him.
- Note his proximity to James **Light**. In 1848 when William Mills left his Franklin County land and moved to Floyd County, he chose to live within a cluster of interrelated families at **Big Run** and **Pine Creek of Little River**—James Light’s offspring and the Connors, Smiths, Walters, and Vest—all of whom owned land originally owned by the family head Henry Iddings.
- Shockey; numerous Shockey, Shockley petition signatures throughout the years were made adjacent to the Lights.
- This petition, with just 2 pages of names, is short by comparison to most. The names are not actual signatures; the petition has been recopied—apparently contemporaneously.

27 FEBRUARY 1815

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William Mills, 1 male tithe, **1 horse**, 0 cattle, \$.21 tax paid. Prunty’s District. 27 February (Monday)

COMMENT:

- William is taxed between Margaret & Peggy Martin and Matthew Martin, each of whom turned in their lists on different days from William and each other.

⁸² Legislative Petitions Digital Collection,” database with images, Library of Virginia, *Virginia Memory* (<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions> : accessed 19 February 2019); citing accession Number 36121, Box 171, Folder 95.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

- The closest Maddoxes to William on the semi-alphabetized list are Gabriel and John, who are 11 listings away. Both turned in their list on 1 March. Apparently William is not in their immediate neighborhood.
- Others turning in their lists on 27 February or adjacent days:
 - 26 February: no one
 - 27 February: Lake Bird, **William Mills**, Ransom Sutherland, Benjamin Surmonus, Elizabeth Smith, **Peter Saunders**⁸³ (1 tithe, 5 slaves, 4 horses), Stephen Winfrey (2 tithes, 4 slaves, 3 horses), Christopher Wingfield, Jubal Welch, Samuel Young
 - 28 February: ____ Bird, William Farmer, David Graves, Mathew Hutchinson, Stephen Haynes, Peyton Hodges, Abednego Hodges, Elisha Hodges, 'Jno Hodges Adm of Josiah Hodges Decd', Allen Hancock, Lewis Hancock, David Law, Wm. Steagall, Jacob Sigman, Samuel Smith, **Stephen Standifer** (1 tithe, 1 horse), John Smothers, Betsy Shavers, Melchor Waggoner
- **Stephen Standifer**, the following year, would serve as bondsman for William's marriage.
- Note that none of the others who submitted the same day as William did so the previous year. William appears to have moved frequently from one neighborhood to another—a common trait of the laboring class.

24 AUGUST 1815
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Marriage bond.

William Mills and **Drewsiller Kemp**. Signed by William Mills and Stephen Standifer, bondsman. Witness: Andrew Thompson.

COMMENT:

Stephen Standifer may not offer a connection for William himself. The Kemps and Standifers had been neighbors on Standifer Creek of Blackwater River since the 1780s. Their location on the south side of the Blackwater placed them in Henry County before Franklin was created. Drucilla's grandfather, Richard Edmundson, also bought his south-of-Black Water land from James Standifer in the 1780s. This branch of Standifers went to Henry from Bedford County.

Andrew Thompson was be the clerk who penned the bond, thereby diminishing the possibility that he provides clues to William's birth family.

On the bond below, note William's signature. The recorded copy of an 1834 mortgage (see abstract under that year) attributes an X mark to William, implying that William could not sign his name. On the 1815 bond, William's signature is distinctive from the penmanship of the clerk. It seems different from that of the bondsman, but the pen and the pressure applied to it is quite similar to that of the bondsman. All points considered, we cannot assume that William did sign the document himself.⁸⁴ The 1834 mortgage, detailed under that year, carries William's mark.

⁸³ "Lt. Col. Peter Hyde Saunders," *Hairston* (hairston.org/p2540.htm : accessed 29 April 2021); citing "[S3074] Hale, Nathaniel Claiborne, Roots In Virginia: an Account of Captain Thomas Hale, Virginia Frontiersman, His Descendants And Related Families. With Genealogies And Sketches of Hale, Saunders, Lucke, Claiborne, Lacy, Tobin And Contributing Ancestral Lines. Philadelphia?, 1948; <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/wu.89066151580>, Hathi Trust Digital Library."

⁸⁴ See E. S. Mills, "Mills: Bedford County, Virginia: Extended Survey of Resources," report to file, 28 August 2018. Also E. S. Mills, "Mills: Henry and Pittsylvania Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey," report to file, 28 August 2018. Both are archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

Know all men by these Presents that We William Mills and
Stephen Standefer, and he do and firmly bound unto Wilson Cary
Nicholas esquire, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, in
the just and full sum of One hundred and fifty Dollars, to
the payment whereof well and truly to be made to the said
Governor and his successors for use of the Commonwealth We
bind ourselves and each of us, our, and each of our heirs, executors
and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these
Presents, sealed with our seals, and dated this 21th day of
August 1815. The condition of the above obligation is
such that whereas there is a Marriage shortly intended to
be had and solemnized between the above bound William
Mills and Drucilla Kemp; Now if there shall be
any lawful cause to obstruct the said Marriage then
the above obligation to be void, else to remain in full
force and Virtue.

Signed sealed & delivered
in the presence of
Andrew Thompson

William Mills
Stephen Standefer

6 NOVEMBER 1815
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Court order

"Matthew Farmer is appointed Surveyor of the Road from the Pittsylvania Road to **Robert Kemps** at Black

Water with the allotment of hands filed.”⁸⁵

Map 2
Blackwater River, Gill’s Creek & Bull Run, Franklin County
(Site of Kemp, Maddox, James Standifer & John Mason)⁸⁶



1816
VIRGINIA

Historical context

Virginia’s tax law changed significantly this year. In the 1790s, the state had dropped the poll tax, although it allowed counties to continue to tax males aged 16+ or 21+, if they chose. In this year 1816, state law abolished the tithe/poll tax completely. Itemization of adult males by 16+ or 21+ appears to have

⁸⁵ Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1811–1817: 299.

⁸⁶ Gertrude C. Mann, J. R. Hildebrand, and George A. Kegley, *A Settlement Map of Franklin County, Virginia ... 1786 to 1886* (Rocky Mount: Franklin County Historical Society, 1976).

continued in Franklin through 1820.⁸⁷

25 MARCH 1816
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Personal tax roll.
Prunty's District ...

COMMENT:

William Mills [Mills-Witt] is missing from this district. See Greer's District for a "new" William who had not appeared in that district before and would not be taxed there, thereafter.

Greer's District ...

Mills, William	1 white male 16+, 2 horses/mares, .36 tax	(4 March) [son of James]
Mills, James	1 white males 16+, 2 horses/mares, .36 tax	(4 March)
Mills, Arthur	1 white males 16+, 0 tax	(4 March)
[<i>skip 7</i>]		
Mills, William	"G.C." 1 white male 16+ 2 horses \$.36 tax	(25 March)

COMMENT:

Others dated 25 March: Cary Arthur, Benjamin Booth, William Bradley, Conrood Betz, Jennings Brown, Joseph Cunningham, Christopher Divers, Jesse Dillin, Jacob Frayland, Joseph Hitt, Calob Hippingstall, Michael Hitts, James Hagans, Peter Lein, John Lazenbury, Osias Maxcey [Josiah; a Kemp-Craighead-Edmundson in-law in a multiplicity of ways], Walter McGregory, Zebedie Maxcey [Kemp kin], William Mills (G.C.), Nell Marr, Thomas Napper, John G. Newbell, Valentine Oyler Jr. Thomas Oneil, John Seay, William Stewart, John Stewart, Isaac Stewart, Daniel Thurman, James Williamson.

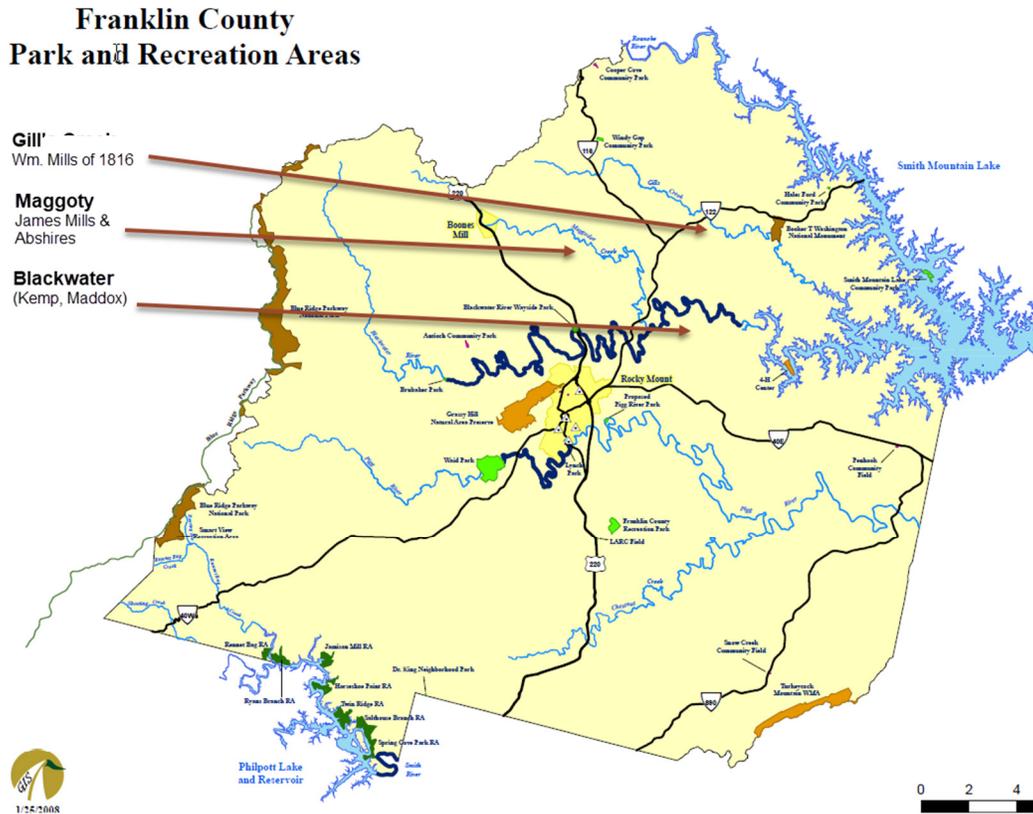
Two possibilities are likely for "G.C."

- A reference to *Gill's Creek*, which runs off the north side of the Blackwater a mile or so above Kemp's Ford.
- A reference to *Giles County*, where a William Mills makes a rare appearance in May 1816 and again in May 1817 as a witness to two leases made by **John Toney** (son of Franklin County's William Toney) to John Connors and Zachariah Crawford. I have read all pages of all surviving registers in Giles (deeds, probates, order books, tax rolls, etc.) through 1830 and have found no other reference to any William Mills.

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

⁸⁷ Robert W. Baird, "Tithables: Everything You Wanted to Know," Bob's Genealogy Filing Cabinet (<http://www.genfiles.com/articles/tithables/> : accessed 13 June 2016); also Conley L. Edwards, "A Political History of the Poll Tax in Virginia, 1900–1950" (M.A. Thesis, University of Virginia, August 1973), 1.

Map 3
Major Waterways of Northern Franklin County⁸⁸



15 MAY 1816
GILES COUNTY, VA
Lease

Articles of agreement entered into by **John Toney** of Giles Co. and **John Conner** of same. “Witnesseth 1816 where as the above Named John Toney hath Leased to the above named John Conner a Sertain parcel of Land containing of Sixty acres it Lying at the East end of a tract of Land containing [194] acres, it being a part of the Same Survey that is Near **Toneys Mill** for the term of Seven years Commensing [15 May 1816] which term Expiers on the [15 May 1823] at which time Said Conner is to leave all the Cleared Land in good order for farming. Or Should Conner Leave the place before the above mentioned term Expiers he is to return it back to the said Toney or his heirs as the case may be and I John Toney being the prier owner do preveledge the said Conner to Clear or improve where he may think proper on said Land in witness my hand and Seal this day and date as above written signed & delivered in the presence of us. [Signed] John Toney. Test [witnesses]: Jonathan Toney, **Zachariah Crawford**, **William Mills**.

“At Giles **April Court 1819**. This lease from John Toney to John Conner was acknowledged in Court and ordered to be Recorded. Teste David French C.G.C.”⁸⁹

⁸⁸ *Franklin County Park and Recreation* (<http://www.franklincountyva.org/parks/> : accessed 14 April 2018), annotated by ESM.

⁸⁹ Giles Co., VA, Deed Book B: 85; imaged at *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4C-MSLD-8?i=826&cat=388492> : downloaded 6 September 2019) > Film 007894524 > image 673 of 860.

COMMENT:

Under 15 May 1817 another lease, same wording, same parties, was made by Toney to Zachariah Crawford, with William Mills and John Conner as witnesses. Two such documents, exactly one year apart, with the same set of witnesses and principles do call into question the accuracy of their dates—especially since both documents were filed together amid court action several years after the dates on the documents.

In 1850, William Mills lived in Floyd Co. VA, eight houses from Andrew Conner, aged 27, and wife Matilda. More Conners were on the other side of him.

In 1827, John Conner, Zachariah Crawford, and David Mills—son of Samuel Mills, the premarital son of Frances “Frankey” Mills—along with several of David’s kinsmen from the White family (offspring of Frances by her marriage to John White Sr.) were given an *en masse* title clearance to 1973.5 acres of land along the Giles, Tazewell, and Monroe Counties line. They had obtained the land in small pieces from the land speculator James Hector and wife Charlotte.⁹⁰

3 FEBRUARY 1817
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William Mills, 1 male tithe, 1 horse, 18¢ tax paid. Prunty’s District. February 3.

COMMENT:

No other known associates turned in their list on 3 February.

Others who turned in their list on that day were Herod Beverley, John Beverley, William Bromley, Noah Brammar, George Beheler, James Bell, John Bass, Bannister Brizendine, **Luke Bird**, Reuben Bowles, William Brooks, Sam Boyd “free neg,” Mason Bishop, Jesse Boyd, William Bozwell, Samuel Cockran, William Clay, Wm Campbell “Snow Ck,” Wm Campbell (Story), John Cooper, John Carmichael, Elijah Cooley, Lewis Davis, W William Gadd, Lowry Grimes, M John Holland, Samuel Gittert, Richard Guilliams, Peter **Housman** [a Kemp neighbor], Robert **Hairston**, Washington Hardwick, Alexander Ingrum, Adda **Jarrett** Jr., Nathan Jones, James **Keys**, John *Law* Jr., Henry Love, Cheadle *Law*, Burwell Law Jr., and

William **McCall** [whose widow was two listings from William on the 1830 census, after William had inherited Kemp land], James *Martin* Jr., Tarlton **Napier**, Robert Niblett, *John Parker*, James Pinckard, Shadk. Richards, Thomas Roberts, John Saul, William Sullivan, James Sullivan, Benj. Showers “free Neg,” Jesse Shavers “free Neg,” Wm. Spencer MG, Thomas Smith, Thomas **Standley**, Will **Standley** Sr., John Shiveley, George *Turney*, Sterling *Thornton*, Jesse Tyree Jr., H. Joseph Townes

15 MAY 1817
GILES COUNTY, VA

Lease

Articles of agreement entered into by John Toney of Giles Co. and Zachariah Crafford of same. “Witnesseth 1817 Whereas the above Named John Toney hath Leased to the above named Zachariah Crafford a Certain parcel of Land containing of Fifty acres by Survey in the **Bent of East River above Toney’s Mill** for the term of Seven years Commencing this [15 May 1816] which term Expiers on the [15 May 1824] at which time Said Crafford is to leave all the Cleared Land in good order for farming. Or Should Crafford Leave the place

⁹⁰ Giles Co., VA, Deed Book C: 414.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

before the above mentioned term Expires he is to return it back to the said Toney or his heirs as the case may be and I John Toney being the prier owner do prevaledge the said Crafford to Clear or improve where he may think proper on Said Land in witness my hand and Seal this day and date as above written signed & delivered in the presence of us. [Signed] John Toney. Test [witnesses]: John Conner, Jonathan Toney, **William Mills**.

“At Giles April Court 1819. This lease from John Toney to Zachariah Crawford was acknowledged in Court and ordered to be Recorded. Teste David French C.G.C.”⁹¹

COMMENT:

See 15 May 1816 for an earlier lease made by Toney to Conner, with Zachariah Crafford and William Mills as witnesses.

This pair of documents is curious—same five parties but exactly one year apart, with the lessee in each document witnessing for the other. Neither document was filed until five years later. One document or the other seems to be a year “off.”

Regarding this East River location: “East River, a New River tributary, begins at the rail yards in Bluefield. Despite its name, the East is more of a creek than a river. ... East River follows a direct course 23 miles northeastward from Bluefield to its juncture with the New River at Glen Lyn, Virginia. Originating in the valley between Stony Ridge to the northwest and East River Mountain to the southeast, the river is contained entirely in Mercer County [now West Virginia], except for its last half-mile in Giles County, Virginia. The East River Valley is an important transportation corridor, as traffic which has come through the mountain gap which the New River makes at Narrows, Virginia, finds in the narrow valley of the East an unimpeded route westward.”⁹²

2 MARCH 1818

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William Mills, 1 male tithe, 0 horses. 0 tax paid. Prunty’s list.

COMMENT:

Others who submitted on 2 March were Tarlton Brown, Jeremiah Barrett, Seth Burton, Leroy Brizendine, Robert Brogan, James Bird “Jno son,” Richard Becket, William Bird “Sim^s Ck,” Isaac Brizendine Sr., Judy Burton, John Beheler, Jinney Burton, Liggin Blankenship, Saml Bird “L[evy] free,” Wm Campbell “Story [Creek],” Francis *Cooper*, James Carver, William Crump Jr., John Callaway, William Cannaday, Lankston *Cooper*, Squire *Dillion*, Isaac Dehaven, Joshua Doss, Robert Doss, Dennis “a free Neg,” [Stephen **Dudley** on 3 March], Peter Finney, William **Ferguson**, Jeremiah **Ferguson**, Samuel Gilbert, George *Galaspy* [from Amherst?], Evan *Galaspy*, Joshua Gillenwater, Alexander Hepburn, Abidnego *Hodges*, Henry Haizlep Jr., Thomas Hill, Thomas Hoy, James Hatcher, Thomas Jones, Robert Jones, Barrold Innis, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Innes, James **Keys**, John Lavender, Henry *Love*, Francis *Lacy*, *Cheadle Law*, *Burwell Law Sr.*, *Stephen Law*, Jesse Mavity, Peter Meese, John Mason “Tanner,” G. *Tyree Newbill*, John Priddy, Thomas Poindexter, Thomas *Pain*, William Robertson, *Jubal Saul*, June [Jane?] Sullivan, Joseph Smith, William **Standifer**, Mackey Shelton, Randolph Simmons, David Sink, Samuel Taylor, John Tyree, Hiram Tyree, Joseph Townlin,

⁹¹ Giles Co., VA, Deed Book B: 84–85.

⁹² “East River,” *e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia* (<https://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1989> : revised 7 January 2011; accessed 6 September 2019).

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

Wellse Tinsley, Reuben Tinsley, John Underwood, Littleberry **Vest**, Josiah Woods, Willis Woodall, Martin Woody, Smith Webb Jr., Melcher Waggoner, Elijah Warren, David Willis, "Ro. Waid & moth M^{rs} Robertson," John Young (Ja. son), James Young

12 FEBRUARY 1819
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Personal tax roll.

William Mills, 1 male tithe, 0 horses. 0 tax paid. Prunty's list. 12 February.

COMMENT:

Others submitting on 12 February: Leroy Brizendine, Robert Brogan, James Bird, Tarlton Brown, William Bird "Ches," James Carver, John Durmman?, Elijah Hodges, Robert Hodges "Ro. son," Burwell Law Sr., Lewis Potter Sr., Daniel Williams, William Wingfield "son of Wm."

22 DECEMBER 1819
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Estate sale

Auction of goods of **Wm. English** Dec^d, November 22, 1819. Buyers included: Walter Kemp (2 purchases), Stephen Dudley, Guinn Dudley, Levi Dudley, John Kemp Jr., William Kemp (7 purchases), [*skip 2*], **William Mills** (5 plates, \$.26), Zeb Maxey, William Kemp, Thomas Kemp, Zeb Maxey, William Kemp (4 more purchases) ... William Kemp, Zeb Maxey, **William Mills** (1 Churn), William Kemp, Zeb Maxey, Jordan Kemp, William Kemp (2 more purchases).

"At a Court held for Franklin County the 7th day of December 1829, This account of sale of the Estate of William English dec^d was returned and ordered t be recorded."⁹³

COMMENT:

This William Mills is clearly the William who married Drucilla Kemp—i.e., brother-in-law to James Dudley.

15 APRIL 1820
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Personal tax roll.

William Mills, 1 male tithe, 0 horses. 0 tax paid. Prunty's list.

COMMENT:

Others on 15 April: Charles Allen, Jeremiah Allen

5 JUNE 1820
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Court order

"**William Mills** assee v Jn^o Law == Anthony Street Sp^l B^l – Office Jud. set aside – Paym^t & issue."⁹⁴

COMMENT:

I have not developed sufficient context to determine whether this is William Mills of the Blackwater or William Mills (son of James) of Maggoty Creek.

⁹³ Franklin Co., Will Book 4, With Inventories and Accounts: 59.

⁹⁴ Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1817–1822: 245.

6 JUNE 1820
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“On the motion of the attorney prosecuting for the Commonwealth, It is ordered that **Robert Kemp**, surveyor of the public Road leading from Black Water near his house into the Lew’s Island Road at the K. Fork in this County be summoned to appear here on the first Monday in August next to shew cause why an Information should not be filed against him for not keeping the said Road in repair on the third day of this month and within six months last past.”⁹⁵

COMMENT:

This road order helps to pinpoint the location of the Kemp land from which William and Drucilla would inherit a parcel in 1829.

6 JUNE 1820
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Common Wealth agt. Lewis Hodges – In six cases

The same v. Reuben Hodges – In two cases

The same v George Ferguson -----

The same v James Young -----

The same v. **William Mills** – in four cases

The same v George Menafee -----

The same v Jeremiah Ferguson -----

“On Presentments for profane Sweating --

“On the motion of the Defendants by their attornies, It is ordered that these several Presentments be quashed. It is the opinion of the Court that Lewis Davis, one of the Grand Jury by Whom the said Presents were made, was not a free holder, and therefore not a legally qualified Grand Juror.”⁹⁶

COMMENT:

Fergusons and Menafees were kinsmen of Samuel McCarrell in whose presence William Mills-Witt first appeared in 1806 and with whom he was grouped on the tax rolls until roughly the time of his marriage. This suggests that the William of this record might be William Mills-Witt. *However*, in this same court term, Arthur Mills (son of James and brother of William) gave a deed of trust to Eli *Ferguson*. Apparently both sets of Millses (William of the Black Water and the James Mills offspring of the Maggoty) associated with the Fergusons.

1820
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Census.

p. 24 (semi-alphabetic arrangement)

Mason, John

Mitchell, William

Mitchell, Hannah

McGhee, Martin

⁹⁵ Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1817–1822: 254.

⁹⁶ Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1817–1822: 255.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

McGhee, Angus
Markham, James
Martin, John H? [SC?]
Manning, Samuel
McBride, Charles
Moore, James
Moore, James Jr.
McGhee, Nelson

Mullins, Bowker

Mullins, Jacob
McDaniel, Edward
Matthews, John
Mattocks, Gabriel

Mills, William "Jr."	1 male 26–45 3 males 0–10	1 female 26–45	1 employed in agriculture
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Merrill, James
Mavity, Jesse
Mavity, William
Manning, John
Moore, William

COMMENT:

Various online trees assert that William of the Kemp-Maddox clan was the father of Larkin and Anderson Mills, born in the 18-teens. The above household data does not allow for their presence. Anderson's own marriage record in 1859 (his second marriage) identifies his parents as "John and Nancy," thereby eliminating any possibility of his being a son of William and Drucilla, as alleged.⁹⁷

Gabriel Mattox is positioned next to William & Drucilla on this census, but the 1820 tax roll shows him submitting his list on 7 February while William submitted his own list on 15 April.

1821–30

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal & land tax rolls

William Mills, not found in either tax district in any year.

COMMENT:

A major change was made in the tax roll compilation in 1821. The only names listed are "Persons chargeable with tax." There was no category for tithable-aged males who owned no property.

Not until 1830, when William inherited a portion of his father-in-law's land, two enslaved people and a modicum of cash with which he bought a horse, does he appear again on Franklin's rolls. Nor have I found him in this decade witnessing any Franklin Co. deeds executed by the Kemp-Maddox clan. However, the 1850 census states that all of his children, several of whom lived in a separate home, were born in Franklin County.

I have read Bedford, Giles, Monroe, and Montgomery tax rolls 1818–30 on the possibility that William may have removed during this decade—or worked elsewhere while Drucilla remained

⁹⁷ "olé Paul," Rena Worthen & BarbR (contributors), "Index to Marriages of Floyd County, Virginia 1831–1940," RootsWeb (sites.rootsweb.com/~vafloyd/1_Marriages : downloaded 19 April 2020).

with her family in Franklin—and I did not find William in those counties. **I have NOT yet read the 1820-era tax rolls of Botetourt, Henry, or Pittsylvania.**

9 MARCH 1821
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“**Wm Mills** assee. v. John Law—plea waved—and dismiss^d as to Joseph Boling.”⁹⁸

COMMENT:

This William appears to be William Mills-Witt. John Law was taxed annually in Prunty’s District (not the Moses Greer district in which we find the James Mills clan of Maggoty and Elliot Creeks). Law in 1817 submitted his tax list the same day as our William.

1 JULY 1822
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Ordered that **Levi Dudley** be appointed Surveyor of the Publick Road from **Robert Kemps Ford** on Black Water to the fork of the road at Stephen Englishes, with the allotment of hands filed.”⁹⁹

6 JANUARY 1823
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“On the Motion of **Jordan Kemp** it is ordered that Lewis Hancock, Burwell Law Jr., Benjamin Hancock & Philemon Sutherland, after being first sworn, do view the way for a public Road from the house of s^d **Kemp** into the Public Road leading from the Court house to Loos Island through the lands of **Gabriel Mattox, James Dudley** & Ransom Sutherland, and report to the Court the Conveniences & Inconveniences resulting therefrom as well to the Public as to Individuals.”¹⁰⁰

COMMENT:

- James Dudley was Robert Kemp’s son-in-law. Jordan is alleged to be Robert’s brother. Robert’s last wife was Sarah Mattox/Maddox.
- Gabriel Mattox’s location should be noted, given his appearances in records created by and for William and Drucilla.
- Ransom Sutherland in 1815 submitted his list on the same day as William Mills. In other years, other Sutherlands/Southerlands submitted on the same day. This road order places them within 5 miles or so of Robert Kemp’s land.

2 JUNE 1823
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“The Viewers appointed at the Last term to view a way for a Road from **Jourdan Kemps** to the **Lews Island Road** near the **K Fork** having this day reported _____ thereto, On the motion of **Jourdan Kemp** it is ordered that **Gabriel Mattox, James Dudley** and Ransom Sutherland, the Owners of the Lands through which it is

⁹⁸ Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1817–1822: 338.

⁹⁹ Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1822–24: 26.

¹⁰⁰ Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1822–24: 95

proposed to run the said Road be Summoned to appear here on the first day of the next Term to shew cause why the said Road should not be opened agreeable to said Report.”¹⁰¹

COMMENT:

All of these are important landmarks for locating William and Drucilla’s residence.

4 AUGUST 1823

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“On the motion of **Jourdan Kemp**, It is ordered that a Public Road be established from Jourdan Kems to the Lews Island Road near the K^d [R^d] fork, agreeable to the Report of the Viewers and the inquest of the Jury taken and this day returned. And James Dudley is appointed to Open the same and then act as Surveyor thereof with the allotment of hands filed.”¹⁰²

6 OCTOBER 1823

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“On the motion of Francis Divers &al. it is ordered that John J. Burwell, Kemuel C. Gilbert, **Robert Kemp Jr.** and Richard Robinson or any three of them ... do view the nearest and best way for a public Road to turn out of the Main Road at Poindexter’s field, thence through the Lands of Daniel Ward, Thomas **Dudley**, crossing Blackwater at Websters old ford, thence to the Jerman Town Road, and to report to the Court the conveniences and inconveniences resulting there from as well to the public and individuals.”¹⁰³

6 MARCH 1826

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“R_____ Boles? is appointed Surveyor of the Road from the ford of Blackwater at **Robert Kems** to _____ Lews Island _____ to Dickenson’s Store in place of **Robert Kemp** with the allotment of hands filed.”¹⁰⁴

11 MARCH 1830

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Probate sale

Robert Kemp’s estate. Purchases by **Wm. Mills**. Items not identified, total \$33.53. Significantly more than any other heir.¹⁰⁵

29 MAY 1830

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Estate sale

“List of the property sold of **John Webster** on the 29th May 1830 ... **Jesse Mills** D^r To 2 Slays and harness \$1.80.”¹⁰⁶

¹⁰¹ Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1822–24: 143.

¹⁰² Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1822–24: 179.

¹⁰³ Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1822–24: 204.

¹⁰⁴ Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1824–28: 150.

¹⁰⁵ Franklin Co., Will Book 3 With Inventories & Accounts, 1825–1833: 404–5; *FamilySearch* digital film 7644995, images 222–23.

¹⁰⁶ Franklin Co., Will Book 4 With Inventories & Accounts, 1829–1837: 87; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7649995.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

COMMENT:

No other purchasers were known associates of either William Mills-Kemp (and in-laws) or the Millses of Elliot's Creek & the Maggoty. *FamilySearch's* FamilyTree asserts (without evidence) that this Jesse was son of Arthur Mills. The 1830 census enumerates him amid the Maggoty Millses.

JUNE 1830
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Census

COMMENT:

The Mills clan of Maggoty and Elliot Creeks, including Arther, William Sr. and William [Jr.] appear on pp. 77–78. I am beginning this set of notes with the cluster of names that include William and Drucilla (principally p. 80).

(p. 79)

[skip 22]

Mullans, Aaron

Mattox Gabriel

Mannin, Samuel

Mackinhammer, Jacob

Muse, John

Meredith, William

(p. 80)

[skip 12]

Mullens, Stephen

McCrery, John E.

Mullins, Booker

1 male 80–90; 1 male 50–60; female 80–90; female 40–60

[The older man's age is compatible with Booker Mullins of Montgomery Co. tax rolls, 1787–92. It is not compatible with Booker Mullins of Franklin Co.'s 1850 and 1860 censuses.]

[skip 6]

Mullins, Hadron

[skip 5]

Mason, Lewis

(p. 81)

Muse, Henry S.

Moseley, Rebeckah

Martin, Sitteral

McCalister, Agnis

Martin, William

Moore, John

Mullins, Jacob

Moore, Benjamin

Martin, Hugh

Martin, Mary

Martin, John

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

Mason, Francis		1 female	70–80		
		1 female	40–50		
	1 male	20–30	1 female	30–40	
	1 male	5–10			
Maris, Permelia		1 female	30–40		1 total
Mills, Wm.	1 male	40–50	1 female	30–40	1 male slave 24–36
	1 male	20–30			1 male slave 0–10
	2 males	10–15			
	1 male	5–10			
	1 male	0–5	2 females	0–5	

COMMENT:

This household data is compatible with the known family of William and Drucilla—*except for the extra male aged 20–30.*

Mullins, Jos.	1 male	20–30	1 female	15–20	1 female slave 10–24
					1 male slave 0–10

COMMENT:

Joseph Mullins was the son of Booker Mullins from p. 80, above.

Metz, John					
McCall, Milly ¹⁰⁷			1 female	40–50	[9 slaves]
	1 male	20–30	1 female	20–30	
	3 males	15–20	1 female	15–20	
	1 male	5–10			

McCall, Holland
 [End of 'M' section]

COMMENT:

Marr (aka Marrs, Mares, Maris):

The Marrs family of Franklin on the earlier 1820 census consisted of

- Benjamin Marrs who married 24 February 1801, daughter of Samuel and Catherine Saunders¹⁰⁸
- George Marrs who married 23 February 1808, Elizabeth Beverley¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁷ This Milly is said to be née Holland, daughter of Peter and Mary Holland, and wife of William S. McCall. See Find A Grave (<https://findagrave.com/memorial/44154813>), tombstone photo by John McCall; burial in McCall Cemetery, Readsville, Callaway County, MO.

¹⁰⁸ "Franklin County, Virginia, Marriage Bond Index," database, Ancestry.com : accessed 15 May 2018), citing Marshall Wingfield, Marriage Bonds of Franklin County, Virginia (Memphis: West Tennessee Historical Society, 1939), 148.

¹⁰⁹ "Franklin County, Virginia, Marriage Bond Index," database, Ancestry.com : accessed 15 May 2018); citing Marshall Wingfield, Marriage Bonds of Franklin County, Virginia (Memphis: West Tennessee Historical Society, 1939), 149. The 1810 census enumerates him on the same page with Peter Boone, who lived 12 households after the Abshires. Samuel Saunders was a close neighbor of Hercules Marrs, f.m.c. See 1810 U.S. census, Franklin Co., p. 306 & verso (stamped). They were not near the Kemp-Mattox families. Hercules is not there in 1830. The 1850 census places a younger Hercules Marrs in adjacent Montgomery County. The parents of Elizabeth Beverley have not been identified, but Ben Chavis ("Chaffers") and Cill Beverly appear in adjacent households in 1810, as fpc.

I've found no marriage of any Marrs (*var.* Mares, Morris, etc.) to a woman named Permelia. aged aged 30–40 in 1830, Permelia was of age to have married 1805–15.

TO DO:

Three neighboring families need thoroughly studying:

- Permelia Marrs, with no enslaved people, living alone and listed consecutively with William Mills in 1830, should be thoroughly studied. Single women or widows did not live alone unless living on the property of a male relative—and, even then, they usually lived within the household of that relative.
- Francis Mason who was also listed consecutively with Permelia and might be her kinsman.

8 JUNE 1830

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“James Dudley & others against John Kemp & others. This cause this day came to be heard upon the purpose? formerly _____ and by consent of the parties the Court doth adjudge, order and de_____ that the Commissioners appointed by an interlocutory decree _____ named in this issue ___ on making distribution of the _____ estate whereof **Robert Kemp** died seized **take into account the advancements made by the said intestate in his life time to his children**, the parties to this cause at the time they were made and report pursuant to the principles of the decree aforesaid not _____ in the order of this day.

“And now this cause again coming on to be heard upon the report of Moses Greer Jr., Matthew B. Nowlin and John M. Holland commissioners in the County appointed by the decree aforesaid to which there is no exception the court upon Consideration doth confirm the same and the Court doth further order adjudge and decree that the rest of the suit be apportioned equally between the Parties to this suit.”¹¹⁰

COMMENT:

An interlocutory decree was a temporary court judgment that was not considered to be final.

8 JUNE 1830

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Estate division

Robert Kemp's estate. Heirs:

Widow Sarah Kemp: 177 acres land as her dower, also her one third part of slaves, consisting of Negro man Caleb (\$400) and Negro man Lews (\$275) = \$675.00

James Dudley: “advancements made in decedant's lifetime” (\$82), 80 acres of land (\$400), 1 Negro woman Hannah and child (\$325) “and **William Mills** to pay him (\$.40) = \$807.40.

William Mills: “advancements made in the intestate life time” (\$82), lot of land 151 acres (\$400), 2 Negro Boys Jackson & Buck (\$400) and he to pay to Jno. Kemp (\$40.40), James Kemp (\$31.40), Wm. Kemp (\$2.40) and James Dudley (\$.40) = 807.40

William Kemp: “Advancements made in intestate's life time (\$82), 163 acres (\$523), 1 negro Cynthia (\$200), **Wm. Mills** to pay (\$2.40) = 807.40.

James Kemp: “Amt. of advancements made in the intestator life time (\$351.00), Negro man Neros (\$300), Negro boy Minter (\$125.00) and **Wm. Mills** to pay him (\$31.40).

¹¹⁰ Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1830–35: 9.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

John Kemp: “Advancements made in the intestate’s lifetime (\$767) and **Wm. Mills** to pay him (\$40.40) = \$807.40.¹¹¹”

COMMENT:

There follows a description of each heir’s land. See image. William Mills’s portion is described as 151 acres beginning at a spanish oak on the River, off 52° E92 poles to pointers on a branch, thence up the same as it meanders 130 poles to a red oak, off S85° E82 poles to pointers, N8° W128 poles to a persimmon tree, N65° W140 poles to a willow on River, then up the same as it meanders to beginning.¹¹²

8 JUNE 1830
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Inventory & appraisalment of the Estate of **Robert Kemp** decd ret^d & O R^d.”¹¹³

3 AUGUST 1830
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Ordered that John ___ Bur_____, John M. Holland, James _____, Matthew B. Nowlin and E _____ Sutherland or any thre of them after being _____ do _____ and settle the account Current of **John Kemp Jr. & James?** Kemp administrators of **Robert Kemp decd.** & make report to court.”¹¹⁴

7 NOVEMBER 1831
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“**Robert Kemp** [Jr.] came into Court and together with **Gabriel Mattox**, Peter H. Holland, Stephen Smith, and Andrew H. Turner executed their bond to Stephen Dudley and Thomas English in the penalty of \$6000 conditioned to save harmless & indemnify the said Stephen Dudley & Thomas English securities for the said Robert Kemp’s administration of the Estate of **Thomas Kemp Decd.**”¹¹⁵

COMMENT:

In June 1830, this Thomas Kemp was not named among the heirs of Robert Kemp Sr. His relationship to Drucilla is not yet proved.

1831
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

¹¹¹ Franklin Co., Will Book 4 with Inventories & Accounts, 1829–37, 16–65; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7649995, images 391–92.

¹¹² Franklin Co., Will Book 4 with Inventories & Accounts: 163. The heir James Dudley married Nancy Kemp by bond dated 19 September 1804; see Marshall Wingfield, *Marriage Bonds of Franklin County, Virginia* (Memphis: West Tennessee Genealogical Society, 1939), 78. To be of age to marry in 1804, Nancy should be a full sister of Drucilla—i.e., the daughter of Millie Edmondson rather than Sarah Maddox. Online trees assert that James Dudley was born about 1784 in Bedford Co. as son of Gwyn Dudley and Mary E. Hail(e). The Hailes were the first family in Franklin to whom I can attach the unusual name “Sparrel” as a given name. After the birth of the first Sparrel Haile in 1797 to the prominent John Haile and wife Theodosia Saunders (daughter of Col. Peter Saunders and Mary Sparrell), a rash of Franklin Co. boys would be named Sparrel for the next three decades.

¹¹³ Franklin Co., VA, Court Order Book, 1830–35: 6.

¹¹⁴ Franklin Co., VA, Court Order Book, 1830–35: 32.

¹¹⁵ Franklin Co., VA, Court Order Book, 1830–35: 143.

Land tax roll

William Mills, 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$2.65 per acre, \$400.15 total value, 32¢ tax.
“From Robt. Kemp Dec’d by Partition.”

1831

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William Mills, 1 horse, 6¢ tax paid, Hairston’s list.

COMMENT:

No date appears beside his name. His name is now added at the end of the list, the conventional position for those who are newly added. This also suggests that he was living out of the county for the past decade and has just returned.

Note that he is not taxed on slaves. He apparently has sold the two enslaved males he inherited the previous year from the Kemp estate.

1831

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Floyd County was cut from Montgomery County in this year.

COMMENT:

William & Drucilla Mills remained in Franklin County until 1848, on the land that they had inherited from her father. Their residences, thereafter, tie them to Floyd, Montgomery, and Pulaski.

23 NOVEMBER 1831

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Probate sales account

Estate of Thomas Kemp ... “**William Mills** to Sundries ... \$10.00.” Account filed 6 January 1834.¹¹⁶

7 NOVEMBER 1831

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“**Robert Kemp** came into Court and together with **Gabriel Mattox**, Peter H. Holland, Stephen Smith, and Andrew H. Turner executed their bond to Stephen Dudley and Thomas English in the penalty of \$6000 conditioned to save harmless & indemnify the said Stephen Dudley & Thomas English securities for the said Robert Kemp’s administration of the Estate of Thomas Kemp Decd.”¹¹⁷

7 DECEMBER 1831

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Probate account

“A/ct. of bonds due to the Estate of Robt. Pasley Sr. Dec’d.” Bonds ranged from \$356.63 to \$3.81. The smallest was “**Wm Mills** Debt and Int. \$3.81.”¹¹⁸

¹¹⁶ Franklin Co., Will Book 4 with Inventories & Accounts: 345–47.

¹¹⁷ Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1830–35, p. 143.

¹¹⁸ Franklin Co., Will Book 4 With Inventories & Accounts, p. 67.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

30 DECEMBER 1831

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Probate account current

“Solomon & John Pasley, Executors of Robert Pasley, decd. In account Current with the Estate of the said Robert Pasley Decd.

“To Cash recd of John Kemp :	65.51
“To Cash of William Mill :	3.81 ¹¹⁹

[Etc.]

4 JUNE 1832

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Account Current of the estate of **Robert Kemp** decd’ Rec’d Cont^d”¹²⁰

AUGUST 1832

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Dickerson & Nowlin vs. **William Mills**, judgment confessed by the Deft. for \$176.56 cents with legal Interest thereon from the first of March 1832, and the costs, with a stay of Execution until the 1st day of January next.”¹²¹

1832

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

William Mills, 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$2.65 per acre, \$400.15 total value, 32¢ tax.

1832

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William Mills, 1 horse, 6¢ tax paid. Hairston’s list. No date.

AUGUST 1832

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Dickerson & Nowlin vs. **William Mills**, judgment confessed by the Deft. for \$176.56 cents with legal Interest thereon from the first of March 1832, and the costs, with a stay of Execution until the 1st day of January next.”¹²²

COMMENT:

Dickerson & Nowlin appear on the concurrent tax rolls as a mercantile store. As seen under 6 March 1826 above, they were in the Blackwater neighborhood of William and Drucilla and the Kemps.

There were at this time three adult William Millses in the county. The court order does not

¹¹⁹ Franklin Co., Will Book 3 With Inventories & Accounts, 391.

¹²⁰ Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1830–35, 207.

¹²¹ Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1830–35, 238.

¹²² Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1830–35: 238.

indicate which William was involved. Note that in March and August of 1833, two court orders *do* distinguish between “William Mills Jr.” and “William Mills Sr.” The clerk’s pattern seems to be that references to the William Millses of Maggoty are distinguished as Sr. and Jr., but not references to the William Mills of Blackwater.

MARCH 1833
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Disambiguation

Frame 686: “Franklin County to wit ... Benjamin Betz complains of Wm. C. Ashworth & Mary Betz in custody &c of a plea Trespass on the case. For that whereas the said plaintiff heretofore to wit on the [blank] day of [blank] in year [blank] at the County aforesaid was lawfully possess^d as of his own property of certain cattle to wit one horse and being so posses^d Thereof he the said plttff afterwards to wit on the day and hour first above mentioned at the County aforesaid casually lost the said horse out of his possession. And the same afterwards to wit on the day & year lost aforesaid at the County aforesaid Came to the possession of the s^d dfts. by finding. Yet the said dfts. well knowing the said horse to be the property of the said plttff & of right to belong & appertain to him but contriving and fraudulently intending craftily & subtly to deceive the said plttff in this behalf hath not yet delivered the said horse to the said plttff. Tho often requested to do so & hath hitherto wholly refused so to do & afterwards on the day & year aforesaid & County aforesaid converted & disposed of the said horse to their own use to damage of the s^d plttff. \$ [blank space] & therefore brings suit. [signed] Wells pq.

Frame 687: “Betz vs Betz’s admrs. This is an action on the Case, no bail req^d. To April rules 1833. Superior Court. Executed on Mary Betz 22^d March 1833 & on William C. Ashworth the 25th March 1833. Solomon Pasley^d per Patrick Hix Sh.

Frame 688: 11 March 1833. Summons issued to “Mary Betz and William C. Ashworth Administrators with the Will annexed of Conrad Betz dec^d ... to answer Benjamin Betz of a plea of Trespass on the Case, Damage one hundred dollars.”

Frame 692: 10 May 1833. Summons issued to John Frailin.

Frame 694: 2 April 1833. Court orders the sheriff of Franklin Co. to summon “Joel Hauper, Jacob Beckner, Jacob A? Frailin and **William Mills Jr.**”¹²³

COMMENT:

The case of Commonwealth vs. “William Dillion son of Arthur” charges him with assaulting Michael Crantz “at William C. Ashworth’s school House.” (1 August 1828, digital film 8704987, frames 249-252, particularly 251)

In December 1828 a summons was also issued to William C. Ashworth, Patrick Hix, John Bowman, Elijah Poteet, Sally Bond, Mary Hix (wife of Jeremiah Hix) and John Pasley as witnesses in the breach-of-promise suit filed by the “infant” Milly C. Bond against Ambrose Abshire (Ibid., frame 702). William Gunson was “next friend” who sued for Milly. Patrick Hix was the county sheriff. Other witnesses were summoned later, including Jincy Ashworth (image 714). Image 718 has a full list of witnesses, the dates they appeared, and the amounts paid to each—but no mileage.

The Abshire and Frailin connection implies that this could be William of the Maggoty, son of James. Key points:

¹²³ Franklin Co., Determined Papers, 1833, unnumbered, unalphabetized; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-V38L-7N12?i=695&cat=762228>: accessed 2 January 2020) > images 684–95.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

- In 1877, Daniel Frailin and John Mills instigated a lawsuit in which John and Perry Mills are identified as sons of Cornelius Mills.¹²⁴
- No known contemporary record states an identity for Cornelius, but it was he who reported the death of Arthur Mills on 11 March 1855 and he was a purchaser at Arthur's estate.¹²⁵ From this, most researchers extrapolate that Cornelius was the son of Arthur, grandson of James, and nephew of William Mills of the Maggoty.
- Daniel Frailin is widely asserted to be the son of the 1833 Jacob Frailing. (I have not yet attempted to confirm or disprove this.)
- In other words: The 1877 court case involved the son of witness Jacob Frailing and the nephew of a William Mills who seems more likely to be William of the Maggoty rather than William of the Blackwater for whom no Frailin connection has been found.

However, the involvement of Solomon and John Pasley hold open the possibility that this William Mills was the son-in-law of Robert Kemp and brother-in-law of James Dudley. On 17 August 1829, **Jordan Kemp** witnessed the will of **Robert Pasley**, the father of Solomon and John, whose will also named his daughters Mary Dudley and Nancy Dudley.¹²⁶

1833

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

William Mills, 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$6.65 [*sic*] per a, \$400.15 total value, 32¢ tax.

6 MAY 1833

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William Mills, 1 horse. 6¢ tax paid. Hairston's list.

5 AUGUST 1833

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

"Grand Jury of inquest included ... **William Mills Sr.**, Isaac Abshire, Adam Wray, John Arthur Jr."¹²⁷

COMMENT:

The typed index to this book cites this as William Mills Jr., but the suffix to the name is clearly a long-tailed 'S.' In either case, it should not be William Mills-Witt.

2 SEPTEMBER 1833

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

¹²⁴ Daniel Frailin & John Mills vs. Exr of James S. Callaway &c, Franklin Co. Chancery case 1877–014; imaged in "Chancery Records Index," Library of Virginia, *Virginia Memory* (https://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=067-1877-014; accessed 9 January 2020), 52 images.

¹²⁵ Franklin Co., Register of Deaths: 15. Franklin Co., Will Book 9: 405, 407–8.

¹²⁶ Franklin Co., Will Book 3 With Inventories & Accounts: 501–2.

¹²⁷ Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1830–35: 327.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

“Ordered that John M. Holland, James Robertson, Jordan Robertson, Hopkins Nowlin and Thos. English or any three of them after being sworn do state and setele [settle] the account Current of **Robert Kemps Admrs.** and make report to Court.”¹²⁸

13 NOVEMBER 1833

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Probate account current

Estate of Thomas Kemp, Robert Kemp [Jr.], adm.

“By cash received of ... Gabrail Mattacts \$4.06; By cash received of Wesley A. **White** \$3.70” ...

“Amount Credits brought forward “By Cash received of **William Mills** Debt. in \$10.25.”¹²⁹

COMMENT:

Gabriel Maddox was a brother of Drucilla’s stepmother, Sarah Maddox (daughter of Nathan).

The presence of “Wesley A. White” in the estate settlement of Thomas Kemp could be of considerable significance to the identity of Thomas’s brother-in-law, William Mills. Consider these points:

- In August 1827, in Giles County, **Wesley White, David Mills**, Benjamin White [first cousin of David Mills], John Conner, Zachariah Crawford and a couple of dozen others were jointly given a title-clearance deed by James and Charlotte Hector covering lands they had purchased “on the N side of Bluestone River, Giles County,” beginning on the S “side of a ridge, near the forks of a branch & near Jas. White’s corner.”¹³⁰
- The Wesley White of Giles almost certainly was a son of David Mills’s grandmother Frances “Frankey” Mills by John White Sr., whom she married in 1792, Montgomery County. Wesley should not be confused with his same-aged half-uncle Benjamin Wesley White, son of Benjamin White and grandson of John White Sr.
- David Mills was the son of Samuel Mills of Giles, the premarital son of Frankey (Mills) White.
- John Conner and Zachariah Crawford were the two men whose 1816 and 1817 Giles Co. leases of land from John Toney were witnessed by **William Mills**. Exhaustive research on Frances and Samuel Mills and their White kin in the resources of Montgomery and Giles Counties reveals no other William Mills connection.
- This “Wesley A. White” does not appear on the Franklin County tax rolls of 1827–35, not even in this year 1833 (and on through 1835) when all male tithables are named whether they had taxable property or not. He does not appear to have been a resident of Franklin.

TO DO:

Pursue this Wesley White to determine whether he is or is not the Giles County man.

3 FEBRUARY 1834

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Account Current of the admrs. of **Robert Kemp** decd the same [Returned and Continued].”¹³¹

¹²⁸ Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1830–35: 340.

¹²⁹ Franklin Co., Will Book 4 with Inventories & Appraisements, 1829–37: 245–47.

¹³⁰ Giles Co., VA, Deed Book C: 414. DB C has no individual index at back or front.

¹³¹ Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1830–35: 372.

4 MARCH 1834
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Account Current of the admrs. of **Robert Kemp** decd the same [Returned and Continued].”¹³².

27 MAY 1834
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Disambiguation

William Mills Jr. of the County of Franklin to Daniel Ferguson of same. “Whereas the said Wm Mills Jr. is indebted to Sally Shewalter” for \$127.10, with lawful interest from this date, Mills gives a deed of trust, to be held by Ferguson, who has paid \$1, for “half of one tract of land containing 74 acres” in Franklin County adjoining Jacob Peters, Abram **Teel**, “being the same bought of Jacob Peters by Sally & Polley Shewalter,” also 5 head of cattle, 4 head of hogs, 4 beds & bedsteads and furniture, 1 Bureau, 1 chest, 1 flax wheel, 1 cotton wheel, 1 candle stand, 6 chairs, 1 coffee mill, 1 looking glass, 1 table, 1 pot, 1 dutch oven, 1 skillet, 1 frying pan, a parcel of Crockery & earthen ware, 1 side saddle, 2 bar Shir plows. On condition that William Mills pay the due sum on or before 25 December 1837. Signed: William his x mark Mills Jr., Daniel Ferguson, Sally Shewalter.¹³³

COMMENT:

Evidence that this William was a different man from William Mills-Witt, husband of Drucilla Kemp, is provided by another deed dated 3 February 1836 in which “Sally Showalter & William Mills and his wife Polly” sell to Daniel Nafe, land adjacent to Jacob Peters.¹³⁴

2 APRIL 1834
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William Mills, 1 horse, 6¢ tax paid. Hairston’s list.

1834
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

William Mills, 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$6.65 [*sic*] per a, \$400.15 total value, 32¢ tax.

2 JUNE 1834
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“A Deed of Trust from **Wm. Mills** to Danl. Ferguson – Ack^d & O. R^d.”¹³⁵

COMMENT:

This would be the deed of trust dated 27 May 1834, above, for the William Mills who was married to Polly Shewalter.

31 OCTOBER 1834
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

¹³² Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1830–35: 384.

¹³³ Franklin Co., Deed Book 14 (1833–1836): 117; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7894518 > image 394.

¹³⁴ Franklin Co., Deed Book 14 (1833–1836): 448–49; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7894518 > image 561.

¹³⁵ Franklin Co., Court Order Book, 1830–35: 400.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

Debt.

William Mills & Siller Mills, his wife, of first part, **Solomon Pasley** of second part, and **Guin Dudley** of third part. Mills is indebted to Dudley for \$205.62 by note of 31 October 1834. He and Siller his wife are willing to secure the debt. Pasley, as trustee, has paid Mills \$1 and will hold the title to

One certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Franklin, on Blackwater River and Standerfer's Creek, containing 150 acres described as

Beginning at a Spanish oak in the river off S 20? [30?] E 93 poles to pointers on a branch, Thence up the same as it meanders 130 poles to a red budd Off S 85 E 82 poles to pointers, N 8W 128 poles to a tree, N 65 West 140 poles to a willow on the river, up the same as it meanders to the beginning

Also two horses, one a bright the othe[r] a dark bay, 7 head of cattle marked with a swaller fork in each ear, 1 house of tobacco, 5 stalks of oats, 3 blade stacks, 3 top stacks, the crop of corn which is now on the plantation, 3 beds, bedsteads, and furniture, 6 chairs, 1 pot, 1 oven, 1 skillet, 6 plates, 2 dishes, 1 set knives & forks?, 1 Cotton wheel, 1 flax wheel, 1 table, ____ of flax, 1 fire shovel, 2 water vessels, 1 powdering? tub, 1 set shewmakers tools, set of cups and saucers, 4 poles axes, 3 ___ hoes, 2 ploughs, plough gear, one mattock, one dozen Turkeys, 4 hens, 2 sollar?, 1 churn 2 augurs, 1 hand saw, 1 drawing knife. Signed William his X mark Mills; Siller her x mark Mills.¹³⁶

COMMENT:

Much of this document is faded to the point that any transcription would be unreliable.

William's marriage bond carried his signature, well-written in a hand that did not match that the scribe but possibly matched his bondsman. This document implies that he could not sign.

Guin Dudley was the father of William's brother-in-law James Dudley (husband of Nancy Kemp).¹³⁷

The financial crash of 1837 has not yet happened. The period here in which William is in debt was a generally flush (indeed booming) era before the crash hit in May 1837. He did well to hold onto his land through the financial turbulence that lasted into the 1840s.

1835

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

William Mills, 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$6.65 [sic] per a, \$400.15 total value, 32¢ tax.

6 APRIL 1835

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Tax roll.

William Mills, 1 horse, 6¢ tax paid. Hairston's list.

25 APRIL 1835

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Inventory

Estate of Christopher Babcock, merchant. "Cash Received of
Stephen Smith in part J. D. \$35.00

¹³⁶ Franklin Co., Deed Book 14 (1833–1836): 214–16; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7894518 > images 443–44.

¹³⁷ Marshall Wingfield, *Pioneer Families of Franklin County, Virginia* (1964; reprint, Baltimore: Clearfield Co., 1992), 53–60.

**William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp**

Jerusha Chandler by A. S. Brooks	1.127
John H. Ashworth by A. S. Brooks	11.127
William Mills by A. S. Brooks	20.35
do. do. B.GH. by A. S. Brooks	4.36
DO. DO. DO. DO.	7.05 ¹³⁸

COMMENT:

This merchant's estate includes Kemps, Englishes, Toneys, Hutts, Pasleys, and other residents of Blackwater, suggesting that the William of this record was more likely Williams Mills-Witt.

1836

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

William Mills, 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$6.65 [*sic*] per a, \$400.15 total value, 32¢ tax.

24 APRIL 1836

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William Mills, 1 horse, 6¢ tax paid. Hairston's list.

1837

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

William Mills [*sic*], 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$6.65 per a, \$400. total value, 32¢ tax.

10 OCTOBER 1837

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Association

"I assign the within bond to Leroy N. Law for value Rec'd of him as witness my hand & Seal this 10 Day of October 1837. John Craghead, his X mark. Witnesses: Henry Law, Robert L. Dudley, **James H. Mills.**" The referenced bond was a note by Polly Craghead, administratrix of T____ Craghead, to John Craghead for \$400.75 dated 22 April 1837 and witnessed by Henry Law.¹³⁹

COMMENT:

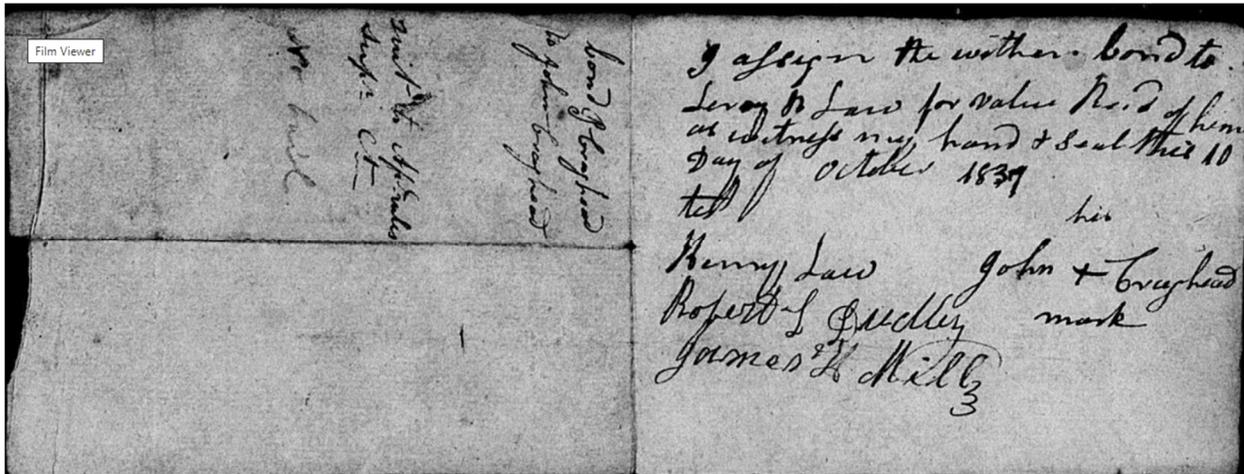
The bond was filed in two interrelated lawsuits heard in several 1840–43 terms of Court:

- John Craghead vs. Polly Craghead
- Leroy B. Law, assignee vs. Polly Craghead

This is the only sample I have to-date of the signature of James H. Mills (aka Harrison Mills) who came onto the county tax rolls in this year 1837 and dropped out by 1844.

¹³⁸ Franklin Co., Circuit Court Will Book 2 (1804–1901): 77; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7645001, image 56. NOTE: The earliest record I spotted in this book was an account from 1789 (debts of Mrs. Ann Smith) that was filed in 1807 in the settlement of her estate under Stephen Smith.

¹³⁹ Franklin Co., Determined Papers, 1843, unnumbered, unalphabetized; imaged as *FamilySearch* digital film 8706543, images 199–207. Digital film 8706544, image 539, states that Polly was administratrix of **Timothy** Craghead's estate.



3 MAY 1837
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

James H. Mills, 1 horse, 6¢ tax paid. Hairston's list, consecutive with:

William Mills, 1 horse, 6¢ tax paid.

COMMENT:

This is the first appearance of James H. on the Franklin tax rolls. He apparently just came of age and is listed consecutively with William.

1838
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

William Mills, 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$6.65 [sic] per a, \$400.15 total value, 40¢ tax.

10 APRIL 1838
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

James H. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 0 tax paid. Hairston's list, consecutive with:

William Mills, 3 white males 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 0 tax paid.

12 JULY 1838
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Estate account current

"This Estate of Peter Holland dec^d In Acct Current with John M. Holland Exor. ...

"11 June 1838 By Cash [Received] of John Holland in part his bond \$101.00

"12 July 1838 By Cash [Received] of **Wm. Mills** debt & Interest \$9.44

[skip several]

"2 February 1838 By Cash of Holland & Dudley in part bond \$65"

[Numerous entries follow for "Holland & Dudley, different dates]

[Signed] 4 July 1840 J. S. Burwell, Joseph Rives.¹⁴⁰

COMMENT:

The extent to which the Dudleys were involved in this estate suggests the William Mills of this document is the Dudley in-law, i.e., husband of Drucilla Kemp.

19 JULY 1838

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Legal suit

“Governor for &c vs. Rives, Woods et al.” Suit filed July 1845 on behalf of William A. Street & Co., including William A. Street, Abram T. **Holland** & Stephen F. Smith. George W. Rives, Constable, was appointed on 8 March 1838. He posted bond with Saml. H. & Wiley P. Woods, sureties, for \$2,000, guaranteeing that he would properly carry out the duties of his office. However, he failed to collect bonds that were due, specifically

- Jerusha & Stephen Chandler for \$10.40 due 4 August 1833
- **John and Mary Craghead** for \$1.02 due 1 March 1836
- Chs. W. Ashworth for \$16.39 ½ due 1 March 1837
- Hiram Hall for \$5.84 due 1 March 1838
- Hock Bradley for \$15.36 due 1 March 1837
- “**John Craghead Bull [Run]**” for \$1.50 due [date not provided.]

Etc. The complaint is accompanied by the following acknowledgment that Rives compiled when he came into office:

“Recd. of Wm. A. Street &c^o? 19th July 1838, 1 Bond on

(1)

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|---------------|------------------|
| • Jerusha & Stephen Chandler | for | \$10.40 | Due 4 Agt. 1833 |
| • John & Mary Craghead | for | \$1.03 | Due 1 March 1836 |
| • Chas. W. Ashworth | for | \$16.39 ½ | Due 1 March 1837 |
| • Homer [Honore?] Hall | | \$5.84 | Due 1 March 1838 |
| • Arch Bradley | | \$15:34 | Due 1 March 1837 |
| • John Craghead Bull [Run] | | <u>\$1.50</u> | Due 1 March 1837 |
| | | \$50.49 1/2 | |

(2)

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|----------------|------------------|
| • Mary Cragheads A/C | for | \$11.12 | Due 1 March 1838 |
| • J. Mills & J. Cundiff | for | \$.63 | Due 1 March 1838 |
| • James Kirks | for | \$1.25 | Due 1 March 1838 |
| • Thos. James Bond | for | \$5.24 | Due 1 March 1838 |
| • J. H. Milles | for | \$5.11 | Due 1 March 1838 |
| | | <u>-\$3.42</u> | |
| | | \$1.69 | |
| • Jesse Williams A/C | | \$.63 | Due 1 march 1838 |
| • Do. Saunders A/C | | <u>\$.44</u> | |
| | | \$24.39 | |

¹⁴⁰ Franklin Co., Will Book 5 With Inventories & Accounts, 1837–45: 284–91, particularly p. 285 for Wm Mills.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

(3)

• Street Holland & co. Bonds	for	\$2.55	Due 1 March 1838
• C. W. Ashworth A/C	for	\$6.62	Due 1 March 1838
• Arch Bradley Note		\$4.65	Due 1 March 1838
• Jerusha Chandler A/C		\$4.18	Due 1 March 1838
• John Craghead Bond		\$5.86	Due 1 March 1838
• H. Hall & Willson Cundiff		<u>\$6.30</u>	Due 1 March 1837
		\$30.16	

(4)

- Wm. A. Street agent for J. Kemp
- Hau & Cundiff Bond for \$8.11 Due 1 Nov^m 1837

All of Which I am to Collect & Account for according to Law this date above written”

[Signed:] George W. Rives, Constable.¹⁴¹

COMMENT:

Note the coupling of “J. Mills & J. Cundiff.” The order of the names suggests that Cundiff signed this bond for J. Mills [J. H. Mills, aka James H., aka Harrison], to secure a debt owed by Mills.

James Harrison Mills disappeared from Franklin’s records (by death or removal) after the tax list of 1844, apparently with this bond still unpaid. In his absence, Cundiff would have been liable. This may well be the root of the curious Mills/Cundiff actions of the 1860s–1890s below, whereby William B. Mills in 1863 was threatened with losing part of the family land—and did lose 25 acres of it before 1865—after which Wilson Cundiff took over paying tax on the land until his death in 1881, after which his widow and son took over the Mills land in two parts between 1885 and 1895.

1839

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

William Mills, 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$6.65 [*sic*] per a, \$400.15 total value, 40¢ tax.

1839

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William Mills, 2 white males 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 0 tax paid. Hairston’s list, consecutive with:

James H. Mills, 1 white males 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 0 tax paid.

Samuel Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 horses, 0 slaves, 0 tax paid

COMMENT:

This is the first appearance of Samuel, the second son of William and Drucilla. The second tithe in the household of William should be his third son William B. Mills who would come onto the roll in his own name in 1840.

3 MARCH 1840

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Estate inventory

¹⁴¹ Franklin Co., Determined Papers, 1846–1847, unnumbered, unalphabetized; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 8706550, images 143–91, particularly image 161 for the transcribed list.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

“Commonwealth vs. Wm. Moore – New Summons awarded returnable to 1st day of June Court next ... The same agt. **Saml. Mills** – the same.”¹⁴²

1840

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William Mills, 2 white males 16+, 0 slaves, 1 horse, 8¢ tax paid. Hairston’s list, consecutive with:

James H. Mills, 1 white males 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 0 tax paid.

Samuel Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 0 tax paid

3 APRIL 1840

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William Mills [**Wm. B.?**] 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horse, 0 tax

COMMENT:

Possibly, this is William B. Mills [“William Jr.” of Franklin], who was born about 1820, as the third son of William and Drucilla. This man is not taxed in Floyd the next year, while the 1841 tax roll of Franklin has both William and William B.

1840

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Census.

p. 17

Manning, Saml.

Martin, John & Stephen [*sic*]

Muse, Francis

McInhammer, Gabriel

Mason, John

Mitchel, Wm.

“ Elisha

“ Jane

“ James

Mason, John A.

Menafee, Wm.

McCrecy, John E.

McGuffin, Robert F.

Martin, Wm.

Miles, Wm. [<i>sic</i>]	1 male	50–60	1 female	40-50	0 fpc	11 total
	3 males	20–30	2 females	10–15	5 in ag	
	1 male	15–20				
	1 male	10–15				
	2 males	5–10				

COMMENT:

This data is compatible with the family of William and Drucilla.

¹⁴² Franklin Co., Order Book 1836–1840, unnumbered page; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-SS6Y-L?i=177&cat=397106> : accessed 8 January 2020) > image 178 of 663.

Mitchel, Thos.
Mathes, Benjn.
Mullins, Aaron
Miles, Joseph
“ John
[etc.]

2 JUNE 1840
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Estate inventory

“Commonwealth agt **Samuel Mills** – Defts motion to quash the Information filed in this cause overruled & exceptions filed &c and [pleads] not guilty & issue & a jury sworn to try the same to wit Wiley Ferguson, Robert P. Hairston, Daniel K. Forgie, Creed H. Adams, Foster James, Thomas Dudley Jr., Wiley Easter, Matthias Crook, Stewart Tinsley, Jacob Fishburn, Peter Fisher & Abel Long & not agreeing on a verdict, a Juror withdrawn & the cause contd till August Court next.”¹⁴³

4 AUGUST 1840
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Court order

“Commonwealth vs. Caleb Hodges – not guilty [plea] & issue & a **jury** sworn to wit Joel Cooper, Iles Cooper, Wm. Galaspy, Jno. R. Forbes, Jno. B. Lyon, **James H. Mills**, Samuel I. Hog, Gwinn Dudley, Wm. Willard, Peyton Standley, Robt. Pinckard & Jno. Young & returned a verdict of not guilty & judgment accordingly.”

“The same vs. **Saml. Mills** – contd.”¹⁴⁴

COMMENT:

James H. Mills was the eldest son of William and Drucilla. Because his father was a landowner, if he were a single man living in the parental household, he would qualify for freeholder status in order to serve on the jury.

4 NOVEMBER 1840
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Court order

“The same [Commonwealth] vs. **Saml. Mills** – contd.”¹⁴⁵

1840
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Land tax roll
William Mills, 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 [sic] per a, \$453 total value, 46¢ tax.

¹⁴³ Franklin Co., Order Book 1840–1845, unnumbered page; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-SSX3-B?i=194&cat=397106> : accessed 8 January 2020) > image 195 of 663.

¹⁴⁴ Franklin Co., Order Book 1840–1845, unnumbered page; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-SS6Y-W?i=202&cat=397106> : accessed 8 January 2020) > image 203 of 663.

¹⁴⁵ Franklin Co., Order Book 1840–1845, unnumbered page; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-SS6Y-W?i=202&cat=397106> : accessed 8 January 2020) > image 216 of 663.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

2 MARCH 1841
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Commonwealth vs. **Saml. Mills**, a jury sworn to try the issue joined to wit: Saml. Patterson, Benjn. T. Bird, **Hiram Mills**, John Crum, Luke Bird, Stephen Martin, Wm. Poteet, Henry Thurmon, Daniel Shiveley, Booker Law, James Martin & Elijah Campbell and returned a verdict of not guilty and judgment accordingly and rule agt. Wm. A. Burwell a witness for the commonwealth discharged.”¹⁴⁶

COMMENT:

Hiram Mills was the older brother of William A. Burrel Mills, sons of William Mills Sr. of Maggoty and Elliott Creeks.

7 JUNE 1841
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Solomon Pasley is appointed Surveyor of the road from **Kemp’s ford** on Blackwater to the Gills Creek road in place of Jordan Robertson with the former list of hands.”¹⁴⁷

1841
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

William Mills, 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 [sic] per a, \$453 total value, .46 tax.

5 MARCH 1842
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Estate settlement

“Andrew S. Brooks Administrator of William Robbins deceased in account Current with the Estate of the said William Robbins Deceased ... 7 August 1837 Amount paid **James Patterson former shff**, as pr List of sundry Tax Accounts \$22.49.” The account’s last entry is dated 5 March 1842 and the account was filed for recording that day in county court.¹⁴⁸

COMMENT:

On 17 December 1841, when William Mills’s second-born son Samuel E. Mills took out a bond to marry Mary Ann Hobson, one James Patterson was his bondsman.¹⁴⁹

Meanwhile, I am seeing *no* Hobsons in these records.

1842
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

William Mills, 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 [sic] per a, \$453 total value, .57 tax.

¹⁴⁶ Franklin Co., Order Book 1840–1845, unnumbered page; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-SS6Y-W?i=202&cat=397106> : accessed 8 January 2020) > image 230 of 663.

¹⁴⁷ Franklin Co., Order Book 1840–1845, unnumbered page; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-SS6Y-W?i=202&cat=397106> : accessed 8 January 2020) > image 237 of 663.

¹⁴⁸ Franklin Co., Will Book 5 With Inventories & Accounts, 1837–45: 384.

¹⁴⁹ Franklin Co., Marriage Bond 2857. In 1834 James Patterson m. Sarah Wade, daughter of John Wade.

8 APRIL 1842

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William B. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 1 horse, 1 clock, 12 ½¢ tax paid. Hairston's list, consecutive with:

William Mills, 2 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 1 horses, 0 tax paid [William, husband of Drucilla]

James H. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 0 tax paid.

Samuel E. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 horses, 0 slaves, 0 tax paid

Samuel Manning, Senr.

Samuel Manning, Junr.

COMMENT:

I am using the Mannings as a contextual marker to show that William Mills' position on the list remains stable across several years.

JULY 1842

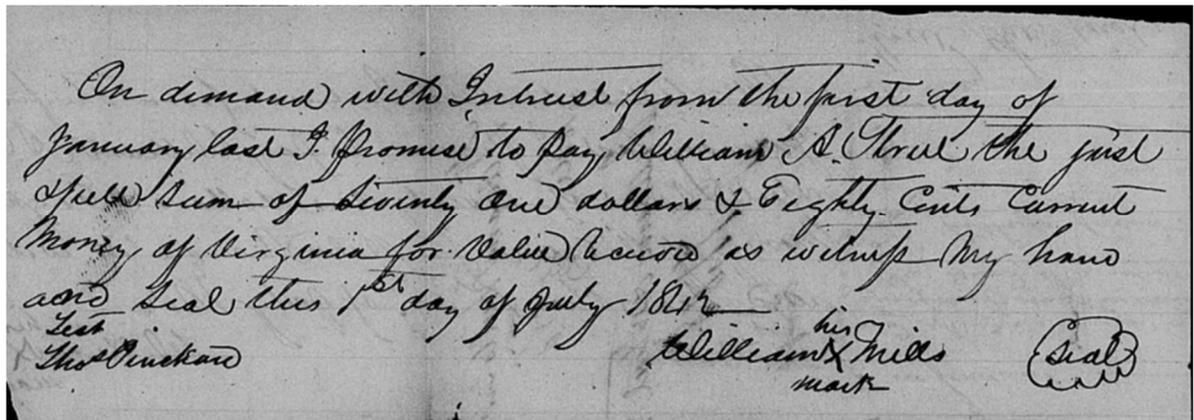
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Legal suit

William A. Street vs. "William Mills Senr." Debt of \$71.68 with interest from 1 January 1842 due to John Van Lew and Thomas M. Smith, merchants and partners trading under style and firm of Vanlew & Smith. Damages: \$50. Summons issued to William Milles 5 July 1842. On 7 July Samuel Milles (signed Samuel E. Mills) went before E. H. Holland, deputy for Samuel Helm, sheriff, to undertake for William. William's note, dated 1 July 1842, and "signed" with his X, was witnessed by Thos. Pinckard.¹⁵⁰

COMMENT:

This is the only known signature, to date, for Samuel E. Mills. [See next page for image]



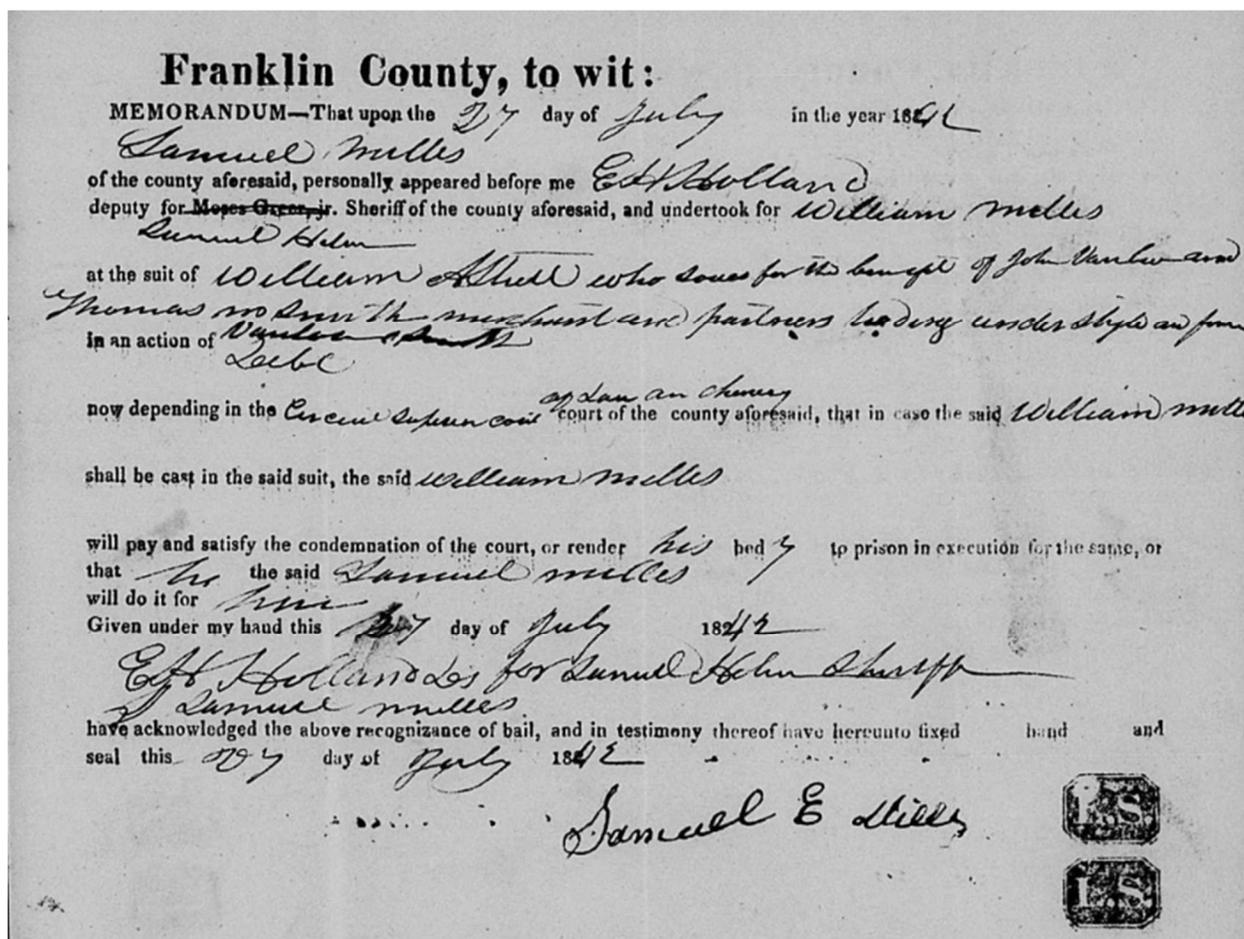
On demand with Interest from the first day of
January last I promised to pay William A. Street the just
and true sum of seventy and dollars & Eighty Cents Current
Money of Virginia for Value Received as witness My hand
and Seal this 1st day of July 1842

Test
Thos Pinckard

his
William X Mills
mark

Seal

¹⁵⁰ Franklin Co., Determined Papers, 1839, unnumbered, unalphabetized; imaged as *FamilySearch* digital film 8706541, images 202–7.



2 JANUARY 1843
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Association

William **Craghead** appeared before W. T. Helm, deputy for sheriff Samuel Helm, to “undertake” (commit himself to serve as special bail) for **Joseph Arthur** in the suit of **Booker Mullins**, assignee of **Peyton Stanley**.¹⁵¹

1843
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Land tax roll

William Mills, 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 [sic] per a, \$453 total value, .68 tax.

COMMENT:

William B., son of William and Drucilla, appears to have again left the county.

¹⁵¹ Franklin Co., Determined Papers, 1843, unnumbered, unalphabetized; imaged as *FamilySearch* digital film 8706543, image 225.

13 MAY 1843

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

Hairston's list, consecutive entries:

William Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 2 horses, 28¢ tax paid

James H. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 0 tax paid.

Samuel E. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 horses, 0 slaves, 14¢ tax paid

Samuel Manning, Senr.

Samuel Manning, Junr.

7 OCTOBER 1843

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Assault

"The Grand Jurors of the Commonwealth impanelled and sworn for the said County, upon their oaths do present that William H. Sneed, late of said County, on the 7th day of October 1843 at the County aforesaid in and upon one **Samuel E. Mills** an assault did make and him the said **Samuel E. Mills** did then & there beat wound and ill treat to the great damage of the said **Samuel E. Mills** and against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth.

This indictment is found on the evidence of **Samuel E. Mills** a witness called on by the Grand Jury & sworn in Court to give evidence."

Reverse: "Commonwealth vs. William H. Sneed, Indictment for a breach of the peace. A true Bill, Chr. Wingfield Foreman.

1843 Oct. 9: V. facias vs. Deft.

1844 May 10: Capias vs. Deft.

1844 Oct. Dismd.¹⁵²

ALSO:

"The Grand Jurors of the Commonwealth impanelled and sworn for the said County, upon their oaths do present that William H. Sneed, late of said County, on the 7th day of October 1843 at the County aforesaid in and upon one **Harrison Mills** an assault did make and him the said **Harrison Mills** did then & there beat wound and ill treat to the great damage of the said **Harrison Mills** and against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth.

This indictment is found on the evidence of **Samuel E. Mills** a witness called on by the Grand Jury & sworn in Court to give evidence."

Reverse: "Commonwealth vs. William H. Sneed, Indictment for a breach of the peace. A true Bill, Chr. Wingfield Foreman.

1843 Oct. 9: V. facias vs. Deft.

1844 May 10: Capias vs. Deft.

1844 Oct. Quashed¹⁵³

¹⁵² Franklin Co., Determined Papers, 1844, unnumbered, unalphabetized; imaged as *FamilySearch* digital film 8573784, images 757–63.

¹⁵³ Franklin Co., Determined Papers, 1844, unnumbered, unalphabetized; imaged as *FamilySearch* digital film 8573784, images 680.

Virginia
County of Circuit Superior Court of Law and
Chancery for said County

The Grand Jurors of the Commonwealth impeached and
sworn for the said County, upon their oaths do present
that William H. Snead late of said County
on the 14th day of October 1843 at the
County aforesaid in and upon one Harrison Mills
an assault did make and him the said Harrison
Mills did then & there beat wound and ill treat
to the great damage of the said Harrison Mills
and against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth
This Indictment is found on the witness of
Samuel C. Mills a witness called on by the Grand Jury
& sworn in Court to give evidence

15 February 1844 Summons issued for Snead, returned by Deputy Tazewell Price, acting for Sheriff Showers Price. Returned May 1844 by Deputy Price with statement "Not found."

15 July 1844 Capias issued. Returned by Deputy Price with notation "Executed 1st Oct. 1844 & Wm. A. Street, Bail." Snead X'd his bond. Street signed.¹⁵⁴

COMMENT:

The surviving papers do not specify why the case was quashed. There is no testimony or affidavit by Samuel Mills. In 1844, James H[arrison] Mills makes his last appearance on the Franklin County tax rolls and I have found no further record of him.

The 1850 census reports only two adult Harrison Mills in the U.S.

- Orange Co., NY—a 34-year old farmer worth \$9,000 whose birthplace is said to be NY.
- Loudon Co., VA—a 31-year old "manager" with the following data:

Harrison Mills, 31, male, manager, b. VA

Frances Mills, 24, female, b. VA

Lucy Mills, 0?, female

[living adjacent to and apparently working for]

Jo__? Beverly, 54, male, farmer, \$19,500

¹⁵⁴ Franklin Co., Determined Papers, 1844, unnumbered, unalphabetized; imaged as *FamilySearch* digital film 8573784, images 680–88.

**William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp**

Jane? Beverly, 52, b. Washington D.C.
Betsy Beverly, 23, female, b.
Wm. Beverly, 22, male, Farmer
Mary Beverly, 20, female, b. VA¹⁵⁵

The Loudoun County Harrison's occupation is consistent with that of William & Drucilla's sons; however, the location is not. The 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses show that he remained in Loudoun. *FindAGrave* offers a tombstone of appropriate vintage with a birthdate of 8 December 1819 (at least three years too young).¹⁵⁶ This Harrison Mills married Frances R. Muse, 27 January 1844, in Loudoun.¹⁵⁷

7 NOVEMBER 1843

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

James H. Mills and **Saml. E. Mills** serve on jury in case of Booth & Davis agt. Wm. & James Anderson. Judgment for defendant.

James H. Mills serves on the jury for case "R. Pasley's exors for &c vs. Wm. Pasley." Verdict for the defendant.

James H. Mills serves on the jury for the case "Isaac Jones Jr. vs. Merit Price's admr." Judgment for defendant.

"Thomas Law vs. **Saml Mills**—Contd at Plffs costs."¹⁵⁸

1844

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

William Mills, 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 [sic] per a, \$453 total value, .57 tax.

12 MARCH 1844

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

Hairston's list, consecutive entries:

William Mills, 2 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 0 tax paid

James H. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 0 tax paid

Samuel E. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 1 horses, 0 slaves, 1 "mettle" clock, 6 ½¢ tax paid

Samuel Manning, Senr.

Samuel Manning, Junr.

[skip 105]

William B. Mills, 1 male 16+, 0 slaves, 1 horse, 12½¢ tax paid

[skip 9 to end of list]

¹⁵⁵ 1850 U.S. census, Loudoun Co., VA, pop. sch., p. 343 (stamped), dwellings 457–58, families 457–58.

¹⁵⁶ *FindAGrave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/44481014/harrison-mills>), memorial and photography by Betty Fain.

¹⁵⁷ "Virginia, U.S., Select Marriages, 1745–1940," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/98676:60214> : accessed 18 August 2021), citing FHL Film 0032373, "Reference ID 2:3Z25KKF." It offers no explanation of what (or what agency) the reference number represents.

¹⁵⁸ Franklin Co., Order Book 1840–1845, unnumbered page; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-SS6Y-W?i=202&cat=397106> : accessed 8 January 2020) > image 359–61.

COMMENT:

The separation between William B. and the rest of his birth family on this list appears to be due to the fact that he had been dropped in 1843. When he came back as a taxable in 1844, he was placed among new “M” entries at the end of the “M” list.

1844

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horse, 0 tax

COMMENT:

Both William Mills-Witt and William B. Mills are taxed this year in Franklin. This William of Floyd is just one listing from Andrew Mills, formerly of Greer’s District of Franklin County, who is now missing from the Franklin roll.

18 MARCH 1844

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Legal suit

“The commonwealth of Virginia to the Sheriff of Franklin County, greeting. We command you that from all further proceedings on a Judgement of the County Court of Franklin rendered on the 6th day of March 1844, in an action of debt between Thomas Law plaintiff, and **Samuel Mills** defendant, whereby it was considered that the plaintiff recover against the defendant the sum of [\$45] with interest thereon from the 19th day of May 1842, till paid, and \$10.27 cents costs, **you altogether supersede**; which Judgment before our Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery for the said County of Franklin, for cause of error in the same to be corrected, on the petition of the said **Samuel Mills**, we have caused to come, he the said **Samuel Mills** having given security to prosecute with effect, and if the judgment aforesaid shall be affirmed, to pay the same, and all such damages and costs as shall be awarded. We also command you that you give notice to the said Thomas Law, that he be before the Judge of our said Circuit Superior Court at the Courthouse, on the first day of the next Term, then and there to have a rehearing of the whole matter in the judgment aforesaid contained. And have then there this writ. Witness Caleb Tate clerk of our said Circuit Superior Court the 18th day of March 1844 in the 68th year of the Commonwealth.”

19 May 1844, Samuel E. Mills posted bond for \$100, with Edmund Irvine as surety.

[No date]: “To the Honourable judge of the circuit superior court of Law and chancery for the county of Franklin. The petition of **Samuel E. Mills** respectfully represents that he is aggrieved by the final judgment of the county court of Franklin, rendered on the 6 day of March 1844 in an action of debt, wherein Thomas Law was plaintiff and **William Mills** and the said **Samuel Mills** defendants. A transcript of the record of the judgment complained of is herewith presented, by which it will be perceived that the case is as follows:

- Thomas Law brought an action of debt in the county court of Franklin upon a bond, purporting on its face to have been executed by one **William Mills** and your petitioner. To this action, your petitioner at the June term of said court [no year given], and by leave of said court, filed the plea of *non est factum* [“it is not his deed] to which there was a general implication and issue was joined thereon.
- At the March term of said court, 1844, this cause came on to be tried and thereupon your petitioner by no counsel filed a demurrer to the evidence, adduced by said plaintiff in support of his action aforesaid, to which demurrer there was a joinder on the part of the said plaintiff, and a judgment of said court in favour of said plaintiff, all of which will more fully and at large appear by the annexed transcript of the record of said action.

Your petitioner assigns the following error in said judgment. 1st Because the supposed writing obligatory having been executed in the absence of **Samuel E. Mills** (your petitioner) and by a third person merely authorised by parol [orally] and not by power of attorney given under the hand and seal of said **Samuel E. Mills**, and a delivery by him, or any one else in his presence, and at his request having been expressly negated? by the testimony, his subsequent bare acknowledgment that he considered himself bound by the cause did not make the said supposed writing obligatory his act and deed; and the judgment of the court ought to have been that the matter shown in evidence was not sufficient in point of law, to maintain the issue joined on the part of the said plaintiff. And for the said error, he prays *a eu persedias* [?] to the judgment aforesaid. [Signed] **Samuel E. Mills** by Edwd. Irvine his counsel.

“I Edmund Irvine an attorney, practicing in the circuit superior court of law and chancery for the county of Franklin, do certify that in my opinion there is sufficient matter for reversing the judgment complained of in the foregoing petition. [Signed] Edwd. Irvine.”

[no date] Thomaso Law, by his attorney William B. Crump, rejoined and included transcripts of several documents. Among them was the summons issued 3 January 1843 “to take William Mills and Samuel Mills if they be found within your bailiwick.” That summons was endorsed by Deputy Sheriff E. H. Holland as follows: “Executed on **Samuel Mills & William Mills Jr.**, special Bail.” **William Mills no inhabitant of my bailiwick.**” The rejoinder also asserts

- that “the Defendant **Samuel Mills** being arrested and not appearing [in court], on the motion of the plaintiff by his attorney, it is ordered that judgment be entered against [him] and ... that this suit abate against the Defendant **William Mills**.
- “And at another day, to wit: At Rules held in the Clerks Office of the said Court in the month of April 1843, the Defendant **Samuel Mills** still failing to appear it was ordered that the last rule made against him in this suit be confirmed.
- “And at another day, to wit: At a Court of Quarter Sessions held for the said County at the Courthouse on the 6th day of June 1843 came the parties by their attorney, and on the motion of the Defendant, the judgment entered in the Office in this suit was set aside, and leave given him to plead, and thereupon by his attorney he filed a special plea” saying essentially the same thing that was asserted in his appeal.
- On 5 June 1843 before M. G. Booth, J.P., **Samuel E. Mills** made oath that the plea was true.
- 6 March 1844 at a jury trial, after hearing the evidence, juror John Bowman withdrew, the other jurors were dismissed, and “the Defendant by his attorney filed a demurrer to the evidence ... And also showed in evidence by **John Patterson** a witness that Samuel Mills was not present at the time said supposed writing obligatory was executed, but that the same was executed by the said John Patterson [variously written as John P. Patterson], a third person, by parol authority from said Mills, and delivered by the said Patterson to the said Plaintiff [**Samuel E. Mills**]. The said Patterson further stated that the said Mills acknowledged to him afterwards that he said Mills had given to the said Patterson the parol authority to execute said bond and that he was bound by said bond, but the said Patterson further stated that at the time of said subsequent acknowledgement said bond was not exhibited to said Mills and that said Mills never delivered said bond himself.
- The judgment of the county court is then copied into the rejoinder.

Notation on the rejoinder:

- “Plaintiffs costs \$10.27 cents”
- “Defendants Do. 3.77 cts.”

- “Do. for this record 1.30 cts”

Notation on wrapper at image 993:

- “1844 March 18th: Bond & Secy. given and Supersedeas issued.
- “1844 May: Jud. of Co. Co. [county court] reversed and Jud. for costs here and in Co. Co.”¹⁵⁹

23 DECEMBER 1844

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Estate sale

Nancy Dudley, Decd., Robert S. Dudley, adm. **Samuel E. Mills** 1 lot pork & bacon \$4.20¹⁶⁰

COMMENT:

This Nancy Dudley should be Samuel’s aunt Nancy (Kemp) Dudley, widow of James Dudley.

6 JANUARY 1845

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

“**Saml. Patterson** agt. **Wm. Mills &c.** D. Bond, notice proved, Defendant called & not appearing. Judgment according to spl. & costs.”¹⁶¹

COMMENT:

Given the Patterson association, this should be William Mills-Witt.

1845

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

William Mills, 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 [sic] per a, \$453 total value, .46 tax.

6 MARCH 1845

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

Hairston’s list, consecutive entries:

William Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 0 tax paid [no date; next to Samuel Manning, 6 March]

Samuel E. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 horses, 0 slaves, 1 metallic clock, 25¢ tax paid

Samuel Manning Senr.

Samuel Manning Jr.

[skip 60]

Mattox, Gabriel, Samuel G. & Daniel

[skip 36]

Mills, William B., 1 male 16+, 0 slaves, 1 horse, 0 tax; 20 April

[skip 11]

Mills, Sparrel, 1 male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 0 tax; 10 March

¹⁵⁹ Franklin Co., Determined Papers, 1844, unnumbered, unalphabetized; imaged as *FamilySearch* digital film 8573784, images 993–1008.

¹⁶⁰ Franklin Co., Will Book 5 With Inventories & Accounts, 1837–45: 692–96, esp. 696 for Samuel E. Mills.

¹⁶¹ Franklin Co., Order Book 1840–1845, unnumbered page; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-SS6Y-W?i=202&cat=397106> : accessed 8 January 2020) > image 412.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

3 JUNE 1845

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Court order

William Mills and **Richd. Nunally** and **Thos. Law** served on jury in the case of Commonwealth vs. Lafayette Hatcher.

“Thomas Law agt. John Patterson—Dismissed at Plff’s costs.”¹⁶²

This would appear to be William Mills-Witt. The older William Mills (husband of Elizabeth Abshire) is now dead. His son William self-identified as William A. B., while William and Drucilla’s son of that name self-identified as William B.

20 OCTOBER 1845

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Estate inventory

“A List and appraisement of the personal property of John M. Holland Dec^d 20th October 1845 ... A List of Accounts due the estate of John M. Holland dec^d: ... [skip 23] **James H. Mills** \$.63”¹⁶³

COMMENT:

This is the last document I have found for James H. Mills, the eldest son of William and Drucilla.

1 DECEMBER 1845

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Estate settlement

Undated document filed 1 December 1845. “We in obedience to the order of the Court has met and settled the accounts of Thomas & Parmenas English, administrators of the estate of Charles H. English Deceased and made the following report ... “Cr[edit] By moneys paid the estate by Parmenas English ... **William Mills** a/c paid \$9.30.”¹⁶⁴

COMMENT:

This William should be William Mills-Witt, whose inherited land neighbored the Englishes on the Blackwater.

1846

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

William Mills, 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 [sic] per a, \$453 total value, .46 tax.

19 FEBRUARY 1846

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Legal suit

Summons issued to Martin Tyree and **William Mills** to appear at the courthouse on 6 May next, to testify on behalf of Thomas J. Draper in his suit against Thomas J. Holland and Ebenezer Holland, tobacconists, trading under the name T J. & E. Holland. Debt from 1844 for \$500. Case began September 1845. In April 1846 Draper acknowledged receiving a debt from the Hollands as assignees of Nancy Dickinson, in a suit

¹⁶² Franklin Co., Order Book 1845–1850, unnumbered page; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-SS6Y-W?i=202&cat=397106> : accessed 8 January 2020) > images 438–39.

¹⁶³ Franklin Co., Will Book 6 With Inventories & Accounts, 1845–49: 177–79.

¹⁶⁴ Franklin Co., Will Book 5 with Inventories & Accounts, 1837–45: 766–69, p. 767 specifically for William Mills.

being heard in Henry Co. for \$67.50 due 1 January 1845 against “me & Wm. Thomason which is to be applied as an offset against a suit now pending in the current superior court of Franklin County in my name against said Hollands.” Others who were summoned to testify for Draper:

- 6 October 1846 to Daniel M. Bird
- 12 October 1846 to Martin Tyree, William B. Clay and John Patterson
- 7 April 1846 to John Patterson and William Heard
- 5 April 1847 to Thomas B. Davis, Andrew H. Turner & William S. Thomason
- 3 May 1847 to Martin Tyree and Daniel M. Bird
- 6 May 1847 to John Adams

No affidavits are found for any of the above. Jury found for Draper, with damage of \$148.19.¹⁶⁵

COMMENT:

The Holland, Patterson, Tyree, and Clay connections suggest this is William Mills-Witt.

MARCH TERM 1846
FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Court order

“The Grand jury returned into court and presented ...

An Indictment against Thomas Weeks for an assault a true bill also

An Indictment against Robert Huff for an assault a true bill also

An Indictment against William Webb for an assault a true bill also

An Indictment against **Anderson Mills** for a breach of the peace a true bill

An Indictment against **William Mills** for a breach of the peace a true bill also

An Indictment against **Anderson Mills** No. 2 for a breach of the peace a true bill also

An Indictment against **Anderson Mills** No. 3 for a breach of the peace a true bill also

An indictment against Simeon **Light** for a breach of the peace a true bill also

An Indictment against **William Mills** No. 2 for a breach of the peace a true bill also

An Indictment against Philip A. Webb for a breach of the peace a true bill also

An Indictment against Wilson Huff for an assault a true bill also

An Indictment against Philip A. Webb No. 2 for an assault a true bill also”¹⁶⁶

COMMENT:

This William appears *not* to be William Mills-Witt of Franklin for two reasons:

- William Mills-Witt paid his tax in Franklin in 1846.
- William Mills-Witt would have been been in his 60s by this time. In this era, brawling is more-commonly seen among males in their 20s to 40s. Anderson Mills fits that profile. William Mills-Witt does not.
- See footnote 10 for background on the frequent but erroneous assertion, made in online trees, that Anderson and Larkin Mills of Floyd and Franklin Counties were sons of William and Drucilla.

“Ordered that process issue against **Anderson Mills** who stands indicted of a breach of the peace, to cause him to appear here on the first day of the next quarterly term to answer the said indictment.

“Ordered that process issue against **William Mills** who stands indicted of a breath of the peace, to cause him to appear here on the first day of the next quarterly term to answer the said indictment.

¹⁶⁵ Franklin Co., Determined Papers, 1846–1847, unnumbered, unalphabetized; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 8706550, images 834–58, specifically 848 for the Mills summons.

¹⁶⁶ Floyd Co., Order Book 1843–1849, p. 200? [illegible]; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 418.

[2 additional orders against Anderson]

“Ordered that process issue against **Simeon Light** who stands indicted of a breach of the peace, to cause him to appear on the first day of the next quarterly term to answer the said indictment.”

[A second order against William Mills and similar orders against the others on the indictment list.]

11 APRIL 1846

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horse, 0 tax

COMMENT:

This William of Floyd is added to the end of the list. He is not listed with Anderson and Larkin, formerly of Greer’s District in Franklin, who have been in Floyd since c1833. However, he and Larkin both turned in their lists on 11 April.

William Mills-Witt and son William B. are still on the Franklin tithable list. However, William Mills-Witt would be dropped in 1847.

18 APRIL 1846

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

Hairston’s list, consecutive entries:

William Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, no tax charged [apparently 18 April]

Samuel Manning Sr., 18 April

Samuel Manning Jr., 18 April

[skip many]

William B. Mills, 1 male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, no tax charged [In a cluster of undated names]

[skip 10]

Sparrel Mills, 1 male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, no tax charged [possibly 6 April]

Moses Greer’s list:

Samuel Mills, 1 male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 0 clock, no tax charged

COMMENT:

- This Samuel is listed 6 entries from “Widow Mills” [apparently Nancy Frame, widow of James Mills Jr.] who for the first time is taxed on “1 other clock” [not metal].”
- **Meanwhile, Samuel E. Mills, son of William and Drucilla, is not on Hairston’s list.**

6 MARCH 1847

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

William Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horse, 0 tax

COMMENT:

William Mills (Mills-Witt), husband of Drucilla Kemp, is missing from Franklin’s personal tax roll this year. However, this William of 1847 Floyd appears to be the same man cited as a tithable in Floyd in 1846, while Drucilla’s William was on Franklin’s personal and land tax rolls. Beyond

reasonable doubt, he is the William Mills who, together with Anderson Mills was accused of brawling in Floyd County.¹⁶⁷

The 1846–49 tax lists of Floyd provide these couplings:

- 1846, William turned in his list on the same day as Larkin Mills.
- 1847, William turned in his list on the same day as Anderson Mills.
- 1848, William, Anderson, and Larkin all turned their lists in the same day. 1849, William Mills (the only one in Floyd) is listed consecutively with Anderson Mills on the semi-alphabetized roll, but did not turn in his list on the same day. Instead, he turned in his list on the same day as (a) his known son Sparrel; and (b) Samuel D. Light, who would be enumerated next door to William and Drucilla on the 1850 census.

TO DO:

Investigate the possibility that the brawling William of Floyd was the young “William Mills Jr.” of the Elliott Creek clan, husband of Polly Shewalter/Showalter.

1847

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

William Mills, 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 [sic] per a, \$453 total value, .46 tax.

FEBRUARY–MARCH 1847

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

Hairston’s list

William Mills [husband of Drucilla], as well as their sons **James H. Mills** and **Samuel Mills**, are all missing.

Samuel Manning Senr.

Samuel Manning Jr.

[skip many]

Wm. B. Milles, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 0 tax, 4 February

[skip 8]

Sparrel Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 0 tax, 4 March.

Moses Greer’s list:

Samuel E. Mills, 1 male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 1 metallic clock, \$1.36 tax paid

COMMENT:

This Samuel, son of William and Drucilla, is listed 4 entries after “Widow Mills” and 4 names before Cornelius Mills. Other Millses in Greer’s district are Hiram, Jubal, George, Andy, William, and Thomas W.—all of them are offspring of James Mills of Elliott’s Creek of the Maggoty.

The presence of Samuel in Greer’s District provides a possible explanation of a situation that is not otherwise explained by information known to date. The “Settlement Map of Franklin County” created by the county’s historical society in 1976, alleges two Mills settlements that cannot otherwise be accounted for (See Map 4.)

¹⁶⁷ See the numerous court orders for these two men that are transcribed in E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates of Floyd County, Virginia: Conner, Idding, Key, Light, Smith (Bird & John), Walters, Wilson,” report to file, 8 March 2021; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

- The name “William & Samuel Mills” is positioned in the extreme northwest of the county, at Slings Gap that connects the Franklin side of the Blue Ridge to the Roanoke County side (formerly Botetourt). The map provides no date for the settlement. I have found neither a grant nor a purchase for a Samuel or William Mills in this area.
- The name “John Mills” is positioned about 4 or 5 miles east of “William & Samuel.” One John Mills aged 30–40 is enumerated on the 1830 Franklin County census—but not thereafter.
- One John Mills of Augusta > Fincastle > Botetourt received numerous tracts in old Augusta that included land just over the mountain from the John Mills position on Map 4. Of all the Millses studied to date in surrounding counties—Albemarle, Amherst, Augusta, Bedford, Botetourt, Buckingham, Cumberland, Goochland, Fincastle, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Louisa, Lunenburg, Mercer, Montgomery, Nelson, Pittsylvania, Prince Edward, and Pulaski—this John of Augusta appears to be the likeliest candidate for the individual on the Franklin County map. See Map 5.

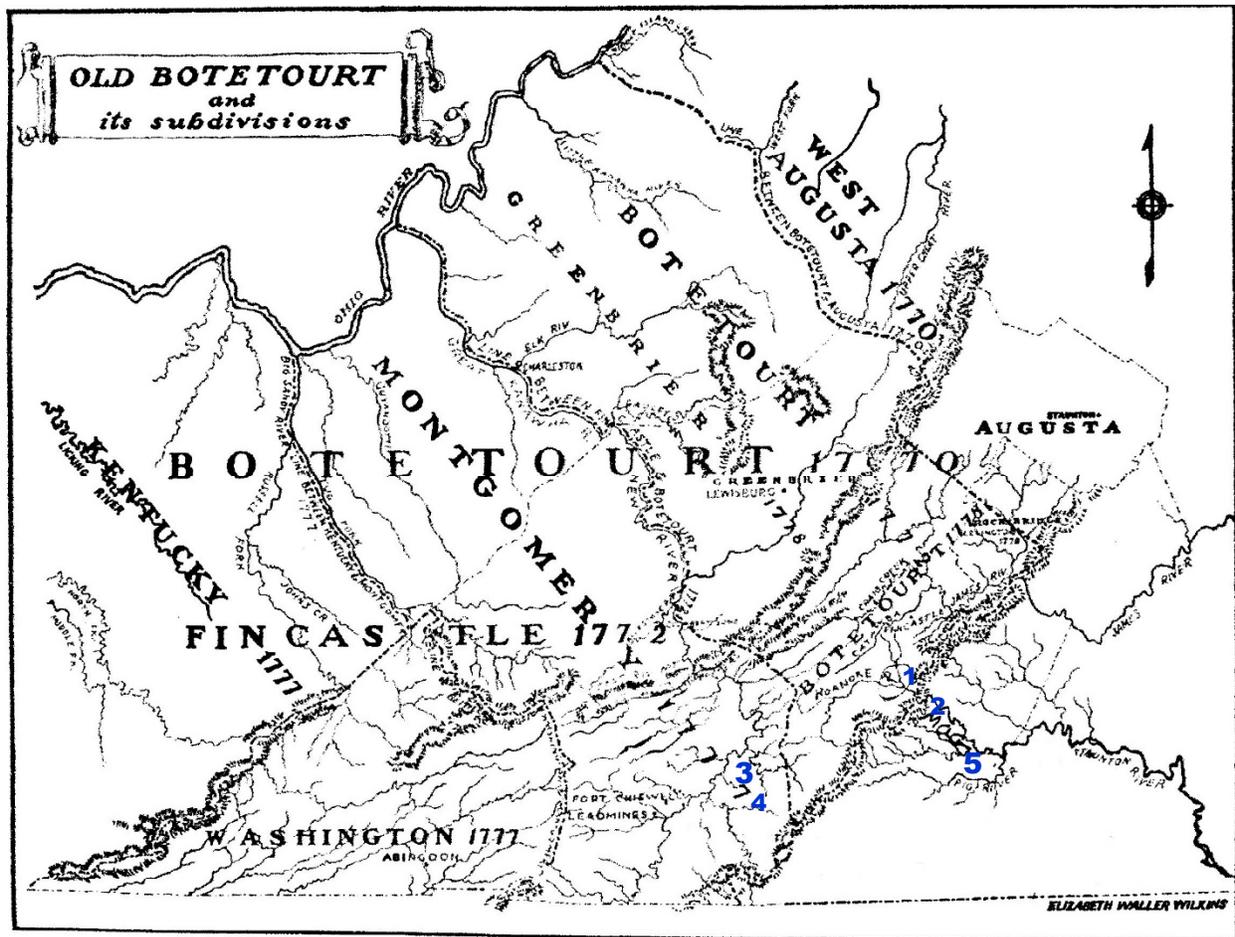
Map 4
Slings Gap region, Northwestern Franklin County



Map 5

Kegley's "Old Botetourt and Its Subdivisions"¹⁶⁸

Showing Key Residential Locations for the Mills Settlers of This Study



1. John Mills, near Forks of Roanoke
2. John Mills, west side of Gap in Franklin Co. (see Franklin Co. Bicentennial map; just above the Maggoty)
3. John Miles (sometimes rendered as Mills), Little River
4. Fanny & Thomas Mills of Montgomery, 1777–90; Richard Whitt, Meadow Creek of New River, 1774–
5. Blackwater River, site of William Mills-Witt, 1806–47

12 JANUARY 1847
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

¹⁶⁸ For a study of these land grants, see E. S. Mills, "Mills & Associates: Augusta County & the Virginia Frontier, Mills & Watts: Initial Survey of Published Literature, report, 8 February 2019. The above map is from Frederick Bittle Kegley, *Kegley's Virginia Frontier: The Beginning of the Southwest; the Roanoke of Colonial Days, 1740–1783* (1938; reprinted Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2003), 380.

Legal suit

Carper for & vs. Simonis &c. Benjamin Simonis and Thomas J. Holland were indebted to Moses G. Carper who sued for the benefit of Jabez Smith on a plea of debt for \$165.00 with interest from 4 April 1845 and damages of \$10. On 5 January, a summons was issued to Simonis and Holland. On 12 January "William Mills Jr." and Jno. E. McCrery appeared before Fleming R. Pasley, deputy for George W. Clement, Sheriff, and undertook for Simonis and Holland. William Mills Jr. signed.¹⁶⁹

MEMORANDUM.—That upon the 12th day of *January*, in the year 1847, *Franklin County, to wit:*
Franklin personally appeared before me *Fleming R. Pasley* Deputy Sheriff for *George W. Clement* Sheriff of the county of *Franklin* and undertook for *Benjamin Simonis and Thomas J. Holland* at the suit of *Moses G. Carper who sues for the Benefit of Jabez Smith* in an action of *Debt*
now depending in the *Circuit Superior* Court of the County aforesaid, that in case the said *Benjamin Simonis & Thomas J. Holland* shall be cast in the said suit, the said *Benjamin Simonis & Thomas J. Holland* will pay and satisfy the condemnation of the said Court, or render *their bodies* to prison in execution for the same, or that *they* the said *William Mills & John E. McCrery* will do it for *them* Given under my hand this 12th day of *January* 1847
WE, *William Mills & John E. McCrery* *F. R. Pasley Ds* have acknowledged the above recognizance of bail, and in testimony thereof, have hereunto affixed *their* hand and seals this 12th day of *January* 1847
William Mills
Jno E McCrery

19 OCTOBER 1847
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Marriage bond.

William Mills and Mary M. Matthews. Wm. C. Barber, surety.¹⁷⁰

¹⁶⁹ Franklin Co., Determined Papers, 1841–42, unnumbered, unalphabetized; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 8706550, image 648.

¹⁷⁰ Franklin Co., Marriage Bond Book 1 (1786–1853): 67, citing marriage bond 2861.

**William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp**

COMMENT:

This William is William B. (aka William Breckenridge), son of William and Drucilla. The William Mills who married Mary E. Abshire left the county with Mary after selling his inherited land.

The 1850 census of Franklin presents only one William and Mary. William is 30, Mary is 22. With them are John W. Mills aged 3, and James W. Mills aged 1.¹⁷¹

William C. Barber in 18857 was appointed a U.S. postmaster at Union Hall, in NE Franklin Co.¹⁷² The 1850 census of Franklin identifies him as a 28-year-old tailor living in the Dudley-Maddox-Hutts neighborhood—i.e., that of William Mills-Witt and his son William B.

FEBRUARY–MARCH 1848

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Personal tax roll.

Hairston's list, consecutive entries:

COMMENT:

William, James H., Samuel Mills are all missing

John W. **Hobson**, 1 male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 0 tax, 6 March
[skip many]

William B. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 1 horse, 0 tax, 5 February [son of William & Drucilla]

Moses Greer's list:

Samuel E. Mills, 1 male 16+, 0 slaves, 1 horse, \$.10 tax paid [son of William & Drucilla]

[skip many]

Samuel Mills, 1 male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 1 "other" clock [of Maggoty/Elliot Ck Millses]

COMMENT:

- As in 1847, William Mills-Witt of the Blackwater does not appear on the personal tax rolls this year. Ostensibly, he is not a resident of Floyd.
- "Widow Mills" (widow of James Jr.) is no longer taxed. Other Millses in this district are Hiram, Cornelius, Andy, Nathaniel, George, and Thomas W., all offspring of James Sr.

1848

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

William Mills, 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 [sic] per a, \$453 total value, .46 tax.

26 APRIL 1848

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Estate settlement

"The Estate of Nancy Dudley Dec^d In account with Robt. Dudley the Admr. ... To cash received of ... **Sam**^l

¹⁷¹ 1850 U.S. census, Franklin Co., VA, p. 197v, dwelling 2012, family 2001.

¹⁷² "U.S., Appointments of U.S. Postmasters, 1832–1971," database with images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1932/images/30439_065517-00038) > Virginia > Fluvanna–Jefferson > image 37; imaged from National Archives microfilm publication M841, *Record of Appointment of Postmasters 1832–September 30, 1971*, roll 132, filming Vol. 16 (1844–56), p. 104.

E. Mills \$6.20.”¹⁷³

COMMENT:

- Drucilla’s only sister has now died. She does not appear to have retained a close relationship with her brothers.
- This is the period in which William and Drucilla removed to Floyd County. The 1849 land tax roll would state that William was a resident of Floyd. The 1850 census places their Floyd Co. residence between Samuel D. Light, below, and Henry Iddings.

13 JULY 1848

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Land sale

J. N. Zentmeyer, clerk of county court, to **Samuel D. Light**, at a courthouse sale of land forfeited for taxes, 20 October 1845, Light bought **120 acres** delinquent in the name of R. M. Beedle who owed taxes for 1840, 1841, 1842 & 1843 in the amount of \$.41. Samuel D. Light was the purchaser “and the time allowed for the redemption of said land having elapsed and no person having redeemed the same,” Zentmeyer now titles the land to Light. No land description provided; no waterway or adjacent owners named. Acknowledged in court July term 1848.¹⁷⁴

COMMENT:

Samuel D. Light in 1850 was enumerated adjacent to William and Drucilla Mills. He was a 30-year-old constable. His wife Peggy (née Smith, daughter of John¹⁷⁵) is said by that census to be a native of Franklin County. **The amount of land Light has just purchased suggests that he needed labor to assist him in clearing and cultivating it.**

The Floyd Co. tax roll compiled seven months later includes both William Mills and son Sparrel, both turning in their lists on 9 February 1849. The 1849 land roll of Franklin, in its entry for William’s 151 acres of Kemp land, states that he was then a resident of Floyd.

William’s other adjacent neighbor on the 1850 census, Henry Iddings, was a well-established landowner and keeper of a “house of private entertainment,” who had been subdividing his land among his children throughout the 1840s.¹⁷⁶

My land research in Floyd County places the location of the Samuel D. Light & Henry Iddings land between Big Run and Pine Creek, two parallel streams that branch off Little River a short distance apart.¹⁷⁷

9 FEBRUARY 1849

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Tax roll.

“S” section

Samuel D. Light, 1 male 16+, 0 slaves, 2 horses, \$32¢ ½ tax

¹⁷³ Franklin Co., Will Book 6 With Inventories & Accounts, 1845–49: 43.

¹⁷⁴ Floyd Co., VA, Deed Book E (1847–50): 150; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008572238 > image 371.

¹⁷⁵ Samuel Light m. “Peggy Smith d/o John” 20 February 1842, Floyd Co.; see Fisher, *Marriages in the New River Valley*, 143.

¹⁷⁶ See the numerous abstracts and transcripts recorded in E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates of Floyd County, Virginia: Conner, Idding, Key, Light, Smith (Bird & John), Walters, Wilson,” report to file, 8 March 2021; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

“M” section

William Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horse, 0 tax, **9 February**
Anderson Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 1 horse, 10¢ tax, 3 May
Larkin T. [sic] Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 0 tax, 3 March
Sparriel Mills, 1 white male 16+, 1 “other” watch, 25¢ tax, **9 February**

1849

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

William Mills (Floyd Co.) 151a Blackwater, 18 m NE of courthouse, \$3 [sic] per a, \$453 total value, 46¢ tax.

COMMENT:

This tax roll places William’s move to Floyd Co. ca. late 1848.

One major question remains unanswered: Why did William, who owned land in Franklin County, leave Franklin and move across the mountain into Floyd County, where he did not buy land? Given that the 1850 census cites him as a 62-year-old farmer with no property, he would seem to be a tenant farmer or sharecropper. Both statuses were inferior to that of a man who farmed his own land.

Franklin County’s tax rolls of subsequent decades show that William and Drucilla never sold their land. Taxes apparently were paid on it by William B. Mills until his death in 1865. (Presumably, William B. paid rent to his parents as a means of support until their deaths.) Post-war—with William B. dead in 1865, Drucilla in 1866, and William himself probably in 1863—the following can be documented:

- 1866–71, the land continued to be taxed to “William Mills,” with someone in the county paying the annual tax as due. The one remaining set of offspring in the county was the widow and children of William B.
- 1872–83, still taxed under the name “William Mills,” it was rented to one Wilson Cundiff, who paid the tax until his death.
- 1885, in this year 66 of the 126 acres were sold to the Cundiff heirs.
- 1883–93, the tax assessment for the Mills tract still carried “William Mills” as owner, while the land was taxed to Cundiff’s heirs.
- February 1894, a court-ordered deed settling the Cundiff estate conveyed the remaining 60 acres to James H. Cundiff, specifically saying it was “60 acres, a portion of a tract purchased by the said Wilson Cundiff in his lifetime from William Mills.” (See documents abstracted below for 1850–1895.)

9 MARCH 1849

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Tax roll.

Joseph Patterson’s list, consecutive entries:

Wm. B. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 1 horse, 10¢ tax

[skip 30 to end of list]

Samuel E. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 0 horses, 1 “other” clock, 12½¢ tax [same day as William B.]

COMMENT:

The Samuel Mills of Greer’s list (no middle initial) is no longer carried there.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

13 FEBRUARY 1850
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Tax roll.

Joseph Patterson's list, consecutive entries:

Samuel E. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 slaves, 1 horse, 1 "other" clock, 12½¢ tax

COMMENT:

- One *James* Patterson was surety for marriage of Samuel E. Mills to Mary Ann Hobson in 1841.
- Samuel E. has not been found on the 1850 census. By 1853, he was in Meriwether County, Georgia, where he would die 31 July 1894. His son Joseph H. Mills left Georgia after the Civil War and married Aura J. Morse in Harrison County, Texas. Their son Hugh E. Mills was the grandfather of the late Gary B. Mills and great-grandfather of my children.

MARCH-APRIL 1850
FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Tax roll.

"S" section

Samuel R. Light, 1 male 16+, 0 slaves, 2 horses, 25¢ tax, 5 March

Samuel D. Light, 1 male 16+, 2 horses, 20¢ tax, 22 April

"M" section

William Mills, 2 white males 16+, 20¢ tax, **7 March**

Anderson Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 tax, 3 April

Larkin T. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 tax, 23 April

Spariel Mills, 1 white male 16_, 1 horse, 10¢ tax, **16 May**

25 JULY 1850
FLOYD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Census.

Western District No. 15, pp. 390–93

195/195	Light, Elijah 51; Susannah 49; John 20 (all b. Floyd Co.)					
196/196	Conner , Andrew 27; Matilda 25; Julia A. 4; W. H. 1 (all b. Floyd Co.)					
197/197	Whitneck/Whitlock, Wm 45 (b. Roanoke); Betsey 42 (b. Rockbridge); children 2 to 21 (b. Floyd)					
198/198	McNeal, Wm 28 (b. Franklin); Nancy 21 (b. Pocahontas); Elizabeth 1 & James 1/12 (b. Fl.)					
199/199	Wilson, James 21; Emily 29; children 7 to 1/12 (all b. Floyd); Peter Wilson 75 (b. Loudoun)					
200/200	Wilson, Elijah 68; Hannah 39; children 21 to 5 (all b. Loudoun)					
201/201	Angle, Lamuel 23 (Pittsylvania); Elizabeth 22 (Floyd)					
202/202	Walters, Jacob 40 (b. Montgomery); Hannah 45 (Floyd); Lutitia 25, Christina 16 (b. Floyd)					
203/203	Light, Samuel 30, constable (b. Floyd); Margaret 23 (b. Franklin) ; Furdinand 6, Henry 4, McAlin? 2, Angeline 1/12 (b. Floyd)					
204/204	Mills, William	62	male	farmer	b. Franklin	cannot read or write
	Drucilla	57	female		b. Franklin	cannot read or write
	Sally	21	female		b. Franklin	cannot read or write
	Thos. R.	14	male		b. Franklin	cannot read or write
	Charles T.	21	male	labourer	b. Franklin	
	Milley	20	female			

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

COMMENT:

- Milly Frances Mills would marry John Lawrence, there in Floyd, in 1854.¹⁷⁸
- By 1860, Samuel Light, Margaret, Ferdinand, and family had moved to Missouri. The census places them in Osceola Twp, St. Clair Co., MO (p. 901/31). No Millses are nearby.
- William Mills does **not** appear on Floyd County's 1850 agricultural schedule of individuals who owned land or produced a basic minimum of crops.

205/205 Idings, Henry 28 (b. Penn.); Charles Vest 30 (b. Franklin); Martha Vest 49 (b. Floyd), Children 8 to 16 (b. Floyd), Polly Idings 51 "Ediot" (b. Floyd).

206/206 Idings, Anderson 29; Eliz. 47; Ellen 19; Ely 15; Matitia Smith 12; Lafayette Idings 12 (all b. Floyd)

207/207 Idings, Jonathan 42; Hannah 43; Aligice? 4 (all b. Floyd)

208/208 Newman, John 23, farmer (b. Botetourt)

209/209 Vest, Isaac 23 (b. Franklin); Nancy 26 (b. Floyd); Louisa 1 (b. Floyd)

210/210 Idings, Wm. 49 (b. Floyd); Sarah 45 (b. Floyd; Wm Booth 19 labourer (b. Floyd); Sarah Holt 12 (b. **Montgomery**)

211/211 Holiday, Sarah 35 (b. Franklin); Francis Holoway 10, female (b. Franklin); Lutetia Holoway 12 (b. Franklin); Charles L? Holoway 8 (b. Franklin); Nancy Holoway 20 (b. Franklin); Louisa Holoway 11 (b. Franklin); Floyd 7 (b. Franklin); Henry Holoway 5 (b. Floyd); Wilmoth Holoway 80 (b. Franklin).

212/212 Smith, Bird, 49, farmer (b. Franklin); Lydia 36; Henry 16; Alizice 13; Martha 8; Jonathan 6; Elizabeth 2); wife and children born Floyd.

213/213 Idings, Thomas 42, farmer; Jane 37; Ellen 16; Michael 13; Sarah 11; Mary 10; Caroline 8; Martha 5; Nancy 2; Alcey Idings 15 (all b. Floyd)

214/214 Walters, William 78 farmer (b. Botetourt); Hyram 31 (b. Floyd); Druzilla 27 (b. **Montgomery**); Mary 9/12 (b. Floyd); Ticha? Hedges 10 (b. Unknown)

215/215 Walters, Wm. C. 41, farmer (b. **Montgomery**); Cynthia 35; Sarah 13; John 15; Mary 9; Peter 8; Jacob 7 (wife and children b. Floyd)

216/216 Walters, Martin 42, farmer (b. **Montgomery**); Mary 41; Emanuel 17; William P. 15; Solomon 13; Philip 9 (wife and children b. Floyd)

COMMENT:

The next page of neighbors includes Walters, Simpson, Gray, Walters, Light, Newman, Grey, Reed, Conner & Conner, with various families in same household. In short: these 4 pages—this neighborhood into which William has planted himself and his family—seem to be a cluster of interrelated families.

Idings are found in Montgomery County from the 1787 tax roll forward. I have not begun to study them.

p. 406

Western District No. 15

421/421	Mills, Sparrel	23	male	farmer	b. Franklin
	Susan	19	female		b. Franklin
	Juliana	1	female		b. Floyd

COMMENT:

Neighbors:

¹⁷⁸ Edward E. Mills, query, "Milly Ann Mills," *Mills Ancestry* (<http://www.geocities.com/millsancestry/q3.htm> : posted 25 February 1998; accessed 15 March 2002).

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

- 417 Pugh, Sarah 64? (b. "Va.")
- 418 Leftwich, Cromwell 27 farmer (b. Bedford): Sally Leftwich 50 (b. Bedford) & family
- 419 Leftwich, Joel 23 farmer (b. Bedford) & family
- 420 Barber, Josiah 34, carpenter b. Penn & family
- 421 Mills, Sparell
- 422 **Jarret, Allen**, 69, farmer b. Virginia & family [father-in-law of Sparrel Mills]
- 423 Key, George, 36, farmer, b. Giles Co.; Hannah 28 (b. **Montgomery**), Sarah 8 (b. Giles), Louise 5 (b. Montgomery), John R 2 (b. Floyd); Wm. H. Key 23 (b. Giles)
- 424 **Light**, Loving D. 28 (b. Floyd); Sarah 30 (b. **Montgomery**); Octavis [Octavia?], 1, female (b. Floyd)

p. 408

Western District No. 15

451/451	Mills, Wiley	26	male	farmer	b. Franklin
	Mary	25	female		b. Franklin
	William	5	male		b. Henry
	George	3	male		b. Henry
	John	1	male		b. Henry

AUGUST 1850

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Court order

"Commonwealth vs. **Anderson Mills**. Ordered that this cause be continued at the defendant's Costs."¹⁷⁹

John Hylton vs. George Rouinbaum? In assumpsit. Jury, consisting of Joseph Williams, John C. Wade, John Carter, Benjamin Clement, John Walters, William E. Lewis, Daniel L. Clark, John W. Kennerly, Philip Epperly, John Clown, **William Mills** and George W. Tucker could not agree on a verdict. Cause continued.¹⁸⁰

COMMENT:

Assumpsit was a breach of contract—i.e., a civil case. Therefore, William Mills did not have to be a freeholder to serve on the jury. For petit jury service the requirement was (a) be twenty-one years of age; and (b) own "property, real or personal, of the value of one hundred dollars." For grand jury service, the requirement was to be "a freeholder ... and in other respects qualified ... and not constables, ordinary keepers, surveyors of roads, nor owners nor occupiers of water grist mills; and when they are grand jurors for a county court, not inhabitants of a town having a corporation court."¹⁸¹

In 1852–53, Virginia's code was revised to state more explicitly that the county courts should "at the April or May term ... prepare a list of such inhabitants of the county or corporation, not exempted as aforesaid, as they shall think well qualified to serve as jurors, *being persons of sound judgment* and free from legal exception."¹⁸²

The population schedule of the 1850 census, taken a month before this jury service, credits William with no property. His non-appearance on the 1850 agricultural census of Floyd also suggests that he had no agricultural property or animals in the county. From this, one might

¹⁷⁹ Floyd Co., VA, Court Order Book 1850–1854: 56; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 632.

¹⁸⁰ Floyd Co., VA, Court Order Book 1850–1854: 60; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 634.

¹⁸¹ R. H. Rawlings et al., eds., *The Code of Virginia* (Richmond: W. F. Ritchie, 1849), p. 628, Title 49, section 1; also p. 767, Title 55, Chap. 206, sect. 4 for grand jury; also p. 774, Title 55, Chapter 208, sect. 4 for criminal cases.

¹⁸² George W. Munford, ed., *The Code of Virginia*, 2d ed. (Richmond: Ritchie, Dunnivant & Co., 1860), 688, section 4.

surmise that he did still retain ownership of his land in Franklin County, for which no deed of sale has yet been found.

MARCH-APRIL 1851

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Tax roll.

“S” section

Samuel R. Light, 1 male 16+, 0 tax, 29 April

Samuel D. Light, 1 male 16+, 1 horse, 12½¢, 27 March

“M” section

William Mills, 2 white males 16+, 20¢ tax, **26 April**

Anderson Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 tax, 22 April

Larkin T. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 tax, 22 April

Robert W. Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 tax, 20 April

Spariel Mills, 1 white male 16+, 0 tax, **26 April**

JUNE 1851

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Court order

“The Grand Jury returned into court and presented

An Indictment against Robert Graham for a breach of the peace, a true bill

An Indictment against James Saylor for a breach of the peace, a true bill

An Indictment against Jacob Holmes for a breach of the peace, a true bill

An Indictment against John Lancaster for a breach of the peace, a true bill

An Indictment against Solomon Fisher for a breach of the peace, a true bill

An Indictment against Marvell Young for a breach of the peace, a true bill

An Indictment against William Otherman for a breach of the peace, a true bill

An Indictment against John Banninger? for a breach of the peace, a true bill

An Indictment against **Sparrel Mills** for a breach of the peace, a true bill¹⁸³

“Commonwealth vs. Sparrel Mills Indictment for a breach of the peace. By leave of the court and with the assent of the attorney for the Commonwealth, the defendant acknowledges himself indebted to the commonwealth one cent for the offense aforesaid. Therefore it is considered that the Commonwealth recover against the said Defendant one cent and the costs of this prosecution.”¹⁸⁴

11 JUNE 1851

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

James Patterson’s list: Delivered 11 June 1851

William Mills (Floyd Co.) 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$4.50 [*sic*] per a, \$679.50 total value, 82¢ tax.¹⁸⁵ (Roll 443)

¹⁸³ Floyd Co., VA, Court Order Book 1850–1854: 123; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 666.

¹⁸⁴ Floyd Co., VA, Court Order Book 1850–1854: 124; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 667.

¹⁸⁵ Franklin Co., Land Tax Rolls 1851; Land Tax microfilm series, roll 443; Library of Virginia, Richmond. From this point on, all Franklin Co. tax data is from this set. Rather than create a new footnote for each year of the next forty-plus years, I will cite the roll number parenthetically, as shown above.

COMMENT:

“James Dudley Decd” is still carried on the roll for

- 52, 80, 60, and 34 acres 16m E of courthouse
- 54½ acres 20m NE of courthouse

Other Dudleys:

- Guinn & John Dudley were 16 miles NE on Bull Rull
- Thomas Dudley was 15 and 22m NE on Blackwater and 18 NE on Bull Run
- Thomas W. Dudley was 20 NE on Blackwater
- James H. Dudley was 22m NE on Blackwater
- Harriet Mildred Dudley was 22m NE on Blackwater
- Mary Frances Dudley was 22m NE on Blackwater
- Silas J. Dudley was 22m NE on Blackwater

Mattox:

- Gabriel: 45, 68, and 209 acres on Waters Jacks Creek, 18m. E
- David P.: 101 acres, Waters of Jacks Creek, 18m. E
- Samuel G.: 287 Pig River, 10m E
- Mullins, Booker: 150 Town Creek 15m. SW

Others at 10-20m NE on Blackwater:

- Craighead, Townsend 139a Blackwater, 20m
- English, Stephen Sr. 240a, Blackwater, **18m**
- English, Henry 27 & 267a, Blackwater, **18m**
- English, Charles Decd 177a, Blackwater, **18m**
- English, Coleman 120 “Near Blackwater,” **18m**
- English, Stephen D., Thomas J. B., Henry F & George (Jams? Sons), Blackwater, 110½ 16mE; 9, 77 ½, 46, 98, 63 ½ @ **18mNE**
- George W & Stephen (John’s sons) 317 Pig River 7E
- Fay, Lucinda (F.N.) 14a “Near Blackwater” **18m, NE**
- Holland, Mary 490a “Waters Blackwater” 10m, NE
- Housman, Peter, George & David, Summons Creek 15m NE
- Jefferson, Lucy (Life interest) 10a5 Waters of Pig River, **18m NE?**
- Kemp, Addra, 27 1/2 a Blackwater 20m NE [1853 list cites him as deceased]
- Kemp, James, 100 3/4a Owens Creek & Bull Run 20 NE [no other Kemps/Camps in district]
- Keys, Elizabeth 40a Rocky Fork Town Creek 15m SW
- Metts, John 294a Summons Creek 10m NE
- Mitchell, Thomas J. 205a, Poplar Camp Creek 10m NE
- Morgan, Samuel B. 114 1/2a, Blackwater, **18m NE**
- Poindexter, John Decd 25a Blackwater, 10m NE
- Poindexter, Cephas 6 & 105a Poplar Camp Creek, 12m NE
- Robertson, James, 194a Standifer’s Creek **18m NE**
- Robertson, Richard Decd. 113 ½ conv to Polly Robertson; 36a Standifers Creek 18NE
- Ray, William 62a Staunton River 20m NE
- Smith, Stephen F. 233a Blackwater 15m NE
- Wingo, Drury Decd. 80a Poplar Camp Creek 12NE

Others of interest:

- Light: none found
- Napier: none found
- Patterson, James 830 Chesnut Creek 10mSE
- Patterson, James & John Wade Jr., 86a, Chesnut Creek 11m SE “from Saml”
- Prillaman, Daniel Sr, William, David, Jacob, John 200a? 15m? SW on Nicholas Creek, Town Creek, and water of Smith River
- Smith, John: None in district

District 2 (Chatham T. Pollard)

- Light: None
- Smith, John G **Missouri**, 25a Blackwater 15m NE [still taxed on this in 1852, at which time “Right Smith” was also said to be in Missouri]
- Smith, Stephen 25a, 230a, Blackwater 10m NE
- Smith, Henry Jr. 225a, Blackwater 15m NE
- Smith, Henry Sr. [c800a], Blackwater 12m NE
- Smith, Henry J 155a, Blackwater 10m NE
- Smith, **John Decd.** 404a “Fork” 25m NE
- Saunders, Henry 242 ½ a Staunton Rive 20m NE

21 JANUARY 1852
FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Probate

Sale of goods and chattels of **Allen Jarret Decd.**¹⁸⁶

COMMENT:

Allen Jarret was the father-in-law of both Sparrel and Robert Wiley Mills. Purchasers included “Polly Jarrett,” who bought a jug and “Lucinda Garrett” who bought tobacco, buckwheat, and cabbage (one of these should be the widow), Burd Cole, Anderson Iddings, Samuel L. Vest, S. D. Light and others from William Mills’s 1850 neighborhood—but not William or his sons.

1852
FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Tax roll.

COMMENT:

- Robert Wiley Mills is still taxed in Floyd, as are Anderson, Andrew, and Larkin.
- William Mills is not taxed. Nor does he appear in Montgomery or Franklin Counties.
- Sparrel Mills, this year, is taxed on the Montgomery Co. roll, completed on 22 October.

JUNE 1852
FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Court order

“The Grand Jury returned into Court and presented ...
an indictment against Alfred Ratliff for petit larceny, a true bill

¹⁸⁶ Floyd Co., VA, Will Book B, 1847–1854: 380; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007644621 > image 400.

an indictment against **Sparrel Mills** for an assault, a true bill
an indictment against **Robert W. Mills** for a breach of the peace, a true bill
an indictment against Richard Haranhen? for an assault, a true bill
an indictment against John B. Carter for trespass assault and battery, a true bill
an indictment against **Anderson Iddings** for an assault a true bill
an indictment against Francis M. Austin for an assault a true bill
an indictment against John Hoff for voluntary fighting a true bill¹⁸⁷

AUGUST 1852

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Court order

Commonwealth vs. William Moore On an Indictment for an assault. Jury included **Robert W. Mills**.¹⁸⁸

COMMENT:

This being a criminal case, it would appear that Robert W. Mills met freeholder status (see prior discussion under 1850). However, I've seen no evidence of his owning land.

4 OCTOBER 1852

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

James Patterson's list: Delivered 4 October 1852

William Mills (Floyd Co.) 151a Blackwater, **18 m. NE** of courthouse, \$4.50 [*sic*] per a, \$679.50 total value, 82¢ tax. (Roll 443)

NOVEMBER 1852

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Court order

"Commonwealth vs. **Sparrel Mills** On an indictment for an assault. Ordered that a capias issue against the defendant."

"Commonwealth vs. **Robert W. Mills** On an indictment for a breach of peace. Ordered that this Cause be continued."¹⁸⁹

COMMENT:

"Sperel" Mills in 1852 was taxed on the Montgomery County roll (completed 22 October 1852) between Hugh C. Meredith and Hezekiah Martin.

JANUARY 1853

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

"A sale bill of the personal estate of **Allen Jarrett** decd was returned to Court and ordered to be recorded. An inventory of the personal estate of **Allen Jarrett** decd was returned to Court and ordered to be recorded."¹⁹⁰

20 MARCH 1853

¹⁸⁷ Floyd Co., VA, Court Order Book 1850–1854: 201; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 707.

¹⁸⁸ Floyd Co., VA, Court Order Book 1850–1854: 220; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 717.

¹⁸⁹ Floyd Co., VA, Court Order Book 1850–1854: 207; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 730.

¹⁹⁰ Floyd Co., VA, Court Order Book 1850–1854: 261; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 738.

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Commonwealth vs. **Robert W. Mills** On an indictment for breach of the peace. This day came as well the attorney for the Commonwealth as the defendant by his attorney and the said defendant for plea sayeth that he is not guilty in manner and form as in the indictment against him is alleged and of this he puts himself upon the Country and the attorney for the Commonwealth doth the like and the cause is continued.

“Commonwealth vs. **Sparrel Mills** On an indictment for an assault. Ordered that a *capias* issue against the defendant to be directed to the sheriff of Montgomery.”¹⁹¹

COMMENT:

- “Putting himself upon the country” was a legal euphemism for requesting a jury trial.
- As noted above under January 1853, Sparrel’s father-in-law has died and the family goods have been sold. Sparrel’s move appears to have occurred in the wake of that family upset.

23 JUNE 1853

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Commonwealth vs. **Sparrel Mills** On an indictment for an assault. This day came the attorney for the Commonwealth and the said **Sparrel Mills** appeared in discharge of his recognizance and by his attorney pleaded **not guilty** to the indictment, and the attorney for the Commonwealth replead thereto generally and the cause is cont.”¹⁹²

18 AUGUST 1853

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Commonwealth vs. **Sparrel Mills** On an Indictment. Continued.”¹⁹³

19 AUGUST 1853

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Commonwealth vs. **Robert W. Mills** On an Indictment. Continued.”¹⁹⁴

COMMENT:

A nolle prosequere would be issued in November 1853 (see that date below) for both Sparrel and Robert W., apparently because they were no longer in the county.

1853

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Tax roll.

COMMENT:

William and Sparrel Mills are not taxed.
Anderson, Larkin, and Robert W. appear.

¹⁹¹ Floyd Co., VA, Court Order Book 1850–1854: 278; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 747.

¹⁹² Floyd Co., VA, Court Order Book 1850–1854: 297; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 756.

¹⁹³ Floyd Co., VA, Court Order Book 1850–1854: 313; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 764.

¹⁹⁴ Floyd Co., VA, Court Order Book 1850–1854: 319; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008190162 > image 767.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

29 AUGUST 1853

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Henry S. Woody's List: Delivered 29 August

William Mills (Floyd Co.) 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$4.50 [*sic*] per a, \$679.50 total value, 1.36¢ tax. (Roll 443)

AUGUST 1853

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

William Smith's list (images 166–227)

25 August 1853: delivered to court

Consecutive entries (images 201–4)

(begin line 22)

Moomaw, John B.	2 free males 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 4 horses \$800, 16 cattle \$60, 1 watch \$5, 1 clock \$4, furniture \$125, moneys & bonds \$200, capital invested \$300, aggregate \$895, tax \$2.18
McCubley, Benjamin	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 1 horse \$70, 12 cattle \$50, 1 clock \$5, furniture \$100, moneys & bonds \$482, aggregate \$777, tax \$1.82

COMMENT:

The previous year (1852) Moomaw and McCubley were 4 and 3 entries from a yet-unidentified "Robert B Mills," an apparent overseer, who appeared on the tax rolls of Montgomery only in the year 1852. His position on the roll was roughly the position of the "Murray, James 'Report'" entry below.

Mcmaken, Isaiah	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 1 horse \$30, 1 cattle \$12, furniture \$25, aggregate \$69, tax \$.54
McConkey, Samuel A.	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 1 horse \$100, other personal \$5, aggregate \$105, tax \$.69
McMullin, Alexander	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 1 watch \$15, other personal \$15, aggregate \$30, tax \$.46
Murray, James "Rept" [report?]	0 males 16+, 0 wh males 21+, 2 slaves 16+, 2 slaves -16, 4 horses \$250, 69 cattle \$233, 1 carriage/wagon/etc 171, 1 watch \$6, 1 clock \$6, gold/silver plate or jewelry \$45, moneys/bonds \$2278, other personal \$12, aggregate \$3057 , tax \$7. <u>31</u> ?

COMMENT:

James Murray is either an absentee owner or an old man who is no longer charged a tithe. Madison Murry seems to be the white male managing the estate—occupying the position that Robert B Mills occupied in 1852.

Murry, Madison	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 1 horse \$70, other personal \$12, aggregate \$82, tax \$.37
Martin, Reason	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 1 horse \$30, 10 cattle \$31, furniture \$20, aggregate \$80, tax \$.56

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

Miller, John	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 3 horses \$100, 32 cattle \$68, 1 clock \$5, furniture \$50, moneys/bonds \$30, other personal \$20, aggregate \$271, tax \$.95
Moses, Jonathan	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 1 horse \$50, 1 watch \$15, 1 clock \$4, furniture \$25, other personal \$5, aggregate value \$99, tax \$.60
Martin, William	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 7 cattle \$20, furniture \$25, aggregate \$45, tax \$.49
Meacham, Fanny	0 free male 16+, 0 wh male 21+, 12 cattle \$44, furniture \$50, aggregate \$94, tax \$.89
McGuyer, John	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, tax \$.40
Mayer, John	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, \$1 horse &c \$20, 1 Clock \$4, furniture \$30, aggregate \$54, tax \$.51
Myers, Darrison	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 4 cattle \$34, 1 clock \$5, furniture \$60, moneys/bonds \$100, aggregate \$189, tax \$.78
Mongola, Elias	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 30 cattle \$52, 1 clock \$4, furniture \$25, other personal \$8, aggregate \$90, tax \$.58
Moses, Jacob H.	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 1 cattle \$20, 1 clock \$4, furniture \$25, aggregate, \$49, tax \$.50
More, George	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 1 cattle \$8, furniture \$66, aggregate \$74, tax \$.55
McComish, <u>Jeuleb?</u> [Jubel?]	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 1 horse \$45, 1 watch \$14, aggregate \$60, tax \$.52
McMullin, Priscilla	0 free males 16+, 0 wh males 21+, 1 horse \$45, 1 clock \$8, furniture \$50, aggregate \$103, tax, \$.89
Martin, Sterlin	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, furniture \$24, aggregate \$24, tax \$.45

COMMENT:

Sterlin Martin does not seem to appear on Montgomery's 1850 census.

McConnel, William	1 free male 16, 1 wh male 21+, furniture \$50, aggregate \$40, tax \$.48
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COMMENT:

The 1850 census places "William O'Connell" two houses from Jacob Moses (see above). O'Connell was a 74 years old laborer, b. Va., with a 65 year old wife Rhoda.¹⁹⁵

On 3 July 1854 a deed from William O. Connell and wife to "Alexr," dated 18 June 1854, for Lot No. 3 in Lafayette, was acknowledged in court (the order does not say by whom).¹⁹⁶

The village of Lafayette lies along the Montgomery-Floyd line, NW of Bent Mountain. It is also on the south bank of the Roanoke River and on the east bounds of I-81. It does not appear to be a logical place for William Mills to have gone from his Little River location in Floyd, even though Mills is the next listing.

William's proximity to the end of the "M" list—and the fact that both he and a younger William Mills appear in the last 7 entries, suggests that they are in that position only because they are new additions to the Montgomery roll.

¹⁹⁵ 1850 U.S. census, Montgomery Co., VA, pop. sch., Dist. 41, stamped p. 47, dwell. 632, fam. 632.

¹⁹⁶ Montgomery Co., VA, County Court Records, 1852–185: 219; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 8574098 > image 123.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

Mills, William Sr.	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 1 cattle \$12, furniture \$50, aggregate \$62, tax \$.53
Morrow, Francis P.	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, gold/silver plate or jewelry \$10, other personal \$40, aggregate \$50, tax \$.30
McGuyer, Armstrong [McGuire]	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 1 cattle \$15, furniture \$50, aggregate \$65, tax \$.53
McCartney, James	1 free male 16+, 1 white male 21+, tax \$.40
Mills, William	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, tax \$.40
McCrearrey, John E.	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 1 clock \$12, aggregate \$12, tax \$.44
Mitchell, Robert	1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 1 clock \$10, aggregate \$10, tax \$.42
[end of M's]	

COMMENT:

- The 1850 census shows only one of the taxpayers who appear between “William Sr.” & “William”: **Armstrong McGuire** (38 ditcher) was 4 houses from **William McC Montague** 24 (farmer, \$20,000).¹⁹⁷ Everyone living between McGuire and Montague (called “Esquire in local records) was called laborer in 1850. The larger census neighborhood is this
 - 129/129 **Elias Fleeman** 50 (laborer **\$0**) & family
[In 1857 his daughter married Charles T. Mills, son of William and Drucilla]¹⁹⁸
 - 130/130 John **Fleeman** 25 (farmer **\$0**) & family
 - 131/131 Randolph Carden 41 (farmer **\$1000**) & family
 - 132/132 Jessee Williams 52 (farmer **\$0**) & family
 - 133/133 Jacob Weaver 66 (farmer **\$0**) & Elizabeth 60
 - 134/134 David L. Barger 32 (farmer **\$0**) & family
 - 135/135 Ballard Long 22 (laborer **\$0**) & family
 - 136/136 **William McC Montague** 24 (farmer **\$20,000**) & family
 - 137/137 Wilson Burke 28 (laborer **\$0**) & family
 - 138/138 Henry Harless 33 (laborer **\$0**) & family
 - 139/139 Jacob Gearont 30 (laborer **\$0**) & family
 - 140/140 Armstrong McGuire 38 (ditcher **\$0**) with Ann 35, John 18 (laborer) & family
 - 141/141 Hiram Shufflebarger 39 (farmer **\$0**) & family
 - 142/142 Allan Lowe 37 (farmer **\$0**) & family
 - 143/143 Benjamin F. Charlton 30 (farmer **\$0**) & family
 - 144/144 John Hess 43 (blacksmith **\$578**) & family
 - 145/145 John Lane 71 (hatter **\$800**) & Mary 66
 - 146/146 William Lane 29 (farmer **\$0**) & family

Conclusion:

Montague and Murray appear to be the only landowners in the community with enough prosperity to engage the Fleemans and the Millses as an overseer, renters, or tenant farmers.

¹⁹⁷ William McClanahan “Mack” Montague’s tombstone states he was born 24 September 1825 and died 20 December 1896. He is buried in Kyle Cemetery in Christiansburg. See *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/80326907/william-mcclanahan-montague> : 23 April 2021), memorial page “William McClanahan ‘Mack’ Montague.”

¹⁹⁸ Therese C. Fisher, compiler, *Marriages in the New River Valley, Virginia: Montgomery, Floyd, Pulaski, and Giles Counties* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2008), 165.

Waddy G. Currin's list (images 228–87)

12 August 1853: Delivered to court

Consecutive entries: (images 234–35)

Bradbury, George 1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 3 cattle \$22, furniture \$50, other personal \$22, aggregate \$94, tax \$.59

COMMENT:

Bradbury in 1864, as a widower and resident of Lovely Mount (now the city of Radford), married William and Drucilla's widowed daughter Sarah (Mills) Key.

Consecutive entries (images 260–61)

Miller, John 1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 13 cattle \$25, 1 watch \$5, aggregate \$30, tax \$.46

More, Mathew P. 1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 1 horse \$40, 18 cattle \$57, 1 clock 4, furniture \$50, other personal \$4, aggregate \$156, tax \$.72

Meredith, William 1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 1 horse \$50, 30 cattle \$110, 1 clock \$10, furniture \$100, other \$15, aggregate \$285, tax \$.97

Meredith, Hugh C. 1 free male 16+, 1 white male 21+, 1 horse \$65, 11 cattle \$22, furniture \$150, aggregate \$237, tax \$.87

Mills, Spere 1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, tax \$.40

Martin, Hezekiah W. 1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 1 cattle \$18, furniture \$40, aggregate \$58, tax \$.52

Martin, Coleman 1 free male 16+, 1 wh male 21+, 4 cattle \$12, furniture \$50, other personal \$6, aggregate \$68, tax \$.54

Mullin, William M. 1 free male 16+, 2 wh males 21+, 2 horses \$140, 12 cattle \$54, furniture \$100, other personal \$10, aggregate \$304, tax \$1.01

COMMENT:

- Spere/Sparrel was not taxed this year in Floyd.
- In this "M" section, there is no male of sufficient wealth to hire an overseer.
- **Re William & Hugh C. Meredith:** In February 1863, both men, along with John H. **Whitt** and Capt. Wm. A. Stone [see below], had accounts due to the estate of John Little.¹⁹⁹ In February 1858, Hugh Meredith, Capt. W. A. Stone, and Elijah Wall (see 4th bullet below) were purchasers at the estate sale of **Abijah Whitt.**²⁰⁰ The 1850 census places Hugh Meredith in William Meredith's household.
- **Re Hezekiah Martin:** The 1850 census places him next door to Nathaniel **Lawrence** 66 (cooper), with Nancy 64 and John 22; the Lawrences with living in the household of William Bane 47 (blacksmith), Juliet 36, children 10-15 and Harriet Huff 26.²⁰¹
- **Re William M. Mullin:** On 7 August 1854 Elijah Wall (see 2d bullet above) was appointed road surveyor in the place of **Wm. M. Mullin.** No location was cited.²⁰² The 1850 census shows this neighborhood for Wall:

¹⁹⁹ Montgomery Co., VA, Will Book 9, 1855–1864: 426–34; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007645560 > images 228–32.

²⁰⁰ Montgomery Co., VA, Will Book 9, 1855–1864: 248–50; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007645560 > images 139–40.

²⁰¹ 1850 U.S. census, Montgomery Co., VA, pop. sch., Dist 41, stamped p. 8, dwell/fam. 99 (Hezekiah Martin) and 100/100 (Bane & Lawrence).

²⁰² Montgomery Co., VA, County Court Records, 1852–1855: 228; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 8574098 > image 128.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

- #352/352 **Elijah Wall** 40 (farmer \$6000) & family
- #353/353 **William E. Stone** 22 (farmer \$10000) & Mary
- #354/354 **Fleming Whitt** 24 (farmer \$0) & family
- #355/355 David Dobbs 57 (blacksmith \$0) & family
- #356/356 John Shelton 65 (farmer) and family
- #357/357 **John Whitt** 30 (farmer \$0) & Pamilia

- #383/383 Fanny **Wall** 35 & family
- #384/384 David Lovel 40 & family
- #385/385 Greenbury Akers 50 (farmer \$0) & family
- #388/386 **Wm. M. Mullin** 26 (farmer \$0) & family
- #387/387 Joseph Seveny 23 (farmer \$475) & family
- #388/388 Andrew M. Hinchey 53 (farmer \$0) & family

On 7 August 1854 Elijah Wall was also appointed to open a road “leading from the _____ turnpike beyond Waddy G. Currin’s by the mill of the said William A. and **William E. Stones**, to **intersect the road leading to Jacob Roops, mill, near Hezekiah Witt; also** running through the lands of “James H. Simpkins, Asa Hall, and **Abijah Whitt**.”²⁰³

On 4 June 1855, Hezekiah deeded to Jeremiah P. Whitt, John H. Whitt, Hezekiah Whitt Jr., and Milbour Whitt, 450 acres of land on **Meadow Creek** of Little River.²⁰⁴

On 1 August 1859, **William E. Stone** was trustee for a deed of trust made by **Mark Bradberry** (father of George Bradberry who married Millie Frances Mills).²⁰⁵

Conclusion:

These placements strongly suggest that when Sparrel Mills went to Montgomery Co., he went to the immediate vicinity of Hezekiah and Abijah Witt. **Elijah Wall** and **William Stone** (particularly Stone) are likely prospects for his employer.

24 NOVEMBER 1853

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Court order

“Commonwealth vs. **Sparrel Mills** On an Indictment for an assault. The Court with the consent of the attorney for the Commonwealth enters a nolle proseque in this cause.”

“Commonwealth agt. **Robt. W. Mills**. Nolle proseque.”²⁰⁶

COMMENT:

Dropping the prosecution was a rational consequence of the fact that both men had moved from the county.

1854

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Tax roll.

COMMENT:

²⁰³ Montgomery Co., VA, County Court Records, 1852–1855 > 233; imaged, FamilySearch, digital film 8574098 > image 130.

²⁰⁴ Montgomery Co., VA, County Court Records, 1852–1855 > 342; imaged, FamilySearch, digital film 8574098 > image 186.

²⁰⁵ Montgomery Co. VA, Will Book 9, 1855–1864: 269–70; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 007645560 > image 149.

²⁰⁶ Floyd Co., VA, Court Order Book 1850–1854: 338–39; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 008190162 > image 777.

- Robert Wiley Mills is gone.
- Anderson and Larkin Mills continue to be taxed.
- An apparently younger William Mills is added to the end of the roll.

5 JULY 1854

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Henry S. Woody's List: Delivered 5 July

William Mills (Floyd Co.) 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$4.50 [*sic*] per a, \$679.50 total value, 1.36¢ tax. (Roll 443)

DECEMBER 1854

FLOYD COUNTY, VA

Probate

A very brief annual account for December 1853 to 21 December 1854, estate of **Allen Jarrett**. \$6.00 received from D. S. Thurman's account. Payments made to F. W. Lester and S. D. Light, as constables, and Wm. J. William, as well as "Clerks Tickets." \$46.97 activity for year.²⁰⁷

JULY 1855

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Jacob G. Mackenheimer's list: Delivered 15 June

William Mills (Floyd Co.) 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$4.50 [*sic*] per a, \$679.50 total value, 1.36¢ tax. (Roll 443)

16 JUNE 1856

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Jacob G. Mackenheimer's list: Delivered 15 June

William Mills (Floyd Co.) 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$4.50 [*sic*] per a, \$679.50 total value, 1.36¢ tax. (Roll 444)

15 JUNE 1857

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Jacob G. Mackenheimer's list: Delivered 15 June

William Mills (Floyd Co.) 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$5.00 per a, \$755 total value, 3.02¢ tax. (Roll 444)

16 JUNE 1858

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Jacob G. Mackenheimer's list: Delivered 16 June

William Mills (Floyd Co.) 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$5.00 per a, \$755 total value, 3.02¢ tax. (Roll 444)

²⁰⁷Floyd Co., VA, Will Book B, 1852–1862: 410; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 007644622 > image 228.

4 JULY 1859

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

R. C. Bennett's list: Delivered 4 July 1859

William Mills (Floyd Co.) 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$5.00 per a, \$755 total value, 3.02¢ tax. (Roll 444)

8 JUNE 1860

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Bennett's list: Delivered 8 June 1859

Wm Mills (Floyd Co.) 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$5.00 per a, \$755 total value, 3.02¢ tax. (Roll 444)

OCTOBER 1860

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Probate

Settlement of estate of **Abijah Whitt**, by Reed C. Hall, Adm. Heirs were named are as follows:²⁰⁸

- Mrs. Polly Whitt, widow of Abijah Whitt decd.
- Martin L. Whitt
- **Nancy Cofer**, formerly Nancy Whitt (pd. \$75.75, with balance of \$4.25 to be paid to her)
- Mary **Grime**, formerly Mary Whitt²⁰⁹
- Jos. B. Whitt
- John C. Whitt
- Eliza Whitt
- Rhoda Whitt
- Thomas Whitt
- Fleming Whitt
- William Whitt

TO DO:

Extract the full file when I do my "reasonably exhaustive research" on Montgomery Co. Whitts.

COMMENT:

Re Cofer:

This name is variously written in records of Montgomery and Pulaski as both Cofer and Coffee.

The 1860 census of Pulaski County shows the following adjacent households: **Nunley**, Cloyed, **Mills** (Thomas), **Mills** (William & Drucilla), **Key** (William H & wife Sarah Mills) and **Cofer**:

²⁰⁸ Montgomery Co., VA, Will Book 9, 1855–1864: 349–51; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 007645560 > images 190–91.

²⁰⁹ This Mary (Whitt) Grime appears to be a cousin to the Mary Whitt who married Wilson Peterman in 1834 and was widowed by 1859 when Jeremiah, Melbourn & Lecky Whitt, with others, took up a collection to buy from the estate sale what she would need. See the text for 1859 notes. See E. S. Mills, "Mills & Associates, Montgomery County c1850–1870: Preliminary Survey of Resources for Bradberry (esp. George), Fleeman, Jarrett (esp. Allen), Lawrence (esp. John B.), Nunley/Nunnally (esp. Richard)," report to file, 1 September 2021; archived online at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

22 JUNE 1860

“Western District: Newbern P.O.”

194/189	Nunley, Richd.	57	male	overseer /\$200	b. Virginia
	Eliz th	45	female		b. Virginia
	Louisa E.	15	female		b. Virginia
	Francis	11	female		b. Virginia
	Thomas H.	8	male		b. Virginia
	Saml.	7	male		b. Virginia
	Emma	5	female		b. Virginia
	Elbert	2	male		b. Virginia
195/190	Cloyd, Gordon	42	male	farmer \$58,250/42,000	b. Virginia
196/191	Mills, Thomas	25	male	farmer /\$200	b. Virginia
	Sarah A.	19	female	[dtr of Richard Nunelly , above]	b. Virginia
	Chas. R.	2	male	[Richard in 1870]	b. Virginia
	Isaac W.	1	male	[named for Sarah’s br]	b. Virginia
	Nunley, Isaac	26	male		b. Virginia
197/192	Mills, William	76	male	laborer /\$50	b. Virginia
	Drucilla	74	female		b. Virginia
198/193	Key, William	31	male	Laborer /\$50	b. Virginia
	Sarah [Mills]	29	female	[née Mills]	b. Virginia
	Millie A.	8	female		b. Virginia
	Edward	5	male		b. Virginia
199/194	Cofer, John	45	male	farmer /\$700	b. Virginia
	Abbie	40	female		b. Virginia
	James	21	male	Laborer	b. Virginia
	Joseph	20?	male	Laborer	b. Virginia
	John	19	male	Laborer	b. Virginia
	Sarah	17	female		b. Virginia
	Walter A.	8	male		b. Virginia
	Victoria	16	female		b. Virginia
	Ann E.	11	female		b. Virginia
	William T	6	male		b. Virginia

COMMENT:

It looks as though William and Drucilla have followed their son Thomas to the Cloyd plantation where Thomas’s putative father-in-law, Richard Nunley, is the overseer.

This Gordon Cloyd land was granted in Montgomery County in the 1790s. Gordon Sr. (Gen. Gordon Cloyd) and his father Col. Joseph Cloyd held land in the Walker Creek area of Montgomery. Col. Joseph, from the founding of Montgomery, also appeared in the same tax district as the Rev. Richard Whitt.

Re Key:

- The Key family goes back to Amherst where they were associates of Jesse Mills (m. Lucy Tilman 1765), the hypothetical grandparents of William Mills-Whitt.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

- Drucilla (Kemp) Mills’ kinsman, Walter Kemp, married **Jerusha Key**, daughter of George, on 6 February 1815.²¹⁰ Walter’s surety was **Stephen Standifer** who, a few weeks later, served as surety for William Mills and Drucilla Kemp.

Re Cofer:

Autosomal DNA matches for offspring of William and Drucilla’s son Samuel include individuals who claim “Witt, *Cofer* & Williams” of Franklin County among their ancestral surnames.

The 1860 census of Pulaski enumerates **James Cofer**, wife **Nancy Whitt**, and mother-in-law **Nancy Whitt** in the following sequence:²¹¹

627/656	Meredith, Hugh	55	male	farmer \$15,000/\$600	b. Virginia	& family
627/627	Meredith, William	26	male	farmer \$400/\$260	b. Virginia	& family
633/633	Miller, John	62	male	farmer \$13,600/\$28,000	b. Virginia	& family
635/635	Trolinger, Wm H.	28	male	Farmer \$26,500/\$3,200	b. Virginia	
638/637	Whitt, Nancy	65	female	House Keeper /\$150	b. Virginia	can’t r/w
	Whitt, Joseph B	28	male	Laborer /\$100	b. Virginia	
	Whitt, John E.	26	male	Laborer /\$100	b. Virginia	can’t r/w
	Whitt, Martina	22	female		b. Virginia	can’t r/2
639/638	Coffee, James	30	male	farmer \$1000/\$420	b. Virginia	
	Coffee, Nancy	31	female		b. Virginia	
	Coffee, Giles M.	7	male		b. Virginia	
	Coffee, Wm. J.	4	male		b. Virginia	
	Coffee, John S.	2	male		b. Virginia	
640/639	Coffee, Saml.	75	male	no occupation \$0/\$0	b. Virginia,	can’t r/w “insane”
	Coffee, Abigail	75	female	\$0/\$25	b. Virginia,	can’t r/w
	Coffee, Mary	26	female		b. Virginia	
643/642	Millen, Wm. H.	53	male	Farmer \$8,675/\$3,900	b. Virginia	& family

Again, the families that lived between the large-scale land/slave owners were all laborers with no property or very little.

Re Martin L. Whitt, son and heir of Abijah.

The 1860 census of Montgomery County shows this sequence:²¹²

635/591	Whitt, Martin L.	24	male	Farmer / \$25	b. Virginia	
	Ruth S? [P?]	16	female		b. N. Carolina	
636/592	Bradberry, Mark	64	male	Farmer \$1000/\$100	b. Virginia	
	Minerva	56	female		b. Virginia	
	Gerard	23	male	Laborer /\$150	b. Virginia	
	Henry	21	male	Laborer	b. Virginia	
	Nancy	20	female		b. Virginia	
	Creed	19	male	Laborer	b. Virginia	

²¹⁰ Marshal Wingfield, *Marriage Bonds of Franklin County, Virginia* (1939; reprinted, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1997), 133 (Kemp), 162 (Mills).

²¹¹ 1860 U.S. census, Pulaski Co., VA, pop. sch., Western Dist., Newbern p.o., (penned) p. 93.

²¹² 1860 U.S. census, Montgomery Co., VA, pop. sch., Dry Valley p.o., p. 88, taken 30–31 July 1860.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

	Thomas	16	male	Laborer	b. Virginia
	Sarah	13	female		b. Virginia
	Matthew	12	male		b. Virginia
	Mary	7	female		b. Virginia
637/593	Whitt, Hezekiah B	63	male	Farmer \$5500/150	b. Virginia
	Jeremiah P.	37	male	Farmer /\$250	b. Virginia
	Hezekiah	28	male	Farmer /\$250	b. Virginia
	Milburn	25	male	Farmer /\$250	b. Virginia
	Lockey	30	female		b. Virginia

COMMENT:

Mark Bradberry's son George married William Mills's daughter Sarah, widow Key, 1864. George's first wife, whom he had married by Montgomery Co. bond dated 25 April 1834, was **Catherine Roop.**²¹³

638/638	Peterman, Wilson	41	male	Farmer \$0	b. Virginia
	Mary [née Whitt]	44	female	/\$200	b. Virginia
	Rhoda S. Godbey	12	female		b. Virginia
639/639	Elijah Wall	47	male	Farmer \$9000/3000	b. Virginia & family
640/640	Winfrey, Isaac H.	26	male	overseer /\$50	b. Virginia & family

18 JUNE 1861

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Bennett's list: 18 June 1861

Wm Mills (Floid Co.) 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$5.00 per a, \$755 total value, 3.02¢ tax.

Dudley, Tilghman P.L. 172a 3r 7p on Blackwater 18 m. NE

" " " 333a Pig River 4m E

" " " 654 " "

" " " 120 Glade Creek [no distance or direction]

(Roll 445)

7 JUNE 1862

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Bennett's list: 7 June

Wm Mills, Franklin Co. 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$5 per a, \$755 total value, 4.53¢ tax.

(Roll 445)

DECEMBER 1862

?PULASKI COUNTY, VA

Death.

COMMENT:

²¹³ Therese C. Fisher, compiler, *Marriages in the New River Valley, Virginia: Montgomery, Floyd, Pulaski, and Giles Counties* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2008), 27.

William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp

William Mills's death record has not been found in any registers of this cluster of counties. The state-level copies of death records for Pulaski (where William and Drucilla lived in 1860) are missing three years during this critical period. The county-level copies are missing for 1863. From the 4 January 1863 document below, I am hypothesizing that William likely died in Pulaski in late December 1862 with his death being reported in early January 1863. His widow thereafter moved to Montgomery, where she likely died in the home of the son-in-law who reported her death, below.

4 JANUARY 1863
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Military record

"Mills, William Breckenridge, Private, 34/l, Infantry; enlisted 03-20-62 at Liberty; 'Sick in camp' 08-31-62 through 10-31-62; 'Sick in camp' 04-30-63; 'On daily duty as Overseer of Negroes since Nov 20 [18]63' 12-31-63; 'On detached service at Ft. Clifton since May 16 [18]64'; asked for furlough 01-04-63: 'I have a child very sick and I have not seen my family for near two years, since having a furlough, since I have been in service. *I have also some transactions to manage with regard to my land which requires my personal attention, and unless I can go and attend to that matter it will be very much against the interest of myself and family.* I am a poor man with a wife and seven Children' granted furlough 01-04-64 'We can spare an Overseer at this time better than hereafter'; postwar record states he was killed accidentally 04-03-65 on the way home; born in Franklin County. **Mary Ann Mills**, Court Order Book 19, Page 70 and 71, applied for widow's pension. (Emphasis added by ESM)²¹⁴

1 JULY 1863
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Bennett's list: 1 July 1863

Wm Mills, Franklin Co. 151a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$5 per a, \$755 total value, 5.75¢ tax.

Remarks: "By recent survey."

(Roll 445)

1864
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

None.

1865
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Bennett's list: delivered 13 February 1866

Wm Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$5 per a, \$650 total value, \$1.26 tax.

Remarks: "By recent survey."

(Roll 445)

²¹⁴ Beverly Merritt, *Civil War Records of Franklin County, Virginia, 1861–1865* (Ferrum, VA: Privately printed, 2007), 231. Also Beverly Merritt and Jane Zarn, *Voices of Franklin County, Virginia, 1861–1865* (Henry, VA: Jane Zarn, 2013), 290. In both volumes, the notes for "William Breckenridge Mills" have the semblance of credibility but they do not identify the source of any document (aside from Mary Ann's petition) or the source of the middle name assigned to William.

**William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp**

COMMENT:

I've found no explanation as to what happened to William's other 25 acres. It is unlikely that he had a second survey made within two years; the "by recent survey" remark was likely a carryover from the last prior roll. If so, it would seem that the decrease in acreage should have been made on the 1863 roll. There is no new addition of 25 acres to anyone named Mills. [I did not have time to read the full roll in search of any and all 25-acre additions or to read the remarks on all pages.]

Meanwhile, son William B. who appears to have been occupying the land from 1848, entered CSA service in 1862.

25 JULY 1866

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

W. C. Bennett's list: delivered 25 July 1866

Wm Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$5 per a, \$650 total value, \$1.26 tax. (roll 446)

12 JUNE 1867

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA

Death.

"**Drucilla Mills**, white, female.

Date of death: 12 June 1867

Place of Death: Montgomery Co., Va.

Cause of Death: [blank]

Age at Death: 74 [var. 76]²¹⁵

Names of parents: [blank] Kent [sic]

Born: Montgomery Co.

Occupation: farmer [dittoed from prior entry]

Name of person giving information: **George Bradberry**

Designation of informant (whether physician, surgeon coroner, head of family, friend, etc.): No role, just a repetition of the name "**Geo. Bradberry**"²¹⁶

COMMENT:

- The next entry is one James R. *Kent*, d. 1 May, parent: Joseph Kent. The clerk apparently made a copying error in Drucilla's case.
- The county-level register gives Drucilla's age as 76.
- The informant, George Bradberry, married Drucilla's daughter Sarah just three years before.

1867

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

W. C. Bennett's list: delivered [no date]

Wm Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$5 per a, \$630 total value, \$1.89 tax. (roll 446)

²¹⁵ Montgomery Co., VA, Register of Deaths, 1853–1868; microfilm roll 32, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

²¹⁶ Virginia Bureau of Vital Statistics, "Deaths, Montgomery County, 1853–1896"; microfilm roll 19, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

1 JUNE 1868

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

W. C. Bennett's list: delivered 1 June

Wm Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$5 per a, \$630 total value, \$1.89 tax.
(roll 446)

11 MAY 1869

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Winborn C. Bennett's list: delivered 11 May

Wm Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$5 per a, \$630 total value, \$3.15 tax.
(roll 446)

27 OCTOBER 1870

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Winborn C. Bennett's list: delivered 27 October 1870

Wm Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blackwater, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$5 per a, \$630 total value, \$5.15 tax.
(roll 446)

23 JUNE 1871

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Union Hall Township

William S. Arrington list: delivered 23 June 1871

Wm Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blk Water, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 per a, \$378 total value, \$1.89 tax. (roll 603)

3 AUGUST 1872

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Union Hall Township

William S. Arrington list: delivered 3 August 1872

Wm Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blk Water, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 per a, \$378 total value, \$1.89 tax.
"Wilson Cunniff to pay."

Wilson Cuniff, Franklin Co., 71a Blk Water, NE 15m & 68 1/2a Standifer's Creek NE 15m (roll 616)

COMMENT:

The reference to Cuniff implies that Cuniff was now renting the land. Cuniff's name, in most county records that I've seen, appears as *Cundiff*.

28 JULY 1873

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Union Hall Township

**William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp**

William S. Arrington list: delivered 28 July 1873

William Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blk Water, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 per a, \$378 total value, \$1.89 tax
“*Wilson Cunniff to pay.*” (roll 629)

29 AUGUST 1874

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Union Hall Township

William S. Arrington list: delivered 29 August 1874

William Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blk Water, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 per a, \$378 total value, \$1.89 tax
“*Wilson Cunniff to pay.*” (roll 640)

27 JULY 1875

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

Union Hall Township

William S. Arrington list: delivered 25 July 1875

William Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blk Water, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 per a, \$378 total value, \$1.89 tax
“*Wilson Cunniff to pay.*” (roll 654)

29 AUGUST 1876

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

2nd Dist: William S. Arrington list: delivered 29 August 1876

William Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blk Water, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 per a, \$378 total value, \$1.89 tax
“*Wilson Cunniff pays.*” (roll 668)

COMMENT:

Adda Kemp estate still hasn't been settled, even though the tax rolls have had “Dec'd” beside the name for about 10 years.

4 SEPTEMBER 1877

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

2nd Dist: William S. Arrington list: delivered 4 September 1877

William Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blk Water, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 per a, \$378 total value, \$1.89 tax
“*Wilson Cunniff pays.*” (roll 680)

COMMENT:

There are a goodly number of entries now, saying that rent is paid by someone other than the landowner.

30 AUGUST 1878

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

2nd Dist: William S. Arrington list: delivered 30 August 1878

William Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blk Water, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 per a, \$378 total value, \$1.89 tax
“*Wilson Cunniff pays.*” (roll 694)

29 AUGUST 1879
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Land tax roll
(roll 707)

COMMENT:
Roll not in drawer.

9 JULY 1880
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Land tax roll

2nd Dist: Thos. R. Hancock's list: delivered 9 July 1880

William Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blk Water, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 per a, \$378 total value, \$1.89 tax
"Wilson Cunniff pays." (roll 721)

15 JUNE 1881
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Land tax roll

2nd Dist: delivered 15 June 1881

William Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blk Water, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$3 per a, \$378 total value, \$1.89 tax
"Wilson Cunniff pays." (roll 734)

26 AUGUST 1882
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Land tax roll

2nd Dist: delivered 26 August 1882

William Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blk Water, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$2.75 per a, \$346.50 total value, \$1.39 tax
"Wilson Cunniff pays." (roll 749)

13 JULY 1883
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Land tax roll

2nd Dist: delivered 13 July 1883

William Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blk Water, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$2.75 per a, \$346.50 total value, \$1.39 tax
"Wilson Cunniff pays." (roll 765)

1884
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Land tax roll

2nd Dist: delivered [date?]

William Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blk Water, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$2.75 per a, \$346.50 total value, \$1.39 tax
"Wilson Cunniff pays." (roll 780)

13 AUGUST 1885
FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA
Land tax roll

2nd Dist: delivered 13 August 1885

William Mills, Franklin Co. 126a Blk Water, 18 m. NE of courthouse, \$2.75 per a, \$346.50 total value, \$1.39 tax “*J.W. Hutt & Rhoda Cundiff pays*” (roll 799)

COMMENT:

Wilson Cundiff is carried on the tax rolls for the same land as first noted for him above. Beside his entries, a notation says “*D. T? Brown pays.*”

15 AUGUST 1885

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Deed

P. H. Dillard, Commissioner of the Circuit Court of Franklin County in the chancery cause of Francis Wright vs. **Wilson Cundiff**'s heirs, to **James H. Hutts**, both of Franklin Co. “In pursuance of a decree in said cause and in consideration of the sum of five dollars ... doth grant ... a certain lot or parcel of land lying in Franklin County Va. containing 56 acres more or less and bounded as follows: “Beginning at ‘A’ Pointers in a branch at **Hutts Mill pond** and running with said branch ...”

“Also a certain other parcel of land containing **66 acres** more or less lying ... near Hutts Mills and bounded as follows:

Beginning at ‘A’ pointers in **old line** and running a dividing line N 45 E50p to ‘B’ a Red Bud N 30 E 62p to ‘C’ pointers in old line and with it S 62 E24p to ‘D’ pointers, S 5 E 154p to ‘E’ Corner of **William’s** line, N 78 W 72p to Hutts Mill creek and with it as it meanders to the beginning.

Acknowledged in clerk’s office by Dillard on 7 September 1885.²¹⁷

COMMENT:

The tax roll of 1886, below, reduces William Mills’s acreage to 60. The remaining 66 acres seems to be the acreage referenced above as “66 acres ... near Hutts Mills.” The above reference to a dividing line and an “old line” implies that a new survey had been made to separate the part taken by Wilson Cundiff and the part retained by William Mills.

The deed created by Commissioner Dillard dot previously mention any adjacent neighbor named William. **It seems likely that the “William’s line” reference should have been “William Mills’ line.”**

3 AUGUST 1886

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

2nd Dist: delivered 3 August 1886

William Mills, Franklin Co. 60a Blk Water, 15? m. NE of courthouse, \$2.75per a, \$165 total value, \$.67 tax “66 A to James Hutt.” (roll 819)

COMMENT:

James W. “Hutt” is also taxed on 122 acres on Standifer Creek “from Wilson Cundiff” but nothing on Blackwater.

30 JULY 1887

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

²¹⁷ Franklin Co., Deed Book 37: 292–93.

Land tax roll

2nd Dist: William S. Harrington list: delivered 30 July 1887

William Mills, Franklin Co. 60a Blk Water, 15? m. NE of courthouse, \$2.75per a, \$165 total value, \$.66 tax
[no notation of anyone else paying the tax] (roll 835)

COMMENT:

James W. Hutt is taxed on a new listing for 114 acres on Blackwater, 15m NE, \$4 per acre. Remarks:
“Lands Thos. **Dudley** Decd.” There is no reference to 66 acres from Mills.

19 JULY 1888

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

2nd Dist: William S. Harrington list: delivered 19 July 1888

William Mills, Franklin Co. 60a Blk Water, 15 m. NE of courthouse, \$2.75per a, \$165 total value, \$.66 tax
[No notation of anyone else paying the tax.] (roll 851)

17 JULY 1889

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

2nd Dist: delivered 17 July 1889

William Mills, Franklin Co. 60a Blk Water, 15 m. NE of courthouse, \$2.75per a, \$165 total value, \$.66 tax
[No notation of anyone else paying the tax.] (roll 868)

COMMENT:

The remarks column carries a long line through it, with no explanation. A similar line is used for several other taxpayers in the district.

I checked the end of the district and the end of the whole tax roll to see if a list of delinquents appear. I found none.

25 JULY 1890

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

2nd Dist: William S. Arrington’s list: delivered 25 July 1890

William Mills, Franklin Co. 60a Blk Water, 16 m. NE of courthouse, \$2.75per a, \$165 total value, \$.66 tax
[No notation of anyone else paying the tax.] (roll 888)

COMMENT:

The long line carried in the remarks column the prior year is no longer there although it appears for some others.

3 AUGUST 1891

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

2nd Dist: William S. Arrington list: delivered 3 August 1891

William Mills, Franklin Co. 60a Blk Water, 16 m. NE of courthouse, \$2.50 per a, \$150 total value, \$.60 tax
[No notation of anyone else paying the tax.] (roll 909)

COMMENT:

The long line is again added across the remarks column.

2 JULY 1892

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

2nd Dist: W. F. Poindexter's list: delivered 2 July 1892

William Mills, Franklin Co. 60a Blk Water, 16 m. NE of courthouse, \$2.50 per a, \$150 total value, \$.60 tax
[No notation of anyone else paying the tax.] (roll 932)

COMMENT:

The long line across the remarks column is again removed.

8 AUGUST 1893

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

2nd Dist: William S. Arrington list: delivered 8 August 1893

William Mills, Franklin Co. 60a Blk Water, 16 m. NE of courthouse, \$2.50 per a, \$150 total value, \$.60 tax
[No notation of anyone else paying the tax.] (roll 957)

COMMENT:

The long line is not there.

16 FEBRUARY 1894

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Deed

“Between Jno. P. Lee Commissioner as hereinafter mentioned ... and James A. Cundiff, party of the second part; whereas the Circuit Court of Franklin County did order and decree at its May Term 1890 in a certain suit there depending therein under the short style of Cundiff J. W. and al vs. Cundiff & als. That Jno. P. Lee who was thereby appointed a Commissioner for the purpose should sell at Public auction the land in the proceedings of the said suit .. being the deiver [sic] estate of **Rhoda Cundiff** now deceased in the lands of **Wilson Cundiff** dec'd, and whereas the said Commr Lee did sell the said land and James A. Cundiff became the purchaser thereof at the price of [\$375] which sale being reported to the Court was confirmed by a decree entered at the May Term 1891 and whereas the said Court did by the decree entered at the May term 1893 order that Jno P. Lee who was thereby appointed a commissioner for the purpose should convey the said land to the said James A. Cundif, he having paid all the purchase money therefor. Now Therefore this Indenture ... for the sum of one dollar .. [Lee] doth hereby grant ... unto [Cundiff] with special warranty the said tract of land lying and being in Franklin County, Virginia, on Blackwater River adjoining the lands of George Brown and James Hutts and Containing Sixty acres more or less. This is a portion of a tract of land purchased by the said Wilson Cundiff in his lifetime from **Wm Mills ...**”

Acknowledged in the Clerks Office by Lee on 19 February 1894.²¹⁸

COMMENT:

1871 126 acres: Owner is William Mills

1872 126 acres: Owner is William Mills, but “Wilson Cunniff to pay”

1885 126 acres: Owner is William Mills, but “J.W. Hutt & Rhoda Cundiff pays”

²¹⁸ Franklin Co., Deed Book 45: 169–70.

**William Mills-Witt (b. c1784–88; d. c1862)
Wife Drucilla Kemp**

1886	60 acres: owner is William Mills, but “66 acres to James Hutt”
1887-1894	60 acres: owner is William Mills. No remarks about payee
1895	60 acres: William Mills “to James Cundiff”

27 JULY 1894

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

2nd Dist: William S. Arrington list: delivered 27 July 1894

William Mills, Franklin Co. 60a Blk Water, 16 m. NE of courthouse, \$2.50 per a, \$150 total value, \$.60 tax
[No notation of anyone else paying the tax.] (roll 984)

COMMENT:

The long line is not there.

26 JULY 1895

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA

Land tax roll

2nd Dist: William S. Arrington list: delivered 26 July 1895

William Mills, Franklin Co. 60a Blk Water, 16 m. NE of courthouse, \$2.50 per a, \$150 total value, \$0 tax
Remarks: “To James Cundiff” (roll 1010)

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

Elizabeth Shown Mills, "William Mills (b. c1784–88; d. ca. 1863); Spouse Drucilla Kemp: Research Notes," a working file updated 16 May 2022, p. ____.

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