

# William Mills (ca. 1699–1766)

Spouse:

Mary (Walton?)

## Research Notes

### William Mills Family Summary:<sup>1</sup>

Born: b. ca. 1699, allegedly Derbyshire, England<sup>2</sup> (no evidence)  
Married: ca. 1721, allegedly Virginia<sup>3</sup> or England (no evidence)  
Spouse: **Mary (Walton?)**;<sup>4</sup> d. bef. July 1776, Amherst Co., Va.<sup>5</sup>  
Occupation: Planter  
Died: before 4 August 1766; Amherst Co., Va. (date and place of will probate)<sup>6</sup>  
Residences: Goochland Co., Va. (pre-1749), Albemarle Co., Va. (ca.1749–61); Amherst Co. (cut from Albemarle, 1761—)

### CHILDREN OF WILLIAM AND MARY:

1. **AMBROSE MILLS**, b. ca. 1722; married, ca. 1745, **Mourning Stone**, and ca. 1759, **Ann Brown**; lived in Lunenburg and Bedford Cos., VA (1749–57); Craven Co., SC (ca. 1757), *Anson Co.*, NC (1758); Craven Co., SC (ca. 1758–67); Tryon and Rutherford Cos., NC (ca. 1768–1780);<sup>7</sup> hung 14 October 1780,

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<sup>1</sup> The compiler has two lines of interest from William and Mary Mills. Through her maternal ancestry, she descends from Sarah Mills and husband Thomas Watts. Her late husband and children also descend from William Mills, born ca. 1783–88, who married Drusilla Kemp on 24 August 1815 in Franklin County (an offshoot of Bedford County, where William and Mary's children periodically lived). Male-line descendants of this William-of-Franklin carry Witt Y-DNA. Their closest matches, at 1-step removed on a 67-marker test, are descendants of Lewis Witt and wife Anne, reputed to be Anne Mills. They also share *many* autosomal segments with descendants of Ambrose Mills, Sarah (Mills) Watts, Millie (Mills) Lavender Walton, and Elizabeth (Mills) Learwood Ripley. In Franklin County, this William Mills lived among and associated with offspring of several of the families discussed in this set of research notes—particularly Callaway and Standifer/Sandefur—whose lands eventually fell into Franklin after a series of new county formations. For the DNA data, see my ongoing Excel database, "Mills-Lavender-Learwood Matches."

<sup>2</sup> For an example of this widespread assertion, see eelliott1, "Mills Edney Gosnell Durham and Related Families in NC," user-contributed tree, *Ancestry* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/63883078/person/1298761813> : accessed 6 June 2015); no proof of birthplace or birth year is provided here or elsewhere. Many of the online trees cite "U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560–1900" and link to an "Index-only record" at Ancestry, taken from a database that Ancestry bought from another provider (Yates Publishing, "U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560–1900"); Yates's source is said to be "Source number: 1701.006; Source type: Pedigree chart; Number of Pages: 9," referring back to another derivative source: an unsupported assertion made on a compilation submitted to a program of the church-based Genealogical Society of Utah. In short: There is no credible evidence for this alleged birthplace or date.

<sup>3</sup> See, for example, "Kimberley Watts Family Tree," *Ancestry* (<http://person.ancestry.com/tree/56168776/person/42360248160/facts> : accessed 16 June 2016). This tree mirrors many others, providing this date and usually (but not always) alleging Augusta Co., Va., as the place of marriage. Augusta did not exist at the time and it lies considerably beyond the area where this Mills family has been placed. The source cited by eelliott1 and others is the same *Ancestry* database, which cites the same pedigree chart. Individuals who cite this source also identify William as the son of one Gilbert Mills who died in Augusta Co., VA, in 1757 naming a son William and other heirs who are not known to fit anywhere into the family of William Mills of Southside Virginia. Apparently, these tree-creators are assuming the marriage occurred in Augusta simply because that is where the erroneously attached Gilbert lived. Much more thorough research needs to be done on William's pre-Albemarle life in order to accurately identify his origin and parentage.

<sup>4</sup> Mary is rampantly asserted to be a Walton, but no known source provides documentation of that.

<sup>5</sup> Amherst Co., VA, Order Book 1773–82, for July 1776 term of court summoning Ambrose Mills to administer his mother's estate.

<sup>6</sup> Amherst Co., VA, Will Book 1: 73–76 for will, administrator's bond, and inventory.

<sup>7</sup> See Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Ambrose Mills, Col. (ca. 1722–1780): Spouses 1. Mourning Stone; 2. Ann Brown: Research Notes," for the abstracted and/or imaged records that document this chronology.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

Bickerstaff's Farm, Rutherford Co., NC, as a Tory colonel.<sup>8</sup> His position as eldest son is indicated by a 1776 court order naming him as the "heir at law" of Mary Mills (Widow William), under Virginia's law of primogeniture.<sup>9</sup>

2. **THOMAS MILLS**, b. ca. 1724; m. before 1752; d. before 6 September 1755, leaving children Ambrose and Elizabeth who are named as heirs in the will Thomas's father's wrote on that date.<sup>10</sup> Thomas's land grant on Pedlar River, confirmed posthumously in 1756, is mentioned as late as 1770, as adjacent to land being sold by his brother William Mills Jr.<sup>11</sup> Thomas's widow may be the otherwise unidentified **Eleonar Mills**, who in 1769 co-witnessed a Cabell deed with William Walton,<sup>12</sup> the second husband of Milly (Mills) Lavender. The son Ambrose appears to be the "Ambrose Mills II" who, in 1808, sold land on Panther Creek of Rutherford Co., NC, to Micajah Pickett, a frequent associate and neighbor of offspring of this Mills-Watts family in both Rutherford, NC, and Fairfield, SC.<sup>13</sup> The daughter Elizabeth remains a prospect for the mother of William Mills (b. ca. 1783–88, with Witt Y-DNA) who married Drucilla Kemp in Franklin County, VA, 24 August 1815.<sup>14</sup>
3. **SARAH "SALLY" MILLS**, b. ca. 1726;<sup>15</sup> m. before 1749, **Thomas Watts**;<sup>16</sup> moved with him to Craven Co., SC (later Camden District and then Fairfield, Lancaster, and Kershaw Counties). Died in the Fairfield area after *circa* 1795.<sup>17</sup>
4. **WILLIAM MILLS**, b. ca. 1728; named as an heir in his father's 1755 will, to receive 330 acres of "unsettled land." Married **Rebecca [–?–]**, according to undocumented online trees. He appears to

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<sup>8</sup> J. M. Edney's 1846 biography of his grandfather William Mills. For a typescript, see "Public Member Photos & Scanned Documents," *Ancestry* (<http://www.Ancestry.com> : accessed 23 June 2015), unidentified contributor, "Maj William Mills 1746 to 1834." The contributor calls the typescript an "obituary written by his grandson J M Edney" without citing a source. However, the transcript itself states that it was written "October 30, 1845," eleven years after Maj. William's death. It is more probable that this grandson wrote this as a sketch for Lyman C. Draper who was, at that time, combing the South for information about the men of King's Mountain. Draper's *Kings Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King's Mountain, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1780* (Cincinnati: Peter G. Thompson, 1881) reports part of this in his brief sketch of Ambrose Mills on p. 481, but does not identify his sources.

<sup>9</sup> Amherst Co., VA, Order Book 1773–82, July 1776 term of court, summoning Ambrose Mills to administer his mother's estate.

<sup>10</sup> Thomas's birth-order position in the family is unproved. As a deceased son, he is mentioned last in his father's will. Given that the 1755 will credits him with two children before his death and that males commonly married later than females in their society, I am positioning him ahead of his sister Sarah. See Will of William Mills, Amherst Co., VA, Will Book 1: 73–76. Thomas's marriage year is estimated, based on the fact that he had two children by 1755.

<sup>11</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 123; Deed Book C: 118.

<sup>12</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 115; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 431.

<sup>13</sup> "Notes for Micajah Pickett and Kinsanna Hinson," *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m331x332.htm#FN1> : accessed 27 June 2015), citing "Rutherford County, North Carolina Deed (Books-page) 25-253."

<sup>14</sup> Franklin Co., VA, Marriage Bond 2859.

<sup>15</sup> Sarah is the second child named in the will of her father; commonly, but not always, testators did name their children in order.

<sup>16</sup> Sarah is named as "Sarah Watts" in her father's 1755 will. As wife of Thomas Watts, on 9 August 1749, she joined him in a sale of land on Pedlar River, Albemarle (later Amherst) County; see Albemarle Deed Book B 1: 96. For all records found to date for Sarah and Thomas, see Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Thomas Watts (b. ca. 1725; d. ca. 1796–1800); Spouse Sarah Mills: Research Notes," 1 June 2016.

<sup>17</sup> Sarah's granddaughter Catherine "Caty" (Watts) Hornsby (b. ca. 1769) and her husband Moses Hornsby filed affidavits in Covington Co., MS, in November 1821 saying that they had known Caty's Watts grandparents in SC for about 40 years. That affidavit is filed in the Louisiana succession (probate) file for Sarah and Thomas's son Thomas Watts Jr.; see Ouachita Parish, LA, Succession file A1082 and Succession vols. C: 31–38, "Thomas Watts of S. Carolina," particularly p. 37. The Hornsby's actually moved from Fairfield Co., SC, in 1795; relocating in Montgomery Co., GA; see Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 330. However, various documents accumulated for Caty's father attest that the family visited back and forth from GA to SC thereafter. For all records gathered to date on this grandson of Sarah Mills, see E. S. Mills, "Rev. John Watts, Esq., (ca. 1749–ca. 1822): Research Notes," report to file, 1 June 2016.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

have left VA for NC shortly thereafter—the same time frame that his brother Ambrose left with their brother-in-law Thomas Watts. William was a resident of NC (county unstated) on 5 June 1770, he sold the 330 acres he had inherited from his father.<sup>18</sup> He appears to be the William Watts referenced by an 1858 North Carolina history, reporting a tradition that “Mills' Gap, the first wagon road across the Blue Ridge, took its name from him, as also Mills' River, one of the most beautiful streams of pure clear water in the world; this river is in Henderson, formerly ‘*Buncombe*’.”<sup>19</sup> The author assigns credit to William’s nephew of the same name—William of Ambrose, whose grandson the author worked with in creating the history—but, as other writers have pointed out, the time-frame for those events is a generation too early for William of Ambrose.<sup>20</sup> The misattribution is likely due to the grandson’s conflation of the two Williams in his family history.

Several days before the Battle of King’s Mountain, which is notably connected to Ambrose Mills, William Mills Jr. was one of several Loyalists captured in Rutherford Co., NC, and was ordered hung by Lt. Jesse Walton<sup>21</sup> (whose brother William Walton Sr. would marry William and Mary’s widowed daughter Millie). William apparently owned land in Rutherford and left offspring in the offshoot counties of Burke and Buncumbe. Many online trees assert that a daughter, “Mary Walton Mills,” married James Stepp, by whom she bore a Polly Stepp scalped by Indians in her childhood. This line remains to be researched.

5. **ELIZABETH MILLS**, b. ca. 1730; m. (1) **Thomas Learwood**; (2) **John Ripley**. Her first marriage occurred, likely in Albemarle Co., VA, before her father’s 1755 will which names her as “Elizabeth Learwood.” In 1756, Learwood and one James Wheeler were sued in adjacent Bedford County, by Archibald Buchanan and John Brown & Co.; judgment was rendered against them.<sup>22</sup> In 1757, she and Learwood, as residents of *Prince Edward Co.*, sold that Bedford Co. grant at the headwaters of Reedy Creek.<sup>23</sup> In 1760, in his last known document, Thomas was granted another 230 acres in Bedford on west side of Elk Creek.<sup>24</sup> In 1762, in *Prince Edward*, Elizabeth bore a son who fought in the

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<sup>18</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 123; citing Deed Book C: 118.

<sup>19</sup> Daniel K. Bennett, *Chronology of North Carolina, Showing When the Most Remarkable Events Connected with Her History Took Place, from the Year 1584 to the Present Time, with Explanatory Notes* (New York, James M. Edney, 1858), 19–25; digital copy, *Archives.org* ([http://www.archive.org/stream/chronologyofnort00be/chronologyofnort00be\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/chronologyofnort00be/chronologyofnort00be_djvu.txt) : accessed 6 June 2015).

<sup>20</sup> For example see Jennie Jones Giles, “William Mills,” posted at “Private Member Stories,” *Ancestry* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/9120625/person/-849620996/story/3e452001-b9c7-4159-b301-b0b5fc94ac1d?src=search> : accessed 16 June 2015), “William Mills,” posted by “jenniekz” on 23 June 2013. The poster writes: “[This] information is written by Jennie Jones Giles for a booklet related to the Edney and Mills families in Henderson County, N.C. Much of this information is also available on the web site, hendersonheritage.com. Information on the web site is an ongoing process on the history and heritage of Henderson County, as part of the classes taught by Jennie Jones Giles at Blue Ridge Community College. Please note the source when copying information from the web site or as part of this post.”

<sup>21</sup> William Walton (Private Capt. John Loving’s Co., Stevens’ Regt., VA), no. S17184 in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25255701> and 33 subsequent numbers), particularly 20447300, 20447303, 20447306, 20447308. This William Walton was son of the man Millie Mills married.

<sup>22</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 87.

<sup>23</sup> Bedford Co. Deed Book 1: 139–41. TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 134. Despite repeated, explicit and direct evidence of Learwood’s given name, many garbled trees online allege that she married *John Edmond* Learwood (1720–1855) in 1745, had four children—all born 1745–50, though he is said to have died in 1755—and that she d. 1767 in VA. See, for example Ralph Tennant, “Christine Larwood Family Tree,” *Ancestry* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/21647526/person/1171920273> : accessed 6 June 2015); no evidence provided

<sup>24</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=799&last=&g\\_p=P33&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=799&last=&g_p=P33&collection=LO_Patent): downloaded 20 May 2016), “Learwood, Thomas, grantee ... Bedford County ... 230 acres on west side of Elk Creek”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 33, 1756-1761 (v.1, 2, 3 & 4 p.1-1095), p.799 (Reel 31-32).”

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

Revolution under the name John Mills alias Ripley (the latter being a name he said he used in childhood because it was his stepfather's name). Before 1769, she married **John Ripley**, with whom she moved to Old Ninety-Six District, SC (modern Laurens) where her son "John Mills alias Ripley" enlisted at age 14.<sup>25</sup> In Ninety Six, before 1772, the Ripleys purchased part of **James Ryan**'s patent on Beaver Dam Swamp of Little River, adjoining **James Harvey**—a tract that John and Elizabeth sold (in full or part) on 6 October 1784.<sup>26</sup> In the same month of John and Elizabeth's sale, Elizabeth's son **Edmond Learwood** obtained a patent to 600 on "**Beaver Dam** or Mill Creek," adjacent to "**Mrs. Harvey**"<sup>27</sup> and, in January 1785, he sold 100 acres (location not stated) bounded by **James Ryan**.<sup>28</sup>

After the sale of their Laurens land, the Ripleys moved to a more-western part of Ninety Six (the new Edgefield District) where the 1790 census credits the John Ripley household with 2 white males over 16, 2 white males under 16, 4 females, and 7 slaves.<sup>29</sup> The second adult male in the household would seem to be Ambrose Ripley who does not appear as a census head-of-household until 1800 but executed three documents there in November–December 1793; he (a) witnessed a deed for land on "**Beaverdam a branch of Turkey Creek** of Savannah River";<sup>30</sup> (b) sold a slave named Cain for 50£ to William Harden<sup>31</sup>; and (c) eighteen days after the sale, paid 60£ for 206 acres on **Cyder Creek (a branch of Turkey Creek)**.<sup>32</sup>

Neither John Ripley nor Elizabeth (Mills) Learwood Ripley has been found in Edgefield past that point. It is possible that Ambrose Ripley's flurry of activity in 1793 represents an inheritance or (more likely) an advance on his inheritance. At the next session of court after Ambrose's sale of a slave and purchase of land, a suit against "Jno Riply & Others" by Gabl. Ragsdale was "dismissed"

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<sup>25</sup> John Mills alias Ripley (priv., Capt. Rogers? Co., Genl. Hampton's Regt., SC), S9025, opened 2 April 1834, Athens, Ohio; file imaged in "Revolutionary War Pensions," *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25853045> and 19 subsequent numbers). In his affidavits, John states that he was born in Prince Edward Co., VA, in 1762 and he specifically identifies his stepfather as John Ripley. He references his mother without naming her. A witness, Mary Graden, speaks of his visiting his mother there in Ninety Six during his term of service. Mills *alias* Ripley stated that after the war he continued to reside in SC for "six or seven years," then removed "into Tennessee, thence into North Carolina, thence into Western Virginia, and thence into Ohio where he now resides and has resided about 9 years."

<sup>26</sup> Sara M. Nash, *Abstracts of Early Records of Laurens County, South Carolina, 1785–1820* (Fountain Inn, SC, 1992), 6; citing Deed Book A: 208. Also, *South Carolina Department of Archives & History*, database (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov> : accessed 18 May 2016), "Winn, Richard, plat for 150 acres on Bever Dam Creek, Ninety Six District, Surveyed by Jonathan Downs on July 8, 1772; Names indexed [neighbors], Harvey, James; **Ripley, John**," citing State Plat Books (Charleston Series), S213190, volume 0010, page 00182, item 0000.

<sup>27</sup> *South Carolina Department of Archives & History*, database (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov> : accessed 18 May 2016), "Learwood, Edmond, Plat for 500 acres on Beaverdam Creek, Ninety Six District, surveyed by Jonathan Downs"; citing State Plat Books (Charleston Series), S213190, vol. 0001, page 00291, item 000. In 1817 "Edmond Learwood Sr." sold 200 acres of this patent on "both sides of Beaverdam Cr of Little R" to Wm. Moore, citing one adjacent neighbor as "*heirs of Thos. Learwood*." See Sara M. Nash, *Abstracts of Early Records of Laurens County, South Carolina, 1785–1820* (Fountain Inn, SC, 1992), 385; citing Deed Book K:206.

<sup>28</sup> Sara M. Nash, *Abstracts of Early Records of Laurens County, South Carolina, 1785–1820* (Fountain Inn, SC, 1992), 6; citing Deed Book A: 46.

<sup>29</sup> 1790 U.S. census, Edgefield Dist., SC, p. 513, col. 1, line 8. Elizabeth's nephew, Charles Lavender, had also settled in Edgefield; see the 1790 census, p. 509.

<sup>30</sup> GeLee Corley Hendrix, *Edgefield County, South Carolina: Abstracts of Deed Books 1–12, 1786–1796* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1993), 128; citing Deed Book 9: 72–75. While Beaver Dam of Turkey Creek (Edgefield) is not the same as Beaver Dam of Little River (Laurens), the repetition of site names reflect a common pattern of this era: choosing land on the basis of geographic features one is experienced with.

<sup>31</sup> GeLee Corley Hendrix, *Edgefield County, South Carolina: Abstracts of Deed Books 1–12, 1786–1796* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1993), 161; citing Deed Book 10: 347–48.

<sup>32</sup> GeLee Corley Hendrix, *Edgefield County, South Carolina: Abstracts of Deed Books 1–12, 1786–1796* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1993), 127; citing Deed Book 9: 50–57.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

without a recorded explanation.<sup>33</sup> The death of the plaintiff or the plaintiff's removal to another state would be a common cause. No estate file has been found in Edgefield for Ripley, suggesting that he died elsewhere—or else he died without debts and his family divided the property amicably among themselves without the expense of probate.

*As clues to pursue:*

- A rare appearance of the name John Ripley is subsequently found (23 October 1802) amid a list of letters in the Nashville, TN, post office.<sup>34</sup>
- Various Learwood compilations allege that:
  - Elizabeth's offspring in Laurens District, SC, included not only son Edmund but a grandson Edmond Franklin Learwood, born 1782 in Laurens, who named sons *Ambrose Ripley Learwood* and *Charles Lavender Learwood*.<sup>35</sup>
  - Her *daughter Mary Learwood* married **Richard Tankersley Jr.** of Amherst;<sup>36</sup> several records abstracted in this set of research notes suggest that the possibility is viable.
  - Her daughter *Anne Larwood* [*sic*] married Charles Denny or Denney (b. 1760) in Albemarle.<sup>37</sup> My limited efforts to verify details of the Denny descent have not yet been successful.<sup>38</sup>
  - Elizabeth's children by **Ripley** are variously said to be<sup>39</sup> **John** (m. "Ambrose" Graden),<sup>40</sup> **Pleasant** (m. Shadwick)<sup>41</sup>, **Elizabeth** (m. John Murray), **Mildred** (m. "Equiviler" Yearns),<sup>42</sup> and another son who married a Dalsbarthe and/or Barrentine.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Brent H. Holcomb, *Edgefield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1755–1795* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 154, citing 13 October 1794 term of court. The minutes from 1790 until October 1794 are missing.

<sup>34</sup> See Sherida K. Eddlemon, *Genealogical Abstracts from Tennessee Newspapers, 1791–1808* (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books: 1988), 41.

<sup>35</sup> James Larwood, "Morphology of Larwood Genealogy," (MS 1933), 19 pp.; imaged as "Morphology of Larwood Genealogy ...," *Ancestry* (<http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=genealogy-glh47066928&h=6&ti=0&indiv=try&gss=pt>), from a copy deposited in Sutro Branch of San Francisco Public Library, California State Library System. This skeletal compilation provides no evidence for any of its data.

<sup>36</sup> James Larwood, "Morphology of Larwood Genealogy" (MS, n.p., 1933).

<sup>37</sup> Joey67, "Denney Family," *Missouri Family Trees* (<http://missourifamilytrees.blogspot.com/2010/03/denney-family.html>) : accessed 23 May 2016. Ann Larwood Denny is said to be the mother of Benjain Denney (b. about 1780 in Virginia; died January 1842 in Pulaski, Mo.; and Charles Denney Jr. who died 1841 in Pulaski. Charles Denney's parents are said to be Samuel Denney and Sarah Suddarth, whose parents were William Suddarth and **Parlow Mills**. No sources are cited.

<sup>38</sup> See E. S. Mills, "Mills: Literature Survey of Southside Virginia: Brunswick, Goochland, and Counties Cut from Them—Principally Albemarle, Amherst, Cumberland, Bedford, and Prince Edward," report to file, 28 May 2016.

<sup>39</sup> Most accounts who apply a source are taking their assertions from James Larwood, "Morphology of Larwood Genealogy."

<sup>40</sup> This John, by his own testimony, was a stepson of Ripley who used his stepfather's surname as a teen when he enlisted in the Revolutionary War but then used his mother's surname as an adult. See John Mills alias Ripley (priv., Capt. Rogers? Co., Genl. Hampton's Regt., SC), S9025, opened 2 April 1834, Athens, Ohio; file imaged in "Revolutionary War Pensions," *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25853045> and 19 subsequent numbers). One of his witnesses was Mary Graden who said she knew him at the time he enlisted. The alleged marriage of John to an *Ambrose* Graden (a male name) would seem to be an error. The source may have intended to say that John married [*Female*] Graden, while a sister married *Ambrose* Graden. That possibility should be at least investigated.

<sup>41</sup> In 1830, one **Pleasant Ripley was in Rhea Co., TN**. See 1830 U.S. Census, Rhea Co., TN, p. 355.

<sup>42</sup> This man appears to be **Aquilla Yearns**, a Kentucky soldier in the War of 1812, "Killed October 1, 1814." On "Roll of Captain David Holt's Company, Kentucky Infantry." See Kentucky Adjutant General's Office, *Kentucky Soldiers of the War of 1812: With an Added Index* (1891; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969), 352.

<sup>43</sup> Barrentines/Barrontines are found in Edgefield simultaneously with the Ripleys. No Dalsbarthes or similar spelling have been located anywhere.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

The TN to NC to KY migration reported by John Mills *alias* Ripley in his pension application suggests a path of migration for Elizabeth and John Ripley also—as well as a line of Ripleys that has not yet been attached and may represent the unidentified son, above:<sup>44</sup>

- **Ambrose Ripley** born 1800–2 in Tennessee or North Carolina; married 1820 in *Madison County, AL*. He migrated to Titus County, TX, 1837, where his wife and seven children were massacred in 1841. Only two daughters survived. In 1859, when he petitioned the state legislature for financial compensation, one *Thomas L. Ripley* filed an affidavit on his behalf. Children of his first marriage are unknown. By his second wife, he had only one son whom he named *John*.<sup>45</sup>
- **James C. Ripley**, allegedly born in Kentucky about 1795; lived 1850 in Benton County, AL, with sons (a) *Ambrose* born about 1833 in *Tennessee*; and (b) *Thomas C.* born 1840 in *Alabama*. Ambrose moved to Titus County, TX, by 1860 also. The names of James C.'s other sons—Francis Marion and Newton—suggest roots in Revolutionary-era SC.<sup>46</sup>
- The name **Thomas C. Ripley**, given by James to a son, is earlier found in 1830 Greene County, TN, whose 1810 and 1820 censuses are destroyed. That Thomas C., b. 1800–10, appears in 1830 and 1840 adjacent to other Ripleys of age to be his widowed mother and siblings: **Phoebe** (b. 1770–80), **Henry** (b. 1790–1800), **Samuel** (b. 1790–1800), and a younger male in Phoebe's 1830 household (b. 1810–1820) of **age to be James C.**, who named sons *Thomas C. and Ambrose*.<sup>47</sup>
- The head of this Greene Co. cluster appears to be one **Thomas Ripley** who first appears in Greene on 2 October 1790 as bondman for the marriage of John Stanfield (whose family would be the Ripleys next-door neighbors in 1830–40) and continues in Greene Co. records until the 1820s.<sup>48</sup> Various online trees assert, without documentation, that Thomas Ripley (1769–1824) and “Phoebe Stanfield” (1773–1844) also had a son *Pleasant*, born 1793 in Greene Co., TN, who died “before 1880” in Knox County, Kentucky.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> A rare appearance of the name John Ripley is also found 23 October 1802 amid a list of letters in the Nashville, TN, post office. See Sherida K. Eddlemon, *Genealogical Abstracts from Tennessee Newspapers, 1791–1808* (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books: 1988), 41.

<sup>45</sup> “Texas, Memorials and Petitions, 1839–1929,” database with images, *Ancestry* ([http://interactive.ancestry.com/2218/32845\\_1220701439\\_2349-00217/3222?backurl=http://person.ancestry.com/tree/34732885/person/19121927639/facts/citation/800032433148/edit/record](http://interactive.ancestry.com/2218/32845_1220701439_2349-00217/3222?backurl=http://person.ancestry.com/tree/34732885/person/19121927639/facts/citation/800032433148/edit/record) : accessed 29 May 2016), Ambrose Ripley file. Also “Alabama, Marriages, Deaths, Wills, Court, and Other Records, 1784–1920,” database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 29 May 2016), entry for Ambrose Ripley to Rachel Wood, 28 September 1820, Madison Co., “Representatives – Salsbery.” Also 1850 U.S. census, Titus Co., TX, p. 112; and 1860 U.S. census, Titus Co., TX, p. 194. Thomas L. Ripley appears to have migrated with him. Both were taxed as landowners and polls in 1840, in Red River County (parent county of Titus). See Gifford White, *1840 Citizens of Texas*, vol. 2, *Tax Rolls* (Nacogdoches, TX: Ericson Books, 1984), 152.

<sup>46</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Benton Co., AL, p. 786, dwelling/family 12/12 (James C. Ripley). 1860 U.S. Census, Titus Co., TX, Precinct 11, p. 38, dwell./fam. 251/265 (Ambrose Ripley).

<sup>47</sup> 1830 U.S. Census, Greene Co., TN, p. 146. 1840 U.S. Census, Greene Co., TN, p. 224.

<sup>48</sup> Goldene Fillers Burgner *Greene County, Tennessee, Marriages, 1783–1868* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1981), 5—also 21, 62, 78. For Thomas's consistent residence in the county until the 1820s, see Pollyanna Creekmore, *Early East Tennessee Taxpayers* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1980), 180 (year 1805); Sherida K. Eddlemon, *Genealogical Abstracts from Tennessee Newspapers, 1803–1812* (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1989), 34 (year 1808); Byron and Barbara Sistler, *Early Tennessee Tax Lists* (Nashville: Byron Sistler & Associates, 1977), 170 (year 1812, Greene Co.); Goldene Fillers Burgner, *Greene County, Tennessee, Minutes of The Court of Common Pleas, 1783–1795* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1982); Sandra Kelton Houston, *Greene County, Tennessee, Minutes of the Court of Common Pleas, 1797–1807* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1981), 17, 43, 44, 62, 121, 151, 154, 163, 167, 177, 226 239; and Goldene Fillers Burgner, *North Carolina Land Grants Recorded in Greene County, Tennessee* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1981), 62, 64, 67, 83, 91.

<sup>49</sup> For example, see smacaula52, “Macaulay Family Tree,” user contributed tree, *Ancestry* (<http://person.ancestry.com/tree/44615900/person/25106661689/facts> : accessed 28 May 2016). One Pleasant Mills married Lucinda Parvin, 1820, in Madison County, AL—just two months before the Madison Co. marriage of Ambrose Ripley of the Texas massacre; see “Alabama Marriage Collection, 1800–1969,”

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

Given the rarity of the name Ripley throughout the South—and the relative rareness of Pleasant as a given name, this Thomas Ripley of Greene County represents a candidate for the previously unidentified son of Elizabeth (Mills) Learwood Ripley who also, supposedly named a son Pleasant.”

6. **ANNE (AKA ANNA) MILLS**, b. ca. 1732; unmarried at time of father’s 1755 will. She is frequently, but without evidence, said to be the wife of **Lewis Witt**—based apparently on the fact that her will cited her eldest son as “Mills Witt” and named other children who bore names carried by Anne Mills’s siblings (Jesse, Millie, and Elizabeth).<sup>50</sup> Lewis Witt was dead by 23 May 1774, when his estate was appraised.<sup>51</sup> His widow Anne made her will on 9 December 1811. The recorded copy, made when the will was probated on 28 October 1816, names seven living children: Mills, Jesse, John, Rowland, Robert, “Agnes,” and Milly—and a deceased daughter “Betsy Calvert” who had left five children.<sup>52</sup> Her estate settlement of 1826 cites 186 acres on Otter River and identifies her daughter “Agnes” as “*Agatha Lavender*” and her daughter Milly as “Milly Whitton.”<sup>53</sup> No direct evidence has been found to identify Anne Mills as the widow Anne Witt, although significant indirect evidence supports it.
7. **MILDRED “MILLIE” MILLS**, b. ca. 1734, VA; died 1822. Unmarried at time of father’s 1755 will, Millie married twice in Amherst: (1) **William Lavender**<sup>54</sup> and (2) **William Walton**. In 1770, Lavender purchased land on Tye River adjacent to land Millie’s brother Jesse had bought from the same seller three years earlier.<sup>55</sup> William and Millie sold this land shortly before Christmas 1773.<sup>56</sup> In March 1776, William’s estate was appraised by Wm. Pollard, Lucas Powell, and Richard Tankersly.<sup>57</sup> On 16 April 1792, Millie married **William Walton**, an RW veteran with whom she joined her son William

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database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 May 2016). At this point of research, it appears equally possible that Ambrose and Pleasant of Titus Co., TX—and James C. of Alabama whose son Ambrose also went to Titus Co., TX, were sons of Elizabeth and John Ripley’s son Pleasant, who seems to be in Rhea Co., TN, in 1830; see 1830 U.S. Census, Rhea Co., TN, p. 355. Both Rhea Co., TN, and Madison Co., AL, need to be worked well for Ripleys.

<sup>50</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Will Book 4: 276–77, Will of Anne Witt.

<sup>51</sup> Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Will Book 1, 1759–1787; Will Book 2, 1787–1803* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1988), 18; citing Will Book 1: 211.

<sup>52</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Will Book 4:276–77.

<sup>53</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Will Book 4:287.

<sup>54</sup> Many descendants have garbled the identity of William Lavender, conflating him with a contemporary Charles Lavender who was his father. See, for example, KayMarie Ybarra, “KayMarieRettaYbarra,” user-contributed tree, *Ancestry* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/60751412/person/34299038922/facts> : accessed 17 May 2016), “Mildred Millie Mills ... 1738 ... 1776,” profile page. The double-name attributed to her husband, “William Charles,” is not supported by any record he created in his lifetime and is highly dubious. Giving children double forenames was not a common practice in the colonies prior to the Revolution; when it is found, the situation typically involves Anglican elites. Other trees echo some of the same facts and generally provide a correct list of children but sometimes with significant wrong dates. See, for example, Michael Spillars, “Spillars Family Tree,” user-contributed tree, *Ancestry* (person.ancestry.com/tree/54902/person/6049440132/facts : accessed 17 May 2016), profile for “Mildred Amelia Mills, Birth 1738 • Virginia, United States; Death 1776 • Amherst, Amherst, Virginia” and Jlav78, “Lavender Family Tree,” *Ancestry* (person.ancestry.com/tree/27253432/person/26082618067/facts). The pension applications of Millie’s sons William and Charles Lavender offer abundant pointers to kin and other places of residence. See:

- William Lavender (Private Capt. Allen’s Co., Col. Taylor’s Regt., Virginia Line), Widow Sarah, no. W20189 in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25255701> and 33 subsequent numbers).
- Charles Lavender (Pvt., Col. Merriwether & Samuel Cabell Regt., Va. Continental Line), Widow Lucy, no. W8025, in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25254588> and 109 subsequent images : accessed 17 May 2016).

<sup>55</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 121 citing Amherst Deed Book C: 78.

<sup>56</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 153; citing Amherst Deed Book D: 119.

<sup>57</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 210, citing Book 1:432 with notation “see Page 509 for 1793, for more data.”

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

Lavender and his wife Sarah in selling land her first husband had inherited from Charles Lavender Sr.<sup>58</sup> She and Walton moved to Burke Co., NC, where he died 29 January 1806.<sup>59</sup> By 1808 she was living in Maury Co., TN, where she appeared at the estate sale of John McDonald, being the only other woman there aside from McDonald's widow Elizabeth.<sup>60</sup> In 1810, her son George Lavender filed a legislative petition from Nelson County, VA, stating that his mother "in Tennessee" was holding a slave from his father's estate—one he wanted to bring back into Virginia but could not do so under Virginia's existing laws.<sup>61</sup> She has not been found on the 1820 census, but a probate was opened for her in Maury County, TN, in 1822.<sup>62</sup> (Records of Maury, where one Jesse Walton also appears on the 1820 census, have not yet been studied. Near neighbors of the Maury County Jesse were Bickerstaffs, of the family that buried Ambrose Mills after the "Patriot" forces hung him on their farm.) Millie's impetus for moving to TN as a 72-year-old widow has not been identified.

6. **JESSE MILLS**, b. ca. 1736, VA; heir to a "proportionable part of his father's land *beside* the land [his father] lived on." Married, allegedly, Lucy Tilman.<sup>63</sup> He remained in Amherst at least until 1767, when he cosigned a bond for the new county sheriff.<sup>64</sup> In 1768, he and Lucy sold their land on a branch of Tye River,<sup>65</sup> and in 1770 he sold his remaining acreage alone.<sup>66</sup> In 1771 and 1772, he fell into debt, appears to have paid it off, but again had to mortgage his personal property in 1776.<sup>67</sup> He may have left Amherst at this point, possibly to join his Loyalist brothers in North Carolina or possibly to Kentucky in an effort to escape the war zone. At this point, I've found no further mention of the name "Jesse Mills" until after the Revolution. In 1784, in Amherst, he mortgaged a slave and livestock to Tilman Walton, with William Walton (Millie's future husband) as witness. The fact that Jesse did not give a mortgage on land—the first choice of all creditors, because slaves and stock might die while land did not—strongly suggests that Jesse no longer owned land. Various researchers assert that he later lived in Bedford County and/or died in Kentucky. None offer any

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<sup>58</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 278; citing Amherst Deed Book G: 254.

<sup>59</sup> *Find A Grave* (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 22 May 2016), "William Walton Sr.," memorial page 7323283, created 2 April 2003 by "Armantia."

<sup>60</sup> Jan Grant, transcriber, "Maury County, Tennessee, Wills and Settlements Book A Vol. 1, 1807-1824," compiled by Jill K. Garrett and Marise P. Lightfoot, March 1964; citing p. A:4; HTML file, *Tennessee Genealogy Trails* (<http://genealogytrails.com/tenn/maury/willssettlements.html> : accessed 24 May 2016).

<sup>61</sup> Library of Virginia, "Legislative Petitions Digital Collection," database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions](http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions) : downloaded 22 May 2016), George Lavender petition 13 December 1810; citing Legislative Petitions of the General Assembly, 1776–1856, Accession Number 36121, Box 177, Folder 10.

<sup>62</sup> Byron and Barbara Sistler, *Index to Tennessee Wills & Administrations, 1779–1861* (Nashville: Byron Sistler & Associates, 1990), 377.

<sup>63</sup> Mrs. P. W. Hiden, "Nicholas Mills of Hanover County," *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1833): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 700–1. Hiden's source for Lucy's identity is not clear; but she has proved exceedingly accurate on every other point on which I've tested her.

<sup>64</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 103; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 261-62.

<sup>65</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 110; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 264.

<sup>66</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 127; citing Amherst Deed Book C: 178.

<sup>67</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 134 (citing Deed Book C: 252), 134 (citing Deed Book C: 254), also Davis, 137 (citing Deed Book C: 316) and 167 (citing Deed Book C: 397).

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

documentary evidence or appear to have tried to reconstruct his life. (One Kentucky man of his name, rooted in Bedford Co. but with a young wife and a small child, would appear to be a different man.<sup>68</sup>) Jesse has not been found on the “1787 census of Virginia” that has been reconstructed from tax rolls.<sup>69</sup> He may be the Jesse Mills (1 male over 16, with 3 females) on the 1790 Rutherford Co., NC census, enumerated two doors from William Mills, the son of his brother Ambrose.<sup>70</sup> Neither Ambrose nor his son William had a son Jesse who could be the 1790 neighbor. (It is also possible that the Jesse of 1790 Rutherford Co. was a heretofore-unidentified son of the Loyalist William Mills Jr., who was executed in 1780. If so, the Jesse and William of 1790, living two houses apart, would be first cousins.)

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### RESEARCH NOTES

**1732**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility.

“**Wm. Mills** patented 400 a. lying on the branches of **Lickinghole Creek** in the Co. of Goochland adjoining Saml. Coleman and Henry Chiles.”<sup>71</sup>

**31 OCTOBER 1732**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility.

“Henry Chiles and Ann, his wife, of Hanover Co., sold to **Wm. Mills** of Goochland, 300 a. on the east side of **Lickinghole Creek**.”<sup>72</sup>

**12 MARCH 1734**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility.

“**Wm. Mills** to Francis Kearby for 100 a, part of the 400 he had patented the year before. **Mary Mills**, his wife, relinquishes her dower rights in this land.”<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>68</sup> See E. S. Mills, “Mills: Literature Survey of Southside Virginia: Brunswick, Goochland, and Counties Cut from Them—Principally Albemarle, Amherst, Cumberland, Bedford, and Prince Edward,” report to file, 28 May 2016.

<sup>69</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 103; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 261-62.

<sup>70</sup> 1790 U.S. census, Rutherford Co., N.C. p. 145, lines 1–16.

<sup>71</sup> Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1833): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 700–1; citing “S.L.O. [State Land Office] Book 14, p. 407.”

<sup>72</sup> Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1833): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 700–1; citing Goochland Deed Book 1: 366.

**William Mills (ca. 1699–1766)**  
**Spouse Mary (Walton?)**

1735

GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

Unproved possibility.

“Wm. Mills sells the remainder of the tract he had purchased from Henry Chiles.”<sup>74</sup>

1736

GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

Unproved possibility.

“Wm. Mills ... sells the remainder of the 400 a. he had patented in 1732.”<sup>75</sup>

CA. 15 JUNE 1736

GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

Unproved possibility.

“William Mills of St. James Parish, Goochland, sold James Walker 300 acres on branches of **Licking Hole Creek** for £15.5 part of a greater tract Mills took up by patent 11 April 1732 bounded by *Samuel Coleman, Chiles corner, Scott’s line, Kerby’s line & Henry Chiles*. **Mary** released dower. Wit: John Pryor, Henry Chiles, Peter Patrick.”<sup>76</sup>

8 SEPTEMBER 1736

GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

Disambiguation.

(Not William Mills of Goochland/Albemarle)

“For 40 shillings, grant to William Mills, 400 acres on the Ridge between Willis River and great Guinea Creek of Appamattox River, Goochland county, bounded as follows:

Beginning at a red Oak in Almes Allen’s Line, running Thence New Lines North fifty Degrees West one hundred and twenty six Poles to a white Oak, North twenty five Degrees East one hundred and seventy Poles to a Pine, Thence on John Marten North sixty Degrees East seventy Poles to a white Oak and Hicory, Thence New Lines North twenty five Degrees East one hundred and forty two Poles to Pointers, South sixty five Degrees East one hundred and forty seven Poles to oa white Oak, Soth twenty five Degrees West thirty five Poles to a white Oak, Thence on William Warnack the same Course continued two hundred and ninety three Poles to a Spanish Oak, Thence on James Allen North seventy five Degrees

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<sup>73</sup> Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1833): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 700–1; citing Goochland Deed Book 1: 487.

<sup>74</sup> Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1833): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 700–1; citing Goochland Deed Book 2: 168.

<sup>75</sup> Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1833): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 700–1; citing Goochland Deed Book 2: 231.

<sup>76</sup> Carl R Waggle, “Genealogy Report: Ancestors of Mary Elizabeth Lewis,” user trees, *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/w/a/g/Carl-R-Waggle-CA/GENE3-0010.html>) : accessed 23 May 2016), citing Goochland Deeds & Wills Book 2: 231.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

West fifty two Poles to a white Oak South thirty seven Degrees West sixty seven Poles to the first station.<sup>77</sup>

### COMMENT:

- “Willis River is a 61.8-mile-long branch of the James River. It “rises in southern Buckingham County and initially flows eastwardly into Cumberland County, where it turns north-northeastwardly for the remainder of its course. It flows into the James River in northern Cumberland County, about 6 miles ... southeast of Columbia.”<sup>78</sup>
- This William Mills of Willis River would remain there as late as 1760, when he and his land were in Cumberland County (cut from Goochland in 1749).

**16 MAY 1738**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility.

**William Mills** witnessed a deed between *John Winn* of Henrico and *Humphrey Parris* for land on **North side of the James** in Goochland, along with William & Humphrey Parrish Jr.<sup>79</sup>

### TO DO:

The recorded deed needs to be obtained and studied for an accurate identification.

**16 SEPTEMBER 1740**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility.

John Parrish sold land on **South branch of Owens Creek** bounded by *William Mills*, Henry Adkins, and Stephen Lacy.<sup>80</sup>

### TO DO:

The recorded deed needs to be obtained and studied for an accurate identification.

**14 SEPTEMBER 1741**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility.

“George Hilton sold land on **Licking Hold Creek**, bounded by Thomas Biby, Christian’s line, and **William Mills**.”<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>77</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=407&last=&g\\_p=P17&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=407&last=&g_p=P17&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Mills, William, grantee ... Goochland County ... 400 acres on the ridge between Willis River and Great Guinea Creek of Appamattox River”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 17, 1735-1738, p. 164 (Reel 15).

<sup>78</sup> “Willis River,” *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willis\\_River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willis_River) : accessed 24 May 2016).

<sup>79</sup> Carl R Waggle, “Genealogy Report: Ancestors of Mary Elizabeth Lewis,” user trees, *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/w/a/g/Carl-R-Waggle-CA/GENE3-0010.html> : accessed 23 May 2016), citing Goochland Deeds & Wills Book 3, page 121.

<sup>80</sup> Carl R Waggle, “Genealogy Report: Ancestors of Mary Elizabeth Lewis,” user trees, *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/w/a/g/Carl-R-Waggle-CA/GENE3-0010.html> : accessed 23 May 2016); no book/page cited.

<sup>81</sup> Carl R Waggle, “Genealogy Report: Ancestors of Mary Elizabeth Lewis,” user trees, *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/w/a/g/Carl-R-Waggle-CA/GENE3-0010.html> : accessed 23 May 2016); no book/page cited.

**William Mills (ca. 1699–1766)  
Spouse Mary (Walton?)**

**TO DO:**

The recorded deed needs to be obtained and studied for an accurate identification.

**14 NOVEMBER 1743**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility.

“**William Mills** sold land to Josias Payne.”<sup>82</sup>

**TO DO:**

The recorded deed needs to be obtained and studied for an accurate identification.

**1744**

**ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA**

County formation.

Albemarle is created this year from the western portion of Goochland.

**15 MAY 1744**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility.

“**William & Mary Mills** sold land to John Robards. ... (This may be when they moved away or were cut off into Albemarle County as he does not appear in the 1744 Vestry book of St. James Northam.)”<sup>83</sup>

**TO DO:**

The recorded deed needs to be obtained and studied for an accurate identification. The deed should state where William Mills resided at the time of the sale.

**COMMENT:**

Most researchers working on William and Mary assume that they were the same-name couple in the 1832–44 Goochland documents; and (as speculated by the researcher quoted in the note above) they assume the couple moved after 1744 to the western part of Goochland that became Albemarle. However, one anomaly exists: The Albemarle/Amherst records created by and about William and Mary reveal absolutely no associates in common with those of the Goochland couple. That is a significant aberration of behavioral patterns in a society in which people formed a dependable, consistent support-network of associates.

**28 AUGUST 1746**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Disambiguation.

(Not William Mills of Goochland/Albemarle)

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<sup>82</sup> Carl R Waggle, “Genealogy Report: Ancestors of Mary Elizabeth Lewis,” user trees, *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/w/a/g/Carl-R-Waggle-CA/GENE3-0010.html> : accessed 23 May 2016), citing Goochland Deeds & Wills Book 4:270.

<sup>83</sup> Carl R Waggle, “Genealogy Report: Ancestors of Mary Elizabeth Lewis,” user trees, *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/w/a/g/Carl-R-Waggle-CA/GENE3-0010.html> : accessed 23 May 2016), citing Goochland Deeds & Wills Book 4:356.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

“For 40 shillings, grant to **William Mills**, 380 acres on “**both sides of Pidy Rock Rua [sic] of Willis River**, Goochland County, bounded as follows:

Beginning at Pointers **Ralph Kippings** Corner running thence a New Line North Seventy five Degrees East two hundred and four Poles crossing **Pidy Rock Run** to Pointers<sub>(i,j)</sub> thence on **Anthony Levellain’s** North thirty Degrees East nineteen Poles crossing a Branch to Pointers<sub>(i,j)</sub> North Seventy Degrees East two hundred and four Poles to Pointers<sub>(i,j)</sub> thence on **William Daniel** South nineteen and an half Degree East one hundred and fifty nine poles to Pointers<sub>(i,j)</sub> thence a new Line South nineteen Degrees East one hundred Poles to Pointers, North Seventy Degrees West two hundred and give Poles to Pointers<sub>(i,j)</sub> thence on **William Easley** North thirty five Degrees West forty five Poles to a White Oak<sub>(i,j)</sub> South fifty five Degrees West two hundred and one Poles crossing two Branches of Pidy Rocky Run to Pointers<sub>(i,j)</sub> Thence on **Ralph Hipping [Kipping?]** north thirty five Degrees West one hundred and Seventy eight Poles to the first Station.”<sup>84</sup>

### COMMENT:

- This land would fall into Cumberland County and would later be sold by its owner “William Mills of Cumberland County” during the time that William and Mary Mills lived in Amherst.
- Pidy Rock is said by one area researcher to be “north of Cairo (Caira?).”<sup>85</sup>

### JUNE 1747–JUNE 1748

#### ALBEMARLE-AMHERST COUNTIES, VA [ADJACENT TO BRUNSWICK-LUNENBURG]

Land Grant.

Report by Johua Fry, Gentleman, Surveyor, listing surveys he had made in Albemarle (now Amherst) between June 1747 and June 1748. The list includes:

<b>William Mills</b>	54 acres
Marvel Stone	390 acres
Thomas Stone	130 acres, 200 acres
<b>Thomas Watts</b>	335 acres <sup>86</sup>

### COMMENT:

- Whether the grantee is William Sr. or Jr. is undetermined
- No other Millses or Wattses are included.
- William Mills’s son Ambrose married Mourning Stone.<sup>87</sup> Their son William Mills gave the name Marvel to one of his own sons.<sup>88</sup>

The Stone and Watts surveys were actually made in March 1748:

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<sup>84</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=230&last=&g\\_p=P25&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=230&last=&g_p=P25&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Mills, William, grantee ... Goochland County ... 380 acres on both sides of Pidy Rock Rua [sic] of Willis River; citing “Land Office Patents No. 25, 1745-1747, p. 230 (Reel 23).”

<sup>85</sup> Diane Jones <dijon at ckt.net>, “(Bolling5) Children of Ann \_\_\_\_ Bolling Amoss,” posted 14 October 2013, *Bolling Research Mailing List* ([http://bolling5.com/pipermail/bollingresearch\\_bolling5.com/2013-October/007690.html](http://bolling5.com/pipermail/bollingresearch_bolling5.com/2013-October/007690.html) : accessed 28 May 2016).

<sup>86</sup> Thomas Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 1, 3.

<sup>87</sup> J. M. Edney’s 1846 biography of his grandfather William Mills.

<sup>88</sup> Obituary of Mr. Marvel Mills, “Marriage and Death Notices from the Greenville Mountaineer,” *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)* 7 (Winter 1979): page number not given, citing issue of 10 August 1749; accessed as *South Carolina Records and Reference*, CD-ROM (Orem, UT: Ancestry.com, 1998). Also see *Find A Grave* (<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=114368978&Iref=acom> : accessed 6 June 2015), memorial 114368978, “Maj William Mills,” created by Holt Felmet, 25 July 2013.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

“Thos. Stone, 200 ac; Mar 28, 1748; joyning South side Pedlar River; joyning **Geo Watts, Horsly’s creek, Thos Stone.**”

“**Thos. Watts**, 335 ac; Mar 30, 1478 [*sic*]; branches of Pedlar River; by Thomas Turpin; joining Robt. Davis, **Edwd Watts.**”<sup>89</sup>

**JUNE 1748 – JUNE 1749**

**ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA**

Land survey.

**William Mills.** Survey, 54 acres, by Joshua Fry, Gent.”<sup>90</sup>

COMMENT:

I have twice examined the online land grants in an effort to locate this grant and could not find him under any conceivable variant spelling or misreading.

**1749**

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY**

Context.

Goochland County was subdivided, with Cumberland being created in the southwest of old Goochland.

**1 APRIL 1749**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY**

Land grant.

On payment of 40 shillings, grant made and confirmed unto **William Mills**. 400 acres in Goochland County “on both sides of **Pedlar River and Dancing Creek**” bounded as follows:

“Beginning at two Spanish Oaks on the North Side the said River[,] running Thence down the same and across making in a Right line two hundred and twenty Poles to a Willow Tree on the South Side [of] the River[,] Thence into the Woods North twenty five Degrees West at one hundred and seventy a Branch[,] in all two hundred and thirty Poles to a red Oak near a Branch[,] North two hundred and sixty Poles crossing two Branches and **Dancing Creek** to two Dogwoods and a Gum[,] South seventy six Degrees east at seventy six [to] Pedlar River[,] in all two hundred and sixteen Poles to Pointers on the side of Valley[,] and South twenty Degrees West two hundred and twenty Poles to Beginning.”<sup>91</sup>

**9 AUGUST 1749**

**ALBEMARLE-AMHERST COUNTIES, VA**

Land sale.

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<sup>89</sup> Eric G. Grundset, “Land lying in the County of Albemarle:” Albemarle County, Virginia Surveyors’ Plat Books, Volume 1, Parts 1 and 2, and Volume 2, 1744–1853 [and 1891] (Fairfax, VA: Privately printed, 1998), 18; citing vol. 1, pp. 64 and 68.

<sup>90</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 2; citing Albemarle Order Book 1744–1748, p. 364.

<sup>91</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=539&last=&g\\_p=P288&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=539&last=&g_p=P288&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Mills, William, grantee ... Albemarle County ... 400 acres on both sides of Pedlar River and on Dancing Creek”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 28, 1746–1749 (v. 1 & w p.1-730), p. 539 (Reel 26).”

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

“Apparently Wm. Mills’s dau. **Sarah Watts**, named in his will, was the wife of **Thos. Watts**, as in Albemarle Rec. D. B. 1, p. 96, Aug. 9, 1749, **Thos. and Sarah Watts** sell to Peter Bays 400 a. on north side of Pedlar River.”<sup>92</sup>

1750

### LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Tax roll.

“For 1750: List taken by Nicholas Haile.” [about 120 taxpayers in all; I’m skipping first 75 or so]

John Keeth

John Macfaull

**William Mills**

1

[Likely William Jr., given that the locale is Lunenburg rather than Albemarle and that there is only one male tithe; note below the proximity of his brother-in-law Thomas Watts ]

William Hays

John Richardson

William Bennet

Peter Bennet

Joseph Bennet

Nicholas Welsh

[skip 15]

Charles Simmons

William Linch

**Thomas Wats**

1

John Boon

John Smith

Peter Kinsey

Joshua **Bartlet**

[In the Fairfield family: John Watts’s eldest son, Thomas Watts, named his own son **Bartlet Watts**]<sup>93</sup>

John Anderson

Jeremiah Scafe

[end of list]<sup>94</sup>

“1750 List taken by John Phelps”

William Mobberley

1

[Several of the Mobberley/Mobley family moved to Little River, SC, with Ambrose Mills]

Benjn. Turman

John Jennings

2

Edwd. Mobberly, Junr.

Thomas Mobberly

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<sup>92</sup> Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1833): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 700–1.

<sup>93</sup> Wynema McGrew, *Watts is My Line: John and Judith (?) Watts, Settlers of the Mississippi Territory*, vol. 1 (Hattiesburg, Miss.: P.p., 2010), particularly 158–59. This family history is unusually well documented.

<sup>94</sup> Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 135–38; no source cited.

**William Mills (ca. 1699–1766)**  
**Spouse Mary (Walton?)**

Roger Conner	3	
Edwd. Mobberly	1	
Benjn. Mobberly	1	
[skip 10 households]		
Clemt. Mobberly	1	
[skip 7 households]		
Capt. Linch		[Wm. Linch is cited adjacent to Thos. Watts in Hailes Dist.]
Harry Cockram	3	
Jno. Mobberly		
Mordecai Mobberly		
Hamon Mobberly	6	
[skip 2 households]		
Jno. Payne		
Chs. Spurlock		
<b>Ambrose Mills</b>	<b>4</b>	[Ambrose, the next year, is identified as Payne’s overseer]
[skip 5 households]		
<b>Wm. Stone</b>		[Ambrose Mills’s wife at this time was <b>Mourning Stone</b> ] <sup>95</sup>
Robt. Irons		
<b>Wm. Stone Junr.</b>		
<b>Euseibus Stone</b>	<b>4</b> <sup>96</sup>	

**12–14 APRIL 1750**  
**ALBEMARLE COUNTY**

Land survey.

“**Wm Mills**’ 350 ac; Ap 12, 1750; on branches Buck Creek; by William Cabell, joining **Edward Watts Jr.**”

“**William Mills**; 330 ac; Ap 13, 1750; on branches Buck branch; by William Cabell; joining **Thos. Mills**, John Davis, Isham Davis.”

“Thos. Smith, 350 ac; Ap 14 1750; on Pedlar River; by William Cabell; joining **Wm Mills**, **Edward Watts**, **John Stones**.”<sup>97</sup>

**1752**  
**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Tax List.

“For 1752, List taken by John Phelps.”

[skip 28]

“Mr. John Payn’s list		[someone has penciled into the book “of Goochland”]
<b>Ambrose Mills, Overseer</b>	<b>7</b>	[RW Loyalist colonel; 1762 grant on Little River, Cheraw/Camden /Fairfield SC, adjoined William Watts’s “Watts Branch”]

[skip 12]

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<sup>95</sup> Lyman C. Draper, *Kings Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King’s Mountain, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1780* (Cincinnati: Peter G. Thompson, 1881), 481. His biography of Col. Ambrose Mills does not provide sources. Also see J. M. Edney’s 1846 biography of his grandfather William Mills, citing Mourning Stone as Ambrose’s wife and William’s mother.

<sup>96</sup> Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 144–47, particularly p. 145; no source cited.

<sup>97</sup> Eric G. Grundset, “Land lying in the County of Albemarle:” Albemarle County, Virginia Surveyors’ Plat Books, Volume 1, Parts 1 and 2, and Volume 2, 1744–1853 [and 1891] (Fairfax, VA: Privately printed, 1998), 31–32; citing vol. 1, pp. 127, 133.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

Edwd. Mobberley	1	[1756 on Little River, Cheraw/Camden/Fairfield, SC] <sup>98</sup>
Clemt. Mobberley	1	[also settled on Little River] <sup>99</sup>
Benjn. Mobberley	1	[also settled on Little River] <sup>100</sup>
Thos. Halsey		
Richd. Hill		
Robt. Baber		
Israel Peterson		
Wm. <i>Verdeman</i>		
Robt. Verrdeman		
Wm. Verdeman, Junr.		
Jonas Anderson		
Stepn. Hudson		
Petr. Hudson		
Col. Wm. <i>Randolph</i>		
Frs. Luck, overseer		
[skip 19]		
Jas. Standeford		[In 1810–15, in daughter county Franklin, the Standefords/Sanderfurs,
[skip 3]		Millses, and Callaways were next-door neighbors.
Rich. Callaway		
Amb. Bramlet		
[skip 56]		
Wm. Callaway		
Wm. Gowin		[Gowins were Fairfield associates & neighbors of Watts]
Robt. Graves		
Wm. Simmons		
Jno. Mounts		
Jno. Mounts, Jr.		
Wm. Watkins		
Saml. Watkins		
Yowel Watkins		
Jno. Wood		
Capt. Chs. Lynch's list		
Thos. Price		
Rice Price		
<b>Edward Wats</b>		
<b>Edwd. Wats, Junr.</b>		[Edward Jr. and William took out adjacent grants, 1763, Wateree River
<b>Wm. Wats</b>		adj. <i>Thomas</i> Watts. Edw. Jr. & William Watts moved 1762–65 to Little
<b>Geo. Wats</b>		River, adjacent/contiguous to Ambrose Mills, near Mobleys of Bedford]
<b>Jno. Wats</b>	5	
Jno. Denny		[This Denny family would appear to be the one into which William and
Jno. Denny, Junr.		Mary's alleged granddaughter Anne Learwood is said to have married.]
Zach. Denny		

<sup>98</sup> Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 7, citing B-2: 94; "Deed from Edw. Mobberley (Craven Co., SC) to Samuel Drake, 330 Acres on Otter River," Bedford Co.

<sup>99</sup> Kenneth Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley's Meeting House, June 1780* (P.p.: P.p., 2005), 22.

<sup>100</sup> Kenneth Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley's Meeting House, June 1780* (P.p.: P.p., 2005), 22.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

Robt. Worthen's list

Jno. Braisey, Overs.

Jno. Reed

Benjn. Arnolds, Qr.

Thos. Gaddey, Overs.

Richd. Turner

Jason Meader

Job Meader

[moved to Anson Co., NC, as did George Watts, above]

2 [Little River, SC, land grant in 1760;<sup>101</sup> in Anson Co., NC, by 1762;<sup>102</sup> back on Little River of Fairfield in 1790; son-in-law of Edward Mobberly, Sr., who is taxed at the start of this list<sup>103</sup>]

Joel Meader

Benjn. Orrick

Jno. Eckols

Jeffery Crowley

Wm. Harvey

Lewis Meador

[moved to Anson Co., NC]

[skip 39]

Jas. Gibson

1

[Fairfield, SC, 1790]

Randal Gibson

1

[Fairfield, SC, 1790]

Thos. Prather

Adam Biard

Thos. Walker

Wm. Briant

Jno. Davison

Henry Farguson

Matw. Amory

Wm. Armstrong

Thos. Carr

**John Mills**

2

[kinship not known; he is not named as a son in William Mills's will made 1755 and probated 1766. In 1753, this John served on a road crew "in room of Wm. Mills."<sup>104</sup>]

[skip 7, to end of list]<sup>105</sup>

### COMMENT:

Several other families on this list—Gibsons, Goynes/Gowins, and Meadors—would move down to Craven Co. (later Camden Dist. and Fairfield Co.) SC.

<sup>101</sup> Kenneth Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley's Meeting House, June 1780* (P.p.: P.p., 2005), 22.

<sup>102</sup> Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 22; deed from "Job Meador of Anson Co., N.C., to John Williams of Bedford County, 70 acres lying on the South side of Otter River." The Mobberlys/Mobleys who moved to Fairfield also lived on Otter River in Bedford. The Wattses of Bedford owned land on Elk and Ivy Creeks, as did the Woodwards who also moved to Fairfield where they were Watts neighbors.

<sup>103</sup> Kenneth Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley's Meeting House, June 1780* (P.p.: P.p., 2005), 100, 118. Shelton cites Robert Mills, "Statistics of South Carolina, 1826" for statement that Job Meador died Oct. 1822 at 101 years of age.

<sup>104</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-B, 1753–1754* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaiad Publication, 1998), 41; citing Order Book 2 ½-B: 469

<sup>105</sup> Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: Lists of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 202–8.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

7 AUGUST 1752

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land sale

**William Mills** of Albemarle County to *Martha Massie* of New Kent County, sale of 400 acres in Albemarle Co. on **Pedlar River** described as:

“Beginning at two Spanish Oaks on the North side of the said River, running thence down the same and across making in a Right line two hundred & twenty Poles to a Willow tree on the South Side of the River, thence into the woods North twenty five Degrees west at one hundred & Seventy a branch, in all two hundred & thirty Poles to a red oak near a branch, North two hundred & Sixty Poles Crossing two ranches & **Dancing Creek** & two Dogwoods & Gum South twenty Six Degrees East at Seventy Six, Pedlar River, in all two hundred & Sixteen Poles to Pointers on the side of a **vallee** & South twenty Degrees West two hundred & twenty Poles to the Beginning.”

7 August 1752, Mills put Massie in possession of the property.

13 August 1752, Mills acknowledged receiving 200 pounds from Massie in full payment. Mary, William’s wife, also appeared in court to be privately examined about the relinquishment of her dower rights.<sup>106</sup>

COMMENT:

- William Sr. patented this land in 1749 on “**Pedlar River and Dancing Creek.**”
- Why would a single woman buy this land from Mills? It’s rural; part of it is in woods. It’s not a town lot where she would have close neighbors. **Typically, Mills would be part of Martha’s support network.** This conclusion is strengthened by the point that Mills legally put her in possession of the property a week before he received payment.

TO DO:

- Martha Massie should be studied as a potential mother-in-law or sister of William Mills.
- New Kent should be studied as potential place of prior residence for William Mills.

31 OCTOBER 1753

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Court order.

“**John Mills** aptd surveyor rd from Euing’s fence to the Blew Ridge in room of **William Mills.**”<sup>107</sup>

COMMENT:

This reference should be to William Jr. William Sr. should have been too old for road service at this time. William Sr.’s 1755 will does not name a son John.

1754

GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

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<sup>106</sup> Albermarle Co. Wills & Deeds, Book 1: 475-76.

<sup>107</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-B, 1753–1754* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaid Publication, 1998), 41; citing Order Book 2 ½-B: 469.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

Disambiguation.

“**Wm. Mills** ... sells to Tobias Payne the 400 acres that he patented in 1736.<sup>108</sup>”

### COMMENT:

This reference is to William Mills’s grant of 400 acres “on the ridge between Willis’s River & Great Goochland Creek, patented to him on 1 April 1749.

### TO DO:

Get the original document for full details. Confirm the 1754 residence of the grantor. Was he in Goochland or Albemarle? If Goochland, we would have evidence that the Goochland grants were not all made to William of Goochland-Albemarle.

### 12 APRIL 1754

#### ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Land survey.

“Nicholas Davis Gent, 25,000 ac; April 12, 1754; on both sides Fluvanna River [south branch of the James]; 3,450 acres part thereof was formerly granted 21,550 acres New Land included by Order of Council and survey’d by William Cabell; joining Colo Fry & Company, N. Davis, Jno. Anthony, Rev’d Wm Stith, Rich’d Burk Braton & Co., Carrington & Mayo, **Wm Mills**, Jno. Davis, Rob’t Davis, Cornelius Nevil (400 ac), Nich. Davis. Shows the following watercourses: Hunting Creek, Tuckahoe Creek, Cabbin Creek, Indian Camp Creek, Vineyard Creek, Tumblin Creek, Cold Camp Creek, Wide Mouth Creek, Salt Creek, and **Pedlar River** along with numerous islands in the river.”<sup>109</sup>

### 6 SEPTEMBER 1755

#### ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Will.

“In the Name of God Amen. I **William Mills** of Albemarle County, being weak in Body, although I bless God of a perfect sence & Memory, but calling to mind the uncertainty of this Transitory World, and that all flesh must Yield when it pleases God to call, therefore I do Constitute this to be my Last Will and Testatment and desire it may be received by all persons as such.

“First, I commit my body to the Earth to be decently buried by my Executors hereafter named and Secondly I submit my soul to almighty God who gave it to me in full & sure hopes of a Resurrection at the last day; and as Touching my worldly Estate, and what it has pleased God to bless me with, I give and dispose of it as followeth (To Wit).

“Imprimis, I give & bequeath all my personal estate that I am possest with as long as she lives, to my dearly beloved **Wife Mary Mills**.

“Item, I give and bequeath to my **son Ambrose Mills** a proportionable part of all my estate excepting my Lands, [at] the death of his mother (my wife).

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<sup>108</sup> Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1833): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 700–1; citing Goochland Deed Book 4: 270.

<sup>109</sup> Eric G. Grundset, “Land lying in the County of Albemarle:” Albemarle County, Virginia Surveyors’ Plat Books, Volume 1, Parts 1 and 2, and Volume 2, 1744–1853 [ad 1891] (Fairfax, VA: Privately printed, 1998), 63; citing vol. 1, p. 277.

**William Mills (ca. 1699–1766)**  
**Spouse Mary (Walton?)**

“Item, I give & bequeath to my **Daughter Sarah Watts** a proportionable part of all my Estate Excepting my Lands—

“Item I give & bequeath to my **Son William Mills** a proportionable part of all my moveable Estate, and the Three Hundred & thirty acres of Land that’s unsettled, to have & hold forever.

“Item, I give & bequeath to my **daughter Elizabeth Learwood** a proportionable part of all my Estate excepting my lands to have & to hold forever—

“Item, I give & bequeath to my **daughter Anna Mills** a proportionable part of all my Estate excepting my land to have & to hold forever.

“Item, I give & bequeath to my **son Jesse Mills** a proportionable part of all my Estate besides my Lands & the Tract of Land I now live on, to have & to hold forever—

“Item, I give & bequeath to my **Daughter Milley Mills** a proportionable part of all my Estate Excepting my lands to have & to hold forever.

“Item, I give & bequeath to my son **Thomas Mills’s children (Viz<sup>t</sup>) Ambrose Mills Jun<sup>r</sup> & Elizabeth Mills** (the son & daughter of the Decd. Thomas Mills) a proportionable part of all my Estate Excepting my lands, to be Equally Devided Between them to have & to hold forever, to be paid to them after my dearly beloved Wife Mary Mills’s Death or if it should please the Almighty God that I should die first & [if] my wife should think proper to alter her Station of Life as to Marriage, upon the day of the Marriage all the aforesaid Legacies to fall to Each of the Legatees as afore mentioned, and my will & desire is that my dearly beloved Wife **Mary Mills & Thomas Joblin** should be **Executrix & Executor** of this my Last Will & Testament.

“I[n] witness whereof I hereunto set my hand & seal this Twenty Sixth day of September one thousand Seven hundred & fifty five. **William Mills {Seal}**.

“Test. [ Witnesses] **John Staples, Isham Davis, William Floyed, Charles Tuley, Robert Davis.**<sup>110</sup>

COMMENT:

The 330 acres “unsettled,” should be the 330 acres that were surveyed in 1750 and finally patented to William just before his death; in 1770 the heir to these 330 acres, William Jr., sold the tract saying he was a resident of NC. (See abstract under 1770 below.)

TO DO:

- Study all the witnesses; use them to help prove pre-Albemarle origins for William & Mary.
- Particularly explain why Thomas Jopling [“Joblin”] was chosen executor. Since no other Mills was named to that post, the implication is that William had no Mills kin in the area other than his heirs. Was Jopling an in-law? Various online trees identify Jopling’s wife as Catherine Farrar.

The following overview of Jopling records is pulled from published abstracts:

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<sup>110</sup> Amherst Co., VA, Will Book 1: 73–76 for will, administrator’s bond, and inventory.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

### COMMENT:

Jopling [who declined to serve as executor when William Mills finally died in 1766] first appears in Albemarle/Amherst deeds in 1750, amid the Roses and Davises who were neighbors of William Mills. However, later deeds place his land on Green Creek, a site the deeds don't associate with Mills, Watts, or Lavender.

- “10 Apr 1750 Ro. Rose, Clerk, to Jno. Parks, planter; rents and covenants – 100 acres, part of 3,700 acres pat. to Rose – during lives of Wm. Parks & John Parks, Jr. – to pay on 26 Dec each year 436 pds. Tobacco. Wit: Matthew Davis, Gilbert Hay, **Thos. Jopling**, Philip Davis.<sup>111</sup>
- “9 March 1758, **Thos. Jopling** to Saml. Bailey for £10, 134 acres both sides of Green Creek adj. grantor; Ralph Jopling. Wit: Jno. Peters, Nathan Bond, Lee Harris. [Also] 24 Dec 1757 Ralph Joplin to Jno. Cox for £50, 400 acres Green Creek, branches, adj. Col. Epes' Green Mt. tr. Wit: Jno. Griffin, Rich. & Perrin Farrar. Katherine, wife of Ralph Joplin.”<sup>112</sup>
- “20 Aug 1760 Jno. Wright, Orange, N.C. to **Thos. Jopling** for £100, 400 acres **N side of Rockfish**; part of 800 acres bought from Col. Jno. Chiswell, adj. Alex. Montgomery, Chiswell.”<sup>113</sup>
- “4 April 1761 **Thos. Jopling** to David Enicks for £20, 400 acres, pat. 20 Aug. 1760, on head branches **Geady [Reedy?] and Briery Creeks**, adj. his own line; Mary Upton, Jno. Snyder. Witnesses: Wm. Cox, Robt. Johnson, Jno. Peter.<sup>114</sup>
- “1 Dec 1761 **Thos. Jopling**, AC, to John Roberts, AC, 25 pds. For 300 acres ... North side of South Fork of Rockfish. Lines: Widow Upton, Widow Johnson. Mark of Thos. Jopling. Wit: Thomas Farrar, William Cox, James Jopling. Court held at Henry Key's 7 Dec 1761 ... This first courthouses was in what is now **Nelson County**.”<sup>115</sup>
- “25 May 1763. John Robinson, King and Queen, to **Thomas Jopling**, AC, 22 pds. For 258 acres, S side of Rockfish and part of larger tract pat. to John Chiswell and now property of Robinson. Lines: William Harris, on S side of **Rockfish**; James Montgomery, John Montgomery. Wit: William Cabell, Jr., Cornelius Thomas, Joseph Cabell.”<sup>116</sup>
- “3 October 1763. James Nevil, David Crawford, Cornelius Thomas, **Thomas Jopling**, & Howard Cash, AC, [bond] of office ... Nevil appointed Sheriff of Amherst ... Marks of Jopling & Cash.” “4 Feb 1765 James Nevil, **Thomas Jopling**, Henry Key, & Geo. Seaton. ... Nevil ... is hereby bonded to collect taxes.”<sup>117</sup>

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<sup>111</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 18; citing Albemarle Deed Book 1: 225.

<sup>112</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 32; citing Albemarle Deed Book 2: 32.

<sup>113</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 49; citing Albemarle Deed Book 3: 32.

<sup>114</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 49; citing Albemarle Deed Book 3: 52.

<sup>115</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 71; citing Amherst Deed Book A: 15.

<sup>116</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 77; citing Amherst Deed Book A: 120.

<sup>117</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 78, 85; citing Amherst Deed Book A: 142, 299.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

- “3 Nov 1766. Jos. Upton, Alb[ermarle] to **Thomas Jopling, AC, for 60 pds, 400 acres. Lines:** Bryary Branch. Wit: Geo. Seaton, **Edmund Wilcox**, Neill Campbell.”<sup>118</sup>
- “4 July 1769. **Thos. Jopling, AC**, to
  - Benj. Childers, AC, for love borne by Jopling for his son-in-law, Benj. Childers – 200 acres S side of **Rockfish**. Lines: Col. Jno. Chiswell, Michael Montgomery, Josiah Jopling.”
  - His son Josiah Jopling, 530 acres N side and joining **Rockfish**.”
  - Jno. Griffin, his son-in-law, AC, 323 acres. Lines: Wm. Harris, Jas. Mountgomery, John Mountgomery, Chiswell, Benj. Childers, S side of Rockfish.”<sup>119</sup>
- 4 April 1774.” Elliz. Cox – Book 1, Page 250 – Guardian Bond – Thos. Jopling and Jas. Nevil, April 4, 1774, for Thos. Jopling as guardian of Eliz. Cox, orphan of Jno. Cox, deceased.”<sup>120</sup>
- “2 Aug 1779. Ro. Davis & wife Jenny, AC (signed Jean) to Philip Thurmond, AC, for £2000, 375 acres both sides **Wilderness Run**. Lines: Ro. Davis, Jno. Floyd. Wit: **Thos. Jopling**, Edmond Powell, Ro. Davis, Jr.” Also, same to same, “90 acres on **Davis’s Spring Branch**.” Same witnesses.”<sup>121</sup>
- “6 Sep 1779. Wm. Loveday and wife Sarah, late of AC, to Wm. Cabell for £600, 200 acres branch of **Purgatory Swamp** and branch of **Joe’s Creek** below **Fendley’s Gap**. Part of 400 acres pat. to Walter King 10 Apr 1751. Conveyed by King to Lunsford Lomax, the Elder, 1 Dec 1764 ... Wit: Wm. Newton, Groves Harding, **Thos. Jopling**, Jas. Ward, Jno. Bibb, Abraham Warwick.”<sup>122</sup>
- “6 May 1782. Francis West & wife Eliz., AC, to Wm. Cabell, AC, for £15, 110 acres **Mayo Creek** and pat. to West by Commonwealth on 20 Jul 1780. Lines: Moses Going. Wit: Jno. Martin Jr., Abraham Warwick, **Thos. Jopling**.”<sup>123</sup>
- “8 Oct 1787. Thos. Davis, Lincoln Co. – power of attorney to **Thos. Jopling, AC** to receive of Thos. Upton, Albemarle, 1400 acres in Montgomery County – S side of the **great Canaway which my father Robt. Davis**, bought of Jas. Mooney ... my seven sisters: Nannah (Hannah?), Abigale, Jane, Martha, Lucy, Ann & Polly Davis and ... my two brothers, Robt. & Olander Davis. **Wit:** Rich. Farrar, Michl. Thomas, **Thos. Jopling**, Sherrod Griffin. Orig. del. oo Jopling, Sept. 1788.”<sup>124</sup>
- “2 July 1787. **Thos. Jopling, AC**, to Jos. Smith, AC, for £40, 300 acres both sides **Rockfish**.”  
19 Jan 1789, **Thomas Jopling, AC & wife Hannah, AC**, to Wm. Ball of Albemarle, for £200,

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<sup>118</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 99; citing Amherst Deed Book A: 179.

<sup>119</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 107; citing Amherst Deed Book A: 323–25.

<sup>120</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 82.

<sup>121</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 184; citing Amherst Deed Book E: 157–59.

<sup>122</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 185; citing Amherst Deed Book E: 174.

<sup>123</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 198; citing Amherst Deed Book 3: 334.

<sup>124</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 229; citing Amherst Deed Book R: 223.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

- 400 acres **Briery Creek** on S side and joining **Rockfish River**. Lines: Edwd. Harding, David Enix, Thos. Farrar. Wit: Michl. Thomas, Gideon Crews, Michl. Thomas Jr., Ralph Thomas.”<sup>125</sup>
- “5 Sept. 1785. Jas. Matthews, AC, to **Thos. Jopling**, AC, for £40, 92 acres head branch of **S fork Rockfish**. Lines: Abraham Eades Jr. Pat. To grantor 15 Jun 1773.”<sup>126</sup>
  - “10 Aug 1789 **Thos. Jopling** ... August 10, 1789, written: September 7, 1789, probated. Witnesses: Henry Martin, Jos. Thomas, Thos. Farrar, Jno. Jopling. Executors: sons, Jas. and Jos. and friend, Henry Martin, **Ux, Hannah** – Gladys Creek land; grandson, **Jesse Jopling** – if without heirs; sons, Josiah and Jas. – Piney Mountain land bought of Jesse Martin; **son, Thomas**.; Jno. Griffin who married my daughter Martha; my daughters: Ann Childers, Jane Davis, Lucy Powell, Rebecca Martin, Hannah Allen. Book 2 (3?), Page 126 – Inventory – December 1, 1789 – L 534-17-6.”<sup>127</sup>
  - “30 Oct 1806. **Thos. Jopling**, Bedford, to Jno. Harris, AC, for £600, 210 acres **Buck Creek**. Lines: Jno. Diggs, Bennett Jopling, Henry Roberts, grantor. Wit: Jno. W. Harris, Asa Varnum, Benj. Rucker, Jr., Wm. Lee Harris.”<sup>128</sup>

### COMMENT:

- Past 1785, the Thos. Jopling entries (only two of which are abstracted above) are clearly to a younger Thomas.
- Curiously,
  - Of the 30 or so appearances that Thomas Sr. makes in this set of deed abstracts, none place him in the presence of William Mills, the man who appointed him executor of his estate.
  - The two men live in different parts of Albemarle/Amherst.
  - They have almost no associates in common.
  - He *did* have a grandson named Jesse—a not particularly common name given to a son by William and Mary Mills—but that Jesse was also the grandson of Jesse Allen whose daughter Alsey married a Jopling.<sup>129</sup>
  - The probate of William’s will also shows that Jopling declined to serve.

SO: Why would William Mills name Jopling to be a co-executor of his estate, together with William’s wife? The most common answer would be that he was a kinsman of Mary or was married to a sister of William.

Note, under 1766 below, that Jopling declined to serve.

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<sup>125</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 238; citing Amherst Deed Book E: 169, 380.

<sup>126</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 242; citing Amherst Deed Book F: 10.

<sup>127</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 199; citing Amherst Will Book 3: 116.

<sup>128</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 457; citing Amherst Deed Book K: 560.

<sup>129</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 3.

**William Mills (ca. 1699–1766)**  
**Spouse Mary (Walton?)**

**18 NOVEMBER 1755**

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY (FORMERLY GOOCHLAND)**

Neighbor.

“Deed, Zachariah Terry, of Cumberland, to William Daniel, of Caroline, 200 acres in Cumberland, lying on both sides of Randolph road, part of a tract **formerly belonging to William Mills**. Daniel Coleman a witness.”<sup>130</sup>

**TO DO:**

**Work Cumberland County. Determine whether this land can be tied to William Sr. or Jr.**

**10 MARCH 1756**

**ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA**

Land grant.

In consideration of 35 shillings paid to the Receiver General of Revenues for the colony, a grant is hereby made and confirmed unto **Thomas Mills**. 335 acres in Albemarle County “on the **Branches of Pedlar River** bounded as follows:

“Beginning at a small white Oak in **Robert Davis’s** line, running thence new line North eighty degrees East one hundred and six? Poles to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> South thirty five degrees East nineteen Poles to **Arthur Tuley’s** Corner, then on Tuley’s Line South seventy five degrees East one hundred Poles to Pointers in **Edward Watts’s** line<sub>[,]</sub> and on the same South one hundred and sixty six Poles to Pointers thence new lines South one and an half degree East fifty four Poles crossing a **Branch** to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> South sixty three degrees West one hundred and fifteen Poles to Robert Davis’s Corner at Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> thence on Davis’s Line North seventy four degrees West forty five Poles to Pointers North forty seven? Degrees West forty five Poles to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> North fifteen to Pointers thence North fifteen degrees East forty eight Poles to a white oak Saplin<sub>[,]</sub> North nine ... [rest of document seems to be missing in the record book].”<sup>131</sup>

COMMENT:

Thomas is said to be dead in the 1755 will of his father. His land, after the patent was received, would not be sold. The abstracts that follow contain references to this land through 1770.

**13 MARCH 1756**

**ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA**

Land grant.

In consideration of 35 shillings paid to the Receiver General of Revenues for the colony, a grant is hereby made and confirmed unto **William Mills** 350 acres in Albemarle County “on the **Branches of Buck Creek**

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<sup>130</sup> W. B. Newman, “Captain William Daniel, of Middlesex: Some of His Descendants, and Other Daniels of Virginia,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1833): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 1: 507.

<sup>131</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=40&last=&g\\_p=P34&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=40&last=&g_p=P34&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Mills, Thomas, grantee ... Albemarle County ... 335 acres on the branches of Pedlar River”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 34, 1756–1765, p. 40 (Reel 33-34).”

**William Mills (ca. 1699–1766)**  
**Spouse Mary (Walton?)**

of Pedlar River bounded as follows:

“Beginning at a Poplar and running thence With thirty five degrees east a leight [along?] **Peter Buck branch** two Hundred and twelve poles to Pointers on **Maple Creek**, North sixty? Degrees West at ten poles a branch at eighty six poles crossed it again to **Edward Watts Junr.** his corner Maple, and with his Line South eighty four degrees west two hundred and twenty poles to pointers a new Line South forty degrees west forty eight poles to Pointers in **Thomas Mills’s** Line and with it South sixteen Poles [to] other Pointers, the same course continued on a new Line in all one Hundred and ninety two Poles to Pointers and North eighty three degrees east two hundred and sixty eight poles to the Beginning.<sup>132</sup>

COMMENT:

This William Mills should be William Sr. This should be the tract of land surveyed for him in 1750. It was sold 1 September 1766 (just after William Sr.’s death) by his son Jesse, who appears to be the only son who remained in Virginia.

**JANUARY 1756**  
**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**  
Legal suit.

“Archibald Buchanan, John Brown and Co., Petitioners, against **Thomas Leirwood** and James Wheeler, Defendant, on a Petition. This day came the Petitioners by their attorney, and the Defendant did not appear. Therefore it is considered by the Court that the Petitioners recover against the Defendant, 3 £ 3 shillings and 5 pence and their costs and a lawyer’s fee.”<sup>133</sup>

COMMENT:

- Thomas Leirwood/Leerwood married Elizabeth Mills, daughter of William and Mary, between 26 September 1755 and 13 June 1757. (See entry below under that date.)
- I’ve not yet identified a family for James Wheeler, but he was in Bedford as early as 23 December 1754, in the neighborhood of the land grant Thomas Learwood sold to Moses Helm. Note that Thomas, himself, was not assigned to this neighborhood road-crew list:

“Bedford County Court Book December 23, 1754: **Moses Hellum**, Wm: Moore, Thomas Franklin, John Bollings Tiths, William Rutherford, James Murphy, **James Wheeler**, John Gallaway, Archibald Campbell, James Machvenals, Edm: Fair, Nicholas Hays, Lewis Franklin, Edmond Franklin, John Thompson, John Pleasants Tiths [John Pleasant’s tithes], Nathn: Paterson, Hugh Bowles and John Carson Ordered to work on the Road whereof John Beard is Overseer.”<sup>134</sup>

- Note below, under September 1757, that Thomas and wife Elizabeth would sell their Bedford land to Moses Helm/Hellum.

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<sup>132</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=696&last=&g\\_p=P32&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=696&last=&g_p=P32&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Mills, William, grantee ... Albemarle County ... 350 acres on the branches of Buck Creek of Pedlar River”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 32, 1752–1756 (v.1 & 2 p.1-715), p. 696 (Reel 30).”

<sup>133</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 87; citing original p. 136.

<sup>134</sup> Tymethief, “Life of Moses Helm, 1701–1781,” *Ancestry* (<http://mv.ancestry.com/viewer/7e829452-8873-46b0-bae5-4a4fd47d0dfb/26805146/5037442581> : accessed 28 May 2016).

**William Mills (ca. 1699–1766)**  
**Spouse Mary (Walton?)**

**8 SEPTEMBER 1756**  
**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Court order.

“**Jas Mills** on attachment agst Jeremiah Moray dfnt in debt; dfnt’s debt not fully recovered by public sale attachment, further execution ordered.”<sup>135</sup>

COMMENT:

James Mills is not named in the 1755 will of William Mills, Sr. No evidence suggests a relationship but the possibility cannot be ruled out by the little evidence known up to this point.

**13 JUNE 1757**  
**LUNENBURG COUNTY**

Land grant.

On payment of 15 shillings, grant made and confirmed unto **Thomas Leerwood**, 154 acres in Lunenburg County “on the head branches of **Reedy Creek** by the north side of **Pilot Mountain**,” bounded as follows:

“Beginning at **Wathen’s** Corner pointers on **Beard’s Old Path**, thence new lines North sixty five Degrees East one hundred and thirty four poles to a Hicory, North eighty five Degrees East seventy four poles to a Hicory<sub>[,]</sub> North sixty five Degrees East thirty six poles to a white Oak<sub>[,]</sub> North fifteen Degrees East thirty poles to a white Oak<sub>[,]</sub> South sixty five Degrees East one hundred and twenty poles to three white Oaks<sub>[,]</sub> South twenty Degrees East forty four poles to a Chesnut<sub>[,]</sub> South seventy five Degrees West seventy six poles to a white Oak<sub>[,]</sub> North eighty three Degrees West thirty eight poles to a Hicory<sub>[,]</sub> South seventy Degrees West eighty poles to a white Oak<sub>[,]</sub> North eighty Degrees West one hundrd and forty poles to a white Oak<sub>[,]</sub> South fifteen Degrees West forty poles to a Spanish Oak in **Wathens** line and thence along his line North twenty eight Degrees West fifty four poles to the first Station.”<sup>136</sup>

COMMENT:

For Beard, see Leerwood note under January 1756 above.

**24 SEPTEMBER 1757**  
**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Land Sale.

**Thomas Leerwood and wife Elizabeth** of **Prince Edward County**, to Moses Helm, 55? pounds, land on headwaters of Reedy Creek, 154 acres. Signed Thomas (W his mark) Leerwood; Elizabeth (X her mark) Leerwood. Witnesses: Nathaniel Patterson, Joseph McMurtray, James Patterson.<sup>137</sup>

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<sup>135</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 24, 1755–57* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaiad Publication, 1998), 38; citing Order Book 4:198

<sup>136</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=370&last=&g\\_p=P33&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=370&last=&g_p=P33&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Mills, Willliam, grantee ... Albemarle County ... 854 acres on both sides of Matrimony Creek”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 33, 1756–1761 (v.1,2,3 & 4 p.1-1095), p. 370 (Reel 31-32).”

<sup>137</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Deed Book 1: 139–41. Note that Ann Chilton’s abstract (her p. 18) omits the difficult to read amount, as well as the fact that Thomas and wife were of Prince Edward County.

**William Mills (ca. 1699–1766)**  
**Spouse Mary (Walton?)**

**TO DO:**

Work what's left of Prince Edward's records for Leerwood and associates.

**SEPTEMBER 1757**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale.

"A deed from **Thomas Leerwood** and **Elizabeth, his wife**, to Moses Helm was acknowledged by the said Thomas Leerwood and Elizabeth his wife, and ordered to be recorded."<sup>138</sup>

**COMMENT:**

Elizabeth, wife of Thomas, was a sister of Ambrose Mills and Sarah (Mills) Watts.

**13 DECEMBER 1759**

**ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA**

Neighbors.

"This indenture ... Between Thomas Smith of the **Parish of St. Anns** in County of Albemarle of one part and John **Tooley** of the same County & Parish Witnesseth that Thomas Smith for sum of ten pounds Curr. money of Virginia to him paid doth sell John Tooley & to his heirs one certain parcell of land containing three hundred & fifty acres (be the same more or less) which sd parcell of land was granted to the sd Thomas Smith by Patent at Williamsburg bearing date the twentieth day of March one thousand seven hundred & fifty nine lying in the County of Albemarle on **Pedlar River** and bounded [as follows:]

Beginning at pointers in **William Mills's** line & with his lines North & East to pointers<sub>[,]</sub> & North & West crossing **Maple Creek** to **Edward Watts's Junr.** his corner Maple on the same<sub>[,]</sub> thence up the Creek with his line according to its meanders to **Stone's** line & with the same South & East cross **Pedlar River** to pointers by the River<sub>[,]</sub> thence down the same according to its meanders to other pointers<sub>[,]</sub> thence South & West to a Sorrell Tree South & West crossing Pedlar River to pointers<sub>[,]</sub> North & West to Maple Creek one hundred & four poles to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> & North twenty three degrees West ninety two poles to the Beginning .... [Signed] **Thomas + Smith.**

At a Court held for Albemarle County the thirteenth day of December 1759

This Indenture Memorandum & Receipt was acknowledged by Thos. Smith party thereto & ordered to be recorded. **Sarah Wife of the said Thomas** personally appeared in Court & being first privately examined as the Law directs Voluntarily relinquished her right of Dower to the Estate conveyed in the said Indenture."<sup>139</sup>

**COMMENT:**

Thomas Smith witnessed the land sale of Thomas & Sarah (Watts) Mills in 1749. In the actual deed [which I've also checked] three different samples of Smith's mark places it in a circle; the published abstract, above, does not include the circle.

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<sup>138</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 134.

<sup>139</sup> Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Book, 1758–1761* (N.P.: The Antient Press, 1988.), 59; citing Deed Book 2:205–6. (I've also viewed the actual deed to verify the details.)

**William Mills (ca. 1699–1766)**  
**Spouse Mary (Walton?)**

**13 DECEMBER 1759**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Neighbor.

“Thos. Smith & wife Sarah to Jno. Tooley for £10, 350 acres pat. 20 Mar 1759, on **Pedlar, adj. Wm. Mills, Maple Creek**, Edwd. Watts, Jr.”<sup>140</sup>

**29 MARCH 1760**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Land grant.

On payment of 25 shillings, grant made and confirmed unto **Thomas Learwood**, 230 acres in Bedford County “on west side of **Elk Creek**:

“Beginning at **Waltons and Callaways** corner red Oak on the said Creek, thence along their lines West eighty Poles to **William’s** corner white oak in the same, thence along his line North two hundred and twenty four Poles to his corner white Oak in **Kay’s (Ray’s? Key’s?)** line<sub>(,)</sub> thence along his line North eighty Degrees East one hundred and fifty Poles to his corner two red Oaks in Callaway’s line, Thence along his line South ten Degrees East ninety four Poles to a red Oak<sub>(,)</sub> South forty Degrees West forty Poles to a Pine, South fifty Degrees East sixty four Poles to the Creek aforesaid, thence down the same as it Meanders to the first.”<sup>141</sup>

COMMENT:

- Thomas Learwood has sought out land next to George Walton, whose surname is *alleged* to be that of Learwood’s wife’s mother.

The next several documents show that

- Ambrose Mills also bought land from George Walton.
- Learwood’s grant apparently (but ambiguously) adjoined Ambrose’s land, which he had by that time sold to the Callaways.

**1760**

**BEDFORD & HALIFAXCOUNTY, VA**

Neighbor.

“7465 Joyce Summary 1760 Prince Edward.

Reedy Ck. William Moore of Bedford Co and Anna wife convey 190 ac of land to Moses Watkins of Bedford, located on both sides of Reedy Ck in Bedford adj to **George Walton, Thomas Learwood, Thomas Franklin**, and Bolling. Wit Robert Rutledge, William Bumpas and William Jamerson.”<sup>142</sup>

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<sup>140</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 41; citing Albemarle Deed Book 2: 205.

<sup>141</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=799&last=&g\\_p=P33&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=799&last=&g_p=P33&collection=LO Patent); downloaded 20 May 2016), “Learwood, Thomas, grantee ... Bedford County ... 230 acres on west side of Elk Creek”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 33, 1756-1761 (v.1, 2, 3 & 4 p.1-1095), p.799 (Reel 31-32).”

<sup>142</sup> Roberta J. Estes ([restes@comcast.net](mailto:restes@comcast.net)), “Re: Moore in Charlotte and Prince Edward Counties,” 24 June 2007; posted at “Moore-L Archives,” *RootsWeb* ([newsarch.rootsweb.com/th/read/MOORE/2007-06/1182731829](http://newsarch.rootsweb.com/th/read/MOORE/2007-06/1182731829) : accessed 23 May 2016. No citation of the source is provided in this extensive list of abstracts focusing primarily on the Watkins family.

**William Mills (ca. 1699–1766)**  
**Spouse Mary (Walton?)**

**(BEFORE) 27 APRIL 1761**  
**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Land sale.

“CALLAWAY, WILLIAM, Deed from William Callaway to Thomas Pullen, 204 acres for 23 Pounds beginning at a white oak binding on the land Thomas Pullen bought of George Walton. (This being part of 898 acres which Geo. Walton surveyed for **Ambrose Mills**, who later sold it to Wm. Callaway). Rec. April 27, 1761. Pg. 430.<sup>143</sup>

COMMENT:

- By the 1790s, when Franklin County emerged from parts of old Bedford, the Callaways (and Sanderfurs who also appear in this set of notes) were neighbors of our second Mills line, that of William Mills (Y-DNA Witt) of Franklin County.
- William Callaway appears to be the county clerk. When the April 1761 term ended, the last item reads: “Ordered that the Court be adjourned ... . Signed, William Callaway.”<sup>144</sup>

**1761**

**ALBEMARLE > AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

County creation.

Albemarle has been subdivided to create Amherst. The Mills land fell into Amherst.

**5 MARCH 1764**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Witness:

“Gregory Mathews, Buckingham, to John Murrel, Albemarle, 25 pds. For 190 acres on Horse Shoe Mountain and joining lands of John Hunter & William Burns. Pat. To Joseph Cabell, 20 Sep 1759. Wit: William Tiller, **Jesse Mills**, Stephen Gee.”<sup>145</sup>

COMMENT:

This is the first reference I’ve yet found to Jesse, who likely came of age about 1755–60.

**10 JULY 1766**

**AMHERST COUNTY**

Land grant.

On payment of 40 shillings, grant made and confirmed unto **William Mills**. 330 acres in Amherst County “on the **branches of Buck Branch of Pedlar River** bounded as follows:

“Beginning at Pointers on **Thomas Mills** & running with his Line South sixty five Degrees West one hundred and twelve poles to a Spanish oak<sub>[,]</sub> and with John Davis’s Line South twelve Degrees East one hundred and four [five?] poles to a pine<sub>[,]</sub> South twenty four Degrees East forty four poles to pointers<sub>[,]</sub> thence on **Isham Davis’s** South forty six Degrees East and hundred

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<sup>143</sup> Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 8.

<sup>144</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 233.

<sup>145</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 79; citing Amherst Deed Book A: 162.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

and seventy four poles to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> East eighty eight Poles to a white oak North seventy seven Degrees East one hundred and eighty poles to pointers<sub>[,]</sub> North eighteen Degrees West one hundred and forty two poles to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> South thirty nine? Degrees West eight eight poles to a poplar<sub>[,]</sub> South eighty three Degrees West two hundred and twenty one poles to pointers<sub>[,]</sub> and North one hundred and ninety two Poles to the beginning.”<sup>146</sup>

### COMMENT:

This 330-acre tract appears to be the “unsettled” land that William Sr. bequeathed to William Jr. in his 1755 will. The tract would be sold by William Jr. in 1770 (see below).

### 4 AUGUST 1766

#### AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Will probate.

Will of **William Mills**, drafted 6 September 1755. “Witnesses: Jno. Staples, Isham Davis, Wm. Floyd, **Chas. Tuley**, Ro. Davis of Albemarle ... . Ux, Mary; son, Ambrose, at death of his mother; son, Wm.; my daughters, Sarah Watts Mills [*sic*]; Eliz. Learwoods; Anna Mills; son, Jesse; daughter, Milly Mills; children of my son, Thos.; Ambrose Jr.; and Eliz. Mills – son and daughter of my deceased son, Thos. Executors: ux and Thos. Joblin.”

“Administrator’s Bond – **Mary Mills, Jesse Mills, Wm. Lavinder**, August 4, 1766, for Mary Mills.<sup>147</sup>

### COMMENT:

“7 Sep 1772. Chas. Tuley, AC, to Stephen Goolsby, AC, for £100, 400 acres pat. To Arthur Tuley, dec’d, 3 Nov 1750. **Branch of Pedlar**, Lines: Ro. Davis, Maple Creek, **Edwd. Watts**. Wit: Rich. Peter, Jer. Taylor, Wm. Floyd. Elizabeth, wife of Tuley.

“13 Mar 1772. Thos. Morrison, AC, planter, to **James Tuley Sr.**, Albemarle, for £50, 73 acres on **Long Meadow a branch of Rockfish**. Lines: Col. Jno. Chiswell. Wit: **Abner Witt**, James Tuley Jr., Saml. Lackey, Francis New, **Chas. Tuley**.

“5 Sep 1772. Abner Will [Witt], AC, to Laurence Small, AC, for £100, 100 acres **branch of Corbin Creek**. Lines: Jno. Lackey, Jas. Barnett. Wit: **Chas. Witt, Jno. Witt Jr., Littleberry Witt**.

“**Abner Witt, AC**, to John Witt Jr. & Sr., Deed of Trust – 5 sh. 200 acres. Lines: Jas. Barnett, Jno. Reid, also slaves, furniture etc. Wit: Laurence Small, Chas. Witt, Chas. Barnerd, Littleberry Witt, Wm. Small.”<sup>148</sup>

### 1 SEPTEMBER 1766

#### AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

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<sup>146</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=942&last=&g\\_p=P36&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=942&last=&g_p=P36&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Mills, William, grantee ... Albemarle County ... 330 acres on the branches of Buck Branch of Pedlar River and on Dancing Creek”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 36, 1764–1767 (v. 1 & 2 p.557-1083), p. 942 (Reel 36).”

<sup>147</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 242; citing Book 1: 73 (will); Book 1: 75 (administrator’s bond); 1: 104 (inventory).

<sup>148</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 141; citing Amherst Deed Book C: 392–98.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

**Jesse Mills**, AC, to Nathaniel Davis, AC, for 40 pds., 350 acres **branch of Buck Creek of Pedlar**. Lines: **Maple Creek, Edward Watte, Jr., Thos. Mills.**” **Lucy, wife of Jesse Mills**, consents.<sup>149</sup>

### COMMENT:

- This should be the tract mentioned in the 1759 sale by Thomas Smith to John Tooley, which identified “William Mills” as adjacent landowner—i.e., the tract granted to William on 13 March 1756. Apparently Jesse is not selling the property as administrator of the estate but as the heir to this tract, given that his wife participated in the sale.
- The fact that one boundary line is said to be shared with “Thos. Mills”—who has been dead since about 1755—suggests that the family has held onto his land until his children reaches adulthood.

**27 FEBRUARY 1767**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Inventory

**William Mills** estate. £265-4-9, taken by Henry Key and Wm. Welton [likely **Walton**].<sup>150</sup>

### TO DO:

Get this inventory and any other documents.

**8 JULY 1767**

**ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA**

Land sale.

“Mary Grymes, widow, Peyton Randolph, Esq.; Benj. Grymes; and John Robinson, Gent., Executors of Phillip Grymes, dec’d; and Lunsford Lomax, the Younger, Caroline Co., to **Jesse Mills**, AC [Amherst Co.]. [Whereas] Lunsford Lomax, the Elder, Caroline, mtgd. [took a mortgage] on 7 Aug 1756, and rec. 21 Oct. 1756 in General Court – to secure loan to Lomax by Phillip Grymes, late of Middlesex, 7881 acres – money not repaid – mutually agreed between Mary Grymes, widow, and executors that land be sold to discharge debt and interest thereon – and they appointed Wm. Cabell, the Younger, atty, in AC Court – Lunsford Lomax & wife, Judith, 13 Jan 1767, (Proved in AC) conveyed to Lunsford Lomax, the Younger, [who now conveys for] 128 pds. 10 sh. [paid] by **Jesse Mills** – **396 acres**, part of said tract and formerly granted to Harmer, King, Randolph, & Lomax by order of Council **Tye River**. Lines Rose. Wit: GeorgeSeaton, Wm. Walton, Jno. Ryan, Edmund Wilcox, Clerk.”<sup>151</sup>

### COMMENT:

- The 1766 –67 documents tell us that Jesse has chosen to leave the neighborhood of his parents and relocate in a different community—selling his parental inheritance on the Pedlar and using the proceeds to buy land on the Tye.

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<sup>149</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 100; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 128.

<sup>150</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 242, citing Book 1: 104.

<sup>151</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 100; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 203.

**William Mills (ca. 1699–1766)**  
**Spouse Mary (Walton?)**

- In 1770 (see below) the Grymes heirs sold another part of this land to Jesse’s brother-in-law William Lavender, at which time the deed referred to the adjacent landowner as “Mills,” without a given name.

**2 NOVEMBER 1767**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Surety on bond.

“Geo. Stovall Jr., Jas. Dillard, Wm. Walton, Gabl. Penn, Alex. Reid Jr., Alex. Reid, Jno. Ryan, Jacob Smith, **Jesse Mills**, Ambrose Porter, Abraham Penn, Wm. Bibb, Jas. Christian, Wm. Floyd, Jos. Dillard, & Wm. Loving bonded to King Geo. III for 1000 pds. for Geo. Stovall Jr. who was appointed sheriff by governor under Colony seal on 17 Oct last past to perform duties of office. ... Same men and date as above for Stovall to collect fees. ... Same men and date for Stovall – 500 pds – to collect all Quit Rents.”<sup>152</sup>

**5 SEPTEMBER 1768**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA.**

Land sale.

“**Jesse Mills & wife, Lucy**, AC, to Lucas Powell, Alb. Co., for 90 pds, 396 acres **branch of Tye**. Lines: Rose. Wit: Jacob Smith, Wyatt Powell, Wm. Floyd.”<sup>153</sup>

COMMENT:

This is the land that Jesse bought in 1767 from the Grymes estate, adjoining Grymes land that Jesse’s brother-in-law William Lavender would buy in 1770.

**3 APRIL 1769**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Witness.

“Wm. Cabell, Sr., AC, to Wm. Cabell, Jr., AC, love borne by SR for JR, his son, fishery on Woods Island in the Fluvanna – agreeable to reservations in deed from Wm. Cabell, the elder, to his son, Jno. Cabell, 13 April 1763; rec. in AC. Wit: **Wm. Walton**, Jno. Savage, **Eleonar Mills** (X).<sup>154</sup>

COMMENT:

No Eleonar (*var.* Eleanor, Ellender) Mills has been identified amid the Amherst Millses. William & Mary (allegedly née Walton) did not have a daughter Eleonar. Their son Ambrose married Mourning Stone and Ann Brown. Their son Jesse was married in this period to a “Lucy” (allegedly Tilman). Their son William appears to have left the county, along with Ambrose. Their son Thomas died leaving two young children by an unknown wife and land for which the patent was received after his death and no sale of that land has been found on record. ***It seems possible that Eleonar is widow of Thomas, holding her family together on Thomas’s land.***

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<sup>152</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 103; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 261-62.

<sup>153</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 110; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 264.

<sup>154</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 115; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 431.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

17 APRIL 1770

AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Land purchase.

“Grymes exrs. To **Wm. Lavender** – see p. 33 for details of Grymes – for £25, 546 ½ acres on **branch of Tye**. Lines: **Mills**, Alcock, King. Wit: Zach. Taliaferro, Thos. Mitchell, Thos. Hawkins, Ambrose Jones, Geo. Galasbey, Moses Campbell.”<sup>155</sup>

COMMENT:

Three years earlier, the Grymes heirs sold part of their land on **Tye River** to **Jesse Mills**. (See 7 July 1767, above.)

On the same day as the Lavender sale above, Grymes’s executors sold another tract of Grymes’s land on “a branch of Tye,” The individuals named in that deed should fall into the neighborhood of William Lavender and Jesse Mills.

“17 April 1770. Grymes Excrs. To Thos. Wilsher – see p. 33 for details of Grymes – for £8-15, 174 acres on branch of Tye. Lines: Wilsher, Campbell, Edmonds. Wit: Zach. Taliaferro, Rod. McCulloch, Thos. Reid, **Rich. Tankersley Sr. & Jr.**”<sup>156</sup>

Contrary to the above note about “p. 33,” neither p. 33 in this deed book nor p. 33 in the published book of abstracts carry any “details of Grymes.” Page 120 of these abstracts carries a compiler’s note with personal details on the Grymes family, but none superficially appears relevant to the Mills-Lavender family.

COMMENT:

- **Richard Tankersley** (Sr. or Jr. unknown) is said to have married **Mary Learwood** [niece of Wm. Lavender’s wife Millie].<sup>157</sup>
- When William Lavender died, **Richard Tankersley** was one of the three men who inventoried his estate. See 1776, below.
- **Richard Tankersley** of 1783 (presumably Richard Jr.) did have a **wife Mary**:  
“1 Sep 1783. “Rich. Tankersley & wife Mary, AC, to Jas. Dillard, AC, one negro girl, Watsey, and £20,000 tobacco to be delivered on James River in two deliveries. Also two adj. tracts and where grantor lives. 1) 150 acres on **N bank Tye**. Lines: Jos. Dillard, Jos. Mays. 2) 174 acres. Lines: Rose, Glasby, Dillard, a Stoney Hill. Orig. del. to Capt. James Dillard 13 Jul 1797.”<sup>158</sup>
- **Richard Tankersley [Sr., wife Winneford]** also bought land in 1767 on **Piney**, the same waterway where Thomas Jefferson of Albemarle, 3 weeks later, would buy land from **George**

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<sup>155</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 121 citing Amherst Deed Book C: 78.

<sup>156</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 121 citing Amherst Deed Book C: 76.

<sup>157</sup> James Larwood, “Morphology of Larwood Genealogy” (MS, n.p., 1933); imaged at *Ancestry.com* from a copy at Sutro Library, San Francisco, CA.

<sup>158</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 204; citing Amherst Deed Book E: 423.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

**Gillespie** (Clasby), who would later serve as surety for Millie (Mills) Lavender. Details of the Tankersly transaction:

“3 Feb 1767. Jas. Jones & wife Mary, AC, to **Rich. Tankersey**, AC, for 100 pds, 315 acres **N side of Tye** and opposite **mouth of Piney**, part of larter [*sic*, should be “larger”] tract granted by order of Council to Robt. Roles (*sic*, but Rose is meant), Clerk, and Thos. Chen (Chew) and sold by Robt. Rose to Edward Manton & rec. in Alb. Wit: Henry Rose, Leonard Tarrant Jr., Ambras Jones.”<sup>159</sup>

- **Richard Tankersley [Jr.]** was a landowner by 1772:

“3 Aug 1772. Rich. Tankersley & wife Winneford, AC, to **Stephen Watts**, AC, for £55, 182 acres **N side Tye & opposite mouth of Piney**. Part of Rich. Tankersley Sr., land which he **gave to his son, Jr.**, and joins Chs. Rose. Wit: Hugh Rose, Augustin Wright, Thos. Wortham.<sup>160</sup> (On 4 Aug. 1777, **Stephen Watts** & wife Eliz. Sold this to Geo. Wortham. On 4 Aug. 1783, Geo. Wortham and wife Juday sold this land to Jas. Mays, with Rich. Tankersley Jr. cited as adjacent neighbor.<sup>161</sup>)

### COMMENT:

This Stephen Watts remains unidentified. One family tree asserts him to be the son of Thomas Watts and wife Sarah Mills, without evidence; but its information on that couple is radically off base. It presents the couple as lifelong residents of Albemarle/Amherst, with two children (Stephen and William) and no evidence other than derivative sources that are at least third-hand.<sup>162</sup> For all known evidence on this couple, see E. S. Mills, “Thomas Watts (b. ca.1725; d. ca.1796–1800); Spouse, Sarah Mills: Research Notes,” report to file, 25 October 2015.

### 14 JUNE 1770

#### AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

“**Jesse Mills, AC**, to Thos. Lumpkin, AC, for £100, 297 bought by TL [*sic*, but it appears to mean JM] of Lunsford Lomax Jr. and rec. in AC. Wit: Geo. Penn, Isaac Tinsley, Geo. McDaniel, Geo. Galaspie.”<sup>163</sup>

### 5 OCTOBER 1770

#### AMHERST COUNTY, VA

Land sale.

“**Wm. Mills, North Carolina**, to Jno. Lewis, AC, for £25, 330 acres branch of **Buck Creek of Pedlar**. Lines

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<sup>159</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 98; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 170.

<sup>160</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 140; citing Amherst Deed Book C: 369. The wife of Richard Tankersly Sr. is also identified in Deed Book B:388, according to Davis, p. 112.

<sup>161</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 169, citing Amherst Deed Book D: 444; and 204, citing Deed Book E: 422.

<sup>162</sup> Sharons44, “Meredith Family Tree,” user-contributed trees, *Ancestry* (<http://person.ancestry.com/tree/70823236/person/42487602640/facts>): 1 June 2016).

<sup>163</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 127; citing Amherst Deed Book C: 178.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

**Thos. Mills**, Jno. Davis, Isham Davis. Wit: David Crawford, Alex. Reid Jr., Rich. Powell.”<sup>164</sup>

COMMENT:

The seller is **William Jr.**, son of William and Mary. The land was granted, ambiguously, to “William Mills” in 1766, about the time of the death of William Sr., but it was surveyed for William Sr. in 1750.

On 1 September 1766 his brother Jesse sold 350 acres adjoining Thomas and Edward Watts on Buck Creek of Pedlar. (See that date above.) On 2 March 1772, another neighbor of William’s land, Jno. Tuley, would sell Nathaniel Davis a tract on Pedlar and Maple Creek, referencing the old lines of Wm. Mills and Edward Watts Jr. (See below.)

**5 JULY 1771**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Mortgage.

“**Jesse Mills** to Alex. Spiers, Jno. Bowman & Co., Deed of Trust – 5 sh. 297 acres which Mills bought of Lunsford Lomax. Also one Va. Born negro wench named Phoebe; stock, tobacco. Wit: Thos. Jones, Jas. Pendleton, Martin Bibb.”<sup>165</sup>

COMMENT:

A deed of trust was a mortgage, not a sale.

**20 SEPTEMBER 1771**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Mortgage.

“**Jesse Mills** to Thos. Mitchell, Factor for Jas. & Ro. Donalds & Co., Glasgow merchants – all household furniture, stock and all book debts after paying Wm. Watson his demands vs. me. Memo: Trunk and table mentioned in fifth line delivered in lieu of the whole. Wit: Edmd. Wilcox, Nathl. Tilman.”<sup>166</sup>

**8 OCTOBER 1771**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Mortgage.

“**Jesse Mills**, AC, to Edwd. Tilman, for £12, stock. Wit: Ann NBAS(?) JONES, Lede Jones.”<sup>167</sup>

COMMENT:

- The garbled Jones name is likely a male *Annenias*.

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<sup>164</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 123; Deed Book C: 118.

<sup>165</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 134; Deed Book C: 252.

<sup>166</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 134; Deed Book C: 254.

<sup>167</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 137; Deed Book C: 316.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

- Jesse’s debt is seriously increasing. Having already mortgaged his land and household furnishings, he is not mortgaging his livestock. In the next document below, he will mortgage his slaves.

**7 MARCH 1772**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Mortgage.

“**Jesse Mills** Deed of Trust to Alex. Spiers, Jno. Bowman & Co., Dect [Debt] of £255-8-2 – 5 sh – one negro girl, Letty, about 30; one boy Harry, about 12; other slaves, stock, tobacco-land on **head of Tye** – 200 acres. Wit: Geo. Walker, Jr., Geo. Weir, Thos. Wright, Thos. Reid.”<sup>168</sup>

**11 DECEMBER 1773**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Land Sale.

“**Wm. Lavender & wife Mildred**, AC, to Edmd. Wilcox, AC, for £100 546½ acres bought by Wm. Lavender from exrs. of Philip Grymes & Lunsford Lomax, Jr., 17 April 1770. On **branch of Tye**. Lines: **Mills**, Allcock, King. Wit: Patrick Hart, Benj. Taliaferro, Wm. Powell, Gabl. Penn, Aaron Campbell, Rich. Alcock.”<sup>169</sup>

COMMENT:

**Jesse Mills**, Mildred’s brother, in 1767 bought Grymes land on a branch of the Tye.

**JULY 1776**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Probate.

**Ambrose Mills**, as “heir at law” of the estate of **William Mills** was summoned by the Amherst County Court to appear and declare whether he would administer the estate of **Mary Mills, dec’d**.<sup>170</sup>

COMMENT:

An “heir at law” was a “forced heir,” as opposed to being a legatee under a will. In colonial Virginia, the heir at law of a landowner’s real estate was the eldest son who, under primogeniture, inherited all land unless the father left a will giving some tracts to other sons. This implication that Ambrose was the eldest son—reinforced by the father’s will that named him first—helps to date the time frame of the parental marriage.

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<sup>168</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 136; Deed Book C: 298.

<sup>169</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 153; citing Amherst Deed Book D: 119.

<sup>170</sup> Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1833): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 700–1; citing Amherst Order Book 1773–82.

## William Mills (ca. 1699–1766) Spouse Mary (Walton?)

This marks the end of the records found to date for William and Mary. For additional records created by and about their offspring in Southside Virginia, see particularly

- Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Ambrose Mills, Col. (ca. 1722–1780); Spouses 1. Mourning Stone, 2. Ann Brown: Research Notes,” 2 May 2016.
- Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Thomas Watts (ca. 1725–aft. 1796); Spouse Sarah Mills: Research Notes,” for all known records created by or about this couple in Virginia, South Carolina, and Mississippi.
- Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Mills: Literature Survey of Southside Virginia: Brunswick, Goochland, and Counties Cut from Them—Principally Albemarle, Amherst, Cumberland, Bedford, and Prince Edward,” report to file, 28 May 2016.
- Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Watts: Literature Survey of Colonial & Revolutionary Bedford, Brunswick, and Lunenburg Counties, Virginia,” report to file, 5 January 2015.
- Elizabeth Shown Mills, “William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834); Spouse Eleanor Morris: Research Notes,” 1 July 2015.

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Elizabeth Shown Mills, “William Mills (1699–1766), Spouse Mary Walton?: Research Notes,” a working file updated 6 June 2016,” p. \_\_\_\_.

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